

140 YEARS ALONG
OLD PUBLIC ROAD

In Mill Creek Hundred
New Castle County, Del.

By C. A. Weslager

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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 Marshall with a Stanley Steam Car

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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.

2019

EDITION PREFACE ^A

Published in 1960 as the first monograph of a five-monograph series, *140 Years Along Old Public Road* could easily be retitled in 2019 as “Two Centuries Along Old Public Road”. The final road map used in the original edition is not much changed from today’s digital maps available on the internet or with automotive GPS-based navigation systems. As the reader reads C. A. Weslager’s narrative, they are reminded to keep in mind that use of the term “today” represents 1960 when this monograph was issued and not nearly 60 years later in the 21st century!

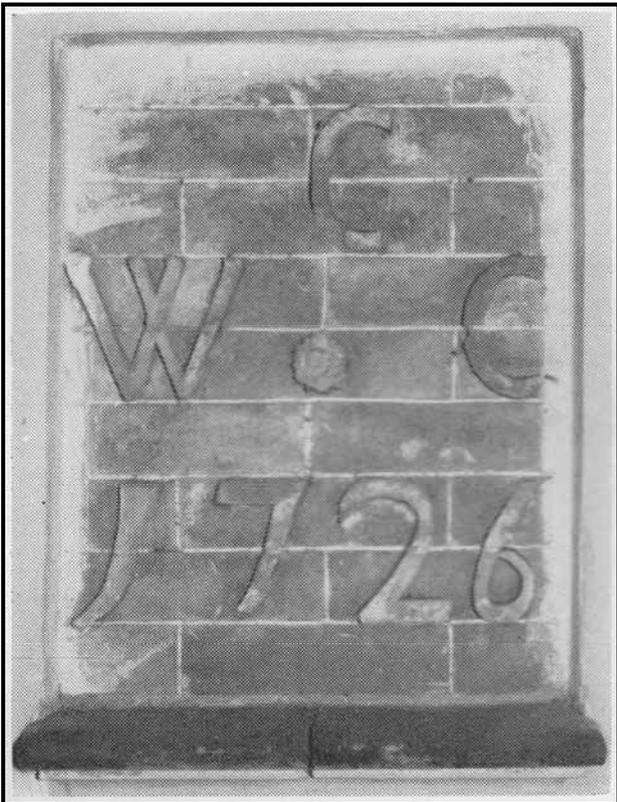
In the 1960s, maps were scarce and access limited. One of the maps Weslager references in this monograph was an accidental find belonging to a private individual. In the middle of the 20th century, Weslager was forced to photograph or Xerox copy maps he wished to reference and he decided to hand draw the important aspects of those maps for inclusion in the original publication.

A half century later, maps referenced by Weslager have been digitally scanned and are readily available for historians and researchers both online and by visiting the research archive. Access to multiple archives including Hagley Museum and Library, The National Archives, The Delaware State Archives, and any number of other libraries and public archives, we’ve elected to replace Weslager’s hand drawn maps with high resolution digital scans of the best original copies that we could find. The original hand-drawn Weslager maps have been retained and moved to the rear of the monograph as part of the letter footnotes.

We wish to acknowledge Hagley Museum and Library as the source for the maps provided in this updated monograph.



John C. Mitchell residence on Old Wilmington Road, at what was originally called Ocasson. The first section of house built in 1726 by William Cox. Friends of Mill Creek Hundred held their weekly meetings here in the front room before the Hockessin Meeting House was built. The house has been modified and enlarged. See the Appendix at the end of this monograph for a summary of title search.

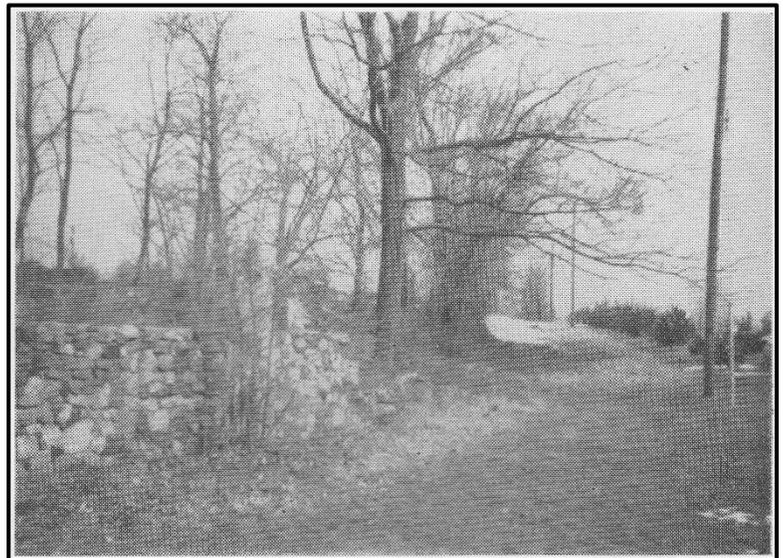


The building date and initials of the first owner are still visible in a garret wall of the old house set in fire clay against the original bricks.



View of paved section of Old Public Road showing wooded land on either side. Picture taken from the end of pavement looking in direction of Benge Rd.

Unpaved section of Old Public Road seen from its point of juncture with Old Wilmington Road. George Pope property to right and James Schulz property to left.



End of paving on Old Public Road looking toward Old Wilmington Road. This leg of the road from Old Wilmington Road (see above) is at present impassable to autos.

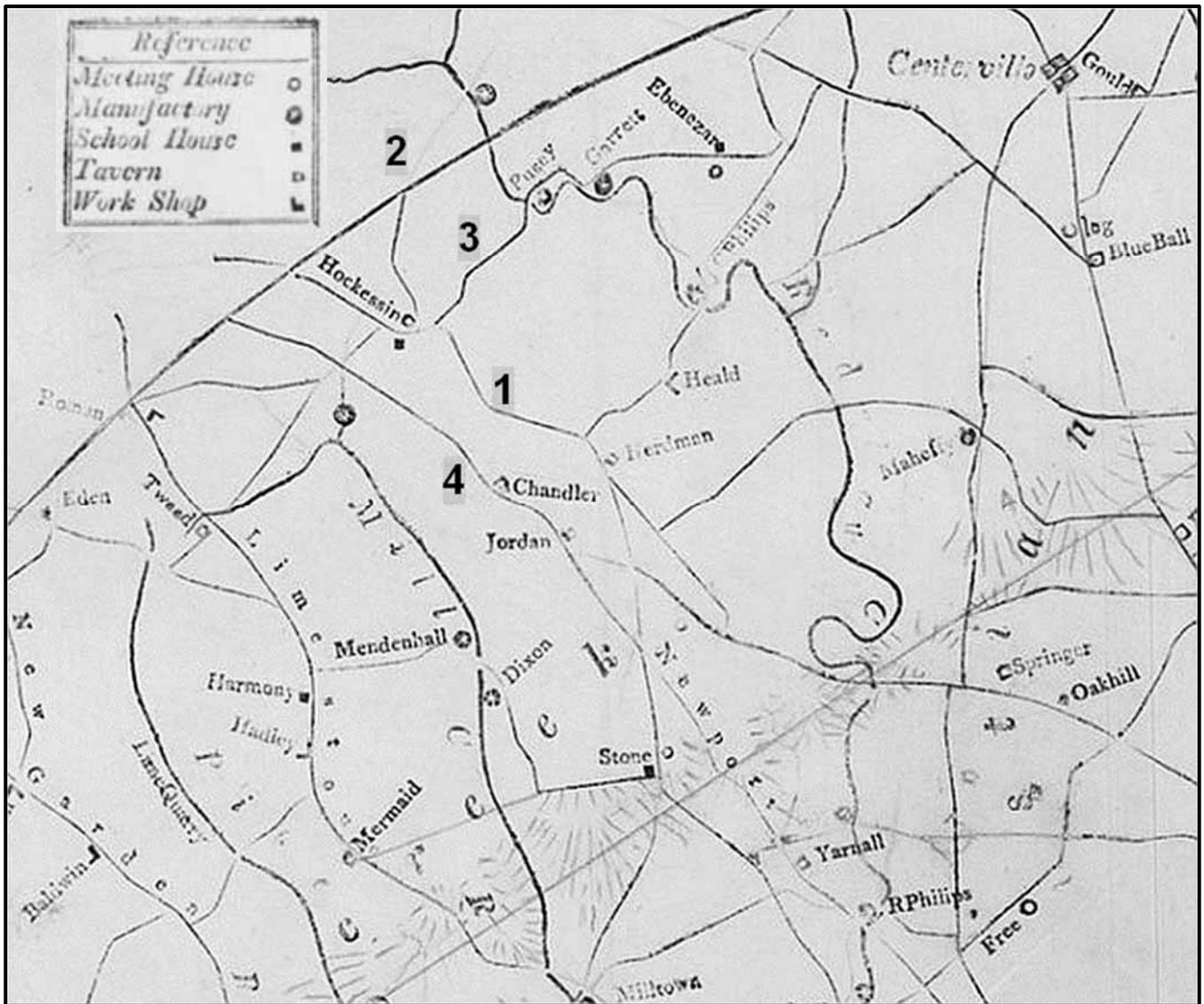


Figure 0^B

Section of Henry Heald's New Castle County Map from 1820 shows; 1 - Old Wilmington Road; 2 - Meeting House Road, which at that time crossed the Pennsylvania line to Marshall's "upper mill" on Red Clay Creek; 3 - Old Public Road; and 4 - the Newport-Gap Turnpike. Heald also designates a few of the more important mills on the Red Clay Creek and Mill Creek along with their owners.

A map printed in 1820 by Henry Heald entitled "Roads of New Castle County" shows two major routes in the northeast corner of Mill Creek Hundred: the "Newport Road," which is the present Lancaster Pike^C, formerly called the Newport-Gap Turnpike^D, and an unnamed road, known today as Old Wilmington Road. (see Figure 0) On the latter road, Heald designated the Hockessin Friends Meeting House at the intersection of a less prominent route which became known as Meeting House Road, a name still used. A short distance southeast of the Meeting House his map shows another and evidently older road intersecting Old Wilmington Road and continuing to a millsite on Red Clay Creek where the paper mill of the National Vulcanized Fibre Company is now in operation. In 1820, mills at this site were powered by water; the change in elevation from Pennsylvania's hills to the lowlands of Delaware created a fast-flowing current in Red Clay Creek suitable for operating grist mills, saw mills, paper mills, snuff mills, and the other water-powered

Red Clay Creek. It may have had its origin in a footpath, which later became a cart-road, and finally the present hard-surfaced state road (for part of its former length), a not uncommon evolution of Delaware roads.

However, the purpose of the present account is not to trace the beginning of Old Public Road nor the neighboring routes, since, with a few exceptions, it is intended to deal principally with the land ownership during the 140-year period that has elapsed since Heald's map was published. Furthermore, this account is confined to the immediate area affected by Old Public Road, Meeting House Road, and the short intervening stretch of Old Wilmington Road. Four maps, in conjunction with deed and will records, are used to tell the story, more or less chronologically, of the landowners who lived along these roads during the 140-year span. These maps are dated respectively 1849, 1868, 1893, and 2019^G. The present author has copied the sector under discussion from the three older maps, shown in Figures 1, 2, and 3. The fourth map, Figure 4, gives the roads as of 2019.^G

THE 1849 MAP

The "Map of New Castle County, Delaware," from original sources by Samuel M. Rea and Jacob Price, was published by Smith & Wistar of Philadelphia in 1849. The author is indebted to Mrs. Kenneth Swayne for bringing it to his attention and for other assistance in the preparation of this account. On Figure 1, reproducing part of the map, the major routes have been marked with numbers superimposed by the present author. These are as follows:

1 - Old Wilmington Road, which ran from New Garden, Pennsylvania to the Borough of Wilmington via the area known as early as 1734 as *Ocasson*.¹ The word was later variously spelled, e.g., *Hocesion*, *Hockessing*, *Okesson*, *Okeshion*, *Okession*, etc., until it finally became Hockessin.² The road leading from Wilmington was called the Hockessin Road, as well as the Wilmington Road, and it, too, was variously spelled. In 1782, for example, a deed refers to it as *Ocassen Road*; in 1809 it was recorded as *Ockession Road* and *Okesan Road*; in 1825 as *Hockessing Road*.³ It should be emphasized that the place so designated was not the present town of Hockessin. The name was loosely applied to the farm area where the present John Mitchell dwelling is situated^H, and it was used *before* the meeting house was built.

2 - Meeting House Road, which, according to the map, coursed into Pennsylvania from its place of juncture with Old Wilmington Road, where it met the road to Kennett at Marshall's old paper mill, sometimes referred to as the "upper" mill.⁴

¹ - New Castle County Deed Book K-1-295-297. Unless otherwise indicated, all subsequent deed references pertain to the New Castle County records.

² - A. R. Dunlap & C. A. Weslager, *Indian Place-Names in Delaware*, Wilmington, 1950, p. 16. We stated that the authenticity of *Hockessin* as an Indian had not been fully established, a belief we still hold.

³ - Deeds L-1-552; M-3-498; H-3-51; B-4-472.

⁴ - The terminal point at Marshall's Upper mill is clearly shown on another map, published in 1869 by Henry Eckel, entitled "Map of New Castle County, Del., and Chester Co., Pa."^I

3 - Old Public Road, which, in 1849, connected Old Wilmington Road with (as the map shows) “J. Pusey & Son Cotton Mill” on Red Clay Creek.^J After it crossed the creek, Old Public Road intersected the road from Kennett leading to Garrett's Snuff Mill a short distance down the stream from Pusey's mill.

4 - The Newport-Gap Turnpike running between Newport on the Christina River and the Gap Tavern.⁵ Only those paying the necessary toll were permitted to travel on this road.

The present Hockessin-Yorklyn Road was not in existence in 1849 for the simple reason that neither town yet appeared. Nor had the route known today as Benge Road (an earlier name was the Kaolin Road) been laid out. However, as the map reveals, a road connected the Newport-Gap Turnpike with Old Wilmington Road, known today as Valley Road. This is a contraction of its former name, Hockessin Valley Road.⁶ The intersection of Valley Road and the Newport-Gap Turnpike was destined to become the site of a later Hockessin, for here the town of that name had its beginning at what was first called “Hockessin Crossroads.” Today, the town center is southeast of this crossroad. In 1849, there was no railroad in the area nor does the map designate a post office.

The family names placed on the map were those of important landowners; no doubt there were tenants on some of the farms and other residents whose names are not given, but the total population was very small. Before discussing each of the family names, the writer would like to introduce new data relative to the Hockessin Friends Meeting shown on the map and to one of the early landowners who played a leading role in the establishing of Quakerism in the area, namely William Cox, or Cocks, as his name was also spelled.

On the 10th day of July 1721, William Aubrey and Letitia, his wife (William Penn's daughter), conveyed to William Cox, through their American agents, James Logan and Reese Thomas, 300 acres from that part of the Manor of Stenning which was sometimes called “Letitia Manor.”⁷ Cox paid “Eighty-six pounds of Lawfull money of America” for the land, agreeing also to remit yearly rent at Philadelphia of “three Shillings Money of great Brittain for the said three hundred acres on the first day of March forever.” The land was described as follows:

“Scituate lying and being in the said county of New Castle beginning at a post Standing in the line of Henry [Dixon] thence East by the lands of the said Henry Dickson, William Dickson and Thomas Dickson two hundred and fifty-three perches to a hickory Tree then North by a line of Marked trees one hundred & Ninety Perches to a hickory tree thence West by a line of marked

⁵ - Deed L-3-39 makes reference to the road leading to the tavern. In 1808 the Delaware General Assembly authorized the incorporation of a company to construct the turnpike from Newport to Gap. At Gap, it intersected a pike from Lancaster to Philadelphia.^K

⁶ - The name so appears in a deed dated 1872, S-9-286

⁷ - Deed Book G-1-226. J. Thomas Scharf, *History of Delaware*, Phila., 1888, 2:916 lists Cock's name among those who bought lands from Stenning Manor, but gives the date of the purchase as Feb. 8, 1713, which is incorrect. This date is the date Aubrey and Letitia constituted Logan and Reese, their attorneys, to sell tracts from Stenning Manor.

trees two-hundred and fifty-three perches to a post, thence South one-hundred and Ninety perches to the place of beginning containing three-hundred acres.”

On November 8, 1725, Aubrey and Letitia conveyed 100 acres from the manor to Henry Dixon, adjacent to the 300 acres that that Cox had purchased. On the 16th of November following, Dixon and his wife Ruth sold 50 acres from this purchase to Cox. The 50-acre plot was described as follows:

“Begins at a Black Oak now a Stone in a line of the above described Tract being a corner of Land late of William McMachan but now of Robert Boyce's⁸ thence west by the said above described Tract one Hundred and thirty-seven perches and a half to a post now a stone thence north by the Land late of the said Henry Dixon fifty-eight perches and a Half to a post now a Stone thence East by Land lately Vacant one Hundred and thirty-seven perches and an half to a post now a stone thence south by the said Robert Boyce's Land fifty-eight perches and a Half to the place of Beginning containing fifty acres as aforesaid. . . .”⁹

The two purchases gave William Cox possession of some 350 acres situated on rolling lands from which the cool waters of several excellent springs flowed down the slopes to the tributaries of Mill Creek crossing the property. Much of the land was wooded, although limited portions were cleared, notably a site where the Lenni Lenape Indians had one of their camps before Cox took up residence, and where stone artifacts can still be found. The Cox “plantation” included the area now encompassed by the John Mitchell farm, the Hockessin Friends Meeting House, and the properties on the western side of present Meeting House Road between Old Wilmington Road and Benge Road, as well as some land on the eastern side of Meeting House Road. The road at that time, of course did not exist.

