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## THE HISTORY

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The attack on British customs schooner *Gaspee* by the citizens of Providence on June 9th, 1772 was the first act of war against the British Crown. The raid's success and the colony's complicit resistance to civil sanction marked the start of the American fight for independence a year and a half before the Boston Tea Party. The attack on the *Gaspee* motivated further communication between the colonies in the form of the Committees of Correspondence and inspired the colonies to join together to seek their independence, ultimately leading to the founding of the United States of America.

Captain vs. Captain: The Battle For Narragansett Bay Video  
Part 1

Captain vs. Captain: The Battle For Narragansett Bay Video  
Part 2

*"History books across the country often cite the Boston Tea Party as the start of the American Revolution. But the people of Rhode Island know that the first blood was really drawn over a year earlier, when Rhode Islanders seized the British vessel the *Gaspee*. Actually, we didn't just seize it, we blew it up, and its captain was shot in the struggle — a bit more than just throwing tea bales over the side!"*

—Senator Sheldon Whitehouse

*"The [*Gaspee*] affair ... was the first contest in which British blood was shed in an expedition openly organized against the forces of the mother country, and it differed from all the other preliminary encounters because of the character of those engaged in it. Other outbreaks were the work of an irresponsible mob. ... Some of the leading men of Rhode Island sat on the thwarts of the nine boats, and their boldness seems almost incredible to us of the present day. It shows that while public sentiment at Newport and New York and the other great seats of commerce along the coast may have favored the King, the people of Providence ... were already prepared to sever their relations with England."*

—from *Tales of an Old Sea Port*

View more *Gaspee* Day at WaterFire Providence videos.



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## TWITTER STORY

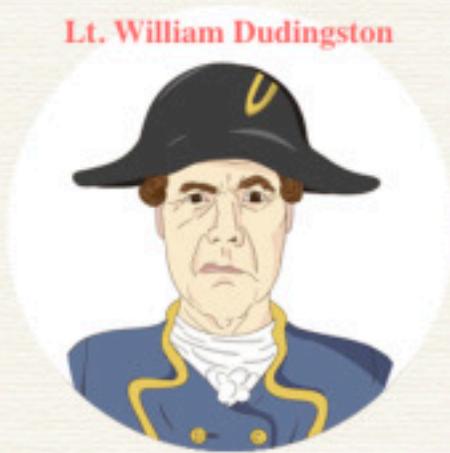
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### The Story Unfolds on Twitter 243 Years Later

On June 9th 1772 a group of Providence citizens attacked and burned the *Gaspee*. This was the first act of the American Revolution. On June 13th 2015 WaterFire Providence will bring the *Gaspee* Incident back to life on Twitter.

# THE CHARACTERS

**Lt. William Dudingston**



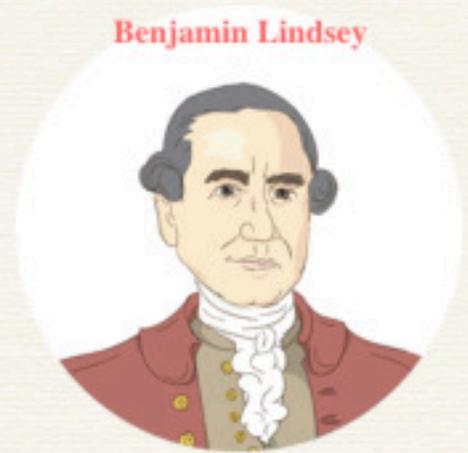
Lt. William Dudingston, 35, Captain of the *Gaspee*, whose arrogance and rough enforcement of trade restrictions caused the colonists to demand autonomy and independence. Dudingston seized the sloop *Fortune*, assaulted the captain, and sold the ship and its cargo of rum. **@GaspeeCaptn**

**John Brown**



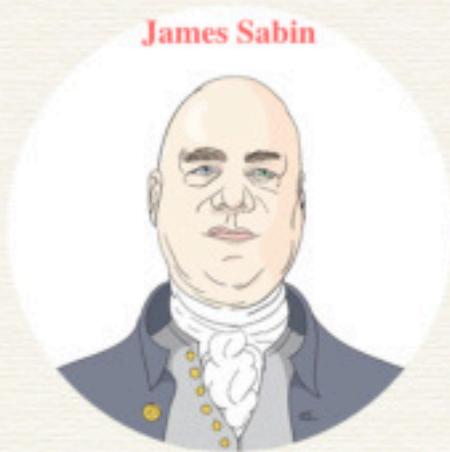
John Brown, 36, a leading Providence merchant whose extensive wealth came from astute trading in the Triangular Trade of molasses, rum, and slaves. Brown owned the *Hannah* and organized and participated in the raid on the *Gaspee*. **@JohnBrownProv**

**Benjamin Lindsey**



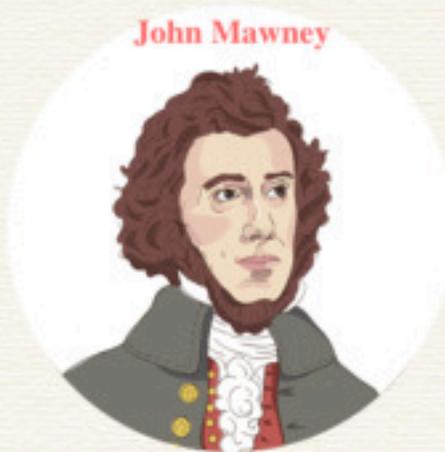
Benjamin Lindsey, Captain of the *Hannah*, refused the *Gaspee*'s demand to stop and was thus chased up Narragansett Bay. Capt. Lindsey's knowledge of the bay allowed him to lure the *Gaspee* to run aground on Namquid Point on the outgoing tide. **@HannahCaptn**

