

## EXHIBITION OF AMERICAN ALMANACS

OCTOBER, 1925

- Samuel Danforth's Almanack for 1647. Cambridge.  
The earliest extant perfect almanac and the only extant book with the imprint of Matthew Day, son of the first printer in British America. March was placed as the first month, a plan continued for forty years. This is a facsimile from the only copy, owned by H. E. Huntington.
- T. S. (Thomas Shepard) Almanack for 1656. Cambridge.  
The earliest in this collection and only known copy. Of 44 almanacs printed before 1687, 41 were prepared by 26 Harvard graduates.
- John Foster's Almanack for 1675. Cambridge.  
The first of six prepared by him, the remainder being printed also by him in Boston where he was the first printer. It contains the first wood-cuts in these books and they were without doubt made by him.
- John Tulley's Almanack for 1687. Cambridge.  
The first of his series, continued to 1702. In this January was placed as the first month and the feasts and fasts of the English Church were first recorded.
- Daniel Leeds' Almanack for 1698. New York.  
Printed by William Bradford, and the fifth New York Almanac.
- John Tulley's Almanack for 1698. Cambridge.  
This contains the first list of roads. The towns and their distances from Boston and New York were recorded and later the names of the tavern-keepers were added for the benefit of travelers.
- Titan Leeds's Almanack for 1722. New York.  
This series, started in 1714, was continued yearly both in New York and Philadelphia until 1744, the New York issue being "The Dead Man's Almanack."
- Nathaniel Ames's Almanack for 1726. Boston.  
The first of the series of this the most famous of the Almanac makers of the 18th century. At his death in 1764, it was continued to 1775 by his son, Nathaniel.

Robert Treat's Almanack for 1727. New London.

He was a graduate of Yale, in 1718, and placed on the title: "Calculated for the meridian of Yale College." This was the fifth of his series and the last almanac printed in Connecticut for 25 years, the interval being supplied by Ames of Boston.

Felix Leeds's Almanack for 1727. Philadelphia.

Daniel Leeds, his father, issued almanacs in Philadelphia from 1687 to 1693 and in New York from 1694 to his death in 1713. Titan, his brother continued, in New York and Philadelphia, from 1714. Felix issued this almanac because Titan left the family printer, Bradford.

Poor Robin's Almanack for 1732. Newport.

The first Rhode Island almanac was printed in 1728, by the first Rhode-Island printer, James Franklin, brother of Benjamin. It is believed that the latter took his idea of Poor Richard from this. Poor Robin was the name of the first comic almanac in England.

Poor Richard for 1734. Philadelphia.

Poor Richard's Almanacks were a great success from the start in 1733. Franklin ceased to edit them with the issue for 1758, but his name remained as publisher for eight years longer.

Poor Richard's Almanack for 1737. By Richard Saunders.  
Philadelphia.

The fifth issue of this famous series by Benjamin Franklin which was continued to 1793.

Poor Richard improved for 1748. Philadelphia.

In this, as in Franklin's other almanacs, the sayings, or proverbs, were interspersed with the calendar announcements.

The Hoch-Deutch Americanishe Calender for 1748.  
C. Saur, Germantown.

Not the first German, but the most famous. It was issued and printed by Christop Saur, the first issue in 1738, and continued until purchased by Billmeyer in 1784 who carried it on until after 1800.

In 1743, Saur designed a title page which was recut by Fox in 1760 and used many years by Billmeyer.

Poor Richard's Almanack for 1749. Philadelphia.

This issue contains the first calendar pictures in the almanac. Imported from Germany, the wood blocks were purchased by Franklin with his first German partnership.

Roger Sherman's Almanack for 1750. Boston.

The first of Sherman's series, from 1750 to 1761, modeled after his friend Dr. Ames. It was issued in New York the same year, but was filled, by the printer, with material unsatisfactory to Sherman.

**Poor Job's Almanack for 1750.**

Newport.

This series followed the Poor Robin, being printed by James Franklin, the son, his mother, Widow Franklin, having continued the work until he came of age. This is the first of the series.

**A Pocket Almanack for 1753.**

Philadelphia.

