

pop up presentation

# PENN & SLAVERY PROJECT

Dillon Kersh, Brooke Krancer, Samuel Orloff, Archana Upadhyay

# Complicity

Kəm'plisədə

*noun*

**Complicity does not** speak to the University's active and persistent ownership of enslaved persons.

**Complicity does** speak to the many ways in which colonial universities relied on and contributed to America's slave society in the years prior to the Civil War.

COMPLICITY

# PREVIOUS FINDINGS

# Spring 2018 Findings

- George Whitfield, Robert Smith, and the building of the early campus
- Early fundraising activities of the University
- The use of enslaved labor on Penn's early campus
- Faculty and University influence on pro-slavery rhetoric
- Penn Medical School and the rise of pseudoscience/dual race theory
- Early Penn Trustees' personal ties to slavery

# Fall 2018 Preliminary Findings

- Penn Medical School and the rise of pseudoscience
- Penn Medical School's use of anatomical specimens
- Penn Medical School graduates' careers after Penn
- University land holdings
- Antebellum students' ties to slavery
- Early Penn Trustees' personal ties to slavery

# UNIVERSITY LAND HOLDINGS

“Governor Thomas Penn gave the College of Philadelphia (University of Pennsylvania) his twenty-five-hundred-acre Perkasio estate in Bucks County. Enslaved Africans had worked these holdings for decades. Hannah and William Penn kept slaves as personal servants and laborers, and they had even punished one of their enslaved women by selling her to Barbados.”

# Perkasie Manor

- Donated by Thomas Penn to the University in 1759
  - 2,500 acres in Bucks County valued at £3000 in 1760
- Investigated by slave owners William Coxe and Francis Alison
  - Coxe and Alison recommended the sale of the property
  - Thomas Penn refused to allow the sale of the property
- Thomas Penn's refusal to allow the sale of the property likely contributed to later financial difficulties, leading to fundraising from slave owners
- Tenants were mostly ethnic Germans and were likely not wealthy enough to own slaves
  - Ethnic Germans generally did not own slaves

“Upon the whole we conclude that it [Perkasie Manor] never can turn out to great Advantage to this Institution, while in the hands of Tennants, for they will destroy the Timber entirely, and wear out the Lands, and when they have done these Damages, if we sue them they will probably run away, or remove their goods from these Premises and disappoint us; they will never improve the Meadow ground to the best Advantage; for in some place the Creek is apt to overflow and carry away their Rails.”

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# 1779 Bucks County Tax Records for Hilltown Township:

	Acres	Horses	Cattle	Servants
Felty Kreamer, .....	200	5	7	2
Lawrence Kreamer, .....	28	..	..	2
Phillip Kreamer, .....	..	..	2	2
Henry Kerr, taylor, .....	..	..	2	2
Jacob Kulp, .....	161	2	8	2
→ Christian Kern, .....	225	5	5	2
Erasmus Kelly, .....	185	3	14	2
Benja. Kelly, .....	127	4	10	→ 1
John Kelly, .....	50	2	3	2

# 1779 Bucks County Tax Records for Hilltown Township:

	Acres	Horses	Cattle	Servants
Henry Bernet, .....	..	1	2	..
John Benler, .....	..	1	2	..
→ Ludowick Benner, .....	100	2	4	..
→ Peter Benner, .....	200	2	4	1790
Samuel Behell, .....	150	..	..	..
John Been, .....	140	2	3	..
Paul Been, .....	..	..	2	..

# Norristown Farm and Mill

- Provost Smith purchased Norristown for Penn in 1776 for £6,000
- John Bull sold the Norristown farm and mill to Penn, and he stayed on for two years as a tenant on part of the land after the sale
  - In 1774, taxed for 2 negros and 1 servant
- Dr. Robert Shannon leases part of Norristown for next ten years
  - In 1774, taxed for 2 negros. From 1785-88, taxed for 1 negro.
- In 1784, the Trustees considered moving Penn to Norristown. Decided against moving out of Philadelphia.
- Penn sold the farm and mill (excluding the town of Norristown) to Provost Smith and his son, William Moore Smith, for £4,300 in 1791
- Penn sold the rest of the lots in Norristown over the next 23 years

# Further Land and Finance Questions

- Who were the enslaved people working at Norristown?
- Besides Perkasio and Norristown, did other University real estate investments have ties to slavery?
- What other investments was Penn engaging in at this time?
- Who did Penn fundraise from in Great Britain?
- Who were other contractors employed by the University at this time?

