

THE BURCHAM FARM AT MILLVILLE, NEW JERSEY

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Introduction

The Burcham farm is the last dyked marsh farm on the Maurice River, the sole survivor of the many dyke farms that once lined the waters of the Delaware valley, Its marsh has been ditched, drained, dyked and farmed continuously since 1814, and was probably dyked before that time as well. Its significance within the region is enormous. Though the dykes are not maintained in the same manner as they were in the 1800's, it is probably the only example of this historic landscape in all of Delaware and South Jersey.

Historically, dyking technology was critical to the development of the region, as it enabled pioneers to grow crops without fertilizer and without having to clear the dense forest land. During the colonial period, farmers relied on the intense fertility of these lands, and colonial laws record dyking in New Jersey as early as 1711.

During the nineteenth century, dyked marshland became a corporate affair in the U.S., a practice that was often mandated by the state for health and profit. Commercial agriculture in South Jersey developed as a response to New Jersey's dyking law, and the Burcham property became a part of this large-scale dyking effort. During that period, the banks or mud walls of the property were maintained by the local Millville Meadow Banking Company, a group of local marsh owners that shared the labor and expenses of maintaining the town dykes. At that time, both the Maurice and Cohansey rivers were dyked for many miles. They became a produce corridor for the Philadelphia market.

In 1865, the owners of the Burcham farm discovered a new and very profitable use for their dyked marshland brickmaking. Maintaining the dykes became essential for this new purpose, as the dykes provided the only access to the natural clay source on the farm In 1867, Amaziah Burcham bought the property, establishing The New Jersey Drain and Tile Works there. He began gradually equipping the farm with the most up-to-date brickmaking equipment

available. During its heyday, the brickyard produced 15,000 bricks a week. The timing was auspicious for the new brickyard, as Millville's nascent glass industry began its boom about 1850, and bricks were badly needed to build the new town.

From 1865 until 1942, the Burcham farm functioned as a agricultural industrial hybrid -- a brickyard / farm. There, brick workers lived with the Burcham family. They cut wood to fire the brick kilns, maintained the dykes, while also digging clay to manufacture bricks, and doing occasional farm chores. The workers and their families were fed by the produce of the farm, and bought supplies from the Burcham store on the property.

Cultural Significance

The significance of the landscape goes beyond its historic technology, however. It is also a significant artifact in the early history of the area, as its only physical link to the landscape of its first Swedish settlers -- the Maurice River pioneers of 1700-1740. The Burcham farm takes on this Swedish identity through its first owner, Johannes Hopman, who bought 800 acres on the east side of the Maurice river in 1737. Recently, cultural geographers have been able to verify the accounts of early historians like L.Q. Elmer, who wrote that Swedish settlers were living along the Maurice for several decades before the first deeds were sold there in 1720. They have written that the early Swedes in South Jersey were there illegally at first, in an extralegal land-use pattern that was the result of legal confusion over ownership.

It is likely that the Hopman family moved to Maurice River before they bought title from the English. Nicholas Hopman, who bought the Burcham property in 1738, is probably an example, as he last appeared in the church records of his previous home church in 1731, seven years before his record of buying the Maurice River property (the Burcham Farm) from his cousin Johannes.

Both Johannes and Nicholas were a part of the heavy Swedish migration to Maurice River that Judge Joshua Brick said began about 1700 and was heaviest between 1720 and 1740.

John, or Johannes, Hopman's family moved to Maurice River from the Swedish settlement at Raccoon Creek (now Swedesboro) sometime before 1737. According to local tradition, he was the first to dyke land on the Maurice, and a survey drawing in his 1746 will confirms that that he had begun before that date. The survey also shows the similarities between the Hopman farmstead and those described by Peter Kalm in the 1740's. Kalm's descriptions of Swedish farmsteads and the dyking techniques developed by his countrymen, establish the link between this farmstead and the early settlers.

Through the Hopmans, then, the farm becomes a rich artifact of forgotten pioneers the Swedes who preferred the isolation of the South Jersey frontier to the cultural dominance of the English. Today, the historic landscape is a working farm, maintained by the dedication of two sisters, Janice and Jeannette Burcham, the granddaughters of the nineteenth-century brick maker. For them, maintaining the dykes is a constant and expensive struggle with New Jersey's severe winter storms and strict Wetlands regulations. They would never consider doing anything else. If their dykes were to wash out, their home and a large chunk of the history of the area would be gone, and could not be re-built.

What was once a marsh, became a farm, and then a brickyard. Today it is the last of the dyked farms on the Maurice, though no longer a commercially viable site. The Burcham sisters can not maintain the property forever, so the future of the site is threatened. What will come next? More marsh?

Chapter 1, Section 1 -Early History and Settlement

Before we can consider the role of the Burcham farm as a historical artifact, we must first establish a basic understanding of the farm's physical landscape and historical setting. Chapter One begins this process with a description of its location and early settlement, followed by a discussion of the developing economy.

Location and Description

Cumberland County is located in the southernmost part of New Jersey, bounded on the southeast by Cape May County and on the southwest by the Delaware Bay. It was established in 1747, and divided into six townships, one of which was called Maurice River. Maurice River included all the land on the east side of Maurice until 1802, when Millville was set off as a separate township.

The Maurice River runs southeast through Cumberland County for 50 miles, draining an area of about 400 square miles. It is one of two major rivers in the county (the Maurice and the Cohansey) that empty into Delaware Bay.

Two types of soil are found in the county. One type, which is found south of the Cohansey River, is sandy. North and west of the Cohansey, the soil is clay and sandy loam. Salt marsh lines the shore along the Delaware Bay and the lower sections of the Maurice River. The marsh land is made up of blue-green marl, shells, sand- encrusted iron deposits, (known as "bog ore") and ochre. Upland areas consist of sandstone and pudding stone cemented by iron ore.

In Millville, a dam impounds the Maurice River into a reservoir of about 900 acres, probably the largest artificial lake on the Atlantic coast. The dam is 1/2 mile from the wharves of Millville and forms the head of tidal influence.

The Burcham farm is at the southern limit of Millville Township, on the line between Millville and Maurice River Township. It is bordered by the east side of the Maurice River and the north side of Menantico Creek.

Native American History ¹

The first residents of the Burcham farm were members of the Unalachtigo Indian tribe who summered on the property for several centuries before the arrival of the white man. While they left no written evidence of their civilization, they left a great quantity of archaeological data in the muddy banks of the river. Arrowheads, pottery shards, and oyster shells line the marsh below the Burcham farm today, indicating the location of an Indian village. Imprints made by two long houses in the mud of the marsh adjacent to the Burcham property establish the exact site of one of their camps at the head of the Menantico.²

The Indians were drawn to the Maurice for the same reasons that the Europeans would be – the easy navigability of the river and the abundant plant and wildlife found there. They established clusters of small wood huts along the Maurice's high places, and returned to these camps every spring. From these camps they launched canoes for hunting and fishing expeditions, then returned to smoke the fish and oysters, muskrats, deer and wild fowl to save for the winter.

Unalachtigo women gathered wild vegetables and fruits and grew corn, beans, squash and tobacco along the river in the fertile forest land. They did not clear the forest, but simply planted vegetables between the trees.

The excellent clay found at the head of the Menantico attracted the Unalachtigos as keenly as it would Amaziah Burcham several centuries later. Indian women needed good workable clay to make their cooking pots, and the Burcham site has some of the best Cape May age clay in the county. Gritty, loamy, sometimes very sandy clay, it slakes slowly because the clay particles in it are evenly distributed and hold the clay grains together.³ Indian women made

¹ Ann Shillingsburg Woodruff and F. Alan Palmer, *The Unalachtigo. Original People of Cumberland County*, Cumberland County Historical Society publication, 1973.

²Most recently, this property was owned by the Dr. Gricco of Vineland for rental income. It can be accessed by Schooner Landing Road. In 1815, it was owned by John Lanning, Jr. The dikes washed out on this property in 1960. Five lots are for sale there now.

³ Heinrich Ries and Henry B. Hummel, *The Clays and Clay Industry of New Jersey*, Volume 6 of the final report of the state geologist, Trenton, 1904, p. 346

pots for cooking by simply adding water and crushed oyster shells to the clay, then firing it with a bit of charcoal.

Europeans in South Jersey

The history of Europeans along the Maurice begins about 1623 when the Dutch explorer and Governor of New Amsterdam, Cornelius Mey, sailed down the Delaware, and named the New Jersey cape for himself. He may also have named the Maurice river after the Dutch regent.⁴ It was known as Prince Maurice's River before 1692.

The Dutch claim to South Jersey was disputed by the Swedish, however. Mey's military colony at Camden, N.J. was followed by a Swedish fort on the Delaware that was built about 1636. In 1642, the Swedes built a second fort, Fort Elfsborg, near Salem, New Jersey. English settlers were also in the region by 1641, and about 1664, their navy took possession of South Jersey by force. The British king began selling tracts in South Jersey at this time, and many Swedish and Dutch settlers had to buy title to their lands from the English, despite previous claims, deeds or Indian purchases.

In 1675, a group of English Quakers following John Fenwick established themselves in Salem, New Jersey.

The Early History of Maurice River Township

Salem County's first official record of settlers on the Maurice was made in 1684, when the "Old road" was laid from Salem to Maurice River.⁵ By 1694, Swedes were seen on the river by Gabriel Thomas, a Quaker from England, who was visiting the area. He published his account in London in 1698, describing the Maurice as an amazingly abundant place, a river where Swedes killed geese "for their feathers only, leaving their carcasses behind them."

In fact, the first few settlers on Maurice River are generally agreed to have been Swedes.⁶ Cushing and Sheppard cite as evidence

⁴There is also a local tradition that the river was named for a Dutch ship that was stranded on a sandbar in the 17th century. For details, see Herbert Vanaman,

⁵Thomas Cushing and Charles Sheppard, History of Gloucester, Counties, Philadelphia: Everts and Peck. 1883, p. 51 6

⁶ Ibid., p 514. LQ Elmer and Joshua Brick also concur See Chapter 3 on the Swedes.

the 1720 land deeds from the English to the Swedes. But surely there were settlers there in small numbers by 1684, when the old road from Salem to Maurice River was laid. By 1700, a small number of lumberers and cattle owners were living near Buckshutem Creek,⁷ and a Swedish log cabin that is still standing (Caesar Hoskins') in Mauricetown was built. English Quakers were in Salem and Cape May, and some, like Aaron Learning, were also buying land in the area. The few early residents existed as a marginal part of the Salem County community, living along the waterways and traveling by water to Greenwich, the nearest town. There, two prominent Quakers -- Wood and Sheppard -- ran a successful dry goods store. Goods were paid for with bonds printed by the store.

Michael Iszard, Jr.,⁸ was an early resident of Maurice River. He moved down to the west side of the Maurice in 1704, selling his lands in Greenwich. Daniel England was another early settler. His sawmill (Iszard's⁹ in 1756) was operating on Buckshutem Creek before 1705. Peter Erickson was another. He was given a land grant on the Maurice by the Indians in 1694 for his services as interpreter¹⁰.

The small number of Maurice River settlers had grown by 1705, as the old road from Salem to Maurice River was re-built that year.¹¹ By 1718, the number of residents was still larger, as Salem officials appointed a constable for the area. By 1728, a second constable was appointed, but the settlers lived at large spaces from one another. Still there was no real town on the Maurice.

⁷Buckshutem Creek joins the Maurice on its west side, at the same point that the Menantico joins it on its east side.

⁸ The son of Michael Issard who moved from Chester County, PA, to Greenwich, NJ, before 1688.

⁹Cushing and Sheppard say the mill was probably owned by Gabriel Iszard, future owner of the Burcham property, but other researchers disagree. See John Downer, History of the Iszard family, a paper on file at the Gloucester County Historical Society. Downer believes it was owned by John Iszard who died in 1769 and owned cattle, hogs, and a 1/3 share of a trading vessel that was likely shipping wood.

¹⁰ Peter Craig, The 1693 Census of Swedes on the Delaware, Winter Park, Florida: Studies in Swedish American Genealogy, 1993, p. 72 and Salem Deeds, Liber 6, p 194.

¹¹ Cushing and Sheppard, History of Gloucester, Salem and Cumberland Counties. p. 518. It crossed the river at Greenwich.

In 1720, Swedish settlers began leasing large tracts of land from the West Jersey proprietors. Examples include Joseph Lord, Joseph Thompson and Andrew Errickson, who leased lands from Thomas Byerly.¹² After four years of leasing, Erickson was able to buy his tract outright in 1724. John and Peter Peterson bought tracts about 1730. John Hopman bought his tract in 1737. Doubtless these early settlers were there to make money on the lucrative lumber trade.

By 1743 a Swedish Lutheran church was built on the River, just south of the Burcham farm. John Hopman, first owner of the Burcham farm donated the land for the church.¹³ It had a congregation of 60 parishioners.

By 1747, Cumberland County was created from the lower portion of Salem County. The new county included 3,000 residents. On the first tax lists in 1751, 'Prince Maurice's precinct', which was the name for all the territory east of the river, listed 51 men with families, and 12 single men. Four sawmills were also listed in the tax lists— Aaron Learning's, Frederick Hofman's, Isaac Sharp's and Gabriel Vanemon's. The Erixons, the Hofmans, the Peterson, Isard, Jones and Vanamon families were among the landowners listed. This may not have included all the residents of the area, however.

Early Surveys of the Maurice River Area

The area that would later become Millville was located in two tracts surveyed to Richard and Thomas Penn before 1776. They had inherited the land from their father William Penn (son of the founder of Philadelphia) and their brother John Penn.

The survey on the east of the river consisted of 19,962 acres. In 1776, Richard Penn conveyed 9,461 1/2 of these acres to four wealthy men from Burlington, who built a sawmill and a 60-acre

¹² Andrew Errickson bought the same tract from Byerly in 1724.

¹³ The site is today the property of Rudy Strauss, and is marked by a Moravia sign on Delsea Drive. The church building disappeared many years ago, and most of the graveyard has fallen in to the river. The last few gravestones were moved years ago. An old stone still marks the corner where the graveyard once was.

mill pond there. The land was known as the Union Mills Tract. Cedar, pine and oak were cut there for export.

The Burcham property, which is on the south end of Millville, is not contained in Penn's survey. It is found in another early survey John Bartlett's 10,000 acre survey of 1691. (see Illustration). Bartlett's tract was one of the original 1/10th parcels conveyed by the West Jersey Proprietors to Robert Squibbs. Gratia Bartlett, widow of Benjamin Bartlett, conveyed the tract to John Scott of Newport, Rhode Island in 1707. It was said to contain 10,000 acres, but actually contained more than 20,000. (see fig)

Scott left the property to his children in 1718. Most of it he left to his sons, Edward and Joseph Scott, but 2,500 acres were left to his daughter. The brothers sold their share to Edward Loomis (Lummis) in February of 1735.

Loomis sold his tract to four different buyers 1)Abraham Reeves (on April, 1 761), 2) John Hoffman (or Johannes Hopman, on February 20, 1 738), 3) Abraham Jones, and 4) Andrew Heisler.

John Hopman

The first on-site owner of the Burcham farm was John Hopman,¹⁵ a third generation Swedish-American. Hopman bought 800 acres on the east side of the Maurice, running from the Menantico to the Manumuskin in 1736. Born and raised in the Raccoon Creek settlement¹⁶ in Gloucester County, Hopman brought his large family to the area by 1736. He is remembered as the man responsible for building the Swedish Lutheran church, and the first man to bank (or dyke) the river.

¹⁴ There is some confusion about the survey to Scott. Historically it has been recorded as crossing the Menantico and the Clunn property, running from Scott's corner to the Maurice, and many current land deeds are based on that "Scott line." It was moved slightly during the WPA period, but not substantially, hence the discussions of the Scott line and the "False Scott line" In the deed to William Lummis, though, the survey does not cross the Menantico; it follows the Menantico down to the Maurice. In either event, it is clear that John Hopman sold the triangle of land above the Menantico to Nicholas Hopman in 1 748., For more details see the chain of title for the Burcham farm in Appendix A.,

¹⁵ John was also known as Johannes Hopman or Hoffman.

¹⁶ Raccoon Creek is now known as Swedesboro, N.J.

Section Two continues the discussion of the first settlement of the Maurice River area with a discussion of the economic history of the area, beginning with a discussion of the first industry in the area -- lumbering. In this first economy, as in later economies, marshland was essential, as it was in the marsh that white cedar trees were found. The high colonial demand for cedar drove up the price of cedar stands, and inspired the beginnings of economic activity in the area.

Chapter I, Section II -- Lumbering on the Maurice

Lumbering was the first industry to develop along the Maurice River. The forest there was thick with oak, hickory, chestnut and pine; the marsh was full of cedar, and water power was available at the many small creeks that fed into the river. Small sawmills -- both legal and illegal -- were operated on mill ponds, many of which long ago dried up and disappeared without a trace.

Near the Burcham property, early sawmills included Daniel England's, which was built on Buckshutem Creek¹ before 1705² William Rawson's, which was built on the Menantico about 1718 and Peter Peterson's, a 920-acre mill on the Menantico that he purchased in 1711. It was located further up the Menantico near the "Berryman" tributaries.⁴ (see Hartman map, fig)

¹ Buckshutem creek and Menantico creek meet at the Maurice River by the Burcham farm. Menantico creek flows into the Maurice river from the Northeast. Buckshutem Creek flows into the river from the Southwest.

² See Cushing and Sheppard, History of Gloucester, Salem, and Cumberland pp. 514, 516, 518, 520 and Hartman maps. Daniel England's sawmill on Buckshutem Creek is mentioned in the records of the new road that was built from Salem to Maurice River in 1705. England's mill was owned by William Hall, the Salem merchant, at the time of his death in 1713. (NJ Archives volume) It was later owned by Cormack. In 1756, it was owned by Izard, probably first by Gabriel, as Cushing & Sheppard suggest. (Gabriel later became the owner of the Burcham property), but by John Isard. (see John Downer, History of the Isard family, a paper on file at the Gloucester County Historical Society, p 10). The mill pond was known later as Laurel Lake and Buckshutem Pond.

³ Wm. Rawson's mill was later owned by Wm. Browning (1800), then by Nathaniel Buzby and Jonathan Dallas in 1820, It was best known as Daniel Clark's mill or Clark's pond (1860). In 1867 it was owned by John McNeal. Dam broke about 1895 and was never rebuilt. (See Hartman maps.)

⁴ Both Cushing & Sheppard and L.Q. Elmer mistakenly believed that Rawson's mill and Learning's mill (which was Peterson's) were the same, but Charles Hartman's maps, early surveys and

Rawson and Peterson were Swedes. Rawson was probably the son of Olle Rasse or Rawson whose cabin is seen on the 1714 Scott survey, so William had doubtless been living in the area for a few years. He bought 1100 acres of forest on the Menantico in 1718 and established his sawmill soon afterward⁵. In 1720, he established a tavern at his mill to provide food and drink to his fellow lumberer's, applying for a tavern license in 1722.⁶

Peterson moved to Maurice River from Calcon Hook, Pennsylvania, changing his name from Peter Peterson Stake to dissociate himself from his notorious father. He acquiring 920 acres and a saw mill in 1711⁷.

Much timber was cut at these Maurice River mills, then shipped and traded from the nearby harbor which was known as "Shingle Landing," later renamed Millville.

The first description of lumbering activity on the Maurice is from a much later date 1748 when Peter Kalm, a naturalist from Swedish Finland, visited the area. Kalm described furious lumbering activity in Cape May in 1748, and the rapidly disappearing white cedar, describing the "great quantities of shingles" that were annually exported to New York and the West Indies from South Jersey.

According to Kalm, much of South Jersey was "destitute of cedars" by 1749, with "only young shoots left."⁸ Lumberers were "utterly regardless of posterity," he wrote, "bent only upon their present advantage".

The intensity of the tree cutting in the 18th century was driven by the international market for lumber. Wealthy colonial merchants were trading wood to the West Indies on ships that left directly from the Maurice. Peter Grubb's Shallop Cornwel was an

deeds **show** their different locations on the Menantico. Peterson's mill tract was sold on 7 June, 1741 at public auction to Aaron Learning II, the prominent Cape May Quaker. (Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey, Volume 54, p. 1 25).

⁵Liber B, Folio 69.

⁶ Cushing and Sheppard, *op. cit.* p. 520

⁷ Craig, Peter. The 1693 Census of Swedes on the Delaware, pp. 40-41.

⁸ Kalm, Peter, The America of 1750; Travels in North America, ed. by A..B. Benson, New York: Wilson-Erickson, 1937.

example, sailing down to the Maurice River from Wilmington, Delaware in 1749, and trading corn, nails, rum, molasses, fishing hooks, beef and bacon for wood. Before 1750, merchants were shipping lumber directly from the Maurice to North Carolina, the West Indies, England, Portugal and the Canary Islands.⁹

After the Revolution, the demand for timber increased still more, and outside investors bought up tracts of forest in Cumberland to work off the timber. By 1776, four Philadelphia investors (The Union Company) bought a 9,000 acre tract along the Maurice (including the area that would later become Millville) and dammed the Maurice river to build a sawmill. Cumberland County grew by a third.

In 1779, Maurice River woodlands were being advertised in the Pennsylvania Gazette and its hawkers emphasized the Maurice's easy access to cedar and transportation: "Seventy-four acres of cedar swamp" were offered "on the west side of Morris River near a landing where vessels passed and re passed."

In 1823, almost miraculously, Millville men were still advertising cedar and pine for sale in the Bridgeton Observer: "two feet shingles, seasoned pine boards, cedar boards, cedar siding and other building materials".¹⁰ By this time, however, the wood they were selling would have had to have been retrieved from the marsh, as the stands of cedar had been mostly clearcut.

White Cedar Industry¹¹

The highest profits in the colonial lumber industry came from white cedar. Wood cutters flocked to the South Jersey cedar stands from all over, many of them living in small makeshift sheds, and jammed in very close quarters. They worked as fast as they could, stayed until the cedar was gone, and then moved on to the next "Cripple." As early as 1700, this white cedar industry was booming

⁹ Wheaton J. Lane "Water Transportation in Colonial New Jersey" Proceedings N.J. Historical Society, Volume 53, pp. 77-87, 1935.

¹⁰ The advertisement was for Stratton, Buck and Company.

¹¹ Silas Little, "Ecology and Silviculture of Whitecedar and Associated Hardwoods in Southern New Jersey," Yale University School of Forestry Bulletin, no. 56, New Haven, 1950, pp. 5-6

near Millville,¹² and cedar stands sold for much more than other timber tracts. Cedar stands sold for more than dyked meadow or cultivated farmland,¹³ and cedar products accounted for 20 percent of all the exports from Cape May County in 1758.¹⁴

Cedar was particularly prized by the building industry.¹⁵ It was durable - strong enough to support a roof, but still lightweight and easy to saw. It was also fire-resistant, as it retained water and oils. By 1750, all the houses in New York and Philadelphia were roofed with cedar shingles¹⁶ In 1749, Kalm described its attributes and uses:

[White Cedar] . . . will resist decay the most; it will make good fence rails, and also posts which are to be put into the ground. good canoes... . The young trees are used for hoops because they are thin and pliable; the thick, tall trees...for cooper's work. Houses which are built of it surpass in duration those of American oak. Many of the houses in Rappapo (an early Swedish community in S Jersey) were made of this white cedar.¹⁷

In 1759, Charles Read, the speaker of New Jersey's 18th provincial assembly and an-owner of timber tracts, sponsored a bill to prevent the "waste" (by this he meant theft) of timber mentioning pine and cedar, specifically.¹⁸ Trespassers who damaged trees were to fined 20 shillings per tree.

¹²W.L Hall and H. Maxwell, "Uses of Commercial Woods of the United states: 1 Cedars, Cypresses and Sequoias". U.S. Dept of Agriculture Forest Service, Bulletin 95, 1911.

¹³Weiss, Harry B. and Grace M.. Weiss, Some Early Industries of New Jersey, Trenton: New Jersey Agricultural Society, 1965

¹⁴George Cook, Geology of New Jersey, New Brunswick: Board of Managers of the NJ State Legislature, 1857, p 192.

¹⁵It was used for joists and rafters, doors, shingles, lath and fences, for churns and washtubs, canoes and cordwood.

¹⁶Peter Kalm, op. cit., p. 299.

¹⁷*Ibid*, p299

¹⁸CR. Woodward, Ploughs and Politics, Rutgers University Press, New Brunswick, N.J.: 1942 p139.

By 1765, many white cedar stands in South Jersey had been clear-cut,¹⁹ but the lumber industry was still booming. Cedar merchants turned to the accumulation of felled cedar logs in the swamp to meet the demand.

South Jersey was attracting timber workers from other areas. In Jacob Spicer's 1775 journal, he noted that his Cape May neighbor was getting lumberers down from New York: "John Schuyler gives 18 d for cutting and the cutter finds his own diet."²⁰ In 1792, New Jersey exported 1 million, 220 thousand cedar shingles, as well as 3,374,900 feet of pine, and 48,412 staves and heading.²¹

By 1834, cedar stands were sold for \$300 per acre. By 1856, they sold for \$1,000 an acre,²² though all first growth stands were gone. Nonetheless, 610,000 shingles were cut in Cape May County from mined cedar that year. They sold for \$15 per thousand shingles.²³

¹⁹ Samuel Smith, The History of the Colony of Nova-Caesarea, or New Jersey, Burlington N.J.: 1765, pp.485-488.

²⁰ Diary of Jacob Spice, Cape May County proceedings, N.J.. Historical Society, Series 1 Vol 3, p. 196. Spicer was a prominent landowner and legislator from Cape May.

²¹ Tench Coxe, A View of the U.S. of America, Philadelphia 1794, p 419.

²² Silas Little, Jr., op. cit., pp., 7-8.

²³ George Cook, Geology of Cape May County, New Brunswick: Board of Managers of the NJ State Legislature, 1857.

Section Three continues the discussion of the economic development of Millville in order to place the Burcham farm into its economic context. Until the middle of the nineteenth century, agricultural industries dominated the economy, but after mid-century, industry took its place.

Amaziah Burcham, a Union soldier returning from the war, decided that there was more money to be made in industry than there was in agriculture. He bought the brickyard/farm in 1867, and began making the bricks that would build the boomtown of Millville.

Chapter 1 Section III –Industry and the Maurice River

In 1795, the Philadelphia Union Company's investors decided to sell off their timber tract near Shingle Landing (later Millville) to four men who imagined an industrial future for the area. Joseph Buck, a former Sheriff of the County, was one of the new owners. He began selling lots in 1801, naming the town "Millville," because that was the name most commonly associated with American industry and progress¹. Surely such a name would lure industry and new residents to the sleepy backwater.

Buck's industrial plan for Millville included promoting the water power of Union Pond, and the many acres of wood and easy navigability of the river. In addition iron ore was available in the swamps, and immense beds of high quality were located just below Millville.

Iron

Iron manufacturing began on the Maurice river south of town even before Millville was established. In America's post-war period, iron forges were booming, freed from the quotas imposed by British law, and demand for iron was high. Eli Budd built his iron forge on the Manumuskin in 1785, and was manufacturing iron bars or pigs.

¹Thomas Baldwin, and J. Thomas, *New and Philadelphia* Lippincott, Grambo, 1854. pp 703-707

The local source for iron ore was the swamps of Downe Township, where “bog ore” formed on particles of sand.²

By 1803, just a few years after Millville was incorporated, the iron industry came to town. David C. Wood³ bought 20,000 acres of forest, dug a canal from Union Pond into town, and began producing lamp posts, stoves, and other castings (including the cast iron railings for Philadelphia’s public squares). Stoves and pigs made at his furnace were shipped up the Menantico to Schooner Landing, then sent by road to Philadelphia.⁴ By 1834, he had established a second more modern iron furnace at another site in Millville in 1834. The second furnace was the first pit cast foundry built in the U.S., and pipe was made there by the vertical pit cast process, using dry sand molds and cores, and casting the pipe in 12 foot lengths.

Despite the beginnings of the iron industry, Millville of 1804 was hardly a boom town. Millville had only 11 buildings -- one on the west side of the river, and ten on the east side including a school house and a Presbyterian church.⁵ Lots in town were worthless, and owners didn’t even bother with deeds. It was only after the glass industry came to Millville in 1834 that the population began to take off,

By 1840, Millville had 1,200 residents, and several factories, but its two original iron furnaces were closing. D.C. Wood’s first foundry, Union Mill, closed in 1849. The annual product there had been about 600 tons. By 1851, D.C. Wood was bankrupt and both of his factories were sold to his brother, R.D. Wood. R.D. Wood dug a new canal to the closed foundry at Union Pond, and established a successful cotton factory at the site. In 1866, he began

² Cedar swamp lands are underlain with iron deposits formed by the chemical action of vegetable-laden water on ferruginous strata in sluggish water. The deposits range from a soft muddy consistency to one of stone. They are reddish-yellow in color, a variety of the mineral limonite. (Bertram Lippincott, *An Historical Sketch of Batso*, N.J. ,1933, p. 12; Charles Boyer, *Early Forges and Furnaces in N.J.* Philadelphia University of Pennsylvania Press, 1931, p. 2..

³ He was a part of the Wood family, “weighty” Quakers of Bridgeton and Philadelphia.

⁴Moore, William Davis, *The Development of the Cast Iron Pressure Pipe Industry in the Southern States*, 1800-1938, pp 12-13.

⁵Cushing and Sheppard, *op. cit.*, p. 633.

construction of a dam over the Maurice river to greatly improve the water power in Millville.⁶ He also continued to operate his brother's modern furnace with magnetic ore as an iron source and anthracite coal as a melting medium. The business operated in Millville until 1900, then closed, as the center of iron manufacturing had moved to Eastern Pennsylvania by 1850, and then on to the Middle West. R.D. Wood and Company continues to thrive, and was responsible for building the first skyscraper in Philadelphia for its offices about 1881.

Glass Factories – Millville's Future

The glass industry would become one of the major industries in South Jersey. It began in Millville before 1806. Five other glass makers were established in the area before 1900.

James Lee built Millville's first glass factory on the Maurice River at Buck Street in 1806, manufacturing only window glass. Later the plant would become Whitall Tatum's "Glasstown", where many types of glassware were made.

In 1814, it was owned by Gideon Scull; in 1827, by Burgin, Wood and Joel Bodine; and in 1836, by Scattergood, Booth and Company. By 1838, John Whitall had joined his brother-in-law, G. M. Haverstick and William Scattergood in the glass business. All three were prominent Philadelphia Quakers. John Whitall married into the Tatum family, and Edward Tatum joined the firm in 1848. In 1845, John's Whitall's brother, Franklin, took the company into its most profitable stage.

In 1854, Franklin Whitall acquired the south Millville Schetterville glass plant,⁷ and the business became more successful than ever. By 1901, it was called Whitall Tatum and had offices in

⁶ The embankment was 2,000 feet long, covered a thousand acres and contained 100,000 yards of fill. 500 feet wide, the dam was built of red sandstone and cement and tapered from 11 feet at the base to 4 feet at the top.. It provided greatly improved water power to 12 Millville industries and cost more than \$100,000.

⁷ Schetterville was begun by Frederick and Phitlip Schetter of Baltimore in 1832. They set up a window light furnace 1/3 mile south of Millville on diked, riverfront land.⁷ In 1844, Schetterville was bought by Lewis Mulford, Millville's first banker. Mulford wanted to sell the plant to Whitall Tatum at a good price. In order to force them to buy the factory torn him, he cornered the area wood market.

Philadelphia and New York. The company was famous for the high quality of its moldblown glassware.

Glass manufacturing in Millville experienced enormous growth between 1830 and 1900, beginning with a population of 150 persons in 1830, and ending the century with more than 20 times as many people. In 1830, Millville consisted of seven stores, seven grist mills, eight saw mills, a blast furnace, two glass factories, 60 homes and two taverns.⁸ By 1840, the population had grown to 1,200 people. By 1883, there were ten flint glass furnaces in town employing more than 1,512 people. By 1900, the three major glass works employed more than 1500 hands, half of the working population.

Before the railroad came to town in 1863, Whitall Tatum glass was packed in salt hay and shipped to Philadelphia and Baltimore by sloop. It went to New York by schooner¹⁰ and by the steam boat Millville.

