

The Bloody Massacre

Creator: Paul Revere

Date: March 28, 1770

Published in: Prints advertised and sold by Paul Revere

Source type: Colorized [Engraving](#)

Introduction: In Boston, tensions between colonists and British soldiers led to a confrontation that left five Boston workers dead when British troops fired into a crowd. Paul Revere, a [Patriot](#) leader, published this illustration titled “The Bloody [Massacre](#)” three weeks after the incident. It quickly became known as the [Boston Massacre](#).



Caption: The bloody [massacre perpetrated](#) in King Street Boston on March 5th 1770 by a party of the 29th Regt.

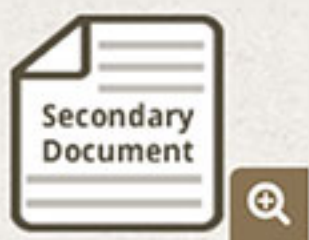
Boston, Massachusetts, March 5, 1770

Creator: American Social History Project, City University of New York

Date: 2014

Source type: Historical Essay (secondary source)

Introduction: After the Boston Massacre, the British soldiers and Bostonians had very different views about what had happened. The excerpt below, written in 2014, describes what historians know about that night and the days that followed.



In the winter of 1770, the residents of Boston were protesting British policies and clashed frequently with the British soldiers stationed in their city. On March 5th, feelings were still running high from the funeral of an 11-year old boy killed by a British customs official a few days earlier. Around 9pm, a group of young men **confronted** a British **sentry** guarding the **custom's house** on King Street. As the crowd grew, the lone soldier was joined by Captain Thomas Preston and seven more soldiers, who tried to persuade the crowd to **disperse**.

Instead, the crowd (made up of about 300 people) taunted the British soldiers and threw snowballs and **brickbats** at them. Amid the confusion, the soldiers opened fire in a random way. In all, 11 Bostonians were hit by bullets; three died instantly, one died the next day, and one more died two weeks later. That night, Massachusetts governor Thomas Hutchinson could only convince the crowd to go home by promising that there would be a fair **inquiry** into the shootings. The next morning, Captain Preston and all eight of the soldiers were arrested.