MEDICAL SCHOOL

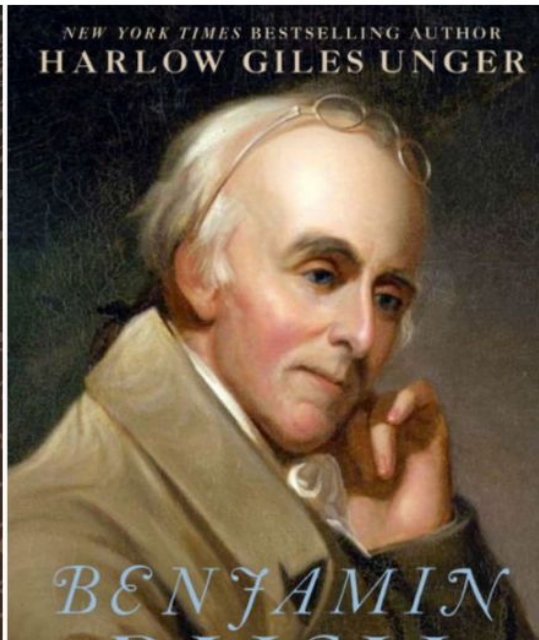
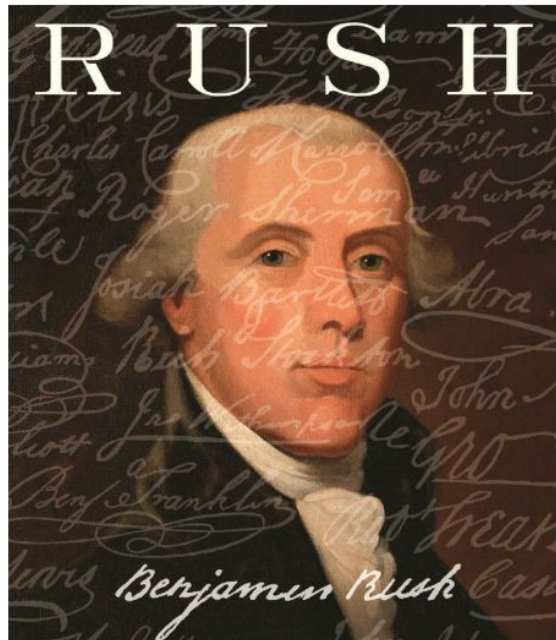
BENJAMIN RUSH

NEWS SPORTS BUSINESS OPINION POLITICS ENTERTAINMENT LIFE FOOD HEALTH REAL ESTATE OBITUARIES JOBS

ARTS & CULTURE

## Two books make the case for the greatness of Philly's Benjamin Rush

by [Scott Manning, For The Inquirer](#), Posted: November 16, 2018



He knew there would always be a struggle between science and religion, and “liberty and good government.” He looked to diagnose chronic social issues — such as racism, religious prejudice, misogyny, prejudice against mental illness — and after writing about them, tried to build voluntary organizations that could address them and public schools that could teach about them. These included the two colleges he helped found (Dickinson and what became Franklin & Marshall) as well as the reborn American Philosophical Society and Pennsylvania Abolition Society, the new Society for Promoting Political Inquiries and public health organizations.

Washington Post

 Penn Today | Meet the ‘original typical Penn student’

Rush is often described as a doctor or politician, but was also a writer, philosopher, and abolitionist. In his final year, he wrote the first American textbook on mental health.

On Saturday, Nov. 10, Fried will appear at the Kelly Writers House alongside several of the recent alums who helped research and fact-check the book over the past five years. Here, Fried discusses his interest in Rush and why his story still resonates with Americans today.

