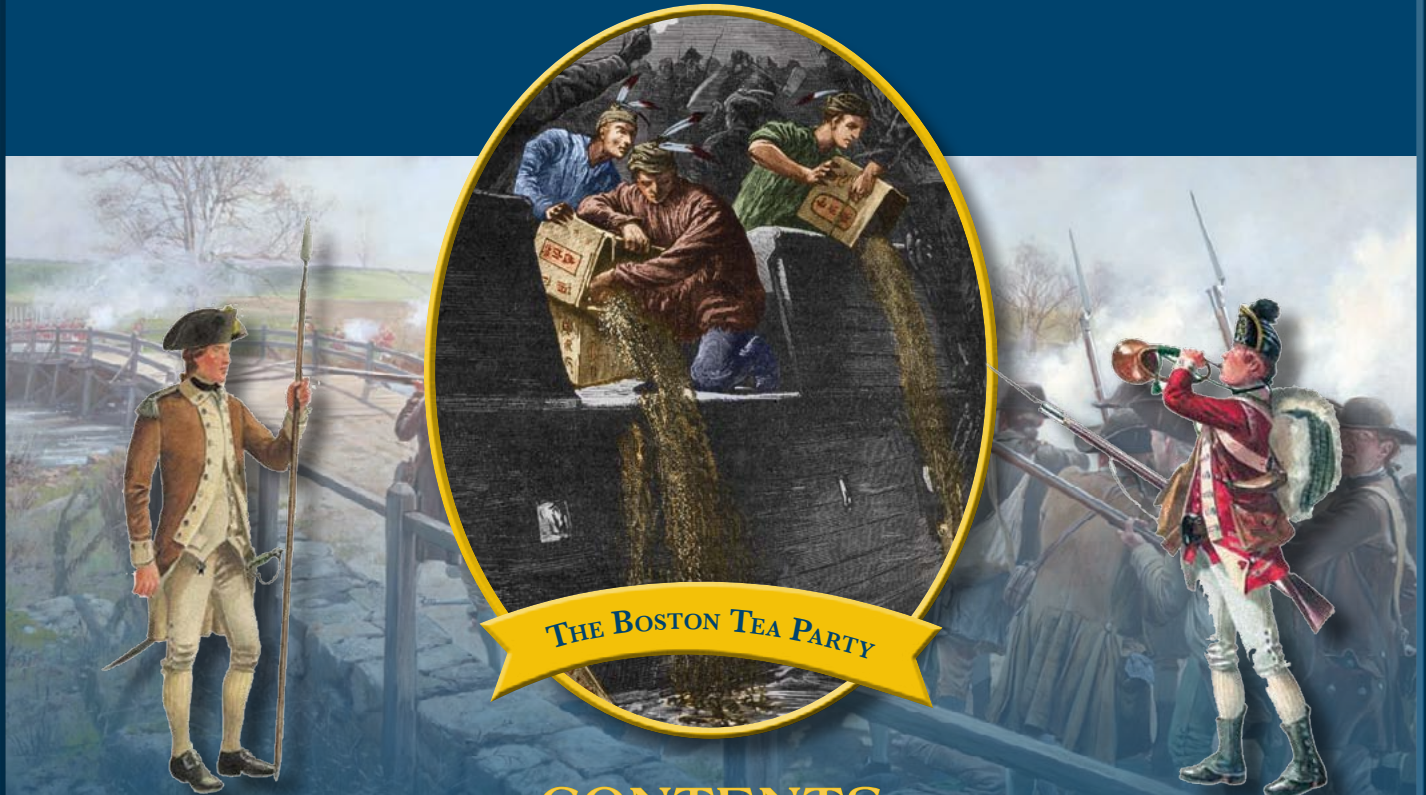


“THE SPARCK OF REBELLION”



THE BOSTON TEA PARTY

CONTENTS

“The Sparck of Rebellion” by Douglas Brinkley ARTICLE.....	1
The Coffin of Patrick Carr DOCUMENT	3
Eyewitness Account of George Hewes DOCUMENT.....	4
The Intolerable Acts (Excerpts) DOCUMENT	7
The Bostonian’s Paying the Excise-man, or Tarring & Feathering POLITICAL CARTOON	10
The Able Doctor, or, America Swallowing the Bitter Draught POLITICAL CARTOON	11
Orders to Lieut. Colonel Smith, 10th Regiment ’Foot DOCUMENT	12
British Expedition and Patriot Messengers Routes MAP	13
Diary of John Barker DOCUMENT.....	14
A Narrative of the Excursion and Ravages of the King’s Troops Under the Command of General Gage, on the Nineteenth of April, 1775: Together with the Depositions ... DOCUMENT.....	15

©2013 AMERICAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

MARY EVANS PICTURE LIBRARY/DIGITAL COLORIZATION
BY ROB WOODWARD, ROSAVILLE, HARLIN, INC.

“THE SPARCK OF REBELLION”

Badly disguised as Indians, a rowdy group of patriotic vandals kicked a revolution into motion.

BY DOUGLAS BRINKLEY

AMERICAN HERITAGE | WINTER 2010 | VOL. 59 | ISSUE 4

<http://www.americanheritage.com/content/sparck-of-rebellion>

On the evening of December 16, 1773, in Boston, several score Americans, some badly disguised as Mohawk Indians, their faces smudged with blacksmith's coal dust, ran down to Griffin's Wharf, where they boarded three British vessels. Within three hours, the men—members of the Sons of Liberty, an inter-colonial association bent on resisting British law—had cracked open more than 300 crates of English tea with hatchets and clubs, then poured the contents into Boston Harbor.

News of the “Boston Tea Party” quickly spread throughout the colonies, and other seaports soon staged their own tea parties. While tensions between the Americans and the British had simmered for the past several years, there had been few acts of outright rebellion. Acoals of discontent and ignited events that would lead to rebellion, war, and, finally, independence.

The first bloodshed of the Revolution had occurred nearly three years earlier, on March 5, 1770. A continual source of tension was the taxes levied by the British government on the colonists. Although British Prime Minister Lord North tried to placate the colonists with a pledge of no new taxes from London, on March 5 a mob of radical Americans, unaware of the announcement, had attacked the customhouse in Boston, prompting a confrontation with British redcoats. The crowd had begun to throw hard-packed snowballs at the British sentries guarding the customhouse. Goaded beyond endurance,

the soldiers began to fire, killing five people and wounding several others in what came to be known as the Boston Massacre.

