

# EARLY LOCAL HISTORY.

---

Although we may sometimes be inclined to think we have well-nigh exhausted the sources of our history, and that there is little left for present and future gleaners, the truth is, that is altogether an erroneous and short-sighted view of the case. Because there have been many gleaners, and some of them men with the true historic instinct, it does not follow that everything of value and worthy of consideration has been put on record. This is especially true when we come to apply this rule to our local history. Three extended histories of Lancaster county have been written, and several minor ones in addition. Men have been at work, who, in their investigations, seem to have left no stone unturned, no secret nook unexplored. They have searched out-of-the-way places and mined wherever traces of fact and tradition were to be found. Their diligence and industry have been richly rewarded, and, as a result, the history of our county has been as fully explored and as voluminously written as that of any other county in the State.

But let no one suppose for a moment that all the finds have been made, and all the existing resources exhausted. Our history dates back more than two hundred years, and that is a long period to glean in. During all that time men and women have been doing and writing things' many of which were seemingly of little importance at the time. Many of these things have passed away without leaving a trace behind them; many have been pre-

served and utilized, and still others remain in obscure hiding places from which they are occasionally drawn by keen-scented antiquarians and historians. We have witnessed a number of such instances since our Society has entered upon the work of research and investigation. Our history has not all been written within our local boundaries. Before we were an organized county, men of a speculative turn of mind had come and gone. They had traversed our forests and ridges; had visited our fertile valleys and camped along our many streams; had noted what a goodly land it was, and none of them ever forgot its many attractions. They spoke and wrote about it, and all coveted a home in this later Eden' and this brings me to the more immediate purpose of this paper.

Every member of this Society knows that the first permanent settlement in Lancaster county was made in 1709, perhaps a year earlier, and that the population thereafter grew so rapidly that in 1729 enough people had come here to warrant a county organization with all the requisite county machinery put into active operation. All this is recorded in our county histories; but it never occurred to any one that there might be in existence somewhere some important document, going back to a still earlier period, bearing on the erection of a county on a portion of the identical ground whereon our goodly county was afterwards laid out. Yet such are the facts as they are definitely and clearly established by a document unknown to any of us until a few short months ago, when it was sent to me for sale by a dealer in the city of New York. It became the property of President Steinman the moment his eyes rested on it.

The character of this document is strangely interesting, and its contents

are now for the first time given to the public. Where it passed the two hundred years of its existence is beyond even conjecture. Doubtless it was lying in some forgotten or neglected place' its successive owners themselves unaware of its importance and value, perhaps not even of its existence. By some fortuitous accident or circumstance it was dragged into the light, and its story is now made public. It tells how the Proprietary of the Province of Pennsylvania, as long ago as 1696, together with some of the more enterprising men of that time, had entered into a written agreement to colonize the very spot on which we now are, build towns, roads and bridges, erect a county with all the requisite townships, which should be permitted to send representatives to the General Assembly; that would, in fact, have taken priority of our present county, and, of course, under another name.

I have transcribed this interesting document, in order that it may in this way go on permanent record and be preserved for the uses of the future historian. It is possible, also, that, somewhere, at sometime' an explanation will be found, giving the reasons why the scheme was not carried into effect. The spelling and some of the other peculiarities have been preserved. It reads as follows:

#### A Rare Document.

Certain Concessions Granted by Wm. Penn, absolute Propty. and Gov-ernt. of the Provinces of Pensilvania and Territories thereof unto several of those Psons. who in the year 1696 Did Subscribe for Lands to be Layd out upon ye river Susquehanah as also to such other purchasers as have or shall subscribe in order thereunto in this year 1701 The Consideration and times

of payment for ye S. (said) Lands being incerted in the Preamblos to ye S. Subscribers.

That a Tract of Land Shall be Layd out to ye S. purchassors upon Susquehanah River at or near ye mouth of Conestoga Creek and Extending up ye S. river upon ye several Coursos thereof Twelve miles on a Direct line or Less at ye Cnoice of ye purchassors or otherwise to begin at any place above the S. Conestoga Creek at ye Elections of ye S. Purchassors Provided they be limited to fifteen miles front upon the said river as afs. upon a direct line and to Extend so far back as will Contain ye Quantity of Lands to be purchased as afs. Together with ye Proprietrys tenth hereinafter reserved unless ye quantity Exceed a hundred thousand acres In which Case they may add a proportionable front to ye river.

