

America: Book One



*Untold Or Lesser Known Tales About
America And Its Heritage*

by Mike Thomas

SAMPLER

*“Respectfully dedicated to all those that helped make and keep
America what it is today - especially those who sacrificed yet
still accomplished things for generations they would never see!”*

Chapter listings below

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(Multimedia Interactive - Internet Connection Required for Chapter 31 and Bonus Chapter)



Chapter One - "Forward and Introduction"

Hi everybody. My name is Mike Thomas. They call me "The Documentorian." Among a few other things I've done in my life and career, I've had a fascination with American Heritage. Not so much American history but more the heritage and traditions that have helped shape America. In particular, the untold or lesser known tales and stories are what intrigued me way more than anything I was ever taught in school. I've always been the

kind of person who roots for the underdog or journeys on the path less travelled. In the late 70's I discovered this radio personality named Paul Harvey - you know: "The Rest Of The Story" guy. I made it a point to be near a radio whenever Mr. Harvey was scheduled to be on the air. I grew to love those stories and his positive radio news & highlights. There were several other great story tellers and authors that were also instrumental in my undertaking this ebook as well. I've always loved surprise endings to books, movies and stories.

All the aforementioned is what America: Book One is about. Let me give you an example or two. Did you know that when Paul Revere made his famous night ride a few hundred years ago he had help from at least one other rider? And did you know that Mrs. Robert E. Lee created a famous garden that in one form or another still exists today? How about the president that had eleven major personal and professional defeats and tragedies spanning over 20 years before finally being elected President of The United States? Have you ever heard of "America's Heart" and if so who was the man that created and painted it?

Well, I honestly don't expect you to know the answers to these questions. I didn't until I started digging and researching for these lesser known stories to record for America: Book One. Hopefully, you'll be pleasantly surprised, enlightened and educated after reading this ebook. Oh, and by the way, while I was creating and writing the scripts for this project, I used a Chirographer. Do you know what a Chirographer is? Well, make sure you read Chapter 6 to find out. And I'll probably never use a YELLOW paperclip to fasten copies of the script together again. Why you ask? Read chapter 20 and you'll understand. Happy reading!

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Chapter 2 - "Paul Revere's Helper"

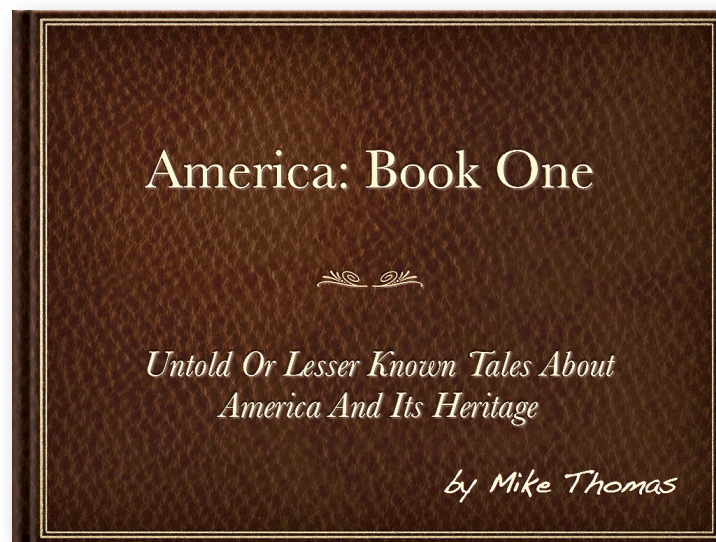


During the famous night ride of Paul Revere, unbeknownst to most, there was another rider that helped convey the message to the Colonists that the British were coming. In south western Massachusetts, a man named Ludington owned a farm. Senior Ludington was also a member of the Militia. When he received word that the British had over taken a town near Danbury Connecticut, he was torn between riding his horse and warning the countryside of the impending danger coming or awaiting orders from his superiors in the Militia. Being a good military man, he chose to wait for his orders.

Senior Ludington had a teenage offspring who volunteered to ride out into the night to warn people the British were coming. Young Ludington leapt on a horse and sped off into the night.

Now Paul Revere was only able to ride about 4 miles before he was captured by the British near Lexington Concord. Young Ludington managed to ride an astonishing 40 miles that night. So you see my friends, there are really three ironic points to this story: One - Revere was out ridden by 36 miles that night; Two - The person outriding Paul Revere was a teenager,:

The third ironic twist to the story? It has to do with that rider's first name. Proceed to the next page for the answer.





