Critical Thinking Journal #3

 William Penn was an English real estate entrepreneur, philosopher, and early Quaker. He was also the founder of the Province of Pennsylvania, which was the English North American colony and the future Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. He planned and developed the state of Pennsylvania. Penn was also known for his good relations and successful treaties with the Lenape Native Americans. Penn sailed to America and took his first step on American soil in 1682. When Penn arrived in America, the colonists pledged allegiance to Penn as their new proprietor, and the first general assembly was held in the colony. New Castle became the capital of Pennsylvania. Penn is considered the very first thinker to suggest the creation of a European Parliament. Due to his faith, William Penn was imprisoned several times in the Tower of London. Penn was arrested several times for his religious beliefs, but the most significant is the time he was arrested while preaching before a Quaker gathering. After the arrest, Penn asked to see a copy of his charges and to see the laws which he had supposedly broken. Even though by law, Penn had every right to see what he had asked for, the judge denied showing Penn his charges. At the end of the trial, Penn was found not guilty, but was still never provided the information that he requested in the beginning of his trial. William Penn also wrote a book called, *No Cross, No Crown*, and it became a Christian classic. He is known for his famous quote, “Justice is the insurance which we have on our lives and property. Obedience is the premium which we pay for it.” The meaning of this quote is that being obedient is the price we that we pay for having justice in our lives. Penn paid the price of going to prison for preaching his religious beliefs. The definition of “justice” when looked up is, the quality of being just, rightfulness or lawfulness, and the moral principle determining just conduct (Dictionary.com). In my opinion, justice is the insurance or security that we have in our lives to protect us. With that being said, laws are in place to protect us as well, not punish us for things such as religious beliefs. But with that justice, we must also be obedient because that is ultimately how we pay for it. We must be obedient to laws in society if we want that justice. Karma is also relevant when speaking of this issue in Penn’s life. By definition, karma is an action seen as bringing upon oneself inevitable results, good or bad, either in this life or in a reincarnation. Penn lived in a time where there was an unjust society, he was sent to prison for not following the religion that the King was enforcing. Although he did the time, Penn still followed his own religious beliefs and let karma do its job instead of trying to get back at the King himself. I know this first hand because my father is a criminal defense attorney for the state of Virginia. He represents guilty and non- guilty clients daily, and tries to help them receive as much justice as he feels they deserve. Of course he cannot keep a guilty person out of jail, or community service, but instead try to help and get their time reduced. Ultimately it is up to the judge and the jury and a judge will not look at a person with a long record of offenses and grant them justice; he will have them serve the amount of time that will make up for the severity of the crime. My dad’s job is to try to get that time length as short as possible. His ultimate goal is to prove to the court, jury, and judge as to why his client is innocent or guilty. His job is very important so that his clients do not get falsely persecuted or receive unfair imprisonment such as Penn did.

Works Cited

"Breif History of William Penn." *Breif History of William Penn*. Ushistory.org, 2012. Web. 9 Dec. 2015.