

# PROFILES IN LEADERSHIP

FROM THE 18<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY

INVENTORS  
EXPLORERS  
WRITERS  
SOLDIERS  
MINISTERS

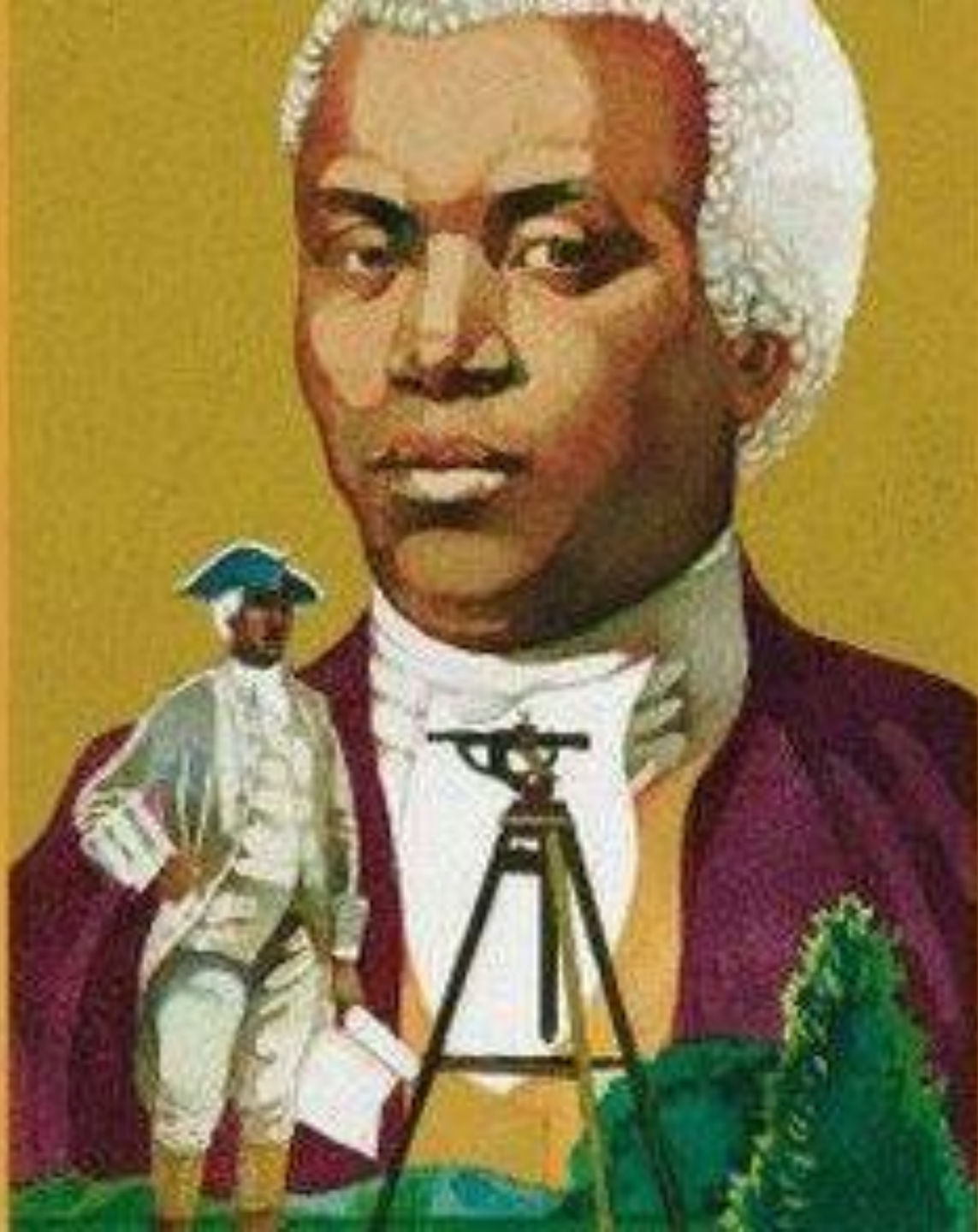


# INTRODUCTION TO PROFILES IN LEADERSHIP

## 18<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY

- Black history is American history and should represent blacks' contributions in every American history milestone.
- In 1978, the Postal Service initiated the Black Heritage stamp series, to recognize the achievements of individual African Americans. More than 140 blacks have been honored in this stamp series.
- YAAHA uses these stamps and other illustrations for the **Profiles in Leadership** series to honor African Americans' contributions to American history.





