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Paul C. Pasles* (paul.pasles@villanova.edu), Dept. of Mathematical Sciences, Villanova University, 800 Lancaster Ave., Villanova, PA 19087. *Benjamin Franklin's Numbers*.

Quantitative literacy is a necessity for good citizenship, so it is appropriate that the “first American” was numerate in the extreme. That’s not to say that Ben Franklin ever proved a novel theorem, but he was willing to apply basic mathematics to situations where only qualitative arguments had been admitted previously. We will examine a few examples of this laudable habit, and also explore the mathematical climate of colonial Philadelphia. (Received September 10, 2007)