

Profiles from History

Leaders Who Changed Worlds Both Large and Small

- Volume 3 -



Ashley M. Wiggers

Profiles from History - Volume 3
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Dedication

“Those who stand for nothing fall for anything.”

- Alexander Hamilton

This book is dedicated to the reader.

May these stories of courage touch your heart, as they have mine.

Dad - Thank you for so faithfully encouraging and molding the writer in me.
I can only hope to someday be the kind of person and writer that you are.

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Instructions

In *Profiles from History - Volume 3*, I took a unique perspective on each historical figure by sharing some of the lesser known facts you may not have learned before. I have also included some people whose stories you may not have heard, but they certainly deserve our admiration. People like Irena Sendler and Dr. Charles Drew, who saved many lives with their determination and character. As you read each profile it is my hope that you will connect with the person, not just the history.

In this book you will read about authors, inventors, statesmen, everyday people, and war heroes that made a significant difference in the world around them and forever changed the future. Beginning around 1750 and continuing through 1950, the exploits of many famous people are described with an eye to seeing their motivations and the impact their lives had on others.

Use *Profiles from History* either to enhance lessons in history and social studies or as a stand-alone book. Choose the fun projects in this book according to the interests of each student. Select as many or as few of the activities as you would like. Each profile can be used as a read-aloud, or your student can use the story for independent reading. To get the full benefit from each profile, I recommend students use several of the following activities:

Discussion questions: inspire critical thinking and help the student relate to each historical figure.

Follow-up activities: relate to the accomplishments of each profile, connecting the child by hearing, seeing, and doing to the importance of each person's story.

Word games: such as word searches and crossword puzzles focus on key words to remember from the profile, increasing comprehension and retention of vocabulary.

Critical thinking activities: include activities such as creating their own true and false statements and determining the meaning of words using context.

Maps: help students visually pinpoint either the location where the historical figure came from, or the area in which a main event of their life took place.

Timelines: give students an overview of the time in which the historical figure lived and connects each person with other important events occurring at the same time. A reference timeline is included with each profile. Students are instructed to place timeline figures on a timeline along with two events that occurred during the life of the person studied. This timeline and the figures are located in the back of the book before the answer keys. Simply cut out each figure and place it on the timeline in the correct location. Tape the top edge of the figure only, that way the figure can be lifted to reveal the two extra events that the students wrote.

Also Available

Profiles from History -Volume 3 activities and reproducibles in digital format for your convenience.

If you enjoy the format and focus of this book you may also be interested in:

Profiles from History -Volume 1 which includes profiles of men and women of great influence around the time of exploration and founding of our country, from the years 1200 -1890.

Profiles from History -Volume 2 which mainly focuses on the heroes of American history during the Revolutionary and Civil Wars.

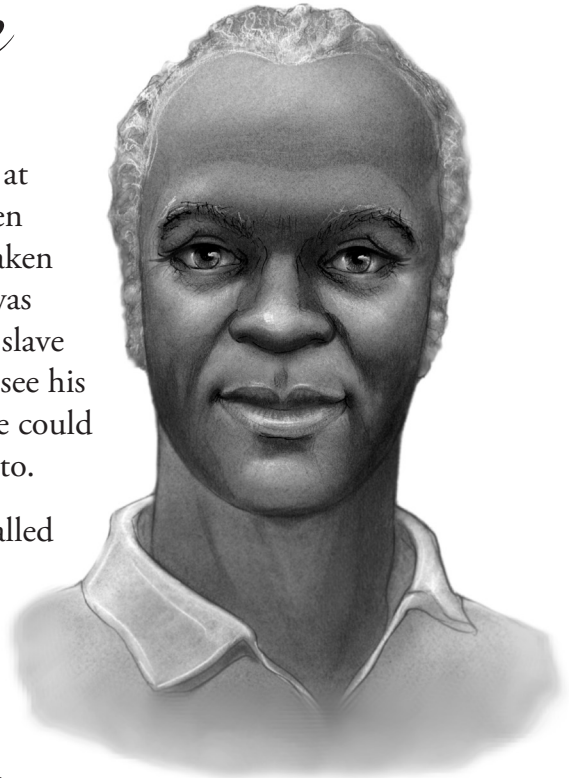
Amos Fortune

Amos Fortune had every right to be bitter. He was taken from his home at the young age of about fifteen. Stolen from Africa where he was a free man, and taken to America, he was sold as a slave. His life was changed forever by the greedy ambitions of slave traders. Amos would never again be able to see his home, and it would be many years before he could enjoy the freedom that he had been born into.

