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# The First American Cookie Lady



## Synopsis

The 1st American Cookie Lady is based on the 76-page, handwritten cookie diary of Anna "Cookie" Covington, who recorded 208 different cookie recipes between 1917 and 1920. Intended as a gift for one of her children, it's a mystery why her cookie diary was never used and eventually fell into the hands of one very grateful Barbara Swell. Barbara presents Anna's recipes exactly as they appear in the original diary and also adds helpful tips and hints on baking, updates for many of the recipes, fun cookie poems, baking superstitions, and over 150 photos and illustrations. Learn to bake cookies such as snickerdoodles, fig bars, rosemary shortbreads, coconut jumbles, and many more!

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (15 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

Utilizing recipes from a diary that Anna Covington (from 1917 - 1920) created to share with her children, Barbara Swell has authored another book adding pieces of history, art and updating some of the recipes, The 1st American Cookie Lady: Recipes From a 1917 Cookie Diary! Another book filled with black and white photos of people of its time, advertisements selling hair products, lore and tips. I have to say, when I read Swell's books, I feel like I am living in the early 20th century! This book even advises you on how to take care of your family with food shortages from World War I! There are several traditional recipes, as well as some old-time recipes that most of us have either not heard of before, or have long forgotten. You will find recipes for Rock Cookies, Molasses Cookies, Snickerdoodles and Wine Jumbles! If you know of anyone looking for Grandma's cookie recipe, check this book out! If the recipe is not in there, I am sure you will find several in there that

you will love!

The 1st American Cookie Lady: Recipes from a 1917 Cookie Diary offers all 208 recipes of Anna "Cookie" Covington, first recorded between 1917 and 1920. Classic and tasty cookie recipes range from Sand Tarts to Snickerdoodles, Fig Bars, Coconut Jumbles, Maple Brandy Snaps and more. In addition, The 1st American Cookie Lady offers a host of fascinating cookie trivia tidbits, including vintage art and photographs, baking superstitions, the story of women's suffrage and cookies, cookie poems, WW I food shortage recipes, and much more. An excellent dessert cookbook filled with recipes that survive the test of time with flying colors.

I like this cookbook so much that I bought two of them and gave one as a gift to another baker. It's not a huge cookbook, but it's filled with recipes, historical tidbits, old ads, quotes and poetry. The lady who put this together bought the original cookie cookbook via an auction and the recipes date from the turn of the century through about the 1920's. She tried out the recipes and has reproduced them here in print form. For some recipes, the author has given alternate or updated instructions better suited to modern tastes, while for others she relates why she doubts anyone might like them...but, of course, you are free to try them out anyway...taster beware! She also has added other old recipes here and there from the same general time period. What you end up with is a collection of "grandma" style cookie recipes that include many variations for some, say for sugar cookies or ginger cookies. There are also recipes from around the time of WW1 when there was rationing and bakers had to make do. I really appreciate the fact that the author actually tried the recipes out! Too often, you buy a cookbook and make something and it fails or turns out awful tasting and you look back at the recipe and realize there is a problem with it. It really makes you wonder then if the author of that cookbook ever actually made the recipe in question. I have other old cookbooks and recognized some similar recipes in this book...and some of my recipes are said to date back over 100 years, which some of these probably do, as well. The only thing I would have liked better was if the author had included more copies of the actual pages from the original cookbook here and there. But that's a small thing. A fun little cookbook, especially for those who love cookies and trying out new (old!) recipes.

The First American Cookie Lady cookbook is fabulous. I made the rum raisin filling for the filled cookie last night and made the cookies today. They came out so good. I made a double batch for both and it made 4 dozen cookies. The cookbook is so entertaining and great reading. The history is

interesting. There are several superstitions that made me laugh out loud. One of the reasons I had to have this cookbook is because 1917 was the year my father-in-law was born. I was drawn to this book and I wish that my mother-in-law and father-in-law were still alive. My mother-in-law was a fantastic baker and so she would have just loved this as well. So I can say besides having wonderful recipes this book is sentimental to me.

Five stars are not enough for this great cookbook. It brings back a lot of very good memories about learning to cook in the late 1930s. We cooked on a big old cast iron Home Comfort Range and I was not allowed to get near it until I was ten years old because my grandmother, who lived with us, was afraid that I would get burned. She let me help her in the kitchen but the stove was off limits until my tenth birthday in 1937. That was a red letter day in my life and I can remember the sugar cookies that I made and baked by myself that day in every detail. I recommend this cookbook to everyone who wants to make old-fashioned cookies. Barbara Swell knows what she is talking about in every detail. I hope all who purchase her books will enjoy them as much as I do. Happy baking!

This is a lovely little book/pamphlet. Mixed in with old fashioned recipes are little tidbits of history- old adds vintage photos. I gave it to my mother for her birthday and she spent the afternoon just reading it- marking recipes she wanted to try. Really sweet little book.

I LKED IT SO MUCH THAT I ORDERED ANOTHER TO GIVE TO "OUR COOKIE LADY" IN MY SOCIAL CIRCLE OF RETIREES AT ALIR (ACADEMY OF LEARNING IN RETIREMENT). After telling my daughter-in-law about it, I will now have to order still another to give to her as she's an excellent cook and baker.

Ok, so I have not made one single cookie in the book! I still love the book, it is historical, and curious, amusing, and just plain interesting to me.

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