

Notes and Queries

Source: *The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, Vol. 45, No. 4 (1921), pp. 388-393

Published by: University of Pennsylvania Press

Stable URL: <https://www.jstor.org/stable/20086460>

Accessed: 13-06-2023 14:50 +00:00

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NOTES AND QUERIES.

Notes.

LETTER OF JOHN PENN TO FERDINAND JOHN PARIS, 1741. [Penn Manuscripts, Historical Society of Pennsylvania.]

D^r: S^r:

I this morning recd a Letter from M^r Peters of the 27th. April which Suppose Came by the Vessel that Brought yours; By which find that M^r Commins the Late Minister of Philadelphia is Dead, & that at the Desire of Several of our Friends not the Quakers he has made an application to Succeed him, he therefore Desires my Interest with you, to whom he has Largely wrote, that he may be Recommended to the Bishop of London; I believe him to be a very Capable, Worthy, good Man; from the Character I recd of him before this was thought of; & the Letters I have recd from him; & am Sorry by his Promotion we Shall Loose so good a Secretary; But as I have always had a very great Regard for the Church of England, & Shall always Promote its Interest where ever I have any Concern; Not from favour or affection; but that, She has been Known, to have more Mercy Charity & Goodness than any other church that have ever been in power; As for the Little Difference that was some time ago between him & M^r. Commins it was from the Misfortune of the partys in the place; As for M^r. Commins I knew him well, & all the time I was in Philadelphia, never heard one man give him a Bad Word I heartily wish as Worthy a Man may Succeed him which will be to the Honour of Religion, & the good of the Province. I must hereby Recommend to you the forwarding as much as possible the Examination of all witnesses in the Cause, as I find by Letter today my Bro^r. Will be with us in Aug^r. & I desire for Several Important Reason's the Suit may be Determined as Soon as possible, one way or other I am D^r: S^r: With Best Wishes for your Self & M^{rs}. Paris

Your very Sincere frd:

John Penn

Feens 29th June
1741

P: S: I believe it would be much for his Majestys Interest to have M^r. Peters Promoted he being Gentleman Much Regarded there & whose friends not only have but I doubt not are willing to supply his Majesty with all the assistance possible against th^r. Designs.

THE END OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION IN MARCH, 1784.

In my former article (January, 1913), it was pointed out that the American Revolution was a world-war (this phrase was actually used); it was a coalition by the United States, France, Spain, Holland and India to curb the arrogance of Great Britain.

This spring, 1921, in cataloging some British Regimental histories, I have found several that deal with fighting in India. The most significant fact is found in the Historical Record of the Seventy-second Regiment: 1778-1848. Compiled by Richard Cannon. London, 1848.

On p. 11, we read: "Peace was concluded with the ruler of the Mysore in March, 1784." As all the fighting in India down to this date was continuous with that caused by our French and Dutch allies, we

must hereafter make the American Revolution terminate in March, 1784, instead of November, 1783. Two other regimental histories are more explicit: the exact date was March 11, 1784.

John Bach McMaster agrees with me about this, and suggests this little note for the magazine.

ALBERT J. EDMUNDS, *Historical Society of Pennsylvania.*

LETTER OF JOHN ASKEW TO JONATHAN DICKINSON, 1701. [Logan Papers, Historical Society of Pennsylvania.]

Honest Jna &
Kind Freind

London 23th 11 mo. 1700/.

I reed thine p Randell Jeney p Capt Streett who Arived here aboutt 10 Days since Put in 5 weeks to Silly where he staid a week I thank thee for thy Freindly and Intillidgeable Epestle—I writt to the abt a month since p one Cap^t Howe bound for Maryland but was unfortunately Cast away abt. 7 Ins^t. on y^e Island Garnsey the ship and All y^e Men and Passengers lost being aboutt 75 in Number Several Passengers for Pensilvania was on Board In Perticular W^m. Robinson (Patt: Sonn) and his wife Elis Beasley

I See thy Sister this week who is well and Lusty looks much better then when in Jamaica Caleb had Gott Cold and was not very well else that was his Excuse being not out of his bed at a 11 Clock I generally See him twice or three times aweek at the Change or Coffe house I have not yett Seen Ann Price but thy Sister told me She and her Children were well about a week since Cap^t Rodgers is still here in town Preus husband but I suppose has little Communication wth. his Sister in Law—Ere now noe Doubt thou hast y^e acct. of thy Brother Jabishes Death in Jamiaca—here was a Report y^e Cap^t price was Dead but noe Confirmation to that

We have not yett had opertunity to Spend thy Token by m^e I have desired thy Sister to Chuse her time & meathod and Judged goeing to Grinadge would be a prt of diversion soe that y^e first fine Day we are to Imbark in a wherrie & Dine there take a turne in y^e. Park and Goe home againe thy Cosens I think are well which are to accompany us and Ann Price if She please. As to Publick News our New Parlement sitts 5th next month the Duke of Anjoue being Crowned king of Spaine pursuent to y^e Deceased kings Will occations Much talk of a Warr we and y^e Dutch against france and Spaine old Lewis Stands Stiffly, for his Grandson, y^e sd Duks Right—and tis generally beleaved a warr is unavoidable.

