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.
• Chat is disabled.
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
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

The Bloody Massacre, perpetrated in King Street, Boston on March 5th, 1770 by a party of the 29th REG.
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.
Q&A

Why?

How?

Did you know?

Who?
Bostonian’s Paying the Excise-man, 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

The Bostonian's Paying the Excise-man, or Tarring & Feathering

Plate I.

London printed for Rob. Sayer & J. Bennett, Map & Printseller, No. 53, Fleet Street, as the Act directs 31st October 1774.
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.
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/civicrm/event/info?reset=1&id=1150](https://www.gilderlehrman.org/civicrm/event/info?reset=1&id=1150)
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!