

THE GILDER LEHRMAN
INSTITUTE *of* AMERICAN HISTORY

Inside the Vault :
Highlights from the Gilder Lehrman Collection

May 1, 2020

- Your camera is automatically off.
- Your microphone is muted.
- Chat has been disabled.

The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History

- The Gilder Lehrman Institute has more than 70,000 documents pertaining to American history from colonization through the end of the 20th century.
- We are dedicated to improving K–12 history education while also serving the general public.
 - Educational programs
 - Online resources
 - Direct access to unique primary source materials

Gilder Lehrman Staff

Panelists

- Sandy Trenholm – Collection Director
- Kevin Cline – 2016 Gilder Lehrman National History Teacher of the Year

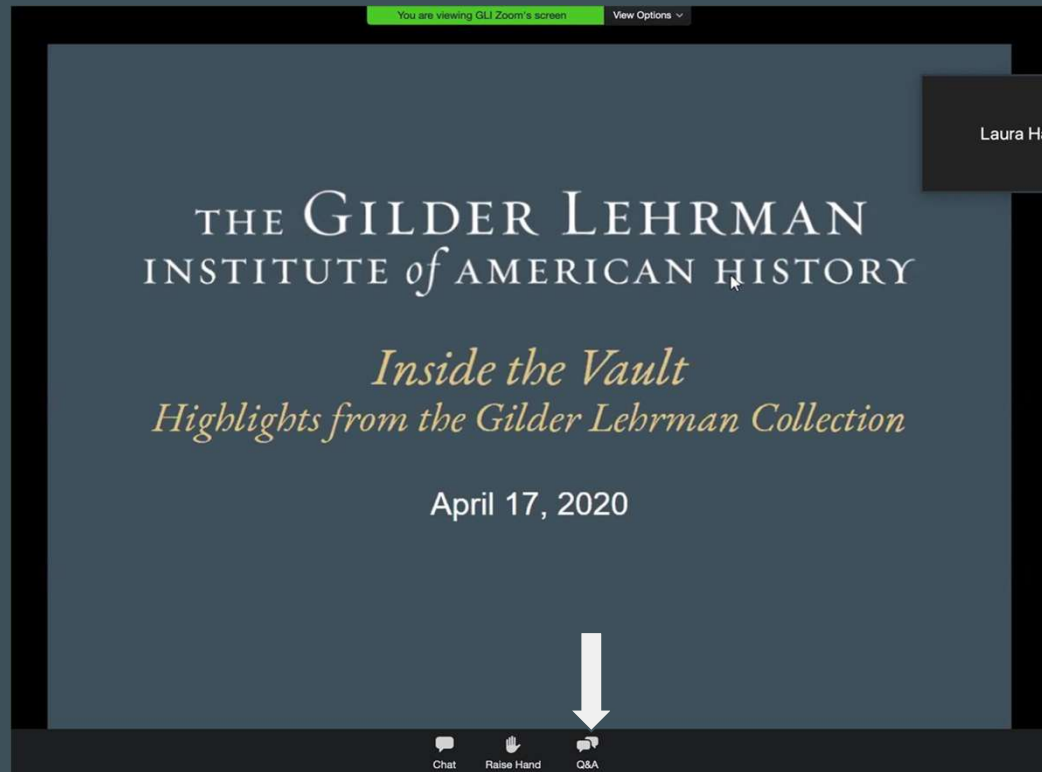
Support

- Allison Kraft – Assistant Curator
- Marissa Cheifetz – Coordinator of Publications and Multimedia

For Security

- Your microphone is muted.
- Your camera is automatically off.
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How to Participate on PC or Mac



- In order to keep this a safe and secure meeting, your mic is automatically muted and your camera is automatically off.
- If you would like to ask a question, **you can use the Q&A feature** which can be found along the bottom of your screen.

