

The Middle Colonies: The Case of Pennsylvania

- I. Middle Colonies Include:
 - A. Pennsylvania
 - B. New York
 - C. New Jersey
- II. Why are the distinctive
 - A. Ethnic and cultural pluralities
 - B. Each set up as a proprietary colony: land give to 1 person (i.e. William Penn)
 - C. Proprietor set up own laws and rules as longs as the laws fell within the broader realm of English law
 - D. Diverse economy
 1. Trade
 2. Commerce
 3. Shipping
 4. Farming
- III. Pennsylvania Quakers Vs. New England Puritans
 - A. Similarities
 1. Both Protestants
 2. Both persecuted in England
 3. Both object to 3rd party (king, pope, parliament) deciding what people should believe
 4. Both founded religious haven in America
 5. Found religious freedom in America
 - B. Differences
 1. Quaker believe God loved them and revealed himself to them through “inner light”
 2. Personal revelation served as center of religion for Quakers
 3. Puritans believed scripture at the center of belief
 4. Puritans believe scripture is the religious authority
 5. Puritans believed people born naturally depraved
 6. Quakers believed children born with capacity to choose good or bad (free will)
 7. Quakers believed everybody could be saved, no predestination, individual played a role in their own fate.
 8. Puritans believe in formally trained and educated ministers
 9. Quakers didn’t have ordained ministers, but elders who had no extra training or education in religion (men and women could serve as elders)
 10. Quakers didn’t have a formal church service like Puritans
 11. At a Quaker “service” everyone spoke who wanted to and sit in circle, whoever felt moved by holy spirit could share experience
 12. Women Quakers could serve as elders and had additional power within Church
 - a. Decide whether or not to let other women into church
 - b. Decide to approve/disapprove applications for marriage
- IV. Quaker family structure

- A. Just like within the church Quaker women had more power, respect, and responsibility within the family
 - B. Puritan Families patriarchal
 - C. Quaker families companionate
 - D. More equality within Quaker families
 - E. Husband played an equal role in raising the children, while raising the children was the sole responsibility of mothers in a Puritan family.
 - F. Quakers exercised more equality in family decisions
 - G. Within family fear that children could be corrupted by influence of the world, protection required inducement of both parents and a nurturing philosophy.
- V. Quakers and Outsiders
- A. Puritans very intolerant of outsiders and agitators
 - B. Quakers tolerant of other groups, but married only with Quaker religion.
- VI. Penn's Biography
- A. Don't really have notes to include here. It comes from my dissertation. So, I hope you took good notes.
 - B. Penn converted to Quakerism in 1667 at the age 22
 - C. Thousands of Quakers in England imprisoned
 - D. 100s of Quakers killed
 - E. William Penn thrown into prison a number of times
 - F. By 1681 published more than 50 pamphlets and books on Quakers
- VII. Founding of Pennsylvania
- A. Penn acquired the land for Pennsylvania (Penn's Woods) from King Charles II
 - B. Charles II owed William Penn's father, Admiral Penn, lots of money, plus C2 gave lots of land to the Admiral to gain his loyalty, but the Admiral died before Charles II paid him
 - C. So, Charles II viewed giving the land to William Penn as serving two purposes
 - 1. Pay off his debt
 - 2. Get rid of the troublesome Quakers
 - 3. Pennsylvania intended to be a religious haven for Quakers
 - D. Quaker land distribution
 - 1. William Penn gave large blocks of land to various groups
 - 2. Then they could divide it up
 - 3. He was very generous with individuals too
 - 4. For every plot given in the country areas, he gave a small plot in Philadelphia
 - 5. He taxed only to support the government, not the church
 - E. Religiously tolerant of Christians
 - 1. Christians, no matter the denomination, could vote
 - 2. Quaker laws used to help enforce morality
- VIII. Diversity in Pennsylvania
- A. When Penn created colony varying ethnic and religious groups flocked there
 - B. 1683 3,000 people
 - C. 1685 12,000 people

