

# Harrogate's Family Tree

by Sonnie Sperati

## Let's Start at the Beginning . . .

Don't worry; this is not a Michener novel or the Bible. We do not begin with the dinosaurs or Genesis. We begin with Charles II of England.

Little did Charles II of England envision when he granted William Penn land totaling 45,000 acres (or 70.3 square miles) in the new world that in 323 years another Charles would in 2004 build a new community on part of those same acres.



*The Birth of Pennsylvania, 1680, by Jean Leon Gerome Ferris. William Penn, holding paper, standing and facing King Charles II, in the King's breakfast chamber at Whitehall.*

This area was colonized first by the Swedes, then the Dutch, and finally the English and was originally home to the Eastern Algonquian tribes known as the Unami Lenape or Delaware throughout the Delaware valley. They had a settled hunting and agricultural society, and they became middlemen in a frenzied fur trade with their ancient enemy, the Minqua or Susquehannock. The Lenape called their area "Lenapehoking," which means unsurprisingly, "Land of the Lenape." The sum total of the land extended to New York State and a small section of southeastern Connecticut. As part of the Eastern Woodlands, Lenapehoking had many rivers, streams and lakes and was densely forested and rich in wildlife.

William Penn described the Lenape as tall, straight, well built. They were dark complexed with small eyes. Penn thought their noses were similar to those of the Italians being having "as much of the Roman." Some Lenape lived along the White Clay Creek in Landenberg.

A camp site or small village was situated east of Toughkenamon. An Indian burial ground is rumored to lie near Sharp Road. Arrow heads and other manmade objects found by local farmers is evidence of Lenni-Lenape activity throughout the area. Their trails crossed and crisscrossed the area, and were the first "roads" used by early settlers.

Although your fireplace might not be the site of a former Lenape fire pit, it is reasonable to surmise that their footprints are under your front garden! Artifacts from their time in Landenberg can be seen at the NGT building in the front lobby. So, our very first landowner of the land which will become Harrogate North was the Lenni Lenape nation.

Initially the Lenni Lenape of Pennsylvania had equitable dealings with William Penn. After Penn's death, his sons concocted a plan to swindle the Lenape out of land which is now known as the infamous Walking Purchase. Times only got progressively worse for the Lenape. In the 1730s an English bounty of 30 to 50 British pounds was offered for any Lenape, dead or alive.

The final blow came during a Conference in 1758 in Easton, Pennsylvania when the Delaware Lenape were forced from their Pennsylvania and New Jersey ancestral homelands.

The fragments of the Lenape who wanted to retain their identity left the region and moved over the Allegheny Mountains. In general, those who did not relocate out of the area were baptized, became Christian and were grouped together with other persons of color in official records and in the minds of their non-Native American neighbors.

Harrogate shares its history with the history of the Quakers. The Irish Quakers in particular will be important in the history of Landenberg and Harrogate's small bit of it.

I was surprised to find in my research that there was such a thing as Irish Quakers. Quakerism did not have a large following in Ireland as most of the citizens were Catholic. Therefore, the converts in Ireland were mostly from the English and Scotch Protestants who had emigrated to Ireland.

The Quakers living in the New England and Southern parts of the USA were converts or descendants of converts from the population living in those areas. In Pennsylvania and

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New Jersey, the Quaker contingent were immigrants from England, Wales, and Ireland.

In 1666, Thomas Loe, a leading and gifted Quaker at Oxford University travelled to Ireland and there converted a young William Penn to the Society of Friends. William Penn's father, also William Penn, was an admiral in the British Royal Navy. Charles II owed the admiral a large sum of money. The admiral willed to his son William a claim against Charles II for 16,000 pounds. In today's dollars that would be about \$2,170,000.00. William convinced Charles to grant him 40,000 acres in the New World in lieu of the debt. This land grant included the present states of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware.

