

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

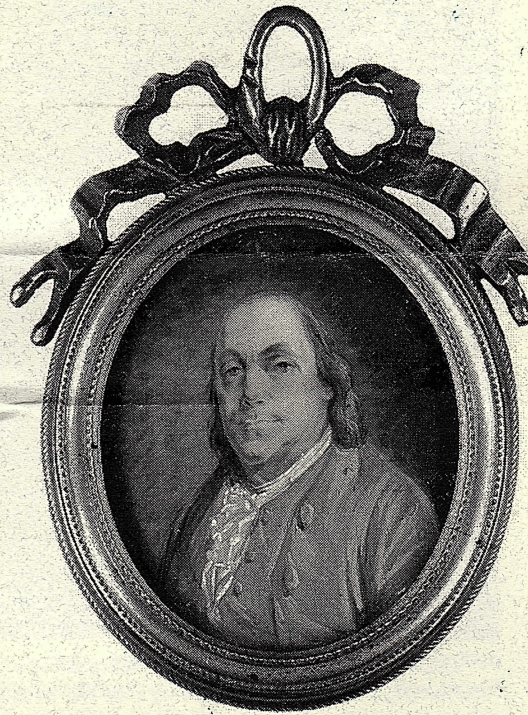
President's Message

By Lee E. Knepp

At the June 30, 2010 annual meeting of The Friends of Franklin, I was honored to be elected as your president for one year. Jackson Boswell of Arlington, Virginia, was elected vice president, Pamela Hartsock of the State of Washington was reelected secretary, and Eleanor Gesensway of Philadelphia was elected treasurer.

The membership needs to extend gratitude to both Roy Goodman for his service as your president, and Ralph Archbold for his service as vice president. Both provided real leadership to The Friends of Franklin and we are pleased that both will continue as board members. In addition, appreciation is due all the members of the board who will continue to share their valuable time and considerable talents in advancing the work of your organization.

An area of continuing concern to your officers and board members is the need to place The Friends of Franklin on firmer financial footing. Like many not-for-profit organizations we have long struggled to meet operating expenses while carrying on our mission. Much of the recent board meeting was spent in addressing this concern. In response, an ad hoc committee comprised of businessman Frank Batchelor of Beaver, Pennsylvania; immediate past president Roy Goodman of Philadelphia; and Dr. Blaine McCormick of Baylor University's Hankamer School



Miniature of Benjamin Franklin by unidentified artist, ca.1780-1805, after pastel by Joseph Siffred Duplessis of 1778. Courtesy of the American Philosophical Society.

of Business was named and charged with reporting back at the September board meeting with a plan of action. We urge any of the membership, through The Friends of Franklin office, to offer viable suggestions, as well as encouragement, to the committee members as they undertake this task.

On a more pleasant note, a delegation of The Friends will depart upon our annual fall pilgrimage on Sunday, August

29 – this year a return visit to Scotland – to renew previous friendships and revisit enjoyed sites from our last visit there in 1999. We look forward to the company of Peter Jones of the University of Edinburgh, but will miss his late wife Jean and also the extraordinary Lady Dunpark, both of whom provided gracious hospitality to our group during the 1999 visit. Lady Dunpark's son and daughter-in-law will carry on the hospitality of his mother when we gather for the welcoming dinner and first evening in Edinburgh at their home, the magnificent Robert Louis Stevenson house.

For many years we alternated our annual trips between domestic and international destinations – but always to where Benjamin Franklin spent significant time or where there were important collections on Franklin and his life. This pattern was interrupted by the tragic events of September 11, 2001 which forced cancellation of

our much anticipated trip to Belgium and Holland. Since 1999, until this year, the London-Paris trip of 2006 was our only international getaway. Many of us can attest to the exhilaration of visiting Franklin sites and the pure joy of traveling with our first-rate "Friends." As you consider your travel plans in future years please consider enjoying the company of your "Friends of Franklin."

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J. A. Leo Lemay (1935-2008)

A Remembrance by Kevin J. Hayes, University of Central Oklahoma

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My first semester in graduate school at the University of Delaware I took J.A. Leo Lemay's Edgar Allan Poe seminar. Writing a seminar paper on the subject of Poe's use of frontier imagery in his short fiction, I happened to read Prof. Lemay's essay "The Frontiersman from Lout to Hero" (*Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society* 88 [1978]: 187-223). In terms of its breadth of knowledge and depth of insight, I found this essay astonishing. As an undergraduate I had read much about the American frontier, a special interest of mine, but Prof. Lemay's essay was the single best treatment on the subject I had ever read. I started reading more of his work and realized that the frontiersman essay was typical of Prof. Lemay's approach: to pick a topic; put it within its historical, literary, and cultural contexts; and treat it exhaustively. In the coming semesters I would take several more classes from Prof. Lemay; his writings would form a sizeable part of my personal library.

Later that first semester, my officemate and fellow graduate student Tom Haslam returned to our office in the dome of Memorial Hall with a Cheshire grin on his face and a copy of Benjamin Franklin's autobiography under his arm. To be specific, Tom had a copy of the genetic text of Franklin's autobiography that Prof. Lemay had edited with Paul Zall. Tom explained that the bookstore in the student union was having a huge clearance sale. It was selling off its slow-moving inventory – mainly the books that clogged the "Faculty Authors" section. In fact, the store was selling these clearance books like raw hamburger: ninety-nine cents a pound. I asked Tom if there were any more copies of the Franklin edition left. As soon as he said yes, I dropped what I was doing, bolted downstairs and headed across campus to the student union, where I snagged the very last copy of the Lemay/Zall genetic text.

Though I added this edition to my personal library, I did not read it as readily as I had read the frontiersman essay. The Lemay/Zall genetic text is chockfull of information about Franklin's composition of the autobiography, but it is quite intimidating with its up arrows and down arrows, angle brackets, braces and square brackets. When I eventually worked my

way through the text, I was impressed with its editors' ingenuity and hard work. The genetic text of Franklin's autobiography is a model of textual editing, a useful reference tool that can open up new ways of seeing Franklin and his world. When I wrote a seminar paper on Franklin's use of religion in the autobiography for Prof. Lemay a few years later, I made use of the genetic text, arguing that many of Franklin's religious thoughts were really afterthoughts inserted in revision to add a veneer of Christianity to an otherwise secular work. Prof. Lemay liked the paper well enough to invite me to contribute to a collection of new essays on Franklin's autobiography.

That collection fell through when the publisher abruptly canceled the series, but Prof. Lemay or Leo, as he let me call him once I completed my dissertation, continued to keep an eye on my career. Attending the MLA conference a few years after graduate school, I spent one afternoon strolling through the book exhibit with a friend of mine, who had attended graduate school in one of those prestigious universities located in that narrow "V" formed by the Atlantic coast and the Hudson River. As we turned from one aisle to the next, we suddenly ran into Leo. I introduced him to my friend. After we chatted briefly, he walked us over to one particular booth and introduced me to a friend of his, who was a commissioning editor for a major university press. Not only did Leo introduce me to him, he also sang my praises and encouraged this editor to consider my work for publication.

