Franklin Gazette

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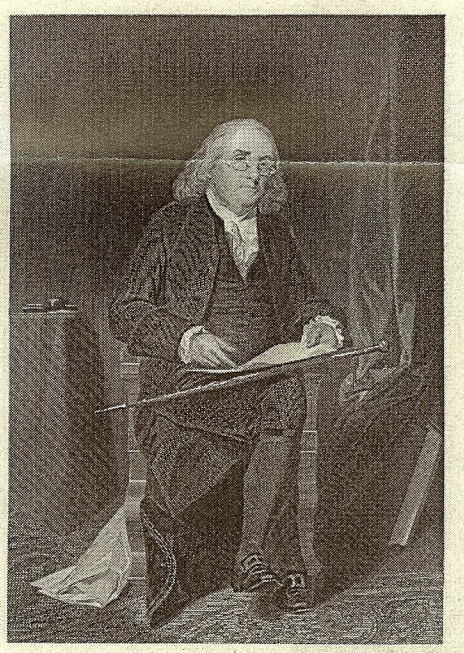
"What you would seem to be, be really." Poor Richard, March, 1744.

Message From the President

By Roy E. Goodman

In order to promote the Friends of Franklin throughout Pennsylvania, I have been contacting a number of state Community Foundations, sending them copies of the *Gazette*, speaking with a variety of officers and learning about the programs they oversee.

One half of the Commonwealth's share of the Franklin Trust Fund, some $833,605, was dispersed among the community foundations to be invested in permanent endowment funds. The size of the community served was the basis for the amount given, with Philadelphia receiving $197,000 and $18,000 the smallest sum. The state was geographically and demographically divided into 25 to 30 areas each served by a community foundation. In most instances, the individual foundations encompass more than one county, the Philadelphia Foundation serves the five county metropolitan area.



Engraving of "Benjamin Franklin" by Phillibrown (after Chappel). *Courtesy of the American Philosophical Society.*

The foundations were free to use the interest earned by the endowments to fund local projects which benefit their community. Guidelines suggest using 5% of endowment earnings each year.

Both the Franklin Society, administered by the Berks County Community Foundation, Reading, and the West Chester based, Ben Franklin Legacy Society of the Chester County Community Foundation have produced attractive brochures describing their missions.

While information and news regarding some of the Pennsylvania Franklin community funds appear on the internet there is much to learn from these grassroots organizations. They might serve our FOF members as models for community improvements or touch a philanthropic impulse, regardless of their place of residence.

I marvel at Franklin's philanthropic vision, his inspiration for improving communities and for creating a flourishing legacy that will benefit many Americans well into the future.

(Thanks to FOF member, Irene Coffey, Librarian, Franklin Institute, Philadelphia, who has kindly shared her research on the Commonwealth Community Foundations and the Franklin Trust.)

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Benjamin Franklin Math Puzzle Problems

(Compiled by Aziz S. Inan)

Problem # 2. Abiah's birth year. Ben was 46 years old when his mother Abiah died at age 84 and his daughter Sally was 46 years old when he died at age 84. In the year 1781, Abiah's age would have been equal to the sum of Ben's and Sally's ages. What year was Abiah born?

Editor's note: the answer will appear in the next edition of the ***Gazette****. While you all probably knew the answer to the last math problem, "What was the year of Franklin's death?" we are including the mathematical solution for your enjoyment.*

Source: Inan
Answer: Benjamin Franklin died in 1790.
Solution: Since the birth year and its reverse add up to 7777, my birth year must be a 4-digit number. Each of the 4-digit years given by 1076, 1706, 1166, 1616, 1256, 1526, 1346 and 1436, and their reverses add up to 7777. The correct year for my birth year is 1706 and here is why. My mom's birth year is 1706 – 38 = 1668. However, since my mom was born at a later month than I was (I was born on January 17th and my mom was born on August 15th), her birth year could also be 1667. My mom's correct birth year is indeed 1667 since 1667 + 14 = 1681 = (41)2. None of the other birth years satisfy the square-year criteria. Therefore, my death year must be 1706 + 84 = 1790. By the way, as you might have guessed, I'm Ben Franklin and my mom is Abiah Folger.

A Sad Good-bye to Too Many Friends

Penelope Hartshorne Batcheler a long-time Friend of Franklin and an ardent historic preservationist and architect, died on March 12, 2007. Penny, as she was known to her many Friends in the Philadelphia area, spent her life working with historic buildings; she served on a team of architects and preservationists who restored Independence Hall and she supervised the restoration and recreations of numerous buildings throughout Independence National Historical Park. Retiring from the Park in 1993, she continued to fight for the restoration of buildings in Society Hill where she lived. Friends will remember her wonderful account of Franklin's row houses, printed in the *Gazette* in the Fall 2005 issue which she first presented as a lecture at Franklin birthday celebration in January 2005. Her death leaves a void in the preservation community and a sense of deep sorrow amongst her many friends.

Benjamin Franklin Kahn, a founding member of the Friends of Franklin, died on March 8, 2007. A real estate developer who was a pioneer in the field of real estate investment trusts, Kahn created the Washington Real Estate Investment Trust, which he chaired until the mid-1990s. He was an avid devotee of Franklin and like Franklin delighted in creating aphorisms and useful inventions. One of his most enduring legacies was the creation of the Creativity Foundation, which annually honored thinkers and innovators including YoYo Ma, Daniel Patrick Moynihan and Sandra Day O'Connor. He also graciously opened his home to the Friends of Franklin on their Washington tour. He will be sadly missed.

And Claude-Anne Lopez sent the following tribute:

Bill Meikle, whom the Franklin world lost last December, was a wonderful human being. Highly educated (at Antioch College in Ohio and the Ph.D. program in theater at the University of Kansas), he was perfectly equipped to understand and evoke what I like to think of as Franklin's immortal legacy in science, diplomacy, journalism, and all around humanity, not the caricature of the man, so widespread these days, as an oversexed womanizer.

