



1



William Penn,
Pennsylvania, and the
PA Constitution



2

A Quick Review of Our Presuppositions:

- God is sovereign over all His creation.
- The natural state of mankind is that of individual liberty.
- As a result of the fall of Adam and Eve, civil government was established to protect man from man.
- God sent a Redeemer, who gave His church the authority to bring His Kingdom (God's government) to bear on earth.
- The United States of America was established by reasoning from the Biblical principles of Christianity.
- If we abandon God and His law, we lose our identity and liberty.

3

Pennsylvania Trivia—What do you already know?

1. For whom was Pennsylvania named?
2. What is Pennsylvania's nickname?
3. What is Pennsylvania's State Flower? State bird? State fish? State Mammal?
4. What are the 4 major rivers in Pennsylvania?
5. Name a mountain range in Pennsylvania.

4

Best William Penn Jr. Quotes

- Men must be governed by God, or they will be ruled by tyrants.
- Right is right, even if everyone is against it; and wrong is wrong, even if everyone is for it.
- No man is fit to command another that cannot command himself.
- No pain, no palm; no thorns, no throne; no gall, no glory; no cross, no crown.
- Force may make hypocrites, but it can make no converts

5

On Government

- Governments, like clocks, go from the motions men give them, and as governments are made and moved by men, so by them are they ruined too. Wherefore governments rather depend on men than men upon governments.
- "It is certain that the most natural and human government is that of consent, for that binds freely, ... when men hold their liberty by true obedience to rules of their own making."
- "No people can be truly happy, though under the greatest enjoyments of civil liberties, if abridged of the Freedom of their Conscience as to their Religious Profession and Worship."

6

William Penn Jr.— Biography

- William Penn Sr. was an admiral in the Royal Navy. Penn Sr. was a national hero. Penn Jr. was raised in a very affluent home and was able to attend a number of different prestigious schools. He studied the origin of government, the nature of civil liberty, the rights of man, etc.
- At a young age, Penn told his mother that he thought God was beside him and guiding his thoughts



7

- William Penn had a spiritual conversion at age 12. He met a preacher, Thomas Loe (Lowe), who led a small group called the Society of Friends, also known as the Quakers.
- The founder, George Fox, was being interrogated by a magistrate. Fox said to the magistrate, "You will all Quake before God." The name stuck.

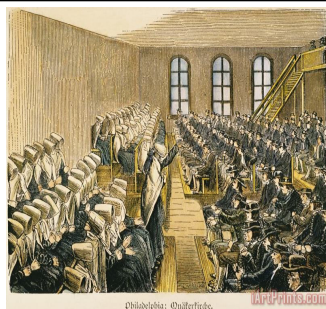


REMEMBER
AMERICA
restore initiative

8

Quaker Beliefs

- There is a part of God in everyone: The Inner Light
- No ministers or preachers. In meetings, everyone sat quietly until the Inner Light prompted someone to speak.
- Dressed in plain clothes to reflect that our focus should be on the inner person, not the outer.
- No military as killing is immoral (only as punishment for murder or treason).
- Refuse to pay taxes that would be used to fund war
- Equality of all—"thee" and "thou" to show that all were holy
- Numbered days of the week and months (rather than names)



Philadelphia: Quaker Meetinghouse

9

Penn Biography (continued)

- He was expelled from Oxford for not attending church
- Becoming a leader of the Quakers, Penn would write several booklets about his beliefs.
- In "The Sandy Foundation Shaken," Penn accused the Church of England for being corrupt. He was imprisoned. When told, "You'll die a prisoner unless you give up these beliefs," Penn replied, "Prison shall be my grave before I will budge a jot, for I owe my conscience to no mortal man."



REMEMBER
AMERICA
restore initiative

10

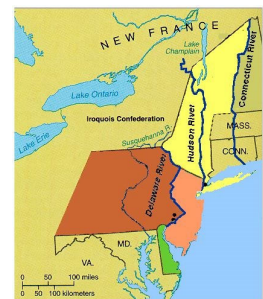
- From prison, he wrote *No Cross, No Crown* "True religion does not call men out of the world, but enables them to live better in it and excites their endeavors to mend it."
- Penn was jailed for preaching in the streets. He was accused of starting a riot. When a jury found him not guilty, the jury was jailed by the judge.

REMEMBER
AMERICA
restore initiative

11

- Penn Sr. died. He had not written Penn Jr. out of his will as he had so often threatened.

Penn Jr. approached King Charles II with a proposal. The king could repay a debt to the Penn family and rid himself of a troublesome sect of Christians at the same time. An arrangement was made and Penn Jr. was made the Proprietor of a colony in the new world.



