

*Little is documented about the life of Benjamin K Fox. As it turns out, he was a man that had much to hide. When he died he probably thought his secrets died with him. And they did, until now.*

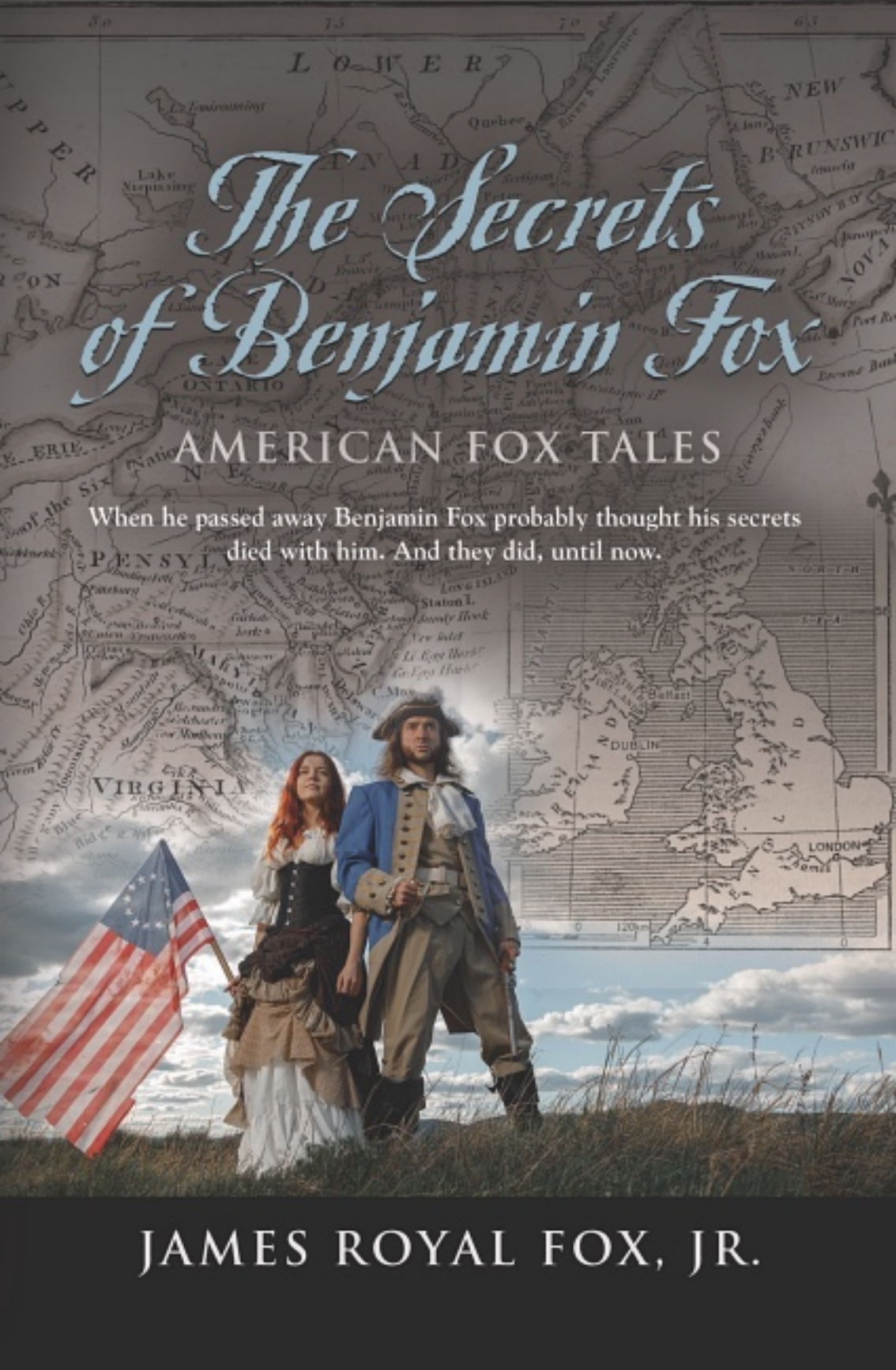
## **THE SECRETS OF BENJAMIN FOX: AMERICAN FOX TALES**