But North's concessions had dampened the rebellious attitude that had been spreading through the colonies, causing a backlash among moderates who believed that the Sons of Liberty presented a greater danger to America than did British taxes and troops. By October 1770 Boston's merchants announced that they would no longer honor the patriots' boycott of British imports, and it looked as though the flames of rebellion had been snuffed out. Although some of the more ardent revolutionaries kept in contact through

committees of correspondence that issued statements of colonial rights and grievances—Samuel Adams pledging that “Where there is a Spark of patriotic fire, we will enkindle it”—no more significant incidents of violence would occur until late 1773.

During this reprieve North became more concerned with Britain's economic policies than with colonial discontent. The behemoth of British international trade, the East India Company, teetered on the verge of insolvency. Because many leading British politicians were company shareholders, saving it was of particular concern to Parliament. One potential solution seemed at hand: the company's London warehouse held more than 17 million pounds of tea. If these stores could be sold, the East India Company might survive. North concocted an ingenious plan to

sell the tea in America at much lower prices than those offered by smugglers such as John Hancock, who brought in goods from Dutch possessions in the West Indies. Even with the British tax, the company's tea would still be cheaper than any imported from the Dutch. If everything went according to plan, the Americans would concede England's right to tax them in order to get inexpensive tea, and the East India Company would be saved in the bargain.

But things did not go according to North's plan. The Sons of Liberty believed it reeked of subterfuge, an underhanded attempt to force the colonists to continue to pay taxes. Hancock, who hated the British as much



The Boston Tea Party, an act of patriotic vandalism, propelled the colonists inexorably toward war with Britain.

MARY EVANS PICTURE LIBRARY/DIGITAL COLONIZATION
BY ROB WOODWARD, FOSBUILLE, HARLIN, INC.

"THE SPARK OF REBELLION"

— CONTINUED —

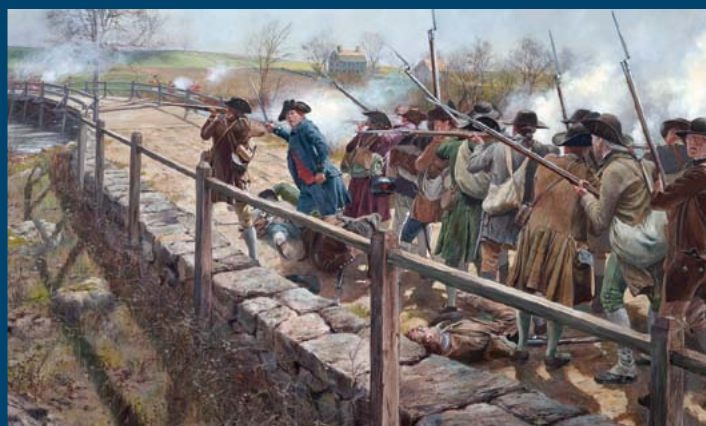
as he loved his profits, finally saw a chance to strike at the former while preserving the latter. On December 16, 1773, he and Samuel Adams directed a group, most of whom were members of the Sons of Liberty, to board the British tea ships and destroy their cargoes.

London was shocked and angered. Parliament bristled with loose, vengeful talk of sending a large expeditionary force to America to hang the rebels, level the settlements, and

erect a blockade in the Atlantic to starve the ungrateful colonists. A few voices of reason, such as Charles James Fox and Edmund Burke, rose in the House of Commons to endorse punishing those directly involved but warning against a blanket indictment of all Americans.

In March 1774 Parliament passed the Boston Port Act, mandating that the city's harbor be closed until the colony paid Britain 9,570 pounds for the lost tea. (The bill was not paid.) A firestorm of protest exploded in the colonies, where radical leaders sneered at the new laws as "the Intolerable Acts" or "the Coercive Acts." Sympathetic demonstrations took place in many cities. Samuel Adams demanded action from the committees of correspondence in the form of a complete embargo on British goods. In Virginia Thomas Jefferson burst upon the revolutionary scene when he published his Summary View of the Rights of British America, which took issue with Parliament's right to legislate colonial matters on the grounds that "The God who gave us life, gave us liberty at the same time."

On September 5 representatives from every colony except Georgia met in Philadelphia at what came to be known as the first Continental Congress. Radicals called for Samuel Adams's trade embargo, while moderates led by John Jay of New



"By the rude bridge that arch'd the flood/Their flag to the April breeze unfurled/Here the embattled farmers stood/And fired the shots heard 'round the world," wrote Ralph Waldo Emerson of the Minutemen's defense of Old North Bridge in Concord, MA in 1775, above.

York and Joseph Galloway of Pennsylvania supported a strongly worded protest. All agreed that some form of action had to be taken. On behalf of the radicals, Joseph Warren of Massachusetts introduced the Suffolk Resolves, declaring the Intolerable Acts to be in violation of the colonists' rights as English citizens and urging the creation of a revolutionary colonial government. Much to his surprise, the resolves passed, if just barely. George III was infuriated at the whole business. To him, the very calling of the Continental Congress was proof of perfidy. "The New England governments are in a state of rebellion," he told North.

Gen. Thomas Gage, the British commander and now Massachusetts governor, received orders to strike a blow at the New England rebels. Gage learned of their whereabouts and sent troops to seize them and then destroy the supply facility at Concord. But that night Boston silversmith Paul Revere rode the 20 miles to Lexington to warn the radical leaders and everyone else along the way that the British were coming. When British troops reached the town on April 19, 1775, they encountered an

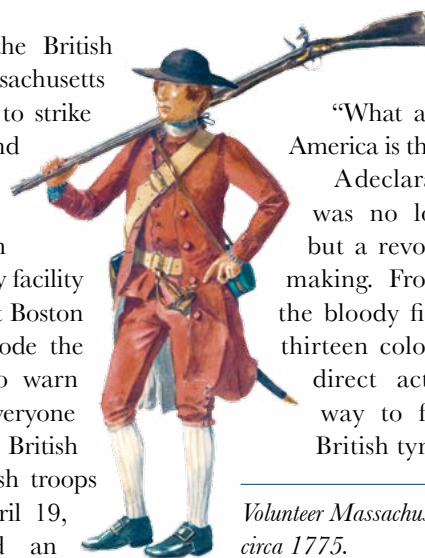
armed force of 70, some of them "minutemen," a local militia formed by an act of the provincial congress the previous year. Tensions were high and tempers short on both sides, but as the Lexington militia's leader, Capt. John Parker, would state after the battle, he had not intended to "make or meddle" with the British troops. In fact it was the British who were advancing to form a battle line when a shot rang out—whether it was from a British or colonial

musket, no one knows to this day. At the time neither side realized it was the first blast of the American Revolution.

