

Franklin Gazette

Volume 19, Number 1, Spring 2009

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

Visit: www.friendsoffranklin.org

"Industry, Perseverance & Frugality, make Fortune yield." Poor Richard, April 1744

President's Message

By Roy E. Goodman

The commemoration of Charles Darwin's 200th birthday and the 150th year since the publication of his monumental **On the Origin of Species** got me thinking about Franklin ties with the Darwin family.

Scientist Erasmus Darwin, Charles' grandfather, whom Franklin had known since at least 1763, shared with Franklin a number of mutual friends in the Lunar Society of Birmingham. In a letter to Ben, Erasmus mentioned having completed his translation of the botanical works of Linnaeus. Another letter discussed a neighbor's experiments, and concluded with a question about a newly invented speaking machine: "pray was there any Truth in any such Reports?" Both Erasmus and Franklin were interested in aspects of human speech and language.

Charles Darwin's maternal grandfather, perhaps the most celebrated potter of his day, Josiah Wedgwood, was an active member of Britain's Committee to Abolish the Slave Trade. Franklin knew him through the Lunar Society and they had much in common. Wedgwood created the popular anti-slavery medallion featuring a man kneeling in chains with the phrase, "Am I Not a Man and a Brother?"



Wax portrait of Franklin by Isaac Gosset after the Martin portrait c. 1766. Courtesy of the American Philosophical Society

Several of these medallions, now quite rare, were sent to Franklin in 1788, during his presidency of the Pennsylvania Abolition Society. Charles Darwin was likewise an outspoken critic of slavery.

The Darwin family in later years shared stories of Franklin's wit and wisdom. Charles' father Robert particularly enjoyed relating the story of his dinner with Franklin during a trip to France in 1785.

The first direct connection that Charles had with the American Philosophical Society was in 1839 when he wrote a letter as secretary of the Royal Geographical Society of London to Franklin Bache, president of the APS (and great-grandson of Ben), thanking him for publications sent.

Charles Darwin was elected a member of the American Philosophical Society in 1869.

Two Darwin-centered exhibits are currently on display at the APS. The Library's show includes some of the Franklin-Darwin correspondence.

Oh, what a fantastic celebration we could have if we might reunite the Franklins and the Darwins. Why not invite Abraham Lincoln and Tom Paine for their 200th birthdays, too?

Franklin Gazette

published quarterly by:

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

856.833.1771

Fax: 856.854.0773

email: fof@friendsoffranklin.org

Website:

www.friendsoffranklin.org

Officers:

Roy E. Goodman, President
Ralph Archbold, Vice President
Lee Knepp, Treasurer
Pamela Hartsock, PhD,
Secretary

Directors:

Eleanor Gesensway
Stuart Green, MD
Noah Katz
E. Philip Krider, PhD
Marty Mangold
Blaine McCormick, PhD
Michael Newcomb, MD
Karl T. Molin

Advisor to the Board:

Doug Hall

Executive Director:

Kathy DeLuca
856.833.1771
Fax: 856.854.0773
Email:
kathydeluca@friendsoffranklin.org

Editor:

Carol Wojtowicz Smith
cwsmith@verizon.net
856.429.8331

Co-Editor: Claude-Anne Lopez

Publication schedule:

March, June, September and
December. Newsletter
submissions are encouraged.
Deadlines are the 15th of the
month preceding publication.
Submissions by e-mail or
computer disks (text-only
format) are preferred.

J. A. Leo Lemay

by James Srodes

Author, *Franklin: The Essential Founding Father*

I will leave to others more qualified to put Leo Lemay's scholarship and literary talent in the proper top ranks where they both belong. Words such as authoritative and magisterial are scarcely adequate in summing up his life's work in the cause of illuminating Benjamin Franklin's life and early American culture. He has left a giant vacancy in the professional ranks of those who shared his scholarship and they will mourn him.

My own sense of loss is strictly personal. When I first started on my own biography project of Franklin I immediately benefitted from the accessibility of Leo's studies, his books and that wonderful website. His high standard of literacy also gave me a writing mark to shoot for. It was when I got to meet that kind, gentle,

very funny man that my debt to him took on a new dimension. His welcome to an interloper was genuine. His advice never failed to push me forward, his criticism always was both an improvement and an encouragement.

Later, in 2006 when we shared platforms at seminars during the Philadelphia Tercentenary and the Free Library celebrations of Franklin's birth his generosity to me and the other scholars who held forth never failed to make the sessions truly enjoyable. Historians can be prickly types but everyone was fond of Leo Lemay. In the years since then the visits, regular phone calls and emails created a friendship that had become a treasure to me. I feel the loss deeply.

The American Swindler Thomas Digges

by John Walburn

During the Revolutionary War British army generals were able to routinely exchange captured American soldiers for British soldiers based on agreements reached with George Washington, the commander-in-chief of the Continental army. By contrast, American sailors fared far worse, and were imprisoned in large numbers in prisons in the British Isles and in prison ships in America that more than lived up to their reputations as death traps.

For a time, Franklin employed Marylander Thomas Digges, who was then living in London, to convey funds to American mariners confined in British jails. These funds provided the unhappy captives with the bare necessities of life: food, clothing, blankets. These items were not routinely provided by prison officials in the eighteenth century, and as imprisoned Americans were viewed in Britain as traitors, they were treated worse than those from other nations.

In 1781 Franklin discovered that Digges had absconded with £400 Sterling. Furious, Franklin wrote to William Hodgson on April

1, 1781: "He that robs the Rich even of a single Guinea, is a Villain, but what is he who can break his sacred Trust by robbing a poor Man and a Prisoner of Eighteen Pence given charitably for his Relief, and repeat that Crime as often as there are Weeks in a Winter, and multiply it by robbing as many poor Men every Week as make up the Number of near 600.-- We have no Name in our Language for such atrocious Wickedness.-- If such a Fellow is not damn'd, 'tis not worth while to keep a Devil."

