

<p style="text-align: center;">The British Point of View: From the report of Captain Thomas Preston</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">The American Point of View: From a Boston Colonist</p>
<p>“In my way there I saw the people in great commotion, and heard them use the most cruel and horrid threats against the troops. In a few minutes after I reached the guard, about 100 people passed it and went towards the custom house where the king’s money is lodged.” <i>Summary: The colonists were threatening the British soldiers with cruel, horrible threats. There was a big mob (100 people) on their way to the custom house because they were after the king’s money.</i></p> <p>“They immediately surrounded the sentry posted there, and with clubs and other weapons threatened to execute their vengeance on him.” <i>Summary: Surrounding the British soldier, the colonists said they were going to kill him with their clubs and other weapons.</i></p> <p>“I immediately send a noncommissioned officer and 12 men to protect both the sentry and the king’s money, and very soon followed myself to prevent, if possible all disorder.” <i>Summary: Captain Preston sent 13 more soldiers to protect the British soldier who was being threatened and the king’s money. He also came in order to try to prevent a fight.</i></p> <p>“They soon rushed through the people, and by charging their bayonets in half-circles, kept them at a little distance.” <i>Summary: The British soldiers walked quickly through the mob, holding out their guns in front of them to make room.</i></p> <p>“The mob still increased and were more outrageous, striking their clubs or bludgeons one against another, and calling out, come on you rascals, you bloody backs, you lobster scoundrels, fire if you dare, we know you dare not.” <i>Summary: The mob was angry and as they hit their weapons together, they shouted at the soldiers, daring them to shoot and calling them names.</i></p> <p>“On which some well behaved persons asked me if the guns were charged. I replied yes. They then asked me if I intended to order the men to fire. I answered no, by no means, observing to them</p>	<p>“Whether the boys mistook the sentry for one of the said party (a group of unruly soldiers who had been about the area earlier), and thence took occasion to differ with him, or whether he first affronted them - however that may be, there was much foul language between them, and some of them, in consequence of his pushing at them with his bayonet, threw snowballs at him.” <i>Summary: No one knows if the colonists or the soldiers attacked first. Either way, both sides were cursing at each other. Some of the colonists threw snowballs at the soldier after he pushed them with his gun.</i></p> <p>“The officer on guard was Captain Preston, who with seven or eight soldiers, with firearms and charged bayonets, issued from the guardhouse, and in great haste posted himself and his soldiers in front of the custom house” <i>Summary: Captain Preston and 7 or 8 soldiers with loaded guns quickly came to stand in front of the custom house.</i></p> <p>“In passing to this station the soldiers pushed several persons with their bayonets, driving through the people in so rough a manner that it appeared they intended to create a disturbance. This occasioned some snowballs to be thrown at them which seems to have been the only provocation that was given.” <i>Summary: The soldiers fiercely pushed people aside with their guns. This made the colonists throw some more snowballs at the soldiers, but otherwise the people did not do anything to challenge the soldiers.</i></p> <p>“Mr. Knox declares, that while he was talking with Captain Preston, the soldiers of his detachment had attacked the people with their bayonets; the backs of the people being toward them when the people were attacked.” <i>Summary: While one of the colonists (Mr. Knox) spoke to Captain Preston, the soldiers attacked the people while their backs were turned.</i></p> <p>“The British soldiers formed into a half circle; and within a short time after they had been posted at the custom house, began to fire upon the people. Captain Preston is said to have</p>

that I was advanced before the muzzles of the men's pieces, and must fall a sacrifice if they fired."

Summary: A peaceful colonist asked if the guns were charged and if Captain Preston was going to order the men to fire. The Captain said the guns were charged, but that he did not want them to fire. He was standing in between the guns and the mob, so if they fired, he would get shot.

"While I was thus speaking, one of the soldiers having received a severe blow with a stick, stepped a little on one side and instantly fired, on which turning to and asking him why he fired without orders, I was struck with a club on my arm."

Summary: While the Captain was talking to the colonist, a soldier was hit hard with a stick. The soldier stepped aside from the Captain and fired his gun. The Captain asked the soldier why he fired without orders, but he did not get an answer because he was then also hit by a club on the arm.

"On this general attack was made on the men by a great number of heavy clubs and snowballs being thrown at them, by which all our lives were in imminent danger, some persons at the same time from behind calling out - why don't you fire."

Summary: The mob responded to the shot by attacking the soldiers with heavy clubs and snowballs, quickly putting everyone's lives in danger. The mob continued to yell at the soldiers to fire.

"Instantly three or four of the 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."

Summary: About six or seven more soldiers fired in the chaos. The colonists all ran away, except for three of the men who were shot and killed.

"One more is since dead, three others are dangerously, and four slightly wounded."

Summary: One more colonist died, three were seriously injured, and four more had smaller injuries.

ordered the to fire, and to have repeated that order."

Summary: The soldiers surrounded the people and began to fire, ordered to do so by Captain Preston multiple times.

"One gun was fired first; then others in succession and with deliberation, till ten or a dozen guns were fired; or till that number of discharges were made from the guns that were fired. By which means eleven persons were killed and wounded, as above presented."

Summary: After one gun fired, 10 or 12 more shots were fired. 11 of the colonist people were killed and wounded in all.