Millville's Heyday

By 1850, the success of Millville's glass and fisheries industries was drawing heavy European immigration to the town.¹¹ Millville began to expand and build: The Millville National Bank was chartered in 1857; gas came to the town in 1864. In 1866, Millville was incorporated as a city of 5,000, and a mayor and a common council were appointed. A waterworks was built in 1879, and a city ball in 1881. A great majority of buildings still standing along High, Main and Pine Streets in downtown Millville were built in this boom period, which lasted from 1850 to 1918. The buildings were generally made of brick, and many were built with bricks from Burcham's brickyard.

The United States government began encouraging the growth of industry in the area in 1883, by dredging the Maurice River to provide access for water transportation. They stopped in 1892. By

⁸ Thomas Gordon, Gazetteer of the State of New Jersey, p. 180

⁹ The Ann and the Franklin.

¹⁰ The Caroline and the Mary

¹¹ The population was 2,332 persons

1910, Whitall Tatum was the largest glass manufacturing concern in the world, with 1,925 employees. The cotton mill had 900 employees. Millville sand was being washed and shipped to towns all across the U.S. and Canada. During the height of the glass industry, (1860 - 1900) Millville was a magnet for workers from economically depressed areas, including many from Virginia and West Virginia.

Agriculture

The 18th century settlers in Cumberland County were part-time farmers who spent their time cutting lumber for export, while relying on wild marsh hay to feed their livestock. A tract of salt marsh was sold as a necessary part of every farm and cost as much as the farmland itself.

In 1815, Cumberland County upland farms were worn out, and many local farmers left to find new lands in Ohio and the Midwest.¹² Those who stayed concentrated on improving the marshland. This involved a variety of technologies for water management, including, ditching, damming, draining. Dyked meadows were naturally replenished by the nutrient-rich marsh, and produced good crops of corn and upland hay without manure.¹³ Diking was time consuming and expensive but it was more economical than clearing land, and digging marl for fertilizer.

John Bartram, the famous botanist of Philadelphia, gave his visitor, St. John de Crevecoeur, an explanation of the economics of diking in 1782. De Crevecoeur had never heard of ‘banking’ before, and asked why anyone would put himself to so much trouble and expense. Bartram’s answer was that while the expense of bank building was considerable, it was nonetheless very economical, as the “produce of three years” repaid all the costs to the owner. Bartram was a very enthusiastic member of his Philadelphia meadow company.

¹² Gushing and Sheppard, op cit., p 573.

¹³For a discussion of dyking. see Section II, Chapter III.

In 1823 Cumberland County farmers founded a county agricultural society “to promote agricultural improvements and encourage family manufactures.” An editorial in the local Bridgeton newspaper at that time encouraged farmers to spend less of their time lumbering and more time dyking. The enthusiastic editor declared victory prematurely, it seems, writing,

“It was manifest to every one present that the increasing agricultural spirit would very speedily supersede the toilsome and unprofitable business of cutting timber”¹⁴

The owners of farms on either side of the Burcham site were first officers of the Agricultural society. The vice-president was John Lanning, Jr. -- the owner of the farm down river from the Burcham property, and the second was the owner of the farm upriver from the Burcham’s, Adrian Clunn, Janice and Jeanette Burcham’s uncle. There were fourteen other members. The society survived for three years, putting on an annual county exhibitions and giving out prizes for the largest yields, then disbanded in 1827. Maurice River dikes declined between 1860 and 1880, troubled by disagreements between the owners.

Agriculture returned to Cumberland County on a large scale in 1883, when extensive marl digging began in the area. Marl was a more effective fertilizer than lime or manure, and the 1883 agricultural census shows many bushels of wheat, corn, oats and rye were grown in the county that year, as well as potatoes, hay, tomatoes, fruits and poultry. With time, berries and small fruits would dominate Cumberland County farming as Millville’s canning industry was established.

In 1914, the Maurice River was diked again on both sides until about two miles above Mauricetown where “salt marshes appear on the right bank and continue to the, mouth. On the left bank the fast land continued to within 2 miles of the mouth, “and then salt marsh extends to the bay shore.”¹⁵ The land was “very fertile and

¹⁴ Gushing and Sheppard, *op. cit.*, p. 575.

¹⁵ The U.S. Engineer’s report, 1914.

the low meadows [had] almost all been reclaimed from the tide by means of banks, and large quantities of hay [were] harvested and cattle [were] grazed on them, while the land [was] all in a high state of cultivation.”

With fruit and vegetable farming and canning, Millville and other area farms took on an industrial guise. By 1880, the Maurice and the Cohansey rivers were becoming produce corridors to Philadelphia.

Chapter II The Salt Marsh

For many seventeenth and eighteenth century pioneers in the Delaware valley, salt marsh was an essential resource, indeed the primary economic inducement for settlement in the region. Part-time farmers and lumberers, they survived on their knowledge of marshlands, heavily dependent on its three key industries salt haying, cedar mining, and dyke farming.

The chapter begins by discussing the economic importance of marshland in Colonial New Jersey, then focuses on the technology of the marsh and marsh industries. The last section addresses the nineteenth century's changing view of marshland, including enclosure, the legal status of marshland, and state mandated dyking.

Salt marsh in Colonial New Jersey

In Cape May in 1695, lands along the shore were the first to sell. Shore land sold first for two reasons: one was its access to water transportation¹ the other was its proximity to the high marsh.¹ A 1682 court case illustrates the importance placed on meadow land. In that case, purchasers of New Jersey lands protested to the court that their land allotments were unfair, as they had not been given a tract of meadow land. The Court agreed, and ordered the West Jersey proprietors to make restitution to these purchasers. The Commissioners awarded a tract of meadow on the Rancocas River to each purchaser, at the proportion of four acres for each hundred acres he had taken up.²

In 1681, when the West Jersey Commissioners met to divide lands in Burlington, NJ., they spent time carefully mapping out a system that might avoid such disputes. They decided to divide the land in tenths, giving each tenth a proportionate amount of frontage on the Delaware River. Other rulings limited tracts along the river

¹ Peter Wacker, Land and People, New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, p. 303

² H Clay Reed, and George Miller, Eds, The Burlington Court Book: A Record of Quaker Jurisprudence in West New Jersey 1680-1700, Washington: The American Historical Association, 1944 pp. 3, 17.

to 40 perches (660 feet) of shoreline per one hundred acres,³ and forbade any one person from taking up land on both sides of a creek in the same settlement.

Cattle in the Marsh

Salt marsh was essential pasture land for settlers beginning in the seventeenth century because it freed them from the labor of growing hay to feed their stock. This was a huge advantage, especially in the first few years after arrival. In 1789 Jedidiah Morse⁴ observed that N.J. sea coast inhabitants, “subsist[ed] principally by feeding cattle on the salt meadows, and by [eating] fish of various kinds.” This practice -- avoiding the work of growing hay continued to appeal to South Jerseyans well into the 19th century. Thomas Gordon, in his 1834 Gazetteer, wrote:

“Adjacent to the Delaware bay . . . tracts of salt meadow,. afford an abundance of coarse hay free . to all who seek it...herds of cattle subsist, through the winter, upon these meadows...”

The beaches of Gloucester, Cape May and Burlington Counties were considered common pasture in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. South Jersey farmers ear-marked their cattle and loaded them onto flat bottomed scows for the annual summer trip to the beaches and sea islands. There the cattle roamed free among large herds of wild cattle until the Fall, when their owners returned to round them up.⁵

The first record of a South Jersey farmer letting his cattle loose on the beach is from 1696, when Joseph Ludlam stocked the beach at Sea Isle City with his cattle, after branding each with an

³ Wacker, *op cit* p. 292

⁴ Jedidiah Morse, American Universal Geography 1789.

⁵ Weiss and Weiss, Early Industries, p 50 and Francis Bazley Lee, NJ as a colony and a state. New York: Volume 1, pp. 279-288.

EL.. Descendants of these herds survived on Ludlum's Beach until 1875.⁶

Another record is from Cape May in 1761, in Aaron Leaming II's⁷ diary⁸ entry for November 6.. He describes the cattle burning, or branding that he had done on Five-mile Beach, Nummy Island and on Seven-mile Beach" that day.

Other records of cattle branding can be found in the first tax lists of Gloucester County (1687). The Hopman family of Raccoon Creek (now Swedesboro), ancestors of the Hopman/Hoffmans of Maurice River were some of the men whose cattle ear brands were recorded. Four Hopman ear brands were listed -- one for Hans Hopman and one for each of his three Sons Frederick⁹, Andrew, and John.

Branding was necessary because of cattle poaching on the beaches. Some cattle were shot and carted off. Others were stolen. Colonel Johnson's¹⁰ history discusses cattle stealing in early Salem County, where rangers were appointed to make sure that no one branded cattle unless a justice of the peace, constable or chief ranger were present, under the penalty of a 20 pound fine.

Salt Hay Harvesting

Farmers not only relied on the marsh in the summer months, however, they also harvested salt hay for winter feed. They began cutting hay in the summer, and continued until after well after the first frost. In the summer, they cut the hay by hand, using scythes. They piled it up on wooden straddles and left it in the marsh until

⁶ Weygandt, Down Jersey. p.302, quoting Lewis Townsend Stevens, The History of Cape May County. 1897.

⁷ Leaming was the owner of the mill tract on the Menantico and of the Clunn property (adjacent to Burcham's, owned by Burcham's grandmother's family)

⁸ Aaron Leaming II was a wealthy resident of Cape May, a major landholder, surveyor and a legislator. His diary and survey book still exist. The diary has been re-published by the Cape May Historical Society. The survey book is kept in a vault at the Clerk's office.

⁹ Frederick was the father of the first owner of the Burcham property who bought 800 acres on the east side of the Maurice in 1737.

¹⁰ Weygandt, Down Jersey p. 300, quoting, Colonel Johnson, Historical Account of the First Settlement of Salem. 1839.

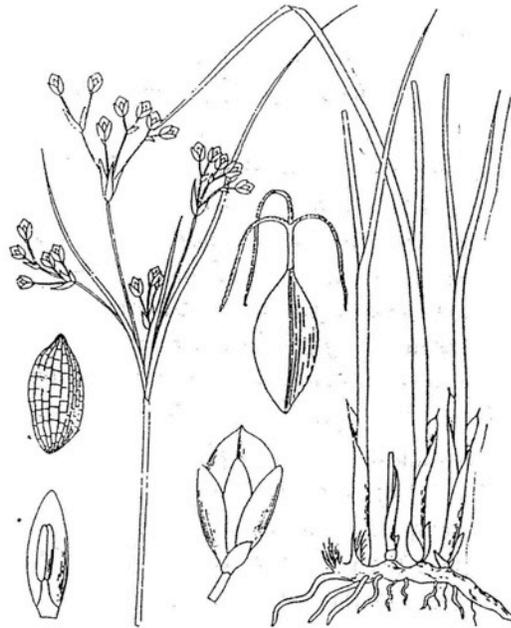
winter when their horses could walk on the frozen marsh safely, and could pull the straddles up to the fast land.

As time went on in the Delaware region, salt haying became a commercial industry in its own right, with technology that advanced to large mowing machines. At first the mowers were pulled by horses, which was a tricky business as the marsh was often too soft, and the horses got mired. Other problems were the muskrat holes; in which horses could easily break a leg, and the mosquitoes and greenhead flies. Salt meadows were sometimes diked and drained though, a process that made mowing much easier on the horses. Oxen were also used on the marsh.

By 1940, tractors and hay balers were in common use by commercial salt hay farmers. Optimal conditions for successful salt hay farmers, are high marsh with a dry surface and wet soil. Farmers allow water in to every portion of their meadow at high tide, then quickly remove the surface water with a series of well-planned ditches.

Salt Hay

Black grass
(*Juncus gerardi*)
is nutritious
for livestock



Spartina patens
(not nutritious,
used for packing
glass, mulch)

Chapter II Section II -- Technology of the Salt marsh

After the initial settlement period was over, South Jersey pioneers turned to more technical ways of exploiting the marsh. There are different opinions about where the techniques originated, and when and where they were used, but it is generally agreed that dyking, draining and plumbing the marsh had become second nature to the inhabitants by 1740.

Location and description

South Jersey tide marsh extends along the tidal waters of the state, including the Atlantic coast, the Delaware Bay shore, and the Maurice, Cohansey and Delaware rivers. Between Trenton and Cape May, there are 79,000 acres of salt marsh, all of which is found south of Salem Creek.¹ About 51,000 acres of Cumberland County is salt marsh, 8,000 acres of which are found in Millville and Maurice River.

South Jersey marshland is land that can best be compared to a sponge. Composed of a porous tangle of roots and vegetable matter, it is a material that takes up water easily and holds it, drying slowly by evaporation. Like a sponge, it also lets go of its water quickly when given the chance.

Salt marsh consists of a 12-to-8 inch upper layer of roots and vegetable matter, covered with grass and sod. Under the sod is soft mud, ranging from six inches to thirty feet in depth. It is underlain by firm gravelly or sandy soil. The upper surface of the marsh is close to the high water level.²

Types of Salt marsh: Low, Middle, and High Marsh

Technically, there are three types of salt marsh, but only high marsh, the third and final stage in the development of marshland, is agriculturally useful. It is this type that was reclaimed, and this type that produces grasses appropriate for livestock feed. The other

¹ Weiss and Weiss, Some Early Industries in New Jersey, p 47

² George Cook, op. cit. 1868 p 23.

two types of salt marsh are earlier stages in the development process. They too produce grasses, but the grasses they produce are agriculturally worthless.

The development of salt marsh

Low marsh, the first stage of marshland, exists on the coastal edge, only inches above sea level. Regularly inundated by the tide, low marsh is a place where only sedge grasses can survive. The sedges grow there at low tide, then die and slowly rot. As they die, they leave their deep, thick roots behind them. The roots trap and hold mud and other organic matter in them, causing the surface of the marsh to rise, and creating middle marsh, the second type of marshland.

Middle marsh, the second stage of marshland, develops closer inland.. Its surface is slightly above the high water level, so it is not inundated by the daily tide. It is, however, frequently wetted. Coarse grasses like joint grass and 3 square grass (*Scirpus Americanus*) grow on its muddy root mass. It has a surface of slippery mud and a resident population of fiddler crabs. A layer of peat begins to form on top of the marsh in this period.

The third type of marsh high marsh is found closest to the upland, well above the level of high tide. It is covered with vegetation, and is rarely inundated by water. Tidewater covers these marshes only during spring and fall high tides, or storm tides.

High marsh is the kind of marsh that develops along the Maurice and Cohansey rivers, along Buckshutem, Menantico and Manumuskin Creeks. Along the waterways, sharply defined banks develop, banks which are higher at the water's edge and lower toward the land. These riverbanks create a kind of natural basin that holds water until it evaporates. It is in this damp, swampy basin that vegetation rots and mosquitoes breed.

Other features of the third kind of salt marsh are a layer of peat³ and *Spartina Patens*, or "salt grass." Livestock will eat this

³ Peat is a compound formed from the slow decay of water-saturated plants in a cool environment, In N.J. it forms in low swampy places, or in bays and inlets that are constantly overflowed by the tides.

grass, but not happily. Historically, it was used for animal bedding, as packing material for the glass industry, for insulation in icehouses and to ship perishables in railroad cars. Today, salt hay is used for mulch, covering seeds that can't germinate in the upland region. Salt hay provides a saline environment, as salt remains in the grass.

As the level of high marsh continues to rise, "black grass" or *Juncus gerardi* begins to grow. This is the salt grass that was prized by early settlers and their livestock, and this grass sold for a price significantly higher than the less tasty salt grass.

If the surface level of the marsh rises too high -- that is, above the level that water can reach it -- it will die. This is because circulating water is essential to healthy salt meadow. Stagnant water causes the marsh to rot, and dry meadow produces hay that is thin, wiry and short.

In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, the terms "cripple" and "spong" were used to refer to different types of marshland.

A cripple is a dense thicket of swampy or low-lying ground, usually at the head of an unlogged swamp of white cedar. In the nineteenth century, at the height of the Pinelands lumbering industry, cripples were associated with the many lumberers who were jammed together living there. In one cripple, there were so many children living there, that they tried to establish a school.⁴ By 1914, the cripple populations were gone, though, as the cedar had been clear cut.

John Krider, a hunter and gunshop owner in early 19th-century Philadelphia who gave frequent neighborhood talks, gave a chilling description of cripple for those who hadn't experienced it: "Every step in the dark, black cover is deep black mire," he said, "strewn with decaying driftwood and overgrown with stunted trees, reeds and thick alder bushes."⁵

⁴ Weygaridi, p. 50,

⁵ Krider's [Sporting Anecdotes](#), published in Philadelphia in 1853 (edited by H. Milnor Klapp, based on a talk given by John Krider, proprietor of a gunshop on the northeast corner of 2nd and Walnut Streets). Krider described cripple in his account of woodcock hunting near Moorestown:

A cripple differs from a sponge in that water always flows in a cripple. In a sponge the water only flows after it rains, so it is usually only damp, not wet. It is usually a long and narrow strip of swampy land with water seeping slowly through it.

Dyking the Salt marsh: What is dyking?

Dyking is the exclusion of high tidal water from marshland by means of dams, and the subsequent admission of water at low tide. Its purpose is to create farmland rich with vegetable mold. Marsh converts to arable soil at the ratio of 6:1, that is, for every six inches of turf, one inch of vegetable mold is created (after plowing). Dyking causes the “fat” or water-bloated marsh to shrink. Its salt grasses disappear, and it begins to resemble upland.

On the Burcham farm, salt hay no longer grows. There, the dyked marsh behaves like upland or fresh water swamp, growing sweet hay, corn and strawberries without much addition to the soil. The river water there is more brackish than it was in the days of universal diking. As the dikes washed out, the water returned to its natural saltiness.

On the outer edges of the Burcham farm, phragmites abounds. This is not a natural marsh grass, but one that humans introduced to the marsh long ago. It takes over on land where earth has been disturbed, and chokes out the salt hay.

How do dykes work?

A dyke is a mud bank that is built between the river and the salt marsh. To build one, farmers dig a deep ditch on the salt marsh side of the bank. This lowers the water table in the marsh by at least 18 inches. At low tide, this large ditch receives water from a series of smaller ditches that feed into it and fills with water. The vacuum created by the draining tidal water opens a small drain built in the bank -- the sluice gate. When the tide rises again, the pressure of the rising tide closes the damper, and holds it shut until low tide comes again. In this way, the property is not overflowed, and it is well-drained, although still well-watered by the river. The

banks require weekly drain-clearing and rebuilding to function properly.

Building a Dyke

Before the nineteenth century, dykes were built by hand with shovels; later they were built by barge with cranes and large scoops. Always, they were built in the shape of a flattened pyramid: each side sloping down to the river at a 50-degree angle.

The base of the bank was built of stone, and was usually about 18 feet wide, designed to be six times the width of the top. The walls were originally made of mud and were reinforced with many different materials over the years, including oyster shells, timber and masonry. Grass was placed on the top of the bank for stability¹ the width there measuring about 3 feet. Generally, dikes were six or eight feet tall, about three feet over the level of ordinary high tide.

Bank building was done between low and high tides, and never during the spring, as the tides were too high.

Dyking Tools

Two tools used to by early bank builders were the mud skiver and the heart shovel.⁶ Both were designed to make it easier to cut through the mud of the marsh.

The mud skiver was a narrow instrument of about four feet in length. It resembled a spade and a canoe paddle, and was typically made of ash, maple or sassafras. It had a thin, 15-inch blade that was about 5 inches wide, slightly concave at the front and tipped with 2 or 3 inches of steel which were kept very sharp. It had a 5- inch crossbar handle that was mortised to the shaft.

The skiver was used to cut strips of mud. Turning the skiver around the sides of a hole in the marsh produced a strip of mud about 18 inches long. This was then thrown about 15 feet to the top of the bank. The many strips of mud together constituted the bank.

The heart shovel was a similar instrument, but it was constructed entirely of steel and was used for the toughest most

⁶ Sim, Robert J., Pages from the Past of Rural New Jersey. Trenton, N.J. N J. Agricultural Society, 1949, p. 94.

tangled marsh., Its blade was pointed and frequently sharpened to make it able to cut through the tangled roots of the marsh.

Marsh Cedar: Mining and Shingle Cutting

White Cedar stands in the South Jersey marshlands were the basis of a major industry in the eighteenth and nineteenth century-- the shingle production industry. There was an insatiable demand for cedar shingles for roofing and siding houses at that time.

White cedar grows in swamps located between 50 and 100 miles from the coast. Typically, cedar stands are less than 1,000 feet wide, and grow in peat streams underlain with sand. It takes at least 60 years for a cedar tree to grow to 50 feet, and 80 years to grow to 60 feet., Only red maple, black gum and sweetbay can sprout beneath them.. With the extirpation of the white cedar stands of South Jersey, shingle cutters began retrieving cedar from the marsh.

Cedar miners began by probing the marsh with a progue -- a straight iron six to eight feet long, which was sharp at one end and looped at the other -- to find a sound piece of timber. After locating a log, they used a sharp-edged spade to cut through the tangle of roots and saw off a sample of the log to smell. (See illustration, p. 34.) Smelling the sample enabled the miners to determine whether the log was desirable -- they were only interested in logs that had been felled by the wind. These trees smelled sweeter than logs that had been broken.⁷

Miners cut good logs out of the swamp, then loosened them from the mass with levers, and floated them up to the surface. The logs were cut and split right in the marsh, as the coarse-grained wood split straight. Shingles were cut in 18- or 35- inch blocks, then split into smaller units called bolts with tools called a froe and a froe club. Each bolt was split into 4 shingles, then dried in the sun and shaved. The thick butt ends of the shingles were trimmed to a beveled edge on a something known as a shingle butter. Shingles

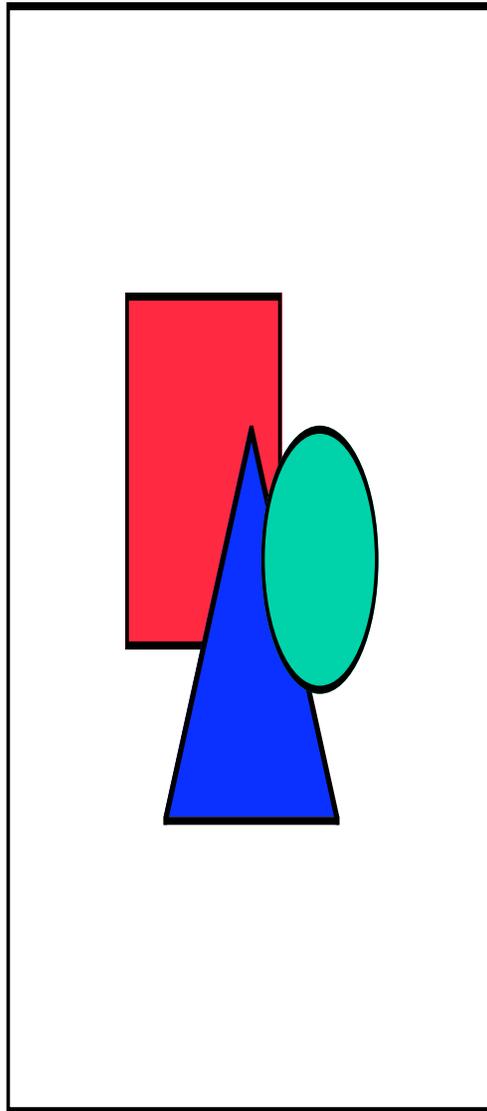
⁷Weiss and Weiss, Some Early Industries in New Jersey. p 14, and Robert C Alexander, "The Shingle Miners" Cape May County Magazine of History and Genealogy, June 1957, pp. 99104..

were eighteen inches long, six inches wide and a half inch thick at the butt end, tapering to a sharp edger

When cedar mining was not too difficult, the owner of the swamp would get one quarter of the profits as his share, otherwise only one eighth. In 1875, at the peak of the demand, shingles sold for \$16 per thousand. An expert miner cut that many every week.

By 1890, cedar logs were increasingly difficult to find, in the swamps, and less sought after, as fire insurance companies began insisting, on the use of man-made, fireproof shingles. The cedar mining industry went into permanent decline.⁸

⁸ Ibid.



Banking Implements

At left: Mud skirers used to build banks.

Right: Heart shovel used to cut through root tangle.

Chapter II. Section III --- The History of Dyking

In 1685, English surveyor Thomas Budd noted that the Delaware river valley was full of “big, fat marsh land” that could be banked to create meadows “as rich as the Thames River.”¹

As he wrote, settlers on both sides of the river were doing just that--dyking lands to grow corn and hay on reclaimed meadow, and grazing their milk cows on the new pasture. Cedar and sumach, sheep laurel and spoonwood dominated the woods near the marshes, and there was little for cows to feed on.

Diking land came naturally to the early residents of the area, many of whom were from Holland or England, where there were long traditions of dyking. Dutch farmers had been reclaiming lands in Holland since before the year 1000 in a collective system organized by the abbeys.² The British were draining the Fens in 1650.

Early dyking was done on a small scale, cooperative basis.³ Two or three neighbors joined together to bank a few hundred acres at a time.. Together, they shoveled mud and hauled stones along joint property lines as part of a voluntary community activity. Conflicts were few. With the growth of the region, though, land reclamation began to be done on a large scale, in the English tradition. By the turn of the 19th century, land reclamation was big business.

Dyking Laws

In 1711⁴, the general assembly of the Royal Colony of New Jersey enacted “An Act for enabling the Owners of the Meadows and Marshes adjoining to and on both sides the creek that surrounds the

¹ Weiss and Weiss, Some Early Industries in NJ. p. 47.

² David Steven Cohen, Dutch American Farm, NYC and London: NYU Press, 1992 p 26 Cohen quotes Audrey Lambert.

³ David Grettler, The Landscape of Reform: Society, Environment, and Agricultural Reform in Central Delaware, Ph.D. dissertation at The University of Delaware, 1990 Grettler wrote about New Castle County, Delaware.

⁴ Laws of the Royal County of New Jersey 1746-1760, in New Jersey Archives, Third Series, Volume III compiled by Bernard Bush, Trenton, NJ; NJ State Library Bureau of Archives and History.

island of Burlington to stop out the tide from overflowing them.” The act was amended in 1717 and 1751.

The 1751 amendment gave marsh owners the right to enter their neighbor’s property, to clear drains and repair neglected banks, to use mud from the neighbor’s property, and then, after they had finished, to bring action against him for the expenses incurred.

This strong amendment coincided with a 1751 boom in the cost of marshland. Israel Acrelius, the Swedish historian, discussed the intense diking that was taking place at the time, when thousands of acres were reclaimed along the Delaware and its tributaries. The height of the boom in marshland prices came in 1751 when the price of marshland rose to \$600 an acre.

The price plummeted a few year’s later when a terrible storm wracked the Delaware, then skyrocketed again in 1755, when “came a great drought, no grass nor pasture was to be found, and the price rose again.”⁵

Corporate Dyking

In 1788, the state of New Jersey passed a law allowing marsh owners to form themselves into “meadow companies,” or corporations to bank and drain their lands.⁶ In 1806, these meadow companies were given more power’, authorized to sell the property of any neighbor who neglected his dikes and ditches and would not or could not repay his debt within 5 days.

These laws were a response to the high cost and large scale of diking that was being proposed. The state considered swamp drainage in the public interest, and passed meadow company legislation as a way of accomplishing it without having to oversee it themselves. In addition it gave them a way to tax those who benefited most from the banks -- the owners or renters of river lands.

⁵ Israel Acrelius, Description of the Former and Present Condition of the Swedish Churches in what was called New Sweden, Stockholm: Harberg and Hasselberg, 1759, p.. 154. reprinted in Memoirs of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania Volume XI published by the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, 1874, p. 154

⁶ Cushing and Sheppard, op cit., p.331-332.

In some cases, land speculators were behind the new push for diking laws; in others, it was local people eager to lower the costs of diking. In general, advocates were wealthy landholders for whom the marsh companies meant lower costs and higher profits.⁷

Salem County.

Extensive diking was done in Salem County by the middle of the eighteenth century, but according to historical tradition, the practice began in the region at the end of the “sixteenth” (meaning 17th) century.⁸ According to Gushing and Sheppard, legend has it that banks were built on Salem river in the 1600’s, and cultivated to rice.

The dikes of Salem County were considered very advanced in 1780, when they were singled out for praise by John Bartram, the celebrated botanist of Pennsylvania. Bartram was extolling the advantages of diking the Schuylkill to his visitor, St. John de Crevecoeur in answer to his question, “. . . to what purpose is so much expense and so much labour bestowed?” Bartram responded, “no branch of industry was ever more profitable. . . . the Schuylkill. [was] once . . . a putrid swampy soil, useless either for the plough or for the scythe.” But now, the Schuylkill was dyked, and Bartram was an enthusiastic member of a meadow company: “. . . we yearly pay to the treasurer of the company a certain sum... he said, “[and] many acres of meadows have been rescued from the Schuylkill. Bartram said exceptional banking could be seen in South Jersey. “Our brethren in Salem. . . have carried the art of banking to a still higher degree of perfection,” he said.⁹

So, while it is clear that meadow companies were operating in New Jersey informally in the early seventeenth century, the 1788 law meant that meadow companies began to be registered. The first company registered in Salem County formed in 1794. The 1806

⁷ David Grettler, op. cit. p.

⁸ Gushing and Sheppard, pp. cit., p.. 331., Gushing and Sheppard seem to mean the 1600’s when they refer to the 16th century, the 1700’s when they refer to the 17th century

⁹ Hector St John de Crevecoeur Letters from an American Farmer, London: J.M. Dent and Sons, 1926, p. 182.

amendment brought more registration and incorporation of companies, but most were not newly formed groups. They were groups that had clearly been operating for some time, as their banks had already been built. The passage of meadow company laws was more a response to the problems of joint projects and the proliferation of dyking than it was an establishment of a new practice.

Meadow Company Organization¹⁰

Meadow companies were created when two-thirds of the residents of a stretch of river petitioned the state. Permission granted, all those living along the marsh were required to join the effort -- tenants as well as owners -- regardless of whether they wanted their land diked and regardless of the cost.

The law required residents to meet soon after' the corporation was established, with a quorum of two-thirds of the residents required for it to be legal. At their first meeting, they were to establish an official meeting time and place for their meetings, and to name officers. The companies were far' from democratic organizations, however, as votes were allocated on the basis of land ownership. The wealthier landowners who had many more votes to cast than the poorer ones, easily dominated the decision making and leadership.

Responsibility of Officers

As a meadow company began operations, the first task of its 'officers was to assess the meadows of each member, and to assign a proportion **of** the costs of maintenance to each. Afterward, it was their job to monitor the 'banks, to hire workers to perform repairs, to send out bills, and settle disputes. They also brought action against their neighbors for payment. This sometimes involved miniscule transactions between meadow owners, often involving the reassignment of only a few acres or a fraction of an acre.

¹⁰ I am indebted to Stutz, Sebold and Grettler, as well as records of New Jersey legislation and meadow companies ledgers and records for this characterization..

The Nineteenth Century

In the nineteenth century, entrepreneurs were beating the drum of universal diking, predicting that lowlands worth a dollar an acre could become worth \$50, and that ‘mosquitoes and putrefaction’¹¹ could be eliminated. New Jersey legislators agreed, voting to levy this limitless tax on marsh dwellers. Unfortunately for their poorer constituents, who were just marginally able to hold on to their land, these taxes could be higher than the cost of their property, and for small-time dikers who were able to handle their own properties, sharing costs increased rather than decreased their expenses. Conflicts were unavoidable.

Meadow companies must be seen in the broader context of the nineteenth century -- a time when the traditional concept of common land was eroding. This changing view of property rights was hardly limited to dyking. The fence laws and the fishing and hunting restrictions passed at that time were also a part of this revolution. The new view of property went against English and medieval common law precedent that had once been cherished in this new land.

In the nineteenth century, “swine laws were passed to protect property owners from the half-starved pigs of the landless poor”, as free-ranging hogs that rooted up pasture land, were “antithetical to emerging sensibilities about privilege, property and authority.”¹² Ironically, 19th century Americans were enclosing common land and disenfranchising their poor, the very same process that had driven their ancestors from their homes in Europe in the 18th century.

In 1860, land-reclamation advocate Henry French echoed the sentiments of his age in his answer to those who thought that diking laws were unfair. He based his argument on the unfairness of the fence laws:

¹¹ Bruce Stutz, Natural Lives. Modern Times, New York, Crown Publishers, 1992. pp. 66-72, Stutz quotes David Grettler’s research in Delaware legislative petitions.

