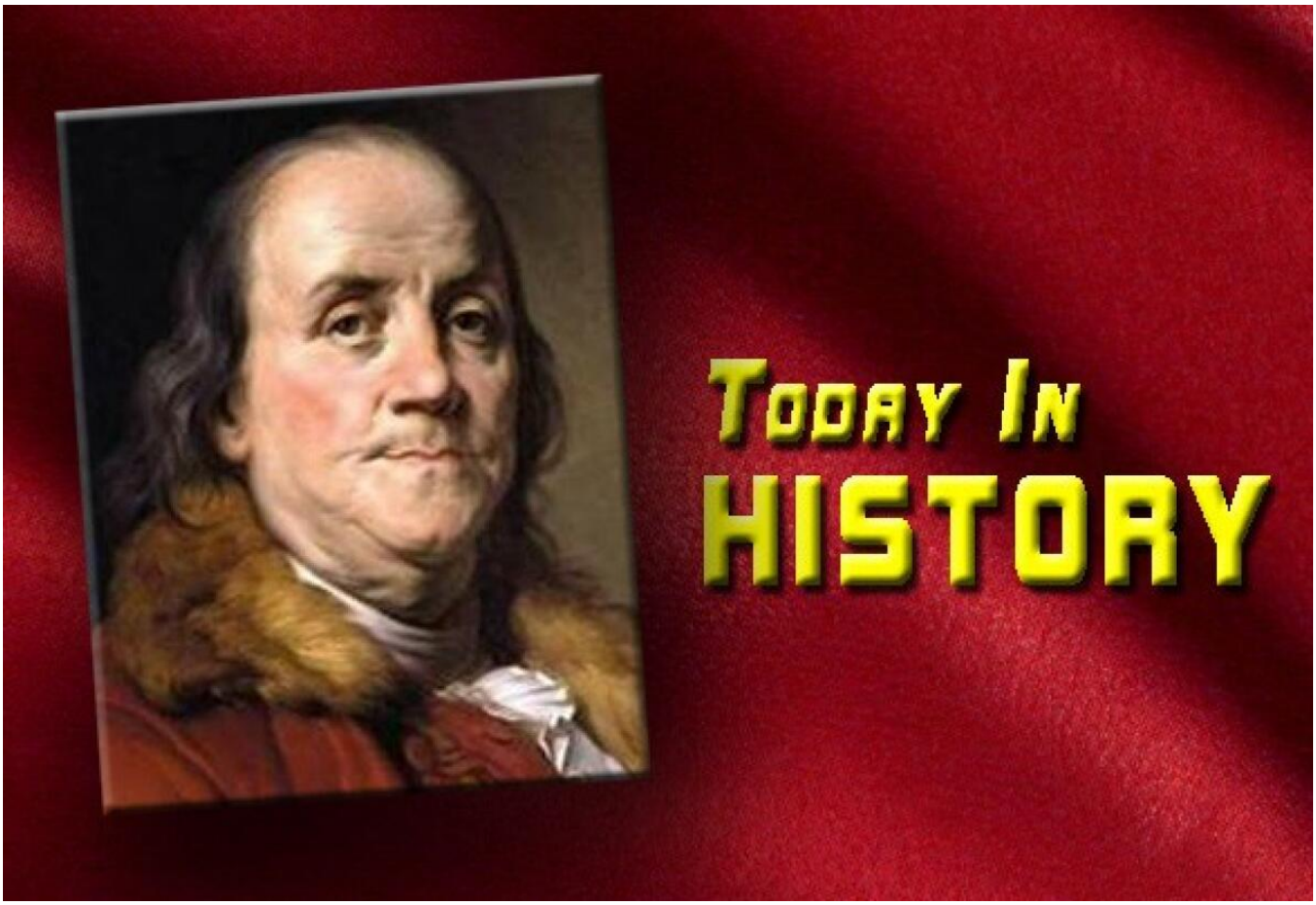


# Today In History – December 19

## Lincoln Herald Staff

Today in History in 1732 Benjamin Franklin publishes Poor Richard's Almanack

*The On This Day In History archives at "Simple English Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia" contains over 200,000 events, birthdays and deaths from 6,000 years of history. Here is a roundup of a few of them:*

December 19 is the 353rd day of the year (354th in leap years) in the Gregorian calendar. There are 12 days remaining until the end of the year.

**EVENTS**

324 – Licinius abdicates his position as Roman Emperor.

1154 - Henry II of England is crowned at Westminster Abbey.

1187 – Pope Clement III is elected.

1490 - Anne, Duchess of Brittany marries Maximilian I, Holy Roman Emperor by proxy.

1666 - Lund University in southern Sweden is founded.

1732 – Benjamin Franklin publishes Poor Richard's Almanack

1777 – George Washington's army goes into winter quarters at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania.

