



The life & family of William Penn *260 years of bloody colonial history*

Jim McNeill



Thanks to all at
Bluestockings
for hosting this
evening's talk

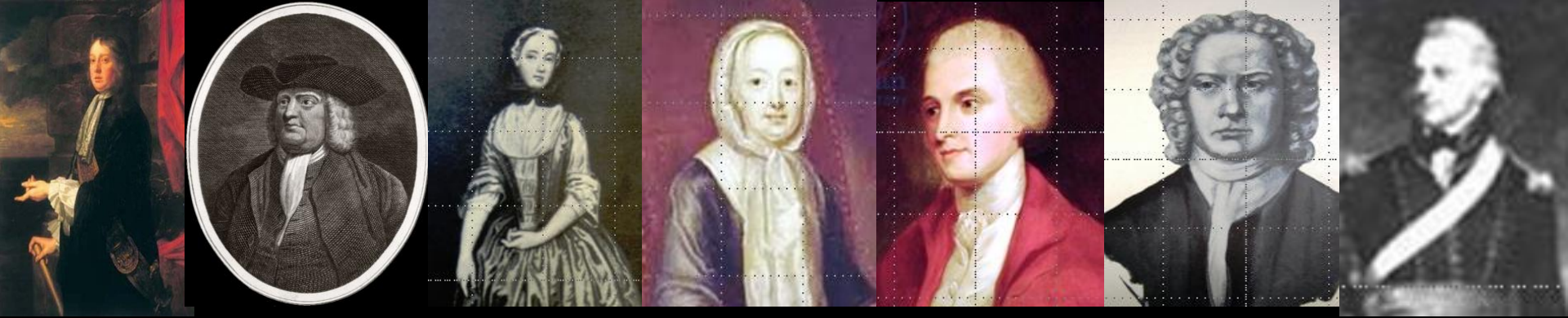
The Life & Family of William Penn

260 Years of Bloody Colonial History



Jim McNeill

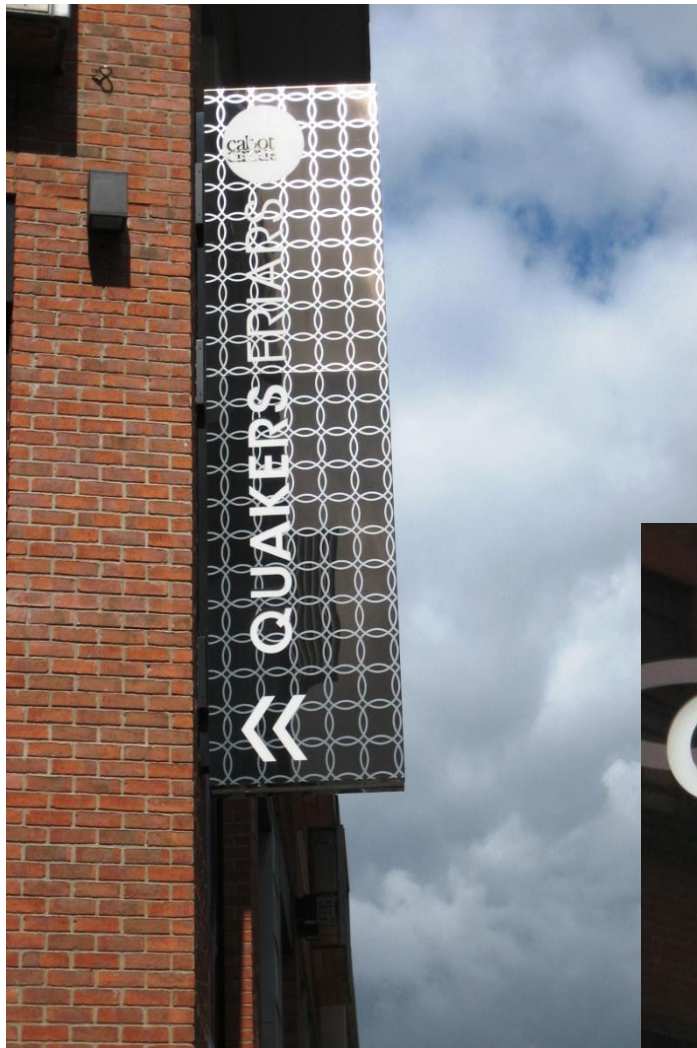
BRISTOL RADICAL
PAMPHLETEER #18



My interest in the Penn family

- Moved to Bristol, England – over 20 years ago
 - Living Easton:
 - Centre of Quaker brass & copper ware manufacture
 - Slave trade

Quakers Friars Central Bristol



PENN STREET

PHILADELPHIA STREET

Cabot Circus

BS1

HOLLISTER STREET

Cabot Circus

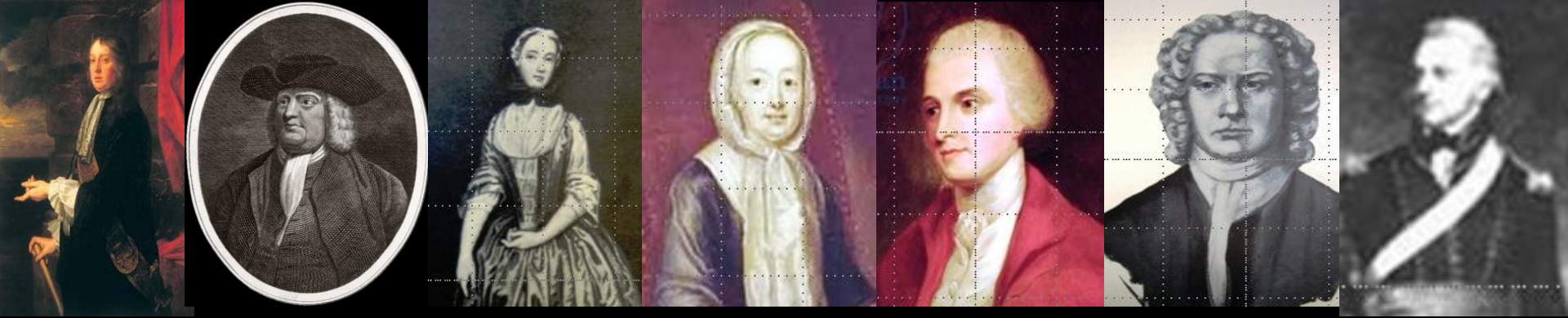
BS1

cabot
circus

Dennis Hollister, a revolutionary and one of Bristol's first Quakers, owned Bristol's *Dominican Friary* and its grounds where, *Hollister, Penn, Philadelphia* and *Callowhill Streets* were built.



Cutler's Hall: ex-Quaker meeting house, site of William Penn's 2nd marriage



The Penns were at the heart of:

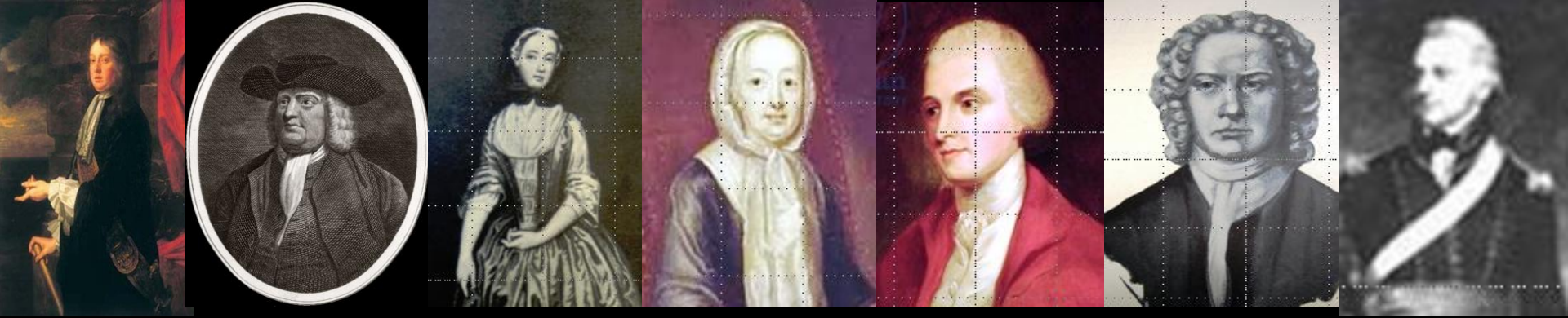
- English Revolution (1640-49)
- English colonial expansion

Portrayed in Bristol:

- brave seafarers
- benevolent colonialists
- saintly reverence....



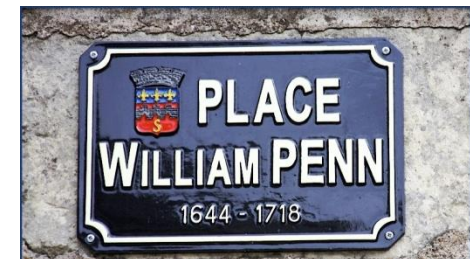
and not only in Bristol.....



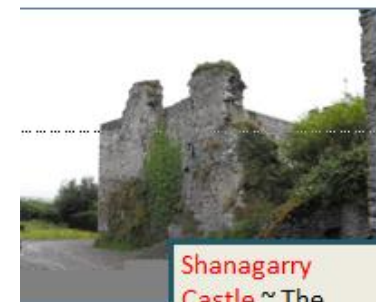
1984 William Penn and Hannah Callowhill declared US Honorary Citizens by Reagan



2012 Saumur, France ~ town square dedicated to William Penn

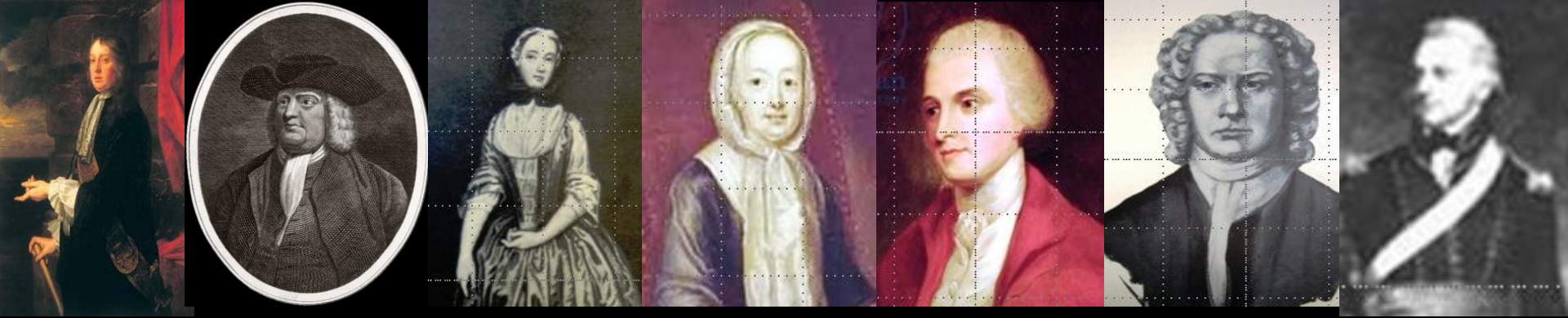


20?? Shanagarry, Ireland ~ plans to develop a William Penn Tourist Centre



Shanagarry Castle ~ The "Penn Story" is to be the centre of new visitor attraction

