

Name and Section

Before white settlement Pennsylvania was the home of about 15,000 Indians, most of whom belonged to the DELAWARE, SHAWNEE, and SUSQUEHANNA tribes, as well as *scattered groups of the IROQUOIS LEAGUE*. In the 17th century, **Pennsylvania** was claimed by the **Dutch, Swedes, and British**. As early as 1609 the Dutch explored *the lands along* the Delaware River. In 1643 a party of Swedes called the territory NEW SWEDEN and **established** the first permanent colonies at Tinicum and New Gottenburg near modern CHESTER. In 1655, *Peter Stuyvesant*, the governor of New Netherland, **led an expedition** against the *Swedes* and *imposed Dutch* rule. *Dutch* authority was terminated when, in 1664, a British force seized New Netherland (**present-day New York**). In 1681, William Penn, a prominent British Quaker, obtained from Charles II a grant of the territory **KNOWN AS THE** Providence of Pennsylvania. The first permanent British colony was established at **present-day** Philadelphia in 1681.

PENN planned to make his new colony the "*Holy Experiment*." He immediately drew up "*The Great Law of Pennsylvania*," under which male suffrage extended to those who professed a belief in God and met *moderate* property requirements. *Imprisonment* for debt was reduced to a minimum, and the death penalty was imposed only in cases of murder and treason. No man was **deprived of life, liberty, or estate except by trial before a jury of 12. Penn's seal** read, "*Mercy, Justice, Truth, Peace, Love, Plenty*."