

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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EARLY AMERICAN WEATHER RECORDS

As far as known the first regular record of the weather on the American continent was kept by the Rev. Johann Campanius near the present site of Wilmington, Delaware, in the years 1644-45. No instruments were used in making the observations. The original record is lost, but a published abstract exists.

A regular record of weather observations, made without instruments, was kept at Boston, Mass., in 1729-30 by the Hon. Paul Dudley, chief justice of Massachusetts.

Thermometer readings were taken regularly twice a day near Germantown, Pa., from Nov. 31, 1731, to Oct. 29, 1732, by a German, whose name has not been preserved. The results were published by C. Kirch in Berlin, Germany.

Regular weather observations were made at Charleston (then Charlestown), South Carolina, with instruments (barometer, thermometer, rain-gauge and hygroscope), by Dr. John Lining, 1738-50. The series was continued in 1750-59 by Dr. Chalmers.

Regular weather records were kept at Cambridge, Mass., 1742-1778, by Prof. John Winthrop, of Harvard College.

Meteorological records were kept in 1748 by John Bartram at his botanical garden in the environs of Philadelphia, Pa.

Meteorological records were kept by Dr. Richard Brooke near Baltimore, Md., 1753-55.

Francis Fauquier, lieutenant governor of Virginia, kept a meteorological record at Williamsburg, Va., 1760-62.

The earliest known weather observations in Canada were those taken by Alexander Rose at Quebec from April, 1765, to April, 1766.

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