

Franklin Gazette

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Visit: www.friendsoffranklin.org

"Think of three Things, whence you came, where you are going, and to whom you must account."

Poor Richard, May 1755

President's Message

By Roy E. Goodman

Franklin's role as a superb diplomat has opened avenues for the Friends in reaching new audiences, particularly those abroad. For example, Philadelphia Consular Corp members have visited the APS Library bringing diplomats, educators, scientists, and business people here to learn about Franklin and the Society's rich history. They in turn return home pleased to have learned of Franklin's extensive network of correspondents and global interests.

Lately we've also been treated to visits from American specialists whose work benefits from an understanding of Franklin, like conference participants who included Native American tribal leaders, ethnographers, and linguists. This group greatly appreciated seeing Franklin documents about the Paxton affair, Indian diplomacy, and Ben's interest in Indian culture, especially agricultural and medical practices.

Recently Franklin connections have brought scholars with differing interests to explore the collections of the APS beyond Franklin material. Gordon Ramsay, a scientist and engineer specializing in the human vocal tract, came to Philadelphia to explore his interest in early speaking machines. The digital edition of *The Papers of Benjamin Franklin* had led him to exciting new information about one of the inventors of such a machine, who Franklin met in France. But Gordon expanded his search for historic materials in the APS archives, using



Black and white, half length portrait of Franklin standing at table, wearing fur cap and fur trimmed coat.

Courtesy of the American Philosophical Society

the Franklin materials as a springboard, and this led him to unique unpublished materials he might not have otherwise discovered. Our future host on the Friends' upcoming jaunt to Scotland, historian Ronald Crawford, also was clued into the wonders of the APS because an earlier research project caused him to consult Franklin manuscripts from the APS. He crossed the Atlantic with a new research topic and used other APS collections in May.

In answering requests for information regarding early Philadelphia contacts with distant places, the digital edition of the Franklin Papers reveals correspondents in or letters regarding the Hapsburg Empire, Russia, Portugal, Spain, Italy and Scandinavia. These are not the usual French or British contacts we expect from Franklin. Of course, visitors generally would not know of this rich and diverse global side of Philadelphia or Franklin. Just as FOF member Dave Wang has explored Franklin's interest in China, I too have cast an even wider net to include the Middle East, Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia and even polar regions.

More importantly, how might Franklin confront contemporary issues affecting the world, or what suggestions would he offer today's diplomats or citizens residing in other nations?

The Ben Franklin Transatlantic Fellows Initiative, (BTFI) Summer Institute for Youth, an organization hosted by Wake Forest University, and funded by the U.S. Department of State, aptly addresses issues like citizens and conflict in regions around the world. Dr. Allan Loudon, Director of the program will bring some 50 students from over thirty countries to Philadelphia in July. I plan to meet with the group and expect that Franklin's legacy and the Friends of Franklin will both benefit by forging ties with these international students eager to live in a better world. Please visit BTFI's website www.bffi.org too.

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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.

Calling All Franklin Descendants

The Papers of Benjamin Franklin are preparing to publish volume 41 of the edition and in the process have encountered a manuscript mystery!

One of the letters in this upcoming volume is from Franklin to his sister Jane Mecom of Dec. 26, 1783. The only surviving manuscript version of this letter is an early 19th-century transcript recently acquired by the Library Company of Philadelphia. With it are copies of more than ten other letters, all from either Franklin or his son William to recipients including Mecom, Franklin's mother Abiah, and his daughter Sarah Bache. One is from an unidentified author to Josiah Flagg, Franklin's grandnephew (and Mecom's grandson). They were written between 1749 to 1789; a few have no date at all.

How did the transcripts come about? The only clue is a letter prefacing them dated March 28, 1825, written from Philadelphia and addressed to the editors of the London Magazine, to whom the copies were enclosed for publication (they were printed later that year). The cover letter is signed only "D. W. B., Jr." and in it he claims to have prepared the copies from the originals (he was "well acquainted" with Franklin's handwriting) then in the possession of Franklin's "family." Which branch of that family, we ask? Perhaps the family of Josiah Flagg (who lived until 1840)? And who, exactly, was D. W. B., Jr., who appears to have been a family acquaintance?

Any ideas? Please contact Alicia Anderson or Kate Ohno at the Franklin Papers, P.O. Box 208240, New Haven, CT 06520-8240. Call (203) 432-1814 or e-mail us anytime at <alicia.anderson@yale.edu> or <kate.ohno@yale.edu>. Thanks for your help!

Franklin Family Reunion

Don't forget to mark your calendars for the Franklin Family Reunion – May 6-8, 2011 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Franklin's adopted city. Contact Kathy DeLuca for more information: 856-833-1771.

A Special Welcome to our New Franklin Descendant Members: A special Franklin descendant membership rate of \$100 per family is available for a limited time. What a wonderful gift for a special occasion. Several families from coast to coast have taken advantage of this offer and we're delighted to welcome them to the Friends of Franklin family:

Daniel and Lisa Bache (and Julia, Catherine, Laura, & William), Louisville, KY
James E. Birt and Janet Veigel, Dayton, OH
Mrs. James A. Harper, New York, NY
Stephen Bache Hessinger, Fair Haven, NJ
Jacqualyn E. Hillegass, Telford, PA
Renee & Jeff Nauful, Forest, VA
Fred and Kathleen Stark, La Conner, WA

Please note that there is a special descendant membership rate. Contact Kathy DeLuca for more information.

Annual Drive Underway

The Friends of Franklin's annual appeal drive is underway. Please be as generous as you can to support the Friends organization. As costs spiral membership fees alone are insufficient to meet operation costs. We depend on your generosity to allow us to continue to provide you with interesting and relevant information about one of our all time favorite people – Benjamin Franklin. Whether it's through Facebook and Twitter, our weekly blasts of Franklin Brain Builders or our *Franklin Gazette* we're hoping to keep Franklin and his many interests and ideals a vital part of all our lives.

Each and every gift is tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowable by law. For additional information contact, Kathy DeLuca at 856-833-1771.