¹² Bernard Herman quoted in Stutz. Op cit. pp 66-72

“If we may lawfully compel a person to fence to exclude the cattle of other persons, or, if he neglect to fence, subject him to their depredations, without indemnity, as is done in many States: or if we may compel him to contribute to the erection of division fences , of a given height, though he has no animal in the world to be shut in or out of his field, there would seem to be equal reason, in compelling him to dig half a division ditch for the benefit of himself and his neighbor.”¹³

French’s argument underscored the parallel between fence laws and diking laws, as both were based on the English common law tradition. Traditionally, animals had been allowed to graze freely and farmers had to pay to fence their crops if they did not want them eaten by free-ranging cattle and pigs.

By placing the responsibility for fencing on the farmer, the common law tradition burdened him financially, as fencing was expensive, typically costing the farmer’s one month’s profits per year.¹⁴ Marshland, like other open pasture, was considered common property in early America. As the nineteenth century unfolded, however, property owners began to enclose their marshland for private use, to improve it and to demand that the state compel their neighbors to do the same.

The enclosure of marshland was a blow to those who had no land, as the enclosure of the marshes meant the loss of public domain for trapping, hunting, and fishing, as well as the loss of pasture land to fatten their cows and pigs. (Horses and sheep never grazed on the marsh, as they were susceptible to hoof rot).

Fencing and dyking laws were sometimes related, and ordinances to prevent cattle and swine from grazing on the marshes began to be passed. A Delaware ordinance passed at the end of the 18th century stated, “no swine shall be allowed to run at large (unless ... yoked, to prevent them from ... breaking through fences) on any of the unimproved lands, meadows or marshes.”¹⁵

¹³ Henry F. French, Farm Drainage, New York: C.M.Saxton, Barker and Co., 1860, p. 346.

¹⁴ Clarence H. Danhof, “The Fencing Problem in the 1850’s” Agricultural History 18 (October 1944) pp. 168-86, quoting The American Farmer.

¹⁵ Ordinance quoted in Bruce Stutz, Natural Lives, Modern Times. New York: Crown, 1992,

In other parts of the East, fence laws were also changing. Farmers were no longer required to fence animals out of their crops; instead, livestock owners were required to contain them. In the West, where stockmen outnumbered farmers, these new laws were less common.¹⁶ There, pockets of the “open range” tradition still exist today. Generally, these pockets exist in the poorer, more sparsely settled parts of the United States, such as the western rangelands or the woods of the Atlantic and Gulf coastal plains.

Class Conflict over Dyking¹⁷

In nineteenth century Delaware, as in New Jersey, the effects of the enclosure and reclamation laws on the poor were severe, and they tended to oppose meadow company legislation. David Grettler found that the advocates of large-scale marsh improvement in New Castle County Delaware were more than twice as wealthy as their opponents, likely to own more than two farms of the most valuable marshland, and less likely to live along the marsh than were those who opposed the legislation.

Opponents were more likely to live on a fixed income widows and children and others. Typically, they owned only one farm, and one-in-five of them lived on probated property. The petitions of two neighbors -- Ann Roberts and William Frazer illustrate the point of view of small property owners disenfranchised by 1824 meadow company legislation in Delaware:

Ann Roberts

Ann Roberts complained to the Delaware legislature in 1824, as the Morris Branch Marsh company began banking her farm. She was a widow in poor health with two children, one of whom was also sick, and she knew that what was left of her dowry would not cover the taxes for this improvement. The new meadow company’s assessment, she wrote, would force her to sell her farm.

pp 66.72

¹⁶ J B Jackson “A New Kind or Space” in Landscape, VoL 18, no.. 1, Autumn 1969 and

¹⁷ Grettler, op cit., p. 188.

In 1827, Roberts' wrote to the Delaware legislature a second time. She complained that she had been unable even to rent, out her farm to pay the meadow company taxes, as no one would lease a farm that came with such high marsh improvement taxes. She said she had paid more in marsh improvement taxes than her farm was worth, and railed against the legislature, and her wealthy neighbor Abraham Pearce, the head of the Morris Branch Marsh Company, saying, "If Mr. Pearce wishes to have a bank, set him to bank in his own marsh."

Another petition explains the reaction to diking laws from a person who was not as poor as Mrs. Roberts, but was nonetheless unhappy with the new Morris Branch Marsh Company.

William Frazer

In 1824, Frazer protested that taxes levied by the Morris Branch Marsh Company would prevent him from being able to afford to maintain land he had already improved. Frazer had banked 200 acres of land at his own expense, but would be required nonetheless to pay marsh taxes to "marsh" other people's land.¹⁸

¹⁸ Ibid., p 189.

Chapter II. Section IV – The Burcham area Meadows

Millville Meadow Banking Company

The first record of large-scale English-Style diking in Millville is found in the Cumberland County “Roads” book. This 1819 meadow company charter begins by referring to the state’s 1808 diking mandate, then announces the creation of the Millville Meadow Banking Company, which began operating in June of 1819.

In greater Cumberland county, some very large dyking projects were enthusiastically undertaken immediately after the 1808 law was passed. In 1809, for example, two men paid a great deal of money to embank the entire east side of the Maurice from the mouth up the river for 15 miles, enclosing several thousand acres. But dyking was always an expensive gamble, and these banks were destroyed by the “September Gale” of 1821.

Another example of large scale diking was undertaken in 1808 by the Maurice River Banking Company.¹ They banked the east side of the Maurice, beginning one mile north of Dorchester and running up the river to Mauricetown, comprising 176.5 acres of land. They also drained a second tract of 360 acres on the west side of the Maurice in Commercial Township in 1808.

Heirs of Leaming Meadow Company

By 1826 the Leaming family owned many acres of Millville marshland near the Burcham farm. In that year, they formed their own meadow company to guarantee the maintenance of this stretch of Maurice river meadows. This did not involve new banks, as the agreement makes clear that there are old banks on the property, banks “originally thrown by the Langstaff’s, a local family who must have been leasing the land.

¹ George M Warren, Tidal Marshes and their Reclamation. Washington. D.C.: (prepared under the direction of C. G. Elliott. Chief of Drainage Investigations) Government Printing Office, 1911.

The agreement begins by citing New Jersey's meadow company law of 1788 and its 1806 supplement,² then surveys the meadows covered by the agreement -- four contiguous farms on the Maurice known as the "Longstaff places."³

The agreement specifically stated that any piece of land within these bounds that was sold, would be sold with the assurance that all the owners would jointly maintain the banks.

Mid Nineteenth-Century Diking

D.M. Nesbit, New Jersey state geologist, visited the banked meadows of Maurice River in 1860 for the state report. His report was favorable: Maurice river banks had been producing heavy and regular crops without manure for many years, even during the drought. Farmers were rotating crops, beginning by planting timothy for five or six years, then planting corn. Fertilizer was also applied to these banks: fifty bushels of shell lime applied to the sod with each plowing. In 1860, the corn crop from Millville meadows ranged from 50 to 100 bushels per acre and the crops of hay ranged from 2 to 3 tons.⁴

² The agreement is found in the papers of the settlement of Parsons Learning's estate and in the Miscellaneous Book at Bridgeton..

They agreed to "appoint a manager of said bank or banks in the same manner as directed in the second section of a supplement to an act entitled "AN ACT TO ENABLE THE OWNERS OF TIDE SWAMP AND MARSHES TO IMPROVE THE SAME" PASSED THE 29TH DAY OF NOVEMBER AD. 1788 SUPPLEMENT PASSED THE 27TH DAY OF NOVEMBER AD., 1806 REVOLUTIONARY LAWS P. 529

The duties, fees and penalties of said manager shall be regulated by the second and third section of the aforementioned supplement and the expenses attending such duties shall be recoverable in any court where the same may be cognizable with costs from the person or persons whose duty it was to do and perform such repairs."

³ The farms were named for the Langstaff family who are described in early deeds and in the 1819 meadow company agreement as the first builders of the banks -- "old banks thrown by the Langstoffs, and other references. Presumably, the Langstoffs were leasing the meadow from Aaron Learning at the time they were building banks along the Maurice. The name appears in the Cape May Quaker meeting records, Birth and death lists from 1728-1841, with births listed for the family from 1736-1801. It also appears in the meeting minutes in 1771.

In 1793. Four Longstalf men and their families were living in Maurice River. The men were listed on the List of Militia and Exempts of Maurice River. (This list is reprinted OC P. 28 of Vanaman). They were Thomas, James, Samuel and Malichi Longstaff..

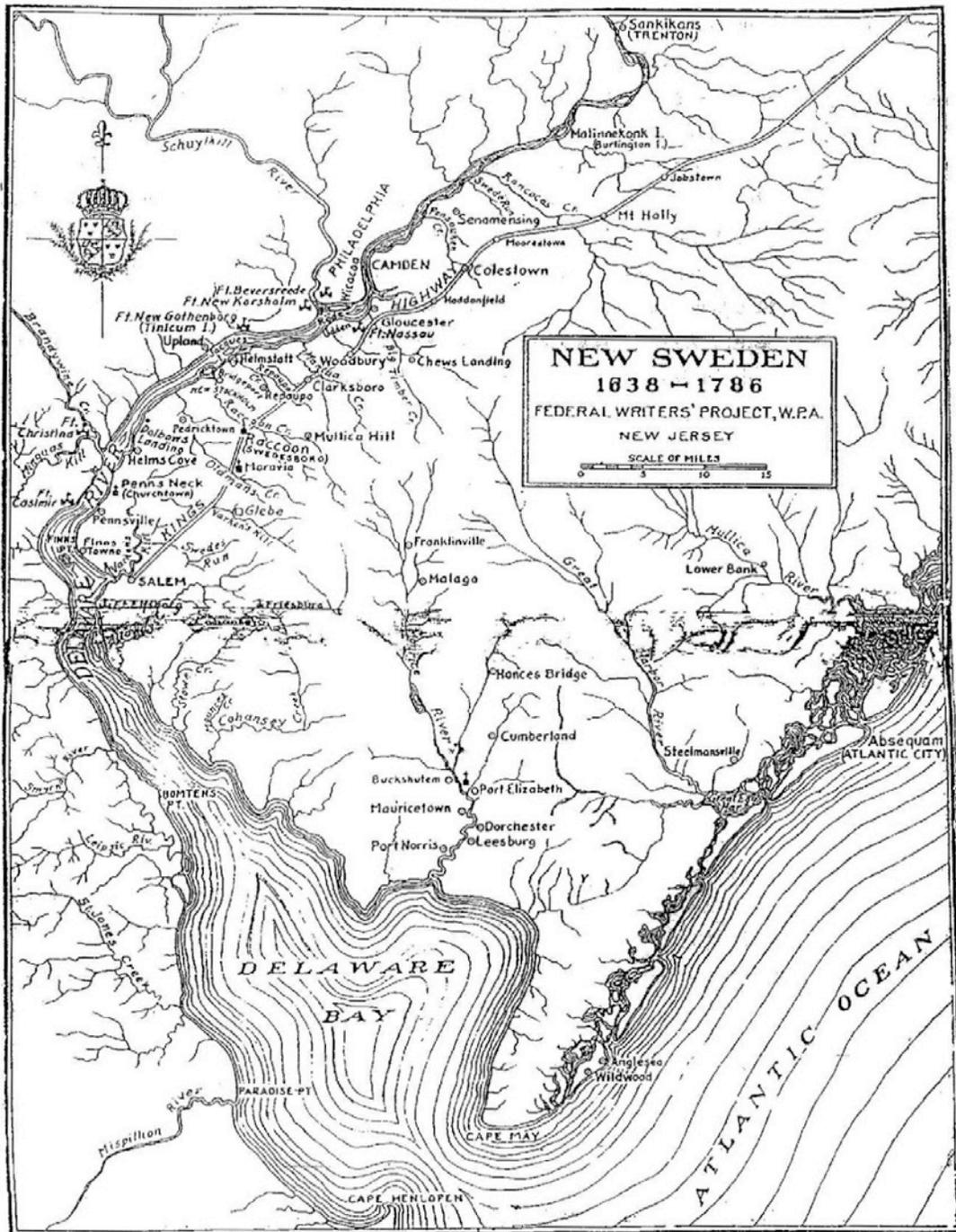
⁴ D.M. Nesbit, Tide Marshes of the United States. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1885, p. 19.

Both of these large scale projects on the Maurice were destroyed by storms in 1879.

Nesbit's state report on the Maurice river meadows in 1885 was less positive. The meadows still covered thousands of acres, but many were lying out. The banks were maintained being maintained by hand, amid many disagreements among the owners about repairs Owners were selling exclusive privileges to trap and shoot muskrats on their meadows.

Maurice River meadows were banked again in 1906, and corn, strawberries and potatoes were grown there.⁵ The 1909 state report listed meadow prices at \$70 per acre. The meadows produced 136 bushels of corn per acre that year.

⁵ In 1909, those owners were Howard Compton, Alfred Lupton, Richard Camp, Charles T. Grassman, George T. Blissard, DW. Boggs, and Eliza West.



Chapter III, Section I -. The Swedish History of the Delaware

The Swedish history of the Burcham farm dates to 1737, when it was part of a 1,000-acre family compound on the east side of the Maurice River.¹ There, the Hopmans raised cattle, cut wood, and joined together to dyke the marshland.

“Maurice Rivera was a large and loosely defined place that referred to many miles of marshland along the Maurice river and its small creeks. It was the home of Swedes who felt displaced from their homes in Delaware, and Pennsylvania by the arrival of the large numbers of Quaker settlers. They had begun slowly drifting down to the river in the late seventeenth century to cut lumber. Gradually they built their isolated farmsteads along the New Jersey rivers, and began to feel at home again, recreating the pioneer culture that their parents and grandparents had developed on the shores of the Delaware.

This Section begins the Swedish history of the Burcham property by describing the political history of the Swedes on the Delaware, as it was the struggle for control of the colony that created the strange deed history of the area and the extra-legal land-use pattern found in Maurice River. This political history is also essential to understanding the Swedes-consistent pattern of moving to the frontiers of the region. The Swedes were, after all, the people who settled the region and lost it.

The Fight for the Delaware

The history of the Delaware valley involves the struggle of three countries -- England, Holland and Sweden -- for the profits of the river's lucrative Colonial fur and lumber trade.

The conflict began in 1609, when the Dutch first claimed the region because Henry Hudson, the famous English sea captain, had sailed up the Delaware river in 1609 in a Dutch ship. On his return trip, however, Hudson stopped off in his native England, and was detained there. The British hoped to keep Hudson's discoveries to

¹That is 800 acres between the 2 creeks and another 200 above the Menantico.

themselves, sending Hudson back across the ocean to do some more exploring. When Hudson's Dutch crew and their ship returned to Holland without him, and reported on their travels, the struggle for the Eastern coastline of America began.

By 1623, the Dutch had established a lucrative international trade route that was based in the Dutch colony at Manhattan, or New Amsterdam. It was directed by the Dutch West India Company, a monopolistic trade organization that was in tight control of the American trade, and eager to include the lands south of them in their market. The Governor of The New Netherlands, Cornelius May, sailed up the Delaware in 1623. He rounded the tip of New Jersey, named the two capes for himself -- one he called Cape May, the other Cape Cornelius and established a permanent trading post at the mouth of Timber Creek (Gloucester, N.J.). This was Fort Nassau, the first military outpost in the region.

Both the Dutch and the English tried to establish colonies on the Delaware soon afterward, but both failed. The first Dutch attempt was made in 1631, when the Dutch West India Company founded Swanendael at Lewes Creek, Delaware. It was gone by 1633. The first attempted English colony in the region was at Pennsauken Creek. It failed in 1634.

New Sweden

The first permanent European settlement on the Delaware was Swedish. It was built at present day Wilmington, Delaware in 1638. The colony was far from wholly Swedish, however. It had been chartered by the Swedish King in conjunction with independent Dutch merchants who were trying to find a way to break the Dutch West India Company's monopoly on the American fur trade. The Dutch merchants put up half the money to establish a Swedish settlement on the Delaware; the Swedish King put up the other half.

Minuit and his Dutch crew guided the Swedish settlers to a place (now Wilmington, Delaware) that they knew to be an advantageous spot for a colony. Wilmington was far from the control of the Dutch West India Company at Manhattan, and was

located in a valley with a promising fur trade and a westward route into the interior, where furs were even more abundant.²

Minuit began by purchasing land from the Indians, as the Swedes had no claim to the area, buying two strips of land on the west bank of the Delaware. He erected a fort at Wilmington, and named it for Christina, the Swedish Princess. In 1638, he returned to Europe, leaving only 25 Swedes on the shores of the Delaware.³

In 1640, a second boatload of settlers was sent to the colony, commanded by Peter Hollander Ridder, a Dutch man who was serving in the Swedish army. Governor Ridder, bought more land from the Indians, including the territory from the Schuylkill to the falls at Trenton and the land from Cape Henlopen to Bomten's point. In the Spring of 1641, he bought South Jersey - including all the land from Raccoon Creek to Cape May.⁴ Dutch investors pulled out of the money-losing venture in 1641, and the colony came under the sole control of Swedish government. Governor Ridder stayed on until 1643.

English Puritans in Salem

In 1641, English settlers made a second attempt at settlement in the lower Delaware, landing about fifty Puritan families from New Haven on South Jersey soil, at Salem Creek.

Their leader, Captain Nathaniel Turner bought land on Salem Creek from the Indians, much to the displeasure of the Governor of New Sweden, Colonel Peter Hollander Ridder, who sailed down to Salem to protest the proposed English colony on Swedish soil. Turner ignored his protest, and the English Puritans settled in Salem in 1642.

Soon after they arrived, the Dutch demanded that the Puritans swear allegiance to Holland. They did so. Next, the Swedes came across the river to demand allegiance to the Swedish crown. The

² John & Munroe, Colonial History on the Delaware, p 18

³ John A. Munroe, History of Delaware, Newark, Delaware:University of Delaware Press. 1979 p.21.

⁴ The English, who wanted to invalidate the sale, made a point of buying the same tract from the Indians at a later date

English swore again. Lord Edmund Plowden of England was the next to arrive, armed with his land grant from King Charles, demanding that the Puritans swear allegiance to him. They did so.⁵

Sometime after 1643, the colony was destroyed by the Dutch, probably because the Puritans were cutting in on the fur trade. The Puritans blockhouse was burnt to the ground, and the settlers moved on. Some returned to New Haven, but most were unaccounted for, and L.Q. Elmer, the nineteenth century Cumberland County historian, believes some of them may have moved down to the Maurice.

Soon after the Dutch had driven the Puritans from Salem, the Swedish built a fort on the site of their settlement. Fort Elfsborg was located at a narrow in the Delaware, and it gave the Swedes control over the ships entering the river. Johan Printz, the new Governor of New Sweden, began forcing Dutch ships to lower their flags at Salem, and have their vessels searched.

The Dutch were in a difficult position politically. The Swedish colony was a large thorn in their side, but there was little they could do about it. They could not attack the Swedes, as the two countries were military allies. Instead, Stuyvesant began a campaign to provoke the Swedes to attack him. The first move in his game was to reposition the Dutch fort on the river.

Stuyvesant abandoned Fort Nassau, and moved his stronghold to New Castle, Delaware in 1651, cutting off Swedish access to the ocean. He hoped to draw the Swedes into war, but Governor Printz did not take the bait. Printz returned to Sweden in 1653. In 1654, a new Swedish governor was sent to the Delaware. Governor Johan Rising arrived on the Delaware With a large Swedish fleet and immediately captured the small Dutch garrison at New Castle.

Peter Stuyvesant, the Governor of New Netherlands, bided his time until the Swedish warships had left, then made his move, swooping down from Manhattan to take all of New Sweden in 1655. The Dutch would be in control of the colony for the next ten years.

5 Joseph S. Sickler, The History of Salem County, N.J. Salem Sunbeam Publications. 1937, p. 8

The English

In England at this time, the restoration of the British monarchy brought a new focus on trade and colonization, and a heightened desire to seize Dutch holdings in the mid Atlantic region. The English crown sent four warships to Manhattan in 1664 to seize the Dutch colonies- This gave the British control over the whole eastern seaboard New Amsterdam was renamed New York, after Charles II's brother and heir, the Duke of York (later James II), to whom Charles granted the lands between the Connecticut and the Delaware rivers.

A new set of laws, known as the Duke's laws, were immediately imposed on this large territory by Governor Nichols, the new governor of New York. It would be ten years before a copy of the laws reached the settlements on the Delaware, however. Nonetheless, all deeds bought, sold or given during the earlier Dutch and Swedish periods were immediately in dispute. Needless to say, the Dutch and Swedish settlers were unhappy with this turn of events.

The Long Finn Rebellion

By 1669, rumors of a plot among the Swedes and Finns had come to the attention of the English leaders. The leader of the insurrection was Marcus Jacobson, who was known as the "Long Finn." He was arrested and tried in English courts in New York for inciting the Swedes to revolt against their English rulers. He was whipped, branded, and sold into servitude in the West Indies. His supporters were fined.

The Dutch rebellion against the English was more successful. In 1672, they reconquered the Delaware region, then lost it again in 1674 as part of the peace treaty that ended the Anglo-Dutch wars in Europe. New grants were executed. The Duke of York's new land grant, like the old one, did not mention lands south of the Delaware River.

New Jersey

The Duke of York granted the colony of Nova-Caesaria or New Jersey to his friends, John, Lord Berkeley, and Sir George Carteret in 1664. The men hoped to make large profits from trading, land sales and rents. Before 1665, they had begun promoting settlement aggressively, promising prospective colonists civil and religious freedom and 120 acres outright to every man who emigrated before January, 1665, with a 120 acre bonus for each able man servant he brought with him, and 60 acres for every weaker servant or slave.⁶

Berkeley and Carteret's grant was split in half by 1676, when the many proprietors of New Jersey came together to form themselves into a government. Berkeley was assigned the lower half of the territory, which was called West Jersey (South Jersey),⁷ and his land was divided into 100 shares,⁸ and put up for sale. It sold so quickly that a Proprietary Council had to be elected within two years to take over the management of West Jersey.

Cumberland and Cape May Counties came under the control of the Proprietors in 1688, when Daniel Coxe bought them from the Indians. His lands were surveyed in 1691.

John Fenwick

In 1674, before the division of Jersey, two English Quakers - John Fenwick and Edward Byllynge -- bought Lord Berkeley's half of N. J. ("West Jersey"). One year later, Fenwick and about 150 Friends from England crossed the ocean to settle at Salem, N. J. There they found a small fishing village of about 20 persons.

After intense legal wrangling about the validity of Fenwick's deed, Fenwick was awarded 1110 of West Jersey in 1677, and William Penn and two others were made trustees of the other

⁶ RudolphJ Vecoli, The People of New Jersey, Princeton, N J.: D. Van Nostrand and Co., 1965. p. 6; Samuel Smith. Op cit. p. 512.

⁷ By 1674, Berkeley had re-sold his half to English Quakers - Fenwick and Byllynge. Byllynge, who was bankrupt, sold 9/10 of West Jersey to Wm Penn and his associates. Fenwick retained the other tenth, and West Jersey came under the control of Quakers.

⁸ John Fenwick, the Quaker settler of Salem, NJ, and one of the men who bought Berkeley's share of NJ in 1674, owned 1/10 of the Proprietors lands after 1677. The other 9/10ths of West Jersey were under the control of William Penn.

9/10ths of West Jersey, which meant that Penn was now in charge of most of the Delaware region

In 1681, Charles II had granted a large tract (the state of Pennsylvania) to William Penn in repayment of a debt he owed Penn's deceased father. By 1682, Penn was granted another large tract by the Duke of York -- present day Delaware. With these two grants, the end of New Sweden on the Delaware was accomplished, as 23 boats of English Quaker settlers followed soon after, landing on the Delaware in 1682. William Penn began a campaign of trying to get marshlands for his new settlers. This would mean displacing the Swedes, who had early settled along the rivers.

Chapter III, Section II – The first colonists at New Sweden

Between 1637 and 1655, Sweden sent thirteen expeditions to the Delaware, transporting a total of about 800 passengers to their new colony. Of these prospective settlers, only about 600 actually reached the colony.¹ The first boatload left 24 men and a fort on the shores of the Delaware near Wilmington in 1638. Some of the men were paid monthly wages by the trading company that financed the settlement. Others were fortune seekers, told they were free to settle and live in the country as long as they pleased.

The next six boatloads of settlers included artisans, a minister, shipbuilders, millers, tobacco growers, and women and children. Some were bonded servants, deserters from the Swedish army, or debtors. Many were ethnic Finns actively recruited for the colony from the unsettled forest country north and west of Stockholm. For these Finnish Swedes, trading one forest for another seemed less a hardship than an opportunity. Generally, though, the early settlers were characterized by a stubborn independence that would show itself at many junctures of their history over time. Their desire to be left alone, and their resistance to unresponsive government began to show itself under the autocratic leadership of Johan Printz, second governor of the colony.

Johan Printz

During Printz's period as governor (1643-53) "malefactors and vicious people" were treated harshly-- used as slaves to labor on the fortifications, and kept in chains.² The settlers were forbidden to trade with the Indians, even for food, despite their extreme need, as Printz wanted to control all the profits of the Indian trade for the company investors. The hardship in the colony was the result of neglect by the Swedish government who was preoccupied with the war at home. They sent no provisions or barter goods to the colony

¹ Peter Craig, op. cit., p. 2

² Acrelius Israel, A History of New Sweden, translated from the Swedish and with an introduction by William M Reynolds, published in the *Memoirs of the I-historical Society of Pennsylvania* volume xi, Philadelphia 1874, p 42

for a period of six years. In 1653, twenty two of the Swedes rebelled against Printz, presenting a petition against him. Settlers fled into the wilderness, moved down to Maryland or Virginia, or returned to Sweden.³

By 1654, when new Governor Johan Rising arrived, many of the settlers had moved on, and the colony⁴ had been depleted to 70 settlers Rising brought with him about 200 new Swedish settlers, and a few Dutch and German servants.⁵ The colony began to be revitalized. In 1654, the population was recorded at 368, including about 50 Dutch and Swedish soldiers at Fort Casimir (New Castle).⁶ Hans Hopman patriarch of the Hopman clan, was one of those soldiers.

In 1656, another 100 Swedish men and women immigrated to New Sweden, completely unaware that the colony had been taken over by the Dutch in 1655. Sixty two more Swedes arrived in 1663. During this period, the Swedes lived fairly autonomously under Dutch rule, known as the “Up-River nation’, they were governed by their own courts, protected by their own militia, and were free to practice their own religion, trade with the Indians and to keep their lands.

³ Federal Writer’s Project, W P A. The Swedes and the Finns in New Jersey. introduction by Dr Amandus Johnson Bayonne. N J Commission to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the settlement of the Swedes on the Delaware, D. Stewart Craven, chairman, 1938, p 59

⁴ Albert cook Myers. editor, Narratives of Early Pennsylvania, West Jersey and Delaware. New York: Scribners. 1912, p 133.

⁵ Carol B. Hoffecker. Delaware. A bi-centennial History. Nashville American Association for State and Local History and W.W Norton, NY, 1977, p 17

⁶ Rudolph J. Vecoli. op. cit. p 2

Chapter III, Section III – New Sweden

The daily life of early Swedish communities is also relevant to our understanding of the Burcham farm, as it provides us with a picture of Swedish customs, agricultural practices and industries, and contributes to our understanding of the motivations behind the first permanent settlers on the farm.

A fairly clear picture of life in New Sweden can be drawn from the accounts of Thomas Paschall and Peter Kalm, two writers whose journals comment extensively on the Swedes, although they are written from widely different perspectives. Paschall was a 1682 immigrant from Bristol, England, who lived next to the Swedes at Kingsessing. He was a part of the heavy English immigration to the Delaware in 1682, an immigration that resulted from William Penn's charters for Pennsylvania (1681) and the three lower counties that make up present day Delaware (1682).¹

Kalm was a Swedish naturalist from the University of Abo, Finland, who was sent to the new world in 1745 to gather information about plant and animal species for the scientific community back home

Kalm described the first homes built by the Swedes in the new world:

“The houses which the Swedes built when they first settled were very poor. The whole house consisted of one little room, the door of which was so low that one was obliged to stoop in order to get in. As they brought no glass with them they were obliged to be content with little holes before which a moveable board was fastened. . . The chimneys were masoned in a corner, either of gray stone, or in places where there were no stones, of mere clay, which they laid very thick in the center of the house.”²

¹ Twenty three ships of English Quakers arrived on the Delaware on August 24, 1682.

² Kalm, op cit., p 272

The homes were built along the water, lands that were coveted by Englishmen like Paschall. Paschall observed that the riverlands were lands that the "Swedes prize much, and many people will want..."³ From this simple observation would come much of the Swedes future trouble.

Clothing

One adaptation to the Delaware that Swedish settlers made early on was in their customary style of dress. They were without frequent contact with Europe, and unable to obtain European fabrics, so they incorporated elements of Native American attire into their wardrobes. The men wore "waistcoats and breeches" made of animal hides, and little fur caps, worsted stockings, and home made shoes. The women also wore leather - - making their "jackets and petticoats" of animal skins. Their beds, too, excepting the sheets, were made of bear and wolf pelts.⁴

Peter Kalm wrote that Swedes who had lived for years in the distant provinces had taken on more than just the native American style of dress: they had also adopted Indian lifestyle and thoughts. He wrote, "Europeans who have lived for years in the distant provinces near and among the Indians grow so like them in their behaviour and thoughts that they can only be distinguished by their color;"⁵ and also, "The Swedes themselves were accused of being already half Indians when the English arrived in the year 1682...."

Thomas Paschall, wrote that the Swedish women "make most of the Linen cloth they wear...."⁶ and that "they weer but ordinarily cloathd; but since the English came they have gotten fine cloaths and are going proud...."⁷

³ Albert C Myers, p 254. from 'Letter of Thomas Paschall, written from Pennsylvania the last day of January. 1682/3'

⁴ Kalm, *op. cit.*, p 272

⁵ Kalm, *op. cit.*, p 226

⁶ Albert C. Myers, *op. cit.* p. 252 Letter of Thomas Paschall, written from Pennsylvania the last day of January, 1682/3

⁷ *ibid*, p 250

The Swedes were multilingual, speaking English, Swedish, Finnish, Dutch and Indian. Often they were called upon to be translators for transactions with the Native Americans Paschall also tells us that they preferred rye bread to wheat, a taste he does not understand.

The Swedes began planting “great quantities’ of American Indian corn to teed themselves, their cattle and their hogs, according to Kalm. It made their hogs very fat, and gave their flesh ‘an agreeable flavor, preferable to all other meat.”

Skilled Woodsmen

Most early accounts stress the unusual competence of the Swedes as woodsmen, and it is easy to see why sparsely populated woodlands like those of the New Jersey rivers attracted them as the price of lumber increased rapidly.

Examples includes Thomas Paschall’s 1683 letter:

‘The Swedes... will. . hardly use any other toole but an ax; they will cut down a tree, and cut him off when down, sooner than two men can saw him, and rend him into planks or what they please; only with the ax and wooden wedges, they use no iron⁸

and

...the Woods are full of Oakes, many very high and streight, many of them about two foot through, and some bigger. . . . A Swead will fell twelve of the bigger in a day⁹

Peter Kalm described “New Swedish” sawmills. They were unlike any built in the old country, constructed in the manner of dykes -- built with ditches, drains and sluice gates in order to reposition the creek to a favorable building site. They were built with only one saw:

“It is customary here, when they erect sawmills... to direct the water by a different course . . . to a place suitable for

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Ibid., p. 253.

building. This was ... done ... by ditches. The dam itself was provided with sluice gates.¹⁰

Dykes in Raccoon

Peter Kalm's journal entry on his trip to Raccoon Creek, N.J. in 1745 describes the extensiveness of dyking in the Swedish community as well as the methods. He had taken the ferry across from Pennsylvania to N.J., and was riding on a horse to Raccoon when he made his observation. The words he used to describe the creek, a kill, is a Dutch term.

“This day and the next we passed several kills or small rivulets which flowed out of the country into the Delaware with a gentle descent and rapidity. When the tide came up in the Delaware, it also rose in some of these rivulets a good way. Formerly they must have spread to a considerable breadth by the flowing of the tide, but at present there were meadows on the banks, formed by throwing UP strong dykeS as close as possible to the water, to keep them from overflowing. Such dikes were made along all rivers here to confine their water, and therefore when the tide was highest, the water in the river was much higher than the meadows. In the dykes were gates through which the water could be drawn off or led into the meadows. They were sometimes placed on the outward side of the wall, in such a way that the water in the meadows would force them open while the water would shut them.”¹¹

Kalm also establishes the extensive Swedish involvement in dyking in his remarks about muskrats:

“... [their] food is chiefly. . . mussels you see a number of such shells near the entrance of their holes...”

