The

Wm. Penn Charter

School

A

THESIS

by

Alfred C. Maule '99

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Sources of Information.

"Life of Mr. Penn."
"Encyclopædia Britannica."
"Philadelphia."
"Education in the United States."
"Philadelphia the Idea and the People."
"Orison of the scholars granted by Penn to the school."
"The Penn Charter Magazine."
"Catalogue of the Penn Charter School."

Personal observations.
On the east side of 12th St. not a few doors from Market St. stands the William Penn Public School, founded as its name indicates by William Penn in the year 1689.

Before examining the history of the school it seems well to investigate and study the character and bringing up of William Penn. Though the city of Philadelphia owes much to many other men, to William Penn most of the credit is due, and he is responsible for this public school and the advanced ideas of education as they exist to-day. Though William Penn was a Quaker, he was a wise, liberal and broad-minded man, a rare thing for a Quaker of the 17th century to be. He lead
always was a great favorite, and at one time in his early life with his father's consent he went to London and was much impressed by a Quaker Ormon which he had heard at his father's house. Though Penn was sent away to Paris after being expelled from college, in the college that he wished to attend any peculiar ideas which his father's influence Penn had acquired at college, the spirit of which was smouldering in him was to be kindled at a later date in Ireland. He was not to finally become a friend and submitted to much persecution on that account. He was an exceedingly upright and intelligent man and refused to undergo any treatment than to do anything which he firmly believed
to the wrong. He was gentle and kind, yet a man of indomitable will and courage, and the Constitution which he framed and presented to the council at Chester in 1682 shielded great freight and deep thought. His plans for the governing of the colony of Pennsylvania were carefully worked out in England, and though narrating in this draft can be interpreted to refer to the educating of the children, still it was a subject to which he must have given careful and lengthy consideration at an early date. Unlike most friends Penn was not opposed to education. Most Quakers believed that a man to preach God's word must not lack much education, and many of them
and as far as to believe that education was dedicated to a man entering the ministry. Harvard and Yale which the Quakers found in America on their annual tour educational institutions for the training of clergymen, the Puritan idea being in direct opposition to the Quakers. It was that the Friends did not support these institutions which already existed. William Penn on the other hand realized the importance of educating the colonists in Pennsylvania, and the first two problems to which he turned his attention were the education of the Quakers and the Negro. The original draft of the Penn charter, to which reference was already made, required that the Quakers
and Provincial Council should erect
and endow all public schools and
"award the authors of the useful
rewards and laudable inventions
in said province."

It was during such an effort
that a council was held in 1683,
among the pioneers of the "Great
law" which he predicted there was
one in the establishments of a school
in schools for the education of the
young. This was to be in charge
of a committee on education so that
"wicked and ungodly living
may be prevented and that youth
may be trained up in virtue and
useful arts and knowledge."

When the Provincial Council
met in Philadelphia “ye 26th of 10th
Month, 1683,” the year following the
The foundation of the colony, its council and government "having taken into serious consideration the great necessity there is for a school-mastre for the instruction — and care, instruction of youth in trade of Philadelphia, and in rural Home, an inhabitant of said town, who for twenty years hath been exercised in that care and employment in England" and engaged to instruct the youth of the City. The charges of the school were to be according to the kind of instruction taught by him. Four shillings for English, eight shillings for reading and writing, and eight shillings for reading, writing, and casting accounts. This school continued with varying success until 1689, when the experiment either failed.
n the form became inadequate, for
Pem's idea of a public grammar
school on a more liberal basis was
put into practice with the establish-
ment of the William Penn Charter
School in 1698.

A few of the more enterprising men,
among whom were Edward Stuyves-
ant Lloyd, John Jones, Anthony
Winnis, James Fox, William Trutchby,
and others, headed by Samuel Carpenter
"ye elder," and first treasurer of the
colony, applied to Lieutenant-Governor
Maclean, Penn being then in
England, for a charter of exemp-
tion, and on the 12th of February
1699 was issued, under the great
Seal, the document asked for, it
was to be called according to one
of the provisions of the Provincial
Council "the Amours of the Public School founded in Philadelphia, at the request, inst and charges of the people of this called Quakers."