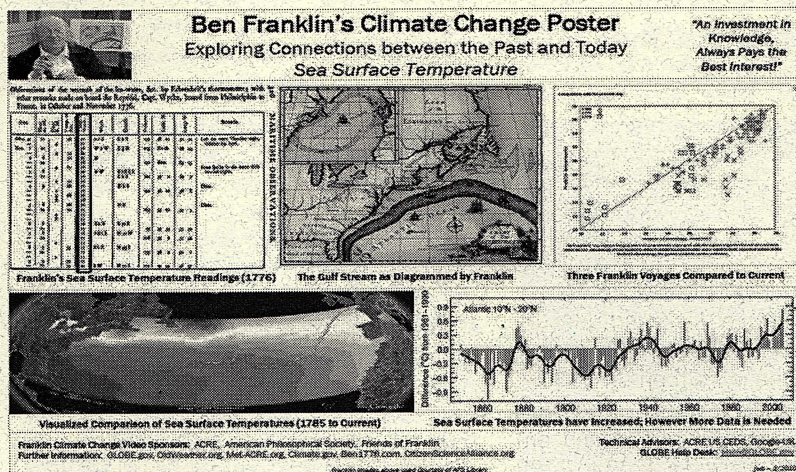
Friends of Franklin is on Facebook!

Don't forget to follow up to date postings on the Friends of Franklin's Facebook page – surely Franklin would have been an active participant!

Ralph Archbold at NSTA Annual Conference in Philadelphia: Franklin's Climate Change Video



by John Buchanan



Climate Change Poster



John Buchanan, Ralph Archbold, and Teresa Kennedy

Ralph Archbold, in his familiar role as Ben Franklin, visited the National Science Teachers Association's annual conference in Philadelphia on March 18, 2010. The NSTA Conference brought more than 10,000 science teachers to Philadelphia, offering the latest in science content, teaching strategy and research to enhance and expand the professional growth of teachers.

Archbold appeared at the conference as a guest of the GLOBE Program, the world's largest international science education program. GLOBE (Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment), funded by NASA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the National Science Foundation (NSF), is active in more than 100 countries. GLOBE has influenced more than a million students worldwide by increasing scientific understanding of the environment and stewardship of the Earth.

Franklin's scientific work lent itself to the NSTA conference theme, "Connecting Science Past with Science Future." Franklin (AKA Ralph) was on hand to discuss his early investigations and draw early attention to the GLOBE Program's worldwide Student Climate Research Campaign (SCRC) for 2011-13. He also signed copies of his recently released "Franklin's Climate Change Video", distributed copies of a sample lesson plan for students, and discussed an accompanying poster designed for classroom use. The SCRC will engage students from around the world in researching their local climate, in environment impacts in their own

communities, and raise awareness about climate change.

Ben Franklin was one of America's earliest collectors of environmental data, which he used to compile *Poor Richard's Almanac*. Containing weather forecasts, tide tables, and astronomical information along with homilies and other information about issues of the day, *Poor Richard's Almanac* was one of America's first bestsellers.

Franklin was also instrumental in charting the Gulf Stream. Beginning in 1775, whenever he made a voyage across the Atlantic, he recorded observations of the surface temperature of the ocean. He used these observations to help chart what he called the "river on an ocean." Centuries later, scientists have confirmed that not only was this depiction amazingly accurate by recent satellite imagery standards, but that the same information is being used for new purposes today. Franklin's early observations have become a valuable resource in the investigation of how the earth's climate has been changing over the last few centuries.

A description of how Franklin's Gulf Stream information is being used today was included in the spring 2009 issue of the *Franklin Gazette*. That article describes a project spearheaded by Friend John Buchanan. The entertaining 8-minute video it produced, starring Archbold, was written and produced by Buchanan. This video was sponsored by the Friends of Franklin, the American Philosophical Society, and a worldwide meteorological

organization, ACRE (A Climate Record of the Earth). The ACRE US CEDS advisory subcommittee also included Friends Roy Goodman, Stuart Green, and James Fleming.

The goals of this subcommittee are to (1) engage the interest of middle and high school students worldwide to add to the public meteorological record and (2) inspire them to do their own independent investigation of climate impacts using the latest data visualization techniques such those available through Google.

For GLOBE's upcoming SCRC campaign, Franklin (our Friend Ralph) will promote the collaboration between students, teachers, scientists, and citizens. Truly, Franklin's inspiration lives on. Franklin would have agreed with the theme adopted by the organization: "An Investment in Knowledge Always Pays the Best Interest".



Ralph Archbold and Gary Randolph

Benjamin Franklin and the Hudson Valley: Four Seasons in Albany Part II, Late Winter, 1776

by Kate Mearns Ohno



"Hudson River at Cold Spring" by Johann Hermann Carmiencke. The date of the painting is 19th century, but the geological formations shown wouldn't have altered since Franklin's visit to the Hudson Valley. Courtesy of the Smithsonian American Art Museum

Editor's note: This series of articles is based on the talk Kate Ohno gave to the Friends in October, 2009, during their visit to the Hudson Valley. Part I was published in the winter 2009-2010 issue.

Anxiety, Curiosity, and Despair

1776 saw Franklin's return to Albany as member of a Congressional commission to Canada, entrusted with the overwhelming responsibility of encouraging Canadians to join the colonies in rebellion, or, failing that, of assuring their neutrality. His voyage through the Hudson Valley began in New York on April 2. Although it was spring by the calendar, it was winter by the thermometer and anxiety and desperation depressed spirits in the thirteen North American colonies. American troops had invaded Canada and held it throughout the winter, but their numbers were small, the garrison was nearly impossible to maintain. Although Canadians had initially been receptive to the American invasion, they were tiring of warfare and the American presence.

As Franklin's traveling companion, Charles Carroll, observed, the Hudson

River seemed "intended by nature to open a communication between Canada" and New York. Franklin, Samuel Chase, and Charles and John Carroll sailed up the river on April 2. On the way, they suffered not only deprivation, but physical threat. This was an onerous mission for any man, not least the 70-year-old Franklin. Early on, cannons awoke the travelers. Were they under attack? The rest stayed below, but Franklin went up on deck to see. It was a skirmish on Bedloes Island.

