

**THE EARLY SETTLEMENT
AND
FOUNDING OF KENT COUNTY,
DELAWARE**

James B. Jackson
Dover, Delaware

1983

DELAWARE STATE ARCHIVES

Provincial Governor "Francis Lovelace and ye officers at Delaware". The only cost involved was the payment of an annual "quit rent" of "one bushell of winter wheate" per hundred acres.

The earliest preserved evidence of the new settlement activity is found in an interesting letter written in March of 1670 by one Robert Jones, a Virginian, to Captain Carr.

Jones, a large landowner and colonial official of Lancaster County, Virginia, appears to have been a friend of Carr's who was interested, along with several other Virginians, in obtaining patents of land in the virgin central Delaware area. After referring to previous correspondence on the subject he notes that he had sent "my draught of the survey of 400 acres joyning to our Towne land, and that of 400 acres at Bumyes [Bombay] Hook which is between Mr. Wale and I . . . together with Mr. Merritts". After urging Carr to "procure us our patents" he advises that "I do propose with God's leave to spend all of next year with you at Delaware", and expresses the hope "to receive good news from you . . . of peace and plenty and no obstruction to our Noble Design".

The obvious inferences to be drawn from these statements are confirmed by examining the relevant preserved references to the original patents issued in the year 1671 to the first group of applicants for land in the Kent County area. The well-known *Duke of York Record* together with other references to several additional grants not included therein reveal that thirteen patents for a total of over 5300 acres were issued in June of that year. Although the descriptions of these tracts are imprecise all

Hook, and the Whorekill court covering the area from Bombay Hook to Fenwick Island.

In 1668 the transition to the English legal system began. The process was a slow one, that, for a variety of reasons, took eight more years before the full extension of the *Duke of York's Laws* to the Delaware region was accomplished.

As we have seen, during the first several years following their conquest the British were primarily concerned with consolidating their control and improving the protection of the two settled areas. Concern with these priorities would seem to be the logical reason why almost six years elapsed before any serious consideration was given to promoting settlement and granting lands in the large unoccupied area that includes the present Kent County.

It appears from subsequent evidence that Captain John Carr, the resident British commander at New Castle, was charged with the primary responsibility for beginning this development; and that his basic game-plan was to make use of his contacts and associations in the nearby colonies to encourage some of their people to resettle in his virgin territory under more favorable conditions.

The first step in the land procurement procedure was to obtain a "warrant" from the local authorities for the desired acreage in the selected area. The warrant was then presented to the resident surveyor for an official survey of the designated tract. Upon return of the warrant and completed survey an original title to the land was issued to the new owner in the form of a patent from the

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1671 he "and some other Gentlemen of Vergenny came over to Delaware to see the plase and Liking the plase we made Choice of severall tractes of Land for ourselves and nabors". They applied for patents for "all the Land . . . that lieth between the Horekill and the Motherkill." but before they could occupy it in 1672 they learned that the "Marelande men have sarvaed it again in the Lordes name" which served to "disherten the rest of the gentlemen from Coming up." Perrot himself took up a tract below Cedar Creek, but the "other Gentlemen of Vergenny" backed out—and thus another "noble design" was aborted.

If problems with the Indians and the Marylanders were not enough to bring all settlements to a halt, new troubles with the Dutch certainly were. Their festering relationship with the British and French finally erupted into open war in 1672. By the summer of 1673 the conflict had spread from Europe to the sea where the superior Dutch fleet wrecked the allies shipping, eventually recaptured New York, and once again dominated all its dependencies including the Delaware region.

The return to Dutch control lasted just long enough to disrupt all activity in the area. The war ended in 1674 with the signing of the Treaty of Westminster, one of the terms of which restored all captive areas to the nation to which they belonged before the war began.

II

THE ENGLISH promptly returned and set about reestablishing their control. Within a year they were able to stabilize the Delaware colony and in 1675 began issuing new grants of land.

The new immigrants were virtually all drawn from the nearby areas as before. Some found the virgin land, practically all one vast forest, to be "good and Helthful and wanteth nothing but people." Others had just the opposite reaction, typified by two who were quoted as saying "that they never would have come up to seate their land if they could have . . . all ye land in these parts, for ye Plague and trouble of ye muscitesh, and would sell their land . . . for a pr. of shoos apeece."

Almost all of them were young, in their twenties and thirties, with a few in their forties. Most of those who took up land in their own name were married, and young single freemen frequently came to work for landed friends until they were ready to take up land of their own. Indentured servants, slaves and skilled-tradesmen were rare during this early settlement period.

Unlike in Maryland and Virginia, there were no men of great wealth among these early settlers. There were, however, a fair number who were literate and of substantial means who eventually gravitated to local offices and leadership positions.

They came at a slow pace, and there is no evidence of any sizeable unrelated groups coming together. An examination of preserved land records shows that no more than about twenty applicants came in any one year before 1680—and not all of them stayed. The tracts patented ranged from 200 to 2000 acres with most of them in the 400 - 500 acre range.

Interestingly, in spite of the low ratio of applicants to total acreage available, disputes over the same tract were not infrequent. The reason for this seems evident

