

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

Who is that 8-ft. tall, 250 lb. golden figure in the window of the Chambersburg Heritage Center? It is Benjamin Franklin. The one-of-a-kind likeness pays homage to the statesman, sage, and inventor that is the namesake of Franklin County. Ben spends his days looking over the visitors of the Chambersburg Heritage Center and his nights looking out across Courthouse Plaza in downtown Chambersburg.

A few facts about

BEN FRANKLIN & FRANKLIN COUNTY

- Frederick Mayer of Pittsburgh carved the 1865 Franklin statue from pine before it was leafed in gold.
- Franklin County was created out of Cumberland County by legislative action on September 9, 1784 and legislators decided on Franklin as the honoree.
- Franklin is the third most popular county name. Do you know the two more popular names? **See the answer at www.ExploreFranklinCountyPA.com or 866.646.8060.**
- The 8-ft., 250-lb. gold-leafed Ben Franklin statue sat atop the Franklin County Courthouse from 1865-1991. It was taken down and restored in 1991 by four local craftsmen. A fiberglass replica resides atop the courthouse today.



Rose Rent

Churches of Chambersburg

Religion was very important to all the settlers that came to Franklin County. Benjamin Chambers – founder of Chambersburg – recognized the influential role religion played in the community, so he set aside three plots of land for three congregations in Chambersburg—Falling Spring Presbyterian, First Lutheran, and Zion Reformed. In return for the land, Chambers requested that each congregation would pay a yearly rent of one rose to a descendant of the Chambers Family. All three congregations continue today and honor the tradition of the rose rent. A mystery book, titled *Death Pays The Rose Rent*, was inspired by Chambersburg's rose rent custom.





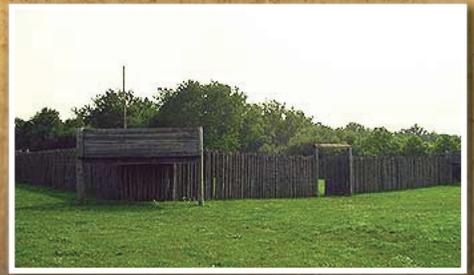
Frontier Forts

From 1730 to 1755, settlements along the Franklin County frontier sprang up. The influx of settlers pushed the Native Americans westward. Many Native Americans did not understand land ownership in the same way as Europeans, believing that the land belonged to the Great Spirit that they worshipped. Angered by the forced migration, Native Americans lashed out and attacked the settlers. In an effort to protect home and family, Franklin County settlers built private forts around their frontier dwellings.

Benjamin Chambers constructed a fort around his home, gristmill and sawmill, which were located near the Conococheague Creek and Falling Spring. Surrounded by water on three of its sides, Chambers Fort was 90-ft. wide and 300-ft. long and was defended by swivel cannons and blunderbusses. Other private forts of Franklin County were Fort Davis, Fort Maxwell, and Fort Marshall.

Fort Loudoun was a British provincial fort that served as a supply and munitions center on the colonial frontier from 1756 to 1765. The fort was a key supply depot of General John Forbes' expedition to capture the French outpost at Fort Duquesne.

RIGHT VISITORS TO FRANKLIN COUNTY CAN SEE THE REPLICA FORT AND THE RESTORED PERIOD PATTON HOUSE AND GARDENS. JUST OFF ROUTE 30.



Indian Attacks

The fortifications settlers constructed as protection were not enough. In an effort to drive out and eliminate the settlers, Native Americans attacked Franklin County frontiersmen. Delaware Indians attacked the private Fort McCord, near Edenville, on April 1, 1756. Twenty-seven pioneers were killed or taken captive. Several of the female captives were rescued five months later in a daring effort by frontier militia led by Col. John Armstrong. Today, a Celtic Cross marks the site of the attack of Fort McCord.

Another fateful attack occurred on July 26, 1764 at a schoolhouse near Greencastle, the Enoch Brown Massacre. Schoolmaster Enoch Brown pleaded for the

lives of his students but was shot and scalped. Eleven children were tomahawked and scalped. One boy, Archie McCullough, was able to crawl to the nearby spring and survived the scalping. The warriors, who perpetrated the heinous massacre were rebuffed by their chief when showing the scalps of the young children. Brown and the students were buried in a common grave. Today a memorial stands on this hallowed ground to recall the ultimate sacrifice of these Franklin County pioneers.

Interested in French and Indian War History?