Printed and sold by B. Franklin and D. Hall.

**Ames's Almanack for 1757.**

Portsmouth.

The first book printed in New Hampshire as the inset on the last page shows. Daniel Fowle, the first printer in New Hampshire, was driven from Boston by the persecution of the government.

**John Tobler's Almanack for 1757.**

Philadelphia.

Printed by Christopher Sower, Jr., it has an elaborate title page for this period. Tobler issued almanacs in South Carolina and Delaware also for many years.

**Poor Richard's Almanack for 1758.**

Philadelphia.

The most famous of this series as it contains the sayings of Benjamin Franklin, scattered through these almanacs, gathered in this issue in Father Abraham's Speech.

**Weatherwise, Father Abraham's Almanack for 1759.**

Philadelphia.

The first of the famous Weatherwise series, which were copied in other states. The calculations were made by David Rittenhouse, a noted astronomer, and the issues were filled with cuts of merit.

This, the first, contained a folding plate of Frederick of Prussia, the first copper plate engraved in Philadelphia and signed, J. M. Aet. 14.

**John N. Hutchins' Almanack for 1761.**

New York.

This series began in 1742 and continued, with some interruption, until after 1850. This issue contains a wood-cut plan of Montreal.

**The Wilmington Almanack for 1762. By Thomas Fox.**

Wilmington.

The first almanac by the first Delaware printer, James Adams.

**Benjamin West's Almanack for 1763.**

Providence.

The first Providence almanac, and first of the West series which continued, under varying titles, to 1881. West was a famous astronomer and calculated for many other almanacs, Isaiah Thomas' being one.

**Bickerstaff's Almanack for 1768.**

Boston.

A noted series with many cuts, copied, as was the Weatherwise, by many because of its popularity. It was started by Benjamin West of Providence because of disagreement with his printer. The name was borrowed from Dean Swift's Almanac of 1707.

Edes & Gill's Almanack for 1769. Boston.

This almanac has a folding copper-plate frontispiece signed by Paul Revere, who had made cuts for other almanacs.

Edes & Gill's Almanack for 1770. Boston.

This has a full page wood-cut of Boston, from the harbor, signed by Paul Revere.

Isaiah Thomas's Massachusetts Calendar for 1772. Boston.

The first almanac by Isaiah Thomas.

John Anderson's Almanack for 1772. Newport.

The first of a long series, printed until 1780, in Newport, and then transferred to Providence and issued until 1803 by Bennett Wheeler who is said to have used the pseudonym, John Anderson.

Edmund Freebetter's Connecticut Almanack for 1774. New London.

Freebetter is believed to be a pseudonym of Nathan Daboll who, after 1793 used his own name. As "The New England Almanack" this series has been continued by his family to the present day. The issue shown is the third of this long issue but contains a wood-cut of Daboll on the title page.

Samuel Stearns's North American's Almanack for 1775. Worcester.

The Stearns series began at Boston in 1770 and continued irregularly until 1793 in various places. This issue contains the account by Rev. Wm. Gordon of the battle of Lexington.

Daniel George's Almanack for 1776. Salem.

George, a cripple in a wheel-chair, began this series at the age of 17 and continued it until 1787. The second edition has a wood-cut of Gen. Warren.

Isaiah Thomas's Mass., N. H., and Conn. Almanack for 1779. Worcester.

The first of the Thomas Worcester series which continued, without a break, until 1820.

The New England Almanack for 1781. Worcester.

Calculated by Nehemiah Strong, Professor of Mathematics at Yale. He issued almanacs in Connecticut, or calculated for them, from 1775 to 1809.

Eliakim Perry's Almanack for 1785. Bennington.

This has been considered the first issued in Vermont, but an almanac for 1784 is advertized in the Vermont Gazette in 1783, although no copy has been found.

Samuel Ellsworth's Astronomical Diary for 1785. Bennington.

The preface says that he issued an almanac the previous year, so that Ellsworth's not Perry's was the first in Vermont.

Charles R. Webster's Almanack for 1787. Albany.

The first was issued in New York in 1784 but moved to Albany in the following year and is still issued, the longest without a break in this country.

