

May 27, 2012

Dear folks:

I wanted to comment on the account of The Maurice River Reaches Project: East Pt. Maurice River Cove-- Reach #49.

The reference to Andrew Lane should be Andrew Zane, the letters L and Z looking a bit alike in the old script. The Zane family owned about 600 acres north of the lighthouse for decades. The location can be viewed on the 1876 Atlas of Maurice River. In addition, there are no other references in the area to Lane that I am aware of.

As far as Donnelly's Island, my ancestor, William Donnelly bought a small plot just above the lighthouse in 1852 from "Jeremiah F. Zane and Andrew Zane Jr. and wife

" The location can be viewed on the 1876 Atlas as well, cited as "Donley." This Andrew Zane was born about 1811, according to Census records, and having the "Jr" attached, it would indicate that there was an older Andrew Zane about around 1812 when the story about the war took place with reference to "the elder Andrew [Z]ane."

The lot was sold back to the family in 1888 after Donnelly and his wife were deceased, the lot passing to "William S. Zane of Glassborough County of Gloucester and state of New Jersey Minister-of-the-Gospel and Andrew Zane of the City of Philadelphia and state of Pennsylvania attorney at Law..." (Cumberland County Deeds 191: 178). The deed refers to the land as on King's Island.

Now it is likely that Donnelly leased land in the area before 1852, and probably leased farm lands and the barns behind this house-- some remnants left recently--after purchasing the small property. I find no earlier deeds, but since Reuben Willets provided additional information as to birthplaces on the 1850 Federal Census in many cases, we find that William and Elizabeth Land Donnelly's children were born in Port Elizabeth until around 1830 when they began to be born in "Maurice River," the area along the East Point Road or more generally the Heislerville area. William's grandfather William was among the first Methodist ministers in the area, and Bowen,

confirmed by several deeds, locates him in Port Elizabeth by 1784. The first William's son was John Donnelly, who fathered William Donnelly, later of East Point.

As a tribute to Andrew Zane, two Bingham family members named children "Andrew Z." Jeremiah and Catherine Bingham lived at the upper bend of East Point Road, formerly part of Catherine's Spence homestead. It is now the southwest corner of the PSE&G property. (On the 1876 map it is listed as "C. Land," in respect to Catherine Spence Bingham's second marriage.) Their son Peter married Lettice Donnelly, daughter of William and Elizabeth. Peter's brother Joseph named a son Andrew Z. Bingham, who later lived at Bricksboro. His sister Mary married Benajah Peters Thompson, and they named a son Andrew Z. Thompson.

With this in mind, any reference to "Donnelly's Island" after 1830 would refer to King's Island, the bottom portion at East Point that includes the lighthouse.

I hope this minor correction and additional data substantiates the account currently available on the fascinating website.

Best to all,

Glenn J. Bingham
New Jersey