Watching Bill's performances gave one an uplift, an hour of intense pleasure and learning, with just the right amount of humor. My son Larry and his wife Brigid, who live in Cambridge were part of his public as often as they could manage it and they join the Friends of Franklin in sending their fond memories of him to his wife Barbara and his many descendants.

Questions For Benjamin Franklin

From William Franklin, The Last Royal Governor Of the Province of New Jersey

by Charles Armbruster

Josiah Franklin and William Penn both crossed the Atlantic and brought their families to the new world during the decade of the 1680s. What a magnificent and hopeful time that was. When they arrived, there were no streets paved with gold, but their families prospered in different ways. Josiah raised his children to appreciate the importance of hard work and ingenuity. William's children had access to greater funds, but they were not beneficiaries of the same kind of upbringing. The great political changes of the eighteenth century would prove to also affect these two famous families.

Both families' fathers supported their religious beliefs carefully, but their children would not prove to be so close to their religions. In 1757 Josiah Franklin's son, Benjamin, met William Penn's son, Thomas, and they would not reconcile deep divides which separated them. Thomas Penn considered Franklin to be a political opportunist. Benjamin considered Penn to be a wealthy person who was unresponsive to a civic duty to help protect the colonies. If Penn had not rejected Franklin, how different our lives would be today. If, instead, Thomas Penn had supported Benjamin Franklin to become the Royal Governor of Pennsylvania, the province founded by his father, and if Thomas Penn had responded more favorably to Benjamin Franklin's request for a compromise in the colonies' form of government, America might still be the King's colony.

We are indebted to Benjamin Franklin for his indefatigable efforts at the beginnings of our new nation. We could find hundreds of questions for the secrets about his diplomacy, his source of funds, his personal strength when faced by physical crises, but nothing will change the fact that he was the most important founding father for our nation. Without his wisdom, resolution and persistence even George Washington would not have been able to secure all the vital aid we needed to survive. Only Franklin was always successful in his efforts on our behalf.

But why did he never reveal certain important personal questions about his wife and son? He had taken Deborah to be his wife on September 1, 1730, and a baby boy entered his house during the winter of 1730-31. He raised the boy as his own son, but no one has been able to discover the identity of the child's biological parents nor the date of his birth. In Benjamin's *Autobiography,* he referred to John Rogers, the man whom Deborah had married while he was in London. He described him as someone who left many unsettled debts and was reported to be dead. Benjamin took great risk by marrying Deborah, but he always described Deborah as a good and faithful helpmate who assisted him by attending his shop. They thrived together and ever mutually endeavored to make each other happy. He then wrote "thus I corrected that erratum as best I could". If you review the statement from different aspects, you might question the erratum against Deborah to be the poor result of her first marriage, or it might be another situation which made her sorrowful. Benjamin doesn't really shed much light on all the circumstances of her first marriage and husband, who might still have been alive when Franklin married her. Benjamin provides very little information about the two people he took into his home in 1730 which would have been found in the marriage and birth records of the Christ Church of Philadelphia, or anywhere else.

Benjamin Franklin published hundreds of Poor Richard's sayings in his *Almanack.* His growing readership enjoyed the humor contained in many of the sayings, but one of the most significant of all would prove to be, "Three people may share a secret if two of them are dead". He probably knew more about the whereabouts of Deborah's first husband as well as the true identity of their new child, William Franklin. But he kept this

(continued on page 9)

Franklin Abroad: Portrait Sold in Paris

Friend Daniel Jouve sent an article by Béatrice de Rochebouët entitled "Benjamin Franklin et son billet de 100 dollars" from the December 1, 2006 issue of *Le Figaro*. The article was written about the sale at Hôtel Drouot of a Duplessis portrait of Franklin. Duplessis produced two different portraits of Franklin from life; the first, done in 1778, is known as the "fur collar" one. In this oil painting Franklin wears a reddish brown suit with a fur collar; it is in the collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. The second Duplessis contribution to our knowledge of Franklin's appearance is called the "grey coat" portrait. It is this image that is so well known, because it is engraved on U.S. $100 bills. Thus, this version of Franklin has made its way to nearly every corner of the globe in the guise of U.S. currency. Mme Vigée-LeBrun described the portrait in her memoirs published in 1835; it was strikingly diffferent than those of the other diplomats, all of whom were powdered and decked with gold and ribbons. She explained that this image could have been mistaken for that of some prosperous farmer of the day. Auction expert Eric Turquin, happy to see a major historical work displayed at his venue, calls it colorless: a sober figure, with no wig, modestly simple, garbed all in grey. A pastel at the Smithsonian was for years the only recognized "grey coat" image. But the sale in the Drouot auction rooms included an oil copy of the famous pastel, its value estimated at between 100,000 and 150,000 euros. Painting specialist Rachel Dudouit thinks that this oil portrait of Franklin was the one exhibited by Duplessis at the Salon du Louvre in 1802. Napoleon, then First Consul, chose the "grey coat" portrait to adorn the reception rooms of the Saint-Cloud Palace. It was displayed in the Apollo Gallery on the second floor until it was given back to Duplessis' widow upon her request in 1803. The news story points out that despite other competing contemporary paintings and sculptures by the likes of Cochin, Anne-Rosalie Filleul, Greuze, Fragonard, Caffieri and Houdon, it was Duplessis' vision of Franklin that was chosen for the $100 bill. The portrait sold at the Salle Drouot takes on a new meaning today as it opens the Tercentenary exhibit, "Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World" which opens in Paris on December 4 of the present year and will remain on view until March 30, 2008.

Exploring Benjamin Franklin's Moral Life

Dr. Dave Wang, Manager of Hollis Library and adjunct professor of St. Johns University

Over the years I have tried to understand the development of Franklin's moral cultivation. How did his moral life get shaped and in turn how did he try to shape that of others? Here I examine Franklin's efforts at cultivating his and others' virtue according to the precepts of Confucian moral philosophy. Confucius said, "The ancients, who wished to encourage virtue throughout the kingdom, first turned their attention to its cultivation in its states. Wishing to regulate their states, they regulated their families. Wishing to regulate their families, they first cultivated their persons."

