

How Street Gangs Started A Revolution

By EMORY DANIELS

EDITOR'S NOTE: The more things change, say historians, the more they are the same. History buff Emory Daniels, editor of the Farmington Enterprise & Observer, re-tells the story of the 1770 "Boston Massacre" in amazingly modern terms.

March 5 is the 200th anniversary of that now famous street confrontation in Boston which has become one of the most over-played incidents in history.

What was actually a street mob brawl has grown to a colossal myth Americans have labeled the "Boston Massacre." Recent historians no longer grace this brawl with

such a high-sounding title, but for many years people "remembered" the massacre the same way as later Americans remembered the Alamo.

ONLY FIVE colonists were killed that day and the shooting stopped almost as quickly as it began. A murder trial was held, but the nine British soldiers were acquitted.

Although an acquittal was the result of the murder trial, we cannot be sure the same verdict would have been returned if a conspiracy trial were held.

If conspiracy charges were made, the first suspect would have been delivered to Sam Adams — the arch-conspirator. Called as witnesses, if not co-defendants, would have been John Hancock, James Otis, Paul Revere or William Miller.

Even if a jury found Sam innocent of directly plotting the incident, history tells us he used the "Massacre" as a propaganda weapon in his personal campaign which culminated in the American Revolution.

SAM ADAMS ORGANIZED the Sons of Liberty and Sons of Liberty when King George's ministers began imposing taxes on the colonists. First was the Stamp Act of 1765, followed by the Stamp Act of 1766 and the Townshend Acts of 1767.

It was the Stamp Act which polarized public opinion against the crown. For this act affected the lawyers, merchants, journalists and clergy more directly than a little tax on sugar. It stirred Adams to organize the Sons of Liberty which continued to

poster the crown after all three acts were repealed. Once opposition was organized, Sam kept his crew on the attack having found another issue to rail at after repeal of each tax.

If the street gangs had not confronted the establishment on March 5, 1770, Sam would not have had the "Boston Massacre" to keep emotions running high against the crown. That may have hurt because March 5, 1770 was also the day the Townshend Acts had been repealed, except for one little tax-on-tea.

The role he played has been described by the historian Samuel Eliot Morison to describe Sam Adams as a master of propaganda and the western world's first orchestra leader.

THE MARCH 5 confrontation had been rehearsed annually for years in Boston each Nov. 5, which was known then as Guy Fawkes Day or Pope's Day.

Pope's Day was a time when the New England bigots would exhibit their anti-Catholic sentiments on the public streets. A wagon would be paraded through the streets with a mimic pope and numbers of monks and friars, riding atop. One of the townsmen would dress like the devil with horns, tail and pitchfork.

The group would travel from house to house, beating drums and blowing whistles. A pursuer would follow and collect money, and some residents would bring out food for the marchers.

The parade ended in the evening with a huge bonfire with all costumes being burned in effigy. Residents viewed these happenings as a nuisance but harmless — just like Halloween.

BUT SAM ADAMS took another view. Here was the training ground from which he could draw recruits. This "harmless" behavior would someday be very useful.

And it was not exactly harmless in all cities. Boston had two popes — one for the North End gang and another for the South End gang. The rival gangs, meeting in the hundreds, would meet in the streets while parading, and a great battle would break out with people getting killed and others maimed for life. Boston only had eight to 12 companies and so for 24 hours, every Nov. 5, the city was in the hands of the mob-mobs legalized by custom.

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SAM ADAMS, the expert propagandist, had this portrait engraved by Paul Revere, who was a great patriot but mediocre artist. (From an old portrait)

wearing coats, but Sam stuck to the traditional cloak and often wore a red one. Historian Ester Forbes speculates the orator was either Sam Adams or William Miller.

A LITTLE LATER a crowd gathered near a British guard post on King Street and continued taunting the soldiers. A Captain Montgomery lost his temper and struck a young boy in the face.

An angry crowd gathered around Montgomery. Standing closest was Crispus Attucks, over six feet tall and 47 years old. Attucks was a mulatto, part Indian, part Negro and part white. His presence alarmed the British.