Puckle sails in a weeke or thereabout W^m. trent & Family Comes in him Allsoe Tho: Morrey & tis Reported they will Bring 15000 pounds of goods Trent 10000 and Tho: 5000 3 other ships of greater Burthen are up for Pensilvania Dewell I supose will follow Puckle you are not like to want such Nessasaryes as England is Capable of furnishing you wth at your own prices—this I intend via New England but [illegible]—shall inlarge p Puckle Soe with Due Respects to thy Self kind wife Sons and all my Frds and Acquaintance as thou Sees meatt

I Remaine thy Reall Frd

John Askew

My love to thy Neighbour Sam^l & Rachell
I have Packt thy wife and the each of y^{ou} a small
token of a Cheshire Cheese In ord^r to Come p Puckle }

Corne wich is a greatt blessing to y^e Numerous Poor is at Present very Cheap best wheate here at London on y^e keys at 3/9^d p bushell sold Last and this week. we had soundings in 24 days but through Contrary winds was 5 weeks to An Anker at Plymouth whence I with Tho: M and Another Came up By land as is my Accustomed Manner,

I was in my old trim at Sea kept my Cabbin most of y^e voyage but we had Severe weather yett through Mercy mett with noe Damage Considerable Save loss of Severall of our Sailes.

J. A.

LETTER OF WILLIAM PETERS TO RICHARD PETERS, 1754. [Peters Papers, Historical Society of Pennsylvania.]
Dear Bro^t.

Mr. Allen writes now to Mr. Gordon a Pticular of y^e Acco^{ts}. we have rec^d. of Col: Washington's Defeat, to w^{ch} I refer you & shall only add (on y^e other side) y^e Copy of a tre from Mr. West to his ptner Mr. Neave w^{ch} came to hand since Mr. Allen wrote. West was just return'd from y^e back pts & I believe his Acc^t. may be better depended upon than y^e others. Things have but a bad aspect at present, but I hope this will rouze our Wretches of y^e Assembly imediatey to do something to purpose & put all y^e Colonies upon exerting themselves & uniting heartily to raise a good body of Men at once to defend y^e Country & drive off these Invaders who are realy now become very formidable.

I'm sorry to add to y^e Trouble you must be under on this melancholy situation of Affairs w^{ch} to be sure must at present affect yor Interests considerably, but I canot avoid telling you y^t. my Son Billy grows daily worse & worse & if he is not speedily sepatred from Dicky, I doubt he will soon make him as bad as himself & could wish you would in your Journey inquire out some Place where Billy might be put for a Year to try if he can't be broke of these villainous habits before 'tis quite too late. Pray keep up yo^r Spirits & I doubt not all things may do well yet. I am

D^r. Bro^t.

Yo^r. m^t. aff^{ly}.

P^{da} 18th July 1754

W^m Peters

[INCLOSURE FROM MR. WEST.]

Lancaster July 14th 1754

You have doubtless heard of Col: Washington's Defeat before this: The Particulars of the action We have but uncertain accounts of, but this much I believe may be depended on, that the French to the number of 700 and 200 Indians attacked him in his Camp and after a Fight of nearly 12 Hours, having killed 60 and 40 wounded, he was obliged to begin a Parley, and all the Terms he could obtain was to have Liberty to come back with his arms and carry the wounded with him, so that all the Baggage Cattle and Provisions in the Camp fell a Prey to the French.

Mr. Charles Knowles Bolton, librarian of the Boston Athenaeum and a member of the Massachusetts Historical Society, is at work upon a third volume of his "Portraits of the Founders." He would like to hear of portraits of persons born abroad who came to the American colonies before the year 1701.

The Roosevelt Memorial Association, One Madison Avenue, New York City, requests that material concerning Colonel Roosevelt including reminiscences, pamphlets, cartoons, fugitive articles, clippings and photographs be sent to them for preservation.

Commodore James H. Bull sends to the Society from San Francisco an interesting series of papers including:

1. The diploma of Levi Bull, who graduated from Dickinson College in 1798, with the signatures of Dr. Nisbet, the first President of Dickinson, and William Thompson.