By James Royal Fox Jr

**Order the book from the publisher BookLocker.com**

**<https://www.booklocker.com/p/books/11909.html?s=pdf>**

**or from your favorite neighborhood  
or online bookstore.**



# *The Secrets of Benjamin Fox*

## AMERICAN FOX TALES

When he passed away Benjamin Fox probably thought his secrets died with him. And they did, until now.



JAMES ROYAL FOX, JR.

Copyright © 2023 James Royal Fox Jr

Print ISBN: 978-1-64719-690-5

Ebook ISBN: 978-1-64719-691-2

The information in this book is true to the best of the author's knowledge. The author disclaims any liability in connection with this information. Those who can add to this educational narrative are invited to contact the author who reserves the right to expand the facts contained herein in subsequent printings.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed in any form or by any means, including photocopying, recording, or other electronic or mechanical methods, without prior written permission of the publisher, except in the case of brief quotations embodied in critical reviews and certain other noncommercial uses permitted by copyright law. For permission requests, write to the author, addressed "Attention: Permission Coordinator", at the address below.

James Royal Fox Jr  
21575 Highway 101 South  
Cloverdale, Oregon 97112

Published by BookLocker.com, Inc., Trenton, Georgia.

Printed on acid-free paper.

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data

Fox Jr, James Royal

The Secrets of Benjamin Fox: American Fox Tales by James Royal Fox Jr

Library of Congress Control Number: 2021913022

BookLocker.com, Inc.

2023

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION .....	1
CHAPTER ONE - JOHN FOXE .....	9
CHAPTER TWO - THOMAS FOX of the VIRGINIA COMPANY OF LONDON .....	19
CHAPTER THREE - JOHN FOX, MARINER.....	25
CHAPTER FOUR - AMBROSE COBBS, THE PLANTER & JOHN PUNCH, THE SLAVE .....	32
CHAPTER FIVE - BRITISH CIVIL WAR .....	35
CHAPTER SIX - GENTLEMAN HENRY FOX I, SECOND GENERATION AMERICAN.....	49
CHAPTER SEVEN - THE ROYAL CONNECTION .....	55
CHAPTER EIGHT - HENRY FOX II .....	63
CHAPTER NINE - DANIEL BOONE .....	72
CHAPTER TEN - RICHARD FOX, ADOPTED SON OF HENRY II.....	75
CHAPTER ELEVEN - WILLIAM FOX.....	79
CHAPTER TWELVE - BENJAMIN KENDRICK FOX .....	87
CHAPTER THIRTEEN - THE CUMBERLAND GAP .....	91
CHAPTER FOURTEEN - REVOLUTION.....	94
CHAPTER FIFTEEN - JAMES BUNCH, BORN 1750 .....	104
CHAPTER SIXTEEN - THE WAR COMES TO KENTUCKY .....	107
CHAPTER SEVENTEEN - DEATH OF WILLIAM FOX .....	120
CHAPTER EIGHTEEN - LEAVING VIRGINIA .....	127
CHAPTER NINETEEN - BENJAMIN FOX, MARRIED WITH CHILDREN.....	134
CHAPTER TWENTY - NICHOLAS FOX, BORN 1796 .....	139
CHAPTER TWENTY-ONE - MOVING TO KENTUCKY... AND TENNESSEE .....	144

