Families, like trees, must have roots sunk deep in the soil, and the spread of the roots must correlate to those of the branches if either families, or trees, are to endure the toll of the years. This for a considerable period was true of the Penns of England.

The Penn cycle, says a recent writer,\(^1\) begins in 1642 with William Penn, afterwards the Admiral, aged twenty-two, and closes in 1869 with its last male representative, the Reverend Thomas Gordon Penn.

For the purposes of this brief sketch it is well to move the cycle backwards three generations to include the great-great-grandfather of the founder, that is to William Penn of Minety, yeoman, who, some years before 1590, lived at Penns’ Lodge, “a genteel, ancient house in Gloucestershire adjoining Wiltshire.” In his will this long ago gentleman directs that his body be “buried in the parish church, chancel or churchyard of

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Minetie.' Clarkson in his life of Penn, written about 1812, states that the flat monumental stone, in the chancel near the south door of the Church, which perpetuated this direction, was then standing with the inscription "William Penn, dyed the 12 of March in the year of our Lord, 1591." The stone in the chancel-passage between two pews had quite disappeared in 1890, so wrote the rector of Minety, the Reverend Mr. Edwards, in that year. But three centuries had come and gone and many feet had trodden the narrow chancel way during those three hundred years.

Giles Penn, second son of William, the yeoman of Minety, was born about 1575, and married at St. Mary Redcliffe, Bristol, November 5, 1600, Joan Gilbert. It was this estimable wife of Giles Penn who so wrapped her influence and spirit about the consciousness of her brown-eyed youngest son, later the doughty Admiral, that in his Will he left instructions for his burial by her side at St. Mary Redcliffe. This is a fine example of a strong man's tenderness for his mother—a tenderness more frequently displayed by the male than by the distaff side of the family.

In due time Admiral Sir William Penn, Knight, after a stormy life, full of honours, modified by anxiety and disappointment, was buried as he desired at St. Mary Redcliffe, near his beloved mother, September 30, 1670, in what Queen Elizabeth was pleased to call "The fairest, goodliest and most famous parish church in England". His stately mural monument in the south transept of the church, adorned with his armor and faded fragments of his naval banners and trophies,  

8 J. Henry Lea in the Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography, IV. 57, footnote.  
Gulielma Maria Springett

gives, after the manner of English inscriptions, an almost life-size word portrait of the deceased, with a touch of ancestral background of much value to all biographers.

Space only can be given to the opening and closing sentences:

To the just Memory of Sir Willm Penn, Kt., and sometimes Generall; Born at Bristol An.: Son of Captain Giles Penn, several yeares Consul for ye English in ye Mediterranean; of the Penns of Penns Lodge in ye County of Wilts, and those Penns of Penn in ye C. of Bucks; and by his Mother from the Gilberts in ye County of Somerset, Originally from Yorkshire.

After a lengthy recital of his brave exploits in the Dutch wars, together with honours civil and naval, the epitaph continues:

He withdrew, Prepared and made for his End; and with a gentle and Even Gale, in much peace, arrived and anchored in his Last and Best Port, at Wanstead in ye County of Essex, ye 16 Sept. 1670. Beeing then but 49 and 4 months old. To whose Name and merit his surviving Lady hath erected this remembrance.

The elder Penns, as has been touched upon, chose their wives wisely and their male offspring would appear to have followed maternal qualities and characteristics rather than paternal ones. The Admiral's marriage in London in January, 1643, while still in his captaincy, to the young Dutch widow, Margaret, widow of Nicasius Vanderschure, or van der Schuren, of Kilconry and Parish of Killrush, county Clare, Ireland, Dutch merchant, is another example of this trend. The daughter of John Jasper, also a Dutch merchant, and of Ballycase, county Clare, Ireland, she was a hearty, merry woman, steadfast and true. She brought to her husband some property in Irish lands, listed at more than £8000 but not altogether available for rental. Her

5 Pepys' Diary.
sturdy qualities were reflected in her son, great Penn, and her sanctified common sense was as an anchor to his youthful storm-tossed bark. Her portrait and that of her celebrated husband, Admiral Penn, as lined by that dour scribe, Samuel Pepys the diarist, must not be accepted without salt, much salt, since saints and sinners alike are scratched by his scalpel-knife.

