

Fun Facts Southeast

Ben Franklin Museum:

- Ben Franklin, one of the Founding Fathers of our country, was also an inventor and a writer. Ben invented the Franklin stove, the lightning rod, the single pulley system, swimming flippers, and a glass harmonica, a musical instrument that uses 37 rotating glass bowls for a musician to touch with wet fingers to produce different sounds.
- Benjamin Franklin, while studying electricity, coined the terms “battery”, “conductor”, “positive and negative charge”.
- Franklin made 8 trips across the Atlantic Ocean. Curious as to why journeys eastward were faster than westward, he was the first to map the Gulf Stream.
- Benjamin Franklin's obituary was published in the Pennsylvania Gazette, a newspaper he composed. "No other town, burying its great man, ever buried more of itself than Philadelphia with Franklin," wrote Carl Van Dorel in a biography about Franklin.
- Ben Franklin never actually married his wife, Deborah Read. Her previous husband ran off and, unable to locate him, she could not get an official divorce.

Christ Church:

- This church is 320 years old, and was the church for many of the Founding Fathers, including George Washington and Benjamin Franklin. Its steeple made it the tallest building in North America until 1810. A number of notable people are actually buried under the church and in its surrounding area.
- Christ Church in PA has one of the oldest artifacts still in use in a church today. The baptismal font in Christ Church is about 600 years old and was the same one that was used to baptize William Penn.
- Eight of the bells in the steeple of Christ Church were made in White Chapel England. This is the same place that cast the Liberty Bell.
- The stand in Christ Church was designed by the same man that designed the "Rising Sun" chair in Independence Hall.
- Ben Franklin is buried here next to his wife, Deborah. Pennies are tossed on his grave to honor his famous quote, “A penny saved is a penny earned.” As a young man in 1728, Franklin composed his own mock epitaph which can be read on a plaque next to his grave.