HER name was Sybil. That's right. Paul Revere was outridden 36 miles by a teenage GIRL named ***Sybil Ludington!***

Chapter 3 - "Never Give Up"

In `31, he failed in business.

He was defeated for the state legislature in `32.

He failed again in business in `32.

In `34, he won his first election - a seat in the state legislature.

But the death of his sweetheart was a severe blow in `35 and led to a nervous breakdown in `36.

By `38 he was fully recovered, but that was the year he was defeated for Speaker Of The House.

He attempted to become an elector in the presidential race in `40, but again was rejected by the voters.

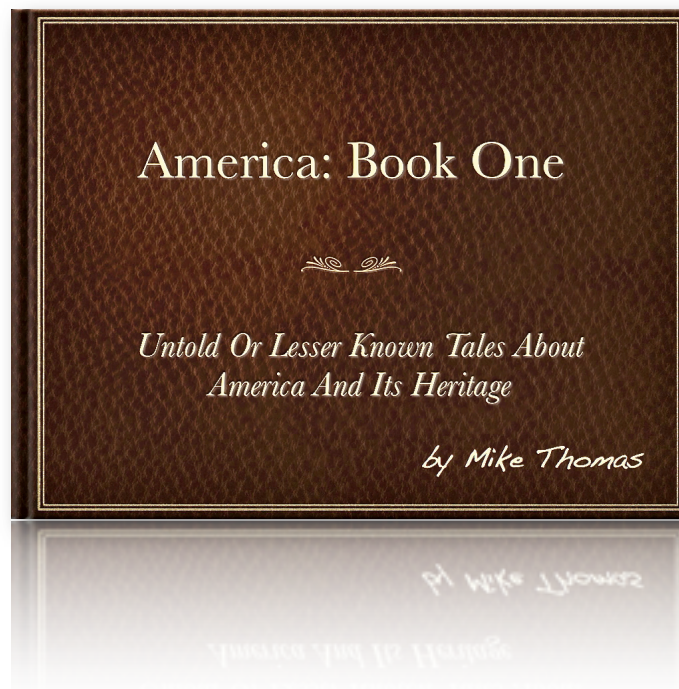
In `43, he ran for a seat in The U.S. Congress but was defeated.

This was reversed in `46 when he was elected United States Congressman.

He tried for the U.S. Senate in `58 and lost.

He experienced eleven personal and professional defeats in twenty seven years but never quit trying. And then in `60, he was elected President.

Do you know who it is yet? Go ahead. Flip to the next page for the answer.





In 1860, **Abraham Lincoln** became the 16th President of the United States of America

NEVER GIVE UP!

Chapter 20 - "The Yellow Paperclip"

Georgia, was trying to raise her two sons when the Gulf War broke out. She heard about soldiers in the service who had no family and needed pen pals.

Letters addressed to "Any Soldier" were distributed by commanding officers who noticed any soldiers getting little or no mail. Georgia wrote to 25 such soldiers almost daily, most of them men. Keeping up with 25 pen pals on a daily basis almost consumed Georgia's time and talents. She sent poems, little stories, and words of hope and encouragement. When there were time constraints, she would write one letter and copy it for everyone. Greetings were sent whenever she knew about a special event, like a birthday.

One day, Georgia received a letter from a soldier who was depressed and discouraged. She pondered as to how she could help lift his spirits. It was then that she noticed that at work there were paper clips of various colors. Georgia took one of the yellow paper clips and photo copied it in the palm of her hand. She sent this picture with the paper clip with the following message:

"This yellow paper clip that you see in my hand represents a hug that I am sending to you. You can carry this paper clip in a pocket or anywhere, and whenever you feel down, you can just touch and hold it and know that somebody cares about you, and would give you a hug if she were there." Georgia sent a copy of this picture along with a paper clip and the message to each of her other correspondents. After the war ended, Georgia received one of the pictures of her hand holding the yellow paper clip, and on the back were over 150 signatures of people that had been given her "hug". During the years, Georgia named other paper clips. Pink came to mean a kiss, green was for good luck, and so on.