Amos made the long journey to America, called the Middle Passage, around 1725. It's unimaginable to think of what he must have gone through. Slave ships used every bit of space possible to cram in people. The decks where they held the slaves were usually about three and a half feet high with no space to stand or stretch. Ships such as these often had many problems with disease because of the harsh environment.

Amos Fortune was fortunate, in that he ended up in the New England area. Many people were not so lucky. If you were sold in the West Indies, for example, you would be faced with an extremely rough life. He was also fortunate not to be taken to the other end of the U.S. where slaves were put to work in the fields of the south. Instead, Amos was brought to New England where slaves worked alongside their owners, learning their trade, or helping to care for a small farm. Since there were no large plantations like in the south, the need for owning slaves was less great. Because of this, only about 5% of the population in the north was black in the 18th century.

Amos spent about forty-five years of his life in slavery. Though his life was not his own, the men that purchased him treated him fairly well. Records show that Amos, though he never attended school, could read and write. It's possible that he was taught



by Quakers who used to hold classes for Africans. There are no records of which port Amos arrived at or who he was first sold to. No one even knows exactly how he got his name. The first record of Amos Fortune is in the will of his then owner, Ichabod Richardson. Ichabod was a tanner (a person who converts the hides of animals into leather) who resided in Woburn, Massachusetts. In his will, Richardson stated that six years following his death Amos Fortune was to be set free. In another event that could have caused Amos to become bitter about his life, or give up on the idea of freedom, his master signed a new will just five days before his unexpected death. It mentioned nothing of Amos Fortune's freedom. At the time of Richardson's death, Amos was already 58 years old. I imagine that he must have felt as though life, with its cruel unfairness, had forgotten about him again.

But hope was just around the corner. Ichabod Richardson's heir drafted a document that required Amos to pay a certain amount of money and then receive his freedom. Amos made the last payment in 1770, when he was sixty years old.

Not much is known about him for the next few years. He bought half an acre of land in Woburn, on which he built a small house. During his life, Amos purchased the freedom of three different people. The first was an unnamed woman who sadly died soon after. The next was three years later, a woman named Lydia Somerset, whom he then married. She too died suddenly just three months after their marriage. Then there was Violate Baldwin. Her master's wife was Ichabod Richardson's first cousin, who attended the same church as the Richardsons. Amos and Violate might have met at the church in a section that was designated for Africans. Amos purchased Violate's freedom in 1778, when she was fifty years old. The two were married the next day.

In 1781, Amos and Violate moved from the place of their slavery to the town of Jaffrey, New Hampshire. While there, Amos opened a tannery. He soon became known as one of the best tanners in the region. Receipts show that people sent their business many miles to Amos. He bought twenty-five acres of land in Jaffrey, on which he built a small house and barn. Both are still standing today. The road to his house is now known as Amos Fortune Road. He was a devoted member of the local church and was instrumental in founding the first library in Jaffrey.

At the age of 91, Amos Fortune died. One year later, Violate followed her husband. Both are buried side by side in the town of Jaffrey. The following words were written as their epitaphs:

“Sacred to the memory of Amos Fortune, who was born free in Africa, a slave in America, he purchased liberty, professed Christianity, lived respectably, and died hopefully”