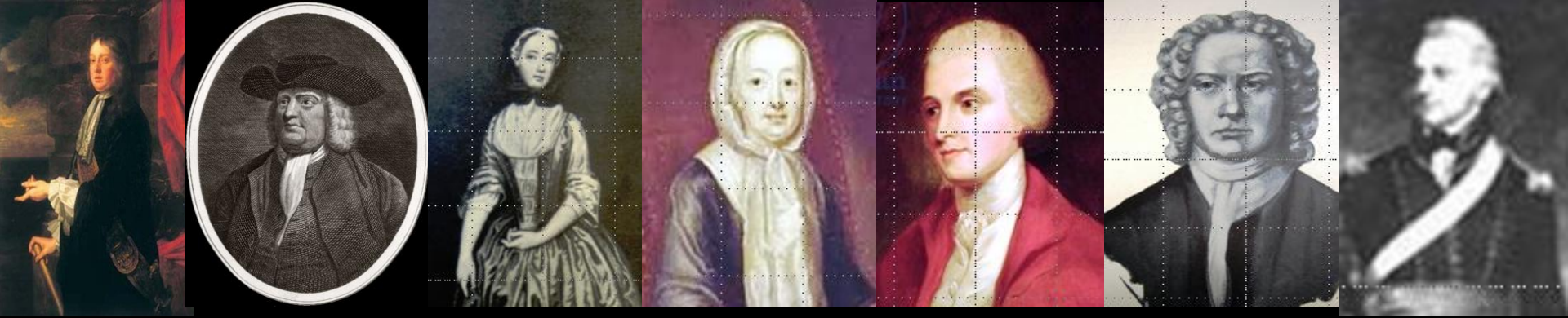




This counterblast:

- How they accumulated their wealth
- Slavery: the Penns, Pennsylvania Quakers

Discussion



The links between different generations of the Penn family hasn't been told:

£ *'cos no one's followed the money* **\$**



Bristol and

The European tra
It brought wealth
the long history o
slave trade lasted
economic importan
goods and raw co
of human beings

WEST AFRICA

SOUTH AMERICA



**Captain
Giles Penn
(c1573 -
c1656)**

=



**Jeanne
Gilbert**



**Admiral Sir
William Penn
(1621 - 1670)**

=



**Margaret
Jasper
(d.1682)**



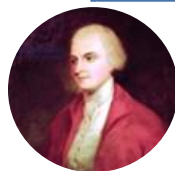
**William Penn =
(Quaker)
(1644 - 1718)**



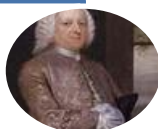
**Gulielma
Springett
(1644 - 1694)**



**Hannah
Callowhill
(1671 -
1726)**



**John Penn
(1700 - 1746)**



**Thomas Penn (1702-75) & son
John (1760 - 1834)**





**Captain
Giles Penn**
(c1573 -
c1656)

=



**Jeanne
Gilbert**



**Admiral Sir
William Penn**
(1621 - 1670)

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**Margaret
Jasper**
(d.1682)



William Penn
(Quaker)
(1644 - 1718)

=



**Gulielma Maria
Springett**
(1644 - 1694)



Hannah Callowhill
(1671 - 1726)



John Penn
(1700 - 1746)



Thomas Penn
(1702 - 1775)



John Penn
(1760 - 1834)

Captain Giles Penn (c1573 - c1656) and Jeanne Gilbert

Born in Minety,
Wiltshire, England.



Captain Giles Penn (c1573 - c1656) and Jeanne Gilbert

Giles's father was a law clerk at Malmesbury (near Minety) and chief clerk to counsellor at law.



Captain Giles Penn (c1573 - c1656) and Jeanne Gilbert

Giles' grandfather, William Penn of Minety (d.1591), was an important local figure .

Buried before the alter in Minety's St Leonards Church & a commemorative plaque erected.



Captain Giles Penn (c1573 - c1656) and Jeanne Gilbert

1600:

Giles Penn married Jeanne Gilbert (of Somerset) at prestigious St Mary Redcliffe Church, Bristol.

Jeanne was later buried in the same church.



Captain Giles Penn (c1573 - c1656) & George Penn (c1582-1632)

By 1618: Giles and his younger brother, George, were merchants based in Bristol

Giles took up 'merchant adventuring', inc: trade with Morocco and with Moorish Merchants off the Barbary coast.



Captain Giles Penn (c1573 - c1656)

Establishing Royal connections

c1631:

Giles obtained hawks and horses from Morocco for King Charles I ~ given *Letters of Protection* from the King



1637:

Appointed, by Charles I, as Consul to the Barbary region to:
'execute that office by himself and his deputies in Morocco and Fez during the king's pleasure [and] as consults in other parts of Turkey.'

Captain Giles Penn (c1573 - c1656) and George Penn (c1582-1632)

George Penn

- migrated to **Massachusetts**, died 1632

Giles died c1656 ~ in North Africa (?)

So, the Penns had:

- **established Royal connections**
- **trading links with England, Africa and North America**
- **accumulated mercantile wealth**



Captain
Giles Penn
(c1573 -
c1656)

=



Jeanne
Gilbert



Admiral Sir
William Penn
(1621 - 1670)

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Margaret
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William Penn
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Thomas Penn
(1702 - 1775)



John Penn
(1760 - 1834)

Admiral Sir William Penn (1621-70)

Born in Bristol

Continued family's
international trade



Admiral Sir William Penn (1621-70)



1643:

Aged 22, appointed as a Captain in Cromwell's Navy ~ meteoric rise

Same year, married Margaret Van der Schure (Jasper), at St Mary Redcliffe, Church...

Margaret Penn (Jasper) (b. in England - d.1682)

- Daughter of John Jasper, a wealthy protestant merchant in County Clare, **Ireland**, and Alet Pletjes, whose family was from Kempen, **Prussia**
- Originally married to a '**Dutchman**', Nicasius Van der Schure and lived at Kilconry, Kilrush, County Clare, **Ireland**.
- Inherits Irish estates on her husband's death
- She had a sister, Anne....

Margaret Penn (Jasper) (b. in England - d.1682)

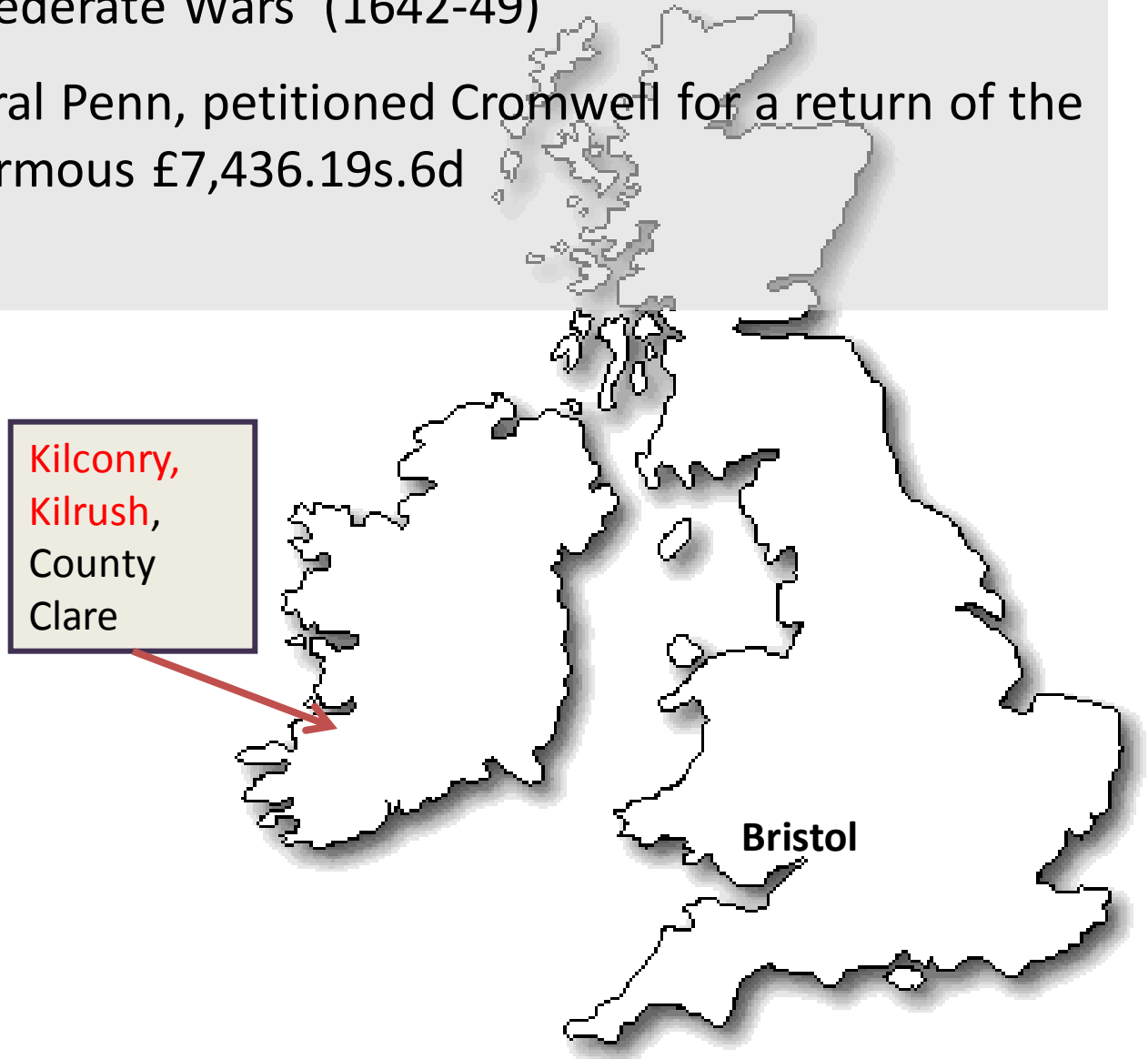
- Her sister, Anne:
 - Married Captain William Crispin:
 - naval captain ~ Commanded by Admiral Penn
 - Crispin lived in occupied Ireland close to the Penns
 - died in Barbados en route to being a Pennsylvania Commissioner
 - this side of the family became involved in the colonization and administration of Pennsylvania

Margaret Penn (Jasper)

She and Admiral Penn abandoned her estates and fled to England during the 'Irish Confederate Wars' (1642-49)

c1653: she and Admiral Penn, petitioned Cromwell for a return of the estates worth an enormous £7,436.19s.6d

Died in Ireland, 1682.



17th Century: Irish Confederate War and Cromwellian conquest

Irish Confederate War:

- Began with the 1641 Rebellion:
 - Irish Catholics against English and Protestant domination
 - Started in Ulster ~ violent rebellious outbreaks around the country
 - Soon involved most Irish Catholic lords
 - Massacres of Protestant settlers , especially in Ulster.

17th Century: Irish Confederate War and Cromwellian conquest

During the English Revolution (1640-1649)

- No English troops available to put down uprising
- Rebels controlled most of Ireland
- Catholic majority ruled the country as “Confederate Ireland” (1642-49)
- The Confederate regime was an ally of Charles I and the Royalists
- Confederates sign formal treaty with the Royalists in 1649.

17th Century: Irish Confederate War and Cromwellian conquest

Royalist victory could have brought an autonomous Catholic-ruled Ireland....but:

- Charles I executed in 1649
- Cromwell conquest of Ireland ~ 1649-53:
 - atrocities, e.g. 1649 massacre of Royalist garrison at Drogheda
 - deportation of prisoners to the West Indies
 - scorched earth policy against Irish guerrilla fighters
 - this led to famine across the country.

17th Century: Irish Confederate War and Cromwellian conquest

English Protestant punishment for the rebellion:

- almost all Catholic-owned lands were confiscated and given to Protestant settlers
- Catholics barred from the Irish Parliament
- Catholics forbidden to live in towns
- Catholics forbidden to marry Protestants
- 400-600,000 people: around a third of Ireland's population died in these wars; from fighting, famine or plague.

Admiral Sir William Penn (1621-70)



1644

Commanded 28-gun warship, *Fellowship* in first war with Holland

1645

Returned to England with 'prizes':

- 4 men-of-war
- 3 'East Indiamen'
- 7 merchant ships

Admiral Sir William Penn (1621-70)



1645: Appointed
vice-Admiral by
Cromwell,
Involved in battle
for **Kinsale**,
Ireland.



Kinsale, significant naval
base in the C17th and
C18th.

