



# History and Genealogy of Fenwick's Colony (Classic Reprint)

*Thomas Shourds*

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Excerpt from History and Genealogy of Fenwick's Colony

The earliest attempts at settlement by the Europeans on the shores of the Delaware may be traced to the second decade of the seventeenth century. In 1621 a charter was granted to the West India Company by the United Netherlands, whose purpose was to transport colonists to these new Territories, and establish trade and commercial intercourse therewith. In 1623 Captain Cornelius Jacobson May, under the patronage of the before-named company, made a voyage to America, and sailed up the Delaware river as far as the mouth of Great Timber creek, a few miles below the present site of Philadelphia, and erected a trading post, which was called Fort Nassan. The Swedes and Finns soon followed, as in 1038 Queen Christiana gave her countenance to the sending of a Colour to the same river, and where a settlement was made. Passing over the grant made by Charles I., king of England, to Edmund Ploy-don, in 1634, of certain territories in America, and the attempts of the New Haven Colony, under Captain Nathaniel Turner, in 1640, to effect a settlement on the eastern shore of the river, the English emigrants holding the right of government, and title to the soil, under the conveyance made by the second Charles to the Duke of York, 1664, were the next to establish a Colony on the banks of the before-named river. The many political changes, arising from the wars and internal commotions of the home government, added much to the attendant troubles of the colonists, but at no time were they entirely lost sight of, or their nationality obliterated. The language, the customs, and the religions of each were distinctly preserved for several generations, and even at this day have not entirely disappeared.

The Dutch were the least successful in establishing themselves here, for the reason, doubtless, that, much greater attractions lay about New Amsterdam, and the many difficulties in which they were involved by the dissensions across the sea.

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