Cox erected a dwelling house, setting under the gable in the brick wall his initials W.C.C. and the date 1726 (see second of the images at the start of this monograph). This datestone is still visible in the garret wall of this venerable farm manse (now occupied by Peter Seely, great-grandson of John C. Mitchell)^M, which was enlarged and modified by owners who succeeded Cox. The Friends of Mill Creek Hundred held their first meetings in this house, an outgrowth of the Newark Preparative Meeting, which, in 1730, received a request from the Mill Creek Hundred Friends who desired to organize a separate meeting. The report was favorable, and they were granted “the Liberty to keep a meeting at the house of William Cox upon the sixth day of the week Every week until further order.”¹⁰

As the membership grew, the downstairs front room of the Cox dwelling proved inadequate for meeting purposes, and in 1737, the Newark Preparative Meeting offered for consideration that, “Hocesion ffrds Desiers to have a meeting of worship settled

⁸ - Robert Boyce sold 182¼ acres and 35 perches to John Garrett and his wife Eleanor May 9, 1795, Deed Y-2-499.

⁹ - Deed Y-1-145.

¹⁰ - This quotation taken from the minutes of the Newark Monthly Meeting as given verbatim by S. Smith Futhey & Gilbert Cope, *History of Chester County, Penna.*, Phila., 1881, p. 239.

amongst them on the first day and week day which this meeting aquaceseth with and offers it to the Quarterly Meeting for approbation of said meeting with Desires that there said request be granted.”¹¹

This is the first appearance in Quaker records of a variant of the word Hockessin, i.e., *Hocesion*, and the individual whose property was associated with the name was William Cox. Three years *prior*, a deed record refers to him as “William Cox of *Ocasson*, farmer.” Certain moneys, according to the document, were to be paid him “at or in *Ocasson*,”¹² which obviously referred to his place of residence, since at this early date there were no towns in the immediate area, nor had the meeting house yet been erected.

The request for permission to erect a meeting house was granted, and on the 17th day of the 10th month, 1737, William Cox and Catherine, his wife, transferred to John Baldwin, Jacob Hollingsworth, Henry Dixon, and John Dixon, members of the said meeting, a piece of land from the 350-acre farm containing ½ acre and 28 perches. Thomas Dixon and Hannah, his wife, by indenture the same day conveyed a second lot adjacent to the first, containing 1 acre 56 perches. The two lots then became one piece known as the “Hockessin Meeting House land.”¹³

The Meeting House that was built on the property, and later enlarged, became the center of the religious life of the little farming and milling community.

(On the 24th of the 11th month, 1817, William Phillips and Mary, his wife, deeded an additional 30 square perches to the trustees of the Meeting, viz., Robert Marshall, Caleb Sharpless, Stephen Wilson, Spencer Chandler, and Ephraim Jackson.¹⁴ On the 6th day, 12th month, 1820, Samuel Heald conveyed a plot of 15 perches to the trustees.¹⁵ On May 29, 1877, William Little and Sarah Jane, his wife, sold the trustees 1/3 of an acre “for the purpose of an addition to the burial ground.”¹⁶ The trustees at this time were John Mitchell, Spencer Chandler, Stephen Wilson, Joseph Mitchell, Joseph S. Heald, John M. Yeatman, and Thomas S. Marshall.)

On May 11, 1753, William Cox and Catherine sold their 350-acre plantation to John Dixon and Rebecca, his wife, excepting the plot of one-acre and twenty-eight perches previously conveyed to the Meeting.¹⁷ The Dixons then took up residence in the former Cox dwelling and lived there until John Dixon's death. According to the terms of his will, Dixon named his wife, Rebecca, his executrix, and gave her, “full power to sell and convey

¹¹ - Ibid.

¹² - Deed K-1-295. The 1734 reference to *Ocasson* is earlier than any previously recorded. Dunlap and I did not have this reference when we published our *Indian Place-Names, ibid.*

¹³ - This information occurs in a deed dated 1st day 7th month, 1796, owned by Hockessin Meeting.

¹⁴ - Deed A-4-544.

¹⁵ - Deed A-4-547.

¹⁶ - Deed Y-10-516. On June 17, 1913, William H. Little sold the Meeting “Eleven Thousand Four Hundred and Eighty forty-two hundredths Square Feet of Land,” Deed 1-24-112. In 1914 the Meeting conveyed this plot to Golding & Sons Company, C-25-170, and in 1937 Golding sold it to Consolidated Feldspar Corporation, H-40-223.

¹⁷ - Deed Y-1-145.

by Deeds as fully and firmly as I myself could do were I personally present, the plantation I now live on it being in Mill Creek Hundred and County of New Castle for to sell the same to the best Bidder, etc.”¹⁸

On the 24th day of the 5th month, 1766, the property was bought by William Phillips (1st), a cooper, for, “one thousand two hundred and thirty-five pounds Lawfull Money of the Government of the Counties of New Castle, Kent and Sussex upon Delaware, he being the Highest Bidder at the said sale for said premises.”¹⁹ William Phillips (1st) and his family lived in the house for more than 20 years, where he conducted a profitable cooperage business.

In his will dated 11th month, 15th day, 1789, William Phillips (1st) bequeathed to his son, William Phillips II, “all that Messuage or Tenement Plantation or Tract of Land where I now dwell . . . containing 349 acres.” He also left William his, “Coopering and Carpenter Tools of every Sort, all of the Cooper Stuffe, or Timber, Provided for Coopering,” as well as a 200-acre plantation in New Garden Township.

To his wife Mary he bequeathed the privilege of enjoying during her widowhood, “the Lodging Room below stairs in my Dwelling House and the middle Room upstairs and privilege of the kitchen and oven to do her Washing and Baking in without interruption and also the free and undisturbed use of the Draw-Well and Water before the Door. . . .”

He left other valuables to his sons, James, Robert, and John, including a second farm in Mill Creek Hundred of 150 acres and a 295-acre farm in Christina Hundred. He also remembered his daughter Hannah, wife of George Taylor, and the family of Sarah, a deceased daughter, late wife of Moses Palmer.²⁰

After the death of William (1st), his son William II resided in the dwelling with his wife Mary (same name as his mother) and there raised their children, Marshall, William III, John, Robert, Sarah, Susanna, and Hannah.

As his children grew into adulthood, William Phillips II divided his plantation into two farms, the home farm, containing 229 acres and the mansion house, which he continued to occupy. He set aside approximately 121 acres on the northeast part of the property for the use of his son John and erected a house and barn there for John's use. (This is the former house on the west side of Meeting House Road formerly owned and occupied by L. C. Hobson, and the Hesslers).^N In his will, dated the 11th of the 2nd month, 1823, William Phillips II made provisions to distribute his personal possessions and real estate to his children. Like his father before him, he provided that his wife Mary was to have the use of the middle room upstairs, “which we have accustomed to lodge in,” as well as half of the garret in the west end, and the use of the cellar and vault therein.

He left his son Marshall a piece of land called the “swamp meadow,” and two lots east of the Meeting House, on which a small house had been built.²¹

¹⁸ - Ibid.

¹⁹ - Ibid.

²⁰ - Will book N-1-108.

²¹ - Will Book R-1-471.

After the death of William Phillips II, his son John continued to live on the 121-acre farm which he had inherited, but a son-in-law, William Wilkinson, who married Phillips' daughter Hannah, acquired ownership of the 229-acre home farm. There had been considerable “differences, difficulties, and disputes” among the heirs over the settlement of the estate before the home farm came into Wilkinson's possession.²²

Wilkinson died heavily in debt, and his property was sold by his administrators to pay his bills. Jacob Heald bought the 229 acres at public sale in 1830 for \$7,124.50.²³ As of 1849, the date of the map, he was the owner of the farm, which explains the map entry “J. Heald.” (See Figure 1)

John Phillips' will, dated March 13, 1824, is on record, and he bequeathed the 121-acre farm to his minor brother William III. He provided in his will that within four years after his death an addition should be built to the west side of his dwelling house to accommodate his widow Hannah, if she remained unmarried. He directed that this addition should be 26 feet long by 21 feet broad, two stories high, “with an entry from six to seven feet in width, a porch before the door, a fireplace sufficiently large for cooking, etc.”²⁴ He also instructed that Hannah was to have the use of the kitchen attached to the existing dwelling house, “when occasion should require for washing and boiling,” as well as the use of the pump. These benefits were contingent upon her remaining a widow. Whether or not this addition was built could probably be determined by a careful inspection of the house, which, as the above data indicate, had been originally built sometime prior to 1823.

After his brother John's death, William Phillips III and Sarah were the owner-occupants of the house until March 30, 1844, when they sold it to Edward Needles of Philadelphia.²⁵ This is the “E. Needles” shown on the 1849 map. (See Figure 1) Needles was in possession for only six years. In 1850, he conveyed the house and the farm, then comprising 125 acres, to Aquilla Lamborn, a farmer from New Garden Township, Chester County.²⁶ In the discussion of the 1868 Atlas which follows, the reader will learn how Lamborn disposed of the house and property.

The name “T. Little” appears on the map as owner of the farm property on the east side of Old Public Road. He was one of several Thomas Littles cited in the early New Castle County records; other members of the Little family who owned extensive lands in Mill Creek and Christiana Hundreds. Thomas Little drew up his will March 31, 1858, bequeathing his real estate jointly to his two children, William Little and Mary Elizabeth Little, who had married Isaac Wesley Flinn. In his will, Thomas Little referred to two adjoining farms which he owned, one consisting of 115 acres and the second of 158 acres.²⁷

After Thomas Little's death his son and daughter fell heir to the two farms. In 1858, Mary Elizabeth deeded her half of the 115-acre farm to her brother William for \$5,755.

²² - See Deeds A-4-164; A-4-32; F-4-472.

²³ - Deed L-4-198.

²⁴ - Will S-1-24.

²⁵ - Deed M-5-530.

²⁶ - Deed E-6-152.

²⁷ - Will Book X-1-83.

(There was located on this farm a stone mansion house built in 1817 to which reference will shortly be made) This farm, irregular in shape, contained land lying between Old Public Road and Meeting House Road, as well as acreage on both sides of Old Wilmington Road. (Among the 1960-era owners of property originally encompassed by these 115 acres are James Schulz, Kenneth Berry, George Pope, T. R. McClure, Harley Wooster, Samuel Ford, C. A. Weslager, Pierce Crompton Jr., Charles Mendinhall, Phillip Janvier, Thomas Outten, Edward G. Howard, Jr., George S. Wright, Lloyd Russell, Joseph A. Glenn, W. C. Aldred, and others).

The conveyance from Mary Elizabeth to her brother William Little referred to one of the points on the property as a, “corner by the schoolhouse of lands belonging with Hockessin Meeting.”²⁸ Henry Heald's map of 1820 (See Figure 0) uses a symbol to designate a schoolhouse across the road from the Meeting House in what is now the cemetery (see footnote 72 below for reference to “Hokeissan School House” in 1830 which probably was the same school shown on Heald's map). However, the schoolhouse mentioned in the above deed was on a different location, no doubt, than the one shown on Heald's map. This is clarified in a letter written by Pusey Heald to A. L. Bailey, Feb. 1, 1924, now in possession of the Wilmington Institute Free Library. The writer of the letter was 87 years old. Here is the pertinent paragraph:

“Henry Heald – a fine mathematician and surveyor was my father's [Jacob Heald, son of Joseph Heald] teacher at Hockessin in a school house then situated in part of what is now the western end of Friends Burial Grounds. A later octagon shaped school building was erected on the opposite side of the road on the west end of the Friends Mtg. house grounds (I attended school there 1844-52) Later this was razed, and the school moved to a new building at Hockessin Cross Roads.”

This Henry Heald was the same as the author of the map shown in Figure 0, and the letter states that he, “lived in the Stone House – home of his parents – still standing across the road from Hockessin Mtg. House.” Not only was he a teacher, surveyor, and map maker, but Henry Heald invented a spinning machine.

In the discussion of the 1868 Atlas which follows, the reader will find further reference to the 158-acre Little farm. Meanwhile a few additional observations relative to the 115-acre farm are pertinent. These 115 acres were made up of several acquisitions by Thomas Little at different times. For example, 17 acres (in two lots) he had purchased from Marshall Phillips in 1826. This was land that Marshall Phillips inherited from William Phillips II²⁹ and which the writer has already shown can be traced back to Letitia Manor. Reference has already been made to the small house on the, property, eastward of the Meeting House, which had been erected prior to 1823. This house, no longer in existence, was standing when Thomas Little bought the land.

²⁸ - Deed F-7-414. A “schoolhouse lot” is referred to in a deed dated June 8, 1865, B-8-246

²⁹ - Deed D-4-323; Will Book R-1-471. The writer has not traced the other lands owned by Thomas Little, and it is not yet known from whom he purchased the two farms which he owned at the time of his death. This awaits further research in the early land records.

There was also standing nearby on the neighboring farm, then owned by Samuel Heald (father of Henry Heald), a statelier stone house. This is the identical house, renovated by Samuel Stovall, now occupied by James Schulz and family, bearing under the eaves on the west side the initials SH [Samuel Heald] and the date 1817.

The official New Castle County Deed Records have not permitted a complete reconstruction of Samuel Heald's land holdings, because the deed to his original purchase was recorded in a deed book which is now missing, *Book U-2*. A later deed refers back to the missing book, but it does not give the bounds of Heald's original purchase.³⁰ The writer recently had the extreme good fortune to find the original deed in the possession of Samuel Stovall of Washington D.C. who obtained it from the Little heirs in 1937 and carefully preserved it. Because the deed book in which it was originally recorded is no longer available, the complete deed has been reprinted, with Mr. Stovall's permission, as an appendix to this monograph.

This deed, dated the eighth day of the first month, 1795 indicates that Jacob Way, of Mill Creek Hundred, sold two parcels of land to Samuel Heald, one containing 92¾ acres 30 perches, and the second 10 acres 3 perches. Jacob Way had inherited this property from his father, John Way. It was part of a 200-acre tract that John Way had purchased in 1758 from Simon Dixon. If Jacob Way had a dwelling on the property, which seems likely, no trace of it remains today, but 22 years after he acquired the farm, Samuel Heald erected the mansion house referred to above.

Samuel Heald drew up his will on the 25th of the 4th month, 1828, bequeathing cash to his sons Henry, George, Samuel, and Harmon, and to his daughter, Mary Gregg. He appointed his son, Henry, and David Wilson as his executors to liquidate his lands after his death, in order to settle the cash on his children.³¹ Following his death, his executors disposed of his lands, as directed, and on March 24, 1829, Thomas Little bought 6¼ acres for \$2,615.³² This purchase included the stone house which was destined to remain under ownership of Thomas Little and his descendants for 109 years.

The 1849 map designates a second Friends Meeting House on Old Wilmington Road which was erected following a schism when the Friends formed the so-called Hicksite and Orthodox groups.^o Zebley states that the second meeting, of frame-log construction, was built May 1838 by Aquilla Lamborn on his land for use by the Orthodox Friends, and was later converted into a dwelling.³³ This was the same "A. Lamborn" shown on the map, who, on March 26, 1823, had purchased 85 acres (part of the Heald farm) from Samuel Heald's executors when they were liquidating the latter's estate.³⁴ The position of his name on the accompanying drawing indicates the approximate location of this farm from which a lane 14-feet wide led to Old Wilmington Road directly opposite the present Schulz house. The lane crossed Thomas Little's land.

³⁰ - The deed reciting the sale in the earlier missing book is in Deed Book Z-3-429.

³¹ - Will Book S-1-248.

³² - Deed I-4-71.

³³ - Frank Zebley, *The Churches of Delaware*, Wilmington, 1947, p. 149.

³⁴ - Deed Z-3-429.

“M. Bunting,” whose home is shown on the map at the intersection of Valley Road and Old Wilmington Road, was Matthew Bunting who had acquired his lands in four separate purchases: from William Phillips, II, in 1820, Martha Wilson in 1823, Marshall Phillips in 1827, and Joseph Head in 1830.³⁵

About a mile northeast of the Meeting House, along Old Public Road at the Red Clay Creek Crossing, was the mill owned in 1849 (as the map indicates) by “J. [Jacob] Pusey.” On June 30, 1826, Pusey purchased for \$10,500 the mill lands comprising 114 acres lying on both sides of the creek, partially in Mill Creek Hundred and partially in Christiana Hundred. At the time of his purchase there was standing a mill dam, mill race, and “mills, mill houses and mill works,” built by earlier owners.³⁶ In fact, these mills date back to 1730, and the author hopes to write a separate account of the history of this mill site used without interruption for industrial purposes for more than 300 years.^P The water-powered mills operated by Jacob Pusey were later modified for making paper by the Marshall brothers, to whom later reference will be made. Until 1866, when he sold the mill property, Pusey evidently enjoyed a prosperous business of spinning cotton, a commodity then in wide use.