“They make their nests in the dikes that are erected along the banks of rivers to keep the water from the adjoining meadows but they often do a great deal of damage by spoiling the dikes

¹⁰ Kalm. op. cit., p 282

¹¹ Kalm. op. cit. p 175

with digging and opening passages for the water to come into the meadows

“The Swedes asserted that they could never observe a diminution in their number... As they damage their banks so considerably, the people are endeavoring to destroy them when they can find their nests. .

At present, muskrat skins bring from sixpence to nine pence in the market. . . . chiefly used by hatters. . . The muskrats are commonly caught in traps, with apples as bait...”

The Swedes were developing methods of their own for dike maintenance Kalm described a Swedish settler’s approach to muskrats in the dykes:

“A Swede ... had freed his dam or piece of dike along the river from them in the following manner: He sought and found their holes, stopped them all up with earth, excepting one, on that side from whence the wind came He put a quantity of sulfur into the open entrance, set fire to it, and then closed the hole, leaving but a small one for the wind to pass through. The smoke of the sulfur then entered their most remote nests and stifled the animals. . . he found them lying dead in heaps.”¹²

¹² Ibid.. p. 239-40.

Chapter III, Section IV – The move across the river to New Jersey

Before the turn of the nineteenth century, the majority of Swedish settlers on the Delaware were living in New Jersey. This migration across the river began in a small way under Governor Printz, and accelerated after 1682, as development pressure increased in the area. It was fueled by the Swedish colonists distaste for governmental taxation and land grabbing. The earliest of the settlers were convinced that they were entitled to Delaware lands by virtue of having settled it and improved it. They were much aggrieved by the legal maneuverings of the English.

The Beginnings of Unrest

The early Swedes had quarrels with their own government. Governor Printz's ban on private trading with the Indians began the troubles, as Swedish settlers chafed at the way the government controlled profits even though they were in economic need. They began traveling across the river to south Jersey in search of new sources of food and trade at that time.¹ South Jersey represented real opportunity for the colonists, as there was Indian trade there for the taking.

In 1655, at the time of the Dutch conquest of New Sweden, New Jersey may have begun to look still more attractive to the early Swedish settlers. A number of Swedes refused to submit to Dutch rule at that time 37 of them returned to Sweden, 19 signed oaths of allegiance to the Dutch, and the rest refused. Those who refused were given two years to change their minds or leave the colony.

According to Israel Acrelius, historian of New Sweden, the Swedes were initially treated harshly by the Dutch invaders:

“The flower of the Swedish male population was sent to New Amsterdam, taken by force and placed on shipboard. Swedish property was carried off, their fields burned, their cattle slaughtered, residents were forced to take oath of allegiance

¹ Federal Writers Project, p. 57

to the Dutch ruler or given two years to dispose of their holdings and leave²

But 1655 did not begin the migration to New Jersey, as Swedes were living across the river before that time, according to Swedish engineer Peter Lindstroem.³ Lindstroem wrote that the Swedes on Burlington Island (NJ) in 1655, “had no trade or intercourse with savages.” It would have been unlikely that Swedes were living in Burlington and not speaking to the Indians. Nonetheless, it is clear that Swedes were in New Jersey before the Dutch takeover.

The Swedes on Burlington Island may have been joined by some of the Finnish settlers who came on the last boat of the New Sweden company in 1656 if N.J. historian William Nelson was correct that the *Mercurius* stopped first at Burlington Island to unload goods.

The English period

In 1664, when English warships sailed into Manhattan and annexed all the land between the Connecticut and Delaware rivers, all deeds issued under Swedish or Dutch rule, as well as all previous land grants and Indian purchases became subject to review. Charles II began making irresponsible grants that overlapped one another and completely ignored the rights of any people living on the land he was giving away. Quakers began pouring into the Philadelphia area, and the cultural hegemony of the Swedish colony was broken.

It was still a law that seven years of living on and improving a site should constitute clear title, and there was still plenty of unoccupied land. Sensibly, the Swedes began more and more to cast their lot with the woods.

The center of Swedish America had moved to the east side of the Delaware by 1670, as the many small Swedish settlements along the inland waterways of New Jersey began to take precedence.⁴

² Israel Acrelius, *op cit.*, p. 79

³ The Lindstroem reference comes from his *Geographica Americae*, which was published in 1655.

⁴ Federal Writers Project, *op. cit.* p 57

Swedish congregations were established at Penn's Neck and Raccoon's Creek (Swedesboro) by 1703. The Swedish churches at Cohansey and Maurice river in were built in 1743 and 1748. As churches surely followed settlers, the Swedish migration pattern can be discerned -- a continued push toward the frontiers of New Jersey.⁵

In 1672, the Dutch briefly re-conquered the province, throwing land ownership into confusion once again. In 1673, when British control was reinstated, England once again issued a new set of grants.

Penn's Campaign

William Penn, the Quaker founder of Pennsylvania was in control of several large tracts of land on the Delaware by 1683 -- not only Pennsylvania, but also parts of Delaware and New Jersey. He began a campaign to try to get river lands that the Swedes had settled, for his brethren.

First, Penn required that the Swedes return the certificates given to them as permission to survey their lands along with any deeds issued by the Duke of York, in order that they might be replaced with new ones from Penn. Next he ordered that all old deeds should be re-surveyed, as he knew that the early tracts were larger than they should have been, as surveying techniques had been much less precise at the time they were made. In this way, thousands of acres were taken away from early colonists who had settled the and, The properties were then sold to others, despite the law that seven years of undisputed possession should give a clear title.

According to Acrelius, those who had given in their certificates and deeds never received them back, and were charged three or four times as much rent for their lands when they reapplied for deeds, but those who had not turned in their deeds were left alone.

⁵ Wacker. P 170

The English were systematically re-surveying old deeds, clipping corners off of surveys, and imposing rents where none had existed before.⁶ The Swedes were much disturbed by this. In 1715, Swedish voters in Gloucester county turned out in record numbers to oppose a man said to be seeking to dispossess the Swedes of their lands.

Permits to the Swedes

Shortly after the English takeover (1668), the Swedes were issued permits to purchase land from the Indians in Gloucester County, New Jersey. The first of these permits was issued to Ole Rasen,⁷ and 2 others. They sold the permit to Hans Hopman⁸ and two others, who bought land from the Indians in 1676. By 1677, Hopman and the other owners had begun to parcel out the land. The new owners were listed in the 1677 taxables list for Gloucester County.

In 1680, the Swedes ownership of these lands was denied, then reaffirmed by the local court as it found that the Swedish farmers were entitled to their lands because they had been seated upon them and improving them for seven years. Hopman and the other Swedes in the lawsuit seem typical of the kind of settlement pattern often attributed to Swedes in South Jersey: They had moved to Raccoon, chosen a tract and begun improving it several years before they obtained legal title. In this instance, they had been improving their lands since 1673, four years before they bought them.

In 1684, the title to these same lands was disputed by the English again and reaffirmed again, but this time for a different reason. In this case, Hopman and the other eight Swedes successfully defended their land claims by citing the original 1668 permit.

Swedish migration to the Salem and Raccoon Creek communities of New Jersey was heaviest between 1670 and 1690. An English map that was drawn in 1685, labeled a place on the river

⁶ Israel Acrelius, op. cit., p 125.

⁷ a.k.a Otto Rawson, Olle Rose, Ocour Rosu. Etc. Rosse was the man whose cabin was shown on the 1714 Scott survey of Maurice River (see survey)

⁸ Grandfather of the first owner of the Burcham farm

north of Salem as Finn's Town. It is believed that there may have been a Finnish settlement there as early as 1660.

The memories of Ake Helm, a seventy-year-old man who was living in Raccoon Creek in 1745 are informative, as Helm remembered a time when Raccoon Creek was a land of plenty. The Swedes brought their horses, cows, oxen, sheep, hogs, geese and ducks across the river with them, he said, and all of them multiplied greatly. The hogs did particularly well. The horses and the pigs ran wild in the woods in those days, along with the cattle. The cattle became numerous and fat on the natural grasses.¹⁰

Settlement

New Jersey settlement was greatly confused by the history of deed problems. The problems were enormous. Even the major boundaries were in dispute, including the boundary between east and west Jersey and the boundary between the royal colonies of New York and New Jersey. As a result, all the lands near the frontiers had their titles in question. Another part of the problem was the inaccuracy of surveying methods, which meant that many deeds outlined incorrect amounts of land, as much as two times the correct amount in some cases. Extralegal occupation, or squatting was common in South Jersey.¹¹

Charles Read, the speaker of New Jersey's eighteenth provincial assembly, addressed the assembly in 1751 in regard to a proposed tax bill. He suggested that property assessments be done by judged value rather than by acreage because the assessors were unable to judge the size of the tracts without re-surveying the land, as 'their are multitudes of Tracts in New Jersey that are Commonly called one hundred acres, which do really Contain three hundred Acres and much more.'¹²

This confusion gave ample opportunity to woodcutters who did not own land. They went to the Pineland region, and took it. In

⁹ Kalm, op cit., p181 Ake Helm, age 70 about 1745.

¹⁰ Kaim. op cit.. pp 286, 179.

¹¹ Wacker. op.cit., p 221

¹² Wacker. op.cit. p 369

1759, Charles Read, who was also the owner of several South Jersey lumber tracts, addressed the legislature again, Sponsoring a bill to prevent “trespassers” from cutting timber,¹³ and imposed a fine of 20 shillings per tree on wood cutters who were caught stealing timber.

According to Cultural geographer Peter Wacker, squatting was not only tolerated in South Jersey, but actually encouraged because of the unsureness of ownership or bounds, or absentee ownership. This led to an attitude of temporary occupation and quite different land use and organization of landscape than if permanent occupation based on permanent title had been available. A universal result was the stealing of timber by squatters or nearby legal residents.¹⁴ This pattern of temporary land use makes the dating of the early Swedish community at Maurice River difficult. Nonetheless, it explains why the first deeds to Swedes in Maurice River were dated as late as 1720, even though settlers were in the region before that time.

¹³ C.R. Woodward, Ploughs and Politics. Rutgers University Press, New Brunswick, N.J. 1942 p 139.

¹⁴ Wacker, op cit., p 408

The Burcham farm can be seen as a rare physical link to the history of the eighteenth century extralegal Swedish community on the Maurice, one that left few records, and has been largely forgotten.

Hopman's land deed puts him in the area in 1737, but it seems likely that he and his cousin Nicholas Hoffman followed the pattern of their grandfather, Hans Hopman, in Raccoon Creek, moving to the area before they purchased land, perhaps cutting timber to earn money to buy the large tract. Nicholas Hoffman, in particular, seems likely to have been in the Maurice River area before he bought land there, as he was last listed in the church records of Raccoon Creek seven years before he bought property in Maurice River. In addition, his title to the Burcham/Gricco farmstead is questionable, and may have been challenged in 1814.

Chapter III, Section V – Inhabitants of Maurice River before 1720

It is often written that Swedes first settled in Maurice River in 1720, because Andrew Errickson, Joseph Thompson and Joseph Lord began renting lands from Thomas Byerly, an English proprietor, in that year,¹ but there is ample evidence of settlers on the river before that date.

The first record of settlers on the Maurice was made in 1684, when the "Old road" was laid from Salem to Maurice River.² Ten years later, a Englishman visiting Quaker friends in Salem, visited the Maurice, describing it as an amazingly abundant place, a river where Swedes killed geese "for their feathers only, leaving their carcasses behind them." Other hard evidence for the earlier date of settlement includes the fact that the old road from Salem to Maurice River was re-built in 1705,³ and a constable was appointed for the area in 1718.

Nineteenth-century historians, such as Elmer and Cushing and Sheppard all agreed that the Swedes were the first settlers of

¹ Gushing and Sheppard, *op. cit.*, p 514,

² Cushing and Sheppard, *op. cit.*, pp 515- 516

³ *Ibid* p. 516, 518 It crossed the river, at Greenwich

Maurice river. Elmer writes about the early community from memories and interviews, and puts the first settlers there about 1655 Cushing and Sheppard rely on English deeds, however, and therefore place the beginnings of the community about 1720.

Cumberland county historian L.Q. Elmer described the early settlement pattern of extralegal occupation:

“Quite a number of Swedes settled in the neighborhood of [the Maurice River], and engaged in hunting and cutting lumber without, however obtaining a title to the soil, until some of them purchased it of the English.”⁵

“...the Dutch and Swedes never took any steps to secure permanent title to the land upon which they settled, and did not even take deed from the Indians. Whatever title they may have claimed as the first settlers and improvers was ignored by the English, although there is reason to believe they were, in many cases permitted to become purchasers at the usual price for the unimproved land.”⁶

Elmer also speculates as to the source of some of the earliest settlers, suggesting that some of the early Puritans from the 1641 Salem colony may have survived in the area. It is also known that some of the settlers, like Caesar Hoskins, came up to the area from Cape May. By 1700, a small number of lumberers and cattle owners were living near Buckshutem Creek,⁷ and a Swedish log cabin that is still standing (Ceasar Hoskins’) was built in Mauricetown about 1650.

The notes of Judge Joshua Brick

Joshua Brick, in conversations recorded in the early twentieth century, dated the beginning of the Swedish settlement about 1700,⁸

4 Ibid. p 514.

5 Elmer, *op. cit.*, p 2

6 Ibid.p8

7 Buckshutem Crook joins ihe Maurice on its west sido, at the same point that the Menantico loins ii on its east side

8 Judge Daniel Harris notes of conversations he had with Judge Joshua Brick Harris was born in 1814 in Port Elizabeth, NJ

Judge Joshua Brick, born 1779, died 1860.

saying that “persons principally of Swedish origin came to Maurice river about 1700,” drawn by the “abundance of game and valuable cedar close to navigation They spent their time working the cedar into shingles and rails and hunting.”

Brick also said that the Swedes began to acquire title to their lands in Maurice River about 1720 (this is borne out by the deeds) and that the largest immigration from the Swedish settlements up the Delaware began in 1720, and lasted until 1740.

One large tract that was acquired from the New Jersey Proprietors in 1723, was Andrew Erickson’s 1155 acres on the east side of the Maurice river adjoining the mouth. He bought the lands from Thomas Byerly, after leasing them for several years. Erickson was a mariner, and was doubtless shipping timber. Erickson deeded the property to his son Andrew in 1742.⁹ This was the only sale out of the Byerly Survey until 1804 when William Griffith purchased it.

Brick corroborates the opinion of Wacker, as he said that the lands in the Byerly survey had been early settled, despite the absence of deeds, and that William Griffith had a great deal of trouble with the early settlers, and finally had to sell them their lands at a low price.

Other records of the settlement include a list of sixty parishioners of the original Swedish Lutheran church in 1743 (Illustration p. 85.) and the first tax assessment of New Jersey which was taken in 1751. In ‘Prince Maurice’s presinct,’ the Cumberland County Ratables List included 51 married men and 12 single men. Four sawmills were also listed -- Aaron Learning’s, Frederick Hoffman’s, Isaac Sharp’s and Gabriel Vanernori’s. The Erixons, the Hofmaris, the Peterson, Isard, Jones and Vanamon families were among the landowners listed.

These tax and church records are late though, for the purposes of discussing the early community. The best evidence for the early community comes from the following list of residents known to be in the area by 1720.

⁹ His son sold it to Jeremiah Learning of Cape May (Liber 18, p 40)

Some of the Early residents of Maurice River:

Joseph Lord¹⁰

by 1720 when he began leasing land from Thomas Byerly

Joseph Lord¹¹

By 1720, when he began leasing a large tract of land Thomas Byerly.

Daniel England¹²

His sawmill was operating on Buckshutem Creek before 1705.

Swedish builder and first owner of Caesar Hoskirts cabin c. 1650¹³

Caesar Hoskins who bought 150 acres in Cape May (later Mauricetown) in 1691¹⁴ recorded his cattle earmark in 1694,¹⁵ and served as the Sheriff of Cape May County from 1701-1704. His cabin appears on the 1714 Scott survey.¹⁶

Michael Issard, Jr.¹⁷

moved to the west side of the Maurice in 1704, selling his lands in Greenwich. (Salem County).

died in 1722 at his home on the west side of the river near Buckshutem.

An inventory taken by William Rawson and Caesar Hoskins listed his possessions, those of a livestock farmer and woodcutter, including 11 cows, 6 calves, 2 oxen, 1 steer, 14 yearling heifers, 16 sheep, 1 mare, 14 hogs, assorted farm implements and

¹⁰ Cushing and Sheppard, op.cit., p. 514.

¹¹ Ibid

¹² Cushing and Sheppard, op.cit., p. 516.

¹³ Caesar Hoskins, whose cabin appears on the 1714 Scott survey, see illustration in this paper, was an Englishman, and did not build the cabin. Gunnar Zitterquist, consultant for the Swedish farmstead project, believed the Hoskins cabin, which still stands in Mauricetown, could have been built as early as 1650.

¹⁴ John and Diane Smith, A History of Mauricetown. p. 14 They cite Calendar of New Jersey Records, 1664-1703, p 458

¹⁵ Book of Deeds, Liber A, p. 8. Cape May County Clerk's Office in the town of Cape May Court House, N J

¹⁶ Ibid, p 14 They quote Maurice Seesley, Early History of Cape May County, 1857.

¹⁷ He was the son of Michael Issard who moved from Chester County, PA to Greenwich, NJ before 1688. Margaret Irwin McVickar, "Izard Family, History and Geaneology, Volume III, Number 8, June 1954

tools for woodcraft¹⁸. Michael Izard, Sr., moved to Greenwich from Chester county, PA.

--his wife Martha Izard
children
Michael Izard, 3rd
John Izard
James Izard
Gabriel Izard

Olle Rosse

a.k.a. Ocour Rusu, Ole Rose, Wooley Rawson¹⁹ by 1714 when his cabin appears on the Scott survey.

William Rawson (1718, when he buys a sawmill²⁰) He was probably the son or grandson of Olle who was listed as Ocour Rusu on the 1714 Scott survey²¹

Peter Erickson²²

was living on the Cohansey by 1687, may have been living on the Maurice by 1694, definitely by 1702. He was the brother of Swedish born Olle Derickson of Repaupo Creek, and one of the original patentees of Carkoens Hook in Kingsessiflg in 1675. He was living in Repaupo creek by 26 March 1684, when he bought 100 acres near Israel Helm. By 1687, he seems to have moved on, as Wooley Derickson claimed to be a co-owner in a Newcastle County survey that year and had been paying the taxes on that property

By 1688, Peter Erickson was the owner of 20 acres on the Cohansey. In 1694, he was given land on the Maurice by the Indians in return for his services as an interpreter²³ In 1702, a Gloucester county lawsuit referred to him as Peter Erickson of Maurice River. His offspring remained in Maurice River for many years.

¹⁸ Estate was valued at 74 pounds, 18 shillings, 3 pence

¹⁹ Letter from Peter Craig to Patricia Bovers. July 12. 1995 provides variant names.

²⁰ Cushing and Sheppard, op.cit., p 614 and other sources

²¹ Letter from Peter Craig to Patricia Bovers, August 1995

²² Peter Craig, op.cit., p. 72

²³ Ibid, P 72, and Salem Deeds Liber 6, p 194.

Andrew Erickson²⁴

probably the son of Peter Erickson. He bought 1155 acres beginning at the mouth of Maurice River in 1723/4. He had been leasing the property for 7 years before that.

his wife, Magdalena Peterson Erickson, daughter of Peter Peterson children

- Andrew Peterson
- Samuel Peterson
- Christina Peterson
- Sarah Peterson
- Rebecca Peterson

Peter Peterson²⁵

Born Peter Peterson Stake, Peterson changed his name and moved to Maurice river in 1711 from Calcon Hook, PA.,²⁵ acquiring 920 acres and a sawmill at that time Peter was the son of Finnish-born Mans Petersson Stake, who came to the Delaware with Governor Rising in 1654. Mans moved to New Amsterdam after the Dutch victory, and married in Brooklyn in 1663, becoming one of the first settlers in Harlem.

By 1666, Mans Stake was back, having been involved in a series of drunken misdemeanors in New Amsterdam He lived in Calcon Hook, PA, for many years and was the object of many lawsuits brought against him by his neighbors.

In 1695, Mans gave his plantation to his son, Peter, age 20. He was still living on his sons' property 2 years later.

Hendrick Tussey Jr.²⁷

Olle Tussey,

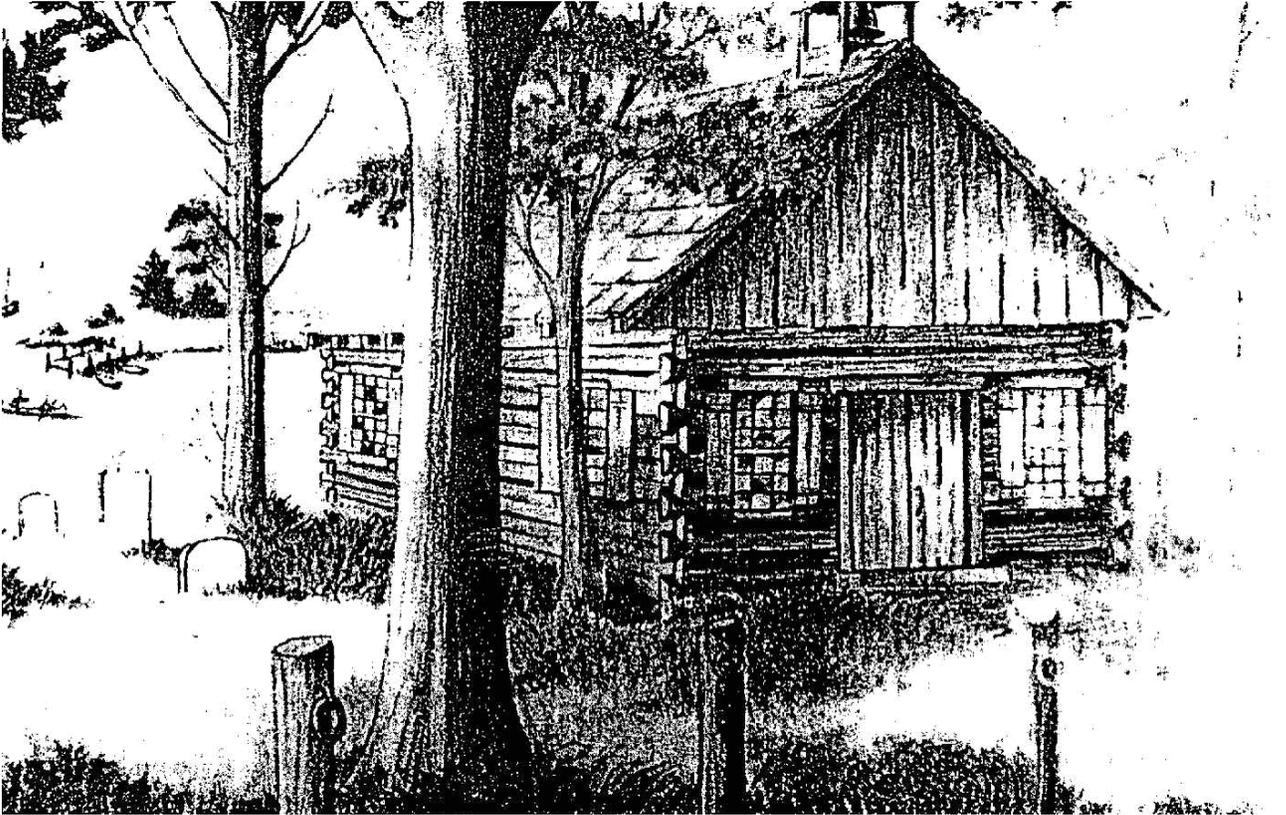
sons of Hendrick Tussey, (a.k.a. Hendrick Toulson and Henry Toarson) they were "living in Maurice River" in 1703, at the time of their father's death.

²⁴ Letter from Peter Craig to Dan Erickson, August 29, 1989

²⁵ Peter Craig. op.cit., p 40

²⁶ Calcon Hook was a part of Chester Co. PA at that time Later it became Delaware co, PA

²⁷ Peter Craig, op.cit., p 119



Swedish Church at Maurice River
1743

Chapter III, Section VI -- Why John Hopman moved to Maurice River

John Hopman, first owner of the Burcham farm, was an oldstyle Swede, a man who was motivated by the cultural patterns we have been discussing. As a third generation Swedish immigrant, he was also well-acquainted with the culture and the politics of New Sweden. His decisions about where to live and what to do with his land reflected the Swedish-American experience directly -- not only his own, but also that of his father and grandfather. The history of the Hopman family on the Delaware begins with John's grandfather, Hans, who first rejected assimilation into the English culture 1673. The history of the lives of Hans and his son Frederick's helps to explain John Hopman's decision to move his family to Maurice River.

Hans Hooman, early Delaware settler¹

Sergeant Hans Hopman came to the Delaware region sometime before 1655, when he first appeared in the records of the Dutch court at Newcastle. He spent most of the following year in jail at Fort Casimir, awaiting trial for selling a gun to an Indian. In September of 1656, he was sent to trial in Manhattan.

It is not known how Hans came to be on the Delaware in 1655, or why he was selling a gun to an Indian. Hans may have been a Dutch soldier who moved to the region from New Amsterdam, or he may have been a Swede who was pressed into military service at the time of the Dutch takeover. Whatever his national origin, however, his life was closely involved with the early Swedish community on the Delaware.

South River records (Delaware) in 1671, show him living among the Swedes at Marcus Hook, Pennsylvania. He had apparently married a Swedish woman.² Hans and his family lived on a part of a thousand-acre tract that he and four other Swedes had been granted under Dutch rule.³ After the British takeover, these families had to

¹ Peter Craig, *op. cit.*, p 77 and letters to P Bovers

² *Ibid.*

³ Peter Craig, letter and John Watson. *Annals of Philadelphia*, Philadelphia, E.S. Stuart, 1905

re-apply for deeds to their properties, finally receiving new patents from the English in 1671. The English deed for his property was not enough to keep Hopman on the West bank of the Delaware, however. He may even have moved across to New Jersey before the deed was issued. Hans and his family joined other Swedes -- Jons Gustafsson and Peter Jonsson -- in their move to Raccoon Creek in 1673, purchasing land there in 1676. (Raccoon Creek was later known as Swedesboro, New Jersey).

Hans' name appears next in English records in 1699, when he was a part of the Swedish/Finnish rebellion plot against the English, fined as a follower of Marcus Jacobsen, the Long Finn.⁴

In New Jersey, Hans and three of his sons raised cattle and were probably also cutting wood. Their cattle roamed free on the common marsh, and their herds were identified by three distinct ear brands recorded in the original tax lists of Gloucester County.⁵

Hans died in Raccoon Creek shortly after 1690, and was survived by six sons. One of them was Frederick #1 of Raccoon creek. Another was John #1 of Pilesgrove, Salem County.

Hans' son Frederick(#2)

Frederick Hopman, who was probably Hans' eldest son, prospered in New Jersey, owning 100 acres in Raccoon Creek by 1683. He was committed to preserving the Swedish language and religion in the new world, and was one of the sponsors of the Swedish Lutheran church in Raccoon Creek in 1673. He donated the land on which the church was built, and served as a church warden for many years. Dying after 1728, he left no will. Baptismal records exist for four sons and five daughters, one of whom was John #2, that is, Johannes Frederickson Hopman of Maurice River.

Hans son John(#3)

Less is known about another of Hans Hopman's sons, who was also called John, because he moved to remote Salem County at a

⁴ See chapter 3, section one, p. on the Long Finn rebellion

⁵ Frank Stewart, former president of GCHS recorded the earmarks in a society publication having found them on original tax lists of the county.

young age, where there was no church or church recorder. John #3 was at least 21 years old in 1686 when he served as a juror in Gloucester County court, and had moved to Pilesgrove. Salem County by 1696, when he acquired 38 acres from William Hall.⁶ He died in Salem County in 1714/5, leaving a will that named four sons, one of whom was Nicholas Hoffman of Maurice River. He had at least two daughters as well. His brother Frederick #1 was an executor of the will.

John Hopman #2, Johannes Frederickson Hopman of Maurice River

John #2, the son of Frederick Hopman #1, was born in Raccoon Creek about 1684, and married to Cathren #1 by 1711. He bought a large corner of the Scott tract,⁷ on the east side of Maurice River in 1737, and began the process of dividing the tract into farms for his family.

Within the year, he had sold the northwest corner of the tract -- a 200 acre triangle that would later become the Burcham-Gricco tract -- to his first cousin Nicholas. Other sections of the tract were divided between his sons.

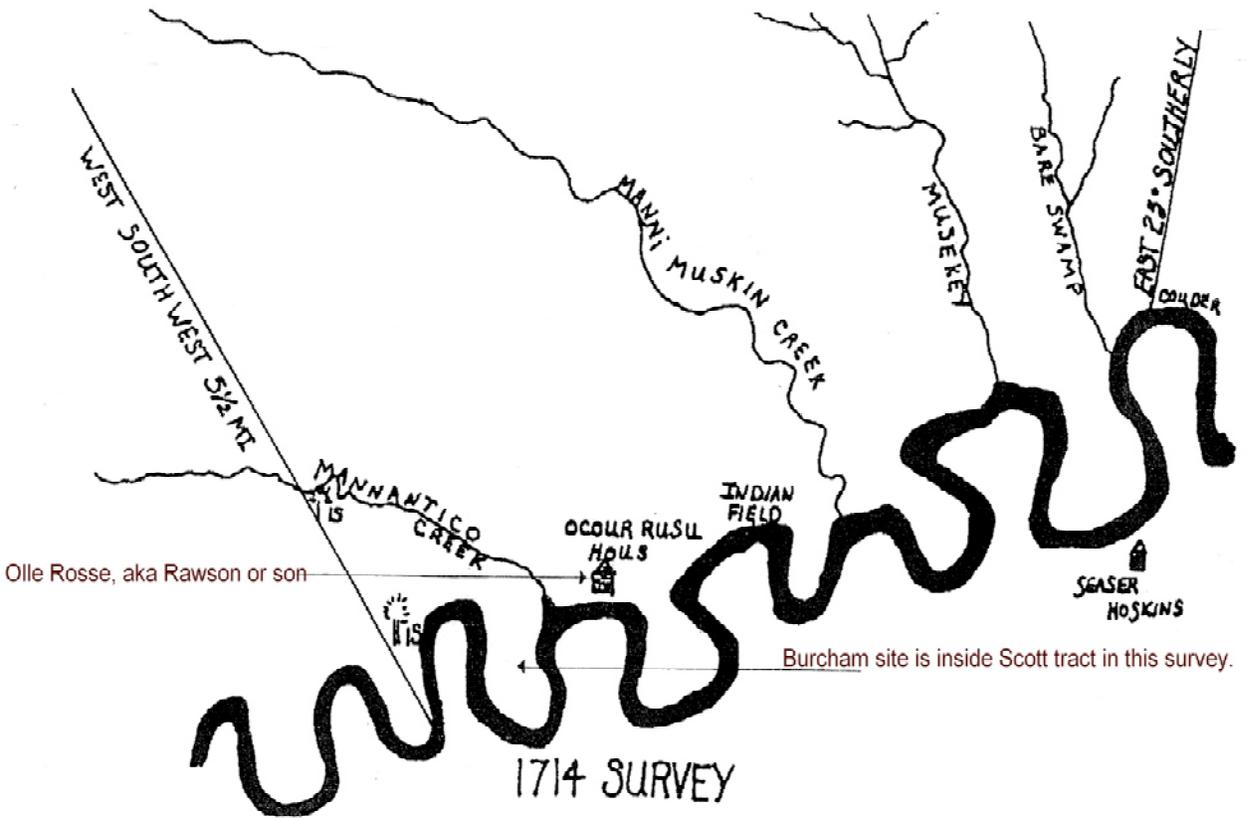
John doubtless believed he owned the Burcham-Gricco tract, which was logical, as the 1714 survey of the Scott tract (see illustration, p. 83) includes it, showing Scotts line crossing the Menantico and extending down to the Maurice.⁸ But at some point in

⁶ Archives of the State of New Jersey Vol 21, p. 616

⁷ 800 acres from Edward Lummis -- deed at Moravian Archives, in Bethlehem, PA.