Let's take a moment to consider this vast track of land. His petition of 1680 to King Charles II requests a tract of land in America, north of Maryland, on the east bounded with Delaware River, on the west, in line with Maryland, and northward to extend as far as plantable, which is Indian land. The Delaware River is the only landmark mentioned; the rest is defined relative to Maryland. Penn thus gave the government ministers, particularly the Duke of York who held the lands as proprietor, great leeway in determining what lands to give him; but he also made the boundaries contingent on those of Maryland. Penn got lucky; as his Charter states, the government gave him three degrees of latitude and five of longitude, a proprietorship several times the size of Maryland. The land of Pennsylvania had belonged to the Duke of York, who acquiesced, but he retained New York and the area around New Castle and the Eastern portion of the Delmarva Peninsula. However, Fighting off a prior claim by Cecilius Calvert, 2nd Baron Baltimore, Proprietor of Maryland, the Duke passed his somewhat dubious ownership on to William Penn in 1682. Penn strongly desired access to the sea for his Pennsylvania province and leased what then came to be known as the "Lower Counties on the Delaware" from the Duke.

The official charter states distances, latitudes and longitudes and would appear quite clear you might say. Ah, not so. The only Pennsylvania boundary that did not cause controversy was the Delaware River. The most troublesome inconsistency in the Charter was that a circle of radius twelve miles centered in New Castle did not intersect the fortieth parallel, which lay some 20 miles farther north.



The fortieth parallel is identified as the southern boundary in the Pennsylvania Charter, but the Maryland Charter is not so straightforward. Our Harrogate land would be passed from Pennsylvania to Delaware and visa versa several times. The

Delaware-Pennsylvania line was not finalized until 1934!

Persecution of Quakers in New England had led George Fox (father of the Society of Friends) to suggest that land be purchased in the new world for a Quaker settlement. Penn responded to this desire and this suggestion was manifested well in West Jersey but Penn's broad liberal viewpoints were fully realized in the Providence of Pennsylvania.

Penn established representative government and briefly combined his two possessions under one General Assembly in 1682. However, by 1704 the Province of Pennsylvania had grown so large that their representatives wanted to make decisions without the assent of the Lower Counties and the two groups of representatives began meeting on their own, one at Philadelphia, and the other at New Castle. Penn and his heirs remained proprietors of both and always appointed the same person Governor for their Province of Pennsylvania and their territory of the Lower Counties.

In his First Frame of Government, which Penn and initial land purchasers had adopted on April 25, 1682, he expressed ideals anticipating the Declaration of Independence: "Men being born with a title to perfect freedom and uncontrolled enjoyment of all the rights and privileges of the law of nature ... no one can be put out of his estate and subjected to the political view of another, without his consent."

The document provided for secure private property, unlimited free enterprise, a free press, trial by jury, and religious tolerance. English law required the death penalty for some 200 crimes. Penn kept it for just two — murder and treason. Being a good Quaker, Penn believed woman should pursue education and should express their opinion as men did.

Penn's First Frame of Government was the first constitution to provide for peaceful change through amendments. The constitution was amended several times. The version adopted on October 28, 1701 endured for three-quarters of a century and then became the basis for Pennsylvania's state constitution, adopted in 1776.

Penn achieved peaceful relations with the Indians and they respected his courage, because he ventured among them without guards or personal weapons. He took the time to learn Indian dialects, so he could conduct negotiations without interpreters. From the very beginning, he acquired Indian land through peaceful, voluntary exchange. His peaceful policies prevailed for about 70 years, which in the opinion of the Society of Friends has to be some kind of record in American history.

Penn's hopes that Pennsylvania would be a profitable enterprise for himself and his family never materialized. Penn

*continued on page 10*

marketed the colony throughout Europe in various languages and, as a result, settlers flocked to Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania grew rapidly but it never turned a profit for Penn or his family. Penn would later be imprisoned in England for debt and, at the time of his death in 1718, he was penniless.

To where does this bring us? Our second owner was Charles II and our third owner was William Penn. Next month, the story continues with the dividing of Penn's land and who bought what in the early years of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.