**Testimonies from people in the Boston Massacre Trial:**

**British Soldiers:** Capt. Thomas Preston, Pvt. Hugh Montgomery, Pvt. Hugh White, Pvt. Matthew Killroy, six other soldiers

**Time/Place:** Around 8 p.m, March 5, 1770 in downtown Boston

**How the dispute began:** Bostonians were already angry at the British soldiers for competing with them for work. This incident began when a wig-maker’s apprentice at John Gray’s Ropewalk commented to **Capt. Goldfinch** that he owed money for his new hair. After some heated words, a crowd of Bostonians surrounded the British soldiers. From there, snowballs, ice, coal, insults, etc. were thrown at the soldiers. At one point, a club was even thrown at **Pvt. Montgomery**, eventually prompting him to fire his weapon when he heard “Fire!” Five Bostonians died from that incident, including **Crispus Attucks**, who was believed to be one of those who started it. What happened?

**Here are two testimonies from Bostonians:**

*Q. Do you know any of the prisoners?*

*A (Hemingway). Yes, several, there is Killroy I know particularly well.*

*Q. Did you ever hear Killroy make use of any threatening expressions, against the inhabitants of this town?*

*A. Yes, one evening I heard him say, he would never miss an opportunity, when he had one, to fire on the inhabitants, and that he had wanted to have an opportunity ever since he landed.*

*Q. How long was that before the 5th March"*

*A. A week or fortnight...*

***—Samuel Hemingway***

*"I, Jeffrey Richardson, of lawful age, testify and say, that on Friday, the second instant, about 11 o'clock, A.M., eight or ten soldiers of the 29th regiment, armed with clubs, came to Mr. John Gray's ropewalks [ropemaking shop], and challenged all the ropemakers to come out and fight them... .”*

***—Jeffrey Richardson***

**Please go to the next page for the British testimonies**

**Testimonies from the British soldiers:**

*“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 … 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…”*

**—Capt. Thomas Preston**

*“I will enlarge no more on the evidence, but submit it to you.-Facts are stubborn things; and whatever may be our wishes, our inclinations, or the dictates of our passions, they cannot alter the state of facts and evidence: nor is the law less stable than the fact; if an assault was made to endanger their lives, the law is clear, they had a right to kill in their own defence; if it was not so severe as to endanger their lives, yet if they were assaulted at all, struck and abused by blows of any sort, by snow-balls, oyster-shells, cinders, clubs, or sticks of any kind; this was a provocation, for which the law reduces the offence of killing, down to manslaughter, in consideration of those passions in our nature, which cannot be eradicated.”*

**—John Adams, Defense Attorney**

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