



Measuring & Observing Weather Phenomena

Benjamin Rittenhouse was born in Norriton, Pennsylvania in 1740. He was a clockmaker and maker of surveying instruments including compasses. In 1776, the Pennsylvania Council of Safety decided it would be a good idea to assure an uninterrupted supply of arms. Benjamin Rittenhouse was appointed to organize and operate a factory to mass produce gun locks.

Rittenhouse kept a daily record of the temperature, wind direction and sky conditions at 6 am and 3 pm. in Worcester, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.¹

Make observations and measurements about the weather in your locality for one month.

Use online or news resources for data, if you do not have the necessary instruments.

Measure the variables Mr. Rittenhouse measured.

Add two more variables. At least one should be quantitative.

Make a spreadsheet table to organize your data collection.

Select two of the numeric variables. Make a chart for each showing trending.

Check out – *The Pennsylvania Weather Book* by Ben Gelber preview in Google Books for lots of interesting Pennsylvania weather facts.

¹ A Historian's View of Anderson's *Fever 1793*,
<http://www.geocities.com/bobarnebeck/children.html>