



Join the Schuylkill River Heritage Center as Perry Hamilton presents

William Penn: The Forgotten Founding Father

Long before our country was born, William Penn was already experimenting with the ideas that would define it.

He founded Pennsylvania envisioning a society built around individual liberty, religious freedom, representative government, and peaceful coexistence. With the insights of close friends John Locke and Algernon Sidney, Penn developed founding documents that gave Pennsylvania an unusually forward-looking framework for self-government.

Our founder's vision extended beyond laws and constitutions. Penn's Peace Treaty with the local Lenape tribe helped foster an exceptional period of peace and prosperity in early Pennsylvania. Voltaire described the Treaty with a memorable phrase: "Never sworn to — never broken."

Eventually, the essential principles of Penn's experiment — liberty, tolerance, and limits on government power — even helped influence and shape our United States Constitution.

Join Us in September to Learn More!

In September, the Schuylkill River Heritage Center speaker series will host speaker **Perry Hamilton** for a presentation on William Penn: The Forgotten Founding Father.

Perry's talk focuses on William Penn's extraordinary leadership as he developed his Holy Experiment, forged treaties with the Lenape, and crafted the documents that served Pennsylvania as its constitution.

Born and educated in Wynnewood, Perry graduated from Susquehanna University and traveled extensively throughout the mid-Atlantic states during his nearly 40 years in the private business sector. During that time, he pursued his love of reading vintage history books, mostly about Pennsylvania business history. In recent years, Perry has regularly presented historical lectures with an emphasis on Philadelphia-area business.



Please join us for William Penn: The Forgotten Founding Father!



Inspired by Isaiah 11:6, Peaceable Kingdom (artist Edward Hicks, c. 1820) depicts William Penn on the far shore greeting Native Americans. This scene likely occurred in what is now Kensington, near the Delaware River.

When:

Tuesday, September 15, 2026, 7:30 p.m.

Where:

Schuylkill River Heritage Center (SRHC)
Foundry Building
2 N. Main Street, Phoenixville

The presentation is free to SRHC members, \$5 for non-members.