

PANNEBAKKER FAMILY NEWS



Pannebakker

NEWSLETTER OF THE PANNEBAKKER FAMILY ASSOCIATION

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William Penn visits the Indians

Ever wonder what Pennsylvania was like when the first Pannebakkers arrived?

Excerpts quoted from Samuel Janney's *Life of William Penn*, 6th edition, 1882.

In the spring of 1683, William Penn made a journey to the interior of his province, during which he made himself fully acquainted with its surface, soil, and natural productions and visited the Indians in their wigwams, with whom he learned to converse in their own language. The result of his observations is communicated in the following interesting letter to the Free Society of Traders.

Penn's observations on the early arrivals to the colony:

The first planters in these parts were Dutch, and soon after them the Swedes and Finns. The Dutch applied themselves to traffic, the Swedes and Finns to husbandry. There were some disputes between them for some years; the Dutch looking upon them as intruders upon their purchase and possession, which was finally ended in the surrender made by John Rizeing, the Swedish governor, to Peter Stuyvesant, governor for the States of Holland, anno 1655.

The Dutch inhabit mostly those parts of the province that lie upon or near the bay, and the Swedes the freshes of the river Delaware. There is no need of giving any description of them, who are better known there than here: but they are a plain, strong, industrious people, yet have made no great progress in culture, or propagation of fruit-trees; as if they desired rather to have enough than plenty or traffic. But I presume the Indians made them the more careless by furnishing them with the means to profit, to wit, skins and furs for rum and such strong liquors. They kindly received me as well as the English, who were few before the people concerned with me came among them. I must needs commend their respect to authority, and kind behaviour to the English. They do not degenerate from the old friendship between both kingdoms. As they are people proper and strong of body, so they have fine children, and almost every house full: rare to find one of them without three or four boys and as many girls; some six, seven and eight sons. And I must do them that right, I see few young men more sober and laborious.

The Dutch have a meeting-place for religious worship at Newcastle; and the Swedes three; One at Christina, one at Tenecum, and one at Wicoco, within half a mile of this town.

The rests that I speak of the condition we are in, and what settlement we have made; in which I will be as short as I can; for I fear, and not without reason, that I have tried your patience with this long story. The country lieth bounded on the east by the river and bay of Delaware and Eastern Sea. It hath the advantage of many creeks, or rivers rather, that run into the main river or bay, some navigable for great ships, some for small craft. Those of most eminency are Christina, Brandywine, Skilpot, and Sculkil, any one of which has room to lay up the royal navy of England, there being from four to eight fathom water.

The lesser creeks or rivers, yet convenient for sloops and ketches of good burthen, are Lewis, Mespillion, Cedar, Dover, Cranbrook, Feversham, and Georges below; and Chichester, Chester, Toacawny, Pammapecka, Portquessin, Neshimenck, and Pennberry in the freshes: many lesser, that admit boats and shallows. Our people are mostly settled upon the upper rivers, which are pleasant and sweet, and generally bounded with good land. The

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planted part of the province and territories is cast into six counties: Philadelphia, Buckingham, Chester, Newcastle, Kent and Sussex, containing about four thousand souls. Two general assemblies have been held, and with such concord and despatch that they sat but three weeks, and at least seventy laws were passed without one dissent in any material thing. But of this more hereafter, being yet raw and new in our gear. However, I cannot forget their singular respect to me in this infancy of things, who, by their own private expenses, so early considered ine for the public, as to present me with an impost upon certain goods imported and exported, which, after my acknowledgement of their affection, I did as freely remit to the province and the traders to it. And for the well-government of the said counties, courts of justice are established in every county, with proper officers, as justices, sheriffs, clerks, constables; which courts are held every two months. But, to prevent lawsuits, there are three peacemakers chosen by every county court, in the nature of common arbitrators, to hear and end differences between man and man. And spring and fall there is an orphans' court in each county, to inspect and regulate the affairs of orphans and widows.

