

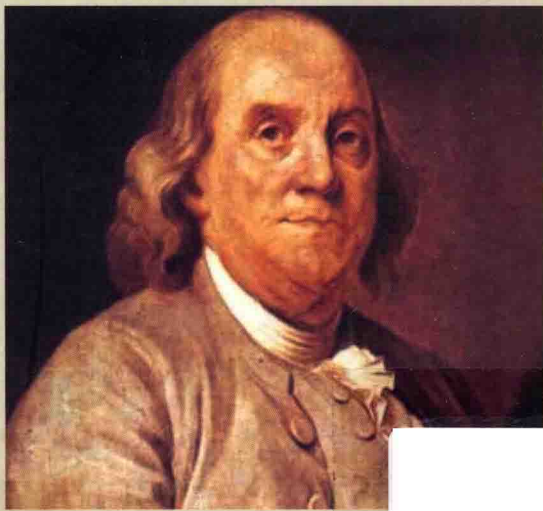
英语人文经典导读系列

总主编◎尹明

*THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF  
Benjamin Franklin*

《本杰明·富兰克林自传》

导读



主 编◎韩 晖

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他是资本主义精神完美的代表，伟大的科学家和发明家，著名的政治家、外交家、哲学家、文学家和航海家以及美国独立战争的伟大领袖。他一生最真实的写照是他自己所说过的一句话“诚实和勤勉，应该成为你永久的伴侣。”



ZHEJIANG UNIVERSITY PRESS

浙江大学出版社

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图书在版编目(CIP)数据

《本杰明·富兰克林自传》导读/韩晖主编. —杭州:浙江大学出版社, 2012.8

ISBN 978-7-308-10558-3

I. ①本… II. ①韩… III. ①英语—汉语—高等学校—教材 IV. ①H319.4

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字 (2012) 第 198634 号

《本杰明·富兰克林自传》导读

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责任编辑 邹小宁

文字编辑 邱 笙

封面设计 王聪聪

出版发行 浙江大学出版社

(杭州市天目山路 148 号 邮政编码 310007)

(网址: <http://www.zjupress.com>)

排 版 杭州教联文化发展有限公司

印 刷 台州印刷厂(有限公司)

开 本 787mm×1092mm 1/16

印 张 17.75

字 数 562 千

版 印 次 2012 年 8 月第 1 版 2012 年 8 月第 1 次印刷

书 号 ISBN 978-7-308-10558-3

定 价 34.00 元

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## 《英语人文经典导读系列——〈本杰明·富兰克林自传〉导读》

# 导 言

本杰明·富兰克林是美国开国元勋之一，亦是美国精神的最佳代表。他出身卑微，所受教育不高，却通过自己的努力和勤勉成为著名的政治家、外交家、科学家、哲学家、文学家、发明家、出版商和航海家。

1706年1月，本杰明·富兰克林出生在波士顿一个蜡烛制造商家庭。他的父亲是英国移民，先后与两位妻子育有17个孩子，本杰明·富兰克林是他最小的儿子。本杰明年仅10岁就中断了学校教育，回家跟随父亲学习制作蜡烛的手艺。可是，因为他的航海梦一直难以停息，所以两年后父亲只能将他送到他的哥哥詹姆士·富兰克林的印刷所当学徒。当时，詹姆士经营的印刷所编辑出版美洲大陆上第一份独立的报纸——《新英格兰报》。本杰明在印刷所担任排字工，后来因为哥哥惹上官司，不得不把印刷所暂时归到他名下经营。这段经历对本杰明·富兰克林产生了极大影响，不但让他深刻认识到知识的重要性，同时也培养了他的一技之长，使他日后得以谋生。