I was surprised to discover that Benjamin Franklin, who had demonstrated his concern about moral issues and worked hard to find a solution for them during his early years, followed the same type of Confucian program of moral improvement. He first turned his attention to his own morals, then he suggested means by which the youths of North America could advance their virtues, and finally encouraged all youths in the world to improve their virtues.

Benjamin Franklin showed his concern about moral issues as early as 1722, at the age of 16, when he published a series of articles under the pen name "Silence Dogood." This series reveals his desire to be a useful man of high morals and to create a happy society in North America. He said, "I have from my Youth been indefatigably studious to gain and treasure up in my Mind all useful and desirable Knowledge, especially such as tends to improve the Mind."

In the Silence Dogood essays Franklin expressed his aversion to certain behaviors and attacked "the many reigning Vices of the Town", such as "Pride of Apparel." He told his readers that they had to deal with vice and vanity very seriously, for the virus of "Pride of Apparel" "nourish'd in us a *Pride of Heart*, which portends the Ruin of Church and State."

Issues of morality are hard to deal with. Young Franklin recognized that he didn't have a good way to solve the problem. He confessed, in Silence Dogood's voice, "I have but little Hopes of perswading my Sex, by this Letter, utterly to relinquish the extravagant Foolery."

Although the philosophy of Confucius was well-known in America in the eighteenth century, Franklin's first contact with his works was not in America, but in Europe. In 1724, Franklin traveled to London to buy a printing press and other equipment. For the majority of the eighteen months that he was in London, Franklin studied hard and was passionate about reading as widely as he could. Except for work, his time was committed to books.

Some evidence points to Franklin's having access to *The Morals of Confucius*, which was first published in London in 1691. Confucius maintained that true leaders embrace the populace. He said, "If leaders are courteous, their people will not dare to be disrespectful. If leaders are just, people will not dare to be intractable. If leaders are trustworthy, people will not dare to be dishonest." This doctrine had left a deep impression on Franklin. On his return voyage from Europe to North America he contemplated these precepts and applied them to the examination of history; he reasoned that "a commander should have those qualities in him that will make him beloved by his people." "Alexander and Caesar, those renowned generals, received more faithful service, and performed greater actions, by means of the love their soldiers bore them...."

In 1726 Franklin determined to start to cultivate his virtue, and his goal was no less than moral perfection. He wrote "let me, therefore, make some resolutions, and form some scheme of action, that, henceforth, I may live in all respects like a rational creature." Franklin, at the age of 22, in 1728, compiled a list of thirteen important virtues that would contribute to his goal. According to the man himself, this system of conduct made Franklin "not only successful but a better person." My research finds that all thirteen virtues were based on Confucian moral philosophy. This philosophical approach had a tremendous influence on Benjamin Franklin's progress toward improving his behavior; he was a devoted son to his parents and a good brother to his elder brothers.

After more than ten years of practice in modifying his behavior according to this scheme, Franklin, who had accumulated a certain degree of experience in how to advance his virtue, felt that it was time for him to introduce the Confucian moral philosophy to his readers. Beginning in 1737 Franklin systematically started to spread these ideas in North America. Since he considered his newspapers "as another means of communicating instructions," Franklin made good use of all mass media means under his control to promote the cultivation of virtue among the colonists in North America. His tools for this task included the *Pennsylvania Gazette, Poor Richard's Almanack*, letters to his friends and relatives and other works. In 1737, Franklin carried a series of papers, titled *"From the Morals of Confucius"* in his weekly periodical, the *Pennsylvania Gazette*. Franklin advised his readers that Confucian moral philosophy was "the gate through which it is necessary to pass to arrive at the sublimest wisdom and most perfect."

Immediately in the wake of publishing his essay *"From the Morals of Confucius,"* Franklin further strengthened his campaign advocating the cultivation of virtue in his widely circulated *Poor Richard's Almanack* of 1738. Here are some examples: "Hast

thou Virtue? Acquire also the graces & beauties of virtue." "You may be more happy than Princes, if you will be more virtuous." "Each year one vicious habit rooted out, in time might make the worst Man good throughout." Confucius preached, "Learning must be of practical use." Franklin, in 1743, penned his famous essay promoting the idea that the youth of Pennsylvania be educated in order to improve society.

During the American Revolution, Franklin stressed the important values of Confucian moral philosophy; governing and leading with virtue. Confucius "yearned to see people, especially rulers, adopt better morals and more compassion." He taught, "To rule with virtue is like the North Star in its place, around which all other stars revolve, in homage." "Lead throughout policies, discipline through punishments, and the people may be restrained but without a sense of shame. Lead through virtue, discipline through the rites, and there will be a sense of shame and conscientious improvements." In 1778, two years after America declared its independence, Franklin addressed the significance of the role of morals in the new country and pointed out the necessity of introducing the notion of moral leadership. He told his fellow Americans that laws were not enough for the new nation. "What political struggles I have been engag'd in for the good of my compatriots...or my philosophical studies for the benefits of our race in general! For in politics, **what can laws do without morals?** Our present race...will in a course of minutes become corrupt like those of other and older [nations], and consequently as wretched." Franklin had recommended to his fellow Americans a long time ago before the founding of the new nation that, "Here is nothing that gives a greater Idea of the Virtue of the Ancient Chinese, than what they have Writ and Practis'd in respect of their law suits. They Teach, that Actions ought not to be commenc'd against anyone; that Frauds, severities, and Enmities, which are the general Attendants and Consequences of Law-suits, were unbecoming Men; That the whole World ought to live in Unity and Concord…"

Franklin donated his time and energy to public welfare. During the period from the 1730s to the 1740s, Franklin helped to found some cultural and philanthropic institutions, including the Library Company of Philadelphia, the American Philosophical Society, the Academy of Philadelphia (now the University of Pennsylvania) and a network of volunteer fire companies. Basic knowledge of Confucian moral philosophy allows us to identify Franklin's behavior as that of a typical Confucian. In traditional Chinese society, a Confucian gentleman "always claimed moral leadership to exercise proper influence necessary to put the country in good order." They "devoted attention to local welfare institutions," such as promoting education. They "printed their rhymed quotations for effective communications to the less educated as rhymes were easy for them to learn." According to recent research, Franklin's chief motivation for development of the alliance of printers in the 18th century was the same as for all his printing activities (such as his *Poor Richard's Almanack*), that is, to disseminate his moral teachings to a wider audience.