When Penn returned to the colony in 1699 he was determined to confirm this charter, and the first charter for the colony came from his own hand under the seal of the Commonwealth in 1701. In the quaint old style of that time, we find on glancing at this first charter: — "xxx xxxx

Now pronouncing as done of the Said Puritians that our living has Made fresh application to Me in Council for Confirming the Said Lieutenant-Governor and Councils Order and grant upon the Said petition which being will migrated and considered by Me I greatly favour xxxxxxx
...therein ye deal pursuant to the terms to the granted as aforesaid and to the same the said Province Grand Already Exacted I have (with the Consent of My Provincial Council) granted and confirmed all and every Request Master and their xx Eastman in the said Petition and as by other Instruments in the said terms and Design grant Bham and establish that the said Public School shall be erected and founded, and I do grant Bham and found the same to be kept from hence after in the said Town of Philadelphia in a convenient place adjacent to the Arrears of the said School for the time being what the need and I do likewise grant and ordain that in the said School all children and...
as in the said Petition Requested that it
from time to time (with appropriation of
the said earnings) to receive admitted
taugt and instructed xxxxxx
And I do grant and admit
that from the date of the date of these
1squests for 3 for 10 after the Meeting of
the Monthly Meeting of the said
people called Quakers in the said
town of Phila and of the time
herein shall have full and absolute
power and authority xxxxxx And
Moreover I do by these presents for
My heirs and successors grant
and admit that the earnings and
schools aforesaid shall from
thereafter stand and be Established
in Name and in and a Body Poli-
tick and Corporate to C0iniche for
3 for the name of the Owners of the
Publick School founded in Philadelphia
as its Request Sent and Reaches of the
People of God Called Quakers. and
also that they the said Amours shall
have perpetual Succession x x x x x
In witness Whereof I have Hereunto
to My hand and Sealed this
Great Seal to be Affixed dated at
Philadelphia the six and twenty
day of the Eighth Month in the thirteen
year of the Reign of William the third
of England etc. King etc. and the
Lords and Commons of My Government
Amongst whom the Town and town
Hundred and one 1701
Recorded the 5th 10th 1701
WM TENN.
(Penis seal)
From this extract from the cluster of 1701 it will be seen that the exact date of the school was unclear as "Monthly Meeting" and that the records were simply its practical curricula. The school's initial funds were raised by a third part from estates when it remained for nearly a hundred years. The first schoolmaster was George Hutt, a literate Quaker who was engaged at a salary of £50 a year and given a house to live in. He was also credited with first athletics in the Society of Friends in Pennsylvania in 1803 and was succeeded by Thomas McKean. The known facts of this man except what the "Pennsylvania Gazette" said of him as his family, "he was an ancient man"
and formerly lived very well in this city, teaching a considerable school, but of late years was reduced to extreme want.

From the foregoing it will be clear that this Clarke School must have been of some size, yet although it was the only school of any consequence in Philadelphia for fifty years or more, after Wakin's death it seems to have led no lead until Mr. J. took charge of it.

The making of the school under the Clarke Act of 1701 must have been most unsatisfactory for in 1708 at his request Mr. Samuel Conklin, its elder, Edward Skipper, Griffith Arnold, Thomas Bragg, Anthony Harris, Richard Hill, Isaac Norris, John Jones, William Ingham, Nicholas Wall, James Legum, Caleb Perry, England Ellis, Samuel Preston,
and James Fry, Min of Trin. in the Colony,
Proeu issued a second Charter which
stipend amounted similar to that of
1701 was much more liberal, and
would be considered each Era in
those days.

the Charter says: — "..."

I do hereby will and ordain and for
me and my heirs, as great by these
statutes here and from henceforth
shall be justified account and according
prisons of the people called Quakers,
who dwell in oon of ye publick
schools, founded in ye County of
Philadelphia, in Pennsylvania at
ye request, cost & charges of ye said
people and do appoint my
Wife and will bind friends Samuel
Carpenter the Elder, Edward Skipper,
Griffith Lewis, Thomas Story, Anthony
To our, Richard Hill, Isaac Miles, John Jones, Nathaniel Brutteny, Nicholas Hali, James Logan, Caleb Reese, Roland Ellis, Samuel Preston and James Tr, to be first and present owners, and that they and their successors shall

and perpetual succession from

And that the said Thomas and
their successors shall and may have a
common seat, on the one side shall be

my coat of arms, with this
inscription round (Grot inscription is
within these initials) to be made use and
run for the business relating to the said

