

letters of benjamin rush 1761 1792

benjamin rush

Letters of Benjamin Rush 1761 1792 Benjamin Rush: A Window into Revolutionary America

letters of benjamin rush 1761 1792 benjamin rush provide a fascinating glimpse into the life, thoughts, and times of one of America's most influential Founding Fathers. As a physician, educator, and fervent patriot, Benjamin Rush's correspondence from 1761 to 1792 reveals much more than personal anecdotes—it uncovers the spirit of a nation on the cusp of transformation. Exploring these letters not only illuminates Rush's role in shaping early American history but also offers valuable insights into the social, political, and intellectual currents of the 18th century.

The Significance of Benjamin Rush's Letters

Benjamin Rush (1746–1813) was a polymath who wore many hats: a doctor, social reformer, signer of the Declaration of Independence, and a key figure in the American Revolution. His extensive correspondence reflects his evolving views on medicine, politics, and society during a period marked by immense upheaval and change. The letters penned between 1761 and 1792 capture the arc of his career—from a young medical student to a seasoned statesman and advocate for public health.

Chronological Context: 1761 to 1792

The period from 1761 to 1792 is particularly rich in historical significance. Starting in his mid-teens and early adulthood, Rush's letters during these years chronicle the dawn of the American Revolution, the fight for independence, and the early years of the United States. His writings not only convey personal reflections but also document interactions with other key figures such as Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, and George Washington.

Why These Letters Matter

- **Historical Documentation:** Rush's correspondence serves as primary sources that historians rely on to understand the revolutionary era.
- **Medical Innovation:** As a pioneering physician, his letters discuss early medical practices, public health ideas, and his efforts to combat epidemics.
- **Political Philosophy:** His views on liberty, governance, and human rights are vividly expressed.
- **Social Reform:** Rush advocated for education, abolition of slavery, and mental health reform, themes often explored in his letters.

Exploring Themes in the Letters of Benjamin Rush

1761 1792 Benjamin Rush

The letters are a treasure trove of ideas and narratives. Let's delve into some prominent themes that emerge from Rush's correspondence during this transformative period.

1. Medicine and Public Health

Benjamin Rush is often hailed as the "father of American psychiatry" and a pioneer in medical education. His letters reveal his commitment to improving medical practices and public health. During the yellow fever epidemic in Philadelphia in 1793, although just outside the 1792 cutoff, his earlier letters already showed his concern for community health measures and hygiene.

In his correspondence, Rush discusses:

- The importance of empirical observation.
- The role of education in training competent physicians.
- Early efforts to understand mental illness and humane treatment for patients.

These insights highlight his forward-thinking approach, which was quite revolutionary for the time.

2. Political Engagement and Revolutionary Ideals

Rush's letters are peppered with passionate discussions about freedom, governance, and the responsibilities of citizens. He was a vocal supporter of independence and played an active role in revolutionary politics. His correspondence with other revolutionaries sheds light on the debates and challenges faced by the emerging nation.

Key political topics in his letters include:

- Advocacy for the Declaration of Independence.
- Reflections on the Constitution and the balance of federal power.
- Concerns about tyranny and the protection of individual liberties.

3. Social Reform and Education

Beyond politics and medicine, Rush's letters reveal a deep commitment to social progress. He championed causes often ahead of his time, such as:

- The abolition of slavery and equal rights.
- Education reform, including the promotion of universal schooling.
- Mental health reform, emphasizing compassion and rehabilitation.

His correspondence reveals a visionary mindset that sought to improve society at multiple levels.

How to Access and Study the Letters of Benjamin Rush 1761 1792 Benjamin Rush

For history enthusiasts, scholars, or anyone intrigued by early American history, accessing these letters can be both rewarding and enlightening. Here are some tips on how to explore this valuable collection:

Primary Sources and Archives

- **American Philosophical Society:** A significant repository of Rush's papers.
- **Library of Congress:** Holds digitized collections of his correspondence.
- **University Collections:** Institutions such as Princeton and the University of Pennsylvania offer access to Rush's letters through special collections.

