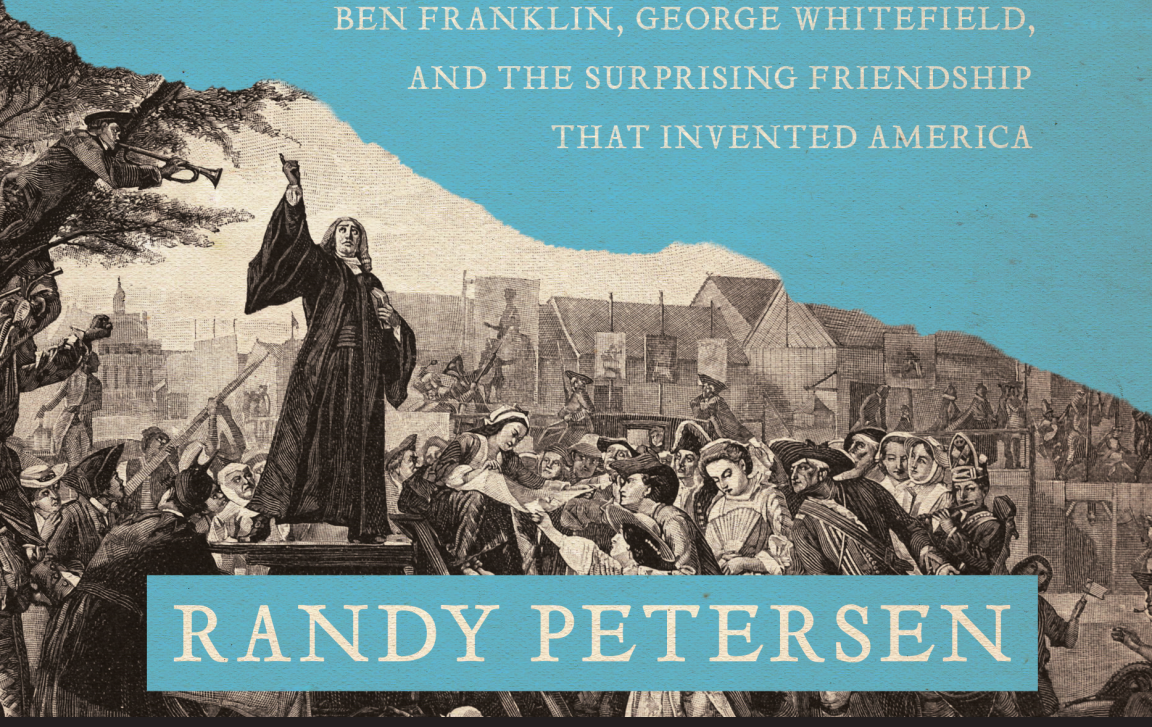

THE
PRINTER
AND THE
PREACHER

BEN FRANKLIN, GEORGE WHITEFIELD,
AND THE SURPRISING FRIENDSHIP
THAT INVENTED AMERICA



RANDY PETERSEN

A PDF COMPANION TO THE AUDIOBOOK



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The author is represented by the literary agency of Alive Communications, Inc., 7680 Goddard Street, Suite 200, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80920, www.alivecommunications.com

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Library of Congress Control Number: 2014957204

ISBN-13: 9780718022211

Printed in the United States of America

15 16 17 18 19 RRD 6 5 4 3 2 1

APPENDIX A

Before They Met

Timeline for Ben Franklin and George Whitefield

1706–1739

1706

Franklin:

Born in Boston January 6 (OS), youngest son of Josiah and Abiah (Folger) Franklin.

1714

Franklin:

Turns eight. Begins to attend school.

Whitefield:

Born in Gloucester, England, December 16 (OS), into an innkeeper's family.

World:

Fahrenheit invents scaled thermometer.

Queen Anne dies. George I is king.

1715

Franklin:

In his final formal year of schooling, at George Brownell's English school.

Hears Increase Mather preach.

World:

Isaac Watts publishes *Divine Songs for Children*.

