

background

EXHIBIT D

*BOSTON GAZETTE, MARCH 12, 1770**

Our readers will doubtless expect a circumstantial Account of the tragical Affair on Monday Night last . . .

On hearing the noise [of the fight in the alley] one Samuel Atwood came up to see what was the matter, and entering the alley . . . heard the latter part of the combat, and when the boys had dispersed he met the ten or twelve soldiers . . . rushing down the alley toward the square, and asked them if they intended to murder people? They answered, "Yes, by G-d, root and branch!" [and struck and wounded Atwood].

Retreating a few steps, Mr. Atwood met two officers and said, "Gentlemen, what is the matter?" They answered, "You'll see by and by."

Immediately after, those heroes [the officers] appeared in the square, asking where were the buggers? Where were the cowards? . . . One of them advanced towards a youth who had a stave in his hand. But the young man, seeing a person near him with a drawn sword and good cane ready to support him, held up his stave [stick] in defiance, and they quietly passed by him up the little alley . . . to King Street, where they attacked single and unarmed persons till they raised such clamor, and then turned down Cornhill Street, insulting all they met . . . and pursuing some to their very doors.

Thirty or forty persons, mostly lads, being by this means gathered in King Street, Capt. Preston, with a party of men with charged bayonets, came from the main guard to the Commissioner's house, the soldiers pushing their bayonets, crying, "Make way!" They took place by the Custom House, and continuing to push to drive the people off, pricked some in several places; on which they were clamorous and, it is said, threw snowballs.

On this, the Captain commanded them to fire, and more snowballs coming, he again said, "Damn you, fire, be the consequences what it will!" One soldier then fired, and a townsman with a cudgel [club] struck him over the hands with such force that he dropped his firelock [musket]: and rushing forward aimed a blow at the Captain's head, which graz'd his hat and fell pretty heavy upon his arm. However, the soldiers continued the fire, successively, till seven or eight or, as some say, eleven guns were discharged.

By this fatal manoeuvre, three men were laid dead on the spot, and two more struggling for life . . . the dead are Mr. Samuel Gray . . . a black man named Crispus Attucks . . . [and] Mr. James Caldwell, mate of Capt. Morton's vessel.

*Adapted from the original newspaper article reprinted in Emery, Edwin (ed.), The Story of America as Reported by Its Newspapers 1690-1965.

Primary Source #5: Paul Revere's Engraving "The Bloody Massacre Perpetrated in King-Street . . ."



"The Bloody Massacre Perpetrated in King Street on March 5th, 1770 . . .," engraved by Paul Revere, Boston, Massachusetts, 1770. From the collections of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation.

1 prosecution ROLE SHEET



JOHN GRAY

WITNESS FOR THE PROSECUTION

You are the owner of a large ropewalk that often hired off-duty British soldiers and unemployed seamen on a daily basis to mend the ropes needed by the hundreds of ships that called at Boston's harbor. Your cousin Sam Gray worked at your ropewalk.

You were involved in the fights on March 2 and 3. You will testify to the following:

1. On March 2 a soldier came to your ropewalk seeking a job. You heard one of your ropemakers, William Green, offer him a job cleaning the "necessary house." This was always the first task for a new employee.
2. He got offended and started yelling insults. Then he started punching people. Finally, Nicholas Ferriter, one of your employees, knocked him down. He got up and ran for help.
3. A short while later he returned with several soldiers armed with clubs and swords. They immediately attacked your employees and were driven off after several minutes of fighting with a lot of cuts and bruises to your men.
4. The next day, March 3, three more soldiers came back to your ropewalk and started another fight. Sam Gray gave one of them a fractured skull and they left muttering threats. William Green, one of your ropemakers, told you he heard one soldier say that "there were a great many townspeople who would eat their dinners on Monday next, who would not eat any on Tuesday."
5. You didn't witness the "Massacre" on March 5, but you believe that Sam Gray was deliberately murdered by the soldiers for his part in the fight. You are sure they would have shot you, too.

3 prosecution

ROLE SHEET



JAMES BREWER

WITNESS FOR THE PROSECUTION

You are a Patriot agitator who saw the horrible "Massacre" of five of Boston's citizens. You definitely believe that it was not necessary for the soldiers to fire into the crowd since nobody was going to hurt them.

