

THE OLD
HOLLINGSWORTH PLANTATION

In Mill Creek Hundred
New Castle County, Del.

By C. A. Weslager

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Published by
Historic Red Clay Valley, Inc.
Wilmington, Del.
1961 [original publish year]

Republished digitally by HRCV – 2019
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This publication is,

*In recognition of the 150th anniversary of the forming of the
Wilmington & Western Rail Road company in 1869,
And dedicated to the memory of HRCV founder,*

Thomas Clarence Marshall, Jr.

February 20, 1924 ~ February 12, 2019

Educator, Humanitarian, Philanthropist, Preservationist

“The best thing to make in life, is to make a difference!”



Tom & Ruth Marshall celebrating the 100th birthday of their 1905 Stanley Model CX

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Note Regarding the 2019 2nd Edition

This document was digitally scanned to high resolution images from a copy contained in the Historic Red Clay Valley Archive collection. Optical character recognition was performed and the document transferred to Microsoft WORD for editing.

Editing involved formatting for letter-size pages (the original monograph was printed in a 6" x 9" page size). As a result, the page numbers in this document do not match the page numbers of the originally published monograph. To improve readability, the font size has been increased over what was originally used for the printed monograph. The author's original numbered footnote references are unchanged.

HRCV has elected to build on the author's work with this reissue. Spelling and grammar have changed in the fifty years since this manuscript was originally presented. Where applicable, spelling and grammar changes have been made to bring the text in align with current grammar and spellings. Lettered footnotes refer the reader to new information as well as the original spelling and grammar references at the back of the manuscript.

New facts have been uncovered as well as other relevant information related to the author's original content. Any new facts and information included are printed as part of the letter footnotes at the rear of the monograph. Original photos and drawings have been updated where possible with the originals referenced by letter footnote at the end of the monograph.

This monograph is being released by HRCV in recognition of the 150th anniversary of the Delaware Legislature's Act revising the identity of the Delaware & Chester County Railroad to the Wilmington & Western Rail Road (Laws of the State of Delaware, Volume 13, Chapter 491; March 10, 1869). With this change of corporate identity and a new slate of highly-regarded Delawareans in control of the enterprise, progress on the new railroad progressed rapidly. On October 19, 1872 their efforts were rewarded with the railroad's first day of operation.

Robert E. Wilhelm, Jr., Editor, 2019

Historic Red Clay Valley, Inc. is a non-profit organization engaged in promoting interest in the social and economic history of Red Clay Creek Valley.

In *140 Years Along Old Public Road*, I referred to the property owned by “T. Little” (as his name appears on the Rea & Price map of 1849)^A lying on the eastern side of Old Public Road. At the time of his death, this T[homas] Little owned two adjoining farms, one consisting of 115 acres and the second of 158 acres. His son, William Little, and daughter, Mary Elizabeth Little, fell heir to both farms. Most of the 115-acre property came into the possession of Samuel Stovall in 1937, and was later sold by him in parcels of varying sizes, where, in recent years, new homes have been built. The 158-acre farm became seized by Samuel Sharpless in 1859, and in 1943 it was purchased by Henry R. Tatnall from the Sharpless heirs. Portions of it have also been recently sold for new homes. In referring to these two farms I stated, “This property has a richer history than these brief comments indicate, and in a later study the writer hopes to trace it back to a grant from Letitia Manor.”¹

Certain documents since placed at my disposal by Samuel Stovall, and additional deed studies, now permit complete reconstruction of successive ownership of both farms from the time of William Penn down to the present day. Originally, as the reader will shortly see, the farms were the site of the old Hollingsworth plantation.

In the period of which we are writing, a “plantation” was an area growing cultivated crops, not an estate cultivated by workers living on it, as were the later southern plantations.

The deed record of a sale of land by one individual to another may not of itself be an item of historical importance, but a series of land conveyances frequently enable us to add significantly both to local history and genealogy. It is hoped that the data here presented will contribute to the history of the Red Clay Creek valley.

Our story actually begins with Letitia Penn, one of William Penn's seven children by his first wife, Gulielma Maria Springett. Letitia was only five years old in 1682 when her father made his first visit Pennsylvania. She could not have been precocious enough to read the farewell note he penned for her just before his departure from England:

Dear Letitia,

I dearly love ye and would have thee sober, learn thy book, and love thy Brothers. I will send thee a pretty Book to learn in. ye Lord bless thee and make a good woman of thee. farewell.

Thy Dear Father
Wm. Penn²

19th 6 mo. 82
My love to
ye Famely

¹ - See p. 12 of this pamphlet published by Historic Red Clay Valley, Inc., Wilmington, 1960. Letitia's name in 17th century documents is usually spelled with the dipthong “ae” which I have rendered with the simple “e”.

² - The letter appears in Albert Cook Myer's, *William Penn's Early Life In Brief*, Moylan, Pa., 1937.

“Thy Brothers” were Springett, the eldest, and the infant, William Penn Jr.,³ who many years later, would cause his father anguish through his excesses. How Penn came to America, landing first at New Castle to take over the territory from the officers appointed by the Duke of York, then sailing to Chester, and finally disembarking at Philadelphia, where he entered actively into the affairs of the colony, has been fully related in many histories and does not now concern us.

After returning to England from his first trip, Penn's wife died, after which he remarried. In 1699 he made his second and final trip to America. His companions on the voyage were his second wife, Hannah Callowhill, his secretary, James Logan, and his daughter Letitia, then in her 21st year. It was Letitia's first and only trip to America. Five of the children by Penn's first marriage had died, and only Letitia and William Penn, Jr. survived. When they left England for America, Hannah was carrying an unborn child, the first she would bear the founder.

William Penn, Hannah, and Letitia were in America until November 3, 1701 – about two years – but neither Letitia nor her young stepmother seem to have been happy in their new environment. We have Penn's word for it that, “I cannot prevail on my wife to stay, and still lesse with Tishe.”⁴ He pronounced his pet name for his daughter in two syllables, Ti-she.

Having spent large sums to colonize and maintain the settlement in Pennsylvania, Penn had little left for his family. He had previously settled on William Penn, Jr.'s estates in England and Ireland which he had inherited from his father, Admiral Penn, as well as properties owned by his first wife. He wrote that “all that I have to dispose of in this world is here [in Pennsylvania] for daughter and son, and all the issue which this wife is like to bring me, and that having no more gains by government to trust for bread, I must come to sell, pay debts, and live and lay up for this posterity, as well as that they may see that my inclinations run strongly to a country and proprietary life, which then I shall be at liberty to follow, together with her [Hannah's] promise to return whenever I am ready to return.”⁵

Four Penns returned to England – the infant John, the only American-born child of William Penn, had been delivered to Hannah in the “slate roof house” in Philadelphia, where the Penns had taken up temporary residence prior to moving to their country estate, Pennsbury.

Although the two women were Quakers, Hannah and Letitia, we are told, wore white satin petticoats, pearl or lavender gowns, and fine muslin kerchiefs, forsaking strict plainness. Letitia was a lively and self-willed girl, but evidently proper and well-behaved, as indicated in the following certificate issued to her on the 27th of the 4th month 1701 by the Philadelphia Monthly Meeting prior to her return to England: ⁶

³ - William Penn, Jr., had three children: Springett, Gulielma Maria, and William Penn, III.

⁴ - *Correspondence Between William Penn and James Logan*, ed. Edward Armstrong Hist. Soc. of Penna., 1870, 1:55.

⁵ - *Ibid.*

⁶ - A copy of this certificate can be found in the Manuscript Room of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. In Watson's *Annals of Philadelphia* (Hazard edition, Philadelphia, 1898), 1:117 there is a partial transcript of it.

“To our worthy and well-beloved sisters in London, Bristol or wherever these shall come: Grace, mercy and peace be multiplied amongst you all. These certify you, that our loving and well beloved sister Letitia Penn, intending to cross the seas with her honorable parents, has for good orders' sake, desired a certificate from us and we can freely certify all whom it may concern that she hath behaved herself here, very soberly and according to the good instruction which she hath received in the way of truth being well inclined, courteously carriaged and sweetly tempered in her conversation amongst us: as also a diligent comer to our meetings, and we hope hath plentifully received of the dews which have fallen on God's people to her settlement in the same.”

“She is clear of any engagements on account of marriage as far as we know of, and our desires are earnestly for her preservation: that she may faithfully serve the God of her fathers: so that her green years being seasoned with grace may bud, blossom and bring forth ripe fruit, to the praise of God and comfort of his people: which is the true desire of her friends and sisters in the near relation of the unchangeable truth.”

Signed in behalf and by appointment of said meeting.

After the certificate was issued and Letitia had departed for England a rumor spread that she had been secretly engaged to William Masters of Philadelphia. In the Society of Friends, the certification at the time of an unmarried member's removal that he was free from a marriage engagement was a document of importance. It was difficult for a Friend newly arrived from some distant point to enter into a marriage without such evidence. James Logan, who remained in Pennsylvania after the Penns' departure, wrote the founder that he could not “forbear informing thee of what has been since too liberally discoursed of her, and among the rest, not sparingly by some that signed her certificate, viz., that she was under some particular engagement to the before-mentioned W.M. [William Masters] the said signers, having, upon some unhappy information given them, lately expressed so great a dissatisfaction at what they had done, that it had been proposed among them to send over and contradict or retract it. I am really a stranger to what passed, resolving not to meddle thorough a sense of duty. What I knew I endeavored as far as was proper from me should be known; what I could fear I tried to prevent; but from the discourses of those who had better opportunities of knowing, I have too much reason to believe that before she departed she was actually under some engagements to William, from which, without great reflections or, some dishonor, she cannot recede unless he resign.”⁷

Logan was in a position to know whereof he spoke, and his letter leaves no reason to doubt that Letitia had made some commitment to Masters. The young suitor certainly believed he was party to an engagement, for after Letitia's departure, he took off for England after her, evidently with marriage as his motive. Before he arrived, a marriage had already been arranged between Letitia and William Aubrey, a prominent and successful London merchant. This worsened the situation for Masters, especially since the father of his prospective bride looked with more favor on the English suitor.

