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Part 03, by J. Jay Smith and John F. Watson**

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CURIOSITIES, PART 03 \*\*\*

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**AMERICAN HISTORICAL  
AND  
LITERARY CURIOSITIES**

**By John Jay Smith and John F. Watson**

**Part 3.**

A M E R I C A N  
HISTORICAL AND LITERARY CURIOSITIES;

CONSISTING OF

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OF THE REVOLUTION,  
&c. &c.

WITH A VARIETY OF

RELIQUES, ANTIQUITIES,

AND

MODERN AUTOGRAPHS.

COLLECTED AND EDITED

BY

JOHN JAY SMITH,

MEMBER OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PENNSYLVANIA,

AND

JOHN F. WATSON,

ANNALIST OF PHILADELPHIA AND NEW YORK.

ASSISTED BY AN ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN ANTIQUARIANS.

SIXTH EDITION; WITH IMPROVEMENTS AND ADDITIONS.

NEW YORK:  
G. P. PUTNAM.

1861.

# P R E F A C E

TO THE FIFTH EDITION.

FIRST SERIES.

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THE past has a charm for Americans, as well as for the inhabitants of countries whose history extends far into the shadowy and unknown; *our* early and romantic past has the merit of being known and truly related; everything which adds to these truths is sought for with avidity by the curious and intelligent inquirer. We have now many autograph collectors, who may be viewed in the light of preservers of documents which would otherwise perish or be dispersed; to few, comparatively, are their treasures revealed. It was suggested, therefore, that a few of the most rare and curious "Historical and Literary Curiosities" in the possession of individuals, should be grouped for the amusement and instruction of the present and of future generations, who may well know from printed accounts *what* things were done, but who can also thus learn *how* they were done.

Nearly all the articles in the present collection have been taken by competent artists from the originals of which they purport to be fac-similes. Considerable labor and trouble have been expended in collecting together the varied materials here presented; but it has been with the Editors a "labor of love," rewarded by the pleasure of the pursuit.

The work having been received with extraordinary favor by the public, and a fifth edition being called for, some additions and alterations have been made, which will create increased interest in the volume.

J. JAY SMITH,  
JOHN F. WATSON.

\* \* Fully to understand the work, it is necessary, in turning over the pages, to have constant reference to the Table of Contents, where will be found many explanations for which space could not be found on the plates.

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## NOTE TO THE SIXTH EDITION.

Notwithstanding the announcement in the second series of this work that the first would not be reprinted, the public has demanded a sixth edition, which has been entirely redrawn, and many highly interesting additions have been made.

PHILADELPHIA, October, 1860.

**Part Three**

- Plate 15.—Bust of William Penn, from an Ivory cutting, by Sylvanus Bevan, a cotemporary of William Penn; now in the possession of Paul Bevan, near London; the original from which the portraits of Penn are taken. Letter of William Penn. In the possession of Benjamin H. Coates, M. D.
- Plate 16. Letter from George Whitfield, speaking of his proposed voyage to America. In the possession of J. Jay Smith.
- Plate 17.—Letter from Kosciusko to Charles Pettit, Esq. In the possession of Professor Henry Read.
- Plates 18 and 19.—Letter from Robert Fulton, and a picture of his first Steamboat.
- Plate 20.—Autograph signatures of the Presidents of the old Continental Congress, 1778; of Presidents of the U. States; of Pizarro, Rip Van Dam, Myles Standish; also of the Salem Witch Judges, the Sheriff who hung them, &c. In possession of F. J. Etting, Esq., J. Wingate Thornton, Esq., and others.
- Plate 21.—Challenge of Baron Steuben to General Lee, in French. See Sparks' American Biography, vol. 9, p. 32. In the possession of Henry C. Baird, Esq.  
The Grand Inquest of the city and County of Philadelphia, presenting the great necessity for a Ducking Stool: 1722. In the possession of Edward D. Ingraham, Esq.

[Plate 15.](#)      [Plate 16.](#)      [Plate 17.](#)      [Plate 18.](#)      [Plate 19.](#)      [Plate 20.](#)      [Plate](#)  
[21.](#)

From a small  
ivory model in basso  
relievo by Silvanus  
Bevin a contempora-  
ry of William Penn.



in the possession of  
Paul Bevin near  
London. The original  
from which the Por-  
traits of William  
Penn have been taken.