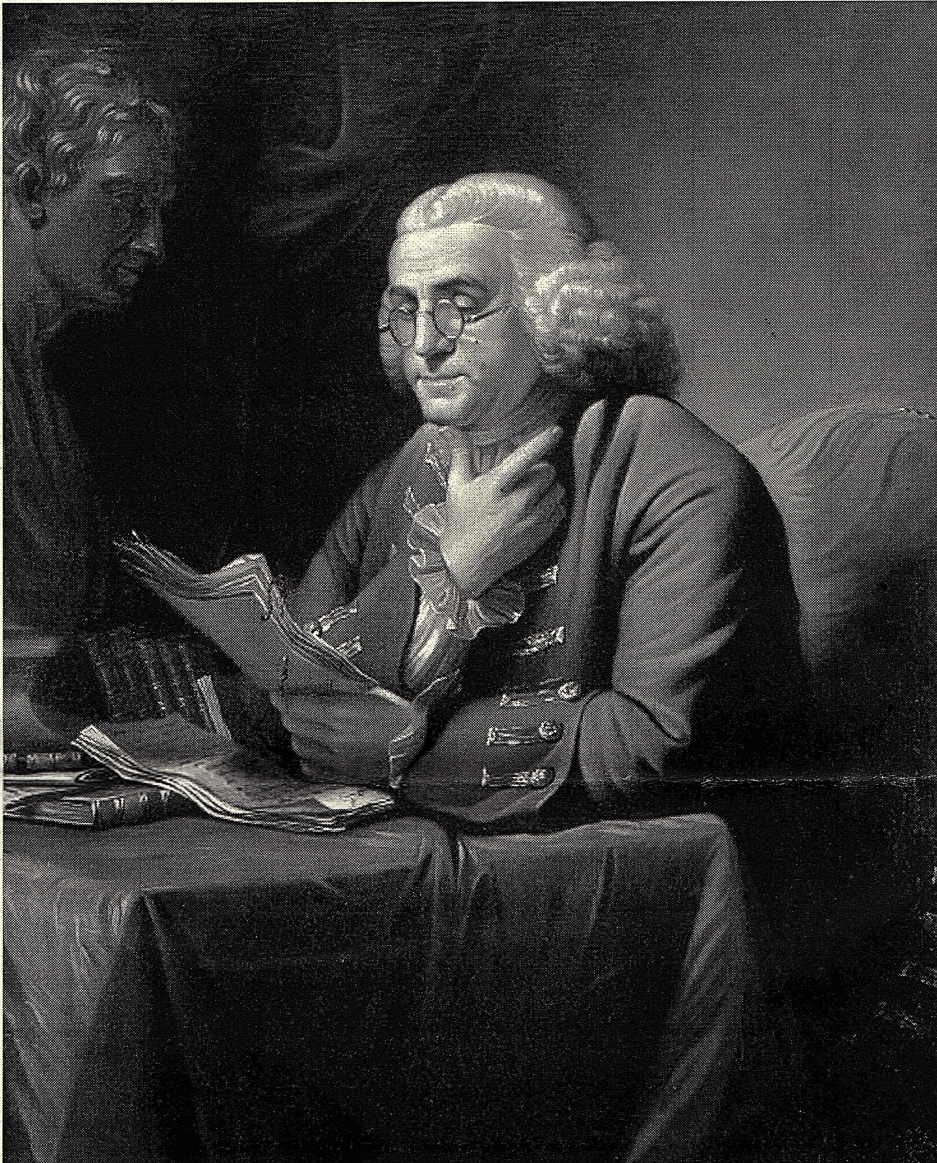
Before the always – energetic Leo ricocheted off in another direction, he and I agreed to meet for drinks that evening. For the nonce, my friend and I continued to view the publishers' exhibits. When Leo was out of earshot, she said, "Wow! My teacher has never done anything like that for me." This personal introduction was just one of many things Leo did for me over the course of my career. My experience is not unique. Similarly, he kept an eye on the careers of many of his former students. Correct that last phrase. There is no such thing as being a "former Leo Lemay student": once a Leo student, always a Leo student.

Leo was the one who encouraged me

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Franklin Family Descendants

A Collateral Line: the Williams/Alexander Family



Portrait of Benjamin Franklin, 1/2 length, 3/4 view, seated at table reading papers with thumb against chin and index finger extended, by Charles Willson Peale after David Martin's portrait of 1767. Courtesy of the American Philosophical Society.

Although the Williams/Alexander family is not in the direct line of descent from Benjamin Franklin, they are still an interesting story. Grace Harris Williams (1718-1796) was Franklin's niece, the daughter of his half sister, Anne Franklin Harris. Grace married Boston merchant Jonathan Williams, Sr., in 1746. Although the Williamses lived in Boston, they maintained close ties to Franklin, and two of their sons went to London in 1770, where they enjoyed their great uncle's friendship. Josiah Williams (1747-1772) studied music, a special interest of Franklin's, and his brother Jonathan Williams, Jr. (1750-

1815), had an especially close relationship with Franklin. Jonathan, Jr. (known familiarly as "JW" to the editors of *The Papers of Benjamin Franklin*), trained as a merchant and accompanied Franklin on a long trip to the Midlands in 1771. Much of what we know about Franklin's trip is based on the journal that JW kept. There are many surviving letters between JW and Franklin, and the Yale Library is lucky to have a number of the volumes he used to keep copies of outgoing letters during the Revolutionary War.

In late 1776, Franklin crossed the Atlantic on a diplomatic mission to France

that kept him in that country until 1785. JW was a merchant in London at the outbreak of the war, but he came to France and met Franklin on the road to Paris. The American commissioners sent him to Nantes on public business and there he set up a mercantile house under his own name. His younger brother, John ("Jack") (b. 1756), joined him there briefly in 1777 before returning to manage the family business back in Boston.

JW maintained a close relationship with his great uncle while both were in France. When he was torn over returning to America or staying in France, he wrote to Franklin for advice, and Franklin's response is one of his best known letters, describing the "moral algebra" of major decision making, and counseling him to learn the technique, for, "if you do not learn it, I apprehend you will never be married." JW had already fallen in love, and Franklin knew it. While in England in 1774 he had met the daughter of Franklin's old friend, William Alexander, a merchant of Scottish origin. Mariamne Alexander, Franklin said, was a "sweet girl," but when JW asked William Alexander for permission to court his daughter, the answer was discouraging. His means did not allow him to marry. This, however, did not prevent him from fathering an illegitimate son, whose mother's name remains unknown. Josiah Williams was born in England in 1776 or 1777, and was acknowledged and supported by his father, who hoped he would have a naval career.

