

THE MILFORD, DELAWARE AREA

BEFORE 1776

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Before 1776

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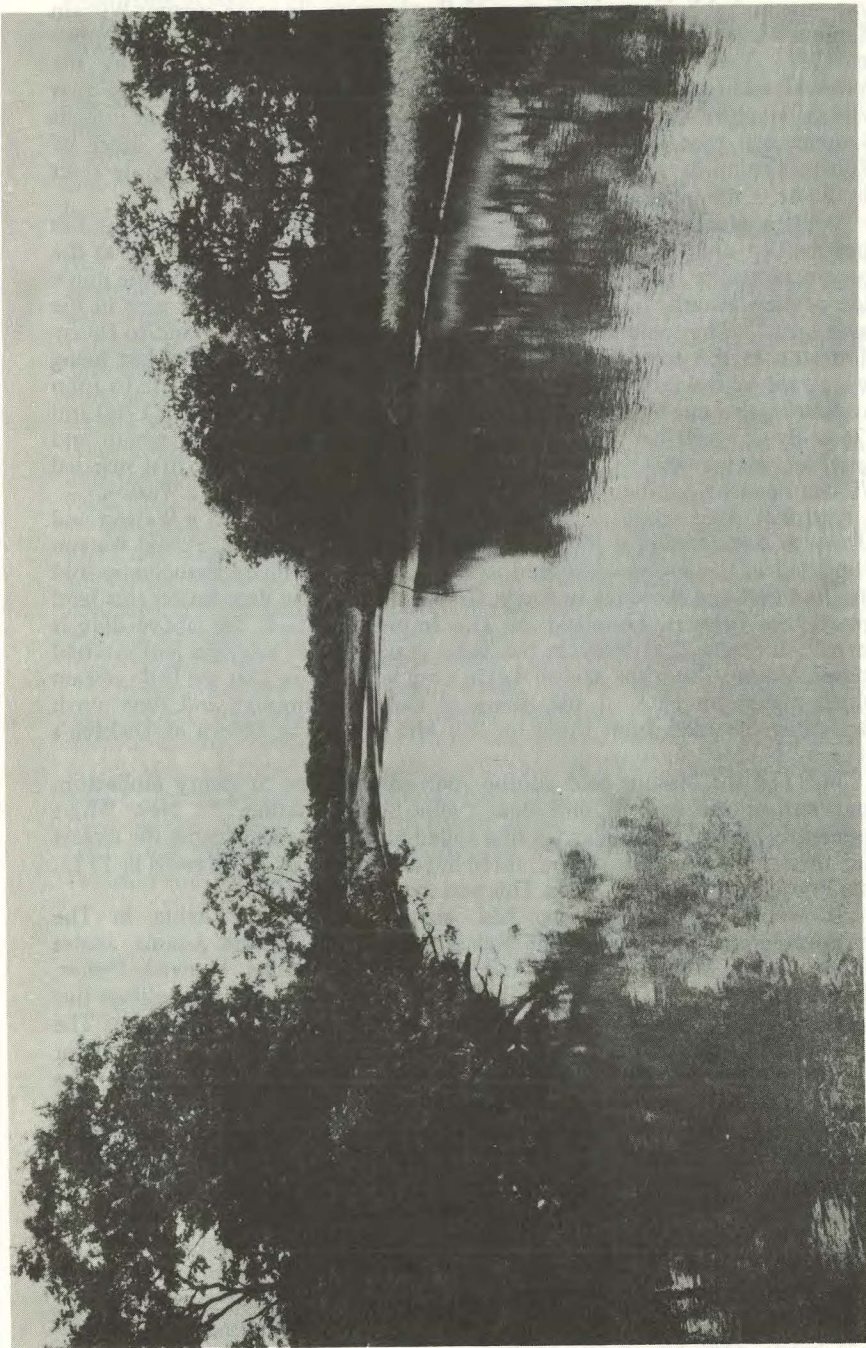