Years later, Georgia was giving a class as part of a seminar for positive thinking. She shared with the members of the class her paper clip symbolism, and made a bracelet of multicolored paper clips for each of them. One of the women exclaimed "So you're the one!" The class member told Georgia that she was visiting her brother and needed something to hold papers together. She had noticed a yellow paper clip on the refrigerator held there with a magnet. She borrowed the paper clip for her papers. When the brother saw it, he grabbed it and scolded her, and told her never to touch the yellow paper clip again. Now she knew why.

No one will ever know how far her message has spread, nor how many lives have been touched by a simple yellow paper clip.



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Chapter 21 - "Too Much Of A Flag Waver"

She was "The Songbird of the South" -- the on-air host of three popular programs in Radio's Golden Age and one of the nation's three most admired women. She would eventually sell more than \$7 million in Defense and War Bonds and be honored by every American President from Franklin D. Roosevelt to Ronald Reagan.

He was America's favorite composer - a Russian immigrant destined to create a personal empire by writing both the words and music for some of America's best-loved musical stage plays and movies. Their historic collaboration turned a rejected song from a World War I soldier show into a continuing charity fund-raiser, a professional hockey team's good luck charm, major league baseball's "stretch music", a new president's emotional sign-off statement and America's second national anthem.

In November of 1938, America's favorite radio personality, wanted to sing a special song to recognize the twentieth anniversary of the armistice that ended World War I. Her manager, Ted Collins, asked America's favorite composer to create a new song to honor the occasion. He, America's favorite composer, agreed and began writing. But nothing satisfied him. He then remembered a song he wrote when he was in the Army - a tune the show's producers rejected for being "too much of a flag-waver".

The songstress loved the song and she sang it as her closing number on her November 10, 1938's to close out her radio show. The new anthem was an immediate hit and the singer sang it on almost every broadcast through December 1940, when public performances of ASCAP songs were banned from the airwaves.

The lyrics of this new song were inserted into the Congressional Record in a failed attempt to make the song our nation's new national anthem. The song was sung at both the Democratic and Republican conventions of 1940 and again at the Republican Convention (which nominated George W. Bush) in 2000. President Bush ended most of his speeches speaking the title of the song.

Two decades later, National Hockey League officials noted that, while Philadelphia Flyers' fans were not duly respectful when "The Star Spangled Banner" was played, they were more attentive when the public address system played the songstress's version of this other Americana song. Flyers' fans also noted that their team won most games when her record was played.

On the opening day of the 1973 season, she strode across a red carpet in Philadelphia and sang the song in person. The Flyers beat the Toronto Maple Leafs 2-0. At critical games throughout the season, she was driven down from New York to perform the song. She performed it the night the Flyers beat the Boston Bruins to win the Stanley Cup. Following the championship game, both teams lined up to shake her hand.

The next season she sang it again when the Flyers retained the Stanley Cup, beating the New York Islanders. In 1987, the year after her death, she was honored with a bronze statue, recognizing her as the Flyers' "good luck charm".

This song has been constantly performed since the Twin Towers disaster on September 11, 2001. On our nation's "Second Day of Infamy", U.S. Senators sang it on the steps of the U.S. Capitol. Canadian singer Celine Dion performed America's "Second National Anthem" on a nationwide telethon, "America: A Tribute To Heroes" on September 21, 2001. And major league baseball officials ordered the song to be played during the seventh inning stretches of all their baseball games.

Have you figure it all out yet? Proceed to the next page for the answer.

Probably every American has heard if not sung **Irving Berlin's**, "**God Bless America**" just like **Kate Smith** did on her radio show and at Philadelphia Flyers games. Not a shabby resume for a song originally rejected as "too much of a flag-waver".



Kate Smith



Irving Berlin

Chapter 31 - William And Louis

William was born in 1897, Louis in 1906. Both had a Burlesque entertainment history. After failed attempts at getting into movie acting, Louis ended up working with William at The Etlinge Burlesque Theater on 42nd Street in New York City. Eventually, William and Louis did some guest spots on this new medium called 'radio' back in the late 1930's. Then throughout the 1940's and 1950's, they ended up with their own radio program, did some movie and TV work and hosted their own TV show for a brief period. They were two of the hottest and highest celebs paid for their time.