Despite the danger, the travelers were keen observers of all that surrounded them; they stopped to inspect geological formations of the Hudson Highlands, and Charles Carroll described seeing the Catskill Mountains through the haze—they looked like bluish clouds. A rain storm almost drove them onto the rocks, their sloop's sails were badly torn, and unfavorable winds delayed them.

They still paused to inspect military fortifications all along the way, an important component of their mission. All were discouragingly in need of rebuilding and expansion. The Commissioners

to Canada sent Congress reports on the forts' condition and suggestions for improvements.

It took them 4 days to sail the 150 miles from New York to Albany. They passed the estates of both Patriots and Tories—a visible reminder of the divisions amongst the colonists. Clermont, the home of Robert Livingston, America's first secretary of Foreign Affairs, was among the country houses visible from the Hudson. A year and a half later it would be a smoking ruin, burned by British troops. After the Revolution Livingston rebuilt it, and his descendants occupied it until the 1950s. The Friends' 2009 trip included a visit to this beautiful spot.

On April 7 the four American commissioners landed in Albany. The old fort there was in shambles, without a single gun. The town's people mainly spoke Dutch. How could the Patriot cause triumph in a multi-cultural multi-lingual society? The voyagers were greeted by General Philip Schuyler, who invited them to dine with him at his town house, about a mile away (the site of another stop on the Friends' itinerary). The General "lived in pretty style", with his wife and two daughters. Franklin always had an eye for the ladies; the two youngest he thought were "lively agreeable, black-eyed girls."

Leaving Albany on April 9 in a wagon, the American delegation was witness to one of the most awesome barriers that nature had erected to travel; the falls of the Mohawk River at Cohoes. The waterfall was a "terrifying spectacle," swollen with melting snow and recent rains, it formed a huge, deafening torrent. In stark contrast to nature's fury were the cultivated bottom lands, flooded at this time of year. The roads were so bad that it took the entire day to travel to Saratoga, now a matter of a few minutes on the Northway. Northern New Yorkers call this time of the year "Mud Season," but travel in 1776 was made worse than usual by damage done by numerous wagons carrying supplies to the American troops in Canada.

The travelers reached Saratoga, and Schuyler's country seat, located only

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a stone's throw from the site of what would be in 1777 the Battle of Saratoga. Vistas opened up in both directions along the Hudson from the high ground near Schuyler's house. Several mills were located on a nearby stream. One, for hemp, was of particularly ingenious design. You can imagine Franklin's delight it observing its construction.

On April 12th it snowed hard all morning. The weather was so daunting, and the passage ahead so treacherous that Franklin feared he would not survive it. He wrote to a friend "I begin to apprehend that I have undertaken a fatigue that, at my time of life, may prove too much for me," and he closed by sending his friend a final farewell. Crossing the Hudson by ferry, they passed yet another crumbling fort. The delegation's wagon had to skirt a high water fall. Then they went by row boat up the Hudson to Fort Edward. The current was so swift that it took more than 4 hours to go 7 miles. On this leg, the commissioners met specialized troops, "batteau men," who were in charge of getting men and supplies through the perilous waters to their destination, where only the ruins of the old British fortifications remained. The boatmen, although expert and strong had "the greatest difficulty" in stemming the current. The Congressional delegates lodged at "a good large inn" at Fort Edward, already occupied by an American regiment. Despite the crowded conditions, the commissioners were accommodated.

The party then set off for Lake George, but they had not gone a mile when a message from Schuyler reached them; the passage was obstructed by ice. Their detour was on the old military road established during the French and Indian War, following the Hudson River (not navigable at this point). After a night at Queensbury at an inn, the commissioners reached Fort George, where news from the occupying American army in Canada was of the gloomiest sort. Fort George was also in terrible condition. But the American commissioners were heartened by a meeting with representatives of the Onondaga nation, who agreed to remain neutral during the conflict. The voyagers visited the spot on which Sir William Johnson had defeated the French during the French and Indian War and the ruins of Fort William Henry, which had been destroyed by the French commander Montcalm. The fort's garrison had been massacred after they surrendered by Indians allied with the French. Do you

remember this story from *The Last of the Mohicans*? It was recent history to Franklin and his fellow travelers. The cold and wet American delegation marveled at the clarity of the water of Lake George.

On the evening of April 19 the party, joined by Schuyler, embarked on Lake George on shallow draft boats 36 feet long and 8 feet wide. They rowed, breaking the ice as they went. That night they slept on board, protected from the weather only by canvas awnings. Franklin said he slept comfortably, but it must have been damp and chilly. They got up very early and soon found their way blocked by ice; they had to backtrack along the east shore the length of the lake to where Lake George flows into a river that empties into Lake Champlain. Their passage along the river was like a theme park ride; their boats shot through the swift stream, grazing the rocks of its bed, and stopping just shy of a waterfall that powered a sawmill. There their boats were transferred to special oxen-drawn wagons that carried them to Fort Ticonderoga on Lake Champlain. The idea of building a canal to connect Canada with the colonies by water was discussed, and the group concluded that if it could be done there would be little danger of the enemy ever gaining control of Lake Champlain, or of them ever being able to invade the colonies. Such improvements would also be beneficial to trade with Canada during peace time. This hopeful plan was not realized in time for the canal to serve a defensive purpose.

On the way to Fort Ticonderoga, the travelers' boat was impaled on pickets erected by the French years earlier to prevent the British Colonial forces from using the river. The hearts of the commissioners must have sunk when they caught sight of Fort Ticonderoga—yet another ruin. The travelers heard there of an ambitious plan to arm three vessels in order to maintain naval superiority on the lake, just in case the Americans should be driven out of Canada (they were). Two of the vessels proposed for this duty had been captured from the enemy, but one had no guns and needed repairs.

On April 24 the party embarked on boats on Lake Champlain; there they saw Crown Point Fort, which had been destroyed by fire, and spent the night in a private home. When the travelers reembarked at 5 AM, and the winds blew so fiercely that the party had to go ashore. They got up even earlier the next day, but the winds picked up again, and they spent an uncomfortable night in the lee of an island, hoping the

wind would not shift and drive them onto the rocks. Four mattresses, which had been brought from Philadelphia, were placed under the boat's awning. Without these "beds" they would have had to sit up all night.

