



**Volume 20**

**Number 038**

**America's Revolution (66) – March to  
Massacre – I**

**Lead: In the 1700s the United States broke from England. No colony in history had done that before. This series examines America's Revolution.**

**Intro: *A Moment in Time with Dan Roberts***

**Content: Throughout the fall and winter of 1769-1770 the tension mounted to poisonous levels in Boston between the townspeople and the troops sent to garrison**

**the city. Two issues continued to arouse the passions of unrest: non-importation and the irritating presence of British troops sent by the London government to help collect the infamous import taxes imposed by Parliament and to keep order in a municipality that was increasingly unresponsive to royal authority. These two issues led ultimately to one of the important events in the run up to Revolution and war, the so-called Boston Massacre.**

**Remarkably, the shock troops enforcing non-importation were the Boston crowds. When word came that the sons of Thomas Hutchinson were continuing to import taxed tea, the family refused to back down until a crowd threatened to pull down a Hutchinson warehouse. Theophilus Lillie refused to sign the non-importation agreement and then defended himself in the *Boston News-Letter*. “I would rather be a slave under one Master**

**(George III) for I know who he is and I may be able to please him, than a slave to a hundred or more (Boston mob). When the crowd came to discipline Lillie, Ebenezer Richardson, one of his neighbors, diverted the attention of the crowd which followed him to his house. Windows were broken, insults were hurled and Richardson fired into the crowd killing an 11-year-old boy, Christopher Seider. Seider became a hero of the struggle against the British. Thousands, including many young boys, accompanied his casket to the graveyard. Next time: March to Massacre.**

**At the University of Richmond's School of Professional and Continuing Studies, I'm Dan Roberts.**

## Resources

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