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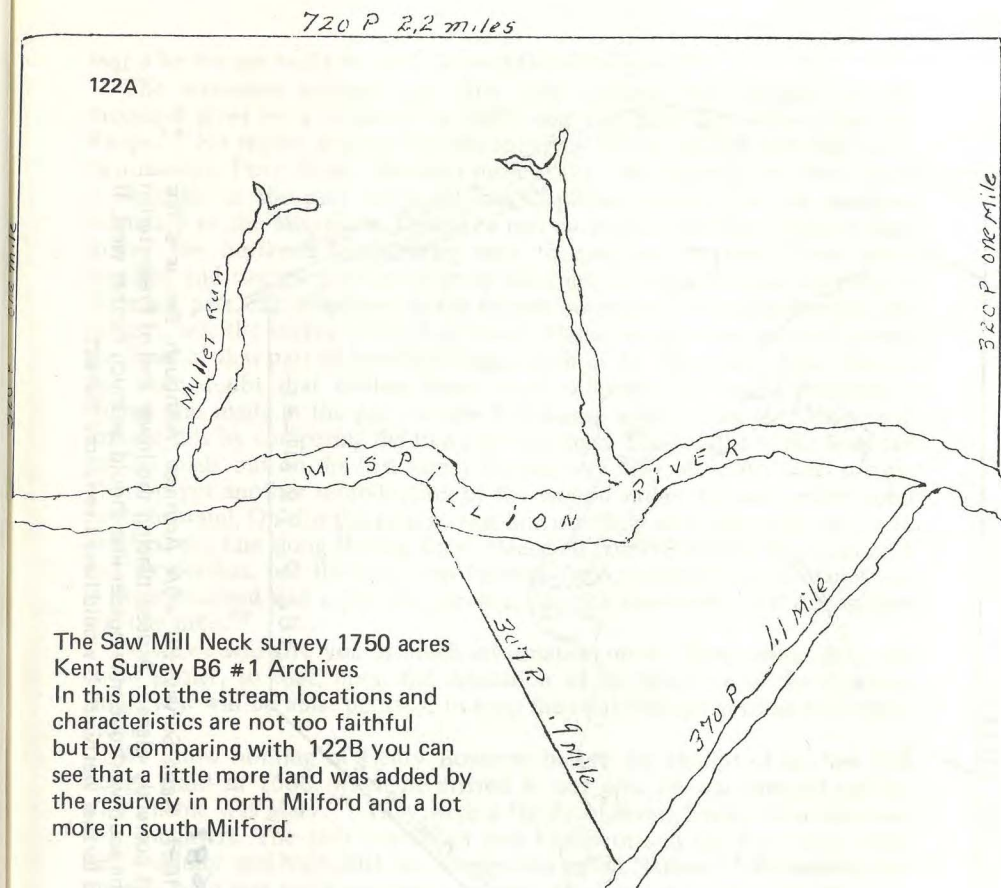
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By E. DALLAS HITCHENS



