

Volume 11

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Benjamin Franklin - III

Lead: After eighteen years in London as agent arguing the Colonies' case in the press and before Parliament and government, Ben Franklin returned home convinced the only course for America was independence.

Intro.: *A Moment in Time* with Dan Roberts.

Content: On the night of April 18, 1775, Benjamin Franklin, lately agent in London for several of Britain's North American colonies, was in mid-Atlantic on his homeward journey.

He was coming home, not without sorrow, convinced his years' long effort seeking a settlement between Britain and her colonial children was a failure. He believed a war for independence was imminent and that night in Massachusetts he was proved correct. Troops were on the move. British troops seeking Samuel Adams, John Hancock and the stocks of weapons they had set aside, were moving toward Lexington Green and Concord Bridge and the beginning of hostilities.

When Franklin sailed into Philadelphia on May 5th delegates were arriving there for the meeting of the Second Continental Congress. Within a day he had been appointed

to the Pennsylvania delegation and for the next two months helped John Adams and others marshal the case for independence in the Congress. Once the Declaration he had helped craft was signed and the course set, he began perhaps his greatest service to the infant republic.

In October 1776 he embarked on a dangerous mission as America's first ambassador to France. He was convinced that country could be persuaded to come to the Colonies' aid in the coming Revolution. He and his two grandsons embarked on the small, swift warship *Reprisal* on October 27th and by Christmas, Franklin was in Paris, engaged in the intense negotiations that two years

**later would bring the alliance that
made possible America's
independence. Next time: his last
service.**

**At the University of Richmond,
this is Dan Roberts.**

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