CHAPTER TWENTY-TWO - LEWIS AND CLARK .....	148
CHAPTER TWENTY-THREE - THE 'OREGON' POWELL FAMILY .....	154
CHAPTER TWENTY-FOUR - WAR OF 1812, SECOND AMERICAN WAR FOR LIBERTY .....	158
CHAPTER TWENTY-FIVE - DUDLEY'S DEFEAT .....	171
CHAPTER TWENTY-SIX - ARTHUR FOX, JR. ....	181
CHAPTER TWENTY-SEVEN - WASHINGTON BURNS .....	185
CHAPTER TWENTY-EIGHT - GEN. ANDREW JACKSON, LIVING LEGEND .....	189
CHAPTER TWENTY-NINE - KENTUCKY! .....	195
CHAPTER THIRTY - EPHRAIM FOX & JOHN R COBB .....	201
CHAPTER THIRTY-ONE - MACON COUNTY, MISSOURI .....	205
CHAPTER THIRTY-TWO - FIRST CONTACT WITH THE ROGUE INDIANS .....	209
CHAPTER THIRTY-THREE - MORMONS .....	215
CHAPTER THIRTY-FOUR - INDIAN REMOVAL ACT & WHITE MAN'S MAGIC .....	217
CHAPTER THIRTY-FIVE - BAD MEDICINE & THE RESTORATION .....	224
CHAPTER THIRTY-SIX - HENRY FRANKLIN MARTIN .....	226
CHAPTER THIRTY-SEVEN - WAY BACK OUT WEST .....	233
CHAPTER THIRTY-EIGHT - FAMILY OF EPHRAIM MOORE .....	235
CHAPTER THIRTY-NINE - ENTER, EWING YOUNG .....	241
CHAPTER FORTY - DR MARCUS WHITMAN .....	244
CHAPTER FORTY-ONE - MORMON'S DECLARE WAR OF EXTERMINATION .....	248
CHAPTER FORTY-TWO - HAUN'S MILL MASSACRE .....	255
CHAPTER FORTY-THREE - YOUNG IGNACE FINDS MAGIC .....	259
CHAPTER FORTY-FOUR - SAMUEL COBB, GUIDE TO MISSOURI .....	262

CHAPTER FORTY-FIVE - HISTORIC YEAR OF 1841 .....	264
CHAPTER FORTY-SIX - WAGON TRAINS OF 1842.....	270
CHAPTER FORTY-SEVEN - LEAVING KENTUCKY, 1843.....	278
CHAPTER FORTY-EIGHT - ANDREW JACKSON FOX .....	287
CHAPTER FORTY-NINE - THE RETRIBUTION OF JOSEPH `SMITH .....	291
CHAPTER FIFTY - EXCLUSIONARY LAWS OF OREGON.....	294
CHAPTER FIFTY-ONE - 1845.....	297
EPILOGUE .....	305
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS .....	307
BIBLIOGRAPHY .....	309
AUTHOR'S NOTES .....	309
PRINT RESOURCES.....	311
WEB RESOURCES .....	318
IMAGE CREDITS .....	350

## CHAPTER THREE

### JOHN FOX, MARINER

Little else is left known of Thomas Fox, investor in the Virginia Company of London, except that he supposedly had a son named John, in 1615 who became a ship's captain. John Fox was the first Fox to set foot on the North American continent.<sup>20; 78</sup> Additionally it appears that this merchant ship Captain John Fox used the name Richard when he served in the military.<sup>78</sup> Family stories related without prior knowledge of what scholars accepted as "fact" include the exploits of a "Richard Fox", that are nearly identical to known historical facts. Indeed, when John Fox disappears from historical record, Richard Fox appears without a past and when his military service ends, Richard disappears and John Fox reappears. While we may never know what the reason for a change in names was, it might be that John Fox was simply a man who had an identity to hide. In any event, young John Fox was educated, ambitious, rebellious and willful; the eldest of his siblings, he was the only one that would choose and then survive to make America his home. In his time, though John was born in England he was prominently known as one of "the Irish Fox's".<sup>78</sup> When John Fox was born, James VI had ruled Scotland for nearly 50 years and England and Ireland for 12 as James I.