That a Chief Town shall be hereafre laid out by ye purchassors on any place within the S. Tract in such form and mailer as they shall think fitt In like maner they are Impowered to lay out all other Townships and lands within the S. Tract not Exceeding six thousand acres to a Township and five hundred acres in one place Excepting ye Propriety, who may have one thousand in one place and all to be Layd out by Lott provided that every one shall have his proportion in Lands and lotts according to their Lands within the said Tract.

That the S. Tract shall be a County and after there is fifty ffamilies setled therein the Inhabitants shall have power to Choose two Psons. to represent them in Assembly and when there shall be one hundred ffamilies setled therein they shall have power to Choose four Psons. to represent them afterwards forever and that ye Courts of Judicature shall be kept in the S. Chief Town which Town shall have a

Charter of Privileges for ye Good Government thereof and Benefit of ye People and ye S. County Shall be Called

--and ye other Towns to be hereafter named by ye Purchasors.

And Whereas the Purchasors of ye S. Lands are to go so farr back for the same and are such Considerable encouragers of this setlemt. and it being likely that such a large Tract of Land may have a quantity of Barrens. The Propriety is willing to allow ten p. ct. besides the five p. ct. allowed by Law to Incourage the said purchasors.

In Pursuance whereof a warrant shall be granted to the S. purchassors by ye Propriety or his Comissioners for Surveying or running the out Lines of ye whole Tract when thereunto required.

The Surveyor General is hereby ordered to Survey or Cause the Same to be Surveyed as af. to ye S. purchassors when thereunto requested, he taking for his fees as Surveyor General fifteen pounds only and that they pay the S. Surveyor Genl. or to one of his Deputies for ye actual Survey thereof the sum of fifteen pounds they the S. purchassors finding Chainmen, axmen and Dyett.

That ye S. purchassors may subdivide the S. Tract into Townships at such times and in such maner and by such surveyors as they shall think fitt the Propriety. allowing a Proportionable part of the S. Surveys.

That usuall Confirmacon shall be given to ye several purchassors when requested to their Content for their respective shares and lotts in the S. Tract upon payment of or giving Security for paying ye same to ye Satisfaction of ye Propriety. or his Comissioners of property And for the further Incouragement of ye S. Purchassors their heirs and Assigns to Search for Royal Mines on their own Lands

the Propriety. his heirs and assigns Doth grant to each purchassor their heirs and assigns all royal mines in their respective shares or lotts of Lands they paying to ye Propriety only two fifths thereof Clear of all Charges for ye King's part and their own and all of S. Lands Shall be freed and Cleared by ye Propriety. from all Indian Claim in Point of purchase.

The Propriety. allows Lands for necessary roads to ye Tract when ye Purchassors shall find it most Convenient for Carts &c and ye purchassors are hereby Impowered to lay out ye same when they think fitt and that ye Charges of ye S. roads viz. for Surveying marking Cutting and Clearing thereof and making of Bridges &c. shall at first by ye Propriety. and ye S. Purchassors be Defrayd proportionably as af d. and his Comissioners are hereby ordered to pay ye same with other Charges therein menconed when there is occasion not Exceeding in ye whole one hundred pounds.

And it being needful that several Stages or Inns Should be settled upon the S. roads for ye accomodacon of passengers and ye more easy and Speedy Setlemt. of ye S. Tract for ye Incouragmt. of ye sale and settlement of ye Proprietrys other back lands the Propriety Doth Grant that necessary Lands shall be Layd out upon ye roads to such psons. as shall be willing to Settle ye same on reasonable Terms but for want of voluntary undertakers Then to be granted to ye said purchassors in order thereunto on ye Towns granted in ye S. Tract and whatsoever Changes may be necessary for ye Incouragement of Inns on ye S. roads It shall be defrayed by ye Propriety. and ye S. Purchassors proportionably as of not Exceeding one hundred pounds as af.

And in order to ye Surveying allottment Bounding and regulating of ye

S. Lands Towns and Lots and of Laying out marking and clearing the roads making Bridges and what Else is necessary for carrying on ye S. Design the Major part of the purchassors (or of such as shall meet upon notice given to em) Shall appoint a Committee for that end and purpose and that the propriety and purchassors Shall Contribute towards their part of the Charges thereof having his ten votes of an hundred on this and like occasions.

And in order to ye appointment of Such Comittees the first time it's necessary that the purchassors or ye major part of them meet at Philada. upon notice given to them by ye Commissioners of property and Some of ye purchassors which Committee may adjourn from time to time as there may be occasion.