In Nantes JW fell for the beautiful daughter of one of the leading merchants of the town, and again Franklin encouraged the courtship. But once again, JW was unable to convince the papa that the marriage should go forward. The Alexander family, who had emigrated to France just before Franklin arrived there, begged Franklin to make his home with them. William Alexander wrote on December 22, 1776, "I write you My Dear Friend to offer you a sanctuary...a very Comfortable House with a very Good spare Room for one I Love, I have only with me two very Excellent young Girls who will Consider you as another Father." One of the girls was the 19-year-old Mariamne. Franklin ultimately decided to rent his own quarters, but the Alexander family remained a part of his social circle. With JW's prospects for

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Palindrome Dates in Ben Franklin's Life

By Aziz S. Inan, Ph.D., Electrical Engineering, University of Portland, Portland, OR

Introduction:

Numbers play such a critical role in our modern world. They form the backbone of our civilization and serve as the blood vessels vital for its survival. We encounter numbers in every phase of our daily lives such as in our monetary activities, keeping track of time, ages, birth dates, anniversary dates, phone numbers, bus numbers, house numbers, zip codes, speed limits, license numbers, identification numbers, security codes, etc.

There are many different types of numbers including integers, odd and even numbers, prime numbers, square and cube numbers, decimal numbers, binary numbers, and Fibonacci numbers. Some numbers also possess a sort of visual symmetry and these numbers possess a magical power to draw our attention. Symmetric numbers are also easier to recognize and remember.

A palindrome number is an integer that reads the same forward and backward. The word "palindrome" originates from the combination of two Greek words, *palin* (meaning backward, again) and *dromos* (meaning running). The Greek word *palindromos* means "running back again." The word "palindrome" was first coined and introduced into English literature by playwright and poet Ben Jonson in 1623, on line number 34 of his poem titled "An Execration upon Vulcan." This poem is the 43rd in a collection of Jonson's 89 poems first published in 1640 under the title *Underwoods*.

Multi-digit palindrome numbers are fun to encounter and they indeed stand out because of their mirror symmetry. For example, Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790) started writing his autobiography in 1771, the only palindrome year that occurred in the 18th century. Also, Franklin experienced seven two-digit palindrome ages throughout his lifetime:

- * At palindrome age 11, he invented wooden paddles to use as swim fins;
- * At 22, he formed a partnership to start a printing business in Philadelphia;
- * At 33, he led an environmental group to clean-up Philadelphia's central commercial districts from industrial waste;
- * At 44, in a letter he wrote to Peter Collinson, he described and proposed lightning rods to protect buildings from fires

caused by lightning;

- * At 55, he invented the glass armonica;

* At 66, following the judgment of a slave case in Britain which freed all slaves on the British Islands, he wrote a document stating that slavery is evil and unjust and that the judgment should be extended to the British colonies in America; and

- * At 77, he signed the Treaty of Paris between Great Britain and the United States.

Last year (2009) was Franklin's 303rd birthday, his first palindrome birthday to occur in the 21st century and 101 years after that will mark his first palindrome birthday (404th) in the 22nd palindrome century, to occur in 2110. The first palindrome year to coincide with Franklin's palindrome birthday will be 2332, to mark his 626th birthday, and so on.

Eight-Digit Palindrome Dates:

Assuming each calendar date in all four-digit years is assigned a single eight-digit full date number as M1M2-D1D2-Y1Y2Y3Y4 (where the first two-digit M1M2 is the month, the next two D1D2 is the day, and the last four Y1Y2Y3Y4 is the year number), some of these dates are palindrome numbers (Y4Y3-Y2Y1-Y1Y2Y3Y4) and these special dates are referred to as palindrome dates [1, 2]. For example, there are a total of 12 palindrome dates in the 21st century. The first occurred on October 02, 2001 (10-02-2001) and the second was at the beginning of this year, on January 02, 2010 (01-02-2010). The third is to occur on November 02, 2011 (11-02-2011), the fourth is February 02, 2020 (02-02-2020) and the fifth will be December 02, 2021 (12-02-2021). The last (12th) palindrome date of this century will be September 02, 2090 (09-02-2090). It's interesting to note that all palindrome dates in the 21st century fall on the second day of the month since a palindrome date in year 20AB will have the general form BA-02-20AB. (No palindrome date exists in 2100, the last year of the 21st century, since 00-12-2100 does not represent a valid date.) Also, 12 more palindrome dates exist in the 22nd palindrome century (all to occur on the 12th day of the month) followed by another 12 in the 23rd century (all on the 22nd palindrome day of the month). The last (36th) palindrome date of this (third) millennium will be September 22, 2290 (09-22-2290).

Palindrome dates are notably rare. Before the beginning of this century, the last

palindrome date of the second millennium in the M1M2-D1D2-Y1Y2Y3Y4 date format occurred 621 years ago on August 31, 1380 (since that date is 08-31-1380). There were a total of 43 palindrome dates happened in the second millennium, and they all occurred between the 11th and 14th centuries, split as 12, 12, 12 and 7. No palindrome dates existed between the 15th and 20th centuries. For example, Franklin didn't have any eight-digit palindrome dates during his lifetime simply because an eight-digit palindrome date number in year 17AB in the 18th century had to be in the form BA-71-17AB and this number is not a valid date number since 71 is not an acceptable day number.

Seven-Digit Palindrome Dates in Franklin's Life:

There are some dates in the calendar where either the month or the day number is a single-digit number. If these types of dates are represented by only a seven-digit full date number, either as M1-D1D2-Y1Y2Y3Y4 (because the month of the date under consideration falls between January and September and can be represented with a single-digit number between 1 and 9) or as M1M2-D1-Y1Y2Y3Y4 (because the day number of the date is a single-digit number that lies between 1 and 9), Franklin had many seven-digit palindrome dates in his life.

For example, using the M1-D1D2-Y1Y2Y3Y4 date format (single-digit month number is assumed), a palindrome date falling in the 18th century (in year 17AB since no palindrome date exists in 1800) must be of the form B-A7-17AB where digit B is the month number that can only take nine values (1 to 9) and digit A, which is the tenth digit of the day number, is either 0, or 1, or 2, since the day number A7 cannot exceed 30 or 31 (or 28 or 29 if February). So, $9 \times 3 = 27$ such palindrome dates occurred in the 18th century:

1-07-1701, 2-07-1702, 3-07-1703, 4-07-1704, 5-07-1705, 6-07-1706, 7-07-1707, 8-07-1708, 9-07-1709

1-17-1711, 2-17-1712, 3-17-1713, 4-17-1714, 5-17-1715, 6-17-1716, 7-17-1717, 8-17-1718, 9-17-1719

1-27-1721, 2-27-1722, 3-27-1723, 4-27-1724, 5-27-1725, 6-27-1726, 7-27-1727, 8-27-1728, 9-27-1729

These 27 palindrome dates expressed

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in the date format B-A7-17AB all occurred between the months of January and September, 9 of them on the 7th day, 9 on the 17th day, and the last 9 on day 27 of each month. Note that since Franklin was born on January 17, 1706, the first five of these palindrome dates (January 07, 1701, February 07, 1702, March 07, 1703, April 07, 1704 and May 07, 1705) occurred before his birth. Therefore, the first palindrome date in Franklin's life was June 07, 1706 (6-07-1706), which occurred when he was only 141 days old. Also, Franklin's 5th birthday, which took place on January 17, 1711, was indeed a palindrome date represented as 1-17-1711.