It is therefore a genuine relief to turn from the vaporings of Pepys, the man of the world, the embodiment of the materialistic spirit of the Restoration, who withal is a storehouse of gossip and fact, to that tender idyl of married life the union of William Penn, later the founder of Pennsylvania, and Gulielma Maria Springett, as portrayed in the autobiography of Thomas Ellwood, one of those rich Quaker journals of inestimable value to the historian.7

When Gulielma Springett was ten years old, her mother, Lady Mary Springett, widow of Sir William Springett and daughter of Sir John Proud, married, in 1654, Isaac Penington who, with Fox, Barclay and Penn, became a leader in the Quaker movement.

Mary Springett and Isaac Penington were drawn to each other by spiritual unrest. An unrest of some years, which found its culmination in soul peace on their convincement of Friends’ principles in 1658. After this, their home at the Grange, Chalfont St. Peter, among the green slopes and beech woods of Buckinghamshire, some twenty-five miles from London, was a sanctuary for persecuted Friends until the estate was confiscated by the Crown.

Here, from 1662 to 1669, Thomas Ellwood, a scholar and former Penington neighbor, was resident-tutor to the young Peningtons and their half-sister, Gulielma Springett, a lovely girl of fourteen and upwards.

Thus, he had opportunity to have been her friend, teacher and admirer from childhood. He, however, came to feel that she was reserved for someone more worthy than himself, and, with nobility and resignation, he tells in simple words of the coming of him for whom she was destined.

Ellwood figures in English literature as the friend, pupil and secretary of John Milton. He it was who secured for Milton the cottage at Chalfont St. Giles, in Buckinghamshire, the sole residence of the blind poet which has survived the intervening three centuries. It was he who, having read in manuscript *Paradise Lost*, asked of Milton: "Thou has told us much about Paradise lost, what hast thou to say about Paradise found?"

Two years later the question was answered in *Paradise Regained*, with Milton's acknowledgment "This is owing to you." But this is not the only debt which English literature owes to the modest tutor of the Pennington children. It owes him the edition of the *George Fox Journal* edited in 1691, as well as *The History of the Life of Thomas Ellwood*, the autobiography before noted, which contains the old, yet ever fragrant account of Mary Pennington's fair daughter Guli. He writes:

For she having now arrived at a Marriageable Age, and being in all respects a very desirable Woman (whether regard was had to her outward Person, which wanted nothing to render her completely Comely; or to the Endowments of her mind, which were every way Extraordinary and highly Obliging, or to her outward Fortune which was fair (and which with some hath not the last nor the least place in Consideration): she was openly and secretly sought and solicited by many, and some of them almost of every Rank and Condition: Good and Bad, Rich and Poor, Friend and Foe. To whom, in their respective turns (till he at length came for whom she was reserved) she carried herself with so much evenness of Temper, such courteous Freedom; guarded with the strictest modesty; that as it gave Encouragement or ground of Hopes to none, so neither did it ad-
Gulielma Maria Springett

minister any matter of Offence or just cause of complaint to any.

I was not Ignorant of the various Fears which filled the jeal-
ous Heads of some concerning me, neither was I so stupid, nor
so divested of all Humanity, as not to be sensible of the real and
innate Worth and Virtue which adorned that excellent Dame and
Attracted the Eyes and Hearts of so many, with the greatest
Importunity to seek and solicit her.

. . . But the force of Truth and Sense of Honour supprest
whatever would have risen beyond the Bounds of fair and vertu-
ous Friendship. . . . Wherefore . . . I resolved to shun the Rock,
on which I had seen so many run and split; and remembering
that saying of the Poet,

_Felix quem faciunt aliena Pericula cautum,_

Happy's He

Whom others Dangers wary make to be,

I governed myself in a free yet respectful Carriage towards her,
and I thereby both preserved a fair Reputation with my Friends
and Enjoyed as much of her Favour and Kindness, in a virtuous
and firm Friendship, as was fit for her to show or for me to
seek. . . .

