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William Penn's Children.

BY REV. D. K. TURNER, HARTSVILLE, PA.

(Wrightstown Meeting, October 1, 1901.)

It has been remarked that the children of eminent men rarely attain the celebrity of their fathers. Though this may be true, we are not destitute of curiosity to know something about the posterity of those, who have written their names in large letters on the tablets of fame. Particularly is this the fact in regard to such as have lived in the region we inhabit, or have been closely associated with it.

Few who have heard the deserved praises of William Penn, the founder of the great Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, know much about his domestic history, or of those who have looked up to him as their father. It may not be amiss, therefore, to dwell for a brief period upon the children of him who was once the proprietor of all the lands in our State, who felt a special interest in our county, and who fixed one of his places of residence within its bounds.

Penn was married early in 1672, about a year and a half after the death of his father, to Gulielma Maria Springfield, daughter of Sir William Springfield. His first child was a daughter, named for her mother, Gulielma Maria, who lived but a few months. His next two children were twins, William and Mary, born in 1673. William lived only about a year and died in 1674, and Mary survived nine months longer, passing away during the same year. The fourth child, named for his mother's family, Springfield, was born in 1675, and lived to grow up to manhood, dying in 1696, being at his death about twenty years of age. Thus we find that the father had been sorely bereaved by the loss of three children before the birth of the fourth, and before he came to America. The fifth child of Penn was Letitia, born in 1678, at Worminghurst. She was a bright, healthy, lively girl and lived to be an old woman. When Penn made his second visit to America in 1699, she came with him and her stepmother; and saw something of the New World and of the society of the

infant city of Philadelphia. It is reported of her that she was taken by her father to the home of Thomas Evans in Gwynedd, whither he went on some business. While there she heard men threshing grain at the barn with a flail; she went out to see the operation and thought she could do that; they let her try her skill and she brought down the loose part of the implement in a racket around her head and shoulders and ran back to the house in a hurry. After being in Philadelphia and vicinity about two years, William Masters, a young man, paid her special attention with a view to marriage and she seemed to favor the suit. But the Proprietor put down his iron heel on the project and soon the wide ocean parted the lovers. Probably this caused him much regret subsequently, for in 1702 she married William Aubrey, who sprang from a genteel family, but lacked sufficient energy or disposition to maintain those who were dependent upon him. He seemed to imagine that it behooved his father-in-law to furnish him with the means of support, and made imperious demands for large sums of money at frequent intervals. While Penn encountered great difficulties with the Council, his agents and the settlers in Pennsylvania, and expended much of his private resources for the benefit of the Province, and received little pecuniary return, Aubrey insisted that a large amount from the new world should be paid to him. Penn in one of his letters says that he had given Aubrey £1,100 and that "his treatment of him was mad and bullying and that nothing but his rude and tempestuous conduct would have forced it from him." The domestic relations of Letitia to her husband were not always harmonious and clouds sometimes darkened their sky. She died without children in 1746, aged 68 years. Aubrey preceded her to the grave fifteen years, obeying the last summons in 1731.

The sixth child of Penn was named William, as one before had been, born in 1680, at Worminghurst. The mansion on this estate, surrounded by extensive grounds and beautifully situated in the Southdowns, within a few miles of the sea, was the home of the great philanthropist a protracted period. This fine property, which came under his control through his wife, was bequeathed by her at her death in 1694 to her son, William, then fourteen years old. When he was twenty-six years of age, in 1707, he sold it, but before his death he had squandered

the large sum he obtained for it. From this fact it would seem that he was inclined to profuseness, if not to profligacy. He married Mary Jones.

William Penn in his manhood possessed estates in England and Ireland, derived from his father, Admiral Penn. These produced an income of £1,500 a year, or about \$7,500 annually, and were generally esteemed more valuable than the lands in America. At the death of the Founder William Penn in 1718, the estates in Ireland were left to his son William, but after his decease different claimants entered suit for them and the decision was not rendered till 1800, when it was determined by court that they belonged to the heirs of Peter Gaskill and Alexander Durden, some of Penn's descendants.

The seventh of Penn's children was Gulielma Maria. She was born in 1685, and died when four years of age, in 1689. She was the fourth that was taken from him in early life. By his first marriage he had seven children, only two of whom survived the perils of childhood and youth. The five that crossed the dark river prematurely were laid away for final repose in the family lot at Jordans.

Penn's first wife, Gulielma Maria Springfield, died in 1694, when they had been married twenty-two years; he wrote and published a little volume in which he praised in warm terms her virtuous, exemplary career and her peaceful, Christian death, and took as the motto of it, "The memory of the just is blessed."

SECOND MARRIAGE OF WILLIAM PENN

Two years after the death of his first wife, being in sore need of a discreet companion and of a competent lady at the head of his large domestic establishment, he was joined in marriage to Hannah Callowhill, a member of the society of Friends, with which most or all of her relatives were connected.