And for ye better of ye Propriety and purchassors concerned Its necessary that the S. Concessions which are to be strictly P. formed may be Inrol'd in ye rolls office of this Governmt. which may also serve for Directions to the Comissioners or other officers of Property.

And Lastly I ye S. Wm. Penn Do for me and my heirs agree to and Confirm the above Concessions this Twenty fifth Day of ye Eighth Month one thousand Seven hundred and one Witness my hand and Lesser Seal

WM. PENN.

We whose names are underwritten who are now with the proprietor and Govenour at New Castle at ye Signing of ye above Concessions being subscribers for Land at Susquehanah Do in behalf of ourselves and many others that have Subscribed and offer to Subscribe of both Provinces accept of ye above Concessions as Witness our hands and seals this Thirty first Day of the eighth Month one thousand Seven hundred and one.

EDW. SHIPPEN [seal]

CALEB PUSEY [seal]

JNO. GUEST [seal]

DAVID LLOYD [seal]

SAML. CARPENTER [seal]

GRIFFITH OWEN [seal]

THO. STORY [seal]

ROBT. ASSHETON [seal]

PAROMLUS PARMYTER [seal]

Recorded in ye rolls Office at  
Philada. in Book C. 2 vol. 3,  
page 171 to 175 ye 25th 10th  
1701 by me

THO. STORY. Me.ibim

### Knowledge of the Country.

This curious and very valuable document tells its own story so clearly and so fully that there is seemingly little more to add. At the same time it suggests a number of questions which it may not be unprofitable for us to discuss. The first thing that presents itself to our consideration is this: It is conceded there were none but Indian traders resident in this county in 1696, yet in that year a number of influential men were ready and anxious to secure an immense body of land from the Proprietary, and, in conjunction with him, erect it into a county, just as the three earlier counties—Philadelphia' Bucks and Chester—had been established in 1682. How came it that the country lying along the Conestoga River and extending back from the Susquehanna more than thirteen miles was selected? Who told the founders of this proposed county of this district, the fairest and best in all the Province? Was it from the Indian traders, who got their supplies in Philadelphia' that this fact was learned? Or did these projectors themselves send agents out into the unsettled portions of the country to spy out the land? It is more than likely that Penn himself had made all the requisite inquiries at that early



period. We know that whenever he surveyed and set aside a Manor, thus withholding it from the market, he invariably selected the choicest spots in every county.

We know that in the spring of 1701, before this agreement was finally consummated' Penn made a journey into the interior of his Province. In a letter written by Isaac Norris, and quoted by Janney, in his life of Penn, the writer says: "I am just come home from Susquehanna, where I have been to meet the Governor. We had a round-about journey, having pretty well traversed the wilderness. We lived nobly at the King's palace at Conestoga; from thence crossed it to the Schoolkill." Here we have direct proof that Penn was fully acquainted with this region, and this knowledge explains his desire to see a new county established here. We know also that Governor Evans visited the Indians at Pequea, Conestoga and Paxtang in 1707; that Governor Gookin did the same thing in 1711, and Governor Keith in 1717, and no doubt these friends of the Proprietary were instrumental in having Conestoga Manor laid out much along the same lines as were laid down in the project of 1701.

He was to be the largest partner in this enterprise. In every township he was to hold one-fifth of its entire area as his own. Unquestionably, the men engaged in the enterprise knew all about the land they were buying, however they may have procured their knowledge, but none knew more than Penn himself.

#### Its Size and Name.

As defined in the agreement, the proposed county was to have an area of 100,000 acres, or about 150 square miles. It was to have a front of twelve miles along the Susquehanna, *and in a certain contingency fifteen miles' running northward about thir-*

teen miles, which would have taken in the site on which Lancaster is located. It is true, this would not have been a very large county. This, no doubt, arose from the fact that no syndicate was possible that could buy and pay for a larger area, for it must be observed that this contemplated political division was to be erected on a basis or plan different from that under which all the other counties were formed. The fact that the scheme was never carried into effect' no doubt, arose from the difficulty, or impossibility' of securing enough men to buy the proposed tract. One hundred and fifty square miles was too large a load for a 1696 or a 1701 syndicate to carry. The multimillionaires were not then in evidence in Pennsylvania.

It will be observed that no name was given to the proposed county. A blank space is left in the agreement, to be filled with the name, when it should be adopted. Suppose the scheme had not miscarried, then we would not be living in Lancaster county. Remember all this was thirty years before the real erection and naming of the county. Samuel Wright, who had the honor of naming the new county after his native district in England, Lancashire, was not yet living at Wright's Ferry. It would have been some other name, beyond all doubt. Later it became Conestoga Manor.

