



Volume 20

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**America's Revolution (67) – March to
Massacre – II**

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: In late February 1770, the situation in Boston reached critical mass. The poisonous relationship between British soldiers and the townspeople was amplified

by the death of 11-year old Christopher Seider, killed by a supporter of the Crown. His death illustrated the deteriorating circumstances in a town animated by hatred of Parliamentary import taxes, colonial attempts to strike at those taxes through non-importation of British goods, and the presence of an occupying standing army, something hated by Brits on both sides of the dispute, which led to fatal conflict and massacre.

City resentment was particularly acute among low-skilled laborers most of whom were young, rough, and not afraid of taking their bitterness directly to the soldiers. This anger grew as it became clear that the troops had permission to moonlight, to take part-time jobs at a lower wage which cut civilians out of the marketplace. These young American toughs were perfectly willing to put fists behind their sentiment. On March 2

a soldier offered his services to John Gray at the latter's rope-making shop. Gray offered him the job of cleaning the privy. It was not a compliment. Gray and the soldier got into a fight. More troops arrived only to be met by a huge mob and big brawl. The next day, more fights. March 4th, Sunday, was relatively quiet, but March 5th became the day remembered for years in colonial folklore and among American patriots, the march of intensifying anger and acrimony led at last to the Boston Massacre.

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