

# The Pennsylvania Educational Movement

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“Men Of Wisdom And Virtue, Qualities That Because They Descend Not  
With Worldly, Must Be Carefully Propagated By The Virtuous Education Of  
Youth, For Which After Ages Will Owe More To The Care And Prudence Of  
Founders, And The Success Of Magistracy, Than To Their Parents For  
Private Patrimonies”

~William Penn, 1682

# Who Started The Real Focus On The Educational System?

- William Penn, a member of the Society of Friends (Quakers), thought even before he founded Philadelphia, that education was an important part of individual advancement and citizenship.
- So as you can see, William Penn knew education was important, and in Philadelphia, (It being largely populated by Quakers) it wasn't hard to gain support for his ideas.



# Why Was The Educational Movement So Important For This Time?

- William Penn wanted his new colony and fresh society to be well educated so as to be more **advanced** than the other colonies.
- William Penn also wanted to compete with England, hence the ‘off’ construction of his city with large alleys and spaced buildings with recreational ‘parks’.
- He wanted to have well-educated, well-rounded citizens that were able to contribute to his high-status society.



# When Did This Idea Kick Off?

- As you can see from the last two slides, William Penn had wanted a much more advanced society when taking charge of his colony and planning his city, so education was on his mind way before the city's founding.
- It didn't get lost during the construction though, but actually grew along with his support of more private schools and Universities, with him donating to their causes. Most notably, one of the first schools erected was the *William Penn Charter School*.
- The Idea had truly kicked off After the city's completion, when people had the time and motive to think about this issue, as it would directly impact whether the city and the colony as a whole would survive or not.



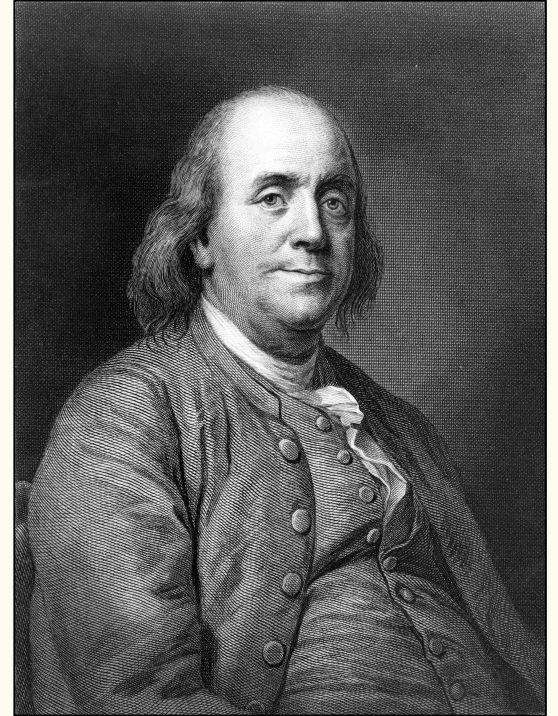
# How And Why Did People Support It?

- The more well established citizens of Penn's colony wanted their sons to grow up as high ranking political figures.
- As part of Penn's plan, they had to send them to school, and coincidentally, Penn had funded many private, religious, and a higher tier universities within the city.



# The Evolution Of The Movement For Higher Education Cont.

- Another man engulfed with the thought of education and bettering his fellow Americans was one Benjamin Franklin.
- During the Enlightenment, with its focuses on science and nature, had caught Franklin's eye, thus spurring him to help set up Civic institutions to better his fellow man.





# The Evolution Of The Movement For Higher Education

- A man named William Tennent, an Irish-born man, would change the Presbyterian Church in America, as well as have a profound influence in education forever.
- His Log College, which operated from 1727-1745, had sent out graduates with backgrounds of Theology, Scripture, Greek, etc., to go and later set up more Presbyterian Colleges, further spreading this infectious plague of education.





# The Evolution Of The Movement For Higher Education Cont.

- If you fast-forward a few years, you get the Post-War baby boom in the 1960's.
- With the dramatic rise in the population, the need for education and adults alike skyrocketed, and some news stations found this problem and decided to work to fix it.
- One example would be WQED in Pittsburgh airing television shows that were largely educational for all ages, and many news stations all around picked up on this trend.



# What Has Education Evolved Into Today?

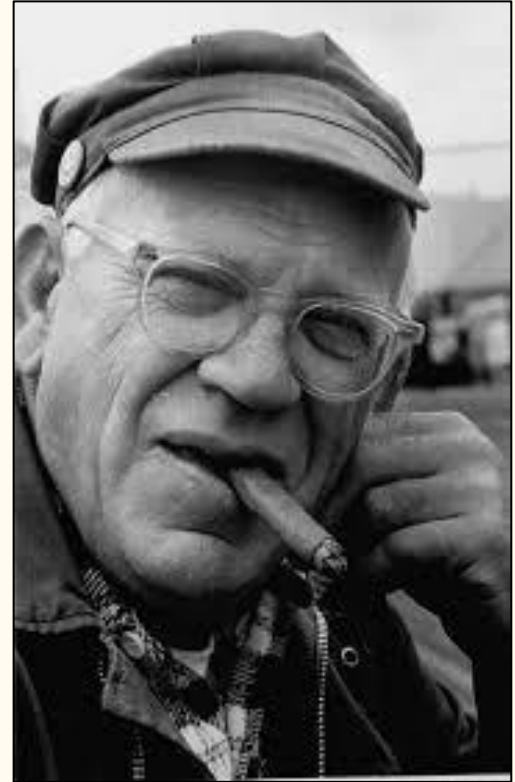
- Education today has turned into a right as a human to have, in any country.
- It is needed for almost every job on the planet, whether it be for a higher profession like a scientist, or as common mechanic.
- School teaches you math that you will need throughout your lifetime, and assists in keeping life easy and your knowledge expansive.



# What Is The Meaning Of Education Today?

- This is a more philosophical question, but don't forget that it is a very real question as well.
- "The central task of education is to implant a will and facility for learning; it should produce not learned, but learning people. The truly human society is a learning society, where grandparents, parents, and children are students together."

~ Eric Hoffer



# What Is The Purpose Of Education?

- The *Purpose* of education however, some might argue with.
- Some would say it's simply to pass on information and better equip ourselves for the future, but some however have better, more explanatory answers.
- As one Noam Chomsky puts it, “highest goal in life is to inquire and create. The purpose of education from that point of view is just to help people to learn on their own. It's you the learner who is going to achieve in the course of education and it's really up to you to determine how you're going to master and use it.”



# Reflection

I know that I reference and use William Penn a lot in my presentation, but I can tell you why I chose this. William

Penn is almost considered the founder of fair and free education in the United States, and to not link and talk about him in this subject I believe would not do justice to the topic. I believe education is what builds everyone's character, and that teachers are the people that mold and shape you into something better.

# Citations

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Questions?