**James Sabin**



James Sabin, 41, owner of the Sabin Tavern where the raid on the *Gaspee* was debated and organized. He made various excuses of illness and business problems when asked to appear before the Royal Commission to name names. **@JamesSabinInn**

**John Mawney**



John Mawney, 22, was a young medical student who participated in the raid and who also later wrote about it. That night he gave critical medical aid to Lt. Dudingston on board the *Gaspee* and saved the captain's life. **@DocMawney**

**Abraham Whipple**



Abraham Whipple, 39, an experienced ship captain employed by the Brown family and appointed by John Brown as the leader of the *Gaspee* raid. **@CaptnWhipple**

# SUPPORTING CHARACTERS



## **Ephraim Bowen, Raider**

Age 19, witnessed the shooting of Lt. Dudingston. Many years later he wrote about his experience that night. **@BowenRaider**

## **Joseph Bucklin, Raider**

Age 18, fired the shot intended to kill Lt. Dudingston. Bucklin was later lost at sea while on a privateering mission. **@BucklinRaider**

## **Patrick Earl, Gaspee Sentry**

Age 28, Gaspee boatswain's mate, was the sentry on duty that night and later claimed to recognize some of the raiders. **@GaspeeSentry**

## **Mr. Greene, Raider**

The Greenes were a prominent RI family and their ship, the Fortune, was the first vessel seized by Lt. Dudingston, who sold off the ship and its cargo of rum. **@GreeneRaider**

## **Stephen Hopkins, Governor**

Former Governor Stephen Hopkins interpreted the Royal Charter of 1663 to allow him to intervene during the investigation by the Crown. Gov. Hopkins' house is at 15 Hopkins Street. **@GovHopkins**

## **John Howland, Onlooker**

Age 14, stood on Fenner's Wharf (right by Hemenway's) watching the longboats pull out. Howland later became an important community leader. **@JohnProvBoy**

## **Daniel Pearce, Drummer Boy**

Age 17, beat the drum to invite "those persons who felt a disposition to go and destroy that troublesome vessel, to repair in the evening to Mr. James Sabin's house." **@DrummerPearce**

## **Capt. Simeon Potter, Raider**

Age 52, was a slave trader and a privateer who piloted a boat from Bristol. He has been "described as a privateer who wildly exceeded the bounds of his commission." **@PotterRaider**

## **Justin Jacobs**

Age 17, was found the next morning wearing Lt. Dudingston's gold-laced hat. His friends hushed him up with "sharp words" and hustled him out of town. **@JustinGetsAHat**



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31

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## Providence Raider

@ProvRaider

About 85 raiders attacked the Gaspee. Many prominent members of the Providence community. It was a dangerous mission and an act of high treason #WFGaspee

[gaspee.waterfire.org](http://gaspee.waterfire.org)

Joined May 2012

Tweet to Providence Raider

### Tweets Tweets & replies



**Providence Raider** @ProvRaider · 13 Jun 2015

We row silently, together, but apart in our thoughts. There is no need for quiet here, yet quietly over the dark sea we go. #wfgaspee



**Providence Raider** @ProvRaider · 13 Jun 2015

But this be treason. We go against the Crown, what next? We have families, homes, businesses we are invested in. #wfgaspee



**Providence Raider** @ProvRaider · 13 Jun 2015

This will bring retribution on us all. We may even lose our precious Rhode Island Charter over this. #wfgaspee



**Providence Raider** @ProvRaider · 13 Jun 2015

This be treason. And deadly wages too; to go against the Crown's vessel. You will hang for this! Drawn and Quartered! #wfgaspee



**Providence Raider** @ProvRaider · 14 Jun 2014

We row silently, together, but apart in our thoughts. There is no need for quiet here, yet quietly over the dark sea we go. #WFGaspee



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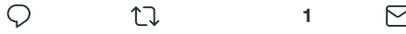
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**Providence Raider** @ProvRaider · 8 Jun 2013

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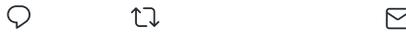
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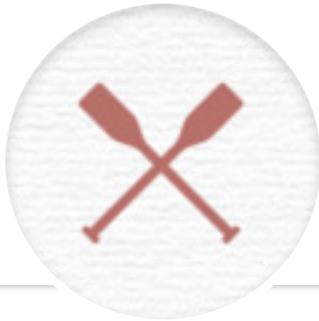
John Ho... ×

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## Joseph Bucklin

@BucklinRaider

Joseph Bucklin, 18, fired the shot intended to kill Lt. Dudingston. Bucklin was later lost at sea while on a privateering mission [#WFGaspee](#)

[gaspee.waterfire.org](http://gaspee.waterfire.org)