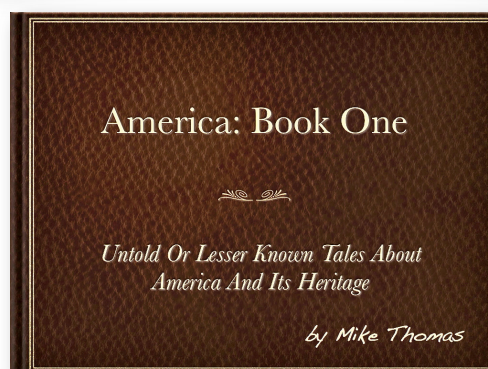
Eventually, their popularity began to wane as other comedic acts emerged on the scene. Then in the late 1950's, the IRS charged them for back taxes, forcing them to sell their homes and pretty much everything they owned including the rights to their movies and films. In 1957 they formally dissolved the partnership. And each made some solo appearances on various TV shows and films.

Louis left this world in 1959, William in 1974, but not before leaving a comedic legacy that lives on today. Almost everyone has heard, or heard of, William and Louis. In particular, one of their most famous skits - some say their signature skit - ends up popping up somewhere for reason or other. The skit I refer to is something that William and Louis used to just call 'baseball'. But the real title of the piece is, "Who's On First," made famous by William "Bud" Abbot and Louis "Lou" Costello.

To listen to an audio recording of Abbot & Costello's famous, "Who's On First" skit, click [HERE](#) (Internet connection required)



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BONUS CHAPTER: “The Father Of Miami” (aka “Beyond Theme Parks”

He was born on January 30th, 1830 in Hopedale New York to Elizabeth and Isaac. He only graduated with an eighth grade education. Throughout the Civil War era, he founded and ran a salt business with a partner. But by the end of the Civil War, demand for salt dropped so low his business failed. He returned to the grain business where he started his working life and became acquainted with a young John D. Rockefeller. By the mid 1860's, Cleveland, OH had become the oil refinery capitol of the U.S. Rockefeller left his job at the salt company working for his friend and moved to Cleveland to begin work with a chemist and inventor named Samuel Andrews.

By the mid 1860's, Rockefeller was in need of venture capital. He asked his old boss and friend at the salt company if he had any money to spare. His old boss raised about \$100,000 with the agreement that he (the old boss) would be a full partner in the venture. This venture evolved into The Standard Oil Corporation.

Jump ahead a few years. This man from Hopedale, NY was now dabbling in such projects as hotels, building bridges and construction projects. In 1876, under the suggestion of his doctors, he began spending winters in Jacksonville, FL and 'hanging around' St. Augustine. He eventually went on to build the Ponce de Leon Hotel plus a railroad system that serviced pretty much the entire east coast of Florida.

In later years, the man was respected as such that the citizens of a south Florida municipality wanted to name the city after him. But he politely refused stating that in honor and respect of the original Native American inhabitants of the state, the little town should be named, "Mayimi". Later spelled, "Miami" of course. But in 1917, an entire county was named for this man.

Any idea who we're talking about yet? Please proceed to the next page for the answer.

Because of his contributions and efforts in the development and growth of the state of Florida, **Henry M. Flagler** became affectionately known as, "**The Father Of Miami.**"



Though Walt Disney & Company also helped with the growth and popularity of Florida, it was Henry Flagler that was probably the first person to help grow "The Sunshine State" to such great proportions. That being and with all due respect to Walt Disney, The Disney Company and the other major theme parks throughout the state, Florida has so much more to offer both its inhabitants and visitors. Please feel free to view the video, "**Beyond Theme Parks**" (created by yours truly Mike Thomas) by clicking the link below.

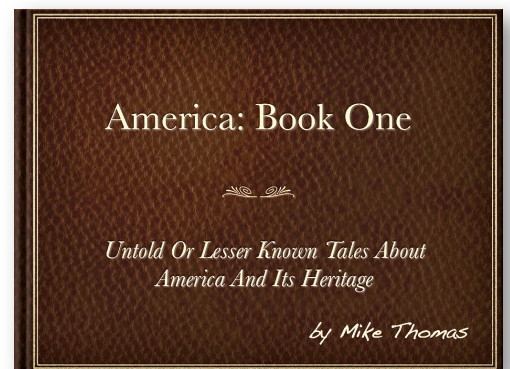
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[Beyond Theme Parks Video Link](#)

To purchase the full ebook, "America: Book One," please navigate to <http://www.americabookone.com> and click the "Online Store" button atop the page.

Thanks for checking out this sample version of "America: Book One."

Mike Thomas / The Documentorian



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