



# My Name Is America: The Journal Of William Thomas Emerson, A Revolutionary War Patriot

By Barry Denenberg

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Set in Massachusetts, this is the story of a boy surrounded by the politics and violence of war, who becomes a spy for the rebel colonists.

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### Editorial Review

#### From School Library Journal

Grade 4-8-This first-person account of a 12-year-old boy makes the world of Boston in 1774 come alive. William Thomas Emerson, an orphan, has found work with the kind proprietor of a tavern. In his journal, the boy describes the practical and moral difficulties that citizens of that city encountered on the eve of the Revolution. He writes of food shortages, patriots, traitors, and deserters, and describes daily life, public punishment, and medical treatments. Denenberg engages readers with a bit of intrigue, but it is the integrity and humanity of ordinary people that make this book inspirational. An epilogue summarizes the lives of the characters introduced and includes historical reproductions and a brief account of the actual events that followed the year covered in the journal. Quality historical fiction that should attract a wide audience.

*Ann M. Burlingame, North Regional Library, Raleigh, NC*

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#### From Booklist

In 1774, 12-year-old orphan Will is befriended by Mr. Wilson, who secretly works with a group of rebels against the British. Written as a series of journal entries, this book paints a vivid picture of the period from the point of view of a boy on the fringe of an important movement. Unlike some books of historical fiction, here the focus isn't on landmark events or fictional meetings with famous people but rather on everyday life in a troubling time. Will makes an appealing narrator, brave and independent enough to take a small part in dangerous intrigues, but young and frank enough to relate his reactions to events with freshness and disarming candor. An appended note, "Life in America in 1774," fills in the historical events and background of the time and provides reproductions of engravings, maps, and documents. A solid addition to the *My Name Is America* series. *Carolyn Phelan*

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