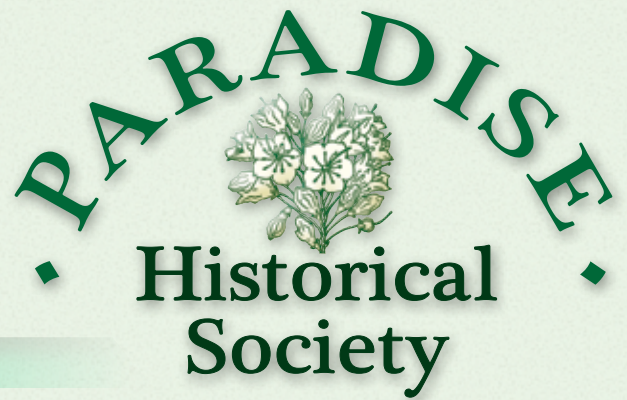


# Paradise Past

THE NEWSLETTER  
OF THE



VOLUME 12, Spring 2017

## A Brief History of Pennsylvania & Its Boundaries

by Dan Hamblin 1682 TO 1863

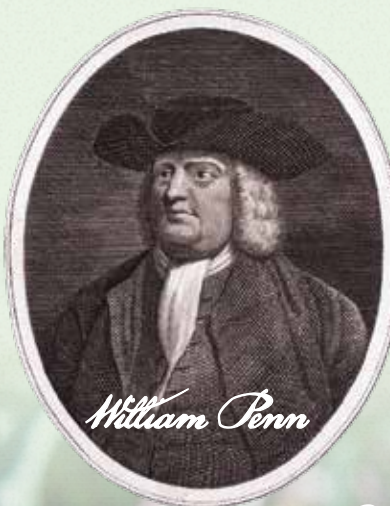
With technical and graphic assistance from archivist Aaron Imbt, Dan Hamblin spoke at the Society's meeting on November 6, 2016. Dan's research on the early days of Pennsylvania is summarized here. His research into the original 61 Warrant holders in what is now Paradise Township will appear in the Summer 2017 Paradise Past. The full presentations are available in the Society's archives at Barrett Paradise Friendly Library.

Our story begins with Admiral Sir William Penn, born in 1621. Admiral Penn sailed for the English Navy for years and was a close friend of royalty. He owned extensive rental property in Ireland, and served in the House of Commons during the reign of King Charles II. Penn died in 1670 at the age 49.

His son William was only 26 when his father died. He was an early convert to the Quaker faith, which was founded in England in 1650 by George Fox. The King opposed the rise of Quakerism. Admiral Penn had also opposed Quakerism, and had kicked his son out of their home.

Young William, a realtor by trade, preached Quakerism in England, Scotland, Holland and Germany. Quaker belief in personal discipline, pacifism, religious tolerance and kind treatment of prisoners and the downtrodden appealed to many people.

Following Admiral Penn's early death in 1670, the King felt obligated to deal with William Jr. Some sources say the Admiral had loaned the King money and the King thought the Admiral had been underpaid for his Naval service. Whatever the reason, the King



## President's Letter



### Settling In at the Ace Store

After its move last fall to a more secure location away from the road, progress at the Ace Store was slowed by snow and mud. But electricity and water are now installed, porches rebuilt, semi-circular driveway laid out, and floors are being renewed.

Early PHS members will remember many meetings in the dining room of the Ace Store. Turns out that, in the 1960s, a layer of newspapers had been laid on the pine flooring under the carpet to insulate against the cold. With time and pressure, the newspaper fused with the floor and has given the Laytons the dickens of a time to remove!

Changes planned for the interior include updating the upstairs bathroom and creating one downstairs. The store itself is just as PHS members remember it (unchanged for generations), and all the furniture survived the move intact.

The building now sits on a full basement. The original flagstones were reused on the store porch. And landscaping is being planned. Kudos to Susan Layton, the fifth generation to own the Ace Store, who deserves all our thanks for her careful stewardship of this place Paradise treasures.

*Jane* Jane Niering, President

calculated his debt to Penn's heir at 16,000 pounds (about four million dollars today).

The King offered Penn a land grant in America, with the proviso he take lots of Quakers with him. England owned two uncolonized areas near the Atlantic. Penn accepted the northern area, asking that Delaware be included with its settlements and mighty river

Continued on Page 2

# Spring

COLLECTING, PRESERVING  
& DISSEMINATING PARADISE HISTORY

# A Brief History of Pennsylvania & Its Boundaries - 1682 TO 1863

## Continued from Page 1

— an outlet to the Atlantic, though it was uncertain how far north the Delaware River was navigable to ocean-going ships. Penn readily agreed to take many Quakers to America, knowing they were honest and industrious, and would make excellent managers of his colony.

King Charles and Penn studied the inaccurate maps of the day, to determine the approximate boundaries of the grant. In Pennsylvania, one degree of longitude averages about 50 miles. Applying that knowledge to inaccurate maps took a bit of guesswork. The final grant of 1682 gave Penn a piece of land in America which included all of today's Pennsylvania and Delaware, except the "Erie Triangle."