Joined May 2012

Tweet to Joseph Bucklin

### Tweets Tweets & replies

- 
**Joseph Bucklin** @BucklinRaider · 13 Jun 2015  
 All together, men, lift. Let's take him to shore, along with his men. [#wfgaspee](#)
- 
**Joseph Bucklin** @BucklinRaider · 13 Jun 2015  
 Here, I broke open the hasp. There is clean linen, don't tear your shirt. [#wfgaspee](#)
- 
**Joseph Bucklin** @BucklinRaider · 13 Jun 2015  
 I am here helping dress the wounds on the man I shot. Best not to let him know. [#wfgaspee](#)
- 
**Joseph Bucklin** @BucklinRaider · 13 Jun 2015  
 "There, I have killed the rascal." [#wfgaspee](#)
- 
**Joseph Bucklin** @BucklinRaider · 13 Jun 2015  
 "Eph, Reach me your gun -- I can kill that fellow." [#wfgaspee](#)
- 
**Joseph Bucklin** @BucklinRaider · 13 Jun 2015  
 Will it matter that I am here tonight? What will unfold? How will I act under fire? Can we make a difference in this world? [#wfgaspee](#)
- 
**Joseph Bucklin** @BucklinRaider · 13 Jun 2015  
 Ephraim is just behind me. One goes into battle together, but also so alone. One wonders how one will act in combat. [#wfgaspee](#)
- 
**Joseph Bucklin** @BucklinRaider · 13 Jun 2015  
 Aye, by rights we will be there and be prepared to fight! See [gaspee.waterfire.org](http://gaspee.waterfire.org) [#wfgaspee](#)
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 Off to John Sabin's place. Trouble is surely stirring. [#wfgaspee](#)



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Reply Retweet 1 Message



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Off to John Sabin's place. Trouble is surely stirring. #WFGaspee

Reply Retweet Message



**Joseph Bucklin** @BucklinRaider · 8 Jun 2013  
All together, men, lift. Let's drop him on shore, along with his men. #WFGaspee  
WaterFire: Fire it up!

Reply Retweet Message



**Joseph Bucklin** @BucklinRaider · 8 Jun 2013  
Here, I broke open the hasp. There is clean linen, don't tear your shirt. #WFGaspee WF: Inspiring the City!



Tweets  
40

Following  
17

Followers  
35

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## Greene Raider

@GreeneRaider

The Greenes, a prominent RI family. Their ship, the Fortune, was the first vessel seized by Lt. Dudingston who sold off the ship and its cargo of rum [#WFGaspee](#)

[gaspee.waterfire.org](http://gaspee.waterfire.org)

Joined May 2012

Tweet to Greene Raider

### Tweets Tweets & replies



**Greene Raider** @GreeneRaider · 13 Jun 2015

Finally, we are addressing these wrongs! In the name of my brother, I am over the side! [#wfgaspee](#)



**Greene Raider** @GreeneRaider · 13 Jun 2015

I know my family will not sleep tonight. Hard awake they will be 'till they hear word or our success. Or not. [#wfgaspee](#)



**Greene Raider** @GreeneRaider · 13 Jun 2015

I go on behalf of all my family's losses. Dudingston must be faced down, or our maritime commerce will wither. [#wfgaspee](#)



**Greene Raider** @GreeneRaider · 13 Jun 2015

Hear, Hear! We stand with you. A binding toast to this mission and to our Rhode Island's future! [#wfgaspee](#)



**Greene Raider** @GreeneRaider · 13 Jun 2015

Aye! I can attest to that. For no reason they beat me. See [gaspee.waterfire.org](http://gaspee.waterfire.org) [#wfgaspee](#)



**Greene Raider** @GreeneRaider · 13 Jun 2015

Hear, Hear! I am bound to this mission's success. I will captain a boat in this attack. [#wfgaspee](#)



**Greene Raider** @GreeneRaider · 13 Jun 2015

Our Charter granted us our own legal autonomy and courts. Yet my ship has been seized to be sold in Boston's court. [#wfgaspee](#)





There is a warrant for Dudingston's arrest. He is aground and in our jurisdiction. Let us arrest him and seize the Gaspee. #wfgaspee

1 1



**Greene Raider** @GreeneRaider · 13 Jun 2015  
Lt. Dudingston falsely took my ship, The Fortune. I would have it back and I join you in ridding the Bay of this menace. #wfgaspee

1



**Greene Raider** @GreeneRaider · 13 Jun 2015  
Drummer says Gaspee aground! Damn! Our vengeance over our ship may be within our reach! To Sabin's Tavern #wfgaspee

1



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**Greene Raider** @GreeneRaider · 14 Jun 2014



Tweets  
21

Following  
18

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## Daniel Pearce

@DrummerPearce

Daniel Pearce, 17, beat the drum to invite "those... who felt a disposition to go and destroy that troublesome vessel, to... Mr. James Sabin's house" #WFGaspee

[gaspee.waterfire.org](http://gaspee.waterfire.org)

Joined May 2012

Tweet to Daniel Pearce

### Tweets Tweets & replies



**Daniel Pearce** @DrummerPearce · 13 Jun 2015  
John and I are standing at Fenner's Wharf. There is great activity, but it has a quiet intensity. #wfgaspee



**Daniel Pearce** @DrummerPearce · 13 Jun 2015  
"Come to Sabin's. The accursed Gaspee is hard aground. We are meeting to take a stand against this tyranny." #wfgaspee



**Daniel Pearce** @DrummerPearce · 13 Jun 2015  
"All those feeling disposed to go and destroy the troublesome vessel the Gaspee are asked to repair to Mr. John Sabin's house." #wfgaspee



**Daniel Pearce** @DrummerPearce · 13 Jun 2015  
"Hark! Mr. John Brown has me marching up and down the street, announcing the Gaspee be run hard aground. Meeting tonight." #wfgaspee



**Daniel Pearce** @DrummerPearce · 13 Jun 2015  
Tonight the New Sabin's Tavern is open at 250 South Water St where you can drink and hear RI history come alive! Join us! #wfgaspee



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1



**Daniel Pearce** @DrummerPearce · 9 Jun 2012

"All those feeling disposed to go and destroy the troublesome vessel the Gaspee



Tweets  
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Following  
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## Benjamin Lindsey