Admiral Sir William Penn (1621-70)



1650: as Republican Rear Admiral lead major battle at Macroom, West Cork, Ireland

1656: Awarded Macroom castle and estates

His wife's
estate,
Kilconry,
Kilrush,
County
Clare



Macroom



thanks to Izzy, www.eyeonireland

Admiral Sir William Penn (1621-70)



Penn appointed Vice-Admiral

1652: Significant part in another defeat of the Dutch:

- Appointed *General-at-Sea*

Admiral Sir William Penn (1621-70)



When Penn sent to Ireland to blockade centres of Irish resistance and to relieve centres of protestant power he wrote:

“Nothing whatsoever shall take me from the service I have cordially undertaken; and shall be so prodigal of my blood that I shall think it well spent, and life to boot for the maintenance of so good, so just and so pious a quarrel.”

Admiral Sir William Penn (1621-70)



At some point Admiral Penn
loaned the King-in-exile
£16,000

1654: Offered his services and
his fleet to the exiled King
Charles II

Then in the **same year....**

**1654: appointed
as Cromwell's Sea
General to take
Hispaniola
(Dominican Republic
and Haiti)**

Took Spanish possession of Jamaica.





Admiral Sir William Penn

Slave ownership:

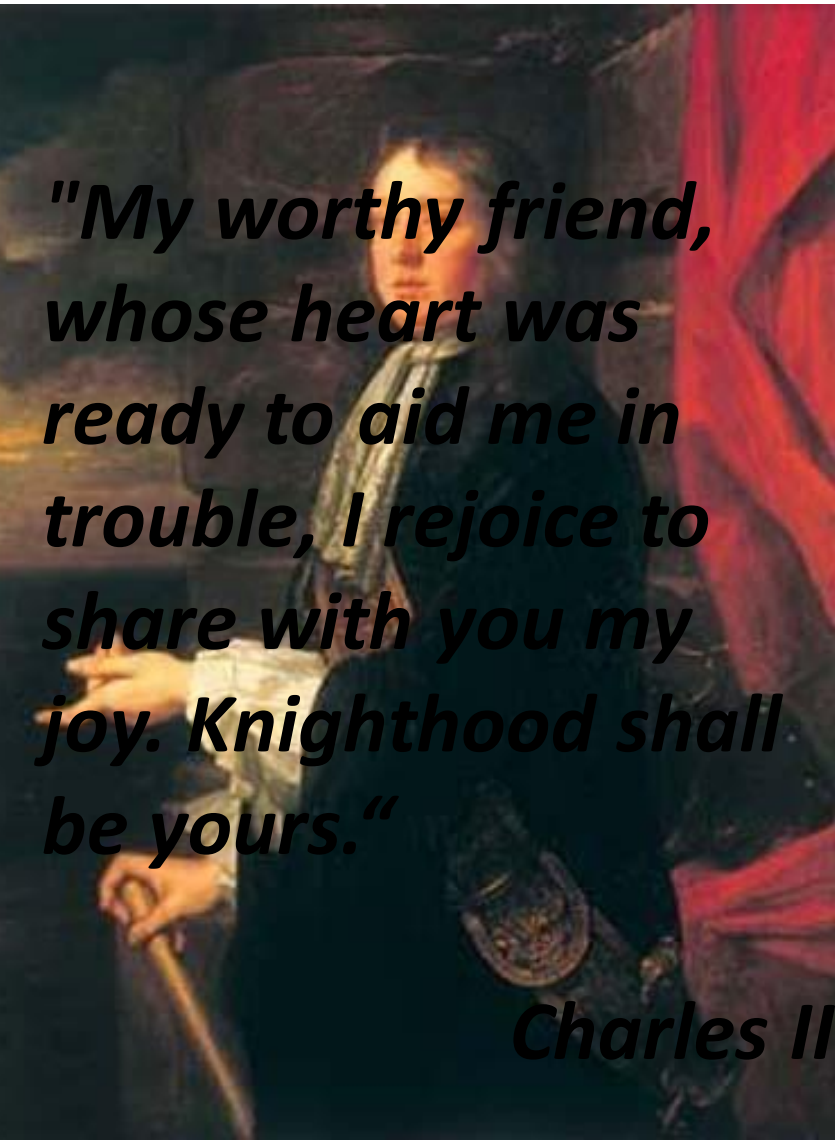
- Returned from Jamaica with a slave, *Sampson*, whom he'd acquired in exchange for *Anthony*
- A “*black servant*” is recorded on his Irish estates
- Owned at least one further slave, *Jack*.

**Admiral Sir William Penn
(1621-70)**

1660: involved in the restoration of the monarchy

Commanded, *The Naseby* fetched Charles II from his exile in Holland

King knights him.



*"My worthy friend,
whose heart was
ready to aid me in
trouble, I rejoice to
share with you my
joy. Knighthood shall
be yours."*

Charles II

Admiral Sir William Penn (1621-70)



King appoints him

- Governor of Kinsale

Awards him

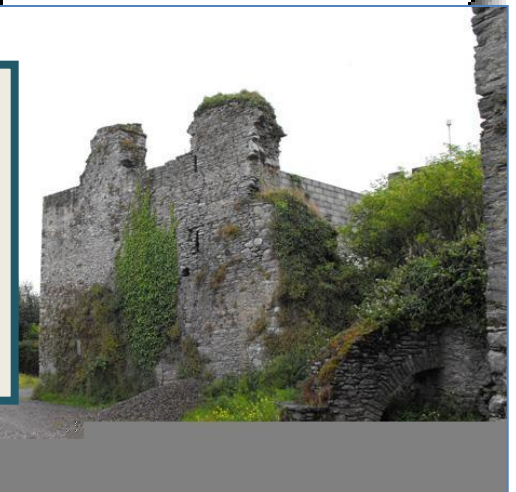
Shanagarry Castle,
County Cork.

His wife's
estate,
Kilconry,
Kilrush

Macroom

Kinsale, 1666: 'One of the
most important harbours
in Europe' ~ was a
significant naval base in
the 17th and 18th
centuries.

Shanagarry ~
The "Penn
Story" is to be
the centre of
new visitor
attraction



Admiral Sir William Penn (1621-70)



Penn retired to the castle and estates of Macroom.

Wrote a code of navel tactics which was later incorporated by the Duke of York (future James II) into his '*Sailing and Fighting Instructions*'; which became the standard text for British naval expansionist tactics for some centuries.

Admiral Sir William Penn (1621-70)



Died 1670:

- Extremely wealthy
- Had expected an earldom from the King
- Tomb in St. Mary Redcliffe Church...