The other Englishmen besides the Virginia Company of London that had their sights on the New World, the Pilgrims, finally had an opportunity for colonization. In 1608 church Separatists called Pilgrims, escaped England desiring to colonize in the New World to practice their puritanical religion. Leaving their temporary home in Holland, the Pilgrims were unable to colonize that year when they landed on shore but were afraid to be inside the King's jurisdiction, so returned to personal exile in Holland. They remained there for eight

years working together toward the goal of still creating a colony of their own before in desperation they reached out to the country they had escaped from. Some were so desperate that they joined groups going to Virginia, but most wanted more privacy and anonymity, fearing a replication of the politics in England. Finally, in 1616, as the second charter for the Virginia Company of London was nearing expiration, the Puritans sailed for England to negotiate for rights to colonize and freely practice their religion. While the idea was greeted with great acceptance by the Company, the King was hesitant to relinquish any power over controlling the colonizers. Despite royal concerns, emissaries from the Virginia Company of London were able to get an agreement wherein they granted the Pilgrims a 'patent' on the land as long as the Pilgrims would recognize the King's authority.<sup>225</sup> While it might have seemed like a capitulation, when the Pilgrims sailed away from England there was little the King could do, until a ship showed up. From this compromise was realized in the minds of Americans, the idea of religious freedom.

As the Virginia Company of London's debts soared, they were given a third charter that allowed them to run a lottery and allow the Virginia assembly to act as their own legislature and added 300 leagues of ocean to the colonies which made Bermuda part of Virginia. As the company struggled to stay afloat, in 1616 the original colonists finished their 7 year stint and wanted paid. The company was forced to renege on cash payments and instead offer 50 acre parcels in payment. The following year the company came up with the 'headright' system. Investors and residents were able to acquire land in paying the passage of new settlers. In most cases these new emigrants would work for a period of time on the companies land before being released. This system brought the wealthy and their servants as well as brought common people willing to be indentured



servants for a time. In this transaction the idea that the ownership of land was money, began.<sup>361</sup>

Following some internal disputes in the Virginia Company of London about how strictly to control the colonists, The Great Charter was passed. Instead of adhering to strict British controls, the Company endeavored to make the colony more attractive, by allowing more freedoms and bringing more women to the colonies so more English families would be established there. While the company was concerned about the success of their venture, their promotion of freedom in the colonies were laying the cornerstones of something far bigger.<sup>361</sup>

In 1619 a general assembly was held in the Jamestown Church, the first in the New World. While they joined to simply agree to form a loose government that would ensure their happiness, they only allowed Englishmen to vote. The recently arrived Polish artisans found that rule unfair and so staged the first labor strike in the New World; no vote, no work. The Poles and Slovaks were given their vote and the assembly went on to separate the colony into four distinct boroughs that they called 'cities', of 1500 acres each. They were chief county Jamestown, Charles, Henrico and Kiccowtan. The boundaries were drawn so that land owners were inside the colonies. In addition, plantations could be cultivated if they were five miles from an established colony. The policies themselves encouraged spreading out, which led to violence with Indians that felt the policy foul. In this assembly the idea of individual land ownership was made the law. While each of these small events proved to burgeon their little colony, they also created pride among them and the simple idea that they were there to own land and be happy. The rules they made would set the stage for what would become the conquering of the last frontier on the planet. By establishing the idea of individual land ownership, there were no Natives consulted and so it would also become the death knoll

of the Native Indians. The colonists did not set out to displace Indians, but were simply looking for peace and felt the natives were not utilizing the land and there was plenty of it they could move to. Unfortunately, the peace and happiness of the colonists was at the cost of land that the Indians did not appreciate giving up.<sup>444</sup>

Having held up in Holland for some time, the separatist Pilgrims feared their children were in danger of losing their English heritage and their religious beliefs and so in September of 1620, finally set sail in the Mayflower, landing at Plymouth Rock as winter was setting in. Separated widely from other colonies, with little time to prepare for winter weather, their first months were dismal. In time, however, they began to thrive.<sup>225</sup>