The map places Pusey's residence on Old Public Road on the opposite side of Red Clay Creek from the mills, the same house occupied in recent years by the Bengé family. Pusey's nearest neighbor shown on the map was “E. Reed.” This was Ezekiel Reed, a blacksmith, who had purchased an 86-acre farm here from Joseph Heald on April 27, 1812. Heald and Reed had bought the farm jointly the previous year from Joseph Roman and Rebecca, his wife, and Heald then sold his moiety (a lesser part or portion) to Reed.³⁷ The house occupied by Ezekiel Reed appears to be the one later owned by the McGlinchey family, to which later reference will also be made.

The name “Heald” on the map refers to this same Joseph Heald and his wife Hannah, who also owned 98 acres adjacent to Reed's farm having bought this land in 1804 from John Garrett, Jr. and his wife Eleanor. It was part of a larger plantation Robert Boyce and his wife Lydia conveyed to John Garrett in 1795.³⁸ This house is now occupied by the Hanson family, and later reference will be made to the intermediate owners. Ezekiel Reed, incidentally, after buying Heald's moiety, added to his own holdings by purchasing an additional 30 acres from Samuel Wilson and 47 acres from Jacob Heald.³⁹

THE 1868 ATLAS

This “Atlas of the State of Delaware,” from surveys made by and under the direction of D. G. Beers, was published in 1868. It includes a map of Mill Creek Hundred, from which a section has been copied for the accompanying Figure 2. The changes that occurred in the roads after the publication of the 1849 map are readily apparent. Perhaps the most

³⁵ - Deed B-8-246 recites these four purchases.

³⁶ - Deed E-4-1.

³⁷ - Deed L-3-427.

³⁸ - Deed B-3-479; Deed Y-2-499.

³⁹ - Deed X-3-410; Deed L-4-206.

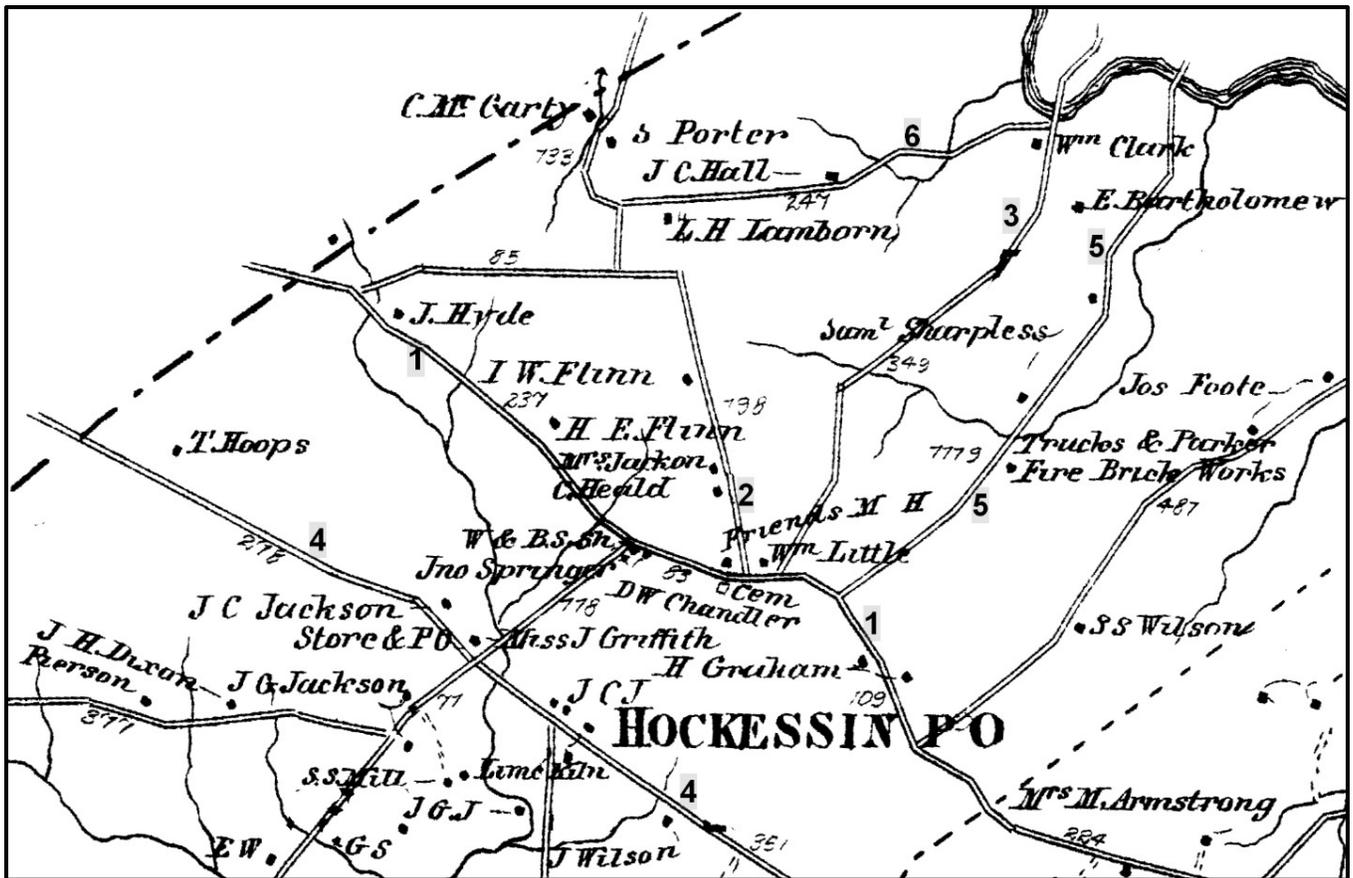


Figure 2Q

The same four major routes shown on Figure 1 are indicated above with the addition of two more, apparently made after the appearance of the 1849 map; namely; 5. the present Hockessin—Yorklyn Road (laid in 1863) but which terminated at Old Wilmington Road; and 6. the present Auburn Mill Road. All the names of property owners shown on the above map are discussed herein.

important was the “new public road” designated 5, which had been laid from the foot of Old Wilmington Road to a new bridge crossing on Red Clay Creek (about .3 mile below the crossing at Pusey's Mills). On the opposite side of the creek the “new” public road intersected the Kennett Road. The “new” public road was ready for use in 1863; it was 33 feet wide and 1-¼ miles in length. Its course, as laid out by the surveyor John G. Jackson, was as follows:

“Beginning at a point in the middle of the old Wilmington road about ten chains distant from a tenement on the land of Isaac W. Flinn . . . through said Flinn's land. . . to a stake near a line of Pusey Wilson's land . . . through woodland of said Pusey Wilson . . . to a stake in or near lands of William Little . . . through said Sharpless lands . . . to a stake in or near a line of Hannah Heald . . . to a line of Samuel Jacobs lands . . . through said Jacobs lands . . . to a stake in or near the line of William E. Garrett's lands . . . thence crossing the tail race of Garrett's mill . . . and Red Clay Creek. . .”⁴⁰

⁴⁰ - *Road Records New Castle County*, Book G-1857-1873, p. 176.

The cost of building the new public road was \$1,075 which included four culverts and a bridge over Red Clay Creek. Damages paid to the owners of adjacent lands amounted to \$1,056, with Samuel Sharpless, whose land was most affected, receiving \$325.⁴¹

A deed dated January 9, 1864, states that the new public road led, “from the old Wilmington Road, at the foot of Hockessin hill to Garrett's Snuff Mill.”⁴² There are other contemporary deed references to “Hockessin hill” which was that part of Old Wilmington Road sloping down from the Meeting House to the new public road.

This new public road was the forerunner of the present Hockessin-Yorklyn Road, although it did not then extend through to the Newport-Gap Turnpike as at present. Neither was its right-of-way identical with the present stretch of cement road between Old Wilmington Road and Yorklyn. It was re-routed in 1880 and again in 1881, according to road records and drawings in the Hall of Records, State Archives, Dover, Delaware, which clearly show the alterations. In fact, even today traces of the old route can still be seen on the Charles Mendenhall and Henry R. Tatnall properties.⁴³

Although the 1868 map indicates the Hockessin Post Office had been established (on Jan. 1, 1868)^L at the junction of Valley Road and the Newport-Gap Turnpike (probably because the main flow of wagon traffic met at this crossroad), there were yet only a few houses there. To reach Old Wilmington Road and the Meeting House, the residents living near the post office continued to use Valley Road.

The road designated as 6, which did not appear on the 1849 map, did not then have an official name, but is now called “Auburn Mill Road.” It is variously referred to in the land records as “another public road” or “the mill road.” It permitted farmers living in its immediate environs to drive to the mill without the necessity of going out Meeting House Road in the opposite direction and coming back again on Old Public Road or on the new public road. Hereinafter it will be referred to as Auburn Mill Road.

Jacob Pusey's mill was now owned by two brothers, William and James Clark, who had purchased the 114-acre mill property from Pusey on March 24, 1866, for \$15,000.⁴⁴ They operated a store on the mill site as well as a woolen mill.

The map designates “William Clark” as the occupant of the former Pusey residence on Old Public Road which was on a lot included in the 114-acre tract. Beers may not have been strictly accurate in this entry since William Clark is known to have lived in an older stone house on the mill property which is still standing. It was his brother James who lived for a while in the Pusey house.

“E. Bartholomew” is shown as the owner of property where the name “Heald” has appeared on the 1849 map. The deed records confirm that Caleb Heald, Joseph Heald's son and one of his executors, sold the property, then consisting of 184 acres, to George Y.

⁴¹ - Ibid.

⁴² - Deed U-7-461.

⁴³ - *Road Records of New Castle County*, Book H-1871-1895, p.p. 168, 191.

⁴⁴ - Deed E-8-460.

Wilson at public sale March 25, 1865.⁴⁵ On April 23, 1866, Wilson and Elizabeth, his wife, conveyed 92 acres to Emily C. Bartholomew of Chester County for \$9,300.⁴⁶

The Bartholomews, who owned the farm for about 20 years, had three children: Edward D., J. Eugene, and Emily. How they eventually disposed of the farm will be discussed under the 1893 Atlas.

“Sam'l Sharpless” is given as owner of the farm on the east side of Old Public Road where “T. Little” had appeared on the earlier map. The deed records confirm that on March 25, 1859, Sharpless purchased the 158-acre farm formerly owned by Thomas Little from Little's son and daughter, William (and wife, Sarah Jane) and Mary Elizabeth (and husband, Isaac W. Flinn) for \$8,798.⁴⁷ Sharpless and his family lived here in an old dwelling house built of logs and stone, which is no longer standing. Around 1870, Samuel Sharpless built a new and larger dwelling overlooking the new public road, now occupied by the Henry R. Tatnall family. Sharpless later erected a frame tenant house on the approximate site of the older log dwelling.

In the 1859 deed to Sharpless, there was provided for his use of right-of-way, one perch wide across William Little's lands, from the western boundary of the property purchased by Sharpless, to Old Public Road. It is thus clearly evident that access to this farm was from Old Public Road, and traces of the right of way, or lane, can still be seen on the land of T. R. McClure. 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.

The map shows “J. C. [Calvin] Hall” in place of “E. Reed,” and what had happened was that Ezekiel Reed sold 116 acres on March 20, 1849 to Israel Valentine.⁴⁸ On March 20, 1865, Valentine sold the same acreage to Hiram Hall, who, March 15, 1885, sold it to J. Calvin Hall.⁴⁹ This farm later came into possession of the McGlinchey family.

“S. Porter” on the map was Solomon J. Porter who purchased 25 acres on present Auburn Mill Road (the deed calls it the “other public road”) from James Dixon and Hannah, his wife March 31, 1886.⁵⁰

“C. McCarty” refers to “Cornelius McCarty,” who had 41 acres in the area where the map lists his name, which, on June 18, 1892, his widow Julia and children sold to Sarah J. McCarty, wife of Edward C. McCarty.⁵¹

“L. H. [Levis] Lamborn” had purchased six acres of land on Auburn Mill Road from George Y. Wilson on March 28, 1865,⁵² and he had made other purchases which the writer

⁴⁵ - Deed D-8-68. Joseph Heald's will, dated 10th day, 4th month, 1823, is on record, Will Book R-1-495. He left his property to his wife, specifying that at her death it was to be sold by his executors, viz., his son Caleb and Joshua Taylor, the proceeds to be divided among his children.

⁴⁶ - Deed H-8-414.

⁴⁷ - Deed I-7-221.

⁴⁸ - Deed B-6-47.

⁴⁹ - Deeds T-6-124; A-8-464.

⁵⁰ - Deed L-10-383.

⁵¹ - Deed V-15-167.

⁵² - Deed A-8-454.

has not traced. A house indicated on the map, presently occupied by Harry M. Wilkinson, was not shown on the 1849 map which suggests that it was built later than 1849, but prior to 1868. From this house, a lane led to Meeting House Road, indicated by a dotted line on the map. Today, this lane is a short connecting road between Benge Road and Auburn Mill Road; see the road designated by 9 on Figure 4.

“I. W. Flinn” is now shown as the owner of the farm which had belonged successively to John Phillips, William Phillips III, Edward Needles, and Aquilla Lamborn. Lamborn sold 125 acres in 1855 to Samuel Irwin Gause of Kennett Township, which included this farm.⁵³ Flinn bought 90 acres, and the house from Gause, on March 4, 1860.⁵⁴ Flinn owned other properties in the area; for example, the new public road of 1863 crossed through his land along Old Wilmington Road which he later sold to Samuel Dixon.⁵⁵ In 1868, he bought a three-acre lot from William and Sarah Jane Little, whose beginning point was a corner stone “near the end of the Hockessin Meeting sheds.”⁵⁶ These sheds, used for vehicles and horses, are still standing.

The “Mrs. Jackson” designated on the map was Mrs. Ruth Jackson who owned 26 acres on Meeting House Road purchased in two parcels in 1857 by Haines Jackson from Gause.⁵⁷ This, too, was part of the John Phillips farm which Gause had purchased from Aquilla Lamborn. Gause also sold 10 acres from the same tract to Caleb Heald, March 24, 1857.⁵⁸ This explains the entry on the map “C. Heald.” Thus, the 125-acre John Phillips farm was broken into three parcels, 90 acres to Flinn, 26 to Jackson, and 10 to Heald.

“H. E. [Howard] Flinn” is shown in place of “J. Heald” as owner of the William Phillips (1st) farm along Old Wilmington Road. Flinn had purchased 156 acres here from Jacob Heald on the 24th of the 3rd month, 1856, for \$15,672.⁵⁹ The reader will recall that when the Wilkinson administrators sold the farm to Jacob Heald it contained some 229 acres, but Heald subsequently sold 47 acres to Ezekiel Reed, and made other dispositions which reduced the size of the original farm to 156 acres. The old Cox house, of course, was on this larger portion.

The map indicates that William Little (and his wife, Sarah Jane) continued in possession of the 115-acre farm left by Thomas Little; they resided in the stone house that had formerly belonged to Samuel Heald.

Beers places the abbreviation “cem” on his map, which is at the “pi” intersection of roads 1, 2, and 3 on the accompanying Figure 2. This refers to the Friends burying ground on Old Wilmington Road opposite the Meeting House, with its huge oaks, hollies, boxwood, and other trees and shrubs. The family names of a number of the persons cited in this account are inscribed on the stones, although some of the markers are plain in accordance with earlier Quaker custom.

⁵³ - Deed T-6-133.

⁵⁴ - Deed L-7-108.

⁵⁵ - *Road Records New Castle County*, BookG-1857-1873, pp, 182- 183.

⁵⁶ - Deed R-8-420.

⁵⁷ - Deeds Y-8-257; Y-6-492; F-7-255.

⁵⁸ - Deed Y-6-184.

⁵⁹ - Deed Y-6-451.

The entry on the map reading “Trucks & Parker Fire Brick Works” indicates that industry was now getting a start along the new public road. John Trucks, William Trucks, and Joseph C. Parker, Jr., Philadelphia merchants, trading under the firm name of William Trucks & Company, purchased this land on March 23, 1864, for \$10,000 from Abner Marshall, who made a neat profit, having bought it shortly before from William Little for \$3,000.⁶⁰ It was only a small corner of the former Thomas Little farmland, but one that was richly endowed in clay deposits. Although suitable for brick making, this clay possessed rarer properties not then recognized, but, as the reader will see, it was being fully and profitably exploited when the 1893 Atlas, next to be discussed, was published.

THE 1893 ATLAS

In 1893, C. W. Baist compiled and published what he called an “Atlas of New Castle County, Delaware,” containing maps on which he indicated not only roads and property owners, but the acreage belonging to many of the residents. The author has copied only that part of the map of Mill Creek Hundred relating to the area under discussion; see Figure 3 below.