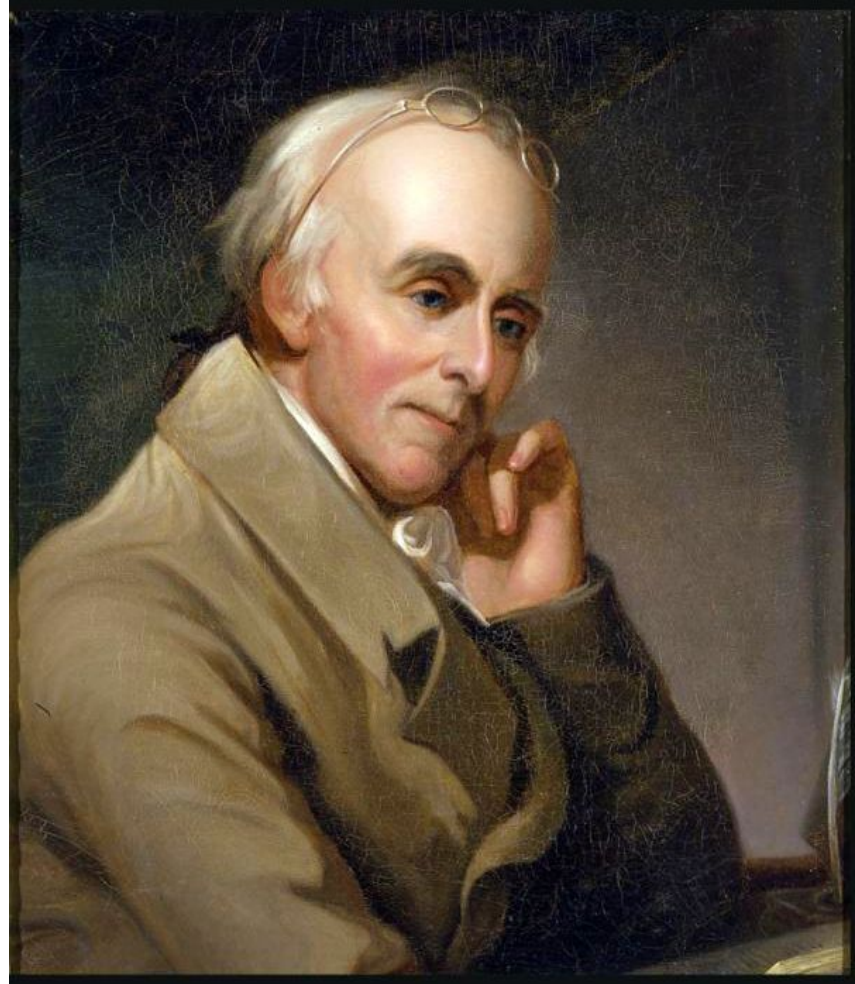
Penn Today

Rush was the first American physician to argue the baleful influence of strong alcohol and tobacco, an unorthodox view that riled consumers and producers alike. Even more controversial was his attack upon slavery, an institution entrenched in many of Britain’s American colonies. Seen from the perspective of 2018, Rush emerges as a visionary. To many of his contemporaries, however, he was an inveterate meddler. Even Rush’s wife, Julia, who bore him 13 children, was exasperated that his good works left precious little time for family life.

The Wall Street Journal

# Benjamin Rush (1746-1813)

- Professor of Chemistry, Theory and Practice of Medicine, and the Institutes of Medicine and Clinical Practice 1769-1813
- Signer of the Declaration of Independence
- Founded Dickinson College and Franklin College (now Franklin and Marshall)
- Treasurer of the U.S. Mint 1797-1813
- President of the Pennsylvania Society for Promoting the Abolition of Slavery 1803-1813 (University Archives Biography)



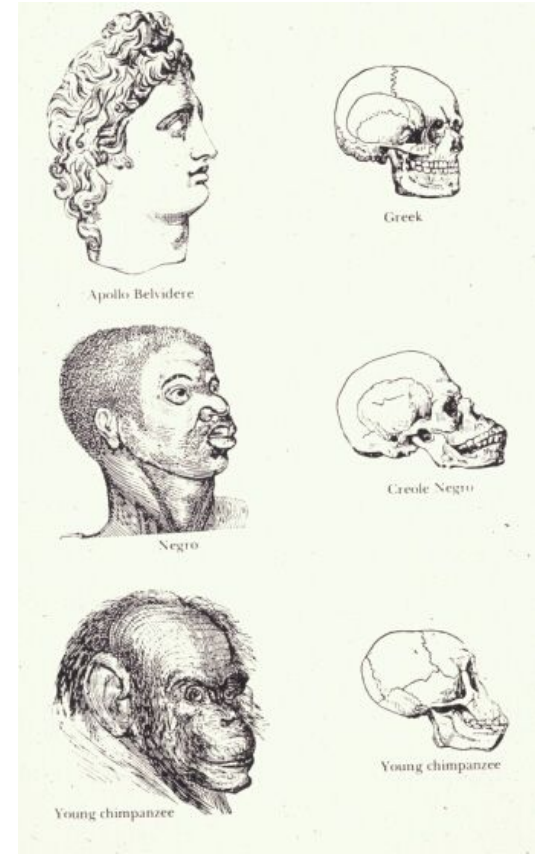
# Context

- Samuel George Morton

(professor from 1839-1843)

- Josiah Clark Nott

(MD 1827, lecturer 1827-1829)



