

Bunker Hill: Misnamed battle sparks a social media skirmish

A battle, a hill, a famous feud

By WILLIAM J. KOLE
Associated Press

BOSTON — The Battle of Bunker Hill — one of the greatest misnomers in U.S. history — has sparked a social media skirmish.

The 1775 battle, a rallying point for American colonists trying to overthrow British rule, mostly was fought a musket shot away on nearby Breed's Hill. Descendants and supporters of the Breed clan are dueling with traditionalists online, and the dispute is part of a new book, "Wicked Pissed: New England's Most Famous Feuds."

Even Boston Mayor Marty Walsh caught flak after tweeting a reminder that June 17 was Bunker Hill Day. Loyalists chided him that it rightfully should be called Breed's Hill Day.

"It's one of those things we're stuck with, like the myth that George Washington had wooden teeth," said Dan Shippey, founder of the Orange, California-based Breed's Hill Institute, a nonprofit historical organization promoting the ideas behind the American Revolution. "I don't think we'll ever straighten it out."

Few, if any, dispute the facts. Thousands of outnumbered and outgunned American colonists laid siege to the British army on the hill in Charlestown, Boston's oldest neighborhood. The British won the battle but suffered far more losses than their revolutionary foes, who proved to themselves and the rest of the world that they weren't pushovers.

An early error

Early accounts erroneously referenced Bunker Hill — and the rest, as they say, is history. Today, dozens of Boston-area businesses and institutions are named for Bunker Hill, including a community college, a high school, a golf course, a security company and an insurance agency.

The National Park Service, which runs the park surrounding the 221-foot granite obelisk that marks the spot, has no plans to rename it — though it does use hashtags such as #BreedsHill-NotBunkerHill on social media posts in a half-hearted attempt to set the record straight.

Perpetuating the fog of war at a site that annually draws hundreds of thousands of inquisitive students and tourists, virtually every sign invokes Bunker Hill. A single plaque mentions Breed's Hill.

If you're a Breed, that's a pitifully insufficient footnote to nearly two and a half centuries of history.

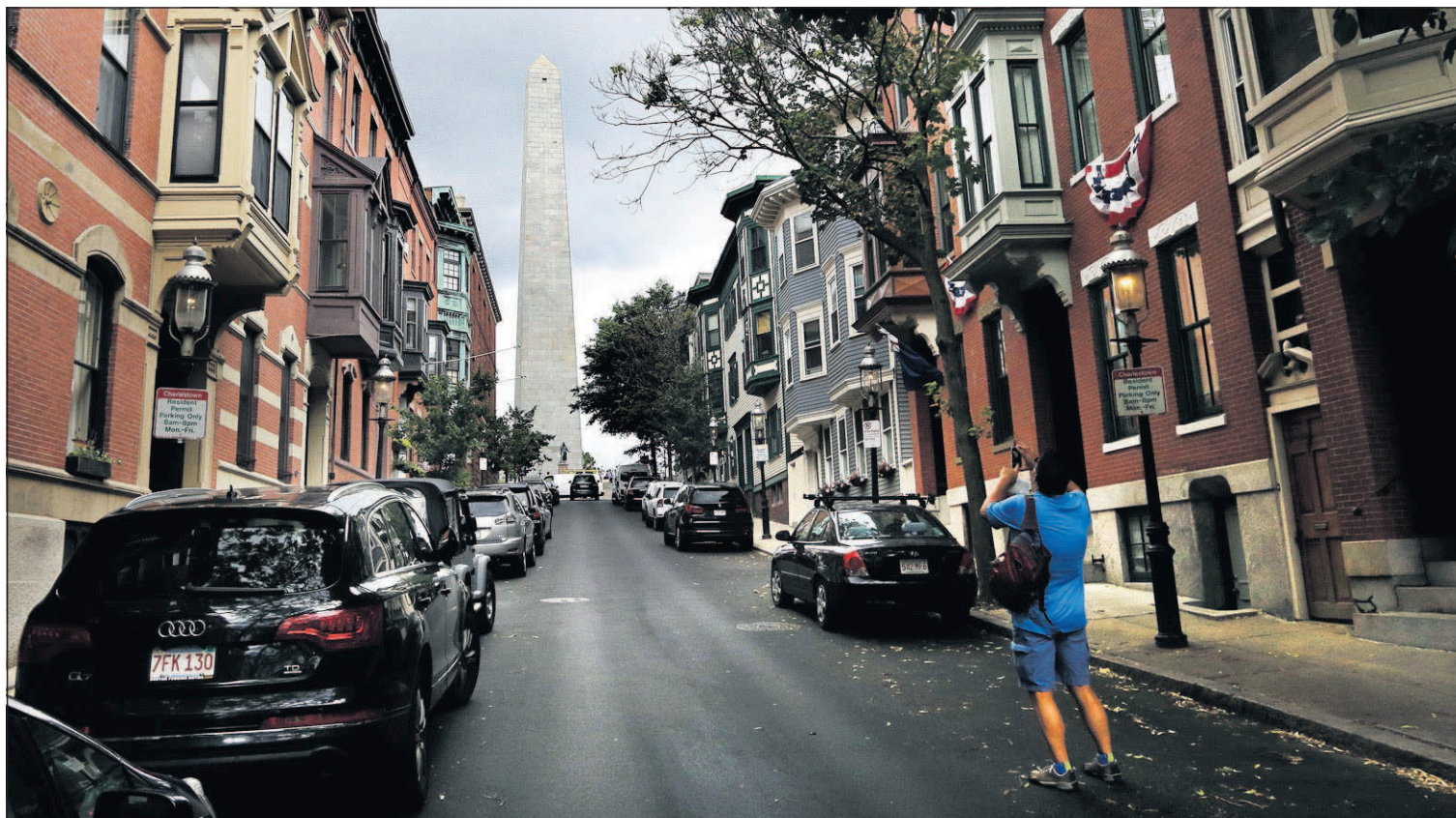
"It's kind of annoying that the Bunkers get all the credit. They have bridges and aircraft carriers named after them. They feel quite empowered by a misnamed battle," said Jed Breed, 32, a Cambridge, Massachusetts-based entrepreneur and 13th-generation descendant.