At Horsham Monthly Meeting, July 1702, William Aubrey of “White Lyon Court in Cornhill London” and Letitia Penn “of Wormenhurst in Sussex” declared their intention to marry. Aubrey presented a certificate giving his father's consent, and another certificate showing his clearness from all others relating to marriage. William Penn, who was present, gave his consent to his daughter's marriage to Aubrey, and Letitia produced the above certificate from Philadelphia Monthly Meeting and signified “her Clearnes on that Accounte.”⁸

Time has obscured all the details, but William Penn Jr. relates the outcome in the following paragraph taken from a letter he wrote to James Logan:

“I was much surprised at what you wrote me about my sister's engagement to W. Masters, but we find little in it, for she has been at meetings, and he was here, but could prove no engagement, for it passed the meetings, and she is to be married day after tomorrow.”⁹

The marriage took place in Friends Meeting, August 20, 1702 between Letitia and Aubrey. William Penn probably wished many times later that his favorite Tishe had married Masters instead of Aubrey, because his relationship with his son-in-law proved, in time, to be extremely unpleasant. As his financial condition worsened, Penn borrowed money from Aubrey and also mortgaged an estate to him. The details of this latter obligation are outlined in a letter written by James Logan from Pennsylvania to Letitia in England:

“Thy father has mortgaged an Estate in Kent or Sussex to thy husband for the payment of 2000 pounds on thy acc't out of thy lands (or otherwise) in this Province and obliged himself to pay £120 in the interest of it yearly till that sum be paid or proportionately as it is paid off. To enable thy father to have this money raised thy husband and thee have joyntly made over your whole Estate by joint deed to certain Trustees . . . in & to all thy Manor on Schuylkill all the town lotts appurtenant, which Trustees have appointed Sam'l Carpenter and me their Attorneys to dispose of their lands . . . and for the interest of thy money thy father and husband have joynd in a power of attorney to R'd Hill and thy brother [brother-in-law] R. Thomas, appointed them to receive of me here, so that both principal and interest is ordered from me into other hands to whom I must remitt and pay it, and no other.”¹⁰

Aubrey quarreled with Penn, Logan, and others over Letitia's portions of the lands in Pennsylvania and made a general nuisance of himself by nagging Penn for interest payments. Penn wrote that he had gotten “mad bullying treatment from him.” The Pennsylvania lands, which Penn had given to Letitia (some of which are mentioned in

⁷ - *Penn-Logan Corres.*, op. cit., p. 105.

⁸ - *Pennsylvania Magazine of History & Biography*, 22:341-342. (In the subsequent footnotes this publication will be referred to as *Pa. Mag.*).

⁹ - *Penn-Logan Corres.*, op. cit., p. 130. Many years later, Mary Masters, daughter of William Masters of Philadelphia, married Richard Penn, and thus a MastersPenn marriage was, at last, consummated, *Pa. Mag.*, 22:87; see also 10: 485.

¹⁰ - This is quoted from an undated, unsigned, unaddressed letter, which was unquestionably written by Logan, a copy of a letter that was either sent or intended to be sent, *Pa. Mag.*, 24:125-126.

Logan's letter above, but by no means all) brought low prices, and prospective buyers were themselves pressed for money to make purchases. Penn wrote as follows to Logan on the 16th of the 12th month, 1709:

“Oh, whatever thou dost, let my poor daughter have some money, for great is the cry of William Aubrey and old Norton against Pennsylvania paymasters. I will pay no more interest to W. Aubrey, if thou canst make pay to his attorneys there. But whatever thou dost, let me not be dishonored in that affair, because my poor child's portion. But for her he would go over. But her regards for that country are at a low ebb, which is my trouble.”¹¹

With this background of Letitia's marriage and the character of her husband, the reader can now view the land sales from certain of her holdings called Letitia Manor in full perspective. The manor bearing this name was only a portion of lands in Pennsylvania given her by her father. The manor itself, containing 15,500 acres, was part of a larger tract of 30,000 acres which Penn granted jointly to William Penn Jr. and Letitia on the 17th of the 12th month 1699. (The 30,000 acres were part of a still larger tract of 50,000 acres which Penn had originally laid aside for his first wife Gulielma and their children.)

The 30,000-acre tract bore the name Manor of Steyning, from the place in Sussex, England, *Steyning*.¹² This form came to be rendered as Stenning, Stening, Staneing, etc., in Pennsylvania documents.

On October 13, 1701 Penn formally divided the manor approximately in half, giving 15,500 acres to Letitia and the balance to her brother, William Jr. The metes and bounds for both portions were established, consisting mostly of marked oaks, chestnuts, and hickories. It is not certain-but by no means impossible-that the surveyors may have placed stone markers at certain points, but if so, crude field stones would have been used. The line separating Letitia's lands from her brother's, according to MacElree, coincides with the present division line between Kennett and New Garden Townships in Pennsylvania.¹³ Letitia's portion extended across the circular boundary line of Pennsylvania into Delaware and included much of the Red Clay Creek valley, most, if not all, of Mill Creek Hundred, and parts of Christiana Hundred. The consideration named in the patent given to Letitia was her agreement to pay one beaver skin annually at Philadelphia to her father, or to agents appointed by him. A full transcript of this patent is given in the *Appendix* of this pamphlet.

Steyning was one of a number of manors, each having a distinctive name, that Penn reserved for himself, as authorized in his charter from Charles II.¹⁴ Edward Pennington, Penn's surveyor-general, in his instructions to Henry Hollingsworth, deputy surveyor,

11 - *Penn-Logan Corres., op. cit.*, 2: 354.

12 - William Aubrey used the form “Steyning” in his will, *Pa. Mag.*, 28: 169. The original meaning of the word is “place of the descendants of Stan or Stein.”

13 - Wilmer W. MacElree, *Manors of Chester County*, 1944.

14 - *Pa. Mag.*, 67:92 contains a drawing of all the Penn Manors, including Letitia Manor. MacElree, *op. cit.*, also gives a drawing of the manors in Chester County. New Castle County Deed L-3-58 refers to the “Old Manor Line” in Mill Creek Hundred; 1-3-223 also mentions manor lines.

reminded him that 1/10th part of all lands surveyed should be appropriated to the Proprietary.¹⁵

A manor, in the early English concept, was not just a stretch of territory, but implicit in the word was the right of jurisdiction over people who cultivated the soil or engaged in other means of livelihood on the manor. Penn's charter gave him, his heirs, and assigns, free and absolute power to divide his province into towns, hundreds and counties, as well as erecting parcels of land into manors. In each manor, he was given royal permission to have and hold a Court-baron, namely a court of law incident to the manor. In his patent to Letitia, Penn transferred these manor rights, including that of holding a Court-baron, as well as frankpledge^B, to his daughter. (See patent in *Appendix*.) Letitia never exercised those rights, nor did Penn ever hold a Court-baron on this or any of the other manors which he reserved for himself, nor did he ever demand labor as his payment as Lord of Manor.

What Letitia was persuaded to do, under the influence of her grasping husband, was to offer for sale the lands in her 15,500-acre manor. On February 8, 1713, Aubrey, in the name of Letitia and himself, appointed James Logan and Rees Thomas¹⁶ as their Pennsylvania attorneys to convey and sell the lands in Letitia Manor, or Steyning Manor, to give it its official name. During the years that followed, these agents negotiated a series of sales of parcels of varying sizes to a number of buyers, giving title deeds to the new owners. Some of these sales are still on record – others were recorded in books long since lost or mislaid.¹⁷ This brings us to the Hollingsworth plantation.

Among the earliest sales of land from Letitia Manor in the area surrounding the present Hockessin Meeting House were those to William Cox, Henry Dixon, William Dixon, Thomas Dixon, and others. Some of these owners were already in possession of their lands when the land for the Hollingsworth plantation (which would later include Thomas Little's farm) was first warranted. An original drawing by the Pennsylvania surveyor, John Taylor, preserved by Mr. Stovall, refers to the warrant in the following legend:

Pursuant to a Warrant from Rees Thomas Attorney to William and Letitia Aubrey bearing date the 17th day of March 1724/25 I Survey'd to Thomas Hollingsworth the above Described Tract of Land Situate Lying and being in the County of New Castle containing two hundred & twenty-five acres part of the sd William & Letitia's Manor of Stening.

