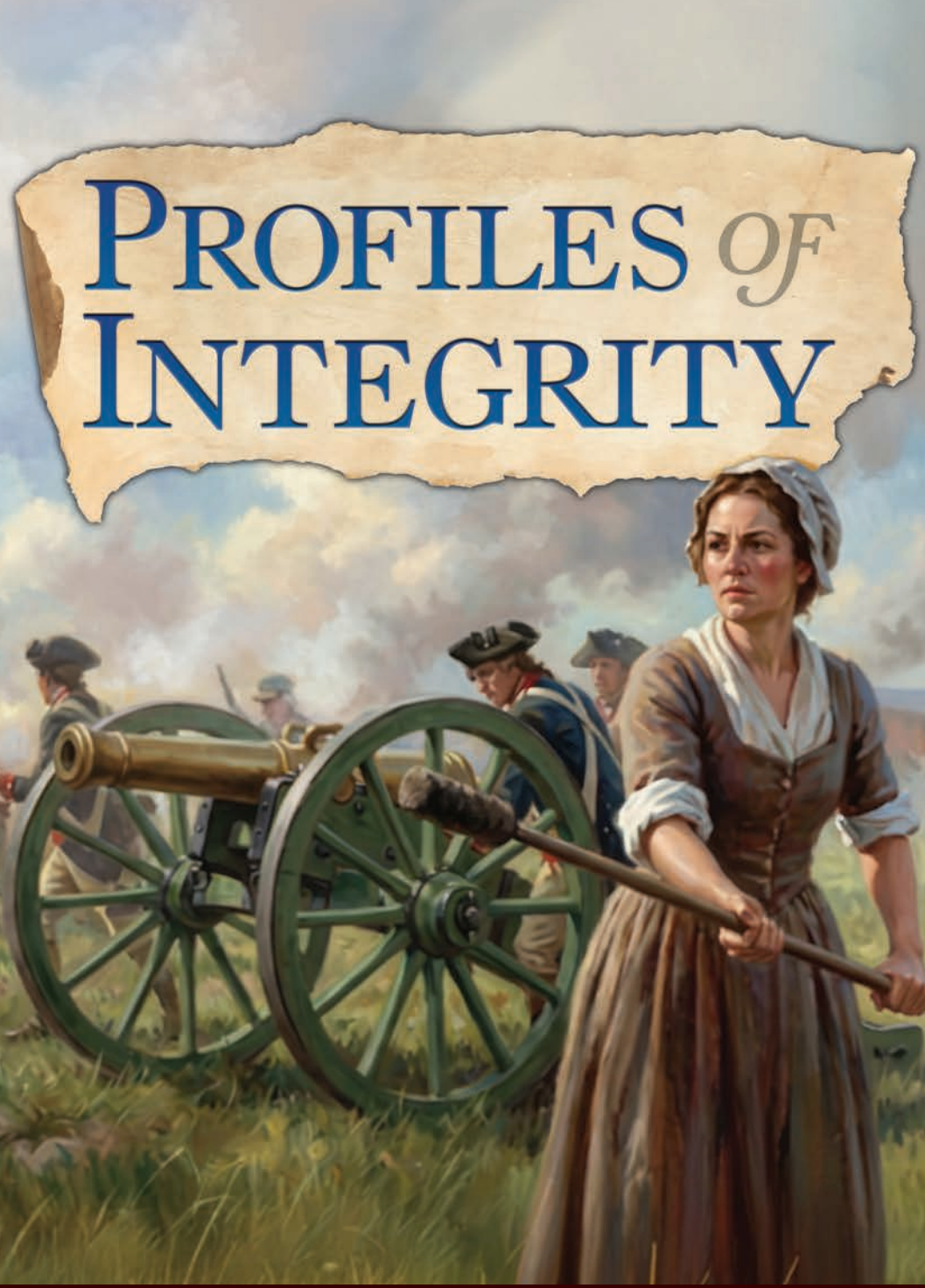
Profiles of Integrity



1775–1781

Marilyn Boyer & Grace Tumas Ehrman

PROFILES OF INTEGRITY



Real People
Who Demonstrated
Godly Character

Marilyn Boyer &
Grace Tumas Ehrman

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Credits

Thanks to the following people for their indispensable help in writing Portraits of Integrity:

Grace Tumas Ehrman, for her sensitive and colorful portrayal of these heroes in writing their stories.