'Weatherwise' s Almanack for 1787. Portland.

Advertized as the first almanac in Maine and the first calculated for the meridian of Portland.

Robert B. Thomas's Old Farmer's Almanac for 1793.

Boston.

The first issue of this almanac which has been carried on by the family without a break.

Almanack and Register for the State of Vermont for 1794.

Walpole.

The first Vermont Register but printed in New Hampshire by Thomas & Carlisle at their Walpole office.

The Kentucky Almanac for 1794. John Bradford, Lexington.

The third issue of the first almanac in Kentucky and printed by the first printer of that State, in the third year of statehood.

Bannaker's Penn., Del., Md., And Virginia Almanac for 1795.

Philadelphia.

Benjamin Bannaker was a negro who was a friend of Jefferson. His grandfather assisted in the survey of the site of Washington, D. C. The issue shown is the third but contains a wood-cut of Bannaker on the title page.

The Jefferson Almanac for 1802. Baltimore.

George Keating, on the title page, writes: "In 1801, I pledged myself to *give* the purchaser an almanac for 1802 in case Thomas Jefferson was not elected President of the United States."

Gale's North Carolina Almanack for 1804. By P. Brooks.

Raleigh.

This almanac was continued yearly until 1833.

Annuaire Lousianais pour 1809. By B. Lafon. New Orleans.

This contains the treaty and correspondence between the French and American Republics relating to the transfer of Louisiana in 1803.

The Poor Clergyman's Almanack for 1809. Boston.

A series for the clergy and continued until 1822. Another yearly issue of the same was entitled Clergyman's Minor and contained but half the number of pages.

John Lathrop's Gentleman's Pocket Almanac and Free-Mason's Vade Mecum for 1814. Boston.

This almanac contains a short history of Masonry and was one of the first to deal with this subject.

American Naval Almanac for 1815. Philadelphia.

Contains interesting accounts of naval battles, and full-page woodcuts of American ships of war.

The Planters' and Merchants' Almanac for 1817. Charleston, S. C.

The first of a long series published for over a century and known as Miller's Almanac.

Thomas Spofford's Almanack for 1817. Haverhill.

The first of the Spofford series which were issued in Massachusetts until 1844 and then in New York until after 1850. It contained a large variety of information and was very popular.

The Miniature Almanack for 1818. Boston.

The earliest Miniature almanac and the series ran in Boston and other places until after 1850.

The Chillicothe Almanac for 1819. (No. 1) Chillicothe.

It contains a statement of the Land System, the laws and Land taxes, of interest to that newly settled part of our country.

The National Calendar for 1820. By Peter Force. Washington.

This valuable series continued to the year 1836, except 1825-6-7 and contained lists of all officers in the departments and important statistics of the condition of the country.

The Christian Almanack for 1821. Boston.

The object of this series was to awaken religious feeling in America and it was continued under auspices of the American Tract Society until 1840. From 1824 it was published in New York and from 1825 in Philadelphia under the same auspices.

The Lafayette Almanac for 1825. Philadelphia.

This was issued in consequence of Lafayette's visit to this country and contains a portrait of him on the title page.

The Anti-Masonic Almanack for 1828. By Edward Giddings. Rochester.

Captain Wm. Morgan's book "Illustrations of Masonry" led to his capture and death in 1826 and this first number, was the earliest of a series published from 1829 to 1835 in Massachusetts, New York and New Jersey, in consequence of this unfortunate act.

The American Almanac and Repository of Useful Knowledge for 1830. (No. 1) Boston.

This series, which continued until 1861, was started by Jared Sparks. It contained important literary and statistical information.

The American Comic Almanack for 1831. Boston.

The first of many comic almanacs issued during the following twenty-five years in Massachusetts, New York and Philadelphia.

The United States Workingman's Almanack for 1831. Boston.

The first almanac devoted to labor and contains very moderate statements of the condition of labor in Europe and at home.

Green's Anti-Intemperance Almanack for 1831. New London.

This preceded the regular series issued under the auspices of the State Temperance Societies of New York, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania.

Middlebrook's Connecticut Almanac for 1834. Hartford.