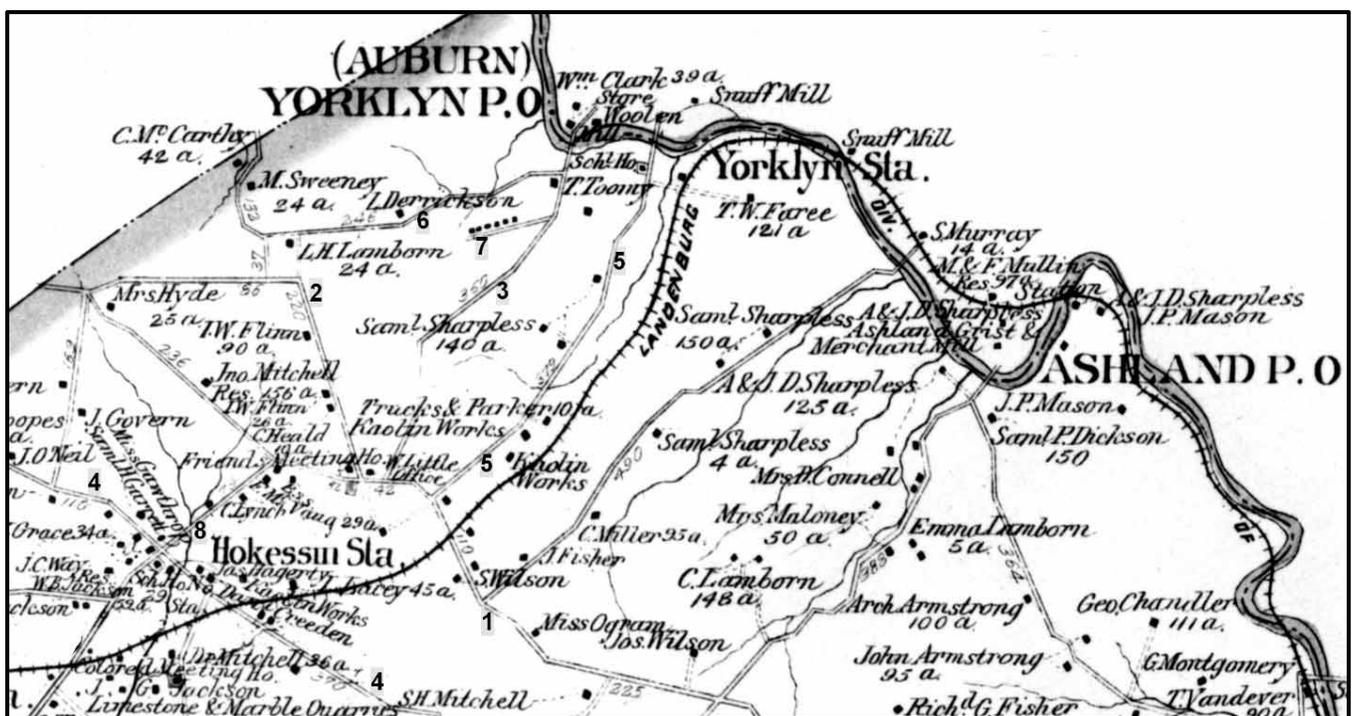


Figure 3^R

By 1893, the six roads shown on the 1868 map (Figure 2) were augmented by; 7. present Benge Road, then a short lane from Old Public Road to the homes of several Irish families; and 8. Present Valley Road, laid about 1874. Baist shows acreage owned, as well as the names of owners.

The reader will note the beginning of a new road labelled 7 running almost at right angles to Old Public Road. Baist designates new houses along this road, which we now know were occupied by the families of five Irishmen employed in Garrett's Snuff Mill. The

⁶⁰ - Deed U-7-457. Deed V-44-549 (recorded August 28, 1946) but dated March 29, 1866, refers to the new public road “passing near the Kaolin works of A. Marshall & Co.”

old residents viewed these newcomers with more amusement than resentment as they watched them trudge down Old Public Road, lunch pails in hand, over the wooden bridge, past the paper mill, enroute to their place of employment. The clay pipes they smoked, glowing with a strong grade of tobacco obtained in the Snuff Mill, left a stench in their wake. The Irishmen soon tired of travelling the circuitous route to the Snuff Mill, and in September 1888 petitioned the court at Wilmington to authorize the building of a new public road to serve their need and convenience.

The petition asked that the new road begin at Meeting House Road and continue past the Irishmen's homes (on present Benge Road) and then run along the dividing line between the then Sharpless and Touhey properties to the new public road, i.e., present Hockessin-Yorklyn Road. According to established practice, the court appointed viewers to investigate, and after considering their report, the court decided that the road was not needed to serve the best interests of the public.⁶¹

At the May 1894 term, a petition was again submitted to the court, requesting that the road be run from Meeting House Road in a northeasterly direction between the lands "now or late of Isaac W. Flinn and lands now of Owen O'Neill and running thence along said dividing line to a point at or near a corner of the lot of Michael Halloran thence continuing in the same direction between the lands late of William Little deceased on the one side, and the lots of the said Michael Halloran, of John Dolan, of John Ryan, of Michael Halloran, Jr., and of John J. Halloran on the other side, until it intersected the old public road leading from the village at Auburn at Marshall's Lower Paper Mill to Hockessin Meeting House aforesaid."⁶² Note that the petitioners had given up the idea of having the road run along the Sharpless-Touhey dividing line to the new public road – evidently the owners of the latter properties had strongly objected.

The viewers appointed to study the route proposed by the new petition returned a favorable report, and the road was laid at a construction cost of approximately \$200. Damages were paid as follows: \$200 to I. W. Flinn, \$184 to Owen O'Neill, \$214 to the William Little Estate, and \$18 to Michael Halloran, Sr. Since the road benefited the remaining four Irishmen to a much greater extent than it damaged their properties, each received six cents for damages!⁶³

Another new road shown by Baist, which did not appear on the earlier maps, is designated by the number 8. This, like Valley Road, connected the Newport-Gap Turnpike with Old Wilmington Road. It is known today as McGovern Road from the family name of Edward McGovern of New Garden Township who bought 23 acres here from James C. Jackson March 25, 1868; John McGovern purchased six acres the following year from Jackson.⁶⁴ The petition for this road was submitted in 1874 and it was constructed thereafter, 25 feet wide and a little more than a half-mile in length at a construction cost of \$285. In addition to the McGoverns, the residents through whose lands it ran were Walter Grace, Daniel Hyde, the heirs of George B. Ewart, and the heirs of John Hyde.⁶⁵

⁶¹ - *Road Records New Castle County*. Book H-1871- 1895 p. 335.

⁶² - *Ibid*.

⁶³ - *Ibid*. See drawing p. 430.

⁶⁴ - Deeds U-8-452; D-9-196.

⁶⁵ - *Road Records New Castle County*, Book H, 1871-1895, p. 107.

This road is still unpaved, which gives it the appearance of greater antiquity than the facts warrant.

The map shows “William Clark Store and Woolen Mill” and the deeds confirm that William Clark became sole owner of the enterprise, having purchased his brother James' share of the mill property on March 11, 1886.⁶⁶ The historian Scharf states that Clark's mills were destroyed by fire in 1869,⁶⁷ and evidently William Clark suffered reverses; he had obtained a \$10,000 mortgage on the property from the Girard Life Insurance Company.⁶⁸

In the record of his purchase of his brother's share in the mill property, William Clark is referred to as, “a resident of Auburn in Christiana Hundred.” This place-name is printed on the 1893 map in parentheses above the words “Yorklyn P.O.,” and was applied to the milling community before the adoption of the present name Yorklyn. The latter station name was chosen by the officials of the Wilmington & Western Rail Road,^S and they used it in preference to Auburn for the nearby depot.⁶⁹ As time went on, the town became known as Yorklyn, and the name Auburn was discontinued. Baist shows the tracks of the railroad on which Hockessin (he spells it “Hokessin”) and Yorklyn were both stations; thus, the two towns were joined by rail before there was a highway directly connecting them.

On the Christiana section of his atlas, Baist printed “Marshall Bros. Paper Mills” at the mill site, although as indicated on Figure 3, he continued to use Clark's name on the Mill Creek Hundred section of his atlas.^T Actually, Clark's name should not have appeared, because on April 24, 1890, William Clark sold the 114-acre mill property to two brothers of Kennett Township, Israel W. Marshall and T. Elwood Marshall, and their partner, S. Franklin Ewart,^U of Mill Creek Hundred, for \$3,000.⁷⁰ Ewart was a sort of financial backer, and two years later the Marshall brothers bought out his share.⁷¹

Baist shows “schl ho.” on the new public road, and the present author indicates this as “school” on Figure 3. One acre of land for this schoolhouse had been conveyed September 22, 1869, by Edward Bartholomew for \$250 to the school committee of District #91, then composed of Calvin Hall, Samuel Sharpless, and William Clark.⁷²

⁶⁶ - Deed P-13-384.

⁶⁷ - Scharf, *History of Delaware*, p. 887.

⁶⁸ - New Castle County Mortgage Record F-6-523.

⁶⁹ - For a railroad account, see C. A. Weslager, *Brandywine Springs, Wilmington*, 1949, pp. 64-65.^S

⁷⁰ - Deed E-15-495.

⁷¹ - Deed X-15-397.

⁷² - Deed U-8-104. William Clark was the clerk of the committee, and he was succeeded by William S. Moore, who held the position in 1880. A “Teacher’s Manual,” printed in Dover 1910, containing a program of the annual teachers' institute, shows an illustration of the school then in use, with a note that it was erected in 1868 and an additional story was added in 1903. In 1904, Israel W. Marshall, Edward H. Dennison, and Michael Halloran were members of the school committee; In 1908, J. W. Marshall, T. J. Touhey, and Michael Halloran were members. A study of schools in the Hockessin area would be a deserving project, because the Yorklyn School (at first it was called the Auburn School) is by no means the earliest. A MSS owned by the Historical Society of Delaware, entitled “First School Districts of Delaware – N. C. Co. 1830, “copied from an original source by Walter J. Norbett, lists the “Ebenezer School House” in District #21 which was partly in Mill Creek and partly In Christiana Hundred, and Hokeissan School House,” District #29.

This was a small piece from the tract which George Y. Wilson had sold the Bartholomews and to which reference has already been made. The school building on the Hockessin-Yorklyn Road is still standing (1960 when this monograph was written and is still standing in 2019), although it has been much modified for use as a residence.

Two entries on the map are indicative of what had been done to exploit the deposits of clay, known as kaolin, which was in demand by manufacturers of fine chinaware. The soft white Hockessin kaolin was of the highest quality and the industry flourished to meet market needs. The digging of pits to reach the kaolin; removing it; drying it to a powder to prepare it for shipment; hauling it in two-wheel carts; and the final shipment to the dishware makers constituted interesting commercial activity in what had been a quiet, rural area. The story of Hockessin's kaolin industry still remains to be written, and when told in full it will be an important contribution to the economic history of Delaware. Joseph Lake, one of the younger students of Hockessin lore, has devoted careful study to this subject.^v The present writer, therefore, will confine his brief comments to the land transfers merely for the purpose of identifying the entries on Baist's map.

The map shows a 10-acre property labelled "Trucks & Parker Kaolin Works," indicating this firm had evidently discontinued brick manufacture in favor of the more profitable kaolin operation. However, when the 1893 map was published, the kaolin pits had lately been owned by the Diamond State Kaolin Company, who had purchased the property from Trucks & Parker on March 22, 1873 for the astonishing figure of \$299,000!⁷³ This was part of the land William Little sold to Abner Marshall for \$3,000.

"Golding & Sons Kaolin Works" is also shown on the map, and this firm conducted extensive kaolin quarrying on lands purchased May 31, 1884 by Moses Golding, an Englishman who had settled in Trenton, N. J. Golding, who was president of the firm, paid \$100,000 for two tracts of land containing kaolin, the first consisting of 74 acres and the second 21 32/100 acres. The deed refers to them as "adjoining kaolin farms."⁷⁴

The first tract was part of the 102 (plus) acres that Samuel Heald purchased from Jacob Way in 1795.⁷⁵ After Heald's death, Aquilla Lamborn purchased 85 acres of the property at public sale in 1823, and in 1849 he sold the 85 acres to I. W. Flinn.⁷⁶ Aquilla Lamborn had a house on this property (his name and the location of the house are shown on the 1849 map; see Figure 1). The house may have been the same (or on the same site) as the residence now owned and occupied by the Donald M. Reid family. When Lamborn built his house, the Yorklyn-Hockessin Road was not in existence, and access to his home was from Old Wilmington Road via the 14-foot lane or cart-way that crossed Thomas Little's property. The lane was described in the deed as starting, "at the line of his premises and running North twenty-one degrees West five perches and eight tenths to the stone a corner of the aforesaid strip of ground conveyed to the Friends trustees and by the

⁷³ - Deed A-10-165.

⁷⁴ - Deed Z-12-470. Golding conveyed one of the above tracts and part of the other to Golding & Sons Company in 1890, A-15-522. This company also leased the Springer farm on Limestone Road paying the owners royalty for kaolin removed, W-13-497.

⁷⁵- See missing deed reprinted below in Appendix.

⁷⁶ - Deed Z-3-429; F-6-312.

end of it, and the end of the remaining meeting ground (not leaving a vacancy in between) unto the main road aforesaid.”⁷⁷

I. W. Flinn sold approximately 75 acres of the property he had purchased from Aquilla Lamborn to Samuel Dixon of Kennett Square in 1861; Dixon then conveyed the same land to Hamilton Graham of Coatesville; in 1865 Graham conveyed it to Moses Golding. This accounts for the first kaolin tract owned by Golding.

The second tract of 21-32/100 acres had been previously owned by Pusey Wilson, who devised it by will in 1865 to his brother Stephen. Hamilton Graham bought this land from Wilson in 1876 and sold it to Golding in 1884.⁷⁸ That section of Old Wilmington Road that crossed this land became known in time as the “Golding Bridge Road” from the frame bridge built across the tracks of what had been the Wilmington & Western Rail Road, but which is now the B&O Railroad.^w The kaolin mine on this tract lay east of the new public road at its point of juncture with Old Wilmington Road. Prior to selling the land to Golding, Hamilton Graham had independently operated a kaolin mine there. The deposits of clay extended under Old Wilmington Road, making the road unsafe as the mining operations advanced. In September 1881, a petition was presented to the court in Wilmington for authorization to alter the course of Old Wilmington Road to avoid the mine, at an estimated cost of \$680. The road was subsequently re-routed with direct benefit to Graham and his kaolin works.

Today, as one drives down the former “Hockessin hill” on Old Wilmington Road, crossing the Hockessin-Yorklyn Road, this jog in the route is readily apparent. All that remains today of the once thriving kaolin industry at this site is a crater, now filled with water, used as a swimming hole. A second crater is visible, also filled with water, on the same side of the road as one approaches Hockessin. Other scars of the kaolin operations are in evidence in nearby farm fields.

In 1937, Golding & Sons Company sold the two kaolin farms to the Consolidated Feldspar Corporation, as well as a small plot containing, “eleven thousand four hundred and eighty and forty-two hundredths square feet of land” which the Hockessin Friends had conveyed to Golding July 13, 1914 for \$25.⁸⁰ (William H. Little had sold this lot to the Friends June 17, 1913).

In 1938, Consolidated Feldspar Corporation sold 14 acres of the 74 acre tract to William Cook, and there was inserted in Cook's deed the privilege of using the old right of way, reduced from 14 to 12 feet, across Little lands, then owned by Samuel Stovall.^{80a} (This was the path Aquilla Lamborn had used for access to his dwelling) Stovall protested the use of the right of way across his property, and on the basis that it had never been

⁷⁷ - Deed 1-4-71.

⁷⁸ - Deeds T-10-30; Z-12-470. Pusey Wilson's will is recorded in Will Book Z-1-43.

⁷⁹ - *Road Records of New Castle County*, Book 11-1871-1895, p. 214. This volume also includes a drawing of the old and new road which shows the location of the kaolin, pit, the office, a house owned by Graham, as well as the railroad bridge, p. 217.

⁸⁰ - Deeds B-41-457; C-25-170. See fn. 16 above.

^{80a} - Deed C-41-347. On August 4, 1943, Consolidated Feldspar sold four plots to Alfred V. Crossan, Deed T-43-434.

properly and legally reserved in the original conveyance, the privilege was cancelled. Prior to his purchase of the 14 acres, Cook had bought a two-acre plot from Golding & Sons on October 30, 1935, and on June 21, 1944 Cook sold this plot (and a second containing 0.21 acres) to William D. and Caroline Thompson. The Thompsons sold both lots, and the old house, to Donald M. and Leona Reid on December 29, 1950.⁸¹

Golding & Sons Company also purchased the lands of the Diamond State Kaolin Company, the latter firm having experienced financial reverses. In 1884, Joseph Patterson purchased their kaolin lands at sheriff sale, selling the property to Golding in 1887. At the time of Golding's purchase there was standing on the property a two-story frame office, a stable, a one-story frame tool and scale house, a one-story frame engine house and other buildings.⁸²

Baist's map gives "L. Derickson" at the same location on present Auburn Mill Road where the 1868 map placed the residence of C. Hall." Hall and his wife Elizabeth had sold two tracts to Lewis Derrickson on March 25, 1872, the first containing 86 acres and the adjoining one 30 acres, the identical property that had formerly been owned by Ezekiel Reed.⁸³ In 1894, Derrickson sold the property to Owen O'Neill who conveyed it to James McGlinchey in 1898.⁸⁴ The present development known as "Auburn" was laid out on part of this farm.

The "L. H. Lamborn" previously mentioned, continued to occupy the house on Auburn Mill Road indicated on the 1868 map; see Figure 2 and compare with Figure 3. The latter indicates that his farm in 1893 consisted of 24 acres.

The 24-acre plot marked "M. Sweeney" was jointly owned by Miles and Michael Sweeney who had bought the land from Solomon J. Porter on March 5, 1875.⁸⁵

"C. McCarthy" is shown with 42 acres (actually about 41) which, in 1910, the administrators of Sarah J. McCarty, deceased, sold to John F. O'Neill to settle her estate.⁸⁶

Baist gives the name "T. Toomy" on his map, which is doubtless an error, probably intended for "T. [Thomas] Touhey." Patrick Touhey bought 65 acres from the Bartholomew

⁸¹ - Deeds S-39-150; 1-44-446, 447; V-50-512.