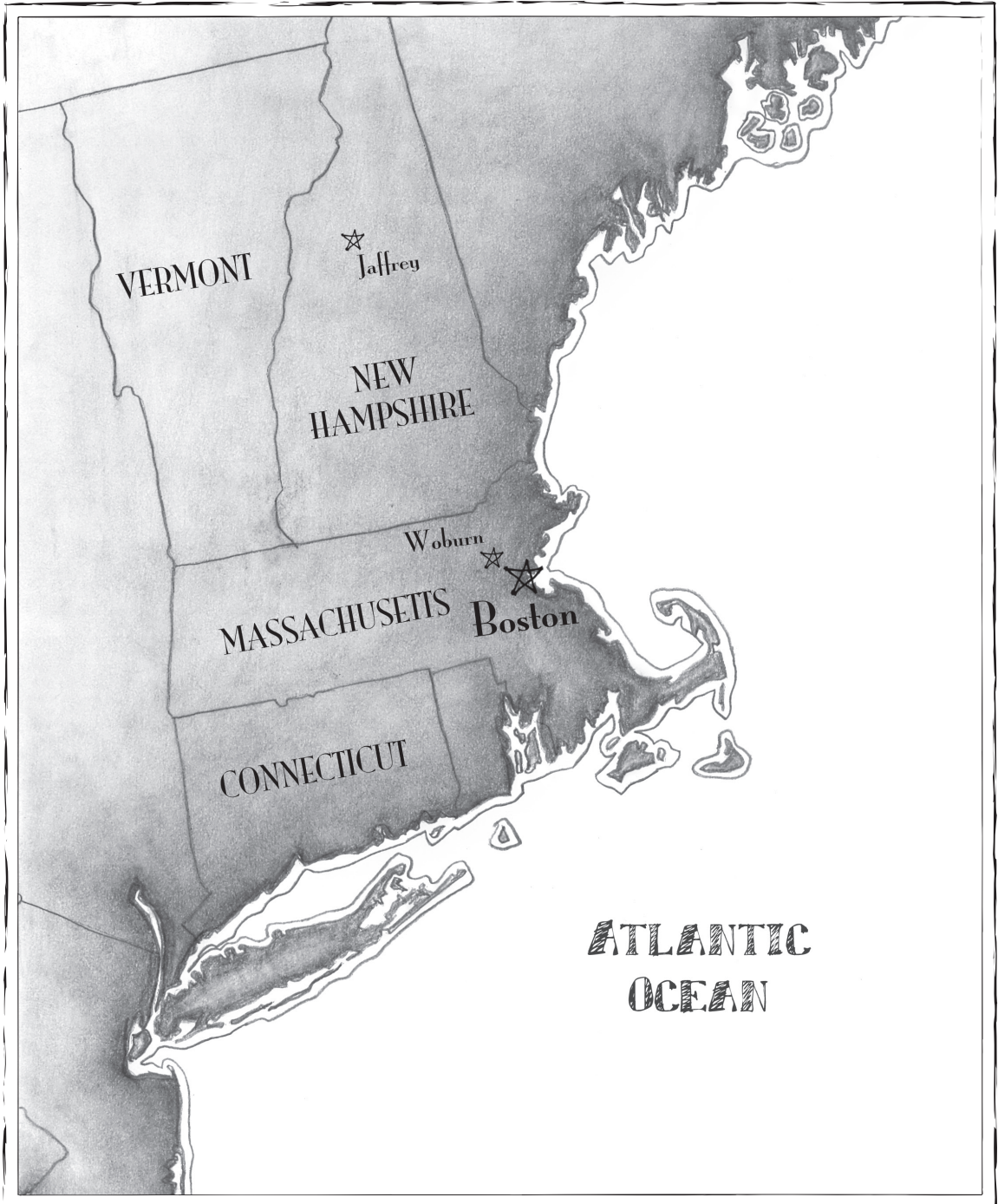
“Sacred to the memory of Violate, by sale the slave of Amos Fortune, by marriage his wife, by her fidelity, his friend and solace, she died his widow”

In his will, Amos designated that a “handsome present” be left to the church. He also left money in support of their local schoolhouse. His story became well known in 1950 when Elizabeth Yates wrote a children’s book about his life named *Amos Fortune, Free Man*. It is a Newbery award-winning book that has been translated into several different languages, and continues to be taught about and read throughout the world.

There’s something very noble about simply living your life the best way that you can. You might think that since Amos Fortune is in this book, he was possibly an inventor, or maybe became someone famous in his day. The truth is, he is only famous for the way in which he lived. Amos Fortune truly overcame adversity. He built a life of respect and honor for himself, and even in his death, his story continues to inspire anyone who hears it.

