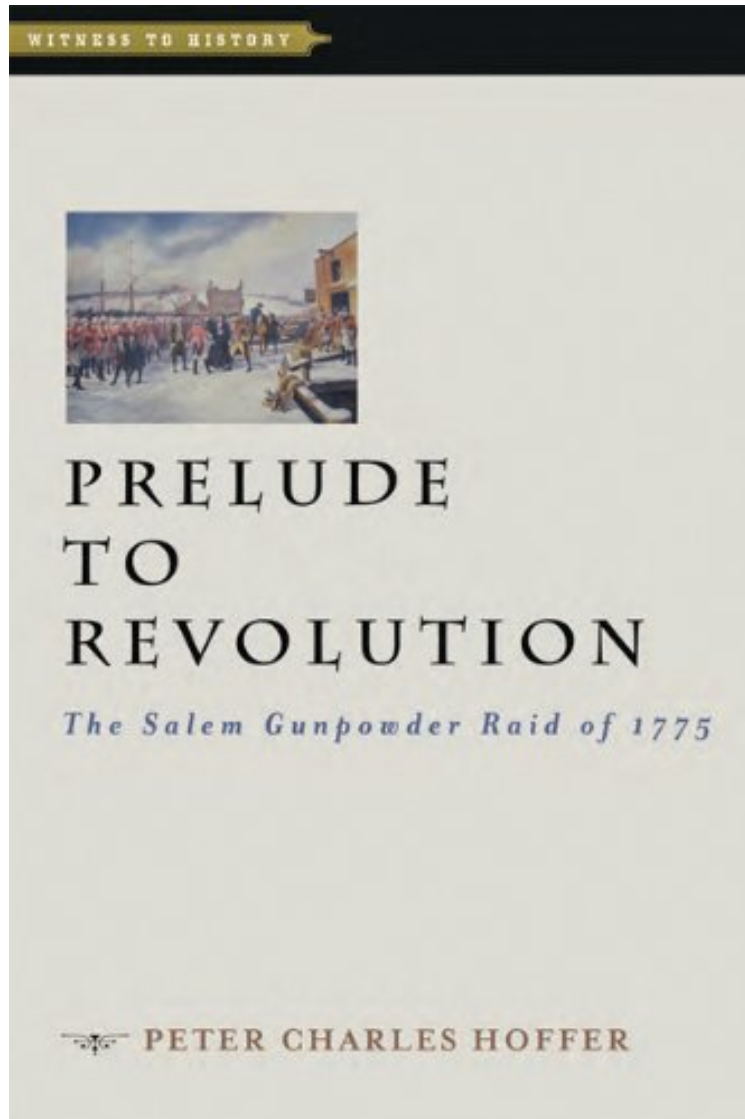


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## Prelude to Revolution: The Salem Gunpowder Raid of 1775 (Witness to History)

*Peter Charles Hoffer*

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**Peter Charles Hoffer : Prelude to Revolution: The Salem Gunpowder Raid of 1775 (Witness to History)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Prelude to Revolution: The Salem Gunpowder Raid of 1775 (Witness to History):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A thorough account of the events as reportedBy Douglas ButlerThe most detailed record of Leslie's Retreat I have found. It tells the conflicting stories of the first hand accounts and

makes it clear we may never know precisely what happened. To me it is the most interesting battle of the war...and no one even died!5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Unfairly ForgottenBy Michael MeoThe first armed conflict of the American Revolution took place at the North Bridge of Salem, Massachusetts, in February, 1775; Mr Hoffer reviews the sources for our present-day understanding and presents the first full, documented history of the event. More significantly by far, he employs the introduction of this unfairly forgotten episode into the pre-Revolutionary narrative to explain some significant points about the effect the outcome had upon the next armed conflict, the one that gets all the credit, the Gunpowder Raid upon Lexington and Concord the following April. You will know more about the outbreak of the Revolutionary War, not only in fact but in theory.0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. He loved added this to his already growing library of Historical ...By ReaderBought this for my husband that is in the process of writing a Historical Fiction. It gives so much information and accurate accounts. He loved added this to his already growing library of Historical Research materials.

Before colonial Americans could declare independence, they had to undergo a change of heart. Beyond a desire to rebel against British mercantile and fiscal policies, they had to believe that they could stand up to the fully armed British soldier. *Prelude to Revolution* uncovers one story of how the Americans found that confidence. On April 19, 1775, British raids on Lexington Green and Concord Bridge made history, but it was an episode nearly two months earlier in Salem, Massachusetts, that set the stage for the hostilities. Peter Charles Hoffer has discovered records and newspaper accounts of a British gunpowder raid on Salem. Seeking powder and cannon hidden in the town, a regiment of British Regulars were foiled by quick-witted patriots who carried off the ordnance and then openly taunted the Regulars. The prudence of British commanding officer Alexander Leslie and the persistence of the patriot leaders turned a standoff into a bloodless triumph for the colonists. What might have been a violent confrontation turned into a local victory, and the patriots gloated as news spread of "Leslie's Retreat." When British troops marched on Lexington and Concord on that pivotal day in April, Hoffer explains, each side had drawn diametrically opposed lessons from the Salem raid. It emboldened the rebels to stand fast and infuriated the British, who vowed never again to back down. After relating these battles in vivid detail, Hoffer provides a teachable problem in historic memory by asking why we celebrate Lexington and Concord but not Salem and why New Englanders recalled the events at Salem but then forgot their significance. Praise for the work of Peter Charles Hoffer "This book more than succeeds in achieving its goal of helping students understand and appreciate the cultural and intellectual environment of the Anglophone world." *New England Quarterly*, reviewing *When Benjamin Franklin Met the Reverend Whitefield* "A synthetic essay of considerable grace and scope... An excellent overview of the field." *Journal of Legal History*, reviewing *Law and People in Colonial America*

"Hoffer's engaging prose, clear argument, and varied use of cultural sources, such as poems and songs, make this book accessible and interesting to a broad audience... *Prelude to Revolution* is a fine study written primarily for a popular audience by a prolific scholar who adeptly restores the Salem Gunpowder Raid to its rightful place in the history of the American Revolution." (Daniel S. Soucier *New England Quarterly*) " *Prelude to Revolution* is a well-told story that deserves to be read. Although it is written for an undergraduate audience, graduate students and the public would also profit from and enjoy this work. As Hoffer walks the reader through the event and how it was remembered and then forgotten, he reveals something of the practice of the historian's craft, even as he resurrects a dimly-remembered event." (Ricardo A. Herrera *History*) About the Author Peter Charles Hoffer is the Distinguished Research Professor of History at the University of Georgia. He is author of numerous books, including *When Benjamin Franklin Met the Reverend Whitefield: Enlightenment, Revival, and the Power of the Printed Word*; *Law and People in Colonial America*; and *The Brave New World: A History of Early America*, all published by Johns Hopkins.