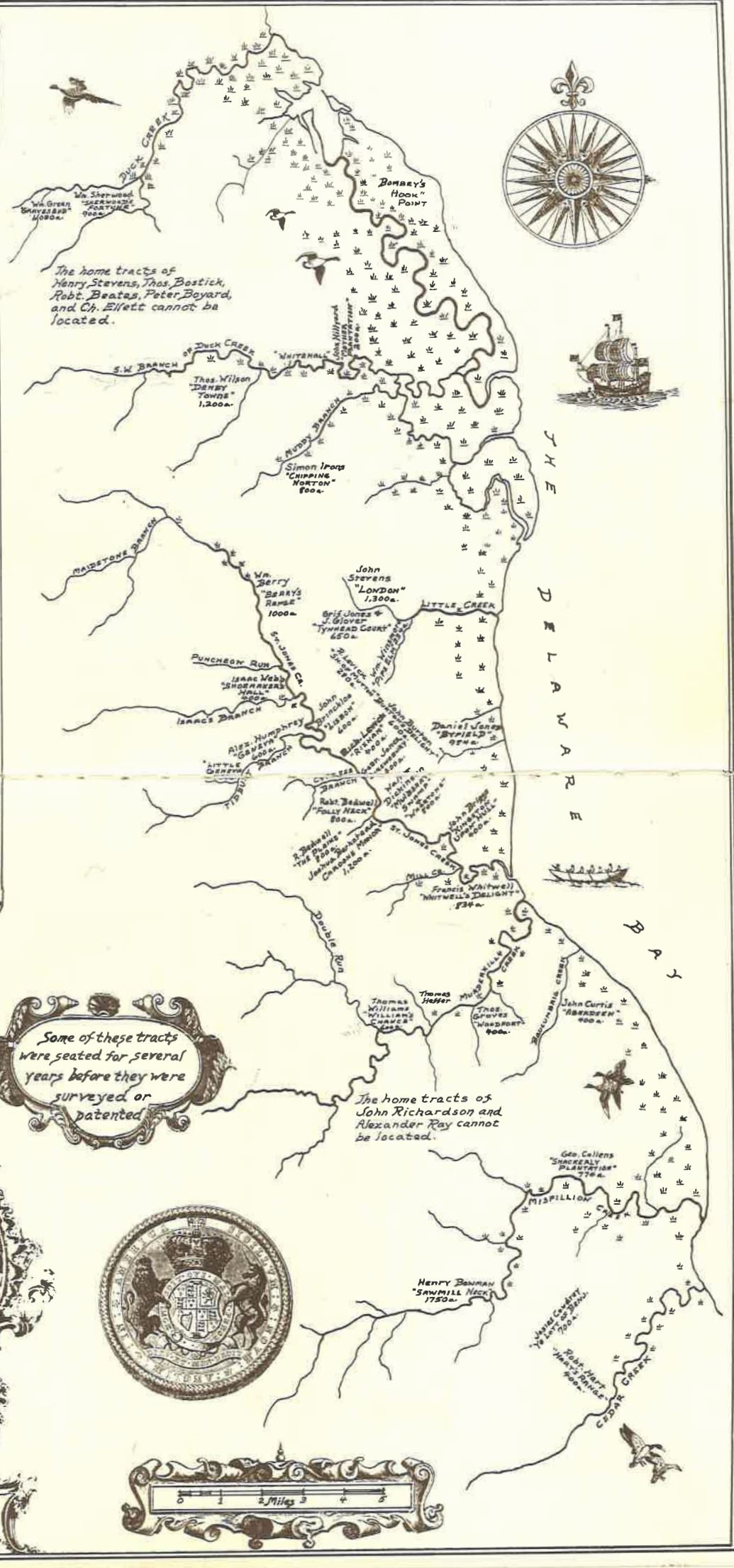
The 1680 Census

These are to Certify the Names of the Inhabitants of New York and all his Royal Highness's Secretaries in or of ye Inhabitants of our Responsible housekeepers their families inhabiting in Cedar Creek, Madder, Duck Creek and Duck Creek.

- in Cedar Creek*
- Robt Hart — 3 in family
 - John Dought Cowdrey Plantat. or 3 in family
 - Mr. Freeman — 2 or 3 in family
 - King Collins on Madder plantation
 - Geo Curtis — 4 in family
 - Geo Richardson — 6 in family
 - Thomas Hayes — 2 in family
 - Thomas Huffer — 2 in family
 - Alexander Ray — 2 in family
 - Thomas Wilkin & Geo Dechow 2 in family
- in St. Jones & Duck Creek*
- Mr. Thomas Whitwell — 6 in family
 - Mr. Jones (Suffield) — 1 in family
 - Mr. John Berthelad — 3 in family
 - Mr. Robt & Bedwell — 3 in family
 - Oliver Humphrey — 3 in family
 - Mr. Isaac Blissett — 2 in family
 - Geo. Fairbairn — 2 in family
 - Abigail Jones — 3 in family
 - Richard Leach — 2 in family
 - Mr. Walter Dickson — 5 in family
 - Mr. Wm. Berry — 2 in family
 - Geo. Briggs — 6 in family
 - Geo. Rickett — 2 in family
 - Henry Stevens — 3 in family
 - Daniel Jones — 2 in family
 - Wm. Whitmore — 1 in family
 - Geo. Stevens — 3 in family
 - Thomas Bostick — 2 in family
 - Robt. Beates — 3 in family
 - Geo. Hillyard — 3 in family
 - Samson Davis — 4 in family
 - Thomas Wilkin — 4 in family
 - Peter Boyard — 2 in family
 - Wm. Shorne — 2 in family
 - Ch. Efflett — 2 in family
 - Wm. Sheward — 1 in family

These are the families from ye upper part of Cedar Creek to ye upper part of Duck Creek being 79 persons, to ye best of ye knowledge of him who Remains
 Your Honors most humble Servant
 JOHN BRIGGS

May 23 April 1680 inhabitants names in St. Jones in Delaware.



Some of these tracts were seated for several years before they were surveyed or patented

A Map of ST. JONES COUNTY On the Delaware Showing the plantations of most of the "responsible housekeepers" known to be inhabiting the area when the County was founded by order of Gov^r Sir Edmund Andros on May 28, 1680.



Drawn according to the best available land & court records March, 1983 - James B. Jackson



APPENDIX I

A List of Persons

Known to be Charter Residents of St. Jones County,
Delaware at the time of its Founding in the Year 1680.

Allston, Artre	Davis, Evan
Alstone, Arthur	Daston, John
Armistead, Daniel	Dawson, John
Balch, Isaac	Dickinson, Walter
Barkstead, Joshua	Dishaa, John
Barnes, Benoni	Ellett, Christopher
Barnes, John	Evans, Foulke
Barrett, John	Francis, Robert
Bartlett, Nicholas	Gates, John
Baswell, John	Glover, John
Baucombe, Peter	Greene, William
Bedwell, Robert	Griffin, Joseph
Berry, William	Griffin, Robert
Berry, William, Jr.	Groves, Thomas
Betts, Robert	Hart, Robert
Bostick, Thomas	Hayes, John
Bowman, Henry	Heffer, Thomas
Boyer, James	Hill, John
Bratt, Abraham	Hillyard, John
Briggs, John	Hodgkins, Thomas
Brinckloe, John	Humphrey, Alexander
Burton, John	Irons, Simon
Clifford, Thomas	Jackson, Christopher
Collins, George	Jones, Daniel
Conely, John	Jones, Gabriel
Cortes, John	Jones, Griffith
Cowdrey, Josias	Johnson, Robert
Curtis, John	

Levick, Richard
Lloyd, John
Martens, George
Morgan, David
Newell, John
Orme, Fabian
Pack, Edward
Parmetary, Robert
Porter, Robert
Powell, Walter
Prince, Edward
Ray, Alexander
Richardson, John
Richardson, John, Jr.
Sherwood, William
Spartes, William

Stevens, Henry
Thomas, William
Verkirk, Art John
Walker, John
Webb, Isaac
Webster, John
Whitwell, Francis
William, Thomas
Williams, Richard
Willen, Robert
Willen, Thomas
Willen, William
Willis, John
Willson, Thomas
Willson, Richard
Winsmore, William

APPENDIX II

THE NAME "ST. JONES"

The name "St. Jones" is the third name to be given the central creek of Kent County in its recorded history. The stream almost certainly was given a name by the Indians, and it might possibly have been called the "Missawakett" for the hunting territory through which it ran.

