

THE STORY OF AMOS FORTUNE

Who was Amos Fortune?

Amos Fortune was born in Africa around 1710. He was kidnapped when he was a young man and brought to America, where he was sold into slavery. He was an enslaved person who lived in Massachusetts.

When he was 60 years old, he purchased his freedom and then later moved to Jaffrey, New Hampshire. He bought a home in Jaffrey and worked as a tanner, which means he made things out of leather. He also bought his wife's freedom.

Amos Fortune was a leading citizen in Jaffrey. He owned a home near the center of town and helped found a library in Jaffrey. He lived to be 90 years old! In his will, he left money to support schools in Jaffrey.



These illustrations were created by Nora A. Unwin, who drew them for Elizabeth Yates' book.

How is Amos Fortune's story told today?

In 1950, an author named Elizabeth Yates published a book about Amos Fortune's life, which was titled *Amos Fortune Free Man*. She had recently moved to Peterborough, New Hampshire, which is near Jaffrey. She learned about Amos Fortune's life and decided to write a book about him. The story that Elizabeth Yates wrote celebrated the idea of freedom and how important it was to Amos Fortune. The book won several awards, including the Newberry Award, which is the highest award for a children's book.