⁸ The triangular tract does not appear on the NJ Proprietor 1891 survey to Bartlett, however, (see illustration p. 84) and it was not mentioned in Scotts deed to Lummis. It seems likely that the Burcham tract was oils of the corners clipped off of the Scott survey by later surveyors, as 10 Elmer wrote that the Scott tract, as originally surveyed contained twice as many acres as it was said to contain, that is, 20 thousand acres were surveyed as ten.

The problems can be traced back to John's sale of the 200 acre triangular tract to his cousin Nicholas in 1738. The only known record of this transaction is in Nicholas Hoffman's 1748 deed to his son in law Gabriel Izard, and does not include a deed recital, saying only that John Hopman acquired it by diverse means. It seems likely that the Burcham farm was one of the properties that Brick refers to when he discusses the problems Griffith encountered alter 1804, when he purchased land Out of the Byerly survey, and found that he had to contend with many early settlers and improvers on his tract, eventually having to sell them the lands at a low price. Suggestively, there is a snag in the chain of title of the Burcham deeds in 1814 when Nicholas Izard, grandson of Nicholas Hoffman, and a resident of Fayette. Kentucky, sells the family property to Charles Ewing the prominent lawyer for \$1. A year later Daniel Elmer,



the English re-surveying process, the Burcham-Gricco farm was clipped off. This discrepancy would not be unraveled for many years, however.

In Maurice River, John Hopman(#2) and his sons settled down to cutting lumber. By 1750, two of his sons were sawmill owners -- Frederick (#2)'s sawmill was listed on the 1751 ratables list, and Jonas sawmill on West creek was operating before 1750.⁹

Hopman was also raising livestock, keeping bees and farming. His inventory lists a stack of corn, swine and cattle, tools, ploughshares, mill stones and other goods.¹⁰ His will also describes his dyked meadow, which was built before 1746.¹¹ Hopman, (John #2) was dyking the Manumuskin informally-- with his sons, in the Dutch tradition -- long before any legislation was passed.¹² Hopman became one of the founders of The Maurice River Swedish Lutheran church, a church that was built on his property about 1743. The church was built at the edge of the river to make it easily accessible, as most of the congregation arrived by water.

who was also a prominent lawyer sells it to John Lanning, Jr. There is no record of a deed from Ewing to Elmer however.

It is interesting that the confusion about the Scott tract still exists today, as many surveyors in 1995, still survey properties based on the 'Scott tine' as it is shown in the 1714 survey - running across the Burcham property. The Scott tract, still today is considered to have included the Burcham farm, by crossing the Menantico, not simply running along the Menantico to the Maurice.

⁹ Roy Hand, 'The Mills of east and West Creek', Cape May County Magazine, June 1961 p. 273.

¹⁰ An inventory of John Hopman's estate that was done by his fellow parishioners William Cobb and Abraham Jbnes was appraised at 90 pounds 3 and 10 and included:

his wearing cloth arid aparel. a pair of oxen, 7 cows, 3 young catle, 4 other catle, a field of corn, a cart and sled, a yoke and iron, a pair of hand mill stones and grind stone, 2 bee hives, a plow shear and collar, a parcel of tools, a canon, colers and harnas, sadle and old iron, loom and backing, coverlid and blanketing, old lumber, 2 spinning wheels, a bell. 3 beds and furniture, a piece of a nets. 3 chairs and 2 tables, warming pan and smoothing iron. 3 iron potts, books, earthen wear and bottles, pewter dining plates and spoons and tramkers, gun powder and backling, a chear and benchis, corn, an old hors and chees press, swine and a mufmin hide, womans or woven cloaths, a stack of corn, book debts, forgotten goods

¹¹ See 1746 will survey, illustration p 82.

¹² Hopman is cited in local histories, such as F.W. Bowen's as the first in the area to dike the marshland But Bowen assumed that the diking began after 1780, when the state of NJ authorized the diking of the Manumuskin. (Trenton Index of Laws. Acts of the 6th general assembly of the state of NJ pp 721.23.) Hoffman's 1746 will establishes the diking much earlier.

John's main collaborator on the Swedish Church was his first cousin and neighbor. Nicholas Hoffman. the man to whom John had sold the northwest corner of his tract -- the Burcham-Gricco farm.¹³ John Hopman donated the land on which the church and graveyard were built, a section of his tract that his son Jonas would later inherit.¹⁴ Lucas Peterson and Nicholas Hoffman paid the expenses for the building.¹⁵ (See illustrations p. 82, 85.)

The Maurice River Church

At the beginning, sermons at the Maurice River Lutheran church were given in Swedish. With time, however, sermons began to be delivered in English, and the Swedish-Lutheranness of the church declined. The church was dependent on visiting preachers, as it had no permanent clergyman of its own, and German Moravian missionaries were the only preachers willing to make the arduous journey to Maurice River. The missionaries traveled down to the church after preaching at the Swedish church at Raccoon Creek. By 1746, they had succeeded in converting the congregation to the Moravian faith, and Nicholas Hoffman and Lucas Peterson assigned the deed for the church to two Moravian ministers that year.

Records of Moravian Missionaries

In 1745, Abraham Reincke, a German Moravian¹⁶ missionary from Bethlehem, Pennsylvania noted in his travel journal that he

¹³ Nicholas lived on the Maurice on the farm just north of John, directly across Menantico Creek.

¹⁴ The church and graveyard site no longer exists, as moat of the and on which it was built has fallen into the river. The cornerstone of the graveyard can be found on what is today Rudy Strauss' property.

¹⁵ In a 1746 deed to Abraham Jones and 3 Moravian missionaries, Nicholas Hoffman and Lucas Peterson were described as those who had caused the church mouse or building to be constructed at their own proper costs and charges on a last landing on John Hopman's land. This deed for the church house is at Moravian Archives in Bethlehem, PA.

¹⁶ The Moravians had their beginnings in the Protestant Reformation in Germany. They were sometimes known as United Brethren. Bohemians, or Hernhutters. Their decline was partly Calvinistic, partly Lutheran, and rejected war. They suffered great persecution in Europe, and established themselves in Bethlehem. Pennsylvania in 1741 crusading missionaries, they converted a large community of native Americans in Gnadenuhuten, a settlement in Tuscarawarus County. Ohio. The site is famous today because the peace-loving Indians there

visited Nicholas Hoffman and his wife Catherine at Morris's river (Burcham/Gricco property) then crossed the creek (the Menantico at Rawson's mill) on his way to John Hopman's. Reincke described old John Hopman of Maurice River as looking 'like an Indian.' because Hopman dressed in the style of the early Swedish pioneers -- wearing home-made clothes of animal skins.

Another traveling minister, Earnest Gambold, also stayed the night at Nicholas Hopman's.

John Hopman's 1746 Will

John Hopman (#2) died at Maurice River. His will (1746) named five sons -- John #4, b 1712, Frederick #2, b. 1715, Peter, b. 1722, Jonas b. 1727 and Gabriel, b. 1731, all of Maurice River. John and his wife, Catherine, were buried in the graveyard at the Maurice River Church. His will mentions the divisions of property that he had already made between his sons and splits his banked meadow adjoining "Manumuskee" creek in equal fifths between his sons. (See survey, illustration p. 82.) By leaving it equally to all live sons, he was illustrating the value of the small tract of banked meadow, and also insuring the cooperation of all five brothers in the maintenance of the dykes.

Hopman's decision to move to Maurice River

By the beginning of the eighteenth century, Maurice River had become the answer for many Swedes. The largest numbers of immigrants arrived between 1720 and 1740. John Hopman was one of these immigrants, an old-style Swede who dressed in the manner of the early pioneers and enjoyed life on the river. Like them, Hopman was a woodsman and cattle owner, a man who prized the marshland, and knew how to make good use of it -- dyking, cutting timber and letting his cattle roam the marshes. Hopman's dyking was a family affair, work he shared with his sons. The dykes were for their mutual benefit. This was congenial community or family diking, in the style of the Dutch.

were mercilessly executed there by a white posse who somehow mistook them for a murderous band

Clearly, Hepman was drawn to the frontier because he wanted to live among the Swedes. At Maurice River, he followed his father Frederick #2's example, working to preserve Swedish culture and religion by donating land to build a Swedish church, or center for the community, where the Swedish language would be spoken- He continued to dress in the style of the early pioneers though the other Europeans called him an Indian.

In John's Hopman's memory banks, doubtless, was the history of his own family's trouble with the English -- beginning with grandfather Hans' deed troubles at Marcus Hook in 1691, and continuing with family's troubles with the permits they were issued in Raccoon Creek. The constantly shifting deed situation would have been known to him through direct knowledge and experience.

Therefore, it seems highly possible that he, like many of his fellow Swedes, was cutting timber or settling lands in Maurice River long before his official 1738 purchase and equally likely, if he knew that the land he sold to Nicholas Hoffman did not belong to him because it had been surveyed, and excluded from the Scott tract, not to have considered the new survey valid.

Nicholas Hoffman

Nicholas Hoffman was born by 1695, and lived the first half of his life at Pilesgrove, Salem County, in an isolated Swedish settlement that was far from the church at Raccoon Creek, and therefore without much recorded history. He and his family do appear in the records of the church at Raccoon Creek until 1716, however.¹⁷ After that time, he may have moved from Pilesgrove, as he and his brother John #3¹⁸ were leasing the property they inherited from their father to Peter Steelman by June of 1718¹⁹ Nicholas' name continued to be associated with the church at Raccoon Creek until about 1731,²⁰ after which time he may have

¹⁷ Amandus Johnson, B Records of Swedish Lutheran Churches at Raccoon and Penn's Neck p. 236

¹⁸ They were two sons of John #3.

¹⁹ West Jersey deeds A-B, pp 60, 62

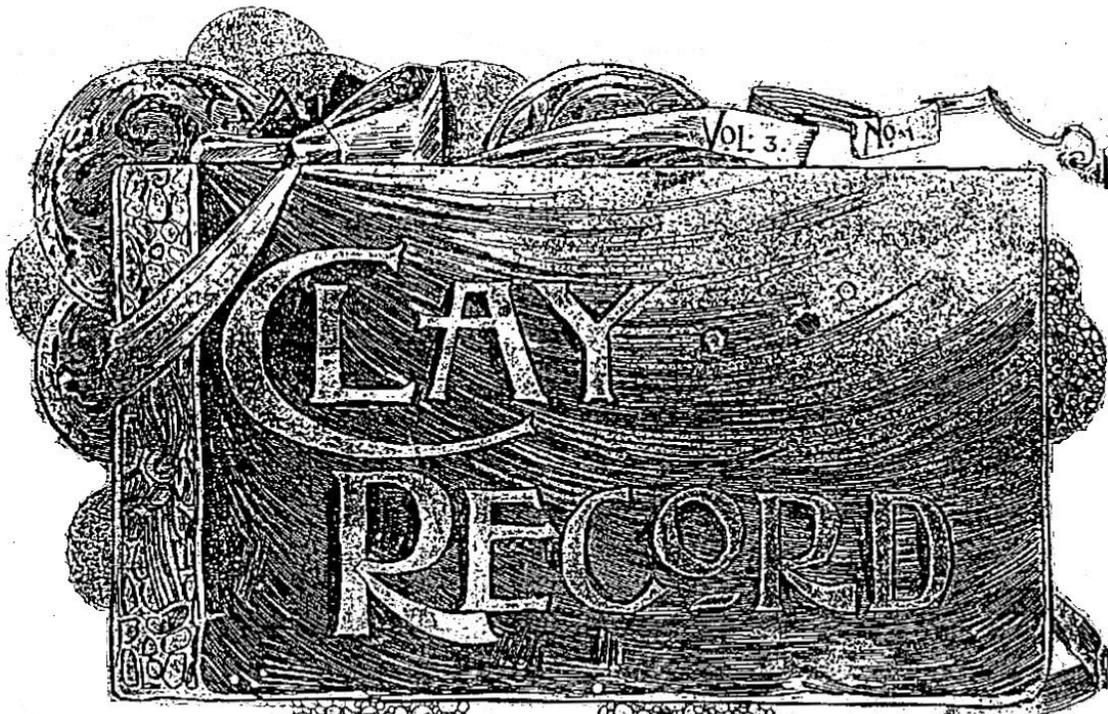
²⁰ Amandus Johnson, pp 35. 252-253.

moved to Maurice River. If so, he would have been in Maurice River for seven years before he bought the triangular tract from his cousin John. Nicholas and his wife Catherine #2 lived in Maurice, raising cattle and sheep until about 1748, when they assigned their Maurice River property to their daughter Martha and her husband Gabriel Izard.²¹ They returned to Pilesgrove, Salem County in the last years of their lives. Catherine #2 died there in 1758, Nicholas in 1767. They had two daughters -- Mary and Martha. Martha Hoffman married Gabriel Izard and lived on her father's farm in Maurice River.

The Burcham-Gricco property remained in the Izard family for more than 70 years until Nicholas Izard, Nicholas Hoffman's grandson sold it in 1814. By 1815, the Gricco part of the farm had been re sold to John Lanning, Jr. His wife's maiden name was Rhoda Izard.

²¹ Nicholas Hoffman was nonetheless taxed for his 180 acre farm on the Maurice river in 1751, along with 16 cattle and 8 sheep. Gabriel Isard was taxed only for 140 acres and 10 cattle.





A JOURNAL DEVOTED TO
 THE DISSEMINATION
 OF ALL MATTERS
 PERTAINING
 — TO THE —
 CLAY —
 — INDUSTRY.

July 12, 1893.

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A trade journal found under rug at Burcham's.

Chapter IV Section I - -The Burcham Period

The brickmaking period of the Burcham farm, from 1865 to 1942, is the focus of the last chapter of this thesis. This industrial period is a significant part of the history of this farm, a period that extended the life of the dyked farm beyond that of other farms in the area. During this period, a traditional farming technology -- dyking was used to support another industry.

Chapter Four begins with the precise mechanics of the technology that preserved the farm. First it details the history and technology of the brick industry, then moves on to the history of Millville brickyards in general and Amaziah Burcham's in particular. The second section of the chapter discusses the history of the farmhouse, which is also a historical artifact, the history of the family, and the use of the farm today. This chapter concludes the discussion of the many ways that this Delaware valley marshland has been used through time, a product of the many cultures that developed and maintained it.

Sharp's -- The First Brickyard in Millville

The first commercial brick maker listed in Millville was John L. Sharp, whose factory was established in 1848, just as Millville industry began to take off.

Sharp was the son of Anthony Sharp, a 66 year-old "gentleman," who owned \$15,000 of real estate and ran a small sand-washing business in 1860.¹

The Sharps were Quakers who had moved down to Buckshutem Creek from Mount Holly, N.J. in 1838. John L. Sharp was born in 1824, and established a brick factory at Buckshutem when he was 23 years old.²

1 (At that time, sand was washed and sold to glass manufacturers)

2 This advertisement in the 1882 Bridgeton section of Cumberland county directory at Millville says Sharps, established 1848, manufacturers of pressed, paving, stretchers, arch and salmon bricks, in Millville on Middle Ave., west of bridge

Before 1860, Sharp built kilns in downtown Millville,³ on the river at Middle Avenue. He brought clay from his Buckshutem pits into town, probably by water.

In 1860, Sharp was the only brick maker listed in the Millville census.⁴ He held \$2,000 of real estate, and \$4,000 of personal assets. Sharp operated the brickyard six months a year, using 1200 tons of clay (worth \$250) and 150 cords of wood (worth \$450), and employing 11 workers (who were paid \$286), to produce 500,000 bricks. The bricks were sold for \$3,000. Sharp's Brickyard was worth \$5,000.

Sharp lived most of his adult life in downtown Millville, and was a member of the City Council there for 9 years. He was elected to the state senate in 1856 as a Democrat. He died in Millville on August 6, 1880.⁵

Subsequent Owners

Sharp's brick factory was owned by Samuel Hilliard by 1867.⁶ David Fithian of Millville worked as a brick maker at Hilliard's brickyard, about that time.⁷

By 1882, Sharp's brickyard was owned by George Harrison, though it was still listed as Sharp's Brickyard in the city directories. Harrison advertised many types of brick for sale, including pressed bricks, paving bricks, stretchers, arch and salmon bricks. (see advertisement, p. In 1886, Harrison's brickyard appeared on the new Millville City Map, though the artist's drawing is of the factory complex is inaccurate. See 1880 map and the 1904 photograph of the site). The brickyard was built on the Maurice River, at Middle Avenue, near the oyster and fish markets, where it was ideally located for shipping

³ The date the kilns were built might be inferred from a deed search for the property.

⁴ He was the only brick maker listed in the 1860 manufacturing census.

⁵ Cushing and Sheppard. p 644.

⁶ See 1867 map.

⁷ Fola Bevan of Millville Historical Society came across references to Hilliard's brickyard in her research into the Fithian family. Her article was published in Vineland Historical Magazine. vol. 61, #1. 1985.

bricks. In 1904, it was known as Hess and Golder's. It was no longer operating by 1930. At that time, the property was owned by Ben Dilks' dad, who occasionally provided clay for the Burcham brickyard, where the clay was beginning to run short.

NJ State Geologist's Report of 1904

In 1904, the state geologists report on Brick making was published, it reported that there were 6 brick factories in Cumberland County that year, but only two of them had the latest brick making machinery -- the stiff mud process machinery. The two modern brick makers were A.E. Burcham, who was listed at Buckshutem and Kilborn and Gibson in Rosenhayn. Four other manufacturers made bricks by the soft mud brick method, including Hess and Golder at Millville (formerly Sharp's), J. A. Hobart at Vineland, B. Erickson at Bridgeton, and Robert Greenlee at Belleplain.

Brick making, the traditional and the stiff-mud process

The soft mud process was the first one developed, and it was a less costly, but more labor intensive process. In 1904, this process was used at Hess and Golder's brick factory across the river. At the beginning of the Burcham brickyard, it was doubtless also the method used. By 1904, however, Burcham had invested in new technology, which is described below. First, though, the traditional method:

The Soft Mud Process

In the Soft-Mud Process, bricks are made in much the same way as bread. First, the clay is mixed with water and sand until it becomes soft. Next, it was placed in wooden molds that resemble a bread loaf pan, with five smooth surfaces. The sixth surface is formed by scraping the clay off the top of the mold.

As the bricks are removed from the mold and transferred to the drying floor, they bend slightly, becoming concave on one side and convex on the other. To produce brick with smooth faces and sharp edges, this type of brick must be repressed.

Stiff-Mud Machines

The Stiff-mud Process, which was used at the Burcham brickyard, produced bricks that required less care in tempering, molding or re-pressing; and still had crushing strength equal to those of other common bricks. In the stiff mud process, less water is mixed into the clay, creating a stiff mud which is then forced through a rectangular die.

As the bar of clay issues from the machine, it is received on the cutting table, where it is cut up into bricks by means of parallel steel wires or by revolving transverse wires or a wheel of wires.

This process was created mainly for clays of moderate plasticity like the Cape May Age Clays found on the farm. It does not work well with stony clays.

Stiff-mud bricks can also be re-pressed, but they do not have to be. With either type of brick, the green bricks (those that have been dried but not fired) are put into a steel mold and pressure is applied to straighten and sharpen the edges. This was done with both hand power and steam power machines. Soft mud bricks need to dry for a few hours before re-pressing, but stiff-mud brick can be re-pressed as soon as they are molded.

Clay

The main component of bricks is clay, which is, in its pure state, consists largely of the mineral kaolinite, a hydrous aluminum silicate created by the decomposition of granite or other feldspathic rocks. Most clays also contain other hydrous aluminous minerals as well, such as finely powdered quartz, feldspar and mica.

The best brick clays contain three-fifths silica, one-fifth alumina, and one-fifth iron, lime, magnesia, soda, potash and water.

Cape May Age clays

Described as gritty, loamy, sandy clay, Cape May age clays slake (heat and crumble by addition with water) slowly because the

clay particles in them are evenly distributed.⁸ This clay produces red bricks naturally, without any additional color added.

Burning brick drives the last traces of moisture, carbon dioxide and sulfur tri-oxide from the clay, causing the mass to shrink as the clay fuses and hardens, then vitrifies, becoming dense, hard, permanent brick.

⁸ Ries and Hummel, op.cit., p. 346

A. E. BURCHAM,

MANUFACTURER OF AND DEALER IN

Hard Paving and Pressed

BRICKS,

TILE AND DRAIN PIPE

Manantico, N. J.

POST OFFICE ADDRESS ALSO AT

MILLVILLE, N. J.

ROBERT POND,

DEALER IN

COAL, WOOD, MARL,

Lime and Fertilizers.

PEAR STREET, NEXT TO N. J. SOUTH R. R.

VINELAND, N. J.

LIME delivered at any station or siding on the Rail
Road. **MARL** delivered at any point desired.

103

Advertisement in 1880
Bridgeton Directory

Chapter IV, Section II - Burcham's New Jersey Drain and Tile Works

As the industrial town of Millville grew, the brick industry also grew, and the clay pits on the Burcham farm became very valuable, as they were one of the only two sources of Cape May Age clay in Millville. (The other was Sharp's.) By 1865, there was a commercial brickyard established on the site. The factory was built by John McClure, who purchased the property in 1865, and established a brick factory on the site soon afterward.¹

John McClure was the son of David McClure, owner of the large dyked farm² just upriver from the Burcham property, and was living on his father's farm in 1860. He was 26 years old. John McClure was also the nephew of John McConaghy, another owner of adjacent marshland. The family owned the property bordering the Clunn's for at least 70 years.³

It is not known when bricks were first made on the Burcham property. It is likely, however, that they were made at an earlier day. Possibly, they were made for use in the foundation of the earliest identified structure on the property. The house was on the site at the time Amariah Burcham bought the property in 1867.

1870 Census

By the time of the 1870 census, Amariah Burcham owned the Menantico brickyard, which he called the New Jersey Drain and Tile Works. His brother Joseph Burcham and two other brick makers were listed as living on the farm and working in the brick factory.

¹ Hudson. Mary, History of Millville. Millville Historical Society. 1950

² The 1860 census lists David McClure as the owner of \$4000 of real estate.

³ 1834 Sheriff's sale to David McClure, 1838 to John McConaghy for \$1k. 1854 back to David McClure in John McConaghy's will. McClure is left the farm where he and Mary Ann McClure now live in Millville for his lifetime, then after his death, it will go to John McClure, son of David's son. John McClure is described as McConaghy's nephew, so Mary Ann must have been McConaghy's sister.

John McClure inherits the property after the death of his father. In 1872, he mortgages 40 square perches of the property to his neighbor, Edward Hampton for \$300. The transaction probably has something to do with the meadow company appraisals. In 1909, after the death of his wife, he sells the property to Wm and Charles Ore, referring to the property as the "Kates Farm", probably because the Kates were leasing the farm.

Four of the 11 brick workers in Millville that year worked at Burcham's. Some of the others were working at Nathaniel Reeves' brickyard.

Amaziah had \$1800 of capital invested in the business, owned two brick press machines, employed 4 males over 16, paid \$1,100 of wages, and ran the business for only 6 months of the year.

He used \$225 of clay, \$90 of wood, and \$480 of sand to produce 350,000 bricks that he sold for \$3,500. He used the power of one horse in the process.

Nathaniel Reeves, the other brick maker listed, was also in business for only 6 months of the year, paid \$1,000 in wages to 3 male workers. He had \$600 of capital invested; owned only one brick making machine, but it was not the pressed kind. He also used one horse in the process.

Reeves used \$100 of clay and 70 cords of wood worth \$280, (no sand listed) to produce 200,000 bricks worth \$2,000.

By 1880, Reeves was no longer in the brick making business. He had become a glass cutter and had \$4500 of real estate.

1880 Census

In 1880, Amaziah Burcham was the only brick maker listed in the manufacturing census, though he was not the only brick maker at the time. Twenty four men were listed as brick workers in the Millville population census in 1880, and Amaziah employed half of them 12 men who he paid \$2,000 in wages.

The other brick makers may have worked in the Buckshutem/Millville brickyard, which may not have been counted in the Millville Manufacturing census tally. It may have been counted in a different township or county.

Burcham used wood and other materials worth \$475 to produce 600,000 common bricks worth \$3,600 and \$200 of tiles.

By 1880, he had installed steam power -- one boiler and one engine. He had also begun to advertise. In the Greenwich directory that year, he advertised hard, paving and pressed bricks, tile and drain pipe for sale. He had also installed some high tech equipment, including a grinder and a brick press.

1904 Report of the State Geologist

In 1904, the New Jersey state geologist wrote that the best Cape May clay in Cumberland county was found on either side of the Maurice river at Buckshutem -- at A. E. Burcham's brickyard on the east side of the river, and at Hess and Golder's yard on the west. They were the only two brick makers listed in Millville.

At Burcham's, sandy clay was found under 15 inches of sand for at least 9 feet in depth, but only the upper 6 feet were dug. The bottom layers were left to prevent the water of the creek from entering the pit:

Burcham clay was a green brick mixture that requires 27 % water for tempering and becomes steel hard at cone 3. He was producing three thousand red-burning bricks a day by the stiff mud process.

Brickyard workers were seasonal employees, hired from Philadelphia employment agencies, who were offered accommodations from March to November. They lived in tenant houses on the property -- two of which were behind the wagon shed, and three more that were by the bend in the road.⁴ Maud Jones Burcham, Janice and Jeannette's mother baked 14 loaves of bread a day to feed the work force.

The 20th century

Frank Burcham, Amaziah's son took over the brickyard in 1913, as Amaziah was incapacitated. He had been gradually taking on more responsibility before that time. He had married in 1907, and his wife Maud, had joined the brick making business at that time.

Mary Samano Wheaton, remembers that her lather, John Samano, Sr., worked at the Burcham brickyard. Samano was a recent Russian immigrant and a highly skilled mason, but did not speak English well enough to find masonry work when he first arrived. He and his wife and the first few of their seven children lived in one of

⁴ The tenant houses were wood frame. 2 storey houses Single men lived inside the family house in rooms that were in the second floor of the oldest section of the house.

the tenant houses on the Burcham property about 1920. Later Samano and his sons started a masonry business in Millville (Samano Brothers). They were responsible for many of the alterations done at the farmhouse, and much of the brick laying done all over the town.

By the 1930s, the brickyard operation was growing smaller, and the clay in the pits was slowly being used up. Frank Burcham cut back to only 4 workers. Maud still cooked lunch for the workers, but there were no boarders, as people could come by car.

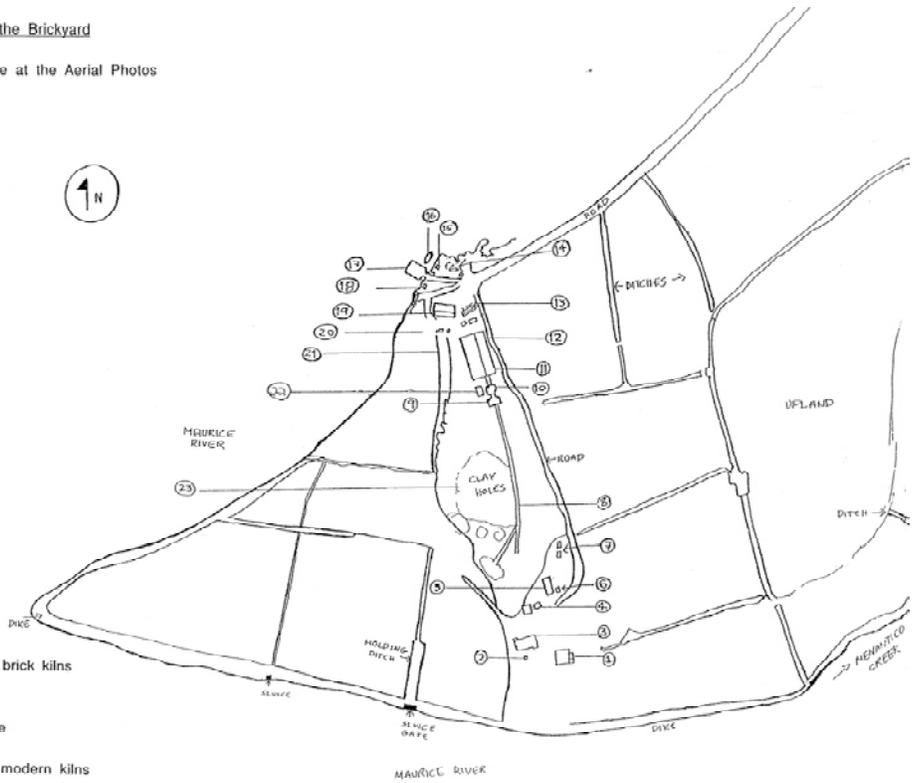
Gradually, Janice and Jeanette's brother Melvin and one other man did all the brick making. The power to run the brick machine and the clay car was converted from steam to an old Studebaker engine that was hooked up to the machinery.

Brother Melvin, (b. 1913) worked at the brickyard until 1942, when the yard was shut down so the men could go to work in defense factories to help with the war effort. Melvin went to New York Shipping in Camden, N.J.; Frank went to Del-bay ship building in Dorchester.

Chapter IV, Section III -- The Proxemics of the Brickyard
 Site Plan of the Burcham Property in 1940
 (drawn from a 1940 survey photograph on file at the Aerial Photos
 Division in Trenton)
 Scale: 1 inch = 500 feet

Buildings on the property in 1940:

- 1) farmhouse
- 2) corncrib
- 3) barn
- 4) 2 chicken coops
- 5) wagon shed
- 6) pigeon house
- 7) two tenant houses
- 8) rail road track
- 9) clay mixer
- 10) brick making machine
- 11) felt rollers
- 12) 4 drying sheds
- 13) stack of cord wood
- 14) the remains of one of three cone-shaped brick kilns
- 15) site of boat house
- 16) old barge, on the right of the pier
- 17) shipping pier built to ship sand, used once
- 18) site of storage shed for fishermen
- 19) two flat topped, removable wood-roofed modern kilns
- 20) site of 3 former tenant houses, which were torn down c.1930
- 21) post and wire fence that kept animals out of industrial site
- 22) machine shop
- 23) clay holes



• ESTABLISHED OVER 30 YEARS •

South Jersey Brick and Drain Tile Works.

A. E. BURCHAM,

PROPRIETOR.

All grades of Brick furnished, and anything
you want made from Clay to Order.

WORKS AT MANANTICO.

P. O. Address, Millville, N. J.

Millville, N. J., Jan 21 1899

Mr Harry C. Chapman

To A. E. Burcham Dr

To 500 Hard Brick @ 70.	560
" 1000 Salmon " @ 550	550
325 Dark Red " @ 100	325
	1435

Received in full

A. E. Burcham. By.

W. J. Sumack

Brick making at Burchams Brickyard

Brickmaking began at the Burcham farm just behind the wagon shed -- at the clay pits, where clay was dug and thrown up to the land above. (Map location #21) The clay was shoveled into an old railroad coal car that had been converted to use on the farm. It was known as the "clay car," and it held up to two tons of clay. It ran across the property on a track (location # 8) that began at the clay pits and ended at the factory buildings. The car ran on flanges, moving across the property by steam-power (later by engine power)¹. It ran up a slight incline as it approached the factory building. (location #9).

At the first factory building, the bottom of the car opened, and the clay inside fell into a large wooden bin below the track. This process was repeated -- the clay car running back and forth to the clay pits until the bin was full. A bin full of clay was just enough for a day's work.

When the bin was full, the clay was shoveled into a grinder at in the next building (location #10). The grinder resembled an oversized meat grinder, and it made the clay homogenous, crushing any large particles and mixing it with water. When the clay mixture reached the right consistency, it moved into the next phase of the brick making machinery, entering a cast iron mold. (See illustration p. 99.) The stiff clay was forced through the rectangular mold, coming out as a long stiff bar of mud, the exact width of a brick. It moved along a conveyor belt made of felt rollers (seen as location #11) and Frank Burcham measured each brick with a form and cut the lengths true with a wire. He stood each brick up on end, and placed it onto a wooden pallet. (See illustrations of clay manufacturing implements p. 100.)

After he had tilled eight pallets with bricks, the pallets were taken to the drying sheds (location #14) by wheel barrow. The

¹ At first a steam boiler pulled the clay car up the ramp by cable. Later (late 30's), it was powered by the engine of an old Studebaker car.

