THE MIDDLE COLONIES
New York
Settling the Middle
[or “Restoration”] Colonies
Old Netherlanders at New Netherlands

1600s → Golden Age of Dutch history.

- Major commercial and naval power.
- Challenging England on the seas.
  - 3 major Anglo-Dutch Wars
- Major colonial power [mainly in the East Indies].
Henry Hudson’s Voyages

[Map showing the voyages of Henry Hudson]

Hudson Bay

Hudson abandoned, Spring 1611
New Netherlands

- Founded in the Hudson River area (1623-1624)
  - Established by Dutch West India Company for quick-profit fur trade.
    - Company wouldn’t pay much attention to the colony.
  - Manhattan [New Amsterdam]
    - Purchased by Company for pennies per (22,000) acre.
Company town run in interests of the stockholders.

No interest in religious toleration, free speech, or democracy.

Governors appointed by the Company were autocratic.

Religious dissenters against Dutch Reformed Church [including Quakers] were persecuted.

Local assembly with limited power to make laws established after repeated protests by colonists.
New Amsterdam, 1660

Characteristics of New Amsterdam:

- Aristocratic → patroonships [feudal estates granted to promoters who would settle 50 people on them].
- Cosmopolitan → diverse population with many different languages.
New York
Manors &
Land Grants

Patroonships
New Netherlands & New Sweden
Swedes in New Netherlands

Mid-1600s → Sweden in Golden Age settled small, under-funded colony [called “New Sweden”] near New Netherland.

1655 → Dutch under director-general Peter Stuyvesant attack New Sweden.

- Main fort fell after bloodless siege.
- New Sweden absorbed into New Netherland.
New Netherlands Becomes a British Royal Colony

Charles II granted New Netherland’s land to his brother, the Duke of York, [before he controlled the area!]

1664 → English soldiers arrived.

- Dutch had little ammunition and poor defenses.
- Stuyvesant forced to surrender without firing a shot.

Renamed “New York”

- England gained strategic harbor between her northern & southern colonies.
- England now controlled the Atlantic coast!
New Amsterdam, 1664
Dutch Residue in New York

Early 20th Dutch Revival Building in NYC.

Names ➔ Harlem, Brooklyn
Architecture ➔ gambrel roof
Customs ➔ Easter eggs, Santa Claus, waffles, bowling, sleighing, skating, kolf [golf].

New York City seal.
Pennsylvania
The Quakers

Called Quakers because they “quaked” during intense religious practices.

They offended religious & secular leaders in England.

- Refused to pay taxes to support the Church of England.
- They met without paid clergy
- Believed all were children of God → refused to treat the upper classes with deference.
  - Keep hats on.
  - Addressed them as commoners → ”thees”/“thous.”
  - Wouldn’t take oaths.
  - Pacifists.
Quaker Meeting
Aristocratic Englishman.

1660 – attracted to the Quaker faith.

Embraced Quakerism after military service.

1681 → he received a grant from king to establish a colony.

- This settled a debt the king owed his father.
- Named Pennsylvania [“Penn’s Woodland”].

He sent out paid agents and advertised for settlers → his pamphlets were pretty honest.

- Liberal land policy attracted many immigrants.
Royal Land Grant to Penn

[Image of the original land grant]

[Text on the image]

15th of Decem., 1684
Bought [didn’t simply take] land from Indians.

Quakers went among the Indians unarmed.

BUT........ non-Quaker Europeans flooded PA

- Treated native peoples poorly.
- This undermined the actions of the Quakers!
Penn’s Treaty with the Native Americans
Government of Pennsylvania

- Representative assembly elected by landowners.
- No tax-supported church.
- Freedom of worship guaranteed to all.
- Forced to deny right to vote & hold office to Catholics & Jews by English govt.
- Death penalty only for treason & murder.
  - Compared to 200 capital crimes in England!
Pennsylvanian Society

- Attracted many different people
  - Religious misfits from other colonies.
  - Many different ethnic groups.
- No provision for military defense.
- No restrictions on immigration.
- No slavery!!
- "Blue Laws" [sumptuary laws] → against stage plays, cards, dice, excessive hilarity, etc.

A society that gave its citizens economic opportunity, civil liberty, & religious freedom!!
The grid pattern of Philadelphia’s straight streets contrasts sharply with Boston’s crooked and irregular roads and alleys. Topography had everything to do with this. Surrounded by water, which created an irregular shoreline, and dominated by three high hills, leveled in the nineteenth century, Boston’s streets were laid out in the manner of goat paths. (Library of Congress Geography & Maps Division)
Urban Population Growth
1650 - 1775

Source: Gary B. Nash, *The Urban Crucible*, 1979
New Jersey — PA’s Neighbor

1664 → aristocratic proprietors rcvd. the area from the Duke of York.

Many New Englanders [because of worn out soil] moved to NJ.

- 1674 → West NJ sold to Quakers.
- East NJ eventually acquired by Quakers.

1702 → E & W NJ combined into NJ and created one colony.
Named after Lord De La Warr [harsh military governor of VA in 1610].

Closely associated with Penn’s colony.

1703 → granted its own assembly.

Remained under the control of PA until the American Revolution.
Most German and Scots-Irish immigrants in the 1700s were farmers, and they quickly moved into the interior, where land was cheapest and most available.