On the morning of the 27th they were within a couple of miles of the Canadian border. The time from Albany: 20 days. Waiting for transportation to Montreal they stayed in a ransacked house and slept on the floor. This miserable night was enlivened by Franklin the raconteur, telling some of his famous stories. They finally arrived in Montreal on April 29. The trip through a country ravaged by war was over 400 miles. It was soon obvious that their mission was hopeless, that the Americans were not welcome, that the Canadians were disinclined to adopt their cause, and British reinforcements were due to arrive at any moment. The American commissioners, so recently arrived, and the sickly, ill fed and poorly equipped American army would have to retreat over the same inhospitable ground that had so recently been traversed, with the British army in pursuit.

To be continued.

"Electricity"

On March 27, 2010, the Franklin Institute opened a new permanent exhibit "Electricity," covering the spectrum of the field from Franklin's early "experiments and observations" to today's up-to-date science. Included in the exhibit is an early lightning rod, c. 1750, which came from the long-gone West home at Third and Dock streets, and a copy of Franklin's famous publication, *Experiments and Observations on Electricity*. An electronic copy of this work allows visitors to browse key passages and then view related artifacts illuminated along an adjacent wall. Visitors can also build circuits, dance on a sustainable dance floor that generates power to light itself, and more. The Franklin Institute also includes a segment: "Compromising Choices" allowing visitors to consider the various energy sources needed to meet society's needs and balancing them against environmental concerns.

For more information contact: <http://www2.fi.edu/exhibits/permanent/electricity.php>

Benjamin Franklin: *Breastfeeding Advocate?*



by Karen Poppy, Esq.

For Luke, and with special thanks to Kate Ohno

In writing an essay on the early relationship between Benjamin Franklin and Catharine Ray, I came across enough references in Benjamin Franklin's writing and correspondence to nursing and breastfeeding, that I thought some discussion of it would be worthwhile. At the time Benjamin Franklin first met the still unmarried Catharine Ray, tracts on childrearing, including nursing and breastfeeding, had already come into vogue¹. A man with a soft spot in his heart for children, and a man of the Enlightenment, Franklin was both a man of his time and ahead of his time on the question of nursing and breastfeeding.

Later in his life, Benjamin Franklin corresponded with his friend, a London merchant named George Whatley. Mr. Whatley also had a soft spot in his heart for children and knew that in this respect Benjamin Franklin was a kindred spirit, for he wrote in a letter to Franklin on May 6, 1783,

"I have been now going 5 Years Treasurer of my favorite Charity, the Foudling. It is of very little use, being so cramped as it is. I wish it otherwise. Some of my Brethren Governors, are so extremely narrow minded, because our Finances are very low, that lately they have restricted one half the Number of Children to be taken in annually, from 120 to 60. I tell them if they spend every farthing we have, I think I can get you to take all the Children. I am laugh'd at for this Idea; but I go farther and say you will buy them."

On May 23, 1785, Franklin wrote from Passy to his "old Friend" Mr. Whatley regarding the sad state of parenting in France at that time and in decades prior, that resulted from parents failing to personally care for their children, and from mothers failing to nurse their babies. What started as every tenth child becoming a ward of the public changed over a few decades to *one third*. The portion of Franklin's letter that discusses this is so interesting in its description of the tragic situation of many French children that it deserves to be quoted at length:

"I return your Note of Children receiv'd in the Foundling Hospital at Paris from

1741 to 1755 inclusive, and I have added the Years preceding as far back as 1710, together with the general Christnings of the City, and the Years succeeding down to 1770. Those since that Period I have not been able to obtain. I have noted in the Margin the gradual Increase, viz. from every tenth Child so thrown upon the Publick till it comes to every third. Fifteen Years have pass'd since the last Account, and probably it may now amount to one half. Is it right to encourage this monstrous Deficiency of natural Affection? A Surgeon I met with here, excus'd the Women of Paris, by Saying seriously that they could not give Suck, Car, dit il, ils n'ont point des Tetons. [Because, said he, they have no breasts.]. He assur'd me it was a Fact, and had me look at them, and observe how flat they were in the Breast; they have nothing more there, says he, that I have upon the Back of my Hand. I have since thought that there might be some Truth in his Observation, and that possibly Nature finding they made no use of Bubbies, has left off giving them any. Yet since Rousseau, with admirable Eloquence pleaded for the Rights of Children to their Mother's Milk, the Mode has chang'd a little, and some Ladies of Quality now suckle their Infants and find Milk enough. May the Mode descend to the lower Ranks, till it becomes no longer the Custom to pack their Infants away, as soon as born, to the *Enfans-trouvés* [royal orphanage], with the careless Observation that the King is better able to maintain them. I am credibly inform'd that nine tenths of them die there pretty soon; which is said to be a great Relief to the Institution, whose Funds would not otherwise be sufficient to bring up the Remainder: Except the few Persons of Quality abovementioned, and the Multitude who send to the Hospital, the Practice is to hire Nurses in the Country to carry out the Children and take care of them there. Here is an Office for examining the Health of Nurses, and giving them Licenses. They come to Town on certain days of the Week in Companies to receive the Children, and we often meet Trains of them on the Road returning to the neighbouring Villages with each a Child in Arms. But those who are good enough to try this way of raising their Children, are often not able to pay the Expense; so that the Prisons of Paris are crowded with wretched Fathers and

Mothers confined pour mois de Nourice [unpaid nursing services]; tho' it is laudably a favorite Charity to pay for them and set such Prisoners at Liberty. I wish Success to the new Project of assisting the Poor to keep their Children at home; because I think there is no Nurse like a Mother (or not many) and that if Parents did not immediately send their Infants out of their Sight, they would in a few Days begin to love them, and thence be spurr'd to greater Industry for their Maintenance. This is a Subject you understand better than I, and therefore having perhaps said too much, I drop it. I only add to the Notes a Remark from the History of the Academy of Sciences, much in favour of the Foundling Institution."

