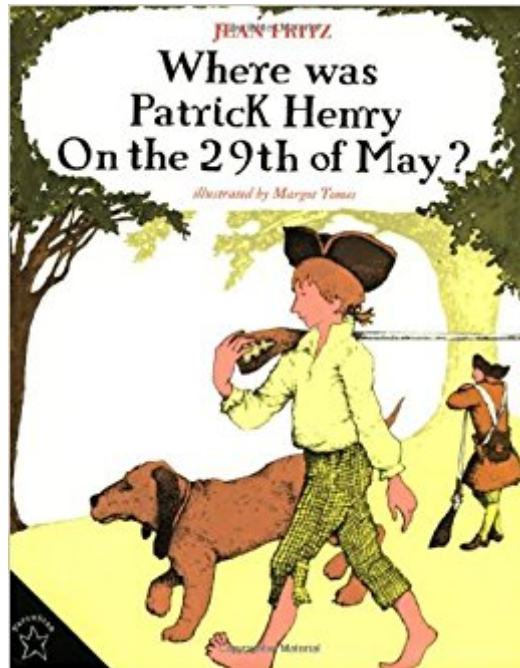




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# Where Was Patrick Henry On The 29th Of May?



## Synopsis

Newbery Honor author Jean Fritz makes Patrick Henry's history come alive! Patrick Henry wasn't particularly well spoken. As a lawyer, he mumbled through some of his early cases. But when the issue was freedom, Patrick Henry was transformed into a natural orator. Jean Fritz makes history come alive as she chronicles the life of a man who moved a nation.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1000L (What's this?)

Paperback: 48 pages

Publisher: Puffin Books (March 17, 1997)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 7 x 0.2 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 10 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #401,316 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #149 in [Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Political](#) #280 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > United States > Colonial & Revolutionary](#) #669 in [Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Historical](#)

Age Range: 7 - 9 years

Grade Level: 2 - 4

## Customer Reviews

Acclaimed biographer, Jean Fritz, was born in China to American missionaries on November 16, 1915. Living there until she was almost thirteen sparked a lifelong interest in American history. She wrote about her childhood in China in *Homesick, My Own Story*, a Newbery Honor Book and winner of the National Book Award. Ms. Fritz was the author of forty-five books for children and young people. Many center on historical American figures, gaining her a reputation as the premier author of biographies for children and young people. Among the other prestigious awards Ms. Fritz has garnered are: the National Humanities Medal, the Laura Ingalls Wilder Award, the May Hill Arbutnot Lecture Award, the Christopher Award, the Boston Globe-Horn Book Non-Fiction Award, a New York Times Notable Book of the Year, and many ALA Notable Books of the Year, School Library Journal Best Books of the Year, and ALA

Booklist Editors' Choice Awards. She passed away on May 14, 2017.

Great to read and discuss with my 6, 7, and 10 year old children. Great price too.

Great books. I learn something every time I read them to my grandchildren.

Great for teaching younger children

Good reading

A great read for our elementary aged son who was learning about American history. He has become a lover of all of Jean Fritz's books and has a full collection of them now. If you are looking for book that put your child into America's history Jean does a great job.

On a 2nd grade and up level, the book provides a good deal of information. I learned more reading this one book with my children than I learned about Patrick Henry in all of my 18 years of education. Seriously. Information is made accessible, interesting, and he is made human, thus memorable.

My assumption was that the answer to the question "Where Was Patrick Henry on the 29th of May?" would be on the floor of the House of Burgesses in Virginia, making his famous declaration, "give me liberty or give me death!" But that actually a speech at St. John's Church in Richmond, Virginia and the date was the 23rd of March in 1775. I am sure others who know a little something about Patrick Henry would make the same assumption. So the question for anybody reading this book really is "Where Was Patrick Henry on the 29th of May?" The answer that Jean Fritz provides is that it depends because this book looks at several 29ths of May. The first is May 29, 1736 when Patrick Henry had just been born and was likely crying in his bed drowning out the birdsong. The next May 29th comes in 1752, when Henry turns sixteen, when he was old enough to be counted among the men in Virginia. To be clear, Fritz does fill in the gaps between those two dates, and he does the same for the years leading up to the next May 29th, which comes in 1765, when he is indeed speaking on the floor of the House of Burgesses in Virginia. On May 29, 1777, he was elected for a second time as Virginia's governor, while in 1796 the 60-year-old Henry had retired from public life, three years before he died. Henry was one of the leading opponents of the ratification of the Federal Constitution, but Fritz makes a point of turning his opposition into an

argument for the adoption of the Bill of Rights. I must admit I was a disappointed a little because I thought this book would look only at Henry on a series of dates that were all the 29th of May, so I was actually surprised that all of the gaps got filled in along the way because it would be a neat idea to do an entire life looking at just one date that cover events both large and small. But even so, Fritz provides a nice mix of details that are both humorous and humanizing (Henry was a practical joker), along with insights about the Revolution. This is one of several biographies that Fritz has written about major figures of the American Revolution, which include "And Then What Happened, Paul Revere?" and "Why Don't You Get a Horse, Sam Adams?" Both of those particular books were chosen as an Outstanding Book of the Year by the "New York Times," which is not surprising given Fritz's approach. Artist Margot Tomes provided the humorous drawings for not only this book but also for the aforementioned one on Paul Revere.

An interesting twist on a children's biography of the Revolutionary War hero Patrick Henry. The device of the "29th of May" is used to tie the various parts of Henry's life together--from his childhood in the wilds of the Virginia countryside to his famous patriotic activities to his retirement at Red Hill. His failures as well as his successes are discussed, allowing children to see a more authentic character than many easy-read biographies. Notes from the author at the end of the book give more historical details.

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