

# BOSTON MASSACRE 155 YEARS AGO

Street Clash Was Forerunner of War that Gave America Its Independence

FIRST ACT OF DRAMA OF REVOLUTION MARCH 5, 1770

The "Boston Massacre," which has been described as "the first act in the great drama of the Revolution," occurred on the fifth day of March, 1770. Friday, March 5, was the 156th anniversary, says the Philadelphia Inquirer.

Whether street brawl or patriotic demonstration by indignant citizens against embattled tyranny, the massacre had an electrical effect upon the growing sentiment in favor of independence throughout the colonies. It was not until six years later that armed resistance to the British power took place at Concord Bridge, but "on that night," wrote John Adams, "the foundation of American independence was laid." "For the moment," declared Daniel Webster, "we may date our severance from the British empire."

### Dramatic Prologue to War

The flash and roar of the firelocks on King street, the writhing forms on the snow, the screams of the wounded, the shouts of the angry crowd, the curses of the frightened soldiers, and then the clang of the alarm bells summoning the townspeople, all made a dramatic prologue to the tremendous events which were to come.

It prophetically ushered in the uprising of the new nation, destined to establish liberty and union, for all future ages, upon the American continent, says a writer in the Boston Herald.

There was an ominous feeling of unrest in Boston on that fatal day. The tide of hostility to the British troops who had been quartered in the town for nearly a year and a half was steadily rising. The presence of the soldiers was a continual source of irritation; their parades were offensive; their bearing often insulting, writes Historian Windsor. There was friction between individual soldiers and citizens. Only a spark was needed to kindle the flame and on that day the spark blazed forth.

On the north side of King street—now State street—a stone's throw from the Town House, whose gilded lion and unicorn looked down upon the spot as they do today, a British sentinel is standing on the steps of one of the buildings. A mob of men and boys are milling about in the street before him. His face is white under the light of the young moon, and his scarlet tunic is marked by splashes of snow. He notices the crowd with his musket while snowballs and bits of ice come whizzing through the air, some to strike the bricks behind him and some to find their mark on his person.

A boy, more daring than the rest, creeps up close to the soldier, who thrusts him back with the butt of his piece.

Yells, shouting of derision and wrath, cries of "Lobster back!" are mingled with the pelting missiles.

The crowd, working itself up to the pitch where it will do anything, but still half afraid of the uniform and the leveled weapon representing authority, presses nearer.

"There's the soldier who knocked me down!" shrills the boy.

"Kill him," "Knock him down," from the crowd.

The sentinel retreated up the steps and loaded his gun.

"The lobster is going to fire!" exclaims another boy.

"If you fire, you must die for it," cried Henry Knox, afterward to be a general in the Revolutionary army and secretary of war in Washington's cabinet, who was passing.

"I don't care," replied the harassed sentry. "If they touch me, I'll fire."

He leveled his musket and then shouted to the main guard, whose headquarters was on the other side of the street, for assistance.

A squad of seven soldiers under a sergeant is sent over at once. The men form in line. The sentry, hastening down the steps, falls in with the file, and the order to prime and load is given.

Above the roar of the mob is heard the thud of musket butts on the frozen ground and the ring of the ramrods as the charges are shoved home. Flintlocks click. Pieces are raised. Ready!

An officer, Capt. Thomas Preston, of the 29th, anxious-faced and apprehensive of trouble, the gold lace on his coat glinting in the moonlight, joins his men, making the whole number in arms ten.

The crowd is not so very large—fifty or sixty is the estimate, but it is highly wrought up. When its members see the soldiers loading, some of them step forward, shouting, whistling, daring them to fire.

"Cowardly rascals!" they shout, "lay aside our guns and we are ready for you!"

In the forefront stands a young man, a negro, Crispus Attucks by name, destined by fate to be the first martyr of the Revolution.

"Are the soldiers loaded?" asks a bystander.

"Yes," replies Capt. Preston, grimly, "with powder and ball."

"Are they going to fire on the inhabitants?" demands another.

