



CRISPUS ATTUCKS, a Black revolutionary 200 years ago, is seen with his cordwood club which he is believed to have used against one of the British occupiers of the American colony, thus prompting the Boston Massacre of March 5, 1770. Seen is a photograph of a painting of Crispus Attucks by a Black Milwaukeean, Harold Scott, rendered in the late 1930's.

Crispus Attucks: revolutionary

Today, when many Americans agree that the present system must be changed, the thought of a revolutionary...to say nothing of an armed, revolutionary Black man...is strictly taboo on the word of such stalwarts of the Eagles Club-DAR-KKK America as Judge Christ T. Seraphim, Vice - President Spiro Agnew Federal Judge Harold Cox and others.

There was a time in the nation's history, however, when revolution was what this country was about. Taxation without representation and the presence of British redcoats in the streets of Boston as its enforcers on a disenchanting colony so angered the citizens that a group of them took to the streets on March 5, 1770 to threaten the British soldiers with sticks and stones.

The troops fired upon the revolutionaries and the first to be

shot down was a former slave, Crispus Attucks, who had run away from his master 20 years earlier to become a seaman.

The body of the Black hero lay in state in Faneuil Hall until, along with three other victims of the Boston Massacre, he was entombed in a common sepulchre as thousands bared their heads at the cemetery.

This weekend in Milwaukee, 200 years after the death of this important figure in American history, efforts are being made to pay tribute to the slain revolutionary with the observance of the 4th of July as "Crispus Attucks Day".

Rather than pay their respects to the slave owners who drafted the Declaration of Independence, some of whom helped establish the national policy that Blacks are less than human, hundreds of Milwaukeeans plan to make the

observance meaningful by paying tribute to a Black revolutionary who helped remove the oppressors from the colony.

The man who was the first to fall in 1770 had, just 20 years before, run away from his slave master. An advertisement for his return appeared in a 1750 edition of the Boston Gazette:

"Ran away from his master, William Brown of Framingham, on the 30th of Sept. last, a molatto fellow, about 27 years of age, named Crispas, 6 feet two inches high, short curl'd hair, his knees nearer together than common; had on a light colour'd bearskin coat, plain brown sustian jacket, or brown all-wool one, new buckskin breeches, blue yarn stockings, and a check'd woaden shift shirt. Whoever shall take up said run-away, and convey him to his abovesaid master, shall have ten pounds, old tenor reward, and all necessary charges paid. And all masters (Please turn to page 18)

Attucks

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of vessels and others, are hereby caution'd against concealing or carrying off said servant on penalty of the law. Boston, October 2, 1750."

Because no one conveyed Attucks to his so-called master, he remained free to later take part in one of the major events which led towards American Independence.

It is widely accepted that Attucks was the one who struck one of the British soldiers, thus set-

ting off the massacre. He also waved his cordwood club, urging the crowd to advance against the occupying force.

The chief American holiday was observed on the 5th of March until it was replaced by the 4th of July.

A Crispus Attucks monument was erected on Boston Common

in 1889, a step taken by the city in response to petitions from Blacks.

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