2. His deacon's certificate signed by Bishop White.
3. His ordination as priest, also signed by the bishop.
4. Conveyance to Col. John Bull of land in Northumberland County, 1787.
5. Parchment list of births of children of Thomas Bull.
6. Warrant for Lancaster land to John Morgan, signed by George Thomas, 25 Jan. 1744.
7. Account of standing of James H. Bull in Bristol College, 1836.

Levi Bull, son of Col. John Bull, born Warwick Furnace, graduated at 17 from Dickinson College in Oct. 1798. He studied law with James Hopkins, Esq., and then became a priest in the P. E. Church. He served in Berks and Chester Counties for many years without pay. Died Aug. 2, 1859.

The Pennsylvania Historical Commission cooperated with the Union County Historical Society in placing a marker at the site of Shekillamy's Old Town near Milton on August 2nd. Messrs. Donehoo and Montgomery represented the Commission. The marker was accepted by Hon. A. W. Johnson in behalf of the Union County Society and by Rev. A. E. Gobble in behalf of the United Evangelical Church Society. Shekillamy made his home here from 1728 to 1745, when he removed to Shamokin (Sunbury).

The Commission also assisted the Lancaster County Historical Society in placing a marker in honor of Dr. David Ramsay, Gen. John Steele, Col. Archibald Steele and Col. Thomas Porter at Unicorn on September 17th. These men were born in Drumore Township and were interesting characters in Revolutionary times. Messrs. Frank H. Eshleman, D. F. Magee and Robert Blair Kirk, together with Miss Susan C. Frazer, prepared the historical sketches.

The statue commemorating the visit of Washington to Fort LeBoeuf in 1753 will be unveiled in the Spring of 1922.

A tablet was unveiled at Shippensburg on October 11, 1921, marking the site of Fort Morris. Dr. Montgomery and Dr. Donehoo represented the Commission.

THE DENNYS OF PENNSYLVANIA.

I have for some time been engaged in research with a view to discovering the ancestry, on this side of the Atlantic, of the Dennys of Pennsylvania. I give herewith a brief statement of the information which I have already been able to obtain from America. It is derived from the Journal of Major Ebenezer Denny and the Records of the Court of Upland, which have been published by the Pennsylvania Historical Society, and from collections made by one of Major E. Denny's descendants. But some additional information from American sources would be most helpful and valuable. In the hope that such may be forthcoming I am publishing this note and I should be grateful to anyone who might be good enough to furnish me with any further details.

The name of one Thomas Denny occurs in the Records of the Court of Upland, about 1676-80.

"In 1681 a considerable Company was formed in Dublin, composed of substantial men, to whom was sold one of the "Tenths" into which New Jersey had been divided for purpose of settlement. This "Irish Tenth" lay in Gloucester and Salem Counties. They sailed that year and landed at Salem. Other shiploads of Irish settlers followed for several years. Amongst the earliest settlers were Thomas and Frederick Denny—possibly also William and Walter Denny."

Walter Denny appears as taxable in Chester Co. in 1722. Frederick Denny purchased land in New Jersey in 1722, if not earlier. He was

dead in 1737. By Eleanor, his wife, he had a son and heir William Denny, taxable in Chester Co. in 1722, settled near Carlisle, Cumberland Co., in 1745, will dated Oct. 1750, proved March 1751. By his wife (? Agnes) he had issue (with a daughter who married John McClure) two sons:— (1) Walter, killed in the battle of Crooked Billet, having had a son David, Presbyterian Minister at Chambersburg, and a daughter who married Hon. Nathaniel Ewing; (2) William, a minor in 1751, married Agnes, daughter of John Parker, and was father of Major Ebenezer Denny, who was born March 11, 1761.

The fact that these Dennys seem to have always been Presbyterians seems to point to an Ulster or Scottish origin. I have obtained evidence of the settlement in Ulster, at the end of seventeenth century, of some of the Dennys of Greenock and Dunbarton, Scotland, which family doubtless derived its surname from the neighbouring village of Denny and is now represented in Scotland by Sir Archibald Denny, Bt., of Dunbarton.

(The Rev.) H. L. L. Denny.

St. Mark's Vicarage,
66, Myddelton Square, E. C. 1,
London, England.

Inscription on the grave stone of William Smith, D.D., in North Laurel Hill Cemetery, Section G. 310.