On the title page of this issue, of a series from 1806 to long after 1850, is the first cut of a railroad train, and in the issue of 1839 "Success to the Hartford & New Haven R. R." is printed under the cut. Beer's South Carolina Almanac for 1839 has the same cut with the words under it, "Success to the *Carolina* R. R."

Applegate's Whig Almanac for 1835. New York.

"Embellished" with fifty engravings. Filled with political gossip and poetry.

Davy Crockett's Almanack of Wild Sports in the West for 1835. Nashville.

This series is filled with thrilling pictures of wild beasts and men. In 1839 it was also published in New York and after 1840 solely there and continued until after 1850.

The American Anti-Slavery Almanac for 1836. Boston and New York.

Published in Boston for three years, it was continued in New York until 1844 under the auspices of the American Anti-Slavery Society.

The Illinois Farmer's Almanac for 1837. By R. Goudy, Jr. Jacksonville, Ill.

Number three of an important Western almanac series.

The Lady's Annual Register for 1838. By Caroline Gilman. Boston.

This almanac was devoted to ladies' interests and contained advice on household matters and cooking receipts.

- The Harrison Almanac for 1841.** New York.  
A political almanac to exalt the life and deeds of Gen. Harrison. Another was issued in Philadelphia the same year.
- The Tippecanoe and Log Cabin Almanac for 1841.** New York.  
Sketches and pictures of Gen. William Henry Harrison, Whig candidate for the presidency.
- The Anti-Mormon Almanac for 1842.** New York.  
It explains the Mormon bible and its influence on daily life. Contains wood-cut of his Satanic Majesty kicking Joseph Smith, Jr.
- The Cold Water Almanac for 1843.** Boston.  
A continuation of the Temperance movement, it contains a pledge and was used by the local societies.
- The Henry Clay Almanac for 1844** Philadelphia.  
Biography of, also songs, and anecdotes illustrative of the Whig candidate for the presidency. Contains poem by Whittier.
- The Stove Almanac for 1844.** By L. V. Badger. Boston.  
Prepared by a dealer to explain air tight stoves and furnaces and give rules for use of Anthracite coal.
- The Peace Almanac for 1845.** New York.  
To arouse sentiment against wars at the time when the Mexican war was threatening. Another issue followed in 1846.
- The Clay and Frelinghuysen Almanac for 1845.** New York.  
It gives one hundred reasons why Clay should be elected; an interesting campaign document.
- Gen. Taylor's "Rough and Ready" Almanac for 1848.** Philadelphia.  
It contains anecdotes regarding the Mexican war.
- The Free-Soil Almanac for 1849.** Rochester.  
Devoted to the election of Van Buren and Adams, with biographies, political sketches and songs. Cover has portrait of Van Buren and title page one of Charles Francis Adams.
- American Free Soil Almanac for 1849.** Boston.  
It contains Free Soil Pæans by J. G. Whittier. First published in this almanac.
- The Herald Almanac for 1849.** New York.  
Published by James Gordon Bennett. The first almanac in the United States, carrying the name of a newspaper.



- The North-Western Free-Soil Almanac for 1849. Chicago.  
It is filled with arguments against Gen. Taylor and the Southern influence which controlled the country. This year a Free Soil Almanac was published in Boston and Rochester, also.
- The Know Nothing Almanac for 1855. New York.  
Anti-Catholic publication issued to support the cause of the Know-Nothing Party.
- The Woman's Rights Almanac for 1857. Worcester.  
A temperate and interesting statement of the issue new at that time as a national movement.
- The California Pictorial Almanac for 1859. San Francisco.  
Among numerous cuts is one of Sutter's Fort in 1848 when and where the first gold was found in California.
- The Confederate States Almanac for 1862. Nashville.  
It contains important statistics and memorabilia of the war.
- Grier's Southern Almanac for 1863. Atlanta.  
Notes on the war, and receipts for making bread from rice flour.
- The Confederate States Almanac for 1864. (No. 3) Mobile.  
It contains the constitution of the confederacy, resources of the South and a diary of the war.

Copyright of Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society is the property of American Antiquarian Society and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.