In 1784 he told his readers of his experience in cultivating his own virtue following the precepts of Confucian moral philosophy. Franklin tried to educate the younger generation to cultivate their own virtues. He hoped that the next generation "may follow the example and reap the benefit." He told the Europeans who wanted to move to America that in order to obtain success in the United States, one must be virtuous: "the only encouragements we hold out to strangers are a good climate, fertile soil, good pay for labour, kind neighbors, good laws, liberty and a hearty welcome. The rest depends on a man's own industry and virtue." In 1790, largely confined to bed, Franklin, who had finished his last will, struggled to add to his autobiography another seven and half pages. In these pages Franklin still continued to emphasize the importance of cultivating virtue; there he extolled "industry and diligence above all other virtues."

Franklin had a very clear purpose in his mind when he studied Confucian moral philosophy; he was primarily concerned with the search for human happiness, for both individual citizens and society as a whole. Significantly, for Franklin, to be a virtuous person was so important that it decided what kind of life one wanted to live. In 1780, he told his grandson there were only two kinds of people in the world, those with virtue and those without. We know that Confucius once said, "There are but two courses, which can be pursued, that of virtue and its opposite."

Franklin's efforts changed not only himself but also the people of North America and of other parts of the world, too. In 1789, at the age of 83, after a long experience, Franklin wrote, "on the whole, tho' I never arrived at the perfection I had been so ambitious of obtaining, but fell far short of it, yet I was, by the endeavor, a better and a happier man than I otherwise would have been if I had not attempted it." I would say that Franklin's efforts at promoting the development of good morals not only made himself happier and a better man but also transformed numerous generations of Americans.

[L]ines on hearing of the death of Doctor Franklin

By Eleanor Gesensway

Add another name to the list of Benjamin Franklin's female admirers—an American widow with impressive accomplishments of her own.

Annis Boudinot Stockton (1736-1801), was not only a recognized poet in her lifetime, but one of the most prolific poets of 18th century British America, earning her a wide audience. Twenty-one of her poems were published in widely read newspapers and magazines, among them the *Columbian Magazine*, the *Pennsylvania Magazine*, the *New American Magazine*, the *American Museum*, the *New Jersey Gazette*, and at least four others. And, as was even more common in her day among her social class, many of her poems were privately circulated at social and literary gatherings or sent to friends and family.

Prior to 1985, about 40 of her poems were known to have survived in scattered repositories. In 1985, however, her manuscript copybook surfaced and was subsequently accessioned by the New Jersey Historical Society. This copybook was probably left with Mrs. Stockton's youngest daughter, Abigail Stockton Field, with whom Annis lived during the last five years of her life, and was then passed down through Abigail's descendants. It tripled the number of her known works, which now can be read in *Only for the Eye of a Friend: The Poems of Annis Boudinot Stockton*, edited by Carla Mulford and published by the University of Virginia.

Still other poems were probably forever lost when Cornwallis commandeered the Stockton's handsome estate, Morven, near Princeton, N.J., for his headquarters on November 29, 1776. Annis and family had to flee, leaving behind her poems and favorite books among her other possessions. The family silver and other treasures were hurriedly packed and buried in the garden, but the house and lands suffered great losses.

Mrs. Stockton selected common themes and concerns for her poems: the Revolutionary War, the presidency of George Washington, women's rights and friendships, births, marriages and deaths of friends, relatives and public figures. She wrote in the era's common genres including odes, elegies, epitaphs, sonnets, hymns and pastorals. One surviving poem eulogizes Benjamin Franklin.

Did Annis B. Stockton write so knowledgeably and movingly about Franklin on learning of his death simply as a proud citizen of the new country, or did she have a personal interest in the life of this "deep sage," as she describes him in her poem? It becomes apparent that there are at least six avenues of connection between Annis Stockton and Benjamin Franklin throughout her long life.

Shortly after her birth on July 1, 1736 in Darby, Pa., Annis's father, Elias Boudinot, Sr., moved his family to Philadelphia. He established a shop and home next door to Benjamin Franklin's post office. Of French Huguenot descent, trained as a silversmith and venturing to become a merchant, Boudinot had recently arrived from Antigua with his wife, Catherine Williams, and their first born child. Annis, the second of their ten children--six of whom survived--was the first to be born in North America.

By 1747 the family had moved from Market Street to nearby Second Street, where Boudinot added clock repair to his other services. As Franklin's friend and neighbor, he enrolled his sons John and Elias Jr. in Franklin's Academy in 1751.

Shortly thereafter, Annis's father left Philadelphia to pursue business opportunities associated with copper mining in New Jersey, and the Boudinot family finally settled in Princeton. Boudinot apparently maintained business relations with Deborah Franklin after Ben left for England. Ben wrote, "I am glad to hear that Mr. Budinot [sic] has so seasonable a supply, and hope he will not go to mining again." (November 22, 1757)

Annis's poetry writing appears to have started at this time as did her acquaintance with a young lawyer, Richard Stockton (1730-1781), whom she married in late 1757 or early 1758. She named the house into which they moved, Morven, after a mythical Gaelic kingdom in the epic poems of Ossian. The first Richard Stockton had purchased 5,500 acres from William Penn in 1701. His grandson acquired 150 acres of that tract for his home, which was described as "commodious but not grand." (Now a National Historic Landmark, Morven is operated by the state of New Jersey as a museum and library. From 1945 to 1981 it served as New Jersey's first Governor's Mansion.)