Published Editions and Compilations

Several edited volumes bring together Rush's letters with annotations and historical context. These editions help readers understand the nuances of the language and the significance of the content. Some recommended compilations include:

- "The Letters of Benjamin Rush" edited by various historians.
- Collections focused on his medical writings or political correspondence.

Tips for Engaging with Historical Letters

- **Contextualize the Content:** Understand the historical background to fully grasp the significance.
- **Note Language Differences:** 18th-century English can be formal and sometimes archaic.
- **Cross-reference Events:** Linking letters to historical events enriches understanding.
- **Reflect on Personal vs. Public:** Distinguish between Rush's private thoughts and public advocacy.

The Legacy of Benjamin Rush Through His Letters

The letters of Benjamin Rush from 1761 to 1792 do more than chronicle a life; they serve as a bridge connecting us to the ideals, struggles, and aspirations of early America. His

eloquence, intellect, and humanity shine through handwritten pages, inviting readers to engage with history on a personal level.

Rush's correspondence continues to inspire:

- Medical professionals interested in the roots of American medicine.
- Historians focused on the Revolutionary era.
- Social reformers looking for early examples of advocacy.
- Anyone fascinated by the complexity of founding a nation.

His letters are a reminder that history is not just about dates and events but the voices and ideas of individuals committed to shaping a better world.

As you explore the letters of Benjamin Rush 1761 1792 Benjamin Rush, you embark on a journey through pivotal moments in history seen through the eyes of a remarkable man—a journey that enriches our understanding of the past and informs our present.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who was Benjamin Rush and why are his letters from 1761 to 1792 significant?

Benjamin Rush was a prominent American physician, politician, and social reformer. His letters from 1761 to 1792 provide valuable insights into the political, social, and medical issues of early America, reflecting his involvement in the American Revolution and the founding of the United States.

What topics are commonly addressed in Benjamin Rush's letters between 1761 and 1792?

Rush's letters cover a wide range of topics including medical practices, political events such as the American Revolution, social reforms, education, and his personal views on liberty and human rights.

How do Benjamin Rush's letters contribute to our understanding of the American Revolution?

The letters offer first-hand perspectives on the challenges faced by the revolutionaries, including discussions on military strategy, morale, and governance, as well as Rush's role as a civic leader and supporter of independence.

Where can one find collections of Benjamin Rush's letters from 1761 to 1792?

Collections of Benjamin Rush's letters can be found in historical archives, university libraries, and published volumes such as "The Letters of Benjamin Rush," as well as online

digital archives dedicated to American Revolutionary history.

What medical insights can be gained from Benjamin Rush's correspondence during 1761-1792?

Rush's letters reveal his pioneering thoughts on mental health, epidemic diseases, and public health reforms, showcasing his contributions to medicine and his advocacy for better healthcare practices in early America.

Did Benjamin Rush's letters influence any social or political reforms during his lifetime?

Yes, Rush's correspondence helped shape public opinion on abolitionism, education reform, and healthcare improvements. His advocacy through letters and public engagement influenced key social and political reforms in the post-revolutionary United States.

Additional Resources

****Exploring the Letters of Benjamin Rush 1761 1792 Benjamin Rush: Insights into an American Founding Father****

letters of benjamin rush 1761 1792 benjamin rush offer a compelling window into the personal and political life of one of the most influential figures of early American history. As a physician, educator, and signer of the Declaration of Independence, Benjamin Rush's correspondence during this period reflects the complexities of a transformative era in the United States. These letters, spanning from his early years as a young medical student to his mature role as a political thinker and public servant, provide invaluable perspectives on the Revolutionary War, medical practice, and social reform movements. This article delves into the content, significance, and enduring legacy of Rush's letters between 1761 and 1792.