The lone shot was followed by volleys of bullets that killed eight and wounded 10 minutemen before the British troops marched on to Concord and burned the few supplies the Americans had left there. But on their march back to Boston, the British faced the ire of local farmers organized into a well-trained embryo army, which outnumbered the British five to one and shot at them from every house, barn, and tree. By nightfall total casualties numbered 93 colonists and 273 British soldiers, putting a grim twist

on Samuel Adams's earlier exclamation to John Hancock, "What a glorious morning for America is this!"

A declaration of independence was no longer a pipe dream but a revolutionary plan in the making. From the Tea Party to the bloody fields of Concord, the thirteen colonies had proved that direct action was the surest way to free themselves from British tyranny. ♦



Volunteer Massachusetts Minuteman, circa 1775.

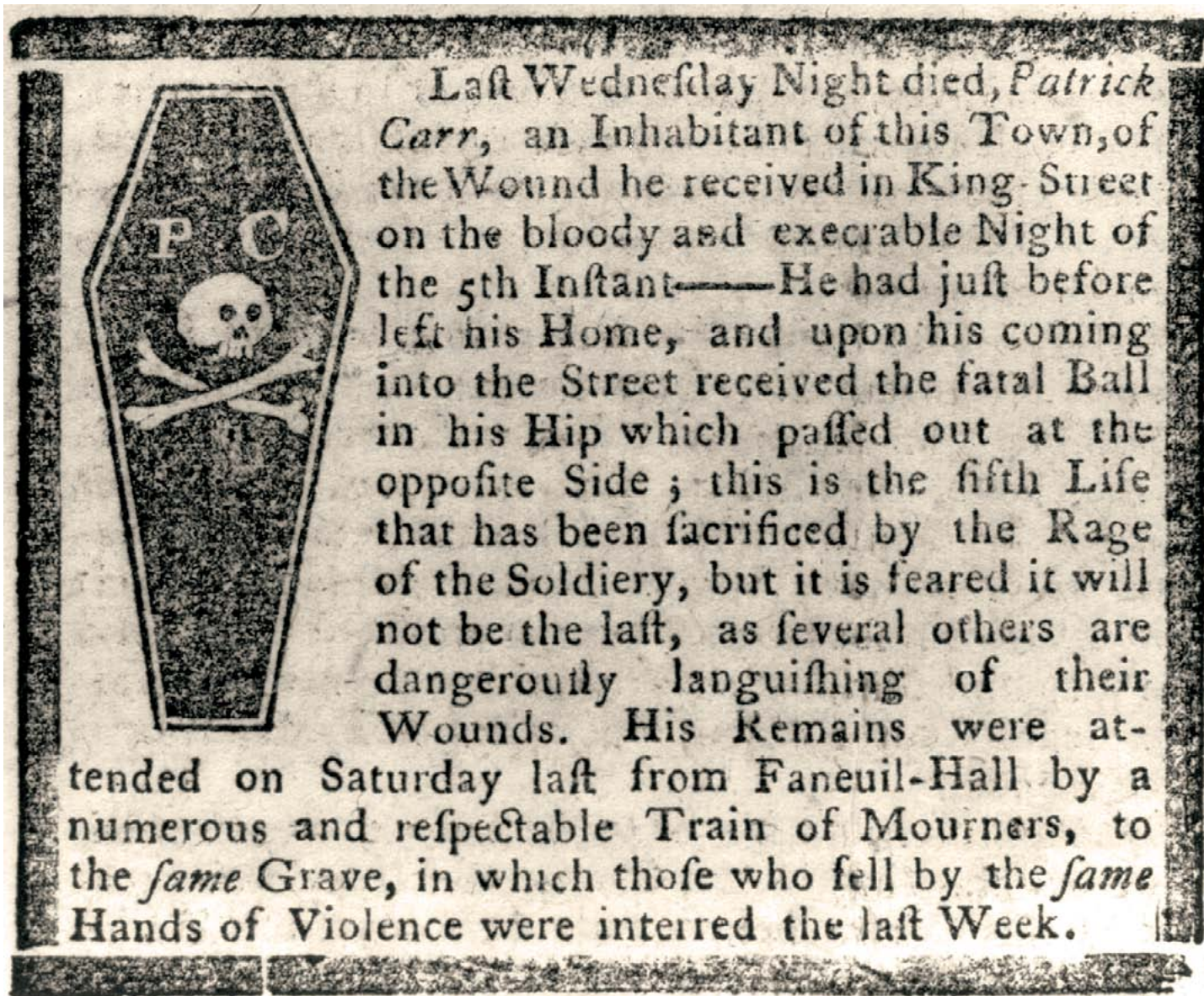
"THE SPARCK OF REBELLION"

THE COFFIN OF PATRICK CARR

PAUL REVERE, ENGRAVER

THE BOSTON GAZETTE and COUNTRY JOURNAL | 1770 MARCH 19

<http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2004672648/>

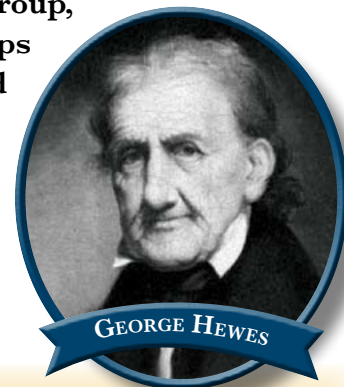


Print shows section of newspaper column with illustration of the coffin bearing skull and crossbones and the initials of Patrick Carr, who died from wounds received during the Boston Massacre. ❖

"THE SPARK OF REBELLION" EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT OF GEORGE HEWES

<http://theamericanrevolution.org/EventDetail.aspx?event=3>

George Robert Twelve Hewes, a Boston shoemaker, participated in many of the key events of the Revolutionary crisis. Over half a century later, Hewes described his experiences to James Hawkes. When Parliament passed the Tea Act in 1773, colonists refused to allow cargoes of tea to be unloaded. In the evening of December 16, with Hewes leading one group, the colonists dressed in "the costume of a Indian." They boarded the ships in Boston harbor and dropped the tea overboard. Hewes' account shed light on how resistance became revolution. The "Boston Tea Party," as it became known in the 19th century, became a powerful symbol of the Revolution. And Hewes, artisan and ordinary citizen, was celebrated as a venerable veteran of the struggle for Independence.



