

Franklin Public Library

Franklin was incorporated as a Town in 1778. The designated name Exeter was changed to Franklin in honor of Dr. Benjamin Franklin. In return, Franklin was asked to donate a bell for the town's church steeple. Franklin responded with an offer of 116 books instead. When the volumes arrived, a great controversy arose over who should be allowed to use them. On November 20th, 1790, those attending Franklin's town meeting voted to lend the books to all Franklin inhabitants free of charge. This vote established the Franklin collection as the first

public library in the United States. The 116 original books are still housed in a book case in the library's Reading Gallery

In 1904, the library got a permanent building - a gift from the Ray family. The library became a department of the Town of Franklin in 1981 and underwent extensive restoration to maintain the original beauty and splendor of this classical Greek structure and to add a children's wing.

Today, the library is a busy hub for visitors who come to enjoy the space and resources. The facility is a charming mix of old and new, with modern spaces outfitted with the latest technology and quiet, traditional spaces filled with historical paintings and impressive architecture. We hope you will visit this beloved spot in the heart of Franklin and see for yourself what America's First Public Library has to offer.

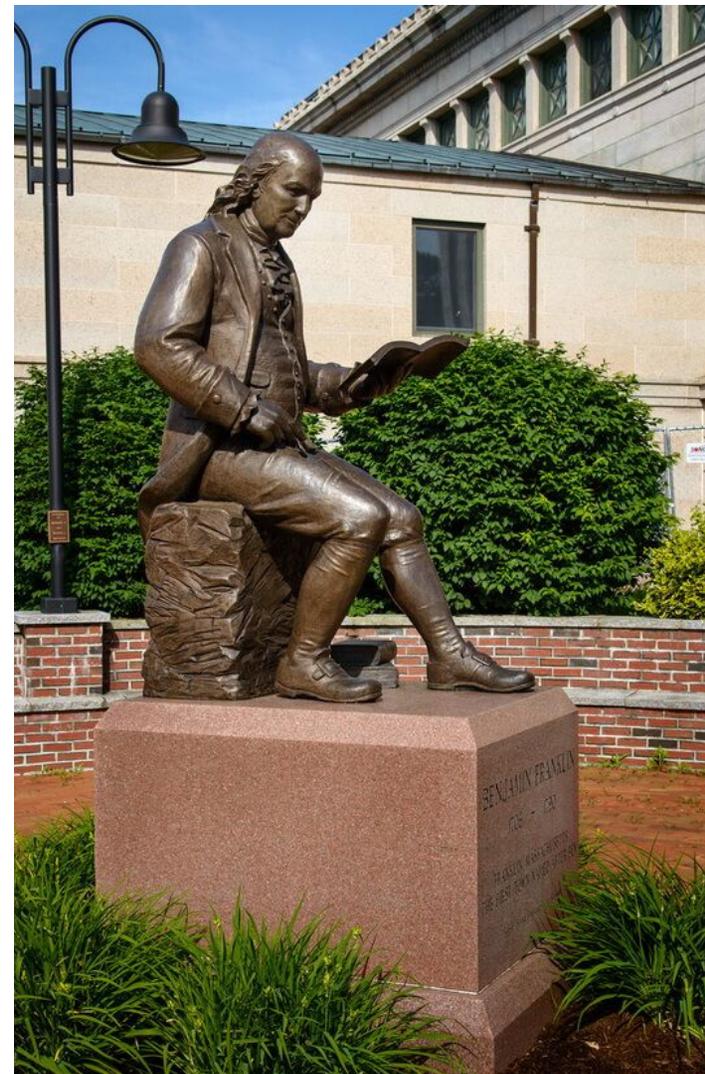


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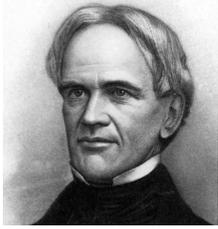


Visit Historic **Franklin** Massachusetts



www.franklinculture.org

Birthplace of Horace Mann



Horace Mann, often called the Father of the Common School, began his career as a lawyer and legislator. When he was elected to act as Secretary of the newly-

created Massachusetts Board of Education in 1837, he used his position to enact major educational reform. He spearheaded the Common School Movement, ensuring that every child could receive a basic education funded by local taxes. His influence soon spread beyond Massachusetts as more states took up the idea of universal schooling.

Horace Mann's influence is commemorated with a bronze statue, located in the center of town. Horace Mann Middle School, part of Franklin Public Schools, is named in his honor.



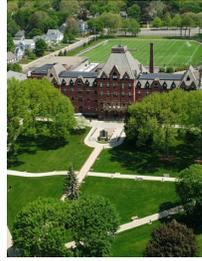
Red Brick Schoolhouse



The Red Brick School is a historic school in Franklin, Massachusetts. It was one of the oldest active one-room schools in the United

States. Located on the corner of Maple and Main Streets, The Red Brick School, formally called the Meeting House School, was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1976. In 2008, after 175 years of consistent use, the historic building was closed, yet remains a beloved attraction in town.

Dean College



Dean College has been part of the Franklin community since 1865. Originally named Dean Hall, the very first commencement was held in 1868 with 13 graduates. In the 1930's, Dean

Hall transitioned it's status to a junior college, offering two-year degree programs. Today, the beautiful campus, located in the very heart of Franklin, is home to Dean College, an accredited, private college offering both associate and bachelors degree programs, as well as successful dance, theater and athletic programs.

Franklin Historical Museum

The Franklin Historical Museum was founded in 1972 and is devoted to the collection, display and preservation of the history of Franklin. Located in the original Town Hall, the museum includes a collection of roughly 4,000 artifacts and hundreds of historical items from the last 300 years, all vital to the study of Franklin history.



In addition to our collections, the museum also has several research projects ongoing including: identifying veterans from our vast library of veteran photographs, posting the Civil War veterans research project conducted by Franklin High School students, as well as transcription diaries and war-time letters. We encourage you to visit our wonderful museum to learn more about Franklin's rich history.

Veterans Memorial Walkway

The Veterans Memorial Walkway was dedicated on Sunday, November 11, 2018 on the Franklin Town Common. The dedication followed the first installation of engraved bricks as well as 45 memorial plaques which honor Franklin's fallen heroes (from WWI to present day) who made the ultimate sacrifice while defending our country. Engraved brick sales are ongoing, and installations occur twice a year, in conjunction with Memorial Day and Veterans Day observations. The memorial is surrounded by beautiful gardens and serves as a quiet spot on our four-acre Town Common.



The Ladybug Project

In 1974, a 2nd grade class at J. F. Kennedy School in Franklin decided that Massachusetts needed an official State bug. The children agreed on the ladybug and started the process, of asking the state legislators to sign their petition. They learned about the process of how a bill becomes a law in the Commonwealth. The class even visited the State House, dressed as ladybugs to share their idea. Their efforts were rewarded in May of 1974, when the bill was



passed and the ladybug became the official State bug of Massachusetts! Look for colorful ladybugs all over town from the Ladybug Spots project!