It's not for a lack of trying: At least since 1892, the nation's Breeds have brandished a family manifesto clamoring for a name change.

"We respectfully submit: The name 'Battle of Breed's Hill' should be adopted, because the battle was begun there, the redoubt stood there, (American Gen. Joseph) Warren fell there, the battle was decided there," it declares.

Nothing doing, said Gil Bunker, president of the Bunker Family Association.

"Sure, the Breeds would like it renamed, but we don't want it changed. It's more or less in



AP Photo/Charles Krupa

A tourist snaps a picture of the Bunker Hill monument, which is located on Breed's Hill in the Charlestown neighborhood of Boston. The Battle of Bunker Hill, one of the greatest misnomers in U.S. history, is being waged anew on social media. The 1775 battle, a pivotal rallying point for American colonists trying to overthrow British rule, actually was fought on Breed's Hill, not Bunker Hill.



AP Photo/Charles Krupa

A woman walks dogs as tourists climb steps to the Bunker Hill monument, which is located on Breed's Hill in the Charlestown neighborhood of Boston.



AP Photo/Charles Krupa

An historic plaque noting the location of "Breed's Hill" is fixed to the side of a building next to the Bunker Hill monument.

cement now," said Bunker, 81, of Turnersville, New Jersey.

'Wicked Pissed'

Ted Reinstein, a reporter for WCVB-TV in Boston and author of "Wicked Pissed," captures in his book what he calls the "historic outrage."

"Like any self-respecting New Englander, I knew the battle of Bunker Hill was fought on Breed's Hill, but I never thought the battle might still be going on. That came as a bit of a revelation to me," he said.

Joan Breed, of Lynn, Massachusetts, sees flickers of hope. Her grandchildren's history books speak of Breed's Hill. "So there's progress," she said.

And the Breeds vs. Bunkers dispute is far more cordial than the fiery Hatfields vs. McCoys feud. Three years ago, the Bunkers gathered at the obelisk for a 100th reunion and invited the Breeds to engage in a friendly tug of war. The two sides used a piece of rope from the USS Constitution, docked nearby.

Who won? "It was a tie," Bunker said.



Linda H. Breed via AP

Members of the Bunker families, left, and Breed families, right, engage in a friendly tug of war in 2013 at the base of the monument commemorating the Battle of Bunker Hill in the Charlestown neighborhood of Boston.