Eyewitness Account From George Hewes

THE TEA DESTROYED WAS CONTAINED IN THREE SHIPS, lying near each other at what was called at that time Griffin's wharf, and were surrounded by armed ships of war, the commanders of which had publicly declared that if the rebels, as they were pleased to style the Bostonians, should not withdraw their opposition to the landing of the tea before a certain day, the 17th day of December, 1773, they should on that day force it on shore, under the cover of their cannon's mouth.

On the day preceding the seventeenth, there was a meeting of the citizens of the county of Suffolk, convened at one of the churches in Boston, for the purpose of consulting on what measures might be considered expedient to prevent the landing of the tea, or secure the people from the collection of the duty. At that meeting a committee was appointed to wait on Governor Hutchinson, and request him to inform them whether he would take any measures to satisfy the people on the object of the meeting.

To the first application of this committee, the Governor told them he would give them a definite answer by five o'clock in the afternoon. At the hour appointed, the committee again repaired to the Governor's house, and on inquiry found he had gone to his country seat at Milton, a distance of about six miles. When the committee returned and informed the meeting of the absence of the Governor, there was a confused murmur among the members, and the meeting was immediately dissolved, many of them crying out, "Let every man do his duty, and be true to his country"; and there was a general huzza for Griffin's wharf.

“THE SPARCK OF REBELLION”

EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT OF GEORGE HEWES

— CONTINUED —

It was now evening, and I immediately dressed myself in the costume of an Indian, equipped with a small hatchet, which I and my associates denominated the tomahawk, with which, and a club, after having painted my face and hands with coal dust in the shop of a blacksmith, I repaired to Griffin’s wharf, where the ships lay that contained the tea. When I first appeared in the street after being thus disguised, I fell in with many who were dressed, equipped and painted as I was, and who fell in with me and marched in order to the place of our destination.

When we arrived at the wharf, there were three of our number who assumed an authority to direct our operations, to which we readily submitted. They divided us into three parties, for the purpose of boarding the three ships which contained the tea at the same time. The name of him who commanded the division to which I was assigned was Leonard Pitt. The names of the other commanders I never knew.

We were immediately ordered by the respective commanders to board all the ships at the same time, which we promptly obeyed. The commander of the division to which I belonged, as soon as we were on board the ship appointed me boatswain, and ordered me to go to the captain and demand of him the keys to the hatches and a dozen candles. I made the demand accordingly, and the captain promptly replied, and delivered the articles; but requested me at the same time to do no damage to the ship or rigging.

We then were ordered by our commander to open the hatches and take out all the chests of tea and throw them overboard, and we immediately proceeded to execute his orders, first cutting and splitting the chests with our tomahawks, so as thoroughly to expose them to the effects of the water.

In about three hours from the time we went on board, we had thus broken and thrown overboard every tea chest to be found in the ship, while those in the other ships were disposing of the tea in the same way, at the same time. We were surrounded by British armed ships, but no attempt was made to resist us.



We then quietly retired to our several places of residence, without having any conversation with each other, or taking any measures to

This iconic 1846 lithograph by Nathaniel Currier was entitled “The Destruction of Tea at Boston Harbor”; the phrase “Boston Tea Party” had not yet become standard. Contrary to Currier’s depiction, few of the men dumping the tea were actually disguised as Indians.

“THE SPARK OF REBELLION”

EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT OF GEORGE HEWES

— CONTINUED —

discover who were our associates; nor do I recollect of our having had the knowledge of the name of a single individual concerned in that affair, except that of Leonard Pitt, the commander of my division, whom I have mentioned. There appeared to be an understanding that each individual should volunteer his services, keep his own secret, and risk the consequence for himself. No disorder took place during that transaction, and it was observed at that time that the stillest night ensued that Boston had enjoyed for many months.

During the time we were throwing the tea overboard, there were several attempts made by some of the citizens of Boston and its vicinity to carry off small quantities of it for their family use. To effect that object, they would watch their opportunity to snatch up a handful from the deck, where it became plentifully scattered, and put it into their pockets.

One Captain O'Connor, whom I well knew, came on board for that purpose, and when he supposed he was not noticed, filled his pockets, and also the lining of his coat. But I had detected him and gave information to the captain of what he was doing. We were ordered to take him into custody, and just as he was stepping from the vessel, I seized him by the skirt of his coat, and in attempting to pull him back, I tore it off; but, springing forward, by a rapid effort he made his escape. He had, however, to run a gauntlet through the crowd upon the wharf nine each one, as he passed, giving him a kick or a stroke.

Another attempt was made to save a little tea from the ruins of the cargo by a tall, aged man who wore a large cocked hat and white wig, which was fashionable at that time. He had slightly slipped a little into his pocket, but being detected, they seized him and, taking his hat and wig from his head, threw them, together with the tea, of which they had emptied his pockets, into the water. In consideration of his advanced age, he was permitted to escape, with now and then a slight kick.

The next morning, after we had cleared the ships of the tea, it was discovered that very considerable quantities of it were floating upon the surface of the water; and to prevent the possibility of any of its being saved for use, a number of small boats were manned by sailors and citizens, who rowed them into those parts of the harbor wherever the tea was visible, and by beating it with oars and paddles so thoroughly drenched it as to render its entire destruction inevitable.

— George Hewes

“THE SPARK OF REBELLION”

THE INTOLERABLE ACTS-1774

THE BOSTON PORT ACT | MARCH 1774 (EXCERPT)
 THE MASSACHUSETTS GOVERNMENT ACT | MAY 1774 (EXCERPT)
 THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE ACT | MAY 1774 (EXCERPT)

THE BOSTON PORT ACT | MARCH 1774 (EXCERPT)

http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/boston_port_act.asp

An act to discontinue, in such manner, and for such time as are therein mentioned, the landing and discharging, lading or shipping, of goods, wares, and merchandise, at the town, and within the harbour, of Boston, in the province of Massachusetts Bay, in North America.