Swan Creek (Tub Mill Pond Branch) as it nears the Mispillion. Picture is taken from the bridge over Swan Creek near New Wharf. On the left was the eastern end of Bridgeton and in the distance on the left was Angleford. On the right was the eastern end of the Improvement which was just above New Wharf in Longfield.

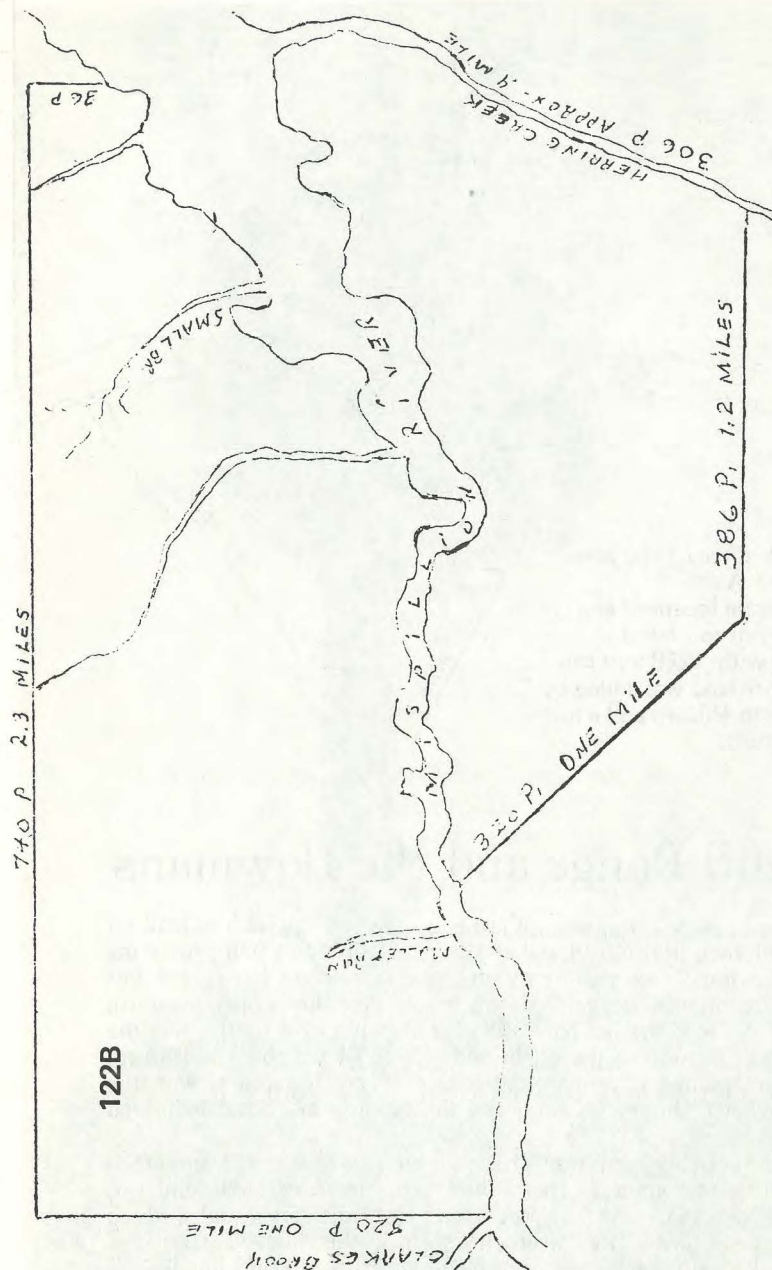


The Saw Mill Neck survey 1750 acres
Kent Survey B6 #1 Archives
In this plot the stream locations and
characteristics are not too faithful
but by comparing with 122B you can
see that a little more land was added by
the resurvey in north Milford and a lot
more in south Milford.

Saw Mill Range and the Bowmans

We have saved Saw Mill Range until last because this huge tract of land sat atop the Milford area, both north and south, like a brooding hen protecting her chicks. Even today, after three hundred years, Milford has spread but little beyond the original borders of this tract, in either north or south Milford. Of all the land grants, Saw Mill Range, without a doubt, was the most important in relation to the origin and growth of the town of Milford, with Wheatfield assuming a kindred relationship only very recently with the building of the Plaza Shopping Center and the promise of greater industrial growth.

As you have probably seen in print, this tract started out as a seventeen hundred and fifty acre grant to Henry Bowman, March 6, 1680, and was called Saw Mill Neck. The saw mill part comes from the terms under which the original grant was made. The Powers that were, at this time, wanted to see some of the vast standing timber turned into export profits and one line of the survey specified that the grant was made with the stipulation that Henry Bowman should build a saw mill and — “no other way”, — meaning of course



Saw Mill Range Resurvey, 2000 acres 1697, Kent Survey B6 #6A Archives. Although this is a fair reproduction of the plot, the lines are not correctly placed. A deed placing the lower end of Presbyterian Branch in Saw Mill Range indicates that the southwest one mile border line should be much further west. If the lower end of Herring Creek had turned further westward it would have been more correct.

that if he did not build the mill he would lose the grant.⁸⁸

The seventeen hundred and fifty acre content was changed to two thousand acres by a re-survey in 1687, and this time was named Saw Mill Range.⁸⁹ No reason is given for this re-survey but we believe that there were two reasons. First, Henry Bowman noticed that the original grant was almost a rectangle in the part north of the Mispillion, except for the southern boundary of the Mispillion. This left a narrow strip on the east. In the second survey the northern line running west to east was increased from seven hundred and twenty perches to seven hundred and forty perches, making for the most part, the Mispillion as the eastern boundary. The second reason, we suspect, was the survey of 1683 of Penn's Manor which came in conflict with the lines of that part of Saw Mill Range south of the Mispillion. Since there is but little doubt that William Penn would out-rank our Henry Bowman, a change was made in the part of Saw Mill Range south of the Mispillion. You can see this by comparing the two reproductions. The lengths of the lines can just be made out on the first survey but are very difficult in the 1687 survey. There is yet another reproduction of the second survey which is much easier to understand. On this the west to east line is plainly seven hundred and forty perches, the line along Herring Creek (Marshall Pond) is clearly three hundred and six perches, but the line from Herring Creek, intersecting the Manor line is three hundred and eighty six perches, and the line north to the Mispillion was one mile.⁹⁰

Now, we will give you as much information on the Bowman family as we could garner, so that, upon the discussion of the break up of the Bowman lands, you will be able, perhaps, to keep the relationships in some reasonable order.