TO THIS GROUND HAVE BEEN REMOVED
THE REMAINS OF
WILLIAM SMITH, D.D.
FIRST PROVOST OF THE COLLEGE OF PHILADELPHIA
BORN 1726—DIED MAY 14, 1803
ISABELLA SMITH
HIS SISTER, DIED 1801, AGED 65
WILLIAM MOORE SMITH
HIS SON, DIED 1821, AGED 62
SAMUEL W. SMITH
SON OF THE LATTER, DIED 1819, AGED 23
RICHARD PENN SMITH
MARCH 13, 1799—AUGUST 12, 1854
ELEANOR, DUNCAN, HELEN AND EMMA
INFANT CHILDREN OF
RICHARD PENN AND ELEANOR M. SMITH
ISABELLA STRATTON SMITH
NOV. 20, 1812—MARCH 17, 1880

An original portrait of Provost William Smith, D.D., painted by Gilbert Stuart is now in the possession of Mrs. John H. Brinton, 1423 Spruce St., copies of which exist as follows:—

One painted by Thomas Sully, now in the possession of William Rudolph Smith, Esq., 2029 Pine St. One painted by E. D. Marchant, now in the possession of the University of Pennsylvania, presented by J. Blodgett Britton. One (artist unknown) in the possession of the Academy of the Protestant Episcopal Church presented by his granddaughter, Isabelle Penn-Smith Fleming. One in the Chapel of Washington College, Maryland, presented to the College by the Rev. Mr. Kimball of Hagerstown, Md.

In 1803 the remains of Dr. Smith were placed in a family mausoleum which he had built on his country place at the Falls of Schuylkill, near Philadelphia. In 1854 all of the bodies in the mausoleum were removed to North Laurel Hill Cemetery after the death of his grandson, Richard Penn Smith, who succeeded to and occupied the country place and who directed in his will that such action should be taken.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PENNSYLVANIA MAGAZINE OF HISTORY AND BIOGRAPHY, PHILADELPHIA, PA.

Baltimore, Feb. 6, 1922.

Dear Sir:—

In my article on William Biles published in Vol. 26 of your Magazine, I referred to the will of Dorothy Biles of Dorchester, 1693, as being the earliest recorded will of any of that name in either the Consistory Court or the Arch-Deaconry Court at Blandford; but at the time of writing the article, I did not know whether there was any relationship between Dorothy and William Biles.

Recently, Mrs. Walter Radcliffe Kirk of Chicago, a descendant of William Biles, sent me a copy of the will of Dorothy Biles dated 1692 and probated 1693, which she had obtained from the Arch-Deaconry Court at Blandford.

From this will it is evident that Dorothy was the mother of William and Charles Biles who emigrated to America and arrived in the Delaware River on the 4th day of 4th month, 1679.

Not only does Dorothy mention her sons William and Charles Biles of Pennsylvania, but William in his will, mentions his sister-in-law Mary Biles the widow of his brother Thomas Biles of Dorchester in the County of Dorset in old England, who Dorothy also mentions in her will.

Thinking that many other descendants of William Biles would be interested in this information, I send you herewith the copy of Dorothy's will and suggest that you publish it in your Magazine.

Yours very truly,

MILES WHITE, JR.

1692

WILL OF DOROTHY BILES

of the parish of All Sents in the tonne of Dorechester, widow. I give my soul unto God that gave it & my Body to be buried in Christian manner as my Ex-rs shall thincke fitt.

Item. I give to my sonn *William Biles In pensilvania* or Elsewhere or to his children the sum of tenn pounds.

Item. I give to my sonn *Charles in pensilvania* or elsewhere £10. the money to be paid to them by my exec-rin 6 mos after demand,—or if dead to be divided among children.

To my son *Jonathan in New England* or elsewhere or to his children £10. in 6 mos after demand. To my son *John at London* £5. To my son *John's dau. Elizabeth* 20s. To my brother *Thos. Strong* £10. for the use of my daughter *Rebecca Scutt*.—not to be disposed of without my daughter's free consent. Unto William Scutt my ganson £10. besides £16. which I have already ordered for ye cure of ye stone, but Iff he die before he is of age, remainder to his two sisters, Rebecca and Elizabeth. To my grand-daughters Rebecca Scutt and Elizabeth Scutt £5 apeece.—To my sonne in law Robert Scutt, my horse. To my dau. *Mary Biles, widow*, 20 s. To her son *Thomas Biles* 10 s. to her dau *Mary B.* 20 s., to her dau *Rebecca B.* 20 s. All to be paid when they come of age. Unto ye poore of ye people commonly called Quakers 20 s. All ye rest of my goods, linning & woollen, Brass pewter' lumber whatsoever (except?) one new paire of green curtaines & Vallins, I give to my dau. Rebecca Scutt's two daus. Reb. & Eliz. my funerall charges being paid, which I leave unto my bro. Thos. Strong's descretion, he to be allowed for the same. My bro. Thos. Strong Exec-r

Ye marke of Dorothy Biles

witness

Robt Young
John Read
George

1692