Today's Documents



Paul Revere's engraving depicting the Boston Massacre



Phillip Dawe's print of "Bostonians Paying the Excise-man"

The Boston Massacre, 1770



Boston Massacre, March 5, 1770

- On the evening of March 5, a group of laborers, apprentices, and merchant sailors gathered and began to throw snowballs and rocks at eight British soldiers in front of the Customs House.
- This crowd would grow to about 400 people.
- After a soldier was hit with a stick, he yelled "Fire!" and shot into the crowd.
- Then several soldiers fired their weapons despite explicit orders to the contrary.
- Five colonists were killed, including Crispus Attucks, an African American merchant sailor who had escaped from slavery more than twenty years earlier.

Paul Revere's Boston Massacre print

- Revere produced this image just three weeks after the Boston Massacre.
- He based it on work of artist Henry Pelham, who was neither paid nor credited for his work.
- Revere's engraving is one of the most effective pieces of war propaganda in American history.
- Of the approximately 200 printed, only about two dozen are known to survive.
- The engravings were hand colored and each copy is a little different.

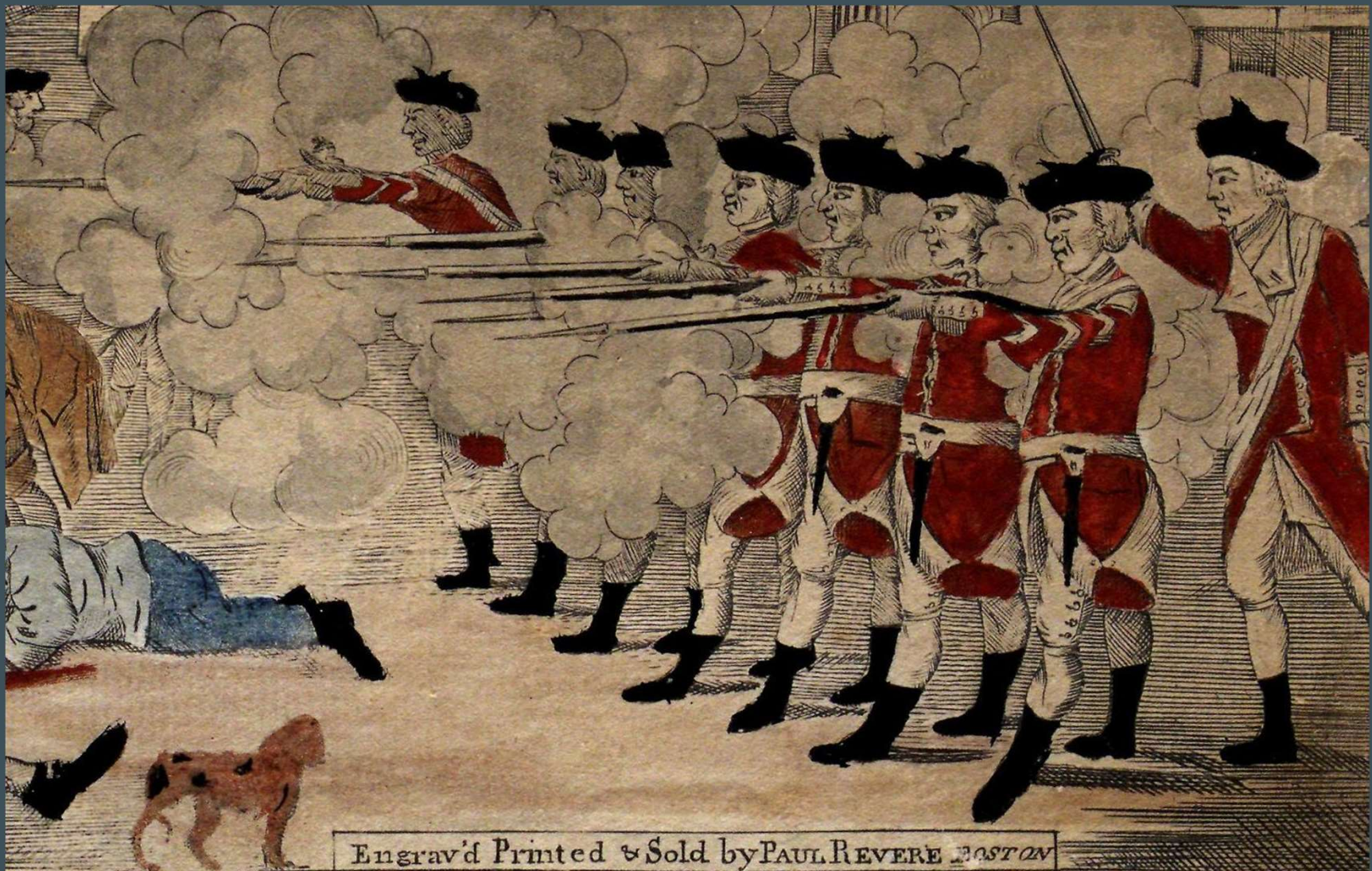
The Boston Massacre, 1770



The Boston Massacre



British Soldiers

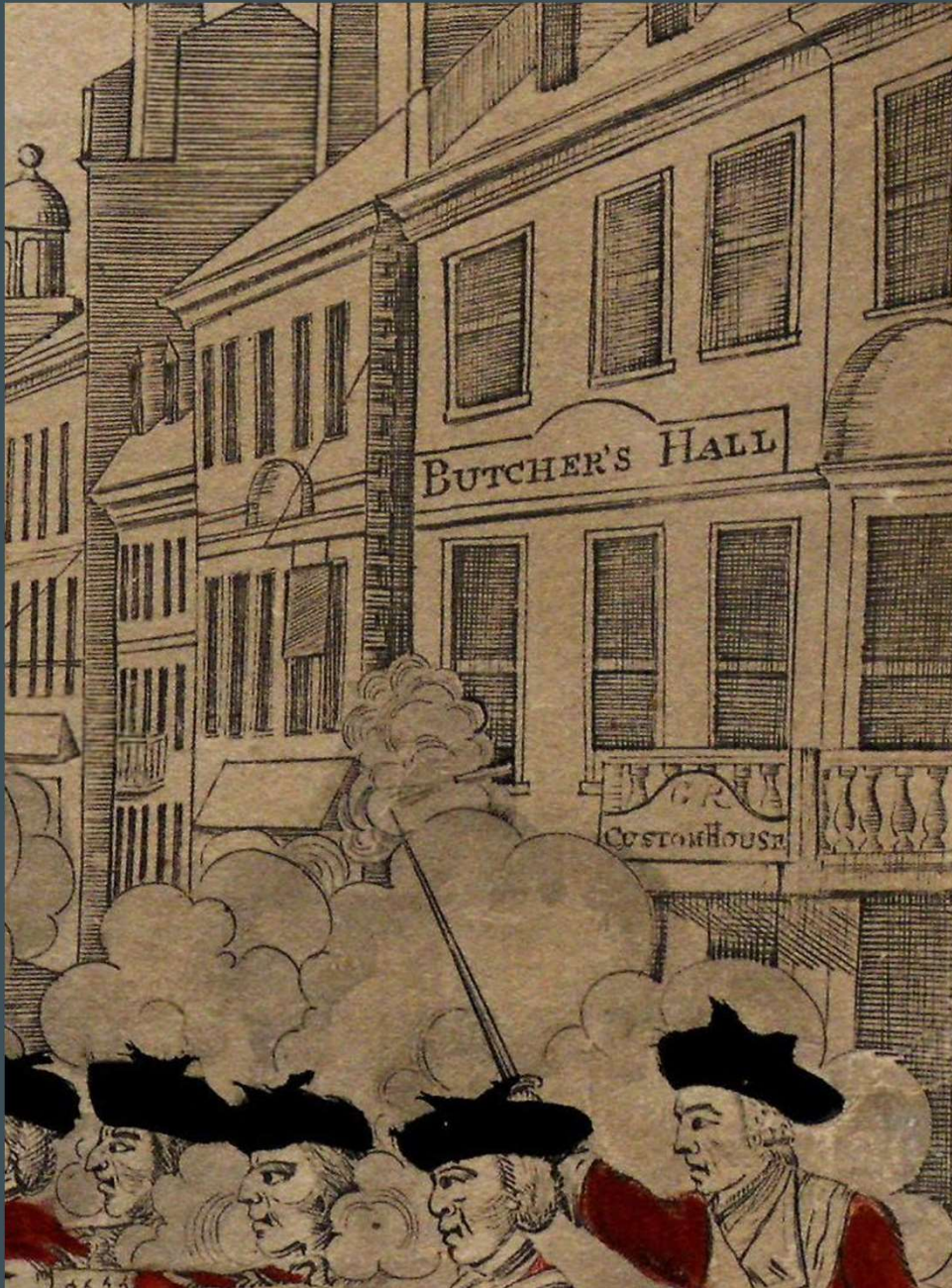


Colonists



Skyline





Hidden Sniper

Official Title



Aftermath

- Eight British soldiers were charged with murder.
- It took seven months to bring them to trial.
- If convicted of murder , they could get the death penalty.