The Context and Significance of Benjamin Rush's Correspondence

The letters of Benjamin Rush 1761 1792 benjamin rush encompass a critical phase in American history, capturing the transition from colonial unrest to the establishment of a nation. Rush, born in 1746, was a prodigious intellect who studied medicine at the University of Edinburgh before returning to Philadelphia. His correspondence during these three decades reveals not only his medical and scientific interests but also his deep involvement in political discourse and social advocacy.

Rush's letters are particularly noteworthy for their detailed observations of the Revolutionary War's impact on society and his nuanced reflections on governance and human rights. As one of the few founding fathers who was also a practicing physician, his writings bridge the gap between the political and scientific communities of the time.

Early Correspondence: 1761 to 1775

The letters from 1761 to 1775 mostly cover Rush's formative years and early career. During this period, Rush was studying abroad and beginning to establish himself professionally. His letters from Edinburgh reveal his commitment to advancing medical knowledge and his engagement with Enlightenment ideas. He corresponded frequently with family and mentors, discussing medical experiments, educational philosophies, and the brewing tensions in the American colonies.

These early letters also provide insight into Rush's personal character—his intellectual curiosity, moral convictions, and emerging patriotism. The tone often blends scientific inquiry with a keen awareness of the political climate, a duality that would define much of his later work.

Letters During the Revolutionary War: 1775 to 1783

Between 1775 and 1783, Benjamin Rush's correspondence showcases his active role in the fight for American independence. As a member of the Continental Congress and a trusted advisor to General George Washington, Rush's letters from this era discuss military strategy, public health concerns, and the ideological underpinnings of the revolution.

One of the most striking features of these letters is Rush's advocacy for medical care for soldiers and his pioneering efforts to improve sanitary conditions in military hospitals. His letters provide firsthand accounts of the challenges faced by the Continental Army and his efforts to implement reforms that would save lives.

Moreover, Rush's political letters articulate his vision for the new nation, emphasizing liberty, education, and civic responsibility. His correspondence with fellow revolutionaries reveals the debates and compromises that shaped the emerging government.

Analyzing Themes Within the Letters of Benjamin Rush 1761 1792 Benjamin Rush

The rich content of these letters invites analysis across several thematic dimensions:

Medical Innovation and Public Health

Benjamin Rush was a pioneer in American medicine, and his letters frequently address medical theories, treatments, and public health initiatives. Notably, his correspondence during the yellow fever epidemic in Philadelphia in 1793 (just beyond the 1792 cutoff but rooted in earlier work) reflects his commitment to combating disease through science and public education.

His letters reveal a physician deeply engaged in combating ignorance and superstition

about health, advocating for sanitation reforms and the professionalization of medicine. The letters demonstrate how Rush's medical ideas were intertwined with his broader social reform goals.

Political Philosophy and National Identity

Rush's political letters articulate a vision of America grounded in republican ideals and democratic principles. He was a vocal supporter of the Constitution and believed in the importance of education for sustaining the republic. His correspondence reveals his concerns about factionalism, the balance of powers, and the rights of citizens.

Through his letters, Rush contributed to shaping early American political thought, blending Enlightenment principles with pragmatic solutions to the young nation's challenges.

Social Reform and Abolitionism

Another prominent theme in Rush's letters is his advocacy for social reforms, including the abolition of slavery and improvements in mental health care. Rush was one of the earliest American voices calling for the humane treatment of the mentally ill, and his letters discuss these issues in detail.

His correspondence with abolitionists and reformers demonstrates his commitment to advancing human rights and social justice, positioning him as a progressive thinker ahead of his time.

Features and Impact of the Letters of Benjamin Rush 1761 1792 Benjamin Rush

The letters hold several distinctive features that make them essential for historians, scholars, and enthusiasts of early American history:

- **Authentic Personal Voice:** The letters offer direct insight into Rush's thoughts, emotions, and personality, providing context often missing from official documents.
- **Historical Documentation:** They serve as primary sources documenting key events, including the fight for independence, medical advancements, and social reforms.
- **Cross-Disciplinary Perspectives:** Rush's letters uniquely blend medicine, politics, philosophy, and social issues, reflecting the interconnected nature of 18th-century intellectual life.
- **Influence on Contemporary and Later Thought:** The ideas expressed in these letters influenced Rush's contemporaries and laid groundwork for future

developments in public health and civil rights.