Pallets were heavy, weighing 40 pounds each. They were hoisted up high and stacked 6 or 8 feet high on a tier. (See illustration p. 100.) The drying shed had doors on its east and west sides, which provided maximum air circulation when opened, and good protection from wind and rain when closed. There was room for one hundred thousand bricks in each shed. They were left to dry for about 6 weeks. Then they were ready for the kiln.

Dried bricks were moved to the kilns by wheel barrow, 40 bricks at a time. (See illustration, p. 100.) They were carefully spaced – stacked by hand in the kiln – then fired for a week. They burned 24 hours a day for 7 days, while 2 or 3 men took turns remaining on duty to monitor their progress.

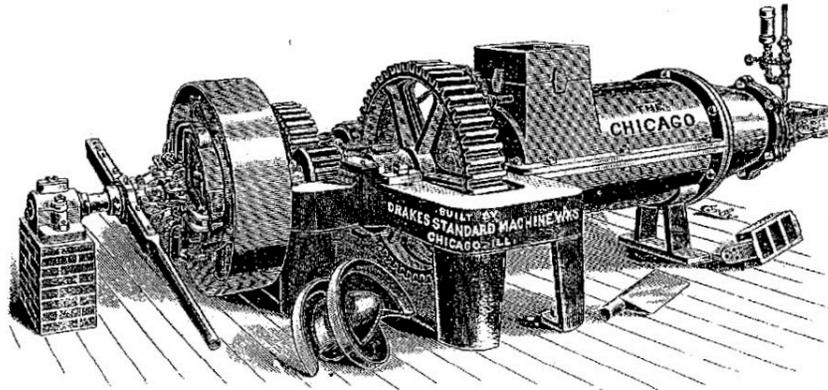
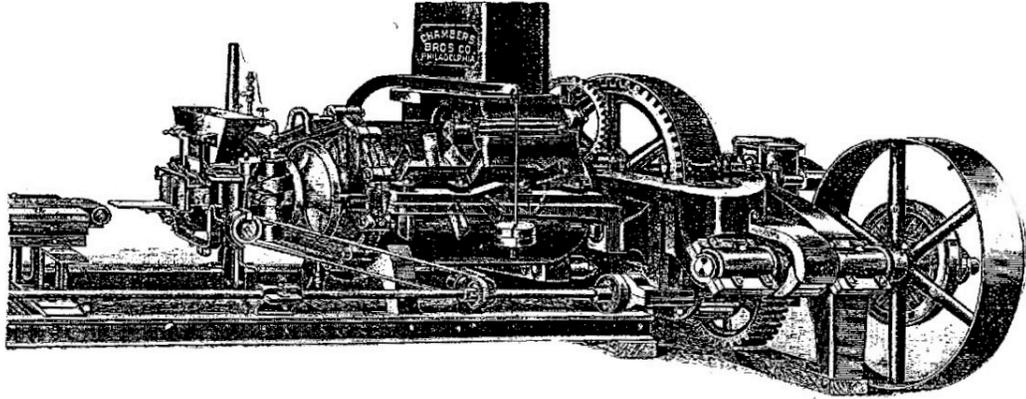
At the beginning of the burning, the roofs of kilns were closed, covered over by the large wooden doors with which the modern, flat-topped down-draft kilns were topped. (See illustration, p. 101, and photo of the remains of one of the old circular kilns on p. 102) These new kilns were probably on the property by 1907.

On the 5th day of burning, the workmen began to open the roof – taking it off slowly piece by piece. The heat inside the kiln was intense. As they opened the roof, they poured mud on the hot bricks. After the seventh day, the fire in the kiln was out, and the bricks were left to cool for a week.

The brick workers alternated kilns, burning one kiln at a time beginning in early Spring and continuing until late Fall. The wood for firing was cut on the Burcham's 99-acre wood lot across the Port Elizabeth Road.

At the height of the Burcham brick making period, fifteen thousand bricks were produced in this way each week.

Stiff-Mud Brick making machinery
 that resembles the machine at Amaziah
 Burcham's brickyard. (From Clayworker Magazine)
 advertisements



This cut represents our new Improved Brick and Tile Machine "CHICAGO" No. 2. Capacity from 30,000 to 40,000 brick per day. Surpassed by none.

We also manufacture a new Improved Brick and Tile Machine "CHICAGO" No. 3. Capacity from 10,000 to 15,000 brick per day.

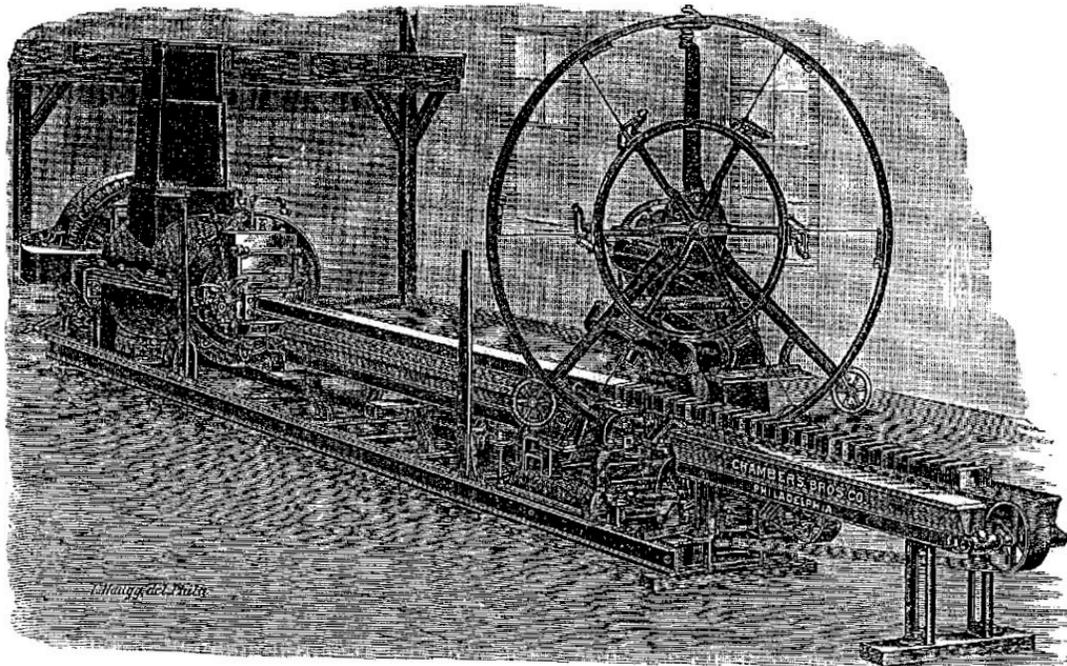
We also manufacture PUG MILLS, ELEVATORS, Etc., Etc.

Send for circular of our GRANTATOR, it is the leader in Chicago; so say: Alsip Brick Co., Hayt & Alsip Co., May, Purington & Bonner Brick Co., Purington-Kimbell Brick Co., and others.

PRICES REASONABLE.

CORRESPONDENCE SOLICITED.

MACHINERY FOR BUILDING BRICK
AND FOR STREET PAVERS
ROUND CORNER PAVING BRICK WITHOUT REPRESSING



THE CHAMBERS AUTOMATIC SIDE-CUT BRICK MACHINE.

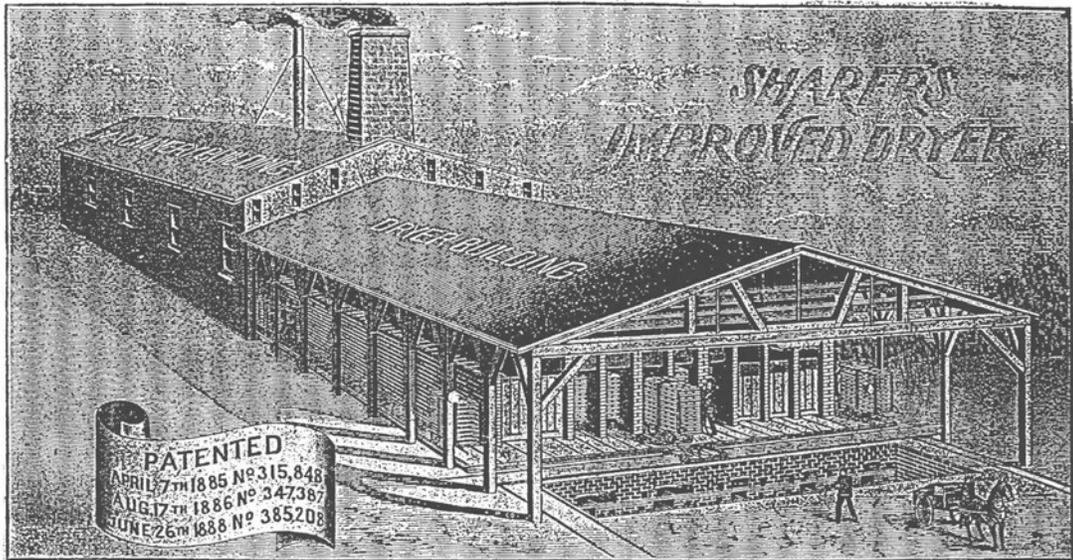
Automatic End Cut Brick Machines of five sizes, having capacity
from 10,000 to over 100,000 brick daily under
favorable conditions.

CHAMBERS BROTHERS COMPANY

52D AND MEDIA STREETS

DAVIS BROWN, Chicago Agent,
59 West Jackson Boulevard.

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

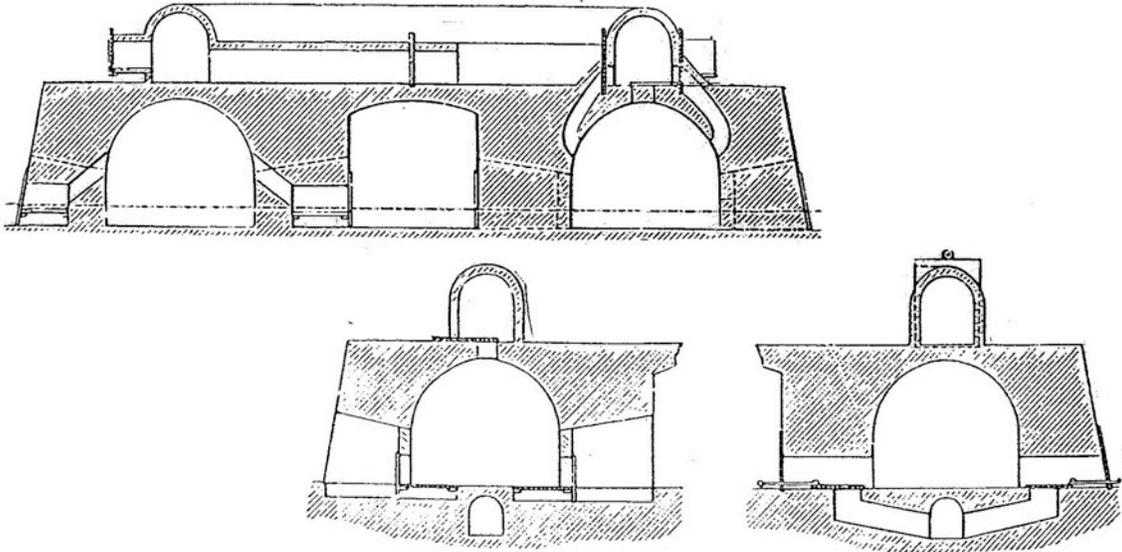


A Drying Shed

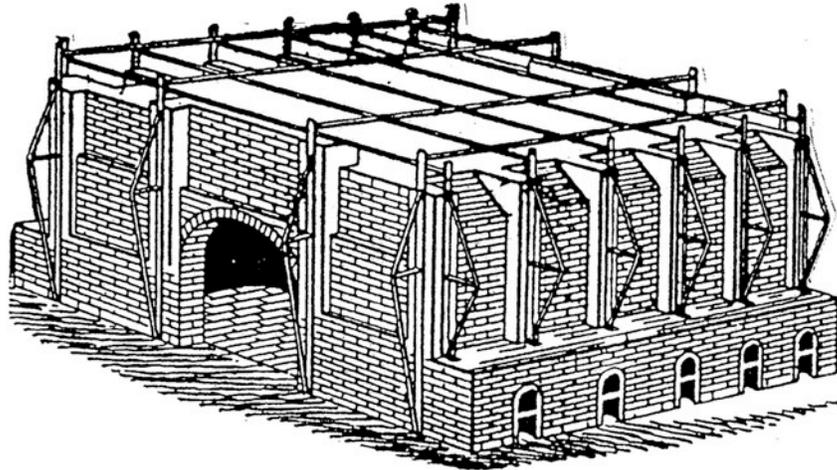
The Monarch Continuous Kiln.

(Patented August 5, 1892.)

The only kiln ever invented that fires on the top with furnaces. It is especially designed for burning fine wares, such as Terra Cotta, Fine Pressed Brick, Clay Shingles, Fire Brick, Silica Brick. Any desired degree of heat can be obtained with 85 per cent. less fuel than the old style kilns. It has both up and down draft, also horizontal draft. It has both outside and inside draft. Each chamber is fired in three different places and under perfect control. No expensive valve dampers or feed holes required. All in search of a better class kiln should write for circular. The kiln cannot be built for nothing but it is considerably cheaper than any other continuous tunnel kiln in the market.



An example of flat-topped, down draft kiln like those that were built at Burcham's Brickyard c. 1907 to replace earlier round kilns. (Illustrations taken from Clay Worker Magazines found under carpet at Burcham house.)

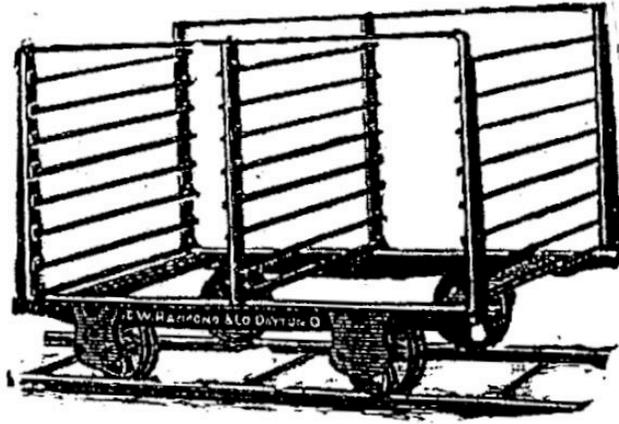


LOUIS H. REPELL'S
Improved Kilns

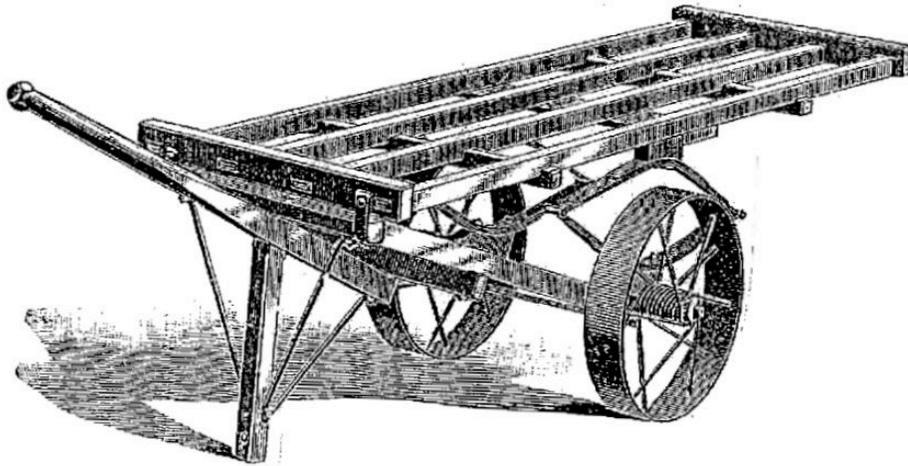
FOR BURNING
ALL KINDS OF WARES.

The above cut represents my recently patented Down Draft Kiln, in which I have combined all the points of merit that have been found necessary and valuable in my years of experience in the burning of the above style kilns.

Another example of flat-topped, down draft kiln like those that were built at Burcham's Brickyard c. 1907 to replace earlier round kilns. (Illustrations taken from Clay Worker Magazines found under carpet at Burcham house.)

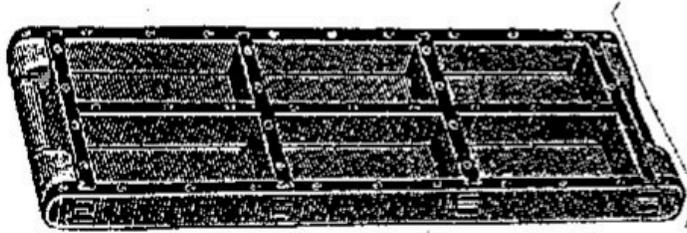


pier to hold brick pallets

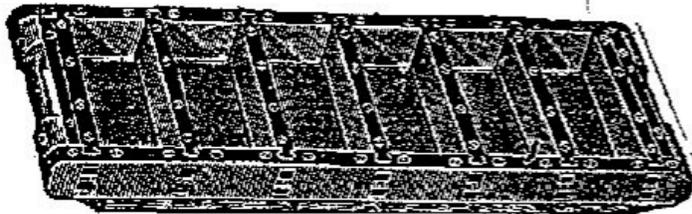


wheelbarrow for transporting
pallets.

6 BRICK HAND MOULD.

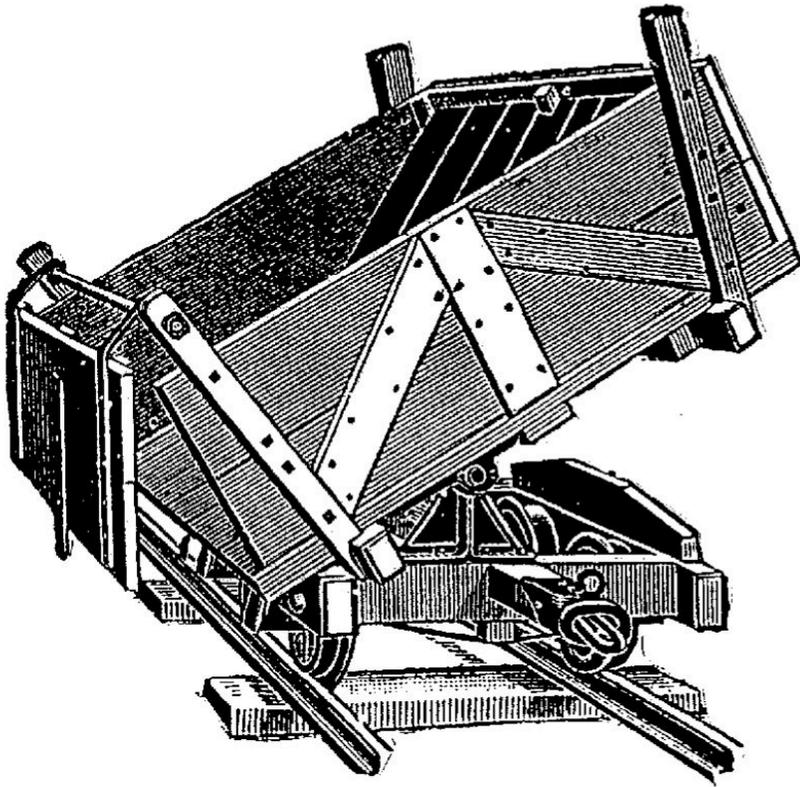
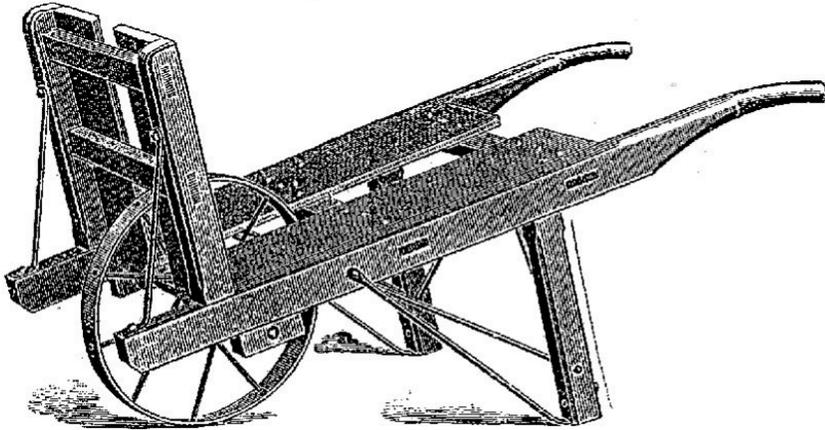


MACHINE MOULD.



Clay working implements
like those used at the
Burcham Brickyard.

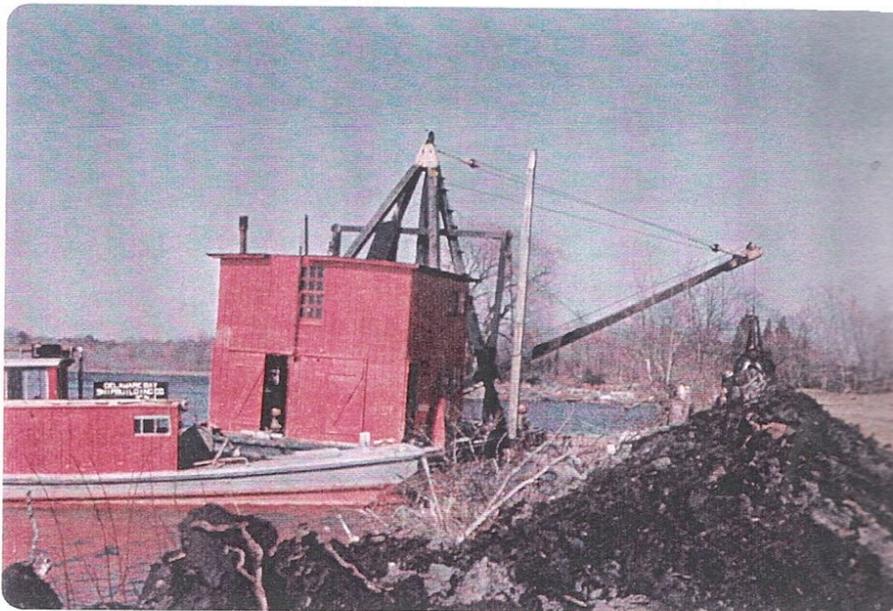
NO. 4, BRICK BARROW.



clay car
(dumps sideways)



Photo taken from old pier. Shows old barge



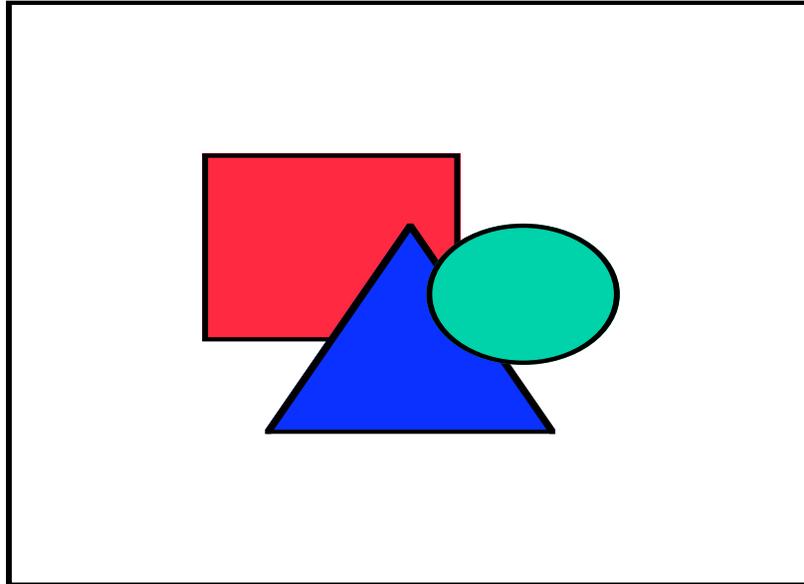
"Muddigger" used to repair dykes in 1960's.



1961 photo shows remains of early circular kiln.



A breached dyke at Burcham Farm.



Chapter IV. Section IV -- History of the Farmhouse

The earliest identified farmhouse building on the Burcham property was a one-room, hall-plan structure that stood at the north end of the existing house. Its small size and high pitched roof suggest an 18th century date of construction. The building was demolished in 1961, and the only evidence we have of its appearance are three photos taken that year.

The photos show a 1 1/2 storey gable-end house with three bays, a center entry and an interior-end chimney on the west side. The photos, which were taken from the north, show a north-facing entrance which faces the road. It seems unlikely, though, that this was the principal entrance of the house, as there was a corresponding door on the south side of the house, facing the river.

As additions were built on the south side of the house, the south-facing door was covered over to become the entrance to the newer sections of the house. The north door became the only

exterior entrance for the wood cabin, and the northern, road-side entrance to the expanded house.

The early building was a wood frame structure, which was sheathed in clapboards and covered by a wood shingle roof. It was built with close eaves and an off-center window in the half story of the west gable end. The photos show patched clap boarding at the southwest corner of the house, patching that was probably done at the time the hearth was removed.

The foundation of the wood house is clearly shown in the photos -- it was made of brick with cellar windows. Other foundation stones can be found at the south end of the wood house site. They were probably the foundation stones of an earlier building.

The First Addition

The photographs also show the first addition to the original house -- a small brick ell that still stands on the site. This addition is a 1 1/2 story gable roof structure with a western facade. This change of orientation -- from the north and south entrances to a western facade was probably a compromise between the two paths people took to the house and the store: some came by river, others by road. The front door and windows of this facade can still be seen inside a shed-roofed structure that covers the entire width of the western facade.

Unfortunately, the window sash of this facade gives no clue as to the date of the first addition, as it is new. The door has two vertical panels at the bottom and four glass panes at the top. This would be appropriate for a 19th century house. Clay Worker magazines that were found under the carpeting of this brick ell ranged in date from 1883 to 1903. They were probably laid during the 1907 renovation and enlargement of the house, as newspapers were commonly used as insulation in that period. If this brick ell were added to the early hall plan house in the mid-19th century, then the early wood structure might have been updated at that time. This might explain the plain door frame, four- paneled door and plain window frames in six over six sash that are

seen in the original house, as these are details that were typically used in mid-19th century building. A basement kitchen was probably added to the house at the time the ell was constructed, and the store may have been created by enclosing the porch space in front of the ell.

While the gothic addition was being built, the Burcham family lived in the older parts of the house and cooked in the basement kitchen. After the building was completed, a new kitchen was built in the basement under the conservatory for Amaziah and Mary. Frank and Maud Burcham had their kitchen in the new Gothic addition.

The Gothic Revival Addition

About 1907, the last major addition was added to the house. It consisted of a new southern front -- a brick, Gothic Revival building of the type that had been built all across the Delaware valley about 50 years earlier. It was a design taken straight from the popular architectural pattern books of A.J. Downing or Calvert Vaux - a building with a high pitched roof and a central gable with gable returns.

The new addition was a 2 1/2 story brick building that still stands. It is above grade on the south and west sides of the house, where the ground falls away. On the north and the east sides of the house, the lower level is a basement. The Gothic addition was home for Frank and Maud and their children, the younger generation of Burchams. The older generation -- Amaziah and his wife Mary lived partly in the wood house, and partly in the basement, traveling down the stairs in the store to reach their basement kitchen, spring house, living room and dining room. "Grandma's living room" as the first floor of the wood frame house was known, had an organ in it, on the wall in the space where the fireplace had been. Brickyard workers also lived in the expanded house, in the upstairs bedrooms of the old wood structure.

The Interior of the Gothic Addition

Though the exterior of the new building was a standard pattern book form, the interior was not. The plan of the house was

Haphazard, not resembling anything found in an architectural pattern book. It seems to be the accidental product of cumulative building.

In fact, the house was built without a main facade. Its most elegant or dramatic facade is its south facade, which features a high pitched central gable and a raised porch across its entire width at the first floor level. But despite its dramatic features, the south facade has no entrance. Like many old Southern plantation houses, it was designed to present an elegant face to the river.

The porch, which was built on wood piers, seems particularly ornamental. (The piers were long ago replaced by concrete block.) While it did give the family an excellent spot for viewing the river, it was nonetheless narrow and hard to reach, as it had no front door.

The entrance to the house was on the west side, through the kitchen. As in the earlier brick ell design, the west side was a convenient compromise entrance between the two directions from which people arrived at the property. Those who arrived from the road approached the north face of the building. Those who arrived by water approached from the south.

At the time of its construction, the porch on the south side of the building wrapped around the full width of this west end with an entrance that was centered on the gable. This west end porch and the porch or store in front of the brick ell were both enclosed by a shed in the 19th century. A conservatory/kitchen wing and two story shed building was also attached to the east face of the building soon after 1907 building was completed. The second floor of the shed was another bedroom used for unmarried workers.

The brick walls of the basement kitchen still exists at the site, and the roof line of the glass conservatory and wood shed buildings could be seen as recently as last summer. This face has since been covered over with stucco. A stair that led from the pantry up to the second floor of the shed building also still exists.

Delaware Valley Vernacular Architecture

The history of changes in the Burcham farmhouse is similar to those of many other vernacular buildings in the Delaware region. Like many of the houses identified in Bernard Herman's "first period" of house building in Newcastle county Delaware. It began with a simple one-room wood frame house.¹ In the second period of house building, these houses were updated by the incorporation of kitchens and other service rooms into the main block of the building. Herman described the pattern as follows:

"At the close of the 18th century, the typical farmhouse stood as a separate structure unencumbered with kitchens, food storage areas or specifically designated servants quarters. All of the working functions associated with the house were nearby in a number of lesser, free-standing buildings. By the time of the 1816 tax assessment, though, the first step had been taken to physically enlarging the house to incorporate a number of these functions under one roof."²

The owners of the Burcham property seem to have been no exceptions: they re-ordered the living space of the first period house, by adding a brick ell to the house, and creating a basement kitchen. The trend towards incorporating functional rooms under the roof of the main house was a part of a more general pattern of the "diversification of interior space," or the creation of rooms with special functions.

In Herman's Folk building in Central Delaware, there are three examples of vernacular buildings that seem to relate to the Burcham house though they are four very different houses. They are the David Wilson House, the Samuel Corbitt house, and the Armstrong-Walker House. David Wilson's house in Odessa had a brick ell added to the rear of the main block in 1816. While the Wilson house was a much larger and more advanced building, The Burcham brick ell that may have been added about 1850, also began this process of adding new

1 Bernard Herman, Architectural and Rural Life in central Delaware, p 26

2 Ibid. p. 148.

Spaces to the overall plan of the house. In both cases, the original block remained much as it was.

The second house is the Corbitt house, which was built in the 1770's. In this house, as in the Burcham's, the spatial reordering included the construction of a basement kitchen. The Corbitt's basement kitchen was built at least 50 years before the Burcham's, however. Theirs was built about 1790. The Corbitt house design also had a kitchen that was constructed under the conservatory office shortly after 1907.

Widespread house re-modeling took place throughout the Delaware area in the 1820s and 30s, according to Herman, as older houses received their new service wings. Some, though, did not receive them until 1850.³ The Burcham farmhouse, then would have been on the late end of the trend. This time lag is perhaps logical, as the farm was located far from the influence of the city.

The third building that the Burcham house resembles is the Armstrong Walker house that is pictured on the front of Herman's book. From the river, the Burcham's Gothic addition looks very much like the Armstrong-Walker house, as both as brick expressions of the same high pitched central gable pattern book house.

In this way the Burcham farmhouse is also a typical example of 19th century vernacular homes in the region, as farmers relied on the architectural drawings provided in popular magazines.

The Burcham's gothic addition was simply tacked onto the older buildings, a false front that was clearly a very late expression of the mid 19th century style – again in this case, about 50 years behind the buildings on the other side of the Delaware.

³Ibid.

Burchem's Brick Yard
below Millville.