Louis XIV of France dies.

Musical comedies ("vaudevilles") appear in Paris.

1716

Franklin:

Drops out of school when father can no longer afford it.

Whitefield:

Thomas Whitefield, George's father, dies.

1717

Franklin:

Begins reading Plutarch, Defoe, and Cotton Mather.

Invents a pair of swim fins for his hands.

Briefly apprentices as a cutler.

1718

Franklin:

Is apprenticed to his brother James, a printer.

World:

Blackbeard the pirate is captured (Franklin writes a ballad on the occasion).

William Penn dies.

1721

Franklin:

James Franklin, Ben's brother, starts publishing the *New-England Courant*.

Smallpox epidemic in Boston; controversy over vaccination.

Ben briefly becomes "a thorough deist."

World:

Bach writes Brandenburg Concertos.

Postal service is established between London and New England.

1722

Franklin:

Writes Silence Dogood letters.

World:

Moravians start religious community at Herrnhut.

Steele's play *The Conscious Lovers* opens in London.

1723

Franklin:

Takes over the publishing of the *Courant* after James is jailed on contempt charges.

Runs away from apprenticeship, goes to New York and then to Philadelphia.

Arrives in Philadelphia on October 6, where he gains employment as a printer.

Takes lodging with John Read, whose daughter Deborah will later become his wife.

1724

Franklin:

Returns to Boston to get money from his father to start print shop but is denied.

Returns to Philadelphia and courts Deborah Read.

Travels to London to buy printing equipment.

Stranded in London; works at Samuel Palmer's print shop.

Whitefield:

Elizabeth Whitefield, George's mother, marries Capel Longden, an ironmonger.

World:

Jack Sheppard, highwayman, is executed in England.

1725

Franklin:

Publishes pamphlet: "A Dissertation upon Liberty and Necessity, Pleasure and Pain."

Leaves Palmer the printer for the larger shop of John Watts.

Attends theater, reads voraciously, and hangs out at coffee houses.

Back in Pennsylvania, Deborah Read marries someone else.

1726

Franklin:

Returns to Philadelphia, keeping a journal of the ship's passage.

Outlines his personal "Plan of Conduct."

Works for Thomas Denham, a merchant who had lent him the money to return home.

Whitefield:

Enrolls at St. Mary de Crypt grammar school, where he enjoys reading plays and acting.

1727

Franklin:

Suffers first pleurisy attack, nearly dies.

Leaves job with Denham and is rehired by printer Keimer.

Helps to establish the Junto for “self-improvement, study, mutual aid, and conviviality.”

World:

In England, George I dies and is succeeded by George II.

England is at war with Spain (Gibraltar).

1728

Franklin:

Establishes a Philadelphia printing partnership with Hugh Meredith.

Deborah Read’s husband, John Rogers, steals a slave and absconds from Philadelphia.

Whitefield:

George’s mother leaves her husband.

World:

William Law publishes *A Serious Call to a Devout and Holy Life*.

The Beggar’s Opera opens in London.

1729

Franklin:

Writes “Busy-Body” essays.

Purchases the *Pennsylvania Gazette* from Samuel Keimer.
About this time, son William is born, the result of an affair.

Whitefield:

Drops out of school. Works at the Bell Inn.

World:

Jonathan Edwards becomes pastor in Northampton, Massachusetts.
Bach writes *St Matthew Passion*.
Stephen Gray experiments in electricity.

1730

Franklin:

Elected the official printer for Pennsylvania.
Begins common-law marriage with Deborah Read Rogers.
Buys out his printing partner, Hugh Meredith.
After fire destroys southern Philadelphia, starts promoting fire protection programs.

1731

Franklin:

Joins the St. John's Freemasons Lodge.
Draws up the Library Company's articles of association.
Sponsors his journeyman Thomas Whitmarsh as a printing partner in South Carolina.

Whitefield:

Family conflicts cause George to leave the Bell Inn and live with brother in Bristol.
Returns to studies at St. Mary's.
On Christmas, receives Communion for the first time; has new spiritual commitment.