The first Europeans to record a name for the stream were the Swedes who called it the "Warge Kyghlen", or variously, "Kijhlen", "Kjlen", or "Kihl", which is Swedish for "Wolf's Creek". It is known from early descriptions of the wildlife of the area that wolves were plentiful during the very early settlement period. The name "Wargekjlen" appears on the 1654 map of the Swedish engineer Peter Lindestrom, and the anglicized name first appears on the Augustine Herrman map of Virginia and Maryland (1673) which shows the major streams of our Delaware Bay area. "Wolfs (var. "Wulfs) Creek" continued to appear on several maps into the 18th Century, long after the English gave it an entirely new name in their records.

The name "St. Jones" makes its first appearance in the *Duke of York Record* of the original land titles of Delaware when it is mentioned in the surveys and patents of the initial grants on June 17, 1671. The exact wording is "a Creek now called St. Jones his Creek."

Since the preserved records contain no explanation of why it was "now" given that unique name, historians

have advanced many interesting theories in attempting to solve the riddle. Some have suggested that it was named for a Welsh or English parish, but an extensive search of Christian saint's names and gazetteers and atlases of Great Britain has failed to turn up any "Saint Jones" for either a person or place.

An examination of the original manuscripts of the 1671 grants reveals that, in every case, the "St." is clearly written with a capital "S" and a lower case "t", and is not the "sd" abbreviation of "said" as some have suggested. To further weaken this possibility, there is no instance where either "said" or "sd" precede the word "Jones" without the "St." between them.

Others have suggested that the stream was named for Robert Jones who received one, but not the first, of the early patents along its northern bank. However, he is known to have received prior grants elsewhere, and there is some indication in the existing records that he never did personally "seat" the St. Jones tract. Several other Joneses subsequently took up land in the area, but by the time they appeared the name "St. Jones" had become well established.

After considering all of the suggested origins of this intriguing name, one seems to stand out as a most logical probability: That it was, indeed, intended to honor a well-known saint or homeland parish — St. John, but that it was written by the scribe as the commonly used Welsh or old English variant phonetic spelling as "Jon" or "Jone" with the possessive "es" or "s" added. This possibility is reinforced by the fact that there are at least four subsequent entries in the *Duke of York Record* that are clearly written "St. Johns Creek."

Be that as it may, the name "St. Jones" persisted in that form (or variously: "St. Joneses, or just plain "Jones Creek") until the coming of Penn. His 1683 *Letter . . . to the Society of Traders* seems to indicate that he was either not completely familiar with the existing names of some of the "lesser creeks and rivers" of the Lower Counties, or that he deliberately intended to change the names of some of them, notably the "St. Jones." He did not list it, and obviously substituted in its place the name "Dover". He also appears to have influenced the best English mapmakers. The late 17th and early 18th Century maps of John Thornton, Robert Morden, and Phillip Lea all show the word "Dover" as the name of the central creek of Kent County. In addition to its use on the maps, the name "Dover River" began to appear with increasing frequency in the written public records. The use of the simple designation "Jones Creek" also became quite common. However, as time went on, none of these alternates ever became dominant enough to threaten the venerable old name. It is still hale and hearty today, and continues to tantalize all who try to fathom its origin.

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"KINGSTON-UPON-HULL"

The Early History of a Prominent Kent County Farm.

By

James B. Jackson

Dover, Delaware

1963

"KINGSTON-UPON-HULL"

The early history of a prominent Joneses Neck plantation.

About two miles upstream from the mouth of the St. Jones River, close by its eastern bank, stands one of the oldest and most historically interesting landmarks in Kent County --- a building which, despite its prominence, has been wrongly identified in every guide book or other publication in which it has been mentioned during the last quarter century.

This brick and frame dwelling and the tract of land upon which it stands have thus come to be known, erroneously to the present generations, as "Towne Point" --- the alleged site of the first county courts.

The origin of this case of mistaken identity can be traced to the publication "Delaware, a Guide to the First State", the generally reliable and authoritative directory published by the Federal Writers Project of the WPA in 1938. This account has, unfortunately, been accepted as accurate historical fact by other writers, and the error has thus been compounded in several other well-known publications, including Eberlein and Hubbard's "Historic Houses and Buildings of Delaware."

It seems quite apparent that the "Guide" researchers simply misinterpreted the historian Scharf's earlier writing on the subject, and that their own research did not include the original land and court records relating to it. These records, including a 1677 survey plot of the tract, show beyond the question of a doubt that the old house actually stands on a tract named "Kingston-Upon-Hull", which was the next tract west of "Towne Point", on which no buildings of colonial vintage are to be found standing today. Regarding the old building, it should be noted that no positive proof has been found that any part of it was the original house on the site. There is, however, some interesting circumstantial evidence that it could be.

This account is based solely upon original research by this writer involving the preserved public land, deed, probate, and court records of the county, and some reliable private contemporary writings which contain references to the subject. It embraces only the early history of the tract during the 17th and 18th centuries.

The year 1671 marked the beginning of the organized settlement of the area that is now Kent County, Delaware. In that year the first formal grants of land were issued by the Duke of York's Governor, Francis Lovelace, to the pioneer settlers of the region. Prior to that time the only inhabitants, other than the peaceful native Lenni-Lenape indians, are believed to have been a few isolated squatters and traders. The area, except for the coastal marshes, was almost entirely covered by a vast forest, and the earliest patents of land were taken up along the major creeks and rivers that provided the only convenient means of travel and communication before the first roads were cleared.

The first group of these original patents was issued in June of 1671, and several of them were for tracts along "a Creek now called St. Jones his Creek". One of these granted Mr. George Whale, Sr. a tract of 400 acres, not precisely located, which had a frontage of "two hundred poles" (rods or perches) along the east side of the creek and marsh, and ran "northeast into ye woods three hundred and twenty poles" (one mile). Mr. Whale also took up several other patents on other creeks along the Delaware, and it is not known whether his St. Jones land was ever occupied by him. Subsequent developments indicate that he either abandoned it or transferred his right to it in some manner not recorded. In any event, nothing more is known of it until some six years later.

On February 20, 1677/8 a new survey for this same land was "layd out for John Briggs and Mary Phillips." The description mentions the 1671 patent of "George Walo", notes that it is now called "Kingston - Upon-Hull", and that it is bounded on the northwest by "the Lands of Robert Jones" and on the southeast by "land belonging to the Towne point." It also enlarged the tract to include an additional fifty acres of land and about forty acres of marsh along the creek.