St Mary Redcliffe today



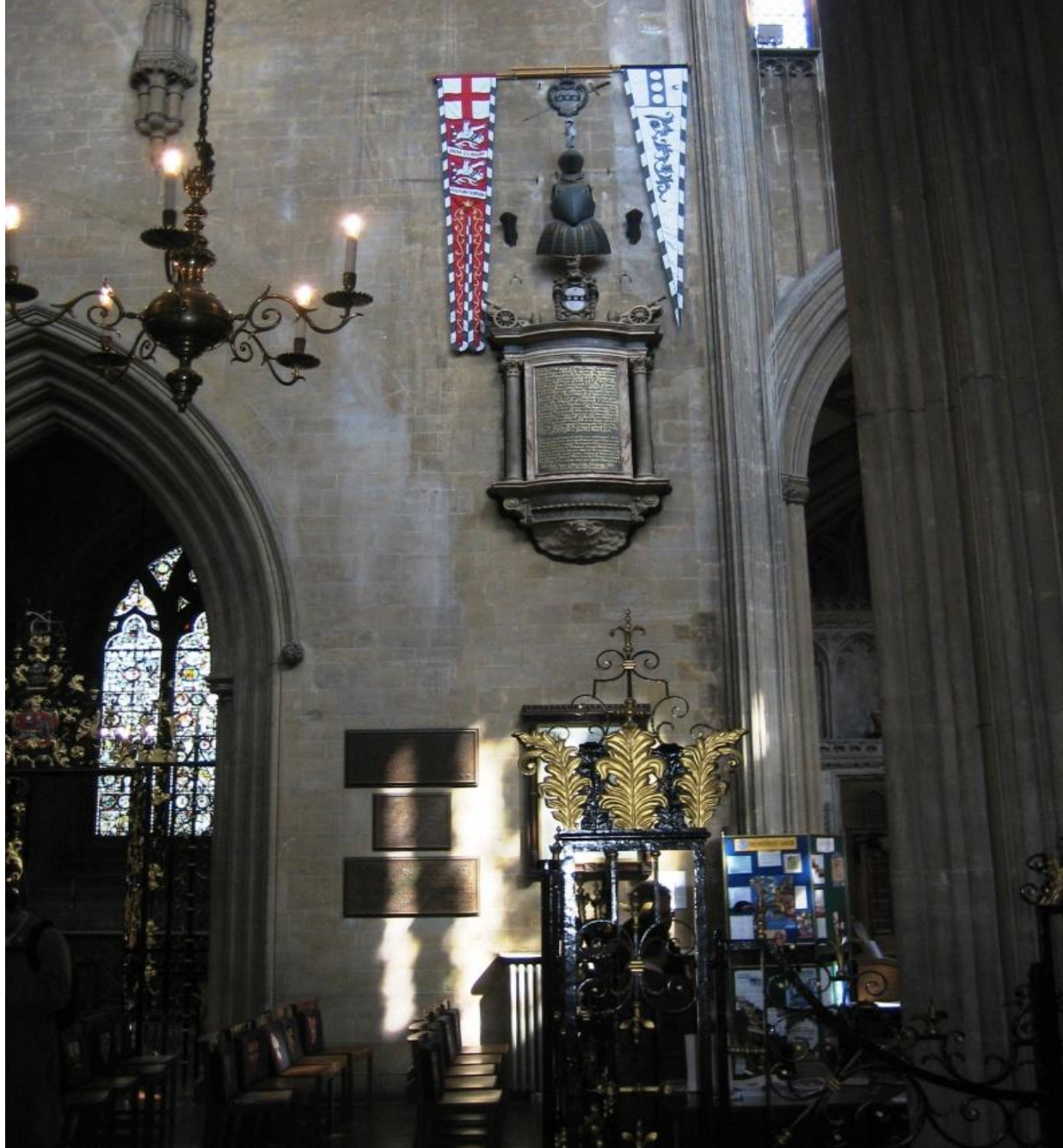
Admiral Sir William Penn's tomb



Admiral Sir William Penn ~ tomb

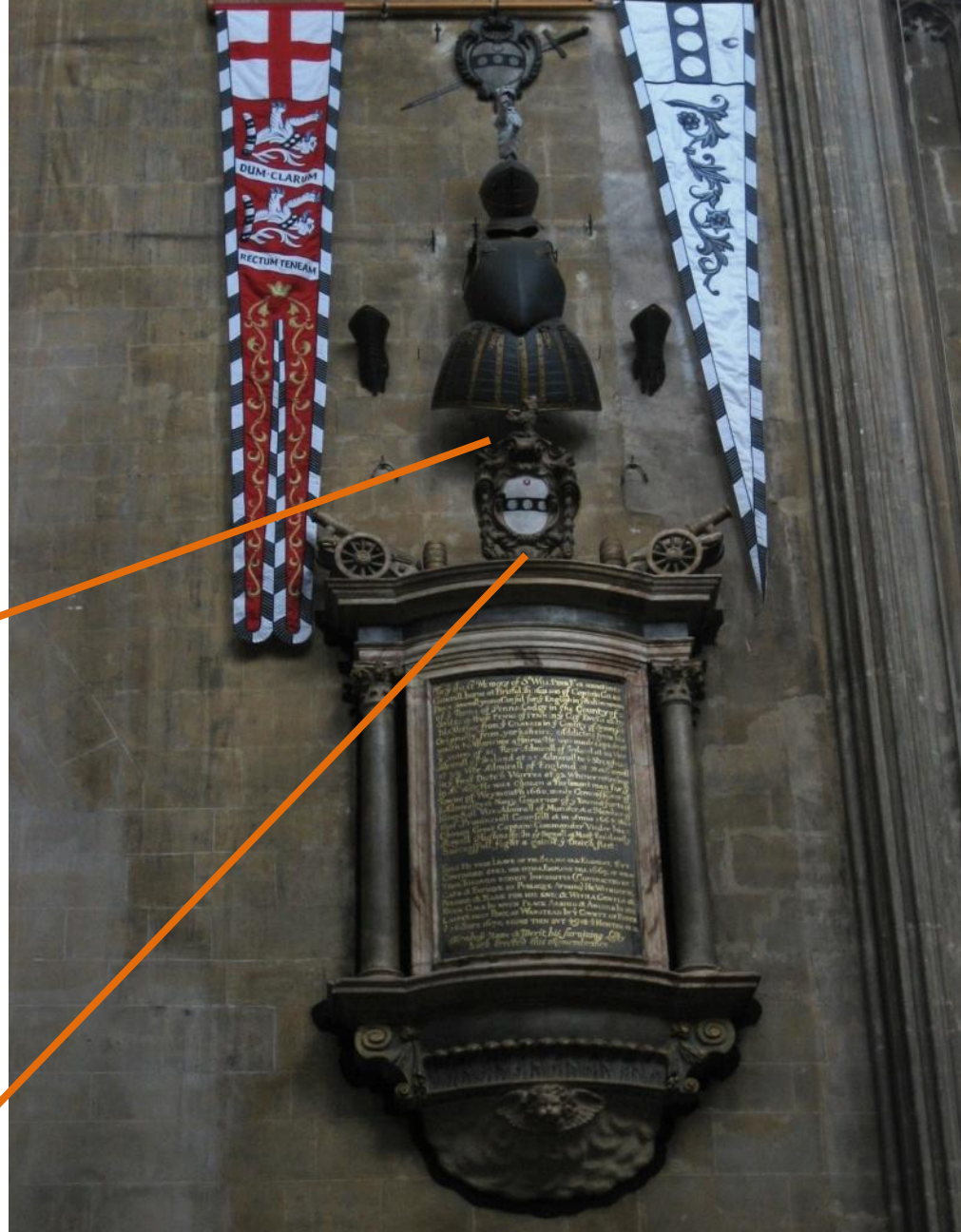


Admiral Sir William Penn – original flags and armour



Admiral Sir William Penn ~ armor & flags

No entitlement of
the Penn family to
use this coat of
arms



Admiral Sir William Penn ~ armor & flags



Fig. 13 William Penn's bookplate in the vestry safe in Holy Trinity Church, Penn



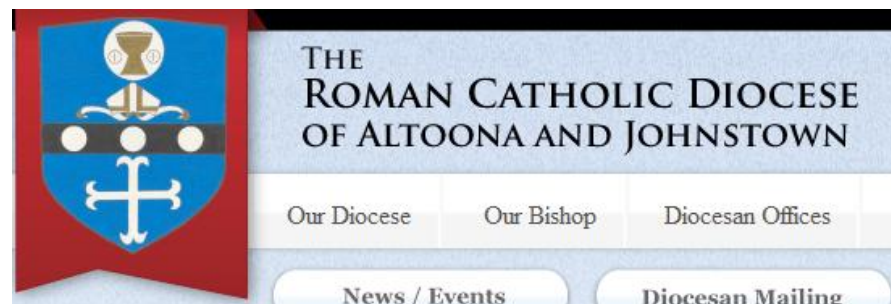
Mercy - Justice



Early C18th map



University of Pennsylvania





Captain
Giles Penn
(c1573 -
c1656)

=



Jeanne
Gilbert



Admiral Sir
William Penn
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John Penn
(1760 -
1834)



Grew up with an acceptance of slave labor.

Identifies with aristocracy

1661: Attended coronation of Charles II ~ then goes on a grand tour of Europe with Earl of Crawford.

William Penn – 1644-1718



1666: Garrison of Carrickfergus mutinied
William Penn served under his friend, Earl of Arran:

- leader, Corporal Dillon killed
- nine executed
- 110 court-marshalled.

Aged 26, Penn inherits Shanagarry estates & castle and £1,500/year.

William Penn – 1644-1718



Carrickfurgus,
County Antrim

Shanagarry ~
William Penn's
inheritance

The "Penn Story" is to be
the centre of a major new
visitor attraction in the
area.

Bristol

THE
Peoples {Ancient
and Just} Liberties
ASSERTED,
IN THE
T R Y A L
O F

William Penn, and William Mead,

At the Sessions held at the *Old-Baily* in London, the
first, third, fourth and fifth of Sept. 70. against
the most Arbitrary procedure of that Court.

Isa. 10. 1, 2. *We unto them that Decree Unrighteous Decrees, and
write grievousness, which they have prescribed; to turn away the
Neddy from Judgment, and to take away the rights from the Poor, &c.*
Psal. 94. 20. *Shall the Throne of Iniquity have fellowship with thee,
which frameth mischief by a Law.*

Sic volo, sic jubeo, stat pro ratione voluntas.

Old-Baily, 1st. 3d. 4th, 5th of Sept. 1670.

Printed in the Year, 1670,

FACSIMILE OF TITLE PAGE OF ACCOUNT OF THE FAMOUS TRIAL.

- He'd been expelled from Oxford University
- Learned law at Lincoln's Inn, London
- Studied in the Huguenot Academy in **Saumer**, France
- Converted to Quakerism in Ireland
- 'Radical' preaching = often landed in prison.

Penn trial account - cover

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Why did Penn become a
leading Quaker?

- Repression
- In opposition to George Fox ~ post Naylor
- He had Royal/State connections
- Leading wealthy Quakers:
 - internationally networked
 - slave trade links
 - made commodities
 - n american ambitions

Penn trial account - cover



c1672: wrote the
*"Concessions and
Agreements"*; a Charter
for Quaker colonists
settling **New Jersey**

William Penn – 1644-1718

1675: New Jersey granted to Sir George Carteret (from Isle of Jersey) and Lord John Berkeley from the Duke of York. They sanctioned slavery.

1677: Prominent Quakers, including Penn purchase West Jersey

1681: Penn calls in a debt of £16,000 ~ obtains objective of acquiring Pennsylvania

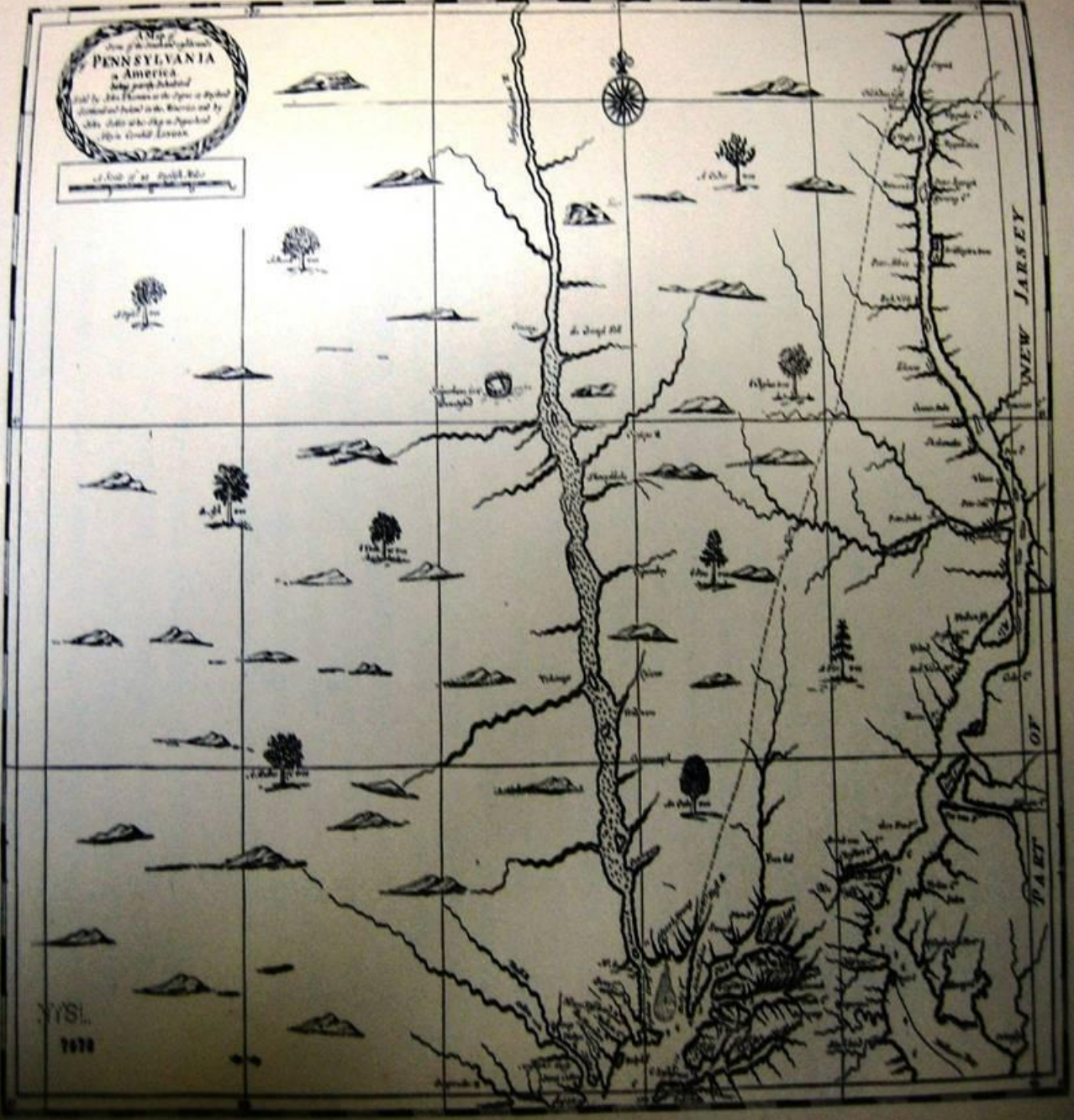
His personal income from Irish & English Estates is around £2,000/year

1682: Gains Delaware from friend Duke of York

Penn sole proprietor of 45,000+ square miles (just under size of England)

1682: East Jersey also purchased by Quakers.





Populating his colony (1681)

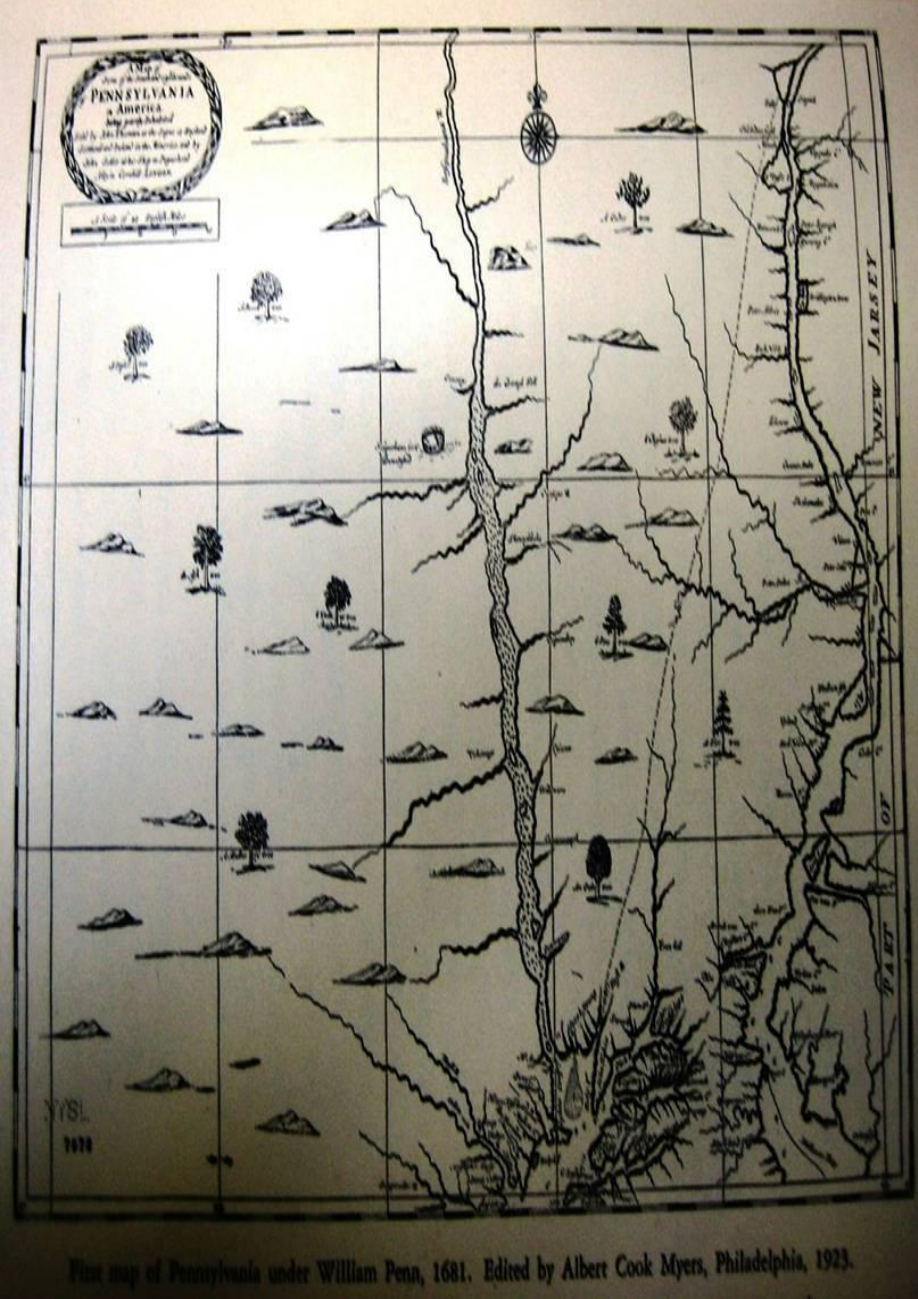
First map of Pennsylvania under William Penn, 1681. Edited by Albert Cook Myers, Philadelphia, 1923.