Franklin's opinion in his 1785 letter to George Whatley that "there is no Nurse like a Mother (or not many)" actually expressed his thought regarding this topic over a great portion of his life. Twenty years earlier, in his October 16, 1755 letter to Catharine Ray, Franklin included in his advice that she "get a good Husband; then stay at home, and nurse the Children." Two decades later, Franklin continued to advise young ladies to nurse their children. Franklin enjoyed a close relationship, like that of father and daughter, with Mary "Polly" Stevenson Hewson. When Polly married and had a daughter of her own, Franklin must have advised her to breastfeed her little girl, for Polly wrote:

"My mother was urging me to day to wean my little girl, I cannot tell why, for I never was in better health; I pleaded for her by saying that as she is to be your grand daughter you would be very angry if I did not let her suck a year, my mother then was silent, for absent as well as present your opinion is her Law."

Franklin saw the benefits of breastfeeding for both mother and child, as some advocated in his day, and many advocate today under the "Breast is Best" campaign. He made a point in his autobiography to note that "[his] Mother had likewise an excellent Constitution. She suckled all her 10 Children."

Franklin may have encouraged young ladies such as Catharine Ray and Polly Stevenson Hewson to breastfeed their children, but let's give the ladies their due

continued on p.8

Y	T	I	C	I	R	T	C	C	H	A	R	D	S	Z	I
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R	L	D	O	O	G	O	D	E	C	N	A	G	R	C	R

11. Magic Squares
10. Silence Dogood
9. Copley Medal
8. Kite
7. Electricity
6. Junto

1. Abiah, Benjamin, Deborah, Francis, James, Josiah, Sally and William
2. Boston, London, Paris and Philadelphia
3. Craven Street and Milk Street
4. Bifocals, Franklin Stove, Glass Armonica, Lightning Rod, Odometer, Swim Fins
5. Pennsylvania Gazette and Poor Richards Almanac

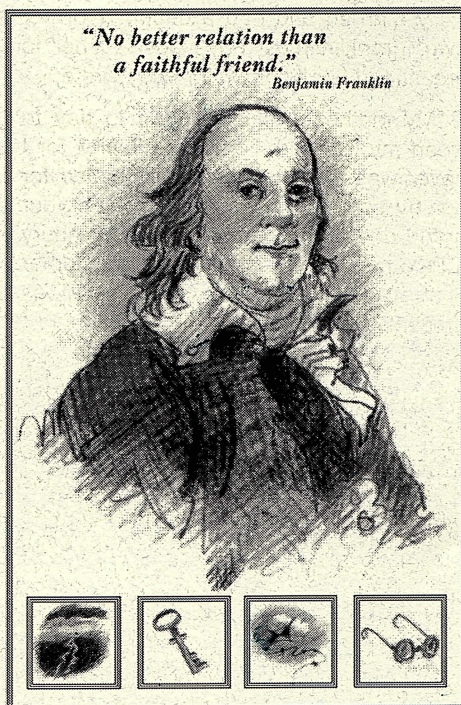
Franklin Word Puzzle

Compiled by Aziz Inan
University of Portland, Portland, OR
May 14, 2010

In this word puzzle, you need to find:

- Eight names from Franklin's family (including his)
- Four major cities in Franklin's life
- Two street names related to Franklin's life
- Franklin's six inventions
- Franklin's two publications
- Name of a club formed by Franklin
- A subject investigated by Franklin
- A tool used by Franklin in a scientific experiment
- A prestigious medal awarded to Franklin
- Franklin's pseudonym
- Franklin's hobby

Note that each word is provided either in horizontal form (left to right or right to left), or vertical form (upward or downward), or diagonal form, or in two-segment L shape form (one portion of the word horizontal and the other portion vertical forming an L).



“No better relation than a faithful friend.”
—Benjamin Franklin

Customized card for a cause! Thinking of someone special, need to send out a thank-you note, want to acknowledge or touch base with a colleague? Why not send a note card that supports a good cause?

The Friends of Franklin, Inc. are selling a 5 x 7" custom graphic greeting card printed on all natural colored card stock with matching envelope. The inside is blank for personal notes. All profit from the sale of these cards supports the work and daily operations of The Friends of Franklin, Inc.

The Friends of Franklin would like to acknowledge and offer our sincere thanks to President Roy Goodman's wife, Sherry Bufano, who donated her design talent to provide the customized artwork for the card graphic.

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☐ 6 cards for \$15 ☐ 12 cards for \$25 ☐ 25 cards for \$45 **Total Enclosed** _____

Payment by check or money order. \$2.00 shipping & handling.
The Friends of Franklin, Inc., PO Box 40048, Philadelphia, PA 19106

Reading Franklin



Joe Breman, *Ocean Globe* (ESRI Press Academic, March, 2010). This scientific work describes bathymetry, the study of underwater depth, which allows the production of maps of the ocean floor. Franklin's work on mapping the Gulf Stream has been documented by various historians, but this author, a scientist, also recognizes his contributions to what would become a new field of study.

Richard H. Immerman, *Empire for Liberty: a History of American Imperialism from Benjamin Franklin to Paul Wolfowitz* (Princeton University Press, April, 2010). The author provides sketches of six leading American thinkers, including Franklin. He argues that "the quest for empire has guided the nation's architects from the very beginning" and investigates how America and its leaders have reconciled imperialism with the idea of liberty.

Bruce Yenawine, *Benjamin Franklin and the Invention of Microfinance* (Pickering & Chatto, June, 2010), ed. Michele Costello. At long last is published Friend Bruce Yenawine's work on the codicil to Franklin's will and its impact on philanthropy. In its original form it was Bruce's Ph.D. dissertation. It was revised after his death for publication. As the publisher tells us, Franklin "invented an idea that would come to fruition some two centuries later in the global microfinance movement."

Tony Williams, *The Pox and the Covenant: Franklin, Mather, and the Epidemic that Changed America* (April, 2010) reports on the 1721 inoculation program of Cotton Mather and Franklin's part in the debates over inoculation for small pox.