- D. Population about equally divided between Quakers and non-Quakers
 - E. Lots of English, Irish, Dutch, German
 - F. And this diversity was Penn's intention from the beginning
 - G. Before he and in the early years of the colony William Penn produced many promotional pamphlets containing his land policy, religious tolerance, etc.
 - H. Census record, a little more than 100 years after Penn settled Pennsylvania reflect its diversity
 - 1. 35% English dissenters
 - 2. 11% Scot-Irish
 - 3. 33% German
 - 4. 9% Scottish
 - 5. Most other colonies 61% English, 6% Scot-Irish, and 8% Scottish
- IX. Germantown: An Example of Pennsylvania's Diversity
- A. Founded 1683 by a land company, Frankfurt Land Company
 - 1. God lots of land from William Penn
 - B. Attract English, Dutch, and German, these three groups dominate in population over Swedes, Irish, and Blacks
 - C. Remember "Germany" as we know it today did not exist then, but many different ethnic tribes in the area we now know as Germany
 - D. Religion in Germantown:
 - 1. Quakers
 - 2. Lutherans
 - 3. Mennonites
 - 4. Dunkards (baptize by full emersion)
 - 5. Few Roman Catholics
 - E. Germantown illustrates ethnic and religious diversity William Penn sought in foundation of his colony. Diversity was the guiding spirit for the colony
 - F. Diversity celebrated and embraced, but problems and conflicts emerged quickly.
- X. Conflict in Pennsylvania
- A. Religious Dissent and Conflict
 - 1. Pennsylvania founded on tolerance, so how did religious conflict become disruptive?
 - 2. Overtime groups become less tolerant and one tries to advance their religion.
 - 3. 2 ways religious conflict arises
 - a. Disagreement within Quaker religion
 - b. Different groups seeking tolerance become less tolerant of other groups
 - 4. 1692, shortly after PA founded, conflict known as Keithian Controversy breaks out.
 - a. George Keith, a Quaker, came to American in 1685
 - b. Keith disturbed when saw Quaker Pennsylvania
 - c. He believed Quakers strayed and their commitment to uphold found Quaker principals were failing.
 - d. Keith said Quakers needed more religious discipline.

- e. People following Keith were usually lesser merchants, mid to lower-middle class, small shopkeepers, and members of artisan class. None of these had much power within the church because wealthier, entrenched leaders had power.
- f. Perhaps they joined Keith to challenge power of Quaker elite
- g. Quaker elites denounced Keith.
- h. Keith eventually found guilty of defying authority.
- 5. Groups Seeking Tolerance, Intolerant Themselves (give contemporary example)
- 6. Idea of Religious Tolerance in Pennsylvania, but some came to feel other religious groups getting to much power, they feared take over.
- 7. 1695, Anglican Congregation formed and asked England to send a priest.
 - a. This greatly angered other Pennsylvanians. Most others left England to escape religious persecution of the Church of England (the Anglican church) and didn't want a priest in the colony. They already knew Anglicans were intolerant and didn't want them gaining a foothold
- 8. 1701 Evangelical proselytizing group formed.
 - a. First and only religious group at the time in Pennsylvania who proselytized.
 - b. Saw as a threat and as harassment.
- B. Political Conflict
 - 1. Penn established a bi-cameral government, with a upper and lower house, similar to the House of Lords and House of Commons in England.
 - 2. Penn hoped the houses would have equal power
 - 3. But before established the rules of the houses some argue his wealthy friends got him to invest more power in the upper house and in the governor's council.
 - 4. While some historians argue Penn caved to the pressure of his wealthy friends, his correspondence actually shows he feared giving power to other groups that were intolerant would ruin the colony.
 - 5. The upper house could introduce laws, the lower house couldn't introduce, could only vote on upper house's laws.
 - 6. Quakers and non-Quakers quickly became agitated because appeared the elite Quakers passing laws only beneficial to themselves
 - 7. These laws begin to reflect badly on Penn; they call Penn unfair and say he strayed from the system he advertised.
 - 8. Movement arose led by David Lloyd called the anti-proprietary faction, implying challenge to government that gives Penn power to run government as he sees fit.
 - 9. Challenges upper and propriety government
 - 10. Perhaps David Lloyd began to lead the group because when he came to Pennsylvania in 1687 Penn appointed him attorney general, but in 1699 England removed Lloyd from office.
 - 11. He held this against Penn and the upper house
 - 12. Support for Lloyd and the anti-proprietary faction grew quickly.
 - 13. Same type of people who supported George Keith in the Keithian Schism support Lloyd, but this time non-Quakers joined the fray.

14. Faction pressured Penn into changes.
15. Lower houses gained more power and many appointed offices became elective
16. Pennsylvania government pushed by George Keith and David Lloyd into more democratic government
17. But what ultimately made the change possible was Penn's belief that he had to have faith in God to uphold the Quaker colony.
18. This signaled the rise of interest group politics. Natural outgrowth of diverse population, more democratic, but groups vying against each other conflicted with Penn's idea for a harmonious community.