In the M1M2-D1-Y1Y2Y3Y4 date format (single-digit day number is assumed), a palindrome date in the 18th century would be of the form BA-7-17AB where number BA represents the month number of the date and the day number is always equal to 7. Since BA can vary between 01 and 12, a dozen such palindrome dates exist in the 18th century:

10-7-1701, 01-7-1710, 11-7-1711, 02-7-1720, 12-7-1721, 03-7-1730, 04-7-1740, 05-7-1750, 06-7-1760, 07-7-1770, 08-7-1780, 09-7-1790

Note that all twelve of these palindrome dates in the BA-7-17AB date format occurred on day 7 of each month. Also note that the first and the last of these palindrome dates, 10-7-1701 (October 7, 1701) and 09-7-1790 (September 7, 1790), occurred outside Franklin's life span since he died on April 17, 1790.

So, based on the seven-digit full date format (interpreted either as M1M2-D1-Y1Y2Y3Y4 or M1-D1D2-Y1Y2Y3Y4), the 18th century had a total of 39 palindrome dates, the first one being January 07, 1701 (1-07-1701) and the last one September 7, 1790 (09-7-1790). Among these palindrome dates, years 1701, 1711, and 1721 had double palindrome dates occurring in each: January 07 and October 7 occurred in 1701 (1-07-1701 and 10-7-1701); January 17 and November 7 in 1711 (1-17-1711 and 11-7-1711); and January 27 and December 7, 1721 (1-27-1721 and 12-7-1721). Only 32 of the 39 palindrome dates in the 18th century coincide with Franklin's life, the last one being August 7, 1780 (08-7-1780).

Eight-Digit Palindrome Dates in Most Other Countries:

It's interesting to note that most other countries in the world write full eight-digit date numbers with the day number preceding the month number as in the form D1D2-M1M2-Y1Y2Y3Y4, and this date format has a completely different set of palindrome dates. For example, based on the D1D2-M1M2-Y1Y2Y3Y4 date format, this (21st) century has a total of 29 palindrome dates. The

first and second occurred on 10 February 2001 (since that date is 10-02-2001) and 20 February 2002 (20-02-2002). The third palindrome date of this century happened early this year on February 01, 2010 (01-02-2010). The next three will be 11 February 2011 (11-02-2011), 21 February 2012 (21-02-2012) and 02 February 2020 (02-02-2020). The last (29th) palindrome date of this century happens to be a leap day to occur on 29 February 2092 (29-02-2092). Note that all palindrome dates in this century occur in the month of February. Also, 31 more palindrome dates exist in the 22nd palindrome century, all to occur in December with the last one being 29 December 2192 (29-12-2192), and no more after that until the end of the third millennium.

In the D1D2-M1M2-Y1Y2Y3Y4 date format, the second millennium had a total of 61 palindrome dates and all occurred during the 11th and 12th centuries. The last palindrome date of the second millennium happened 818 years ago on 29 November 1192 (29-11-1192) and after that, no palindrome dates existed between the 13th and 20th centuries. Although Franklin was exposed to this date format as he spent a significant part of his life in Europe, since he lived during the 18th century, again, no eight-digit palindrome dates coincided with his life. (An eight-digit palindrome date in the 18th century in year 17AB would have to be of the form BA-71-17AB and this number is not a valid date simply because 71 is not an acceptable month number.) However, Franklin's life included many seven-digit palindrome dates in this date format as well.

More Seven-Digit Palindrome Dates in Franklin's Life:

Based on the seven-digit date format given as D1-M1M2-Y1Y2Y3Y4 (assuming the day number is single digit), a palindrome date in the 18th century (in year 17AB) would have the general form B-A7-17AB where digit A has to be zero since the month number cannot exceed 12. In this date format, the 18th century had nine palindrome dates occurring in the first nine years, one per year and all falling in the month of July:

1-07-1701, 2-07-1702, 3-07-1703, 4-07-1704, 5-07-1705, 6-07-1706, 7-07-1707, 8-07-1708, 9-07-1709

Among these palindrome dates, only the last four happened during Franklin's life, the first one being 6 July 1706 (6-07-1706), when he was 170 days old.

Using the seven-digit D1D2-M1-Y1Y2Y3Y4 date format (where the month number is assumed to be single digit), a palindrome date in year 17AB would have the

general form as BA-7-17AB which is a date that always falls in July where BA represents the day number and could take any value between 01 and 31. Therefore, based on this date format, the 18th century had 31 palindrome dates, all happening in July:

10-7-1701, 20-7-1702, 30-7-1703, 01-7-1710, 11-7-1711, 21-7-1712, 31-7-1713, 02-7-1720, 12-7-1721

22-7-1722, 03-7-1730, 13-7-1731, 23-7-1732, 04-7-1740, 14-7-1741, 24-7-1742, 05-7-1750, 15-7-1751

25-7-1752, 06-7-1760, 16-7-1761, 26-7-1762, 07-7-1770, 17-7-1771, 27-7-1772, 08-7-1780, 18-7-1781

28-7-1782, 09-7-1790, 19-7-1791, 29-7-1792

Note that only 25 of these 31 palindrome dates occurred during Franklin's life. Also, note that one of these palindrome dates, 17 July 1771 (17-7-1771) occurred in palindrome year 1771.

So, based on the date format used in most other countries and using seven-digit date numbers (provided either as D1-M1M2-Y1Y2Y3Y4 or D1D2-M1-Y1Y2Y3Y4), there were a total of 40 palindrome dates in the 18th century, all occurring in the month of July, the first one being 1 July 1701 (1-07-1701) and the last one 29 July 1792 (29-7-1792). The first three years of the century had double palindrome dates in each: 1 July and 10 July 1701 (1-07-1701 and 10-7-1701); 2 July and 20 July 1702 (2-07-1702 and 20-7-1702); and 3 July and 30 July, 1703 (3-07-1703 and 30-7-1703). Only 29 of the 40 palindrome dates in the 18th century coincided with Franklin's life, the last one occurring on 28 July 1782 (28-7-1782).

Franklin had numerous seven-digit palindrome dates in his life in both date formats, 32 in the month-day-year and 29 in the day-month-year date format, total 59 since two palindrome dates in each format (7-07-1707 and 07-7-1770) overlap. It would be interesting for the reader to check each one of these palindrome dates and determine where Franklin was on each: whether he was in America, Europe, or traveling from one to the other.

References:

[1] A. S. Inan, "Twelve Palindrome Dates in 21st Century," *The Beacon*, Vol. 111, Issue No. 11, p. 11 & 13, University of Portland, Portland, Oregon, November 19, 2009.

