

William Penn

- Founded the state of Pennsylvania
- His democratic principles served as an inspiration for the US Constitution

Primary Sources

Penn Family Papers, 1592-1960

The Penn family papers house the personal and governmental records of William Penn, the proprietor of Pennsylvania, and his family. This collection, which dates from 1592 to 1960 (bulk of materials 1629 to 1834), consists primarily of correspondence, legal records, governmental records, surveys, deeds, grants, receipts, and account books; there are also 19th and 20th century auction catalogs and secondary materials. The collection documents the creation of the Pennsylvania colony through records created by William Penn, as well as the continued development of the colony through records produced by Penn's associates and descendants. These records also provide valuable insights into Penn's relations with American Indians, the Pennsylvania/Maryland border dispute, government framework, as well private correspondence between family members and close associates.

Collection #485A

<http://www2.hsp.org/collections/manuscripts/p/Penn0485A.html>

The papers of William Penn

v. 1. 1644-1679.

v. 2. 1680-1684 / editors, Richard S. Dunn, Mary Maples Dunn ; associate editors, Scott M. Wilds, Richard A. Ryerson, Jean R. Soderlund ; special editor, Ned C. Landsman.

v. 3. 1685-1700 / editors, Marianne S. Wokeck ... [et al.] ; general editors, Richard S. Dunn, Mary Maples Dunn.

v. 4. 1701-1718 / editors, Craig W. Horle ... [et al.] ; general editors, Richard S. Dunn, Mary Maples Dunn.

v. 5. William Penn's published writings, 1660-1726 : an interpretive bibliography / Edwin B. Bronner, David Fraser.

by William Penn, published 1981

Call number: UPA F 152.2 .P3956 1981 c.2

Call number: REF F 152.2 .P3956 1981

The witness of William Penn

Selected passages from the author's works.

by William Penn, published 1957

Call number: E.41772



There are many, many more items, as well as many images in the digital archive!

(William Penn's treaty with the Indians when he founded the Province of Pennsylvania, 1681, by Nathan Currier, from the Historical Society of Pennsylvania medium graphics collection, call number: Bb 18 C 976, Digital Archive item #78)

Secondary Sources

Philadelphia as William Penn knew it, 1684

Commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the first arrival, October 24, 1682, of William Penn in America 1682-1932

by William Wilson Pollack, published 1932

Call number: MAP G 3824 .P5 1684 1932r

William Penn

by Harry Emerson Wildes, published 1974

Call number: Gpp .12 W641

William Penn, politics and conscience

by Mary Maples Dunn, published 1967

Call number: Gpp .6375 D922

There are dozens more in the catalog, just take a look!