From this much abbreviated account by an unselfish
and tender friend it is evident that Gulielma Springett
was an altogether desirable maiden, the consummate
flower of forebears who stand out clearly from the
pages of England's county histories, or in the recum-
bent marbles and mural tablets of her churches. The
posthumous child of her father, Sir William Spring-
ett, she was a considerable heiress, able to bring to a
future husband in dowry, the tidy sum of £50,000, ap-
approximately $250,000. Of her father's short life the
mural monument in the Church of Ringmer, Sussex,9
erected by her mother, preserves an invaluable record
in life-like colours. It reads:

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8 Ellwood, pp. 181, _et. seq_.
9 Thomas Walker Horsefield, F.S.A., _The History, Antiquities and
Topography of the County of Sussex_, London, 1835, i. 349–51.
Here lyeth the body of
SIR WILLIAM SPRINGETT, KNT.,
Eldest son and heir of Herbert Springett of Sussex,
Who married Mary Proude, the only daughter and heir of
Sir John Proude, Knt., Colonel in the service of the United Provinces,
And of Anne Fagge, his wife, of the co-heirs of Edward Fagge
of Ewell, near Feversham, in the County of Kent, Esq.

He had issue by Mary, his wife, one sonne, John Springett, and one
daughter, Gulielma Maria Posthuma Springett.

He, being Colonel in the service of the Parliament at the taking of
Arundel Castle in Sussex, there contracted a sickness of
which he died February the 3rd, Anno Domini 1643, being 23 years of age.

His wife, in testimony of her dear affection to him, hath erected
this monument to his memory.

The Springett family at Ringmer was of considerable
wealth and importance in the seventeenth century. Its
ancient seat was at one time surrounded by a park
of sixteen hundred acres abounding with the finest
timber, and well stocked with deer. In Ringmer Church
are numerous Springett memorials which confer upon
it an air of venerable dignity. One, in particular, is of
inlaid marble against the south wall where, under a
small round arch the figure of a man in the flowing dress
of the times, black, with a ruff around his neck, kneels
at a desk with Latin inscriptions over his head and at
each corner of the tablet, above and below. This is to the
memory of "Herbert Springett, Esq., who de-

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10 Broyle Place, formerly the residence of the Springetts, is an ancient
building originally of brick with subsequent additions of stone erected
probably by one of the Archbishops of Canterbury at an early period of
the Norman rule.—Horsefield, op. cit.

11 Son of Herbert and Anne (Stempe) Springett.
ceased the seaventh day of May, 1620, in the sixtie and 
sixe year of his age.

A friend to virtue, a lover of learning,
Of prudence great, of justice a furtherer.
Redresse he did the wrongs of many a wight:
Fatherless and widowes by him possesse their right.

To search and tri each cause, and end all strife,
With patience greate, hee spent his mortell lyfe.
Whom blessed wee account, (as Scripture saith)
Who peace did make, and lived and died in faith.

This be-ruffed gentleman who has knelt through the 
intervening years, was the father of Sir William 
Springett and grand-father of the latter's posthumous 
daughter, Gulielma Maria.

Her mother, Mary (Proude) Springett Penington, 
was a remarkable woman, years ahead of her time, as 
is shown by the Experiences in the Life of Mary Pen-
ington, written by herself, as well as in Maria Webb's 
The Penns and Peningtons of the Seventeenth Century. 
The only child and heiress of Sir John Proude of 
Goodneston Manor in Kent, she was but three years 
of age when he lost his life, while serving under the 
Prince of Orange, at the Siege of Groll in Guelderland, 
Holland. From the age of nine until her marriage she 
lived in Kent, in the home of Sir Edward Partridge. 
The household was a large one and included Sir Ed-
ward's widowed sister, Madam Springett with her 
children William, Herbert and Catharine.

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12 Philadelphia, 1881.
13 Sir John Proude married Anne Fagge of Ewell. Their daughter Mary Proude was born in Holland, while her father was in the service of the United Provinces, and was naturalized in England by Act of Parliament. Ellwood, op. cit.
15 Mary, daughter of Edward Fagge, gentleman of Faversham, who died in 1618, and sister of Anne (Fagge) Proude, married Sir Edward Partridge; d.s.p.
So long as childhood lasted Mary Proude led a bright and happy life with companions of her own age under the wise oversight of Madam Springett, whose remarkable gifts, won not only the admiration, but the love of the parentless child. When about thirteen years of age she discovered that there was a wide distinction between saying prayers and praying. At this time there was no one to whom she could easily open her mind. William Springett, her favorite companion, was at St. Catharine’s Hall, Cambridge. On leaving college he studied law at the Inns of Court, London, and doubtless lived with his Royalist guardian and Uncle, Sir Thomas Springett. It is more than probable that while under the care and patronage of this uncle, William Springett was created a knight by Charles I.

