Friends of Franklin, Inc. P.O. Box 40048, Philadelphia, PA 19106

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"Think of three things: whence you came, where you are going, and to whom you must account." Poor Richard, May 1755.

Message From the President

By Roy E. Goodman

Several years ago a list was compiled of the many awards named in honor of Dr. Franklin. Few of our readers are probably aware of America's first scientific award, the Magellanic Premium, which Franklin helped initiate.

The prize was established in 1786 through the largesse of Jean-Hyacinthe Magellan, distant relation of the explorer. On September 17, 1785 Magellan sent a letter from London, his city of residence, inquiring if the American Philosophical Society would be willing to accept 200 guineas for a yearly scientific prize. Magellan envisioned the Premium being awarded for the discovery best or useful improvement in the areas of navigation or natural philosophy, what we call science today. Only the life sciences, "mere natural history" were excluded.

Franklin viewed the awarding of medals and cash prizes as an appropriate custom for the new republic. In his letter, Magellan

described the appearance of the prize, a solid gold oval plate, engraved with a Latin inscription, the name of the prize, the APS and its president, and of course the winner. The only other ornamentation would be the Society's seal attached with a silk string ribbon.

Magellan received a letter of January 24, 1786, in which Franklin "thankfully" accepted the offer. The Society had approved the Premium, modifying only

slightly Magellan's suggestions, and adding astronomy to the categories of work eligible for the prize.

Franklin and the APS advertised the Premium in

the local press and in the Transactions of the American Philosophical Society, v.2, 1786. In the 220 years since its inception, there have been less than 35 recipients, a departure from the yearly awards. However, the variety and importance of the projects awarded the Magellanic Premium is impressive. Recent recipients include Roger L. Easton (1997), for his research and development of the Global Positioning System (GPS); Dr. Jocelyn Bell Burnell (2000), the first woman awarded the prize, for work on pulsars; and Dr. Wendy Freedman (2002), for her "leadership role in measuring the expansion and age of the universe."

The APS continues to adhere to Franklin's goal of scientific

excellence through this first of America's prizes, recognizing those dedicated to exploring the complex challenges of the 21st century.

Franklin Opening the Lodge, Kurz and Allison, Lithographers, Chicago, Illinois, 1896. Courtesy of the Masonic Library and Museum of Pennsylvania.

For the curious I suggest visiting: www.amphilsoc.org/library/exhibits/magellan/magprem.htm

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New Sales Partnership and Member Benefit!

Diane Publishing has collected over 50 remainder book titles on or about Benjamin Franklin which are available to members of Friends of Franklin at a 20% discount. These are titles which are now out-of-print and are no longer generally available. The copies are in either pristine or excellent condition. Diane Publishing is constantly adding titles to its collection from commercial publishers as well as Franklin-related institutions in the Delaware Valley area such as The American Philosophical Society and The Library Company of Philadelphia to name a few. This partnership with Diane Publishing allows members a 20% discount on all books listed on the site. In order to take advantage of this discount, please use the code on the flyer that was sent by mail to each member. Check their web site "www.dianepublishing.net" or call them at 800/782-3833, or fax: 610/461-6130 for a complete list. They will fulfill all orders within 48 hours of receipt, and accept all major credit cards, checks or money orders. All orders from outside the U.S. are sent via

U.S.P.S. Global Priority. Check the Friends' website for the "Book Feature of the Month". Listed below is the current one:

Inventing America: The Life of Benjamin Franklin: A Museum in a Book, by Mark Essig.

A Museum in a Book features removable sketches, letters, & historical documents. This fascinating interactive biography brings to life Benjamin Franklin's personality accomplishments, letting readers examine Franklin's amazing journey through replicas of actual documents such as: Sketches of Franklin's scientific inventions; An excerpt from "Poor Richard's Almanac," Franklin's greatest & most humorous publishing venture; & Franklin's handwritten chart of his progress in reaching "moral perfection." Beautifully designed! A great gift book for the holidays! Oversize. Full-color illustrations. Thomas Nelson Pub., 2006. List price \$34.99; reduced list price for FoF Members only \$25.00 + 20% FoF discount =\$20.00 net + shipping.

Benjamin Franklin: The Netherlands & Belgium Tour September 1 – 10, 2008

In September of 1761, Benjamin Franklin traveled across the English Channel with his son, William, enjoying the architecture of Bruges, the factories of Ghent, and the art and magnificence of Brussels where he met the great leaders in each of the cities. In Brussels, he demonstrated his electrical expertise to the Prince of Lorraine. He then made his way toward The Netherlands with stops in Antwerp where he witnessed industrial progress, in Rotterdam where he was honored as a scientist, and in Leiden where he visited the inventor of the Leiden jar.

The Friends of Franklin are thrilled to announce their 2008 Franklin excursion which will explore all of these places. We will depart on September 1 and return on September 10, 2008. You will have a chance to see the cities Franklin visited and have the opportunity to meet those who study Franklin and his contemporaries—those scientists and people of the Enlightenment who he had the pleasure of meeting during his visit.

As in the past, we are requesting an initial deposit as a placeholder so we can determine how many of our members will be traveling with us. The amount of the deposit is \$200 per person. If you are serious about participating in the tour, please contact the Friends of Franklin office at 856-833-1771 for a registration form which we ask you to complete and mail with your fully refundable deposit. The initial deposits are due by December 31st, 2007. Shortly thereafter, tour participants will receive detailed tour information containing places we will visit, our host hotels, and the tour price!

This tour is limited to 45 people and one person per couple must be a member of The Friends of Franklin. Completing this registration form ensures your place on what we anticipate will be another phenomenal tour and a great opportunity to enjoy exploring and learning with fellow Friends.

If you have any questions, please contact Kathy DeLuca at (856) 833-1771 or (856) 854-7257.

Christ Church Introduces a Digital Archives Site

Interested in knowing when Francis and Sarah Franklin were baptized at Christ Church? Wondering what action, if any, Christ Church took during the American Revolution? Curious about what links Philadelphia's Quaker founder, William Penn, and Christ Church? These questions and more are answered in the Christ Church Philadelphia website recently unveiled by Christ Church and the Christ Church Preservation Trust.