@HannahCaptn

Benjamin Lindsey, Captain of the Hannah, his knowledge of the bay allowed him to lure the Gaspee to run aground on Namquid Point on the outgoing tide #WFGaspee

[gaspee.waterfire.org](http://gaspee.waterfire.org)

Joined May 2012

Tweet to Benjamin Lindsey

### Tweets Tweets & replies



**Benjamin Lindsey** @HannahCaptn · 13 Jun 2015  
John Brown means to take the Gaspee! Bloody Hell! We are going after the imperious Lt. Dudingston. #wfgaspee

1 2



**Benjamin Lindsey** @HannahCaptn · 13 Jun 2015  
On shore! I am off to tell Mr. John Brown the fate of the damned Gaspee. Then I am lying low! #wfgaspee



**Benjamin Lindsey** @HannahCaptn · 13 Jun 2015  
Foxes Point looms off the starboard bow. Row you boys on to Fenner's Wharf. I have much to deliver to Mr. Brown. #wfgaspee



**Benjamin Lindsey** @HannahCaptn · 13 Jun 2015  
Field's Point off the port bow, we will make Providence b4 nightfall. See [gaspee.waterfire.org](http://gaspee.waterfire.org) #wfgaspee

**Waterfire Providence Presents - The Gaspee Project**  
The Gaspee Project From Flash Mob to Freedom ~ The Gaspee Incident and the Birth of America  
[gaspee.waterfire.org](http://gaspee.waterfire.org)



**Benjamin Lindsey** @HannahCaptn · 13 Jun 2015  
This will take hours. I'm signing off to put my phone in ye olde charger! Back to you when I get to town 'round 7:30. #wfgaspee



**Benjamin Lindsey** @HannahCaptn · 13 Jun 2015  
Port, Starboard, Port again, back and forth, always trying to bear tightly into the wind. Steady boys. #wfgaspee



**Benjamin Lindsey** @HannahCaptn · 13 Jun 2015  
We have such momentous news we bear, my heart would take to flying over the water to be able to share this! #wfgaspee



These shallow reaches take so long to move us up to Providence when the wind comes from the North. #wfgaspee



**Benjamin Lindsey** @HannahCaptn · 13 Jun 2015

Now boys, we have history here upon us. We bear homeward to tell John Brown we have grounded the Gaspee! #wfgaspee



**Benjamin Lindsey** @HannahCaptn · 13 Jun 2015

Tack upriver, now against the tide. It will take a couple of hours to get to Providence, but what great news we bear! #wfgaspee



**Benjamin Lindsey** @HannahCaptn · 13 Jun 2015

Let's circle back and show the Capt'n of that fine vessel our sweet appreciation. A FULL MOON SALUTE! #wfgaspee



**Benjamin Lindsey** @HannahCaptn · 13 Jun 2015

Now, hard starboard, heel her over boys. #wfgaspee



**Benjamin Lindsey** @HannahCaptn · 13 Jun 2015

Yes, under full sail, the fool!, the Gaspee bears down on us, with Dudingston in the prow. But the sand bar lies between. #wfgaspee



**Benjamin Lindsey** @HannahCaptn · 13 Jun 2015

Yes, 7'5' sings the lead man, we are past the crest of the sand bar, still stay. Does the Gaspee still follow? #wfgaspee



**Benjamin Lindsey** @HannahCaptn · 13 Jun 2015

7' sounding! I see the sand rising in our wake. I feel the slight shudder in each trough. But hold thru. #wfgaspee



**Benjamin Lindsey** @HannahCaptn · 13 Jun 2015

The sea is smooth beneath us, too smooth, you can feel the sand looming just below. #wfgaspee



**Benjamin Lindsey** @HannahCaptn · 13 Jun 2015

Sounding at 8'. Yikes! Loosen the tiller cable stays. Did I call it too close? See [gaspee.waterfire.org](http://gaspee.waterfire.org) #wfgaspee





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## Doctor John Mawney

@DocMawney

John Mawney, 22, medical student who partook and wrote about the raid. Gave critical medical aid to Lt. Dudingston on the Gaspee and saved his life  
[#WFGaspee](#)

[gaspee.waterfire.org](http://gaspee.waterfire.org)

Joined May 2012

Tweet to Doctor John Mawney

### Tweets Tweets & replies



**Doctor John Mawney** @DocMawney · 13 Jun 2015

Then it would be ungentlemanly for me to refuse. [#wfgaspee](#)



1

2



**Doctor John Mawney** @DocMawney · 13 Jun 2015

No Captain, No, thank you. 'Tis but my duty. [#wfgaspee](#)



1

2



**Doctor John Mawney** @DocMawney · 13 Jun 2015

Captain, calm yourself. We need to take you to shore. We are preparing a litter to lower you to the long boat. [#wfgaspee](#)



1

2



**Doctor John Mawney** @DocMawney · 13 Jun 2015

You are injured in both your wrist and your groin. Your life is bleeding away. Be still. [#wfgaspee](#)



**Doctor John Mawney** @DocMawney · 13 Jun 2015

Lint to pack the wound. And to dress it. We must stop the bleeding. [#wfgaspee](#)



**Doctor John Mawney** @DocMawney · 13 Jun 2015

This will hurt, so bite down. I am entering the wound to remove the ball. You are bleeding very badly. [#wfgaspee](#)



**Doctor John Mawney** @DocMawney · 13 Jun 2015

Lead me to the Captain! I am a doctor. [#wfgaspee](#)