WHEREAS dangerous commotions and insurrections have been fomented and raised in the town of Boston, in the province of Massachusetts Bay, in New England, by divers ill-affected persons, to the subversion of his Majesty's government, and to the utter destruction of the publick peace, and good order of the said town; in which commotions and insurrections certain valuable cargoes of teas, being the property of the East India Company, and on board certain vessels lying within the bay or harbour of Boston, were seized and destroyed: And whereas, in the present condition of the said town and harbour, the commerce of his Majesty's subjects cannot be safely carried on there, nor the customs payable to his Majesty duly collected; and it is therefore expedient that the officers of his Majesty's customs should be forthwith removed from the said town: ... That from and after the first day of June, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-four, it shall not be lawful for any person or persons whatsoever to lade put, or cause or procure to be laden or put, off or from any quay, wharf, or other place, within the said town of Boston, or in or upon any part of the shore of the bay, commonly called The Harbour of Boston, between a certain headland or point called Nahant Point, on the eastern side of the entrance into the said bay, and a certain other headland or point called Alderton Point, on the western side of the entrance into

the said bay, or in or upon any island, creek, landing place, bank, or other place, within the said bay or headlands, into any ship, vessel, lighter, boat, or bottom, any goods, wares, or merchandise whatsoever, to be transported or carried into any other country, province or place whatsoever; or into any other part of the said province of the Massachusetts Bay, in New England; or to take up, discharge, or lay on land, or cause or procure to be taken up, discharged, or laid on land, within the said town, or in or upon any of the places aforesaid, out of any boat, lighter, ship, vessel, or bottom, any goods, wares, or merchandise whatsoever, to be brought from any other country, province, or place, or any other part of the said province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England, upon pain of the forfeiture of the said goods, wares, and merchandise, and of the said boat, lighter, ship, or vessel or other bottom into which the same shall be taken, and of the guns, ammunition, tackle, furniture, and stores, in or belonging to the same: And if any such goods, wares, or merchandise, shall, within the said town, or in any the places aforesaid, be laden or taken in from the shore into any barge, hoy, lighter, wherry, or boat, to be carried on board any ship or vessel coming in and arriving from any other country or province, or other part of the said province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England, such barge, hoy, lighter, wherry, or boat, shall be forfeited and lost. ❖

“THE SPARCK OF REBELLION”

THE INTOLERABLE ACTS-1774

— CONTINUED —

THE MASSACHUSETTS GOVERNMENT ACT MAY 1774 (EXCERPT)

http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/mass_gov_act.asp

An act for the better regulating the government of the province of the Massachuset's Bay, in New England.

WHEREAS by letters patent under the great seal of England, made in the third year of the reign of their late majesties King William and Queen Mary, for uniting, erecting, and incorporating, the several colonies, territories, and tracts of land into one real province, by the name of Their Majesties Province of the Massachuset's Bay, in New England; whereby it was, amongst other things, ordained and established, That the governor be appointed and commissioned: It was, however, granted and ordained, That, from the expiration of the term for and during which the eight and twenty persons were appointed to be the first counsellors or assistants to the governor, and that eight and twenty counsellors or assistants should yearly, be, by the general court or assembly, newly chosen: And whereas the said method of electing such counsellors or assistants, ...hath, by repeated experience, been found to be extremely ill adapted to the plan of government ...and hath been so far from contributing to the attainment of the

good ends and purposes ...hath, for some time past, been such as had the most manifest tendency to obstruct, and, in great measure, defeat, the execution of the laws; to weaken and, in great measure, defeat, the execution of the laws; to weaken the attachment of his Majesty's well-disposed subjects in the said province to his Majesty's government, and to encourage the ill-disposed among them to proceed even to acts of direct resistance to, and defiance of, his Majesty's authority; ... And whereas it is, under these circumstances, become absolutely necessary, in order to the preservation of the peace and good order... that the said method of annually electing the counsellors or assistants of the said province should no longer be suffered to continue but that the appointment of the said counsellors or assistants should henceforth be put upon the like footing as is established in such other of his Majesty's colonies or plantations in America, the governors whereof are appointed by his Majesty's commission... ♦

"THE SPARK OF REBELLION"

THE INTOLERABLE ACTS-1774

— CONTINUED —

THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE ACT MAY 1774 (EXCERPT)

http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/admin_of_justice_act.asp

An act for the impartial administration of justice in the cases of persons questioned for any acts done by them in the execution of the law, or for the suppression of riots and tumults, in the province of the Massachusetts Bay, in New England.

I. ...it is of the utmost importance to the general welfare thereof, and to the re-establishment of lawful authority throughout the same, that neither the magistrates acting in support of the laws, nor any of his Majesty's subjects...be brought to trial... before persons who do not acknowledge the validity of the laws...That if any inquisition or indictment shall be found...for murder, or other capital offence, in the province Of the Massachusetts Bay, and it shall appear, by information given upon oath to the governor, that the fact was committed by the person...either in the execution of his duty as a magistrate, for the suppression of riots, or in the support of the laws of revenue, or in acting in his duty as an officer of revenue, or in acting under the direction and order of any magistrate,...and if it shall also appear, to the satisfaction of the said governor that an indifferent trial cannot be had...that the inquisition, indictment, or appeal, shall be tried in some other of his Majesty's colonies, or in Great Britain; ... [judges are] authorized and required to admit