因为和哥哥的矛盾越来越深，本杰明离开波士顿另谋出路。他先到达纽约，后来又去了费城。在那里，他认识了总督基斯爵士。出于这位爵士的建议，他决定自立门户开设印刷所。怀揣着基斯爵士的推荐信，他远渡英伦采购设备，却发现事与愿违——基斯爵士辜负了自己对他的信任，推荐信也如一纸空文毫无用处。此时，本杰明身处异乡，不名一文，深陷困境。后来幸得一位名叫丹曼的商人帮助才回到美国，并且还在他的企业得到一份差事。丹曼去世后，本杰明正式开启自己的事业，成立了自己的印刷所，开始编辑、印制《宾夕法尼亚公报》。1732年，本杰明·富兰克林出版了《穷理查智慧书》（亦称《穷理查年鉴》）。书中本杰明借用名言，自编警句，一连出版25年，成为家喻户晓、广受欢迎的历书，也为自己的良好声誉奠定了基础。1758年，本杰明·富兰克林写成《致富之路》（亦称《老亚伯拉罕的讲话》），并将其作为《穷理查智慧书》的新序言。这篇文章也被认为是美国殖民地时期重要的文学作品之一，文章中阐述的自力更生、诚实勤勉的创富精神成为当时美国社会重要的精神食粮。本杰明·富兰克林是一个实用主义者，相信人要靠自己的奋斗来获得成功，但他也是美国殖民地时期清教徒生活理念的体现者——他一生都努力秉承清教徒克勤克俭的生活作风和克制严肃的道德观念。

在用心经营印刷所的同时，本杰明·富兰克林也日益关心宾州的公益事业。他发挥自

己的写作特长，在《宾夕法尼亚公报》上发表了很多文章，而这些文章中的观点很大一部分成为了促成宾夕法尼亚州之后一系列改革的导火索。他发起和帮助成立的一些组织也在日后发展成美国的重要组织和机构，比如：美国哲学院、宾夕法尼亚大学、宾夕法尼亚医院、宾夕法尼亚图书馆和志愿者消防队等。而这些机构都在美国的教育、科研、医疗和其他各个方面起到了不可比拟的重要作用。

除此之外，本杰明·富兰克林对科学研究的热情也与日俱增。为了满足自己的科研需要，他甚至卖掉了自己的产业，全心投入科学事业。他最著名的风筝取电实验其实只是他从事的所有科学研究的冰山一角。本杰明还发现了电的正负极，发明了避雷针和富兰克林式火炉等。由于酷爱航海，且有多次远航的经历，他甚至绘制了洋流图。本杰明·富兰克林同时也是一位极度慷慨的科学家，他没有出于私利申请各项发明的专利，而是让自己的研究成果成为全人类共享的知识财富，实现了科学研究的最大公益效益。

作为政治人物，本杰明·富兰克林也同样光彩夺目。他改革了美洲的邮政事业，让它创纪录地扭亏为盈。他还担任美洲殖民地公使出使英国，调和美洲殖民地与英国的关系，之后又出使法国争取其对美国独立的支持。1757年和1764年他两度被派往英国：第一次为了说服英王出面干涉彭斯家族，以期降低其对殖民地政府的影响；第二次为了让英王下令使美洲原殖民地领主放弃对殖民地的统治。1765年，英国颁布《印花税法案》，对殖民地的经济进行更进一步的掠夺和侵蚀。对此，本杰明极力反对，但因为他力保一位在美洲执行《印花税法案》的朋友而受到了美洲人民的憎恨。1767年，本杰明·富兰克林出使法国；1777年再度出使法国，至1785年归国。他为法、美两国的同盟关系做出了极大贡献，但在此期间直至夫人去世，本杰明也未能见到她最后一面。

1776年，本杰明·富兰克林参与起草《独立宣言》。他对《独立宣言》中“追求幸福”中的“幸福”之定义给出了最具美国精神的诠释。他指出，幸福并不只意味着“富足、快乐的生活”，幸福应该是精神的圆满，同时也是通过努力获得成功和做出贡献的人生历程。

## INTRODUCTORY NOTE

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN was born in Milk Street, **Boston**<sup>1</sup>, on January 6, 1706. His father, **Josiah Franklin**<sup>2</sup>, was a **tallow chandler**<sup>3</sup> who married twice, and of his seventeen children Benjamin was the youngest son. His schooling ended at ten, and at twelve he was bound **apprentice**<sup>4</sup> to his brother James, a printer, who published the *New England Courant*.<sup>5</sup> To this journal he became a **contributor**<sup>6</sup>, and later was **for a time**<sup>7</sup> its **nominal**<sup>8</sup> editor. But the brothers quarreled, and Benjamin ran away, going first to New York, and thence to **Philadelphia**<sup>9</sup>, where he arrived in October, 1723. He soon obtained work as a printer, but after a few months he was **induced**<sup>10</sup> by **Governor Keith**<sup>11</sup> to go to London, where, finding Keith's promises empty, he again worked as a **compositor**<sup>12</sup> till he was brought back to Philadelphia by a merchant named Denham, who gave him a position in his business. On Denham's death, he returned to his former trade, and shortly set up a printing house of his own from which he