Three years ago a newly formed Artifacts and Archives committee recommended greater access to Christ Church's treasures, both artifacts and archives and a digital website was first proposed. Generous funding from the Barra Foundation as well as private donors made it possible for the Christ Church Preservation Trust to begin an 18-month program to catalog the artifacts, inventory and re-house the archival collections. develop policies and procedures for the care of the historic collections and develop a digital website where people around the world could glimpse the records and artifacts Christ Church has generated and preserved throughout its rich history. Curator and archivist, Carol W. Smith, assistant archivist Courtney Smerz and different transcribers guided development and populated the entries that comprise the on-line database of archival holdings and the genealogical database.

Established in 1695 Christ Church was the first Anglican Church in Pennsylvania. The thirty-nine founding members swiftly purchased a lot on Second Street, and as early as 1696 were worshipping in their small church near the Friends' Meeting House. Furnishings came quickly. A baptismal font arrived from All Hallows Church, Barking-by-the-Tower, London, believed to have been the one used for William Penn's baptism. A handsome set of communion silver made by John East was sent by Queen Anne in 1710 and in 1712 Colonel Robert Quary bequeathed funds to

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This ground floor plan of Christ Church shows the position of the Franklin family pew.

add to the church silver. Philip Syng, Sr. made a baptismal bowl for the Penn font, as well as flagons and chalices which matched the Queen Anne gift, considered among the most important pieces of early Philadelphia silver. Within a short period of time the congregation outgrew the church; the present structure was completed in 1744 and the steeple, long a landmark on the Philadelphia skyline, in 1754. Throughout the decades Christ Church added to its collections through bequests, memorial gifts and commissioned works. This project to catalog the artifacts in an electronic database provides ease of management for church staff, but also enabled the church to share the images and descriptions of its holdings on-line.

The archives grew naturally. Vestry minutes recorded the official decisions of the rectors, church wardens and Vestry. A seating plan c. 1761 shows the Franklin family pew just behind that of Jacob Dushee {Duché} and interestingly he shares it with Mary Andrews.

Official church registers recorded the names and dates of those baptized, married or buried at Christ Church. Sermons of past rectors and ministers, minutes of affiliated church institutions, photographs, blue prints and more have been collected in the church's Neighborhood House vault. In 1980 Christ Church together with the Historical Society of Pennsylvania applied for an NHPRC grant to organize and microfilm the church's archival holdings. The microfilm holdings have made the church's records available to scholars. The impetus behind the current project is to make the archives more widely known via the web. The microfilmed documents have now been individually catalogued and a page or two from each scanned. Those descriptions and digital images provide a sample of the types of information found within the records.

A genealogical database of those whose names appear in the baptismal and marriage records has also been created for this website to provide information on those baptized at Christ Church (or often St. James or St. Peter's) from 1708-1843 and those married from 1708- 1767. More than 23,000 listings have been entered with the hope that when more funding is available, entries through 1900 will be completed.

The site, shared by both Christ Church and the Christ Church Preservation Trust, provides both parish and historical information and can be reached by clicking on: www.christchurchphila.org. To reach the on-line database of archives and artifacts and genealogical records, click on the tab in the upper right corner: Family records/genealogy search which will take you to the landing page.

Benjamin Franklin Math Puzzle Problems

Compiled by Aziz S. Inan

Editor's note: Here is the latest Franklin math puzzle presented by Aziz Inan and the solution to the problem posed in the Summer issue.

Problem # 4. Who am I? I'm related to Ben Franklin who died at age 84. Coincidentally, the product of the four digits of my birth year also equals 84. Interestingly enough, I also had my birthday x in the year which equals x times 84. Who am I and what year was I born?

Answer to Problem # 3 posed in the summer issue: What is the year x? A person lived a long time ago before you were born. In the year x, at age 46, this person did something extremely dangerous. The sum and the product of the digits of the number x are 15 and 70. Also, the sum of the prime factors of the number x equals this person's death age minus two. What is the year x? Answer: 1752.

<u>Solution</u>: Since $70 = 1 \times 2 \times 5 \times 7$ where 1 + 2 + 5 + 7 = 15, the possible solutions for the year x are 1257, 1275, 1527, 1572, 1725 and 1752. Note that the prime factors of each of these years and their sums are as follows:

 $1257 = 3 \times 419 \text{ (sum 422)}$

 $1275 = 3 \times 5 \times 5 \times 17 \text{ (sum 30)}$

 $1527 = 3 \times 509 \text{ (sum 512)}$

 $1572 = 2 \times 2 \times 3 \times 131$ (sum 138)

 $1725 = 3 \times 5 \times 5 \times 23 \text{ (sum 36)}$

 $1752 = 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 3 \times 73$ (sum 82)

Therefore, the correct year must be x = 1752 since the person lived at least 46 years. Note that this person is Ben Franklin. In 1752, he conducted a very dangerous kite experiment with the help of his son William to prove that lightning is indeed a form of electricity.

In His Own Words:

Benjamin Franklin in Defense of America

To the Printer of the *London Chronicle*, May 9, 1759

In the fall 2006 issue of the *Gazette* we told you about James Madison trying to preserve one of Franklin's anonymous essays. It was a 1759 letter to the editor that was written in response to two opinion pieces in the same newspaper. The first was purportedly from a soldier describing what that author saw as the chief characteristics of New Englanders and New Yorkers. Franklin could not let that unfavorable view stand. Here is his response:

"Sir, While the public attention is so much turned towards America, every letter from thence that promises new information, is pretty generally read; it seems therefore the more necessary that care should be taken to disabuse the Public, when those letters contain facts false in themselves, and representations injurious to bodies of people, or even to private persons.

"In your paper, No. 310. I find an extract of a letter said to be from a gentleman in General Abercrombie's army. As there are several strokes in it tending to render the colonies despicable, and even odious to the mother country, which may have ill consequences; and no notice having been taken of the injuries contained in that letter, other letters of the same nature have since been published, permit me to make a few observations on it.