**Doctor John Mawney** @DocMawney · 13 Jun 2015

Now a Doctor is going headlong into a sea battle. I feared for this. [#wfgaspee](#)



**Doctor John Mawney** @DocMawney · 13 Jun 2015

The silence of this night un-nerves me. We just burst through a flock of resting birds. The frenzy of their flight has me alert. [#wfgaspee](#)



Reply Retweet Message



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Reply Retweet Message



**Doctor John Mawney** @DocMawney · 14 Jun 2014  
Lead me to the Captain! I am a doctor. #WFGaspee

Reply Retweet Message



**Doctor John Mawney** @DocMawney · 14 Jun 2014  
Now a Doctor is going headlong into a sea battle. I feared for this. #WFGaspee

Reply Retweet Message



**Doctor John Mawney** @DocMawney · 14 Jun 2014  
The silence of this night un-nerves me. We just burst through a flock of resting birds. The frenzy of their flight has me alert. #WFGaspee

Reply Retweet 1 Message



**Doctor John Mawney** @DocMawney · 14 Jun 2014  
How did I, a young doctor, find myself pulling out into the night on this mission? They need a medic. They are facing long odds. #WFGaspee

Reply Retweet Message



**Doctor John Mawney** @DocMawney · 8 Jun 2013  
It would be ungentlemanly for me to refuse. #WFGaspee WaterFire: Let's do it!

Reply Retweet Message



**Doctor John Mawney** @DocMawney · 8 Jun 2013  
No Captain, No, thank you. #WFGaspee WaterFire: Be with us!



**Doctor John Mawney** @DocMawney · 8 Jun 2013  
Doctor, calm yourself. We need to take you to shore. We are preparing a litter to lower you to the long boat. #WFGaspee



**Doctor John Mawney** @DocMawney · 8 Jun 2013  
You are injured in both your wrist and your groin. Your life is bleeding away. Be still #WFGaspee WaterFire: Be with us!



**Doctor John Mawney** @DocMawney · 8 Jun 2013  
Lint to pack the wound. And to dress it. We must stop the bleeding. #WFGaspee WaterFire: Join us!



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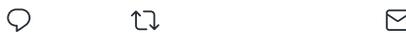
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#kawhi

In praise of Kawhi Leonard,



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### Patrick Earl

@GaspeeSentry

Patrick Earl, 28, Gaspee boatswain's mate, was the sentry on duty that night and later claimed to recognize some of the raiders #WFGaspee

[gaspee.waterfire.org](http://gaspee.waterfire.org)

Joined May 2012

Tweet to Patrick Earl

### Tweets Tweets & replies



**Patrick Earl** @GaspeeSentry · 13 Jun 2015  
Damn! The Captain is down, and bleeding badly from his wrist and his groin. Chaos on the deck. #wfgaspee



**Patrick Earl** @GaspeeSentry · 13 Jun 2015  
We are seriously outmanned here, but we have the advantage of height over them. #wfgaspee



**Patrick Earl** @GaspeeSentry · 13 Jun 2015  
"Again, I Ask Who Comes There! Show a light." #wfgaspee



**Patrick Earl** @GaspeeSentry · 13 Jun 2015  
"Who Comes There!" Captn. Dudingston a long boat approaches. #wfgaspee



**Patrick Earl** @GaspeeSentry · 13 Jun 2015  
I shall watch over the Gaspee, Sir. See [gaspee.waterfire.org](http://gaspee.waterfire.org) #wfgaspee



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[gaspee.waterfire.org](http://gaspee.waterfire.org)



**Patrick Earl** @GaspeeSentry · 13 Jun 2015  
Mr. Earl reporting for duty, sir. I am on Sentry post. #wfgaspee



**Patrick Earl** @GaspeeSentry · 13 Jun 2015  
This is going to be a long night here on the Gaspee till the tide changes. At least it is quiet. #wfgaspee



**Patrick Earl** @GaspeeSentry · 13 Jun 2015  
As the tide falls, we are shifting over hard. Not a chance we can kedge off. But the Caot is damned sure not to admit this. #wfgaspee



**Patrick Earl** @GaspeeSentry · 13 Jun 2015

You damn fool! We are hard and fast till the next high tide. Vex not the men on your fool's task to save face. #wfgaspee



1



**Patrick Earl** @GaspeeSentry · 13 Jun 2015

Captn's got us stuck on a sand bar. Hard! On an outgoing tide. It's going to be a long night. #wfgaspee



**Patrick Earl** @GaspeeSentry · 13 Jun 2015

We almost have her. Just a bit more... #wfgaspee



**Patrick Earl** @GaspeeSentry · 13 Jun 2015

We have no Bay pilot aboard sir, I'd rather come about. #wfgaspee



**Patrick Earl** @GaspeeSentry · 13 Jun 2015

We are gaining on her slowly, but she is fast. See [gaspee.waterfire.org](http://gaspee.waterfire.org) #wfgaspee



**Patrick Earl** @GaspeeSentry · 13 Jun 2015

Beat to quarters, looks like we're in for some fun. #wfgaspee



**Patrick Earl** @GaspeeSentry · 13 Jun 2015

Will do sir. No sleep tonight. We have a chase on. #wfgaspee



**Patrick Earl** @GaspeeSentry · 13 Jun 2015

Aye, Captain. Signal shot now! If we declare them pirate, we can take their cargo for our own! #wfgaspee



**Patrick Earl** @GaspeeSentry · 13 Jun 2015

Tighten her up men, go up and un-reef the topsails. Snap to it! #wfgaspee



**Patrick Earl** @GaspeeSentry · 13 Jun 2015

I can't tell yet, but I'll warrant she's Bristol bound. Packet, light in the water, little cargo. #wfgaspee



**Patrick Earl** @GaspeeSentry · 13 Jun 2015

Sail spotted, Captain! Packet headed north, just clearing Jamestown.