Comparative Analysis to Other Founding Fathers' Correspondence

When compared to the letters of contemporaries like Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, or Alexander Hamilton, Rush's correspondence stands out for its medical content and social reform focus. While many founding fathers emphasized legal and political theory, Rush integrated scientific inquiry into his worldview.

His letters also show a more empathetic and humanitarian tone, particularly regarding issues like slavery and mental health, topics that were often marginalized in other founders' writings.

Preservation and Accessibility of the Letters

The preservation of the letters of Benjamin Rush 1761 1792 benjamin rush has been crucial for historical scholarship. Many of these letters are housed in archives such as the American Philosophical Society and the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. Digitalization efforts have also made portions accessible to the public, enabling broader research and education.

Scholars continue to analyze Rush's correspondence to uncover nuanced understandings of 18th-century American society. These letters have been published in collected volumes that provide critical annotations, enhancing their value as research tools.

Challenges in Interpretation

Interpreting these letters requires careful consideration of the historical context, language evolution, and Rush's personal biases. Some medical theories expressed in the letters are outdated by modern standards, necessitating a balanced reading that appreciates the historical mindset without endorsing obsolete views.

Additionally, the political rhetoric of the time can sometimes obscure the complexity of Rush's positions, requiring cross-referencing with other contemporary sources.

Legacy of Benjamin Rush Through His Letters

The letters of Benjamin Rush 1761 1792 benjamin rush not only document an extraordinary life but also continue to influence American historical narratives. They illuminate the multifaceted role Rush played as a healer, thinker, and patriot. By engaging with these letters, readers gain a richer appreciation of the challenges and aspirations that shaped the

United States' founding era.

Rush's correspondence remains a testament to the enduring power of written communication in shaping public discourse and preserving historical memory. For those interested in the intersection of medicine, politics, and social change, these letters offer an indispensable resource.

Letters Of Benjamin Rush 1761 1792 Benjamin Rush

letters of benjamin rush 1761 1792 benjamin rush: *Letters of Benjamin Rush* Lyman Henry Butterfield, 1951

letters of benjamin rush 1761 1792 benjamin rush: Letters of Benjamin Rush Lyman Henry Butterfield, 2019-08-06 Volume 1 of 2. Full of flavor and zest, this collection of over 650 letters, two-thirds of them never printed before, is a companion piece to Rush's Autobiography. Written between 1761 and 1813, the letters trace Rush's career, from student in Scotland and England to signer of the Declaration of Independence and Philadelphia's leading physician. He writes to John Adams, Franklin, Jefferson, Witherspoon, and a host of others. Two fascinating series of letters chronicle the failures of the hospital service in the Revolutionary War and the Philadelphia yellow-fever epidemic of 1793. Rush the private individual is revealed in the letters to his wife. Published for the American Philosophical Society. Lyman Butterfield is associate editor of *The Papers of Thomas Jefferson* Originally published in 1951. The Princeton Legacy Library uses the latest print-on-demand technology to again make available previously out-of-print books from the distinguished backlist of Princeton University Press. These editions preserve the original texts of these important books while presenting them in durable paperback and hardcover editions. The goal of the Princeton Legacy Library is to vastly increase access to the rich scholarly heritage found in the thousands of books published by Princeton University Press since its founding in 1905.