[2] A. S. Inan, "Palindrome Dates in Four-Digit Years," accepted for publication in *Pi in the Sky*, Issue # 14, Pacific Institute for Mathematical Sciences (PIMS), Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, Fall 2010.

Benjamin Franklin and the Hudson Valley: Four Seasons in Albany

Part III, Spring, 1776

by Kate Ohno



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. Franklin's arduous journey to Canada in April, 1776, was described in Part II.

Spring, 1776: Irritation, Pain, Sickness and Gloom

After only about two weeks in Canada, Franklin left Montreal on May 11. He had fallen ill a few days after arriving in Canada. The news there was grim: the American army was bankrupt, the troops were starving and ravaged by epidemic disease. He and Father John Carroll, one of his fellow commissioners to Canada, hastened to return to Congress to report in person. The commissioners were unable to accomplish much in Canada; even former supporters were distancing themselves from the American cause. Fellow commissioners on the mission to convince Canadians to join the thirteen colonies in revolt against the British crown, Charles Carroll and Samuel Chase, remained with the army to do all they could. Plots and insurrections to expel the Americans threatened the safety of any Canadian who sided with the Americans. The American army, which had swelled to about 7,000 men, was on high alert. On May 2 their commander received news that the sails of British vessels had been spotted just as the ice was breaking up on the St. Lawrence River. Fifteen British vessels were at the mouth of the St. Lawrence. How long would it take to land the reinforcements? Less than a week before Franklin's departure the British mounted a reconnaissance mission to test the resolve of the American forces. The Americans were outnumbered more than 3 to 1, and were forced to retreat, leaving guns, munitions, 200 sick troops, and the records of the American command behind. With fresh British troops disembarked, the poorly supplied Americans were once again at a disadvantage, and smallpox had reached epidemic levels. The American commander died of it. Scarcely more

than a month after Franklin's departure, the entire American army was in retreat over the same ground Franklin had so recently traveled. The troops reached poorly fortified positions in northern New York, but left behind 5,000 casualties.

Traveling with Franklin and Father John Carroll to Albany was Franklin's landlady in Canada, a Mrs. Walker. Her husband was a prominent supporter of the American cause, and it was no longer safe for them to remain in their home. She insisted on bringing 3 wagon loads of baggage on her flight, which greatly complicated the lives of Franklin and Father Carroll, her escorts. Having traveled light on the trip north, with only the bare necessities, encountering terrible conditions, one can only imagine the headaches of the trip south. The travelers' biggest problem was an uncongenial Mrs. Walker. She and her husband came close to quarreling with the Americans. Carroll credited Franklin for remaining calm in the face of the Walkers' insults. Mrs. Walker even accused the commissioners of being in league with the Tories. The couple had a talent for making enemies, Franklin said. After arriving in Albany, Franklin could not be rid of such company fast enough, and "parted civilly tho' coldly".

Albany hospitality was Franklin's only comfort: Mrs. Schuyler kindly lent the family's carriage to the ailing Franklin. His legs were swollen with fluid, and he was suffering from recurring boils, as well as a disorder that had plagued him since 1774, psoriasis. It is unclear when there was an onset of gout, but it probably occurred on his trip home. By the time he reached Philadelphia he was in much pain from it. Mrs. Schuyler kindly insisted on him borrowing a luxurious vehicle and the family's skilled coachman. Franklin was very grateful, because every jolt is more painful when you have the gout and the road was "very Stoney and much gullied". By the end of May, he said he was growing "more feeble" every day. The long hours he had recently spent traveling had prevented him from being as active as usual, compounding

his illness with weakened muscles. Several years later he remembered his "Journey of 500 Miles, of which [a] great part was perform'd in a small open Boat, where [I] was kept sitting without Exercise for many Days." Despite the painful boils and the gout, he rested only one day at Albany before resuming his trip, being anxious to give the best and most up-to-date news to Congress. He arrived on May 30, and spent a few days in early June sharing his hard-won information, but he was soon sidelined with another attack of gout that kept him from Congress for weeks. Despite the gloomy prospects, he held onto the hope that the American cause would triumph. Remember, this was even before the Declaration of Independence was assured. On June 21 he wrote to Washington, "I see more certainly the Ruin of Britain if she persists in such expensive distant Expeditions, which will probably prove more disastrous to her than anciently her Wars in the Holy Land [the Crusades]."

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.

In His Own Words

Howe says: Peace, Pardon, and Submission;

Franklin says: an Unjust and Unwise War



When Franklin returned from his arduous expedition to Canada at the end of May, 1776 (for which see "Benjamin Franklin and the Hudson Valley"), it was probably to find a letter written by his London friend David Barclay announcing that Lord Howe would soon arrive in America with a peace proposal. Howe, on his way to New York, prepared a letter to the governors of the various colonies informing them of his arrival and asking them to publicize a declaration to the American people which announced the powers of his commission to pardon those who promptly returned to their allegiance, and to declare any colony, or part of any colony, to be at peace. All those who helped to restore order were to be rewarded. He also drafted a letter to Franklin, which was not sent until July 12, when Howe arrived on American soil. Franklin was not in Congress when the letter arrived, but he was sent for immediately. He opened the sealed letters and looked at them before handing them to the President of Congress. He asked that they be read aloud. On July 20, Franklin was authorized to reply to Howe. Undeterred by his terrible ordeal in Canada and the inadequacy of American fortifications, forces, and finances, he remained defiant, armed with the knowledge that the Declaration of Independence had been adopted scarcely two weeks earlier. Howe had addressed the 13 colonies, but it was on behalf of an independent United States that Franklin replied. Here is his answer:

Phila. July 20th. 1776.

My Lord,

I received safe the Letters your Lordship so kindly forwarded to me, and beg you to accept my Thanks.

The official Dispatches to which you refer me, contain nothing more than what we had seen in the Act of Parliament, viz. Offers of Pardon upon Submission; which I was sorry to find, as it must give your Lordship Pain to be sent so far on so hopeless a Business.

Directing Pardons to be offered the Colonies, who are the very Parties injured, expresses indeed that Opinion of our Ignorance, Baseness, and Insensibility which your uninform'd and proud Nation has long been pleased to entertain of us: but it can have no other Effect than

that of increasing our Resentment. It is impossible we should think of Submission to a Government, that has with the most wanton Barbarity and Cruelty, burnt our defenceless Towns in the midst of Winter, excited the Savages to massacre our Farmers, and our Slaves to murder their Masters, and is even now bringing foreign Mercenaries to deluge our Settlements with Blood. These atrocious Injuries have extinguished every remaining Spark of Affection for that Parent Country we once held so dear: But were it possible for us to forget and forgive them, it is not possible for *you* (I mean the British Nation) to forgive the People you have so heavily injured; you can never confide again in those as Fellow Subjects, and permit them to enjoy equal Freedom, to whom you know you have given such just Cause of lasting Enmity. And this must impel you, were we again under your Government, to endeavour the breaking our Spirit by the severest Tyranny, and obstructing by every means in your Power our growing Strength and Prosperity.