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1 波士顿：美国马萨诸塞州的首府，新英格兰地区最大的城市。详见尾注 1

2 乔赛亚·富兰克林（1657.12.23—1744.1.16）：出生于英国北约克郡埃克顿小镇，在家中排行第九，是最小的孩子；他结过两次婚并生育了 17 个孩子，其中男孩 10 个，女孩 7 个，本杰明·富兰克林是最小的男孩，下面还有 2 个妹妹。

3 蜡烛销售商

4 学徒，徒弟

5 《新英格兰报》：该报于 1721 年 8 月 7 日由本杰明·富兰克林的哥哥，詹姆士·富兰克林创办于波士顿。详见尾注 2

6 捐款人，促成因素，投稿

7 for a time：暂时，一度

8 名义上的，象征性的，名词的

9 费城：美国第五大城市，宾夕法尼亚州最大的城市，美国和美国民主的诞生地。Philadelphia 是希腊语，意为“兄弟之爱”，因此费城别称“兄弟友爱之城”。详见尾注 3

10 引诱，导致，催生

11 威廉·基斯爵士（1669—1749.11.18）：1717 至 1726 年间任宾夕法尼亚州州长，喜欢充当学术和文艺的庇护者以及人才的提拔者。详见尾注 4

12 排字工人

published *The Pennsylvania Gazette*<sup>1</sup>, to which he contributed many essays, and which he made a medium for agitating a variety of local reforms. In 1732 he began to issue his famous *Poor Richard's Almanac*<sup>2</sup> for the enrichment of which he borrowed or composed those **pithy**<sup>3</sup> utterances of **worldly**<sup>4</sup> wisdom which are the basis of a large part of his popular reputation. In 1758, the year in which he ceased writing for the Almanac, he printed in it *Father Abraham's Sermon*, now regarded as the most famous piece of literature produced in Colonial America.

Meantime Franklin was concerning himself more and more with public affairs. He set forth a scheme for an Academy, which was taken up later and finally developed into the University of Pennsylvania; and he founded an "American Philosophical Society" for the purpose of enabling scientific men to communicate their discoveries to one another. He himself had already begun his electrical researches, which, with other scientific inquiries, he called on in the intervals of money-making and politics to the end of his life. In 1748 he sold his business in order to get leisure for study, having now acquired **comparative**<sup>5</sup> wealth; and in a few years he had made discoveries that gave him a reputation with the learned throughout Europe. In politics he proved very able both as an administrator and as a **controversialist**<sup>6</sup>; but his record as an **office-holder**<sup>7</sup> is **stained**<sup>8</sup> by the use he made of his position to advance his relatives. His most notable service in home politics was his reform of the postal system; but his fame as a statesman rests chiefly on his services in connection with the relations of the Colonies with Great Britain, and later with France. In 1757 he was sent to England to protest against the influence of the Penns in the government of the colony, and for five years he remained there, striving to **enlighten**<sup>9</sup> the

1 《宾夕法尼亚公报》：该报被普遍认为是美国殖民地时期办得最好的报纸之一，首先由塞缪尔·凯默（Samuel Keimer）创办出版，后来富兰克林通过暗渡陈仓的策略，匿名为凯默的竞争对手安德鲁·布拉德福德（Andrew Bradford），为《美利坚信使周报》（*American Weekly Mercury*）写了大量措辞巧妙的随笔小品，使凯默的《宾夕法尼亚公报》在竞争中处于劣势，当其发行量降到不足100份的时候，凯默只得将该报的所有权拱手相让给富兰克林。详见尾注5

2 《穷理查智慧书》：1732年，本杰明·富兰克林创办此书并以历书形式出版，书中包含了日历表、阴历图、节假日、集市日，还有家用食谱、天气预测、生活格言等内容，此书也被称作《穷理查年鉴》或《穷理查历书》。详见尾注6