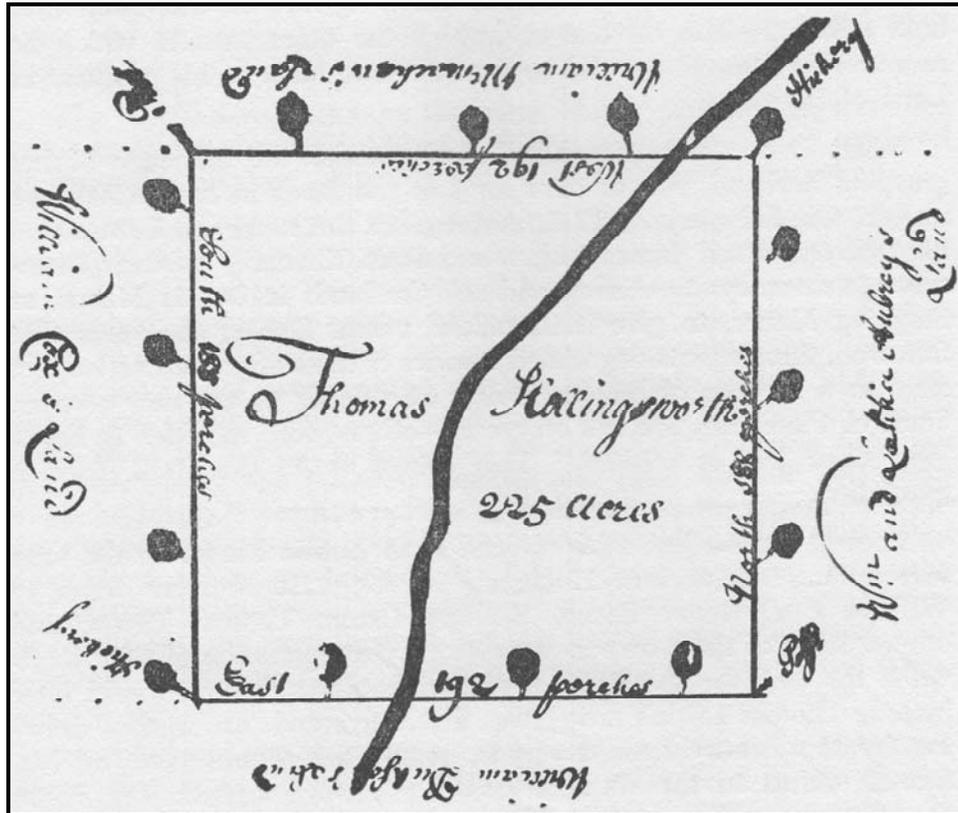
Surveyd this 18th day
of March 1724/25
Jno Taylor

¹⁵ - Taylor Papers, v. 1, p. 5, Hist. Soc. of Penna., Manuscript Room.

¹⁶ - Rees Thomas married Martha Aubrey, William Aubrey's sister. Aubrey Thomas, their son, married Gulielma Maria Penn, daughter of William Penn, Jr., *Pa. Mag.*, 21:158.

¹⁷ - *J. Thomas Scharf*, History of Delaware, Phila. 1888, 2:916, lists some of the buyers and the dates of their purchases, although his information is not strictly accurate. For example, he gives Feb. 8, 1713 as the date of William Cock's (Cox) purchase instead of July 10, 1721, the correct date.

A facsimile of the drawing, a simple rectangle, with bounds given, is reproduced below.



Thomas Hollingsworth, the recipient of the warrant, was one of the sons of Valentine Hollingsworth^C who brought his family from Belfast to America shortly before Penn's arrival. Valentine Hollingsworth settled on a tract containing nearly 1000 acres, called "New Worke," in Brandywine Hundred, Delaware, bounded on the east by Shellpot Creek.¹⁸ The first meeting of Friends was held in his home, and in 1688 he gave a piece of his land for a meeting house to which the name "Newark" (a modification of "New Worke") came to be applied.¹⁹ It should be said parenthetically that neither the tract, nor the meeting house, were geographically related to the present town of Newark, Delaware although the names are similar.

The reader has already seen that Henry Hollingsworth, another of Valentine's sons, became assistant to Thomas Holmes, Penn's surveyor, and later held the position of deputy-surveyor. During the course of his labors, Henry Hollingsworth laid out the 30,000

¹⁸ - In the old book at the State Archives, Dover, entitled *Survey Book of New Castle County - 1806*, there appears on p. 270 a map of "New Worke" as of 1684. On p. 269 there is a drawing of 40 acres of marsh along the Delaware laid out for Valentine Hollingsworth. In the same book, there are references to lands owned by Thomas, Henry, and Samuel Hollingsworth.

¹⁹ - See Alice J. Lindell, *Quakers in Delaware 1672-1872*, thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of M.A. degree, University of Delaware, June 1957. I also want to acknowledge the assistance of John V. Hollingsworth for information about the family.

acre Manor of Steyning of which 225 acres were warranted to his brother Thomas. Thomas, who owned other lands in Delaware and Pennsylvania, had 10 children, one of whom, Jacob, was born January 4, 1704. Although the evidence is only circumstantial, from the events that later transpired it is likely that Thomas took out the warrant for the 225 acres specifically on behalf of his son Jacob. On June 23, 1726, Logan and Reese, acting for Letitia and her husband, gave a title deed to Jacob Hollingsworth "of the County of New Castle, yeoman," for the 225-acre tract in exchange for 108 pounds "lawful money of Pennsylvania," in addition to annual payment of quit rent^D amounting to two shillings and three pence on the first day of March forever. The land was thus described:

"Beginning at a Hickory being a Corner of William Cox's Land thence east by the Lands of Thomas and William Dickson One hundred ninety two perches to a post thence north by Vacant Land One hundred Eighty eight perches to a Hickory Thence west by the Land of William Mc Machan One hundred ninety two perches to a post thence South by the Land of the said William Cox One hundred Eighty eight perches to the place of beginning Containing Two hundred Twenty five Acres and is part of the said fifteen thousand five hundred acres of land so granted unto the said Letitia as aforesaid . . ." ²⁰

Reference to John Taylor's drawing of the land, illustrated above, will leave no doubt that this text is an accurate description of the tract.

Jacob Hollingsworth married Elizabeth Chandler on September 23, 1729, and they built their home on the 225-acre property. Jacob must have cleared away the trees to make farm fields for his plantation where he could plant corn, wheat, oats, and other crops. On the 17th of the 10th month 1737, Jacob Hollingsworth's name is included among the trustees to whom land was conveyed for the purpose of building the first Hockessin Meeting House.²¹ Thus, he had become associated with the Coxes, Dixons, Baldwins, and other Friends in establishing a house of worship for their convenience; previously their meetings had been held in the residence of William Cox. I will have something to say presently about the probable location of the residence occupied by Jacob Hollingsworth and his bride.

After the death of his first wife, Jacob remarried, and his second wife, Rachel, is named with him in papers covering a mortgage on their plantation held by Robert Richardson, a merchant of Christiana Hundred.²² The mortgage was dated June 12, 1761 and amounted to, "Two hundred pounds lawfull current money of America according To an Act of Parliment made in the sixth year of the Reign of her Late majesty Queen Anne Entituled an Act for the Assertaining the rates of Foreign Coins in the plantation & c."²³

²⁰ - New Castle County Deed Book H-1-113. All the subsequent deeds cited are from the New Castle County records.

²¹ - *Weslager, op. cit.*, p. 9.

²² - Robert Richardson, a son of John Richardson II, married Sarah Shipley in 1750. She was a daughter of William Shipley, one of Wilmington's founders. The Richardsons, whose mill lands and farm properties were in the present Richardson Park area, were a prominent and wealthy Quaker family; see C. A. Weslager. *The Richardsons of Delaware*, Wilmington, 1957.

²³ - Deed U-1-67.

Jacob Hollingsworth died sometime prior to May 5, 1766, for on that date his oldest son, Elias Hollingsworth, gave his power of attorney to his brother David Hollingsworth of Chester County, and his brother-in-law, John Way (who had married his sister Ruth) to settle the estate of “Jacob Hollingsworth Late Deceased of Mill Creek Hundred.”²⁴

On the 2nd day of the 3rd month 1767, the children and heirs of Jacob Hollingsworth – Elias, Ruth (and her husband John Way), Zebede, Jephtha, and Rachel²⁵ – conveyed the 225-acre plantation to their brother David Hollingsworth for 322 pounds, with the “houses, outhouses, barns, stables,” subject to “our Mothers dower or thirds in same during her natural life . . . and the mortgage held by Richard Richardson.”²⁶

After buying his late father's property, David Hollingsworth moved from Chester County to Mill Creek Hundred to live. He, too, became a member of Hockessin Meeting, and a deed dated 1st day 7th month 1769 indicates that he was a trustee of the meeting. For reasons that are not known, David Hollingsworth decided after a while to divide his farm into two parts, thus making two separate farm properties. He engaged the surveyor, William Gillahan, to re-survey the property and establish division lines between the two farms. The surveyor's original drawing dated March 12, 1787 is among the papers preserved by Mr. Stovall, and a copy is herein reproduced. This is the only copy of the drawing in existence, and it has not previously been reproduced or published. The reader will note it is the identical plot surveyed 62 years earlier by John Taylor, except that this recent and more accurate survey showed the contents to be 250 acres, not 225. It was not uncommon for re-surveys to result in a revision in the contents of a piece of property.

The drawing has a number of extremely interesting features which are discussed individually below. The legend on the drawing states that this property is where David Hollingsworth “doth now dwell” leaving no doubt that it was his home farm. The sketch of his house on the drawing is placed near “a spring of water.” Evidence of this identical spring may still be seen to the right of the private lane leading from the Henry R. Tatnall residence to Old Public Road. The house appears to have been situated atop the knoll, near, or on the same site, of the present Fred Osborne residence. It is my belief that David Hollingsworth's residence was the same one occupied by his father, Jacob Hollingsworth. This house, constructed of logs and stone was presumably later occupied by Samuel Sharpless. During the period of Sharpless ownership, the house was abandoned and burned, and before 1890 the present mansion house occupied by the Tatnalls was built by Samuel Sharpless.

The stream of water on the drawing labelled “A large Branch” is the present nameless tributary to Red Clay Creek which runs through a meadow on the Tatnall property east of the Hockessin-Yorklyn Road. Its most easterly branch crosses the “Hockessin Hills” development to its source in springheads, and the westerly branch crosses T. R. Mc Clure's

²⁴ - Deed X-1-746. See Appendix for a transcript of the document.

²⁵ - Rachel Hollingsworth was under age at this time. On April 23, 1773, her brother David obtained a separate release from her in exchange for 46 pounds, 10 shillings. She signed her name “Rachel Sharp” and was described as “widow and youngest daughter of Jacob Hollingsworth late of Mill Creek Hundred,” Deed Y-1-507.

²⁶ - Y-1-507.

lands to other springheads now feeding the Hessler pond. It is quite apparent that in 1787, when the drawing was made, the stream was considerably larger than it is today.

