

# IMMORTAL THREADS

## Ambrose Etherington.

### MEET AMBROSE

Ambrose was characterized as a kooky character who, if alive today, would grow up being bullied for his name. As a young child, Ambrose would have been called "Puddinghead" by his schoolmates, after the Ambrosia Rice Pudding. He would go home crying one day after receiving a pudding to the face, and his father, John Etherington, would reveal the origin of Ambrose, meaning "immortality" in Greek. Ever since that moment, Ambrose would look up to his father and follow in his footsteps, becoming a Master of the Merchant Taylors. He started out as a Searcher from 1756-1757, soon working his way up to Warden, and eventually receiving the honor of serving as Master for 1760-1761. He had a litany of apprentices, one of which was his son, David Etherington, who did not become a Master, ending the Etherington tradition. Ambrose lived until 1807, and died at the age of 81, despite the low survival rate of the 18th century. He was buried in York at Holy Trinity, Goodramgate. Ambrose lived up to his name and is forever immortalized in the records of the Merchant Taylor Hall.



### AMBROSE'S COLLECTION

Ambrose's craft required him to sew by hand using a needle, scissors, thread and measuring tape. The fashion in York consisted of suits, coats, vests, shirts and trousers for men; while the women's fashion consisted of dresses, skirts and blouses. Ambrose would carefully measure his clients and then cut the fabric accordingly. Ambrose would use sewing techniques such as backstitching, whip stitching and hemming. Tailors would often design garments based on their customers' requests. During the mid to late 1700's the most popular requests were different fabrics such as silk or satin, the color choice ranged from vibrant to muted, embellishments, embroidery and pockets. These details varied based on the person's style, social status, budget and the current trends of the time

#### Garments



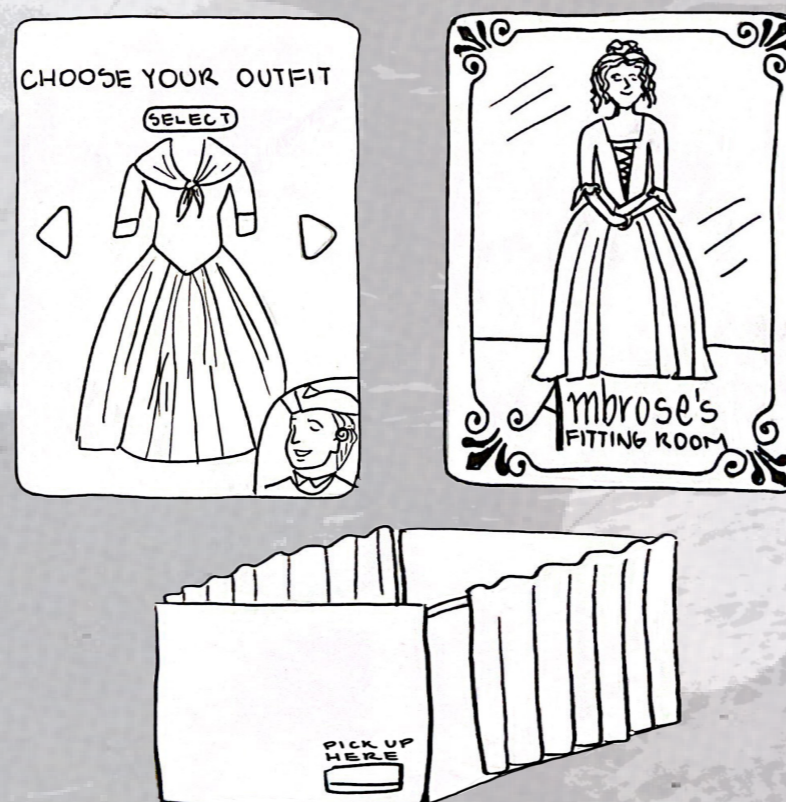
- York St Olave Parish Register Married 10 July 1750
- Merchant Tailor's Place of work 1748-1795
- Holy Trinity, Goodramgate Burial 1807

### AMBROSE'S LIFE MAP

## INTRODUCING AMBROSE TO THE 21st CENTURY

### FITTING ROOM: High Budget

Ambrose's Fitting Room is a photobooth installation consisting of a human sized screen and camera. There will be a curtained backdrop. First, a video of an actor portraying Ambrose talking about himself plays on screen. The screen then displays the camera's view of the visitor and a stationary outfit filter. The visitor can choose from multiple 18th century outfits that Ambrose could have made, using the touchscreen. Each outfit prompts a video of Ambrose to share information about the clothing style. The visitor stands at a marked line to appear to be wearing the outfit on screen, and a photo is taken, printing out a photo strip souvenir. This attraction could be expanded to other characters, with each outfit prompting a different character's informational video.



### BUILD-A-DRESS: Low Budget

Ambrose's Build-a-Dress! is a printable paper doll worksheet. The paper consists of a central person, and two garments of the 18th century. The components can be cut out with provided scissors. The two outfits have tabs along the edges that can be folded to attach to the figure. The back side of the paper will include information about the history of Ambrose, his life, and the clothing styles depicted on the front of the page. Other Merchant Taylor characters are included through additional worksheets, with outfits corresponding to their time periods, and their biographies on the back.