3 简练的，精辟的

4 尘世的，物质世界的，老于世故的

5 比较的，相对的，近义词

6 争论者

7 公务员，机员，工作人员

8 玷污，败坏（名声）

9 启发，开导，启蒙



people and the ministry of England as to Colonial conditions. On his return to America he played an honorable part in the **Paxton affair**<sup>1</sup>, through which he lost his seat in the Assembly; but in 1764 he was again **despatched**<sup>2</sup> to England as agent for the colony, this time to **petition**<sup>3</sup> the King to resume the government from the hands of the **proprietors**<sup>4</sup>. In London he actively opposed the proposed **Stamp Act**<sup>5</sup>, but lost the credit for this and much of his popularity through his securing for a friend the office of stamp agent in America. Even his effective work in helping to obtain the **repeal**<sup>6</sup> of the act left him still a suspect; but he continued his efforts to present the case for the Colonies as the troubles thickened toward the crisis of the Revolution. In 1767 he crossed to France, where he was received with honor; but before his return home in 1775 he lost his position as postmaster through his share in **divulging**<sup>7</sup> to **Massachusetts**<sup>8</sup> the famous **letter of Hutchinson and Oliver**<sup>9</sup>. On his arrival in Philadelphia he was chosen a member of the **Continental Congress**<sup>10</sup> and in 1777 he was dispatched to France as **commissioner**<sup>11</sup> for the United States. Here he remained till 1785, the favorite of French society; **and with such success did he conduct the affairs of his country**

1 帕克斯顿事件: 1763年12月,在庞蒂亚克战争期间(庞蒂亚克,1720—1769,美国奥塔瓦印第安人酋长,印第安人部族联盟领袖之一,领导联盟于1763—1764年间进行抗击英国人占领五大湖区的战争),一群宾夕法尼亚拓荒者袭击了印第安人定居地。详见尾注 7

2 派遣,发送

3 祈求,(向法庭)请求,申请

4 所有人,业主

5 《印花税法案》:18世纪中期英国遇到了一个难题——如何解决其巨大的军费支出。为了转嫁危机,1765年英国议会通过了一项法案,决定对殖民地的各种印刷品征税。由于付税凭证是一枚印花,因此这一法案被称为《印花税法案》。详见尾注 8

6 废止,撤销

7 泄露,暴露

8 马萨诸塞州:1788年建州,首府为波士顿,位于美国的东北部,是新英格兰地区的一部分。详见尾注 9

9 哈钦森信件:哈钦森(Thomas Hutchinson,1711.9.9—1780.6.3),北美英属马萨诸塞州殖民地总督(1771—1774),厉行印花税法(他反对印花税法,但是又宣称它是合法的,并试图强制推行)。由于他拒绝让装载茶叶的船只离开波士顿海港而引发了1773年的波士顿倾茶事件,从而导致了美国独立战争。哈钦森曾于1767至1769年间多次写信给英国的官员,批评马萨诸塞的局势,并建议剥夺殖民地区所谓的英国式自由。详见尾注 10

10 大陆会议:指的是1774至1789年间英属北美13个殖民地以及后来美利坚合众国的立法机构,共举办了两届。详见尾注 11

11 专员,委员,行政长官

**that**<sup>1</sup> when he finally returned he received a place only second to that of Washington as the champion of American independence. He died on April 17, 1790.

The first five chapters of the *Autobiography*<sup>2</sup> were composed in England in 1771, continued in 1784-5, and again in 1788, at which date he brought it down to 1757. After a most extraordinary series of adventures, the original form of the **manuscript**<sup>3</sup> was finally printed by Mr. John Bigelow, and is here reproduced **in recognition of**<sup>4</sup> its value as a picture of one of the most notable personalities of Colonial times, and of its acknowledged rank as one of the great autobiographies of the world.

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1 当关联构成从属连词 such ... that 的 such 出现在“介词+such+名词”置于句首时，通常引起局部倒装。

如果谓语动词为 be 动词，句子则要构成全部倒装。

2 自传（构词：auto-，表示“自己，独立，自动”；bio-，表示“生命，生物”；-graphy，表示“……学，写法”）

3 手稿，原稿

4 作为对……的承认（酬谢或肯定）

# THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

1706—1757

## Chapter 1

TWYFORD<sup>1</sup>, at the Bishop of St. Asaph's, 1771.