Penn wrote a glowing prospectus:

- marketed throughout Europe
- promised religious freedom
- material advantage

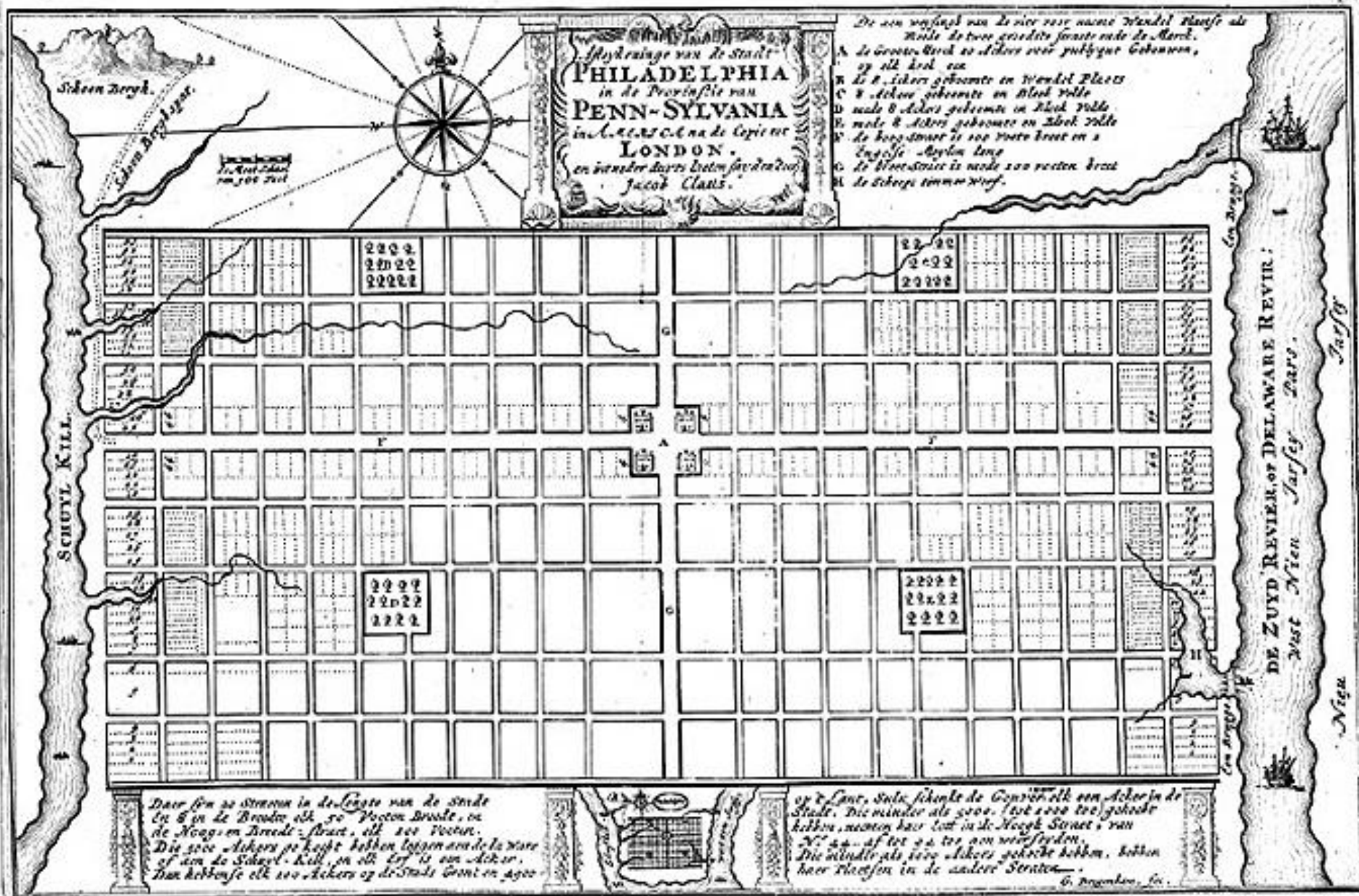
Induced people to emigrate:

- cheap land
- 40 shillings (£2) per hundred acres
- many induced.



First map of Pennsylvania under William Penn, 1681. Edited by Albert Cook Myers, Philadelphia, 1923.

Promotional map, Pa - 1681



Holmes' promotional map of Philadelphia, 1683

In the first six months Penn sold 300,000 acres to about 250 settlers, mostly **rich London**

Quakers:

- had best plots for large mansions, estates & aspects
- brought house frames from Europe.

Margaret Penn (Jasper) (b. in England - d.1682)

Remember Captain William Crispin?

- William Penn offered Crispin a senior post in the new Pennsylvania
- One of the first purchasers of land ~ 5,000 acres
- Died on route to America ~ his land and building lots in Philadelphia went to his elder children
- Crispin's younger children lived in Kinsale ~ Penn gave them 3,000 acres each in Pa.



William Penn – 1644-1718

In dealing with his own class...

1685

"The Penn family receive £40 of the bearer for a lady in England that intends to go over soon with her family; and many considerable persons are like to follow.

She has bought 5,500 acres, and her first 300 must be chosen on the river, next to Arthur Cook's."



William Penn – 1644-1718

***While for the numberless
poor...***

From England, France, Holland, Germany, Sweden, Finland, Ireland, and Wales, came thousands of Quakers, other Protestants, Catholics and Jews who:

- lived in clapboard log cabins or turf huts while they built their houses
- or dug caves in the river banks
- relied on Native Americans.

Penn, however, immediately moved into his new mansion house, Pennsbury....



Pennsbury

- sixty feet by forty feet and cost **£7,000**
- materials brought from England.
- 3,400 acres

Penn lived in a “*state and style of the grandees of olden time*”.



Didn't stay around for long

Returned to England

Did not to return to Pa
until 1699 ~ an absence of
fifteen years.

William Penn – 1644-1718



William Penn – 1644-1718

He backed the wrong horse - James II – during the 'Glorious Revolution'

Went into hiding

1690: Arrested for corresponding with James II ~ acquitted.

James II lands in Ireland and Penn arrested under orders from Queen Mary. Tried and acquitted



1692: King takes back Pa

Penn declared a traitor in Ireland and his estates forfeited. (some reinstated in 1698)

1694: Pennsylvania returned to his authority.

William Penn – 1644-1718



1701: He briefly returned to Pennsylvania.

The Assembly now ran the colony:

- During attempt to sell Pennsylvania back to the Crown, in 1712, Penn had a stroke
- Hannah managed his affairs until he died.

William Penn – 1644-1718



1718:

William Penn died in
England

Buried next to his first wife,
Gulielma, in the Quaker
cemetery at Jordans,
Buckinghamshire.

Gulielma Maria Penn
(Springett): 1644-1694

First wife of William
Penn (1672).

Family were
revolutionary Puritans
Mother, was a Quaker.



Hannah (Callowhill) (Hollister) Penn (1671-1726)

Born in Bristol, daughter of Thomas Callowhill, a wealthy Quaker merchant

Married William Penn when she was 24 and he was 52

She added to Penn wealth and landownership



When William Penn died she was involved with the sale of slaves.

William Junior sought to obtain control ~ was unsuccessful
Hannah remained in charge for 8 years until she died in 1726.



Jordans, 2012





Jordans, 2012



Jordans, 2012



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Giles Penn
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(1700 - 1746)



Thomas Penn
(1702 - 1775)



John Penn
(1760 - 1834)

John Penn 1700-1746

Eldest son of William and Hannah
(Callowhill) Penn

Raised in mother's wealthy Bristol
household.

He learned the trade of linen merchant.



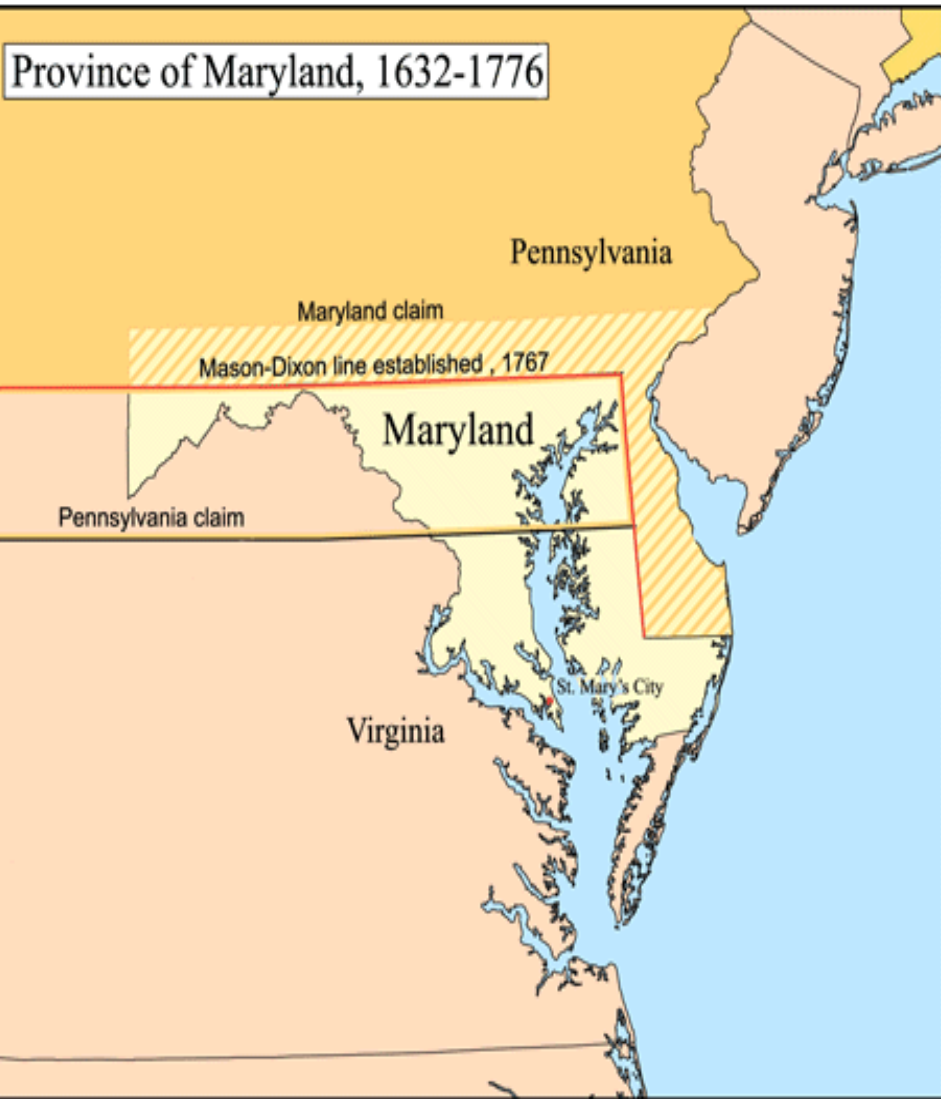
JOHN PENN
1700-1746.