## **BENJAMIN BANNEKER** **1731-1806**

### **FIRST BLACK INVENTOR**

Son of a slave, enrolled in Quaker school, excelled in mathematics

Interested in geometry and astronomy and studied Isaac Newton's work

Made a watch out of wood

Developed the first almanac

Corresponded with Thomas Jefferson about the talents of blacks

Was instrumental in designing DC



# JAMES FORTEN

## 1766 - 1842

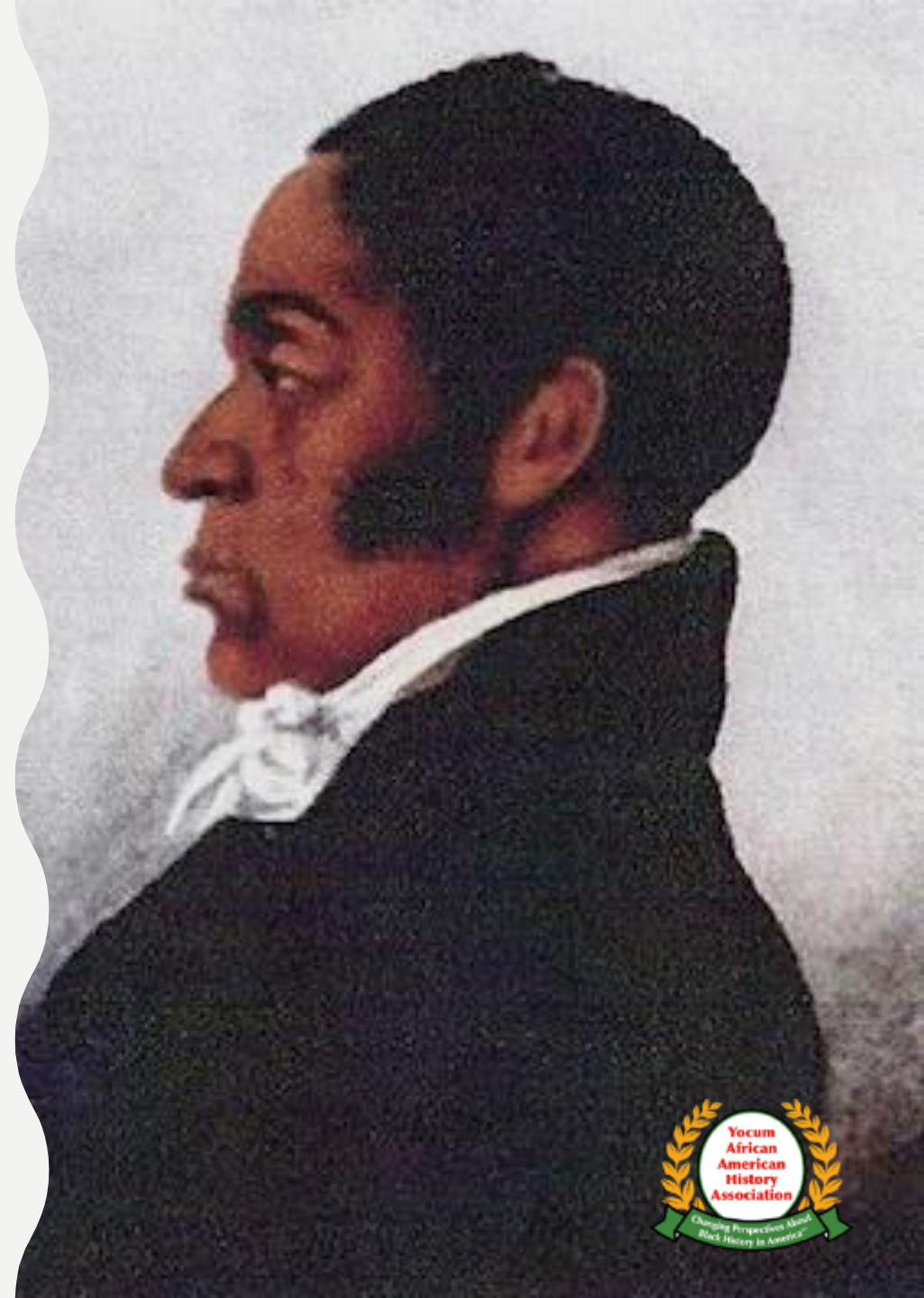
James was born free and made his fortune by revolutionizing the sailmaking business after the Revolutionary War