**DEAR SON**<sup>2</sup>: I have ever had pleasure in obtaining any little **anecdotes**<sup>3</sup> of my **ancestors**<sup>4</sup>. You may remember the inquiries I made among the remains of my relations when you were with me in England, and the journey I undertook for that purpose. Imagining it may be equally agreeable to you to know the circumstances of my life, many of which you **are** yet **unacquainted with**<sup>5</sup>, and expecting the enjoyment of a week's uninterrupted **leisure**<sup>6</sup> in my present country retirement, I sit down to write them for you. To which I have besides some other **inducements**<sup>7</sup>. Having emerged from the poverty and **obscurity**<sup>8</sup> in which I was born and bred, to a state of **affluence**<sup>9</sup> and some degree of reputation in the world, and having gone so far through life with a considerable share of **felicity**<sup>10</sup>, the **conducting**<sup>11</sup> means I made use of,

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1 特怀福德：意为 two fords（双+浅滩），英国罕布什尔州一村庄，位于温切斯特以北约 3 英里处，离伦敦 50 英里，伊辰河穿过村庄；同时，特怀福德也是圣阿萨夫主教乔纳森·什普利的家宅名。

2 威廉·富兰克林（1731—1813）：本杰明·富兰克林唯一的儿子，1763 年被英王任命为新泽西总督，革命战争期间一直忠于英王，并与其父疏远。革命后于 1784 年二人关系才有所改善。

3 轶事，趣闻

4 祖先

5 be unacquainted with: 不熟悉，不知道，与……不相识

6 闲暇，休闲

7 引诱，动机，诱因

8 不出名，昏暗，晦涩

9 富裕

10 快乐，幸福，幸运

11 有益，导致

which with the blessing of God so well succeeded, my **posterit**<sup>1</sup> may like to know, as they may find some of them suitable to their own situations, and therefore fit to be imitated.

That felicity, when I reflected on it, has induced me sometimes to say, **that were it offered to my choice**<sup>2</sup>, I should have no objection to a repetition of the same life from its beginning, only asking the advantages authors have in a second edition to correct some faults of the first. So I might, besides correcting the faults, change some **sinister**<sup>3</sup> accidents and events of it for others more favorable. But though this were denied, I should still accept the offer. Since such a repetition is not to be expected, the next thing most like living one's life over again seems to be a recollection of that life, and to make that recollection as durable as possible by putting it down in writing.

Hereby, too, I shall **indulge**<sup>4</sup> the inclination so natural in old men, to be talking of themselves and their own past actions; and I shall indulge it without being tiresome to others, who, through respect to age, might conceive themselves obliged to give me a hearing, since this may be read or not as any one pleases. And, lastly (I may as well confess it, since my denial of it will be believed by nobody), perhaps I shall a good deal gratify my own **vanity**<sup>5</sup>. Indeed, I **scarce**<sup>6</sup> ever heard or saw the introductory words, "Without vanity I may say," **&c.**<sup>7</sup>, but some vain thing immediately followed. Most people dislike vanity in others, whatever share they have of it themselves; but I give it **fair quarter**<sup>8</sup> wherever I meet with it, **being persuaded that it is often productive of good to the possessor, and to others that are within his sphere of action**<sup>9</sup>; and therefore, in many cases, it would not be altogether **absurd**<sup>10</sup> if a man **were to**<sup>11</sup> thank God for his vanity among the other comforts of life.