Breastfeeding Advocate cont.

credit. Abiah Franklin, Benjamin Franklin's mother, nursed all 10 of her children and helped to raise her husband's seven other children from his prior marriage. Polly Stevenson Hewson tragically became a widow four years into her marriage, but managed to raise two sons and one daughter. Catharine Ray Greene raised six children of her own and also brought up the children of relatives, including Catharine Littlefield Greene. These women, among many, raised nations.

[1][1] As an example, see *An Essay upon Nursing and the Management of Children, from their Birth to Three Years of Age, By a Physician, Third Edition, 1749*, by William Cadogan.

In His Own Words *In 1776 Franklin asks Britain: "What will you do with this Spirit?"*



In the letter printed below Franklin addressed his old friend Anthony Todd, with whom he had been long been acquainted through his work with the British Post Office. Todd, for his part, had worked in the upper echelons of the Post Office since the early 1730s, and by the time he met Franklin, he was in charge of handling sensitive diplomatic correspondence and overseas mail. An important component of Todd's job was intercepting and opening suspicious correspondence, copying it, and resealing it in such a way that the recipient would not suspect that its contents were not private. Todd was also responsible for having coded documents deciphered and deciding which ones to lay before the king. Nearly three quarters of his salary was paid by the secret service, and his work during the French and Indian War was so outstanding that he received a raise and a gratuity in commemoration of his contributions. By 1765 Todd was the chief civil servant in the Post Office as well as being in control of the foreign mail; he was in an incredibly powerful position, moving in the same circles as cabinet ministers. He claimed to be responsible for the Franking Act (allowing members of Parliament to send mail for free). Todd and Post Master General Francis Dashwood (Lord Le Despencer, mentioned below) got on particularly well.

Franklin would have known about Todd's political connections and work with the secret service when he wrote the letter reproduced here. It rebukes the British ministry for their treatment of Americans. Franklin undoubtedly intended it to be shown to the ministry. As indeed it was: it is inscribed "Original Letter from Doctor Franklyn to Mr Todd communicated by Mr Todd" and the recipient's copy is now in the collection of the British Public Record Office, not among Todd's private papers. Franklin's name was undoubtedly on the list of people whose mail should not pass into the hands of British recipients without examination. Franklin cleverly conveyed his message to the British ministry by addressing the letter to the very man who would in any case be in charge of vetting it. Its enclosures, letters to other friends in Britain, Franklin gives explicit instructions to Todd to seal up ["wafer"] and forward. But they need not be sent post paid!

The letter's intended audience could have been under no illusions about the purpose of Franklin's trip to Canada, announced here. It is a threat that is not offset by Franklin's good wishes to Todd and his teenage daughter, Eleanor. For Franklin's adventures on the way to Canada, see "Benjamin Franklin and the Hudson Valley, Part II," in this issue.

Franklin does more than threaten and rebuke here. He also boasts about getting the better of the British, an outcome that was far from certain in the spring of 1776. Were there really books in use in America to teach children how to read that contained illustrations of the burning of Charlestown, Massachusetts (on June 17, 1775, during the Battle of Bunker Hill), or of Falmouth (on Oct. 18, 1775, now called Portland, Maine), or of Jamestown, Rhode Island (on December 10, 1775), and Norfolk, Virginia, on Jan. 1, 1776? So Franklin claims.

The shocking news of the deaths of innocent women and children shot while fleeing from the British troops is mentioned to dramatize the unfair response of the British ministry to the American crisis, as is the incarceration of Ethan Allen, who had been captured in Canada in September, 1775, and the more recent arrest of James Lovell, the man who dared to publicly question the validity of the Boston Massacre. Franklin's sympathy for the death of defenseless innocents suggests a standard of behavior that also causes him to inquire after Todd's own "dear little girl" who, unlike the unfortunate American children, is living. Franklin here also contrasts Britain's "insanity" with the vivid picture of brave Americans of all conditions and ranks working side by side without pay to fortify New York City against the British general whose troops had so recently occupied Boston. Franklin had doubtless been guided through the construction site by William Alexander, Lord Stirling, an old acquaintance, who was in charge of preparing the defensive line. But Franklin does not mention that the project is in the hands of a British peer-turned Continental army officer. Instead, he stresses the egalitarian nature of the shared work—a scene unthinkable in a class-conscious and hide bound Britain. Franklin's America

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is idealized. It is a bold new world, a world of possibilities, that Britain seems at the writing of this letter, to be determined to try to coerce. But without its North American colonies, says Franklin, Britain cannot be great. However, America without Britain is destined for greatness, or so Franklin would have his readers believe.

New York, March 29, 1776

Dear Sir,

Being here in my Way to Canada and understanding that your Packet sails tomorrow, I take the Opportunity of sending a Line or two to some Friends; among the rest give me leave to salute you with my warmest Wishes for your Health and Prosperity.

I shall write Politicks to none of them but to you. How long will the *Insanity* on your side the Water continue? Every Day's Plundering of our Property and Burning our Habitations, serves but to exasperate and unite us the more. The Breach between you and us grows daily wider and more difficult to heal. Britain without us can grow no stronger: Without her we shall become a tenfold greater and mightier People. Do you chuse to have so increasing a Nation of Enemies? Do you think it prudent by your Barbarities to fix us in a rooted Hatred of your Nation, and

make all our innumerable Posterity detest you? Yet this is the Way in which you are now proceeding. Our Primers begin to be printed with Cuts of the Burnings of Charlestown, of Falmouth, of James Town, of Norfolk; with the Flight of Women and Children from these defenceless Places, some Falling by Shot in their Flight. Allen and his People, with Lovell, an amiable Character and a Man of Letters! All in CHAINS on board your Ships; while we treat your People that are our Prisoners, with the utmost Kindness and Humanity. Is any body among you weak enough to imagine that these Mischiefs are neither to be paid for, nor revenged? Your Ministers may imagine that we shall soon be tired of this, and submit. But they are mistaken, as you may recollect they have been hitherto in every Instance in which I told you at the time that they were mistaken. And I now venture to tell you, that tho' this War may be a long one, (and I think it will probably last beyond my Time) we shall with God's Help finally get the better of you. The Consequences I leave to your Imagination.

I hope your dear little Girl is well, and that you continue happy. Pray present my most affectionate Respects to my good Lord Le Despencer: and my Love to Mrs. and Mr. Jackson.