Tweets  
166

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### Lt. Dudingston

@GaspeeCaptn

Lt. William Dudingston, 35, Captain of the Gaspee, his rough enforcement of trade restrictions made the colonists demand autonomy and independence #WFGaspee

[gaspee.waterfire.org](http://gaspee.waterfire.org)

Joined May 2012

Tweet to Lt. Dudingston

### Tweets Tweets & replies



**Lt. Dudingston** @GaspeeCaptn · 13 Jun 2015  
"Stand Off!" #wfgaspee



1



**Lt. Dudingston** @GaspeeCaptn · 13 Jun 2015  
Wait, if I must leave, give me my gold-laced Beaver Captain's Hat. It is there in the hat case. #wfgaspee



1



**Lt. Dudingston** @GaspeeCaptn · 13 Jun 2015  
Please may I give you something as a gift? Please then take this silver buckle. I insist. #wfgaspee



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Doctor, you have saved my life. May I offer you this gold buckle in gratitude? #wfgaspee



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I refuse to leave my ship. #wfgaspee



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Those are the property of His Royal Majesty King George III. Leave them be. #wfgaspee



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Thank you Doctor. There are supplies in the chest. #wfgaspee



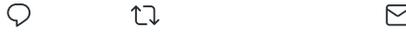
**Lt. Dudingston** @GaspeeCaptn · 13 Jun 2015  
I've been hit. I am down. #wfgaspee





**Lt. Dudingston** @GaspeeCaptn · 13 Jun 2015

"You can't arrest me. I AM the law here. Stay back or we fire!" #wfgaspee



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Men! To your stations. Haul the cannons to aim for the bows. Prepare to defend! See [gaspee.waterfire.org](http://gaspee.waterfire.org) #wfgaspee

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**Lt. Dudingston** @GaspeeCaptn · 13 Jun 2015

Mr. Earl as sentry, has called out at post. I am rushing to the deck in my night shirt. #wfgaspee



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So be it. I do not fear an attack from the likes of these Colonialists. We are 4 miles from town. I am headed down to cabin. #wfgaspee



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Sentry! It is passing strange to be aboard, yet to not feel the ship beneath us. Even as the tide rises, we are held fast. #wfgaspee



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This tide is hard against us. High tide is not again 'till 2:53 AM, and even that is a foot low. #wfgaspee



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I'll not look the fool. Shovels boys. Set the anchors and then to the windlass, let's get off this accursed sand bar. #wfgaspee



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Mr Earl, send a man over the side and see how bad it is. Man the long boats, we are kedging off this sand bar. #wfgaspee



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Damnation, you swine! You uncouth goats and jackasses! You are mooning his royal highness the King, ye bastards! #wfgaspee



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Damn! We are aground. What a hard hit, we are truly fast aground. Boatswain,



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Keep the port tack here, we have a chance to grapple them! Full on 'em. [#wfgaspee](#)



**Lt. Dudingston** @GaspeeCaptn · 13 Jun 2015

Damn provincials. Who had the helm! Damn you man! Were you not watching the sea surface? [#wfgaspee](#)



**Lt. Dudingston** @GaspeeCaptn · 13 Jun 2015

Aye, we are gaining, Mr. Earl. Another mile of two and you shall be boarding. Stay the course in pursuit. [#wfgaspee](#)



**Lt. Dudingston** @GaspeeCaptn · 13 Jun 2015

The fools are jettisoning cargo! To what end, I will gain on them soon enough. Steady on! [#wfgaspee](#)



**Lt. Dudingston** @GaspeeCaptn · 13 Jun 2015

We lose too much time in coming about. Stay on the port tack. I dismissed the pilot. It is full on high tide. [#wfgaspee](#)



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Beat up the Bay after her. We have the canvas to beat her. Hold your tacks longer to shore. [#wfgaspee](#)



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Damn these provincials. Lower your flag man and stand to. I am the King's Navy. [#wfgaspee](#)



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When they heave to, prepare to board them, Mr. Earl. Let's declare them pirates, yes. I feel lucky! #wfgaspee



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Signal them to stand to and lower their flag. What shall we call 'em, pirate or rogue? #wfgaspee



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Tack to starboard upwind, 50 degrees, can we clear the isle? #wfgaspee



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Thank you Mr. Earl, come about. Do you know her? Let's see where she's headed. Bristol? Or Providence? #wfgaspee



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On station, West Passage, 2 cables SW of Jamestown's north head. Keep a sharp eye out on the Bay. #wfgaspee



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Keep a sharp eye on the Bay, men. These ships flout our laws and are filled to the brim with contraband. #wfgaspee



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Rogue's Island they call this. Let us set out to catch a rogue, yes? Bloody damn colonists! They're all damn rogues here! #wfgaspee



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How I love the smell of deck tar in the morning! #wfgaspee



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Gaspee Ship's Log: June 9, 1772 Anno Domini. A good day, wind from the N at 15 knots. Out doing the King's Business. #wfgaspee



**Lt. Dudingston** @GaspeeCaptn · 11 Jun 2015

I know those damn merchants are using this fog to move material around the bay. Keep a sharp eye out, men. #wfgaspee



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Please may I give you something as a gift. Please take this silver buckle. #WFGaspee



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Doctor, you have saved my life. May I offer you this gold buckle in gratitude. #WFGaspee



