What was floating above Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on January 9, 1793. It was Jean-Pierre Francois Blanchard on the first manned hot-air balloon flight in American History. Observed by president George Washington, the balloon stay in the air for about 15 miles and 45 minutes. Blanchard's flight sparked national interest in ballooning. It's reported that he took just one passenger with him on the flight -- a little black dog!