"They cannot without my orders,"

says the officer, fingering his sword. "For God's sake," cries Knox, seizing Preston by the coat, "take your men back again! If they fire, your life must answer for the consequences."

"I know what I'm about," returns the Englishman, shaking off the grasp, and then, seeing his men pressing back the people with their bayonets while clubs are being freely used, he rushes between in an endeavor to separate them.

But he was powerless. Matters had gone too far. The confusion was indescribable. Soldiers and populace were inextricably mingled.

"Fire, fire, if you dare! Why don't you fire?" fierce voices rang out.

In the din no one knows whether Preston gave the order to fire or not, but with or without orders, certainly without legal warning, seven of the soldiers, one after the other, discharged their muskets. They are so close that it is impossible to miss.

Mingled with the sound of the shots are cries of anguish. The crowd falls back, pell-mell, revealing nearly a dozen bodies, lying on the ground. Crispus Attucks, Samuel Gra and James Caldwell were killed outright, and Samuel Maverick and Patrick Carr were mortally hurt. Six others were wounded.

Taking advantage of the diversion Capt. Preston restrains his men from firing again and leads his party back to the main guard. The drums beat to arms and several companies of the 29th form in three divisions. This formidable show of force overawed the throng.

### SAID TO HAVE DECIPHERED 1 OF 12 MOSAIC TABLETS

It is reported that Dr. Grimme, professor of philology at Munster University, Germany, announced to a meeting of Jewish scientists that he had succeeded in deciphering one of the twelve Mosaic tablets which a British archaeological expedition under Sir W. Flinders Petre discovered at Mount Sinai in 1904 and 1905.

The tablets in the possession of the British Museum, have been photographed, and Egyptologists from all parts of the world have been busy trying to translate them, but so far with little success. The laws are carved in Hebrew on brick tablets, and if Prof. Grimme is right they were carved by Moses himself.

One of the tablets reads: "I, Moses, head and chief guardian of the Temple, owe to the daughter of Pharaoh Kyatchaput the fact that I was rescued from the Nile and have risen to the highest dignity."

### MARRIED FOR 52 YEARS, COUPLE WANT DIVORCE

Ottawa, Ohio, March 31.—Michael J. Burroway, 86, of DuPont, near here, has filed suit for divorce against Sarah E. Burroway, 82. They were married 52 years ago, but have been separated forty years. Seven children have been reared by them.

Burroway charged gross neglect. After twenty two years of wedded life he said his wife left him to live with a daughter in Douglas county, Oregon and that she refused to return.

Police Monday afternoon made four arrests in connection with the serious wounding of Mrs. John Melton at her home near Black Mountain about 1 o'clock Monday morning.

Mrs. Melton was wounded by loads from a shotgun and pistol in the hands of two persons who called at the door of her home with false alarm that her son had been dangerously injured in an automobile accident.

When Mrs. Melton opened the door to inquire if her son was seriously injured the man backed away to a clump of evergreens on the lawn and opened fire. Simultaneously another man in the yard opened fire on the doorway. Clyde Nanny and Forland McGinnis, of Black Mountain, are charged with the shooting. Esther McGinnis is being held as an important witness. Martin McGinnis, the fourth person arrested, was found to be a fugitive from justice. He was sent to prison to complete his sentence.

A simple method of preserving sweet cider without loss in flavor is being sought through experiments at Ohio State University.

## DANGERS OF EARLY DAYS RECALLED

Reno, Nev., March 30.—One of the last survivors of the intrepid pioneer women who fought savage Indians in the west has crossed the great range. Crossing the plains on a covered wagon with her husband, California was the mecca for adventurers from the four corners of the earth, Mrs. James Fee located with her husband more than sixty years ago to an isolated section near the site of the present village of Fort Bidwell.

Sometimes for days she was called on to aid her husband in saving their lives and property and guarding their log cabin and scanty acres from fierce bands of Shoshones and Piutes, who poured down from neighboring mountain strongholds and circled the sturdy home of logs on their fleet desert ponies. Only after months of constant terror and unflinching courage were Mrs. Fee and other scattered settlers protected from Indian raids by a squadron of cavalry, stationed at Fort Bidwell.

