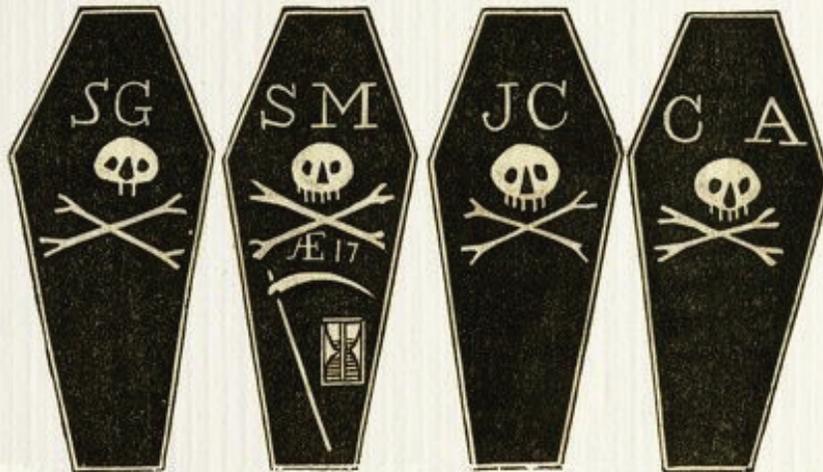


DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

"A lively gem of a book." — WASHINGTON POST

THE
BOSTON
MASSACRE



A FAMILY
HISTORY
SERENA ZABIN



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- In the prologue of *The Boston Massacre*, Serena Zabin notes that Bostonians were all British, even if they disagreed about how Britain should rule. What did it mean for Bostonians to be British before the Revolution? What importance did Bostonians place on being members of the British family?
- What was Boston like as a place in the 1760s and early 1770s? What was everyday life like for its inhabitants?
- How did Bostonians react to Parliament’s passage of new taxes like the Sugar Act and the Stamp Act?
- When and under what circumstances did British regiments deploy to Boston in the 1760s?
- How does Zabin’s description of British Army regiments, and especially the Twenty-Ninth Regiment, challenge our common understanding of what a regiment was in this period?
- What motivated men to enlist in the British Army?
- What role did women play in the regiment, and by extension the British Army throughout the Atlantic world?
- How did Boston women use British regiments or the presence of British regiments to their advantage?
- How did British soldiers deployed to Boston become integrated into Bostonian/colonial society? What kinds of connections did they forge with colonists?
- What were some of the consequences of this integration?
- Are there people in the *Boston Massacre: A Family History* whose lives or histories stay with you? What about their lives do you find compelling?
- Paul Revere’s engraving of the shooting and the trial of Captain Preston and his men deliberately obscure the relationships between civilians and soldiers. Why was it advantageous for Revere, the prosecution, and the defense to create the appearance of “two sides?” How does Revere’s engraving continue to shape our idea of the Massacre?
- How and why does John Adams come to defend Preston and his men at their trial?
- Zabin writes in the epilogue that “the shooting in Boston marked not the beginning of the American Revolution but the breakdown of a family.” What does she mean by this?

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