- John Adams was their defense attorney.
- To get an impartial jury - Adams convinced the judge to seat a jury of non-Bostonians.
- Six soldiers were acquitted.
- Two were convicted of manslaughter and branded “M” for murder on their right thumbs.

How?

Why?

Q&A

**Did you
know?**

Who?

*Bostonian's Paying
the Excise-man,
1774*



The BOSTONIAN'S Paying the EXCISE-MAN, or TARRING & FEATHERING

Plate I.

London Printed for Robt. Sayer & J. B. R. at the Sign of the Sun in Fleet Street as the Act directs 25 Decr 1774

Mezzotint

- Mezzotint is an engraving process invented in England around 1700 and was popular for reproducing portrait paintings.
- To make this type of print, a metal plate was engraved by making with small holes in the metal that would hold ink.
- You can change the tone of the colors by gradually burnishing or sanding down the surface. This reduces the depth of the holes and how much ink they can hold.
- This process was not used very much in the American Colonies.

Tarring and Feathering

- Tarring and feathering is a practice that dates to at least medieval times.
- A person would be covered in very hot tar and then feathers were thrown on top of the tar.
- It was meant to humiliate people and serve as a public warning.
- In the mid-1770s, as tensions in the colonies began to rise, patriots began tarring and feathering those loyal to the Crown.

*Bostonian's Paying
the Excise-man,
1774*



Faces



Liberty Tree



Tea Party



Title



What really happened

- John Malcolm was a loyalist customs agent.
- An altercation with a child led to a mob taking vengeance on him.