You will testify to the following:

1. You know that there have been a lot of fights between the soldiers and the honest working men of Boston. You have seen several altercations caused by the uncouth, rum-drinking soldiers of the 29th Regiment.
2. You had nothing to do with the fights at the ropewalk. However, the ropemaker, Sam Gray, killed on March 5 was a good friend. You think that certain soldiers were out to get him.
3. You, Edward Langford, Sam Atwood, and Sam Gray were in the White Horse Tavern near King Street on the night of March 5. You heard shouts of "fire" and, thinking the town was burning, rushed outside.
4. You saw a small crowd teasing a single soldier. They were calling him "Lobster" and "Bloody back." A few snowballs were thrown.
5. The crowd grew and Captain Preston arrived with seven other soldiers. Sam Gray said he recognized one, Matt Kilroy, so you pushed to the front of the crowd to get a better look.
6. You, Sam Atwood, Sam Gray, and Edward Langford were in the front of the crowd which was heckling the soldiers with shouts of "Damn Lobsters, you dare not fire." A few people had wooden canes and snowballs were being thrown.
7. Suddenly, you heard the explosion of a musket. There was a momentary silence and then you heard Captain Preston shout "Damn you, bloods, fire again, let the consequences be what it will!" Then all the soldiers seemed to fire at once.
8. Sam Gray fell to the ground bleeding. You turned and ran for your life. People were running in every direction away from the firing soldiers and several others appeared wounded.

#4 prosecution

ROLE SHEET



SAMUEL ADAMS WITNESS FOR THE PROSECUTION

You are a leading Patriot agitator and one of the founders of the group known as the "Sons of Liberty." You are a well respected lawyer and a former town official. You and Governor Hutchinson are deadly enemies.

You will testify to the following:

1. You know that there have been a lot of fights between the soldiers of the 29th Regiment and the citizens of Boston. You believe that these fights will not end until the British decide to remove these oppressive, uncouth rum-drinking soldiers who are taking away the liberty of the people.
2. You were not present at the March 5 "Massacre," but you did hear a British officer comment prior to the event that "he hoped to God the soldiers would burn the bloody town down."
3. You will deny organizing the crowd to deliberately harass and provoke the soldiers.

3 defense

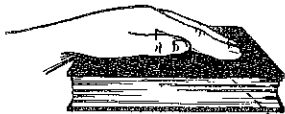


ROLE SHEET

RICHARD PALMES WITNESS FOR THE DEFENSE

You are a citizen of Boston and a well-known Patriot agitator. You believe that the British soldiers have no business in Boston other than to oppress the people. You have had fights with British soldiers on several occasions. You will reluctantly testify to the following:

1. On the night of March 5, hearing bells ringing and the sound of a crowd, you grabbed a club and went to King Street.
2. You were yelling curses and taunts at the British soldiers.
3. You admit that some people were throwing snowballs and ice.
4. You were almost face to face with the soldiers when Private Montgomery was hit with a stick. You saw him fall and then fire his musket. Then you hit him with your club. You wanted to prevent him from firing again.
5. You thought Captain Preston was going to give the order to "fire" so you tried to hit him. Your blow was deflected by another soldier.
6. Suddenly all the soldiers started firing. You ran for your life.
7. You admit that even though you were in front of the crowd, you never heard Captain Preston give the order to "fire."



ROLE SHEET

NEWTON PRINCE WITNESS FOR THE DEFENSE

You are a free black man from the West Indies. You work as a pastry cook in a shop near King Street. You will testify to the following:

1. On the night of March 5, hearing bells ringing and the sound of a crowd, you joined Edward Langford, Sam Atwood, and James Brewer and ran toward King Street. You were carrying a large wooden ladder.
2. You joined the crowd that was yelling curses and taunts at the British soldiers. Some people were throwing snowballs and ice. You just wanted to watch the action.
3. You saw several people begin to hit the soldiers' musket barrels with clubs. At this point you wanted to leave but the crowd was so thick behind you that you couldn't move.
4. You saw a soldier get hit with a stick. He rose and fired. Then all the soldiers seemed to start firing.
5. You admit that many people in the crowd were urging the soldiers to "fire." You confess that although you were near in front of Captain Preston, you never heard him give the order to "fire."

