



**Volume 22**

**Number 026**

**America's Revolution (113) – Battle of  
Charlestown Heights – III**

**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: Dawn, June 17, 1775 revealed a significant strategic shift in the siege of British-occupied Boston in that Patriot forces had occupied and fortified Breed's Hill and Bunker Hill on the triangular-shaped Charlestown peninsula across the**

**Bay northwest of the city. This was a threat the British had to engage. After much debate the four leaders Generals Thomas Gage, William Howe, John Burgoyne and Henry Clinton eventually decided on a troop landing near Moulton's Hill on the Northeast corner of the peninsula. When British intentions became obvious, Colonel William Prescott who was leading Patriot defenders on the Charlestown Heights, realized his vulnerability to a flanking attack from the beach on his left. Prescott sent Captain Knowlton to block this approach. When reinforced by regiments led by Colonels John Stark and James Reed, they lined up their men behind a temporary breastwork made of rocks and fence railing and prepared for the British assault.**

**After landing his highly disciplined Fusiliers at Moulton's Hill, General Howe marched them along the smooth, flat beach**

**along the Mystic River in tight columns right into the Knowlton/Stark ambush. The Americans held their fire until the Brits were 50 yards away. It was a bloodbath. British bodies were piled along the beach like cordwood. Finally, as some reported, the Fusiliers broke and ran. Next time: British triumph.**

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

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