And I do hereby declare

that when & so often as any Amels or
Amels of the said Sarah shall dye,

the said successors shall remain, continue and
be incorporated by the name of the

public
school founded in the town & county of Philadelphia, at the request, costs & charge of the people called Quakers &c. &c. and they are truly directed and enjoined to remain as elect & appoint &c. &c. to a more discreet, religious,learned & learned of the people called Quakers into that room & place &c. &c. of my such answer &c. &c.

Though this was a very liberal charter, it seems strange that Penn should have made a restriction that vacancies of the board were to be filled by Quakers, when we take into consideration the fact that the "Holy Experiment," that is the colonization of Pennsylvania was founded on a basis of religious liberty.

Penn must have been reminded of this fact and that this last charter did not fully satisfy him, as it was in 1711 he issued the last and final
This Chapter is the one under which the trust acts, and it could not be more liberal. Every trusteeman was carried away, education was alike easy for both sexes, the poor as well as the rich, free servants, and what is most important the charter was open to any person of what ever religious belief. This Chapter says: "As to the nearer term, I have lately been persuaded to me by Mr. Spence, ye said Arminians yet ye good ends intended by Euclidian such a charter will be better answered and effected if ye to build a new one more made more extensive & ye forms more readily granted to ye to Arminians over the more enlarged. Mr. Henry ye yet I knew them desirable to give all further due encouragement, to be joined with useful undertakings as they & ye my heirs all. This I will declare yet ye shall publish such charter executed & founded.
FATHER'S 3rd PARENTS

[Handwritten text that is difficult to read due to the handwriting style and condition of the page.]
and their early instruction in ye principles
of ye religion and virtue, and qualify
them to serve their country & themselves
by teaching them in reading, writing, and
learning of languages, & useful arts &
sciences, suitable to their age, sex, & degree,
which cannot be effected in any manner
as well as by erecting "publick schools
for ye purposes aforesaid." The latter
part of this would have founded anything
from a preparatory school to a university,
and probably lead these instructions
true followed out to the latter stage would
have been but one school in Philadelphia
to-day.

The Corporation had thus complete
charge of the school and how well it
managed affairs can be seen by referring
to the minutes of one of the meetings of
the Corporation; instructions were given
to the teachers "that the progress of the pupils should be requested to give in writing the most elegant translations of the Latin texts they have read, select those in verse, that the capacity will allow; as by this practice they will more strongly impress their memories the language and subjects they are reading, sharpen their handwriting, style, and spelling; learn readily to write Latin languages correctly and with elegance; teach them to read Latin in English, give them a relish for the best English authors, and induce them to an imitation of their style and sentiments, when they come to be required in composing English thoughts upon any occasion in public or private life."

"This then was the study of the William Penn Education School which through
the only public school, public being used as it is in England, in the colony of Pennsylvania for fifty years no more, in many years have attained to any degree of excellence. After laying this it appears paradoxical to say that the school is to-day the best in Philadelphia at least, if not in Pennsylvania and perhaps in this country; yet such is undoubtedly the case, and its rapid development, and the position that it holds to-day is due in a great extent to the most efficient service of its present headmaster, Richard M. Jones.

Richard Ward Jones, the son of Eli and Sarah Jones, brother of whom many members of the Society of Friends, was born near Augusta Maine on 29th June 1843. His early life, though spent in many different places was among the people of his own religious belief. He took to work with
with preachers in the Society of Friends, spent much of their time in traveling about the country. So that Mr. Jones was known at an early date among many different people. In the Seminary, where Mr. Jones is found attending the best preachers of his childhood, and at that time he came in contact with the brightest thinking and living of the Quakers, which prepared him so well for the work which he was to be the leader of. He entered Harvard College and graduated from there with honors in 1867. Before entering Harvard, when he was but seventeen years of age, he was put into an academy in New England as a teacher. A few minutes later he was an assistant to the old schoolmaster, and thus early was his mind trained.