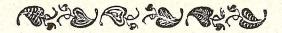
"The writer says, 'New England was settled by Presbyterians Independents, who took shelter there from the persecutions of Archbishop Laud: they still retain their original character, they generally hate the Church of England,' says he. If it were true, that some resentment still remained for the hardships their fathers suffer'd, it might perhaps be not much wondered at; but the fact is, that the moderation of the present church of England towards Dissenters in Old as well as New England, has quite effaced those impressions; Dissenters too are become less rigid

and scrupulous, and the good will between those different bodies in that country is now both mutual and equal.

"He goes on: 'They came out with a levelling spirit, and they retain it. They cannot bear to think that one man should be exorbitantly rich and another poor, so that, except in the seaport towns, there are few great estates among them. This equality produces a rusticity of manners; for in their language, dress, and in all their behavior, they are more boorish than any thing you ever saw in a certain Northern latitude.' One would imagine from this account that those who were growing poor plundered those who were growing rich to preserve this equality, and that property had no protection: whereas in fact, it is no where more secure than in the New England colonies, the law is no where better executed, or justice obtain'd at less expence. The equality he speaks of arises first from a more equal distribution of lands by the assemblies in the first settlement than has been practised in the other colonies, where favourites of governors have obtained enormous tracts for trifling considerations, to the prejudice both of the crown revenues and the public good; and secondly, from the nature of their occupation; husbandmen with small tracts of land, though they may by industry maintain themselves and families in mediocrity, having few means of acquiring great wealth, especially in a young colony that is to be supplied with its cloathing, and many other expensive articles of consumption from the mother country. Their dress the gentleman may be a more critical judge of than I can pretend to be; all I know is, that they wear the manufactures of Britain, and follow its fashions perhaps too closely, every remarkable change in the mode making its appearance there within a few months after its invention here; a natural effect of their constant intercourse with England, by ships arriving almost every week from the capital, their respect for the mother country, and admiration of every thing that is British. But as to their language.

I must beg this gentleman's pardon if I differ from him. His ear, accustomed perhaps to the dialect practised in the certain northern latitude he mentions. may not be qualified to judge so nicely in what relates to pure English. And I appeal to all Englishmen here, who have been acquainted with the Colonists, whether it is not a common remark, that they speak the language with such an exactness both of expression and accent, that though you may know the natives of several of the counties of England, by peculiarities in their dialect, you cannot by that means distinguish a North American. All the new books and pamphlets worth reading, that are published here, in a few weeks are transmitted and found there, where there is not a man or woman born in the country but what can read: and it must, I should think, be a pleasing reflection to those who write either for the benefit of the present age or of posterity, to find their audience increasing with the increase of our colonies; and their language extending itself beyond the narrow bounds of these islands to a continent, larger than all Europe, and to a future empire as fully peopled, which Britain may probably one day possess in those vast western regions.

"But the Gentleman makes more injurious comparisons than these: 'That latitude,' he says 'has this advantage over them, that it has produced sharp, acute men, fit for war or learning, whereas the other are remarkably simple or silly, and blunder eternally. We have 6000 of their militia, which the General would willingly exchange for 2000 regulars. They are for ever marring some one or other of our plans when sent to execute them. They can, indeed, some of them at least, range in the woods; but 300 Indians with their yell, throw 3000 of them into a panick, and then they will leave nothing to the enemy to do, for they will shoot one another; and in the woods our regulars are afraid to be on a command with them on that very account.' I doubt, Mr. Chronicle, that this paragraph, when it comes to be

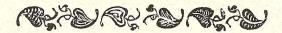


read in America, will have no good effect, and rather increase that inconvenient disgust that is too apt to arise between the troops of different corps, or countries, who are obliged to serve together. Will not a New England Officer be apt to retort and say, What foundation have you for this odious distinction in favour of the officers from your certain northern latitude? They may, as you say, be fit for learning, but, surely, the return of your first General, with a well appointed and sufficient force from his expedition against Louisbourg, is not the most shining proof of his talents for war. And no one will say his plan was marred by us, for we were not with him. Was his successor, who conducted the blundering attack and inglorious retreat from Ticonderoga, a New England man, or one of that certain latitude? Then as to the comparison between Regulars and Provincials, will not the latter remark, That it was 2000 New England Provincials, with but about 150 Regulars, that took the strong fort of Beausejour in the beginning of the war, though in the accounts transmitted to the English Gazette, the honor was claimed by the regulars, and little or no notice taken of the others. That it was the Provincials who beat General Dieskau. with his Regulars, Canadians, and 'yelling Indians', and sent him prisoner to England. That it was a Provincial-born Officer (Colonel Bradstreet), with American battoemen, that beat the French and Indians on Oswego river. That it was the same Officer, with Provincials, who made that long and admirable march into the enemies country, took and destroyed Fort Frontenac, with the whole French fleet on the lakes, and struck terror into the heart of Canada. That it was a Provincial Officer (Colonel Armstrong of Pensilvania), with Provincials only, who made another extraordinary march into the enemy's country, surprized and destroyed the Indian town of Kittaninning, bringing off the scalps of their chiefs. That one ranging Captain of a few Provincials, Rogers, has harrassed the enemy more on the frontiers of Canada, and destroyed more of their men, than the whole army of Regulars. That it was the Regulars

who surrendered themselves, with the Provincials under their command, prisoners of war, almost as soon as they were beseiged, with the forts, fleet, and all the provisions and stores that had been provided and amassed at so immense an expence, at Oswego. That it was the Regulars who surrendered Fort William Henry, and suffered themselves to be butchered and scalped with arms in their hands. That it was the Regulars, under Braddock, who were thrown into a panick by the 'yells of 3 or 400 Indians', in their confusion shot one another, and, with five times the force of the enemy, fled before them, destroying all their own stores, ammunition, and provisions! These Regular Gentlemen, will the Provincial rangers add, may possibly be afraid, as they say they are, to be on a command with us in the woods; but when it is considered, that from all past experience the chance of our shooting them is not as one to a hundred, compared with that of their being shot by the enemy, may it not be suspected, that what they give as the very account of their fear and unwillingness to venture out with us, is only the very excuse; and that a concern for their scalps weighs more with them than a regard for their honour.