In her letters to her son Madam Springett may have mentioned the religious struggle through which Mary Proude was passing. Be that as it may, William Springett, without apparent reason, returned home forsaking forever the attractions of London and its law courts. It must have been a deep joy to the serious girl to find that her childhood’s friend was of like mind with herself, and shortly thereafter he became her legal protector by marriage, she being then about eighteen and he not yet twenty-one. Two children were born of their short union as told in the monument before given.

Mary Proude’s later account of her life in the home
of her guardian, Sir Edward Partridge, presents an aspect of the times (c. 1633–1650) not commonly appreciated,—that of the life of a country gentleman of good degree, a scholar and sportsman, who was yet a Puritan of the strictest upbringing and practice. Her tribute to her deceased husband’s mother, sister of Sir Edward Partridge, as given to her grandson Springett Penn, is an unrivalled picture of a charming English gentlewoman. She thus writes:

She (your great grandmother) lived a virtuous life,—constant in morning and evening prayer by herself, and often with her children. . . . I lived in the house with her from nine years of age, till after I was married to her son, and after his death, she came and lived with me and died at my house. . . . She spent her time very ingeniously; and in a bountiful manner bestowed great part of her jointure yearly upon the poor, in providing physic and surgery. She had a yearly jointure of about twelve score pounds, and with it she kept a brace of horses, a man, and a maid. She boarded with her only brother, Sir Edward Partridge. She kept several poor women constantly employed simpling for her in the summer; and in the winter preparing such things as she had use for in physic and surgery, and for eyes; she having eminent judgment in all three, and admirable success; which made her famous and sought to out of several counties by the greatest persons, as well as by the low ones. She was daily employing her servants in making oils, salves and balsams; drawing of spirits; distilling of waters, making of syrups and conserves of many kinds, with pills and lozenges. She was so rare in her ability in taking off cataracts and spots on eyes that Hopkins, the great oculist, sent many to her house when there was difficulty of cure, and that he could not attend or spend so much time as was necessary to compass it. She cured many burns and desperate cuts; also dangerous sores that came by thorns; likewise broken limbs; many afflicted with the king’s evil; taking out bones. One case of great difficulty I especially remember—a child’s head that was so burnt that its skull was like a coal; she brought it to have skin and hair again, and invented a thin pan of beaten silver covered with bladder to preserve the head in case of a knock or a fall. She frequently helped in consumptive cases beyond the skill of doctors to help, through her diligence and care.

In the villages about her lodged several patients that had come there some hundred of miles to be under her care, and sometimes would remain there, away from their homes, for a quarter
of a year at a time. She has sometimes had twenty persons in a morning—men, women and children—to attend to. I have heard her say she spent half her revenue in making the medicines she needed for these cures. She never would take presents of much value from any one; only this she would do—if patients were able, she gave them a note of what things they could buy, and they brought them to her and she made up the medicine for them; her man servant waiting the directions she gave, and packing up the salves and medicine.

Small wonder with such a heritage, Gulielma Penn was versed in physic, surgery and what is now called domestic science. What a wife for a pioneer!

William Penn first met the lovely Gulielma in 1668. In her charming Penns and Peningtons Maria Webb, with her woman's intuition, finds in this meeting an immediate romance. Perhaps so, since Thomas Ellwood married in the following year, 1669, Mary Ellis, and lived from that time in the Jordans Chalfont region.

It is not until 1672, however, that the Penn romance was consummated in marriage, which occurred in the early spring-time of that year, April fourth, at King’s Farm, Chorley Wood, where Friends meeting was kept. Though in the parish of Rickmansworth, in Hertfordshire, it was but a half mile from the Bucks line. The name of King’s Farm is said to be derived from its having once been a hunting box of King John of Magna Charta memory. A portion of the fine timbered old building is still standing and probably dates back from the latter part of the fifteenth century.