But while the scheme of establishing the fourth of our counties on this very spot came to naught, the Penn heirs, or those who acted for them, kept their eyes on this goodly portion of their heritage. They did not forget that the lands lying westward and northward from the mouth of the Conestoga were among the best and fairest in all the Province of Pennsylvania, and sixteen years after this document had been signed by the Pro-

proprietary, Surveyor General Jacob Taylor received the following instructions:

"These are to authorize and require thee without any delay to survey or cause to be surveyed, all that tract of land lying between Susquehannah river and Conestoga Creek, from the mouth of said creek as far up the river as the land already granted to Peter Chartier, and then by a line running from the said river to the Conestoga Creek, all of which tract of land for the proper use and behoof of William Penn, Esq., Proprietary and Governor in Chief of the said Province, his heirs and assigns forever. Given under our hands, March 1, 1717-1718."

The land surveyed under this order was known as "Conestoga Manor," and is now included in Manor township. But this "Manor" took in only 16,000 acres, or about one-sixth part as much as was contemplated by the projected county of 1701. Without knowing the reason for this diminished area, we may, nevertheless, hazard a conjecture. The county had become pretty well settled around Lancaster and southward to the Susquehanna. Sypher, in his history, estimates that more than 59,000 Germans alone were in the Province prior to 1727, and a full share of these were scattered in the vicinity of Lancaster. A larger area would have included many lands that had already been sold and created annoyance through already existing titles. This was to be avoided. Hence the smaller area was

surveyed. The Penn heirs were shrewd enough to make their Manors large enough when it was possible or seemed desirable, as may be seen in the "Springettsbury Manor," of 64,520 acres, in York county, "Fagg's Manor," of 39,250 acres, in Chester county, and the Manor of "Mask," of 43,500 acres, in Adams county. *In fact*, we find

that Secretary Logan and Indian Agent John Cartilege had already taken out warrants for 500 acres each in the lower part of what became Conestoga Manor. I find in Spark's life of Franklin that Thomas Penn, sometime between 1731 and 1740, estimated the 13,400 acres which still remained unsold in Conestoga Manor, at £40, Pennsylvania currency, per hundred acres, or £5'360 (\$14'293) for the entire tract. Almost any 100 acre farm in Manor is now worth what the Proprietaries 160 years ago would have been willing to take for it all.

### The Percentage for Roads.

I may allude to another interesting point which has been brought out by this document. Every one who has had occasion to examine the Provincial surveys and deeds will bear in mind that in those documents an allowance of six per cent. was always made for roads when the Proprietary sold lands. This practice prevailed down to the time when all the Proprietary rights were wiped out by the Revolution. But from this document we learn that in 1701 the allowance for roads was only five per cent. The language of this instrument is: "The Proprietary is willing to allow ten per cent. besides the five per cent. allowed by law, to encourage the said purchasers." When was this legal five per cent. allowance discontinued and the six per cent. substituted? There must have been a period when the change was made.

The interesting document which forms the subject of this paper seems to show us that there is still much valuable uncollected and unknown material which may throw light on the provincial period of our history. When the next history of Lancaster county is written the historian will have to

scheme detailed so fully in this old paper, and put on record how it was proposed to erect a county out of this garden spot two hundred years ago. Every scrap of writing of that early time has its value. We can hardly overestimate the importance of these apparently trifling matters, and if we succeed in calling out even a few such documents as the one under consideration' our Society will not have been organized in vain.

#### Sketches of the Signers.

In conclusion it has occurred to me to investigate who these nine men were that united in this scheme to establish a new county. With a single exception, they are unknown to the average reader of our history. It is only when the story of Pennsylvania as it was recorded 200 years ago is dragged into light that we hear of them. Each one of them played an important part in the building of this Commonwealth. They were, in fact, with one exception, founders of our State, and that one was the last named, Paromlus Parmyter. I have searched two score volumes and turned over many long lists of the names of the men of that period, but while all the rest occur times without number, his has not occurred a single time. To show how prominent these signers were in their day and generation, I have prepared brief sketches of each. With the exception of Edward Shippen, they have been gleaned from many sources. Doubtless there are full biographical sketches of them, but none of these have been accessible to me, and I have been compelled to do the best I could with the resources at my command. They will, at all events, serve to throw additional interest around this interesting document.