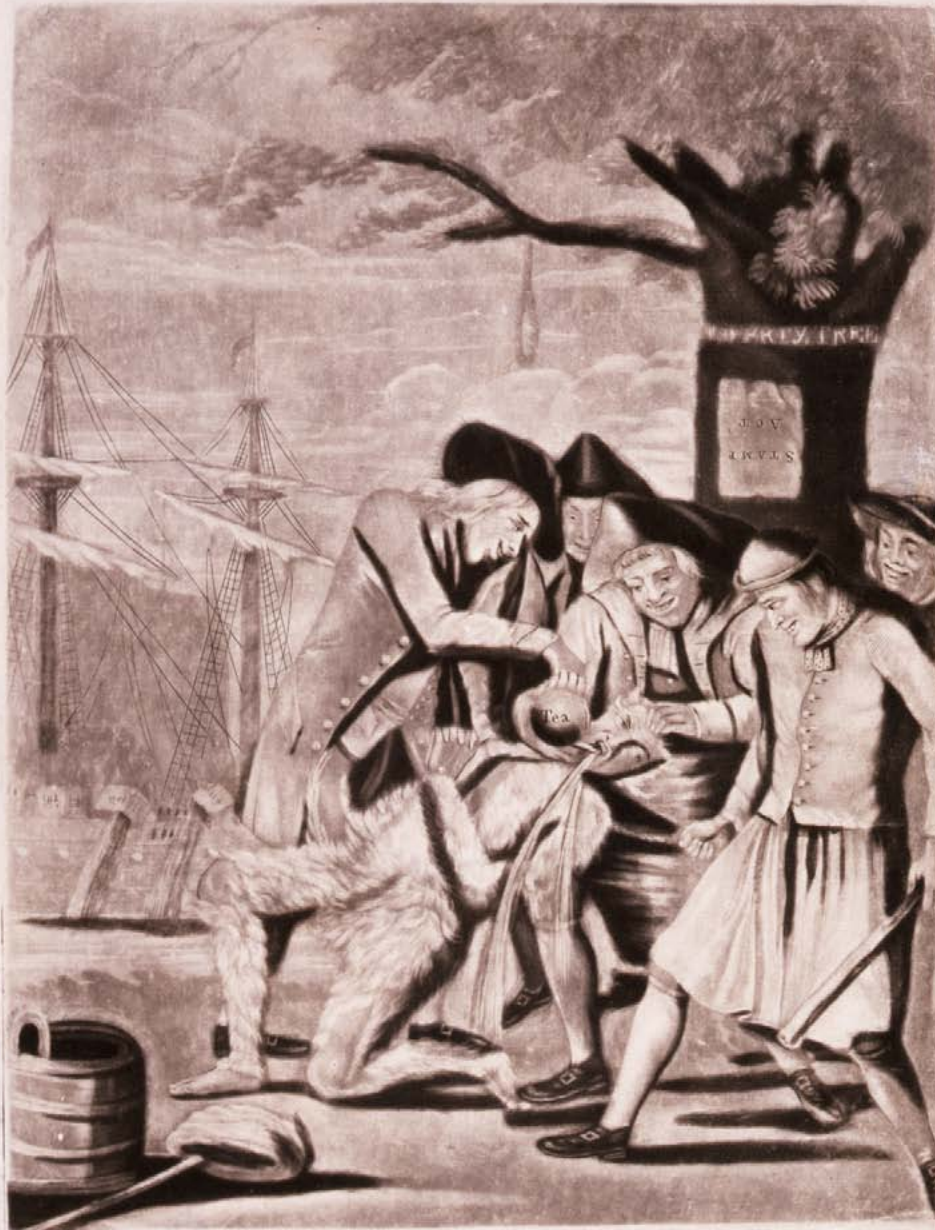
every such person brought before him to bail... judges or justices are hereby authorised and required to adjourn or postpone the trial of such inquisition, indictment, or appeal, for a reasonable time, and admit the person to bail, in order that he may make application to the governor, or lieutenant-governor...

VI. And be it further enacted, That the governor, or, in his absence, the lieutenant governor, if he shall direct the trial to be had in any other of his Majesty's colonies...the trial shall thereupon proceed in like manner, to all intents and purposes, as if the offence had been committed in such place: and in case the governor, or, in his absence the lieutenant-governor, shall direct the trial to be had in Great Britain...the inquisition, indictment, or appeal, shall be tried and proceeded upon, in the next term, or at such other time as the court shall appoint, as if the offence had been committed in the county of Middlesex, or in any other county of that part of Great Britain called England, ❖

"THE SPARK OF REBELLION"

THE BOSTONIAN'S PAYING THE EXCISE-MAN OR TARRING & FEATHERING LONDON | 1774 OCTOBER 31

<http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2004673302/>



The BOSTONIAN'S Paying the EXCISE-MAN, or TARRING & FEATHERING
Plate I.
London Printed for Robt Sayer & J. B. Smith in Map & Printshop, N° 53, Fleet Street, as the Act directs 25, Decr 1773.

A 1774 British print depicted the tarring and feathering of Boston Commissioner of Customs John Malcolm. Tarring and feathering was a ritual of humiliation and public warning that stopped just short of serious injury. Victims included British officials such as Malcolm and American merchants who violated non-importation by importing British goods. This anti-Patriot print showed Customs Commissioner Malcolm being attacked under the Liberty Tree by several Patriots, including a leather-aproned artisan, while the Boston Tea Party occurred in the background. In fact, the Tea Party had taken place four weeks earlier.

“THE SPARK OF REBELLION”
THE ABLE DOCTOR, OR,
AMERICA SWALLOWING THE BITTER DRAUGHT

LONDON | 1774 MAY 1

<http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/97514782/>



The able Doctor, or America Swallowing the Bitter Draught.



Cartoon shows Lord North, with the “Boston Port Bill” extending from a pocket, forcing tea (the Intolerable Acts) down the throat of a partially draped Native female figure representing “America” whose arms are restrained by Lord Mansfield, while Lord Sandwich, a notorious womanizer, restrains her feet and peeks up her skirt. Britannia, standing behind “America”, turns away and shields her face with her left hand.

"THE SPARCK OF REBELLION"

ORDERS TO LIEUT. COLONEL SMITH, 10TH REGIMENT 'FOOT

<http://teachingamericanhistory.org/library/document/orders-from-general-thomas-gage-to-lieut-colonel-smith-10th-regiment-foot/>

Boston, Massachusetts

April 18, 1775

Lieut. Colonel Smith, 10th Regiment 'Foot,

Sir,

Having received intelligence, that a quantity of Ammunition, Provisions, Artillery, Tents and small Arms, have been collected at Concord, for the Avowed Purpose of raising and supporting a Rebellion against His Majesty, you will March with a Corps of Grenadiers and Light Infantry, put under your Command, with the utmost expedition and Secrecy to Concord, where you will seize and destroy all Artillery, Ammunition, Provisions, Tents, Small Arms, and all Military Stores whatever. But you will take care that the Soldiers do not plunder the Inhabitants, or hurt private property.