He used his wealth and social standing for civil rights

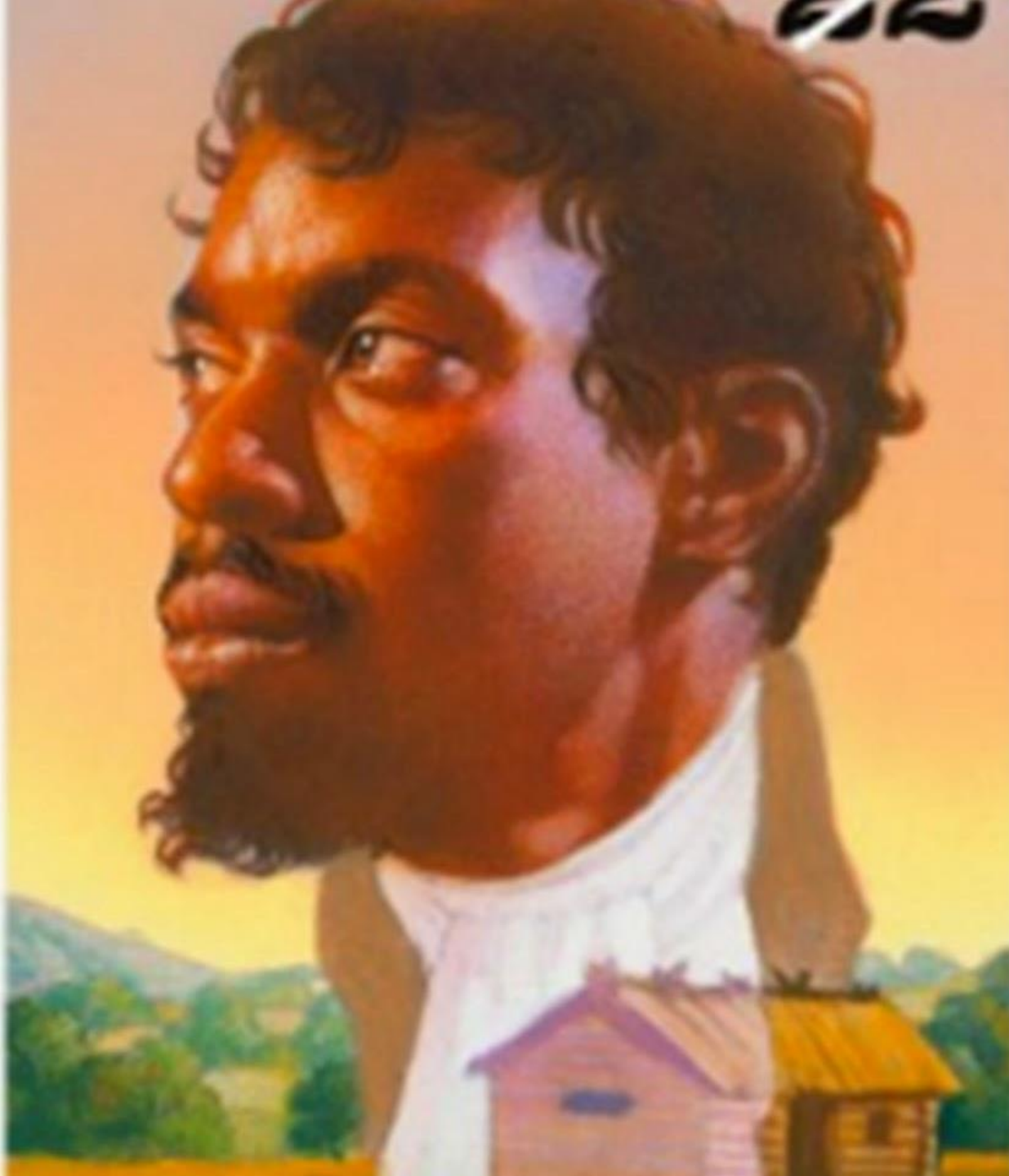
He and his wife and daughters, Sarah, Margaretta, and Harriet, were committed to the abolition movement