The names of adjacent property owners in the drawing differ from those shown on the 1725 drawing due to land transfers made during the ensuing years. Robert Boyce is shown instead of William Mc Machan (Mc Machen) as owner of land on the north side of the Hollingsworth plantation.²⁷

William Phillips is indicated as owner of land on the west that had belonged previously to William Cox.²⁸

Joseph Sharpless is given as owner of lands on the south that had previously belonged to William Dixon.²⁹

The land on the east shown vacant in 1725, and then owned by Letitia and William Aubrey, is now shown in possession of Joseph Graves.

Of particular significance is the road on the drawing labelled, "The publick Road leading from *Occasian* Meeting house to the Mill of Jno Garret Esq." This is, of course, the present Old Public Road, indicating that the route was in use in 1785-and, no doubt, much earlier. The original course of the road was from present Old Wilmington Road (then the pike from Wilmington to Lancaster) to the Kennett Road, now Route 82, at the Marshall Brothers Paper Division of the National Vulcanized Fibre Company.

The designation "Jno Garrett Esq" as owner of a mill refers to John Garrett II, who inherited farm and mill properties from his father, John Garrett I. The will, dated July 14, 1749 is on file at the New Castle County will office. (N-1-267) At the time the drawing

²⁷ - Robert Boyce, described in the deed as a weaver from London Grove Township, bought this land from Caleb Peirce on the 1st, 5th month, 1760 for 420 pounds, Deed W-1-128. It was originally part of a 961¾ acre tract which William McMechen bought from William and Letitia Aubrey. On March 22, 1726, McMechen sold about 180 acres to Jeremiah Lochary, Deed H-1-192. Lochary sold the property to George Alford on November 16, 1744, Deed O-1-391. George Alford's son Charles, and George's widow, Alice, who inherited the property by will, sold it February 2, 1752 to Elias Hollingsworth, Deed Q-1-570. (The reader should note that Elias, the eldest son of Jacob Hollingsworth bought this farm adjacent to his father's plantation.) On April 20, 1759, Elias and Sussanah Hollingsworth sold the property to Caleb Peirce, who in turn sold it to Robert Boyce. Boyce sold the tract, then containing 182¼ acres, 35 perches to John Garrett, Jr. on May 9, 1795, Deed N-2-442. For successive conveyances until the farm or the major part of it, came to be seized by Victor Hanson in 1945, see my *140 Years Along Old Public Road*.

²⁸ - Cox sold his 350-acre plantation to John Dixon in 1753, Deed Y-1-145, and after Dixon's death the property was bought at public sale in 1760 by William Phillips; see summary of title search of Mitchell farm, p. 35 of *140 Years Along Old Public Road*.

²⁹ - This tract, containing about 100 acres, was sold November 2, 1730 by Letitia and William Aubrey to Henry Green. On March 5, 1770, Green sold the property to Zebede Hollingsworth. (The reader should note that Zebede was a son of Jacob Hollingsworth, and like his brother Elias, see fn. 27, he purchased land adjacent to his father's plantation.) On February 27, 1776, Zebede and Lydia Hollingsworth sold the property to William Dixon, and a resurvey showed it to contain 121 acres, 158 perches. William Dixon conveyed the land to Edward Pennington, a "sugar baker" of Philadelphia on April 15, 1777. On May 1, 1787 Pennington sold it to Joseph Sharpless for 525 pounds silver money of Pennsylvania. This land was sold by Sharpless to Stephen Wilson in 1789. (Deed H-2-100 recites these transfers of title.) The main Hockessin plant of the Golding & Sons kaolin operation was later built on part of this tract.

was made, John Garrett II was possessed of some 400 acres of land extending from the bridge crossing at the foot of Old Public Road to the present Crowell Corporation factory some distance downstream on Red Clay Creek. Included in his holdings was a paper mill, grist mill, saw mill, and a snuff mill. It was along “The publick Road” that Garrett carted flour from his grist mill to Newport, via the old Lancaster road.

The reader should note the surveyor's rendition on his drawing of the word now spelled Hockessin; namely, *Occasian*. This variant approximates the earliest recorded form of the same word known to the writer – *Ocasson*. It so appears in a deed dated 1734 wherein certain moneys were to be paid to “William Cox of *Ocasson*, fanner.”³⁰ When the Newark Preparative Meeting in 1737 granted permission for William Cox and other residents to have a meeting for worship, the Quaker scribe recorded the word as *Hocesion*.³¹ Thus, the name of William Cox's tract, rendered in 1734 as *Ocasson*, became applied to the Friends meeting. John V. Hollingsworth has made available to me a marriage certificate found on p. 131 of the *Newark Monthly Meeting Marriage Book* on loan to the Friends Historical Library at Swarthmore College, from which the following extract is quoted:

“Now these are to certify all whom it may concern that for the full accomplishing of their sd intention this twenty sixth day of the third month in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and fourty-two. They the sd John Dixson and Rebecah Cox appeared in a public meeting of the aforesaid people at *Occassion meeting house* in Mill Creek Hundred aforesaid, etc.”

In 1808 the road passing the meeting house was written as *Ockession Road*,³² and the same road in 1810 was described as “the great road leading from *Okession* to Wilmington.”³³ A deed recorded in 1812, citing a will written in 1809, gives the same route as *Okesan Road*.³⁴

A key to how the word may have been pronounced in the 18th century occurs in a store account book (1772-1774) in possession of the Historical Society of Delaware wherein the establishment is referred to as *Okeshion Store*.

These several entries may give us reason to believe that the original word may have been *Occasion*. This would have ideally suited the circumstances of Cox's first settlement; namely, an ideal time or opportunity, or the time when something happened, such as the “occasion” of a meeting. As we know, the first meetings of Friends in Mill Creek Hundred were held in Cox's home, just as the first meetings in Brandywine Hundred were held in Valentine Hollingsworth's home on the tract, *New Worke*, forerunner of Newark Meeting.

The addition of an “h” before a vowel was, of course, not an uncommon English speech habit, and it is of interest that today Hockessin is accented on the second syllable, the same syllable that is accented in occasion. The numerous writers who have stated that

³⁰ - Deed K-1-295.

³¹ - Weslager, *op. cit.*, p. 9.

³² - Deed H-3-51.

³³ - Deed H-3-563.

³⁴ - Deed M-3-498.

Hockessin is an Indian word have unknowingly based their judgment on a modified form of the original word, which seems to possess Algonkian elements, including the familiar locative. The earlier *Ocasson*, whether or not it was intended for occasion, is patently non-Indian. It might be added that no Indian village or town existed at or near the present town of Hockessin nor in the vicinity of Hockessin Meeting House. Archaeological evidences point to the existence only of small camp sites in the area.

Immediately following the resurvey of his property, David Hollingsworth and Sarah, his wife, sold the entire 250 acres to Charles Henry Wharton for 1250 pounds, subject to the 200-pound mortgage to Robert Richardson which Wharton assumed.³⁵

The new owner had the property for about nine years, and on the 21st of the 3rd month, 1796, Wharton and his wife Mary sold the property to Samuel Little for 1300 pounds. Since this particular deed recites all of the previous lines of ownership herein discussed, I have included a full transcript of it in the *Appendix*.³⁶ Samuel Little, who was a weaver,³⁷ no doubt moved into the house that David Hollingsworth had occupied.

When he made his will on September 20, 1814, Samuel Little devised to one of his sons, Thomas, "the plantation where I now dwell" which refers to the property under discussion.³⁸ Samuel Little also provided in his will that his wife Margaret should have the use of the southwesterly end room on the first floor of the dwelling, a room on the second floor, and a small room in the cellar, as well as use of the spring house and well.

Samuel Little devised to his two other sons, John and William, the respective farms on which they dwelt, one of 155 acres and the other of 225 acres, which would indicate that Samuel Little had become seized of extensive properties during his lifetime. Thus, at his death he was able to give each son a farm, Thomas receiving the largest – the old Hollingsworth plantation. He also left \$1000 to his daughter Jane who had married William Armstrong, and he willed \$500 to Armstrong. The will refers to two brothers, Thomas and William, and a nephew Samuel, son of William.

In addition to inheriting the family farm, Thomas was given 40 to 45 acres from land reserved for his brother John. This farm was partly in Chester County, partly in New Castle County, and the section reserved for Thomas was in the easterly corner and a creek ran through it suitable for building a mill dam.³⁹

Thomas Little, whose wife's name was Ruth, had two children previously mentioned, William and Mary Elizabeth. Thomas evidently continued to live, at least for a while, in the old Hollingsworth house where his father had resided, but he made a division of the farm. He retained some 158 acres as the principal tract, leaving 92 acres for the second farm. He augmented the latter by purchase until it reached the size of 115 acres. In the

³⁵ - Deed G-2-190.

³⁶ - Deed O-2-490.

³⁷ - Deed I-4-34 so refers to him.

³⁸ - Will Book R-1-48.

³⁹ - *Ibid*. On February 3, 1852, the two brothers, John and Thomas Little entered into an agreement to establish correctly the bounds of Thomas' section since one of the trees marked by their father had fallen, Deed K-6-28.

acquisition of new lands, he bought a mansion house March 24, 1829 from the heirs of Samuel Heald. This house, at the corner of Old Wilmington Road and Meeting House Road, bears a datestone 1817 and is presently owned by James Schulz.⁴⁰

The two adjoining farms now had a total acreage of about 273 acres, each with a dwelling house, Thomas Little living in one and his son, William, in the other. William's land lay between Old Wilmington Road and his father's farm, and access to the latter property was from a lane intersecting Old Public Road on the present George Pope property. The route of this old lane is still partially in evidence, coursing diagonally through the woods of "Hockessin Hills" to its termination at what is now the Osborne house. After the division of the property, Thomas had to use the lane crossing the farm occupied by his son in order to reach his residence.