Not long subsequent to this, in 1697, he removed from Worminghurst to Bristol, for which town the one in our own county was named. It was the place of his residence when he sailed to America on his second visit in 1699. The vessel met with violent contrary winds, which delayed it so long that three months elapsed before it reached Philadelphia. But he represents the tempestuous weather, though most tedious and severe to the

travelers, as the means of purifying the city of a dreadful visitation of yellow fever, in the course of which no less than 215 persons from that comparatively small settlement were carried off, and which disappeared soon after he arrived. He first went to the house of Edward Shippen, where he spent a month, and then moved to Samuel Carpenter's, in Second street, south of Chestnut, in which his first child by his second marriage was born, called John Penn, in 1699. Isaac Norris wrote thus about him in a letter in 1701: "The Governor, wife and daughter well. Their little son is a lovely baby and has much of his father's grace and air." John is reported to have remembered something of the city of his birth in after years, though this seems problematical, as he was only two years old when the family returned to England. He was nineteen years of age when his father died. He is described by Watson as "quite an amiable man," and James Logan, who was Penn's agent, or deputy governor many years, says that he was "the favorite of all the Proprietor's children." He lived most of the time at Bristol, England, engaged in trade with a cousin in the linen business, till 1712, when his father was disabled by paralysis. Though by the paternal will the American possessions were devised to three sons, John, Thomas and Richard, yet in the final agreement of affairs they fell under the principal control of John and he is not infrequently spoken of as the "heir of Pennsylvania." However, he bore his distinction and superior advantage with affability, avoiding haughtiness and unbecoming pride. The Colonists immigrated from the northern country, influenced to a large extent by a desire to enjoy liberty, civil, social and religious, and they were not averse to control, which they did not impose upon themselves. Penn gave them a system under which they chose representatives to frame and execute laws, and they desired to do this in their own way. They thought that as lands which had been sold to them were liable to taxation to support the government, those large districts still owned by the Proprietaries should be taxed likewise, as they were protected by the same authority. Hence disputes arose, ill feeling was engendered and harmony of counsels, between Penn or his sons on the one hand and the settlers on the other, was often interrupted.

But John Penn was as popular as a ruler under such unfavor-

able circumstances could be expected to be. He visited America in 1734, when he was 35 years of age, and was received with the honor due to the exalted position he occupied as the highest magistrate of a noble, rapidly advancing Commonwealth. He died in 1776, at the age of 77, and left his estates to his brother, Thomas.

Thomas Penn, second son of the Founder by the second marriage, was born March 9, 1702, in Bristol, in the house of Thomas Callowhill, his maternal grandfather. At the age of fifty he married Lady Julianna Fernor, and had a daughter, Sophia Margaret, who became the wife of Archbishop Stuart, of Armagh, a descendant of the royal family of Stuart and Lord Primate of all Ireland. This prelate suffered many years with gout and having at one time called in the night for an opiate to relieve his pain, his wife gave him the wrong medicine, which soon was followed by his death. She was struck with horror at her mistake, rushed into the street in her night dress and her hair turned white. She never recovered her equanimity.

Thomas Penn owned the site of the city of Easton, Pa., and gave to the young town two squares of ground for a court-house and prison. In this it was stipulated that a red rose should be given yearly at Christmas to the head of the Penn family. In course of time the city fathers wished to remove the court-house and prison and employ the ground for a public park. To accomplish this legally they were obliged to secure the consent of the heir, who happened to be in America at the time. This was granted the more readily, because they sent him a check for a considerable sum of money.

Thomas Penn had a son, John, the last of the line of that name, who was a gentleman of fine taste, fond of curiosities and rare and beautiful specimens in literature and art; a builder and ornament of mansions. He published two volumes of poems, elegantly printed and bound in expensive style. He was Governor of the Island of Portland, off the coast of England, from which celebrated building stone is quarried, the material used in the erection of the two Houses of Parliament. He built a castle there and called it Pennsylvania Castle. While he resided there and performed the duties of magistrate, King George III sometimes came to Weymouth, adjoining the island, and John was a member of the royal court. This grandson of the Founder

visited the New World and erected the pretty dwelling on the west bank of the Schuylkill in Philadelphia opposite Fairmount Park, called Solitude. This he occupied as a residence and employed his time largely in elegant studies, in which he very much disliked to be interrupted by the intrusion of curious strangers. He had a younger brother, Granville, who was an author and engaged in literary pursuits, and who inherited his rights in Pennsylvania. The son of the latter, called Granville John Penn, came to Pennsylvania in 1751, and once afterwards. He realized far less from the magnificent property in this State than he should have done, as agents sold it at insignificant prices before it was ripe for the market. While on this side the ocean many honors were showered upon him by the mayor and councils of Philadelphia, a public dinner was tendered and speeches were made of rare elegance and classical taste.