An image from Nott's book *Types of Mankind*

# Known Links to Slavery and Racial Pseudoscience

- Held an enslaved man named William Grubber (*Teach Me Dreams: The Search for Self in the Revolutionary Era*)
- “Observations Intended to Favour a Supposition That the Black Color (As It Is Called) of the Negroes Is Derived from the Leprosy”
- Believed black people were immune from yellow fever (*Forging Freedom*)

1. That all the claims of superiority of the whites over the blacks, on account of their color, are founded alike in ignorance and inhumanity. If the color of the negroes be the effect of a disease, instead of inviting us to tyrannise over them, it should entitle them to a double portion of our humanity, for disease all over the world has always been the signal for immediate and universal compassion.

# Research

- Originally looked into what Rush was learning at the University of Edinburgh while he was a medical student
- 
- Then changed direction to look into what he was teaching Penn medical students
  - o Looked at lecture notes of his medical students

# Findings

by affecting Particular Ages There are  
other diseases peculiar to Ages The Hooping  
Cough affects Children & never Adults  
they are diversified further being confined  
to particular Colours in the Year 62  
there was a yellow fever raging in South Carolina  
when there was not a Negro known to be affected  
there is another fact shews that the colour  
of skin influenced the habit In white  
settlement among the Indians they never  
had a disease that affected the White People & V.  
Cold as a Lentil I have a few words to  
it is a remote cause when

- Significant findings came from the notebook of Samuel Poultney
- Rush taught his students that different diseases were confined to certain races, saying that black people were immune to yellow fever

Dissection of an ~~negro~~ girl of Mr. ~~White~~ Jones  
April 13<sup>th</sup> 1795

The girl was sixteen years of age the symptoms  
she had was dry Cough Without any expectoration  
Difficulty of Breathing Hectic Fever every day  
~~and~~ Upon Examining the Lungs  
after Death we found upon the external part of  
lungs a great many small Blisters there  
a great many Tubercles on the Internal  
surface of the Lungs the Thyroid  
enlarged to an enormous size by a Scrophulous  
Gland and compressed the Trachea Arteria very

ence that Rush  
treated a black girl who  
possibly enslaved  
with other bodies,  
girl is not named and  
her social context  
consent is discussed


Jones John, health officer, Water b. Spruce and Pine-streets

# Further Questions

- Who was the girl that Benjamin Rush dissected?
  - o Who was “Mr. Jones”?
- When exactly did Rush hold William Grubber?
- When did he manumit him?
- What was Grubber’s life like?

WILLIAM HORNER



  
**THE WISTAR INSTITUTE  
OF ANATOMY & BIOLOGY**  
The nation's first  
independent biomedical  
research institution was  
founded in 1892 by Isaac  
Jones Wistar. It houses  
the anatomical collec-  
tion of the Wistar and  
Horner Museum. Many  
critical vaccines and  
the albino Wistar rats  
used in medical research  
were developed here.  
PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION 2007 ©

# Who is William Horner (1793-1853)?



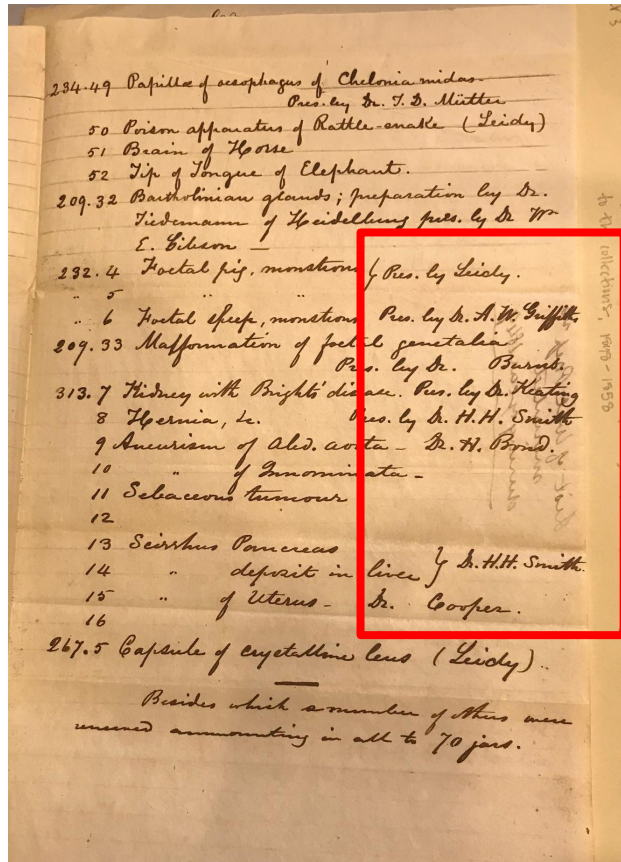
- Dean of the Medical School (1822-1852)
- Professor of Anatomy (1831-1853)
- From Virginia, apprenticed to VA physician, attended Penn Med
- Started as “Dissector” for Caspar Wistar in 1816
- Medical collection of specimens