Her marriage provides her next link to Benjamin Franklin through both her husband and Ben's son William. In the 1760s, Richard and Annis appear to have been close friends of William Franklin, then Royal Governor of New Jersey. Franklin recommended appointing Richard Stockton to the royal governing council of New Jersey and later to the New Jersey Supreme Court.

Having narrowly missed embarking on the packet to England on February 23, 1765, Richard Stockton wrote to Dr. Franklin in England that he was sending it on in the care of another traveler "letters from our governour" because they might contain matters of business. The next year, when Stockton himself was in London, he reported that he was purchasing some linen for both Annis and for the Franklins.

In a lengthy letter to Benjamin Franklin, dated from Princeton on December 22, 1769, Richard Stockton congratulated Franklin on his appointment as Agent of New Jersey and described provincial matters. He concluded, "Mrs. Stockton remembers you with great respect, and desires me to present her compliments."

Richard Stockton continued to hold royal offices until the very eve of the Revolution, counseling moderation and reconciliation. By June 1776, however, he chose expediency and disavowed his support of Britain. Elected as a delegate to the Continental Congress, he secured a place in history as a signer of the Declaration of Independence.

Stockton was captured by the British in the invasion of New Jersey in 1776 and incarcerated in New York. He suffered greatly during his captivity. Following his release his continuing poor health prevented him from reentering public life. He died shortly thereafter in 1781. During her long widowhood, Annis wrote a number of poems eulogizing her husband.

Julia Stockton Rush (1759-1848), the eldest daughter of Annis's six children, provides the next connecting link to Benjamin Franklin. On January 2, 1776 at the age of 16, Julia married Dr. Benjamin Rush (1745-1813) and moved to Philadelphia. Like her husband, she was a fervent patriot. They had 13 children, nine of whom survived into adulthood.

After attending West Nottingham Academy, the same boarding school in Maryland where Julia's father had studied a decade earlier, Rush decided to study medicine in Philadelphia. While completing his studies in England and Scotland, he was befriended by Benjamin Franklin who advanced him money to pay his expenses.

Returning to Philadelphia in 1769, Rush began his lifelong pursuits of practicing and teaching medicine and surgery, publishing essays, and participating in medical, literary, educational and benevolent civic institutions. Sharing memberships and interest in many of these endeavors with Benjamin Franklin, he also signed the Declaration of Independence and succeeded Franklin as President of the Pennsylvania Society for Promoting the Abolition of Slavery.

On the home front, Rush reportedly was Annis's favorite son-in-law. She visited as frequently as possible, and in several surviving letters written to her daughter she invariably inquires after "Dr. Rush." He is the subject of several of her poems.

Yet another family member connects Annis to Benjamin Franklin: her younger brother, Elias Boudinot, Jr. (1740-1821), who had married her husband's younger sister, Hannah Stockton (1736-1808). Born in Philadelphia and then tutored in Elizabeth, N.J., Boudinot journeyed to Princeton to study law with Richard Stockton. Two years after being admitted to the bar, he married Hannah in 1762.

There is a letter from Franklin to Elias dated December 11, 1762: "I thank you for your kind congratulations on my return to my family and country. It gives me great pleasure to hear that you are married and well-settled and your brother and sister also..." Franklin then remembers his old friend and neighbor and writes, "I hope your good father's indisposition will be of no long continuance..."

As his practice prospered Boudinot began to participate actively in New Jersey politics. He served in its provincial Assembly, was named to the Continental Congress, and was elected its President from November 1782 to November 1783. This necessitated the exchange of numerous and detailed official letters with Franklin, who was then in France negotiating the Treaty of Paris that ended the Revolutionary War. Later, Boudinot served three terms in the United States House of Representatives, after which Washington appointed him Director of the United States Mint. He retired from that post in 1805.

Less well-known but no less fascinating is the final person connecting Annis Boudinot Stockton with Benjamin Franklin. The close friendship between Annis and Elizabeth Graeme Fergusson (1739-1801) began during their Philadelphia childhood and continued throughout their lives. They both died in the same year, 1801.

The family of Dr. Thomas Graeme, a physician, member of the Governor's Council and later of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, lived in a grand home a few blocks from the Boudinots and the Franklins on Chestnut Street between Sixth and Seventh Streets. When Mrs. Anne Graeme, Elizabeth's mother, called on the Franklins shortly after Ben's return from England in 1762, she was favored with "a tune on the Harmonica [sic]." This recital appears to be the earliest recorded mention of Franklin's performance on the armonica. During the summers the Graemes entertained lavishly at their 300-acre country estate, Graeme Park, in Horsham just north of the city.

As an eighteen-year-old, Elizabeth copied into her commonplace book (now at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania) a heartfelt, charming, six-verse "Song wrote by a young Gentleman to a young Lady." This valentine, dated February 26, 1757, had been written to her by William Franklin. Two days later she wrote her own poem in reply. In seven surviving letters addressed to "My dearest Betsy," William appears to have been in love. However, their ardent courtship and tentative engagement ended, apparently to her distress, shortly after William's departure for London when he accompanied his father on a diplomatic mission in 1757. In the summer of 1764 Elizabeth traveled to England herself, but by this time William had married a different Elizabeth, and had been appointed the royal governor of New Jersey.

Over the next few years, Deborah and Benjamin Franklin kept up with Elizabeth, even if their son did not. After returning to London at the close of 1764, Ben lets Deborah know that "Miss Betsy Graeme lodges not far from me, and is pretty well." (February 14, 1765) Soon, Deborah lets Ben know that "Miss Graham [sic] has wrote all...that she had the pleasure of a visit from you..." (April 7, 1765). On June 4, Ben reports that "Miss Graham [sic] is not come to town as I have heard." After Elizabeth sails for home, arriving December 26, 1765, Deborah informs Ben that she has seen "Miss Graham" (January 12, 1766). Two months later, the Franklins' daughter Sarah (Sally) confides to her father that "Miss Graeme has lost her only Sister" (March 23, 1766).

