



1774: The Long Year of Revolution

by Mary Beth Norton

Martin County Library System Book Club Kit:

1774: The Long Year of Revolution

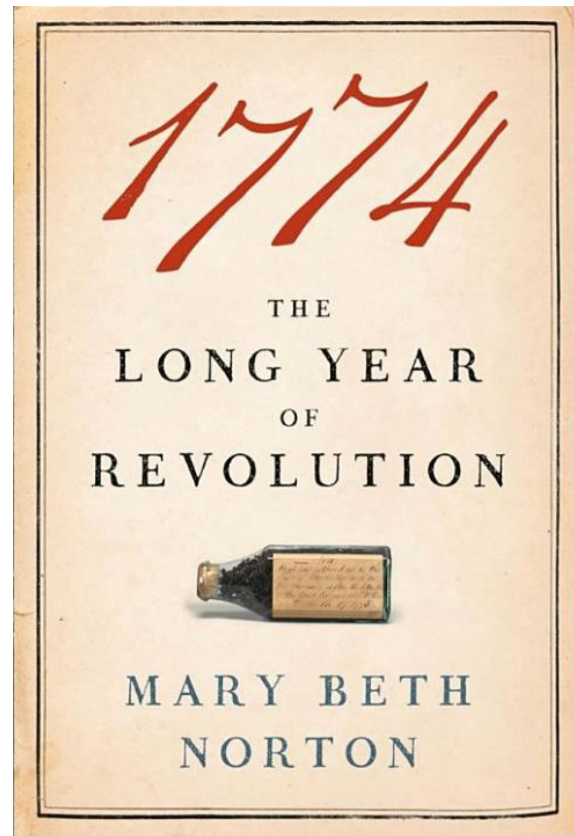
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Included in the Kit:

- [Book summary](#)
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Book summary

From one of our most acclaimed and original colonial historians, a groundbreaking book tracing the critical “long year” of 1774 and the revolutionary change that took place from the Boston Tea Party and the First Continental Congress to the Battles of Lexington and Concord. In this masterly work of history, the culmination of more than four decades of research and thought, Mary Beth Norton looks at the sixteen months leading up to the clashes at Lexington and Concord in mid-April 1775. This was the critical, and often overlooked, period when colonists traditionally loyal to King George III began their discordant “discussions” that led them to their acceptance of the inevitability of war against the British



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Empire. Drawing extensively on pamphlets, newspapers, and personal correspondence, Norton reconstructs colonial political discourse as it took place throughout 1774. Late in the year, conservatives mounted a vigorous campaign criticizing the First Continental Congress. But by then it was too late. In early 1775, colonial governors informed officials in London that they were unable to thwart the increasing power of local committees and their allied provincial congresses. Although the Declaration of Independence would not be formally adopted until July 1776, Americans had in effect “declared independence” even before the outbreak of war in April 1775 by obeying the decrees of the provincial governments they had elected rather than colonial officials appointed by the king. Norton captures the tension and drama of this pivotal year and foundational moment in American history and brings it to life as no other historian has done before.

Source: Penguin Random House website
(<https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/239495/1774-by-mary-beth-norton/>)



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Meet the Author

Mary Beth Norton (born 1943) is an American historian, specializing in American colonial history and well known for her work on women's history and the Salem witch trials. She is the Mary Donlon Alger Professor Emeritus of American History at the Department of History at Cornell University. Norton served as president of the American Historical Association in 2018. She is



a recipient of the Ambassador Book Award in American Studies for *In the Devil's Snare: The Salem Witchcraft Crisis of 1692*. Norton received her Bachelor of Arts (B. A.) at the University of Michigan (1964). The next year she completed a Master of Arts (M.A.), going on to receive her Ph.D. in 1969 at Harvard University. She identifies as a Democrat and she considers herself a Methodist. Mary Beth Norton is a pioneer of women historians not only in the United States but also in the whole world, as she was the first woman to get a job in the department of history at Cornell University.

Source: Wikipedia



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Discussion questions

1. What was Boston like as a place in the 1774? What was everyday life like for its inhabitants?
2. Would the American colonists still have went to war if the Boston Tea Party did not take place?
3. Did the British Parliament have the right to tax the American colonies without due representation? How do issues of "taxation without representation" continue today?
4. Did the Boston Tea Party lead to a heightened level of patriotism in the colonists?
5. Do you think you would have purchased the tea from the ship William, wrecked in Cape cod?
6. In 1774, the first Continental Congress of the colonies met and passed the Continental Association: a colony-wide agreement to boycott British goods, including tea. Is this an example of "cancel culture"?



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Recipes

Molasses Graham Bread

Preheat oven to 350° F (175° C), and grease and flour two loaf pans.

Mix together:

- 1/4 cup (60 ml) sugar
- 2 cups (250 ml) flour
- 2 tsp (10 ml) baking soda
- 2 tsp (10 ml) salt
- 1 tsp (5 ml) baking powder
- 1 3/4 cup (415 ml) graham (or whole wheat) flour



Cut 1/3 cup (80 ml) butter in with a pastry blender (or blend in food processor) until the mixture resembles coarse cornmeal.

Blend in a separate bowl:

- 2 eggs, beaten
- 1 3/4 cup (415 ml) sour milk or buttermilk
- 3/4 cup (175 ml) molasses

Pour into dry mixture and stir only enough to blend. Pour into prepared loaf pans and bake at 350° F (175° C) for about 40 minutes.



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Hot Cider Punch

- 1 gallon heated apple cider
- 1/2 ounce brandy flavoring
- 1/2 ounce rum flavoring OR (even better) 1/2 quart light rum
- 3 sticks cinnamon
- 3 to 6 whole oranges
- Small bag of whole cloves

Simmer liquid (cider and flavorings) with 3 sticks whole cinnamon to melt—DO NOT COOK.



Allow to cool, pour into punch bowl.

Separately stick whole cloves around entire surface of 3 to 6 whole oranges. Place oranges into baking pan with 1/2 inch of water, and bake at 350° for 45 minutes. Place oranges into punch bowl

Source: RevWarTalk (revwartalk.com/hot-cider-punch-wassail/)

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