"Such as these, Sir, I imagine may be the reflections extorted by such provocations from the Provincials in general. But the New England Men in particular will have reason to resent the remarks on their reduction of Louisbourg. Your writer proceeds, 'Indeed they are all very ready to make their boast of taking Louisbourg, in 1745; but if people were to be acquitted or condemned according to the propriety and wisdom of their plans, and not according to their success, the persons that undertook that siege merited little praise: for I have heard officers, who assisted at it, say, never was any thing more rash; for had one single part of their plan failed, or had the French made the fortieth part of the resistance then that they have made now, every soul of the New Englanders must have fallen in the trenches. The garrison was weak, sickly, destitute of

provisions, and disgusted, therefore became a ready prey; and, when they returned to France were decimated for their gallant defence. Where then is the glory arising from thence?' After denying his facts, 'that the garrison was weak, wanted provisions, made not a fortieth part of the resistance, were decimated,' &c. the New England men will ask this regular gentleman, If the place was well fortified, and had (as it really had) a numerous garrison, was it not at least brave to attack it with a handful of raw undisciplined militia? If the garrison was, as you say, 'sickly, disgusted, destitute of provisions, and ready to become a prey,' was it not prudent to seize that opportunity, and put the nation in possession of so important a fortress at so small an expence? So that if you will not allow the enterprize to be, as we think it was, both brave and prudent, ought you not at least to grant it was either one or the other? But is there no merit on this score in the people, who, tho' at first so greatly divided, as to the making or forbearing the attempt, that it was carried in the affirmative, by the small majority of one vote only; yet when it was once resolved on, unanimously prosecuted the design ('As the Massachuset's assembly at first entered into the expedition upon the coolest deliberation, so did they on the other hand exert themselves with uncommon vigour in the persecution of it. As soon as the point was carried for undertaking it, EVERY MEMBER which had opposed it gave up his own private judgment to the public voice, and vied with those who had voted for the expedition, in encouraging the enlistment of the troops, and forwarding the preparations for the attempt.' Memoirs of the last War, p. 41), and prepared the means with the greatest zeal and diligence; so that the whole equipment was completely ready before the season would permit the execution? Is there no merit of praise in laying and executing their plan so well, that, as you have confessed, not a single part of it failed? If the plan was destitute of 'propriety and wisdom,' would it not have required the sharp acute men of the



northern latitude to execute it, that by supplying its deficiencies they might give it some chance of success? But if such 'remarkably silly, simple, blundering Mar-plans,' as you say we are, could execute this plan, so that not a single part of it failed, does it not at least show that the plan itself must be laid with some 'wisdom and propriety?' Is there no merit in the ardour with which all degrees and ranks of people quitted their private affairs, and ranged themselves under the banners of their King, for the honour, safety, and advantage of their country? ('The bounty, pay, and other encouragements, allowed by the Massachuset's government to both officers and men, especially the former, was but small; but the spirit which reigned thro' the province supplied the want of that; the complement of troops was soon inlisted; not only the officers, who served in this enterprize, were gentlemen of considerable property. but most of the non-commission'd officers, and many of the private men. had valuable freeholds, and entered into the service upon the same principles that the old Roman citizens in the first Consular armies used to do.' Memoirs of the last War, p. 41. To which I may add, that instances of the same noble spirit are not uncommon in all the other colonies; where men have entered into the service not for the sake of the pay, for their own affairs in their absence suffer more by far than its value; not in the hopes of preferment in the army, for the Provincials are shut out from such expectations, their own forces being always disbanded on a peace, and the vacancies among the Regulars filled with Europeans; but merely from public spirit and a sense of duty. Among many others, give me leave to name Col. PETER SCHUYLER of New Jersey; who, though a gentleman of a considerable independent fortune, has, both in the last and present war, guitted that domestic ease and quiet which such affluence afforded, to take upon him the command of his country's forces, and by his example animated the soldiery to undergo the greatest fatigues and hardships: And who when a prisoner in Canada for fifteen

months, did, during the whole time, generously make use of his own credit to relieve such British subjects as unhappily fell into the hands of the enemy. Not to mention his advancing his own private fortune towards paving the forces, raised during the last war in America by order of the crown; when, by the continued delays in sending the money from England for that purpose, it was generally doubted whether it would ever be sent, and the common soldiers were therefore, from necessity, on the point of quitting his Majesty's service in a body. An event which must at that time have been attended with very fatal consequences: and would not have been prevented, had not he risqued so considerable a part of this substance.) Is there no merit in the profound secrecy guarded by a whole people, so that the enemy had not the least intelligence of the design, till they saw the fleet of transports cover the sea before their port? Is there none in the indefatigable labour the troops went thro' during the siege, performing the duty both of men and horses: the hardships they patiently suffered for want of tents and other necessaries: the readiness with which they learnt to move, direct, and manage cannon, raise batteries, and form approaches ('The New England troops, within the compass of 23 days from the time of their first landing, erected five fascine batteries against the town, mounted with cannon of 42 lb. 22 lb. and 18 lb. shot, mortars of 13, 11, and 9 inches diameter, with some cohorns; all which were transported by hand, with incredible labour and difficulty, most of them above two miles; all the ground over which they were drawn, except small patches or hills of rocks, was a deep morass, in which, whilst the cannon were upon wheels, they several times sunk so deep, as not only to bury the carriages, but their whole bodies. Horses and oxen could not be employed in this service, but all must be drawn by men, up to the knees in mud; the nights, in which the work was done, were cold and foggy, their tents bad, there being no proper materials for tents to be had in New England at the outset of the expedition. But notwithstanding these difficulties, and

many of the men's being taken down with fluxes, so that at one time there were 1500 incapable of duty, they went on without being discouraged or murmuring, and transported the cannon over those ways, which the French had always thought impassable for such heavy weights; and besides this, they had all their provisions and heavy ammunition, which they daily made use of, to bring from the camp over the same way upon their backs.' Memoirs of the last war in America. page 52.); the bravery with which they sustained sallies; and finally in their consenting to stay and garrison the place after it was taken, absent from their business and families, till troops could be brought from England for that purpose, tho' they undertook the service on a promise of being discharged as soon as it was over, were unprovided for so long an absence, and actually suffered ten times more loss by mortal sickness. thro' want of necessaries, than they suffered from the arms of the enemy? The nation, however, had a sense of this undertaking different from the unkind one of this gentleman. At the treaty of peace, the possession of Louisbourg was found of great advantage to our affairs in Europe; and if the brave men that made the acquisition for us were not rewarded, at least they were praised. Envy may continue a while to cavil and detract. but public virtue will in the end obtain esteem; and honest impartiality in this and future ages will not fail doing justice to merit.



