

Teacher's notes - The Penn-Mead Trial

In this pack are the Story of the Penn-Meade Trial and a play both written using a biography of William Penn & a transcript of the trial available on the Internet at www.constitution.org/trials/penn/penn-mead.htm .

The story is very much a précis and both it and the play use modern language with some of the original dialogue. Two words/terms that the children may not know are:

- Sirrah [an old-fashioned term applied to a man [rather than the usual "sir"] to express reproach or contempt
- his liege people – the people who owe allegiance to the king, the citizens of England [comes from the feudal system of Mediaeval times]

The play leaves out much and should not be taken verbatim – although there are speeches that have been transcribed directly here & there! There is also a Character List for the play. Edward Bushell has been written in as foreman of the jury within the play - but he may have been simply one of the jury. The evidence is not clear on this point.

Learning Objectives:

- *to be able to recount the problem that the trial revealed*
- *to be able to explain the effect that the determination of William Penn, William Mead & the jury had on how justice is delivered then & today.*

[Teachers may wish to alter or add other learning objectives to match their development of the theme.]

The play could be used within a lesson to develop greater understanding & empathy for those involved.

It could be used as a class assembly to the school or year group.

Teachers of older pupils may want to develop it further – or ask pupils to do so with reference to the Trial transcripts on the Internet.

Ideas for follow up discussion

- Are juries free from intimidation today?
- Is our justice system fair?
- Is it always better to be tried by a jury or are there instances where trials by experts in the law would be better?
- Who has a responsibility for ensuring that we have a just society?
- What are Quakers doing re Justice today?