By 1621 the Virginia Company of London had held so many lotteries and reneged on so many promises that investors were more than wary. To complicate matters, on March 22, 1622 the uneasy peace between the colonists and the Powhatan Indians was ended when Chief Opchanacanough and his Powhatan Confederacy staged an uprising intending to kill every colonist in the New World. Beginning in the outlying plantations and communities that had grown along the James River, the Indians killed 300 people; fully a quarter of the population of the colonies; one third of all English speaking colonists. It was a blood-bath. If it hadn't been for a timely warning from an Indian employee, Jamestown itself might have been wiped out too. It became known as the Indian Massacre of 1622, or the Second Anglo-Powhatan War.<sup>293; 300</sup> In response to unfavorable conditions, the Virginia Company of London was offered a fourth charter that severely reduced the companies rights to make decisions in the governing of Virginia. The shareholders rejected it and in turn, in 1624, King James revoked the charter and Virginia became a royal colony that would be led by a governor named by a King.<sup>361</sup>

In 1625 King James VI died, leaving his son Charles I, as heir to the throne. Charles was of the belief in the divine right of kings and clashed with parliament. He was known to be contrary and it ruffled feathers. When he levied taxes without consulting parliament, he raised the ire of many subjects who saw him as a tyrant. In 1634, by order of King Charles, the colonies in the New World were divided into eight shires, in the style common to England. Jamestown became James City shire and over time, as shires became counties, it became known simply as James City.<sup>337</sup>

Married to a French catholic, Charles supported high church Angelican ecclesiastics and failed to aid Protestant efforts in The Thirty Year War, developing distrust between himself and Reformed groups like the English Puritans and the Scotch Covenanters who believed he was too Catholic. Finally, his attempt to force those Angelican practices upon the Church of Scotland led to the Bishop's War. By 1640, parliament was calling for the impeachment of Charles' leading councilors for treason and in turn the King began to arrest those who opposed him. Facing opposition from the Scotch, the Irish and his own government, tensions rose until rumors began to circulate that Parliament might raise an army in opposition. When Charles wanted to raise money to put down Irish rebellion, his parliament was hesitant to help for fear the ruler would use the army he raised to slaughter them. Instead, they passed the Militia Ordinance, intending to wrest control of the military from the King. The move raised the ire of the English Lords, who rallied to Charles side.<sup>337</sup>

In America in 1630, some Pilgrims founded the town of Boston. It was soon to become a political, financial, commercial, religious and educational center in the New World. South of the New England Pilgrim colony, in the Virginia colony, the population reached 5,000 by 1634 and the General Assembly found it more efficient to divide the colony into eight counties, including the four they had created in

1619. Including established counties of Henrico, Charles, Jamestown and Kiccowtan that was deemed a heathen name so was renamed Elizabeth City, Charles River county became the county of York and the counties of Accumack, Charles River, Warrosquyoake and Warwick River were established, altering names and boundaries as the years passed. Just three years later Warrosquyoake was renamed Isle of Wight. The boundaries for counties on the mainland were broad stretching west and reached well into what was still deemed a limitless frontier.<sup>169</sup>