⁸² - Deeds B-13-484; V-13-395. Although his name is not shown on the 1893 map, John W. Burgess also operated a kaolin mine. Scharf, Zoe. cit. 2:927 states that Golding and Burgess were the two principal operators in the "digging and drying of kaolin" and together exported 12,000 tons annually to Trenton and other markets. Burgess had purchased two tracts of kaolin lands from Israel Lacey October 18, 1880 one containing 13.4 acres and the other 33.9 acres, Deed B-12-479. Lacey had purchased this land from James C. Jackson and Josiah Wilson, and a conveyance of February 13, 1869 from them refers to the existence of "buildings, sheds, and clay vats" indicating the kaolin industry had an early start, Deed W-8-455. Burgess's lands adjoined Golding's, and the former's property can be traced back from Jackson and Josiah Wilson to lands that Martha (Wilson) Mendenhall inherited from her father Phillip Dixon, Deed E-5-160.

⁸³ - Deed 0-9-478.

⁸⁴ - Deeds M-16-3; P-17-263. James McGlinchey also purchased in 1910, 25 acres from Sarah McCarty's administrators and 26 acres in 1915 from Isaac Harvey Flinn, Deeds D-23-79; N-25-329.

⁸⁵ - Deed L-10-383.

⁸⁶ - Deed D-23-83. Michael Sweeney sold 25 acres of his lands in 1906 to Sarah McCarty. When her estate was settled following her death, James McGlinchey purchased this plot, Deeds S-20-15; D-23-79.

heirs on March 24, 1886.⁸⁷ On March 25, 1911 he and Bridget Touhey conveyed the 65 acres to Thomas J. Touhey. In 1945, the Touhey heirs sold the property (minus certain lots that had been previously sold) to Victor F. Hanson, the present owner-occupant.⁸⁸ Even as late as 1945 the deed of conveyance referred to the “old Public road from Hockessin to Auburn.”

“Sam'l Sharpless” is shown as owner of 140 acres, having sold off some of the lands from the original 158-acre farm he purchased from Thomas Little's heirs. Henry R. Tatnall bought this farm from the Sharpless heirs on June 14, 1943,⁸⁹ and has recently laid out parts of the farm as select residential sites. Present owners of homes on this former farm property include Harvey H. Hoehn, Thomas H. Chilton, Fred Osborne, L. C. LeBron, Walter Harwanko, Leroy Bengé Sr., C. S. Anderson, and A. M. Stevens.

“I. W. Flinn” is indicated as owner of two properties on Meeting House Road, one containing 90 acres, and the second 26 acres. Reference has already been made to prior owners of the 90-acre tract, part of the former John Phillips' farm. On March 3, 1900, Isaac W. Flinn conveyed this property (then surveyed at 89 acres) to Isaac Harvey Flinn.⁹⁰ It was later conveyed to Taylor S. Flinn, thence to Lewis C. Hobson, who sold it to the Hesslers in 1955.⁹¹

The second plot owned by Flinn was the 26-acre farm previously owned by “Mrs. Jackson” which Flinn purchased from her on March 5, 1869.⁹² In 1900, Flinn sold the same 26 acres to Samuel Ewart, thence the plot was successively conveyed to others, and finally, in 1941, to Gordon F. Biehn, the present owner.⁹³

“Caleb Heald” continued in possession of 10 acres as the map indicates (actually 10-26/100 acres) adjoining Flinn's property. Following his death this property passed through several hands, and in 1946 was purchased by Fred C. Earle, the present owner.⁹⁴

Thomas Little's 115-acre farm had been reduced in size after William Little sold the parcel along the new public road to Abner Marshall (where Trucks & Parker had their operations), and about 100 acres still remained intact. William Little died intestate in 1892 and changes in the ownership of the property were soon to come. The map shows “Wm. Little Est.” referring to the home farm and the stone house where his widow continued to live. Another entry shows “William Little” which has reference to a son, William H. Little. His father had deeded him a small lot containing ½ acre and 87/100 of a square perch in the rear of the stone house.⁹⁵ Here the Littles built a frame house.

⁸⁷ - Deed 0-13-595.

⁸⁸ - Deeds F-23-294; F-45-572.

⁸⁹ - Deed T-43-223.

⁹⁰ - Deed E-18-283.

⁹¹ - Deeds L-35-563; B-57-78,

⁹² - Deed Y-8-257.

⁹³ - Deeds G-23-283; X-24-236; M-34-172; O-35-581; L-42-192.

⁹⁴ - Deeds D-30-223; G-35-346; G-35-352; G-46-35; M-46-218.

⁹⁵ - Deed Q-13-159.

After the elder William Little's death, his wife, Sarah Jane Little, and other heirs, on May 5, 1900 sold the stone house, frame barn, and 102 acres to William H. Little and James C. Little.⁹⁶

Following James Little's death, and then William H. Little's death in 1933, the latter's widow, Lizzie M. Little and children sold two tracts to Samuel Stovall and Esther, his wife, on May 3, 1937.⁹⁷ The first plot contained the mansion house, barn, and 99 acres, 140 square rods. The second, of unstated size, included, "all the land within the boundaries of the old roadway which formerly led from Hockessin to Marshall's paper mill be said land included or not in the description of Tract No. 1."

The "old roadway" was, of course, Old Public Road. The significance of this conveyance is that the stretch of Old Public Road that had crossed the Little lands now belonged to Stovall. Having been abandoned and fallen into disuse after the building of the Hockessin-Yorklyn Road, that part of the old road on Stovall's lands reverted to him to do with as he pleased. Trees and underbrush had taken over the route which was now private property; from a legal point of view it had been erased.

Before many years had passed, Stovall began to sell off parcels of the former Little farm to new residents who had joined the movement from cities and towns to the suburbs and rural areas. In laying out these home lots, Stovall recognized that the owners would need a road to give them access to their properties. Therefore, in his drawing of the lots, and in deeds issued to buyers whose lands would border on the line of what had formerly been Old Public Road, he reserved a strip for a roadway for use by the travelling public. Thus, Old Public Road again came back to the people of the State of Delaware, although at the particular time the full length of the right of way was not cleared or paved.

Deeds on file in the New Castle County Recorder of Deeds Office show the following sales by Stovall to individual buyers according to the dates in parentheses: Joseph Calvin Hastings (1941), George D. Guyer (1941, 1943), Paul C. Graybeal (1942, 1943), George Zimmerman (1947), Phillip Janvier (1949), George E. Pope (1950), James Schulz (1950, 1954), Charles Mendinhall (1951, 1953, 1956), Joseph Glenn (1951), Edward G. Howard Jr. (1953), Richard Macadam (1953), Kenneth L. Berry (1954), Samuel Ford (1954), S. Thomas Pippin (1954), and Harley Wooster (1956). Certain owners conveyed their lands to others, although a number of the original buyers continue to retain ownership (1960).

The old stone house, which Stovall occupied, was included in the sale to James Schulz on May 26, 1950. The Littles sold the frame house to Kenneth L. Berry on June 28, 1946, and Berry also bought lands from Stovall.⁹⁸

One of the purchasers of land from Stovall – Philip Janvier – initiated action in clearing Old Public Road from its point of junction with Bengé Road to his residence on Old Public Road. More recently, the State Highway Department graded and paved the road, although as indicated earlier in this account, part of the road still remains unpaved; see dotted lines on Figure 4.

⁹⁶ - Deed H-18-27.

⁹⁷ - Deed G-40-488.

⁹⁸ - Deed G-46-266; H-55-452.

On final comment about the 1893 map: “John Mitchell” is shown on the map as owner of 156 acres on Old Wilmington Road. This was all that then remained in one parcel of the 350-acre farm that William Cox had owned almost 200 years before. The reader has seen how this property was divided and how it passed through many hands. John Mitchell purchased the farm on March 24, 1868 from Howard E. Flinn – the same 156 acres Flinn bought from Jacob Heald.⁹⁹

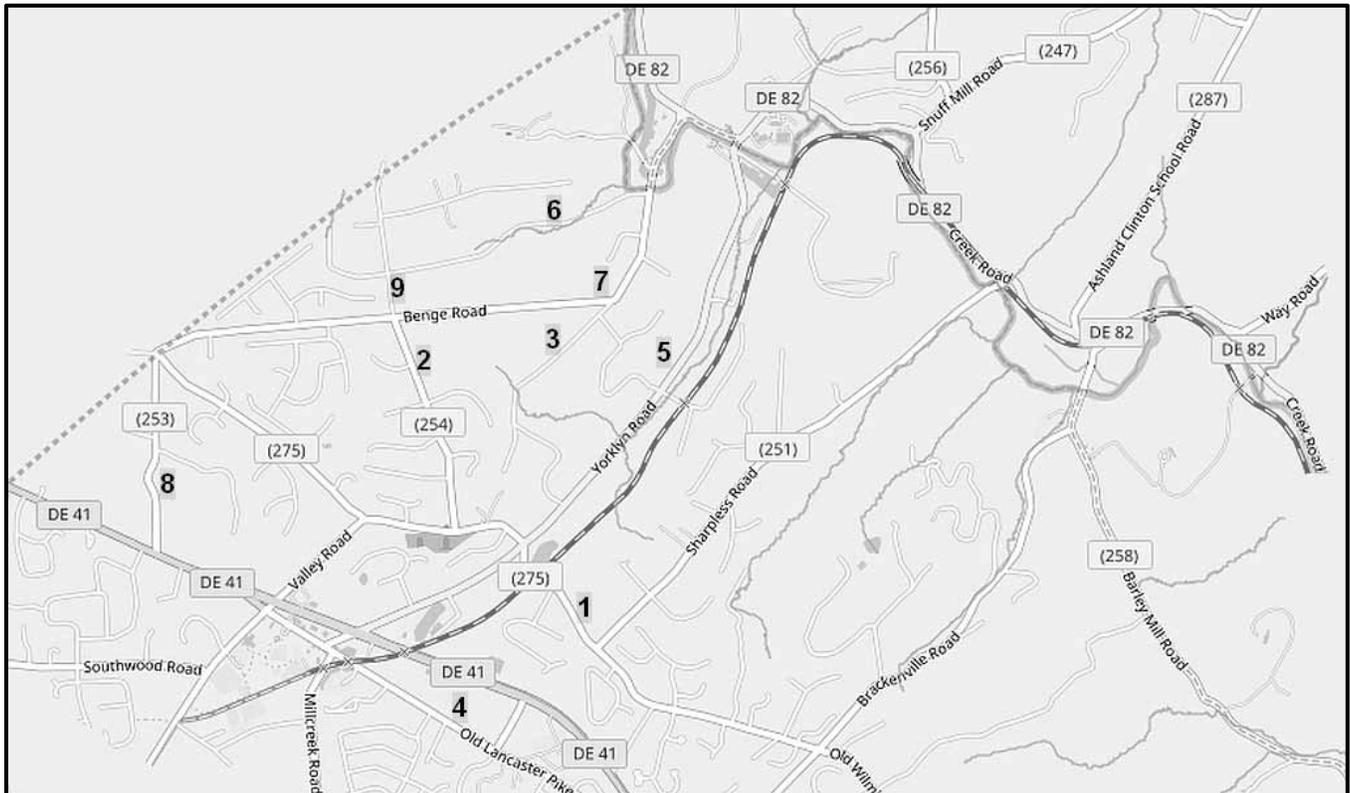


Figure 4^x

All roads shown on the 1893 map (see Figure 3) are drawn on this modern map, with the addition of 9. an extension of Meeting House Road which today intersects Auburn Mill Road, but was formerly a farm lane. The road designated 5. (Hockessin-Yorklyn Road) now connects the towns of Yorklyn and Hockessin which it did not do in 1893. Old Public Road, 3. is shown partially paved, and the section indicated by dotted lines has not yet been improved.

Later, 33 acres of the farm were conveyed to William Mitchell, one of John's sons, and after John Mitchell's death, his heirs June 25, 1898, conveyed the residue of the property, (then consisting of 76 acres of farmland and 7 acres of woodland, as well as the old Cox mansion), to another son, John C. Mitchell, the present owner-occupant.¹⁰⁰

Much more remains to be written about this little corner of Mill Creek Hundred¹⁰¹ so rich in history, and the full story of Old Public Road (and the other routes) awaits deeper research in the land records. The reader has seen how the Mitchell farm, the Hockessin

⁹⁹ - Deed T-8-223.

¹⁰⁰ - Deed U-17-414.

¹⁰¹ - It might be mentioned that Mill Creek, from which Mill Creek Hundred took its name, was known earlier as Rum Creek, and later called Milln Creek, Deed H-1-100. Early references also speak of Milln Creek Hundred, see Deed U-1-492.

Friends Meeting House lot and cemetery, as well as contiguous lands, date back to the original grants made from "Letitia Manor" to William Cox and Henry Dixon. But Letitia Penn's manor, part of the larger Manor of Stenning, comprised other properties in Mill Creek Hundred, as well as Christiana Hundred. Someday it is hoped a complete series of land transfers will be reconstructed, but in the meantime, this brief account, covering the principal land sales after 1820, will constitute a point of reference for historical studies of earlier period.

APPENDIX

DEED FROM MISSING DEED BOOK (Jacob Way to Samuel Heald - 1795)

This Indenture Made the Eighth Day of the first Month in the year of our Lord One Thousand Seven hundred and Ninety-Five Between Jacob Way of Mill Creek Hundred in the County of New Castle and State of Delaware of the one part, and Samuel Heald of the same Hundred and County yeoman of the other part.

Whereas John Way (sd. Jacob Ways Father) late of the Afsd. Hundred & County, Deceased, by a Deed of Conveyance from Simon Dixson, in or about the year One Thousand Seven hundred and fifty-eight, became lawfully Seized in his Demesne as of fee of in and to a certain Tract of Land lying in the Hundred and County Afsd. Containing Two hundred acres more or less and being so thereof Seized untill the Time of his Decease, made his last Will and Testament in writing, wherein amongst other things are contained these Words.

I give and Bequeath to my Son Jacob all my Land that I now Possess in the County and Hundred above said to him his Heirs and Assigns; as by the said Will Bearing Date the Eighteenth Day of the Second Month in the year of our Lord one thousand Seven hundred and Seventy four being Proven as the Law Requires and Remaining in the Registers Office at New Castle Relation being thereunto had, may at large appear; but the above Mentioned Deed of Conveyance being lost in the time of the late War in America, the said Jacob Way, by his Petition, obtained of the Legislature, of the Delaware State an Act to Supply the loss thereof Passed the 20th Day of the first Month 1792 as in and by the same Act, Relation being thereunto had may at large appear.¹

Now this indenture witnesseth that the said Jacob Way for and in Consideration of the sum of Six hundred and fifty Pounds Lawful Money of the State Afsd. to him in hand Paid or Secured to be paid by the said Samuel Heald the Receipt of which he the said Jacob Way doth hereby Confess and Acknowledge hath Granted Bargained Sold Aliened Released Enfeoffed and Confirmed, and by these Presents doth Grant Bargain Sell Alien

1 - Following the Battle of the Brandywine, General Howe sent troops to Wilmington who took possession of the city and captured John McKinly, President of Delaware State. Many public and private records were confiscated and taken away. Evidently Simon Dixon's deed covering 200 acres sold to John Way was recorded in one of the deed books that were stolen. As recited above, the Delaware Assembly passed a special act to give Jacob Way title to the property. The Assembly passed a similar act Jan. 24, 1800 to give title to Samuel McClintock for land in Brandywine Hundred. This deed was recorded and the, "petitioner afterwards mortgaged the aforesaid premises in the Loan Office at New Castle and lodged the said title Deed therein, that in or about the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy-eight, the said title Deed together with the record thereof and other public papers of the said County were by a Detachment of British Troops carried away, and has not since been recovered" (T-2-312). Another deed, dated August 13, 1730 for land on the west side of Red Clay Creek was recorded in Deed Book F-124, "which Record Book was taken and destroyed by the British during the American Revolution." (D-3-63). Many of the Loan Office papers, and other records, were returned in 1792 during the administration of Governor Joshua Clayton – some were again later lost or destroyed through carelessness. Deed Book F-1, incidentally, is still missing. Whether it was destroyed by the British, as stated above, or whether it was returned and later lost, is not known to the writer.

Release Enfeoff and Confirm unto the said Samuel Heald his Heirs and Assigns, two certain Pieces or Parcels of the above Mentioned two hundred Acres of Land so Bequeathed to him the said Jacob Way as Afsd. which two Pieces or Parcels of Land are contained within the following Bounds, to wit the first Piece.