His only brother, Thomas, the only survivor of the name of Penn, died childless in 1869. The last of the Founder's descendants bearing his name has passed away.

The poet Gray, author of the "Elegy in a Country Churchyard," one of the most delightful, though melancholy poems, ever written, lived on a farm belonging to the Penn estate and was very highly esteemed by Granville John Penn. The original manuscript of the Elegy was preserved as a relic in Gray's house. Granville John was many years a magistrate for Bucks county, in England, and lived there a still longer period, and the name of the district, in which we reside, is most intimately associated with the family. He died in 1867, with a will in his hand unsigned and his property descended to his brother, Thomas, who was a clergyman of the established Episcopal Church of England, but who possessed no inclination or capacity for the management of financial affairs, and at his decease it went to his nearest relative, William Stuart, an offshoot of royalty.

Besides John and Thomas, concerning whom we have already spoken, William Penn by his second wife had a daughter, Hannah Marfiarita, born in 1703, died in 1707, aged four years. A son, Dennis, born 1706, died unmarried in 1722, aged 16 years, four years after his father's decease. He was assigned a share in the Pennsylvania property. A daughter, Hannah, born in London, 1708, died in 1709, aged a few months. He also had a

daughter Margaret, who was born in 1704 and lived to maturity. She married Thomas Fraeme, and died in England in 1751, aged 47 years. Her husband, Thomas Fraeme, was a captain of one of the seven companies raised in 1740 in Pennsylvania to take part in an expedition against Carthagera, South America, in the war with Spain, under Admiral Vernon.

The Fraeme family came to Philadelphia with John Penn, in September, 1734, and lived there some years, and it was during this residence that he was at the head of one of the Pennsylvania battalions in the struggle with Spain.

Penn likewise had a son, Richard, born in 1705, who grew up and married Hannah Lardner. He was one of the Proprietaries of Pennsylvania, and greatly interested in the prosperity of the Province. A remarkable paper drawn up by Thomas Penn and completed by Benjamin Franklin in 1759, reckons the value of the lands and improvements in the Colony to be ten millions of pounds, or fifty millions of dollars, a truly magnificent sum in those days. Twenty years later, November 27, 1779, the Legislature of Pennsylvania passed an act escheating it, or confiscating it all to the Commonwealth. It was no longer to be under the control of or subject to dues from the Proprietaries. This was far more valuable than any other ever forfeited to the States, perhaps more so than any ever forfeited by law in the whole world. By this act, however, the private estates of the Proprietaries were reserved to them and £130,000 sterling, or \$650,000, was directed to be paid to the legatees and devisees of Thomas and Richard Penn on the termination of the Revolutionary War in remembrance of the enterprising spirit of the Founder, and in view of the expectations and dependence of his descendants.

In addition to this the English Parliament in 1790 granted an annuity of £4,000 or \$20,000 per annum to the eldest male descendant of William Penn by his second wife, to indemnify the family for their loss in Pennsylvania.

John Penn, son of Richard, and grandson of the Founder, was Governor of the Colony from 1763 to 1771, and from 1775 to 1776. He died in this county in 1795.

The amount of money received by Pennsylvania from the sale of lands originally granted to Penn was £824,000 or \$4,120,000.

As a summary of the statements in respect to Penn's family,

it may be said that he had fourteen children, seven by each marriage, of whom a large number died in very early childhood and only a few survived to have a share in the labors and responsibilities of manhood and womanhood.

Bogart's Inn, An Old Hostelry.

BY WARREN S. ELY, DOYLESTOWN, PA.

(Wrightstown Meeting, October 1, 1901.)

There is something about the very word "Inn" that appeals to the English speaking race. We are fully mindful of the fact that in modern times many of our best citizens do not concern themselves with the roadside inn except to file remonstrances against the granting of license; but it is the duty of the historian to record what has taken place in the past; and the inn cannot be eliminated from the records of our county without positive detriment to local history. In fact the old time hostelry was a most conspicuous institution so far as human habitations had to do with the life and customs of the people. Some philosopher has said "There is no hospitality in the world like that of the inn." From time immemorial the inn has had its place in history and romance. Who would eliminate the old "Blue Boar" from the legends of Robin Hood and his merry men? What man so lacking in imagination and poetic sentiment that he cannot picture and appreciate the famous old inns of the English coaching days, with the light from glowing logs on the wide hearth reflected on pewter tankards and platters; the savory roasts turning on the spit, the quaint paved courts and cool gardens?

And in our own country, in the early days when this great and powerful Republic was struggling for its very life, what an atmosphere of romance surrounded the inn. Every cloaked and mud-stained stranger seeking the hospitality of the inn was watched by eagle-eyed, stern-faced men; and under smoke-stained joists, by the light of a tallow dip were seen gathered for mutual counsel the architects of the grand Republic of which we are so proud to-day.

The modern great piles we call hotels, with their tiled corridors, myriads of glittering lights, luxurious furniture and uni-