The second half of Franklin's essay will be published in the winter issue of The Franklin Gazette. You can read Franklin's response in its entirety in vol. VIII of The Papers of Benjamin Franklin, pp. 340-56, or on line at http://www.franklinpapers.org; search under Printer of the London Chronicle, May 9, 1759.

Prime Suspect: Franklin's Role in a Murder

By Andrew A. Zellers-Frederick, Executive Director, The Masonic Library and Museum of Pennsylvania

Benjamin Franklin's early desire for self-improvement and dedicated interest in public service led him on a natural path to the Freemasons. This quest caused him inadvertently to play a role in a murder investigation worthy of the intrigue and media publicity experienced by Detective Chief Inspector Jane Tennison on PBS's Prime Suspect. The incident in question gave his growing number of political enemies and general anti-Masonic opponents ample opportunity to attack him, falsely accusing him of being an accomplice in a horrendous affair of a prank gone deadly wrong.

Franklin's initial contact with the Fraternity undoubtedly occurred during his first trip to London in 1724, where he observed the swiftness with which Masonry was spreading among the wealthy, influential, and sophisticated men of politics and business. It was these individuals, with their powerful connections that Franklin believed could assist him in achieving his goals. Social mobility during this era was not the norm; however, Franklin made this effort his life's primary mission, a common tradesman ascending the social ladder.

By the time of Franklin's return to the colonies, the Masonic Fraternity had spread to Philadelphia America's first lodge was established in 1731. In this year, at the age of twentyfive, Franklin was initiated into St. John's Lodge No. 1, and he immediately became a faithful Mason for life, fulfilling the principles to promote friendship, mutual assistance and good fellowship. His advancement the Fraternity was almost instantaneous because of characteristics Franklin would successfully demonstrate throughout life with any organization. institution, or governmental office in which he became involved. The following year, Franklin drafted the first set of by-laws for his lodge and achieved the office of Junior Grand Warden of Pennsylvania. By June of 1734, he was elected Grand Master of Pennsylvania, served as the Secretary of St. John's Lodge, and printed the

first American edition of Anderson's Constitution of the Free Masons (the first formally sponsored Masonic book in the American Colonies). Franklin's achievements within Freemasonry, combined with his other career accomplishments, placed him on a seemingly unstoppable path of complete success.

While Franklin was enjoying the fruits of Freemasonry, the Fraternity began to acquire powerful enemies. The organization had spread rapidly, attracted so many men, and had succeeded so well in maintaining its air of mystery and secrecy that strong opposition developed almost as quickly. These influential opponents the monarchies, the clergy and women believed the Fraternity to be dishonest and were suspicious of its relatively clandestine ways. These adversaries, and their supporters, sought for weaknesses in the Fraternity and an opportunity to criticize it arose inadvertently through Franklin in June of 1737.

Franklin's devotion to Freemasonry embroiled him in a titillating public scandal that rocked colonial society and caused him considerable personal embarrassment. He was not only compelled to explain his involvement in the affair at an official coroner's murder inquest, but also to seek forgiveness from his mortified parents in Boston. The event began when a naive and reportedly slow-witted chemist's apprentice named Daniel Rees expressed a strong interest in becoming a Mason (probably for many of the same reasons as Franklin). Rees' repeated curious inquiries led his employer, Dr. Evan Jones (a prominent apothecary whose shop was at Market and Letitia streets), and two close friends, Attorney John Remington and John Tackerbury, to play on the unsuspecting apprentice a prank that escalated way out of hand.

The three jokesters presented themselves as Freemasons, although they were later proved not to be members of the Craft. They devised a phony rite of initiation for a first degree for the unsuspecting Rees, reportedly

held in Jones's backyard under the cover of darkness. Their humiliating instruction consisted of offering a totally fabricated and utterly ridiculous words and ceremonies," including having the young apprentice pledge an oath of allegiance to the devil, making him imbibe a "violent purge," and having the blindfolded Rees kiss Tackenbury's exposed posterior. Undaunted by the ridiculous initiation, Rees wished to pursue a higher "Masonic" degree, resulting in the trio of false Masons seeking more amusement at the expense of the apprentice. They concocted another fake ceremony and enticed Rees with an offer of elevated standing in the Fraternity. It was at this point that the jest resulted in fatal consequences.

The second farce involved a devil impersonator dressed in a cowhide costume illuminated by the light provided by a flaming bowl of spirits, mixed with camphor, which provided the impression of the pale hue of death. It is reported this concoction called "Snapdragon" made anyone illuminated by it appear "ghastly and hideous;" thus creating in the basement of Jones's shop somewhat frightening and mysterious atmosphere. As the burning mixture was brought closer to Rees, it was either accidentally or purposely thrown on him, possibly as a way to further intimidate him. The severe burns, resulting from Rees' clothes being set on fire, resulted in a painful death three days later, on June 16, 1737.

Franklin's involvement with this tragic affair was somewhere between the first and second initiation. On another pretense, he had met with Jones and Remington along with John Danby and Haramnus Alrihs. The two pranksters shared a description of the initiation ceremony and the blasphemous oath Rees had repeated with the group.