You have a Draught of Concord, on which is marked the Houses, Barns, &c, which contain the above military Stores. You will order a Trunion to be knocked off each Gun, but if its found impracticable on any, they must be spiked, and the Carriages destroyed. The Powder and flower must be shook out of the Barrels into the River, the Tents burnt, Pork or Beef destroyed in the best way you can devise. And the Men may put Balls of lead in their pockets, throwing them by degrees into Ponds, Ditches &c., but no Quantity together, so that they may be recovered afterwards. If you meet any Brass Artillery, you will order their muzzles to be beat in so as to render them useless.

You will observe by the Draught that it will be necessary to secure the two Bridges as soon as possible, you will therefore Order a party of the best Marchers, to go on with expedition for the purpose.

A small party of Horseback is ordered out to stop all advice of your March getting to Concord before you, and a small number of Artillery go out in Chaises to wait for you on the road, with Sledge Hammers, Spikes, &c.

You will open your business and return with the Troops, as soon as possible, with I must leave to your own Judgment and Discretion.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant

Thos. Gage.

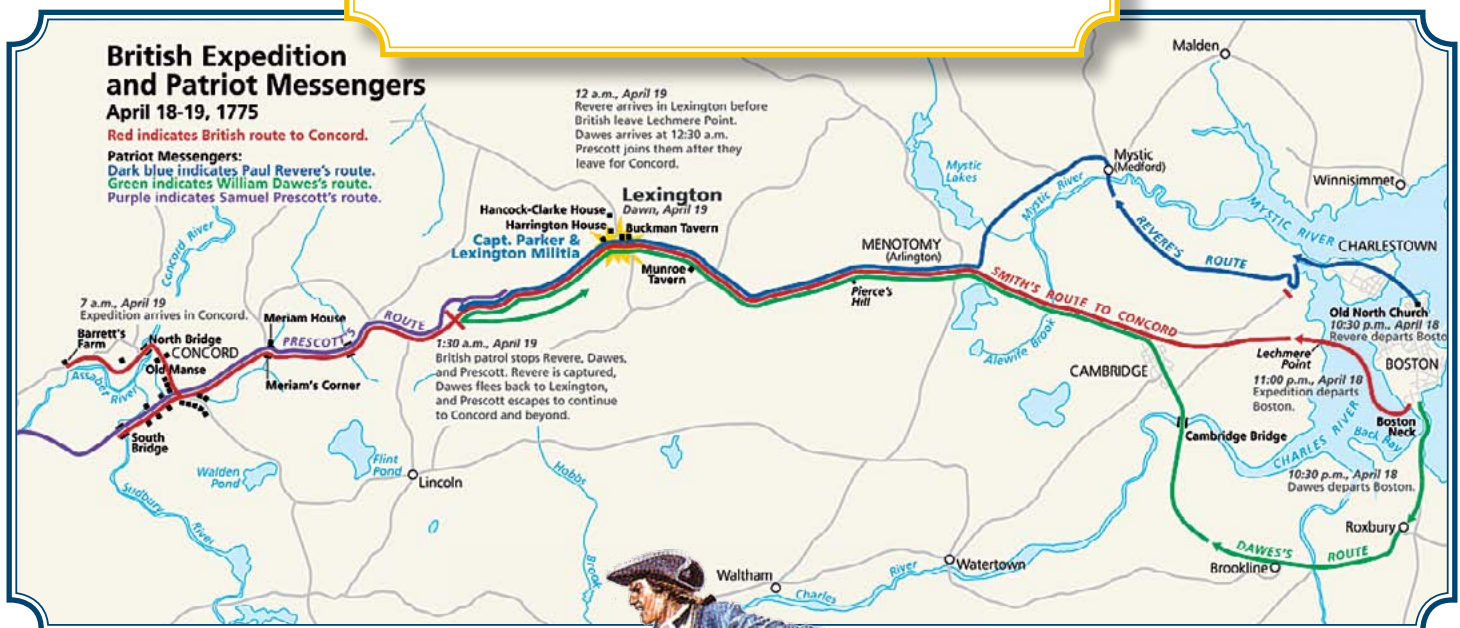
"THE SPARK OF REBELLION"

BRITISH EXPEDITION AND PATRIOT MESSENGERS

APRIL 18-19, 1775

<http://www.nps.gov/mima/forteachers/upload/MIMAmmap2.pdf>

This is a map depiction of the outbound routes taken by Patriot riders and British troops in the Battles of Lexington and Concord on April 19, 1775.



"THE SPARK OF REBELLION"

DIARY OF JOHN BARKER

<http://www.nps.gov/mima/forteachers/upload/Minute%20Man%20Lesson%20Plan.pdf>

SELECTIONS FROM THIS DIARY WERE FIRST PUBLISHED UNDER THE TITLE OF 'A BRITISH OFFICER IN BOSTON IN 1775', IN THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY FOR APRIL 1877.