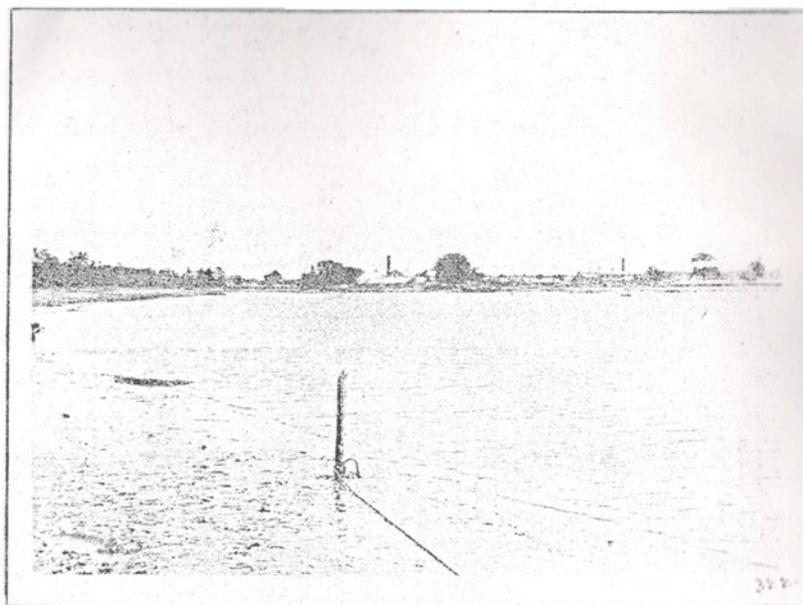
1902

Neg.322

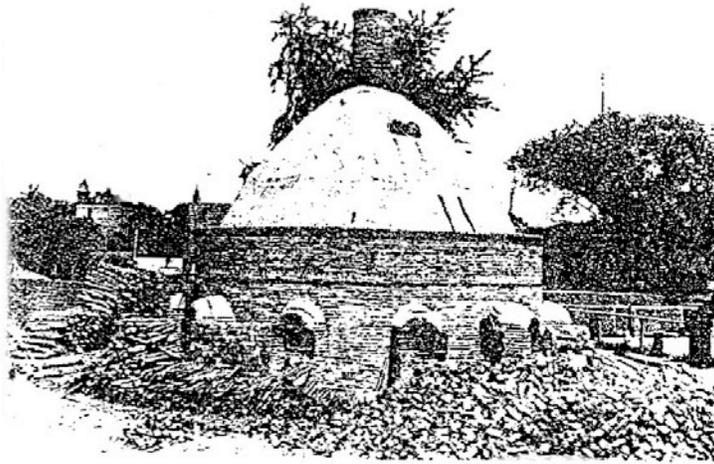
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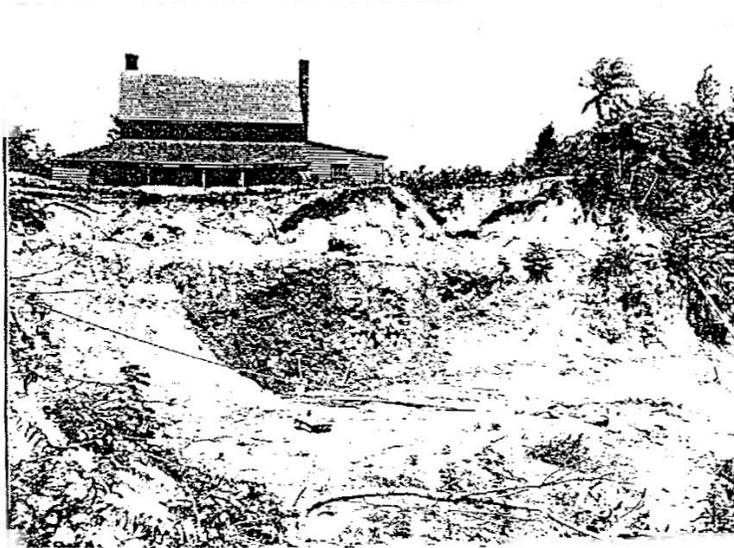
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348



Brick Kiln at Millville 1902
Hess & Golden



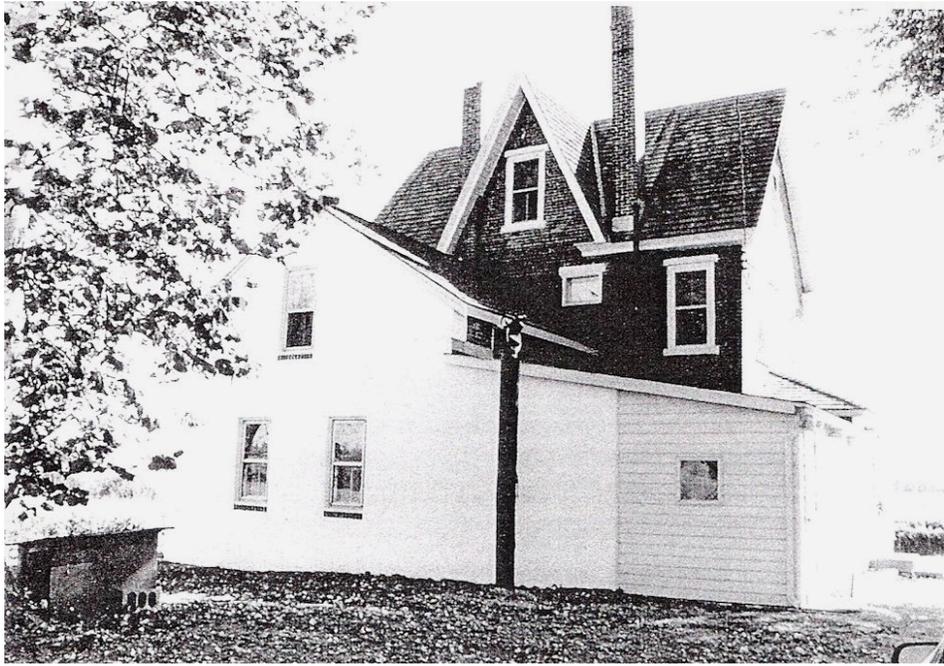
Hess & Golden Clay Pit 1902
Buckshutem



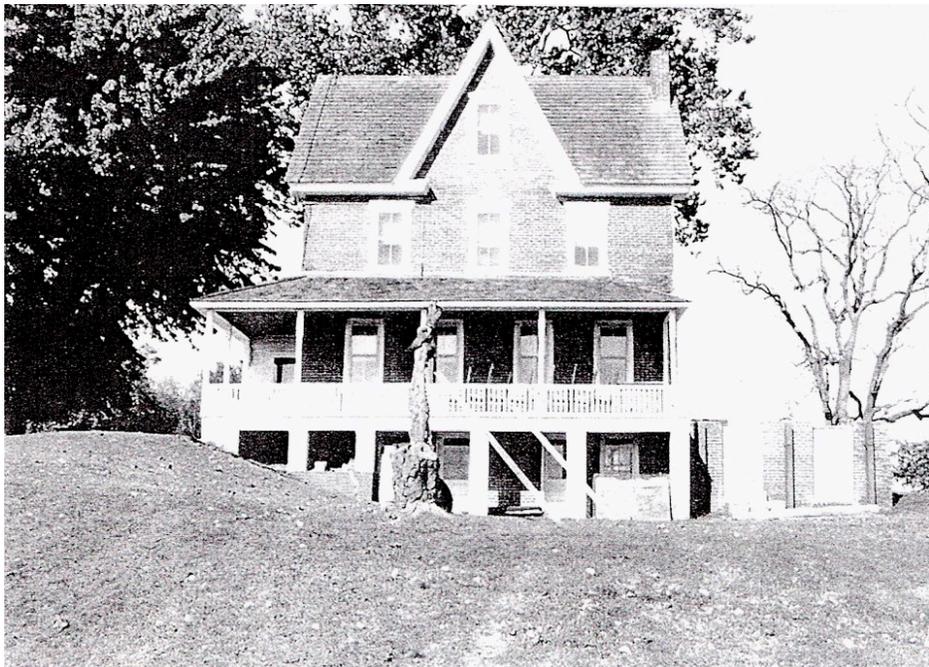
1961 Photos of Early Wood Frame Building on North End of House



Farmhouse in 1994 shows East façade before stuccoing.



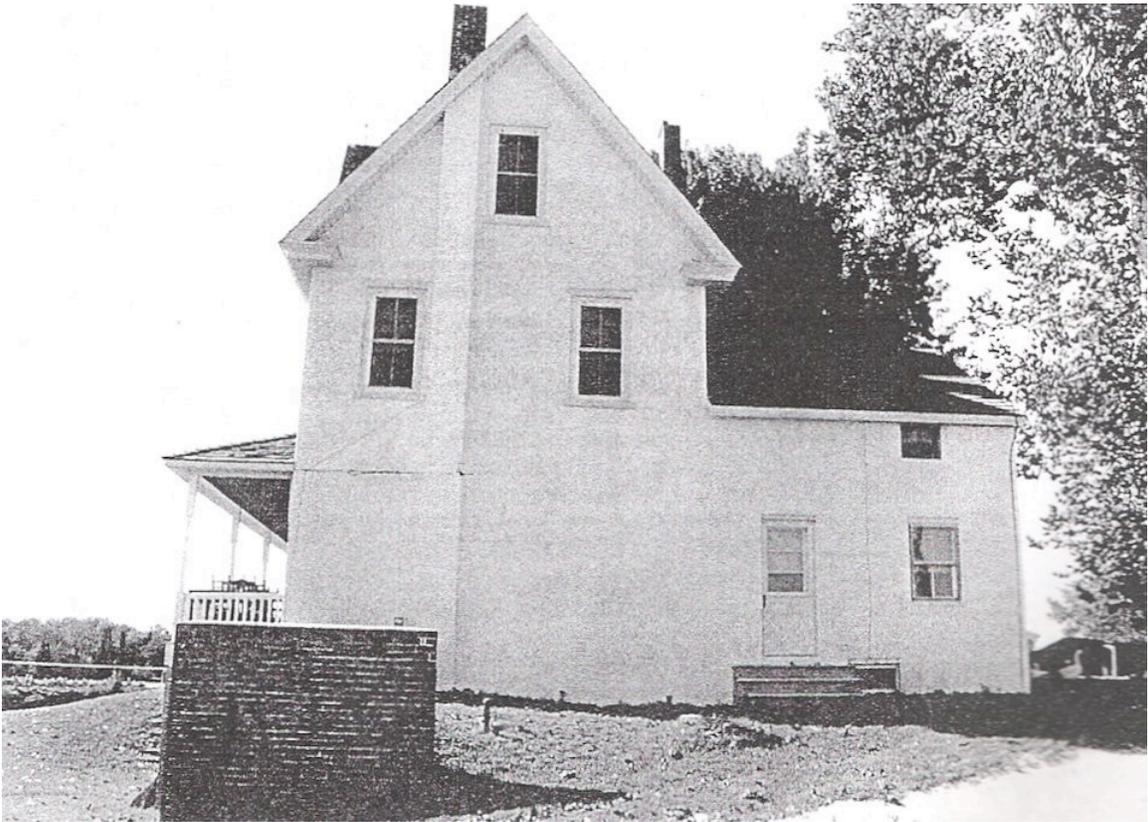
North



South



West



East

1995 Photos: Burcham Farm



Conservatory remains



Southwest corner shows store at left

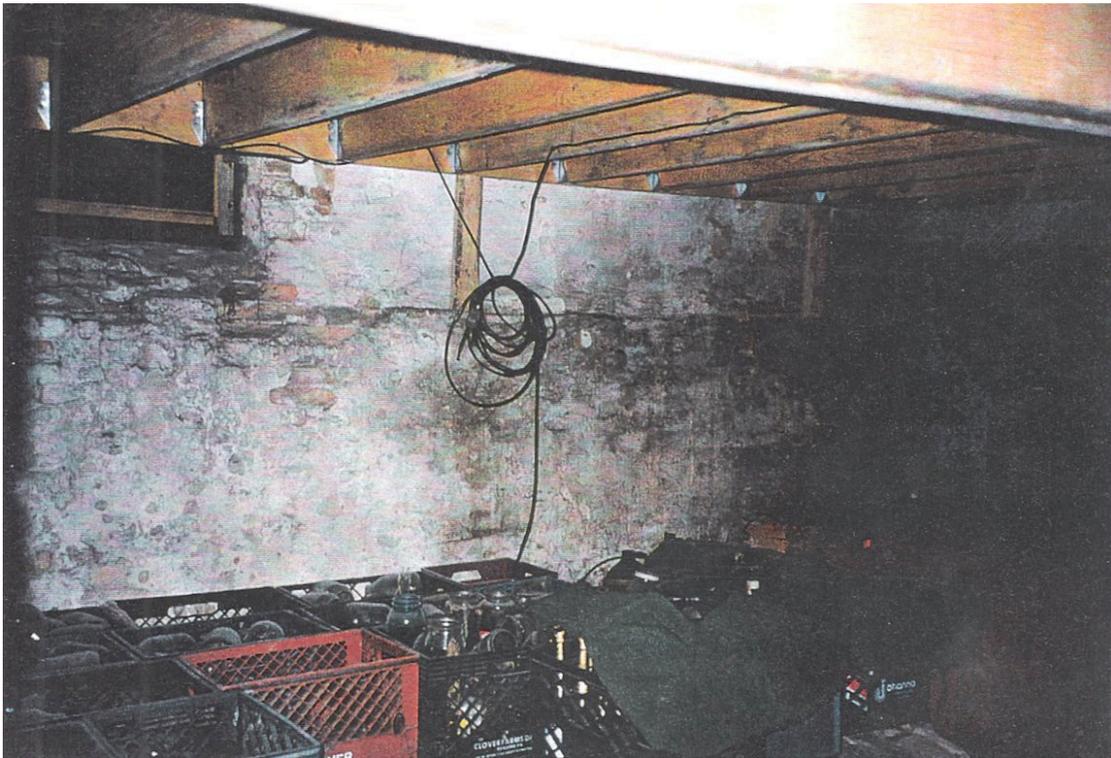




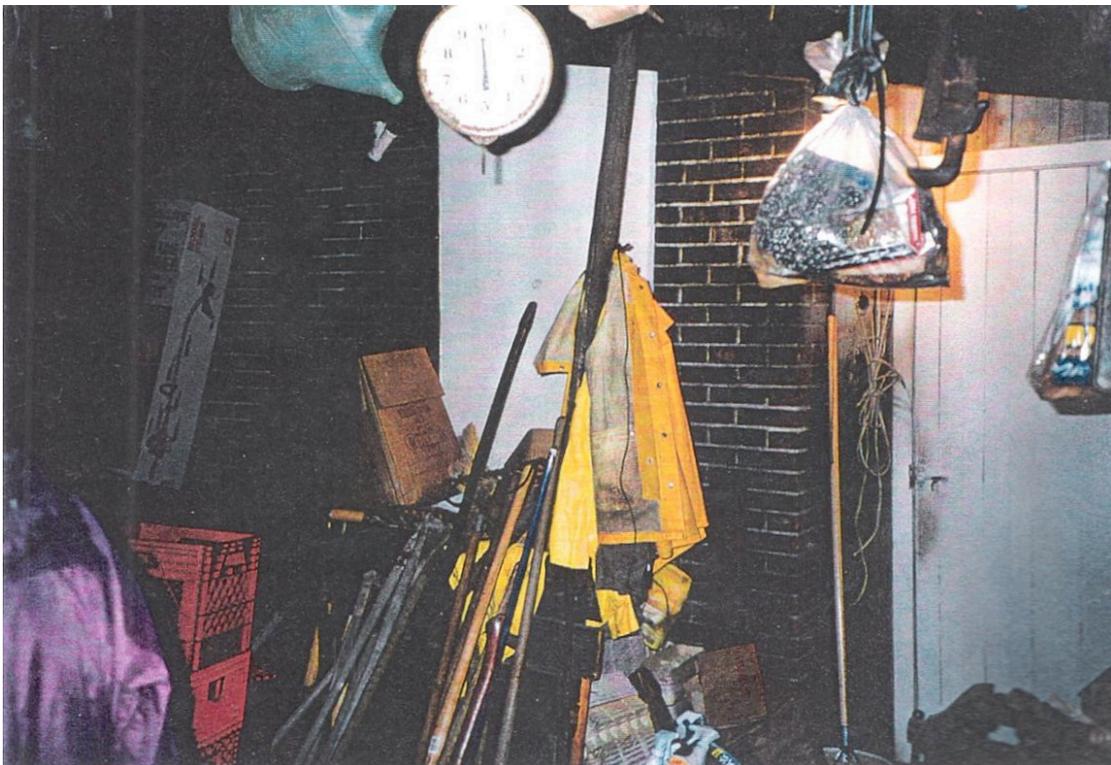
In old store, façade of first brick addition (west) door and window can be seen. (See plans and description of early building).



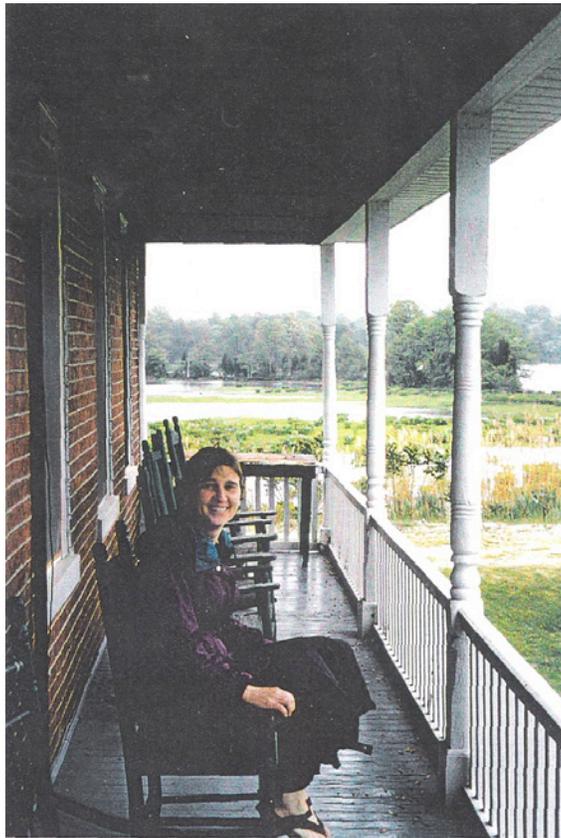
West façade window of early brick addition remains inside old store. White area shows a blocked window that once led to kitchen of 1917 addition.



Basement remains of old spring house

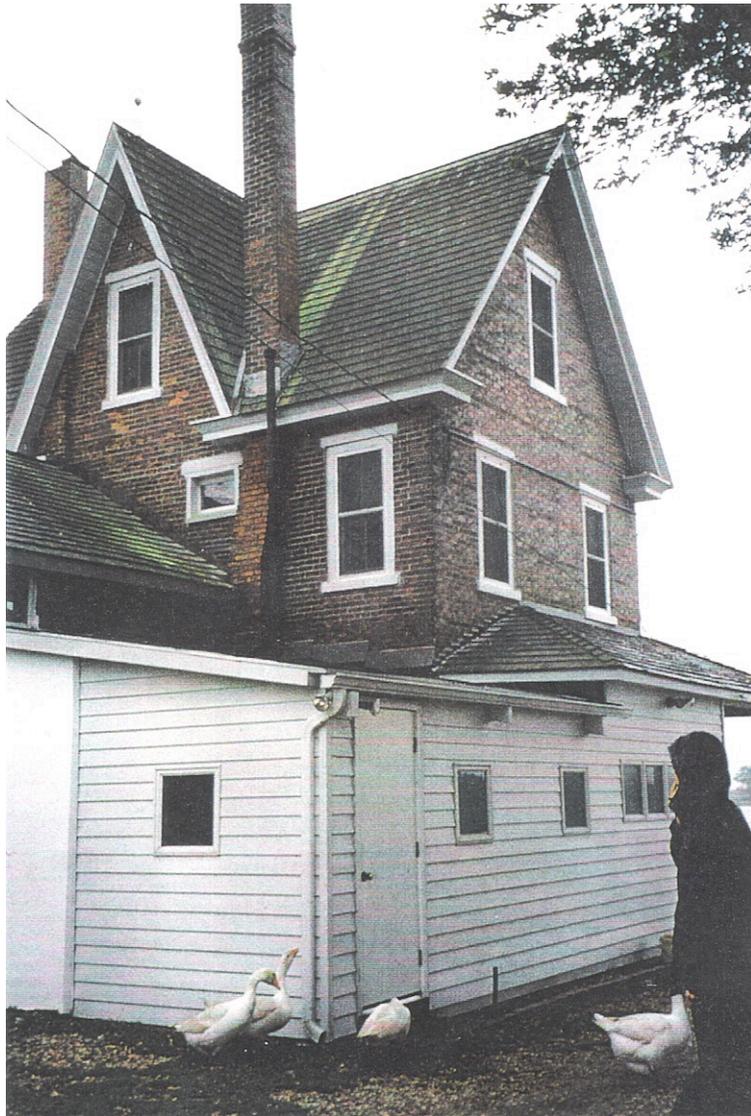


In old store, door to porch is seen.



The author sitting on narrow porch of 1907 addition. No main entrance was built on this south façade.





Picture shows rooflines of three buildings.



Door between 2nd floor bedrooms connecting early brick addition and 1907 building. Two different levels.



Former exterior windows can be seen in stairwell of 1907 addition.

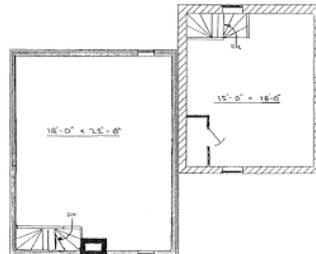
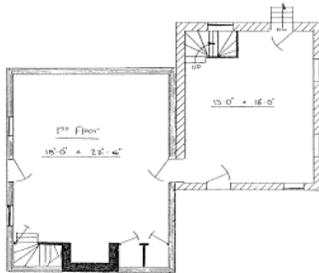


Food stored in pantry on the steps that once led to worker bedrooms.



EARLIEST IDENTIFIED STRUCTURE:
WOOD FRAME HOUSE, BUILT BEFORE 1867.

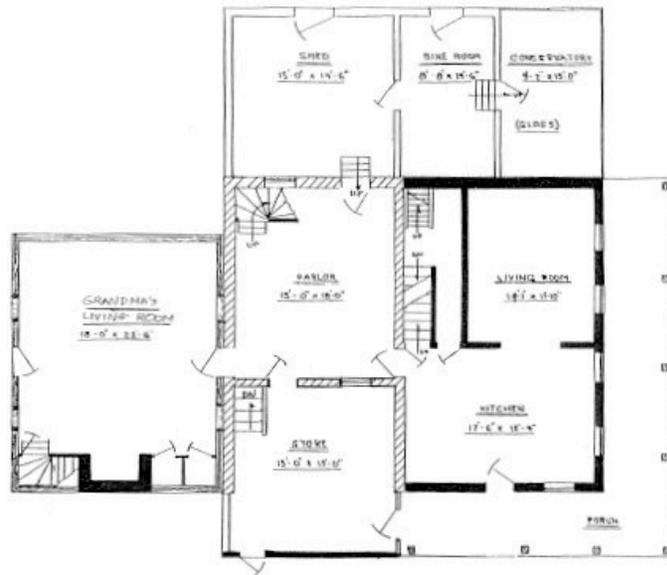
WITH FIRST
BRICK ADDITION
DATE UNKNOWN



BURCHAM FARM
MILLVILLE NJ EARLY WOOD
FRAME BLDG.

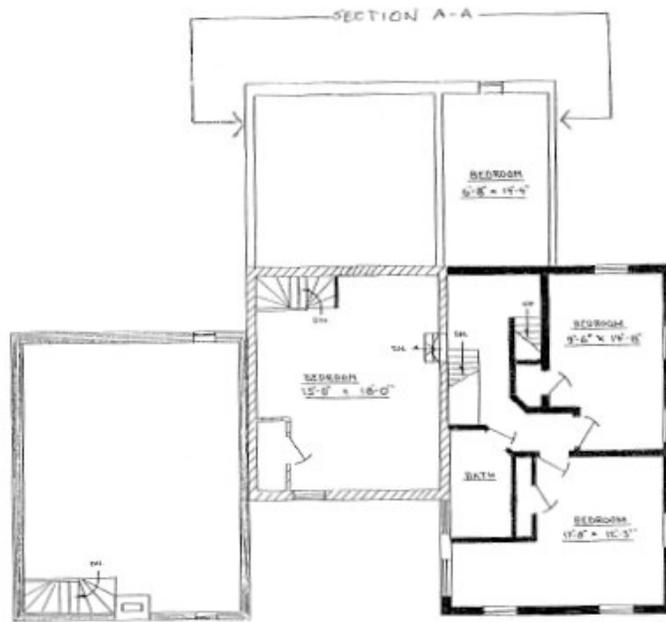


BASEMENT

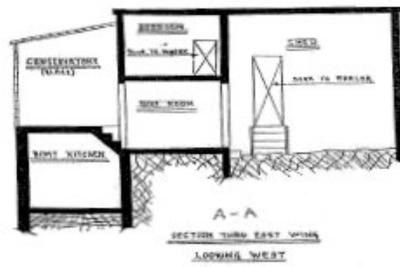


FIRST FLOOR

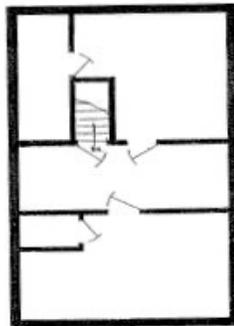
BURCHAM FARM
 MILLVILLE NJ ABOVE
 SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0" 1909



2ND FLOOR

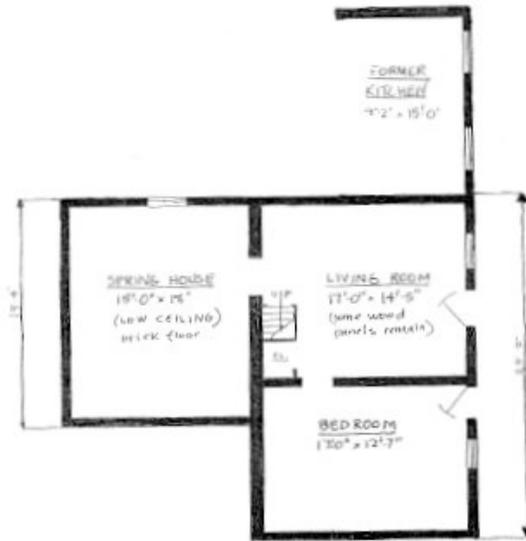


A-A
SECTION THIRD EAST WING
LOOKING WEST



3RD FLOOR

BURCHAM FARM
MILLVILLE NJ ABOUT
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0" 1907

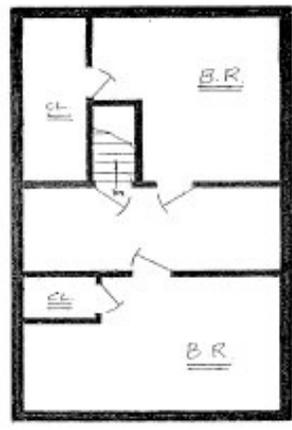


BASEMENT



1ST FLOOR

BURCHAM FARM
 MILLVILLE, N.J. AS OF NOV. 24
 SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"



BURCHAM FARM
 MILLVILLE NJ AS OF NOV. '94
 SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

Chapter IV, Section V – Family History

Amaziah E. Burcham

Amaziah Burcham was born in Ellington, Connecticut on September 21, 1841, the fifth child of James T. and Arpatia Emmons Burcham.¹ He joined the Union army on July 16, 1862 at Ludlow, Massachusetts, listing his age as 21 years. He was 5 feet 4 3/4 inches tall at that time, had grey eyes and light brown hair. When he enlisted, he was working for his father as a miller in Jencksville, Massachusetts, a small village near Ludlow. He enlisted for three years, and was paid \$25 of his \$100 bounty, the remainder being payable after the war.

Amaziah mustered into the army at Camp Briggs in Pittsfield, Massachusetts on September 2, 1862. He was a private in Captain Flagg's company, the 37th Regiment of the Massachusetts Infantry. By December first of that year, he had been promoted to Corporal, but was demoted again in February of 1864.

Burcham was a sharpshooter at the Brigadier Headquarters in October 1864, and a Division sharpshooter in May 1865.

Discharged from the army on June 21, 1865 at Boston, Massachusetts, Amaziah traveled down to South Jersey to his parents new home. They had moved to the new industrial town while he was away at war.

Four years later, Amaziah Burcham, 27, married Mary Clunn, 26 at her father's house on Maurice River. (The large farm directly up river from the brickyard.) Reverend CK. Fleming of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Millville performed the ceremony. Willis Ackley, a neighbor, Francis Reeves, Joseph Richman and Mary Willits were some of the guests. The couple moved to the farm next to her parents, the Burcham farm, that is, which had recently begun producing bricks.

Amaziah and Mary, lived with his father, James, his mother, Arpatia, and his three younger siblings, Joseph, Emma, and Eleonora, and some resident hired hands at the beginning of their marriage.

¹ Amaziah was one of 11 children.

As both the brick yard and the family grew, the farmhouse was expanded to include eight children and 8 to 12 workers.

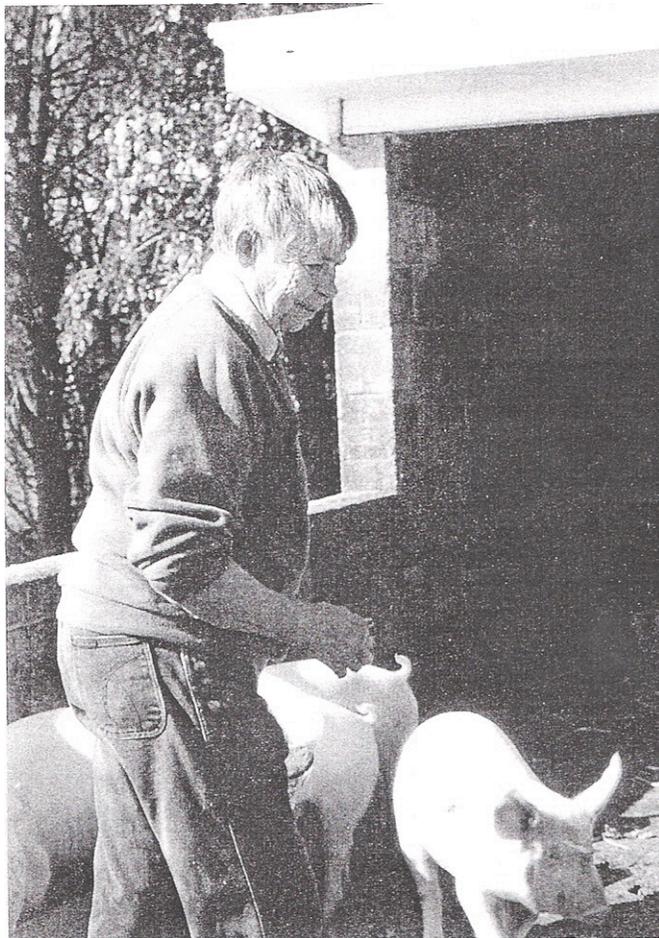
Frank Burcham takes over the Brickyard

Amaziah and Mary had 8 children. Frank A. Burcham was the fourth. Frank A. Burcham married Maud D. Jones on April 17, 1907, and the farmhouse was expanded once again. Frank took over his fathers business in 1913, rescuing it from bankruptcy by remortgaging the property (Adrian Clunn was the lender) and taking over the daily operations.

Amaziah had been incapacitated by alcoholism. He died March 22, 1917 at the age of 75 years and 6 months. The cause of death was a fractured skull caused by an accident falling down stairs. Mary Clunn Burcham continued to live in the house until her death on July 28, 1928.

Frank and Maud Jones Burcham had four children -- two boys, Russell and Melvin, and 2 twin girls, Janice and Jeannette. Melvin Burcham lived at home and worked at the brick factory for many years. Later he worked for his brother Russell Burcham who owned Burcham Trucking and The Burcham Block and Cement Company on Rte 47. Skyhawk trucking is now located on the site.

Jeanette Burcham is still a school teacher in the Millville City Schools, but she has also worked overseas. Her twin, Janice was the head nurse and commander of the U.S.S. Sanctuary, a hospital ship that was stationed in Vietnam from 1970-71. She retired to the farm after 27 1/2 years in the U.S. Navy. Brother Melvin Burcham had five children, some of whom still live in Millville. Russell Burcham had no children.



Jeanette and Janice Burcham, 1994



Chapter IV. Section, VI -- Burcham property today

Today, the brickyard is gone, but the Burcham farm is still in operation. In 1986, it received the Century Farm award, which is given to farms that have been operated by the same family for more than 100 years. This summer, the Burcham sisters grew 1500 bales of hay on the property. They stored 1000 bales in the barn and sold the rest for \$2/bale out of the field and \$4/bale out of the barn. They also raised chickens, turkeys, geese, pigs and sheep.