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letters of benjamin rush 1761 1792 benjamin rush: Letters of Benjamin Rush L. H. Butterfield, 1951

letters of benjamin rush 1761 1792 benjamin rush: Early Nineteenth Century Chemistry and the Analysis of Urinary Stones E. Allen Driggers, 2023-07-13 This book tells the story of how chemists, physicians, and surgeons attempted to end the problem of urinary stones. From the late eighteenth to the early nineteenth centuries, chemists wanted to understand why the body formed urinary, pancreatic, and other bodily stones. Chemical analysis was an exciting new means of

understanding these stones and researchers hoped of possibly preventing their formation entirely. Physicians and surgeons also hoped that, with improved chemical analysis, they would eventually identify substances that would reduce the size of stones, leading to their easier removal from the body. Urinary stones and other stones of the body caused the boundaries of surgery, chemistry, and medicine to blur. The problem of the stone was transformational and spurred collaboration between chemistry and medicine. Some radical physicians in America and Britain combined this nascent medical advancement with older disciplines, like humoral theory. Chemists, surgeons, and physicians in Charleston, Philadelphia, and London focused on the stones of the body. Chemical societies and museums also involved themselves in the problem of the stone. Meanwhile, institutions in Charleston, Philadelphia, and London served as repositories of specimens for testing and study as previously disparate practitioners and disciplines worked toward the comprehensive knowledge that could, perhaps, end suffering from stones. The primary audience of this book is historically-minded chemists, surgeons, physicians, and museum professionals.

letters of benjamin rush 1761 1792 benjamin rush: *Liberty's Prisoners* Jen Manion, 2015-10-29 *Liberty's Prisoners* examines how changing attitudes about work, freedom, property, and family shaped the creation of the penitentiary system in the United States. The first penitentiary was founded in Philadelphia in 1790, a period of great optimism and turmoil in the Revolution's wake. Those who were previously dependents with no legal standing—women, enslaved people, and indentured servants—increasingly claimed their own right to life, liberty, and happiness. A diverse cast of women and men, including immigrants, African Americans, and the Irish and Anglo-American poor, struggled to make a living. Vagrancy laws were used to crack down on those who visibly challenged longstanding social hierarchies while criminal convictions carried severe sentences for even the most trivial property crimes. The penitentiary was designed to reestablish order, both behind its walls and in society at large, but the promise of reformative incarceration failed from its earliest years. Within this system, women served a vital function, and *Liberty's Prisoners* is the first book to bring to life the experience of African American, immigrant, and poor white women imprisoned in early America. Always a minority of prisoners, women provided domestic labor within the institution and served as model inmates, more likely to submit to the authority of guards, inspectors, and reformers. White men, the primary targets of reformative incarceration, challenged authorities at every turn while African American men were increasingly segregated and denied access to reform. *Liberty's Prisoners* chronicles how the penitentiary, though initially designed as an alternative to corporal punishment for the most egregious of offenders, quickly became a repository for those who attempted to lay claim to the new nation's promise of liberty.

letters of benjamin rush 1761 1792 benjamin rush: *A History of American Philosophy* Herbert Wallace Schneider, 1946-01-01 The present work treats of several aspects of American philosophy in their historical perspective. The author has interpreted philosophically the revolutionary changes that recent years have brought in the domain of education, church, politics, natural sciences etc. The reader will find herein that American Philosophy is the outgrowth of impacts of new life and new directions imported by waves of immigration. More conspicuous are the recent intellectual imports from Cambridge, Paris and Vienna. The philosophical analysis that grew up in Cambridge under the leadership of Whitehead, Russell and Moore, the sophisticated, modernized versions of Catholic scholasticism from Paris and the schools of value theory, existentialism, phenomenology, logical positivism, psychoanalysis, and socialism from Vienna--these are now pervasive forces in American culture. The author has ventured to predict that the types of philosophical thought described in this volume are being radically revised, reviewed and reconstructed because of these new importations that a decidedly new chapter in American philosophy is being written. The author has tried well to expound what American history teaches or what American philosophy stands for.

letters of benjamin rush 1761 1792 benjamin rush: Women and American Judaism Pamela Susan Nadell, Jonathan D. Sarna, 2001 New portrayals of the religious lives of American Jewish women from colonial times to the present.

