



**Volume 21**

**Number 014**

**America's Revolution (82) – Tea Partying – 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: Three ships rode at anchor alongside Griffin's Wharf in Boston harbor awaiting delivery in early December 1773. They were packed with casks of tea bearing a three-cent-per-pound duty in a**

**Parliamentary monopoly scheme to benefit the financially ailing East India Company. Boston, indeed all the colonies, were up in arms over the Tea Act which continued Britain's determination to dominate colonial life.**

**Custom's rules required that the duty had to be paid by December 16<sup>th</sup>. The colonies' radicals led by Samuel Adams wanted the tea sent back to England, but Governor Thomas Hutchinson and those commissioned to sell the tea wanted it unloaded, the duty paid and the tea sold. It was a state of gridlock that was about to be broken.**

**Francis Rotch owned *Dartmouth*, one of the ships waiting to be unloaded. Two days before the deadline a huge mass meeting ordered Rotch to approach customs officials seeking clearance for a return of the tea.**

**When tax collector Richard Harrison and then the Governor refused his entreaties, he reported his failure to a town meeting at Old South Church. It was early evening and Adams rose to express the frustration of the crowd that there was nothing more they could do to secure colonial liberties. His words were greeted with Indian war cries as the meeting house emptied out in the direction of Griffin's Wharf and the three tea-laden ships. Next time: Harbor brewed tea.**

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

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