After leaving Harvard Mr.
Just over three years ahead of leaving French and German and to the sea Mr. Pike of the Erie Steamship Company. He came in contact with much that was hot in the Society of Friends and the influence there began to make him the kind of,
the increase of scholars which was
new and eighty. In 1884, 89 and
'90 were added and now made 20 that
the school as it stands today resembles
but little externally, what it did when
Mr. Jones took charge of it in 1875.

The motto of "Good instruction is
better than riches," which Penn provided
for in one of the school charters was well
defined, as in the least eighteen years no
graduate of the school applying for ad-
mission to any college was ever rejected.

The William Penn School is divided into three departments,
Latin, Junior and First Schools and each
student receives as much attention as if
he were one of forty scholars instead
of four hundred. Besides the
head master the school has a staff of
ten very earnest efficient and highly cultured
teachers. The main division is under the control of two men and five women teachers and each is a specialist in one or two subjects. The Junior and Senior schools are under the supervision almost exclusively of women, with the exception of the gymnastics instruction and the director of extracurricular activities. This meant that learning women took the chief part of the teaching until a try is made at having girls' age. The practice deliberately, experience, learning lesson that women in the first rank, in the profession, can produce better results than such men as can be induced professionally to follow the teaching line of study age.

The sessions last from 9 A.M. to 1:30 P.M. with two intervals, one 30 minutes and the other 45 minutes, which means there are two periods of study. Each class is too large. Each interval...
Each two quadrats are lined, and during that time almost every try has a chance to recite. Every try not in this place at nine o'clock is marked tardy, except in cases where the regular arrangements were made tardy unavoidable. All lessons lost through sickness or any other cause have to be made up, and a written excuse from time with such cases occur is always required.

Unlike most schools the Kainkeli has no mid-year or final examinations; the student's grade depending entirely on his daily work, and thus "examining," which is so often indulged in at other institutions is done away with.

Each student is marked on a scale of which 10 is perfect, and 0 is failed at least once in each quarter marks in the mile done run by this class since the last test.
A report of the results of these tests is made at the close of each school month, and at the close of the year the marks of the eight months reports are averaged, and the result determines the question of his promotion under certain regulations. A careful record of each student is thus kept, and no try is permitted unless he has proved himself sufficiently capable of the work his work is assigned.

Besides reading, writing, learning of languages and the useful arts and sciences which are taught in accordance with the charter, instructions are given in the scriptures in addition to the Bible readings at the beginning of each day, and the boys attend regularly once a week Friends Meeting in the Meeting House, admiring the purity in which the Lord abounds.
Though much attention is paid to the intellectual side of the boy's nature, his health is not disregarded by any means, and the daily work in the gymnasium, and play in the yard lead to keep his mind fresh and his lungs filled with fresh air. The course in the gymnasium is required of every student and is under the careful supervision of a competent instructor who devotes his time to this end and nothing else. Two physical examinations are held each year, near the beginning of the fall term in October, and the others in May, to determine the condition of the student. The examinations consist of physical acts of the various parts of the body and such measurements as indicate the health of the boy's physical growth. Careful record of them is kept, and a careful comparison of the two latest
wants clear vision in all the school work agrees with this. Clear texts also include examinations of the eyesight and hearing. It is very important to maintain the health of the parents in this direction which ought not to be neglected. As of the 23rd, eleven minutes from Broad Street Station, the school has the use of a field of 20 acres belonging to the Pennsylvania Railroad, where ample opportunity for playing football, baseball, tennis, cricket and track sports is afforded. To many outside Philadelphia, the Penn Theatre is better known as well by the records of the activities as the scholars. The Beta Academic Association, which is an athletic association, comprised of almost all the best private institutions and preparatory schools in the city, arranges games every year, and the school winning the
most games in any one season I spent is Chicago. In the year, 1 until adjusted, schedules are arranged in the fall, fall, fall, cricket and treaty teams and in the cheer, each every year, and it is seldom that the Penn Athletic Scholl does not win first place in one of these departments. Besides these games the association holds a spring track meet generally under the auspices of the University of Pennsylvania at Franklin Field, and in the past few years the school has entered first, even when competing against such schools as the Central High, Annual school and other institutions near them are many more students to pick from than their are at the Penn Athletic. Penn Athletic's old rival, the Germantown Academy is probably next to Penn's school the oldest institution of learning.
around Philadelphia, and the mere dream of the bygone army, barely to deserve the title of a specialist as any other hand of the school, and its recent instructor is a Yale graduate, who not only distinguished himself in an artistic way at his university, but is fast becoming a well known surgeon in the city of Philadelphia. The building has been erected a large share of the resources attained, and comprises the lenses erected during the past years in the property adjoining the friends Meeting house, and still owned by that society. The lenses contain besides the eighteen school rooms in the accommodations of the tryo, an assembly room, a gymnasticum, chemical and physical laboratories, dining room, library and
and kitchen, bicycle room, Clerk room, refection room, leaders Common room, with reference library, and commandant executive office. The buildings are especially arranged in regards to light. Daylight is used as much as possible, as admitted as to fall upon the back and left shoulder of the student, and each room is supplied with electric light in case the daylight proves insufficent. The rooms are heated by the pressure steam and ventilated with open hearth fires. Each pupil has a desk to himself, and an arrasage of at least two hundred and fifty cubic feet of air space. Physics and chemistry which are required by some colleges and technical schools, are not only taught at the Rhode Island School of Art, but also by means of a text-book.
...art ample facilities are provided in the performing of much of the experimental work which these subjects demand. The practice thus gained, that is with the hand and eye, leads to form them of the objects in education and is consequently of more lasting benefit to the student.