letters of benjamin rush 1761 1792 benjamin rush: Being American in Europe, 1750-1860 Daniel Kilbride, 2013-05-15 When eighteenth- and nineteenth-century Americans made their Grand Tour of Europe, what did they learn about themselves? While visiting Europe In 1844, Harry McCall of Philadelphia wrote to his cousin back home of his disappointment. He didn't mind Paris, but he preferred the company of Americans to Parisians. Furthermore, he vowed to be "an American, heart and soul" wherever he traveled, but "particularly in England." Why was he in Europe if he found it so distasteful? After all, travel in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries was expensive, time consuming, and frequently uncomfortable. Being American in Europe, 1750-1860 tracks the adventures of American travelers while exploring large questions about how these experiences affected national identity. Daniel Kilbride searched the diaries, letters, published accounts, and guidebooks written between the late colonial period and the Civil War. His sources are written by people who, while prominent in their own time, are largely obscure today, making this account fresh and unusual. Exposure to the Old World generated varied and contradictory concepts of American nationality. Travelers often had diverse perspectives because of their region of origin, race, gender, and class. Americans in Europe struggled with the tension between defining the United States as a distinct civilization and situating it within a wider world. Kilbride describes how these travelers defined themselves while they observed the politics, economy, morals, manners, and customs of Europeans. He locates an increasingly articulate and refined sense of simplicity and virtue among these visitors and a gradual disappearance of their feelings of awe and inferiority.

letters of benjamin rush 1761 1792 benjamin rush: Child Welfare: Historical perspectives Nick Frost, 2005 This collection focuses on child welfare in its specific sense: welfare and social interventions with children and young people undertaken by State bodies or NGO's. The term 'child welfare' is deployed differently in diverse international settings. In the United Kingdom child welfare tends to refer to individualised programmes for children who have experienced problems in their lives. In India, to take a contrasting example, it can also refer to major housing and nutrition programmes. This collection takes an inclusive approach to international perspectives. The collection is completed by a new general introduction by the editor, individual volume introductions, and a full index. Titles also available in this series include, Medical Sociology (November 2004, 4 Volumes, 495) and the forthcoming collection Health Care Systems (2005, 3 Volumes, c.395).

letters of benjamin rush 1761 1792 benjamin rush: Perceptions of Battle Jeff Dacus, 2024-05-15 A new perspective on the Battle of Monmouth from the first-person accounts of those who took part in the battle. After spending a difficult winter at Valley Forge, George Washington led the Continental Army in pursuit of the British Army moving from Philadelphia to New York City. On June 28, 1778, the army caught up with the British and defeated them at Monmouth Court House. The principal figure in the battle is George Washington. His planning, his orders, and his actions on the battlefield dominate the story. After the first rebuff of his advance guard under Charles Lee, it is Washington who matched each movement of the enemy with decisive actions of his own. In doing so he attained a tactical victory on the battlefield that had major strategic implications. Because of his leadership, and the actions of his army, both he and the Continental Army gained renewed respect from Congress, the American people, and the enemy. Washington's success solidified his position as the face of the Revolutionary effort. While the Congress was often ineffectual or even nonexistent, Washington and his army became the symbol of the Revolution. Modern authors have contributed greatly to our knowledge of the battle of Monmouth but in doing so have tried to interpret or analyze it through our modern point of view, losing sight of what happened, disregarding the perceptions, opinions, and conclusions of the people who took part in the battle and its aftermath. This book is different in that it uses only first-person accounts to reach conclusions or render judgments. In addition to changing the perceptions of the victory of the Continental Army, modern historians have distorted the story further through the court martial of Charles Lee in the aftermath of the battle, giving it undue importance.