In the summer, 2008, issue of the Gazette Professor Joshua Rosenbloom suggested how we might understand Franklin's personal wealth in today's dollars. In the context of Digges's theft, how much would £400 be worth today? In the eighteenth century the prevailing rate of silver to dollars was approximately \$4.44 per pound. From 1740 to 2007 the consumer price index (CPI) has increased by a factor of \$19.34. In other words, an item priced at the equivalent of \$1 in 1740 would cost \$19.34 today, and £400 would amount to a theft of \$34,348 in today's dollars.

Celebration! of Benjamin Franklin, Founder

On January 16, 2009, friends of Franklin gathered in Philadelphia to celebrate his 303rd birthday and the contributions of those, who, like Franklin, contributed so much to the good of their communities after retirement. This year's recipient, P. Roy Vagelos, M.D., the former chairman of Merck and the current chairman of Regeneron Pharmaceuticals and Theravance, Inc., was honored for his outstanding work in helping to alleviate diseases in developing countries.

Morning speakers included Dr. Kenneth Frazier, from Merck, who not only spoke on **Fighting River Blindness: MECTIZAN and the Power of Partnerships**, a collaborative effort by pharmaceutical companies, the World Health Organization and local governments, but also outlined the powerful impact Franklin-founded organizations had on his own personal life. Dr. John C. Pottage, of



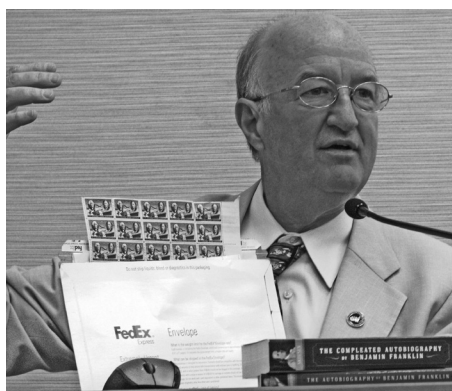
Morning session speakers from left: Dr. Mary Patterson McPherson, Dr. John C. Pottage, Donald U. Smith, Dr. Kenneth Frazier, Ralph Archbold, John C. Bogle, B. Franklin Reinauer, II, P. Roy Vagelos, M.D. and Roy E. Goodman. (Photo by S. Yudkoff)

GlaxoSmithKline, spoke on **The Global Challenge of HIV**, effectively tying in his talk with Franklin's beliefs. A third speaker and former Franklin Founder Award recipient, John C. Bogle, spoke on the joys of not retiring and spoke of the need for today's citizens to return to the values of Franklin's 18th-century

world, a theme he further explores in his new book, *Enough: True Measures of Money, Business, and Life*.

For more photos of this year's event check the organization's website: www.ushistory.org/Celebration. And save the date for next year's event: Friday, January 15, 2010.

Friends of Franklin Symposium



Several dozen Friends of Franklin and other Franklin aficionados gathered in Philadelphia in Bogle Hall of the National Constitution Center on the 219th anniversary of Franklin's death, April 17, 2009, to discuss **"Ben Franklin Goes to Wall Street: Money, Investing and the Good Life."** The event, organized by Franklin descendant Mark Skousen, with the help of officers of the Friends of Franklin, commemorated the 20th anniversary of the Friends organization. A dynamic group of

speakers included Friends Blaine McCormick and Mark Skousen along with Robert Wright and Jeremy Siegel. Their afternoon panel resulted in stimulating questions and discussions. Excerpts from some of the morning speeches will be featured in later issues of the *Gazette*.

The symposium coinciding as it did with the major upheaval in the global economy generated numerous questions to the closing panel of Messrs. McCormick, Siegel, Skousen and Wright on today's financial markets. Friends President Roy Goodman praised the symposium, stating, "It brought Franklin to the crossroads of Wall Street and Main Street and offered new perspectives on the intricacies of the financial markets of both 18th century America and its 21st century counterpart."

The Friends hope this will be annual event to commemorate the anniversary of Franklin's death. Stay tuned for more details and exact times in future issues of the *Gazette*.