#### Edward Shippen.

First, and best known, comes Ed-

ward Shippen. He was born in Cheshire, England, in 1639. He came of a good family' was bred to mercantile pursuits and emigrated to Boston in 1668, where, as a merchant, he accumulated a large fortune. He married a Quakeress, Elizabeth Lybrand, and himself became a Quaker. Those people were not in favor with the Puritans, and after having been much harassed made overtures to Penn, who invited them to Pennsylvania. Before leaving Boston he donated a piece of ground for a Friends meeting house, on which was erected the first brick church built in Boston. His high character united to his great wealth at once made him a prominent figure in Philadelphia. In 1695 he was elected to the Assembly and chosen Speaker. In 1696 he was elected a member of the Provincial Council, and continued as such until his death; for ten years he was the senior member. In the same year he was commissioned a justice of the peace, and in 1697 the presiding Judge of the Courts of Common Pleas and Quarter Sessions and the Orphans' Court. In 1701 he became Mayor of Philadelphia, being so named by Penn in the city charter. During the same year he was named as one of Penn's commissioners of property, an office he held until his death. As President of the Council he was at the head of the Government from May until December, 1703. In 1704' and for some years thereafter, he was one of the Aldermen' and from 1705 until 1712 he was the City Treasurer. He contracted a third marriage in 1706, which led to his withdrawal from the Society of Friends. He built the house which was long known as the "Governor's House." It was built in the early days of the city and received the name of "Shippen's Great House," while Ship-pen generally was distinguished for three

son, the biggest house and the biggest coach." This house was built on the west side of Second street, north of Spruce. He died in Philadelphia in 1712. His grandson' Edward Shippen, was Mayor of Philadelphia, and one of the Judges of the Common Pleas. In 1752 he came to Lancaster and was appointed Prothonotary.. **His** signature is, no doubt, familiar to you all.

Caleb Pusey.

Caleb Pusey was born in Berkshire' England' about 1650. First a Baptist, he joined the Quakers and came over with Penn in 1682. Even before leaving the mother country he had formed a syndicate with Penn and some others to build mills in Pennsylvania, which Pusey was to superintend. He had framed and shipped on the "Welcome" what were afterwards known as the "Chester Mills" the first mills put up in the Province. Pusey laid the cornerstone, and was the manager many years. But he was also prominent in civil affairs. He was an Indian negotiator, a Justice of the Peace and Sheriff and Treasurer of Chester county, served ten years or more in the Assembly and for a quarter of a century was a member of the Supreme Council. He was also an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court.

Few names appear oftener in the early history of the Province than his. He was evidently a man of large means. In 1700 a 5,000-acre tract of land was ordered to be surveyed to him, in the right of his wife. In 1687 he complained to the Commissioners of Lands of one Thomas Cobourn, who was about to set up a mill on Chester Creek, to the great damage of the mills already there under Pusey's charge. Cobourn was warned to give over the project, but in 1690 Pusey came before the Commissioners and said the former notice to Cobourn was unheeded, whereupon the Commissioners instructed

the Attorney General to prosecute him.

He achieved much reputation as a preacher and controversialist. As is well known, Proud's History of Pennsylvania was largely based on the earlier manuscript history of Samuel Smith; the latter procured much of his material for his valuable work from Pusey. He was an intimate friend of George Keith, but when the latter assailed the Quaker doctrines Pusey became one of his most vigorous opponents. He was one of the three Commissioners to seat the Ockamokon, or Crum Indians, on a tract of land in Chester county. He was one of the most voluminous of the Quaker writers. A full list of his printed works is impossible here, but a few may be named: "A Serious and Seasonable Warning Unto All People, Occasioned by Two Most Dangerous Epistles to a Late Book of John Fall-doe's;" "Daniel Leeds Justly Rebuked For Abusing William Penn, and his Folly and Fals-Hoods Contained in His Two Printed Challenges to Caleb Pusey Made Manifest," and "The Bomb Searched and Found Stuffed With False Ingredients, Being a Just Confutation of an Abusive Printed Half-Sheet Call'd a Bomb, Published Against the Quakers by Francis Buggs " He died on February 25, 1727.

John Guest.

My search for material for a sketch of Judge Guest, as he was commonly called, has not been very prolific in results. He was born in England, but when I have been unable to learn. He received a University education, read law and practiced in the English Courts before coming to this country. When he arrived is not known, but it was soon after Daniel Lloyd came, which was in 1686. He held the position of Puisne Judge in 1699 to 1701, and in the latter year was commissioned by Penn to be Chief Justice of



the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania and Presiding Judge of the Courts of Common Pleas, Quarter Sessions and the Orphans' Court of the city and county of Philadelphia. He was Chief Justice in 1701' 1702 and 1705. In July, 1701, he became a member of the Council, of which body he remained a member until his death, on September 8, 1707.

