



Nellie M. Gorbea
Secretary of State

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Ann Franklyn petition, 1736

In 1736 Ann Franklyn, the sister-in-law of Benjamin Franklin, petitioned the General Assembly for the commission to print the records of state government. (Spelling was not consistent in the 18th century, even among family members.) Franklyn would go on to become the first female newspaper editor in America.

To the Honorable General Assembly Convened at Providence in his Majesties Colony of Rhode Island the last Wednesday of October AD 1736

Petition of Ann Franklyn, the widow of James Franklyn late of Newport aforesaid Printer Deceased, Humbly showeth whereas your Petitioner being left with Several Small Children which is a great Charge to her, & having not Sufficient Business Printing Trade, Humbly Prays your Honours will grant her favour to Print the Acts of the Colony & what other things that shall be Lawful and Necessary to be printed in order for your Petitioners Support & Maintenance of her family having no other way to Support her Self then thereby, Your Honour Petitioner Shall Ever Pray

Ann Franklyn

This primary source comes from the Rhode Island State Archives, C#165 – Petitions to the General Assembly, Vol. 3 # 82.