The Philadelphia Contributionship: Benjamin Franklin's Insurance Office

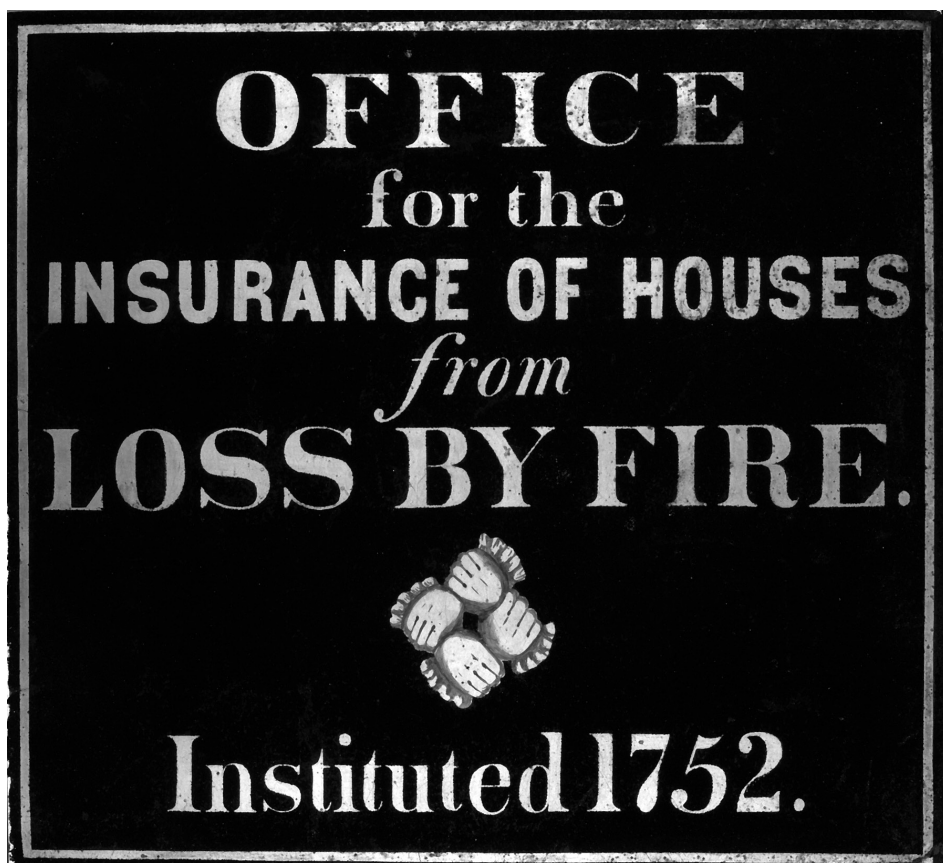


In 1752 Franklin was a middle-aged family man with property to protect and an eye to the future. He owned a store on High (Market) Street where Daniel Swan maintained a wine shop in 1773 and a second property on High Street occupied by Eden Haydock. Both were smaller than the property he rented from John Wister for his family (also on High Street), a three-story home, and 16 feet wide with a two-story brick kitchen.

Not surprisingly Franklin encouraged the Union Fire Company's notion of a fire insurance company for its membership. He took it a step further urging them to extend the benefits citywide. Franklin and Philip Syng met with representatives of the other fire companies in Philadelphia, and drafted articles of agreement for the new company. The Amicable Contributionship of London, London's mutual fire insurance company provided a model, Franklin printed the Articles in time for the meeting held in early February, 1752. This early printing reveals incomplete articles with a note at the end "That the Blanks are left to be filled up at a Meeting of the first Fifty Subscribers, who are then to execute this Deed of Settlement." Those blanks included space for the names of the directors (to be elected at that meeting) and space for the treasurer's commission.

Both of these were filled in later (in a different hand) on the engrossed parchment executed by Lewis Evans, dated March 25, 1752, the last day of the calendar year. The directors were elected at the first meeting, April 12, 1752, and likely the percentage was also determined at that time. The parchment contains another change in Article II (which prohibited directors from any personal gain) permitting directors "Allowances at their Monthly Meetings." See *The Papers of Benjamin Franklin*, IV, 281-295.

Franklin supported his new company wholeheartedly. He signed the Deed of Settlement with a bold "B. Franklin" and flourish, just after Lt. Governor James Hamilton, and he headed the list of directors outlined at subsequent board meetings.



Tin sign supplied by Collins West, 1847

He also wasn't above using his position as editor of the *Pennsylvania Gazette* to point out the merits of insurance, noting in 1753 when Peter Bard's house burned that "the House being insur'd, the Damage will be immediately repaired, without Cost to the Owner."

The Directors held their first meeting on May 12, and on May 23, the Directors determined upon a policy form. Franklin, ever the businessman, procured the job of printing these policies. The firm of Franklin & Hall delivered them within a short period of time, for the first policies were issued in June. Franklin was among the first policyholders: policies #19 and #20 were issued to him on July 4, 1752. The earliest surviving policy, #40, issued to Susannah Dilwyn, is dated July 27, 1752. With deposit monies coming in, it was only prudent for the new company to lend it out at interest. In addition to printing the

policies Franklin & Hall printed bond and mortgage agreements.

Franklin appears to have fronted the printing costs. The Contributionship paid no printing bills until April of 1753. It wasn't until December of 1753 that Franklin requested reimbursement for the funds he had paid Lewis Evans for "engrossing the Insurance Articles amounting to £2..9..0." These engrossed Articles, carefully delineated by mapmaker Lewis Evans, were in essence a contract between members. On August 18, 1752, the Directors ordered the Clerk to "give Notice to all Persons whose Policies are Signed, that their Insurance is not compleated until they have executed the Articles."

Franklin supported the efforts of William Maugridge to borrow money from the Contributionship in its first year. The minutes record that Benjamin Franklin "will engage that the interest shall be punctually

paid.” Franklin was a dedicated member of the board in its early stages, attending 14 out of 22 meetings the first year and 9 out of 16 the following year, despite the time he spent away from home. His colleagues remained in his thoughts as he wrote to Hugh Roberts from Boston in July of 1753: “My Respects to Mrs. Roberts, and to all our old Friends of the Junto, Hospital, and Insurance. I purpose to set out on my Return in about ten Days, to have the Pleasure of seeing them and Philadelphia again.” Busier than ever in subsequent years, Franklin was not re-elected to the Board of Directors of The Philadelphia Contributionship in April of 1754. However, he and his partner David Hall continued to print business forms for the Contributionship, policies, notices pertaining to the renewal of policies and later updates to the Deed of Settlement. Franklin relied on Hall to carry on the printing office (Hall bought Franklin’s share of the partnership in 1766) and Deborah to manage the new house they were building behind Market Street between Third and Fourth. Gunning Bedford surveyed this property for the Contributionship in August of 1766. Franklin fretted over the details, which Deborah painstakingly relayed to him. In a letter to Deborah on October 11,

1766, he noted: “In my last I desired you to get Mr. Rhoads to send me a little Sketch of the Lot and Wall; but I have since found one he sent me before; so it is not necessary...”

In a postscript he adds, “I must request you to procure of some Friend of ours, a Copy of our Fire Company Articles, and a Copy of the Insurance Articles, and send them as soon as you can to Irenaeus Moe, Esqr. at Barbadoes, Bridgetown.”

Living abroad for so many years required great attention to details. Apparently Franklin, too, had lent money to Maugridge and even while serving a colonial agent in London, he remembered the transaction, writing to Deborah in 1772: “Nor have you ever told me, whether Mr. Maugridge’s Executors have paid off his Mortgage to me, and that to the Insurance Office. I wish you would.” On January 4, 1773, Franklin’s son-in-law Richard Bache responded to Franklin’s query: “Mr. Maugridge’s Mortgage has been paid off, my Mother tells me some time ago, this is all I know of it. I am afraid that the Insurance on your two Houses in Market Street, in front of us, expired some time ago, and hath not been renewed, if I find this to be the Case (which the Policies will declare, when my Mother finds them)

I shall meet the Directors, and endeavor to get the Policies renewed, without forfeiture of premium, which I find is a penalty annexed to the failure of renewing them within a year after they expire.” The policies had expired, but the Directors “considered the circumstances attending” and “agreed that new Policies be made out to commence from the Time the former ensurance expired.”