John Penn

- *By the 1700's the growing and processing of flax for cordage and cloth had developed into an industry*
- *Numerous centre of flax production in England and Ireland.*
- *German linen was re-exported from Bristol to exchange as part of the slave trade*

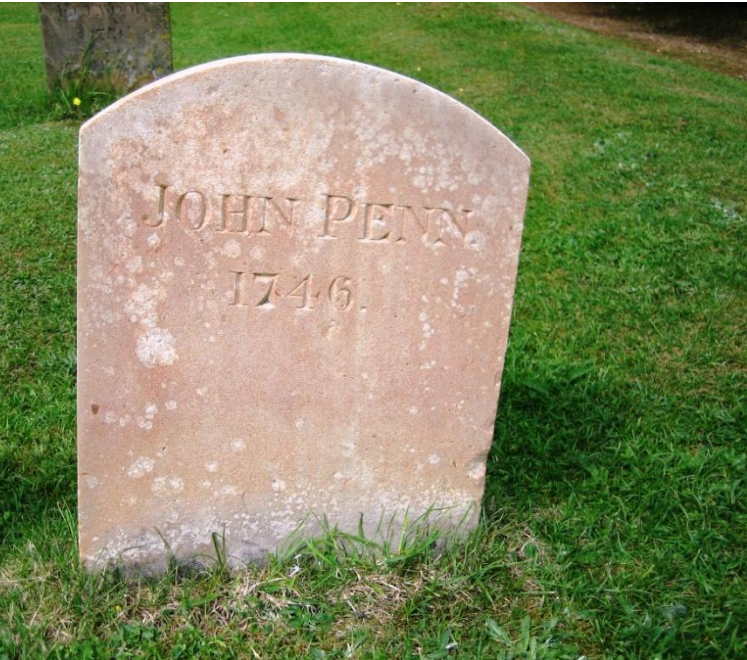
John Penn 1700 - 1746

Inherited half of Pennsylvania.



1734: Went to Pennsylvania for one year then returned to England to support family 'rights' against Lord Baltimore, Maryland.

John Penn 1700 - 1746



With Thomas, responsible
for the "Walking Purchase"
(more soon)

Buried at Jordans

Left his half of Pa to
Thomas.



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John Penn
(1760 - 1834)



Thomas Penn (1702-75)

Very controversial figure in white Pennsylvania affairs

He weakened or eliminated the elected assembly's power:

- ran the colony through appointed governors
- autocratic rule.



Thomas Penn (1702-75)

He continued the family tradition of slave-ownership.

E.g.1733:

***Virgil*, sold to Thomas Penn by one Joseph Warder.**



Thomas Penn (1702-75)

Thomas, and brother John, eventually renounced Quakerism



Thomas fought to restrict religious freedom in Pennsylvania (particularly for Roman Catholics and, later, Quakers themselves!).



Thomas Penn (1702-75)

“1737 Walking Purchase”

~ Role of brothers Thomas & John

- Delaware Native Americans were forced to agree to a fraudulent land
- Penn brothers claimed their father had made an ‘agreement’:
 - that no man could claim or buy more land from Native Americans than he could walk in a day and a half.

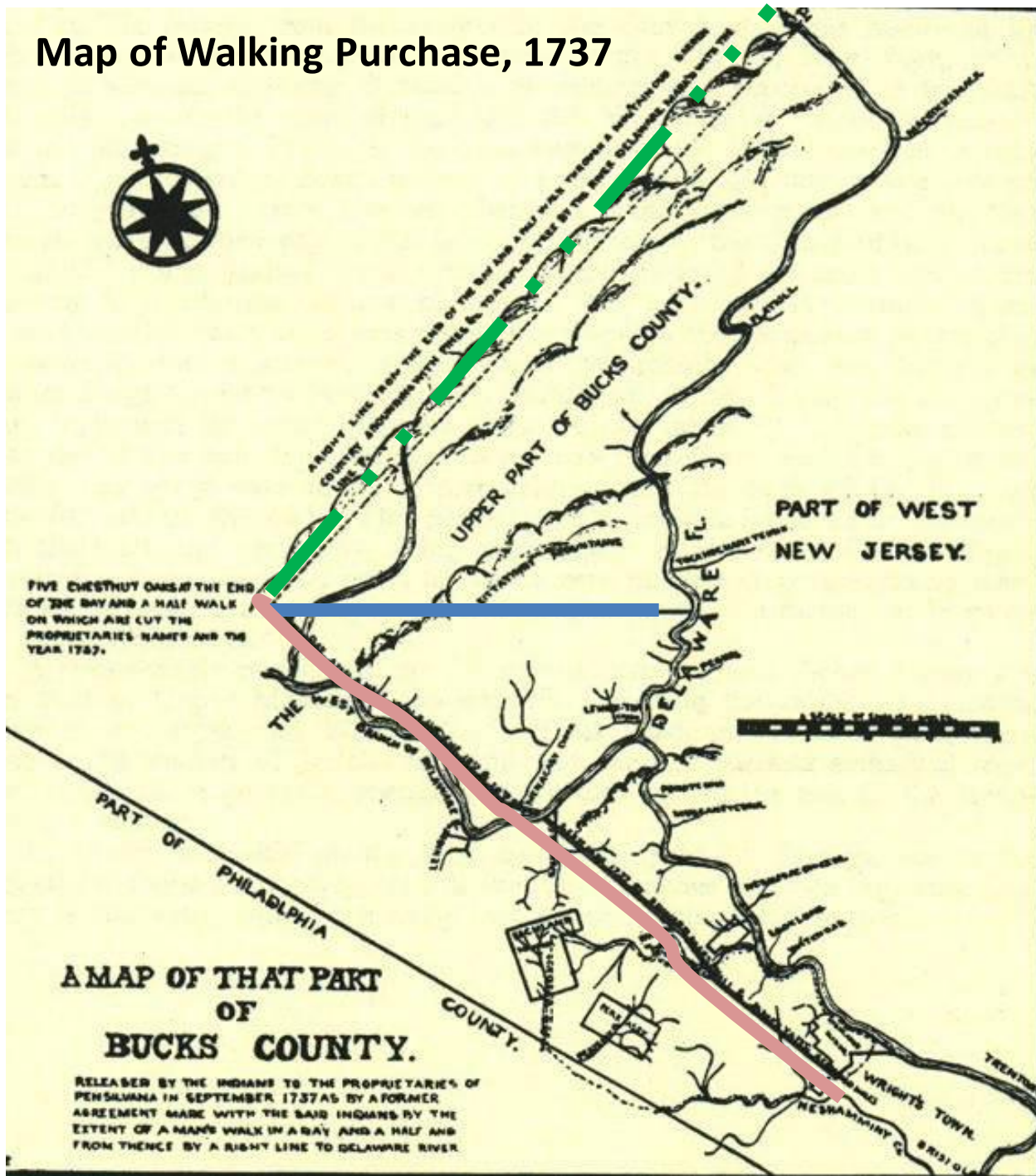


Thomas Penn (1702-75)

The Penn brothers, with secretary James Logan, planned everything concerning the 'walk' **in advance**

- Three runners met near the Friends Meetinghouse, Wrightstown
- Pacemakers on horseback ~ only Edward Marshall kept going
- 750,000 acres (1,200 m²) of cornfields and hunting grounds came into Penn ownership
- Marshall received money and 500 acres near Portland
- Thomas Penn's fortune grew by selling off the land to settlers
- Four years later Thomas returned to England ~ an absentee landlord who never returned to Pennsylvania.

Map of Walking Purchase, 1737



The 'walk' started near Wright's Town

- The horizontal line is the northern boundary expected by the Lenape.
- The green line is the one the surveyors actually drew.

In all nearly 1,200 square miles were taken from the Lenape ~ about the size of Rhode Island.



Thomas Penn (1702-75)

He inherited other half of Pennsylvania from his brother, John

1751: Married Lady Juliana Fermore, daughter of the Earl of Pomfret.





Thomas Penn (1702-75)

Thomas and family lived out their days on his large estate of Stoke Poges, Buckinghamshire, England.

Pennsylvania's
Native Americans
under ever
increasing pressure
from white
encroachment.
Series of 'wars'.



The Manor House at Stoke Park, built by the 2nd Earl of Huntingdon in 1555. St. Giles' Church is also shown. One third of the Manor can still be seen today. The Church also survives but without its spire which was destroyed in the 1920's.



Captain
Giles Penn
(c1573 -
c1656)

=



Jeanne
Gilbert



Admiral Sir
William Penn
(1621 - 1670)

=



Margaret
Jasper
(d.1682)



William Penn
(Quaker)
(1644 - 1718)

=



Gulielma
Maria
Springett
(1644 - 1694)



Hannah Callowhill
(1671 - 1726)



John Penn
(1700 - 1746)



Thomas Penn
(1702 - 1775)



John Penn
(1760 - 1834)

Inherited half of Pennsylvania
and the governorship of the
province at age fifteen.

Educated at Eton School

Went to Cambridge University

1786: £130,000 compensation by
provincial assembly for “loss” of
Pennsylvania

Also awarded annual £4,000 by
English Parliament (extra £176,000)

John Penn II (1760 - 1834)



John Penn II (1760 - 1834)

He demolished three
quarters of the family's
Manor House at Stoke Poges

Built **Stoke Park Mansion**.