Accompanying the description is a remarkably clear and accurate map of the tract which shows a distinctive bend in the creek and some swamps that still exist which make it possible to plot it precisely on a present day map of the area. This interesting plot is also unique in that it is the ^{earliest} only one of the many tract maps in the preserved "Duke of York Record" which notes that it is the land whereon its owners "now dwell", and further locates and identifies the "dwelling house." But perhaps the most interesting feature is that the location of this house, with respect to the nearby creek, appears to be identical with that of the old house still standing today.

The actual patent for the land, calling for an annual quit rent payment of five bushels of wheat, was issued to the new owners on August 14, 1678. Briggs was also the original patentee of several other tracts in the area, including the adjoining "Towne Point" which he owned jointly with his friend Edward Pack who made his own home on this latter 140 acre patent. Pack was one of the first set of Justices to be appointed, and it was in his house that some sessions of the earliest courts were undoubtedly held. This house, on "Towne Point", has long since disappeared and no traces of it can be found today.

It is not difficult to see why John Briggs selected "Kingston-Upon-Hull" to be his home plantation. It was the only one on the lower St Jones that had some high land frontage on the main course of the creek. "Towne Point" and all of the other neighboring ones had broad areas of treacherous marsh between their land and the creek, and were accessible by small tributaries such as "Towne Point Gut." It had other advantages too, not the least of which was an abundance of game, waterfowl, and seafood. Perhaps its only disadvantage was one shared by all of Jones's Neck even today -- great numbers of mosquitoes during the summer -- but insects were a plague everywhere in those days, and a few more probably didn't make too much difference to the hardy settlers.

There are numerous references to Briggs as "Captain" which suggest that he was probably a waterman. In any event, he was obviously ~~was~~ a man of considerable substance and talents because he immediately became one of the acknowledged leaders of the local colony. He was one of the signers of the historic petition requesting the establishment of local courts so that the settlers of the area might be spared the "long and perilous" journeys to the Hoornekill (Lewes) which was then the county seat for the whole area below Blackbird Creek. This action resulted in the formal establishment of "St. Jones County" in 1680, and changed to "Kent" four years later.

In 1680 the first census of the new county was taken by Briggs, whose family of six was the largest in the area. It lists only thirty-six families of "responsible housekeepers", totaling 99 persons, living then in the whole area between Cedar Creek and Duck Creek. Unfortunately we have no certain knowledge of the exact relationship between the Captain and "Mrs. Mary Phillips", who deeded her interest

in "Kingston-Upon-Hull" over to him in 1679. However, later deeds show that he had a wife named Mary so perhaps they did make it legal.

In 1682, at the beginning of William Penn's proprietorship, Briggs was appointed to his first public office -- the important position of Sheriff. The next year he was one of the ten men representing the county in the inaugural meeting of Penn's Provincial Assembly. In 1685 he was commissioned a Justice of the Peace and, as such sat as a Justice of the Court of Common Pleas, the highest judicial body in the county. Its sessions, held at the homes of the various judges at that time, were always events of great public interest, and each of these locations thus became an important hub of its area. It is most likely that Justice Briggs home must have seen its share of these historic activities.

If, as indicated, Briggs was also a waterman, his ideally located plantation landing near the mouth of the creek, must also have been the focal point for the area's shipping and communication with the outside world. In view of all this it seems fair to assume that "Kingston-Upon-Hull" was undoubtedly one of the most important and active plantations in all of the county, and thereby played a significant role in its earliest history.

John and Mary Briggs' life in Kent County was an active but short one. In 1686 he moved to "Cape May in the Province of West New Jersey", and sold "Kingston-Upon-Hull" to William Frampton, a Philadelphia merchant who had extensive operations in the county at that time. The price paid was "three-score thousand pounds of tobacco." This common medium of exchange had a legal tender value of 10 shillings per hundred pounds, so he received the equivalent of 300 English Pounds money. This price, several times higher than the average

By Vertue of a Warrant from the Court at the where. Hills
dated the 12th day of March 1671/2.

Laid out for John Briggs & Mary Phillips a Tract of Land called
Minerston upon Steele situated and being on the West side of Delaware
Bay, and on the North East side of St. Jones's Creek, being the Land
and plantation whereon they now dwell, and is bounded as followeth
(viz.) Beginning at a Corner m^d Black Oak standing by the side of the

Marsh which lyeth between the Land and the Creek next unto the
upper side of the Cleere ground: And from the said Oak Craning
North East by a line of m^d Trees, dividing this from the Land
of Robert Jones three hundred and Seventy perches to the side of
a Marsh w^{ch} proceedeth from the maine Bay, then South-West
(by a line of m^d Trees dividing this from the Land belonging
to the Towne point) two hundred fifty and Eight perches, to a
Corner m^d Black Oak standing at the Head of a Great Maef
Branch, w^{ch} divideth this from the Towne point. And from thence
following the severall Courses of the Marsh, and Creek to the first
mentioned Corner Black Oak: Containing four

fifty acres of Land, and about forty a Marsh lying between
this Land and the aforesaid Creek. as by a Map of the same
hereto annexed may more plainly appeare. four hundred Acres
part hereof having been form^{ly} granted unto M^r George Wale
by Patent bearing date in June 1671. and fifty Acres the residue
being new Land. Wm^o Wharton surveyor.

Helin^o Willbunch.