Beginning at a Corner Stone on a line of land late of Phillip Dixson decd. being also a Comer of the Okesian Meetinghouse Thence by these next two Lines of said Meetinghouse Land North Eighty three Degrees and an half East twenty six Perches and North three Degrees and three quarters West Eight perches and two tenths of a perch to a line of William Phillips' Land Thence along said line to and Continuing by Charles Henry Whartons Land North Eighty one Degrees and an half East Eighty four Perches and Seven tenths of a perch in the whole to a Comer Stone, in place of Ancient Comer Black oak of James Wilsons Land Thence by a line of said Wilsons Land to and Continuing by a Line of Thomas Montgomerys Land South six Degrees and one quarter East One hundred and Eighty three Perches and six tenths of a Perch in the whole to a Comer Stone of Spencer Chandlers Land Thence by said Chandlers Land these next Seven lines following, namely South Eighty six Degrees and an half West Forty two Perches and four tenths of a perch to a Large living Corner Chestnut Tree North forty Degrees and three quarters West fifty four Perches to a comer Stone, North Seventy two Degrees East Thirty one perches and three tenths of a perch to a Corner Stone North fifty four Degrees and one quarter West five Perches and Eight tenths of a perch to a Comer Stone, North Thirty six Degrees West One perch and an half to a Comer Stone North fifty seven Degrees West fifty nine perches and nine tenths of a perch to a Corner Stone, South Seventy nine Degrees West Twenty perches and Eight tenths of a perch to a Comer Stone on a line of Land late of the Afsd. Phillip Dixon Deceased, Thence along said line North four Degrees and an half West Seventy four perches and seven tenths of a perch to the first above Mentioned Corner Stone and place of Beginning containing within these Bounds Ninety two Acres three quarter and thirty perches of Land be the same more or less; The second piece

Beginning at a Comer Stone of the Afsd. Spencer Chandlers Land on a line of James Dixons Land Thence by said Chandlers land these next two lines, namely North Eighty-one Degrees and One quarter East Fifty-one perches and eight tenths of a perch to a Comer Stone and South three Degrees and one quarter East Thirty-one perches and one tenth of a perch to a Comer Stone on a line of John Ways land. Thence along said line South Eighty Degrees West fifty-one perches and eight tenths of a perch to a Comer Stone of the Afsd. James Dixons Land, thence by a line of the same North three Degrees West thirty two perches to the Place of Beginning containing within these Bounds Ten Acres and three perches of Land be the same more or less, Together with all and Singular the Buildings Improvements Rights Liberties Priviledges Hereditaments & Appurtenances whatsoever on and to the said Described two Pieces of Land belonging or in any wise Appertaining, and the Reversion & Reversions, Remainder & Remainders, Rents Issues & Profits thereof, and also all the Estate, Right, Title, Interest, Property, Claim, Demand whatsoever of him the said Jacob Way of in and to the same two Pieces of land & premises;

To Have And To Hold the said Described two Pieces of Land Hereditaments & Premises hereby Bargained and Sold or Mentioned or Intended so to be unto the said Samuel Heald his Heirs & Assigns to the only proper use and Behoof of him the said Samuel Heald his Heirs & Assigns forever; and the said Jacob Way for himself and his Heirs. Excr. & Admrs. doth hereby Covenant promise & Agree to and with the said Samuel Heald his Heirs and Assigns that he the said Jacob Way, or his Heirs the said hereby Granted Land & Premises and every part thereof against himself & his Heirs, and against all and every other Person or Persons Lawfully Claiming or to Claim the same or any Part thereof, in through by or under him them or any of them unto the said Samuel Heald his Heirs & Assigns shall and will Warrant & forever Defend by these Presents; In Witness whereof the said Jacob Way hath hereunto set his Hand and Seal the Day and year first above Written

Jacob Way

*Signed, Sealed and Delivered
In the Presence of*

John Winder
Rob't Montgomery

On the Day and year first above Written then Rec'd from the Hands of the above-named Samuel Heald full satisfaction for the above Mentioned Consideration Money Rec'd pr. me.

Jacob Way

Witness
John Winder
Robert Montgomery

New Castle County Ss

The Execution of the within was Proven by Robert Montgomery, one of the Witnesses thereto, in Open Supreme Court, held at New Castle, for the County of New Castle, of the November Term A.D. 1800. In Testimony whereof I have set my hand and affixed the Seal of said Court, at New Castle, November 11th 1800.

Jno. Wiley, Clk. Sup. Court

New Castle County, State of Delaware Ss

Recorded in the Rolls Office at New Castle, for the County of New Castle aforesaid in Book U vol. 2 Folio 478 &. In Testimony, whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Seal of said Office the Twelfth day of January in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and one.

Evan Thomas, Recorder

Recording Fee \$1.50 cents

SUMMARY OF TITLE SEARCH - JOHN MITCHELL FARM

This is the property on which is located the mansion house bearing the initials W.C.C. [William Cox] and the date 1726. The Friends of Mill Creek Hundred held their earliest meetings in this house. The numbers below in parentheses refer to New Castle County Deed Books.

May 10, 1721 - Letitia Penn and her husband William Aubrey, through their attorneys, sell 300 acres from "Letitia Manor" to William Cox (*G-1-226*).

Nov. 8, 1725 - Letitia Penn and William Aubrey sell 100 acres from "Letitia Manor" to Henry Dixon (*Y-1-145*).

Nov. 16, 1725 - Henry Dixon and wife Ruth convey 50 acres of above 100 acres to William Cox. Cox now has 350 acres (*Y-1-145*).

17th 10th Mo. 1737 - William Cox and wife Catherine convey ½ acre 28 perches of land to trustees of Hockessin Meeting. (Thomas Dixon and wife Hannah convey a second adjacent lot containing 1 acre 56 perches to the Meeting). Hockessin Meeting House was built on this land.

May 11, 1753 - William Cox and Catherine sell their plantation to John Dixon, excepting the small plot conveyed to the Meeting (*Y-1-145*).

17th 8th mo. 1752 - John Dixon makes his will, naming wife Rebecca executrix, and empowering her to sell the plantation after his death (*Y-1-145*).

24th 5th mo. 1760 - William Phillips (1st), a cooper, highest bidder buys 349 acres at public sale. (*ibid*) William Phillips II, farmer, son of William Phillips (1st), becomes seized of the 349 acres by his father's will dated 11th month, 15th day, 1789 (*Will Book N-1-108*).

11th 2nd mo. 1823 - William Phillips II makes his will bequeathing his lands to his sons John, Marshall, and William Phillips III, with certain moneys for his son Robert. William Wilkinson, a son-in-law, acquires 229 acres of the farm from the heirs, which plot includes the mansion house. John Phillips becomes owner of 121 acres on the northwesterly corner of the farm. (*Will Book R-1-471; Deeds A-4-164, A-4-32, F-4-472*).

(The 121 acres owned by John Phillips were bequeathed to his brother William Phillips III. See text for successive owners).

23rd 4th mo. 1830 - Jacob Heald, highest bidder, buys 229-acre farm and mansion house from the administrators of William Wilkinson (*L-4-198*).

24th 3rd mo. 1856 - Jacob Heald sells Howard E. Flinn 156 acres and mansion house (*Y-6-451*). Heald disposed of balance of property to other buyers.

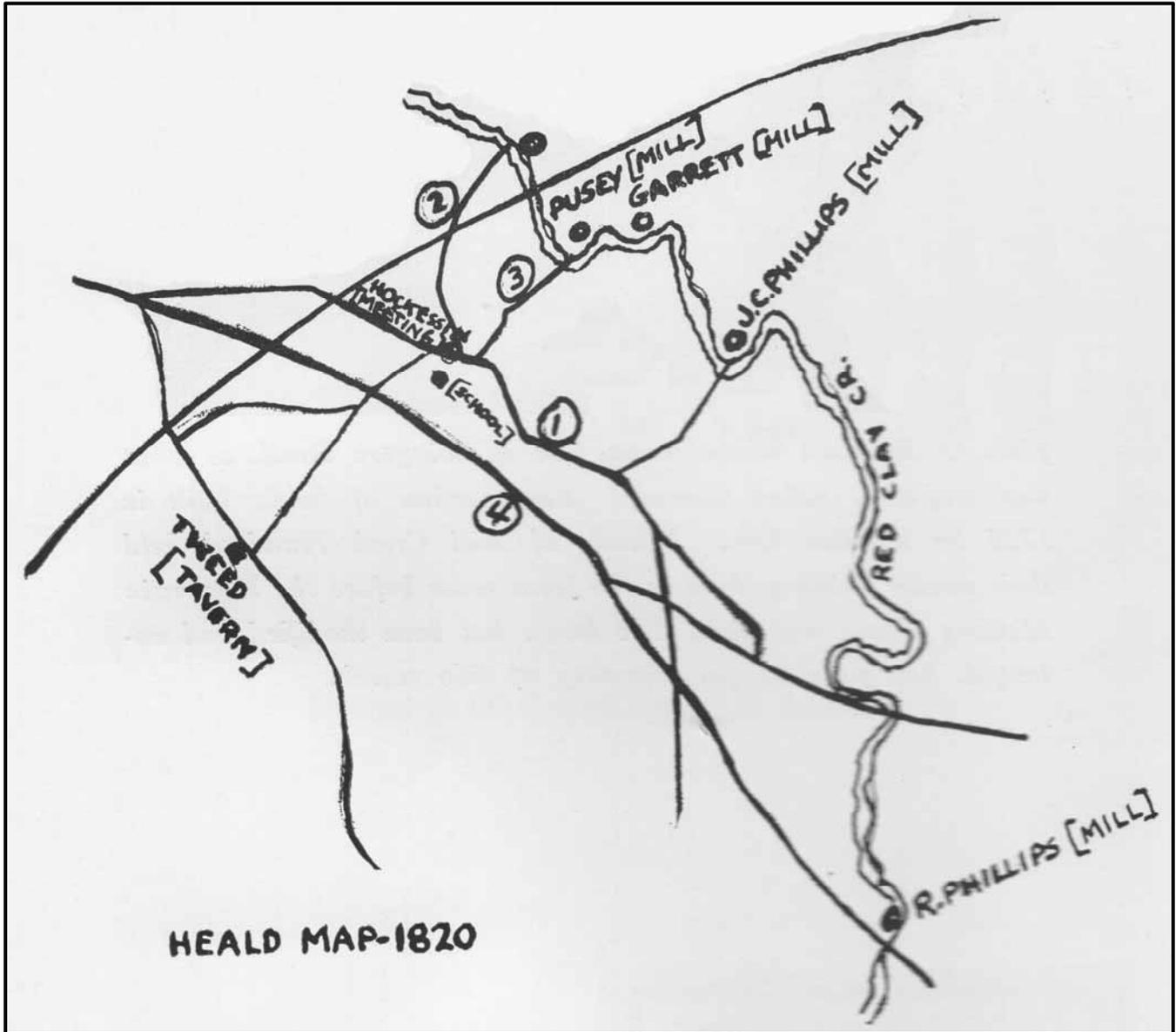
March 24, 1868 - Howard E. Flinn sells 156 acres and mansion house to John Mitchell
(*T-8-223*).

June 25, 1898 - John Mitchell's heirs sell 76 acres of farmland, 7 acres of woodland, and
mansion house to the present occupant, John C. Mitchell, son of John Mitchell
(*U-17-414*).

2019 EDITION LETTER FOOTNOTES

^A – Added a Preface to the monograph to note when Weslager mentions “today” he is referencing 1960. Also discussed the use of actual maps in place of the hand drawn versions of the original monograph.

^B – Original publication’s Figure 5 Heald Map from 1820 replaced with actual map and relabeled as Figure 0 to avoid confusion (Figure 5 at the start of the publication followed by Figures 1-4).



^C – The Lancaster Turnpike was initially known as “Newport Road”. The road initially served as a means to get products and supplies between the ports at Wilmington and Newport, DE and the businesses and farms of Lancaster County, PA. In 1809 the Wilmington Turnpike Company was chartered to construct a toll road or turnpike from Wilmington, DE to the Gap and Newport Pike near the Delaware-Pennsylvania state line (see footnote D below). Completed at a cost of \$39,549.97 the Wilmington Turnpike Company operated Lancaster Turnpike until 1877. With the

company abandoning operation of the turnpike, the charter was repealed and Lancaster Turnpike became the responsibility of the New Castle County Levy Court to maintain. In 1936 the route was designated as Delaware Route 48 and became known as Lancaster Pike, a reference it maintains today. At its eastern end, Lancaster Pike crossed the Delaware River and connected to New Jersey Route 48 in Penns Grove, NJ via the Wilmington-Penns Grove Ferry. After the ferry was discontinued in 1949 the eastern terminus of Route 48 became Lancaster Avenue in Wilmington.

Turnpikes of the early 1800s were 100' wide clearings that had the center 20' minimum leveled and constructed with packed clay, gravel and stone. The center road surface had to have a slight crown for drainage. Any areas that were soft required stabilization with logs, boulders, or similar materials before the roadbed was placed across the weak ground. Tolls for these roads were set by the charter and ranged from a few cents to tens of cents depending on the distance traveled, what was being hauled, and the type of wagon, carriage, and number of horses being used.

^D – Pennsylvania chartered the Gap and Newport Turnpike Company in 1807 for the purpose of connecting Gap, PA to the Delaware-Pennsylvania state line as part of a plan by the two states to provide access between Gap, PA and the ports at Newport and Wilmington, DE. In 1808 Delaware chartered the Gap and Newport Turnpike Company to construct the Delaware portion of the toll road (see Laws of the State of Delaware - Volume IV, 1806-1813, Chapter LIX, published in 1816).

The turnpike was completed by 1818 becoming the first toll road in the state. By the late 1850s the turnpike company had dissolved and the road was maintained by the New Castle County Levy Court. In 1936 the route was designated as Delaware Route 41. Depending upon the section of the roadway, it now goes by Newport Gap Pike between Newport, DE and where the roadway joins Lancaster Pike (Rt 48). From the junction with Lancaster Pike, to the state line, the road is known as Lancaster Pike. Older Delaware maps may call the roadway Gap Newport Pike (with or without a hyphen; Gap-Newport) along its entire length; a reference to its original name and what the route is known as on Pennsylvania road maps.

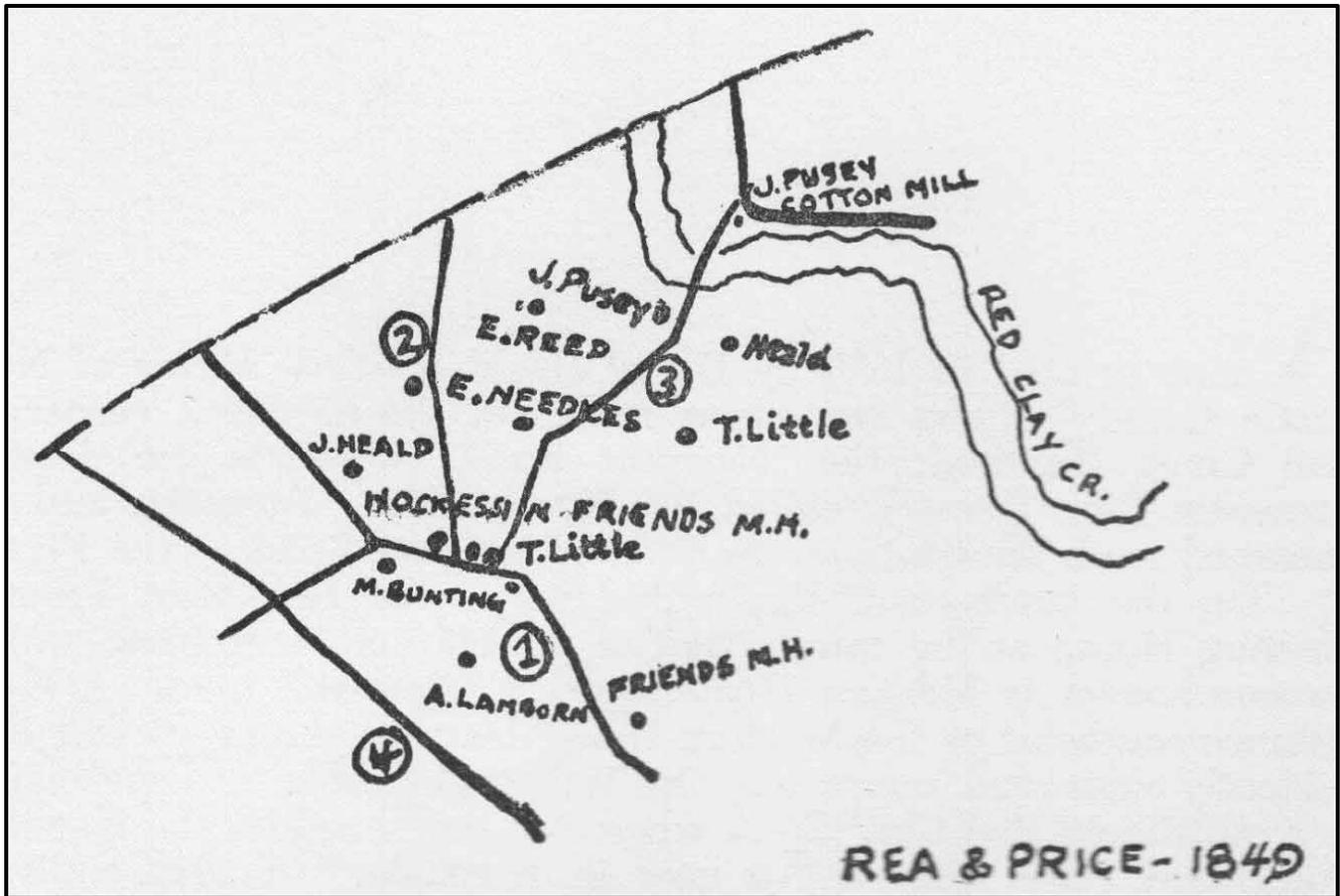
^E – The Red Clay Creek during the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries was often called “that never-failing stream” as it had the reputation for flowing briskly even in periods of severe drought. Because of the strong year-round flows, both the Red Clay, as well as Mill Creek, had numerous mills harnessing the power of the water flowing in each creek. Today we don't often think of a creek or stream in terms of how much “horsepower” it is rated to produce, but in the 1700s and 1800s that is exactly how many creeks were considered. The amount of horsepower a creek or stream could provide over a short distance determined how large a mill could be constructed along that section of the creek.