REMEMBER
AMERICA
restore initiative

12

Pennsylvania

- Penn wanted “Sylvania” but King Charles II insisted on “Pennsylvania” after Penn Sr. Penn Jr. advertised his colony as a Holy Experiment. Said all who would believe in God could settle there.
- Laid out Philadelphia on a grid between the Delaware and Schuylkill Rivers. Wanted a well planned city with no alleys (less crime). Became a pattern for urban development. Brotherly Love, a hoped for Quaker city. Liberty of Conscience.



13

Other Immigrant Groups

- Welsh**
 - Welsh Quakers purchased 40,000 acres from Penn and hoped for an independent colony just west of Philadelphia, but the English Quakers were too numerous to let that happen.
- German**
 - Germans were the second largest group of settlers in PA, after the English. By the time of the American Revolution, 1/3 of PA was German. They became known as the PA Dutch.
 - Many German Anabaptists came to PA for religious freedom including: Mennonites, Moravians, Amish and German Baptist Brethren



14

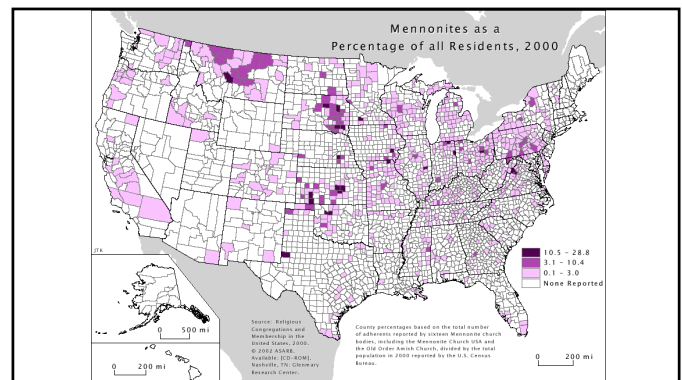
Anabaptists

- Jakob Ammann, a leader within the Swiss Brethren Movement, was responsible for a schism (split within the group). Ammann confronted Hans Reist and several other ministers on where they stood on several doctrinal issues.
- Amish are characterized by simple living, plain dressing, and a reluctance to modernization.
- Mennonites
- Meno Simons lived in the Netherlands. His followers would flee to the New World.
- The Swiss Brethren that did not agree with Amman would become Mennonites.
 - Hold to pacifism.
 - Practice believers Baptism.
 - Wear plain clothes



Menno Simons

15



16

German Baptist Brethren (Dunkers)

- German Baptist Brethren (Dunkers)
 - In 1708 Alexander Mack founded the German Baptists. Like the Pilgrims this community fled to the Netherlands for religious freedom but eventually travelled to Germantown in 1720.
- Ephrata Cloisters—a split from the Dunkers
 - Conrad Beissel split from the Dunkers and formed a cloister (an isolated religious community) called Ephrata.
 - These “Seventh Day Dunkers” held strange practices, but became well known for their composition of choral music.
- Cloister life
 - Beds - 15 inch wide boards.
 - Bed time 9:00-12:00 then 2:00-5:00. The two hour watch was for the coming of Christ.(Matthew 25.6)
 - Marie Rachel Bucher, the last surviving resident of the Ephrata Cloister.
 - She died at the Quarryville Presbyterian Home on July 27, 2008, at the age of 98.



17

•Treatment of

- Natives**--Penn learned the Lenape Language, sought them out to make a peace treaty. Philly didn't have to build a fort or defenses around Philadelphia.
- Penn said in his petition to the King that he “should be able to colonize the province, which might enlarge the British empire and promote the glory of God by the civilization and conversion of the Indian tribes.”



18

- He obtained all land transactions by honest purchase from the Natives.
- Penn to Tamanend: "The Great Spirit who made me and you, who knows the thoughts of men, knows that I and my friends have a hearty desire to live in peace and friendship with you...The friendship between me and you I will not compare to a chain, for the rains may rust it, or the falling tree might break it. We are the same as if one man's body were divided into two parts. We are all one flesh and one blood."
- Tamanend to Penn: "We, as with the sound of many waters, will live in love with William Penn and his children, as long as the creeks and rivers run, and while the sun, moon, and stars shall endure."



19

Pennsylvania Government

1. The original charters of 1682 and 1684

- "...the divine right of government beyond exception, and that for two ends: first, to terrify evil doers: secondly, to cherish those that do well."
- "Let men be good, and government cannot be bad."



20

- "I know some say, let us have good laws, and no matter for the men that execute them: but let them consider, that though good laws do well, good men do better: for good laws may want good men, and be abolished or evaded by ill men...It is true, good laws have some awe upon ill ministers, but that is where they have not power to escape or abolish them, and the people are generally wise and good: but a loose and depraved people (which is the question) love laws and an administration like themselves. That, therefore, which makes a good constitution, must keep it, viz: men of wisdom and virtue...that because they descend not with worldly inheritances, must be carefully propagated by a virtuous education of youth..."