DISTRICT

NO. 2

Cem

Sand

Ditch

Grave
Dickinson
Mansion

Radio Tower

Kitts Hum

BAY

ROAD

ST JONES

Kingston
Upon Hull
NECK

Townie
Point

Landing

RIVER

Ditch

Light

Bowers
BM

Light

20

x13

x14

13

10

x12

x19

x9

x19

9

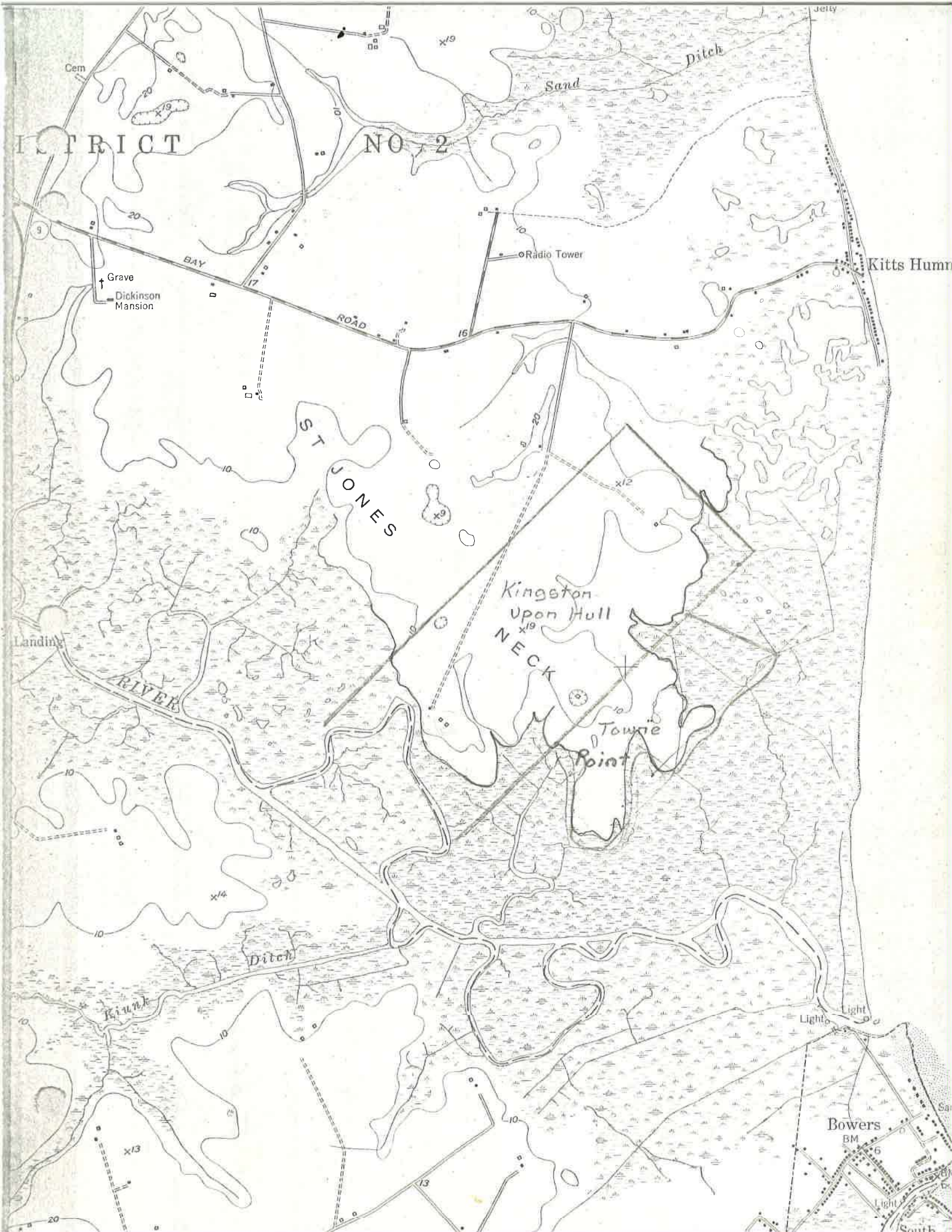
10

10

16

17

Jetty



Scale of English Berches.



Sp the end of Herbert Jones.
 R. E. type line of m. had trees 270 perches.

Marsh

S. East 200 perches

S.W.



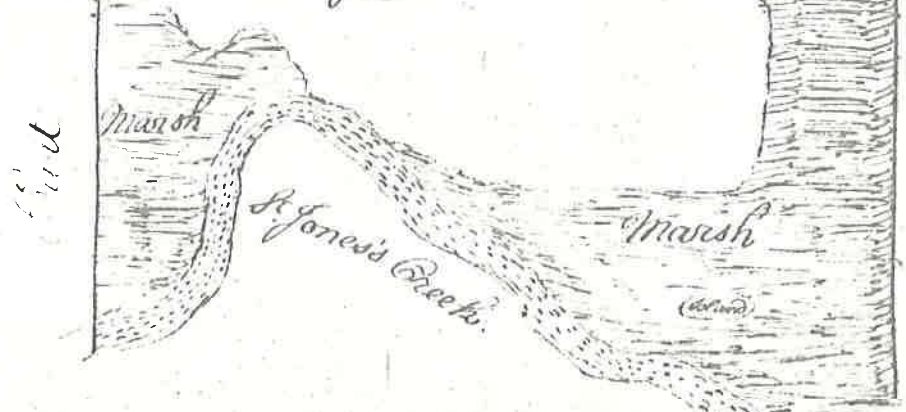
A Map of the Land of John Briggs and
 Mary Phillips whereon they now Dwell
 Containing 150 Acres and about 140 Acres
 of Marsh allowing for a Sunken Swamp
 16 Acres Surveyed the 20th day of the 1st of
 1678 of me Wm. Marten
 Surveyor.