World:

The London Merchant opens in London.

1732

Franklin:

Son is born: Francis Folger Franklin.

Publishes the first edition of *Poor Richard's Almanack* on December 28.

Whitefield:

Enrolls at Pembroke College, Oxford University, working as a servitor to pay his way.

Begins praying three times a day and fasting weekly.

World:

Ninepins played in New York.

London theaters attract fourteen thousand customers a week.

1733

Franklin:

Son Francis is baptized at Christ Church.

Conceives of his “bold and arduous Project of arriving at moral perfection.”

Whitefield:

Invited to breakfast by Charles Wesley and introduced to the Holy Club.

Reads *The Life of God in the Soul of Man* by Henry Scougal.

World:

Georgia, last of thirteen colonies, is settled.

1734

Franklin:

Is elected grand master of Masonic lodge.
Buys property on Philadelphia's Market Street.
Bribes post riders to carry his *Pennsylvania Gazette*.

Whitefield:

Seeks salvation through severe discipline and good works, which causes a breakdown of his health from which he never fully recovers.

World:

Revival takes place in Northampton, Massachusetts, under Jonathan Edwards.

1735

Franklin:

Brother James Franklin dies; Benjamin sends his widow five hundred copies of *Poor Richard's Almanac* for free so she can make money by selling them.
Gets involved in controversy over Presbyterian minister Samuel Hemphill.

Whitefield:

Becomes first of the Oxford Methodists to have a conversion experience.

World:

John Adams and Paul Revere are born.
Sale of spirits is prohibited in Georgia (lasted until 1742).

1736

Franklin:

Named clerk of the Pennsylvania Assembly.

Prints currency for New Jersey.

Son Francis dies of smallpox at age four.

Organizes the Union Fire Company.

Regularly attends meetings of Masonic lodge, Junto, and fire company.

Whitefield:

Completes his degree at Oxford.

Is ordained a deacon in the Church of England.

Preaches at his old grammar school.

Fills in as preacher in London.

World:

Wesleys are missionaries in Georgia.

1737

Franklin:

Appointed postmaster of Philadelphia.

Whitefield:

Voyage to Georgia is delayed.

Preaching draws crowds in Gloucester, Bristol, and London.

Uses press and publishing.

Discovers extemporaneous preaching December 28.

World:

Licensing Act restricts theater in London.

1738

Franklin:

Weathers a scandal over mock Masonic initiation ritual.

Whitefield:

(February) Sails for America, serves in Georgia.

Begins plans for orphanage.

(September) Returns to England.

(December) Resumes preaching in London.

World:

John and Charles Wesley have conversion experiences.

Voltaire introduces French to Newton's ideas.

1739

Franklin:

Franklin's house is robbed.

Leads an environmental protest against slaughterhouses.

Meets George Whitefield.

Whitefield:

(January) Is ordained a priest in Church of England but finds many pulpits are now closed to him. Begins preaching outdoors.

Countess of Huntingdon begins supporting him.

(October) Arrives in Philadelphia for the first time.

Meets Ben Franklin.

World:

David Hume publishes *A Treatise on Human Nature*.

Tensions rise between England and Spain, erupting in the War of Jenkins' Ear.

APPENDIX B

George Whitefield's Amazing American Tour

1739–41

In about fourteen months, George Whitefield preached in every American colony, cutting a coastal swath within reach of all colonists. Obviously, Savannah (with nearby Charleston) and Philadelphia (with nearby New York) were significant hubs for this ministry and had repeated visits. But Whitefield also visited scores of other towns. At each of the sites listed on this itinerary (and some omitted), the evangelist spoke to groups numbering in the hundreds and often the thousands, drawing from not only those towns but also the entire region. The Whitefield Experience was a unifying factor in the life of this young nation-to-be—not that everyone agreed with George, but everyone knew him. It's likely that a majority of Americans got to hear Whitefield in person, and nearly everyone heard *about* him.

1739

August 14: Sails from England on second journey to America.