He was the first trained lawyer that sat upon the Pennsylvania Bench.

He was an extensive land owner. In 1702 I find he purchased 1,500 acres of land in the "Great Swamp." In 1701 he got from the Commissioners a grant of all the land lying between his 1,000-acre tract and White Clay Creek, for which he was to pay £9 per 100 acres, and one bushel of wheat yearly rent. In the same year he was again before the Commissioners, and claimed 200 acres of land in Newcastle county on account of a purchase made by his mother-in-law, Sarah Welch, in 1689, he having purchased 200 acres more adjoining and desired enough more to make up 500 acres. In 1703 he came to the Commissioners and asked them to sell him 333 1-3 adjoining the 666 2-3 acres he already had between White Clay Creek and Nottingham, on which he might locate a settlement. Later he appeared for 1,000 acres more, urging he had been a great sufferer because of his services to the Government. Only 500 acres were allowed him, and on condition that he make his settlement prior to December 1, 1704. He gave the Commissioners of Lands much trouble about this land. He even complained to the Governor against the Commissioners, and finally on January 27, 1705, it was agreed to leave this land question to arbitrators.

David Llcyd.

David Lloyd was born in the year 1656, in the parish of Maravon, Montgomeryshire, North Wales. He re-

ceived a regular legal training, and in 1686 was sent by Penn to Pennsylvania with a commission as Attorney General of the Province. He is said to have had a most engaging personality, with great energy united with unusual natural abilities. Possessed of these qualities, he quickly rose to offices of public trust as well as profit. He became Clerk to the County Commissioners in 1686, and, as already stated, was Attorney General in the same year. In 1689 he became Clerk of the Assembly' and in 1693 and 1694 was returned as a member of that body. He also served as a member of the Provincial Council for several years. He became Recorder of Philadelphia county in 1702, upon the resignation of Thomas Story. He was Speaker of the Assembly in 1694, in 1704 and 1705. In 1702 he became Deputy Judge and Advocate to the Admiralty. He was appointed Chief Justice of the Province in 1718. In all he was a member of the Assembly fifteen years, between 1693 and 1728. He ended his long and useful life in 1731. He was very active in judicial reforms, and most of the important court laws were the result of his untiring labors. In a letter to Penn' Secretary Logan describes him as "a man very stiff in all his undertakings, of a sound judgment and a good lawyer, but extremely pertinacious and somewhat revengeful."

He was married to a daughter of Joseph Growdon' a prominent citizen and large land owner of the Province. I find that in 1699 he made application to the Governor and Council for the privilege of laying out a town at Chester, to be called the Green. It was opposed by Jasper Yeates on the ground that it was church land. His title, however, was confirmed' and Yeates afterwards purchased the land. With several others, who owned part of the

40'000 acre Welsh tract, he complained to the Commissioners in 1690 that the promises of Penn had not been fulfilled to them. In this same year he was again before the Commissioners of Property, requesting them not to grant a patent for the Swede's Glebe lands at Chester, until there had been a hearing of the differences between him and the Swedes. He was undoubtedly one of the big men who helped lay the foundation of this State deep and strong. One of the defects of his character is described as "an inordinate confidence in his own wisdom." He had a Welsh temper and was very bitter and passionate when provoked. He was an able defender of popular rights, and as such antagonized both Penn and Logan, being both feared and hated by them. The evening of his days was passed in dignified repose, and he enjoyed the confidence of all, and their respect as the first lawyer in Pennsylvania.

#### Samuel Carpenter.

No man was more conspicuous in the early history of Pennsylvania than Samuel Carpenter. and none was more honored by Penn. He was born in England in 1649. He was of Quaker descent and joined Penn in Philadelphia in 1682. He had already purchased 5'000 acres of land from Penn in 1681. He was from first to last one of the firm supporters of the Proprietary and no man in the Province was more honored by him. His name appears in the first tax list of Philadelphia, in 1693' where he is assessed at £1,300, the largest amount at which any individual was assessed. His taxes were £5.8.4. In fact, he was reported to be the wealthiest man in the Province' after Penn himself. He was interested in trade and shipping' and owned mills at Bristol and Chester. William Bradford' writing to the Gov-

ernor about 1698, says he and Samuel Carpenter were building a paper mill "about a mile from Penn's Mills at Schuylkill."

Few men in the Province filled so many offices of trust. His name heads the list of Common Councilmen in the first city charter granted in 1691. On February 16' 1689, he was appointed one of the Commissioners of Property for the Province. In 1690 he appeared before the Commissioners in behalf of himself and others, owners of a flock of sheep, and requested as many black oaks as would fence ten acres of land, for a sheep pasture. It was granted in any kind of wood except white oak.

He was a member of the Governor's Council and Treasurer of the Province from 1685 to 1714. He was also a member of the Provincial Assembly, a trustee of the public schools established by the Friends in 1687, and Deputy Governor during Markham's administration. He must have had a legal training, as he was a Justice of the Court of Common Pleas, a Judge of the Quarter Sessions and also of the Orphans' Court. Secretary Logan, in a letter to Penn' dated August 7, 1713, says Carpenter had moved to Bristol, to live there permanently. In 1711 he was chosen to forward to the Friends in Boston the money collected at Burlington' to help them build their meeting house.

In 1687 he built the historic "Slate Roof House," so noted in the early history of Philadelphia. Penn and his family lived in it at his first visit to this country' and Secretary Logan did afterwards. It stood where the Chamber of Commerce now stands. He was married in 1684 to Hannah Hardiman, a native of Haverford, South Wales. Carpenter was well liked in the Province' and when he died, in 1714, Secretary Logan wrote to Penn as follows:

"That worthy and benevolent man, Samuel Carpenter, is to be interred to-morrow, after about two weeks illness. A fever and cough, with rheumatic pains, carried him off. I always loved him and his generous and benevolent disposition; so I find at his exit few men could have left a greater degree of concern on my thoughts. I need say nothing to thee on the loss of such a man, but a sense of it was seen in the faces of hundreds. I am satisfied his humble and just soul is at rest."

#### Griffith Owen.

Although Griffith Owen was a born Welshman, I have found an account which says he came to Pennsylvania from Prescal, in Lancashire, on the ship 'Vine' from Liverpool, on August 17, 1784, with his wife Sarah and their son Robert and daughters Sarah and Elenor' and seven servants. It may be that he had been living in Lancashire immediately prior to his embarkation, although in the light of other well established facts I hardly think that likely.

He was a Quaker, had a liberal education and was a surgeon of high repute. No sooner had Penn received his charter' than Owen at once became interested in a scheme of colonization in the new Province. Being a thorough Welshman, he, along with some of his countrymen, induced Penn to set apart 40'000 acres, known as the "Welsh Tract'" at the time, in Chester county. It was designed that the Welsh language, manners and laws should prevail on the tract, and none but Welsh should have the right to purchase land within its limits. These rights being secured, Griffith Owen came over, reaching Philadelphia in September, 1684' *and* at once located at the place now called Merion. Here

he practiced his profession, acquiring a large practice. He is credited with having performed the first surgical operation in Pennsylvania.

He became Coroner of Philadelphia county in 1685. He was a member of the Assembly in 1686, and was re-elected in 1688-9, and continuously, I believe, until 1708. He was also a member of the Governor's Council from 1690 to 1693, and re-elected in 1700, and remained a member until his death. He was Justice of the Peace under the charter of 1691. In 1704 he was Mayor of the city of Philadelphia. In 1702 he was Master of the Rolls, and in the same year he was Deputy Keeper of the Seal. He was a Judge of the Common Pleas, and long one of the Proprietary' Commissioners of Property. I find him before the latter body in 1687 in behalf of some of the Welsh Friends located on the Welsh Tract. Upon numerous other occasions he appeared for them on the same mission.

Like many of the prominent Friends of that time, he was a minister as well as layman, and in the performance of these duties made several trips to England and Wales. Along with several others, in 1689, he drew up and presented a paper "to incite the quarterly meetings to keep up a godly discipline, and a tender inspection over the youth." He attended the famous historical meeting at Burlington in 1692, where George Keith declared, "There is not more damnable heresies and doctrines of devils amongst any Protestant professions than amongst the Quakers." Owen was one of those who prepared the testimony against Keith, and the chairman of the committee sent to admonish him. There was no more respected or influential Friend in all the Province. He was one of the "dear Friends" to whom Penn

wrote in 1712, from England, as follows: "Now know that though I have not actually sold my government to our truly good Queen, yet the able Lord Treasurer and I have agreed it." Penn's illness upset the scheme. Griffith Owen died in 1717.