# What was the Wistar and Horner Museum?

- Valued at \$53,000 in 1853
- Anatomical models of humans and animals
  - Wet and dry preparations
  - Skulls, diseased bones, wired animal skeletons (crocodiles, possums), Egyptian mummies, organs
- Penn Museum, Wistar Institute, Mütter Museum
- Specimens important to changing medical practices



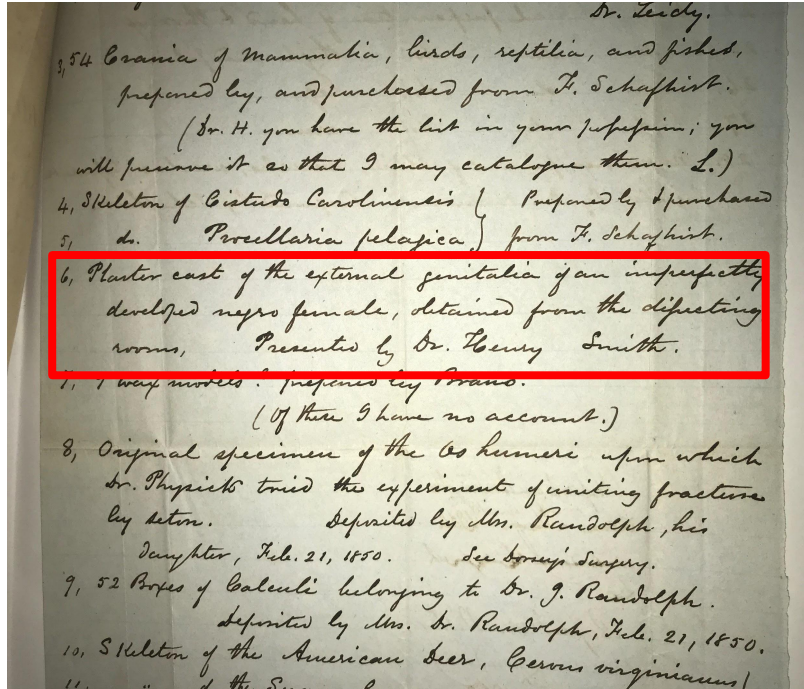
# Where did specimens come from?



- Brought by other doctors in the Philadelphia area/Penn faculty
- Horner himself disinterred body of a Cherokee man from grave in Virginia
- Dr. Fred Schafhirt
  - German physiologist
  - Was shipped human specimens from KY and MS (Washington Medical Annals, V. 15, A History of the Army Medical Museum)
  - From dissecting room - Shippen

- veins, & lymphatics injected - - - - - S.
49. Section of vertebra of Basilosaurus - - - - - L.
50. do. of *off. l. ibium* - - - - - L.
51. Negro mummified by means of chloride of zinc, H.
52. Model in wax of the Canal of Eye
53. " " Imperfect urinary bladder,
54. " " Inguinal Hernia,
55. " " Hemorrhage into Tunica Vaginalis Testis,
56. " " Fungus Hematodes of Toe,
57. " " do. do. of Fingers,
58. " " Cancer of Intestine,
59. " " Hemorrhoids,
60. B. 205. 24 Box with 36 Microscop. sections of Bones, &c.  
from Powell & Leland, London - 1846
61. " 25 do. with 30 do. do. of Bone, Paris 1846.
62. " 26 do. with 36 do. do. of Teeth of various  
animals - - - - - 1846
63. B. 131. 1 Drawing of Iris, by Kern, (from Life).
64. Group of Laocoon
65. do. of Sampson
66. Two mounted specimens of *Halictus leucocephalus*.
67. 14 Ligamentous preparations - - - - - S. 1848

# Modern Gynecology



- Americans generally behind European medical schools on general anatomy
- Birth of American Gynecology
  - Owens, Medical Bondage
  - Southern hospitals and enslaved women
  - Relationships with colleges in the North
- Large collection of reproductive organs in Horner Museum catalogues
  - "Anomalies" and "models"

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