1783 - At age 24, William Pitt the Younger becomes the youngest-ever Prime Minister of the United Kingdom.

1828 – John C. Calhoun pens South Carolina Exposition and Protest, protesting the Tariff of 1828.

1835 – The Toledo Blade newspaper begins publishing.

1842 – The United States recognizes the independence of Hawaii.

1907 - 239 coal miners die in a mine explosion in Jacobs Creek, Pennsylvania.

1909 - The German football club Borussia Dortmund is founded.

1912 – William H. Van Schaick, captain of the steamship General Slocum which killed over 1,000 people was pardoned by President Taft after 3 1⁄2 years in Sing Sing prison.

1916 – The Battle of Verdun ended during World War I.

1920 - King Constantine I of Greece is restored as King of the Hellenes after the death of his son, Alexander of Greece, and a vote.

1927 - Indian activists Ashfaqulla Khan, Ram Prasad Bismil and Roshan Singh are executed by British colonial authorities.

1928 – First autogiro flight in the United States.

1932 - The BBC World Service begins broadcasting, as the BBC Empire Service.

1941 - World War II: Limpet mines placed by Italian divers sink the HMS Valiant and HMS Elizabeth in Alexandria harbor.

1944 – The Soviet Union completely occupies Estonia (Ruhnu island).

1944 - French newspaper Le Monde is founded.

1945 – Austria becomes a republic for the second time, the first having been founded in 1918 and interrupted by the Austro-fascist dictatorship from 1934 onwards and the Nazi invasion of Austria in 1938.

1946 – Ho Chi Minh attacks French in Hanoi.

1956 - Irish-born physician John Bodkin Adams is arrested in connection with the suspicious deaths of over 160 patients. Eventually, he is only convicted of minor charges.

1961 – The Indian Army invades the Portuguese province of Estado da India Portuguesa (Portuguese State of India) which will become part of India.

1962 – Nyasaland secedes from Rhodesia and Nyasaland.

1963 – Zanzibar received its independence from the United Kingdom to become a constitutional monarchy under the sultan.

1964 - The South Vietnamese military junta of Nguyen Khanh dissolves the High National Council and arrest some of the members.

1965 – Prisoners Ronald Ryan and Peter Walker escape from HM Prison Pentridge, Melbourne. During the escape a guard is killed. Ryan would hang for his death, in 1967.

1967 – Australian Prime Minister Harold Holt is declared dead, two days after going missing.

1972 – Apollo 17, the last manned lunar flight, returns to Earth.

1974 – The Altair 8800, the first personal computer, goes on sale.

1975 - John Paul Stevens is appointed as a justice of the United States Supreme Court.

1980 – Anguilla is made a dependency of the United Kingdom separate from Saint Kitts and Nevis.

1982 - A tanker fire in Tacoa, Venezuela, kills 150 people.

1983 - The Jules Rimet FIFA World Cup trophy is stolen from the Headquarters of the Brazilian Football Federation in Rio de Janeiro and is never seen again.

1984 – The United Kingdom and People's Republic of China sign the Sino-British Joint Declaration, which handed Hong Kong to Chinese sovereignty in 1997.

1984 - Ted Hughes becomes Poet Laureate of the United Kingdom.

1986 - Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev releases Andrei Sakharov and his wife, Yelena Bonner, from exile in Gorky.

1997 – A Silkair Boeing 737-300 crashes into the Musi River, in Sumatra, Indonesia killing 104

1997 – Titanic (the highest-grossing movie ever as of 2005) opens in U.S. theaters.

1998 – The U.S. House of Representatives passes articles of impeachment against President Bill Clinton over the Lewinsky scandal.

2000 – The Leninist Guerrilla Units attack a party office of the far-right MHP in Istanbul, Turkey. One MHP member is killed and several wounded.

2001 – The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring, the first movie in Peter Jackson's The Lord of the Rings movie trilogy, opens in theaters.

2001 – A new world-record high barometric pressure of 1085.6 hPa (32.06 inHg) is set at Tosontsengel, Hövsgöl Aymag, Mongolia.

2001 – The Argentine economic crisis bursts into street riots after the announcement by the economy minister of the measures of holding back the bank deposits.

2005 – Prime Minister of Israel Ariel Sharon suffers a minor stroke.

2007 – Marcus Stephen becomes President of Nauru.

2007 - Lee Myung-bak is elected President of South Korea.

2011 – North Korean state television announces that Kim Jong-il died two days earlier. His son Kim Jong-un has been named as his successor, as North Korea's leader.

2012 - Park Geunhye is elected President of South Korea, as the first woman elected to lead South Korea.

2016 - Russian Ambassador to Turkey Andrei Karlov is assassinated at an art gallery in Ankara by an off-duty police officer.

2016 - A lorry is driven into a crowd at a Christmas market in central Berlin, killing at least 12 people.