October 30: Lands in Lewes, Pennsylvania (now Delaware).

November 2: Rides into Philadelphia for first time.

November 8–10: Preaches from courthouse steps each evening to thousands.

Meets William Tennent.

November 12–14: Heads through New Jersey to New York City.

Preaches at Bordentown.

Meets Gilbert Tennent in Brunswick.

November 14–18: Preaches at several churches (and fields) in New York.

November 19–22: Returns to Philadelphia via Elizabeth, New Brunswick, and Trenton.

Meets Theodore Frelinghuysen, early Dutch Reformed revivalist.

Stays at Tennents' Log College in Neshaminy, Pennsylvania.

November 23–28: Abington and Philadelphia; side trip to Germantown.

November 28: *Possible first meeting with Ben Franklin.*

November 29–January 10: Heads south to Georgia, stopping (often to preach) in Chester, Wilmington, Newcastle, Joppa, Annapolis, Upper Marlboro, Port Tobacco, Seals Church, Williamsburg, Bell's Ferry, Bath, New Bern, New Town (Wilmington, NC), Charleston, Beaufort, and other towns.

1740

January 11–April 3: Based in Savannah, buys land for orphanage.

A brief trip to Charleston in March.

April 4–13: Travels by boat to Pennsylvania.

April 13–23: In Philadelphia area, also preaches in Wilmington (DE), Abington, Germantown, Whitemarsh, Greenwich (NJ), and Gloucester (NJ).

This is probably when Whitefield and Franklin talk about the orphanage and Franklin is moved to donate coppers, silver, and gold.

The dust-up of William Seward and the dance hall occurs.

April 23–May 7: Heads to New York and back to Philadelphia, preaching also in Neshaminy, Montgomeryville, Amwell, New Brunswick, Woodbridge, Elizabeth, Long Island, Freehold, Perth Amboy, Burlington, and Bristol.

Preaches in the church of Moravian missionary Peter Bohler.

May 8–16: In Philadelphia and western suburbs: Pennypack, Darby, Chester, Wilmington, and Nottingham.

May 16–June 4: Boards sloop, waits at Reedy Island for fair weather, docks at Lewes, sails south.

June 5–30: Resettles in Savannah.

July 1–25: Visits Charleston and environs: Beaufort, John's Island, returning to Savannah via Ponpon, Good Hope.

Faces opposition from church leaders in Charleston.

July 25–August 21: Settles in Savannah.

August 22–25: To Charleston and off by boat to New England.

September 14: Arrives in Newport, RI. Preaches there. Heads to Boston via Bristol.

September 19–October 12: Preaches in Boston and suburbs: Roxbury, Marblehead, Salem, Ipswich, Newbury, Hampton (NH), Portsmouth (NH), York (ME), Hampstead (NH), Malden, Reading, and Cambridge.

(September 24) *Visits Harvard College.*

October 13–20: Westward trek toward Springfield, preaching also in Concord, Sudbury, Marlborough, Worcester, Leicester, Brookfield, Hadley, Northampton, Hatfield, and Westfield.

(October 17–20) *Visits Jonathan and Sarah Edwards in Northampton.*

October 21–30: Moves south and west through Connecticut, preaching in Suffield, Windsor, Hartford, Wethersfield, Middletown, Wallingford, New Haven, Milford, Stratford, Fairfield, Norwalk, Stamford, Rye (NY), and Kingsbridge.

(October 25) *Meets with students at New Haven (Yale) College.*

October 31–November 4: In New York.

November 5–8: To Philadelphia, via Baskin Ridge, New Brunswick, and Trenton.

November 9–16: In Philadelphia.

Preaches in building constructed for him (but still roofless).

Possible conversation with Franklin on spiritual matters.

November 17–25: Goes south and west around Philadelphia,

preaching in Gloucester, Greenwich, Pilesgrove, Cohansey (Bridgeton, NJ), Salem, New Castle (DE), White Clay Creek (Newark, DE), Nottingham (PA), St. George's (DE), and other towns.

