



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN: AN INSURANCE STORY

Benjamin Franklin, of course, is most well-known for his status as a founding father of the United States of America. Something that he is less known for, though, is being the founder of the first successful fire insurance company in the colonies, right here in Philadelphia. Franklin met with his Union Fire Company, and along with other fire companies discussed the possibility of a fire insurance company. Thus, in 1792, Philadelphia Contributionship was born. It was agreed that each individual would make equal payments that would then pay for losses due to fire sustained to the property of any member. The original policies had a term of seven years, and once the policies expired, any leftover money was returned to the policyholders. In the first year, 143 policies were written and miraculously there was not a single fire during that first year of operation. *Adapted from a PBS article.





SPIRIT OF PHILADELPHIA

This boat will be the most fun place to be in Philly on Friday evening, when all of us will board to dance and cruise the night away! The Spirit is docked at Penn's Landing, which is one of the most exciting and historic locations in Philadelphia and stretches along the Delaware River for about ten blocks. Penn's Landing and the Spirit are hot spots for tourists and Philly night life. After our cruise on the Spirit, we will make our way to Villani, a fine establishment of Philadelphia where we will toast to Gamma Iota Sigma!

PHILADELPHIA PHUN PHACTS

- •Philadelphia, the "City of Brotherly Love" got its name from one of its most famous citizens, William Penn, who saw his tract of land as a place where everyone from every background could live together in peace and harmony. The Greek "brotherly love," or philos adelphos (loving brothers), became Philadelphia.
- •Philadelphia is credited with giving birth to such culinary sensations as the cheesesteak sandwich, soft pretzels, and TastyKakes.
- •The 2,080-pound Liberty Bell cracked the first time it was rung in 1776 due to a casting flaw. The name Philadelphia inscribed on the bell was misspelled due to an engraver's error.
- •Fairmount Park in Philadelphia is the largest city park with over 8,000 acres
- •Philadelphia is home to the 2008 World Series Champions, the Phillies!
- •The Philadelphia Museum of Art was made famous by being featured in the popular "Rocky" films, when Sylvester Stallone, as the boxer Rocky, made his famous training runs up the front steps.
- •Betsy Ross is said to have created America's first flag in a home on Arch Street in Philadelphia
- •In 1946 Philadelphia became home to the first computer.
- •Many movies made by Indian-American director M. Night Shyalaman have been filmed in the eastern Pennsylvania region (right outside Philadelphia) such as "Signs," "The Sixth Sense," "Unbreakable," and "The Village."
- •Philadelphia served as America's capital for one decade 1790 through 1800.
- •The Philadelphia Zoo was Amerca's first. It still proudly serves thousands and thousands of visistors each year. It was, by the way, founded by Mr. Benjamin Franklin himself.