 - Bostonians broke into his house, threw him into a cart, and drove him through the city
 - They tarred & feathered him
 - He was stripped of his clothes, covered with tar, and then with feathers.
 - They again drove him through the city, demanding he denounce the King.
 - He was beaten, tied to the gallows, and was threatened with hanging.
- He survived, went back to England, and asked the King for compensation & it was denied.

How?

Why?

Q&A

**Did you
know?**

Who?



Pop-Up History School Launched This Week!

The Gilder Lehrman Pop-Up History School has classes every Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday through May 29 for students in grades 3-12.

Topics include protest music, building the Berlin Wall, and defining cultural liberty. Sign up for a class by going to the Pop-Up History School page on the Gilder Lehrman website.

Upcoming classes include *Freedom, America's Ironic Ideal* in which Keisha Rembert discusses with high school students the Liberty Tree (**TODAY at 3pm E.T.**), and *The Boston Massacre* with Tim Bailey (intended for 3rd-5th graders.)

Registration link for *Freedom, America's Ironic Ideal* (Today at 3pm ET):
<https://www.gilderlehrman.org/civicism/event/info?reset=1&id=1190>

What's next?

1. We will send you a packet with the documents we talked about today.
2. Please complete a 2-minute feedback survey:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Vault_May1

1. Visit gilderlehrman.org for
 - Documents
 - Essays
 - Digital Exhibitions
 - Videos
 - Lesson Plans
 - Hamilton Education Program

Thank you!