TV LISTINGS

Evening listings
MONDAY

MONDAY EVENING												JULY 4	
A	L	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
2	KATU	(2) KATU News Special "Everyday Heroes"	Jeopardy!	Wheel of Fortune	The Bachelorette (N)	Mistresses "Lean In" (N)	KATU News at 11	(35) Jimmy Kimmel					
3	KOMO	(4) KOMO 4 News	Wheel of Fortune	Jeopardy!	The Bachelorette (N)	Mistresses "Lean In" (N)	KOMO 4 News	(35) Jimmy Kimmel					
4	KING	(5) NBC Nightly News	KING 5 News	KING 5 News	Evening	Macy's Fireworks	A celebration of the nation's birthday. (N)	Macy's Fireworks	KING 5 News	(35) Tonight Show			
5	KOIN	(6) KOIN 6 News at 6	CBS Evening News	Extra	Ent. Tonight	Mom	2 Broke Girls	Boston Pops Demi Lovato and Nick Jonas perform with Boston Pops. (N)	KOIN 6 News @ 11	(35) S. Colbert			
6	KIRO	(7) KIRO 7 News	CBS Evening News	Boston Pops Demi Lovato and Nick Jonas perform with Boston Pops. (N)	Seafair Summer "July 4th" (N)				KIRO News	(35) S. Colbert			
7	KGW	(8) KGW News at 6:00 p.m.	Live at Seven	Inside Edition	Macy's Fireworks	A celebration of the nation's birthday. (N)	Ind Day at Fort (N)	Macy's Fireworks	KGW News at 11	(35) Tonight Show			
8	KRCW	(9) Seinfeld Pt. 1 of 2	Seinfeld	Modern Family	Modern Family	iHeartRadio Summer Pool Party (N)	Whose Line Is It?	Whose Line Is It?	KGW News at 10	(35) Two 1/2 Men	(05) Two 1/2 Men	(35) King of Hill	
9	KOPB	(10) This Old House	This Old House	Business (N)	PBS NewsHour	A Capitol Fourth (N)	A Capitol Fourth						
10	KPTV	(12) 6 O'Clock News	Family Feud	Family Feud	So You Think You Can Dance	Houdini "The Pall of LaPier" (SF) (N)	10 O'Clock News						
11	KPDx	(13) Mike & Molly	Mike & Molly	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	FOX 12's 8 O'Clock News on PDX-TV	FOX 12's 9 O'Clock News on PDX-TV	Law & Order: S.V.U. "Denial"					
12	KCPQ	(13) Name Game	Modern Family	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	So You Think You Can Dance	Houdini "The Pall of LaPier" (SF) (N)	Q13 News at 10					
13	TBS	(20) Angie Tribeca	Angie Tribeca	Angie Tribeca	Angie Tribeca	Wrecked	Wrecked	Full Frontal					
14	KZJZ	(22) Two and a Half	Two and a Half	The Simpsons	The Simpsons	Modern Family	Modern Family	Q13 News at 9					
15	ESPN	(29) (4:00) MLB Baseball Det./Cle. (L)	Baseball Tonight (L)	Baseball Tonight (L)	SportsCenter	Hot Dog Eat Contest "2016"	Baseball Tonight (L)	SportsCenter					
16	ESPN2	(30) (5:00) Baseball College Home Run Derby	To Be Announced	Henry Danger	To Be Announced	Rufus (2016, Family)	Full House	Full House					
17	NICK	(31) SpongeBob "Atlantis SquarePants"	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced					
18	DISN	(32) (15) To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced					
19	FAM	(34) (4:30) *** Forrest Gump '94	Sally Field, Tom Hanks.	(45) ** The Wedding Planner	(01, Rom) Matthew McConaughey, Bridgette Wilson, Jennifer Lopez.	Dead of Summer "Patience"	The 700 Club						
20	FNC	(35) (5:55) The Croods ('13, Animated)	Emma Stone, Nicolas Cage.	(45) FXM Presents	*** Date Night (2010, Comedy) Steve Carell, Tina Fey.	(45) FXM Presents	The Sitter (2011, Comedy) Ari Graynor, Jonah Hill.	(40) FXM Presents					
21	LIFE	(36) To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	Devious Maids "A Time to Spill" (N)	UNREAL "Infiltration" (N)	To Be Announced					
22	ROOT	(38) MLS Soccer Portland Timbers at Colorado Rapids (L)	Post-game	MLB Baseball Seattle Mariners at Houston Astros Site: Minute Maid Park -- Houston, Texas	Post-game	MLB Baseball Seattle Mariners at Houston Astros Site: Minute Maid Park -- Houston, Texas	Post-game						
23	F51	(39) Main Event "Edgar vs. Maynard 2" (N)	WPT Poker Alpha8	Fox Sports Live	TMZ Sports (N)	Speak for Yourself	Fox Sports Live	Best I Heard (N)					
24	SPIKE	(43) Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops					