letters of benjamin rush 1761 1792 benjamin rush: Social Structure of Revolutionary America Jackson Turner Main, 2015-12-08 Professor Main's conviction is that an understanding of

political history in Colonial America depends on a knowledge of the country's underlying social structure. To provide this he examines different types of societies in revolutionary America between 1763 and 1788: frontier, subsistence farm, commercial farm, urban. He studies in detail the nature of land ownership, distribution of property and income, relations between income levels and culture, and the extent of social mobility. Thousands of probate and. tax records are examined to provide an analysis of the economic class structure of a new nation. Traditional historical techniques are combined with a conceptual framework from sociology relating to class structure, stratification, and mobility. Originally published in 1965. The Princeton Legacy Library uses the latest print-on-demand technology to again make available previously out-of-print books from the distinguished backlist of Princeton University Press. These editions preserve the original texts of these important books while presenting them in durable paperback and hardcover editions. The goal of the Princeton Legacy Library is to vastly increase access to the rich scholarly heritage found in the thousands of books published by Princeton University Press since its founding in 1905.

letters of benjamin rush 1761 1792 benjamin rush: The Law of American State Constitutions Robert F. Williams, Lawrence Friedman, 2023 The second edition of *The Law of American State Constitutions* provides complete coverage of the legal doctrines surrounding, applying to, and arising from American state constitutions and their judicial interpretation. Drawing on examples from specific states, Professors Williams and Friedman analyze the nature and function of state constitutions in contrast to the federal Constitution, including rights, separation of powers, issues of interpretation, and the processes for amendment and revision. In this edition, Williams and Friedman focus on recent developments, including the state constitutional dimensions of same-sex marriage and the reaction of state courts to U.S. Supreme Court decision making. This edition of *The Law of American State Constitutions* remains an important analytical tool that explains the unique character and the range of interpretive approaches to these constitutions. It covers the structure of state governments under state constitutions as well as the distribution of powers among the legislative, executive, and judicial branches. Like the first edition, this edition presents a complete picture of state constitutional law and the attributes and features that make this body of law so distinctive.

letters of benjamin rush 1761 1792 benjamin rush: A Spirit of Dialogue Christopher N. Okonkwo, 2008 A groundbreaking study, *A Spirit of Dialogue* examines through extensive, interdisciplinary research, theory, and close reading the intricate reconstructions, extensions, and resonances of the West African myth of spirit children, the Born-to-Die, in contemporary African American neo-slave narratives. Arguing that the myth, called *Ogbañje* in Igbo language and *àbíkú* in Yoruba, has had over thirty years of uncharted presence in African American literature, Okonkwo advances a compelling case absent in extant scholarship. He traces *Ogbañje*/the Born-to-Die's appearance in African American texts to a convergence of factors. They include but are not limited to: the impact of Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart*; the 1960s emergence of the contemporary neo-slave narrative; the 1960s and 1970s black consciousness/Black Power movement and the cultural agenda, gendered politics, and centripetal philosophy of the Black Arts movement's nationalist aesthetic; African American identity questions of the post-civil rights and the multicultural eras; and the thematic shifts, as well as the African diaspora orientation of African American fiction of the post-nationalist aesthetic period. *A Spirit of Dialogue* focuses on the sometimes neglected and understudied works of four canonical African American writers: Octavia E. Butler's *Wild Seed* and *Mind of My Mind*, Tananarive Due's *The Between*, John Edgar Wideman's *The Cattle Killing*, and Toni Morrison's *Sula* and *Beloved*. Okonkwo demonstrates persuasively how the mythic spirit child informs the content and form of these novels, offering Butler, Due, Wideman, and Morrison a non-occidental code by which to engage collectively with the various issues integral to the history experience of African-descended people. The paradigm functions, then, as the nexus of a life-affirmative dialogue among the six novels, as well as between them and other works of African religious and literary imagination, particularly *Things Fall Apart* and Ben Okri's *The Famished Road*.

letters of benjamin rush 1761 1792 benjamin rush: Benjamin Rush; Revolutionary

Gadfly David Freeman Hawke, 1971 This volume covers 43 years of Benjamin Rush's moderately long, inordinately full life, which ended in 1813, shortly after he had reached 68. Most people, if they know anything about Rush, think of him principally as a physician. He is considered one of the most influential doctors in American history. The medical side of Rush's career is not, however, emphasized in this book, for his fame as a physician rests mainly on work done during the last 25 years of his life. Medicine occupied Rush's mind and time only incidentally during the American Revolution. - Preface.