Franklin continued his insurance with the Contributionship, although his contact with the Company appears to be minimal. He maintained his interest, however, writing to Louis-Guillaume Le Veillard in 1788 “I have sometimes thought it might be well to establish an Office of Insurance for Farms, against the Damage that may occur to them from Storms, Blights, Insects, etc. A small Sum paid by a Number would repair such Losses, and prevent much Poverty and Distress.” (unpublished; text cited from digital edition of The Papers of Benjamin Franklin, www.franklinpapers.org) Franklin died a year and a half later, his *Autobiography* incomplete, although he left “Notes for Continuation of Autobiography.” Item 43, Insurance Office, is crossed out. He perhaps did not see it as one of his achievements, as much as the achievement of all its subscribers.



Engrossed Deed of Settlement of The Philadelphia Contributionship.

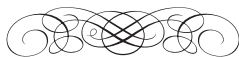
Featured from Diane Publishing:

***Dangerous Engine:
Benjamin Franklin,
from Scientist to Diplomat***

by Joan Dash. Hardcover, 246 pages, 2006.
List Price \$17.00, Special FOF price \$10.00
(no shipping charge)

Before the world understood that lightning was electricity, Ben Franklin set out during an electrical storm with a kite and a length of wire. At the time of this experiment, Franklin was unaware that his theories about electricity had made him a celebrity all over Europe, especially in France. Admired by the French court and beloved by French citizens, Franklin effectively became America’s first foreign diplomat. A father of the Revolution and a signer of the Constitution, Franklin was a lightning rod in political circles -- “a dangerous Engine,” according to a critic. And though he devoted the last 25 years of his life to affairs of state, his first love was always science. “This is the story of adventure, of one man’s curiosity and the extraordinary rewards of his discoveries.” **Juvenile audience. Illustrated.**

Perfect Square Dates in Ben Franklin's Life



By Aziz S. Inan, Ph.D.

School of Engineering, University of Portland, Portland, Oregon

As a boy, Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790) began creating "magic squares," consisting of smaller squares of identical sizes with assigned numbers inside a large square. These were arranged so that the sums of the numbers along each row, column, and diagonal were equal. Franklin claimed that his most difficult magic square, made up of 16-by-16 smaller squares, was "the most magically magical of any magic square ever made by any magician." In addition to his magic squares, are there other squares in Franklin's life? The answer is yes, and here are some examples involving dates.

First of all, the year 1764 in Franklin's life is a square year since it is the square of 42, that is, 42 times 42. Second, Franklin's life also includes a cube year, where a cube can be thought of as a three-dimensional version of a square: 1728, 12 times 12 times 12. Third, Franklin's lifetime also has perfect square dates^{1,2}, 12061729 and 6041764. These are full date numbers,

expressed as an eight-digit number in the format DDMMYYYY (that is, the first two digits are reserved for the day, the next two for the month, and the last four for the year) or MMDDYYYY (in the United States, the day and the month numbers are switched). For example, Franklin's birthday (January 17, 1706) is expressed as a full date given by 17011706 in the DDMMYYYY date format and 1171706 in the MMDDYYYY date format. A "perfect square date" is defined as a full date number that is a perfect square, i.e., it is a square number. Full date numbers 12061729 and 6041764, the squares of 3473 and 2458 respectively, are the only two perfect square dates that occurred in the eighteenth century and both of these dates occur in Franklin's lifetime. In the DDMMYYYY date format, date number 12061729 corresponds to June 12, 1729 and 6041764 is April 6, 1764. On the other hand, in the MMDDYYYY date format, number 12061729 corresponds to December 6, 1729 and 6041764 is June 4, 1764.

Since Franklin spent many years in Europe where the DDMMYYYY date format is dominant, these two perfect square dates from his life can be interpreted in either format. Based on the fact that 12061729 and 6041764 each represent two separate dates, one interpreted in DDMMYYYY and the other in MMDDYYYY date format, one could conclude that Franklin had not two, but four perfect square dates in his lifetime. Two of the four perfect square dates

occurred on June 12 and December 6 in 1729 and the other two occurred in 1764 on April 6 and June 4. It is also interesting to note that Franklin was 23 on the perfect square date 12061729, which is divisible by the square of 23.



Aziz S. Inan, who is celebrating his 20th year at the University of Portland, is a professor of electrical engineering. For another look at his interest in history and numbers, please go to <http://www.ieee.org/organizations/pubs/newsletters/emcs/fall06/franklin.pdf>.

Inan recently discovered the existence of perfect square dates and published the above two articles. This year, March 5 and April Fools' Day were both perfect square dates since 3052009 and 4012009 are squares of 1747 and 2003. *USA Today* and *Oregonian* newspapers reported Inan's discovery around April Fools' Day. http://www.usatoday.com/tech/science/columnist/vergano/2009-03-28-square-dates_N.htm; <http://www.oregonlive.com/business/oregonian/index.ssf?/base/business/1238556327291410.xml&coll=7>.

Inan is currently preparing a recreational mathematical puzzle book. He can be reached at 503-943-7429 or ainan@up.edu.

¹Aziz Inan, "Century of Squares," *The Beacon*, University of Portland, 110(18), February 26, 2009, p. 14. <http://media.www.upbeacon.net/media/storage/paper1193/news/2009/02/26/Opinions/Century.Of.Squares-3651254.shtml>

²Aziz Inan, "A Numerical Milestone, No Foolin'," *The Beacon*, University of Portland, 110(22), April 2, 2009, p. 13. <http://media.www.upbeacon.net/media/storage/paper1193/news/2009/04/02/Opinions/A.Numerical.Milestone.No.Foolin-3695068.shtml>

Spring 2009 Math Puzzle

Problem # 9: Ben's book. Ben Franklin started writing one of his famous books in the year x at age y where y equals the sum of the sum and product of the digits of x . Which year is x ?

