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 002 006
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 005 Proprietary Period
 140 Charter Documents
 200 1682
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 240 3.5 cubic feet
 241 4 oversize sheets of parchment, matted and framed. 4 map drawers.
 261 The original royal charter, deed, and two leases for the land which is now Delaware.
 270 The charter, also called letters patent, was given by King Charles II of England to his brother, James the Duke of York, on March 22, 1682. By this grant James received the town of New Castle, all the land within a 12-mile circle of New Castle (including a portion of the Delaware River) and all of the land from the southern edge of the circle to "Cape Lopen," now called Fenwick Island. Besides laying out the northern and southern boundaries of Delaware in this document, the King also granted James the right to hunt, fish, hawk, and mine. The King asked that in return James and his heirs pay four beaver skins a year.

The charter was hand written in quill pen on parchment. Coats-of-arms (clockwise France, England, Royal Arms of Briton, Scotland, Ireland, and the York Rose) decorate the edge of the document along with a copperplate engraving of the King. There is a fragment of the seal left at the bottom.

The second document, dated August 24, 1682, is referred to as the "transfer document." It is the deed of feoffment by which James gave William Penn the town of New Castle and the land within the twelve mile circle. The third document is a 10,000 year lease from the Duke of York to William Penn for the land below the twelve mile circle. The rent was to be "one Rose at the feast of St. Michael, the Archangel, if demanded." The fourth document is a 10,000 year lease for the land within the twelve mile circle and rent was to be 5 shillings. Most of the seal for the fourth document is intact. Both of the leases and the deed are signed by James. Various notations on the backs of the documents were made during the British Chancery proceedings between Penn and Lord Baltimore (1735-1750).

These documents were given to the State of Delaware in 1909 by Sarah Wistar Miller of Media, Pennsylvania. Included with this series is the wooden box the charter documents had been stored in at the time of the donation and a letter and receipt from the bank where the State stored the documents until a fire-proof safe was purchased in 1913.

290
 310 Includes facsimilies, copies and copies of related materials.

329 WORK STATUS ARCHIVIST:
 ___ needs sorting ___ review for identification/
 ___ needs unfolding ___ further determination
 ___ needs foldering/reboxing ___ processing
 ___ other: _____ ___ determine origin/purpose
 ___ other: _____
 CONDITION: FILM:
 ___ totally disorganized ___ for security
 ___ order not apparent ___ destroy original
 ___ origin questionable ___ other:
 ___ other: _____

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332 Handwritten
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360 Good. Conserved 1989-1990.
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420 In 1811 John Penn, great grandson of William Penn gave these documents to his agent, John R. Coates of Pennsylvania, who was attempting to recover "some of the Penn Family Fortune from the States of Delaware and Pennsylvania." Mr. Coates later gave the documents to his son-in-law who in turn gave them to his niece, Sarah Wistar Miller. The documents were presented to Governor S. S. Pennewill, for the State, at a joint session of the General Assembly on February 4, 1909.

430
990 August 3, 1999
995 August 24, 2001
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