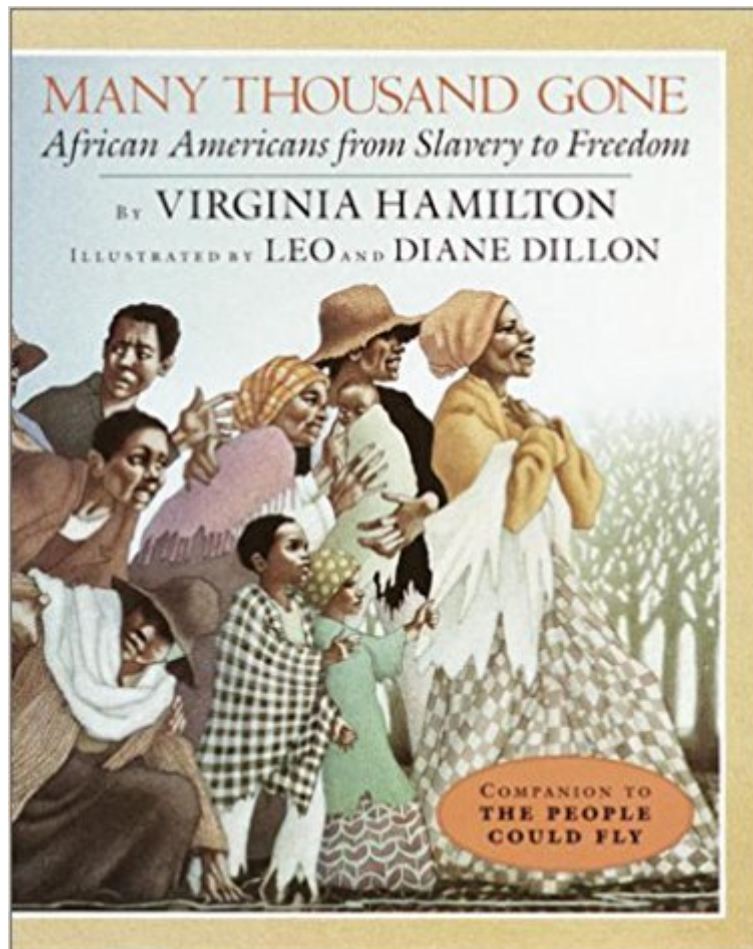


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# Many Thousand Gone: African Americans From Slavery To Freedom



## Synopsis

Unavailable for several years, Virginia Hamilton's award-winning companion to *The People Could Fly* traces the history of slavery in America in the voices and stories of those who lived it. Leo and Diane Dillon's brilliant black-and-white illustrations echo the stories' subtlety and power, making this book as stunning to look at as it is to read. "There is probably no better way to convey the meaning of the institution of slavery as it existed in the United States to young readers than by using, as a text to share and discuss, *Many Thousand Gone*." •The New York Times Book Review

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The inspired pairing of this Newbery winner and these two-time Caldecott recipients has yielded a heartfelt and ultimately heartening chronicle of African Americans from the earliest days of slavery to the 1865 ratification of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution, which abolished slavery in this country. Made up of succinct yet compelling profiles of celebrated and lesser-known individuals, Hamilton's narrative deftly peels back time's layers and lends an unusual immediacy to this critical chapter in American history. In brief, chronologically arranged entries that even reluctant readers will find easy to absorb, the author first offers accounts of slaves in the pre-Revolutionary War era, many of whom were taken from their homes in Africa and sold to slave traders. Included are descriptions of the appalling shipboard conditions during the "middle passage" from Africa to America, which a shocking 30% of the ill-treated passengers did not survive. Hamilton neatly condenses the tales of such notable freedom crusaders as Gabriel Prosser, the Virginia slave who

was hanged for organizing a failed revolt in 1800; Tice Davids, allegedly the first slave to escape by traveling the "underground road" from Kentucky to Ohio; passionate abolitionists Sojourner Truth and Frederick Douglass; and Harriet Tubman, the former slave who made more than 20 journeys back to the South to lead others to freedom. Hamilton's account takes note of the legislation passed by the federal government over the years--both protective of and damaging to the rights of African Americans. Her final reference, however, is optimistic, if somewhat oversimplified. She writes that after the Civil War, African Americans "were able to find the best in life," including seeking education, finding jobs, owning land and living together as families. She concludes: "They did all of these things almost as soon as the war was over. For 125 years they have continued to do so." Throughout the volume, the Dillons' dramatic, full-page, black-and-white art offers stunning portraits of the individuals profiled, poignantly conveying their anguish, determination and hope. A Children's BOMC selection. Ages 9-14. (Feb.) .Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Grade 4-9-- From the beginning of slavery in America to the end of the Civil War, hundreds of thousands of slaves escaped to freedom in the Northern U. S. and Canada. Their struggle, as well as the struggle of those who failed and those who were once free and then captured into slavery, comprises the theme of this history. Hamilton offers brief vignettes of almost three dozen figures. Among them are a prince lured to a neighboring kingdom and sold into slavery and a desperate mother whose escape over an icy river inspired a scene in Uncle Tom's Cabin . Well-known figures are included, as are such lesser-known people as Henry Box Brown, who had a sympathetic carpenter nail him into a box and mail him North; or Tice Davids, whose escape in 1831 led to the coining of the term "underground road." Although the emphasis is on African-American figures, biographies of whites who risked prison to help slaves to freedom are also included. The vignettes are lively, readable, and written with a poetic flair that distinguishes this book from most collective biographies for this age range. All of the stories shed a different light upon Hamilton's themes and the factual information she presents as an introduction to each theme. Her research is impeccable. The Dillons' black-and-white illustrations are refreshingly original, conveying the emotion and drama of the experiences described; text and visuals combine to create a powerful and moving whole. Reluctant readers and those with little prior knowledge will find this book unusually approachable with its short chapters, lively writing, and ample white space. --Lyn Miller-Lachmann, Siena College Library, Loudonville, NYCcopyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I couldn't wait to get this book out the package. I started reading and didn't stop until I read the whole book. I never heard the stories of runaway slaves. I read the story of Solomon Northup free then kidnapped and taken to a slave state for 12 years. Until reading this book I had never heard of Solomon and how he was tricked away from his family. There is presently being made a movie of Solomans' journey! All the stories are great reading. The story of Alexander Ross was very good, as I had never heard of him and how he helped runaway slaves.

Beautiful illustrations and inspiring stories of survival.

I was encouraged to purchase this book by my mentor. I'm impressed, I had never heard of a few of the subjects. Thank you for quick shipping.

Classic!! I hope to read this to my grandkids someday! My babies love them!

I bought this book for my daughter to accompany "The People Could Fly". These stories are very well written.

I absolutely love this book! It's quick history lessons really pack a punch!

Love Virginia Hamilton and Leo and Diane Dillon's work.

The book came quickly and in GREAT condition!! Learned a lot from it; it is relatively kid-friendly; and is a great read to be shared!

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