With sincere Esteem and Regard, I am ever, Dear Sir, Your most obedient humble Servant

B Franklin

I do not trouble you with the enclos'd in order to frank them. Be so good as to wafer, charge and forward them: By that means they will go safe.

P.S. Since writing the above I have been riding round the Skirts of this Town to view the Works; they are but lately begun, but prodigiously forward, all Ranks of People working at them as Volunteers with the greatest Alacrity, and without Pay, to have them ready for the Reception of Gen. Howe, who having finish'd his Visit to Boston is daily expected here.

What will you do with this Spirit? You can have no Conception of Merchants and Gentlemen working with Spades and Wheelbarrows among Porters and Negroes: I suppose you will scarce believe it.



Franklin Tidbits

Franklin in the Digital World: New archival images related to Franklin are now available on line. Using the popular web site, flickr, you can search under Benjamin Franklin and find highlights from the National Archives' Photostream like the 1783 Treaty of Paris with Franklin's signature.

Was Franklin more cosmopolitan than Voltaire? Scott Spillman and Julia Mansfield have so concluded in their presentation, "Mapping Eighteenth-Century Intellectual Networks" on Feb. 20 at Yale's conference, "The Past's Digital Presence: Database, Archive, and Knowledge Work in the Humanities." An abstract is at <http://digitalhumanities.yale.edu>

Franklin as the ultimate anti-Tea Party activist? So says Rich Benjamin in an article in the April 15 issue of *USA Today*. Benjamin claims to be proud to be a taxpayer, and in his essay he reminds his readers how Franklin chided his anti-tax contemporaries, claiming that the taxes paid to the government of the United States amounted to no more than a pittance compared to "more grievous" obligations of life. Benjamin quotes Franklin as saying "We are taxed twice as much by

our idleness, three times as much by our pride, and four times as much by our folly." Move over, Tea Party activists! This Founding Father belongs to the pro-tax camp (or so the author claims).

Franklin for sale: Sotheby's auction house is currently selling the contents of one of the most interesting collections of Americana to come along in many years. The contents of the James Copley Library, formerly housed in a library in La Jolla, California, was assembled by the heir to the publishing dynasty. Included in the sale are precious Franklin manuscripts.

Another sale, held on April 8 at Eldred's (eldreds.com) includes a promissory note that Franklin designed and printed, made out to the French Royal Treasury for money loaned during the Revolutionary War. A similar promissory note is pictured in vol. 30, p. 346 of *The Papers of Benjamin Franklin*. This rare example, from Franklin's own Passy Press, is item no. 132. Franklin designed the form, with its unique marbled edge and distinctive wavy border as a hedge against counterfeiting.

The Return of the "Dry Fog": Franklin described the phenomenon seen throughout Europe in the summer of 1783 as a dry fog,

and ascribed it to the eruption of a volcano in Iceland. He was correct in detecting the cause, although he blamed it on a volcano that had erupted several years earlier, not the Laki volcano that began to spew ash in June, 1783. The present "dry fog" that has been causing air travel headaches across the globe comes from a different Icelandic volcano, but the coverage on our televisions allows us to experience from the comfort of our own homes the phenomenon that Franklin studied. Because the air is thinner near the poles, the ash from Icelandic volcanoes can reach higher into the atmosphere than would dust from volcanoes in other parts of the world. The 1783-84 eruption disrupted activities in the whole northern hemisphere, and led to famine, extreme thunderstorms, and unprecedented hot and cold temperatures over the year following the initial eruption.

Mourning Franklin: On April 22, 1790 James Madison introduced a resolution that the House of Representatives should wear a mourning badge for 30 days as a memorial to Franklin. The Senate took no action in the matter. Thomas Jefferson suggested to then-President George Washington that the

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executive branch should wear mourning. Jefferson described Washington's response in an 1803 letter to Benjamin Rush: "He declined it, because he said he should not know where to draw the line, if he once began that ceremony. Mr. Adams was then Vice President, & I thought Genl. W. had his eye on him, whom he certainly did not love. I told him the world had drawn so broad a line between himself & Dr. Franklin, on the one side, and the residue of mankind, on the other, that we might wear mourning for them, and the question still remain new & undecided as to all the others. He thought it best, however, to avoid it."

Franklin goes high tech: The \$100 bill bearing his image, that is. In an attempt to foil counterfeiters (a challenge that Franklin also attempted to master in his own designs for currency), the Treasury has redesigned the bill, incorporating a disappearing Liberty Bell and a bright blue security strip composed of thousands of tiny lenses. These lenses allow the tiny bells to change to 100s as the bill is tilted. When you move the bill back and forth, the objects move. To the right of Franklin's portrait is an inkwell that changes color as the note is tilted, and the Liberty Bell seems to appear and disappear in the inkwell. The bill also features a quill pen above the inkwell, and a yellow tint on the far right of the portrait. When the bill is held up to the light, an image of Franklin appears in this area. Independence Hall and a large gold 100 will appear on the reverse side. The redesign was introduced by Treasury Secretary Geithner and Federal Reserve Chair Bernanke, but the bills will not go into circulation until Feb. 10, 2011. An estimated two-thirds of the notes circulate outside the U.S. and this bill is the most frequent target of counterfeiters operating outside the country.

Following in Franklin's Footsteps: Friend Aziz S. Inan, Ph.D., a professor in the School of Engineering at the University of Portland, has been challenging readers of this newsletter to solve the kind of math puzzles that Franklin himself enjoyed. Aziz reports that recently he has written three articles about palindrome dates. One was published in the University of Portland's student newspaper, *The Beacon*, last November. The second has been accepted to a math magazine called *Pi in the Sky* and will be published in the second half of this year. The third has yet to be published. Aziz has become quite famous this year because of his work related to palindrome dates. More than 60 news organizations, including some TV stations, have publicized his work. Click on this link for the *Denver Post's* coverage: http://www.denverpost.com/headlines/ci_14107275

Franklin Birthday talks on-line: The morning seminar session for Celebration! of Benjamin Franklin, Founder can now be seen on-line. The session explored the concept of American character: how Americans see themselves and how that has evolved over the years. APS executive director Dr. Mary Patterson McPherson introduced the panel which consisted of Dr. Sheldon Hackney and Dr. Walter McDougall. Moderating was Dr. Barbara Savage. Dr. Hackney, the former chair of the National Endowment of the Humanities, past president of the University of Pennsylvania, and leading Southern history scholar spoke on Americans and Identity, and Pulitzer prize winning author and professor of history at the University of Pennsylvania Dr. Walter McDougall held his audience captive with his lecture "Americans as Hustlers". Dr. Barbara Savage, professor of history at the University of Pennsylvania and author of several books, the most recent, *Your Spirits Walk Beside Us*, introduced the theme and moderated the lively question and answer period which followed. A complete video version can be viewed at www.ushistory.org/Celebration/; the click to play button is at the bottom of the screen.

