

FADE IN:

GRAPHIC: 3-D FULL MOTION RENDERING OF A MAP OF ENGLAND IN 1666.

NARRATOR

In 1666, England simmered at a low boil. Troubles at home and abroad place endless demands upon the crown's wealth and power.

GRAPHIC: 3-D FULL MOTION RENDERING A NAVAL BATTLE FROM AFAR, IN HEAVY FOG AT DUSK AS DUTCH AND BRITISH ARMADA EXCHANGE VOLLEYS FROM THEIR HEAVY CANNON SFX CANNON FIRING, MAN YELLING ORDERS, SHIP BELLS TOLLING, WIND SWIRLING

NARRATOR

On the seas, English and Dutch ships fought to control key trading routes and maintain their empires.

GRAPHIC: 3-D FULL MOTION BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF A MAP TO OLD LONDON SHOWING WIDE-SPREAD FIRES AND EXPLOSIONS

NARRATOR

In London, stores of black powder left over from the civil war fuel one of the greatest fires in the city's history. Everywhere the British spirit is beaten down with disease, poverty and rising lawlessness. The Royals were losing their grip on law and order.

FADE OUT/FADE IN:

EXT. A FIELD IN CORK, IRELAND - EVENING

Magic hour light in spring with a grassy meadow beyond a stream. A QUAKER SPEAKER gives a speech before a congregation of a dozen rag-tag followers. YOUNG WILLIAM PENN (17 year old) approaches the gathering slowly, listening to the Speaker's words from a distance.

NARRATOR

Meanwhile in the occupied territory of Ireland, the son of a favored and powerful British landowner would convert to a niche and persecuted religious sect, setting in motion a movement that would change the world. This would be William Penn's awakening.

As the narration ends, the group turns toward camera as the Speaker moves between and splitting the gathering in half. YOUNG PENN stands fast as the ideas take root within him.

FADE OUT/FADE IN:

MONTAGE: OF OXFORD UNIVERSITY FLAG, OLD BOOKS, A ROBED HAND WRITES IN LATIN ON A BLACKBOARD. PENN STANDING AND PRAYING WITH OTHERS IN QUAKER ATTIRE.

NARRATOR

In the following years, William Penn would go on to attend prestigious Oxford University, only to be thrown out after one year. Sent off to Paris to improve his manners, he had been seen joining in the company of more Quaker meetings. In England, Anglicanism was the only legal religion, and William Penn's father would not allow his son to challenge this with his radical ideas.

INT. PENN SR'S HOUSE - NIGHT

PENN'S FRIEND stands outside the Penn family house in front of a carriage. YOUNG PENN stumbles out of his front door, he holds multiple suitcases in his arms. The door slams behind him.

PENN'S FRIEND

He wasn't happy then?

YOUNG PENN

No, I'm afraid he wasn't.

The start putting the suitcases in the carriage.

PENN'S FRIEND

I hate to say it, but you're father is a fool for throwing you out over Quakerism of all things?

YOUNG PENN

The Quaker faith is radical for a reason. People like my father need inequality among men to find workers for their land and to make their fortunes. The equality of men in the light of god, well it upsets that balance.

PENN'S FRIEND

It's maddening.

YOUNG PENN
I'm just trying to look on the bright
side.

PENN'S FRIEND
What bright side?

YOUNG PENN
Well for one I'm glad I'm not in
prison.

INT. A CELL IN NEWGATE PRISON - MORNING

Light streams through the barred windows of Newgate Prison. Penn, now older, sits on a stool staring out a window. A WARDEN enters holding an mess of keys.

WARDEN
Good morning Mr. Penn. I've heard
you're father paid to release you.

WILLIAM
Yes, well, he is on his death bed.
The last time I saw him was, well,
it has been a very long time.

The Warden opens the door and steps inside.

WARDEN
Well, it's only natural you'd want
to get out of Newgate, but we'll be
sorry to see you go Mr. Penn, always
nice to have a political prisoner
type around.

WILLIAM
Yes, of course it would be better
not to lock up "political prisoners"
in the first place.

WARDEN
Ha! I wouldn't go around mouthing
off like that Mr. Penn, we torture
most of the political prisoners who
come through here.

WILLIAM
All I did was speak on my beliefs to
a street gathering, and yet I was
arrested. And then when a jury
acquitted me, THEY were arrested!

The Warden steps aside and invites Penn to exit the cell.

WARDEN

And we'll do it again Mr. Penn. That's how the law works. You ought to be glad you're free now.

Penn begins to walk out of his cell.

PENN

Oh I'm glad. Glad to accept my Father's last wishes and collect the debts he's owed.

Outside the cell door, Penn stops and turns back to the Warden.

PENN (CONT'D)

And then maybe I can do something about this "law" of yours.

INT. KING CHARLES THE II'S BREAKFAST CHAMBER - MORNING

CHARLES THE II sits regally at a small table where he nibbles around a plate of eggs. He is surrounded by courtiers. William Penn approaches in his best formal attire.

CHARLES II

Ah, the younger Penn, we took your father's passing with great sorrow. Although we were delighted to hear you could make peace with him.

PENN

Yes, we never reached agreements on any matters of our beliefs, but from his words I think we reached a mutual respect.

CHARLES II

Oh?

PENN

He told me, let nothing in this world tempt you to wrong your conscience.

CHARLES II

Wise words indeed.

PENN

Yes. And this has lead me to put together this proposal Sire.

CHARLES II

Ah, yes, that business of repaying our debts to your father with a land purchase.

PENN

The situation for Quakers is falling apart, at home and abroad, I respect your majesty's responsibility to keep order, but nevertheless, we would like a place where we can practice our faith in peace. My solution is a new colony run by Quakers, where we might emigrate and practice our religion away from where we might cause trouble for the crown or the puritans.

CHARLES II

It will be difficult endeavor. Relations with the native populations have been full of difficulty, and the other settlers in that land aren't the friendliest sort either.

PENN

I understand that your majesty, but I am confident that, with the grace of god, we can overcome those obstacles, and establish a new home for ourselves and our faith.

CHARLES II

We shall certainly see, won't we. We deed to you a generous tract of land in the New World laying North of Lord Baltimore, South of the Duke of York and West of the Great Delaware River. But you not forget Penn, you remain a loyal subject of Great Britain.

EXT. TALL SHIP - DAY

William Penn stands on the forward bow of a Tall Ship, looking out over the Atlantic Ocean.

NARRATOR

In 1682, William Penn, now 38, sets sail for America full of hope. Time would tell, that he carried in his pocket what would become the seeds of a new nation.

FADE OUT:

THE END