The commander, a Captain Preston, ordered his men to load their rifles. It was a defensive move, and he had not intended any firing to occur.

When the order was given, Attucks swung at Preston but missed. The blow landed on Montgomery, knocking him down. Someone gave the command to fire — no one knows who.

Montgomery fired first and two balls lodged in Attucks' chest. He died instantly. Four other townspeople were killed before Preston was able to yell "cease fire."

The soldiers patrolled the streets of Boston that night with arms ready. Before sunrise Preston and eight of his men were arrested and ordered to stand trial for murder by Lieut. Gov. Thomas Hutchinson.

HUTCHINSON MADE a speech the morning of March 6 and promised justice and got the mobs off the street.

To the surprise of many, John Adams and Josiah Quincy agreed to defend Preston in court.

Paul Revere prepared a pen and ink diagram of the incident on King Street for use in the trial. It showed the spots where the five victims were standing when shot and was quite accurate in detail.

But when Revere was employed by Sam Adams he seems to have had a memory lapse. For Adams, Revere prepared an engraving of the "massacre" for street distribution. The engraving was grossly inaccurate and consisted of sheer propaganda intended to arouse the masses.

Fortunately for Preston, one of the victims (Patrick Carr) did not die until four days after he was shot on King Street. Carr refused to blame the soldiers and testified they shot in self-defense.

Sam Adams countered this testimony by spreading the word that Carr was a poor immigrant and a Catholic and his word meant nothing. But Carr's words was something because Preston and his men were acquitted of murder.

WHEN THE TOWNSEND ACTS were repealed, Sam was left without an issue, and so the "Massacre" was worked over for all it was worth for many years.

Massacre anniversaries were held each year with orations, processions and oaths of vengeance. There would be more dancing around the Liberty Tree, more effigy hangings. To keep up the agitation, Sam Adams put on annual exhibitions of what were supposed to be bloody relics of the Massacre.

For awhile the Massacre was the rallying cry for the Boston Whigs. But eventually things quieted down and Sam Adams was resigned to wait until King George would allow his ministry to make another mistake.

It would be too high a compliment to say that Sam Adams single-handedly caused the American Revolution. On the other hand, if prudish cousin John had controlled events, there would not have been a revolt.

The history books now tell us the Boston Massacre 200 years ago was just a street fight.

But if any more damaging evidence is uncovered, future texts may well speak of the Boston Five Conspiracy led by chief dissenter Sam Adams, the first American who believed the streets belong to the people.

A Pioneer School Lives On Today

EDITOR'S NOTE: The writer is a Michigan State University journalism student. As a Clarencville student a few years ago, she wrote a number of sports articles for the Farmington Enterprise, and we welcome her back to our news columns.

By RHODA WEISS

Fifty years ago, students of all grades attended classes in the small brick building.

Now, five decades later, the structure has been converted to house the Clarencville Board of Education.

A school district encompassing sections of Livonia, Farmington and Redford, Clarencville, had its origins in the early 19th century.

The first settlers of the Clarencville area migrated from New York State and obtained land from the government around 1830.

BOTSFORD INN (originally known as 16 Mile House) was built and sold to a Mr. Clarencville in 1835, the man from whom Clarencville supposedly got its name. The inn

changed owners several times and was owned by the Henry Ford family from 1924-1931.

Before the days of the automobile, the inn was an important stop for stage coaches and cattle owners driving their herds to Detroit.

Rapid expansion of the Detroit auto plants, coupled with Ford Motor Co.'s announcement of a \$5 a day minimum wage, caused the area's first land boom in the early 1920s.

The Clarencville cemetery was once the site of the first school, a one-room building.

Teachers boarded at students' homes and were required to do janitorial tasks also for a salary of \$25 a month. The Little Red Schoolhouse was built around 1850, another one-room building. Heat was provided by a stove in the middle of the room, the blackboard was a series of smooth boards painted black and seals were plain benches with no backs.