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1 后代

2 虚拟条件句。were 型虚拟式常用于由 if, if only, as if, as though, though 引导的条件状语和让步状语从句中,表示非真实的条件或让步。有时可将条件从句的连词 if 省略,但此时应用倒装句型,即将从句中的 were 提到句首。

3 邪恶的,不祥的,灾难性的

4 迁就,纵情于,放任

5 虚荣心,空虚

6 常常

7 等等 (=etc. =Et Cetera)

8 fair quarter: 公正的位置

9 现在分词短语作伴随状语,其中第一个 that 引导的宾语从句作 persuaded 的宾语;第二个 that 引导定语从句修饰 others。

10 荒谬的,可笑的

11 虚拟语气:对现在的虚拟,表示与现在事实相反的假设时,条件状语从句的谓语动词用过去式 (be 的过去式用 were),而主句中的谓语动词用 would/should/could/might + 动词原形。

And now I **speak of**<sup>1</sup> thanking God, I desire with all humility to acknowledge that I owe the mentioned happiness of my past life to His kind **providence**<sup>2</sup>, which lead me to the means I used and gave them success. My belief of this induces me to hope, though I must not **presume**<sup>3</sup>, that the same goodness will still be **exercised**<sup>4</sup> toward me, in continuing that happiness, or enabling me to bear a fatal reverse, which I may experience as others have done; the **complexion**<sup>5</sup> of my future fortune being known to Him only in whose power it is to bless to us even our **afflictions**<sup>6</sup>.

The notes one of my uncles (who had the same kind of curiosity in collecting family anecdotes) once put into my hands, **furnished me with**<sup>7</sup> several particulars relating to our ancestors. From these notes I learned that the family had lived in the same village, **Ecton**<sup>8</sup>, in Northamptonshire, for three hundred years, and how much longer he knew not (perhaps from the time when the name of Franklin, that before was the name of an order of people, was assumed by them as a surname when others took surnames all over the kingdom), on a freehold of about thirty acres, aided by the smith's business, which had continued in the family till his time, the eldest son being always bred to that business; a custom which he and my father followed as to their eldest sons. When I searched the registers at Ecton, I found an account of their births, marriages and burials from the year 1555 only, there being no registers kept in that **parish**<sup>9</sup> at any time preceding. By that register I perceived that I was the youngest son of the youngest son for five generations back. My grandfather Thomas, who was born in 1598, lived at Ecton till he grew too old to follow business longer, when he went to live with his son John, a dyer at **Banbury**<sup>10</sup>, in **Oxfordshire**<sup>11</sup>, with whom my father served an **apprenticeship**<sup>12</sup>. There my

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1 speak of: 谈到, 论及

2 上帝, 苍天 (指旨意)

3 以为, 假定

4 施加或产生影响, 发挥作用或威力

5 局面

6 痛苦, 折磨

7 furnish with: 用……布置, 提供……, 建立业务关系

8 埃克顿: 位于英格兰中部的伦敦盆地与米德兰平原之间, 地势高平, 四季温润, 远离都市的嘈杂与喧嚣, 是一块静谧祥和的土地。离这里不远的地方蕴藏着丰富的铁矿资源, 采矿、冶炼和打铁是当地居民安身立命的手段和引以为豪的职业, 富兰克林家族也受到这种生活氛围的深刻熏陶。

9 教区, 地方行政区

10 班伯里: 英格兰牛津郡查韦尔区城镇, 始设于 1553 年, 水陆交通比较发达。详见尾注 12

11 牛津郡: 位于英国英格兰南部, 泰晤士河上游盆地, 面积 2608 平方公里。详见尾注 13

12 学徒身份, 见习期, 学徒制

grandfather died and lies buried. We saw his gravestone in 1758. His eldest son Thomas lived in the house at Ecton, and left it with the land to his only child, a daughter, who, with her husband, one Fisher, of Wellingborough, sold it to Mr. Isted, now **lord of the manor**<sup>1</sup> there. My grandfather had four sons that grew up, **viz.**<sup>2</sup>: Thomas, John, Benjamin and Josiah. I will give you **what account I can of them**<sup>3</sup>, at this distance from my **papers**<sup>4</sup>, and if these are not lost in my absence, you will among them find many more particulars.

Thomas was bred a **smith**<sup>5</sup> under his father; but, being **ingenious**<sup>6</sup>, and encouraged in learning (as all my brothers were) by an **Esquire**<sup>7</sup> Palmer, then the principal gentleman in that parish, he qualified himself for the business of **scrivener**<sup>8</sup>; became a considerable man in the county; was a chief mover of all public-spirited undertakings for the county or town of **Northampton**<sup>9</sup>, and his own village, of which many instances were related of him; and much taken notice of and **patronized**<sup>10</sup> by the then Lord Halifax. He died in 1702, January 6, old style, just four years **to a day**<sup>11</sup> before I was born. The account we received of his life and character from some old people at Ecton, I remember, struck you as something extraordinary, from its similarity to what you knew of mine. “Had he died on the same day,” you said, “one might have supposed a **transmigration**<sup>12</sup>.”