250 perches

Black Oaks

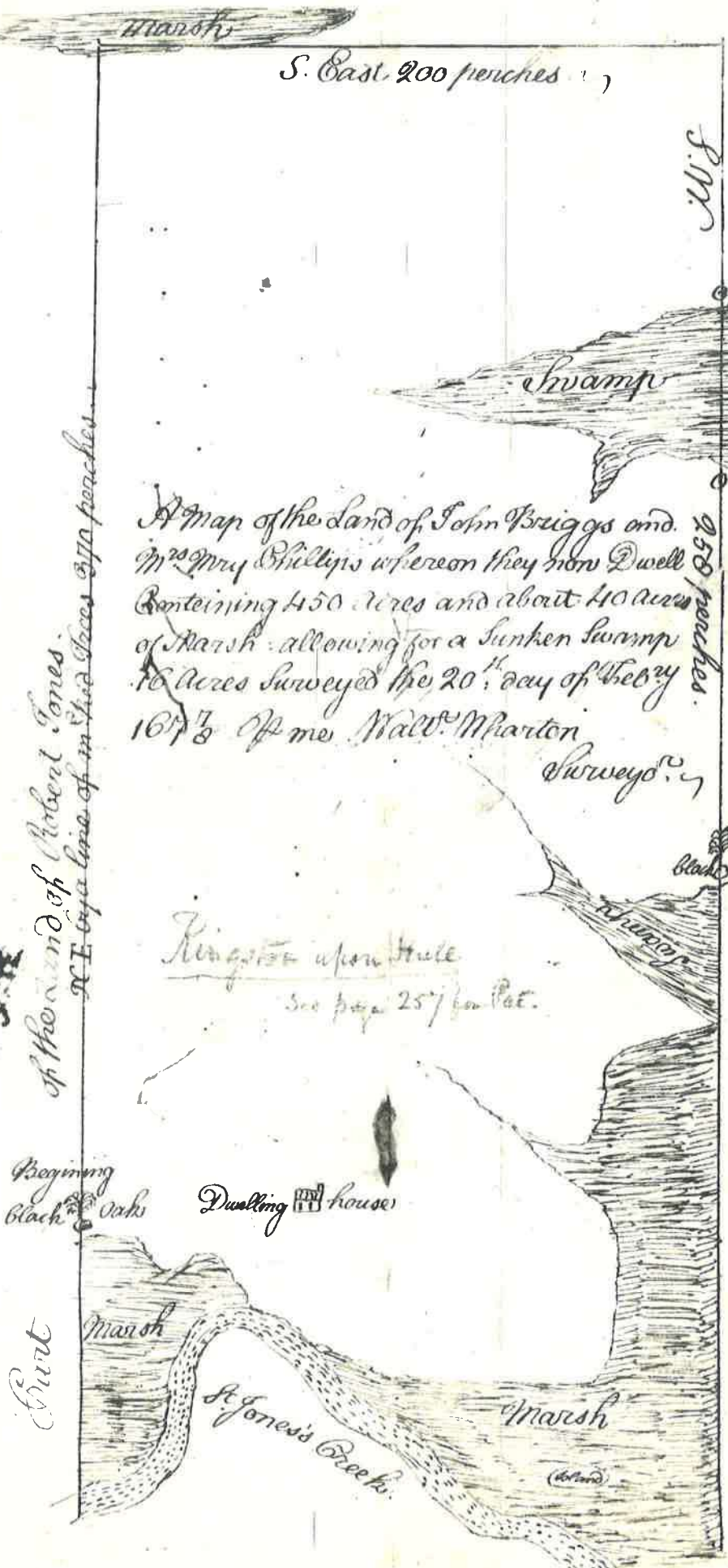
Kingston upon Hull
 See page 257 in the

Beginning
 Black Oaks Dwelling house



the Patent
page 257.

Scale of English Perches



A Map of the Land of John Briggs and Mrs Mary Phillips whereon they now Dwell Containing 450 Acres and about 40 Acres of Marsh: allowing for a Sunken Swamp 16 Acres Surveyed the 20th day of the 16th of mo. W^{ill}. Marton Surveyor.

of the Land of Robert Jones. N.E. by a line of 1300 Acres 370 perches.

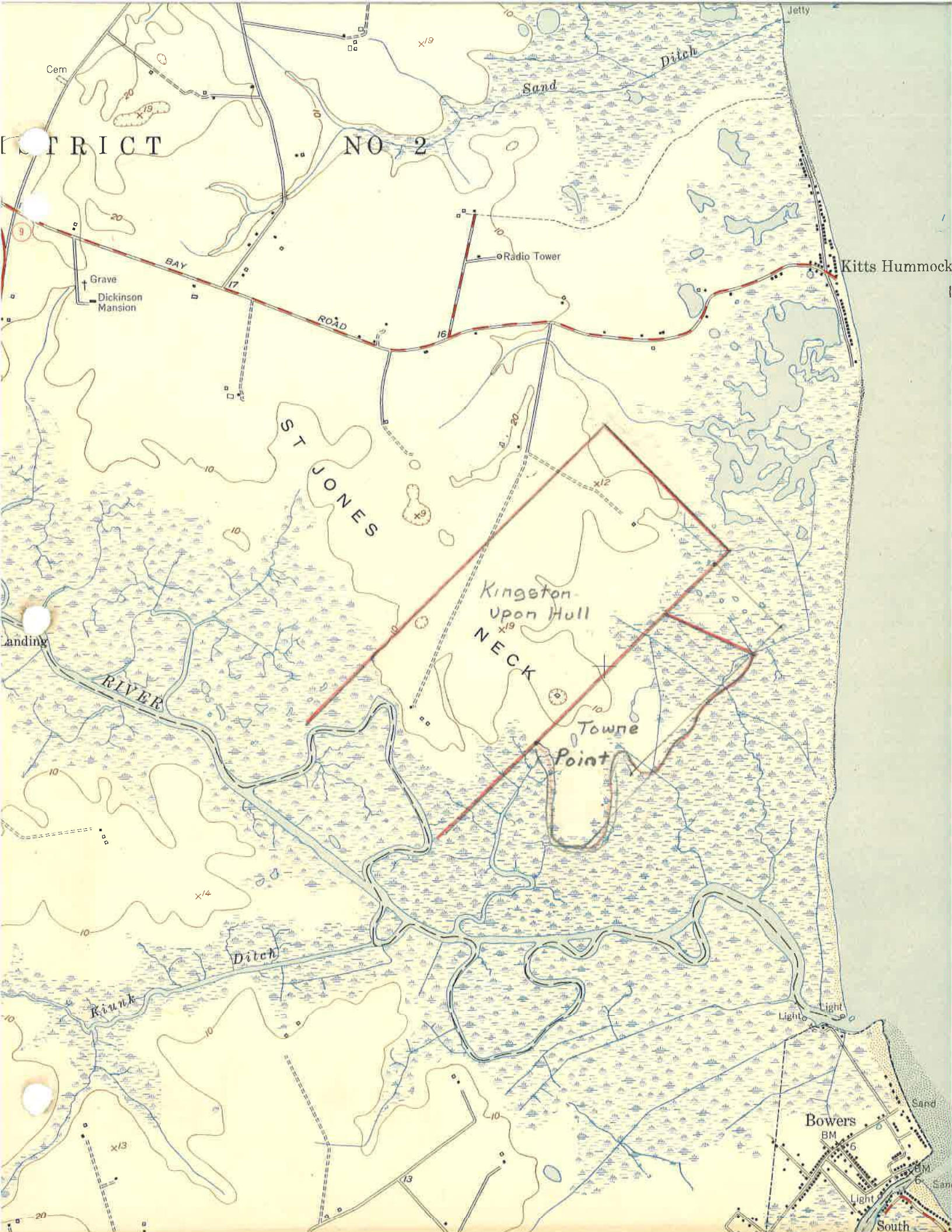
Kingston upon Hull See page 257 for Pat.

the Patent page 257.