The details of this tragic event quickly spread in Philadelphia. Already, there was a campaign of hostility and misinformation against Freemasonry and this episode fanned the fires of opposition. The Grand Lodge of

Prime Suspect cont.

Pennsylvania was prompt disavowing any connection to this fatal ceremony and affirmed that not one of the three accused of killing Rees was a member of the Fraternity. Despite statements in other works on Franklin, this fact has been confirmed by testimony of the officers of St. John's Lodge. In a published notice in Franklin's Pennsylvania Gazette and Andrew Bradford's American Weekly Mercury, a newspaper which in many respects was the first truly anti-Masonic publication in America, it was firmly stated "that the Persons concerned in this wicked Action are not of our Society, nor any Society of Free and Accepted Masons, to our knowledge or Belief." This approved announcement carried the names of Thomas Hopkinson as Grand Master, William Plumsted as the Deputy Grand Master, and Joseph Shippen and Henry Platt as the Grand Wardens.

The ensuing coroner's investigation caused the guilty parties to be charged with willful manslaughter. They were acquitted during the first judicial hearing. The case was then sent to the criminal jury in the Court of Oyer and Terminer. In the cold of late January 1738, thousands of Philadelphians surrounded the courthouse for fifteen hours to learn the verdict. At two o'clock in the morning, Evans was pronounced guilty of manslaughter and sentenced to be "burnt in the hand;" Remington was also convicted, but and Tackerbury was pardoned, acquitted.

The entire matter undoubtedly would have gradually faded had it not been for the Bradford family, the powerful and influential printing rivals of Franklin. In the February 7-14, 1738 edition of Andrew Bradford's American Weekly Mercury, a venomous letter attacking Franklin (as well as Freemasonry in general), linking him to Rees's death by innuendo, was repudiate published to Pennsylvania Gazette's coverage by providing the so-called "naked Truth." "A.B.," the individual credited in Franklin's newspaper, observed that "to the Honour of the Fraternity or real Free Masons (of which by the Way I am no member) that no sort of People express'd a greater Abhorrence of the Fact on all Occasions than they did" of the entire Rees affair. "C.D.," in Bradford's publication, sarcastically fuelled the escalating feud by writing he would not directly address "the Honour of that Society," however, he would "leave an indifferent Reader to judge." The newspaper letter also contended that the initial "stupid and prophane" oath uttered by Rees "did not always seem so harsh to a Free-Mason." Franklin was accused of encouraging the continuation of the joke by expressing "his Approbation thereof by a most hearty Laughter." Allegedly, when Franklin later saw Rees, "he candidly saluted him by the Name of Brother, and to encourage him in it gave him a Sign" with congratulations admitted into being "on Brotherhood." The gauntlet was down and the media war between Franklin and Bradford was underway with the newspaper-reading public as the judge and jury of its outcome.

The accusations, missives, claims and counterclaims—who knew what and did what— continued for a month or so. Bradford persisted in his insinuations that Franklin was indirectly responsible for Rees's death because not only did he not discourage, but instead egged on the victim's torturers. As the gossip mill flourished, Franklin recapitulated his defense in his newspaper, commencing with a disarming admission:

Tis true I laugh'd (and perhaps heartily, as my Manner is) at the Beginning of their Relation; but when they came to those Circumstances of their giving him a violent Purge, leading him to kiss T's Posteriors, and to administering to him the diabolical Oath which R-n read to us, I grew indeed serious, as I suppose the most merry Man (not inclin'd to Mischief) would on such an Occasion? Nor did any one of our Company, except the Doctor [Jones] and Rthemselves, seem in the least pleased with the Affair, but the contrary.

Franklin also brought out the heavy guns with John Danby and Haranus Alrihs attesting in the *Pennsylvania Gazette* that he "in particular did speak against it, and did neither approve of what had already been done...nor desire to be present at what was

proposed to be farther done..." The matter continued to fester and the personal attacks on Franklin's conduct intensified as "C.D." countered with the claim that Franklin had originally read the diabolical oath aloud to anyone who wished to hear it. The author further accused Franklin of failing to forewarn the young man or his father of the torments that were planned for the future.

The negative reverberations of the Rees Affair echoed throughout the American colonies. Bradford's publishing connections proclaimed, while the public's interest was still keen, the anti-Franklin and anti-Masonic version of the story while the Franklin-allied newspapers failed to mount a spirited defense, choosing to let the matter lapse in the public's memory rather than continuing the debate over who was responsible for the debacle. It was apparently their hope that ignoring the subject would cause it to fade away more rapidly, all the while hoping that the colonists would be diverted by other newer concerns. Two people from whom Franklin could not escape were his parents in Boston who wrote him concerned letters, worried about his eternal salvation.

It is evident there was no permanent damage or stigma attached to Franklin's reputation, his public pursuits, or to his business ventures. It is well known that Franklin continued to rise in both colonial and international society through his tremendous achievements, accomplishments, and social connections. Although in hindsight, it is easy to suggest the course that Franklin should have taken from the beginning of this tragic and matter, the affair distressing demonstrates that he was human and as such was as flawed in his understanding anyone. Franklin's enemies would not cease their attacks on him now that chinks in his armor were obvious, but remarkably he managed, for the most part, to stay one step ahead of his political and personal enemies throughout the remainder of his life.

FRANKLIN TIDBITS

Who would you pick as a drinking buddy? And would you buy gum from that man? The drink specified was beer. When a survey was taken earlier this year by the web magazine Daily KOS, Franklin won hands down. The other choices were Jefferson, John Adams, George Washington, King George III, and Betsy Ross: http://www.dailykos.com/poll/1183327780_oCnQq uly. The Here's to Beer website allows you watch a film of Franklin enjoying a beer-just as if you were sitting across the table from him! http://herestobeer.com/who/bf.asp. Thanks to Paul Grant-Costa, Fellow at The Papers of Benjamin Franklin for spotting these, as well as finding Franklin on YouTube. Watch a 1976 commercial for Care-free gum featuring Franklin on that web site: http://youtube.com/watch?v=aFqnhqcaAaU

Franklin on stage and on TV: The Globe Theatre, London, will recreate Constitutional Convention of 1787 when it stages Eric Schlosser's We the People in September. The play is drawn from the speeches, letters, and official documents of the time. Click on www.shakespeares-globe.org. Wind back the time machine a few years more for Goodspeed Opera House's revival of the musical 1776, which will run from Sept. 28 to Dec. 2 in the historic Victorian theatre in East Haddam, Conn. Ronn Carroll, a star of Broadway and Off-Broadway, plays Franklin. http://www.goodspeed.org/. Filming at Craven Street, London, Franklin's home-away-fromhome, is Adam Hart-Davis' "Just Another Day," a show about the science of everyday life. It will air on the History Channel.

