



## Afternoon Tea Timeline

- 1662 – Portuguese Princess Catherine of Braganza marries King Charles II, establishes tea as a fashionable beverage
- 1711 – At least 140,000 pounds of tea are imported into England
- 1791 – 11 million pounds of tea are imported into England
- Dec. 1773 – To protest British tea taxes, colonists disguised as native Americans dump 342 chests of tea into Boston harbor
- Ca 1840 – Anna, Duchess of Bedford, begins hosting afternoon gatherings in her parlor over tea and refreshments
- 1848 – Jane Hunt of Waterloo, N.Y., hosts a tea party that leads to the first women's rights convention
- 1904 – St. Louis World's Fair vendor Richard Blechynden popularizes iced tea
- 1906 – The Ritz London becomes the first major establishment to serve afternoon tea to unescorted ladies
- 1907 – New York tea importer Thomas Sullivan inadvertently invents tea bags when he sends out tea samples in silk gauze bags
- 1945 – Ruth Bigelow begins blending her own tea (eventually known as Constant Comment)



Leslie Goddard  
History Comes Alive!

[www.lesliegoddard.info](http://www.lesliegoddard.info)

L-Goddard@att.net



## Afternoon Tea Suggested Reading

*A Social History of Tea* by Jane Pettigrew and Bruce Richard (2015). Exhaustive, excellent overview. For die-hard tea enthusiasts.

*Afternoon Tea: Delicious Recipes for Scones, Savories & Sweets* by Lorna Ables Reeves (2013). Slim but excellent cookbook by an editor of *TeaTime*

*Tea Fit for a Queen: Recipes and Drinks for Afternoon Tea* by Lucy Worsley, chief curator of Historic Royal Palaces (2015).

*Tea for Ruby* by Sarah Ferguson, the Duchess of York (2008). Irrepressible Ruby must tame her hijinks when she is invited to tea with the Queen

*Fancy Nancy: Tea Parties* by Jane O'Connor and Robin Preiss Glasser (2010). My favorite book of tea party how-tos and recipes for children 4-8

## PROPER EATING ORDER FOR AFTERNOON TEA:

