

Chapter 1 : Chester County Pennsylvania Genealogy | Family History Resources

First Families of Pennsylvania—Approved Ancestors Listed in this table are the qualifying ancestors—those whose residency in Pennsylvania falls within one of the required time periods—from First Families applications approved to date.

Thank you so much for inviting me to be part of your program. Congratulations to the members of the planning committee and to the many volunteers who had a role. This weekend, you are part of a growing American pastime called "cultural history," in which people seek to learn more about how their ancestors lived and what happened in their lifetimes. Cultural history is now a reason for the growth of travel and tourism in America. I have visited here at least six times over the past 25 years in undertaking my family genealogy. I discovered on a county chat room this spring a very profound entry in which a resident stated that "the past is what actually happened; history is only what the officials wrote down. The history of the Nottingham Lots has been told and published at different times by historians, genealogists, Quakers, and families. Over these past years, there has probably been both much fact and, yes, some folklore in describing what actually occurred on this historic land. And please forgive me if I continue to perpetuate folklore after years. This area of the county represented the western frontier of Pennsylvania at that time, and the lands west of here were primarily tribal and unsettled by Europeans. Native Americans, particularly descendants of the Susquehannocks and other tribes that had been displaced by the growth of colonizing settlers, once used the heavily forested lands here for their hunting and fishing grounds. Historically, the Nottingham Lots were "ground zero" for a multi-generational land dispute between the several Lords Baltimore and William Penn, his sons and grandsons over border rights. Unlike other English colonies in America, both Maryland and Pennsylvania were originally grants or gifts to Lord Baltimore and William Penn, respectively. Each had autonomy in governing his colony without the direct control of the English government. It is apparent from the records that Maryland had its toehold in this area before Pennsylvania. However, this border was never firmly established. Penn appointed his cousin, William Markham, governor of Pennsylvania and appointed three commissioners to lay out the city of Philadelphia. Penn continued to amass great land holdings in the new colony, as he had in England. The second Lord Baltimore, Cecil Calvert, became more preoccupied with settling his border rights with the colony of Virginia to the south. At the same time, Penn was successful in attracting Quaker families primarily from the Philadelphia area and West Jersey as a means of fortifying his title to it. In addition to the political differences between Lord Baltimore and William Penn, there were also differences in their religious backgrounds. Maryland was a Catholic-friendly colony and the Calverts were Catholic. Talbot, an Irishman who became Surveyor General of Maryland, was granted a patent for a huge tract of land of 32, acres known as the Susquehanna Manor to help settle English and Irish immigrants in Maryland. Talbot was an adventurous man who became embroiled in. William Penn used his dominant position to carve out over half of the former Susquehanna Manor for the new Nottingham settlement at the turn of the century. In , William Penn granted a warrant for 18, acres for the Nottingham Lots as one tract. The lots extended east to west about 1. The lots extended north to south at a maximum width of 3 miles. In , all 18, acres lay in Chester County, PA. Each lot averaged approximately acres and each was numbered between 1 and It is generally believed that prospective owners made selections by the drawing of lots - hence, the use of the term "Lots. The local township became known as East Nottingham and the meetinghouse became East Nottingham. According to the Pennsylvania Commissions of Property in , the original families interested in purchasing one or more of the Nottingham Lots were to pay "8 pounds for every acres within one year of date hereof, and one shilling for a yearly quitrent, for every acres forever after, or in case of nonpayment, that they shall hold the land under the yearly rent of 2 bushels of good winter wheat for every acres Subsequent to the establishment of the area, the Friends laid out a road through the center of the Nottingham Lots. The Nottingham area at that time has been described as rich in natural resources, with heavily forested lands and trees that included hickory, chestnut, walnut, and oak. The land was fertile and the streams were said to be clear and vibrant. New economic opportunities were plentiful for new settlers to this area. It is believed that two pioneer brothers, James and

William Brown, both Quaker ministers, were among the first settlers here. Tradition has it that the Brown brothers were likely accompanied by several other founding members, including Andrew Job, John Churchman, and Henry Reynolds. It is said that William Penn accompanied the Brown brothers and others to the area in . On their last day, Penn is believed to have set apart and dedicated 40 acres of land, which is the land that we stand on today. Penn is quoted as saying that this land is "to them and their successors forever, for the combined purpose of public worship, the right of burial, and the privilege of education. Several historical sources, however, imply that William Penn may not have been present at the surveying of the Lots. Penn had experienced financial setbacks both in Pennsylvania and England and was busy straightening out his financial affairs. Penn had returned from England in November , after a long absence from the colony. He spent much of his time at his home in Pennsbury on the Delaware River and at his home in Philadelphia. Penn returned to England in October , only to return to America very briefly between and his death in . It is possible that Penn left his agent James Logan of Philadelphia in charge of many of the proprietary affairs of Pennsylvania, including the surveying of and founding of the Nottingham Lots. Penn had become overextended in his landholdings and financial obligations in both America and England and no doubt was distracted by these difficulties. It is conceivable that he was preparing to return to England, as he did in October, , and that he never came to Nottingham. Whether Penn was present or not, however, he undoubtedly approved this location for the settlement. It is believed that his verbal declaration, made in , was for 64 years the only title by which Friends held ownership of the land of the Brick Meetinghouse. Nottingham was a frontier village for its first 30 years, while settlers cleared the land and built roads, shops, dwellings, and the Meetinghouse. The Lots were populated by "simple, frugal, and industrious people" who combined farming with one or more of the occupations of that time including milling, blacksmithing, carpentry, clock making, tanning. They raised extensive crops of wheat, corn, and vegetables. Tobacco was not grown here since the soil would not support it. The community became highly self-sufficient by the sharing of services, such as home-building, relying very little on outside resources other than perhaps support from the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of Friends. In either or , a log cabin was built to serve as the first Nottingham Meetinghouse. There were two separate sides, one of brick and one of stone, one side for the men and the other side for the women. It is thought to have been the largest Quaker meetinghouse south of Philadelphia, within the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, for the next few decades. The social traditions of the early Nottingham founders were closely aligned to their conservative religious beliefs. The Friends addressed themselves as "thee" and "thou. Their household possessions were few, but land ownership appeared to be a high priority. They were also very human, according to meeting records. Some Friends were "disowned" from Quaker meetings for a variety of reasons, including marrying out of unity, excessive drinking, fornication, taking an oath, assaulting another person, and others. The Quaker faith and moral conscience in this small community was apparently strong, conservative, and rigid. Quaker women were known for their revolutionary child rearing practices, which were considered advanced for the times. Women also pursued other household tasks such as candle making, gardening, and the making of clothing. Children were very much a part of the family work unit, as their roles were defined by religious tenets. The Nottingham Quakers apparently supported a basic education. A Friends school built of logs was erected here about and served the community for the next 65 years. It reflected their basic religious beliefs about education and learning. Education much beyond the elementary level was virtually unknown and unavailable, since Friends viewed advanced formal education with suspicion for many years. The first homes in the village, called "bee hives," were very small, stone houses built on two levels. They often had a "keeping room" with a cooking fireplace and had very simple, narrow staircases to the second floor. They were occasionally built with the help of neighboring Friends. One of the greatest challenges the Nottingham Lots landowners and their descendants confronted was gaining title to their property after the death of William Penn in . This particularly caused difficulty when property was to be resold to subsequent purchasers and the lots were subdivided. Another challenge was that many Nottingham landowners apparently failed to pay their quitrents, since for years, it was uncertain whether they were to be paid to Philadelphia or to Annapolis. The Nottingham Quakers were very traditional about their rites of burial. The graveyard partially surrounded the Meetinghouse. Initially, there were no grave markers or stones to identify the deceased. Later, there were

small stones used with no markings, and then subsequently, small stones with inscriptions were added. The larger headstones were a later addition and seemed to be out of form with Quaker simplicity. The geographical identity of the Nottingham Lots had always been somewhat confusing. The people seemed to have very strong alliances to Pennsylvania and Delaware. The name "Nottingham Lots" appeared on the early surveys and maps. The town was renamed "Calvert" about , since the postal service felt the name of Brick Meetinghouse was too long. The original Nottingham Lots were settled by 15 families, some of whom held more than one lot. Five owners never lived on their land here but were instead, absentee owners who lived mostly in the Philadelphia area. William Penn apparently retained 3, acres for his personal use, known as the "proprietary lots. Their roots were mostly in the northern England counties of Cheshire, Durham, Lancashire, and Yorkshire, although some other English counties were represented. Nearly all of the original Nottingham families came from within a mile radius of Philadelphia before settling here. All were Quakers, and most of them transferred their certificate of membership from other Quaker meetings to the Brick Meetinghouse after its establishment. It can be surmised that William Penn or his agents knew at least some of the families in England or Pennsylvania and encouraged them to relocate to Nottingham. Among the original owners, certainly the Brown brothers James and William represented the strong religious values of the community. They are believed to have held the first Quaker meetings in their homes about prior to the building of the Meetinghouse. By 1, six members of the Brown family, four men and two women, were ministers here in Nottingham. Andrew Job was a carpenter and the sheriff of Chester County between and

Chapter 2 : Counseling – Family Service of Chester County

Chester County, as one of the original PA counties, is a fascinating place where many of the events that shaped our nation took place. William Penn arrived aboard 'The Welcome' in , from when we may date the beginnings of Chester County.

One of his first goals was to meet and make peace with local Native Americans, the original inhabitants. But it was not a direct journey to Philadelphia, where Dutch and Swedes had settled earlier in the seventeenth century. Penn detoured to Chester to meet with Quakers and worship at a local Friends Meeting. Although he has been, on occasion, credited with the founding of Quakerism in Pennsylvania, several pioneering members of the Religious Society of Friends had settled in the region prior to his arrival. Early records are spotty, but the first Quaker to settle in what is now known as Pennsylvania, according to historian Rufus M. Jones, was probably Robert Wade, who had emigrated from England in . The colonists who established the meeting at Falls had obtained their patents for land from Sir Edmund Andros , governor of New York. The building was added to the National Register of Historic Places in . In his book entitled History of the Religious Society of Friends from its Rise to the Year , Quaker minister and author Samuel McPherson Janney summarized Quaker religious activities during the early years in Pennsylvania. But they that come upon a mere outward account must work, or be able to maintain such as can. Fowl, fish, and venison are plentiful; and of pork and beef no want, considering that about two thousand people came into this river last year. Dear friends and brethren, we have no cause to murmur, our lot is fallen every way in a goodly place, and the love of God is, and growing, among us, and we are a family at peace within ourselves, and truly great is our joy therefor. The first of the post-Penn meetinghouses were erected in Haverford preceded by Shackamaxon , Merion, constructed by Welsh Quakers, and Radnor. All three remain active today. There appears to be no record extant of the first meetings, but they were most likely established in . Philadelphia artist Jean Leon Gerome Ferris was best known for his series of seventy-eight historical paintings entitled The Pageant of a Nation. Although his highly idealized paintings were popular with the public, they were often fraught with inaccuracies. Places of worship are generally called Monthly Meetings. Monthly Meetings in close proximity are connected for the purpose of conducting business through Quarterly Meetings. All are under the umbrella of a Yearly Meeting which, again, is essentially determined by geography. In Pennsylvania, the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting is the oldest and largest while the Baltimore Yearly Meeting is the umbrella for meetings in the southern portion of Pennsylvania. A few scattered meetings, mostly in the western part of the state, are under the jurisdiction of the Ohio Yearly Meeting. As Penn and his followers began establishing a new life for themselves, Quakers understandably dominated the fledgling colony. Once their homesteads were built and land cleared for crops, Quakers, mostly of English, Welsh, German, and Irish descent, constructed dwellings for worship, commerce and later, education. William Wistar Comfort, in The Quakers: It was entered in the National Register of Historic Places in . That influence included an emphasis on education for the young. Penn, confirming and enlarging its privileges, is dated 29th of November, . The first teacher was George Keith, a classical scholar, and a minister of the society. Haverford College is the oldest Quaker institution of higher education in the United States; its campus contains the largest and most intact group of architectural commissions made by the Society of Friends. During the era Quakers populated the region, they brought with them guiding principles that eventually led to their diminished influence in Pennsylvania society. Penn set the stage with his insistence that native populations be treated fairly. However, early Quakers advocated gender equity and women were, from the beginning, active participants in religious activities. Whalen described other forms of Quaker activism in Pennsylvania, including condemnation of the accepted practice of owning slaves. Through the efforts of such Quaker abolitionists as John Woolman [], the Meetings adopted stricter and stricter policies regarding slave holding. By all Quakers in good standing had released their slaves. Later Quakers were active in the Underground Railroad and the abolitionist movement. Communities in Common" as its annual theme. The Society of Friends disowned Nathanael Greene, son of a Quaker minister, after he attended a military parade in . Quakers strongly believed in equality in education. This enabled many a poor English renter to

become a landowner in Pennsylvania. Initially, the migrating settlers moved westward toward York and, eventually, into what is now Adams County. Philadelphia became the hub of a major Quaker settlement with local Quakers founding schools, hospitals, almshouses and other institutions for the education and welfare of the population. In Newberrytown, now in York County, a meetinghouse was also constructed of stone, in York, a Meeting was established in The Menallen Meetinghouse is a single-story brick structure; Huntington was built of stone gathered in surrounding fields. Within a few years, the Quaker settlers moved farther west. Just as rapidly as they ascended to prominence, influence, and importance, the role of Friends began to swiftly and steadily diminish. Although there were many reasons for this decline, one major factor may have been that Quaker beliefs, especially pacifism and the refusal to contribute to military activity, did not resonate with increasing numbers of non-Quaker immigrants. Equally unpopular was the Quaker decision to censure those who did serve the colonial cause or stray from tradition. The Friends also refused to provide any financial support for wartime activities. Such was the fate of the prominent Philadelphian Thomas Gilpin []. As pacifists, most Quakers refused to support taxes to finance the American Revolution and most would not take up arms against the British. The resulting backlash from non-Quakers was predictable. The building is one of only two extant log meetinghouses built under the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. There were other factors for the decline, including an ongoing exodus of Quakers to regions to the west. Ironically, according to author Albert Cook Myers in his book *Immigration of the Irish Quakers into Pennsylvania*, "Friends Quakers had taken such a firm stand against slavery that they were no longer able to come into economic competition with their neighbors who utilized slave labor. Meetings, lacking sufficient members to survive, began to close. Its members had helped move more than a thousand escaping slaves along the Underground Railroad. Newberrytown, later called Redlands, and Warrington closed in York was shuttered in In the late s and early s, both Warrington and York were reactivated. Today, Huntington and Redlands and several associated cemeteries remain under the care of Menallen Meeting in Biglerville. Although well-preserved, the shuttered meetinghouses are rarely used, except sporadically for special worship services. Neither building has any modern amenities. Before building the stone meetinghouse, Quakers met first in homes until , when they erected a log building, which the present-day structure replaced in Quaker abolitionists William Wright and his wife Phebe Wierman Wright are buried in the adjacent cemetery. Although Quakers no longer hold a place of prominence in Pennsylvania, evidence of their heritage can be found throughout the Commonwealth. While virtually none of the earliest meetinghouses-commonly built of logs-have survived, many of the following generation of buildings, including one dating to the late seventeenth century, remain intact and in use. True to their belief in simplicity, most Quaker meetinghouses are basic, functional structures built of wood, fieldstone, or brick. Many have or did have slate roofs. Interiors, often with original hand-hewn wooden benches extant, are usually arranged so they can be divided into two sections by the use of sliding doors. Although Quaker men and women have always worshiped together, they once conducted separate business meetings, thus the need for a divided room. Business meetings, usually held monthly, are no longer segregated by gender. In Quaker meetinghouses, there are no altars and the interiors are generally unadorned. Throughout the twentieth century most meetings added electricity and minimal indoor plumbing, and replaced fireplaces and wood-burning stoves with modern heating. Some still have standing carriage houses although, contrary to common belief, Quakers rarely attend worship on horseback or in horse-drawn carriages. Cemeteries adjacent to meetinghouses offer a vivid history lesson of the meetings and their illustrious members. The exceptions are meetinghouses in urban settings, such as Philadelphia and York, where land is at a premium. Quaker meetinghouses were vernacular buildings, generally built without the benefit of architects or formal plans. The design of each meetinghouse was apparently a communal effort; historic records documenting the Radnor Meeting illustrate how the process worked. Radnor was initially a single dwelling with a meeting space for women added later. According to a written account at the time of construction in , "Some friends of those appointed to assist Radnor friends in ye contrivance of a new meetinghouse there bring into account yt. They have accordingly mett and given ym their thoughts as to ye bigness and form thereof to wch Radnor frnds then there present seemed generally to agree with. One dwelling that did not fit the general construction pattern was Merion, the oldest of the Pennsylvania meetinghouses under the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. Built by

Quakers of Welsh descent, construction of the Merion Meetinghouse in Montgomery County began as early as 1682 and was completed by 1685. In an exhibition catalogue entitled *Silent Witness: Lavoie*, named chief of the Historic American Buildings Survey of the National Park Service in 1967, wrote that "its T-shaped near cruciform plan appears to be unprecedented in meeting house design and, therefore, has been the topic of some controversy. Built in 1682 and enlarged in 1685, the Merion Friends Meetinghouse is a widely recognized landmark. Lavoie speculated that, in the absence of any uniform meetinghouse design for early Quaker settlers, the Merion Meeting simply used a design that was familiar to them. Although Quakers made up more than 10 percent of the population of the original thirteen colonies, they represent a small fraction of the population today. In an apparent nod to familiar products such as breakfast cereal and motor oil, Comfort opined, "Today the word Quaker is heard more often in the business world than in the religious sphere. Pennsylvania Historical Association, Historical Society of Pennsylvania. *Inventory of Church Records: The Society of Friends in Pennsylvania*. Work Projects Administration, *The Quakers in the American Colonies*. Norton and Company,

Chapter 3 : Chester County, Pennsylvania: History

First Families of Chester County, Pennsylvania, Volume 1 calendrierdelascience.com Some Mackey Settlers Along the Mason-Dixon Line in Cecil County, Maryland and Chester County, Pennsylvania and Their Descendants.

Help Wanted Chester County, as one of the original PA counties, is a fascinating place where many of the events that shaped our nation took place. And while many other faiths eventually were part of Chester County, its origins are firmly based in the Quaker faith. Because the Quaker faith forbade violence in any form, the Friends were prevented from paying tax to a ruling body that kept a standing army. Many Quakers had moved from England to Ireland in an attempt to find somewhere safe to live and somewhere they could practice their religion in peace, but they found the same persecution present in Ireland as there had been in England and Wales. Before the arrival of the Quakers and the inception of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, there had been few Europeans in the area, and those were individuals rather than any concerted effort at settlement. In a group of settlers had arrived on the Delaware River and established the colony of New Sweden. New Sweden had periodic problems with the Dutch in New Amsterdam, but despite all obstacles, the colony managed to prosper along the banks of the Delaware River, which they used as their highway. They were a hearty people who very much impressed William Penn, and after the arrival of the Quakers in , the Swedes were extremely helpful to the new settlers, most of whom had never experienced the harsh winters they found in the New World. The Swedes also had very good relations with the local Native Americans, and served as interpreters between them and the English speaking Quakers. The Swedish population was gradually assimilated into the Quaker commonwealth, seemingly with little problem, and today these early Swedish settlers account for millions of American descendants. There are many, many other avenues to explore. I have also created a genealogical list for those of us researching the area. Many of our list members have data that covers the whole area and are more than happy to lend a hand. So, consider joining us. Send an email to the address and place the one word, subscribe, as the subject. You will be notified if you are successful in subscribing. Make sure you try out the Search Engine to help you explore our website. My own research in Chester County has been completely fascinating to me, who knew nothing about my Chester roots until I became interested in tracing my ancestors. It was a whole new world, and one that I hope you, too, will experience. It has a large amount of accessible records online, and it tells you exactly what is available at the county level

Chapter 4 : List of Approved Ancestors – Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania

Join us on Saturday, November 10th for the third annual Chester County Color 5k - a family-friendly, timed 5k to raise awareness and funds to help combat the opioid and heroin epidemic in Chester County.

They were buried northeast of the corner of High and Gay Street, but later disinterred in An act of the state legislature set aside acres of land from Goshen Township as a "country town" called West Chester. The first Roman Catholic congregation was established in West Chester. The town of West Chester was elevated to a borough by the state legislature. The West Chester post office was established. West Chester received its first sidewalks, made of brick. That same year, William S. Everhart of West Goshen opened a store on Gay St. First attempt to provide public drinking water failed Gay and Church Streets were the first streets paved in the Borough. It was enlarged several times over the next two decades. West Chester acquired its first public water system with a reservoir and pumping station located at Marshall Square. The present West Chester court house was built. West Chester received its first telegraph connection. West Chester received its first gas light company. Most of the sidewalks in West Chester were paved with brick. The population of Chester County reached 77,, while the population of the state of Pennsylvania was 2,, The Daily Local News was founded. In all but one year from then until , there was one African-American member of Council. The first telephones were installed in the Borough. Gay Street, and Nathan Rambo was the first switchboard operator. The Denney Tag Company was founded in Philadelphia. That same year, there were 50 telephones in West Chester. They met at the First Baptist Church. Sixty women attended the first annual meeting. The West Chester Board of Trade was organized. Nearly all the sewage of the town flows into it, and, besides, a number of water closets sit over it. The Sharples Separator Company began construction of its factory on E. Typhoid fever struck the east side of West Chester. The first black graduate of a West Chester school was William Moore. When he was unable to find an apprenticeship in any of the trades in West Chester, he went to Howard University and became a teacher and principal of an all-black school in Cape May, N. The first trolley line opened from West Chester to Lenape. Scarlet fever struck two families on East Nields Street. The first victims were the children of Elwood Smith, then the Charles Arment children, followed by Mr. Arment and another Smith child. The Borough Republican party reversed a decade-old policy of nominating one African-American to represent the East Ward. That remained unchanged until The Chester County Hospital began operation in a pair of small brick buildings on the north side of Marshall Square. It employed seven teachers and a principal. They now constitute about one fourth of the population, have a ward of the city practically all to themselves, and have had representatives in the Council. The second trolley line started operating from 63rd Street in Philadelphia to West Chester. By then, West Chester had about long-distance telephones which provided connections as far as Chicago, Boston, and St. The Schramm company was founded in Philadelphia to make air compressors. Barber grandfather of the composer of the same name left the Denney Tag Company to form his own company, Keystone Tag, located in Mechanics Alley. The first automobile owner in West Chester was Joseph H. The Borough accepted a gift of Despite a series of lawsuits that forced the Borough to pay penalties for polluting the surrounding streams, three referendums to authorized borrowing to construct a sanitary sewer system failed to obtain voter approval. James Spence was convicted of selling alcohol to minors. Baber was born in West Chester. He became a famous composer and winner of two Pulitzer prizes for his work. That same year, the Idle Hour movie theater opened on E. The Villa Maria Academy moved from West Chester to its present location near Immaculata University and was chartered by the state of Pennsylvania in The company of "Chris. The Philadelphia Electric Company expanded the generating plant at Chestnut and Walnut Streets, including the construction of two foot smokestacks. That same year, the Boy Scouts were chartered in Chester County. The West Chester Laundry broke ground at W. Herbert Hoover following a "tea" held at the home named "Greystone" of Mrs. The Warner Theater opened on N. The Sharples Separator Company went out of business. National Foam Systems Inc. Reichel Laboratories Wyeth began manufacturing penicillin in a former garage at the corner of N. Greenfield Park was built in Riggstown on land donated to the borough by realtor Harry F. Sir Alexander Fleming, who discovered the use of penicillin, visited West Chester. That same

year, the first diesel locomotive reached West Chester. The Eagle Hotel was gutted by fire. West Chester bypass completed around the east side of town from S. High Street to N. The local exchange Owen, later included about 12, telephones. Also, the West Chester bypass was extended from N. High Street to Downingtown Pike. Vice President Nixon and his wife visited West Chester. Three days later, Robert F. Kennedy visited the State College. Also, the position of Burgess was changed to Mayor. They continued to generate steam to heat customers in the center of West Chester. A State College student set herself on fire in the middle of the campus. West Chester State College authorized the formation of fraternities and sororities. That same year, the College began to allow students aged 21 or older to live off campus. Brown resigned March 7, West Chester elected its first Democratic mayor, J. The Borough built its first parking garage at Walnut and Chestnut streets. That same year, the faculty at West Chester State College became unionized. Court ordered ward system replaced election of Council members at-large.

Chapter 5 : Chester County Pennsylvania Genealogy Project

Family Service of Chester County, West Chester, Pennsylvania. likes · 2 talking about this · 18 were here. A nonprofit counseling and human service.

The first steel ships of the U. Navy were built at the Roach shipyard. More tonnage of ships were built at the Roach shipyard than its next two competitors combined. Roach built other businesses to supply materials for his shipbuilding including the Chester Rolling Mill in to supply metal hull plates and beams, the Chester Pipe and Tube Company in for the manufacture of iron pipes and boiler tubes, and the Standard Steel Casting Company in to supply steel ingots. Roach built the Combination Steel and Iron Company in to supply steel rails and other products for businesses beyond the Roach shipyard. He lost control of the company after his shipbuilding enterprise entered receivership in First half of the 20th century[edit] World War I brought Chester its first massive growth. The idled Roach shipyard was purchased in by W. The shipyard closed permanently in Like many boomtowns, Chester was unprepared for the social changes that came along with rapid growth. As southern blacks migrated to Pennsylvania as part of the Great Migration , racial violence broke out, racially segregated neighborhoods expanded and economic discrimination emerged. The wartime labor force for industries along the waterfront soared to , Although the school was built to house students, it had become overcrowded with 1, students. The school was built in and had never been updated. Only two bathrooms were available for the entire school. The city deputized firemen and trash collectors to help handle demonstrators. The burning chemicals caused multi-colored smoke and noxious fumes which injured 43 firemen and caused long-term health problems for the first responders to the fire. In , the site was deemed safe and removed from the Superfund national priorities list. In the site was converted to a parking lot for the nearby Barry Bridge Park. Many bottom-rung projects were initiated in Chester, including a trash incinerator, a sewage treatment plant and a prison. Lewis Crozer Library 21st century[edit] Recent programs to foster investment into Chester include the Pennsylvania Keystone Opportunity Zone KOZ program, which incentivizes companies with state and local tax breaks to invest in KOZ-designated areas.

Chapter 6 : Nottingham Lots and Early Quaker Families

About Us Family Service is a nonprofit counseling and human service agency that has been rooted in Chester County, Pennsylvania since Our original founders were a group of individuals and social welfare professionals with a mission to support Chester County residents struggling with family life, changing societal norms, shifts in the work.

This gives the Dutch the first European claim to the area now known as Pennsylvania. Where West Chester now exists was part of the hunting and fishing grounds for many of the tribal clans which had a total population of about 12, persons. However, the Swedish settlers continue to enjoy a certain amount of local autonomy, retaining their own militia, religion, court, and lands. New Amsterdam is renamed New York. Land there is almost immediately parceled and sold for about 10 cents an acre in modern money. A Quaker sect from northern Wales purchase 40, acres in what became called the Welsh Tract in the lands of Goshen. December 4 -- After convening a provincial government, Penn establishes the first three counties: Chester, Philadelphia, and Bucks. The municipality of Chester would become the Chester County seat. A hundred years later, West Chester would be carved out of Goshen. It was most likely a log structure in the vicinity north of Borough Hall. Sometime between and , Thomas Hoopes replaced it with a stone house on what is now the southeast corner of High Street and Goshen Road. Today, after many additions, it is called the Dower House and is one of the oldest continuously occupied structures in West Chester. Only a handful of families and individuals remain behind. The tavern is called The Turks Head, a name that is applied to the crossroads village for the next 26 years. Revolutionary soldiers are said to be buried there. The grid is made up of 32 parcels. The only power this allows is for local citizens to elect two justices of the peace. The first are Charles Dilworth and John Hannum. The primary motive appears to be to avoid road taxes in Goshen Township. May 6 -- William Sharpless is elected Chief Burgess, becoming the equivalent of the first mayor and council president. The company is well equipped with the exception that it does not have an "apparatus for extinguishing fires. December 14 -- George Washington dies at Mount Vernon. It is a woman named Hannah Miller who was convicted June 1, , of murdering her child. Nearly three thousand spectators come to witness the event. John Forsythe was the first president. It collects books to be loaned from shelves placed in businesses. This predates paved local roadways by six years. Some 10, gather to hear his speech. A monument placed on Lafayette Avenue near Walnut commemorates the occasion. It marks the beginning of the second period of development for West Chester. It is soon followed by the Mansion House Hotel constructed just west. They set up a home on West Miner Street near Darlington where she does domestic work for several residents while he works in a factory. Isaiah Lukens built the clock and the original bell still marks the hour. Walter at 15 North High Street. It is the tallest single-story facade in West Chester and continues today as a bank. This gives it the distinction of being the longest continuously running business type in the Borough. It is latitude 39 degrees, 57 minutes, Walter, is laid as construction to replace the old courthouse of commences. Due to a lack of funds, the facade is brick rather than the stone facing today. Summer -- Natural gas is provided to West Chester with the eventual construction of about twelve miles of gas mains by The meeting is attended by "Whigs, Democrats, Americans, and Liberty men. Fell asks Lincoln for information concerning his family background and education with the intent to have a biography written of him and published in West Chester. December 20 -- After multiple requests, Abraham Lincoln finally provides Jesse Fell with autobiographical notes of his life which are then forwarded to West Chester writer and Republican advocate Joseph J. It is republished in newspapers throughout the country to introduce Lincoln as a candidate for president. It participates in several campaigns from North Carolina to Florida. By the end of the war, the regiment had lost men in battle and men to disease. The regiment includes Galusha Pennypacker, who would become the youngest general in the army and receives the Medal of Honor for heroism at the Second Battle of Fort Fisher. He is said to be buried in an unmarked grave at the family home on West Barnard Street. There are black Civil War veterans buried in the local African American cemeteries. Williams and Alexander Gladman, bring the news of the end of the Civil War to West Chester and announce it by ringing the bell at the Courthouse. Now known as The Barclay, the mostly Italianate style building Colonial Revival additions were

made in the s may be the most intact estate in West Chester. By the end of the century there are 76 brilliant arc lights and incandescents lighting the evening streets. It occupies the highest point in West Chester Borough at the southwest corner of Marshall Square park. Its first project is to publish "West Chester, Pennsylvania. Roney Williamson at North Church Street, opens. Plans are immediately put in place for expansion. He talks about lynching and other urgent issues facing African-Americans. Just nineteen days later he dies. Within two years, instruments exist to make "conversation with Philadelphia and other points much easier. At feet, the Beaux Arts style building remains the tallest commercial structure in the Borough. His early childhood is spent at 35 S High St. Within a few years, his family relocates to S Church St. A crowd of 35, turn out for the ceremony. Originally, Old Glory carried a sword; at some point after the dedication, it mysteriously disappears. Being the first antibiotic, it is credited with saving thousands of lives during World War II. The International style architecture includes a vertical stone relief sculpture with four panels by Harry Rosin depicting several Chester County historical figures including George Washington and Marquis de Lafayette. Except for Philips, these buildings are constructed of serpentine stone quarried near the school. It doubles the usable space without disturbing the historic features of this remarkable structure. The historic Chester County Courthouse will continue to be used primarily for ceremonial court functions. It was re-purposed from the Warner Theater. Entertainment Alliance which begins renovation of the structure into a venue for performing arts.

Chapter 7 : Pennsylvania Genealogy & Pennsylvania Family History Resources - calendrierdelascience.co

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Quaker research in Pennsylvania A very brief Quaker history Protestant reformers of the 16th century sought to eliminate intermediaries between God and the people; in this regard, the Society of Friends Quakers can be said to be the fullest expression of the Reformation. Quakers did not and still do not believe in organized religion as was practiced in the Church of England and other churches. However the Protestant church saw the Quakers as a blasphemous challenge to social and political order, leading to official persecution Quaker Act and Conventicle Act , which only eased in the late s Declaration of Indulgence and Act of Toleration. He emigrated in October on the ship Welcome, created the three original counties Philadelphia, Chester and Bucks , laid out Philadelphia as the capital city, and summoned a General Assembly to Chester on December 4, before retiring to his own property in Bucks. Quakers were known for their plainness in dress, simplicity of speech, civility, pacifism, equality for women, equality for all races, equality in education, intolerance to slavery and alcohol, as well as a refusal to swear oaths or bear arms. In Pennsylvania, they aspired to a responsive government of virtuous men which would encourage peace, justice, charity, spiritual equality, and liberty for the benefit of everyone -- not just Quakers but also Native Americans and non-English refugees from Europe. Philadelphia was known in colonial times as the "Athens of America" due to its rich cultural life, liberal principles and freedom of expression. Quaker symbol, circa late 19th century A quick glimpse back in time Boston had and New York New York was still second with 33, and Boston had 18, Quaker American migration That Pennsylvania became a haven for all Quakers, even drawing those who lived elsewhere in the colonies, is underscored by the fact that only two colonies tolerated Quakers at this time -- Rhode Island and Pennsylvania. Thus with any hint of a Quaker ancestor, genealogists should look at Pennsylvania, and specifically Philadelphia, the Quaker capital in Before Pennsylvania in , the main Quaker settlements were in New England i. In , records from southern NJ, across the Delaware River from Philadelphia, should also be examined -- in a group of Quaker investors, including Penn, bought a stake in the New Jersey colony, and divided it into East Jersey and West Jersey. West Jersey became the first Quaker colony in America, but it eventually went bankrupt and was rejoined to East Jersey in to form a royal colony. By Quakers occupied a mile radius around Philadelphia; by it was miles. After dominating the Pennsylvania legislature for many years, the pacifist Quakers became outnumbered by those favoring the French and Indian War , and Quakers withdrew from the Pennsylvania Assembly in Down the Conestoga Road est. Quakers began moving down through western Maryland to Frederick and Loudon Counties in northern Virginia see map at right. Frederick was both a destination and a stopover, but unfortunately, the early records of the Hopewell Meeting were destroyed by a fire, so the early history of the Hopewell settlement is somewhat obscure. The early Quaker settlers in the Piedmont soon discovered that the NC government, centered in the Tidewater area on the Eastern Shore, had designs for heavy taxation of the new settlers, leading to the Regulator Movement of the early s. The central Quaker settlement in northwestern SC was at Bush River near Newberry, with other settlements throughout the area, extending to Wrightsborough,GA about forty miles to the west. History of the Friends migration from North Carolina. In the year the Friends of North Carolina believed the principle of human slavery to be wrong and liberated their slaves. They were placed under arrest and were forced to place their negroes under bondage. The Friends appealed to the courts, they upheld them and they again liberated the slaves. The following winter the legislature passed an act making it a penal offense to liberate the slaves. While there are records that prove that relatives of our Britton and Frost ancestors were Quaker, we have no Quaker records for our ancestors. If they had been Quakers, they would have been disavowed for taking up arms, or even just taking an Oath of Allegiance. I DLH am guessing that several of these ancestors were in fact Quaker, but left the church over the military disagreement -- Britton, Frost, Gibson for sure, and maybe also Howsmon and Maiden. They migrated with Quakers. They settled in Quaker communities. Their relatives

were Quakers. The Quaker research in Pennsylvania is undertaken with the attempt to discover if in fact these ancestors were themselves Quaker and if Jesse Britton descended from known Quaker Cananuiel Britton , and to see if that would lead back to when and from where they emigrated. These encyclopedias are considered one of the premier sources of information for early American Quaker genealogy. The volumes are arranged by meeting church , beginning with the oldest and ending with the youngest. Each meeting is introduced with a brief history that includes the names of the earliest members. Following that is an abstract of the minutes of the meeting, including marriages, new memberships, transfers of membership, disownments, and restorations to membership. Again the entries are arranged alphabetically by family, and then chronologically. Volume 2 of the Encyclopedia is the abstract of the early records of New Jersey and eastern Pennsylvania. Volume 3 of the Encyclopedia is the abstract of the early records of New York. Volumes 4 and 5 of the Encyclopedia are the abstract of the early records of Ohio and western Pennsylvania. Volume 6 of the Encyclopedia is the abstract of the early records of Virginia. The encyclopedia includes approximately , entries, and each volume has a separate surname index, and there is also an index to cover all six indexes. The oldest such records span three centuries of American history and testify to a general movement of population that extended from New England and the Middle Atlantic states southward to Virginia, the Carolinas, and Georgia; then west to Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois. The importance of these records cannot be overstated. Not until recently have the vital statistics of Quakers been recorded in civil record offices. Thus, for more than two centuries, the only vital records identifying these people are to be met with in the Quaker records themselves. Fortunately, the monthly meeting records contain extensive lists of births, marriages, and deaths, as well as details of the removal of members from one meeting to another. The monthly meeting, during which vital statistics are recorded, is in fact, a business meeting. In its production, thousands of records were located and abstracted into a uniform and intelligible system of notation. The data gathered in these volumes of the Encyclopedia are arranged by meeting, then alphabetically by family name, and chronologically thereunder. Quaker registers record birth, marriages and burials. The responsibility for registers rested with the monthly meeting, but in practice local registers were sometimes maintained. In there were monthly meetings in England and Whales. Men and women met separately for business until , so there are separate minutes for each. Benjamin Brittain, VI p. These refer to nine entries for Brittons in the Philadelphia Monthly Meeting, but none of them pertain to our Britton branch: Jacob d , 6, John d , 9, John con his mcd , 8, 6. John [Brittain] s John d ae 15m , 9, 2. James [Brittain] s John d , 7, John dis , 11, Sarah d ae 60 , 3, The answer is that as wonderful as these works are, they are VERY incomplete. Salem NJ organized in 2. Burlington NJ organized in 3. Philadelphia PA organized in 4. And for our Welsh ancestors, the books do not include Merion MM Radnor a key Welsh Monthly Meeting in the Philadelphia area, along with many other Philadelphia county meetings see below. For our Frost ancestors: Frost, II ; Sarah L. Frost, II , , The records do not match up with our Frost branch which is thought to be in PA prior to Mary Housman, II p. I DLH am only guessing they might be Quaker. I have no idea what PA meetings if any would have record for them, but in they appear to be traveling though VA and by are in NC. Note that some Maiden descendants did marry into the Beck line who were Quakers from Kent,MD , and there are indications Maidens did live there such as Maidenlot farm. It is clear that research on all of these lines requires examination of the other Quaker monthly meeting record books in Pennsylvania and for Maiden, NC as well. There are summary books, and some old records available on microfilm; to my DLH knowledge, there is no comprehensive index for all early records and no online capabilities at this time. Not all early records have been indexed in books or microfilmed; while some is available at public libraries books or a FHC books and microfilms , all the records are housed I think at Swarthmore College see research guide. The first of the post-Penn meetinghouses was erected in Haverford preceded by Shackamaxon , Merion, constructed by Welsh Quakers, and Radnor. All three remain active today. There appears to be no record extant of the first meetings, but they were most likely established in The lists below detail the MM location, start date if available, and where the records can be found largely taken from the Swarthmore Library website. B8 W2 or BX M4 ; Middletown MM Church records, -- on 3 microfilms: All early Bucks County MM records have been extracted and summarized in: Wrightstown MM, "Spoke to John Gibson concerning his proceeding in marriage contrary to the discipline of Friends and his

driving a wagon with military stores to the Army. C4 R32 and BX Lapp and Dorothy B. N38 B45 ; and BX Samuel Britton sent back from Oppeckon Hopewell in Frederick,PA with recommendation from friends of that meeting, and a certificate is granted. However, given the small size of Philadelphia prior to under people , it is more reasonable to assume a familial relationship; Gilbert Cope thought it likely that Peter Britton was the son of Cananuiel. The earliest records for the Britton family have not been discovered, including their transfer information from Britain. Quaker Peace Garden photo courtesy of Jon Davey www. D3 L38 Green Street --???? Michael Frost had researchers at Swarthmore College examine their old records for a "John Frost"; they came up empty-handed. It is not confirmed exactly what they researched; the research time was less than one day.

Chapter 8 : Chester County, Pennsylvania: Surnames

Our Counseling Program is a resource for all adults, children and calendrierdelascience.com provide confidential counseling at five locations throughout Chester County to anyone in need of personal support and professional guidance.

The book contains biographies of early families etc. Well worth the look. You can see the entire book by clicking the link above. After years, Henry G. The book can be viewed on line by clicking the link above. The book featured a brief history of the County and almost biographical sketches of prominent men and families of Delaware County. It is on line for the first time and can be viewed by clicking the above link. Related to several early Delaware County Families, Martin wrote this book based on research, interviews, reminisces and just plain gossip. The book deals with families in Chester and the surrounding area, mainly Ridley Township. The book can be seen by clicking the above link. A wealth of information on early families, the book can be reached by clicking the link above. Jordan Jordan, the Librarian of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, published this three volume of history and genealogy in Here on line for the first time it can be reached by clicking the link above. Many booklets cover the entire county or specific topics and can not be linked to just one town or place. Those books will be found on this page. Example "Catholicity in Delaware County" from gives a brief history of all the catholic churches in the county up to that time. It was privately published and is hard to find today. It is now on this page, other booklets about general Delaware County History have been added. Over 13, names were recorded. Upper Darby Historian, Tom DiFillippo, transcribed all the last names, and they can be viewed or downloaded by clicking the link below. The cemeteries are now being added to each web page and are nearly complete. Other Delaware County Cemetery Lists: The link below features a site that has partial burial records for several large cemeteries in the county.

Chapter 9 : Timeline of West Chester History

Chester County (Chesco) is a county in the U.S. state of calendrierdelascience.com of the census, the population was ,, increasing by % to a census-estimated , residents as of