Franklin on immigration: After the defeat of the immigration bill in the Senate last July, one of Franklin's criticisms provided the opening for an op-ed piece by Kenneth C. Davis in the July 3rd issue of The New York Times. "Antiimmigrant sentiment is older than America itself," claimed the author, giving examples from throughout the country's history. Franklin's worry that the Germans "will soon so outnumber us that all the advantages we have will not be able to preserve our language, and even our government will become precarious" kicks off the list. Davis closes by saying that "Don't fence me in' might be America's unofficial anthem of unfettered freedom, but too often the subtext is, 'Fence everyone else out.""

Franklin knew this, but now scientists have proved it: there is no inherent genius. Scholars from the new discipline of genius studies—a mixture of psychology and cognitive science have now produced the mammoth Cambridge Handbook of Expertise and Expert Performance. Years of study and analysis have resulted in the conclusion that what we call "genius" or "talent" is not magic, and we aren't born with it. It comes about when people of good intelligence are placed in situations where they can put forth the sustained, focused effort to achieve extraordinary mastery. High IQ is not

enough; the achievement requires a supportive environment and important mentors, but most of all it demands hard work-harder work than most people are willing to put in. Anders Ericsson, a professor at Florida State University calculates that people must put in five times the time and effort to become great as an accomplished amateur does to become competent. Scholars of elite performance talk about the 10-year rule; you have to put in at least a decade of focused work to bring greatness within reach. Isn't it fortunate that Franklin had such a long life? Scientists also note the importance of the home, and found that most high achievers came from homes where learning was revered for its own sake. Nobel laureate Eric Kandel of Columbia University has also shown that the nerve connections associated with a memory or a skill increase in proportion to how often and how emphatically the lesson is repeated. Franklin's writings often touch on this topic. For example, in his "Old Mistress Apologue" he claims that "every knack [is] by Practice capable of Improvement", and in Poor Richard of 1750 he says "Genius without Education is like Silver in the Mine." Read David Dobbs' report in the Sept. 15, 2006 issue of New Scientist.

Poor Richards Stable already boasts 23 horses and it continues to grow. Friend Stuart Karu, the founder of our organization, says that among the occupants of his stable are Dr. Franklin, Silence Dogood, Miss Shipley, Americanus, Caty Ray, Lightening Rod, Smoky Chimney, Eugenious, Historicus, Cato Major, Gulchstream, Philomatt and Madam Brillon. His horses run all over the country, but at this season they can be seen at Belmont Park in New York. But Friends can cheer also on his horses at Monmouth, Laurel, Colonial Downs, Keeneland, and Saratoga. In the winter racing season you can find them at Gulfstream Park. How perfect is that?

Sons of Ben is the name of a group of soccer fans who hope to see a major league team come to the Philadelphia area. The readymade fan club's logo is a skull, wire rim glasses, and a fringe of hair. The crack in the skull is similar to the one in the Liberty Bell. Also part of the design is a crossed oar and scythe, in recognition of the region's nautical and agricultural legacy. The colors come from the state flags of Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware. In the background are a key and lightning bolts, in honor of Franklin's most famous scientific endeavor, and a soccer ball. True to Franklin's model of associations founded for community improvement. approximately 650 members stand ready to lobby for a new stadium-and travel to those away games.

Franklin Golfing? Nike issued a Philadelphia series of golf balls, featuring Franklin flying his kite, Franklin on the 100 dollar bill and

Independence Hall. They were spotted at the Christmas Tree Shops. Online, Gifts for Professionals offers a different set of golf balls featuring Franklin and the \$100 bill which can be found at http://www.giftsforprofessionals.com/92588851-benf.html.

Libertas Americana Medal commands a big price: In late 1782 and early 1783 Franklin busied himself with getting the Libertas Americana medal struck in Paris. This medal, the obverse of which depicted a dazzling female head of Liberty, and the reverse commemorated the battles of Saratoga and Yorktown as well as France's support during the Revolution, was distributed to European heads of state, foreign ministers, French officers who fought in the American cause, and members of Congress. Both silver and bronze medals were struck in France. One of the silver ones recently sold for \$149,000. The story of Franklin's role in the production of the medal was introduced in vol. 38 of The Papers of Benjamin Franklin (2006), and will conclude in vol. 39 (forthcoming). Thanks to John W. Adams, one the authors of a new book on the medals voted by Congress (Comitia Americana and Related Medals: Underappreciated Monuments of Our Heritage, [Crestline, Calif., 2007])for the information on the sale.

Exclusive Masonic Benjamin Franklin Caroler by Byers' Choice: To benefit the preservation and restoration efforts for the 1873 National Historic Landmark Masonic Temple, the Masonic Library and Museum of Pennsylvania is pleased to offer a limited edition Brother Benjamin Franklin Caroler produced in Pennsylvania by Byers' Choice, Ltd. Brother Franklin is adorned in 18th century attire worn when he proudly served two terms as Grand Master of Pennsylvania. The figure stands 13 in. tall and is available only through the Temple Treasures Gift Shop at (215)988-1973 or contact Executive Director Andrew Zellers-Frederick at (215)988-1909.