The Red Clay Creek had a theoretical “horsepower” during era when water power ruled supreme. For the Red Clay, the horsepower rating of the creek is the total horsepower that theoretically might be drawn from the stream from Marshall's Bridge, PA, down to Stanton, DE. Obviously that horsepower rating on any given day changed depending on the volume of water flowing due to storms and the time of season.

The U.S. Geological Survey maintains three monitoring stations on the Red Clay Creek. These stations are located at Marshalls Bridge, PA, and Wooddale and Stanton, DE. From the data, we were able to determine that the Red Clay falls approximately 190 feet between Marshalls Bridge and Stanton. If we use the Wooddale data to determine average stream flow, the historical data reveals the flow rate to be around 60 cubic feet per second or 26,930 gallons per minute as a good average.

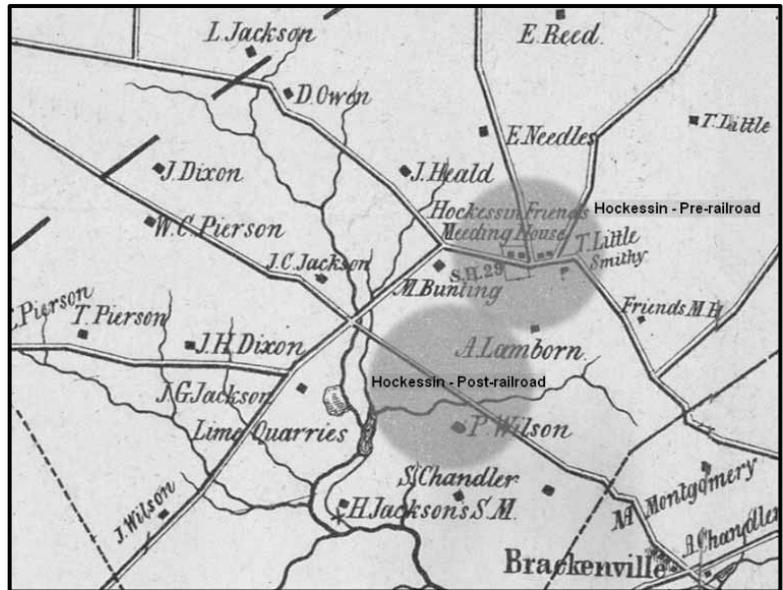
Calculating the horsepower using the Wooddale numbers results in nearly 1,300 horsepower being generated by the creek. That number assumes 100% efficiency of any water wheel drawing power from the creek and it assumes total use of the creek's water resource both of which are not possible. The flow rate to a mill at Yorklyn will be less than at Marshallton or Stanton due to the additional tributaries that feed the Red Clay as it flows through New Castle County. In the 1800s the Red Clay was generally considered a 700- to 800-horsepower creek along its length in Delaware. This rating no doubt took into consideration periods of low flow due to lack of rainfall and the ability of water reservoirs behind dams to store water overnight for use during the day.

F – Original publication's Figure 1, a Rea & Price Map from 1849, was replaced with the actual map. The hand-drawn map is shown below.



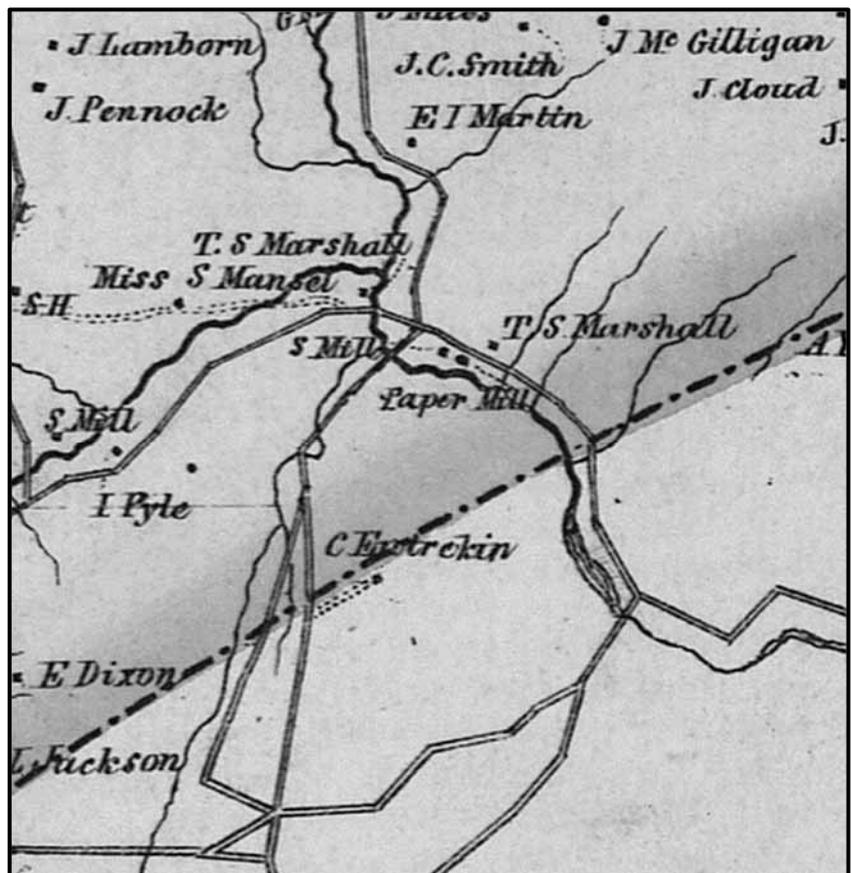
G – We have substituted a 2019 Google Map of the area in place of the 1960 map that Weslager hand drew as Figure 4 (see lettered footnote 'X' for the original Figure 4 drawn by Weslager). The roads in 1960 have changed very little in the nearly 60 years since the publication was released. There are a lot more development streets in 2019 than in 1960, however those are not of interest for this monograph.

^H –Hockessin was originally considered an area in the vicinity of the intersections of Old Wilmington Road, Meeting House Road, and Old Public Road. After the arrival of the Wilmington & Western Rail Road in 1872 and the railroad’s construction of a station at the intersection of Lancaster Pike and Mill Creek Road where the tracks crossed both roads, residents began constructing businesses around the station to take advantage of the passenger and freight services the railroad provided. Then the center of Hockessin effectively moved as shown on the 1849 map at right. Mill Creek Road had not been constructed in 1849 but was in place and appears on the 1868 Beers map.



^I – We have been unable to locate a copy of the 1869 map titled “Map of New Castle County, Del., and Chester Co., Pa.” published by Henry Eckel. We are substituting a section from “Map of Chester County” published by T. J. Kennedy in 1860 from the Library of Congress Digital Archive.

This map shows the east and west branches of the Red Clay Creek joining at what was known in the early 1800s as Marshallvale. Today this area is known as Marshall’s Bridge, PA. in recognition of the covered bridge that once spanned the creek. The map indicated the mill race as well as the Thomas S. Marshall saw and paper mills in Kennett Township, Chester County.



Yorklyn will eventually occupy the lower right corner of this map by the beginning of 1900.

^J – John Garrett and four other area residents, William Cox, Henry Dixon, Edmund Butcher, and William Pullen, purchase property starting in 1726 from Letitia Penn, William Penn’s daughter. The 267 acres is along Red Clay Creek in what was known at the time as the three lower counties of Pennsylvania. They construct a grist mill on the site in 1730 and operate it with partial success.

The mill remains in the Garrett family with various generations of Garretts operating the mill as a grist mill and then a saw mill. After the American Revolution and the formation of the State of Delaware, the mill is owned by John Garrett II who converts it to the manufacture of paper.

The paper mill is next owned by John Garrett's grandson Horatio Gates Garrett in 1803 or 04. After financial difficulties close the mill, in 1813 the mill is purchased at a court ordered sale by Thomas Lea who converts the mill to the spinning of cotton. A local resident, Jacob Pusey operates the mill for Lea and in 1826 Pusey purchases the mill. After operating the mill for 40 years, in 1866 Pusey sells the mill to William and James Clark who convert the mill to woolen products.

After a devastating fire in the mid-1880s, the mill and property are purchased by Israel and Elwood Marshall and Samuel Franklin Ewart. They rebuild and convert the mill to the manufacture of a specialized rag paper that is shipped to manufacturers in Wilmington, Newport, and Newark for conversion into vulcanized fibre. By 1900 the mill is capable of turning out one-million pounds of rag paper annually and is known as Marshall Brothers Paper Mill. In a few years the Marshalls will revolutionize the manufacture of vulcanized fibre and they will buy the Ferree property along Yorklyn Road and the Red Clay Creek forming National Fibre & Insulation Company. In 1922 National Fibre & Insulation Company buys their major competitor American Vulcanized Fibre and National Vulcanized Fibre is formed. Yorklyn becomes known as the vulcanized fibre capitol of the world; a reputation it would maintain until the end of the 20th century.

^K – Local historian Scott Palmer provides a wealth of information related to the history of Mill Creek Hundred in his Mill Creek Hundred History Blog. Palmer sums up the blog's mission as "The mission of the Mill Creek Hundred History Blog is primarily to educate people about the rich history of the area. Very often, people know more about the history of far off places like Egypt or Rome than they do about their own home areas. For anyone interested in Mill Creek Hundred's past, this site hopes to rectify that imbalance. The site gives short histories about some of the notable buildings, people, and places that have made MCH what it is today."

We are reproducing Palmer's blog entry on the Newport & Gap Turnpike with his permission as it provides the reader important background on this vital roadway.

The Newport & Gap Turnpike

Scott Palmer · Thursday, October 14, 2010

Houses, schools, churches and factories are not the only man-made constructs vital to the growth of a community. There is one other piece of engineering that is crucial to every aspect of our economy, but which is often overlooked until it is in disrepair – our roads. And while we often think of road-building and upgrading as a 20th century phenomenon, they were just as vital in the 19th century. In fact, the first two decades of the 1800's saw a flurry of road-building in the area, and for the most part, the roads put down then are still our major thoroughfares today, two hundred years later. One of the first of these new roads to be laid out was the Newport and Gap Turnpike (or, the Gap and Newport Turnpike). This road, now known as Newport-Gap Pike (Rt. 41), is still one of the major routes through Mill Creek Hundred today.

At the end of the 18th century, the state of our nation's roads was, well, not good. The war was over, the government was stable, the economy was coming to life, but most of the young country was connected by poor, unreliable roads that often

amounted to not much more than glorified cow paths. Then, as now, there was much debate over how large a role the government should play in the upgrading of the road system. The compromise that emerged was the turnpike company -- a private corporation, sanctioned and regulated by the government, that would build and maintain their road. To recoup their costs, the company would be permitted to erect toll gates along the route and charge a fee to use the road. This originally took the form of a long pole (or pike) that would bar passage until the toll was payed, at which point it was turned upwards to allow the rider to pass. That was a turnpike.



Gap and Newport Turnpike near Avondale, PA, 1896

The first turnpike completed was the Philadelphia and Lancaster Turnpike, which opened in 1795. It was built to facilitate the easy transport of grain from the fertile fields of Lancaster County to the markets in Philadelphia. In 1807, a company was incorporated in Pennsylvania to build a road from the Lancaster Turnpike in Gap, PA to the Delaware state line. This road hoped to divert some of that traffic away from Philadelphia and down to Newport, Wilmington, and beyond. In 1808, the Gap and Newport Turnpike Company was created to complete this road through Delaware to the then port town of Newport. The following year, the Wilmington Turnpike Company would be formed to build a connecting road from the main road to Wilmington. This would become what we now know as Lancaster Pike.

Construction of the Newport and Gap Turnpike was started shortly thereafter, but there were some financial issues along the way. By 1811, the company had raised \$45,000 through stock sales, and had received \$5,000 more from the state of Pennsylvania. They still needed \$70,000 to complete construction, so in that year the Delaware Legislature authorized the company to hold a lottery to raise \$30,000 of it. By 1813 there were four and a half miles of the turnpike finished. The entire length was completed and opened in 1818. The turnpike generally followed the route of an older road that may have even begun as a native American trail. The road was, however, substantially upgraded. Bridges were put in to replace earlier fords, and there were specific legal requirements placed on the make-up of the road itself. Here is what the act itself (Chapter LIX) had to say:

That the said manager, president and company [...] shall cause a road to be laid out, not exceeding one hundred feet in width, of road, exceeding one hundred feet in width, from the Gap to Newport, by the aforesaid route, and shall cause twenty feet thereof in breadth, at least, to be made an artificial road; which shall be bedded with wood, stone, gravel, clay, or other proper and convenient materials, well compacted together, a sufficient depth, to secure a solid foundation for the same; and the said artificial road, shall be faced with clay, gravel or stone, pounded, or other small hard substance, in such manner, as to secure a firm, and as nearly as, the nature of the country, and the materials will admit, an even surface rising towards the middle, by a gradual arch; and shall forever hereafter maintain and keep the same in perfect order and repair.

In other words, in an era when most roads were just dirt paths, this was a smooth highway by comparison. It had to have a secure bed and be “paved” with clay, gravel, or stone. Also, it had to be crowned to aid in drainage. Of course, travelers had to pay for the privilege of using the turnpike. The law set out exactly what could be charged for tolls, ranging from a few cents to about 20 or 30 cents. And if you think the signs by tollbooths now listing prices for cars, buses, and trucks with different numbers of axles is confusing, you should read this. It goes on for about a page listing every conceivable combination of livestock, horses, carts and carriages, and even the size of their wheels. A sign listing the rates was required to be displayed at every toll gate. However, they were barred from charging “any person passing or repassing from one part of his or her farm to another, or to and from any place of public worship, or funeral, on days appointed for that purpose.”



Milestone by BSP. - Inscribed: 3 (?) M[iles] to N[ew]P[ort]

There were other provisions as well: signs were required at every intersection showing the direction and distance to the nearest town or place; milestones [Edit: See picture above of milestone located by Brandywine Springs Park] had to be erected along the route; tolls would cease if the road was not kept in good shape;

penalties were laid out for damage to the road, milestones or signage; penalties were set for travelers evading the toll, and toll takers for extorting too much from travelers. Also, there was a provision that the state could buy out the road any time after 1830. It didn't happen then, but it did in the 1850's. After that, it became a public road under the care of the road commissioners and the county's Levy Court.

The Newport and Gap Turnpike was the first private toll road in the state, and it started a boom. Soon after would come the Wilmington Turnpike (Lancaster Pike), the Newcastle and Frenchtown Turnpike (Rt 273/40), the Wilmington and Kennett Turnpike (Kennett Pike, Rt 52), the Wilmington and Great Valley Turnpike (Concord Pike, Rt 202), the Wilmington and Philadelphia Turnpike (Philadelphia Pike), and the Wilmington and Christiana Turnpike (Rt 4), to name a few. The Newport and Gap was fairly successful, even though it lost a fair amount of traffic to Limestone Road, which had only one ford, had easier hills, and was free. All these roads began to suffer, though, later in the century, as the railroads became the kings of commerce. It wasn't until the advent of the automobile in the early 20th century that roads would again be the center of attention. That story, however, will have to wait for another time.

^L – The Hockessin Post Office was established on December 26, 1863 but wasn't recognized until January 1, 1868 according to United States postal service records. Yorklyn (6/13/1873), Ashland (11/8/1872), Mt. Cuba (3/12/1877), Wooddale (11/27/1872), Faulkland (11/27/1872), and Marshallton (2/27/1878) were all established in the stations constructed by the Wilmington & Western Rail Road. Today only the Marshallton, Yorklyn, and Hockessin, post offices remain.