21

- **Religious rights in the first law passed in Pennsylvania:** "That all persons living in this province who confess and acknowledge the one almighty and eternal God to be the creator, upholder, and ruler of the world, and who hold themselves obliged in conscience to live peaceably and justly in civil society, shall...they be compelled at any time to frequent or maintain any religious worship, place or ministry whatsoever."
- "To the end that looseness, irreligion, and atheism may not creep in under the pretence of conscience..." the first day of the week was set aside for people to read Scripture at home or attend services.



22

- **Historian Charles Bancroft:** "government derived neither its obligations nor powers from man. God was to him (Penn) the beginning and the end of government. He thought of government as a part of religion itself. Christians should keep the help and guide the vessel of state."



23

Charter of Privileges, 1701

- People of PA were concerned that once Penn was no longer in the picture, the next governor would have too much power. They negotiated a new frame of government, restricting some of the governor's powers and enacting the first bicameral legislature in the U.S.
Liberty of Conscience was granted to all who believed in the one true God. Right of all free men who believed in Christ to stand for any public office. No landowning requirements.
- Every year, each colony elected 2 men to serve in the General Assembly, which met once per year. This was the first of the 13 colonies that would later become the United States to have a popularly elected representative legislature.



24

- Considered a model for future declarations of rights and privileges.
 - **Thomas Jefferson called William Penn “The Greatest Lawgiver the world has ever seen.”**
- Penn and other Quakers held some slaves for a time and the slave trade did exist briefly in Philadelphia. But, the Germantown Quakers persuaded the colonial government to make slavery and the slave trade illegal in Pennsylvania. It was the first colony to do so.



25

Subsequent Constitutions and our Current Constitution

- The Charter of Privileges from 1701 lasted until 1776.
- The Constitution that was written in 1776 is in its 5th version. 1776, 1790, 1838, 1874, and the current Constitution is from 1968.



26

The Constitution of Pennsylvania 11 articles, 46 amendments

- Preamble--We the people of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, grateful to Almighty God for the blessings of civil and religious liberty, and humbly invoking His guidance, do ordain and establish this Constitution.



27

The Constitution of Pennsylvania

Article I--Declaration of Rights
Article II--The Legislature
Article III--Legislation
Article IV--The Executive
Article V--The Judiciary
Article VI--Public Officers
Article VII--Elections
Article VIII--Taxation and Finance
Article IX--Local Government
Article X--Private Corporations
Article XI--Amendments
46 in total

The Constitution of the United States

Article I--The Legislative Branch
Article II--The Executive Branch
Article III--The Judicial Branch
Article IV--Full Faith & Credit
Article V--Amendments
Article VI--Debts
Article VII--Ratification
Amendments--27 in total



28

Article I—Declaration of Rights

- Section 1—All men are born equally free and independent, and have certain inherent and indefeasible rights, among which are those of enjoying and defending life and liberty, of acquiring, possessing and protecting property and reputation, and of pursuing their own happiness
- Section 2—All power is inherent in the people, and all free governments are founded on their authority and instituted for their peace, safety and happiness. For the advancement of these ends they have at all times an inalienable and indefeasible right to alter, reform or abolish their government in such manner as they may think proper.



29

- Section 3—All men have a natural and indefeasible right to worship Almighty God according to the dictates of their own consciences; no man can of right be compelled to attend, erect or support any place of worship or to maintain any ministry against his consent; no human authority can, in any case whatever, control or interfere with the rights of conscience, and no preference shall ever be given by law to any religious establishments or modes of worship
- Section 5—Elections shall be free and equal; and no power, civil or military, shall at any time interfere to prevent the free exercise of the right of suffrage.
- Section 7--..."The free communication of thoughts and opinions is one of the invaluable rights of man, and every citizen may freely speak, write and print on any subject, being responsible for the abuse of that liberty.

30

- Section 20—The citizens have a right in a peaceable manner to assemble together for their common good, and to apply to those invested with the powers of government for redress of grievances or other proper purposes by petition, address or remonstrance
- Section 21—The right of the citizens to bear arms in defense of themselves and the State shall not be questioned
- Section 27—The people have a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment. Pennsylvania's public natural resources are the common property of all the people, including generations yet to come. As trustee of these resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all the people.

31

The Constitution of Pennsylvania

Article I--Declaration of Rights
 Article II--The Legislature
 Article III--Legislation
 Article IV--The Executive
 Article V--The Judiciary
 Article VI--Public Officers
 Article VII--Elections
 Article VIII--Taxation and Finance
 Article IX--Local Government
 Article X--Private Corporations
 Article XI--Amendments
 46 in total

32

Key Takeaways

- Pennsylvania was founded on Liberty of Conscience
- Pennsylvania's latest iteration of its Constitution (1968) still protects this right

33



34