DISTRICT

NO 2

Kitts Hummock



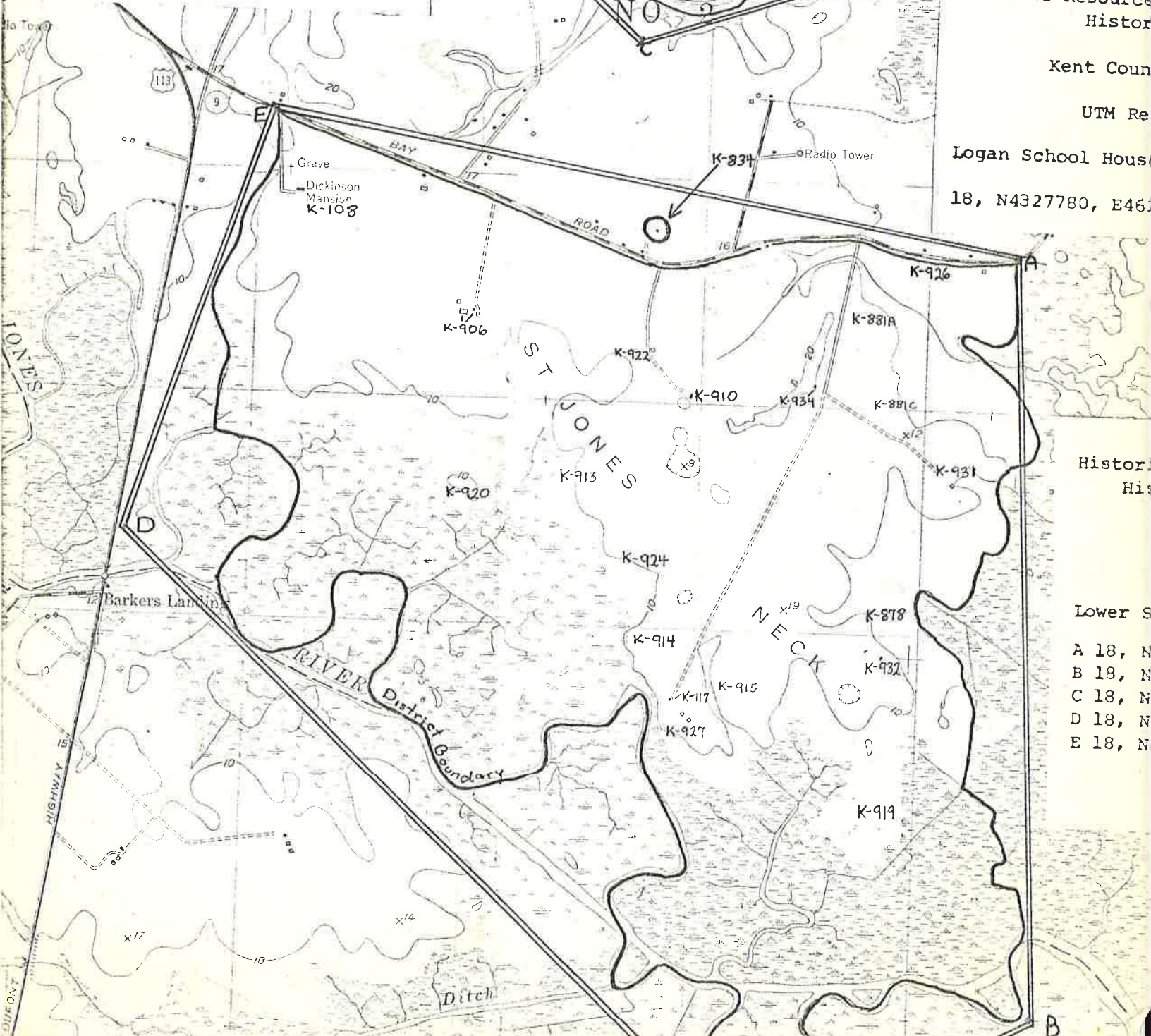
Historic Resources of St. Jones Neck:
Historic Sites and Districts

Kent County, Delaware

UTM References:

Byfield Historic District

- 18, N4330520, E463720
- 18, N4329115, E464230
- 18, N4328620, E462700
- 18, N4329410, E461860
- 18, N4330520, E462020



Historic Resource
Historic
Kent Coun
UTM Re
Logan School Hous
18, N4327780, E46

Historic
His
Lower S
A 18, N
B 18, N
C 18, N
D 18, N
E 18, N

Original Land Titles in Delaware

Commonly Known as

The Duke of York Record

Being An Authorized Transcript From the Official
Archives of the State of Delaware, and Comprising
the Letters Patent, Permits, Commissions,
Surveys, Plats and Confirmations by The Duke
of York and Other High Officials, From

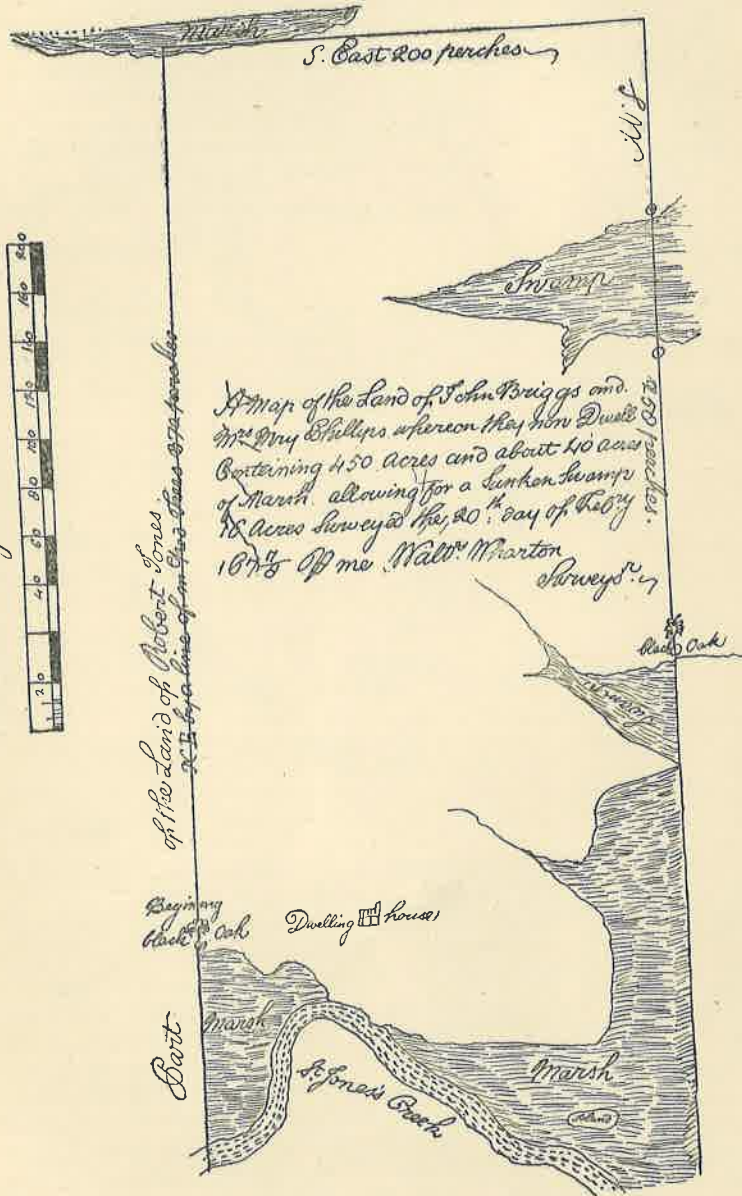
1646 to 1679.