We know nothing of Henry Bowman before the receipt of his Saw Mill Range grant in 1680. When he arrived in our area he was married and his wife's name was Mary.⁹¹ They were a family of seven, having three sons and two daughters. The girls were Mary and Elizabeth and the boys were John, Henry Junior and Nathaniel, sometimes also called Nathan.⁹² We believe that the son John was quite a young man when the Bowmans came into this area, by reason of the fact that Henry Senior and John petitioned for a grant of land in 1681 in both their names and received it. We do not believe John could have received title to the land if he had been less than twenty one.⁹³

As has already been established Henry Bowman Senior held vast amounts of land. Besides his two thousand acre Saw Mill Range, three thousand acre Bowman farms and his nine hundred and thirty three acre Little Graves End, previously mentioned, he received an additional eight hundred acres in Kent County, and along with his son John another four hundred acres.⁹⁴

Old Henry seems to have had the esteem of his fellowman. He was elected to public office, serving in William Penn's Assembly both in 1685 and 1686. In 1685 he served also as Ranger for Sussex County, an appointive office.⁹⁵

In spite of his great land holdings, we have mentioned previously that the first Henry Bowman died indebted, particularly to William Clark, and as Clark mentioned in court in 1694, in the amount of at least six to seven hundred pounds. Being in debt upon one's death was no stigma in these days as you have noticed as we progressed. It was the rule rather than the exception, and you have noticed that in practically all cases there was enough land to satisfy those debts with some to spare. However, in Henry's case we would not have expected this, knowing that he possessed land particularly rich in timber and that he had established saw mills to crop the timber, otherwise he would have

lost his grant. With timber being a good export product we would have expected him to end his days, with both lands and pounds. Hence, we have to believe that Henry was somewhat of a spendthrift, or managed poorly, or to be charitable, that his death was untimely and that he had not quite put his house in order.

Actually, he may have been more heavily in debt than the six or seven hundred pounds announced by William Clark, his administrator. In 1688 we find Henry Bowman going to the Rodneys as a source for cash, and for no mean amount. He mortgaged his tracts of land to William Rodney for two thousand pounds, to be paid upon demand. In this contract, he made William Rodney his — “true and lawful attorney, empowering him to bargain, sell or dispose of any tract or division of land, or part or parcel thereof of all such lands now held or being in possession” — of Bowman — “unto any manner of person or persons if need be, to satisfy debts.”⁹⁶ We were somewhat puzzled by the declaration that Rodney was his true and lawful attorney, knowing that William Clark was the administrator of his estate. Furthermore, in or very near to the year of his death, Bowman gave John Hill power of attorney.⁹⁷ This could indicate that Henry was ill and that he needed Hill to carry on his affairs.

There were two John Hills in this same time period, the one mentioned above, an attorney who seemed to deal in land mostly in the Broadkill to Rehoboth area.⁹⁸ The other Hill was a wheelwright and will be mentioned later.

Before leaving Henry and his two thousand pound debt to William Rodney, it could be that the reason we never heard of it again was due to the fact that Henry got it paid off before his death.

There may have been a couple of reasons for Henry's property problems. He may have had a passion for horses, for racing horses and particularly, for betting heavily on his horses. We can believe that he raised his own horses on Bowman Farms. Furthermore he seems to have appeared in court fairly frequently,⁹⁹ sometimes as plaintiff and sometimes as defendant. You already know of Parritt the Indian hauling Henry into court for insufficient payment for the Indian's land. There were other cases covered later in this discussion.

And now we must leave old Henry to whom we have become somewhat attached. He died in 1693 or 1694. It seems more likely to have been in 1694 because we find Henry making a sale of land in 1693¹⁰⁰ and making three sales through his attorney, John Hill, in the same year.¹⁰¹

Mary Bowman, Henry's widow, married again but we do not know in just what year. But in 1702 she was definitely the wife of Thomas Davis.¹⁰² Henry and Mary's daughter, Elizabeth, married a Marsh, and Mary married Thomas Mariner.¹⁰³

John Bowman would appear to have been the oldest son. We base this on the fact that he received the grant of land mentioned before. He married the daughter of Benoi Bishop, who possessed a fairly large amount of land in the western end of the Murderkill River area.¹⁰⁴ The marriage took place — “in a solemn manner after the form of the Church of England” on March 28, 1702. Those who witnessed the ceremony give us, probably, a good idea of the younger set in this area in 1702. Attending the ceremony were: George Robeson, John Walker, Thomas Bowman, Edmund Needham, Watimen M. Sipel, Garrett Sipel, Anna Robeson, Sarah Robeson, Daniel Needham, Olin Robinson, Elizabeth Cole and Mary Millis.¹⁰⁵

John Bowman and Margaret Bishop Bowman had four children, all boys: Henry, who would have been the III, John Junior, Thomas and William.¹⁰⁶ They lived in Kent County¹⁰⁷ and we believe in the Fishing Creek area. We are not certain that these children had the same mother. In his will John Bowman's wife was named Patience, indicating a second marriage.

