
A NOTE TO READERS

In *Lydia the Patriot* we meet Stephen and Lydia Lankford. While the Lankfords are a fictional family, the Boston Massacre *Lydia the Patriot: The Boston Massacre* (Sisters in Time Book 5) actually did take place, and this story of the shootings and the trial that followed are based on the many firsthand accounts that still exist.

It may strike you as odd that the baby born at the *Lydia the Patriot: The Boston Massacre* (Sisters in Time Book 5) beginning of this book doesn't get named for eight months. While we usually name our babies right away, it was common for parents in the eighteenth century to wait several months, and sometimes years, before they named their children. More than one in six babies died before they reached their second birthday, and usually parents waited until they were sure *Lydia the Patriot: The Boston Massacre* (Sisters in Time Book 5) their child would live before they decided on a name.

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CHAPTER 1

Unwelcome Soldiers

Lydia was doing it again. Ten-year-old Stephen Lankford closed his brown eyes and let his head hang down to his chest.

Lydia's green eyes flashed as she bobbed her brown-haired head around the corner and shouted, "Lobsterback!"

"This is great!" Lydia said gleefully. She rested against the brick of the Lydia the Patriot: The Boston Massacre (Sisters in Time Book 5) customs building to catch her breath. "He doesn't even see us!" She leaned around the corner again. "Bloodyback!"

"It doesn't Lydia the Patriot: The Boston Massacre (Sisters in Time Book 5) matter if he doesn't see you," said Stephen, who was much more sensible than his fiery twelve-year-old sister. "He's a British soldier on duty. He doesn't care what you are doing."

"Uncle Cuyler says the soldiers are human beings like the rest of us," Lydia asserted. "If he's human, then he has to notice when someone is bothering Lydia the Patriot: The Boston Massacre (Sisters in Time Book 5) him. It's just a question of how long it takes." She stepped out farther this time. Cupping her hands around her mouth, she called, "Lobsterback! Go home!"

"Why do you do this, Lydia?" Stephen asked, his irritation growing. He shifted the bucket of Lydia the Patriot: The Boston Massacre (Sisters in Time Book 5) food he carried from one hand to the other. "He's a soldier. He gets his orders Lydia the Patriot: The Boston Massacre (Sisters in Time Book 5) from a general or the king or somebody. You're just a silly little girl. He's not going to go home to England just because you scream at him in the street."

“I am not a silly little girl!” Lydia declared. “I’m twelve years old, and my father is a leading citizen in Boston.”

“That doesn’t matter to a soldier.”

Lydia stepped away from the wall more brazenly. “Be Lydia the Patriot: The Boston Massacre (Sisters in Time Book 5) a man! Do what is right!” She stood there, her feet planted in the snow and her hands on her hips, Lydia the Patriot: The Boston Massacre (Sisters in Time Book 5) glaring at the soldier.

The British soldier blinked in the early March snow flurry that fell gently from the sky. The tall egg-shaped bearskin hat made him look taller than he really was. His red woolen jacket and white breeches Lydia the Patriot: The Boston Massacre (Sisters in Time Book 5) were splattered with the mud of dirty snow. Nevertheless, he stood with his feet solidly apart, his musket leaning over his shoulder. He was on duty. He paid no attention to Lydia. She certainly was not the first child who had pestered him while he was on duty.

Lydia the Patriot: The Boston Massacre (Sisters in Time Book 5)

“This is silly, Lydia,” Stephen insisted. He stepped forward. “Let’s keep going.”

“No!” she cried indignantly. “I’m not finished.” Lydia nearly knocked the breath out of him when she swung her arm around into his stomach.

Stephen grimaced and leaned against the building, holding his stomach. Lydia was acting the way she always did. She had to have her own way, and she refused to listen to logic. When she did not get what she wanted, she flailed around in such a fit that nearly everyone gave in to her just to calm her down. Even their mother let Lydia have her way most of the time. In contrast, Stephen preferred to keep to himself and not disturb anyone else.

Stephen looked forward to the day when he would be allowed to move around Boston on his own. As it was, he always had to be with one of his older siblings. And considering the condition of Boston, his day of Lydia the Patriot: The Boston Massacre (Sisters in Time Book 5) freedom

was a long way off. Even Lydia usually had to have either their older sister, Kathleen, or their brother, William, with her. But on this day, she had nagged her mother into allowing her to cross Boston from the Lankford home to the home of Aunt Dancy and Uncle Ethan without supervision. Thinking that two were better than one, Mother had sent Stephen along. She could rely on him for an accurate report of any mishaps.

Stephen did not want to face any mishaps. He wanted Lydia to leave the soldier alone and move on to Aunt Dancy's house. He shifted his load once more.

Stephen knew he would most likely grow into manhood before peace came to Boston. Since Massachusetts was a British colony, Stephen had always Lydia the Patriot: The Boston Massacre (Sisters in Time Book 5) accepted that it was logical for British soldiers to be there. But it Lydia the Patriot: The Boston Massacre (Sisters in Time Book 5) seemed as if fewer and fewer people felt that way. Since the Townshend Acts took effect in 1767 and Boston became the headquarters for collecting customs fees, the people of Boston had started rioting the same way they had during the Stamp Act when Stephen was younger. Mobs broke into houses of British officials or anyone associated with the British government. They threw furniture around and made vicious threats, forcing some of the officials to leave Boston in fear of their lives. Even lifelong neighbors who showed a small amount of sympathy for British officials faced the Lydia the Patriot: The Boston Massacre (Sisters in Time Book 5) fury of street gangs.

Stephen did not remember much about the Stamp Act. He had Lydia the Patriot: The Boston Massacre (Sisters in Time Book 5) been only five then. In those days, his sister Kathleen had tried to protect him from what was happening. But Lydia the Patriot: The Boston Massacre (Sisters in Time Book 5) William had told him the stories as he grew up. And now William made sure Stephen understood the Townshend Acts and why so many British troops were in Boston.

William Lankford, Stephen's brother, was nineteen now. He still lived in the Lankford family home and shared an attic room with Stephen, but William was a man. He worked all day alongside their father, Richard Lankford, putting out a news-paper and extra flyers about special events. Will was hardly ever home after supper.

When Stephen was younger, Will used to tell him simply that he had meetings to go to in the evenings. Now Stephen was old enough to know that most of Will's friends were in the Sons of Liberty. He also knew that many people in Boston believed that the Sons of Liberty were responsible for many of the wild activities that happened. Some even said that the Sons of

Liberty were the ones who truly ruled Boston.

With Sam Adams and the other members of the Sons of Liberty, Will spent all his spare time planning how America, as he called the colonies, would someday be free of the British. America would make its own decisions about taxes and how to spend money. Each colony would be able to give its opinion about what was best for its citizens. And King George of England would mind his own business and concern himself with England.

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