(Source: Inan. Answer: 1771.)

Editor's Note: Here is another Franklin themed math puzzle presented by Aziz Inan (ainan@up.edu) and the solution to the problem posed in the Winter issue of the Gazette.

(Solution: Let the year x be represented by 17AB since it has to fall during Ben Franklin's lifetime (1706–1790). In 17AB, Ben's new age equals $17AB - 1706 = 10A + B - 6$. The only year 17AB that satisfies the equation $10A + B - 6 = (8 + A + B) + 7 \times A \times B \rightarrow A = 14/(9 - 7B)$ is 1771. In 1771, at age 65, while visiting his friend Bishop Jonathan Shipley in Twyford, England, Ben started writing the first section of his famous *Autobiography*, published in 1791.)

Problem # 10: Cube date if Ben lived longer. If Ben Franklin (1706-1790) lived longer, what would have been the earliest cube date in his life and what would be his age on that date? Note that a cube date in an eight-digit year is defined as an eight-digit full date number MMDDYYYY (where the first two-digits correspond to the month, the next two to the day, and the last four to the year numbers) that equals the cube of an integer number.

In His Own Words

“The Mouths will go to the Meat”



It is planting time, and recently Michael Pollan's open letter to the President-Elect, was broadcast on the radio.* It calls upon the president “to make the reform of the entire food system one the highest priorities of [his] administration.” That thought-provoking opinion piece dubs the nation's president its “Farmer in Chief”. It brought to mind how Franklin's ideas on husbandry and agriculture have been dismissed by most people as reflective of a different age than our own, and of little use in solving our current problems. In light, however, of Pollan's radical call to arms in favor of reshaping our food system as a way to fight climate change, increase national security, ensure the safety of our food supply, and enhance public health, some of Franklin's thoughts on agriculture may bear repeating.

Pollan: “The impact of the American food system on the rest of the world will have implications for . . . foreign and trade policies . . . In the past several months more than 30 nations have experienced food riots, and so far one government has fallen. Should high grain prices persist . . . expect to see the pendulum shift decisively away from free trade, at least in food. Nations that opened their markets to the global flood of cheap grain . . . lost so many farmers that they now find their ability to feed their own populations hinges on decisions made in Washington...the very same food policies that have contributed to overnutrition in the first world are now contributing to undernutrition in the third.”

Franklin: “[T]he true Source of Riches is Husbandry. Agriculture is truly *productive of new wealth*; Manufactures only change Forms; and whatever value they give to the Material they work upon, they in the mean time consume an equal value in Provisions, &c. So that Riches are not *increased* by Manufacturing; the only advantage is, that Provisions in the Shape of Manufactures are more easily carried for Sale to Foreign Markets. And where the Provisions cannot be easily carried to Market, ‘tis well so to transform them for our own Use as well as for foreign Sale. . . . Provisions are now risen to an exorbitant Price by the demand for supplying home Mouths; so that they may be an Importation

from foreign Countries, but the Expense of bringing Provisions from abroad to feed Manufactures here, will so enhance the Price of the Manufactures that they may be made cheaper where Provisions grow, and the Mouths will go to the Meat.” [To Cadwalader Evans, Feb. 20, 1768, vol. 15, pp. 52-3]

Followed up in 1771 by this: “When a Grain of Corn is put into the Ground it may produce ten Grains: After defraying the Expence, here is a real Increase of Wealth. Above [Remark on Chap XI of the Considerations on Policy, Trade, &c.] we see that Manufactures make no Addition to it, they only change its Form. So Trade, or the Exchange of Manufactures, makes no Increase of Wealth among Mankind in general; no more than the Game of Commerce at Cards makes any Increase of Money among the Company, tho’ particular Persons may be Gainers while others are Losers. But the clear Produce of Agriculture is clear additional Wealth.” [Remarks on Agriculture and Manufacturing, 1771, vol. 18, p. 274]

Pollan: “Post-oil agriculture will need a lot more people engaged in food production—as farmers and probably also as gardeners. The sun-food agenda must include programs to train a new generation of farmers and then help put them on the land. The average American farmer today is 55 years old; we shouldn’t expect these farmers to embrace the sort of complex ecological approach to agriculture that is called for. Our focus should be on teaching ecological farming systems to students entering land-grant colleges today. . . . We need to teach all primary-school students the basics of growing and cooking food and then enjoying it at shared meals.”

Franklin: “While they [students of a proposed “Academy”] are reading Natural History, might not a little *Gardening, Planting, Grafting, Inoculating, &c.* be taught and practised; and now and then Excursions made to the neighbouring Plantations of the best Farmers, their Methods observ’d and reason’d upon for the Information of Youth. The Improvement of Agriculture being useful to all [in an aside here he quotes Milton about improving tillage, rebuilding the bad soil and remedying the waste that is made of the good], and Skill in it no Disparagement to any.” [Proposals Relating to the Education of Youth in Pennsylvania, 1749, vol. 3, p. 417]

“I think agriculture the most honourable because [it is] the most independent of all professions.” [Franklin to Lafayette,

April 17, 1787, unpublished; cited from digital edition.]

Pollan: “The president should throw his support behind a new Victory Garden movement, this one seeking ‘victory’ over three critical challenges we face today: high food prices, poor diets and a sedentary population.”

Franklin: [At the outbreak of the Revolution] “...the internal Country we shall defend. It is a good one and fruitful. It is, with our Liberties, worth defending, and it will itself by its Fertility enable us to defend it. Agriculture is the great Source of Wealth and Plenty. By cutting off our Trade you have thrown us *to the Earth*, whence like *Antaeus* we shall rise yearly with fresh Strength and Vigour.” [Franklin to Jonathan Shipley, Sept. 13, 1775, vol. 22, p. 199]

Henry Steele Commager, the great American historian said, “Franklin was a child of the Age of Reason. It is reasonableness that best describes his interests and his conduct. He had a tidy mind and hated to see things go to waste—time, energy, resources. He was prepared to let well enough alone, as with the finished Constitution, but rarely found anything that really seemed well enough. His zeal for improvements was a product of a sense of duty rather than fanaticism, and he was the most ambitious of all reformers.”