When Thomas Little made his will, March 31, 1858, he devised both farms jointly to his two children, William and Mary Elizabeth.⁴¹

On September 20, 1858, Mary Elizabeth deeded her half of the 115-acre farm to her brother William for \$5,755.⁴²

On March 25, 1859, William and Mary Elizabeth sold the 158-acre farm to Samuel Sharpless for \$8,798.⁴³ The deed makes reference to the lane as follows:

"Together with the right of a private road or way through the lands now owned by the above-named William Little to extend one perch in width along the route now and heretofore used for the same from the westerly boundary of the herein granted lands to the public road said right to continue for the term of ten years only from the 25th day of March AD 1859, and so to be held subject to the maintenance of a sufficient gate where said road crossed the boundary line aforesaid."⁴⁴

If the reader will re-examine the surveyor's drawing of David Hollingsworth's plantation he will note that no entrance road to the Hollingsworth residence is shown. As of 1787, the date of the drawing, there was no Yorklyn-Hockessin Road, and Old Public Road was the nearest highway which the Hollingsworth family could use to go back and forth to Hockessin Meeting or to travel to market at Wilmington and Newport. Obviously, Jacob Hollingsworth, the first owner, must have laid out a lane to reach Old Public Road from his residence, and the topography of the plantation was such that the best, natural route was across the southeasterly side of the property – no doubt the identical lane which Thomas Little continued to use and which is described above.

⁴⁰ - Weslager, *op. cit.*, p. 14. In the papers preserved by Samuel Stovall is an article of agreement between Thomas Little and Lewis Fell dated March 25, 1843 by which Little leased to Fell, "his farm ware he now occupes for the term of two yeares." Apparently Fell leased the fields for cultivation.

⁴¹ - Will Book X-1-83.

⁴² - Deed F-7-414.

⁴³ - Deed I-7-221.

⁴⁴ - *Ibid.*

APPENDIX

Note: Grammar and spelling are as originally published and have not been edited.

LETITIA MANOR

William Penn's Patent to His Daughter Laetitia

WILLIAM PENN True and Absolute Proprietary and Governor in Chiefe of the Province of Pensilvania and Territories thereunto belonging To all to whom these presents shall Come sendeth Greeting WHEREAS there is a Certain Tract of Land Scituate on the South side of Brandywine Creek in this province of Pensilvania Beginning at a Bounded Hickory Tree standing by a branch of Red Clay Creek called Borrow's Runn being a Corner Tree of William Dicksons Land thence by a Line of marked trees South and by West over Red Clay Creek at the ffork thereof Twelve hundred and eleven perches to a Bounded black Oak standing in a Line of George Reed's Land Thence by the said Line West forty two Perches to a bounded black oak being a Corner of the said George's Land thence South South west half Westerly Thirty six Perches to a Bounded Hickory being a Corner of William Guests Land thence by the said Guest's Line West one hundred and twelve perches to a bounded White Oak being a Corner of Briant Mc Donald's Land thence North ffifty Perches to a bounded Poplar thence West fifty eight perches to a black Oak thence North west Eighty four Perches to a bounded Chestnut tree Thence South four Degrees Westerly One Hundred and ten Perches to a Bounded black Oak thence West One Hundred forty four perches to a Bounded black Oak being a Comer of the aforesaid William Guest's Land thence by a Line crossing Mill Creek West South West to a Bounded Tree standing near Peck Creek six hundred and seventy perches thence North by a Line Dividing it from a Large Tract Laid out for the use of my Son William Penn Two thousand three hundred and fourteen perches to a Bounded Tree thence East six hundred and thirty five Perches to a Bounded White Oak thence South six hundred thirty eight perches to a Bounded White Oak then East North East Two hundred and forty Perches to a Bounded red Oak thence North East ffour hundred and twenty perches to a Corner post of George and Micaell Harlands Land thence by the Line of their said Land East North East four hundred twenty seven perches to a Bounded black Oak thence South one ffourth westerly nine hundred Perches to a. bounded Black Oak thence West North West two hundred sixty eight Perches to the place of Beginning Containing fifteen thousand Hive hundred acres of Land being one moyety (allowance being first made for Lands within the same already taken up) of a Tract of thirty thousand acres of Land granted by virtue of my warrant bearing Date the Seventeenth of the twelfth month One thousand six hundred and Ninety nine to my Children William and Laetitia Penn in right and as part of fifty thousand acres by me Originally Granted to their Mother Gulielma Maria Penn To Hold to her and her heirs for ever Which said thirty thousand acres being by my Order Divided the aforescribed Moyety by my Will and Disposition Becomes the Lott and Share of my said Daughter Laetitia who Requesting me to Confirm the same to her Patent Know Yee that as well in a Due Regard to the Memory of my Dearly beloved Wife her Mother Deceased as for the ffatherly Love and Naturall Affection I bear to her my said Daughter Laetitia Penn I Have Given Granted and Confirmed and Do by these Presents for me my heirs and Successors fully ffreely and absolutely Give Grant Release and Confirm unto the said Laetitia Penn her heirs and Assigns for ever all that the said Described Tract of fifteen thousand five hundred acres of Land as the same is now set forth bounded and Limited as aforesaid Together with all Mines Mineralls Quarries Meadows Swamps Cripples woods Timber & trees ways waters water Courses Liberties Proffits Comodities and

Appertunences whatsoever to the said fifteen thousand and five hundred acres of Land or to any part or parcell thereof belonging or in any wise Appertaining Together, with all rents Issues Proffits Comodities and Advantages whatsoever from any part or Parcell of the said Land heretofore to me my heirs or Successors reserved Ariseing or in any wise Accrueing as also all full and free Liberty to and for the said Laetitia Penn her heirs and Assigns to Hawk Hunt fish and fowle in and upon the Premises hereby granted or upon any part thereof reserving always to all persons the fee of all or any parcell of Land which has at any time been Granted or Confirmed to them by Patent from my self or my Comissioners of Property TO HAVE HOLD POSSESS AND ENJOY the said Described Tract of fifteen thousand five hundred acres of Land with the Appurtenances and all other the Premises to the said Laetitia Penn her heirs and Assigns for Ever To the only proper use and Behoofe of the said Laetitia Penn her heirs and Assigns TO BE HOLDEN of me my heirs and Successors Proprietarys of Pensilvania as of our Mannor of Rocklands in the said Province in free and Common Soccage by ffealty only for all Services YEILDING and paying therefore to me my heirs and Successors a Bever skin to be Delivered at Philadelphia at or upon the first Day of the first Month in every Year to such person or persons as shall be Appointed to Receive the same And also Three full and Clear fifth Parts of all Royall Mines which shall from time to time Happen to be found within the Limits of the Premises hereby Granted free from all Deductions and Reprisalls for Digging and Refining and the same AND out of my own further Pleasure ffree Will Certain Knowledge and Meer Motion I have thought fitt to Erect And Doe hereby Erect the herein before granted Tract of Land into a Mannor by the Name of the Mannor of Staneing And so will Have it Called from henceforth TO HAVE AND TO HOLD a Court Baron with all things whatsoever to a Court Baron Belonging: And TO HAVE AND TO HOLD view of franckpledge for the Conservation of the Peace and better Government of the Tenants Holding or Hereafter to Hold of the said Mannor and all other Persons that shall Dwell within the Limits thereof by the said Laetitia and her heirs or by her or Their Stewards And in the same to use all things that to the view of frankpledge Do belong IN WITNESS whereof I have Caused these by Letters to be made Patents Witnessse my self at Philadelphia the three and twentieth Day of October in the thirteenth Year of the Reign of William the third over England as King and the One and twentieth of my Government over this Province Annoq. Domini One thousand and seven hundred and one.

Recorded the 11th 10th mo: 1702. Wm. Penn

MORTGAGE ON THE HOLLINGSWORTH PLANTATION

On June 12, 1761, Jacob Hollingsworth and his wife Rachel mortgaged their plantation to Robert Richardson, merchant of Christiana Hundred, *“for and in consideration of the sum of Two hundred pounds lawfull current money of America according To an Act of Parliment made in the sixth year of the Reign of her Late majesty Queen Anne Entituled An Act for the Assertaining the rates of Foreign Coins in the plantations &c. . . . pay to the said Robert Richardson his Heirs Executors administrators or assigns the sum of Twelve pounds Lawfull money as aforesd. on the Twelfth day of June next ensueing being one years Interest, and the sum of Twelve pounds more on the Twelfth day of June which will be in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred & sixty three being the second years Interest and the further sum of Two hundred & Twelve pounds Lawfull money as aforesaid at one Intire payment being the whole principal and years Interest on the Twelfth day of June which will be in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred & Sixty four. . . .”*¹

Robert Richardson, the mortgagor, died shortly after the above document was executed, and his brother Richard, administrator of the estate, assigned the mortgage to Robert's widow, Sarah Richardson (cf. fn. 22 above). From 1762 until 1783, the Hollingsworth's paid interest on this mortgage, but did not reduce the principal. When David Hollingsworth sold the property to Charles Henry Wharton on March 26, 1787, Sarah Richardson noted on his copy of the mortgage indenture, *“then Settled with David Hollingsworth amounts relating to Interest secured on the within Mortgage and rec'd from him the sum of fifty Pounds Eleven Shillings and three pence in full for the Interest as paid and settled up.”*²

Wharton became subject to the mortgage of £200 when he purchased the plantation, and evidently he borrowed an additional £200 from Sarah Richardson, as the following document indicates:

1 - Deed U-1-67.

2 - The original Hollingsworth copy of the mortgage indenture, which is among the papers preserved by Samuell Stovall, bears a series of notations whereby Sarah Richardson acknowledged receipt of interest payments from 1762 until 1783 inclusive when David Hollingsworth sold the property. Evidently the document was presented to the mortgagor every time an interest payment was made.