Their farm schedule includes buying 6 infant pigs every 3 1/2 months, and feeding them left over restaurant food until they are ready for the butcher. Janice collects the leftovers from local restaurants daily, making a noon trip to pick them up in 20 five- gallon buckets. She stops at Benny's, Gib's Lunch, Snacktime, Port O Call, and The Pinegrove.

Janice also stops at the produce market to pick up vegetables that have just passed the shelf date limit. They are feed for the chickens, ducks and sheep. The chickens prefer lettuce and cabbage, but also dip into the restaurant foods, and are particularly fond of Chinese food. The Muscovy ducks stick mostly to lettuce. The sheep eat scallions, corn and hay, grazing on the hay in the fields in summer, eating it out of the barn in the winter. Janice Burcham stresses that the foods their animals are fed are leftovers, not garbage and are never rotten.

Daily schedule

The Burcham sisters are identical twins, and at 68, they still like to do things together. They dress alike -- usually in blue jeans and navy blue sweatshirts, but tell their friends that its easy to tell them apart because their wear their watches on different arms.

Their daily schedule includes get up every morning at 7 a.m., and each eating 3 eggs and sausage, juice, toast and coffee.

Promptly at 8 a.m., they feed the sheep, chickens, pigs.

At 11 am., Janice gets in the truck to make the daily garbage run to local restaurants. She picks up enough food for two feedings

-- that night's dinner and the next morning's breakfast. The animals do not eat lunch.

When she returns, the sisters unload the truck, unwrapping the produce, and separating it into meals for the animals. At 4 p.m., they feed the animals again.

They began tidying up their property in the 60's. Since then they have torn down the remains of the old factory buildings kilns removed, the early sections of the house have been removed, and burned the records of the brick factory.

Costs of maintaining dykes and property

Over the last few years the cost of maintaining the dikes has ranged from \$5,000 to \$20,000 dollars. These costs are basically labor costs, payments for hauling concrete and brick refuse out to the dike. The dikes have been maintained for the last 30 years by Tommy Platt, who hauls donated refuse from torn down buildings out to the dikes on a dump truck he designed for that purpose -- the dumper drops the fill sideways out of the truck, so he can drive along the dike and discharge masonry as he goes.

In 1994, the Burchams also paid \$6,000 to take down the pier on the property. The pier was built in 1935 by the NJ Silica Sand company, a company that leased a bit of property and bought the riparian rights (the right to build to low water mark) to threaten the railroad. They only used the pier once to ship sand. After that the railroad prices came down. Burcham sisters still own the 99 acre tract across the Port Elizabeth (Rte 47) road. It is under a forestry program. A private consultant marks the trees that need to be cut each year. The wood is given away.

In the last year they have also been burning all the old roots tangle at the middle of the property and leveling out the old clay pit. The few railroad ties that are left from the clay car track that went through the center of the property have been removed. Maple, oak and pine trees have grown up in the old clay pit. They have also stuccoed over the bricks on the east facade of the farmhouse.

What remains of the Brickyard history

The brickyard period of the Burcham farm has been totally erased from the property, the only hint of its former role remaining in the trace of red clay in the road. The dykes, too are changed from the old days. No longer permitted to be built of mud, they are fortified by concrete block and rubber tires. The tenant workers are gone, and the only farmers there are two aging twin sisters who are startlingly able to get the work done. The farm goes on in its new slightly romantic twentieth-century version, a kind of local tourist attraction or historic estate. Every year, the Burcham's sheep shearing is a popular event, attended by about 150 of the Burcham's friends, all of whom love to come to the property at the mouth of the Menantico. On the island, they are surrounded on all sides by water and the exquisite wildlife it supports. Rail birders bring their boats here to launch. Watercolorists paint in the light-filled environment, and two sisters cling to the history of their family and the river. They get up each morning to check the dykes, both loving and hating the rise and fall of the tides as keenly as the first Swedes on the Delaware.



Circa 1940 Toots Patterson (at right) had a fishing shack on the Burcham farm. Joseph Tozer is at left.

Appendix I -- The "Burcham" property Chain of Title

This property is the same 35 acre farm that Amaziah bought from John McClure in 1867 It is block 217, lot 48 on the old (1975) tax assessment maps, 35 acres, and Block 579, lot 1 on the new (1985) map, 28.07 acres.

1951 Burcham to Burcham

From Maud Jones Burcham to Janice and Jeannette Burcham by will, April 19, 1951.

1915, Burcham to Burcham, Liber 342 pp. 438-441

Amaziah and Mary Burcham to Frank A and Maud Burcham, three properties, the first of which is the farm.

1897, Mortgage Mulford to Burcham

Hershel Mulford of Millville (the bank) to Mary P. Burcham, \$1600.

1896, Mortgage Repaid, Book F p 491

Mary R. Burcham repays Adrian Clunn \$1600 and the mortgage is cleared.

1895, Mortgage Clunn to Burcham. Book 53 of Mortgages. p. 473

Adrian Clunn, brother to Mary R. Burcham and Amaziah, \$3,200, a mortgage that will be cleared if he is repaid \$1600 in a year's time.
11/30/95

1869 McClure to Burcham. Liber CW pp. 675-9

John G. and Louisa McClure of Salem County to Amaziah E. Burcham of Millville, 35 acres

1865, Snyder to McClure. Liber CH p. 123

Peter and Mary Snyder to John Mc Clure of the same place

1864, Swan to Snider, Liber CF pp. 84

Moses T. Swan of Millville to Peter Snider of the same place
35 acres \$1,300

1862. Frease to Swan, Liber CA. p. 302

John and Mary Frease of Maurice River Township to Moses T. Swan

of Millville, \$1400, 35 acres¹

1855, Loper to Frease, Liber BP or 88, pp. 204-5

Hannah Loper of Millville to John Frease of the same place 35 acres \$1,100

1855, Wilson to Loper, Liber BO or 87, pp. 324-5

George and Mary Ann Wilson of Millville to Hannah Loper of Miliville, 35 acres \$1,000

1852, Robinson to Wilson. Liber BK pp 83

Aaron G. and Rachel Robinson of Millville to George Wilson of Cumberland County 35 acres \$1,000

1850. Sutton to Robinson. Liber BG pp. 574

John P. and Ann Sutton of Cumberland County (who obtained the property from John's mother and sister Mary after Jacob Sutton's death, intestate) to Aaron G. and Rachel Robinson of the same place. 31 acres \$100 1/15/1850²

1840 Butcher to Sutton. Liber AS pp.593

¹ BEGINNING AT A WHITE OAK STANDING BY THE EDGE OF THE UPLAND ON THE LOWER SIDE OF AN ISLAND AND IS CORNER TO JOB WATSON'S MEADOW, THENCE BOUNDING THEREON NORTH 40 DEGREES EAST ONE CHAIN AND FIFTY LINKS TO THE CURVE? OF A DITCH: THENCEALONG SAID DITCH NORTH 13 AND A HALF DEGREES WEST FIVE CHAINS AND TWENTY FIVE LINKS TO WHERE A BRIDGE WAS FORMERLY OVER SAID DITCH THENCE NORTH 20 DEGREES WEST 12 CHAINS AND 8 LINKS TO A GUM TREE OUTSIDE THE BANKS
THENCE NORTH 47 DEGREES. WEST 6 CHAINS, MORE OR LESS IF LOW WATER MARK IN MAURICE RIVER, THENCE DOWN THE RIVER BOUNDING ON LOW WATER MARK TO SAID JOB WATSON'S CORNER. THENCE ALONG HIS MEADOW TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING, CONTAINING ABOUT 35 ACRES MORE OR LESS ALSO THE RIGHT OF WAY OVER JOB WATSON'S AS CONVEYED BY DANIEL ELMER TO CORNEUUS GARRISON DEED OCT 22, 1832

² BEGINNING AT EDGE OF MAURICE RIVER AT THE CORNER OF THE PLANTATION OF JONATHAN GRAY ABOVE MENANTICO CREEK 1) NORTH 3-1/2 DEGREES WEST BY GRAY'S LINE FOURTEEN RODS TO AN OLD WHITE OAK CORNER. 2) NORTH 39 DEGREES EAST 6 RODS TO ANOTHER CORNER OF SAID GRAY 3) NORTH 12-1/2 DEGREES WEST 21 ROD TO ANOTHER OF GRAY'S CORNER 4) NORTH 19 DEGREES WEST 48 RODS 20 LINKS TO ANOTHER OF GRAY'S CORNERS 5) NORTH 46 WEST 8 RODS TO MAURICE RIVER THENCE DOWN THE SAME BINDING LOW WATER MARK THE SEVERAL COURSES THEREOF TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING. CONTAINING **31 ACRES OF LAND AMD MEADOW BE THE SAME MORE OR LESS**, BEING THE PLACE PURCHASED OF DR. JOSEPH BUTCHER IN TWO DEEDS

This is the same property description but fewer acres.

Dr Joseph and Rebecca Butcher to Jacob Sutton 15 more acres, another \$700³

1839. Butcher to Sutton, Liber AR pp 117

Joseph and Rebecca Butcher of Cumberland County to Jacob Sutton of the same place 15 acres \$650⁴

1838, Garrison to Butcher, Liber AQ pp-2.

Cornelius and Rachel Garrison, Chesapeake Cty, to Joseph Butcher of Downe, Cumberland County 60 acres for \$1300

1832, Elmer to Garrison, Liber AG pp. 449-51

1825 Brannon's property sold by Dan Simkins, Sheriff, reverts to Daniel Elmer temporarily. Elmer grants property to Garrison in 1825, but the deed is not registered until November 16, 1832 Daniel and Martha Elmer of Bridgeton to Cornelius Garrison of Downe Township, 60 acres \$1200

³ BEGINNING AT A WHITE OAK STANDING BY THE EDGE OF THE UPLAND ON THE LOWER SIDE OF AN ISLAND CORNER OF ISAAC BUZBY'S MEADOW THENCE BINDING THEREON NORTH 39DEGREES EAST SIX RODS TO THE? OF A DITCH THENCE ALONG THE DITCH NORTH 12-1/2 DEGREES WEST 21 RODS TO A CORNER OF ISAAC BUZB'(S AND JACOB SUTTON'S LAND THENCE SOUTH ALONG SAID SUTTON'S LINE 27 1/2 DEGREES WEST 19 RODS TO A CORNER AT THE EDGE OF THE UPLAND AND NEAR THE HEAD OF A DITCH 7 THEN TO SHEEP MEADOW THENCE NORTH 80 1/2 DEGREES WEST 54 RODS AND 13 LINKS ALONG SAID DITCH TO A CORNER OF JACOB SUTTON'S MEADOW THENCE SOUTH TWO DEGREES WEST 27 RODS AND FOURTEEN LINKS TO LOW WATER MARK OF MAURICE RIVER THENCE DOWN THE SAME AND BINDING THEREON TO THE SAID ISAAC BUZB'(S CORNER THENCE BINDING ON HIS MEADOW NORTH 3 1/2 DEGREES WEST 14 RODS 10 THE BEGINNING, CONTAINING **15 ACRES 1 ROD AND 20 PERCHES OF UPLAND AND MEADOW BE THE SAME MORE OR LESS.** ALSO ALL THAT 2 WAY AND RIGHT OF GOING OVER THE LAND OF THE SAID ISAAC BUZBY ADJOINING THE ABOVE TRACT AS CONVEYED TO JOHN BRANNON BY DANIEL ELMER, FORMER OWNER OF SAID PREMISES...

⁴ BEGINNING AT A STAKE IN THE DITCH WHERE FORMERLY THERE WAS A BRIDGE AND IS 6 CHAIN AND 75 LINKS UPON THE LINE ABOVE AN OLD WHITE OAK TREE BEING THE ORIGINAL BEGINNING OF THE ISLAND PLACE AND CORNER OF MEADOW BELONGING TO ISAAC BUZBY THENCE FROM SAID STAKE BINDING ON ISAAC BUZBY'S LINE NORTH 19 DEGREES WEST 48 RODS AND 20 LINKS TO A GUM TREE OUTSIDE OF BANK THENCE NORTH 48 DEGREES WEST 8 RODS MORE OR LESS TO LOW WATER MARK OF MAURICE RIVER THENCE BINDING ON SAID RIVER AND DOWN THE SAME THE SEVERAL COURSES THEREOF TO A STAKE STANDING IN THE BANK A SHORT DISTANCE FROM THE POINT OF MEADOW OPPOSITE WILLIAM HEALEY'S THENCE NORTH 2 DEGREES EAST 27 RODS AND 17 LINKS TO THE CENTER OF A LARGE DITCH THENCE NORTH 80 1/2 DEGRESS EAST 54 RODS AND 13 LINKS ALONG SAID DITCH TO A STAKE IN THE EDGE OF THE UPLAND, THENCE NORTH 77 1/2 DEGREES EAST 19 RODS ACROSS THE ISLAND OF UPLAND TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING CONTAINING **15 ACRES, ONE ROAD AND 20 PERCHES OF LAND AND MEADOW** BE THE SAME MORE OR LESS WHICH IS PART OF A TRACT OF LAND JOSEPH BUTCHER BECAME SEIZED OF FROM CORNELIUS GARRISON

1816. Elmer to Brannon. December 18 Liber GG pp. 409-11
Daniel Elmer, Esq. and Martha to John Brannon 60 acres \$3,200

1815, Elmer to Lanning Liber BB pp. 82-83.

Daniel Elmer to John Lanning, Jr. 170 acres, not including the Burcham farm. Elmer retains a right of way across Lannings property to the Burcham site.

3/15/1815

no record of a deed between Ewing and Elmer, possibly because both men Ewing⁶ and Elmer⁷ were lawyers and N. J. Supreme court justices.

1814, Izard to Ewing

NICHOLAS IZARD sells home farm to CHARLES EWING -- the same property his grandfather left to his parents in 1758 5/10/1814⁸

⁵ BEGINNING AT A WHITE OAK STANDING BY THE EDGE OF THE UPLAND AND ON THE LOWER SIDE OF AN ISLAND CALLED THE LARGE ISLAND AT THE END OF A BANK THENCE NORTH 40 DEGREES EAST ROUNDING ON JOHN LANNINO JUNIOR'S MARSH A MEADOW 1 CHAIN AND 50 LINKS TO A STAKE AT THE TURN OF A DITCH THENCE ALONG THE DITCH NORTH 13 1/2 DEGREES WEST 4 CHAINS AND 20 LINKS TO A BRIDGE OVER SAID DITCH NORTH 20 DEGREES WEST 12 CHAINS AND 80 LINKS TO A GUM TREE OUTSIDE THE BANK THEN NORTH 47 DEGREES WEST 6 CHAINS MORE OR LESS TO LOW WATER MARK OF MAURICE RIVER THENCE DOWN SAID RIVER BOUNDING ON LOW WATER MARK UNTIL A CORNER SOUTH 3 DEGREES EAST FROM THE BEGINNING CORNER WILL INTERSECT THE SAME (CORNER OF LANNING) THENCE NORTH 3 DEGREES WEST ABOUT 5 CHAINS 50 LINKS TO THE BEGINNING CONTAINING ABOUT 60 ACRES OF LAND, MEADOWS AND MUDFLAT BE THE SAME MORE OR LESS AND ALSO THAT FREE AND CONVENIENT RIGHT OF WAY OF GOING OVER THE LAND BELONGING TO JOHN LANNING JR GRANTED TO THE SAID DANIEL ELMER HIS HEIRS AND ASSIGNS BY THE SAID JOHN LANNING JR. BY DEED DATED THE 15TH DAY OF MARCH, 1815

⁶ Chas Ewing was Chief justice of the NJ Supreme Court in 1824.

⁷ Daniel Elmer was in law practice in Bridgeton until 841, when he was appointed to the NJ Supreme Court.

⁸ THIS INDENTURE MADE THE TENTH DAY OF MAY IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND AND EIGHTY HUNDRED AND FOURTEEN BETWEEN NICHOLAS IZARD OF THE COUNTY OF FAYETTE IN THE STATE OF KENTUCKY OF THE ONE PART AND CHARLES EWING OF TRENTON IN THE COUNTY OF HUNTERDON AND STATE OF NJ OF THE 2ND PART, WITNESSES THAT THE SAID NICHOLAS IZARD FOR **AND IN CONSIDERATION OF THE SUM OF ONE DOLLAR** TO HIM IN HAND PAID BY THE SAID CHARLES EWING...GRANTED...LAND SITUATE IN THE TOWNSHIP OF MILLVILLE BEGINNING AT THE MOUTH OF A CREEK THAT EMPTIES INTO MAURICE RIVER KNOWN BY THE NAME OF **MENANTICO CHEEK, THEN UP THE SAID CREEK BOUNDING ON THE SEVERAL COURSES THEREOF TO A MAPLE STANDING BY THE SIDE THEREOF AND THE LINE OF JOHN SCOTTS 10K ACRES, THENCE SOUTH 67 DEGREES WEST 200 PERCHES ALONG THE SAID LINE TO A WHITE OAK BY THE SOUTH SIDE OF SAID MAURICE'S RIVER, THENCE DOWN THE SAID RIVER BOUNDING ON THE SEVERAL COURSES THEREOF TO THE BEGINNING CONTAINING 200 ACRES OF LAND, MEADOW, SWAMP AND CRIPPLE BE THE SAME MORE OR LESS, AND ALSO ALL THE TREES WOODS, UNDERWOODS, PROFITS. ADVANTAGES, HEREDITAMENTS**

Izard to Izard Will

Gabriel Izard leaves his home farm on the Maurice river and upper side of Menantico creek, as well as the farm he bought Peter Hoffman located on said river and the lower side of Menantico Creek to:

Martha Izard, and children Nicholas, Michael, Henry, Catherine, Priscilla, Sarah, Prudence, Martha

1747. Hoffman to Izard, West Jersey deeds. Libr P. p.155.

Nicholas Hoffman to Gabriel and Martha Izard, his daughter and son-in-law, 3/2/1747/9⁹

1738. Hopman to Hoffman. cited in later deed

1/17/1738

John Hoffman to Nicholas, transaction mentioned in deed above:

WHEREAS, JOHN HOFFMAN OF THE COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND AFORESAID BY DIVERS MENES, CONVEYANCES. AND GOOD ASSURANCES IN HAND DULY HAD AND EXECUTED BECAME LAWFULLY SEIZED.. TO A CERTAIN PLANTATION OR TRACT OF LAND SITUATE ON THE SAID SOUTH SIDE OF MAURICE'S RIVER CONTAINING 200 ACRES. BEING SEIZED BY HIS INDENTURE BEARING DATE THE 17TH DAY OF YEAR ANNO DOMINI 1738 FOR THE CONSIDERATION THEREIN MENTIONED DID GRANT AND CONVEY THE SAID 200 ACRES OF LAND. UNTO THE SAID NICHOLAS HOFFMAN...

1736/7 Lummis to Hopman

Feb 20, 1736/7 deed is at Moravian Archives in Bethlehem, PA.

Edward Lummis of Cohansey to John Hoffman

ANS APPURTENANCES WHATSOEVER THE SAID MESSAGE, TENEMENTS, LANDS AND PREMISES ABOVE MENTIONED BELONGING OR IN ANY WAY APPERTAINING...

⁹ THIS INDENTURE MADE THE SECOND DAY OF MARCH, ANNO DOMINI 1747/8 IN THE 21ST YEAR OF THE REIGN OF KING GEORGE II BETWEEN NICHOLAS HOFFMAN OF THE SOUTH SIDE OF MAURICE'S RIVER IN THE COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND IN THE PROVINCE OF NEW JERSEY, YEOMAN OF THE ONE PART AND GABRIEL IZARD OF THE SAME PLACE, YEOMAN AND MARTHA HIS WIFE OF THE OTHER PART

NICHOLAS HOFFMAN IN CONSIDERATION OF THE LOVE AND AFFECTION THAT HE BEAIFIETH TOWARD THEM, THE SAID GABRIEL IZARD AND MARTHA, HIS WIFE, AS HIS SON AND DAUGHTER . . .THE SAID PLANTATION AND TRACT OF LAND: BEGINNING AT THE MOUTH OF A CREEK, RUNNING INTO THE SAID MAURICE'S RIVER KNOWN BY THE NAME OF MENANTICO CREEK, RUNS FROM THENCE UP THE SAID CREEK BOUNDING ON THE SEVERAL COURSES THEREOF 10 A MAPLE STANDING BY SIDE OF SAID CREEK IN THE LINE OF JOHN SCOTTS TENTH AND ACRES OF LAND. THENCE SOUTH 67 DEGREES AND 200 PERCHES ALONG THE SAID LINE TO A WHITE OAK BY THE SOUTH SIDE OF SAID MAURICE'S RIVER THENCE DOWN THE SAID RIVER BOUNDING ON THE SEVERAL COURSES THEREOF 10 THE BEGINNING CONTAINING 200 ACRES OF LAND. SWAMP. AND CRIPPLE

From mouth of Manumuskin up to the back line of the Scott tract, across to Menantico and down the Menantico to Maurice river 800 acres. This deed does not include the Nicholas Hoffman property.

1735, Scott to Loomis

Edward and Joseph Scott to Edward Loomis. 2/1735

1718. Scott to Scott

will of John Scott to his sons Edward and Joseph Scott of Newport, Rhode Island.

1705, Bartlett to Scott

Gratia Bartlett, widow and children to John Scott of Newport Rhode Island, surveyed at 10k acres, but said to have actually contained more than 20k, 1/26/1705. The 1714 Scott survey, see illustration, includes the Nicholas Hoffman property.

1691 West Jersey Proprietors to John Bartlett of England.

10,250 acres on the east side of Maurice river. The 1691 proprietary survey does not seem to include the Nicholas Hoffman property. It includes many more than 10,000 acres.

Appendix II -- Deed History of the "Gricco" property

The Gricco property is the farmland nearer to the Menantico, which was part of Nicholas Hoffman's farm. The dykes on this property washed out in 50's The old tax assessment block number was 217, lot 44, 150 acres. The new one is Block 579 lot 2, 102.36 acres

1946, Gricco to Gricco. Liber 645 p. 456-8

Anthony Gricco to Caroline Gricco, his divorced wife for \$1.
118 acres

1939, Gray to Gricco. Liber 542 pp. 571-3

Charles M. Gray to Anthony L. Gricco 118 acres for \$1, a part of the land conveyed to Jesse Ackley

1929, Ackley to Gray, Liber 465 pp 547-550

HARRY Ackley (widower) to Charles and Myrtle Gray of Vineland 118 acres for \$1. ACKLEY RETAINS 50 ACRES¹

¹ BEGINNING AT A WHITE OAK STANDING BY THE EDGE OF THE UPLAND AND ON THE LOWER SIDE OF AN ISLAND CALLED THE LARGE ISLAND AT THE END OF AN OLD BANK THE SAME BEING A CORNER OF ONE FRANK A BURCHAM' LAND, AND RUNS FROM THENCE ALONG THE LINE OF SAID BURCHAM'S LAND NORTH 40 DEGREES EAST, 1 CHAIN AND 50 LINKS TO A STAKE AT THE TURN OF A DITCH, CORNER OF THE SAME, THENCE STILL 1 HEREBY AND ALONG THE DITCH NORTH 13 1/2 DEGREES WES' 5 CHAINS AND 20 LINKS TO A CORNER OF THE SAME; THENCE STILL THEREBY NORTH 20 DEGREES WEST 12 CHAINS AND 80 LINKS TO WHERE A GREEN GUM TREE FORMERLY STOOD OUTSIDE OF THE BANK. CORNER OF THE SAME; THENCE STILL THEREBY NORTH 47 DEGREES WEST 6 CHAINS MORE OR LESS TO LOW WATER MARK OF MAURICE RIVER THENCE UP SAID RIVER BOUNDING ON LOW WATER MARK THE SEVERAL COURSES AND DISTANCES THEREOF TO SCOTTS LINE (SO CALLED) THENCE ALONG SAID SCOTT LINE AND BOUNDING ON THE LINE OF THE LATE SAMUEL CLUNN FARM NORTH 64 DEGREES EAST, 22 CHAINS AND 50 LINKS MORE OR LESS TO A STONE IN SAID LINE. AT THE DISTANCE OF 708 FEET, MEASURED IN A WESTERLY DIRECTION ALONG SAID SCOTT LINE FROM THE CENTER LINE OF THE STATE HIGHWAY LEADING FROM MILLVILLE TO PORT ELIZABETH, **AND IS A CORNER OF SAID HARRY ACKLEY'S RESERVED LAND** THENCE ALONG THE LINE OF SAID RESERVED LAND SOUTH 15 DEGREES AND 20 MINUTES EAST 1302 FEET TO A STAKE CORNER OF THE SAME; THENCE STILL THEREBY IN PART AND PART BY WALTER H. HINSON'S LAND NORTH 74 DEGREES AND 40 MINUTES EAST 703 AND 5/10 THS FEET TO A CORNER IN THE CENTER LINE OF THE AFORESAID STATE HIGHWAY LEADING FROM MILLVILLE TO PT ELIZABETH; THENCE ALONG THE CENTER LINE OF SAID STATE HIGHWAY. SOUTH 17 DEGREES AND 10 MINUTES EAST, 728 FEET, MORE OR LESS TO LOW WATER MARK OF MENANTICO CREEK THENCE DOWN SAID MENANTICO CREEK BOUNDING ON LOW WATER MARK OF SAID CREEK, THE SEVERAL COURSES AND DISTANCES THEREOF IN A SOUTHWESTERLY DIRECTION TO MAURICE RIVER THENCE UP SAID RIVER BOUNDING ON LOW WATER MARK OF SAID RIVER THE SEVERAL COURSES AND DISTANCES THEREOF IN A NORTHERLY DIRECTION UNTIL A COURSE SOUTH 3 DEGREES EAST, FROM THE BEGINNING CORNER WILL INTERSECT THE SAME THENCE

1903, Ackley to Ackley, Liber 269 pp 82-84

SARAH H. ACKLEY, widow, son Willis and Hattie (his wife) Ackley to Harry H. Ackley
\$500 170 acres excepting 9 acres formerly owned by J and S Shaw.

1868 MacDonald to MacDonald, Liber CU p 186

David and Mary Mac Donald and Joseph W MacDonald, all of Millville to Jesse C. Ackley of Maurice River 170 acres \$8,000 excepting 9 acres now owned by Shaw

1865. Watson to MacDonald, Liber CL pp. 357-8

Job S. and Elizabeth Watson of Greenwich to David Mac Donald, Jr. and Joseph M. MacDonald of Newark, NJ 170 acres excepting 9 acres owned by J and S Shaw \$5,600

1860, Gray to Watson, BX pp. 38-39

Jonathan Gray of Millville to Job S. Watson of Greenwich 170 acres \$4,600, excepting 9 acres owned by J and S Shaw

1840, Busby to Gray Liber AV or AW pp. 109-110

Isaac and Hannah Busby to Jonathan Gray
170 acres for \$3,500, excepting lot of meadow and upland lying in Menantico Creek now owned by Jonathan Dallas, formerly belonging to heirs of Learning deceased.

1837, Lanning to Busby. Liber AO

John Jr. and Judith Lanning to Isaac Buzby 170 acres \$3,750 not including the 9 acres formerly owned by the heirs of Learning, now owned by Jonathan Dallas

IN THE FORKS OF MENANTICO CREEK AND MAURICE RIVER BOUNDING AS FOLLOWS BEGINNING AT A WHITE BAR STANDING BY THE EDGE OF THE UPLAND AND ON THE RIVER SIDE OF AN ISLAND CALLED THE LONG ISLAND AT THE END OF AN OLD BANK THENCE NORTH 40 DEGREES EAST ONE CHAIN AND 50 LINKS TO A STAKE AT THE TURN OF A DITCH THENCE ALONG THE DITCH NORTH 13 DEGREES AND A HALF WEST? FIVE CHAINS AND 20 LINKS THENCE SOUTH 20 DEGREES WEST 12 CHAINS AND 80 LINKS TO WHERE A GUM TREE FORMERLY STOOD OUTSIDE OF THE BANK THENCE SOUTH 47 DEGREES WEST 6 CHAINS MOBE OR LESS TO LOW WATER MARK OF MAURICE RIVER THENCE UP SAID RIVER BOUNDING ON LOW WATER MARK TO SCOTTS LINE SO CALLED, THENCE BOUNDING WITH SAID LINE NORTH 64 DEGREES EAST 69 CHAINS MORE OR NORTH 3 DEGREES EAST ABOUT 5 CHAINS AND 50 LINKS TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING LINES 7,8, 9 ARE TAKEN FROM A MAY 1929 SURVEY OTHER LINES ARE COPIED FROM AN OLD DEED IS THERE IS A MAP WITH THIS DEED GRICCO PROPERTY IS SUBJECT TO A RIGHT OF WAY OWNED BY FRANK BURCHAM OVER THE DESCRIBED TRACT OF LAND -20 FEET IN WIDTH.

LESS TO LOW WATER MARK OF MENANTICO CREEK BOUNDING ON LOW WATER MARK TO MAURICE RIVER THENCE UP SAID RIVER BOUNDING ON LOW WATER MARK UIL A COURSE SOUTH 3 DEGREES. EAST FROM THE BEGINNING CORNER WILL INTERSECT THE SAME. THENCE NORTH 3 DEGREES WEST ABOIJF 5 CHAINS 50 LINKS TO THE BEGINNING CONTAINING 170 ACRES BE THEY THE SAME MORE OR LESS EXCEPTING A LOT OF MEADOW SUPPOSED TO CONTAIN 9 ACRES NOW OWNED BY JONATHAN DALLAS, FORMERLY BELONGING TO THE HEIRS OF LEAMING DECEASED...

1815. Elmer to Lanning, Liber BB pp. 82-83.

Daniel Elmer to John Lanning Jr. 170 acres, not including the 9 acres owned by the heirs of Learning.²

1814. Nicholas Izard sells property to Charles Ewing. see Burcham deeds, for history before that transaction.

²CERTAIN TRACT OF LAND SITUATE IN THE TOWNSHIP OF MILLVILLE IN THE COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND AFORESAID IN THE FORKS OF CREEK MENANTICO AND MAURICE RIVER BOUNDING AS FOLLOWS, BEGINNING AT A WHITE OAK STANDING BY THE EDGE OF THE UPLAND AND ON THE LOWER SIDE OF AN ISLAND CALLED THE LARGE ISLAND AT THE END OF A DITTO? BANK THENCEFORTH 40 DEGREES EAST I CHAIN AND 50 LINKS TO A STAKE AT THE TURN OF A DITCH THENCE ALONG THE DITCH NORTH THIRTEEN 1/2 DEGREES WEST 5 CHAINS AND TWENTY LINKS TO A BRIDGE OVER SAID DITCH THENCE SOUTH 20 DEGREES WEST 12 CHAINS AND 80 LINKS TO A GUM TREE OUTSIDE OF THE BANK THENCE NORTH 47 DEGREES WEST 6 CHAINS MORE OR LESS TO LOW WATER MARK OF MAURICE RIVER THENCE UP SAID RIVER BOUNDING ON LOW WATER MARK TO SCOTT'S LINE SO CALLED THENCE BOUNDING WITH SAID LINE NORTH 64 DEGREES EAST 69 CHAINS MORE OR LESS TO LOW WATER MARK OF MENANTICO CREEK THENCE DOWN SAID CREEK BOUNDING ON LOW WATER MARK TO MAURICE RIVER THENCE UP SAID RIVER BOUNDING ON LOW WATER MARK UNTIL A COURSE SOUTH 3 DEGREES EAST FROM THE BEGINNING CORNER WILL INTERSECT THE SAME THENCE NORTH 3 DEGREES WEST ABOUT 5 CHAINS 50 LINKS TO THE BEGINNING CONTAINING 170 ACRES BE THE SAME MORE OR LESS EXCEPTING A LOT OR TRACT OF CRIPPLE AND UPLAND LYING ON MENANTICO CREEK SUPPOSED TO CONTAIN 9 ACRES BELONGING TO THE HEIRS OF LEAMING DECEASED...

...said daniel elmer of the party aforesaid of the first for himself, heirs, executors and administrators doth hereby covenant promise and grant to and with the said John Lansing, Jr., party of the second part, his heirs and assigns that at the time of the dealing and delivery here of they the deed party of the first part are seized in their own right of an absolute and indefeasible estate of inheritance in fee simple of and in all and singular the premises hereby granted with the appurtenances...



