

**LETTERS TO BENJAMIN  
FRANKLIN FROM  
HIS FAMILY AND  
FRIENDS, 1751-1790**

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Letters to Benjamin Franklin from his family and friends, 1751-1790 by William Duane

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**WILLIAM DUANE**

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LETTERS

TO

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN,

FROM

HIS FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

1751—1790.

*F. 1751-1790*  
*W. B. Richardson*

NEW YORK:

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1859.

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## INTRODUCTION.

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THE following letters have been selected from a number formerly in the possession of William Temple Franklin, and now belonging to Dr. Franklin Bache. These and the papers which have been for several years in the possession of the American Philosophical Society were formerly parts of the same collection.

It does not seem necessary to add any thing more than a few words respecting the writers :

Abiah, the daughter of Peter Folger, and the second wife of Josiah Franklin, was born in the Island of Nantucket, August 15, 1667, and died in Boston in the early part of 1752.

Mary Stevenson was the daughter of Mrs. Margaret Stevenson, whose house in Craven-street, London, was Dr. Franklin's home during his long residence in England. Miss Stevenson married Dr. William Hewson, and after his death came to America with her family.

Mrs. Deborah Franklin's birthday cannot now be ascertained. She married Dr. Franklin September 1, 1730, and died December 19, 1774. We are indebted to the publishers of Franklin's Works for the portrait of Mrs. Franklin.

Her only daughter, Sarah, was born September 11, 1744, married Richard Bache October 29, 1767, and died October 8, 1808. Mrs. Ellet's "Women of the Revolution" contains a sketch of her life *partly* by the author of these lines. The likeness in the present work is from the portrait of her painted by Hopner, during her visit to England in 1792. Mr. Sully has made two admirable copies of this portrait.

Jane Mecom, the youngest and favorite sister of Dr. Frank-



lin, was born in Boston, March 27, 1712, and at fifteen years of age, July 27, 1727, was married to Edward Mecom, by whom she had twelve children. She survived her brother about four years. The granddaughter Jane, mentioned in some of her letters, still survives, and at the age of ninety-four retains the possession of all her mental faculties.

William Franklin, born in 1729 or 1730, was the Royal Governor of New Jersey, took the side of the mother country during the Revolution, and was an active Tory partisan. After the war he retired to England, where he received a pension until his death in 1813.

Dr. Franklin's son-in-law, Richard Bache, was the eighteenth child of William Bache, of Settle, in the West Riding of Yorkshire, where he was born September 12, 1737. He came to America when about twenty-one years of age, and became an active and successful merchant. In 1776, he succeeded Dr. Franklin as Postmaster-General, which post he filled until January, 1782. He died July 29, 1811.

Of Miss Dorothea Blunt nothing more can now be ascertained, than that she was a friend of the Stevenson family, and that her mother was called Lady Blunt. She is mentioned in Dr. Franklin's "Craven-street Journal," and in his letters to Mrs. Hewson.

Catherine Ray, afterwards Mrs. Greene, was a resident of Block Island, and, after her marriage, of Warwick, in the State of Rhode Island. There are many letters to her in Dr. Franklin's works.

Eliza, the wife of Gov. William Franklin, was an English lady by birth. Her maiden name was Downes.

Mrs. Eliza Partridge, whose maiden name was Hubbard, was the step-daughter of Dr. Franklin's brother John.

Benjamin Mecom was one of the sons of Mrs. Jane Mecom.

W. D.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 1, 1858.

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