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The "Liberty Lands of PHILADELPHIA CITY" were tracts of land provided at a minimal cost to settlers who purchased other acreage in Pennsylvania.

Thomas Holme, *A mapp of y<sup>e</sup> improved part of Pensilvania in America, divided into countyes, townships, and lotts / surveyed by Tho. Holme, 1715 (?)*, details



Philadelphia, on the "Dellaware River" (east/at bottom) and the "Schuylkill River" (west/upper left)

Richard Frame

## A Short Description of Pennsylvania,

Or, a RELATION What things are known, enjoyed, and like to be discovered in the said Province

Presen(?)tted as a Token of Good Will [to the People(?) of England.

1692 EXCERPTS

Frame's poem begins with a description of the natural resources and native inhabitants of Pennsylvania, after which he lauds the towns and industry of the colony.

**T**O all our Friends that do desire to know,  
What Country 'tis we live in, this will show.  
Attend to hear the Story I shall tell,  
[N]o doubt but you will like this Country well. . . .

Here are more things than I can well express,  
Strange to be seen in such a Wilderness.  
By Day we work, at Night we rest in Peace,  
So that each Day our Substance doth increase:  
O blessed be his Name, who doth provide  
For you, and us, and all the World beside. . . .

A City, and Towns were raised then,  
Wherein we might abide,  
Planters also, and Husband-men,  
Hand Land enough beside.  
The best of Houses then was known,  
To be of Wood and Clay,  
But now we build of Brick and Stone,  
Which is a better way.

*The Names of Some of our Towns.*

Philadelphia, that great Corporation,  
Was then, is now our choicest habitation.  
Next unto that there stands the German-Town,



Thomas Holme, *A mapp of y<sup>e</sup> improved part of Pensilvania in America, divided into countyes, townships, and lotts / surveyed by Tho. Holme, 1715 (?)*, detail & full map



Also, within the Country, up and down,  
 There's Haverford, where th' Welch-men  
 do abide,  
 Two Townships more, I think, they have beside:  
 Here's Bristol, Plymouth, Newtown, here doth  
 stand,  
 Chester, Springfield, Marple in this Land,  
 Darby, and other famous Habitations,  
 Also, a multitude of new Plantations.

The German-Town of which I spoke before,  
 Which is, at last, in length one Mile and More,  
 Where lives High-German People,  
 and Low-Dutch,  
 Whose Trade in weaving Linnin Cloth is much,  
 There grows the Flax, as also you may know,  
 That from the same they do divide the Tow;  
 Their Trade fits well within this Habitation,  
 We find Convenience for their Occupation.  
 One Trade brings in imployment for another.  
 So that we may suppose each Trade a Brother;  
 From Linnin Rags good Paper doth derive,  
 The first trade keeps the second Trade alive:  
 Without the first the second cannot be,  
 Therefore since these two can so well agree,  
 Convenience doth approve to place them nigh,  
 One in the German-Town, 'tother hard by.  
 A Paper Mill<sup>1</sup> near German-Town doth stand,  
 So that the Flax, which first springs from the  
 Land,  
 First Flax, then Yarn, and then they must begin,  
 To weave the same, which they took pains to spin.  
 Also, when on our backs it is well [worn],  
 Some of the same remains Ragged and Torn;  
 Then of those Rags our Paper it is made,  
 Which in process of time doth waste and fade:  
 So what comes from the Earth, appeareth plain,  
 The same in Time returns to Earth again.

So much for what I have truly Compos'd,  
 Which is but a part of what may be disclosed,  
 Concluding of this, and what is behind,  
 I may tell you more of my Mind;  
 But in the mean time be content with this same,  
 Which at present is all from your Friend

**RICHARD FRAME.**

<sup>1</sup> The first paper mill in America, erected in 1690, on a branch of Wissahickon Creek, in Germantown, by William Rittinghuysen or Rittenhouse (1644-1708), a Mennonite paper-maker, with the assistance of a company consisting of William Bradford, the first printer of the middle colonies [who published Frame's poem], and the wealthy Philadelphia citizens, Samuel Carpenter, Robert Turner, and Thomas Tresse. [Myers, ed., *Narratives of Early Pennsylvania . . .*, 1910, p. 305]