Labadists, and resided there four years after the warrant was granted. He purchased the Indian right, and the transaction is thus recorded:

"Be it known unto all men by these presents that I, Mechacksit, chief sachem of Cohonsink, an old Indian owner and Proprietor of all that tract of land commonly called by the Christians Bompeis Hook, and by the Indians Novsink, for and in consideration of one Gunn, four handfulls of powder, three motts coats, one anchor of liquor and one Kettle before the signing. . . .

"The tract remained in the possession of the family many years."

A great part of the island was marsh land and has been reclaimed. There are now about eleven thousand acres of marsh and good land in the island. The present owners are William Reybold, Jane Smith, William D. Hayes, Lucius P. Campbell and Lydia A. W. Pyle. From the earliest times the island was a pleasure resort. Parties would organize from the surrounding country and either tent out or form excursions for the day. The first hotel was built in 1848 by John R. Brick, who managed it until 1859, when it was sold to Eli Logan, who sold the property to William Reybold. This hotel still stands but has not been used for ten years.

In 1868 James W. Spruance, of Smyrna, built the present hotel near Pearson's Cove. He also built a number of tents for the accommodation of families, a dance hall and a pier. In 1870 the steamer "Pilot Boy" made regular trips between the Hook and Philadelphia, the "Ariel" and "Thomas Clyde" succeeding. At present the hotel is conducted by Lucius P. Campbell and is the most popular resort on the bay. In 1870 Enoch Spruance erected a hotel and pier two miles below, and gave the place the name of Freeland. This property was destroyed by fire in 1876 and never rebuilt.

The Bombay Hook Light House, at Bombay Hook Landing, was erected in 1829 and its keeper was Duncan Stuart, an old soldier of the revolution, who died in 1859. During the war of 1812, British soldiers frequently landed on the island and robbed the farmers. In 1813 a company was organized at Smyrna to defend the island with Denney Stevenson as captain.

Francis Whitwell in 1868 was elected one of the justices of Whorekill County, then embracing the territory of Kent County. He purchased several tracts of land on each side of Little Duck Creek near its mouth. The land on the north side is now known as White Hall Neck, Dutch Neck and Raymond's Neck. The tract called White Hall Neck was the first fast land on the north side of Little Duck Creek up from the mouth and contained four hundred acres. It was warranted in 1675. "Whitwell's Chance," lying on Little Duck Creek adjoining White Hall on the west, was warranted August 14, 1675, and contained one thousand acres. These tracts passed to William Frampton, whose daughter Elizabeth sold five hundred acres to Joseph Growden and five hundred acres to Griffith Jones, 10th of June, 1686. William Frampton and Francis Whitwell died in 1686 and their large properties passed to other families. White Hall Neck still bears the name given by Francis Whitwell to the place that probably was his home, for in the early days it was very desirable to be near a navigable stream.

Francis Whitwell and John Richardson (who took up large tracts in the western section of Duck Creek) on December 27, 1680, petitioned the court of St. Jones for two thousand acres of land "in some convenient place so that they could clear for the building of a mill, the aforesaid promising to perform as soon as the workmen and necessaries could be provided." Land was granted and surveyed on the north side of Duck Creek in Kent County west of the King's Road in the western part of the hundred. "White Hall" came into the possession of Andrew Hamilton, who sold it to Samuel Chew, January 28, 1742. Chew died in 1744 and in the settlement of the estate in 1748 it passed to Elizabeth, his daughter, the wife of Edward Tilghman. Parts of this land are now owned by Mrs. Mary Hoffecker, Samuel Harrington, Alexander G. Cummins, J. Frank Denney, James Starling and Dr. Henry Stout. On the property held by Dr. Henry Stout, Governor Jacob Stout lived in a house erected by Thomas McElroy in 1756. In one corner of the yard is an old tree used at one time as a whipping-post.

Adjoining White Hall on the north was a large tract of land called "Petty France," which in 1678 was warranted to Nicholas Bartlet, who also owned other large tracts. Jacob Allee July 7, 1741, took up a tract of land in Tadpole Neck, through which Taylor's Gut ran, containing one hundred and thirty-three acres and March 26, 1757, four hundred and fifteen acres adjoining the smaller tract. He also about 1743, by a resurvey, took up two hundred and forty acres in Little Creek Hundred.

"Westmoreland" a tract of two hundred acres and "Coventry," a tract of four hundred and twenty-five acres, west of the tracts mentioned, were in 1680 surveyed to John Hillyard. "The Mother Plantation" of two hundred acres was also taken up by him in 1675 and was adjoining "Petty France" and "White Hall."

Francis Whitwell purchased several other pieces of land besides those mentioned. A large tract of two thousand acres lying on the south side of the main branch of Duck Creek, warranted December 15, 1681, was assigned to William Frampton, April 22, 1686, and surveyed to his daughter Elizabeth, April 24, 1687, as the "Bear Garden." Hay Point Landing is on George Short's land west of Fleming's wharf, where the iron bridge now is. These lands were sold as the property of Isaac Short. A road built by Hon. Jacob Stout ran through Smyrna to Bombay Hook Light House. There is a brick hotel there which has been standing since 1812. This was all in the "Bear Garden," which is now owned by William C. Mitchell, Jerry Goldsborough, Joseph Bewley and others. "The Watering Point" has been a stopping place for vessels since 1760.

John Hillyard, one of the first Justices of the Peace

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