Francis Daniel Pastorius, the head of the Germantown Colony, and Pennsylvania's first poet, wrote and dedicated the following epitaph to his dear friend, Griffith Owen:

What here of Griffith Owen lies, Is  
only what of all men dies:  
His soul and spirit live above  
With God in pure and perfect love.

Thomas Story.

Thomas Story was born in Cumberland' England, and arrived in Pennsylvania in 1699. He was bred to the bar, but laid that profession aside to become a minister of the Gospel. One account I have seen says he was born in 1666. He was, therefore, 33 years of age when he came into the Province. He was a man of much ability and sterling merit, and at once assumed a commanding place in the community. He was Keeper of the Seal in 1700 and Master of the Rolls in the same year. He was a member of the Governor's Council from 1700 to 1706. He was made Recorder of Philadelphia county in 1701, and named in the charter. In 1715 he made a trip to Holland and Germany, and preached in many Mennonite meeting houses in those countries. He was a distinguished minister among the Friends. He was married to a daughter of the first Edward Shippen. He died in 1742.

Robert Assheton.

William Assheton bought 3,000 acres of land from Penn on May 30, 1687. When his son' Robert, came to Pennsylvania I have not been able to learn. He became prominent in the Province, and soon attained places of distinction.

I find he was Recorder of Philadelphia county, **vice** Lloyd, resigned, in 1708. He was Town Clerk from 1701 to 1709, and again in 1733-34. **He** was Clerk **of** the Courts in 1709, 1726, 1733 and 1734. He was Prothonotary of Philadelphia county in 1722 and 1723, and Naval Officer of the Port of Philadelphia in 1717. He was also a member of the Government Council from 1711 to 1727. He was Attorney General of the Province in 1721 and Deputy Provincial Secretary in 1707. In 1712 he was the Prothonotary of Chester county. He was Puisne Judge from 1715 to 1718, and again from 1722 to 1726. He was a Judge of the Supreme Court of the Province in 1725, but, having received the office of Recorder of Philadelphia, resigned his place on the bench. He was a kinsman of William Penn. He married Jane Elizabeth Falconier. He died suddenly while at the Provincial Council table in May 29, 1727, and was buried after the English manner of people of distinction at that period—in much pomp, by torchlight, in Christ Church. His sons' William, who predeceased him' and Ralph, who died in 1746' were also Provincial Councillors.

#### Paromlus Parmyter.

When this paper was read before the Society it was stated that the writer had been unable to get even upon **a** trace of the above-named individual. Hundreds of lists of names had been examined, a score of volumes searched and inquiries made without number, but all in vain. But, as it has been aptly said' that all things come to him who waits, so it may also be asserted that persistent effort and search bring all things to light. The name is not plainly written on the document, but was later examined under a glass, when the one at the head of this paragraph stood revealed. Dr. Jos. **H.** Dubbs, under **its** new form, recognized



it as that of one of the Attorney Gen •  
erals of the three lower counties—  
Newcastle, Kent and Sussex.

In Volume IX. of the Second Series  
of Pennsylvania Archives his name  
was accordingly found. His predeces-  
sors in the office were as follows:

|                            |                |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| John White.....            | Oct. 25, 1683  |
| Samuel Hassent.....        | Jan. 16, 1685  |
| John White (Special) ..... | Nov. 17' 1685  |
| David Lloyd.....           | April 24, 1686 |
| John Moore.....            | May 19, 1698   |
| William Assheton.....      | 1700           |
| Par. Parmyter.....         | 1701           |

He evidently retained this office un-  
til 1705, as no other name appears until  
that year. But this closes my sole  
source of information. This is all the  
more remarkable inasmuch as all the  
other names associated on the docu-  
ment with his occur again and again in  
the history of the Province. Hardly  
one of them held less than a dozen  
public offices. They were the veritable  
Pooh-Bahs of that day, but Parmyter's  
name does not appear more than once,  
as already stated.

Author: Diffenderffer, Frank Ried, 1833-1921.

Title: Early local history as revealed by an old document / by F. R. Diffenderffer.

Primary Material: Book

Subject(s): Lancaster County (Pa.)--History--17th century.

Publisher: Lancaster, Pa. : Lancaster County Historical Society, 1897-98

Description: [3]-27 p. ; 23 cm.

Series: Journal of the Lancaster County Historical Society ; v. 2, no. 1

Call Number: 974.9 L245 v.2

Location: LCHSJL -- Journal Article (reading room)

=====

+++++

Institution Name  
Institution Address  
Institution Phone Number  
Institution E-mail Address