

**BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, FOUNDER:
THE REMARKABLE
RECORD OF A PHILADELPHIA
INSTITUTION FROM 1728 TO 1915**

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Benjamin Franklin, founder: the remarkable record of a Philadelphia Institution from 1728 to 1915 by Various

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VARIOUS

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BENJAMIN FRANKLIN *Founder*

*The Remarkable Record
of a Philadelphia Institution
from 1728 to 1915*



PHILADELPHIA
FRANKLIN PRINTING COMPANY
1915

KF 30230



Compiled by J. LINTON ENGLE

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DEDICATION

*Dedicated by the Franklin Printing Company
to the memory of its illustrious founder, who,
in the midst of a most varied and useful
life, found his chief joy and pride
in his accomplishments
and associations
as a printer*

FOREWORD

Whether in the life of the individual or of the institution, pride of lineage is a far-reaching and valuable influence. To trace back into the well-springs of a nation may well make for character and high ideals.

And to be able to trace direct descent from the enterprise and genius of the chief literary figure of Colonial times, is not only a special distinction but imposes an obligation to stand for those things for which the founder stood.

It is a fact but little known, that the business which Benjamin Franklin founded here in Philadelphia, in 1728, has actually been continued without a break straight down to this present year of grace. The records, however, are perfectly clear and well authenticated.

It is believed that a narrative of this business, covering, as it does, a space of one hundred and eighty-seven years will be appreciated by those who revere that which is ancient and who respect the stability of an enterprise that could maintain itself with such vigor over so long a period.

The Franklin Printing Company, living and working in the present, is properly proud of its illustrious origin.



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CHRONOLOGY OF THE FRANKLIN PRINTING COMPANY

- 1728 Spring* Benjamin Franklin, now entering upon his twenty-second year, forms partnership with Hugh Meredith. Commences business "near the market" at 51 High Street, now (1915) 135 Market Street. Firm name B. Franklin and H. Meredith.
- 1730 July 14th* Partnership with Meredith dissolved.
- 1748 January* Franklin relinquishes active interest. David Hall for four years in Franklin's employ, is made active partner. Firm becomes Franklin and Hall, Hall agreeing to pay Franklin 1000£ for 18 years. (approximately \$2660 a year.)
- 1766
February 1st* Partnership with Hall dissolved and annual payment to Franklin ceases.
- 1766 May* David Hall forms partnership with William Sellers. Firm name is now Hall and Sellers.
- 1772
December 24th* David Hall dies. Firm continued as Hall and Sellers, the two sons of David Hall,—Wm. Hall and David Hall, Jr., taking the place of their father.
- 1804
February* Wm. Sellers dies at the age of 79. The business is now managed in the names of William and David Hall,—later transferred to Wm. Hall, Jr. (?)
- 1805 (about)* Wm. Hall, Jr. forms partnership with Geo. W. Pierie, as Hall and Pierie.
- 1815 or 1816* The firm of Hall and Pierie is dissolved. Hall and Pierie are succeeded by Hall and Atkinson (Samuel C. Atkinson.)