BOND & JUDGMENT
CHARLES HENRY WHARTON TO SARAH RICHARDSON

Conditioned to pay £200 with interest on the 26th 3 mo. 1788

Know all men by these presents that I Charles Henry Wharton of the Borough of Wilmington in the County of New Castle & State of Delaware Clerk am held & firmly bound unto Sarah Richardson widow and Relict of Robert Richardson late of Christiana Hundred and Count afsd. Yeoman deceased in the Just and full sum of four Hundred Pounds Gold & Silver coin Lawfull money of the State afsd to be paid to the said Sarah Richardson her Certain Attorney heirs Executors Administrators or Assigns to the which payment well and Truly to be made and done I do hereby bind myself my heirs Executors Admrs and each and every of them firmly by these Presents Signed by me Seald with my Seal & dated the twenty sixth day of March in the year of Our Lord One thousand seven hundred & eighty seven

Whereas a Jacob Hollingsworth late of Mill Creek Hundred and County afsd yeoman dec'd was Seized of & in a certain Tract of Land & Plantation Situate in the Hundred & County afsd and being so Seized by a certain Instrument in writing or Deed duly Executed under his hand and Seal Mortgaged the same Tract of land and Plantation unto the above named Robert Richardson to Secure the payment of the Sum of Two Hundred Pounds with Interest for the same at the rate of Six per Cent & Annum bearing date the Twelfth day of June in the year of Our Lord One thousand Seven hundred & Sixty One and Recorded in the Office for Recording of Deeds in the afsd County in Book - Page - &c a reference thereunto being had may appear whereon is this day due thereon the above mentioned sum of Two hundred pounds and no more the Interest amount thereon to the date hereof being fully paid and discharged

And whereas the said Tract of Land & plantation became the property of David Hollingsworth one of the sons of the above named Jacob Hollingsworth who together with Sarah his wife by their Indenture of Bargain and Sale bearing even date with these presents for a valluable Consideration Sold and conveyed the same Tract of Land Plantation and Premesses unto the above Bounden Charles Henry Wharton his heirs and Assigns under and Subject to the payment of the above mentioned sum of Two hundred Pounds and Interest accruing thereon.

Therefore the Condition of the above Obligation is such that if the above bounded Charles Henry Wharton his heirs Executors or Administrators do and shall well and truly pay or Cause to be paid unto the above named Sarah Richardson (to whom the said Mortgage was Assigned) her Certain Attorney heirs Execrs Admrs or Assigns the above mentioned Sum of Two Hundred Pounds such money as afsd with Lawfull Interest for the same and that on the Twenty Sixth day of March Ensuing without any manner of fraud Coven or further delay then the above Obligation to be void & of none Effect otherwise to be & remain in full force and vertue at law

Charles Henry Wharton [signed]

Signed Seald & delivered) Nicholas Way
In the presence of us) Jno Stapler

TO Gunning Bedford Attorney of the Court of Common pleas at New Castle in the County of New Castle & State of Delaware or any Other Attorney of the said Court.

Whereas Charles Henry Wharton of the Borough of Wilmington in the County and State ofsd Clerk by a certain Obligation or within Obligatory bearing even date herewith do Stand Bound unto Sarah Richardson of the same place widow in the Sum of four hundred Pounds Gold and Silver coin Lawfull money of the State ofsd Conditioned for the payment of Two hundred pounds such money with Interest for the same at the rate of Six per Cent & Annum and that on or before the Twenty sixth day of March next Ensuing without fraud or further delay.

These are therefore to desire and Authorise you or any other Attorney of the said Court at any time after default shall be made in payment as aforesaid to appear for me the said Charles Henry Wharton in the said Court in an Action of debt there brought or to be brought on the said Obligation as of any time after default shall be made in payment as aforesaid or at any other Subsequent Term or court there to be held and Confess Judgment thereon against me the said Charles Henry Wharton for the Sum of four Hundred Pounds such money as aforesaid Debt besides Cost of Suit by Nonsum formatus, Nil deit, or otherwise, as to you shall seem meet: and for your or any of your so doing this shall be your Sufficient Warrant. And I do hereby for myself heirs Executors and Administrators, Remise, Release, and forever quit claim unto the said Sarah Richardson her heirs Executors Admrs & Assigns all and all manner of Error and Errors Mispressions, Misentries, Defeats and Imperfections whatsoever, in the entering the said Judgment or any process or proceedings thereon or thereto, or in any wise touching or concerning the same. In Witness whereof I have hereunto put my hand & Seal & dated the Twenty Sixth day of March An. Dom. One thousand Seven Hundred & Eighty Seven

Sealed & delivered [signature torn off]

in the presence of us

Nicholas Way

Jno Stapler

Received of the within bond twelve pounds this 21st day of October 1789

£12 for Sarah Richardson) £12
pr Jno Richardson)

Paid of the within bond eleven pounds five shillings this 8th day of June 1790

Sarah Richardson £ 11-5-0

Received the within payments by me Sarah Richardson. Paid of the within bond seven pounds ten shillings this 6th day of December 1791

Sarah Richardson

Paid of within bond Int fifteen pounds this 4th day of Jan 1793

Sarah Richardson

Paid of this within bond twenty two pounds (interest) ten shillings this 8th day of August 1794

Mary Richardson

s

£ 22-10-0

Recvd 3 mo. 21th 1796 of Samuel Little³ Two Hundred and thirty nine pounds 11/8 in full for Principle & Interest of the within Bond

£ 239-1-8

Jno Richardson

3 - Note that the mortgage was not paid off in full until Samuel Little acquired the property. His purchase of the plantation in 1796 was subject to the mortgage, cf. above. Sarah Richardson died in 1793 and the Mary Richardson, who acknowledged the interest payment in 1794 (see above) was her daughter. John Richardson, who acknowledged final payment in 1796, was Sarah Richardson's only son, John Richardson 4th. At an interest rate of 6% per annum, the Richardson's enjoyed a handsome return on this investment which was in effect for 35 years!

**A POWER OF ATTORNEY FROM
ELIAS HOLLINGSWORTH TO
DAVID HOLLINGSWORTH & JOHN WAY**

To all Christian People to whom these presents shall come I Elias Hollingsworth Eldest son of Jacob Hollingsworth Late Deceased of Mill Creek Hundred & Countey of New Castle on Delaware Send Greeting

Know ye that for divers good causes and Considerations me hereunto moving I have made ordained Constituted and Apointed and do by these presents Make ordain Constitute and Apoint David Hollingsworth of Chester County & Province of Pennsylvania & John Way of Mill Creek Hundred & Countey of New Castle on Delaware my True & Lawfull Attorneys jointly & severally for me & in my name and to and for my proper use and Behoof to Make and for me and in my name Right and Stead to make Seal & Deliver all and Singular such Indentures Deeds Grants and other Instruments of Writing whatsoever Touching and Concerning my right of the Premises or Lands & Hereditaments whereof my Late sd father was Lawfully Seized of at his Death or any of them to do and Execute and cause to be Done & Executed all and Every Such Lawfull & Reasonable Act & Acts Thing & Things in and About the Conveyance Assuring and Confirming the premises and Every part & parcel thereof unto & upon the person or persons purchasing the Same his and their heirs and Assigns as my sd Attorney or any of them Shall Seem fit and convenient Giving & Granting unto my sd Attorneys and Each of them my full and Absolute power & Authority in my Right of the sd Premises And I the sd Elias Hollingsworth for my Self my heirs Executrs and Administratrs and Every of them do Covenant Grant and Agree to and with the sd David Hollingsworth & John Way Their Executors & Administrators and Assigns and with Every of Them by these presents in Mannor and form following

That is to Say that I have not Done Committed or wittingly or willingly Suffered and that I shall nor will at any time in times here after do Commit or wittingly or willingly Suffer any Act or Thing whatsoever to Bar prejudice or countermand the power hereby Granted but Shall and will Avow justify Maintain Ratify Allow and Confirm all and whatsoever my sd Attorneys or any of them Shall Lawfully do or Cause to be done in and About Conveying Asureing Confirming the sd premises and Every part Thereof as Aforsd to be as firm and Effectual in Law to all Intents and purposes as if the Same were my own proper Act in person & that I my heirs Executor and Administrator Shall and will at any time or times hereafter at the Reasonable Request Cost and Charges in the Law of the purchaser or purchasers of the sd premises do and Execute or Cause to be Done and Executes all and Every Such Reasonable Acy and Acts Asurance and Asurances in the Law what power for the perfect and Absolute Conveying Asuring and Confirming u nto him to them his and their heirs and Assigns the Quiet Enjoyment of the premises and Every part thereof with the Appurtenances as by the afsd Purchaser or purchassors or Any of their Council Learned in the Law Shall be Reasonably Devised Advised or Required So that I be not [sic] Compelable to Travel Above two miles for the Doing of the Same

In Witness whereof I have hereunto Set my hand and Seal this fifth day of May in the Year of our Lord one Thousand Seven Hundred and Sixty Six

Elias Hollingsworth (signed)

Sealed and Delivered in the
Presence of Harmon Gregg
 William Gregg

New Castle County - The Execution of the above was prov'd by William Gregg one of the Witnesses thereto in Open Court of Common pleas held at New Castle for the county of New Castle May term 1767. In Testimony whereof I have hereunto affixed the publick Seal of said County

Theodore Maurice Proby

Recorded in the Rolls Office at New Castle in Book X page 746 &c Witness my Hand & Seal of Office May 20th 1767, R. W. William R. Deeds