On April 4, 1769, two hundred and forty years ago, Franklin wrote an essay, “Positions to be examined”. There he said “[T]here seem to be but three Ways for a Nation to acquire Wealth. The first is by *War* as the Romans did in plundering their conquered Neighbours. This is *Robbery*. The second is by *Commerce* which is generally *Cheating*. The third by *Agriculture* the only *honest Way*; wherein Man receives a real Increase of the Seed thrown into the Ground, in a kind of continual Miracle”. “Positions to Be Examined”, April 4, 1769 (vol. 16, 109).

*Listen to it on National Public Radio: <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=95896389>. The letter was first published in the *New York Times* on Oct. 12, 2008 and it is visible on Pollan's web site: <http://www.michaelpollan.com/article.php?id=97> Franklin quotes from *The Papers of Benjamin Franklin*, ed. Leonard W. Labaree et al.

The Gulf Stream Revisited

A River on the Ocean that Runs All the Way Through to Today

by John Buchanan

Franklin scholars, and quite a few middle and high school students, know that Franklin was instrumental in charting out the Gulf Stream. Beginning in 1775, whenever he made a voyage across the Atlantic, Franklin took observations of the surface temperature of the ocean. He used these observations to chart out the “river on an ocean”. Centuries later, not only was this depiction amazingly accurate by recent satellite imagery standards, but that same information is being used for other purposes today. These ocean observations along with bits and pieces of similarly rescued land and ocean data from around the world, are being collected and digitized. This data will be turned into information that will be useful in investigating how the Earth’s climate has been changing over the last few centuries. A new entertaining video, with our own Ralph Archbold portraying Ben, has been produced and is being distributed around the world to help encourage students to carry on Ben’s legacy of intellectual curiosity.

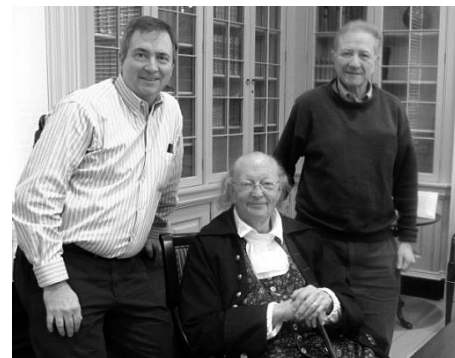
The Ben Franklin Climate Change video is an 8-minute introduction to various climate-related topics for students. The video relates Franklin’s colonial-era observations to today’s research on climate change and hurricanes. The production introduces middle school students in various Earth Science classes to this very timely topic. It can also be used at a higher level in History of Science in America classes. The video includes a suggested lesson plan to help teachers fit the video into various curriculums for students at different levels. The video was constructed to be rather general, without going too deep into the still very controversial science of climate research. The video uses the various Franklin themes of scientific analysis, collaboration, and publishing in the public domain. A case-study approach to illustrate these principles by applying his ocean temperature readings from the 1770s and 1780s sequentially is used to help analyze today’s major questions of climate change.

This video is sponsored by the American Philosophical Society, the Friends of Franklin, and a relatively new organization called ACRE. ACRE is a global organization that was formed to facilitate the recovery of historical land and ocean weather observations over the last few centuries for climate applications and impacts needs worldwide. This organization was founded by various government agencies in Australia and the UK, and has received significant help from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in the US and many other meteorological organizations around the world. It is commonly thought that the impacts of climate change are being felt most strongly in Australia, hence their active involvement in projects such as ACRE.

The video is also being highlighted for usage by an organization called GLOBE. The GLOBE Program (www.globe.gov) is an international primary and secondary education and science program, located in over 100 countries with more than 20,000 schools worldwide. GLOBE will invite this vast community to utilize the video and resources. GLOBE teachers will be able to use the Franklin video to help in their endeavors to harness the collective imaginations of millions of students around the world to support awareness of the climate change issues facing all of us.

I am an actuary/mathematician working in NYC involved in areas such as hurricane research. For the last few years I have been studying various aspects, including how they form. I am also on the Casualty Actuarial Society’s committee on Climate Change.

Over a year ago, I was going through some archival materials at the APS in Philadelphia. I had found various manuscript items containing meticulous land and ocean observations from the Colonial era. Since hurricane formation is influenced by ocean temperatures among other things, I wanted to analyze how much the ocean (and land) temperatures



have changed over the centuries. My discussions of the historical data with some colleagues overseas led me to the ACRE group. One of their goals is to recover and digitize all available global historical meteorological records. I put together a small working group of meteorologists and university faculty to explore pre- and post-colonial-era records from the US (ACRE US CEDS group). This work was the impetus for the initial analysis underlying the video. The video nicely combines my personal interests in Franklin with my professional interests in hurricane research. The video also gave me a chance to work with Ralph Archbold, the preeminent Ben Franklin in the country.

As Ben would say, “Energy and Persistence Conquer All Things.” It is hoped that through the video and the works of organizations like GLOBE and ACRE, students, teachers, and communities around the world can come together to understand and influence one of the most challenging issues of our time. And just about everybody loves Ben Franklin!

An excerpt from the new video, **Ben Franklin's Atlantic Voyages**



FRANKLIN: Throughout my lifetime, I have invested in many efforts that promote the sharing of "useful knowledge". Many people know me as a scientist, a statesman, and a publisher of works such as Poor Richard's Almanac.

First, as a **scientist**, I appreciate the vital role that observations play in understanding issues such as the global warming of our lands and our oceans. I am proud that my measurements of the Gulf Stream taken with my nephew and grandson over two centuries ago are now being used for reasons unforeseen by me or any of my contemporaries.

Second, as a **statesman**, I understand the need for international collaboration in making observations and analyzing them. This collaboration is done through global projects such as ACRE. Their goal is to recover, digitize, and analyze historical global weather observations. Truly, A Climate Record of the Earth.