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THE ENROLLMENT at this time was 75 pupils ranging from five to 21 years of age. Arithmetic, geography and history were the subjects taught with public examinations

given every six months by a visiting county superintendent.

Evening classes used candlelight and a spelling school was held to which the public was invited. A hardwood ruler and tickers stick assisted discipline problems.

Central School, now the present board office, was built in 1914. As the area grew another school, Edgewood, was built in 1914. Three other elementary schools, Botsford, Westbrook and Grandview and the junior high were built in the 1950s and the high school is nearing its 10th year in active use.

The total anticipated enrollment in Clarencville schools at capacity would be approximately 6,000. The present enrollment is over half that mark.

Attempts have been made by cities in the district to end the existence of Clarencville, sending students to schools according to their own city. But these attempts have thus far been unsuccessful.

Community pride is shown by bumper stickers on automobiles in the area reading "Clarencville Lives."



TOM GLAZER

McDonald Will Sponsor Environment Bills

Congressman Jack McDonald (R-19 District) is one of a handful of prime sponsors of President Nixon's environmental improvement package of bills.

The legislation is designed to implement the comprehensive program recently outlined to Congress by the president.

Much of the legislation will be acted upon by the House Public Works Committee, of which McDonald is a member.

IN A STATEMENT issued recently, McDonald said a \$10 billion would be required for the construction of municipal waste treatment plants and interceptor sewers, if the national water quality standards are to be met.

One of the bills sponsored by McDonald, HR 16048, provides for state and local units to pay \$5 billion to match the federal share of \$4 billion.

Another, HR 16048, seeks to assure that no state or local body will be unable to borrow the necessary funds. It proposes an environmental financing authority.

To deal with air pollution, McDonald introduced HR 16047. It would authorize the secretary of health, education and welfare (HEW) to regulate fuel composition and to test actual automotive vehicles for

emission standards which it directs the HEW secretary to establish.

ANOTHER McDONALD bill, HR 16050, would triple the federal operating grants to state pollution agencies in the next five years.

HR 16046 would authorize program for reclamation and recycling research under a council on environmental quality.

HR 16045 would amend the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, to protect the fund and possibly increase its size for purchasing of additional parklands.

McDonald stated, "These proposals are merely the start of what I hope will be a long and intense campaign to clean and preserve our precious natural environmental resources."

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C'ville Children Hear Folk Singer Glazer

Tom Glazer, well-known singer of folk songs and ballads, will entertain the children of Clarencville at 2:15 p.m. Sunday, March 15, in the Louis E. Schmidt Auditorium at Clarencville high school.

Glazer's performances for children have won enthusiastic praise from New York critics. In recent years, he has become the leading recording artist for children. Among his many records are "Ballads for the Age of Science," "Tom Glazer's Concert for Children" and the recent hit record "On Top of Spaghetti."

He has been soloist in children's concerts with the Philadelphia Orchestra and other symphonies.

Tom Glazer's work is also famous to adults, as evidenced through his recordings of folk songs and his concert, radio and TV appearances. For the award-winning picture "The Face in the Crowd" he composed the songs and background music and collaborated with Budd Schulberg on the lyrics.

Glazer's special interest in folk music stemmed from his war-time service in Washington, where he became familiar with the famous Archives of American Folk Music at the Library of Congress. While in Washington he was honored by

a request for two performances at the White House.

Advance ticket information may be secured from Mrs. Sara Turner 476-0329, Mrs. Robert Erickson, 476-8127 or Mrs. Jack Rowens, 476-1871.

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Marygrove Program Cited

The Social Action Council of Marygrove College received the first "outstanding volunteer program award" from the Michigan Association of Student Volunteers. Governor William G. Milliken presented the award at the annual Governor's Conference Feb. 28 at Calvin College.

Janet Mary Dreyer, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Luelen J. Dreyer of 32888 Thorndyke Ct., Farmington, is a member of the college-wide council working on the Mother Wadsworth self-help program. A senior majoring in sociology, she is also working as a volunteer for the program at the Maxey Boys Training School.

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