**DEED - CHARLES HENRY WHARTON TO
SAMUEL LITTLE – 1796**

(Recorded in Deed Book 0-2-490)
New Castle County

This Indenture made the twenty first day of the third month Anno Domini One thousand seven hundred and ninety six Between Charles Henry Wharton of Brandywine hundred county of Newcastle and in the Delaware state D.D. and Mary his wife of the one part and Samuel Little of the Borough of Wilmington in Christiana hundred and county aforesaid yeoman of the other part. Whereas Jacob Hollingsworth was lawfully seized and possessed in his demisne as of fee of in and unto the following plantation and tract of land situate lying and being in Mill-creek hundred and county aforesaid. Beginning at a hickory being a corner of William Cox's land now William Phillip's thence with land of Thomas & William Dixon east one hundred & ninety perches to a post thence north by then vacant land now Jonathan Greaves one hundred and eighty eight perches to a comer Hickory thence west by land of William McMahan one hundred and ninety two perches to a post thence south by land of William Philips one hundred and eighty eight perches to the place of beginning and containing by computation two hundred and twenty five acres of land with the appurtenances as by Indenture of bargain and sale duly executed under the hands and Seals of James Logan and Recie Thomas attorneys in fact for William & Leatitia Aubrey bearing date the twenty third day of June Anno Domini 1726 and recorded in the Rolls office at Newcastle in Lib H page 113 &s reference thereunto being had & reciting as therein is recited may more fully and at large appear and the said Jacob Hollingsworth being so seized died intestate leaving a widdow who is now dead and issue seven children to witt Elias Hollingsworth, David Hollingsworth, Ruth Hollingsworth, who was intermarried with John Way, Jacob Hollingsworth, Zebede Hollingsworth, Jephtha Hollingsworth, and Rachel Hollingsworth, to whom the said plantation and tract of land descended And whereas the above named David Hollingsworth being desirous to have and enjoy the whole of the said tract of land agreed with his Brothers and Sisters above named who by their Indenture of bargain and sale for the consideration therein mentioned did grant bargain sell and enfeof release and confirm the same land and premises unto the said David Hollingsworth to hold to him his heirs and assigns forever under and subject to their Mothers thirds or dower therein during her natural life as by the Indenture duly executed under the hands and seals of his said Brothers and Sisters respectively the said Elias Hollingsworth's name being wrote by his Attorney John Way who specially authorised for that purpose bearing date the second day of the third month Anno Domini one thousand seven hundred and sixty seven with an Indorsment therein authenticating the above named Rachels share she being under age at the time of executing said Indenture with her Brothers and Sister and was after intermarried with one Sharp being recorded in the Rolls office at Newcastle aforesaid in Book Y page 507 &c reference thereunto being had and reciting as therein is particularly recited may at large appear And Whereas the said David Hollingsworth and Sarah his wife by their Indenture of bargain and sale for the consideration therein mentioned did grant bargain and sell all and singular the above mentioned and described plantation and tract of land said to contain two hundred and twenty five acres ware it more or less unto the above named Charles Henry Wharton with the appurtenances to hold to him his heirs and assigns

forever under and subject to the quit-rents payable thereout and also under and subject to a mortgage made on the said premises by the above named Jacob Hollingsworth the elder to Robert Richardson bearing date the twelfth day of June Anno Domini 1761 and whereon was then due the sum of two hundred pounds principle money and no more as by the said Indenture duly executed under the hands and seals of David Hollingsworth and Sarah his wife bearing date the 26th day of march Anno Domini 1787 being now present and recorded in the Rolls office aforesaid in Book G vol. 2nd fol 190 &c reference thereunto being had may at large appear and the said two hundred pounds with the interest thereon accrued being no fully paid and discharged as by satisfaction entered on record by Richard Richardson to the estate of the said Robert Richardson deceased may appear by virtue of all which the said Charles Henry Wharton is and doth stand lawfully seized in fee of in and unto the above mentioned plantation & tract of land Now this Indenture witnesseth that the said Charles Henry Wharton & Mary his wife for and in consideration of the sum of thirteen hundred pounds good and lawfull money of the state aforesaid to them in hand paid by the said Samuel Little at or before the sealing and delivery of these presents the receipt whereof they do hereby acknowledge and confess themselves therewith fully satisfied contented and paid and thereof and of and from every part and parcel thereof do acquit Exonerate release and forever discharge the said Samuel Little his heirs Exers. Admrs. and assigns by these presents have granted bargained sold alliened enfeeofed released and confirmed and by these presents do grant bargain sell allien enfeeof release and confirm unto the said Samuel Little his heirs and assigns All and singular the above described plantation and tract of land as the same is above described situate lying and being containing two hundred and twenty five acres be the same or less Together with all and singular the Houses Barns Stables out Houses and buildings thereon erected and built fields meadows woods underwoods ways waters watercourses rights members liberties priveledges hereditaments and appurtenances to the said plantation and tract of land belonging or in any wise appertaining and the reversion &c reversions remainder and remainders rents issues and profits thereof and all the estate right title interest property claim and demand whatsoever of them the said Charles Henry Wharton and Mary his wife and his heirs either in law or in equity of in and unto the same and every part thereof with the appurtenances with all deeds evidences and writings touching and concerning the same To have and to hold all and singular the above mentioned tract of land and plantation hereby granted bargained and sold or mentioned or intended so to be with the appurtenances unto the said Samuel Little his heirs and assigns to the only proper use benefit and behoof of him the said Samuel Little his heirs and assigns forever. And further it is covenanted and agreed by and between the said parties to these presents in manner following that is to say that the said Charles Henry Wharton and Mary his wife and his heirs anything having or claiming against all and all manner of person or persons whomsoever that shall or may at any time hereafter lawfully claim any estate right title interest or demand whatsoever in or unto the hereby granted premises or meant mentioned or intended so to be or any part thereof by from or under him the said Charles Henry Wharton or Mary his wife or his heirs or any or either of them unto the said Samuel Little his heirs and assigns shall and will Warrant and forever defend by these

presents In Witness whereof the said Charles Henry Wharton and Mary his wife have hereunto put their hands and seals the day and year first above written.

Sealed and delivered in
the presence of Hannah
Brinton Jehu Hollingsworth

(Signed)

CHARLES H. WHARTON

MARY C. WHARTON

Received on the day and date of these presents of and from the above named Samuel Little full satisfaction of and for the consideration money above mentioned witness my hand.

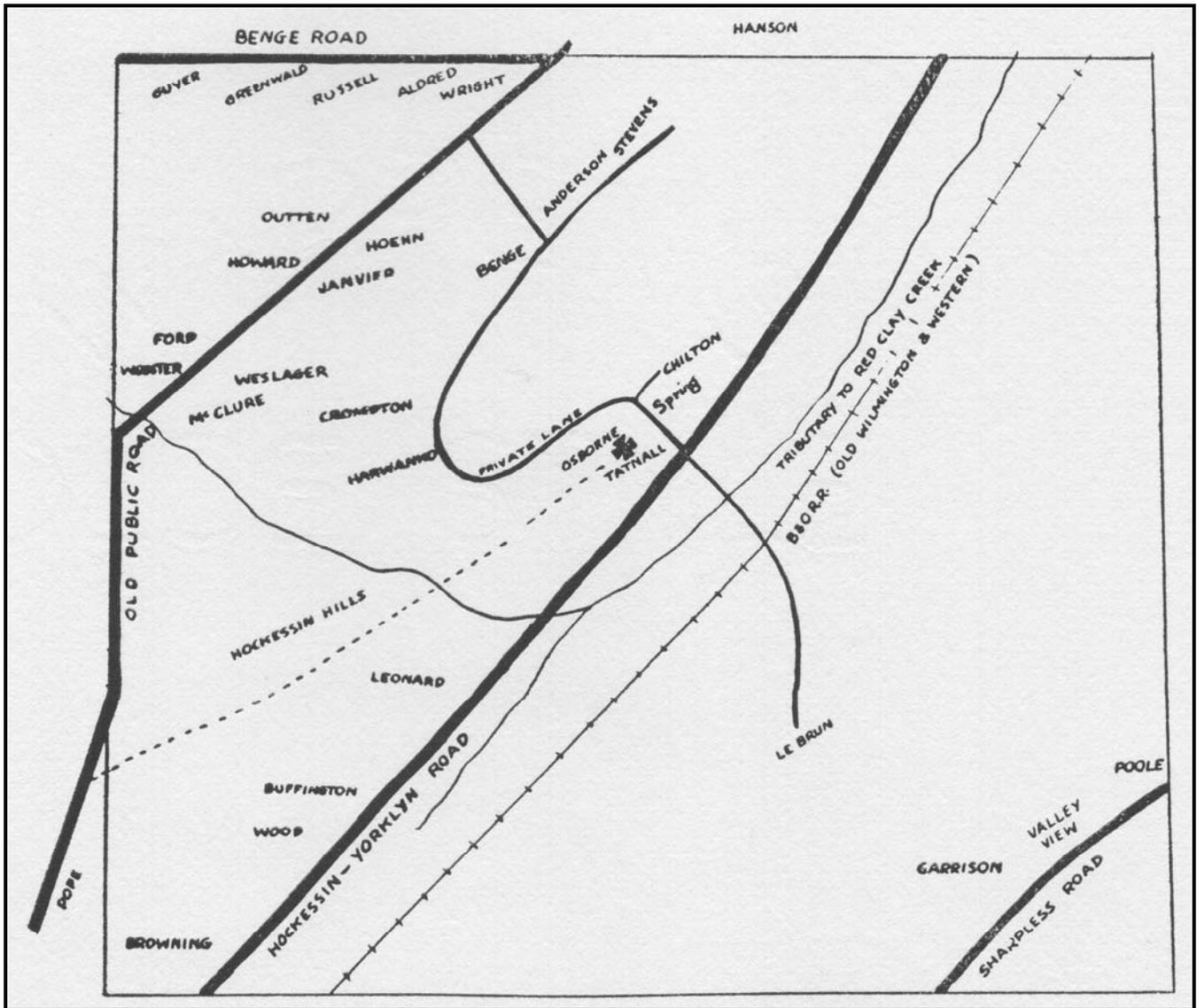
Witness present Jehu Hollingsworth

Charles H. Wharton

The Execution of the above was proven by Jehu Hollingsworth one of the witnesses thereto in open court of common pleas held at Newcastle for the county of Newcastle of the May term A.D. 1796 In Testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said court.

