

## Group A: Sworn Statements

Below are sworn statements from witnesses. Use them to answer the Group A Questions.

**Richard Palmes:** I heard a noise, and was told there was a rumpus at the Custom-house; I said, I will go down and make peace. [When I got there] I ... saw Capt. Preston at the head of seven or eight soldiers ... I went to Capt. Preston ... [The soldier who fired the first shot] was the next man to Capt. Preston, the only soldier that was betwixt the captain and the Custom-house. When he fired I heard the word fire, who gave it I do not know... *Did you take notice of the situation of the soldiers?* I saw the form they were in, they were formed in a half circle.

**Jedediah Bass:** *At the place where you stood, could you see all the soldiers?* No, only two, they stood in a circular form.

**Josiah Simpson:** *How many soldiers were with him [Captain Preston]?* Seven. *How did they stand then?* They stood in a circle... *Where did Capt. Preston stand then?* He stood a little behind the soldiers towards the Custom-house.

**Newton Prince:** The soldiers were all placed round in a circle with their guns breast high... when the captain came the people crowded in to speak to him, and I went behind them; there were people all round the soldiers.

**James Brewer:** *Could you see the whole party [of soldiers]?* Yes, they stood in a circle, or half moon.

**Robert Williams:** I went to King street. People there some huzzaing, whistling, some leaning over their sticks, somebody said don't press upon the Guard, I repeated the words. The people seemed to be pressing as I was to get among the thickest of them...*Did the people stand close in with the soldiers' bayonets?* No, they appeared to be two feet from the bayonets.

**Andrew (a slave):** I turned about and saw the officer standing before the men, and one or two persons engaged in talk with him. A number were jumping on the backs of those that were talking with the officer, to get as near as they could.

**Ebenezer Bridgham:** *How did the soldiers stand?* They stood with their pieces before them to defend themselves; and as soon as they had placed themselves, a party, about twelve in number, with sticks in their hands, who stood in the middle of the street, gave three cheers, and immediately surrounded the soldiers, and struck upon their guns with their sticks ...

## Group B: Sworn Statements

Below are sworn statements from witnesses. Use them to answer the Group B Questions.

**Jeremiah Allen:** [I]n the evening of the 5th day of March current, being at about nine o'clock ... [I] heard some guns fired... [I] heard the discharge of four or five guns ...

**James Bailey:** *Was any number of people standing near the man that struck [the soldier's] gun?* Yes, a whole crowd, fifty or sixty... *Was there at that time a good deal of ice in King street?* Yes, considerable broken ice.

**James Brewer:** *How many guns did you hear fired?* I think seven.

**James Dodge:** *How many people were there?* I took them to be about fifty... *Was the snow trodden down, or melted away by the Custom-house?* No, the street was all covered like a cake.

**Joseph Hinkley:** *How many guns were fired?* I think six or seven, I did not count them.

**Bartholomew Kneeland:** [O]n Monday evening, the fifth ... about fifteen minutes after nine o'clock, hearing a bell ring, which I supposed was for fire, went immediately to the front door, ... I saw a number of soldiers ... in the main street... I retired into the house. In about half an hour's time ..., I heard a volley of small arms fired off in King street; and upon inquiry was told that three men were killed and one wounded.

**Henry Knox:** I ... went off through the crowd and saw a detachment of about eight or nine men and a corporal, headed by Capt. Preston... [T]here was not present in King street above seventy or eighty people...

**Edward G. Langford:** *How many people were there before the soldiers at that time?* About forty or fifty, but there were numbers in the lane... *How many soldiers were there?* I did not count the number of them, about seven or eight, I think.

**Richard Palmes:** I ... saw Capt. Preston at the head of seven or eight soldiers, with their guns, and bayonets fixed... I saw a piece of ice strike Montgomery's gun, whether it sallied him back, or he stepped one foot back, I do not know, but he recovered himself and fired immediately... *How many guns were fired?* I do not know certain, seven or eight I believe, I did not count them.

**Robert Polley:** [W]e looked for stones or bricks but could find none, the ground being covered with snow.

**Thomas Wilkinson:** I counted the guns. *How many were fired?* Seven fired and one flashed... *How many people do you imagine were there?* Sixty or seventy.

**Robert Williams:** I tried to press into the [crowd to find out] what they were about. I could not get in; I therefore stepped over the gutter, and saw the soldiers, seven or eight of them, by the sentry box... Numbers were crowding to get in as I was.

## Group C: Sworn Statements

Below are sworn statements from witnesses. Use them to answer the Group C Questions.

**James Bailey:** [People] were huzzaing, whistling and carrying their sticks upright over their heads... *Did you see the pieces of ice thrown?* Yes. *What sort of pieces...?* [H]ard and large enough to hurt any man; as big as one's fist... *Did you see anything thrown before the firing?* Yes, Montgomery [a soldier] was knocked down with a stick, and his gun flew out of his hand... *Did you observe any body strike Montgomery, or was a club thrown?* The stroke came from a stick or club that was in somebody's hand, and the blow struck his gun and his arm.

**Ebenezer Bridgham:** *Was any thing thrown at the soldiers?* Yes, there were many things thrown, what they were I cannot say. *Did you hear any particular words...?* I heard no particular words, there was such a noise I could not distinguish any words... *Did you hear any bell ring?* Yes. *What bell?* I believe all the bells in town were ringing...

**Benjamin Burdick:** [A soldier] pushed at me with his bayonet, which I put by with what was in my hand. *What was it [in your hand]?* A Highland broad sword.

**James Dodge:** *Did you see any ice or snow balls thrown at the soldiers?* I saw several snow balls and pieces of ice thrown, and heard a rattling against the barrels of their guns, whether it was sticks, or what, I do not know.

**Joseph Hinkley:** [T]he bells were ringing; I was close to [the soldiers] when they loaded. *Who gave orders to load?* I did not hear, there were such a huzzaing and whistling that I could not hear... then the people halloed fire, why do you not fire you bloody backs?

**Dr. John Jeffries:** [He testified about what Patrick Carr told him. Carr died about a week after being shot.] [H]e saw many things thrown at the sentry. I asked him if he knew what was thrown. He said he heard the things strike against the guns, and they sounded hard; he believed they were oyster shells and ice; he heard the people huzza every time they heard any thing strike that sounded hard.

**Richard Palmes:** I saw a piece of ice strike [soldier] Montgomery's gun, whether it sallied him back, or he stepped one foot back, I do not know, but he recovered himself and fired...

**Newton Prince:** When the bells rung... I went out and asked where the fire was; somebody said it was something better than fire... After a while [the crowd] huzzaed and went down King street; ... The soldiers were all placed round in a circle with their guns breast high... I saw people with sticks striking on their guns... *Did you hear at that time they were striking, the cry of fire, fire?* Yes, they said fire, fire, damn you, fire, fire you lobsters, fire, you dare not fire.

**Josiah Simpson:** I ... saw a white club thrown at some distance from me towards the soldiers... *Did that club hit any body?* I believe it hit one of the soldiers' guns, I heard it strike... *How near to the soldiers was the person who threw the club?* About ten yards off... *Did the people make a great deal of noise and huzzaing?* Yes, considerable.

**Robert Williams:** *Was there any sticks thrown?* No, I saw two or three snow balls, which seemed to come from a distance.