James helped William Lloyd Garrison and funded Garrison's newspaper,  
*The Liberator*

James became the vice president of the biracial American Anti-Slavery Society founded in 1833







## JEAN BAPTISTE POINT DU SABLE

1750 - 1818

Black pioneer trader, trapper and farmer and founder of the settlement later known as Chicago

Mother was an African slave, father a French mariner

Claimed 800 acres and established a thriving trading post, mill, smokehouse, workshop, barn and other buildings

Known as the Father of Chicago



# OLAUDAH EQUIANO 1745- 1787

Captured with his sister by African slavers when he was eleven

Taken to Barbados and transferred to Virginia

Sailed to England; later schooled to read and write

Prominent merchant, Robert King, taught him to be businessman

Wrote, *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano*, 1789

One of the earliest books published by a black author

Became wealthy from his book sales

Also known as Gustavus Vassa

See additional information on lesson plan: **The Roots of Slavery**





## PHILLIS WHEATLY

1753-1784

### GIFTED POETESS

Brought to Boston, Massachusetts  
as a young slave at seven years old

Purchased by Mrs. Wheatly to be a  
faithful nurse

Phillis was the first African  
American author of a published  
book of poetry

George Washington corresponded  
with her and called her a gifted  
poetess







## RICHARD ALLEN

1760 - 1831

Born a slave

A minister, educator, writer

Bought his freedom in 1783

Founded first national black church  
in America, The African Methodist  
Episcopal Church in 1816