Recorded 22 day of August 1796.

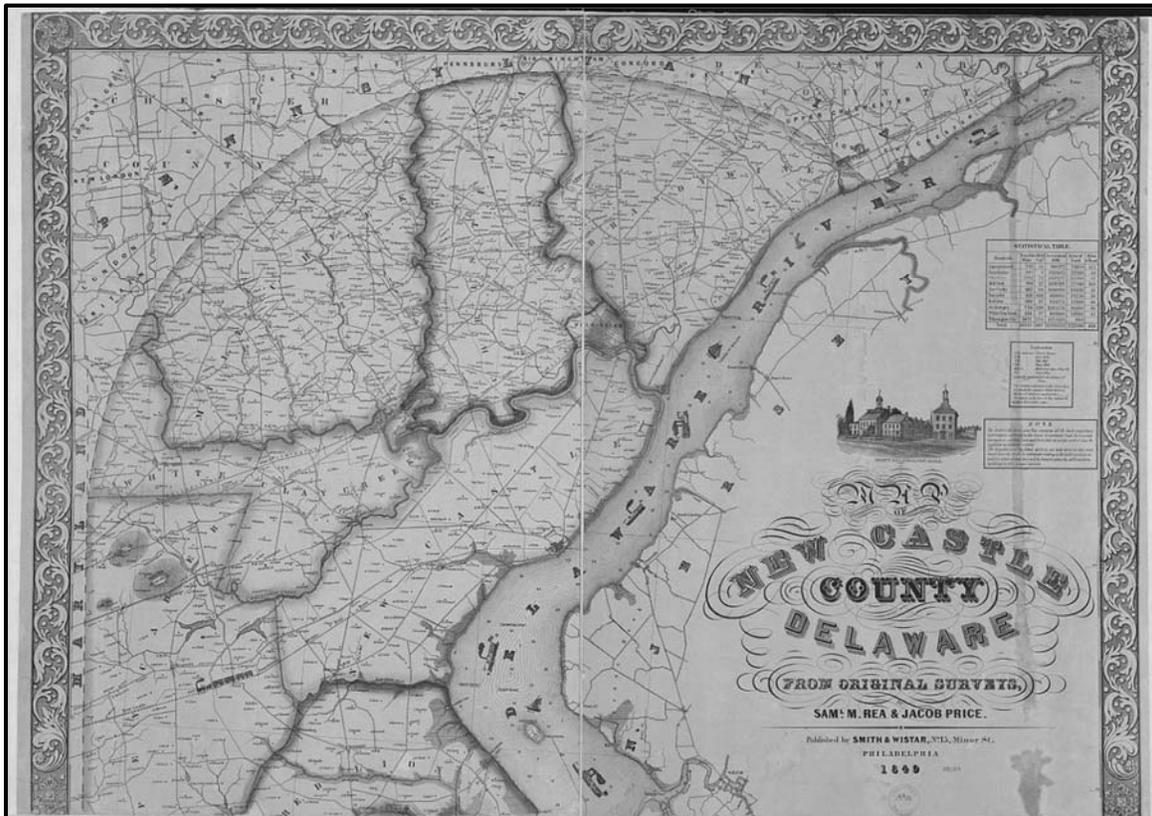
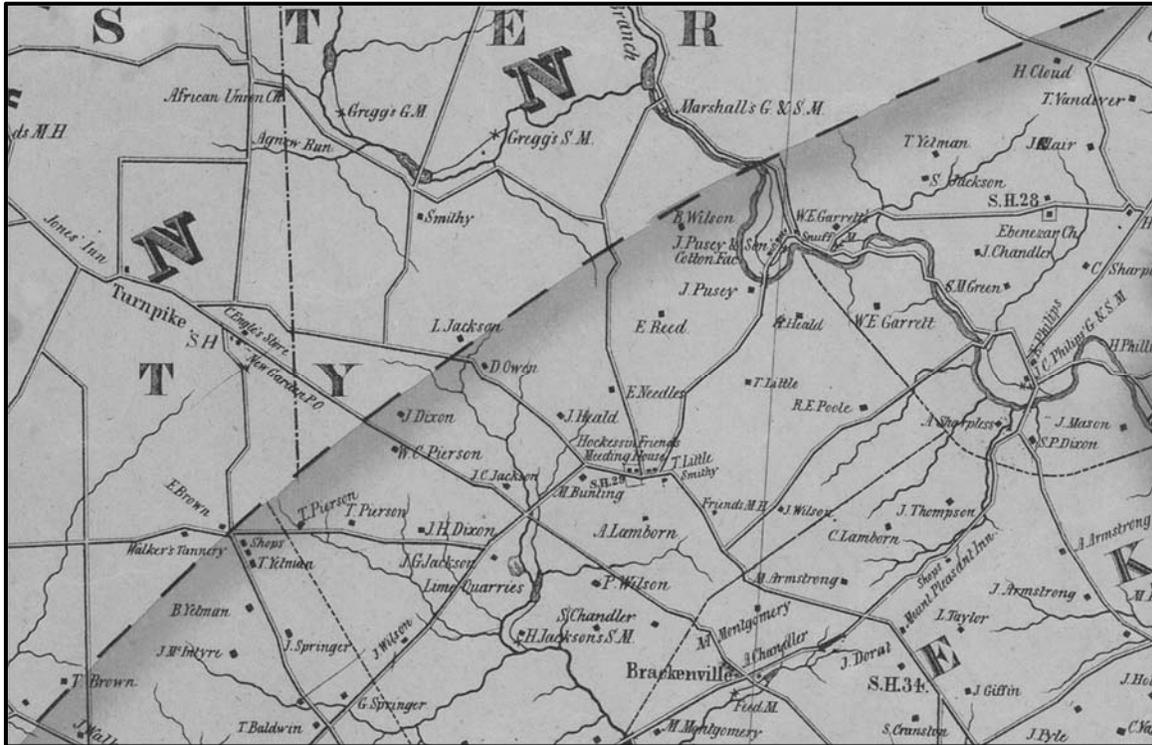
Abel Glasford Prothy.



The approximate area of the old Hollingsworth Plantation with names of modern residents shown. Not drawn to scale, and there is some doubt as to exact eastern bounds where name "Valley View" appears. However, the other bounds can be accurately oriented with Old Public Road as shown on 1787 surveyor's drawing (see folded insert and compare with above). Black cross marks probable site of original Hollingsworth dwelling shown on 1787 drawing. Dotted line is approximate route of abandoned lane leading to Old Public Road, the only access to the property before the first leg of the Hockessin-Yorklyn Road was constructed in 1863.

2019 EDITION LETTER FOOTNOTES

A – A zoomed-in portion of the 1849 Rea & Price map shows the T. Little property mentioned in this monograph. Below is the upper half of the map shown for reference.



^B – ‘Frankpledge’ definition (from Encyclopedia Britannica and US Legal) – A system in Anglo-Saxon England under which all but the greatest men and their households were bound together by mutual responsibility to keep the peace. The essential characteristic was the compulsory sharing of responsibility among persons connected through kinship, or some other kind of tie such as an oath of fealty to a lord or knight.

Frankpledge can be traced back to the laws of King Canute II the Great of Denmark and England (d. 1035), who declared that every man, serf or free, must be part of a hundred, a local unit of government, that could put up a surety in money for his good behavior. By the 13th century, however, it was the unfree and landless men who were so bound. While a freeholder’s land was sufficient pledge, the unfree had to be in frankpledge, generally an association of 12, or in tithing, an association of 10 householders. The system began to decline in the 14th century and was superseded by local constables operating under the justices of the peace in the 15th century.

^C – Valentine Hollingsworth (1632-1710) and his family lived in County Antrim, Ireland in order to escape the persecutions of Quakers in England. Valentine married Ann Rea (Wray?) (1628-1671) in 1655 and had five children: Mary (1656-1746), Henry (stillborn 1657), Henry-Henery (1658-1721), Thomas Valentine (1661-1727), and Katherine (1663-1746). Valentine married Ann Calvert in 1672 and added four children to the family: Samuel (1673-1748), Enoch (1675-1687), Valentine, Jr. (1677-1757), Ann (1680-1712) while still residing in Ireland.

Valentine sailed to America on the ship “Antelope” from Belfast, Ireland in 1682 with Thomas Conaway (his son-in-law) and John Musgrave (Valentine’s indentured servant). The family settled on a 1000-acre farm near Shellpot Creek in Brandywine Hundred, New Castle County, Delaware. Here the Hollingsworth family added three addition children to the family: John Valentine (1684-1722), Joseph (1686-1732), and Enoch II (1690-1692). Many of the Hollingsworth family are buried in Newark Union Church cemetery. Valentine was a member of the First Assembly of the Province of Pennsylvania. Hollingsworth was appointed a Justice of the Peace for New Castle County, in 1685, and represented the county in the Assembly in 1682-3, 1687, 1688, 1689, 1695, and 1700. He was one of the signers of William Penn's Great Charter (Also known as “The Frame of the Government of the Province of Pennsylvania”, the document was the first constitution for the Province of Pennsylvania. It is regarded as a historically important step in the development of American democracy).

^D – ‘Quit-rent’ definition – A rent, typically a small one, paid by a freeholder or copyholder in lieu of services which might be required of them. A farmer, for example, held land in exchange for a clearly defined, fixed payment to be made at specified intervals to his feudal lord or other higher authority, who in turn had his own feudal obligations. The feudal lord in turn was responsible both to the farmer (principally to provide protection) and to the individual the English Crown had granted the land to. In theory this might involve supplying the lord with produce but most usually it meant a straightforward payment of cash (rent).