Renovations to Franklin Court: Plans have been unveiled for a new entrance way and exhibits at Franklin's home in Philadelphia, Franklin Court, in Independence National Historical Park. Franklin Court was designed by Venturi Scott Brown Associates in 1976. The much needed makeover which includes an elevator to the underground exhibits, new glass entryway and gift shop is being undertaken in celebration of the National Park Service's Centennial Celebration and funded in part by a six million dollar Pew Foundation grant in addition to federal funds and donations from other major foundations. The "ghost house" structure, the steel frame outlining the original Franklin home will remain untouched but the Quinn Evans proposal for alterations has been posted by Independence National Historical Park and can be viewed at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/documentsList.cfm?parkId=245&projectId=30580>

Comments from the original architects for Franklin Court, Venturi Scott Brown Associates are included in the park's list of documents. This proposal was posted for public comment. Additional coverage can be found in *The Architects Newspaper* http://www.archpaper.com/e-board_rev.asp?News_ID=4519



Calendar of Events

June 28. Sally Brewer, "Franklin and the Iroquois Nation". Benjamin Franklin House, London, 1 PM. Reserve a place by emailing info@BenjaminFranklinHouse.org

July 8. Lady Joan Reid, "Franklin and 18th-Century Music". Benjamin Franklin House, London, 6:30 PM. Reserve a place by emailing info@BenjaminFranklinHouse.org

August 29-Sept. 6. Friends of Franklin tour to Scotland. Contact Kathy DeLuca for more information. (856) 833-1771 or kathydeluca@friendsoffranklin.org

January 14, 2011. Celebration! of Benjamin Franklin, Founder, annual symposium, procession to his grave and luncheon.

Ongoing

November 27, 2009 – July 4, 2010. The Minnesota History Center is mounting a small version of the Franklin tercentennial exhibit, "Benjamin Franklin in Search of a Better World" and the Bakken Museum in Minneapolis is reviving their exhibit on the Franklin and lightning rod. The exhibit will travel to other venues according to the following schedule:

April 14 - July 31, 2011 Heinz History Center, Pittsburgh

September 2, 2011 January 8, 2012, Gerald Ford Museum, Grand Rapids, MI

February 10 - May 6, 2012 National Archives, Washington, DC

The traveling library exhibit: "Benjamin Franklin : In Search of a Better World" is coming to the following locations:

May 12-July 9 Benicia Public Library, Benicia, CA; Rolling Hills Consolidated Library, St. Joseph, MO

July 14-Aug. 27 Mountain Home Public Library, Mountain Home, ID

Sept. 8-Oct. 22 Dakota State University, Mundt Library, Madison, SD; Milwaukee Public Library, Milwaukee, WI

Nov. 3-Dec. 17 Verona Public Library, Verona, WI; Oxford Public Library, Oxford, PA

Franklin Math Puzzlers

Aziz Inan, Ph.D., Electrical Engineering, University of Portland

Note: Here is a new Franklin themed math puzzle presented by Aziz Inan (ainan@up.edu), and solutions to the two puzzles posed in the Winter 2009-2010 issue. The first person to email the correct answer to problem #15 to Aziz (ainan@up.edu) wins a packet of the new "No better relation than a faithful friend" cards (advertised on p. 7).

Problem # 13. Palindrome birthday in palindrome year.

What is the earliest palindrome year when Ben Franklin (1706-1790) will have a palindrome birthday? (Note that a palindrome number reads the same forward and backward. For example, 1771 was the only palindrome year in Franklin's life. Also, last year (2009) was Franklin's 303rd palindrome birthday.)

Answer: 626th birthday in year 2332.

(Solution: Ben Franklin didn't have any two-digit palindrome birthday occurring in a palindrome year. Let his earliest three-digit palindrome birthday ABA is to occur in a four-digit palindrome year $CDDC$. This means, $CDDC - 1706 = ABA$, or $1001C + 110D = 101A + 10B + 1706$. Since we want to find the earliest palindrome birthday to occur in a palindrome year, we start by first trying $C = 1$ which doesn't yield any solution. Next, we try $C = 2$ which yields $296 + 110D = 101A + 10B$. Starting from $D = 0$ and

incrementing digit D by one each time, we find a solution for the case when $D = 3$ resulting in $626 = 101A + 10B$, yielding $A = 6$ and $B = 2$. Therefore, Franklin will have his 626th birthday to occur in palindrome year 2332. As an aside, note that this year, January 2, 2010 was a palindrome day, the 2nd of the 12 palindrome dates that fall in the 21st century since the date number written in MMDDYYYY date format is 01022010. The next (third) palindrome date of this century will occur next year on November 2, 2011 (11022011).)

Problem # 14. Benjamin Franklin's 304th birthday. Benjamin Franklin's 304th birthday occurred in 2010. Note that number 304 equals 16 times 19. If you reverse each of these two numbers and double their sum, what do you find?

Answer: 304!

(Solution: The number $304 = 16 \times 19$ and amazingly enough, twice the sum of the reverse of the two numbers 16 and 19 yields $2 \times (61 + 91) = 304!$)

Problem # 15. Ben founds a public institution. In the year x , Benjamin Franklin and his friends founded an important public institution in Philadelphia. The product of the digits of x equals the reverse of their sum. Also, the sum of squares of three different odd numbers equals x . What is the year x ?

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