The only protection of the pioneer men and women leaving their eastern homes to locate in the western wilds was the ability to shoot fast and accurately. In the long journey across the prairies, the emigrants were forced to run the gauntlets of Crows, Blackfeet, Sioux and other fierce tribes, and hundreds of tender women perished at the stake or under the scalping knife. Death, torture, hideous existence in the Indian camp—were faced by the dauntless women who accompanied their husbands, brothers and fathers to the new home under the western stars.

In recounting her adventurous youth, Mrs. Fee often said danger was so constant that it became commonplace. Women kept a gun within reach while they attended to household duties and reared their sturdy children. Every child was taught to be constantly on the alert for Indian signs and to keep close to the log cabins in their play. But with every precaution the weak settlements were often surprised, and wiped out by fierce warriors who appeared and vanished as though by magic.

The stern environment developed women into the robust, reliant mates the frontier demanded. Mrs. Fee often said death was not the greatest fear—the dread of horrible torture was the phantom dwelling with the emanced settler by day and by night.

There is no limit to the number of items you may buy at the Rexall One-Cent Sale now on at the Boone Drug Co. Simply pay one cent more than the regular price and get two articles.

There are 2,000,000 members of the International Federation of American Pigeon fanciers. Races are held twice a year at distances from 100 to 1,000 miles.

## AT THE PASTIME THEATER

"The Place of Good Shows" Friday and Saturday, April 2 and 3

EVELYN BRENT  
—In—  
"SMOOTH AS SATIN"  
Also "Our Gang Comedy"

Monday, April 5th  
EDMUND LOVE  
—In—  
"GREATER THAN A CROWN"

Tuesday and Wednesday, April 6-7  
JACK HOLT, NOAH BEERY and BILLIE DOVE  
—In—  
"LIGHT OF THE WESTERN STARS"

From Zane Grey's Novel

Thursday, April 8th  
JACK HOXIE  
With Scout, the Wild Horse, in  
"THE WHITE OUTLAW"  
This is one of Jack's greatest pictures

High grade candies are included in the list of Rexall One-Cent Sale offerings. Pay one cent additional and get two boxes. Boone Drug Co.

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LICENSED CHIROPRACTORS

NOW LOCATED ON THE DR. R. K. BINGHAM RESIDENCE AT THE INTERSECTION OF THE BLOWING ROCK TURNPIKE AND THE DANIEL BOONE TRAIL

For the convenience of our patients we are now located in the Dr. Bingham residence.

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## WILLIAM VONCANNON DEAD AT BANNER ELK

William Voncannon, 86 years of age, died suddenly at his home at Banner Elk at 11 o'clock Monday night, his death resulting from apoplexy. He was apparently in his usual state of health until a few hours before the end came.

Funeral services were conducted yesterday afternoon at 1 o'clock from the First Presbyterian church at Banner Elk, in charge of Rev. W. E. Sweeney, of Johnson City, Tenn., pastor of the First Christian church, a long-time friend of the deceased and his family.

Mr. Voncannon was one of the pioneers in the Banner Elk section, and was a most influential and prominent character in the life and progress of his community. He was during the early part of his life a business and industrial figure of importance, though retired from active work for many years.

He was a member of the G. A. R., having a splendid record as a soldier in the Union army, and had been a member of the Masonic order for almost half a century.

Surviving are his widow and four children: Mrs. R. L. Lowe, J. H. Voncannon and F. W. Voncannon, of Banner Elk, and Mrs. Anna Guignard of Hickory. A son, Charles B. Voncannon, was killed in a grade crossing accident in Johnson City three years ago.

Because of the ban on hunting swans in the past ten years, there are more than 15,000 swans in waters along the coast of Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina.

When D. M. Stone returned to his parked car in Woodruff, S. C., he found that the top had nearly disappeared. A goat had devoured it.