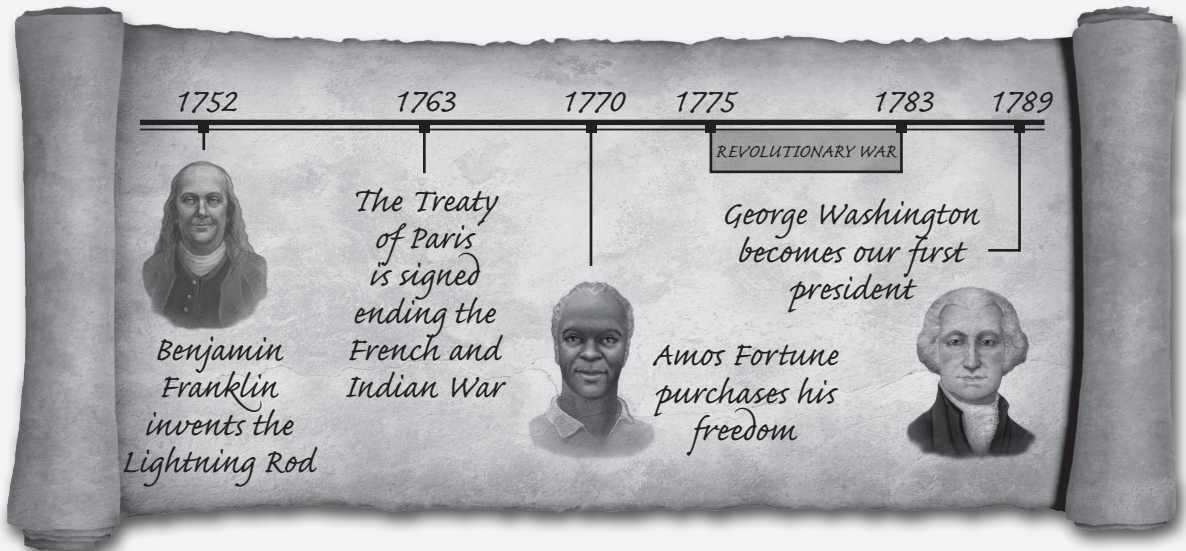
Discussion

Amos Fortune’s life seems very unfair. He was born free, and then captured into slavery for about half of his life. He lived the rest of his days as a respected citizen in the town of Jaffrey, New Hampshire, and purchased the freedom of others who had the same misfortune. He wouldn’t let bitterness keep him from living a full life. Is there anything in your life that you could be bitter about? Talk with your parent about how you can choose not to be bitter like Amos when life seems unfair.



Timeline Activity

Put things in perspective. Place Amos Fortune's figure on the timeline in the year 1770, which was when he purchased his freedom. Then identify two other events that happened in history during his life and add them to your timeline. You might also add a symbol or picture that represents this event.



Activity

Amos Fortune was an expert tanner. Tanners used many processes to create fine leather. Learn more about the different types of leather. What things are usually made of leather? Do you or your family members have anything made of leather? What are the benefits of having something made of leather? Do you think leather is as valuable as it used to be? Tell why you think it is or isn't.

True or False

Create five true or false statements about this story. Present them to your family members. Mix up the true and false statements to keep everyone thinking. Be sure to make up an answer key so that your readers will know when they are correct. To see a sample True or False, turn to page 203.

Wordscramble

Here is a list of scrambled words that relate to the profile you read about Amos Fortune. Unscramble the letters and write the words correctly.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. rcAfaI _____ | 6. umtonFeorAs _____ |
| 2. ldBtVaiowinel _____ | 7. aryffJe _____ |
| 3. aIbadosdccRrinhhho _____ | 8. phaetpi _____ |
| 4. aetrnn _____ | 9. EzbeheiYlastta _____ |
| 5. bouWnr _____ | 10. meferod _____ |

Using Context

Read the sentence and then look at the word in *italics*. Tell what you think that word means. Then look it up in a dictionary to confirm, or make sure of, the meaning. Tell someone about each word that you got correct. Remember, you will get better at understanding word meanings as you practice using context, or the words around a word.

1. His life was changed forever by the greedy *ambitions* of slave traders. (paragraph 1)

I think *ambitions* means: _____

Dictionary definition: _____

My meaning was: (Circle one) correct had correct parts not close

2. He was a devoted member of the local church and was *instrumental* in founding the first library in Jaffrey. (paragraph 7)

