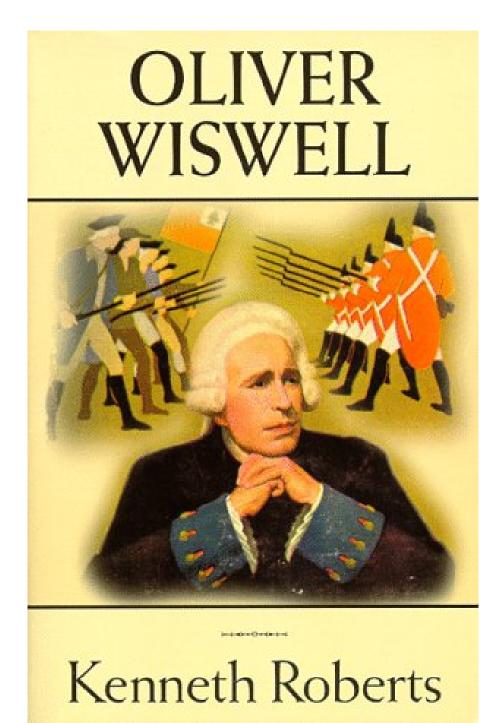


# Kenneth Roberts

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In this novel, Kenneth Roberts portrays a very different side to the story of the American Revolution, that of the loyalists (those colonists who supported the British monarchy). Spanning the years from 1775 to 1783, "Oliver Wiswell" traces the adventures of a Yale student who is deeply loyal to the established government of the colonies. This wonderfully far-ranging novel is packed with battles, sudden flights, escapes, intrigue, massacres, romance, and exile as it follows Wiswell, a spy for Sir William Howell (Commander in Chief of the British Armies) on Long Island, as well as in Paris and London. He captures a sloop single-handedly and joins Benedict Arnold against the American revolutionaries of the southern colonies. "Oliver Wiswell" did no less than challenge the accepted perceptions of the loyalists. Though branded by history as cowardly traitors, many of them were men of strong convictions and fierce courage, sometimes defeating triple their number of Continental troops and militiamen in battle. With strong historical detail and vivid depictions, Roberts explores the hearts and minds of those men and women who opposed the Revolution.

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Features

• Used Book in Good Condition

Most helpful customer reviews

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great book. As informative as it is entertaining. By Nen

I love this book. Despite the 1000+ pages, I have read it twice, and will probably read it again. Kenneth Roberts is such a fabulous historian, and what he did with this book is truly remarkable. As a history major I can honestly say that until I read this book I do not believe I had even begun to glimpse what really happened during the American Revolution. By telling his story through the eyes of a few staunch royalists, he somehow manages to show the less heroic (but realistic) side of the revolution, while highlighting the series of amazingly illogical events that led to England's loss of this country.

Unlike another reader, I do not think it is necessary to read all four of Roberts books in order to fully appreciate this one. The other books are also great reads, but the themes and perspectives of them deal with more well-known aspects of the Revolution, while this book introduces facts and ideas that most Americans have never been introduced to.

The characters are wonderful (Thomas Buel is probably one of the best characters I have ever read in any book) and the story is incredibly entertaining for such a long and detailed historical novel. Great book, I highly recommend it - especially if you think you know all there is to know about the American Revolution.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Really???

By richard e whitelock

So That's How It Really Was might be a sub-title for this historical novel. You have read the viewpoints reported of Sam Adams and the Patriots, now read and better understand the views of the British. When Howe and Clinton were sent to America to seek a peace with the rebellious New England colonists, they had no idea of the intensity as well as the power unleashed in the hands of the "rabble" known as patriots. You must read this account so you will have a better appreciation of the Tories' viewpoint and their initial willingness to settle peacefully as long as the colonies would remain within the control of England and rule of law. But much as we experience today, when the poor and frustrated lower class have had enough of economic injustice, they will rebel and strike out at the men of power and wealth. And in this case, they found another nation, France rebelling for similar reasons that Americans had endorsed. And the outcome is history for us all to read and learn from. This is a fine work told in the format of a riveting novel supported by well documented facts. Read and enjoy. Best wishes and good reading. REW

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful.

"Oliver Wiswell" by Kenneth Roberts

#### By L. N. Howe

I ordered a used, in good condition, hardcover edition of the book for my son in Arizona, and it came through in good condition, he said. I had just read the book myself before, one of the few Kenneth Roberts' books I had not read. I think it was one of his best. It was an eye-opener to me on the Revolutionary War times, from start to finish, from the point of view of the Loyalists. I lived in the Boston area much of my life. What Roberts had to say about places in New England where I had been (like the Blue Hills and Milton and Boston itself) was fascinating. But then it was equally fascinating to learn about the peoples of that time in the other colonies. In one part of the book, Roberts distinguishes between the rebels who, from the Loyalist point of view, were rabble rousers (Samuel Adams and John Hancock, for example) and those who were nobler (George Washington and John Adams, for example). I had had no idea the extent to which the British squandered away their chances of winning the war outright, including on the part of my namesake (and forbear) General William Howe. A man named Buell (probably fictitious), whose life Wiswell saves, is like a brother to him throughout the book. Buell is a master of ingenuity and full of great humor. There is also a beautiful love story woven throughout. Oliver Wiswell is a wonderful, informative, exciting, serious, humorous, and poignant read.

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