John was bred a dyer, I believe of woolens. Benjamin was bred a silk dyer, serving an apprenticeship at London. He was an ingenious man. I remember him well, for when I was a boy he came over to my father in Boston, and lived in the house with us some years. He **lived to a great age**<sup>13</sup>. His grandson, Samuel Franklin, now lives in Boston. He left behind him two **quarto**<sup>14</sup> volumes, **MS.**<sup>15</sup>, of his own poetry, consisting of little occasional pieces addressed to

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1 lord of the manor: 业主 (manor: 庄园, 领地, 封地)。详见尾注 14

2 (拉) (videlicet 的缩写) 即, 就是, 读作 “namely”

3 相当于 “what I can account of them”

4 文件, 札记

5 铁匠, 锻工

6 灵巧的, 善于发明创造的, 制作精良的

7 旧指骑士, 绅士

8 公证人, 代笔人, 文书

9 北安普敦: 英格兰南部城市, 初建于 1100 年, 位于宁河谷地。详见尾注 15

10 资助, 赞助, 惠顾

11 to a day: 恰好, 一天也不差

12 轮回, 移居, 转生

13 live to a great age: 活到高龄

14 四开本, 四开, 四开的

15 指 manuscript

his friends and relations, of which the following, sent to me, is a specimen. He had formed a short-hand of his own, which he taught me, but, never practising it, I have now forgot it. I was named after this uncle, there being a particular affection between him and my father. He was very **pious**<sup>1</sup>, a great attender of **sermons**<sup>2</sup> of the best preachers, which he **took down**<sup>3</sup> in his short-hand, and had with him many volumes of them. He was also much of a politician; too much, perhaps, for his **station**<sup>4</sup>. There fell lately into my hands, in London, a collection he had made of all the principal pamphlets, relating to public affairs, from 1641 to 1717; many of the volumes are wanting as appears by the numbering, but there still remain eight volumes in **folio**<sup>5</sup>, and twenty-four in quarto and in **octavo**<sup>6</sup>. A dealer in old books met with them, and knowing me by my sometimes buying of him, he brought them to me. It seems my uncle must have left them here, when he went to America, which was about fifty years since. There are many of his notes in the **margins**<sup>7</sup>.

This obscure family of ours was early in **the Reformation**<sup>8</sup>, and continued **Protestants**<sup>9</sup> through the reign of **Queen Mary**<sup>10</sup>, when they were sometimes in danger of trouble **on account of**<sup>11</sup> their zeal against **popery**<sup>12</sup>. They had got **an English Bible**<sup>13</sup>, and to conceal and secure it, it was fastened open with tapes under and within the cover of a **joint-stool**<sup>14</sup>. When

1 虔诚的，伪善的，尽责的

2 布道，说教，讲经

3 take down: 卸下，记下，拆毁

4 地位，身份

5 对开本，页码，对折的

6 八开本

7 页边空白，利润，保证金

8 宗教改革：即 the Revolution，指基督教在 16 至 17 世纪进行的一次改革，是西欧资产阶级在宗教的外衣掩饰下发动的反对封建统治和罗马教会的一场资产阶级性质的改革。详见尾注 16

9 新教徒：新教即基督教新教，是由 16 世纪宗教改革运动中脱离罗马天主教的教会和教徒形成的一系列新宗派的统称，与“天主教”、“东正教”并列为基督教三大派别。详见尾注 17

10 玛丽一世（1516.2.18—1558.11.17）：英格兰和爱尔兰女王（理论上她是从 1553 年 7 月 6 日，实际上是从 1553 年 7 月 19 日至 1558 年 11 月 17 日在位），都铎王朝的第四任君主，极其虔诚的天主教徒。详见尾注 18