Award for Now & Ben; The Modern Inventions of Benjamin Franklin: Friends of Franklin member and Philadelphia resident Gene Barretta has just been awarded the 2007 Carolyn W. Field Award for his children's book Now & Ben: The Modern Inventions of Benjamin Franklin. The Carolyn W. Field Award was established by the Youth Services Division of the Pennsylvania Library Association to recognize the best books for young people by a Pennsylvania author or illustrator each year. This is the first book Gene has both written and illustrated. www.genebarretta.com

Franklin and Lafayette: "A Young Nobleman of Great Expectation: The Commemoration of the 250th Anniversary of the Marquis de Lafayette's Birth," special seminar offered on October 20th & 21st at the Masonic Temple in

FRANKLIN TIDBITS CONTINUED

Philadelphia. In 1777, Franklin wrote to George Washington from France that the twenty year old romantic nobleman was of "great expectations and [was] exceedingly beloved here." The two reportedly became close friends. See calendar for more details.

Reading Franklin

Eric Wertheimer, *Underwriting: The Poetics of Insurance in America, 1722-1872* (Stanford, Calif., 2006). The publisher calls this book "a cultural history of insurance in early America". Clearly Franklin is a big part of this story.

George Boudreau, "Notes and Documents: Solving the Mystery of the Junto's Missing Member, John Jones, Shoemaker," Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography (July, 2007 issue). Boudreau cleverly uses tavernkeeper and Junto member Nicholas Scull's manuscript commonplace book (at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania) to solve the mystery of the identity of the 12th member of the club founded by Franklin. Scull's 1732 book records a verse that testifies to the role that beverages played in the club's activities:

Business once ore [o'er] a Diferent Scene appears

The Glass goes round heavenly Musik chears The Generous Juice the witty Bards Inspire With Bright Ideas and Poetic fire

And for our Francophone Readers:

Daniel Vaugelade, Franklin des deux Mondes (Editions de l'Amandier, November, 2007) is part of the Collection Fantôme of the Château de La Roche Guyon. It discusses Franklin's relationship with the occupants of the château, the La Rochefoucauld family. The author also provides a chronology and sketches of Franklin's French circle as well as selected bagatelles and correspondence with the La Rochefoucauld family.

New in paperback: Regnery Publishing has just released Volume1 of Franklin's *Autobiography* (the original), 1760-57, and Volume 2, *The Compleated Autobiography* (1757-90) in paperback, edited by Mark Skousen.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 20-21, 2007. A Young Nobleman of Great Expectation: The Commemoration of the 250th Anniversary of the Marquis de Lafayette's Birth. Seminar at the Masonic Temple, 1 N. Broad Street, Philadelphia. The Masonic Temple's special anniversary program, sponsored in part by the Pennsylvania Humanities Council will feature lectures by Dr. Stuart Leibiger on the personal relationship between Lafayette and Franklin and a talk by Dr. Robert Allison on Lafayette's return to America in 1824. An optional lunch at City Tavern and walking tour of historic sites concludes the first day.

On Sunday, October 21st, at 2 PM, a unique organ and vocal concert of music from the

period of Lafayette will be offered in the beautifully decorated and recently restored Corinthian Hall of the Masonic Temple. This is the first time a public concert has been given in the Masonic Temple in over a five year period. For information, reservations, or a fee schedule, please contact Executive Director Andrew Zellers-Frederick at (215)988-1909 or AZFrederick@pagrandlodge.org.

November 16, 2007- August 10, 2008. Two exhibits: French Founding Father: Lafayette's Return to Washington's America, and A Son and His Adoptive Father: The Marquis de Lafayette and George Washington. The New-York Historical Society, 170 Central Park West, N.Y., N.Y.

November 17, 2007. Living History Day with Washington, Lafayette, and the Troops: Reenactors march and tell their stories. The New-York Historical Society, 170 Central Park West, N.Y., N.Y.

<u>January 17, 2008</u>. Celebration! Of Benjamin Franklin, Founder. Annual event commemorating Franklin's birthday with a seminar, procession to his grave and luncheon. Contact Carol Smith, 856-429-8331 or cwsmith@verizon.net for more information.

Ongoing:

"Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World," continues at the Atlanta History Center until October 14. The exhibit's last stop is Paris, at the Musée des Arts et Métiers (http://www.arts-et-metiers.net/), and the Musée Carnavalet. At the Musée des Arts et Métiers the show is called "Benjamin Franklin: Homme de science, homme du monde" [Man of Science, Man of the World], and will feature many of the artifacts from the American exhibition, as well as additions from MAM's outstanding scientific instrument collection. The exhibit closes March 30, 2008. Opening in Paris the same day at the Musée Carnavalet (www.carnavalet.paris.fr/) is "Benjamin Franklin: Un Américain A Paris". Full of artifacts from museums throughout France, it will focus on Franklin's time in Paris and will include 30 items from the American show. The Carnavalet exhibition will close on March 9, 2008. Catalogues for both exhibitions will be available through the museums.

Extended through December 2007: "The Medical World of Benjamin Franklin" at the College of Physicians, 19 S. 22nd Street, Philadelphia, PA. Call 215-563-3737 for more information.

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

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Grace Lee and Tom Edgar on the birth of their son, Benjamin Dal-Yong Edgar, the newest Franklin descendant, born on September 24, 2007.

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Friends of Franklin Membership Drive

Are you interested in having your Friends of Franklin 2008 membership renewal waived? From now until December 1, 2007, recruit five new members and the Friends will give you a complimentary renewal for your 2008 membership. It's as easy as that! Members recently received by mail information about our 2007 membership drive which included a New Member Form to share with friends, family, and colleagues who may be interested in learning more about Benjamin Franklin and sharing the fellowship the Friends have to offer. We encourage all members to spread the word about the Friends and help us recruit new members! As always, the Friends appreciate your continued support.

Join Friends of Franklin!

Would you like to become an official member of the Friends of Franklin organization? Do you have a friend or relative who might wish to join, or who would appreciate a gift membership? All individuals, scholars, students, collectors, and Franklinophiles, as well as institutions, are invited to become members of the Friends of Franklin at the following membership rates:

Ben for Life Members \$1,500 Corporate Members \$1,000 Franklin \$100

YES, I'd like to join the Friends of Franklin!

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