

## **The Boston Massacre**

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The people from my tribe call me Nancy Attucks. I am a Native Indian of Wampanoag origin who was forced into slavery at the end of the First Indian War. I was sold to Colonel Buckminster from Framingham, Massachusetts where I met Prince Yonger. He was an enslaved man sent to America from Africa. He became my husband and together, we had three children. One of them was Crispus Attucks, one of the five victims and the first casualty of the Boston Massacre. He is a patriot colonist, like the rest of the family. Born into slavery, my son is now a middle-aged sailor and rope maker. He grew up to be a courageous man who was fearless on the consequences of escaping slavery. After his escape, he spent two decades as a seaman coming in and out of Boston.

My son, Crispus, appeared to be significantly affected by the worsening relationship between the British soldiers and American colonists. Sailors like him are constantly threatened that they might be forced to enter the British navy, which he did not like to do. The immense antagonism Crispus had for British rule led him to be with a furious group of colonists who experienced bloodshed during the tragic night on King Street in Boston, Massachusetts.

On a cold, snowy evening of March 5, 1770, my son joined several angry colonists outside the Custom House on King Street. I happened to be within the vicinity and was a couple of feet away from the crowd. I clearly saw what happened before the bloody turmoil commenced. There was a soldier guarding the King's funds and assets which were believed to be stored inside the Custom House. It did not take long when the colonists intimidated and insulted the solitary soldier. His name is Private Hugh White, according to the civilians who around with me. In order to defend himself, the British soldier pursued to strike a colonist with his bayonet. The colonists became infuriated and battered him with snowballs, sticks, and stones. Bells rang throughout the town sending a massive crowd into the streets. Private White must have called for assistance from the British army as several soldiers arrived at the scene in front of the Custom House. The raging fight intensified and the British soldiers were attacked with clubs and sticks by the crowd of colonists.

My heart raced like a lightning bolt when I saw Crispus swing a stick at one of the British soldiers, knocking away his gun, and hitting him directly in the head. He grabbed the soldier's bayonet in his other hand and then yelled to the crowd, "Kill the dogs. Knock them over!". The British soldier was able to snatch the gun back into his possession and shot him, tearing up an inch-wide hole in his chest. Crispus then fell to the ground and died on the scene.

That was the first shot that rang out during the night. It was the most deafening sound to my ears. The crowd became frantic when the British soldiers opened fire and started shooting the colonists and civilians. My emotions were raging like an eternal flame after I saw Crispus shot and the many civilians who were injured during the riot. The other two victims who died on the scene were Samuel Gray and James Caldwell. Patrick Carr is an Irish immigrant who was severely wounded and died two weeks later. Samuel Maverick is a seventeen-year old boy who was also severely injured and died the next morning.

The conflict between the British soldiers and the colonists grew remarkably after the dreadful night of the Boston Massacre. It had permanently damaged the relationship between the two groups. For several years, the colonists were tired of British rule and the unfair taxation system. We feel that the King and his government does not have the right to force colonists to pay taxes because we have no representation in the Parliament. We, the colonists, have endured an agonizing British rule but our resilience can only withstand up to a certain threshold. The Boston Massacre made us deeply realize that the British soldiers are cruel and oppressive rulers. They want to impose stricter controls over the colonies to maintain their authority for their own interest. The fallout of the Boston Massacre made the colonists pursue their desire to seek freedom and fight for their independence.

What started out as a street fight which turned into a deadly rampage during the night of March 5, 1770, will always be remembered as a crucial moment in our history. It fostered unity among the colonies against Britain in their quest for political independence. I am hopeful that the story of my son's journey on the deadly night of the Boston Massacre will be remembered by future generations as they look back and understand why it was definitely considered the key event leading to the American Revolutionary War.

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