Lastly, as a publisher, I know that for any work to make an impact, it would have to be widely and easily accessible. Google is making this information freely available and investing heavily in the public's "useful knowledge". I once asked, "Who is Wise"? The answer is "He that learns from every One".

Collectively, I would suggest that Google and other such offerings are indeed the new electronic almanac for these times.

How can all this information be used? How does my work, in some small part, help solve the problems of today? In my autobiography I describe in detail a plan to better one's life and the world around them. You want to make sure all your things have their places.

As a small example, you will start with bits and pieces of information such as my ocean readings. And then sequentially, through many steps, you will end up em-

played in something useful. Energy and persistence conquer all things.

I once said "Genius without education is like silver in the mine." In today's internet world, observations that don't become information are indeed an untapped resource.

I also once said "Hide not your talents, they for use were made. What's a sundial in the shade?". Who would have known that tediously using a thermometer centuries ago, would not only greatly impact our lives then in charting out the Gulf Stream, but would still be quite useful centuries later.

Just like a rolling stone gathers no moss, an unused thermometer gathers no information. I'll leave you with a final thought. An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest!

Reading Franklin

David Blankenhorn, Barbara Dafoe Whitehead, and Sorcha Brophy-Warren, eds., *Franklin's Thrift: the History of a Lost American Virtue* (Templeton Foundation Press, May, 2009).

Alan Houston, "Benjamin Franklin and the 'Wagon Affair' of 1755," *William & Mary Quarterly*, April, 2009 issue. The discovery of a group of documents in the British Library which appear to have been copied from some in Franklin's possession was the impetus for this article about providing wagons for General Braddock's expedition to the frontier during the French and Indian War.

Robert H. Patton, *Patriot Pirates* (2008). The grandson of the military genius of World War II tells the story of American privateering during the Revolutionary War. Franklin's part in supporting these seaborne insurgents is not well known. His personal crusade to put an end to privateering for future generations influenced the final peace negotiations.

"Ben Franklin Goes to Wall Street: Money, Investing, and the Good Life"

CD Available--\$30 plus \$5 shipping and handling

If you missed the 2009 symposium, a recording of the morning sessions held on Friday, April 17 at The National Constitution Center is now available. CD includes opening remarks by Roy E. Goodman, President; "Ben Franklin's Three Financial Virtues: Industry, Thrift, and Prudence by Blaine McCormick, Ph.D., Baylor University; "The American Revolution and Financial Crisis: How Franklin Survived and Prospered" by Mark Skousen, Ph.D., Grantham University; and "Ben Franklin on Real Estate Bubbles, Inflation and Central Banking" by Robert E. Wright, Ph.D., New York University. The luncheon and afternoon panel sessions were not recorded.

To order your CD, please email kathydeluca@friendsoffranklin.org for an order form or call 856-833-1771 to obtain the form.

In Memoriam: Benjamin Franklin Reinauer, II



Benjamin Franklin Reinauer, II, who provided the impetus for the formation of Celebration! of Benjamin Franklin, Founder, died on January 21, 2009 at the age of 92. Franklin Reinauer continued to play an active role in this young organization, maintaining an extensive correspondence both by email and regular mail and attending meetings despite a three-hour drive each way until this past year when he would attend via conference calls. Just one week prior to his death he presented the 11th Franklin Founder Bowl to P. Roy Vagelos, M.D., an honor he cherished.



Calendar of Events

May 20, 2009

Professor Simon Newman of the University of Glasgow speaks on "Printer and Tradesman: Benjamin Franklin's Class Politics" at 4 PM in the Reading Room of the Jefferson Library at the International Center for Jefferson Studies, Charlottesville, Va.

June 19-20, 2009

"Do You Know Ben Like I Know Ben?" Two day symposium sponsored by Conococheague Institute, Mercersburg, Pa., in commemoration of the 225th anniversary of Franklin County. Friends Roy Goodman, Jim Srodes, and Lady Joan Reid, historian of the Benjamin Franklin House in London, are among the featured speakers. See: <http://conococheague.org/> for more information.

October 1-4, 2009

Friends of Franklin trip to the Hudson Valley. See "Benjamin Franklin and the Hudson Valley" for more information or contact Kathy DeLuca, 856-833-1771.

November 2009

The Minnesota Historical Society is mounting a small version of the Franklin exhibit, and in conjunction with that the Bakken Museum in Minneapolis is reviving their exhibit on Franklin and the lightning rod. See "Franklin Exhibit Tours Again" for more information.

January 15, 2010

Celebration! of Benjamin Franklin, Founder. Contact Carol Smith, cwsmith@verizon.net for more information or visit: www.ushistory.org/celebration.

Ongoing:

The traveling exhibit, *Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World*, may be coming to a location near you. Below are some upcoming locations. For future locations see: www.benfranklin300.org/traveling_library_exhibit.html.

May 6-June 19, 2009

Denton Public Library, Denton, TX; Williamsburg Regional Library, Williamsburg, VA

July 1-August 14, 2009

Cedar City Public Library, Cedar City, UT

Franklin Tidbits

What Would Ben Franklin Think?

Friend Stuart Green has been tapped by *The Saturday Evening Post* to write a weekly blog on how Franklin would view the facts and foibles of modern times. Stuart would like to ask the Friends of Franklin for ideas and thoughts about the blog, as well as topics for consideration. Email your queries to him at sgreen@uci.edu.

Franklin and Mobile Devices?

In February, Google announced that it would make available 1.5 million public domain books (now available on Google Books) on mobile devices like the iPhone and T-Mobile's G1. Amazon is also making titles for their electronic reader, the Kindle, available on a variety of mobile phones. You may soon be able to read Franklin's *Autobiography* on your mobile phone.

