



## Doctrine of Christian Discovery A Journey of Healing

The Workshops on the Doctrine of Discovery are a project of the Racial Social and Economic Justice Committee of the NEYM with technical assistance provided by the American Friends Service Committee Healing Justice Program. To schedule a workshop, contact: Rachel Carey Harper [rch@cape.com](mailto:rch@cape.com)

### HANDOUT: PENN AND INDIANS

#### “William Penn and Native Peoples: Intent -- Outcome”

Statement of the Indian Committee of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting regarding repudiating the DOD (2012)  
Before William Penn himself arrived in Philadelphia, he had already sent correspondence to Native American leaders expressing his desire that they and Quakers would dwell together in unity and respect. Penn met with the respected Chief Tamanend and other Lenni Lenape leaders, learned their language, and attempted to recompense them for the land on which the Quakers would be settling. Penn was under the impression that he had rights to the land through a land grant from the British king to his father, for whom the colony was named. Penn was a product of the thinking of the time: the Doctrine of Discovery, through which Europeans were granted lands in the so-called New World. It is evident that Quakers in the leadership of William Penn tried from their beginnings in the American colonies to deal peacefully with Native peoples. ...

The DRAFT--Yearly Meetings Contemporary Indian witness--DoD UNDRIP

Indian committee still meets to this day, embracing roles both as a granting group to financially support Native projects around the country and in North and South America, as a source for information about issues in Indian Country today, and as a guide for Friends' witness with Native Peoples as we share aspirations for peace, justice, and an earth restored.

**TIMES NEWS**  
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#### Penn's sons twice stole Pennsylvania

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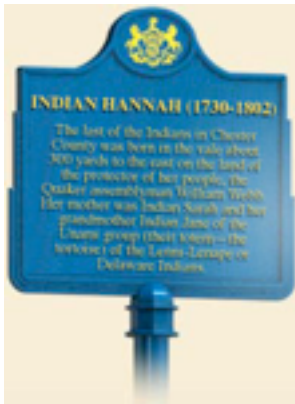
Sound familiar? The children of the second wife tried to manipulate a contract to take away what would normally be the rights of the children of the first wife. The second wife had three surviving boys two were named John and Richard. Through their manipulation of the system, they set about creating a rift between the European Americans and the Native Americans.

The story could have been about the Jim Thorpe lawsuit, but it's not. It's about the early days of Pennsylvania, and it's about a story that may have been glossed over in history class how William Penn's sons twice stole Pennsylvania.

In 1680, William Penn received title to the Province of Pennsylvania as repayment for a debt of £16,000 owed to his late father, Admiral Sir William Penn, by King Charles II of England.



(Courtesy: The Library of Congress) The Landing of William Penn by Jean Leon Gerome Ferris. William Penn spent less than a total of three years in the province of Pennsylvania, was sued, placed in debtor's prison, died penniless, and with a contested will that led to his sons twice stealing Pennsylvania.



Indian Hannah was born in 1730 or 1731 to Lenape parents who lived on the property of Quaker William Webb in Kennett Township [now Kennett Square] in Chester County. In December 1763, a mob of frontier vigilantes known as the Paxton Boys murdered the Indians of Conestoga Indian Town, and they announced their plans to march on Philadelphia to kill any Indians they found there. After seven years, Hannah returned to Chester County.

In 1672, William married Gulielma Springett. They have eight children, only one child, William Jr., lived to adulthood making him by convention William Penn's legal heir. Leaving his family in England, Penn left for the Province of Pennsylvania, arriving there in Oct. 1682. He organized the

colony. signed a treaty with the Lenape, and left 22 months later in Aug. 1684.

Gulielma Springett Penn, died in 1694. Two years later, William Penn remarried. His second wife, Hannah Callowhill, was 25; Penn was 62. They had eight children.

Three boys survived to adulthood: John, Thomas and Richard...

In 1712, William Penn had the first of a series of strokes leading to dementia. During this weakened period, his wife, Hannah Callowhill Penn, had him sign a will making her executrix and giving full control of the colony and his fortune to her and her children.

When William Penn died at age 73 in 1718, and under the terms of the will, Hannah Callowhill Penn's progeny inherited the Province of Pennsylvania, and until they attained the age of majority, she served as regent, acting as the first women governor of a new world province.

William Penn, Jr., William Penn's surviving son by his first marriage, sought to dismiss his father's will in order to obtain control of the colony. But after William Penn, Jr. died at the age of 39 in 1720, his first born son, Springett Penn (II), continued the suit. Hannah Callowhill Penn died in 1727 at the age of 55, and the government and property remained under the control of trustees until Richard Penn attained his majority in 1730.

Springett Penn (II), the Founder's grandson and, by convention, William Penn's legal heir for the governorship of Pennsylvania, conveniently died in 1731. Within the year, his younger brother, William Penn (III), sold his claims to both government and lands of Pennsylvania to the sons of Hannah Callowhill Penn for £5,500. This was the first time the Penn brothers stole Pennsylvania.

According to law, the sons of Hannah Callowhill Penn John, Thomas and Richard were to divid the estate with one half going to the eldest, John, and one quarter going each to Thomas and Richard. Thomas became the leader of the family interests, known as the Proprietors. One of his objectives was to pay off the enormous debts the family had inherited from their father.

They began selling by all the land that their father had purchased from the Lenape, and by 1727, they began selling land to William Allen, future namesake of Allentown, in areas up to and beyond the Blue Mountain that had not been purchased from the Lenape.

In a plan to to justify seizing the land from the Lenape, the Proprietors surveyed the land, created a trail, and negotiated with the Iroquois to create a fake treaty called the Walking Purchase, In 1737, the walk began a day and a half later, an area of 1,200,000 acres were taken by the Proprietors from the Lenape. This was the second time the Penn brothers stole Pennsylvania.

In 2004, the Delaware Nation filed suit against Pennsylvania in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, seeking 314 acres included in the 1737 Walking Purchase which was known as "Tatamy's Place". The court dismissed the suit on the grounds that Thomas Penn had "sovereign authority," even though the transaction was fraudulent.

"In commemoration of the three hundredth anniversary of the SETTLEMENT OF WEYMOUTH (MA) and the encounter of the settlers under Miles Standish with Indians in March, 1623 when the Indian chiefs Pecksuot and Wituwaumet were killed thereby averting serious disaster to the colonies"