Stoke Poges Manor House

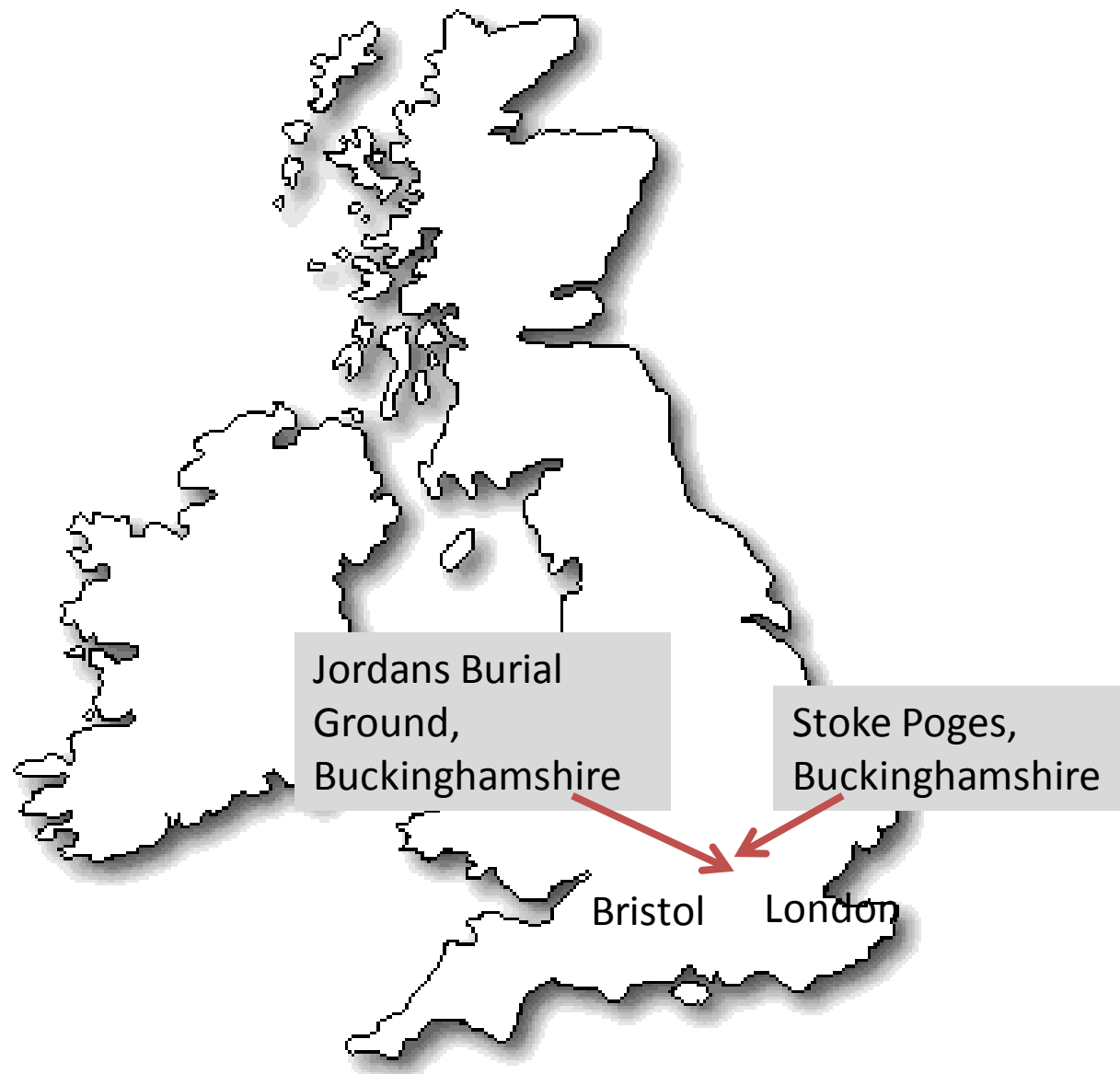




Stoke Park Mansion





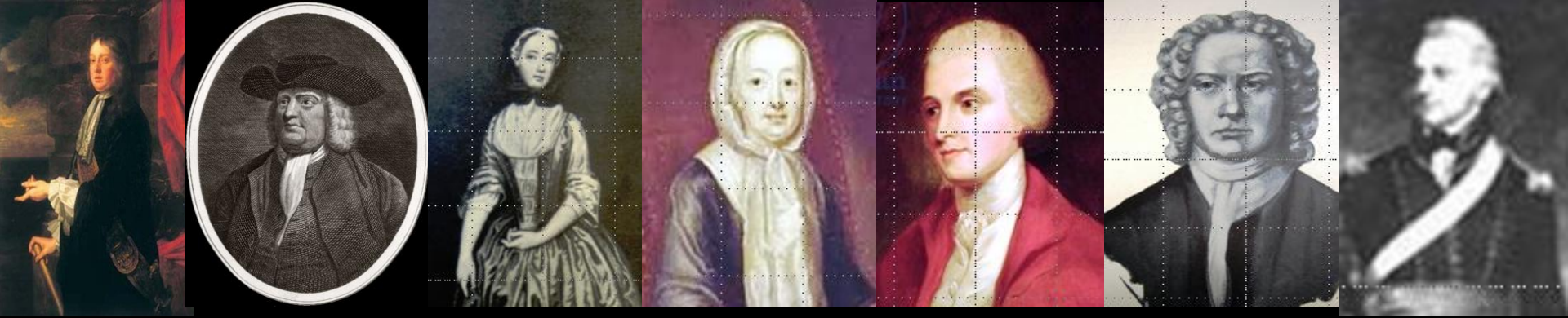


- Awarded governorship of Portland, South of England
- Gifted land by George III and built Pennsylvania Castle
- Enclosed many acres of land.

John Penn II (1760 - 1834)



Pennsylvania castle



This counterblast:

- How they accumulated their wealth
- Slavery: the Penns, Pennsylvania Quakers

Discussion



William Penn and Slavery

- Looked *'upon a slave not as the property of the master but as a member of the family'*
- Close friend of the Duke of York (*later James II*)

1664:

Duke given New Amsterdam (NY State):

- slaves lost 'half-freedom'
- under British rule "chattel slaves".



William Penn and Slavery

- **1701:**
- wrote a will that his “blacks” would be freed when he died
- and his indentured servants would be free after they had completed their indenture-ship

These clauses omitted from all later wills.



William Penn and Slavery

Slave ownership in the first Frame of Government of Pennsylvania

New province confronted with:

- rapidly growing economic activity
- acute shortage of labour
- cheap land, easy credit ~ wage labor difficult to obtain

Quakers turned to slave labor and direct slave trading :

- Penn's agent, Philip Lehnmain, used *The Isabella* to trade for slaves
- James Claypool, Philadelphian: had business with other Quakers to buy slaves from his brother in Barbados.



William Penn and Slavery

1683:

Penn was actively dealing in slaves, buying a number from Captain Nathaniel Allen.

Penn was also selling slaves:

- He sold one person for '*a full price, for the man will expect it of me*'.



William Penn and Slavery

By **1687** Penn had decided that his plantation should use *only* slave labour

- *Yaffe* and *Chevalier* are mentioned as Penn's favourite “servants”
- a slave named *Tish* was the personal servant of Penn's daughter, Letitia.

On his preference for slave labor Penn wrote:

***“It was better they was blacks
for then a man has them while they live.”***



William Penn and Slavery

Aristocratic Penn thought that a slave plantation was the natural inheritance for his children

"Let my children be husbandmen and housewives. This leads to consider the works of God and natureA country life and estate I like best for my children."




William Penn and Slavery

Penn's relations, the Crispin family, were also slave owners with runaway white laborers:

**Silas Crispin, died 1711
He left his wife, "...his negros,
household gods, etc..."**

**1749: another Silas Crispin: "....I
give my negro girl Dinah, to my
wife, until that said negro, shall
be 24 years old and then I shall
give the said negro to my
daughter, Sarah, to her , her heirs
and assigns forever"**



UN away, the 23d of this
Instant *January*, from *Silas Crispin* of
Burlington, Taylor, a Servant Man na-
med *Joseph Morris*, by Trade a Taylor,
aged about 22 Years, of a middle Sta-
ture, swarthy Complexion, light gray
Eyes, his Hair clipp'd off, mark'd with
a large pit of the Small Pox on one
Check near his Eye, had on when he
went away a good Felt Hat, a yelowish
Druggert Coat with Pleits behind, an old
Ozenbrigs Vest, two Ozenbrigs Shirts, a pair of Leather
Breeches handsomely worm'd and flower'd up the Knees,
yarn Stockings and good round toe'd Shoes Took with
him a large pair of Sheers crack'd in one of the Bows, &
mark'd with the Word [*Satoy*]. Whoever takes up the
said Servant, and secures him so that his Master may have
him again, shall have *Three Pounds* Reward besides reason-
able Charges, paid by me *Silas Crispin*.

From a Philadelphia newspaper

Source: A biographical and historical sketch of
Captain William Crispin of the British Navy

Pennsylvania Quakers and Slavery



Slave dealing was a lucrative business for some American and English Quakers.

In 1756 there were 84 Quakers listed as being members of the *Company trading to Africa*



Fledgling international banks: rapid and massive benefit from Quaker colonialism and Quaker slave-trade activity



Among the Company's members were the Barclay family....

Pennsylvania Quakers and Slavery



Barclays Bank: Quaker brothers David & Alexandra Barclay engaged in the slave trade:

- many of the ships which transported settlers from England to American colonies were owned by the Barclay family.

David Barclay's commence revolved around American and West Indian trade:

- one of the most influential merchants of his day
- his father owned a large slave labor plantation in Jamaica
- the Barclays inter-married with other Quaker banking families giving rise to Barclay's Bank.



Pennsylvania Quakers and Slavery



At one point, Penn proposed

- slaves in Pa be freed after a certain period
- creation of a township, Freetown

The hard-nosed Pennsylvania Assembly [nearly all Quakers] rejected these ideas.

Pennsylvania Quakers and Slavery



In the early years of Pa colony most slaves had arrived in small 'lots'

- from Barbados and Jamaica by local trading merchants

Prominent Philadelphia Quaker families brought slaves in this way:

- Carpenters ~ wealthiest family in Pa in 1701
- Dickinsons ~ administration, slaver, Maryland tobacco
- Norrises ~ very wealthy merchants, administrators
- Claypooles ~ brothers referred to earlier

Pennsylvania Quakers and Slavery



1750s

French and Indian Wars disrupted immigration and cut down on the indentured servant pool (*indentured males into military*):

- 1749-1754:
115 ships carrying 35,000 German immigrants reached Pennsylvania
- 1755-56:
just three ships
- 1757-63:
only one more arrived.

Pennsylvania Quakers and Slavery



This difficulty of obtaining white indentured labour led to:

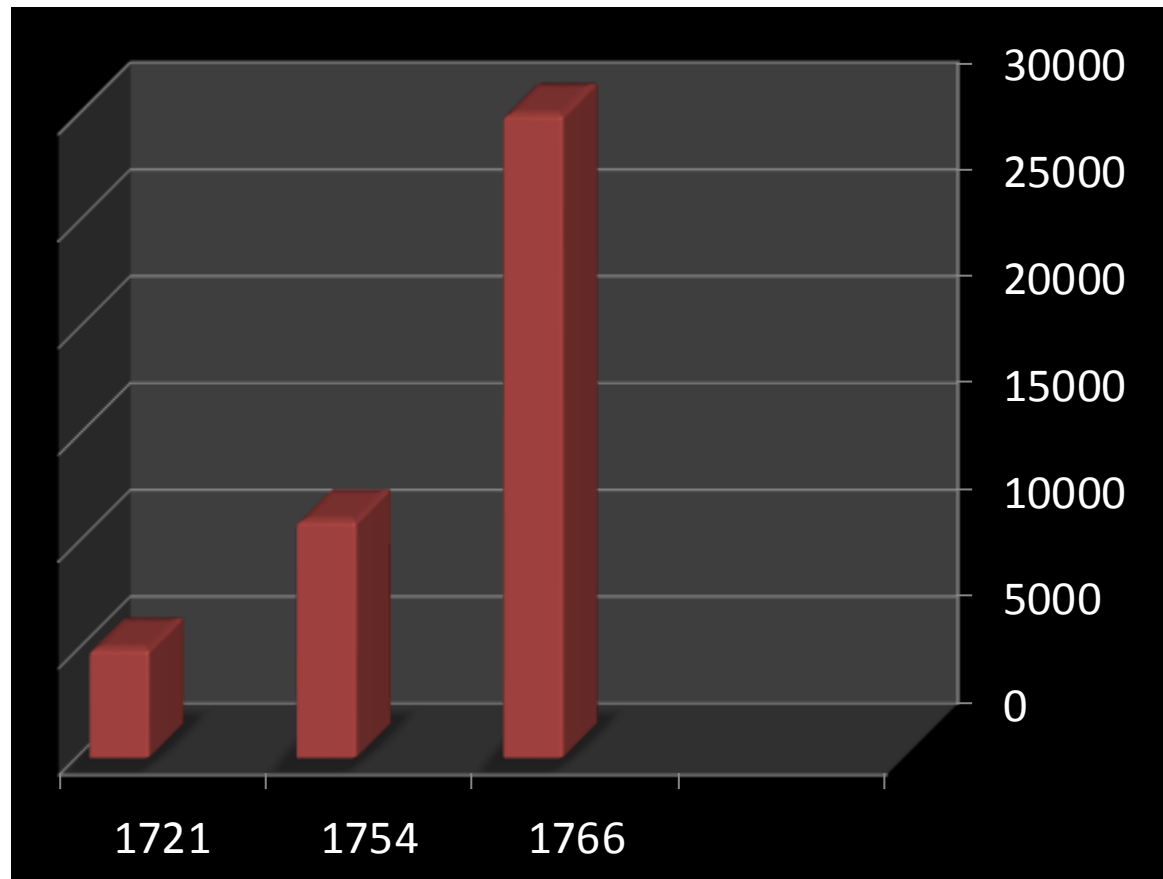
- Pa and other East Coast merchants importing slaves directly from Africa
 - Before 1741: 70% of slaves arrived in the Northern colonies from the West Indies and other American mainland areas
 - After 1741: 70% of slaves direct from Africa.