Mary Ann Edman who, with help from her husband Ed, produced the layout and design, along with other beautiful graphic effects. Thanks, Mary Ann, for your commitment to excellence!

And Judy Saunders, Krystyn Walker, and Grace Boyer for their proofreading work.

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Introduction

Portraits of Integrity is sure to be a favorite with your family! It contains 40 stories of real people from history who, in the course of their lives, have been placed in situations where their character shone through.

History is best remembered when learned through the stories of those who lived it! For many years, I have given to parents a list of 45 character qualities with Scripture verses to learn what God's Word says about each one. Principles are best learned from practical examples and that is what has given birth to this book.

Through the lives of people, some of whom you have heard of and some you will be meeting for the first time, you will learn how to appreciate character in the lives of others and be inspired to become people of character yourselves. I hope you will be challenged as I have to learn of people who, often at great sacrifice, strove to fulfill their responsibilities in life and as a result left to us a legacy of character!

Psalm 25:21 says "Let integrity and uprightness preserve me; for I wait on Thee." In Psalm 101:2, the psalmist says. "I will behave myself wisely in a perfect way.... I will walk within my house with a perfect heart." In verse 6, "Mine eyes shall be upon the

faithful of the land, that they may dwell with me…." In Portraits of Integrity, through stories, you will be "inviting" into your home those who will inspire your family to live a life of integrity!

Read it on your own or to your family, give as a gift, or use it as enrichment for your history curriculum.

Marilyn Boyer



For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

—Romans 15:4



Persuasiveness

DEFINITION

Skillfully handling truth
to lead others in a right path



MEMORY VERSE

And when they had appointed him a day, there came many to him into his lodging; to whom he expounded and testified the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus, both out of the law of Moses, and out of the prophets, from morning till evening.

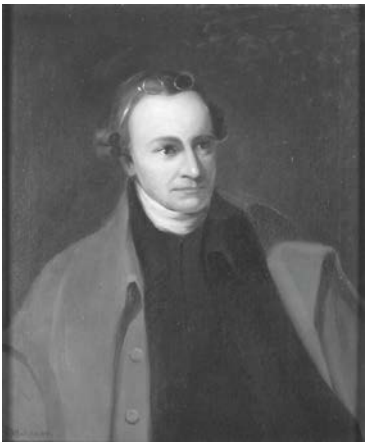
Acts 28:23

Give Me Liberty

Patrick Henry

Richmond, Virginia
March 23, 1775

March 23, 1775. Over one hundred men with powdered hair and frock coats crowded the narrow pews of St. John's Episcopal Church in Richmond, Virginia. After Governor Lord Dunmore had forbidden the delegates to meet and discuss the "Intolerable Acts" perpetrated by the British Crown, the Second Virginia Convention found church the only suitable and safe place to gather. Glancing about him, Thirty-nine-year-old Patrick Henry could see Thomas Jefferson's flaming red hair, George Washington's



Patrick Henry

strong and somber face, and the fuzzy yellow head of Richard Henry Lee. A murmur went through the room as the delegates whispered in the moments before assembly. He could feel the tenseness, the unease. Nobody was sure what to do about rising pressure in Virginia, memories of the killings in Massachusetts, known as the Boston Massacre, and the humiliation of the tea taxes. Few people wanted to make a sudden move. House delegates stood up, one after another, arguing, jabbering.

Patrick Henry had tried to go into business. When it failed, he took up planting, but his house burned down. Then he struck out in a new line of trade. When that, too, collapsed, he discovered his great love in the law. In 1763, he made a name for himself during the "Parson's Cause," a trial that established that the Virginia Colony, not the British Crown, would determine a minister's salary. He won the case. Later, he burst into the limelight when he tried to beat down the Stamp Act of 1765 with his Virginia Resolutions. He based their complaints on the rights of Englishmen to fair representation. In the middle of his speech, "Caesar had his Brutus; Charles the First

his Cromwell; and George the Third—" the Speaker of the House suddenly shouted, "Treason! Treason!" Patrick Henry calmly finished, "—May profit by their example. If this be treason, make the most of it!"