Besides studies and activities there are a number of organizations with which the activities of the school have little in common. Among these is the Alvin Long Gray Science Club, an organization named after its founder, as a tribute to the town and science in which the club held alive. Only members of the Latin club are eligible, and...
the bi-weekly which are held are conducted by the students themselves. The purpose of the club is threefold: to supplement the prescribed courses in science, by encouraging private study and original investigation; to afford its members, especially those in the classical course, an opportunity of acquiring some scientific knowledge and to develop a practical knowledge of applied science. Each member is obliged to contribute to its proceedings as often as possible, by reading a paper, or making reports, of interest. Then too the club thus takes specimens to the state and great industries, where its members have a chance of seeing
In themselves the facts that Science plays in the development of the world.

The school magazine, known as "The Penn Selective Magazine," under the editorship of the students themselves, is published every month in the interests of the school. This work affords the editors and the boys of the school an opportunity to develop writing, and opportunity for writing ideas that interest connected with the school.

It must be clear that although much time is devoted to required work, by means of these organizations ample opportunity is given the boys for original thought and work, an undisputed fact in the development of a man's
As planned, there are a limited number of scholarships educated free, with the students required to pay their regular fees for instruction. The scholarships are only awarded to those with good standing and maintain high standards in not failing to maintain a high standard of diligence and attainment. Means a sufficient qualification for the scholarship at once. The fees for instruction are in the form school one hundred dollars in the junior school two hundred dollars and fifty dollars; and in the senior school two hundred dollars per
acumen, fors etabinom and any
makeage occurring in the physical
or chemical labahico thing of

or, for example

As provided, vacancies
in the board of fifteen members,
may be filled by any man no
matter what his religious belief.

Thus the board of today is made
up of fifteen men, each of whom
happens to occur in some way to
be connected to one of the fifteen
original members.

The members are:

1. John Brown,
2. Francis R. Hope,
3. Edward Butt Jr.,
4. Philip W. Nettleton,
5. Benjamin H. Hiramaker,
6. William Butler,
7. Ezra S. Wing,
8. Thomas Headgood,
9. Elliston P. Norris,
10. Robert Thomas P. Hope Jr.,
11. John W. Middle
Charles J. Alford and John T. Minio. These men have complete oversight of the school but it is annually in charge of a Committee of six composed of Francis R. Sher, Edward Burtis Jr., Isaac H. Hig, B. N. Backly, Charles Reffius, and Charles J. Alford.

Thus was the William Penn Charter School founded, and thus has it continued for almost two hundred years, a preparatory school unsurpassed by any in this country. First to William Penn and the original fifteen members, and now to Richard M. James and the present board does it owe its reputation as well as its literature that "God will structure is better than riches."

The End.