The certificate of marriage, in the handwriting of Thomas Ellwood, describes the groom as of Walthamstow, in the county of Essex, and the bride as of Penn, in the county of Bucks. The names of forty-six wit-

16 P. 188; Jenkins, op. cit., p. 55.
nesses are appended. Of these, are Margaret Penn, mother of the groom; Richard Penn, his brother who died a few years later; Mary Penington, mother of the bride and Isaac Penington, her step-father, with John and Mary Penington her half-kin; Elizabeth Springett, James and Helena Claypoole, Thomas and Rebecca Zachary, beside others who later became household names in Pennsylvania.

The first step in holy matrimony having been accomplished according to the good order of Friends, William Penn and his bride began homemaking at Basing House, Rickmansworth, in Herts, near the Bucks line. Here their continued honeymoon was spent "as handsome a pair of humans as ever entered wedlock;" and here three children were born to them, all of whom died during infancy and were buried at nearby Jordans, "recently consecrated to the peace of death". A fourth child, Springett, was born at Walthamstow, January 25, 1675.

Early in 1677, Penn and his wife removed from Basing House to the charming estate, Worminghurst, in Sussex, which was part of the inheritance Gulielma had received from her father. The house, to quote Maria Webb, "was situated on an eminence overlooking the beautiful south downs of Sussex, and within a few miles of the sea. It was razed to the ground long since, and the Worminghurst estate absorbed in the domains of the Duke of Norfolk. In 1867 only the stables remained to mark the spot."

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19 Edward Penington, another half brother, founder of the Pennsylvania family, born at Amersham, Bucks, in 1667, too young to sign as a witness, was doubtless present at the ceremony. He is represented today in the Council of The Historical Society by Mr. Edward Carey Gardiner of Philadelphia.

At Worminghurst, after his Continental journey, Penn began to advance the plans for his Holy Experiment in Pennsylvania. Even at this distance of time it is not difficult to share in the pure delight of these youthful spiritual dreamers, with life before them and all too unmindful of its shadows. Plans completed, came the leave-taking of the married lovers at Worminghurst, in 1682. He was about to sing “to the wide world” and she alone “to her nest”, for there were now three children, Springett before named, Letitia and William, Jr., the latter two born at Worminghurst. But the wife and mother had sensed her husband’s great mission, so murmured not and bade him go. After arrangements had all been made, and Penn was about to sail from Deal, Sussex, on the good ship Welcome, for his new Province, came that tender letter of beautiful diction, full of counsel to wife and children. Many times printed, but ever new, only excerpts are here used. It begins:

MY DEAR WIFE AND CHILDREN:—My love, which neither sea, nor land, nor death itself, can extinguish or lessen toward you, most endearedly visits you with eternal embraces, and will abide with you for ever; and may the God of my life watch over you and bless you, and do you good in this world and for ever!—Some things are upon my spirit to leave with you in your respective capacities, as I am to one a husband, and to the rest a father, if I should never see you more in this world.

My dear wife! remember thou wast the love of my youth, and much the joy of my life; the most beloved, as well as the most worthy of all my earthly comforts; and the reason of that love was more thy inward than thy outward excellencies, which yet were many. God knows and thou knowest it, I can say it was a match of Providence’s making; and God’s image in us both was the first thing, and the most amiable and engaging ornament in our eyes. Now I am to leave thee, and that without knowing whether I shall ever see thee more in this world, take my counsel into thy bosom, and let it dwell with thee in my stead, while thou livest.

First: Let the fear of the Lord and a zeal and love to his glory dwell richly in thy heart; and thou wilt watch for good
over thyself and thy dear children and family, that no rude, light or bad things be committed;...

Secondly: Be diligent in meetings for worship and business; . . . and let meetings be kept once a day in the family to wait upon the Lord, . . .

Thirdly: Cast up thy income and see what it daily amounts to; by which thou mayest be sure to have it in thy sight and power to keep within compass; and I beseech thee to live low and sparingly till my debts are paid; . . . Remember thy mother’s example, when thy father’s public-spiritedness had worsted his estate (which is my case) . . . My mind is wrapped up in a saying of thy Father’s, “I desire not riches, but to owe nothing;” and, truly that is wealth. . . .

Fourthly: And now, my dearest, let me recommend to thy care my dear children; abundantly beloved of me, as the Lord’s blessing and the sweet pledges of our mutual and endeared love. Above all things endeavor to breed them up in the love of virtue, and that holy, plain way of it which we have lived in.

