

Crossing the Atlantic¹

THE following notice of the early settlement of Burlington, New Jersey, by the English, communicated to the Historical Society of Pennsylvania by John F. Watson, was copied from the original autograph of Mrs. Mary Smith, a Friend, who arrived with the primitive colonists when she was only four years of age:

“ Robert Murfin and Ann, his wife, living in Nottinghamshire, England, had one daughter born there in the year 1674, the 24th of the 2d month, named Mary (the writer of this account, who married the first Daniel Smith, of Burlington). After that they had a son, Robert [Born 3rd mo. 24th, 1676].

“ Some time after, it came in their minds to move themselves and family into West Jersey in America; and in order thereto, they went to Hull and provided provisions suitable for their necessary occasion—such as fine flour, butter, cheese, with other suitable commodities in good store; then took their passage in the good ship, the *Shield*, of Stockton, with Mahlon Stacy, Thomas Lambert, and many more families of good repute and worth; and in the voyage there were two died and two born, so that they landed as many as they took on board. And after about sixteen weeks sailing or on board, they arrived at Burlington in the year 1678; this being the first ship that ever was known to come so high up the Delaware River. Then they landed and made some such dwellings as they could for the present time; some in caves, and others in palisade-houses secured. With that, the Indians, very numerous but very civil, for the most part, brought corn and venison and sold the English for such things as they needed; so that the said English had some new supply to help their old stock, which may well be attributed to the good hand of Providence, so to preserve and provide in such a wilderness.”

Howard B. French, *Descendants of Thomas French*, vol. i., p. 183, Philadelphia, 1909.

¹ For other references to Atlantic crossings, see vols. 1-4.

“ The Bishop liked tales of children. He told us a beauty himself of, I think, one of Archbishop Benson's little sons, who, on being told of a brave school boy who had knelt to say his prayers, the only one in a dormitory of six others, had observed: I don't call *that* so very brave. *I'd* call it brave if there were six *bishops* in a dormitory and one *wouldn't* say his prayers!”

Especially William, Bishop of Gibraltar, and Mary, his Wife.