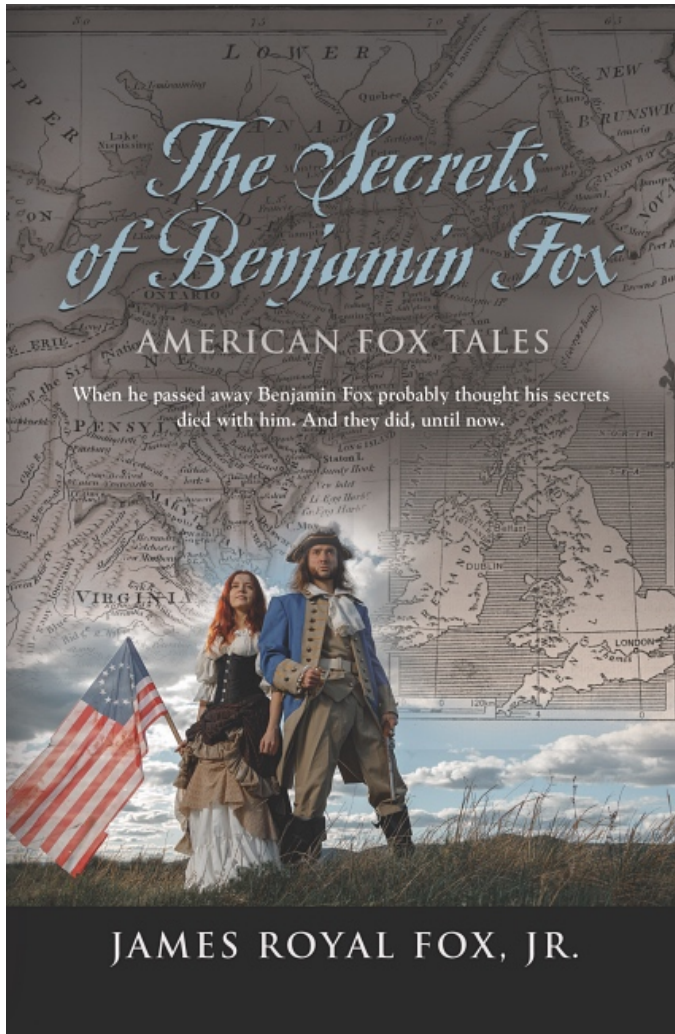
Connecting the colonies of New England and Virginia was The Great Path, called the War Path in places along the Ohio River, or the Mohawk Trail in the Connecticut valley. The paths were ancient native thoroughfares that were adopted by the Europeans who found them all along the coastline and connecting inland to the Great Lakes region. Used for commerce, hunting and general travel by both Whites and Indians, the trail could be dangerous, but vital.<sup>296</sup>

Growing to manhood with benefit of private schools and exposure to his father's business dealings including summers in Wales on the family farm, it might be considered that John Fox had a silver spoon in his mouth. But that would not be the whole story, for the boy was naturally adventurous, inquisitive and hard working as well. By the time of the English Civil War, John had become the commander of the merchant ship, *The White Horse And Curry Comb*, which conducted trade with the English colonies in Virginia.<sup>20</sup> While Capt. John Fox might thank his father for his initial opportunities to learn his trade and indeed in part for a trade route to Virginia, he became a ship's captain of his own volition, earning respect and his title, with his honesty and hard work.

He was married in London, England to a woman named Anne, who may have been a cousin, but her surname cannot be proven. The couple had a daughter they named Anne. Strong of limb as he was of

will, Captain John Fox was a proud and accomplished mariner. His actions in life prove he was a man of opposing positions. While patriotic and politically connected, his decisions in life in effect pushed him out of England, to the American Colonies. Though a supporter of the King, he was forced by his decisions ironically to leave England, to the New World, where people went to escape the Monarch. He was a family man, but his vocation kept him at sea much of the time.<sup>78</sup>

It can't be denied that as captain of a merchant vessel John saw first-hand the settlements in America before he settled there. He was keenly aware of the deception in advertising that was being conducted by the Virginia Company of London of which his father was invested in. He had to have seen for himself, the colonists were struggling, but given the position he was in, decided the frontier of the New World colonies was preferable to what life offered in England.



*Little is documented about the life of Benjamin K Fox. As it turns out, he was a man that had much to hide. When he died he probably thought his secrets died with him. And they did, until now.*

## **THE SECRETS OF BENJAMIN FOX: AMERICAN FOX TALES**

By James Royal Fox Jr

**Order the book from the publisher BookLocker.com**

**<https://www.booklocker.com/p/books/11909.html?s=pdf>**

**or from your favorite neighborhood  
or online bookstore.**