25	COM	(44) (20) *** Coming to America (1988, Comedy)	Arsenio Hall, James Earl Jones, Eddie Murphy.	(55) South Park	South Park	South Park	Trip Tank (N)	South Park					
26	HIST	(45) America: The Story of the U.S. "WWII"	America: Story of the U.S. "Superpower"	America: Story of the U.S. "Millennium"	Hamilton	A look at the life and legacy of Alexander Hamilton.	(05) America: Story of the U.S. "Revolution"						
27	A&E	(46) The First 48	The First 48 "Thicker Than Water"	The First 48 "Blood Feud"	The First 48	"Shattered Glass"	The First 48	"Kiss of Death"					
28	TLC	(47) Untold Stories "Medieval Mayhem"	Untold Stories "Zombie Uprising"	Untold Stories "Halloween in the ER"	Untold Stories "Size Matters"	Untold Stories "Campstove Stuffing"	Untold Stories "Size Matters"						
29	DISC	(48) Fast N' Loud	Idris Elba: No Limits "Land Speed" (N)	Idris Elba: No Limits "Aerobatics" (N)	Idris Elba: No Limits "Drag Racing" (N)	Idris Elba: No Limits "Rally Driving" (N)	Fast N' Loud						
30	NGEO	(49) Wicked Tuna "Tuna Invaders"	Wicked Tuna "The Thin Bluefin Line"	Wicked Tuna "The Final Fishdown"	Rizzoli "Dangerous Curve Ahead"	Rizzoli "Cops vs. Zombies"	Major Crimes "Present Tense"						
31	TNT	(50) ** Disturbia (2007, Crime Story)	Sarah Roemer, Carrie-Anne Moss, Shia LaBeouf.	(45) *** Jaws 2 (1978, Horror)	Richard Dreyfuss, Robert Shaw, Roy Scheider.	*** Jaws 2 (1978, Horror)	Lorraine Gary, Murray Hamilton, Roy Scheider.						
32	FX	(51) (4:00) Jaws 2 ('78)	*** Jaws (1975, Horror)	Richard Dreyfuss, Robert Shaw, Roy Scheider.	*** Jaws 2 (1978, Horror)	Lorraine Gary, Murray Hamilton, Roy Scheider.							
33	USA	(52) NCIS "Doppelganger"	NCIS "An Eye for an Eye"	WWE Monday Night Raw	Chopped "Grill Masters: Episode Two"	Chopped "Grill Masters: Episode Three"	Chopped "Grill Masters: Episode Four"						
34	FOOD	(53) Cook's vs. Cons "Taco Takedown"	Chopped "Grill Masters: Episode One"	Chopped "Grill Masters: Episode Two"	Chopped "Grill Masters: Episode Three"	Chopped "Grill Masters: Episode Four"	Chopped "Grill Masters: Grand Finale"						
35	HGTV	(54) Lakefront Bargain	Lakefront Bargain	Lakefront Bargain	Lakefront Bargain	Tiny House, Big	Tiny House, Big	House Hunters (N)	House Hunters (N)	TinyHouseHunters	TinyHouseHunters		
36	FX	(56) ** The Amazing Spider-Man 2 (2014, Action)	Emma Stone, Jamie Foxx, Andrew Garfield.	*** Captain America: The First Avenger (2011, Action)	Hugo Weaving, Hayley Atwell, Chris Evans.	Movie							
37	CNN	(57) Anthony Bourdain "Miami"	Anthony Bourdain "Bay Area"	Anthony Bourdain "Charleston"	Anthony Bourdain "Mississippi Delta"	Anthony Bourdain "Hawaii"	A. Bourdain "Los Angeles (Koreatown)"						
38	FNC	(58) The Kelly File With Megyn Kelly	Hannity	The O'Reilly Factor	The Kelly File With Megyn Kelly	Hannity	On the Record						
39	CNBC	(61) Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Jay Leno "Anything but Four Wheels"	Jay Leno's Garage "Supercars"	Jay Leno's Garage "Crime Fighters"	Paid Program	Paid Program					
40	BRVA	(63) Housewives "Satan Loves Confusion"	The Real Housewives "Baptism by Fire"	H.Wives "When the Ship Hits the Fan"	The Real Housewives	Odd Mom Out	Odd Mom Out	The Real Housewives "Steel Calzones"					
41	TCM	(64) (5:00) *** The Music Man ('62)	Robert Preston.	(45) *** Yankee Doodle Dandy (1942, Musical)	Joan Leslie, Walter Huston, James Cagney.	*** 1776 (1972, Musical)	David Ford, Howard da Silva, William Daniels.						
42	SYFY	(65) The Twilight Zone	The Twilight Zone	The Twilight Zone	The Twilight Zone	The Twilight Zone	The Twilight Zone	The Twilight Zone					
43	RFD	(62) American Rancher	Red Steagall	Horse Master	Inside Reining	Craig Cameron	Rural Eve. News	Rural America "Live"	American Rancher	Red Steagall	Product Showcase		

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