Philadelphia: the expectation of those who are concerned in this province is at last laid out, to the great content of those here who are any way interested therein. The situation is a neck of land, and lieth between two navigable rivers, Delaware and Sculkill, whereby it hath two fronts upon the water, each a mile, and two from river to river. Delaware is a glorious river; but the Sculkill, being an hundred miles boatable above the falls, and its course north-east toward the fountain of Susquehannah, (that tends to the heart of the province, and both sides our own,) it is like to be a great part of the settlement of this age. I say little of the town itself, because a platform will be shown you by my agent, in which those who are purchasers of me, will find their names and interests. But this I will say, for the good providence of God, that of all the many places I have seen in the world, I remember not one better seated; so that it seems to me to have been appointed for a town, whether we regard the rivers, or the conveniency of the coves, docks, and springs, the loftiness and soundness of the land, and the air, held by the people of those parts to be very good. It is advanced within less than a year, to about fourscore houses and cottages, such as they are, where merchants and handicrafts are following their vocations as fast as they can; while the countrymen are close at their farms. Some of them got a little winter corn in the ground last season; and the generality have had a handsome summer-crop, and are preparing for their winter corn. They reaped their barley this year, in the month called May, the wheat in the month following; so that there is time in these parts for another crop of divers things before the winter season. We are daily in hopes of shipping to add to our number; for, blessed be God! here is both room and accomodation for them: the stories of our necessity being either the fear of our friends, or the scarecrows of our enemies; for the greatest hardship we have suffered hath been salt meat, which, by fowl in winter and fish in summer, together with some poultry, lamb, mutton, veal, and plenty of venison, the best part of the year, hath been made very passable. I bless God I am fully satisfied with the country and entertainment I got in it; for I find that particular content, which hath always attended me, where God in his providence hath made it my place and service to reside. You cannot imagine my station can be at present free of more than ordinary business; and, as such, I may say it is a troublesome work. But the method things are putting in will facilitate the charge, and give an easier motion to the administration of affairs. However, as it is some men's duty to plough, some to sow, some to water and some to reap, so it is the wisdom as well as the duty of a man to yield to the mind of providence, and cheerfully as well as carefully embrace and follow the guidance of it.

For your particular concern I might entirely refer you to the letters of the president of the society; but this I will venture to say, your provincial settlement, both within and without the town, for situation and soil, are without exception. Your city lot is a whole street, and one side of a street, from river to river, containing near one hundred acres not easily valued; which is, besides your four hundred acres in the city-liberties, part of your twenty thousand acres in the country. Your tannery hath plenty of bark. The saw-mill for timber and the place of the glass-house are so conveniently posted for water-carriage, the city lot for a dock, and the whalery for a sound and fruitful bank, and the town Lewis by it to help your people, that by God's blessing the affairs of the society will naturally grow in their reputation and profit. I am sure I have not turned my back upon any offer that tended to its prosperity; and though I am ill at projects, I have sometimes put in for a share with her officers to countenance and advance her interest. You are already informed what is fit for you further to do. Whatsoever tends to the promotion of wine and to the

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manufacture of linen in these parts, I cannot but wish you to promote; and the French people are most likely in both respects to answer that design. To that end I would advise you to send for some thousands of plants out of France, with some able vinerons, and people of the other vocation. But because I believe you have been entertained with this and some other profitable subjects by your president, Nicholas Moore, I shall add no more, but to assure you that I am heartily inclined to advance your just interest, and that you will always find me your kind and cordial friend,
WILLIAM PENN

Phila. 16th of 6th month, (August) 1683

REUNION GOLF OUTING

Date: Friday, July 5, 2019

Course: Raven's Claw Golf Club

Time: 8:00 am / Shotgun start

Cost: \$100-individual, \$400-foursome

Website link: <https://www.ravensclawgolfclub.com>

Event description:

Join us at Raven's Claw Golf Club on Friday, July 5, 2019, for a family golf outing. A shotgun start, in a best ball format. We will limit participation to the first 72 golfers. Sign-up a a foursome or as an individual and we will assign you to a family foursome.

Best ball format - at least one drive by each member of the foursome must be used during the 18 holes.

Prizes: 1st place- lowest foursome score

2nd place

3rd place

Closest to the pin on a selected par 3

Longest drive on a selected par 5

Goodie bags for all golfers

Your fee includes, golf, cart, beverages, sandwiches, hot dogs and chips all served on the course by cart.