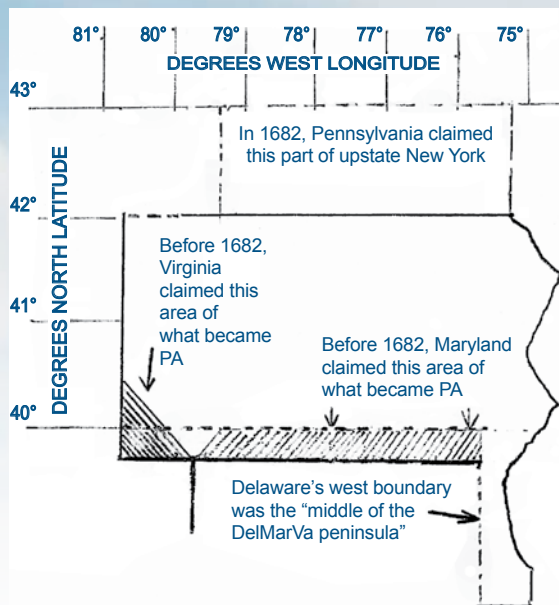
Penn promised the King not to persecute either the Indians or the European settlers. Penn wanted to name his colony "Sylvania" meaning woodland, but King Charles insisted on Penn-Sylvania. Thus, we became the only state to include a surname.

Penn set sail for America with many Quakers, landing in New Castle, Delaware, in October 1682. After determining the River was navigable for another 30 miles, Penn purchased 10,000 acres from the Lenape Indians, between the Delaware

and Schuylkill Rivers as the site of Philadelphia. Penn personally laid out streets in a grid, the north-south streets numbered, and most east-west streets named for trees. He built Pennsbury Manor for his family home a few miles northeast of Philadelphia on the River. You may be surprised as I was to learn that Penn was only in Pennsylvania from 1682 - 1685 and again from 1699 - 1701. Meanwhile, he traveled in Europe advertising Pennsylvania and encouraging people, especially Quakers, to move here.

William Penn was a forward-thinking philosopher. He foresaw unification of the American colonies under a central government. Some of his ideas found their way into our Declaration of Independence, Articles of Confederation, and Constitution. After Penn's final return to England, in 1701, he fell on hard times, and spent some time in debtor's prison. His Irish rental properties declined in value. Penn suffered several strokes beginning in 1711, and died in 1718, penniless.

Virtually all Pennsylvania's boundaries, except the Delaware River, were challenged



for years. The Calverts of Maryland, headed by Lord Baltimore, began a territorial dispute with Penn in 1684, in which they claimed Maryland's northern boundary to be 40 degree north latitude. Maryland was sending new settlers north into the vicinity of today's Lancaster. This boundary wasn't settled until the Mason Dixon survey of the 1760s.

## More Changes to Pennsylvania & Delaware During the 1700s and 1800s

The Walking Purchase of 1737 was the ultimate scam of the Indians. William Penn had promised the King not to persecute Indians or European immigrants and negotiated one small tract at a time with the Indians.

After Penn's death, sons John and Thomas took over. Their agents were soon selling

land in the Lehigh Valley which the Lenapes still inhabited. They produced a "deed" from 1688 where the Indians agreed to relinquish as much land as a white man could walk in one and a half days, which they believed would be about 40 miles north, with a line drawn directly to the Delaware River.

After substantial planning, three runners left Wrightstown, Bucks County on September

17, 1737, running on a prepared trail in a northwesterly direction.


One succeeded in covering 70 miles to present-day Jim Thorpe.

Compounding the scam, a line was drawn at 90 degrees, which intersected the Delaware River at present-day Lackawaxen, Pike County. The Lenape then had to vacate an area of 1,000 square mile — the size of Rhode Island. The line passed just north of the future Paradise Township.

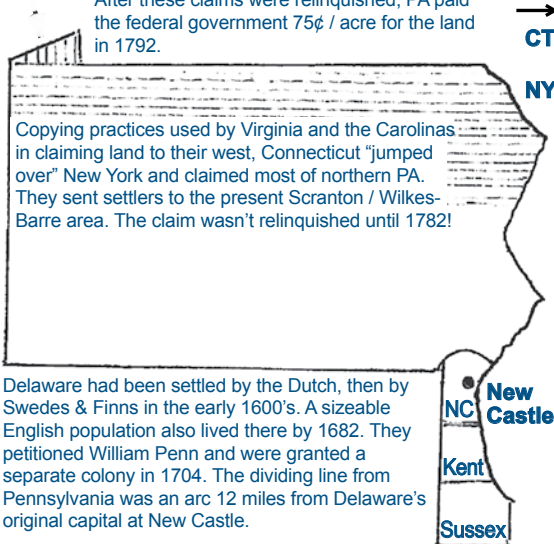
After decades off bickering between Penn's heirs and the Calverts of Maryland, English surveyors Mason and Dixon worked from 1763-1768 to establish the western boundary of Delaware and the boundary between Pennsylvania and Maryland. They quit 36 miles short of Pennsylvania's southwest corner.