Founded the Free African Society  
with Rev. Absalom Jones

Founded Bethel Church with other  
black Methodists in 1794

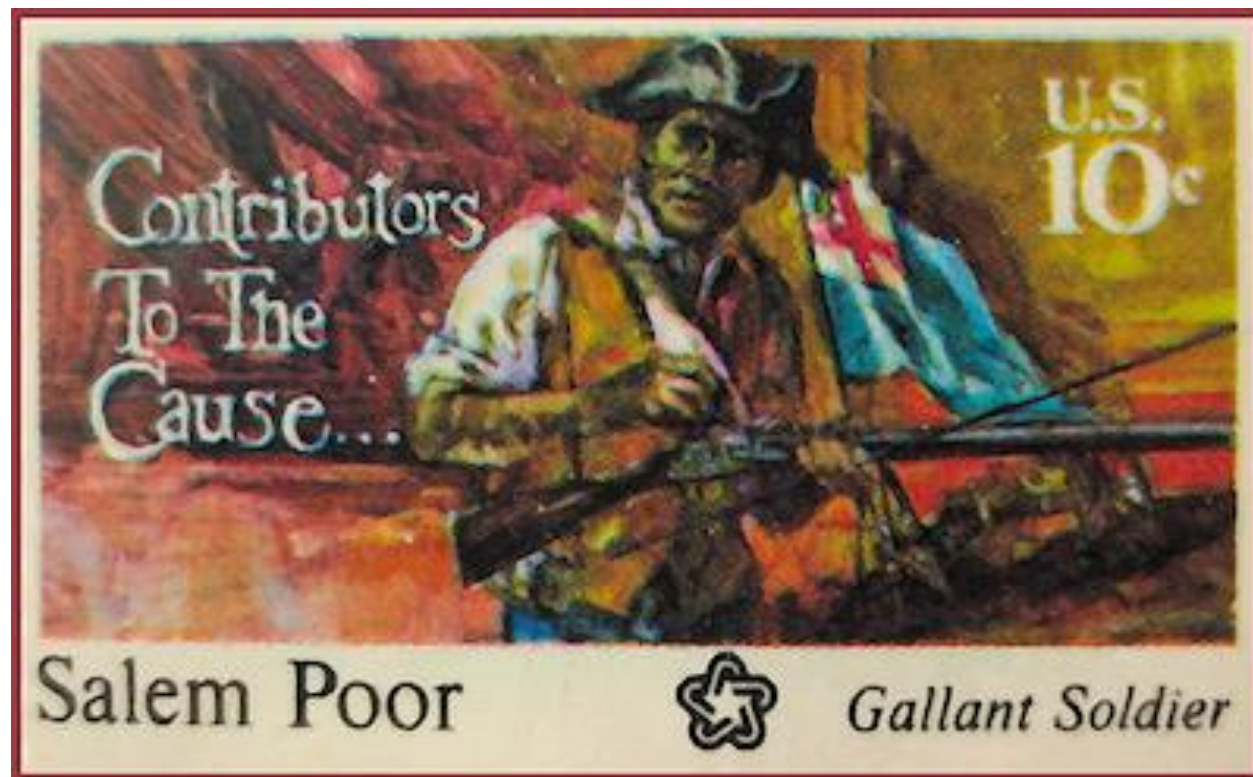




# PROFILES IN LEADERSHIP IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

- There were thousands of black soldiers that served in the American Revolutionary War.
- Some were fighting for their freedom while other free blacks were fighting for their country's liberty.
- They saw action in every major battle in the war and often fought in an integrated army.
- For more information on these brave men, go to the lesson plan: **Black Patriots of the American Revolution.**





# SALEM POOR

## 1747 - 1802

Joined Massachusetts Minutemen  
as a declared free slave

Celebrated marksman who played  
a vital role at the Battle of Bunker  
Hill on June 17, 1775

The colonists lost the battle but  
introduced guerilla warfare to the  
British, and proved to be a  
formidable opponent





# LEMUEL HAYNES

1753- 1833

His mother was white, his father was African

Indentured from the age of five months until the age of 21

He was a poet and author of *Liberty Further Extended* in response to the Declaration of Independence

He was a Minuteman

He was first black to be ordained at the Congregationalist Church, 1785







## JAMES ARMISTEAD

1760 - 1830

A slave, was a double-agent spy

Joined Continental Army in 1781

Assigned to French General  
Marquis de Lafayette, commander  
of the allied French forces

His espionage efforts helped give  
the Continental Army a decisive  
victory at the Battle of Yorktown

See lesson plan: Black Patriots of  
the American Revolution



# OTHER IMPORTANT LEADERS IN THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR

- Crispus Attucks (1723-1770), shot and killed at the Boston Massacre
- Prince Estabrook (1740-1830), Enslaved Minuteman private, wounded at Battle of Lexington
- Peter Salem (1750-1816), a marksman in the Continental Army
- Prince Whipple (1750-1796) sent to America to get an education, captured and became a slave, enlisted in the Continental Army
- Oliver Cromwell (1752-1853) in major battles in the war, George Washington personally signed discharge papers at the end of the war



# SUMMARY

- YAAHA provides lesson plans about women leaders, writers, physicians, millionaires before and after the Civil War, and other notable black achievers. Among these lessons, are explorers, such as Matthew Henson; architects, such as Paul R. Williams; jockeys, such as Isaac Burns Murphy; and political leaders, such as Robert Church. Early entertainers, such as Elizabeth Taylor Greenfield, known as the “Black Swan,” are also included in these lesson plans that celebrate American history.
- The Yocum African American History Association believes that black History is American history; find additional new lesson plans at [www.YocumBlackHistory.org](http://www.YocumBlackHistory.org).