Printed by Order of the General Assembly of the
State of Delaware.

Sunday Star Print,
Wilmington, Del.

[1903]

Scale of English Berches



A Map of the Land of John Briggs and Mrs. Mary Phillips whereon they now Dwell Containing 450 Acres and about 140 acres of Marsh, allowing for a sunken Swamp 18 Acres Surveyed the 20th day of May 1677 by me Walter Wharton Surveyor.

of the Land of Robert Jones
at the line of m. 1/2 S. East 200 perches

See Patent,
Page 257.

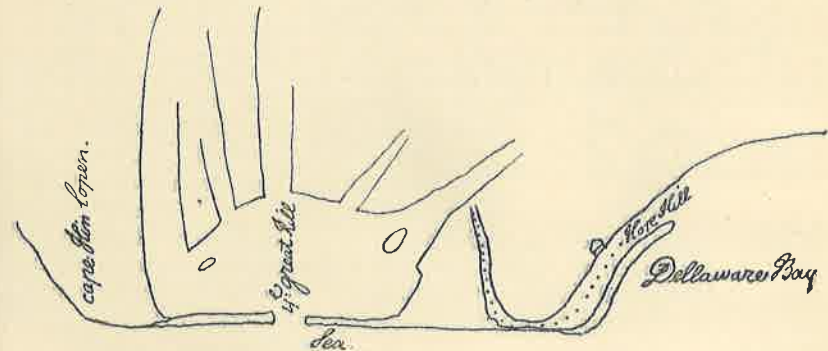
by Vertue of a Warrant from the Court at the Whore Kill dated the 12th day of March 1677-8.

Layd out for John Briggs and Mary Philips a Tract of Land called Kingston upon Hull situate and being on the West side of Delaware Bay, and on the North-East side of St. Jones's Creek being the Land and plantation whereon they now Dwell and is bounded as followeth (Vizt.) Begining at a Corner marked black Oake standing by the side of the (71) Marsh which Lyeth between the Land and the Creek nigh unto the upper side of the Cleered grownd And from the said Oak Runing North East by a Line of marked Trees, dividing this from the Land of Robert Jones three hundred and Seventy perches to the side of a Marsh which proceedeth from the maine Bay and from thence South East two hundred perches and then South West by a Line of marked Trees dividing this from the Land belonging to the Towne point, two hundred fifty and Eight perches to a Corner marked Black Oak standing at the Head of a Great Marsh branch, which divideth this from the Towne Point. And from thence following the severall Courses of the Marsh, and Creek to the first mentioned Corner black oak: Conteing four and fifty Acres of Land, and about forty a Marsh lying between this Land and the aforesaid Creek; as by a Map of the same hereto annexed may more plainly appeare four George Wale by Pattent bearing date in June 1671 and fifty Acres the Residue being new Land.

By me Walter Wharton Surveyor.

Helm. Wiltbanck.

The survey being made before the Warrant was granted, Returne was made to the Court the same Day. by W. W.



To the Right Honorable Francis Lovelace Esquire
Governor General of his Royall Highness Dominions in Armeryca.

The humble Petition of James Mills

presenteth

That the Comitioners at the Hore Kill, consented your Peti-

THE CHURCHES OF DELAWARE

by

FRANK R. ZEBLEY

Author of "Along the Brandywine"



*A history, in brief, of the nearly 900 churches
and former churches in Delaware as
located by the Author.*

1947

St. Jones' Methodist Church (M.E.) located two miles south of Little Creek was founded in 1802, when a frame church was built. A Sunday School was organized in 1845. A new building was erected and it was dedicated on Jan. 29, 1871.

The services were in charge of the Rev. E. Stubbs, assisted by the Rev. J. Owen Sypherd, the pastor. Because of inclement weather, only a small congregation was present, yet they cleared the church of debt and also raised money to insure the building. It was decided to plant a tree in front of the church to be known as the "Postles' Tree." This was in honor of Thomas Postles, chairman of the building committee.

The 100th Anniversary was celebrated on Oct. 12, 1902, with the Rev. L. W. Layfield in charge.

The church was closed in July, 1944, and by the end of 1945 only a shell remained. On two occasions during its last 20 years this church was ravished by thieves. The last time, after the 1944 closing, the thieves took everything that was not nailed down including the three pulpit chairs and the pulpit Bible. In the adjoining graveyard there are only a few inscribed tombstones. The oldest is that of Parigan Mansfield, who died on Dec. 18, 1814.

John Wesley Church, colored, is located two miles south of St. Jones' Church. There is a small graveyard.

Bethel Christian Church, at Kitt's Hummock, was organized by Dr. R. S. Stephens. The church site was donated, on July 23, 1915, by Timothy E. Townsend and a galvanized iron building was erected. A larger frame church was built sometime later. It became defunct in 1935. The building was sold, removed to the north shore and remodeled for a cottage.

Banning's M. E. Chapel was located four miles below Cooper's Corner where cement steps lead up to the old graveyard. This chapel was the result of preaching by Freeborn Garrettson at the home of Caleb Boyer's father in 1778. Francis Asbury preached at Boyer's on Nov. 24, 1780. On Sept. 20, 1842, Richard A. Cooper donated an additional acre of land upon which to build a new church. This building was erected, with the Rev. Wm. Connelly doing most of the work. In the 1850's, it was decided to build two churches closer to the homes of the congregation. One group built Beth Berei Church at Magnolia in 1856 and another group built Lebanon Church in 1858. Banning's Chapel was then abandoned. The large graveyard contains graves dating back to 1846. No burials have been made in recent times and the graveyard receives but little attention.

Motherkill Friend's Meeting-House and burying-ground were located on the northern edge of Magnolia beside Beaver Dam Branch. On May 12, 1760, Wm. Jackson donated one acre of land for the above purpose. The meeting-house was burned shortly after being built and a new building was erected. In 1790, Motherkill and Duck Creek were united with Eastern Shore Meetings to form the Southern Quarterly Meeting. In 1805, Motherkill Meeting fathered the Camden Meeting. In 1828, they united with Duck Creek as a Monthly Meeting. In 1830, Motherkill and Duck Creek united with Camden Preparative Meeting. The brick meeting-house was used for occasional meetings until 1844 when it was sold to Henry McIlvain.

The old burying-ground is still there and is known locally as the "Quaker graveyard." Small care is given to this plot in recent times and as a result trees and brush have taken almost complete possession of the site. There are