#4

Defense

4

Primary source #4: Continuing with Captain Preston's recollection of this event (provides an entirely different perspective on the events of March 5, 1770)

They [the mob] advanced to the points of the bayonets, struck some of them and even the muzzles [the front of the muskets] of the pieces, and seemed to be endeavoring to close with the soldiers . . . some well behaved persons asked me if the guns were charged [loaded] and I replied yes . . . they then asked if I intended to order the men to fire. I answered no, by no means, observing to them that I was advanced before the muzzles of the men's pieces [he was standing in front of their guns] and must fall a sacrifice if they fired; and my giving the word fire under those circumstances would prove me to be no officer. While I was thus speaking, one of the soldiers have received a severe blow with a stick, stepped a little on one side and instantly fired, on which turning and asking why he fired without orders, I was struck with a club on my arm, which for some time deprived me of the use of it, which blow had it been placed on my head, most probably would have destroyed me.

On this a general attack was made on the men [Redcoats] by a great number of heavy clubs and snowballs being thrown . . . by which all our lives were in imminent [immediate] danger . . . Instantly three or four soldiers fired, one after another, and directly after three more in the same confusion and hurry. The mob ran away, except three unhappy men who instantly expired . . . On my asking the soldiers why they fired without orders, they said they heard the word fire and supposed it came from me. This might be the case as many of the mob called out fire, fire, but I assured the men that I gave no such order.

Is this yet another perspective?

1. Was the mob becoming more intense and dangerous? What makes you think this way?
2. Which side seems to be at blame for starting the firing of muskets? What evidence from Preston's testimony made you think this was so?
3. Would Captain Preston have any reason to tell less than the exact truth? Give a reason for your answer.

Primary source #3: Testimony from [British] Captain Thomas Preston (provides an entirely different perspective on the events of March 5, 1770)

About 9, some of the guard came to and informed me the town inhabitants were assembling to attack the troops, that that the bells were ringing as the signal for that purpose . . . In my way there, I saw people in great commotion, and heard them use the most cruel and horrid threats against the troops . . . about 100 people passed . . . towards the custom house where the king's money is lodged. They immediately surrounded the sentry [British soldier] posted there, and with clubs and other weapons threatened to execute their vengeance on him. I was soon informed by a townsman their intention was to carry off the soldier from his post and probably murder him . . . he assured me he heard the mob declare they would murder him. This I feared might be a prelude to their plundering [stealing] the king's chest. I immediately sent an officer and 12 men to protect the sentry and the king's money . . . they [the soldiers] rushed through the people and by charging their bayonets in half circles, kept them [the townspeople] at a little distance . . . the unhappy affair took place without any loading in their pieces [muskets]; nor did I ever give orders for loading them. The mob still increased and were more outrageous, striking their clubs . . . and calling out, come on you rascals, you bloody backs, you lobster scoundrels, fire if you dare . . . fire . . . At this time I was between the soldiers and the mob, parleying with and endeavoring all in my power to persuade them to retire peacefully, but to no purpose.

Is this a different perspective? Let's see . . .

1. At 9:00 at night, why were the bells ringing in Boston? Was it some sort of signal?
2. The event took place near a customs house. Why might this be important information to consider?
3. From Captain Preston's point of view, what was the intent of this unruly crowd?
4. How did Captain Preston attempt to settle this matter?

1 defense

ROLE SHEET



PRIVATE THOMAS WALKER

WITNESS FOR THE DEFENSE

You are a member of the 29th Regiment of the British Army stationed in Boston. You were not involved in the incident on March 5. You will testify about the fights at John Gray's ropewalk. You will say the following:

1. You admit that you had a number of fights with citizens in Boston prior to the incident on the evening of March 5.
2. You went to John Gray's ropewalk on March 2 looking for some honest work. One of the ropemakers, William Green, humiliated you by saying "go clean the outhouse." You told him to empty it himself. Then the ropemakers started punching you. One man, you think his name is Nicholas Ferriter, knocked you to the ground.
3. You ran to the army barracks and several soldiers volunteered to go back and teach these ruffians some respect for the King and the 29th Regiment. There was a big fight with a lot of bruises and bloody noses. Nobody got seriously hurt.
4. You feel that these low-life ropemakers were the cause of not only this fight but the later mob action on March 5.