I think *instrumental* means: _____

Dictionary definition: _____

My meaning was: (Circle one) correct had correct parts not close

3. Amos Fortune truly overcame *adversity*. (paragraph 12)

I think *adversity* means: _____

Dictionary definition: _____

My meaning was: (Circle one) correct had correct parts not close

Amos Fortune Word Search

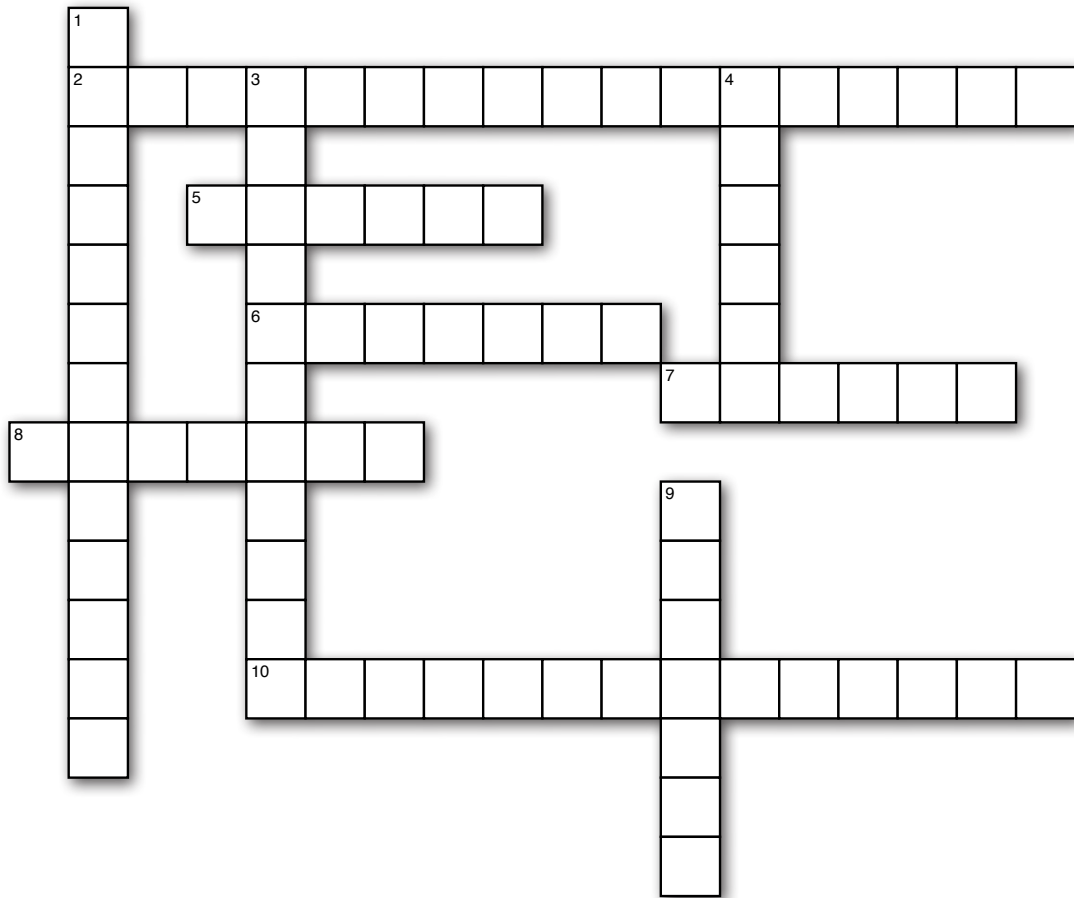
N O S D R A H C I R D O B A H C I M E
 K Q A I H K N Z T G Z C N C S F K O L
 B S P M I V G Y W S N Z A V B U U D I
 T M V I O L E T B A L D W I N M P E Z
 A Y O O N S L Z L I Q H T F M E D E A
 C Z N W B D F V T H Q I S L P P B R B
 I X W R W J V O G T P F A A Q V C F E
 R N F F U W T F R Z D A P T I J T D T
 F T A D M B C H A T U P T H E A U P H
 A J Y U I G O Z D L U V E I S W E O Y
 K D N Y B V V W T V O N W W P F N V A
 G A L G W V O X C W K I E F G E K J T
 Y T W Q E T H W G M A I M S D C A G E
 T E J T A N N E R T R J T F A Z T U S
 V R V C Y S W I Y E R F F A J A S E H

Word Bank

Africa
 Amos Fortune
 Elizabeth Yates
 epitaph
 freedom

Ichabod Richardson
 Jaffrey
 tanner
 Violet Baldwin
 Woburn

Amos Fortune Crossword



Across

2. man who taught Amos Fortune his trade
5. the Massachusetts city where Amos Fortune lived
6. the state of having no ties of obligation or bondage to others
7. someone who tans hides
8. final resting place of Amos Fortune
10. author of the famous book *Amos Fortune, Free Man*

Down

1. Amos Fortune's wife at the time of his death
3. man brought from Africa to America to be a slave
4. second largest continent
9. a phrase written in memory of a person