But your Lordship mentions "the Kings paternal Solitude for promoting the Establishment of lasting *Peace* and Union with the Colonies." If by *Peace* is here meant, a Peace to be entered into between Britain and America as distinct States now at War, and his Majesty has given your Lordship Powers to treat with us of such a Peace, I may venture to say, tho' without Authority, that I think a Treaty for that purpose not yet quite impracticable, before we enter into Foreign Alliances. But I am persuaded you have no such Powers. Your Nation, tho' by punishing those American Governors who have created and fomented the Discord, rebuilding our burnt Towns, and repairing as far as possible the Mischiefs done us, She might yet recover a great Share of our Regard and the greatest part of our growing Commerce, with all the Advantage of that additional Strength to be derived from a Friendship with us: I know too well her abounding Pride and deficient Wisdom, to believe she will ever take such Salutary Measures. Her Fondness for Conquest as a Warlike Nation, her Lust of Dominion as an Ambitious one, and her Thirst for a gainful Monopoly as a Commercial one, (none of them legitimate Causes of War) will all join to hide from her Eyes every View

of her true Interests; and continually goad her on in these ruinous distant Expeditions, so destructive both of Lives and Treasure, that must prove as pernicious to her in the End as the Croisades [Crusades] formerly were to most of the Nations of Europe.

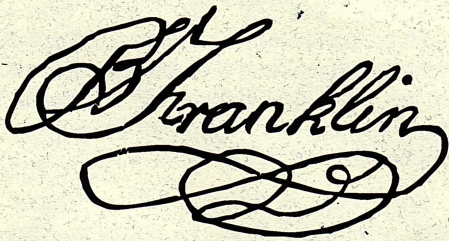
I have not the Vanity, my Lord, to think of intimidating by thus predicting the Effects of this War; for I know it will in England have the Fate of all my former Predictions, not be believed till the Event shall verify it.

Long did I endeavour with unfeigned and unwearied Zeal, to preserve from breaking, that fine and noble China Vase the British Empire: for I knew that being once broken, the separate Parts could not retain even their Share of the Strength or Value that existed in the Whole, and that a perfect Re-Union of those Parts could scarce even be hoped for. Your Lordship may possibly remember the Tears of Joy that wet my Cheek, when, at your good Sister's in London, you once gave me Expectations that a Reconciliation might soon take place. I had the Misfortune to find those Expectations disappointed, and to be treated as the Cause of the Mischief I was labouring to prevent. My Consolation under that groundless and malevolent Treatment was, that I retained the Friendship of many Wise and Good Men in that Country, and among the rest some Share in the Regard of Lord Howe.

The well founded Esteem, and permit me to say Affection, which I shall always have for your Lordship, makes it painful to me to see you engag'd in conducting a War, the great Ground of which, as expressed in your Letter, is, "the Necessity of preventing the American Trade from passing into foreign Channels." To me it seems that neither the obtaining or retaining of any Trade, how valuable soever, is an Object for which Men may justly Spill each others Blood; that the true and sure means of extending and securing Commerce is the goodness and cheapness of Commodities; and that the profits of no Trade can ever be equal to the Expence of compelling it, and of holding it, by Fleets and Armies. I consider this War against us therefore, as both unjust, and unwise; and I am persuaded cool dispassionate Posterity will condemn to Infamy those who advised it; and that even Success will not save

continued on p.8

from some degree of Dishonour, those who voluntarily engag'd to conduct it. I know your great Motive in coming hither was the Hope of being instrumental in a Reconciliation; and I believe when you find *that* impossible on any Terms given you to propose, you will relinquish so odious a Command, and return to a more honorable private Station. With the greatest and most sincere Respect I have the honor to be, My Lord your Lordships most obedient humble Servant



Descendants continued

a French marriage dashed, his thoughts turned again to his first love, Mariamne. William Alexander was one of Franklin's most intimate friends, and we can only guess that his favorable opinion of the match might have helped to change Alexander's mind. JW asked Franklin to deliver a second proposal of marriage to William Alexander in the summer of 1779. Alexander gave his consent, and JW and Mariamne were married in a Protestant ceremony in the chapel of the Dutch ambassador's residence in Paris on September 12, 1779. Franklin, as a surrogate for JW's own father, gave his blessing. JW was over the moon and in describing the marriage to his family, said "nobody that ever saw [Mariamne] says anything but her praises." For a wedding gift, Franklin gave the happy couple a miniature of himself, after a painting by Duplessis. The portrait on ivory was set into a brooch, and intertwined locks of the bride and groom's hair are on the reverse. This brooch is still owned by their descendants. The wedding reception was held the following day at the Alexander house in Saint-Germain, with guests including the mayor of Nantes. Probably also present at the reception were Mariamne's siblings; William Alexander the younger (1755-1842), Bethia (1757-1839), Christine (1762-1845), Jane (1765-1843), Robert (1767-1841), Isabella (b. 1768), and Joanna (1771-1783). There are interesting letters to Franklin from Bethia and Christine written during this period. Robert, better known as "Bob," lived in the Franklin household for a time and worked in his office around the time the definitive

peace treaty was signed in 1783. William Alexander, Jr., received legal training in London and was admitted to the bar in 1782.

At the same time that the younger William was preparing for his career at the Middle Temple, his father was trying to advance the peace negotiations, traveling to London with communications from Franklin. JW and Mariamne started a family in Nantes; their first child was a daughter, Christine (b. 1780). The marriage was a happy one, but in 1782 the couple suffered a devastating loss when their daughter, Bethia, only a few days old, died. Mariamne, suffering from the influenza that reached epidemic proportions that summer, had gone into labor prematurely and JW feared for her life and sent her to Saint-Germain to stay with her family as soon as she was well enough to travel. The family survived the long separation while Mariamne recovered, but JW's business affairs soon eclipsed the joy of her return to health. With Franklin's help, JW obtained protection from his creditors from the French government. An unscrupulous business partner and the financial depression that came with the cessation of hostilities in 1783 left JW in bad shape with his French creditors at a time when expected funds from his debtors in America did not materialize. He resolved to close the books on his Nantes business as soon as possible, and entered into a new partnership with his father-in-law, William Alexander. William emigrated to Virginia in November, 1783, with a tobacco contract to supply the French government in hand. JW was to handle the reception of the cargoes sent from America that reached French ports, and in early 1784 he and his family moved in with his in-laws at Saint-Germain.