letters of benjamin rush 1761 1792 benjamin rush: Theology and Spirituality in the Works of Samuel Davies Joseph C. Harrod, 2019-06-17 From his death in 1761 through the American Civil War, Samuel Davies was a recognized name among American Presbyterians, yet for more than a century he has remained far more obscure in discussions of American religion. During the mid-Eighteenth Century, New Side Presbyterian evangelist and preacher Samuel Davies was a pioneer for religious toleration in Colonial America, yet to date no single work has examined Davies' vision for the interior life. Theology and Spirituality in the Works of Samuel Davies is the first monograph-length analysis of Davies' conception of Christian spirituality. After a decade of pastoral ministry to congregations in Virginia, Davies followed eminent American theologian Jonathan Edwards as the fourth President of the College of New Jersey (Princeton University), a tenure cut short by his early death at age thirty-seven. J.C. Harrod examines various aspects of Davies' own personal piety as well as the place that Scripture, conversion, holiness, and the means of grace played in his formulation of Christian piety.

letters of benjamin rush 1761 1792 benjamin rush: *The Founders and the Idea of a National University* George Thomas, 2015 Constituting the American Mind is about early efforts to establish a national university and what those efforts say about the nature and logic of American Constitutionalism. This book offers the first in depth study of the efforts to establish a national university from a constitutional perspective. While mostly noted in passing, the national university was put forward by every president from Washington to John Quincy Adams as a necessary supplement to the formal institutions of government; it would help constitute the American mind in a manner that carried forward the ideas the constitution rested on including, for example, the separation of the civic from the theological.--

letters of benjamin rush 1761 1792 benjamin rush: The Contagious City Simon Finger, 2012-05-03 By the time William Penn was planning the colony that would come to be called Pennsylvania, with Philadelphia at its heart, Europeans on both sides of the ocean had long experience with the hazards of city life, disease the most terrifying among them. Drawing from those experiences, colonists hoped to create new urban forms that combined the commercial advantages of a seaport with the health benefits of the country. The Contagious City details how early Americans struggled to preserve their collective health against both the strange new perils of the colonial environment and the familiar dangers of the traditional city, through a period of profound transformation in both politics and medicine. Philadelphia was the paramount example of this reforming tendency. Tracing the city's history from its founding on the banks of the Delaware River in 1682 to the yellow fever outbreak of 1793, Simon Finger emphasizes the importance of public health and population control in decisions made by the city's planners and leaders. He also shows that key figures in the city's history, including Benjamin Franklin and Benjamin Rush, brought their keen interest in science and medicine into the political sphere. Throughout his account, Finger makes clear that medicine and politics were inextricably linked, and that both undergirded the debates over such crucial concerns as the city's location, its urban plan, its immigration policy, and its creation of institutions of public safety. In framing the history of Philadelphia through the imperatives of public health, The Contagious City offers a bold new vision of the urban history of colonial America.

letters of benjamin rush 1761 1792 benjamin rush: *Executing Democracy* Stephen John Hartnett, 2012-01-01 Executing Democracy: Capital Punishment & the Making of America, 1683-1807 is the first volume of a rhetorical history of public debates about crime, violence, and

capital punishment in America. This examination begins in 1683, when William Penn first struggled to govern the rowdy indentured servants of Philadelphia, and continues up until 1807, when the Federalists sought to impose law-and-order upon the New Republic. This volume offers a lively historical overview of how crime, violence, and capital punishment influenced the settling of the New World, the American Revolution, and the frantic post-war political scrambling to establish norms that would govern the new republic. By presenting a macro-historical overview, and by filling the arguments with voices from different political camps and communicative genres, Hartnett provides readers with fresh perspectives for understanding the centrality of public debates about capital punishment to the history of American democracy.

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