The letter of counsel, of which the foregoing is part, was evidently not intended for the children when written; but to be given to them at an understanding age. After an introduction of great beauty as it was in its entirety, the father continues:

Next, be obedient to your dear mother, a woman whose virtue and good name is an honour to you; for she hath been exceeded by none in her time for her plainness, integrity, industry, humanity, virtue, and good understanding—qualities not usual among women of her worldly condition and quality. Therefore, honour and obey her, my dear children, as your mother, and your father’s love and delight; nay, love her too, for she loved your father with a deep and upright love, choosing him before all her many suitors; and though she be of a delicate constitution and noble spirit, yet she descended to the utmost tenderness and care for you, performing the painfulest acts of service to you in your infancy, as a mother and a nurse too. I charge you, before the Lord, honour and obey, love and cherish your dear mother. . . .

Though more or less subconscious of the part her husband was to play in the pioneer drama of the new world, life was hard for Gulielma Penn. Protracted separations followed one upon another. Even while her thoughts were fixed upon Pennsburry on the Delaware as a future home, and her plans laid for its accomplish-
ment, the anxious strain began to sap the springs of her life. But doing that which was right, and in which her loved one found courage, brought to her a happiness which neither illness nor the world could take away. Finally, with resignation, she saw her dreams fade, and, drawing the drapery of her couch about her, passed into the Peace provided for the children of God, irrespective of creed or color.

She died at Hoddesden on the twenty-third of the Twelfth month, 1693, in the fiftieth year of her age and twenty-second of her married life. She was buried at Jordans, that beautiful spot, in Buckinghamshire, near her four children and her mother; leaving to survive her a name most fragrant in Quaker history.

Again her husband writes, leaving one more tender testimony to her character:

She would not suffer me, after I recovered my liberty to neglect any public meeting upon her account, saying often, "Oh! go, dearest; do not hinder any good for me. I desire thee go; I have cast my care upon the Lord; I shall see thee again." About three hours before her end, on a relation taking leave of her, she said, "My dear love to all Friends," and, lifting up her dying hands and eyes, prayed the Lord to preserve and bless them. About an hour after, causing all to withdraw, we were half an hour together, in which we took our last leave. At her departure our children and most of our family were present. She gently expired in my arms, her head upon my bosom, with a sensible and devout resignation of her soul to Almighty God.

I hope I may say she was a public as well as a private loss; for she was not only an excellent wife and mother, but an entire and constant friend, of a more than common capacity, and great modesty and humility; yet most equal and undaunted in danger; religious as well as ingenious; without affectation; an easy mistress, and good neighbour, especially to the poor; neither lavish nor penurious; but an example of industry as well as of other virtues; therefore our great loss, though her own eternal gain.

As a tiny relic of the industry of which her husband speaks, there is in the Collections of The Historical Society of Pennsylvania, a certain faded blue sash of silk network which is unlikely to have been done by
fingers other than those of Gulielma Penn. Like the fragrance of the attar of roses it savours of romance: —of the devoted wife’s “love knot on his casque of steel” for her “knight like Bayard, without reproach or fear,” fashioned for his special voyage on the Welcome, that he might have with him a constant reminder of his loved ones at Worminghurst, while he prepared for them in Pennsylvania, a home at Pennsbury on the Delaware.

Clarkson, in his Memoirs, writing of Penn’s treaty with the Indians says:

William Penn appeared in his usual clothes. He had no crown, sceptre, mace, sword, halberd or any insignia of eminence. He was distinguished only by wearing a sky-blue sash around his waist, which was made of silk net-work, and which was of no larger apparent dimensions than an officer’s military sash, and much like it except in colour.

A foot-note to Clarkson’s statement is as follows:

This sash is now in the possession of Thomas Kett, Esq. of Seething-hall near Norwich.

Compare this description with the relic in the Society and agreement will follow that, the two are one in the essential particulars.

When in 1834, Granville Penn presented to The Historical Society the armor portrait of his great ancestor, he wrote, after dealing with other matters: “I will try to get for you the blue sash worn by William Penn on the occasion of his treaty with the Indians.” Naturally he knew where the sash was at that time.

The years came and went with no fulfillment of the eminent Britisher’s promise, until 1919, when, under date of June 23, the Society’s Council minutes note: The Librarian, John W. Jordan, Jr., reported the gift from Miss Marcelena Fassitt of a blue sash, whose history, on a strongly attached, time-discolored, but clearly written card reads:
The sash worn by William Penn in his Treaty with the Indians, the gift of Mary, widow of William Penn, Jr., to George Phillips of Stoke Ferry, Norfolk, about 1726.—In possession of Thomas Kett.