Foursome

Name

Email

Golfer #1 _____

Golfer #2 _____

Golfer #3 _____

Golfer #4 _____

Individual

**Makes checks payable to Pannebakker Family Association
\$100 per golfer, \$400 per foursome**

Send checks to:

Ron Pennypacker, President/PFA
520 Loch Alsh Ave.
Ambler, PA 19002

Address inquiries to: r.pennypacker@yahoo.com

Spots for the golf outing are filling up quickly, so if you would like to spend time with cousins, new and old, now is the time to reserve your spot!

NEW PFA OFFICERS

Recently, two of our officers have left their positions with us at PFA. We would like to thank Bill McNeary, treasurer and Sandie Miller, membership, for all of their years of devotion to PFA. Your efforts were greatly appreciated and you will be missed!

Our new treasurer is Ed Pennypacker, who lives in Royersford, PA. Ed is President of JEPCO Sales, LLC, a sales company, specializing in water-tight precast structures.

Our new (temporary) membership officer is Bruce Pennypacker. Bruce lives in Langhorne, PA. Bruce is a retired teacher and coach.

All PFA positions are voluntary. If you would like to get involved with the running of the PFA, please submit your name to our President, Ron Pennypacker. The position of membership officer is presently open. A description of the duties of the membership officer is available upon request.

Reunion Update

The date for the reunion has been set for July 5-7, 2019. The steering committee has decided to not have one host hotel, as we did in 1999, but to allow participants to find lodging in any of several hotels, motels, campgrounds in the area, of which there are many. A list of hotels, etc., including distances and driving times from the various venues being used during the three-day reunion, will be available in the near future.

Friday, July 5:

Golf outing at Raven's Claw Golf Club in Pottstown, PA. This will be a scramble/shotgun start format, limited to the first 72 golfers to apply. Best ball, each member of the foursome must use at least one of their drives. There will be goodie bags for all golfers and additional prizes.

The fee will be \$100 per golfer and includes greens fee, cart, lunch and beverages, prizes and tips to course personnel. Planned start time is 8:00 am.

Registration will be held at Sunnybrook Ballroom in Pottstown, PA from 2:00 to 6:00 pm.

This is where you will pick up your tickets and program data for the reunion. Also, any pre-ordered merchandise will be available. This includes t-shirts, mugs, commemorative booklets, etc.

Reception to be held at Sunnybrook Ballroom from 7:00 to 9:00.

Saturday, July 6:

There will be a morning tour of a venue of interest. Venue and tour details are still in the planning stages.

The tour will most likely begin and end at Pennypacker Mills in Schwenksville, PA.

Picnic at Pennypacker Mills from 1:00 to 6:00. The picnic will include a very comprehensive menu, with special Pennsylvania Dutch elements, speeches, music, prizes, children's activities, etc. Local participants are encouraged to bring chairs.

Sunday, July 7:

Brunch at Sunnybrook Ballroom. Time for this activity has not been set, but most likely from 12:00 to 2:00.

After brunch, we will proceed to breakout sessions in various rooms at Sunnybrook. The topics for these sessions are still in the works.

All ticketing for the reunion will be through an Internet ticketing site, and will begin next Spring.

For those of you interested in making the reunion a part of a larger vacation trip, we have information available about local attractions, and suggestions to help you plan your trip.

Anyone planning to attend the reunion who is not a member of our family association is encouraged to join us by requesting an application from any of the officers listed on the last page of this newsletter.

We are in need of people to volunteer to help with reunion activities. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Bruce Pennypacker at pannebakkerfa@gmail.com.

Our reunion in 1999 was largely funded by generous donations from friends and family. All donations will be recognized in the reunion program and are greatly appreciated. Please send checks payable to **Pannebakker Family Association** to either Ron Pennypacker or Ed Pennypacker, whose addresses are listed on the last page of this newsletter.

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Pannebakker Family Association



The Pannebakker Family Association is an outgrowth of the family reunion held at Pennypacker Mills, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania on July 2-4, 1999. The reunion celebrated the 300th year wedding anniversary of Hendrick Pannebecker and Eve Umstat, in Germantown, Pennsylvania in the year 1699. In the words of the Steering Committee of the reunion, "We hope that the 1999 Pfannebecker-Umstat Reunion will lead to the growth of a family association, which will provide a forum for conversation, collection and preservation of information, and a sense of lasting community among the heirs of this rich cultural heritage."