11 on account of: 由于

12 （贬）天主教会，教皇制度

13 天主教徒坚决主张一切祈祷仪式应当按照古宗教书进行，他们用拉丁文书写《圣经》，所以用通俗语言翻译《圣经》被看作是亵渎神圣的行为。

14 折凳，榫接凳

my great-great-grandfather read it to his family, he turned up the joint-stool upon his knees, turning over the leaves then under the tapes. One of the children stood at the door to give notice if he saw the **apparitor**<sup>1</sup> coming, who was an officer of the spiritual court. In that case the stool was turned down again upon its feet, when the Bible remained concealed under it as before. This anecdote I had from my uncle Benjamin. The family continued all of the Church of England till about the end of Charles the Second's **reign**<sup>2</sup>, when some of the ministers that had been **outed**<sup>3</sup> for **nonconformity**<sup>4</sup> holding **conventicles**<sup>5</sup> in Northamptonshire, Benjamin and Josiah **adhered to**<sup>6</sup> them, and so continued all their lives: the rest of the family remained with the **Episcopal Church**<sup>7</sup>.

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1 执行官，布告者，宫廷使者

2 君主统治，朝代，任期

3 揭露，公布，驱逐

4 不一致，不符合

5 非国教徒的非法或秘密聚会，秘密聚会，集会

6 **adhere to**: 遵循，依附，坚持

7 英格兰圣公会：即英国国教，英国在宗教改革中建立的民族教会，也称安立甘教会。详见尾注 19



## ■文化注释

1. **波士顿**：美国马萨诸塞州的首府，新英格兰地区最大的城市。在美国，波士顿有很多别称，如“豆豆城”、“宇宙的中心”、“山上的城”等。该市位于美国东北部大西洋沿岸，创办于1630年，是美国最古老、最有文化价值的城市之一。1630年9月17日，来自英国的清教徒移民将波士顿建造在一个半岛上，通过一个狭窄的地峡与大陆相连，并被马萨诸塞湾和后湾——查尔斯河的河口所环绕。而当时波士顿所属的马萨诸塞湾殖民地清教徒团体和附近60公里外在10年前（1620年11月21日）建立的普利茅斯殖民地（位于今天的布里斯托尔县、普利茅斯县和巴恩斯特布尔县）清教徒团体在宗教实行方面截然不同，互相不大有来往，直到1691年这两个分开的殖民地才联合起来，形成马萨诸塞湾省。将波士顿称作美国历史的摇篮一点也不为过，它是美国第一座城市，是掀起美国独立战争的地方，也是在南北战争期间主张废除黑人奴隶制的北方重镇。波士顿的早期欧洲移民最初根据这里的三座小山丘将此城命名为三山城（Trimountaine），后来又根据移民中一些杰出人物的家乡——英格兰波士顿（林肯郡）的名称重新命名。当时，波士顿的居民绝大多数是来自英国的清教徒，清教徒的道德规范在波士顿塑造了一个极端稳定、结构良好的社会。清教徒还于1635年创立了美国第一所公立学校波士顿拉丁学校（Boston Latin School），并于1636年创建美国第一所大学哈佛大学（Harvard University）。因此，可以说波士顿是美国的教育文化古都。直到今天，努力工作、道德正直、重视教育仍然是波士顿文化的一部分。18世纪70年代初，英国人通过征税试图全面控制13个殖民地，这一举动促使波士顿人发动了美国革命。波士顿大屠杀（Boston Massacre）、波士顿倾茶事件（Boston Tea Party）、以及美国革命早期的几次战役——莱克星敦和康科德战役（Battles of Lexington and Concord）、邦克山战役（The Battle of Bunker Hill）和波士顿围城战（The Siege of Boston），都发生在该市或附近的地方。著名的保罗·里维尔（Paul Revere）午夜骑行（Midnight Ride）也发生在这一时期。美国革命结束后的一段时期内，由于波士顿是美国距离欧洲最近的一个主要港口，因此迅速成为当时美国的重要航运港口。它大力发展海外贸易，向欧洲出口朗姆酒、鱼、食盐和烟草，成为当时世界上最富裕的国际商港之一。这一时期，一些波士顿名门世家的后代成为了美国社会文化的精英，他们后来被称为波士顿婆罗门（Boston Brahmins）。1822年，波士顿得到特许状，正式取得了城市身份。现在，它是高等教育和医疗保健的中心，其经济基础是科研、金融与技术，特别是生物工程。