November 25–December 13: Reedy Island, awaiting good weather, then sails to Savannah via Charleston.

Writes to Franklin while at Reedy Island.

December 14–31: Relaxing (and Christmassing) at the orphanage.

1741

January 1–3: To Charleston via Port Royal.

January 4–23: In and around Charleston.

January 24–March 11: Sails for England.

APPENDIX C

Encounters

The Meetings and Correspondence of George and Ben

November 1739: First meeting, presumably on publishing business.

November 1739–December 1740: Nearly every week Franklin publishes something in the *Gazette* on Whitefield's American tour.

April 1740: Whitefield tells Franklin about the orphan house building project. This is possibly when Franklin, resistant at first, is moved to donate to orphanage.

May 8–16, 1740: No definite evidence of a meeting, but both were in Philadelphia.

November 1740: A probable meeting and a possible spiritual conversation.

November 26, 1740: Whitefield writes to Franklin: "I do not despair of your seeing the reasonableness of Christianity."

September 6–19, 1745 (probably): Whitefield, invited to stay in the Franklin home, does.

April–May, 1746: Whitefield sends Franklin his financial accounts for publication.

Summer 1746: Whitefield ministers in Philadelphia, maybe stays with Franklin.

July 31, 1746: Franklin publishes "Appreciation of George Whitefield" editorial.

June 23, 1747: Whitefield thanks Franklin for help in fundraising for the orphan house.

Summer 1747: Whitefield ministers in Philadelphia, may stay with Franklin.

August 6, 1747: Franklin writes to brother John about Whitefield, "He is a good man."

May 27, 1748: Whitefield writes a note to Franklin and a brief report from Bermuda.

June 1748: Franklin passes along to sister Jane a note from George to one of her friends.

July 6, 1749: Franklin writes to Whitefield, thanking him for some gifts and responding to George's new activities preaching among the leaders of society.

[1749–50]: Franklin must have sent Whitefield plans for the new academy.

February 26, 1750: Whitefield writes to Franklin about the academy, insisting that there be more Christian curriculum.

1751: Franklin starts the academy.

1751–52: Whitefield takes his fourth voyage to America, a quick trip to Georgia, does not visit Franklin.

August 17, 1752: Whitefield commends Franklin on scientific fame, urges him to study Jesus.

1754–55: Whitefield in America for fifth trip. Possible connections with Franklin in Philadelphia and Boston.

September 2, 1754: John Franklin thanks Ben for the account Deborah sent about Whitefield.

January 17, 1755: Whitefield writes to Franklin from Virginia, inviting him to Bethesda. "Believe on Jesus, and get a feeling possession of God in your heart."

July 2, 1756: Franklin writes to Whitefield with an idea to start a new colony together on the Ohio River.

1757–63: Both are in England, with trips to Scotland, Holland, and Ireland, but they probably don't connect.

1763–65: Both are in America, missing connections at first.

November 28, 1763: Franklin sends a nice note, with a package, to Whitefield, after failing to connect in Philadelphia.

June 19, 1764: Franklin responds sweetly to Whitefield's prayers and issues a sort of faith statement: "Can I doubt that [God] loves me?"

1765–69: Both are in England.

February 13, 1766: Franklin appears before Parliament, with Whitefield present.

February 27, 1766: Ben writes to Deborah, "Mr. Whitfield called today."

March 1766: Whitefield writes letter to his network of supporters praising Ben's Parliamentary testimony.

March 2, 1767: Franklin refers to Whitefield in a letter to sister Jane.

1767–68: Whitefield confers with Franklin about starting Bethesda College.

January 21, 1768: Whitefield writes to Franklin seeking another get-together. He also muses about death.

December 6, 1768: Franklin writes to Whitefield about the recommendation of a friend.

Sometime before September 2, 1769: Franklin writes to Whitefield warning about growing tensions in America.

1769–70: Whitefield's final tour of America; he dies in New England, September 1770.

March 5, 1771: Franklin writes to Georgia legislature about Whitefield's integrity.