

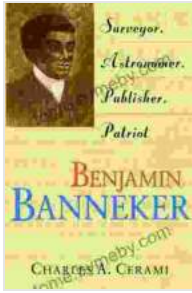
# Benjamin Banneker: Surveyor, Astronomer, Publisher, Patriot



## Benjamin Banneker: Surveyor, Astronomer, Publisher, Patriot by Charles A. Cerami

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

Language : English



File size	: 2848 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 272 pages



Benjamin Banneker was an African-American polymath who made significant contributions to science, astronomy, and the American Revolution. He was born in 1731 in Baltimore County, Maryland, to a free black woman and a white indentured servant. Banneker's father died when he was young, and he was raised by his mother, who taught him to read and write. He also showed a natural talent for mathematics and astronomy.

In 1753, Banneker began working as a surveyor for the Maryland-Virginia boundary commission. He quickly gained a reputation for his accuracy and skill, and he was instrumental in surveying the boundary between the two states. In 1791, he was appointed by President George Washington to help survey the new federal district of Columbia.

In addition to his work as a surveyor, Banneker was also an accomplished astronomer. He was self-taught, and he made extensive observations of the stars and planets. In 1792, he published an almanac that contained his astronomical calculations. The almanac was a popular success, and it helped to establish Banneker as one of the leading astronomers in the United States.

Banneker was also a vocal advocate for the abolition of slavery. He wrote several essays and letters on the subject, and he helped to organize the Maryland Society for the Abolition of Slavery. He also corresponded with Thomas Jefferson on the issue of slavery, and he criticized Jefferson for his ownership of slaves.

Banneker died in 1806 at the age of 74. He is buried in Baltimore, Maryland. His legacy as a scientist, astronomer, and abolitionist continues to inspire people today.

### **Banneker's Contributions to Science**

Banneker made significant contributions to science in several fields, including astronomy, mathematics, and surveying. He was a gifted astronomer, and he made extensive observations of the stars and planets. He was also a skilled mathematician, and he developed several mathematical formulas that were used in surveying and astronomy.

One of Banneker's most important contributions to science was his work on the Maryland-Virginia boundary commission. He was responsible for surveying the boundary between the two states, and he developed a new method for surveying that was more accurate than the methods that were used at the time. His work on the boundary commission helped to establish the boundary between the two states, and it also helped to improve the accuracy of surveying in general.

Banneker was also a gifted publisher. In 1792, he published an almanac that contained his astronomical calculations. The almanac was a popular success, and it helped to establish Banneker as one of the leading

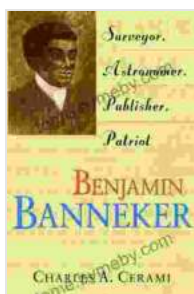
astronomers in the United States. The almanac also contained essays on a variety of topics, including slavery, astronomy, and mathematics.

## Banneker's Legacy

Banneker's legacy as a scientist, astronomer, and abolitionist continues to inspire people today. He was a pioneer in the field of science, and he made significant contributions to astronomy, mathematics, and surveying. He was also a vocal advocate for the abolition of slavery, and he helped to organize the Maryland Society for the Abolition of Slavery. His work and his life are a testament to the power of the human spirit, and he continues to be an inspiration to people all over the world.

## Additional Resources

- Benjamin Banneker: Scientist and Patriot (Library of Congress)
- Benjamin Banneker (PBS American Experience)
- Benjamin Banneker (University at Buffalo Department of Mathematics)



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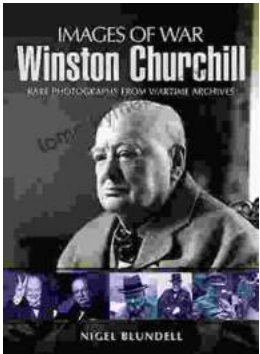
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