WILLIAM PENN

Whitehall 2 - 10<sup>th</sup> - 1702

I do hereby declare & Promise  
That I will take no advantage  
of the Queens Royall approbation  
of Col<sup>l</sup> Andrew Hamilton to be  
my Lieut Govern<sup>r</sup> of Pennsylvania  
& Countys annexed, in reference  
to the Queens Intentions to the  
Government of the sayd lower Countys  
after expiration thereof;

W Penn

my Devere  
Henry Esq of  
Sr. & Plant

My D<sup>r</sup>. M<sup>r</sup>. Read

London March 25  
1762

Tho' I have had  
an inflammation in my eye added to my  
former disorders yet I must try to answer  
your kind letter - By that I find you have  
been in the furnace of affliction - May you  
come forth like gold! We must all be tried  
through much tribulation we must enter  
into glory - I believe you w<sup>o</sup> not be bettered  
by coming hither - It is cowardly to fly  
from the cross - If the Redeemer spares  
me I have thoughts of taking an American Voyage  
Who knows but we may meet once more on this side  
Jordan? Lord Jesus help us in all things to say,  
not my will but thine be done - I can as yet preach  
but twice or thrice a week - But the Redeemer is  
able to do more for me - I know you will pray  
that He may - \* \* \* \* \*

Yours &c in our Common  
Redeemer  
Whitfield

Dear Sir

Philadelphia 10. 18. 1861

surest way, not subject to changes, and  
 others circumstances, and that I may  
 draw regularly pro-cent due from  
 I received your favour of this day and  
 send you my warmest thanks — this sum I beg you was so kind  
 Give the impossibility of having the honour to give your opinion wether upon the  
 for an half hour a personal conversation Bank of the United States, or upon a  
 with you, it you can only support a walk Provincial or other way with the means  
 in the room. I can't even to move from how to do it in what maner you belie  
 one place to the other without the support in God so rely upon you as a the  
 and help of my crutches and a servant upon your character and friend ship  
 The business upon which I would ask your ~~help~~ which you u honour me  
 advice is of pecuniary kind. I want to with Perfect Esteem and  
 lay Money upon interest but in the Present my kisses regard your Humbl. Servant  
 to all your Ladies — Koskiosko

Enlarge

Paris the 20<sup>th</sup> of September 1802

To Mr. Fulvor Shepworth

Sir the expence of a patent in France is 300 Livres for 3 Years 800  $\text{Fr}$  for 10 years and 1500  $\text{Fr}$  for 15 years. there can be no difficulty in obtaining a patent for the mode of propelling a boat which you have shewn one but if the author of the model wishes to be assured of the merits of his invention before he goes to the expence of a patent. I advise him to make a model of a boat in which he can place a clock spring which will give about 3 Revolutions he can then combine the movements, as to try oars, paddles, and the leaves which he proposes if he finds that the leaves drive the boat a greater distance in the same time than either Oars or Paddles <sup>the</sup> it consequently are a better application of power. About 3 years ago the Earl of Stanhope tried an experiment on similar leaves in Greenland Dock London but without success - I have also tried experiments on similar leaves, wheels, oars, paddles, and flyers similar to those of a smoke jacks and found oars to be the best; The Velocity with which a boat moves, is in proportion to the sum of the surfaces of the oars paddles leaves or other machine, is to the bow of the boat presented to the water, and in proportion to the Power with which such machinery is put in motion, hence if the sum of the surfaces of the oars <sup>is</sup> equal to the ~~to~~ the sum of the surfaces of the leaves and they pass through similar curves in the same time, the effect must be the same but oars have this advantage they return through air to make a second stroke and hence create very little resistance; whereas the leaves return through water and add considerably to the resistance which