In his report to Council, Dr. Jordan gave no details of the presentation conversation of Miss Fassitt, a member of the well-known Philadelphia families of Fassitt and Barclay with various English Barclay connections, concerning the source of the gift, and the matter again rested—to him it was the long ago promise fulfilled.

As the Honourable Hampton L. Carson progressed with his History of The Historical Society, which he, then President, had undertaken to write at the Council’s request, his attention was drawn to the sash and to its ownerships between that of George Phillips in 1726 to that of the Society, in 1919. Too late, however, for the information which should so easily have been furnished by Miss Fassitt, or Dr. Jordan, nine years before.

From August first, 1928, until October twenty-first, 1932, an investigation authorized and originally supervised by Mr. Carson was carried on in England for the descent of the sash. This is now complete to 1919, the year of the gift by Miss Fassitt made, it is believed in fulfillment of a trust. The considerable correspondence, usually addressed to the writer of this paper, by Miss Emily L. Cashel of London, who conducted the research with efficiency and tact, is clear in statement and can be read at the Society by all interested. A synopsis thereof is appended to this paper. To the eye of historical faith it is the “substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

The Society’s Wampum belt, presented by Granville Penn in 1857, is prized as the symbol of peaceful years with the Indian brothers of Pennsylvania forests. In the same sense, the faded blue silken sash may be a
DESERT OF PENN SASH, 1682-1919

WILLIAM PENN = GULIELMA MARIA, daughter of William Springett and Mary Proude. The probable maker of sash.

WILLIAM PENN, JR. = MARY JONES, 1680/1-1720; married 1696/9. who, as his widow, gave sash to: GEORGE PHILLIPS = of Stoke Ferry, Norfolk. In his possession, circa 1726.

RICHARD KETT = MARtha HOPES of Norwich, born c. 1690. of Amsterdam.

ANNA MARIA PHILLIPS = HENRY KETT, 1708-1772.

THOMAS KETT = (1) LUCY GURNEY of Seething Hall, Norfolk, 1746-1820, known to have been owner of sash.

(2) HANNAH GURNEY "Sash worn by William Penn in possession of Mrs. Kett, 1845." It was probably from Mrs. Kett that Granville Penn expected to obtain the sash.
Gulielma Maria Springett

GEORGE SAMUEL KETT, ESQ.,* JULIANNA KETT = CHARLES TOMPSON

HANOVER BARCLAY, 1836-1899; eldest son; personal effects at Norwich, 1836. Colonel Robert P. Barclay, in letter of November 8, 1836, states that the property should be in the possession of the Barclays.

HENRY KETT TOMPSON

GEOGRAGANA KETT TOMPSON

HANOVER BARCLAY, 1836-1899; eldest son; personalARD of Bury Hill, 1840.

Sir John Manners Sutton, born 1793, married 1822, died 1843.


reminder to the women of Pennsylvania of Gulielma Maria (Springett) Penn, who all her days went about doing good and who crowned her husband with a beautiful romance, jewelled with loyalty, encouragement and understandingness.

In conclusion it can be said without fear of contradiction that no Colonial Governor from 1607 to 1775 had a more enduring background than William Penn. None who wrote his name more clearly than he on the map of what is now the United States of America for good government, freedom of conscience in religious matters, fair treatment of the Indians, and peace principles which, if followed, would have outlawed war.

With equal truth it may be said that, had not Gulielma Maria Springett ruled over the youthful heart of William Penn, the Holy Experiment would not have had the same spiritual approach. It is equally true that, had Hannah Callowhill not come into the later life of the disillusioned and distraught William Penn there would have been no Pennsylvania saved for the Penns. Two unusual women blessed the life of the great Proprietor,—the more spiritually minded, Gulielma Maria Springett, and the more worldly wise, Hannah Callowhill.

To the memory of these two women, the Associate Committee of Women of The Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania have placed markers on the Keystone Telephone Building, now on the site of the Slate-Roof House, built by Samuel Carpenter and rented by him to William Penn on the occasion of his second visit to Philadelphia, 1699–1701.