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I refuse to leave my ship. #WFGaspee



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That would be debatable. But I have not the strength. #WFGaspee



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Those are the property of His Royal Majesty King George III. Leave them be. #WFGaspee



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Thank you Doctor. There are supplies in the chest. #WFGaspee



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I've been hit. I am down. #WFGaspee



**Lt. Dudingston** @GaspeeCaptn · 14 Jun 2014

"Men, defend the ship! No quarter." #WFGaspee

1



**Lt. Dudingston** @GaspeeCaptn · 14 Jun 2014

"You can't arrest me. I am the law here. Stay back or we fire!" #WFGaspee



**Lt. Dudingston** @GaspeeCaptn · 14 Jun 2014

"I have a warrant here to apprehend Lt. William Dudingston of the HMS Gaspee. Stand down, we are coming aboard." #WFGaspee

1



**Lt. Dudingston** @GaspeeCaptn · 14 Jun 2014

"I am the Sheriff of the County of Kent, I am come for the commander of this vessel, and have him I will, dead or alive." #WFGaspee

1



**Lt. Dudingston** @GaspeeCaptn · 14 Jun 2014

"Stand Off!" #WFGaspee



Men! To your stations. Haul the cannons to aim for the bows. Prepare to defend! See [gaspee.waterfire.org](http://gaspee.waterfire.org) #WFGaspee



1



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1

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I've been hit. I am down. [#WFGaspee](#) WaterFire: Be with us!



**Lt. Dudingston** @GaspeeCaptn · 8 Jun 2013

"Men, defend the ship! No quarter." [#WFGaspee](#) WaterFire: Fire it up!



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## Justin Jacobs

@JustinGetsAHat

Justin Jacobs, 17, was found the next morning wearing Lt. Dudingston's gold-laced hat. His friends hushed him up and hustled him out of town #WFGaspee

[gaspee.waterfire.org](http://gaspee.waterfire.org)

Joined May 2012

Tweet to Justin Jacobs

### Tweets Tweets & replies

- 
**Justin Jacobs** @JustinGetsAHat · 13 Jun 2015  
 And I got me a damn, fine hat! Can't wait for the light of day. #wfgaspee  
 1 2
- 
**Justin Jacobs** @JustinGetsAHat · 13 Jun 2015  
 Let me help you with getting that to shore. #wfgaspee
- 
**Justin Jacobs** @JustinGetsAHat · 13 Jun 2015  
 Now for the fun. Let me at 'em. #wfgaspee
- 
**Justin Jacobs** @JustinGetsAHat · 13 Jun 2015  
 Now we are passing beneath the Great Bridge and out into the open sea. Will I ever see this bridge again? #wfgaspee
- 
**Justin Jacobs** @JustinGetsAHat · 13 Jun 2015  
 While wrapped in debate this seemed so clear. Now, as I row, I find the cold has brought me to new fears. #wfgaspee
- 
**Justin Jacobs** @JustinGetsAHat · 13 Jun 2015  
 Why not! I'll ship on this errand. I might find something to wear! #wfgaspee
- 
**Justin Jacobs** @JustinGetsAHat · 14 Jun 2014  
 And I got me a damn, fine hat! Can't wait for the light of day. #WFGaspee  
 1 1
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Tweets  
186

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Followers  
46

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### Abraham Whipple

@CaptnWhipple

Abraham Whipple, 39, a commander in the Rev War and experienced ship captain and appointed by John Brown as leader of the Gaspee raid #WFGaspee

[gaspee.waterfire.org](http://gaspee.waterfire.org)

Joined May 2012

Tweet to Abraham Whipple

### Tweets Tweets & replies



**Abraham Whipple** @CaptnWhipple · 13 Jun 2015

A good piece of work for one night. We will share the rest of this struggle across the land. Now quickly off to home before light. #wfgaspee



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**Abraham Whipple** @CaptnWhipple · 13 Jun 2015

All boats away. Not a single serious injury on our side. #wfgaspee



**Abraham Whipple** @CaptnWhipple · 13 Jun 2015

There she blows, row on, it will burn for hours. There are now none on the Bay who will not know what happened tonight. #wfgaspee



**Abraham Whipple** @CaptnWhipple · 13 Jun 2015

Come aboard, and let us leave. This fire is raging now and will be seen by all. See how that yardarm just fell. #wfgaspee



**Abraham Whipple** @CaptnWhipple · 13 Jun 2015

We will await you at the bow, but the rigging is already starting into flames. Hurry. #wfgaspee



**Abraham Whipple** @CaptnWhipple · 13 Jun 2015

Do what you will, but once the flames get to the powder magazine there will be nothing left of you or this boat. #wfgaspee



**Abraham Whipple** @CaptnWhipple · 13 Jun 2015

There is a fire aboard the ship! Cast off, cast off. We have not the time to control it. #wfgaspee



**Abraham Whipple** @CaptnWhipple · 13 Jun 2015

Here they be. We will see that they get to the Governor, as he had ordered. #wfgaspee



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**Abraham Whipple** @CaptnWhipple · 13 Jun 2015



**Abraham Whipple** @CaptnWhipple · 13 Jun 2015

"I am the Sheriff of the County of Kent, I come for the arrest of the commander of this vessel and have him I will, dead or alive" #wfgaspee

5 2



**Abraham Whipple** @CaptnWhipple · 13 Jun 2015

Come in slow now. Should we be seen, all boats, all hands row hard to rush the bow. I will distract them. #wfgaspee