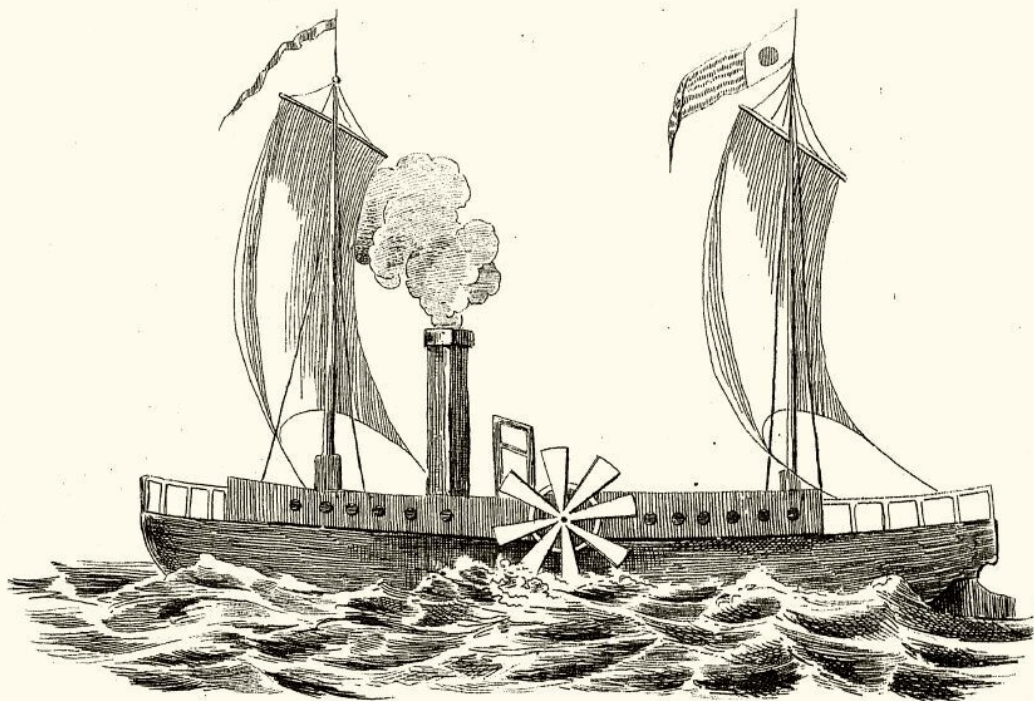
Enlarge



resistance is increased as the velocity of the boat is augmented; no kind of machinery can create power all that can be done is to apply the manual, or other power to the best advantage -

If the author of the model is fond of mechanics he will be much amused and not lose his time by trying the experiments in the manner I propose and this perhaps is the most prudent measure, before a patent is taken

I am Sir with much Respect  
yours Robt Fulton



Fultons Steamboat

[Enlarge](#)

*(Autographs of the Presidents of the Old Continental Congress 1774-1778.*

*227 1000 B. 11 do 464*  
 Henry Middleton  
 John Hancock President  
 Henry Laurens  
 President  
 John Jay  
 Presid  
 Genl. Huntington President

Tho M. Keap President  
 John Hanson Jr  
 Elias Boudinot  
 Tho Mifflin  
 Richard Henry Lee  
 Nathaniel Gotham  
 A. J. Blair  
 Cyrus Griffin

*Presidents of the United States.*

James Madison Andrew Jackson J. Q. Adams.  
 James Monroe John Tyler James K. Polk  
 Z Taylor John Tyler Tennessee  
 James Buchanan Franklin Pierce  
 Z. Van Buren  
 Rip. V. Van Nyles Standish

*Salem Witch Judges.*

1683 Barth<sup>o</sup> Gidney Justt  
 1692 John Hathorne  
 Jonathan Corwin } Assis<sup>rs</sup>  
 1694 George Corwin Sheriff  
 Ch Justice of Mass.  
 1713 Samuel Sewall

Recd Salem June 13 1738 of Mr Phillip  
 English the sum of three pounds five  
 Shillings & 4<sup>d</sup> in full of all acc<sup>ts</sup>  
 £3:5:4 P Barton

*Appointed by the Court to examine Witches in 1692, to see if they had any preternatural appearances on their bodies.*

Enlarge

Challenge of Baron Steuben to Gen<sup>l</sup> Lee.

Monsieur: Il m'est revenue que dans votre dessein  
 Vous vous êtes permis, à mon sujet, des Reflexions indis-  
 cretes. Je me suis hâte de Venir à Philadelphie  
 pour m'en éclaircir, et je trouve le rapport confirmé  
 par le journal de la Cour Martiale qui m'est parvenue  
 depuis un heur, on je les le paragraphe suivante:  
 Of all very distant Spectators etc. etc.

Si j'étais dans ma Patrie ou ma réputation est  
 des long temps faite; je me ferais mis au desus de  
 vos Epigrammes et les aurais mérité. Mais je suis  
 ici étranger. Vous m'avez offensé. Je vous en  
 demande raison.

Vous choisirez le lieu le temps et les armes  
 mais comme je n'aime à être Spectateur ni éloigné  
 ni tardif; je vous demande de vous voir aussitôt  
 et aussi tôt que possible.

M. le Capit. Walkes qui vous remettra la présente  
 m'informera de vos résolutions

je suis

Monsieur

Philadelphie  
 ce 2 de Dec;

Votre très humble serviteur  
 Le Baron de Steuben

City Philad<sup>a</sup>

The Grand Jurors

We Taking in Consideration the past Disorders  
 of the Turbulent and ill Behavior of many  
 people in this City we present the Great Necessity  
 of a Ducking Stool for such people according  
 to their Deserts

Signed by the Foreman for himself &  
 Brethren  
 Thomas Guffield

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CURIOSITIES, PART 03 \*\*\*

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