Decades later, Elizabeth Fergusson reminisced to Benjamin Rush about letters (now lost) that Franklin wrote to her during her long-ago romance with his son. "I have some of the kindest and fondest letters from Dr. Franklin wrote to me when he wished me to have been a member of his family, which had had [sic] vanity taken place, and I had had a mind to have shewn them, would have been circulated thro all the anecdote writers in Europe and America under the article traits of Dr. Franklin's Domestic Character." (December 23, 1797) She wisely exercised restraint and kept these letters private.

In 1772, Annis's son-in-law, Benjamin Rush, introduced Elizabeth to Henry Hugh Fergusson, a poor Scottish immigrant, at a literary soiree at Graeme Park. Four months later they secretly married. Elizabeth's father, for whom she had served as hostess after the death of her mother, died soon after her marriage, and as his only surviving child, Elizabeth inherited Graeme Park.

The cause of independence, however, was to split the couple. Fergusson, a Tory, returned to England after only three years of marriage. Elizabeth, who was dedicated to the cause of independence, did not accompany him. Relying on his

[L]ines cont.

acquaintance with Franklin from his years in Philadelphia, Fergusson, during a visit to Paris in December 1776, wrote to the recently arrived Franklin requesting time to pay his respects "and to make a few domestic enquiries after Mrs. Fergusson and his friends in Philadelphia." A year earlier, Franklin had described Fergusson as "a gentleman of amiable character" (September 25, 1775).

Fergusson's loyalty to Great Britain not only prevented him from ever returning to his wife, but jeopardized her financial security as well. Graeme Park was confiscated by the Pennsylvania government as the property of a traitor, and most of its contents were sold at auction. It was only through the intercession of Richard Stockton, the husband of her dear friend Annis, that Elizabeth regained title to her property in 1781. (Graeme Park is now owned and operated by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.)

Throughout their lives Annis and Elizabeth visited each other frequently, participated in each other's social and cultural life, and shared their poems. The salon culture in Philadelphia and environs mirrored that of Europe's capitals. At Annis's Morven and Elizabeth's city mansion and country estate, people gathered to discuss political, literary and social concerns. A broad and close network developed among the region's writers, perhaps most especially among the women. It was at these gatherings that poems were read aloud and copies circulated among friends.

Carla Mulford suggests that Annis Stockton's copybook with the notation on the flyleaf, "Mrs. S's book of manuscripts only for the Eye of a Friend," referred to earlier as having come to light in 1985, was probably originally prepared for Elizabeth Fergusson, just as Fergusson's was prepared for Annis Stockton as late-in-life gifts to each other.

And so, when in late April of 1790 Annis Boudinot Stockton heard that Dr. Franklin had died, her poetical expression of loss and appreciation and admiration emanated not simply from a poet with patriotic feelings for a famous American, but from a passionately affected woman who was connected personally with Franklin throughout her own life and the lives of her father, her husband, her brother, her daughter and son-in-law, and her dearest friend.

The autograph manuscript of the poem, *lines on hearing of the death of Doctor Franklin*, survives in the Rush-Williams-Biddle family papers donated to the Rosenbach Museum & Library in Philadelphia in 1976:

Why do I see the power of Genius droop
As if on earth they'd lost their only prop?
Why do I hear the philanthrophist sigh;
And meet each neighbour with a tearful eye;
They shake their heads and pensive beat
their breast
And say alass the friend of mans at rest.
Franklin no more his vast unbounded mind
Set free to rove with knowledge unconfin'd
From globe to globe their magnitudes to scan
Observe their distance motion and their plan
View systems new in beauteous order rise
And fixed stars that flame in other Skies
Thro boundless depths of ether to survey
The electric fluid find it self a way
In forked lightning, wild excentric play.
Ah what a scene for philosophic lore
But think of this and ye will weep no more
How rapid is the souls immortal growth
How great its progress in the search of truth
Compar'd to this all former efforts faint
And the deep sage perfected in the saint.

Hospitality at the Schuyler Mansion

Friends of Franklin may be interested to know of an initiative under way to restore and furnish a place where Franklin experienced true hospitality during difficult times. The Schuyler Mansion State Historic Site in Albany, N.Y., preserves the Georgian house of Philip Schuyler, a descendant of Albany's earliest Dutch settlers. For a number of years the staff of the Peebles Island Resource Center and the Friends of Schuyler Mansion have been engaged in recreating the house's sumptuous interiors, which were enjoyed by Benjamin Franklin in April and May, 1776. Franklin and his fellow travelers to Canada, Samuel Chase, Charles Carroll of Carrolton, and Father John Carroll spent ten days with the Schuyler family in early April, "deeply impress'd with a Sense of the many Civilities ...received". In May Franklin returned from Canada after a cold, miserable, and discouraging trip (for his voyage, see the spring, 2004 issue of the *Gazette*), and stopped once again to see the Schuyler family. On the return trip he had fallen ill, and on May 27 he wrote to Philip Schuyler upon reaching New York City, "We arrived here safe yesterday Evening, in your Post Chaise driven by Lewis. I was unwilling to give so much Trouble, and would have borrowed your Sulkey, and driven myself: but good Mrs. Schuyler insisted on a full Compliance with your Pleasure, as signify'd in your Letter, and I was oblig'd to submit; which I was afterwards very glad of, part of the Road being very Stoney and much gullied, where I should probably have overset and broke my own Bones, all the Skill and Dexterity of Lewis being no more than sufficient. Thro' the Influence of your kind Recommendation to the Innkeepers on the Road, we found a great Readiness to supply us with a Change of Horses. Accept our Thankful Acknowledgements; they are all the Return we can at present make."