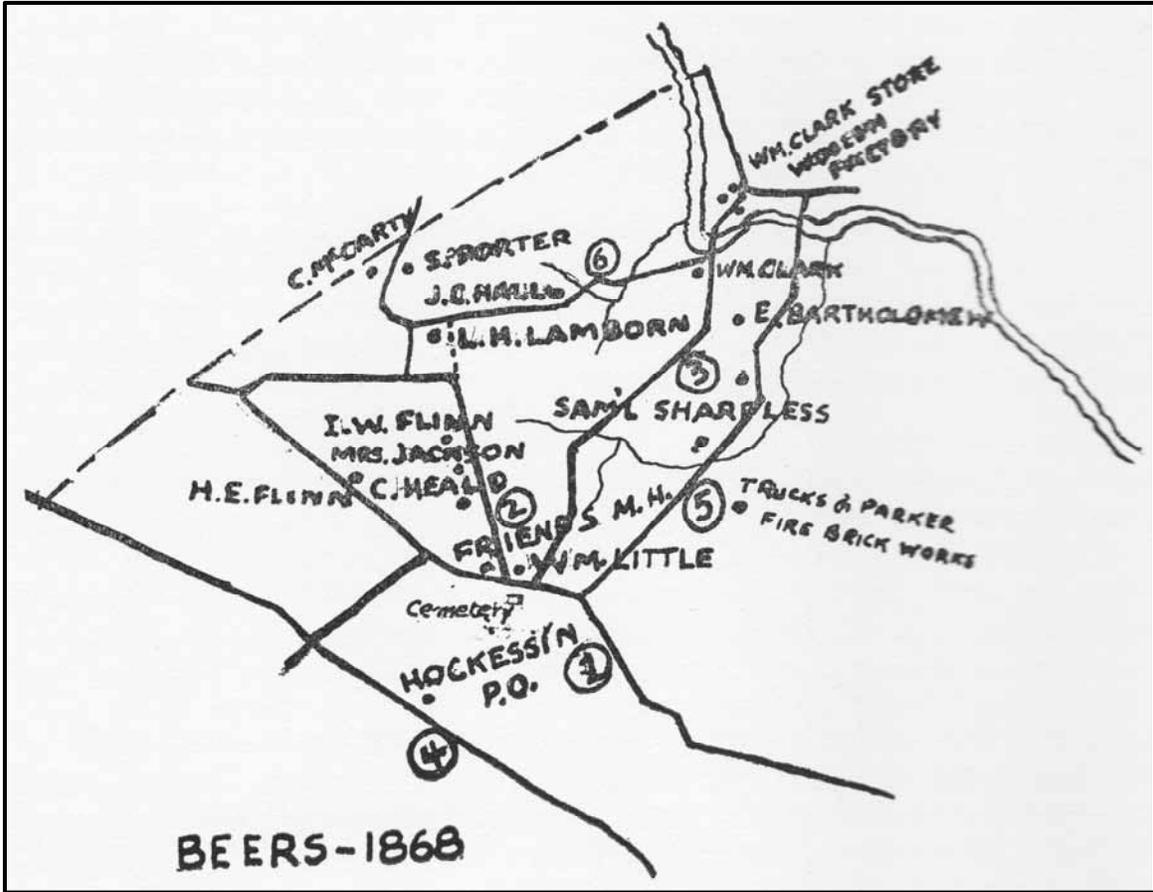
^M – Weslager, at the time of writing the monograph, correctly documented that the home was occupied by Mr. and Mrs. John C. Mitchell. As of 2019 the property is owned by John C. Mitchell's great-grandson Peter Seely. Seely's grandmother, Gertrude Elizabeth "Trudy" (Mitchell) Bell passed away in February 2016 at the age of 103.

^N – Weslager, at the time of writing the monograph, indicated "(This is the house on the west side of Meeting House Road formerly owned and occupied by L. C. Hobson, but now on the Hessler property.)" To the best of our knowledge this house was torn down between 1968 and 1973. The home's location was south of Barnstable Court across from H.B. Dupont Middle School.

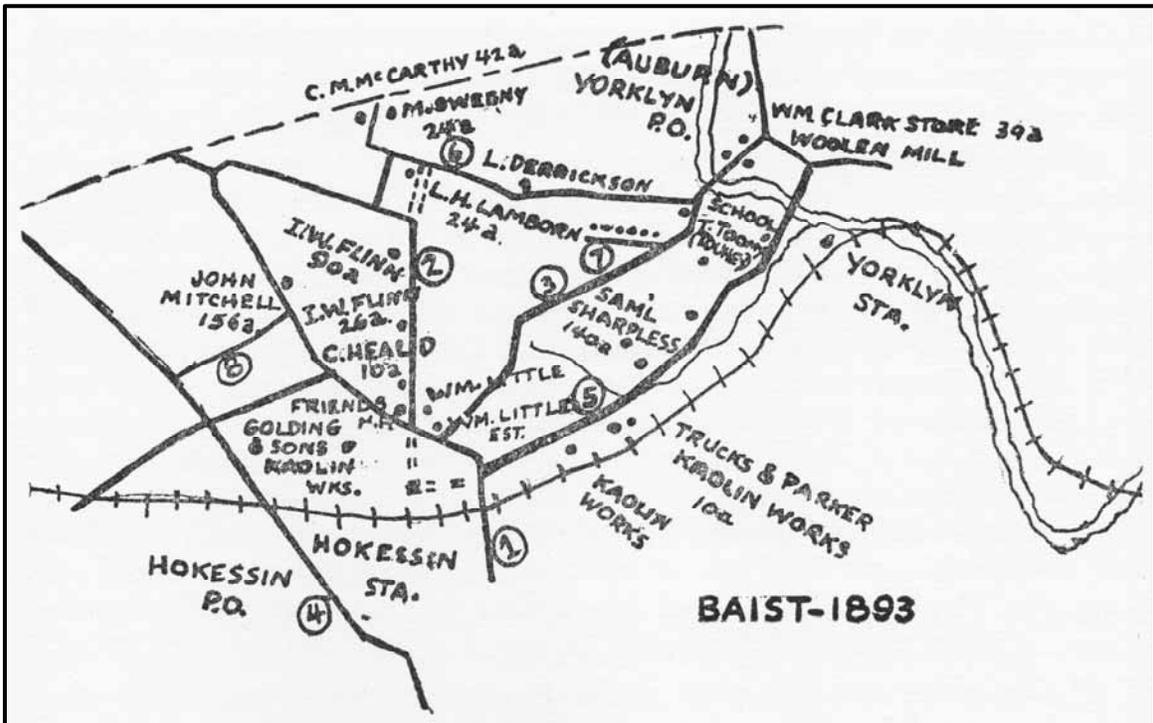
^O – The Quakers, also known as the Religious Society of Friends, got their start around the middle of the 1600s in England and in a short time the movement began growing in the New World. During the 1800s theological beliefs within the organization diverged and the Orthodox and Hicksite sects of Quakerism were formed. The Hockessin Friends became two distinct groups about 1827. Eventually those that splintered off as the Orthodox Quaker grew smaller to the point that those few remaining rejoined the Hicksite Quakers of Hockessin Meeting by the end of the 1800s.

^P – For those wishing a complete history of the mill, they are directed to the "Historic Documentation Report for Auburn Mill at Auburn Heights Preserve". This 244-page document was prepared by GWWO, Incorporated, Architects for the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC), for the Delaware State Parks. It was issued in December 2013.

^Q - Original publication's Figure 2 Beers Map from 1868 replaced with actual map.



^R - Original publication's Figure 3 Baist Map from 1893 replaced with actual map.



^S – Weslager’s original monograph stated “officials of the Landenburg (sic) branch of the Wilmington & Western R.R.,”. This reference is misleading. The Wilmington & Western Rail Road was constructed in 1871-1872 and began operations in October 1872. William E. Garrett, the snuff manufacturer at Auburn was a board member of the railroad at the time of the line’s construction which included selecting where stations would be constructed. Records indicate that the Fell family at Faulkland as well as the Wood family at Wooddale made land available to the corporation at little expense in hopes that a station might be erected near their places of business. While there is yet to be a paper trail uncovered which indicates a similar situation for the station on former Garrett property, one cannot rule out an arrangement advantageous to both the railroad and snuff mill operation. During construction, the station was referred to as Auburn Station however when it began to be used the name “Yorklyn” had been designated.

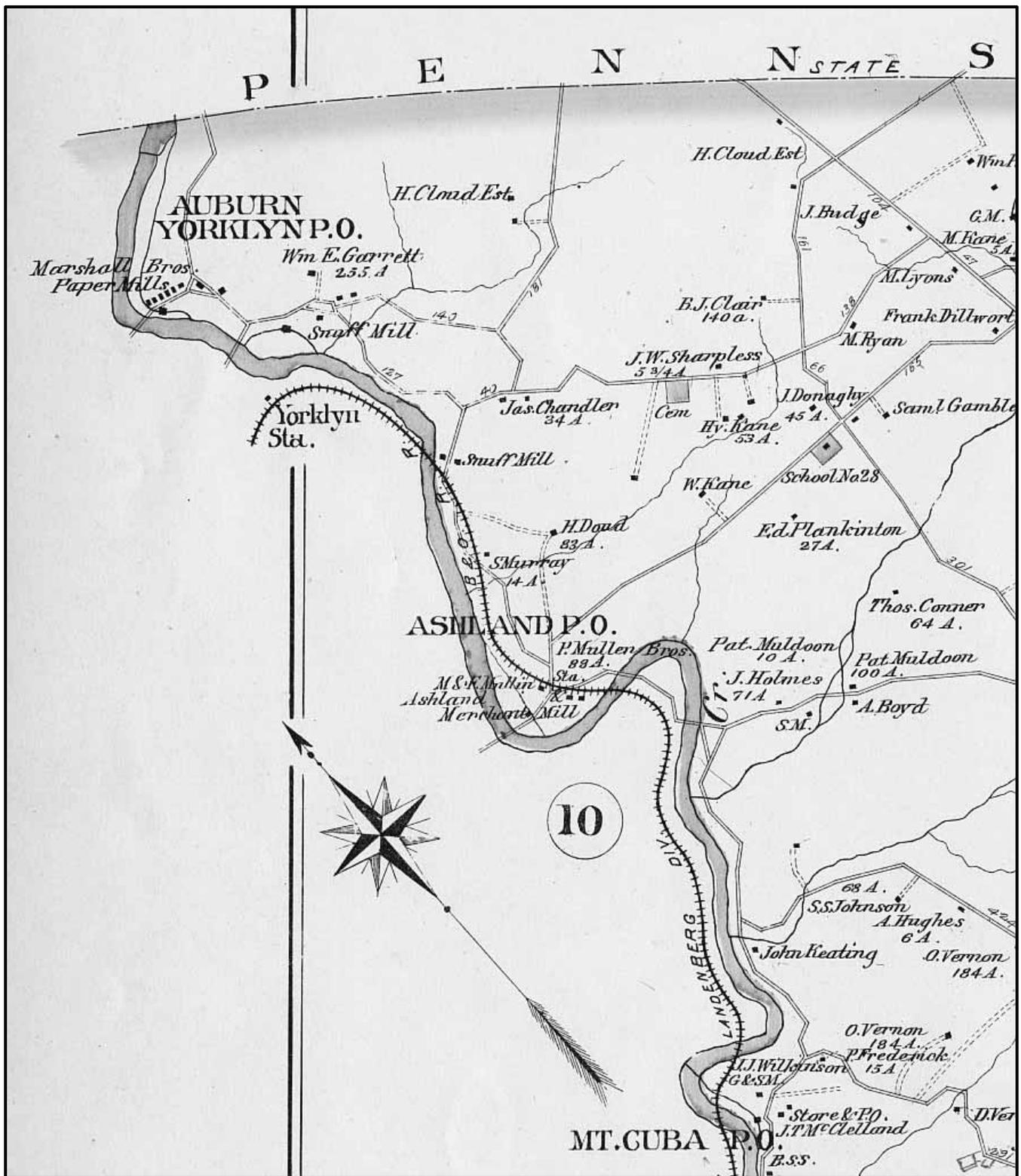
The Wilmington & Western Rail Road would fall into receivership and bankruptcy in the late 1870s and become the Delaware Western Railroad. In the early 1880s the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad (B&O) would purchase the Delaware Western Railroad for the purpose of constructing tracks between Baltimore and Philadelphia in order to compete with the Pennsylvania Railroad on what would eventually be known in the late 20th century as the “Northeast Corridor” connecting Richmond, VA with Boston, MA. Only after the B&O completed the tracks through Delaware in the late 1880s, which involved making a portion of the Delaware Western Railroad between Kiamensi and Wilmington, DE part of the main line tracks through Delaware, did the Delaware Western Railroad become known as the B&O railroad and the tracks from Kiamensi, DE to Landenberg, PA become known as the “Landenberg Branch of the B&O”.

In January 1966, the B&ORR’s last Landenberg Branch station agent, John Eskridge who is assigned to Yorklyn Station, shuts down the station and moves B&O freight operations to a rented room in the National Vulcanized Fibre’s #1 Fibre Mill across the tracks from the former station. Eskridge’s job is scheduling all freight shipments on the Landenberg Branch. Three freight trains per week operate on the Landenberg Branch from Wilsmere Yard to Yorklyn and occasionally Hockessin. The trains move rail freight for NVF, coal deliveries to the Hercules Research Center’s power house south of Wooddale, and an occasional mushroom compost movement to Hockessin.

The B&O’s transfers the property around Yorklyn Station to NVF along with the original all wooden station building for \$1. The B&O maintains right-of-way ownership for their tracks and sidings at NVF. NVF eventually donates the station building, one of only a couple on the line constructed with a basement, to HRCV for eventual relocation to Greenbank.

The 32’ by 52’ all wood construction station building is moved in April 1968, at HRCV’s expense, to Greenbank and placed on a basement-less poured concrete and block foundation a short distance from where the former Greenbank Station was located. The former basement at Yorklyn is backfilled with dirt. Originally painted Barn Red by the Wilmington & Western Rail Road Company when they were built, all Landenberg Branch railroad stations, waiting sheds, and maintenance of way structures are repainted yellow with brown windows and highlights in 1886 to match the colors used by the B&O for all their stations.

^T – “Atlas of New Castle County, Delaware, From Actual Surveys, Official Records, and Private Plans” compiled and published by G. W. Baist, Topographical Engineer, 1893. Three plates comprise Christiana Hundred with Plate 9 showing the northern part of the Hundred including the designation (upper left) of Marshall Brothers Paper Mill instead of Clark’s woolen mill which is the designation for the Mill Creek Hundred plate.



^U – William Clark's daughter was S. Franklin Ewart's wife. After Clark died, Ewart inherited Auburn Factory and property from his father-in-law around 1889. Clark had heard that Israel and Elwood Marshall were interested in leasing or purchasing the former Delaware Iron Works mill at Wooddale with the intent to turn it into a paper mill in order to add production capacity for their growing industrial rag paper business. Ewart made the burned-out mill available to the Marshall

boys under an agreement that provided each partner a 1/3rd interest. According to the first entry in the Marshall Brothers & Ewart Company General Ledger in July 1890:

“Israel W. Marshall, T. Elwood Marshall and S. Franklin Ewart entered into co-partnership this day, under the firm name of Marshall Bros & Ewart, for the purpose of manufacturing paper, each to invest an equal amount and participate alike in gains and losses. Bought of Wm. Clark the property known as Auburn Factory property for \$13,000, cash paid in account \$1000 as follows, Israel W. Marshall \$333.34, T.E. Marshall \$333.33 and S. Franklin Ewart \$333.33. Gave Wm. Clark mortgage for \$2000 with interest commencing Mar. 25, 1891.”

A few days later, Marshall Brothers & Ewart Company opened an account at Kennett National Bank with each partner depositing \$2,000 in the account. Work began immediately on cleaning up and rebuilding the burned-out Auburn Factory. Papermaking equipment was placed on order with Downingtown Manufacturing Company in early September 1890 and a steam engine from Fitchburg Steam Engine Company was ordered in late October 1890.

On August 19, 1891, the first industrial rag paper for vulcanizing made at the former Auburn Factory, 64 rolls of red at 6-cents per pound and 54 rolls of natural at 5-cents per pound, for a total of \$1,081.98, was sold to E. M. Taylor of Stanton, DE. Israel and Elwood’s Yorklyn paper mill had the capacity to produce slightly more than 1,000,000 pounds of industrial rag paper a year. On October 11, 1895, the final principal and interest payment was made to Franklin Ewart. The Marshalls had paid off the loans on the papermaking equipment, steam engine and boiler that powered the plant, and were about to electrify the mill by the time they had paid off Samuel Franklin Ewart. The name of the company was now Marshall Brothers Company and the company was debt-free at Yorklyn.

v – The 5th generation of Marshalls founded three prosperous businesses in New Castle County. Caleb and John Marshall, the two oldest sons of Robert Marshall, purchased the Hersey Grist Mill north of Kiamensi, DE and constructed a sheet iron rolling mill. They, and their sons, furthered the development of galvanized sheet iron manufacture in the US patenting machines and processes for its manufacture. Thomas, the third oldest, continued the operation of the family paper mill his father had started and his sons Israel and Elwood learn the paper trade at the family’s Homestead Mill in Kennett Township. Israel and Elwood revolutionize the vulcanized fibre industry at the start of the 20th century. Abner, the youngest brother settles southeast of Hockessin as a farmer and turns up a white clay deposit while plowing one day. While Kaolin clay, a fine white clay suitable for making fine china, was mined in nearby Chester county, Abner’s find was the first in Mill Creek Hundred. The deposit was of sufficient quantity and quality that Abner was soon mining the clay and selling processed clay to potteries in New Jersey on a commercial basis and manufacturing Kaolin clay pottery for sale locally. Abner’s mine would play out however not before additional Kaolin deposits were found on the farms around Abner’s property.

Joseph R. Lake, Jr. traces the history of Kaolin mining in “Hockessin, a Pictorial History” initially published in 1976 with the second edition released in 1997. Chapter 7 is devoted to Kaolin mining which occurred in the Hockessin valley between the late 1800s and early 1900s.

Readers are also directed to “Delaware Piedmont Geology” by M.O. Plank and W.S. Schenck. Published in November 1998 and available as a PDF download from the Delaware Geological Survey’s website, the publication describes the geology of northern Delaware and provides insight as to how rich deposits of Kaolin clay and limestone, as well as the rock units at Wooddale, were formed over millions of years. Much of the geology along the Red Clay Creek represents and serves as classical examples of geologic features dominating much of the Mid-Atlantic area of North America.

W – “what had been the Landenburg (sic) branch of the Wilmington & Western R.R., but which is now the B&O R.R.” is misleading. See footnote “S” above for an explanation.

X – Original publication’s Figure 4 modern road map from 1960 replaced with a 2019 Delaware Roads Atlas map.