ROLE SHEET



JAMES MURRAY
WITNESS FOR THE DEFENSE

You are a Town justice-of-the-peace. You were alerted that a mob was besieging a group of soldiers on King Street in front of the Custom House. You grabbed a copy of the "Riot Act," which expressly forbids riotous gatherings threatening law and order, and headed in the direction of King Street. You will testify to the following:

1. When you arrived on King Street you saw a scene of utter disorder. A huge mob was screaming insults and throwing snowballs and ice at a small group of soldiers in front of the Custom House.
2. You recognized Captain Preston but not the other soldiers. You raised your voice and tried to read the "Riot Act" to the crowd. They were to "disperse" immediately. Instead, part of the crowd started throwing snowballs and ice at you. Some hurled insults and even threatened you with clubs.
3. You became scared and decided to leave and let the military handle the situation. Later you heard shots from King Street.
7. You firmly believe the soldiers were justified in firing to break up this riotous gathering. Their lives were threatened.



ROLE SHEET



LT. GOVERNOR THOMAS HUTCHINSON
WITNESS FOR THE DEFENSE

You are a loyal servant of the King and finally managed to convince the crowd to disperse, promising justice. You will testify to the following:

1. You did not witness the shootings on King Street but you believe firmly in law and order.
2. You ordered Captain Preston to leave King Street after the shootings and told the crowd that there would be a full inquiry as to who was responsible.
3. You believe that rowdy ruffians stirred up trouble and caused the soldiers to fear for their lives.
4. You regret the incident but feel that Captain Preston acted reasonably under the circumstances.

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2 prosecution



ROLE SHEET

SAMUEL ATWOOD

WITNESS FOR THE PROSECUTION

You are a Patriot agitator who saw the horrible "Massacre" of five of Boston's citizens. You later related to a newspaper reporter for the Boston Gazette some of your experiences on the evening of March 5. You definitely believe that it was not necessary for the soldiers to fire into the crowd since nobody was going to hurt them.

You will testify to the following:

1. You know that there have been a lot of fights between the soldiers of the 29th Regiment and the citizens of Boston, especially the seamen along the wharves. You believe that both groups are rum-drinking low-lives and share equal blame.
2. You had nothing to do with the fights at the ropewalk. You did know Sam Gray and considered him more of a peacemaker than a troublemaker.
3. You, Sam Gray, Edward Langford, and James Brewer were in the White Horse Tavern near King Street on the night of March 5. Sam Gray told you that certain soldiers of the 29th Regiment had said they planned to "shoot a few ropemakers when they had the chance."
4. You left the tavern and started home. You heard noise in an alley and met a group of soldiers heading in the direction of King Street. You asked them if they intended to murder people and they said, "Yes, by God, root and branch!" Then one of the soldiers hit you on the head.
5. You moved out of their way and then two British officers came by. You said, "Gentlemen, what is the matter?" They answered, "You'll see by and by."
6. You entered King Street and saw a small crowd of thirty or forty men, mostly lads, yelling curses at a lone sentry. A few were throwing snowballs.
7. Shortly, a British officer, Captain Preston, arrived with seven other soldiers and set themselves up in a semi-circular formation in front of the building steps. The soldiers had charged bayonets and pricked some people who got too near them.
8. You joined Edward Langford, Sam Gray, and James Brewer at the front of the crowd to get a better view of the action.
9. More people arrived on King Street. They were shouting insults like "Bloody back, damn lobsters" and throwing snowballs. You didn't see anybody using ice or clubs. Suddenly there was a musket shot, then a momentary silence.
10. You saw Captain Preston raise his arm and within seconds all the soldiers started firing. People seemed to be falling all around you. You turned and ran for the protection of a corner street. You heard later that Sam Gray had been killed along with four others.

Name: _____

Point of View: _____

	Source	In the sources' eyes, who is at fault? Why?	Has the source had previous incidents with the opposing side?	What evidence will support your answer?	Is the source reliable? (Circle one)
Prosecution 1					Y or N
Prosecution 2					Y or N

Prosecution 3					Y or N
Prosecution 4					Y or N
Defense 1					Y or N

Y or N	Y or N
Defense 4	Photo