The beauty of Schuyler's Albany residence that Franklin enjoyed, but did not record, arose in part from a trip to London that Schuyler took while the house was under construction (1761-65). Studies of paint analysis on the woodwork of the house have been used to determine the original paint colors chosen by the family and Schuyler's "Invoice of Sundries Sent to America, 1761-62" documents the use of wallpapers and border papers. Furniture in the sitting room is now upholstered in brillant yellow worsted damask to match the original fabric selected in 1765, and French wool-flocked wallpapers in bright crimson, gold, emerald, and royal blue are now hung in the northeast parlor, dining room, south bed chamber, library and back bed chamber. A few years after Franklin's visit, another guest described the house as "magnificent". This year, 2007, will see the opening of a new exhibit that uses Schuyler family portraits. These portraits illustrate how the family saw themselves and expressed their identities through the works they commissioned.

The Schuyler Mansion is open November through March by appointment only, but regular hours of opening resume in mid-April, with a schedule of Wednesday through Sunday, 11 AM-5PM. The site is open Tuesday through Sunday during July and August.

Reading Franklin

Charles Armbruster, *Questions for Benjamin Franklin: from His Son William Franklin, the Last Royal Governor of New Jersey* (Booksurge Publishing, 2005). See the author's article in this issue. He suggests that William Franklin was actually the son of Deborah Franklin, and that Benjamin Franklin may not have been William's biological father.

Ruth Engelken, "Health Tips from Dr. Franklin" in *Child Life*, Nov., 2006.

Elizabeth Gawthrop Riely, "Benjamin Franklin and the American Turkey," *Gastronomica*, vi (Fall, 2006), 19-25.

Elizabeth Meg Schaefer *et al., Wright's Ferry Mansion* (Seattle: Marquand Books for the von Hess Foundation, 2006). This handsome and lavishly illustrated two-volume set documents the home of Franklin's friend Susanna Wright and describes the effort to restore the house to its 18th-century appearence in the last quarter of the twentieth century. The house was built in 1738 in Columbia, Pa. (Lancaster County), and there Susanna Wright, a British-born Quaker intellectual and poet was among the first in America to raise silk worms. The Franklin family's warm friendship with the Wrights is documented in the correspondence published in the book, and a catalogue of the family's books, included in these volumes, shows many titles published by Franklin or Franklin and Hall.

Harvey Sicherman, "Benjamin Franklin and the Traditions of American Diplomacy". Sicherman is the president of the Foreign Policy Research Institute in Philadelphia. He gave the Robert Strausz-Hope Memorial Lecture on Nov. 28, 2006. Read his talk on line at www.fpri.org.

"The Wit and Wisdom of Benjamin Franklin: His Enduring Wisdom Leads Us to a Higher Appreciation of his Genius" in the *Saturday Evening Post*, Nov., 2006.

Older Works Reexamined:
Donald D'Elia, *The Spirits of '76, A Catholic Inquiry*; Front Royal, VA: Christendom College Press, 1983. The final (and longest) chapter in this book about the religious beliefs of the Founding Fathers features Benjamin Franklin.

For Our French Readers:
Laurence Châtel de Brancion, ed., *Benjamin Franklin à la recherche d'un monde meilleur* (Editions Economica, spring, 2007), a new edition of Franklin's *Autobiography* with selected letters of special interest to a French audience which have been translated by the author.

Forthcoming:
Jessica L. Harland-Jacobs, *Builders of Empire: Freemasonry and British Imperialism, 1717-1929* (University of North Carolina Press, April, 2007). This book adds to the growing literature on Franklin's connections with freemasonry.

"Questions for Benjamin Franklin" (cont.)

information to himself, and there is no one alive who can solve these mysteries or the questions which they present.

William Franklin grew up in his father's print shop. He saw the continuous activity in which his father was engaged as a printer, publisher, scientist, philosopher and politician. But when he was about 15 he tried to run away to sea. When his father learned what he had done, he resolved to find a field which would suit William more. The French and the Indians were attacking the settlers along the western frontier, and Benjamin arranged for William to join the Pennsylvania Militia. This was very much to William's liking.

William was successful at his duties in the militia and he rose to the rank of captain. He presented a handsome figure in his uniform, and the girls chased after him at the dancing balls in Philadelphia. Benjamin began to have some concerns that his son would spend more of their family money than he would try to save, so he began to concentrate his efforts at making William more useful.

After Benjamin retired from his printing business, he purchased a farm in Burlington, New Jersey. Both he and William were now involved in joint efforts to farm in a scientific manner, and Benjamin was able to have William appointed to be the clerk of the Philadelphia Assembly. William also began to learn the operations of the Post Office, and he was fulfilling his duties well and faithfully.

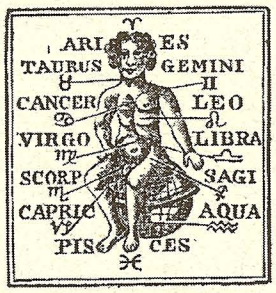
Benjamin wrote a letter to his mother in April 1750, saying that "Billy was now 19." That information would prove more significant in the following year when the King decreed that England would adopt the Gregorian calendar at the end of 1751. The change to correct the days lost by the old Roman calendar would take place on September 12 through September 22. Those eleven days were eliminated from the calendar in 1752.

It would be interesting to learn whether Benjamin and William ever discussed the possibility that William's 21st birthday could have been between September 12th and 22nd.

There are many questions about their lives together, but even more perplexing would be the answer to Benjamin's complete lack of forgiveness for William's refusal to agree with his father to join the rebel's cause against the king. In his last will Benjamin published a reason for failing to leave anything to William, saying that there would be nothing if the King's cause had prevailed. One of Benjamin's famous quotations was: "Gentlemen, we must all hang together; if we don't then we shall surely hang separately." There is yet even another answer which might explain this mysterious lack of forgiveness for his son, but it requires extensive research. There may yet be even more that we can learn about these two famous Franklins.

Friend Charles Armbruster, a long-time resident of New Jersey, has been a leader in its printing industry and a long-time supporter of its history.