2 2



**Abraham Whipple** @CaptnWhipple · 13 Jun 2015

Hold on for the moon, she is just down, but let the sky grow darker. #wfgaspee

2 2



**Abraham Whipple** @CaptnWhipple · 13 Jun 2015

Keep your distance, but move west so we are aligned with the bow. The guns cannot fire within 15 degrees of the bow. #wfgaspee

1 2



**Abraham Whipple** @CaptnWhipple · 13 Jun 2015

There she be! Our quarry, the HMS Gaspee, still hard aground even as the tide rises. #wfgaspee

1 2



**Abraham Whipple** @CaptnWhipple · 13 Jun 2015

When we see the cabin lights of the Gaspee, we drift and await the final setting of the moon. It is nearly down. #wfgaspee

1 2



**Abraham Whipple** @CaptnWhipple · 13 Jun 2015

We slowly advance towards Namquid Point. Keep your distance so as not to foul your oars and betray ourselves. #wfgaspee

1 2



**Abraham Whipple** @CaptnWhipple · 13 Jun 2015

Silence you two. Sound carries on the water. See [gaspee.waterfire.org](http://gaspee.waterfire.org) #wfgaspee

1 2

**Waterfire Providence Presents - The Gaspee Project**  
 The Gaspee Project From Flash Mob to Freedom ~ The Gaspee Incident and the Birth of America  
[gaspee.waterfire.org](http://gaspee.waterfire.org)



**Abraham Whipple** @CaptnWhipple · 13 Jun 2015

Yes, certainly! Helmsmen to the port, all of you - turn. I think these be our companions from Bristol. #wfgaspee

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**Abraham Whipple** @CaptnWhipple · 13 Jun 2015

There in the moonlight, on the water, I see motion ahead! #wfgaspee



This mission will be familiar to him and his crew. It will be good to find that he has joined us. See [gaspee.waterfire.org](http://gaspee.waterfire.org) #wfgaspee

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**Abraham Whipple** @CaptnWhipple · 13 Jun 2015 ▼

We should be coming to our meetpoint with Potter, up from Bristol, though I have no idea if he will have moved on our request. #wfgaspee



**Abraham Whipple** @CaptnWhipple · 13 Jun 2015 ▼

We are off. Committed! I know there are fears in our minds, but remarkable purpose too. We are striding into history. #wfgaspee

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**Abraham Whipple** @CaptnWhipple · 13 Jun 2015 ▼

Cast off! Shove off! To the Gaspee men, two leagues south. Stay close and silent. #wfgaspee



**Abraham Whipple** @CaptnWhipple · 13 Jun 2015 ▼

Men! Take your positions and prepare to cast off! We go together to assure our future. #wfgaspee



**Abraham Whipple** @CaptnWhipple · 13 Jun 2015 ▼

Let us follow our assigned captain and board the long boats. Let us leave together soon. #wfgaspee



**Abraham Whipple** @CaptnWhipple · 13 Jun 2015 ▼

With his men, I say we can do this, but it depends on secrecy and quiet. If they hear us too soon, we are cannon fodder. #wfgaspee



**Abraham Whipple** @CaptnWhipple · 13 Jun 2015 ▼

On the Hannah's arrival I sent a boat down to Bristol to urge Simeon Potter to our plan. He is bold and will bring a crew. #wfgaspee



**Abraham Whipple** @CaptnWhipple · 13 Jun 2015 ▼

And further you need to keep the boats manned, so you lose men here. Plus each boat must attack on its own. #wfgaspee



**Abraham Whipple** @CaptnWhipple · 13 Jun 2015 ▼

His crew is experienced and battle hardened. And at least 20 strong armed as Navy men. #wfgaspee



I have gathered 8 long boats and we should choose a team of 80 experienced seamen and fighters. #wfgaspee



**Abraham Whipple** @CaptnWhipple · 13 Jun 2015



The deck will be 5' above us, so be nimble, bold and quick. Bring your weapons and your grappling irons. #wfgaspee



**Abraham Whipple** @CaptnWhipple · 13 Jun 2015



We come in fast but quiet direct on the bow, out of the cannon range and we come aboard with grapple and chain. #wfgaspee



**Abraham Whipple** @CaptnWhipple · 13 Jun 2015



She has 8 guns on the deck, but they will be rigged for broadsides and cannot be aimed down or forward toward the bow. #wfgaspee



**Abraham Whipple** @CaptnWhipple · 13 Jun 2015



We come in in secret and await the set of the moon and then attack in the dark of night. #wfgaspee



**Abraham Whipple** @CaptnWhipple · 13 Jun 2015



Dudingston is harsh. He will have worked his crew pointlessly to row or kedge off the sand. They will be sound asleep. #wfgaspee



**Abraham Whipple** @CaptnWhipple · 13 Jun 2015



The moon is fairly bright as a gibbous moon, but it sets below the horizon at 12:47 after midnight, with glow in the west sky. #wfgaspee



**Abraham Whipple** @CaptnWhipple · 13 Jun 2015



The tide will keep her aground till at least 3:30 and even that tide will be low to float her off. #wfgaspee



**Abraham Whipple** @CaptnWhipple · 13 Jun 2015



The Gaspee lies but 2 leagues away, just over 6 miles from here. We can row it in two hours. #wfgaspee



**Abraham Whipple** @CaptnWhipple · 13 Jun 2015



We have all been to sea. We are privateers. With many of you I have taken larger boats in broad daylight. #wfgaspee



**Abraham Whipple** @CaptnWhipple · 13 Jun 2015



And our Colony's wealth has come duly and honestly from the rights granted in that Charter. #wfgaspee

