

Thirteen Colonies- Pennsylvania
1st hour
September 11, 2006
Mr. Hardy
Morgan High School

Pennsylvania was settled by William Penn in 1682.¹ It was one of the Middle Colonies, also known as the “Breadbasket.” In 1787 Pennsylvania was the second state to ratify the Constitution.² William Penn became a Quaker at age 22. The Quakers, Society of Friends, were the most persecuted of all religious groups in England and soon became one of the colonies.³ When William Penn established the colony his goal was having freedom to practice the religion of choice. The Pennsylvania land, which the English fought over with the Dutch, was given to William by King Charles II on March 4, 1681.⁴ The land was, at the time, the Duke of York’s.

Pennsylvania’s nickname is the Keystone State because it is in the center of the Thirteen Colonies.⁵ Pennsylvania was named after William Penn and *Sylvania*, which means woods in Italian.

The main exports and products were grain, cattle, iron, lumber, and rum.⁶ They profited greatly from selling these products to as many settlers as they could.

¹ Pedro Castillo, James West Davidson, and Michael B. Stoff, *The American Nation* (New Jersey: Prentice, 2002), 101-102.

² Founding the American Colonies, “Pennsylvania”, available from <http://www.timepage.org/spl/13colony.html>; accessed September 11, 2006.

³ Pedro Castillo, James West Davidson, and Michael B. Stoff, *The American Nation* (New Jersey: Prentice, 2002), 101-102.

⁴ The Charter of William Penn, “The Charter of William Penn”, available from <http://docheritage.state.pa.us/documents/charter.asp>; accessed September 11, 2006.

⁵ The Thirteen Original Colonies, “Pennsylvania”, available from http://www.scarborough.k12.me.us/wis/teachers/dtewhey/webquest/colonial/13_original_colonies.htm; accessed September 11, 2006.

⁶ Pedro Castillo, James West Davidson, and Michael B. Stoff, *The American Nation* (New Jersey: Prentice, 2002), 101-102.

Penn started the colony so it could be a “Holy Experiment.” He was setting up his colony for religious freedom for everyone so they could get away from any sort of persecution.⁷ Since William was a Quaker he believed that everyone, including Native Americans, should be treated fairly. Many new and different people came into Pennsylvania for freedom for their own beliefs. While Penn was thinking about the best place to put a capital, he figured the best place to set it up was along the Delaware River. He named the capital Philadelphia, Greek for “Brotherly Love.”⁸ It quickly became the place to be for those who longed for religious freedom.⁹

There were three main ethnic groups, besides Quakers, that came to Pennsylvania. They were the Pennsylvania Dutch, Amish, and the Scotch-Irish.¹⁰ Some of these groups moved on to different areas. Immigration to Pennsylvania was mainly German and Irish in the later years of settlement.¹¹

In these first years of colonization Philadelphia, Pennsylvania was also known as the “Athens of America.” William Penn’s principles added strength to the colony. The colony was well known for the different choices that were available to the people having to do with education. The College of Philadelphia, which was just an academy in 1740, became a college in 1755. It then became the University of Pennsylvania. The university was the only nondenominational college in that period of time.¹²

⁷ Pedro Castillo, James West Davidson, and Michael B. Stoff, *The American Nation* (New Jersey: Prentice, 2002), 101-102.

⁸ Hildegard Dolson, *William Penn: Quaker Hero* (New York: Random House, 1961), 97.

⁹ Pedro Castillo, James West Davidson, and Michael B. Stoff, *The American Nation* (New Jersey: Prentice, 2002), 101-102.

¹⁰ “Pennsylvania.” Encyclopaedia Britannica. 2006. Encyclopaedia Britannica Premium Service: available from <http://www.britannica.com/eb/article-78281>; accessed September 11, 2006.

¹¹ “Pennsylvania.” Encyclopaedia Britannica. 2006. Encyclopaedia Britannica Premium Service: available from <http://www.britannica.com/eb/article-78281>; accessed September 11, 2006.

¹² Pennsylvania. “The Arts and Learning”, available from http://www.legis.state.pa.us/WU01/VC/visitor_info/pa_history/pa_history.htm; accessed September 13, 2006.