Letters to the Editor are always welcomed



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 14
"The Franklin Family and Burlington." Join the Friends of Franklin at Burlington, N.J. Reservations required. (856) 833-1771.

April 20
Soirée Slam, Auray, France: Selected texts written by or having to do with Franklin will be read by local "slameurs" in the spirit of an American poetry slam. Co-sponsored by the Benjamin Franklin School of Auray.

May 15-June 25
Auray, France: Exhibition "Benjamin Franklin, à la recherche d'un monde meilleur"; May 15-June 11 on view at the exhibition hall of the centre culturel Athena; June 12-25 at the Auray Tourism Office.

May 17-September 17
Auray, France: Path to Discovery, "Franklin and the Sea" Since many of Franklin's ideas were inspired by the sea, selected writings on a maritime theme have been chosen and hidden in the Saint-Goustan neighborhood. The public is invited to follow in Franklin's footsteps and find these texts. The Franklin discovery trail will open during a Breton celebration of the sea, which encourages visits to many picturesque ports of call: http://www.semainedugolfe.asso.fr/portsgb.php

May 18
Auray, France: Discussion of Laurence Châtel de Brancion's new edition of Franklin's *Autobiography*, entitled *Benjamin Franklin à la recherche d'un monde meilleur* (Editions Economica, spring, 2007). To be followed at 9:30 PM by an open air showing of a film on Franklin at the port of Saint-Goustan, where he landed.

January 17, 2008
Celebration! Of Benjamin Franklin, Founder. Annual event commemorating Franklin's birthday with a seminar, procession to his grave and luncheon.

ONGOING:
Through June 30, 2007
"The Medical World of Benjamin Franklin" at the College of Physicians, 19 S. 22nd Street, Philadelphia, PA. Call 215-563-3737.

"Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World," opened in Denver's Museum of Nature & Science on March 2, and will be on view through May 20, later traveling to Atlanta, where the Atlanta History Center will host the show from July 4 through Oct. 14. The exhibit's last stop is Paris, where it will open on Dec. 4, at the Musée des Arts et Métiers and the Musée Carnavalet. It closes March, 30, 2008.

Through July 1, 2007
Come into a New World: Linnaeus & America exhibition at the American Swedish Museum in Philadelphia. Franklin's connection to Linnaeus was through Peter Kalm who spent time in Philadelphia.

Through January 1, 2008
"The Curiosity Show." Franklin Institute, Philadelphia; shown daily, it reenacts some of Franklin's famous experiments. Check for show times.

FRANKLIN TIDBITS

Glass armonica in the news: Rock band Korn has used Franklin's invention on their new, as yet untitled LP, which has yet to be released. Garry Eister's opera, entitled *Glass Armonica* and first produced in 1997, was recently staged in Germany. There it was produced by Sascha Reckert, an armonica maker.

Please be seated: Antique dealers David A. Schorsch and Eileen M. Smiles of Woodbury, Conn., are offering for sale a walnut Chippendale-style chair c. 1765 which is said to have been owned by Franklin. The chair's value is estimated at $500,000.

And please watch Friend Phil Krider's talk on Franklin and Science. It is now available for viewing on your computer through the Research Channel: www.researchchannel.org/prog or linked through the Friends website www.friendsoffranklin.org.

The Office: The American version of the comedy series "The Office" aired an episode on Feb. 1 in which one of the characters hired a Franklin impersonator for an office party.

Friend Dave Wang, wrote: " I just did a blog about Benjamin Franklin. You could access it through the follow link: http://foundingfathersandchina.blogspot.com/."

Preservation and Access: The Library of Congress has announced its plans to digitize some of its most fragile books, including their Benjamin Franklin Collection.

Franklin Education: On Feb. 12 Friend Claude-Anne Lopez spoke to elementary school teachers at the Kennedy Library, Boston about Franklin. The National Endowment for the Humanities is sponsoring a teachers' workshop in Philadelphia entitled "Benjamin Franklin and the Americans". There will be three sessions at the McNeil Center for Early American Studies (University of Pennsylvania); June 25-29, July 9-13, and July 16-20. Teachers of kindergarten through 12th grade are encouraged to apply.

Say "Bretagne": in Franklin's Footsteps and an Evening of Franklin. Recently, an archivist from a small town in France, Auray, contacted Ellen Cohn, the editor-in-chief of *The Papers of Benjamin Franklin*. Auray is preparing to celebrate Franklin, who landed there in 1776, with an exhibition to open in May. Activities around the show include a chance to walk in Franklin's footsteps and a "soirée slam" at which local performers will interpret the great man's words. See calendar listings for details.

Friends Travel to Burlington, NJ

Mark your calendars for a trip to Burlington, NJ on April 14, 2007. The Friends of Franklin will spend a day in this 18th-century town exploring the relationship between Benjamin and William Franklin and their time in the historic city of Burlington. Visits to the Burlington Historical Society, St. Mary's Church, the Library Company and the seldom seen Revell house, home of the woman from whom Franklin bought gingerbread so many centuries ago as well as special lectures and wonderful meals at local hostelries will make this a "not to be missed" event. See the website www.friendsoffranklin.org for the full program. For more information contact Kathy DeLuca at 856-833-1771.

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Editor's Note: Peter and Aline Davies, the authors of Benjamin Franklin's Connection with Tenterden, wish to acknowledge the invaluable help the received from various sources. This credit was inadvertently omitted from the article when it appeared in the Winter 2006 issue.

We owe particular thanks to Heather Crease for sharing her enthusiasm and researches into Franklin and Tenterden, and to Elizabeth Wright for her investigation into the Huson family and "Huson", her former name. The staff of Benjamin Franklin House, Craven Street, London, –Dr. Marcía Balisciano,–Lady Reid, (the Franklin Historian governor), AND Rowena Tree, – have been especially patient and helpful in responding to our queries and in locating documents relating to the Viny family. Benjamin Franklin House is now open to the public.

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