The tobacco business, like so many other enterprises, suffered during the post-war period, and the Williams/Alexander partnership was not a success, so JW spent part of his remaining time in Europe trying to collect debts and settle with his creditors. Some of the time he spent with Franklin, who helped him in his attempt to save his reputation and stay solvent. He stayed with Franklin while Temple made a long visit to England in the late summer and fall of 1784. When both men returned to America, JW chose to make his home in Philadelphia, near Franklin, rather than in his native Boston. In his later career, after Franklin's death, he was named superintendent of the U.S. military academy at West Point. William Alexander began a second family in the United States, and eventually most of his children from his first marriage joined him,

becoming naturalized American citizens. Bob Alexander, who had his first real job with Franklin, was one of the pioneers who settled Woodford County, Kentucky. One cannot help but think that Franklin encouraged the Alexanders in their plans to become Americans.

Those of us who are curious about Franklin's appearance owe a great debt to the Alexander family. Years before JW's marriage to Mariamne, William, Sr., and his brother Robert had become friendly with Franklin. Robert Alexander (d. 1774) had been a fellow houseguest with Franklin in 1759 at Sir Alexander Dick's house, Prestonfields, outside of Edinburgh. The friendship founded in Scotland developed to such an extent that Robert asked for a portrait of his friend. This was the famous "Thumb" portrait by David Martin, executed in 1766. This is Franklin in his prime, aged 60, a snapshot of the American agent then living in London. It now hangs in the White House. After Robert's death, the portrait became the possession of his brother, William Alexander, Sr., and it was part of Mariamne's inheritance from her father. Henry J. Williams, JW and Mariamne's son, recorded that this painting was a favorite of Franklin's, and that he had Martin make a copy which was sent to Debbie back in Philadelphia. This copy hung in the chamber dedicated to the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania (of which Franklin was elected president in 1785), and later, in Peale's Museum. The original descended in the Williams family through Henry's line, and eventually became the property of Mr. and Mrs. Walter H. Annenberg, who gave it to the nation in 1962. A third copy of Martin's work was purchased by another friend of Franklin from his London days, John Sargent. Many affectionate letters exchanged between the two men still attest to their warm feelings for each other. In 1850, Alexander John Alexander, Bob Alexander's oldest son, although born in America, became the heir to the Alexander family estates in Airdrie (outside of Glasgow, Scotland) and Cowdenhill. He was educated at Oxford and became a British citizen. The portrait of Franklin Alexander John Alexander hung in pride of place at Airdrie House, and it remained for many years in the British Isles with the descendants of Bob Alexander before joining the other two copies in America, having been inherited by Alexander John Aitchison Alexander. A fourth copy of the Martin portrait is still believed to be in Scotland. Art historian Charles Coleman Sellers believes that it was made by Martin in the 1770s or 1780s from the original commissioned by Robert Alexander.

Franklin in Scotland, 1771

by Kate Ohno



At the Historical Society of Pennsylvania is a document in the Franklin Collection that is little more than a list—place names in the left hand column and numbers in the right. This brief memorandum was not published in earlier volumes of *The Papers of Benjamin Franklin*, or mentioned in Nolan's *Franklin in Scotland and Ireland*. In light of the Friends' upcoming visit to Scotland, we print it here exclusively for the Friends. It offers new information on Franklin's itinerary during his 1771 visit. We can be fairly sure of that date because someone was kind enough to make a rubbing of a coin to the right of the memorandum. The coin was a 1760 George II Irish farthing, so unless the rubbing was made on the page after Franklin's 1759 visit to Scotland, the list must date from the later visit, of which little is known about his return trip. Assistant Editor Alicia Anderson found a copy of the document in the project files. We assume that the number represents the miles traveled from one town to another. The first place name, "Edinbr", must stand for Edinburgh, where Franklin arrived on Saturday, October 26, after traveling "Thro Storms and Floods". He planned to stay for about two weeks, but ended up extending his stay in Scotland until November 21. By late on November 23 he was in Preston, in Lancashire, claiming

to have covered an impressive 70 miles during the final day of his journey, the same distance from the last town on the list below to his Lancashire destination. If that is true, then he could only have caught a fleeting glance at the Scottish towns on the list below, traversed November 21-22. According to his accounting, the distance between Edinburgh and Carlisle amounted to 91 miles—a bone-rattling ride in a mere two days. Judging by the last line, it seems likely that he spent a night at Lupton's inn, the King's Arms, in Carlisle. Did he make an intervening stop? Perhaps now that we know his route some trace of his visit may be found. Does some house—say in Hawich—have a sign saying "Benjamin Franklin slept here"?

Edinbr	
Middletown--	12
Bankhouse--	10
Selkirk--	14
Hawich--	11
Langholm--	22
Langtown--	12
Carlyle--	10
Penrith—	
Mrs Lupton's King's Arms Carlisle	

Reading Franklin



"Ben Franklin is a Big Fat Idiot" by Joe Queenan, published in the June 24 issue of the *New York Times*, complains that not all of Franklin's aphorisms are of equal value, and some are not understandable to the modern reader.

The John Jay Papers' blog post for early July features a letter from Sally (Mrs. John) Jay to Kitty Livingston of July 17, 1783, talking about Franklin's Fourth of July party. The Jays were then living in Passy, France with Franklin, and although the definitive treaty had not yet been signed to end the Revolutionary War, hostilities had ceased. In the letter, Sally enclosed a list of the toasts proposed by her husband at the party. The gathering also served as a day of remembrance, at least for Sally, who was moved to tears. She wrote: "How

nearly my dear Kitty! Does extreme felicity approach a painful sensation. I've more than once experienc'd it; nor were my feelings divested of that kind of sensibility on the 4th. of July, for I found it difficult to suppress the tears that were ready to flow to the memory of those who in struggling to procure that happiness for their country wh[ic]h we were then celebrating had fallen in the glorious attempt." Read the whole letter at <https://blogs.cul.columbia.edu/jayprint/>

The July 3 issue of the *Philadelphia Inquirer* described Friend Ralph Archbold's return to work as the city's most beloved Franklin impersonator: "Ralph Archbold back as Philly Ben Franklin," and the online version features a photo of the

continued on p.10

Franklin Tidbits

Franklin on stage: "We the People: America Rocks!" is a musical entertainment featuring 'our favorite Founder, among others. It ran July 8-August 13 at the Lucille Lortel Theatre, in New York City.

Franklin and other Founders "stormed" the foyer of a Washington, D.C., lobbying firm, according to a July 1 article by Carol D. Leonnig published in the *Washington Post*. The Founders and other activists were from the "Fair Elections Now" movement, pressing for campaign finance reform.

In TV commercials airing around the Fourth of July holiday, Franklin was among the merrymaking Founders marketing beer in a jolly sketch that featured the Declaration of Independence and a blast from a cannon.

Franklin jewelry: Franklin is portrayed in an oval frame—available as a necklace or a pin. The image is after Joseph-Siffred Duplessis' "fur coat" portrait of 1778, which was commissioned by Franklin's friend and landlord in France, LeRay de Chaumont. See it online at <http://schmutzerland.com>. Look under the "nostalgia and curios" category. Thanks to Ellen Cohn, Editor-in-Chief of *The Papers of Benjamin Franklin*, for alerting us to this site.