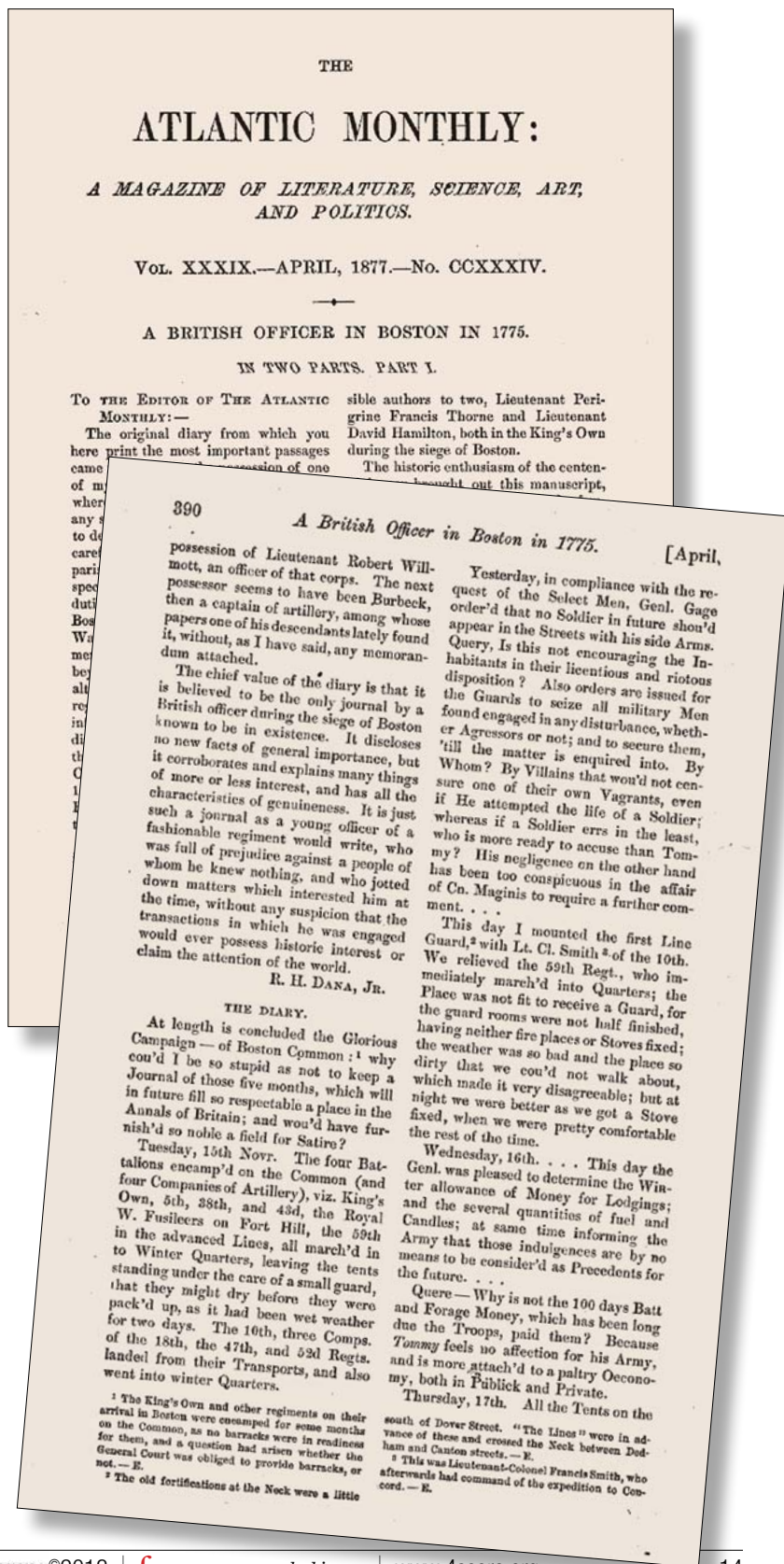
Entry for April 19th, 1775, from the diary of Lieutenant John Barker, an officer in the British army.

(DIARY ACCOUNT OF THE MARCH TO LEXINGTON AND CONCORD)

19th. At 2 o'clock we began our march by wading through a very long ford up to our middles. After going a few miles we took three of four people who were going off to give intelligence. About 5 miles on this side of a town called Lexington, which lay in our road, we heard there were some hundreds of people collected together intending to oppose us. At 5 o'clock we arrived there and saw a number of people, I believe between 200 and 300, formed in a common in the middle of the town. We still continued advancing, keeping prepared against an attack though without intending to attack them. But on our coming near them they fired one or two shots, upon which our men without any orders, rushed in upon them, fired and put them to flight; several of them were killed...

(DIARY ACCOUNT OF THE RETURN TO BOSTON)

We set out upon our return; we were fired on from Houses and behind Trees, and before we had gone $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile we were fired on from all sides, but mostly from the Rear, where People had hid themselves in houses 'till we had passed and then fired; the Country was an amazing strong one, full of Hills, Woods, stone Walls, &c. which the Rebels did not fail to take advantage of, for they were all lined with People who kept an incessant fire upon us, as we did too upon them but not with the same advantage, for they were so concealed there was hardly any seeing them: in this way we marched between 9 and 10 miles, their numbers increasing from all parts, while ours was reducing by deaths, wounds and fatigue, and we were totally surrounded with such an incessant fire as it's impossible to conceive, our ammunition was likewise near expended. ♦



“THE SPARCK OF REBELLION”
A NARRATIVE,
OF THE EXCURSION AND RAVAGES OF THE KING’S TROOPS
UNDER THE COMMAND OF GENERAL GAGE, ON THE NINETEENTH
OF APRIL, 1775: TOGETHER WITH THE DEPOSITIONS . . .

http://www.masshist.org/database/transcription.cfm?transcriptDir=masshist&transcript=narrexursion_10.xml&queryID=667

WE NATHANIEL PARKHURST, JONAS PARKER, JOHN MUNROE, jun. JOHN WINDSHIP, SOLOMON PEIRCE, JOHN MUZZY, ABNER MEADS, JOHN BRIDGE, jun. EBENEZER BOWMAN, WILLIAM MUNROE, 3d. MICAH HAGAR, SAMUEL SANDERSON, SAMUEL HASTINGS, and JAMES BROWN, of Lexington in the county of Middlesex and colony of the Massachusetts-Bay, in New-England, and all of lawful age, do testify and say, that on the morning of the nineteenth of April, instant, about one or two o’clock, being informed that a number of regular officers had been riding up and down the road the evening and night preceding, and that some of the inhabitants as they were passing had been insulted by the officers and stoped by them, and being also informed that the regular troops, were on their march from Boston, in order (as it was said) to take the colony stores..

We met on the parade of our Company in (Concord), after the company had collected we were ordered by Capt. John Parker, (who commanded us) to disperse for the present, and to be ready to attend the beat of the drum, and accordingly the company went into houses near the place of parade. We further testify and say, that about five o’clock in the morning we attended the beat of our drum, and where formed on the parade, we were faced towards the regulars then marching up to us, and some of our company were coming to the parade, with their backs towards the troops, and others on the parade began to disperse, when the regulars fired on the company before a gun was fired by any of our company on them, they killed eight of our company and wounded several, and continued their fire until we had all made our escape.

Lexington, 25th April, 1775.

These paintings by Don Troiani show a British soldier who served at the Battle of Lexington and Concord on April 19, 1775, left, and an American captain who served in the Revolution of 1775-1783, right.



PAINTINGS BY DON TROIANI. AMERICAN HERITAGE ARCHIVES