In 1774, as the separate colonies moved slowly but unalterably towards the final showdown, he joined a committee of correspondence. The Committee passed written circulars throughout the colonies and let the citizens know what was going on.

On this March day, men stood and argued. They had still reached no decision. Many things pressed on Patrick Henry's mind today. At home, on his estate in Scotchtown, Patrick's wife Sarah, now in her mid-thirties and mother of six children, lay in the two-room basement, dying. Four years ago, she had started to look at him strangely. Soon she became unable to do simple household tasks or care for the children. When she tried to hurt herself, Patrick had to buckle her into a "Quaker shirt," a straightjacket to keep her safe. He couldn't send Sarah to an insane asylum after almost twenty years of marriage. So he built her an apartment in the basement, full of light and air, with a beautiful view of the trees and the countryside. Every day, he came to see her, bathed her, guided her arms through the sleeves of her dress and combed her hair. Sometimes he held her hands to keep her from hurting herself. Sometimes he just sat with her silently. Today, one of his slaves would take his place while he was in Richmond.

Impatience boiled up in him as the endless talks buzzed on through the afternoon like horseflies. Most of the men wavered, hoping to keep to a middle road and not offend the British. Mainly, they could not decide whether to mobilize against the encroaching British troops or not.

Suddenly, he could stand it no longer. He leaped to his feet.

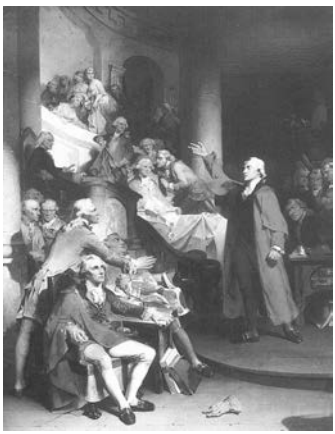
"Mr. President . . ."

Words poured from his lips. "There is no retreat but in submission and slavery! Our chains are forged! Their clanking may be heard on the plains of Boston! The war is inevitable—and let it come! I repeat it, Sir, let it come." He took a deep breath. "It is vain, Sir, to extenuate the matter. Gentlemen may cry "Peace, Peace"—but there is no peace. The war is actually begun! The next gale that sweeps from the north will bring to our ears the clash of resounding arms! Our brethren are already in the field! Why stand we here idle? … . Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!"

They were on their feet now, shouting, "To Arms! To Arms!" Protests rose like bubbles underwater, but soon evaporated under Henry's persuasive language. Mobilization began at once, with Patrick Henry taking the lead as Colonel of the 1st Virginia Regiment. In August, he led the militia in protest when Lord

Dunmore ordered the gunpowder secretly removed from the magazine during the night. In a night of torches and shouting, Dunmore surrendered the powder at the same time the British marched on Lexington. Patrick Henry's efforts, combined with those of Samuel Adams, Paul Revere, and other patriots in Massachusetts, marked the beginning of the war. Later, he served as Virginia's first and sixth post-colonial governor.

Sarah died that spring. Henry planted a lilac tree near her grave that would bloom every spring after her death. Two years later, he married Dorothea Dandridge, who gave him another eleven children. At the Virginia Convention of 1788, he voted against the ratification of the Constitution, preferring to see a Bill of Rights added first. After struggling in vain to get Virginia to endorse and fund a state religion, against Thomas Jefferson's plea for complete religious liberty, Patrick Henry spent his last years on his plantation at Red Hill. He succumbed to stomach cancer in 1799. A failure at business but a success at oratory, his "Give Me Liberty" speech touched off a spark in Virginia that flamed into a



Patrick Henry addressing the Virginia Convention

common movement for independence.

Patrick Henry used persuasive words to convince his listeners to enter the fight for liberty.



Questions

1. Why was the Second Continental Congress meeting in St. John's Episcopal Church?
2. What was pressing on Patrick Henry's mind that day?
3. How did Patrick Henry treat his ill wife?
4. What did Patrick Henry communicate in his speech?
5. How did his persuasiveness influence others to join the fight for liberty?
6. Tell in what manner Patrick Henry became involved with the militia.
7. Think of someone in Scripture who used persuasiveness to influence others for good.
8. List people who are in your sphere of influence whom you could potentially influence for good.