Franklin Exhibit Tours Again

The award-winning traveling exhibition, "Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World," last seen in Paris in March 2008, will be on on tour once more, in a somewhat smaller edition, opening in St. Paul, Minnesota, on November 27, 2009. Sponsored by the Minnesota Historical Society, the 5,000 sq. ft. exhibition will include approximately 100 artifacts, most of the interactive elements from the earlier rendition, as well as many of the immersive environments. Curated by Rosalind Remer and Page Talbott, this revised exhibition will travel to the Bowers Museum, Santa Ana, Calif. (December 16, 2010 to March 13, 2011), the Heinz History Museum, Pittsburgh, Pa. (April 14 to July 17, 2011),

the Fresno (Calif.) Metropolitan Museum of Art and Science (September 2, 2011, to January 8, 2012) and the Gerald Ford Museum, Grand Rapids, Mich. (February 9 to May 6, 2012). The website created by the Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary and now administered by Franklin & Marshall College includes an interactive timeline featuring many elements of this exhibition and will have links to the five venues for the new tour. Please visit the website at www.benfranklin300.org for more details. You can also follow the American Library Association tour of the graphic panel exhibition of the same name that is traveling to 40 libraries in 31 states through the summer of 2011.

Benjamin Franklin and the Hudson Valley

October 1-4, 2009

What better time to visit the Hudson Valley, New York, than fall foliage time? The Hudson Valley, particularly the Albany area, includes many Franklin connections: Indian treaties at Fort Stanwix (present day Rome), the Albany Plan of Union, and his visit to Albany in 1776 on his way to Canada to try to persuade the Canadians to join with the 13 colonies against the British Crown.

Our Friend, Kate Ohno from The Papers of Benjamin Franklin at Yale University, who hails from the area, has provided many suggestions for special visits and shared her contacts to help make this an enjoyable and entertaining tour and provide good insights into Franklin's time in Albany.

Our preliminary plans include visits to the New York State Museum in Albany, the Schuyler Mansion, Johnson Hall, Saratoga Springs, and Clermont (this last the home of Robert R. Livingston, the nation's first Foreign Secretary, who wrote often to Franklin while he was in France during the Revolution). Clermont was burned by the British during the Revolution and was rebuilt c. 1790. It looks out over the Hudson just north of Rhinebeck, NY, in the mid-Hudson Valley.

So, mark the date on your calendar to join your fellow Friends for a spectacular time in New York. A complete brochure will be mailed at the end of May. In the meantime, save the date! Red letters on your calendar! The Friends of Franklin will travel north this year to follow the footsteps of Benjamin Franklin.

The Friends' Annual Appeal begins on May 1, 2009. Your contribution helps with the Friends' general operating support and as always is tax-deductible.

Please be as generous as you can.

Thank-you to our symposium sponsor **The Franklin Maxims**. The Franklin Maxims (www.franklinmaxims.com) will be traveling with the exhibition: **Cents & Sensibility: Benjamin Franklin & Popular Culture** which appears next at Conococheague Institute, Mercersburg, PA from June 19-September 2009. Sherry Bufano (www.sherrybufano.com) is The Franklin Maxims artist. We are grateful for the support of this event.

Special Thanks to Our Life Members!

William Anderson, Jr. Wichita, KS	William Greer, Jr. Chevy Chase, MD	Lee Knepp McClure, PA	Gregg & Laverne Orwoll Rochester, MN
Ralph Archbold Philadelphia, PA	Doug Hall Cincinnati, OH	E. Philip Krider Tucson, AZ	L. David Roper Blacksburg, VA
Genya Asama Chino, Nagano-ken, Japan	Pamela Hartsock, PhD. Richland, WA	Mr. & Mrs. E. Leisenring, Jr. Berwyn, PA	Mark Skousen, PhD. Irvington, NY
Eric Auerbach New Rochelle, NY	James Hayase Tokyo, Japan	Claude-Anne Lopez New Haven, CT	Carolinn Skyler Oaklyn, NJ
David Bishop Rochester, MN	Yannick Henaff Ozoir La Ferriere, France	Martin Mangold Rockville, MD	Kathryn Theil Trenton, MI
Jackson Boswell Arlington, VA	Dudley Herschbach Lincoln, MA	Albert Merck Lexington, MA	Anna Toogood Wyndmoor, PA
John Buchanan, FCAS, MAAA Hamilton, NJ	E. Cutter Hughes, Jr. Huntsville, AL	Robert Middlekauff Oakland, CA	Noriyuki Uenami Saitama, Japan
Burrus Carnahan Vienna, VA	Mr. & Mrs. David Jones Louisville, KY	Carla Mulford Bellefonte, PA	William Walker, III Orono, ME
Robert Culley Menlo Park, CA	Frank Jones Bloomington, IN	Ikuko Nakano Aoba-ku, Yokohama, Kanagawa, Japan	George Waters Rochester, MN
Governor & Mrs. Pierre S. duPont Rockland, DE	Daniel Jouve Paris, France	Dr. Michael Newcomb Cave Creek, AZ	Douglas Whitley Batavia, IL
Elly Fitzig Wichita, KS	Laurie Kahn-Leavitt Watertown, MA	Barbara Oberg Princeton, NJ	Ehsan Zayan London, England
James Gassaway Swarthmore, PA	Stuart Karu Jupiter, FL		
Michael George Dallas, TX	Noah Katz New York City, NY		
Patti Goldsmith Holland, PA	John Kelly Penn Valley, PA		
Stuart Green, M.D. Los Alamitos, CA	Benjamin Klein Philadelphia, PA		
	Stanley Klos Palm Harbor, FL		

Welcome New Members!

Franklin

Walter Powell
Mercersburg, PA

Harold Jamison
Philadelphia, PA

J. Ward Larkin
Philadelphia, PA

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!

NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ FAX: _____ E-MAIL: _____

Method of payment: Personal check _____ or Money order _____ (Made payable to Friends of Franklin, Inc.)

Credit Card: MasterCard _____ VISA _____

Card # _____ Expiration date: _____

Signature _____ Amount enclosed: _____

Please send to: Friends of Franklin, Inc., PO Box 40048, Philadelphia, PA 19106

856.833.1771 856.854.0773 (FAX) fof@friendsoffranklin.org www.friendsoffranklin.org

Friends of Franklin, Inc.
P.O. Box 40048
Philadelphia, PA 19106
Website: www.friendsoffranklin.org
Volume 19, Number 1, Spring 2009