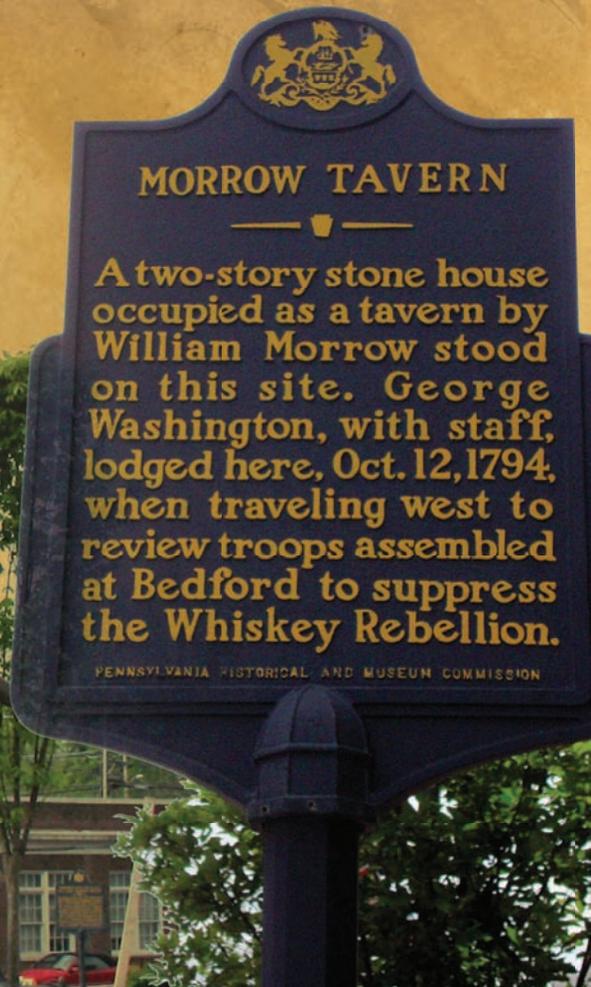
Be sure to request a copy of Conococheague Institute's Biking and Driving Tour of French & Indian War Sites in Southwestern Franklin County.



George Washington In Chambersburg

As the new president of the United States, George Washington faced the first test of the young nation's power when farmers in western Pennsylvania, angered by the tax levied on grain alcohols, refused to pay the taxes and attacked tax collectors. The farmers used grain alcohol as a currency and the tax removed their profit. The federal government applied the tax dollars to the debt of the Revolutionary War. In July 1794, the whiskey tax issue came to a head when western PA farmers attacked a federal marshal, and President Washington called out the militia. The confrontation became known as the Whiskey Rebellion. On Washington's trip to squelch the rebellion, he spent the night at the Morrow Tavern, located on South Main Street of Chambersburg.

George Washington and the Chambers family maintained a close relationship. In recognition of the Chambers family's service and support during the revolution, Washington gifted the family with a pair of silver inlaid pistols. A life-sized bronze statue of founding family patriarch Benjamin Chambers welcoming his son James and grandson Benjamin home from the Revolutionary War is the centerpiece of the new Chambers Fort Park, just off North Main Street in Chambersburg.



Birthplace of James Buchanan

In 1791, James Buchanan, who would become the fifteenth president of the United States, was born in a log cabin about two and a half miles west of Mercersburg at Stony Batter, a trading post operated by Buchanan's father. When Buchanan was five years old, the Buchanan family moved to Mercersburg. They lived on the main street and operated a general store in the building that is today the James Buchanan Pub & Restaurant.



Across the street is the home of Harriet Lane, Buchanan's niece, who served as the mistress of the White House during



James Buchanan's presidency. To commemorate her uncle, Harriet created the monument at Stony Batter State Park, the presidential birthplace, and another monument at Meridian Park in Washington, DC. Visitors can see the cabin of Buchanan's birth at Mercersburg Academy on Seminary Street in

Mercersburg and visit Stony Batter State Park, where a 600-ton stone pyramid marks the Buchanan birthplace.



Confronting the British at FORT LOUDOUN

JAMES SMITH & THE BLACK BOYS

After the French and Indian War, British law forbade trade with the Native Americans. In 1765, a group of traders purchased a large supply of goods at Pollen's Tavern, near Greencastle. The pack train of horses included firearms, gun powder, and other weapons to trade with the Native Americans for furs. Mercersburg residents were unable to reason with the traders to stop. Angered, James Smith gathered a group of ten men. They blackened their faces to disguise themselves as Indians and stopped the pack train near Sideling Hill in Fulton County.

James Smith and the Black Boys compelled the traders to unload the goods and burned the goods.

Irate traders appealed to the British forces at Fort Loudoun. Influenced by the traders, the British captain arrested several citizens and locked them in the guard house of the fort. Smith gathered 300 riflemen and camped on a hill outside of Fort Loudoun. Before long, James Smith and his riflemen had captured so many British that the British captain sent a flag of truce. James Smith and the British exchanged prisoners. This armed confrontation predated the outset of the Revolutionary War by ten years.