Friends of Franklin Founder: Congratulations to one of our organization's founders, Stuart Karu, upon his recent marriage to Tammy Hamberg.

Franklin in Historical Documents: Friends may enjoy the National Archives blog "Today's Document," which has featured works of art, like the Great Seal of the United States, and documents like the Declaration of Independence, Articles of Confederation, and the 1787 Constitution. Click on <http://archives.gov/historical-docs/todays-doc>

Drink like Franklin? Franklin's 1783 Fourth of July party celebration included toasts and champagne (see Reading Franklin), and news has just broken that the oldest documented champagne vintage has been discovered in a shipwreck in the Baltic sea. Archaeologists estimate that the champagne dates from the 1780s, and probably was part of a French cargo destined for Russia. Estimates for the value of one bottle (cork is intact) range between \$68,000 to \$70,000, so you would have to be quite well off to drink like Franklin.



Calendar of Events

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

September 29, 2010. Lady Reid Lecture: Franklin and Interiors, 6.30pm at the Benjamin Franklin House in London. For more information email Info@BenjaminFranklinHouse.org

October 7, 2010. Lecture at the Museum of American Finance in New York City by Michelle Costello, "Benjamin Franklin and the Invention of Microfinance."

January 21, 2011. Celebration! of Benjamin Franklin, Founder, annual symposium, procession to his grave and luncheon.

Ongoing

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

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

Reading continued

new slimmer "Franklin". Thanks to Bob Frankel, Associate Editor of *The Papers of Benjamin Franklin* (and native son), for bringing this story to our attention.

Dave Wang, "How China Helped to Shape American Culture: the Founding Fathers and Chinese Civilization," *Virginia Review of Asian Studies* (2010). Friend Dave Wang has shared with readers of the *Gazette* his discoveries about Franklin's interest in Chinese culture, but now his work has broadened its scope and is published in an academic journal. Congratulations, Dave!

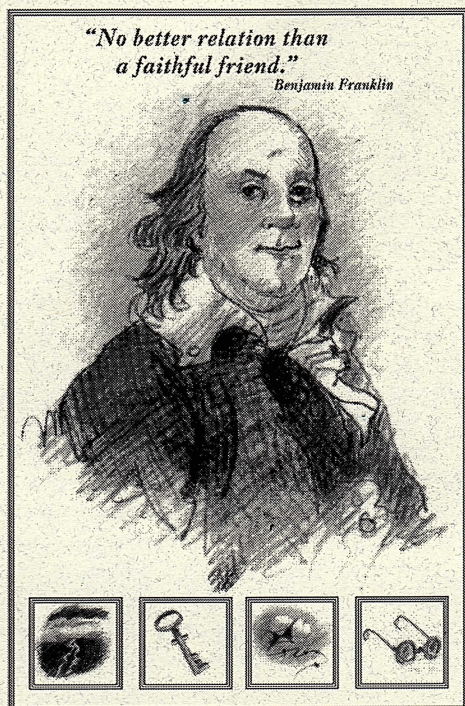
Lemay continued

to join the Association for Documentary Editing. Having established himself as a challenging new voice in the world of documentary editing with the genetic text of Franklin's autobiography, Leo became active in the ADE, one of many professional societies of which he was an active member. At the annual meetings sponsored by these societies, Leo always enjoyed cocktail parties, hotel-room get-togethers, and various other assorted social receptions. No doubt many ADE members have fond memories of late nights at the ADE conference that ended up in Leo's hotel room hunched around a bottle of Wild Turkey.

Leo's efforts to encourage social interaction among professional colleagues had a greater purpose beyond conviviality. He saw the social gathering as a way of furthering scholarship. He brought together like-minded scholars as a way to get them talking, thinking, and writing. Many people came away from his parties with new contacts in the literary world and new research ideas to mull over for weeks and years. Leo's writings and his personal interactions combined to make him a major force in the field of American literary scholarship. Speaking for myself, I can say that he had a profound impact on my thinking and left an indelible mark on my memory. I miss him.

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!



"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.

Name: _____
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Email: _____

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

Payment by check or money order. \$2.00 shipping & handling.

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Franklin Math Puzzlers

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

Note: Here are 2 new Franklin-themed math puzzles presented by Aziz Inan (ainan@up.edu), and the solution to the puzzle posed in the Spring 2010 issue.

Problem # 16. Palindrome age on a palindrome date. How many seven-digit palindrome dates expressed in the month-day-year date format coincided with Ben Franklin's palindrome ages during his lifetime? How many seven-digit palindrome dates written in the day-month-year date format coincided with his palindrome ages in his life? (Note that the year number used in each date format must be a four-digit number.)

Problem # 17. Seven-digit palindrome dates in the 21st century. How many seven-digit palindrome dates expressed in the month-day-year date format exist in the 21st century? How many seven-digit palindrome dates written in the day-month-year date format exist in the 21st century? (Note that the year number used in each date format must be a four-digit number.)

Box: And the Winner Is...

Alysia Cain, Editorial Assistant of *The Papers of Benjamin Franklin*, is the winner of Franklin Math Puzzle #15. As announced in the spring issue of the *Gazette*, Alysia will receive a packet of the handsome customized Franklin note cards designed by Sherry Bufano that are pictured in that same issue. "No better relation than a faithful friend" is the motto on the card, along with a sensitive portrait of Franklin.

Get out your pencils!

The Friends are pleased to offer another prize to the first person who emails Aziz (ainan@up.edu) the correct answer to math puzzle #16 and 17, published in this issue. Only one prize per person, however!

(Solution: Let year x in Benjamin Franklin's lifetime (1706 – 1790) be represented by the four-digit number $17AB$. The sum and the product of the digits of x are given by $S = 8 + A + B$ and $P = 7 \times A \times B$ where it is given that $P = \text{Reverse}(S)$. Note that $A \neq 0$ and $B \neq 0$ and $S \leq 25$. Assuming S to be a two-digit number, since the tenth digit of S equals to either 1 or 2, this means the ones digit of the reverse of x (or P) must be either 1 or 2. This means the ones digit of $(A \times B)$ is either 3 or 6. This means the values of digits A and B are either 1 and 3, or 3 and 2, or 1 and 6, or 6 and 1. Using these values, we find out that the only years in Franklin's life which satisfy $P = \text{Reverse}(S)$ are 1713 and 1731 respectively. Since Franklin was only 7 years old in 1713, the correct answer must be 1731. Note that $1731 = 19 \times 19 + 23 \times 23 + 29 \times 29$ where 19, 23 and 29 are three different odd numbers. (Furthermore, they are three consecutive prime numbers.) Number 1713 cannot be expressed as sum of squares of three different odd numbers. In 1731, Franklin and his friends from the discussion group called Junto founded the first truly public library in America, called the Library Company of Philadelphia.)

(Source: Inan. Answer: 1731.)

Last issue's puzzle and solution

Problem # 15. Ben finds 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 ?

Special Thanks to Our Life Members!

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