Pennsylvania Quakers and Slavery



As a result of this his slave purchase drive:
Pennsylvania's slave population
rose six fold (1721-66)

Approximate
totals



Pennsylvania Quakers and Slavery



Quaker agriculture

Pennsylvania:

- economically dependent on trade with the slave economies of the West Indies
- the supply of food underpinned & sustained slave labour economies.

Pennsylvania Quakers and Slavery



Quaker agriculture

Seasonal demands of cereal farming so not require large numbers of slaves

Farmers preferred indentured servants:

- Slaves frequently seen as status symbols
 - working in the fields at planting and harvest times
 - at other times; working as domestic servants in their 'master's' or 'mistress's' house.

Pennsylvania Quakers and Slavery



Quaker Industry

Slaves were used in industries e.g. tanning, salt, mining and iron manufactory:

- Iron masters were the largest industrial users of slaves:
 - high reliance
 - petitioned for lowering tax on imported slaves.

Pennsylvania Quakers and Slavery



Quaker cities

Slaves were used increasingly in cities:

- By 1700, one in 10 Philadelphians owned slaves
- By the 1760s slaves constituted two thirds of the 'servant' population of Philadelphia.

Pennsylvania Quakers and Slavery



Quaker cities

Only lack of space prevented many of them from increasing the number of household slaves

- Lack of accommodation meant that female slaves were often sold when pregnant
- Many slaves with children 'lived out':
 - some measure of independence
 - freedom from direct control by their 'masters' and 'mistresses'.

Pennsylvania Quakers and Slavery



Indentured servitude

The difference between indentured servants and slaves, was sometimes hard to define:

- Servants may have been kidnaped
- Terms ranged from 1 to 17 years (norm 4/5 years)
- Children served the longest indentures
- Indentured labor: a commodity to be sold, traded or inherited
- Quaker meetings recorded Quaker cruelty to indentured servants: whipping, beaten and locked up for laziness.

Pennsylvania Quakers and Slavery



Quakers: Ethnic & Religious Purity

German, Scots-Irish Immigration

1704/5: Penn recruited 100s of German Protestant immigrants

1711: Several thousand Germans left New York for Pennsylvania

1709-20: Thousands of Palatines (Germans from the Rhine) arrived

1717: Logan: “it gives the country some uneasiness....they may usurp the country to themselves”

Quaker authorities complained that Germans “seized upon the best vacant land”

The assembly placed a £1 tax of £1 on each newly arrived servant

When Scots-Irish arrived Logan expressed the same fears, “[it looked as if] Ireland is to send all her inhabitants to this province,” and feared they would “make themselves masters of it.”

Between 1727-54:

further 58,000 Germans and 16,500 Scots-Irish sailed up the Delaware.

Pennsylvania Quakers and Slavery

Quakers: Ethnic & Religious Purity



- Quaker opposition to 'others' was often based on racist grounds
- Quakers wanted to make a success of the 'Holy Experiment' run by a majority of white Quakers
- Pennsylvania Quakers wrote to Quakers in Barbados asking them to stop supplying slaves to Philadelphia as the city was being 'overstretched'.

Pennsylvania Quakers and Slavery

Quaker Ethnic & Religious Purity



By the early 1700s 'sympathy' towards slaves declined in the minds of many Pennsylvanian Quakers:

- Slaves who had been freed often absconded or came up against the Provinces laws
- William Penn, himself, complained about the cost of the keep of one of his female slaves.

Pennsylvania Quakers and Slavery

Quaker Ethnic & Religious Purity



- Quakers called for restrictions in the number of slaves introduced to Pa and a 20-fold increase in slave import tax to £2/head
- Part of this income was promised to Penn if he promoted the scheme in England
- It was refused by the English Board of Trade

The Governors also aimed to prevent the movement of 'Indians' into Pennsylvania except for those born or naturalised there.

Pennsylvania Quakers and Slavery



Quakers Ethnic & Religious Purity

White Quakers not being buried alongside blacks, e.g.:

In 1703 Middletown, Dauphin County: Quaker monthly meeting appointed Robert Heaton and Thomas Stackhouse “to fence off a portion of the ground to bury negroes in”.

In 1738 a meeting “forbade the burying of negroes in their ground”.

Pennsylvania Quakers and Slavery



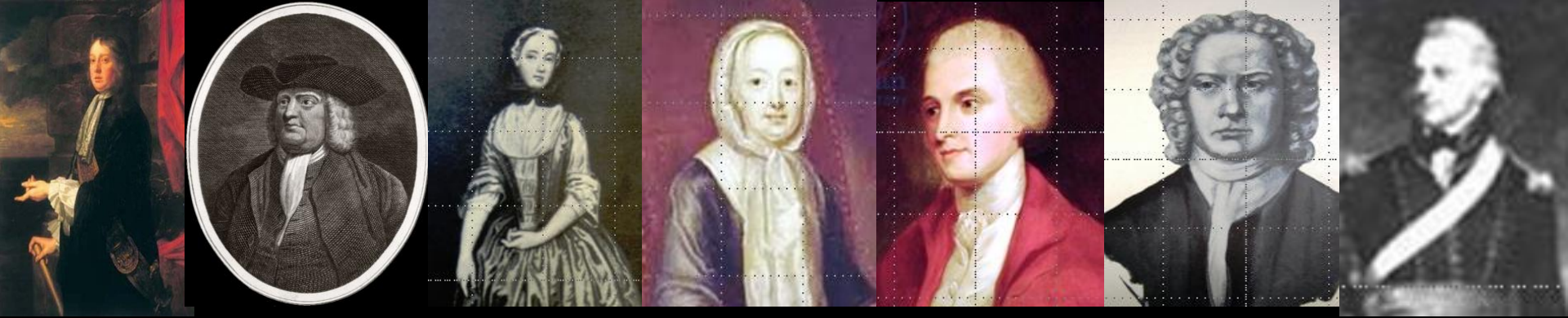
Abolition & Quakers

Discussion began in the Pennsylvania Assembly in 1778, two years after the "Lower Counties" were separated from Pa as the state of Delaware

This removed perhaps 3/4 of the slaves from Pa:

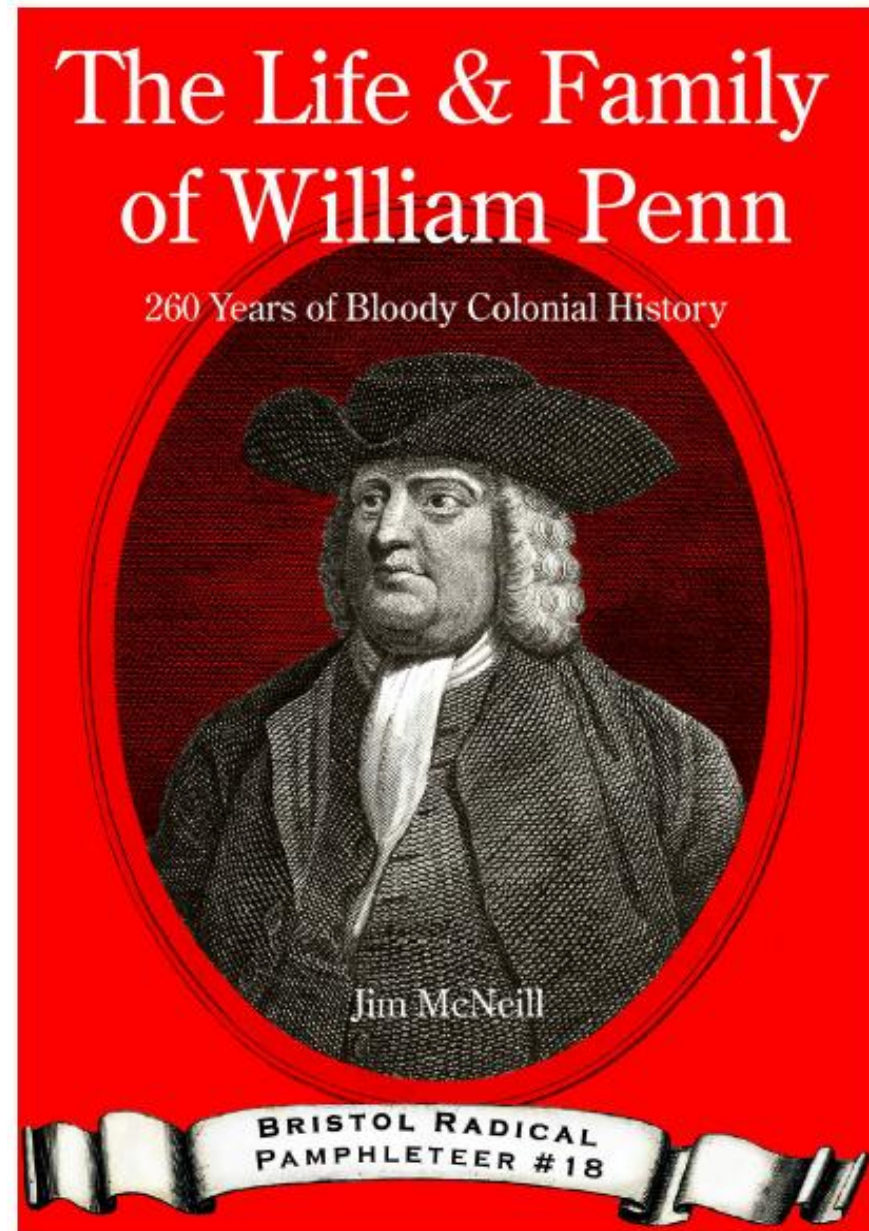
“Moral arguments against slavery were buttressed by the practical consideration that slaves no longer played an important role in the economy.”

Quakers were not involved politically they had been shoved from power by the 1776 Revolution .



*Americans...what have we learned?
...what comments & questions do
you have?*

Thanks for coming and
listening this evening ~
do buy one of our
booklets



Pennsylvania Quakers and Slavery

Benjamin Franklin

His *Pennsylvania Gazette*, had numerous paid advertisements for the sale of slaves and notices about runaway slaves.

Example:

"To Be Sold. A likely young Negro woman, can wash or iron or do any kind of household work, as is fit for either town or country; with two children. Inquire of George Harding Skinner, or the Printer hereof."

Often, an advertisement ended with the words *"Enquire of the printer hereof"*

- Franklin would handle the sale and take a commission.

Pennsylvania Quakers and Slavery

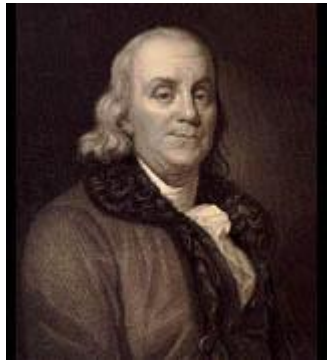
Benjamin Franklin

Another of his advertisements showed how the splitting up of families was seen through the lens of profit & loss:

"A female slave would be sold with her 2-year-old son, but another boy aged about six years who is the son of the above said woman will be sold with his mother or by himself, as the buyer pleases."

Pennsylvania Quakers and Slavery

Benjamin Franklin



Not all colonial newspapers carried such advertisements. Christopher Sauer's German-language paper refused to run ads for slaves.

Franklin became an abolitionist late in life:

- After the ratification of the Constitution, Franklin joined Quakers and other liberals in petitioning Congress to abolish slavery
- Their petition faced strong opposition and failed
- Aged 80, Franklin became president of the Pennsylvania Society for Abolition of Slavery.

