

STORIES of New Jersey

Quakers were provided with a place of safety in the New World--the Colony of Pennsylvania founded by William Penn, a member of the sect. Three years later, with the coming of James II to the throne, the long, savage campaign of persecution against the Quakers approached its end.

In that same year, 1635, William Penn, who had returned from America several months before, visited the home of his friends, the Haddons. Elizabeth, five years old but more grown up than most children of her age, was enchanted by Penn's description of his remarkable experiences in America. His enthusiastic stories about the people with red skins, whose friendship he had won, made a lasting impression on her.

Ten years later another visitor, also returned from America, broadened Elizabeth Haddon's knowledge of conditions across the sea. He was John Estaugh, a 20-year-old Quaker missionary. Elizabeth's father had heard him speak at the London Yearly Meeting and had brought him home as a dinner guest. The tales Estaugh told the Haddons of the vast lands and great wealth of natural resources in America caused Elizabeth to decide that she would go to America if the opportunity arose.

In 1698, when Elizabeth was 17, John Haddon purchased 500 acres of land in West Jersey from the son of his old neighbor and customer, John Willis, who had gone to America and set up shop as a ship carpenter. Haddon, stirred by talks with Penn and Estaugh, thought of moving his family to the new world, but Mrs. Haddon and their younger daughter had no liking for crude, pioneer life, and the idea was abandoned. Haddon then offered the land to any relative who would go and live on it. Elizabeth at once asked if she might go to West Jersey, set-



Elizabeth Haddon's distillery house.