Mason and Dixon began at the mid-point of a line previously established as the southern boundary of Delaware. Their job was to establish a line due north to a point in the 12-mile arc dividing Pennsylvania and Delaware. They missed by only a few feet. Next the surveyors had to establish the east-west border between Maryland and Pennsylvania, along a line of latitude passing 15 miles south of the southernmost point in Philadelphia. All this work was considered one of the technological feats of the century.

Still, Pennsylvania wanted a port on Lake Erie. The Erie Triangle, which was not part of the original land grant, was claimed by New York and Connecticut. After the Revolutionary War, these claims were finally relinquished and Pennsylvania paid the Federal Government 75 cents an acre for the the land in 1792— \$150,000 for 300 square miles. Not a bad price to gain water access to the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River (now St. Lawrence Seaway to Atlantic Ocean).

After 150 years of Virginia granting land warrants to Virginians in Pennsylvania's Washington and Greene counties, that boundary was finally settled in 1863, when West Virginia was granted northern statehood during the Civil War. 

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# THE Oldest Cemetery in Paradise Township



Kiosk erected by Paradise Supervisors in the 1990s, with tools & workers



The stone wall's 1825 cornerstone

Jewels among the weeds — several native orchids, the pink lady's slipper, were found



The first church in Paradise

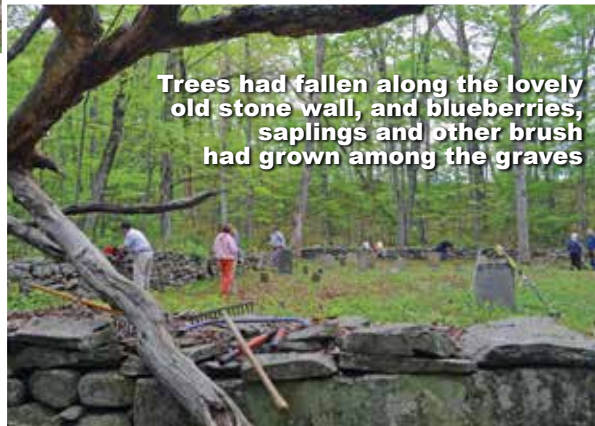


John Fedish, Chris Matthy, and Carl Reindl wielded chainsaws on the biggest jobs

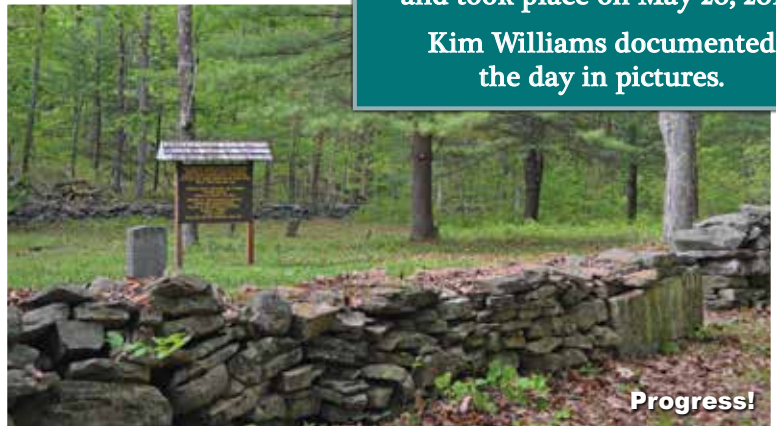


The entrance to the cemetery

Paradise's oldest cemetery is near the site of the first church, the Presbyterian Lutheran church on private land off Red Rock Road. A cleanup of the overgrown grounds was organized by Chris Matthy and took place on May 20, 2017. Kim Williams documented the day in pictures.



Trees had fallen along the lovely old stone wall, and blueberries, saplings and other brush had grown among the graves



Progress!



About 20 members of the society took part. Present for the group photo were, from left: Bill Coffman, Walt Sollberger (rear), Brenda Sherwood, John Sherwood, Barbara Sollberger (rear), Bruce Estell, John Fedish, Carol Hillestad, Chris Matthy, Laura Layton, Karl Reindl, Andrea Ekstedt, John Layton.

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**I THINK THIS IS  
THE DATE?**

*The directors and officers of Paradise Historical Society are:*  
Bruce Estell • Dan Hamblin • Carol Hillestad • Aaron Imbt • John Layton  
Laura Layton • Harold Metzgar • Jane Niering • Kim Williams

*And We Welcome Our New Members:*  
David & Pam Brown  
Patrick & Jean Connor  
Bill & Christina Mader  
Polly Metzgar • Linda R. Morris  
Andy & Nancy Rance • Maureen Shultis



*History...*

John Layton chronicled the behind-the-scenes dilemmas and delights of moving the Ace Store at our June meeting. The summer issue of *Paradise Past* will include a summary. [PHS](#)



*...on the move*



**YOUR MEMBERSHIP COUNTS!**

Please help Paradise Historical Society collect, protect & share the interesting history of our area.

- Student or Senior (65+) - \$8.00
- Family - \$25.00
- Individual - \$10.00
- Corporate - \$50.00
- Couple - \$20.00
- Sustaining - \$100.00

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