BARRED ROCK EGGS FOR hatching—Parks bred-to-lay strain, \$1.50 per 15; \$5.50 per hundred. Jas. A. Hodges, Shulls Mills, N. C. 1-4-3.

SKAT—Paste Soaps, Cleansers and Polishes. Sideline salesman, dealer, or agent wanted. Exclusive territory. SKAT, Hartford, Conn. 18-3p

MR. FARMER—WE HAVE FIVE hundred farms any size, anywhere, at any price in the Piedmont Section of South Carolina, one of them for you. We have automobiles waiting at Brevard and Hendersonville to carry you and show you these farms if you will notify us when you wish to go. Realty & Investment Corp., Box 781, Hendersonville, N. C. 1-4-2

BABY CHICKS—PRICES REDUCED after April 15: S. C. Reds, utility stock, 100 \$12.50; S. C. Reds, Tompkins strain, 100 \$14.00; White Rocks, Barred Rocks, 100 \$14.00; White Wyandottes, 100 \$16.00; Anconas, 100 \$12.50; White Leghorns, 100 \$12.50; Heavy Broilers, 100 \$12.50; Light Broilers, \$11.50. P. P. extra, 22, 35c; 50, 40c; 100, 45c. Order from this ad. Wilkes Hatchery, North Wilkesboro, N. C. Terms: Net cash with order.

## Green's Happy Anconas

Prize Winners: Best Bird, Best Pen Show, First Hen, First Trio.

They will produce as many eggs in a year as any breed. Eggs are large and white. They are hardy and always seem happy. Price for 15, \$1.50.

KING'S CREEK POULTRY FARM T. G. Green, Prop., King's Creek, N. C.



A three-year investigation of practices of attorneys before the treasury department, especially in tax cases, culminated Monday in an announcement by Secretary Mellon that during that time 24 lawyers had been denied the privilege of further practicing before the department and that 15 others had been suspended pending inquiry. In addition, the treasury secretary ordered that employes found guilty of any improper activities in connection with such cases, should be dismissed from the service.

**A FEW CHOICE RHODE ISLAND COCKERELS**  
(Direct from Harold Tompkins)  
**\$5.00 to \$7.50 EGGS FOR HATCHING**

Tom Barron White Leghorns	\$1.50 per setting
Aristocrat Barred Rocks	\$2.00 per setting
Tompkins Strain R. I. Reds	\$3.00 per setting

**F. H. Marley**  
LENOIR, N. C.

## NOTICE TO FARMERS

Be careful about your grass seed. The U. S. Department of Agriculture says the farmers of America lost \$5,000,000 last year on imported grass seeds. The county is full of them at a cheap price. We have the genuine American grown seed with guaranteed analysis.

You can also get your Fertilizers, onion sets, seed oats and a full line of flour and feeds.

Buy your grass seed here. Get a good crop—take no chances.

### S. C. Eggers & Co.

## Children Cry for

# CASTORIA

MOTHER—Fletcher's Castoria is a pleasant, harmless substitute for Castor Oil, Paregoric, Teething Drops and Soothing Syrups, especially prepared for Infants in arms and Children of all ages. It contains no narcotics.

To avoid imitations, always look for the signature of *Dr. J. C. Fletcher*. Follow directions on each package. Physicians everywhere recommend it.

## The Piedmont Evening Star Festival

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

"A Merrie Heart Doeth Good Like a Medicine."

THE PIEDMONT EVENING STAR FESTIVAL IS THE ANNUAL SPRING TONIC TO OUR COMMUNITY

It is compounded by professionals, pleasant to take and profitable withal to the good health of the people old and young. Shake well—your neighbor's hand. Perhaps you haven't seen each other during recent months. Get acquainted again as you meet each evening at the Festival. Give the entire family a daily dose. Note on yourself and them the instant lubricating effect that the lively tunes have upon sour dispositions and stiff joints. Music drives away old grudges; it makes us forget sordid cares; it creates for us restful memories of the past and challenging visions of the future. This formula of friendliness and community co-operation is the solution for all our ills. It is the Golden Rule in action.

ADMISSION . . . . 25c and 50c