Nathaniel Bowman and his wife, Sarah, had one son named Thomas. Nathaniel lived until 1740.¹⁰⁸

We know little of Henry Bowman Junior because he died early in life. It is very likely that he had not reached his teens when his family moved into this area. He married and his wife's name, like his father's wife, and his own mother's, was Mary. He made a will in 1700 indicating that he may have been in poor health, and he must have known that he was going to die, because in the will he gave to the child his wife was carrying, one half of his lands, but with the stipulation that if the child died, the land was to go to his widow to dispose of as she saw fit. He did not die without issue; the child was born but died in infancy. We believe that Henry Junior died between 1702 and 1703. In 1704 we know that his widow had become the wife of Mark Manlove.¹⁰⁹

Henry Bowman Senior died intestate, therefore Henry Junior, John and Nathaniel were each entitled to a share of Saw Mill Range and the other Bowman lands. John Bowman came into sole possession of Saw Mill Range by buying Henry Junior's and Nathaniel's shares.¹¹⁰ We believe John's death occurred in 1729 or 1730, because his son, John Junior, made his first sale of Saw Mill Range land in 1730.¹¹¹

Nathaniel Bowman kept a parcel of Saw Mill Range, and now in 1730, only Nathaniel remained of old Henry's three sons. As related above, we believe he lived until about 1740, and it is very probable that upon his death, Sarah married a Luff and had another son, Nathaniel.¹¹²

The third generation: John Bowman, Junior and wife, Mary, into whose hands came Saw Mill Range in 1730, had a daughter Mary and a son John. This would be John III.

Thomas Bowman and wife, Mary, had two sons and five daughters. The sons were named Nathaniel and Thomas. The daughters were Jamima and Elizabeth, unmarried in 1771; and three married, Miriam McSparren, Susannah Fisher and Lucy Panter.¹¹³ As to the daughters, there is a discrepancy in the records, the will, note 113, has it as indicated above, but in a court record of 1766, the two unmarried daughters are listed; no Miriam McSparren is listed; Susannah Fisher is listed; a Sarah is listed as unmarried; no Lucy Panter is listed but a Ruth Gordon is listed.¹¹⁴

Henry Bowman III and wife, Mary, had one son, Nathaniel, named for his uncle. After Henry's death Mary married Robert Minor.¹¹⁵

William Bowman, we could not surely trace as to marriage and family, but we believe that he married Ruth Clark, the daughter of John Clark, whose father was old William the land dealer. They had a least one child, a son named William.¹¹⁶

The above accounts for the four sons of the second generation John Bowman, and the grandsons of old Henry.

The fourth generation: this period, of course, goes somewhat beyond our time frame but we will offer the little and scattered information that we have. Thomas Bowman, this would be the II, son of Nathaniel II, married another daughter of John Clark, Ruth, and like his father before him, named his children Mary and John, which would be the II.¹¹⁷ Also living in this area in the late 1700s, dying in 1809, was a Nathaniel Bowman and his wife, Clare.

This Nathaniel could have been the grandson of either Thomas or Henry III, both of whom had sons named Nathaniel. Nathaniel's wife, Clare, died in 1810. They had one daughter, Sara, a married daughter, Elizabeth Templeman, and a son, William Young, who was administrator of the estate. This means that Clare had married a Young previous to her marriage to Bowman.¹¹⁸ Hence, at least one male descendant of old Henry the first, lived to see the town of Milford incorporated on the site of Saw Mill Range.

We seem to recall that Scharf relates the break up of Saw Mill Range as going from Henry Bowman to John Bowman by inheritance, who sold it to Jacob Warrington. This is of course much over simplified, covering a period from 1693 to about 1771. Neither John, nor any other Bowman, sold a part of the Range to Warrington. He came into possession of about sixty-eight acres by marrying one of the daughters of William Manlove, who inherited the land when Manlove died. Warrington sold out in 1771 some forty one years after John Bowman's death.

The break up of Saw Mill Range involved many people in the sale and resale of land and we will continue to bring in the Bowmans as well as the people who resold, regardless of the location of the land. As to that part of Saw Mill Range north of the Mispillion, we cannot recall the sale of any part of it by Henry Bowman Senior in his lifetime, but there may have been a sale of a small parcel.

1696-1705

In 1693, Elizabeth Bishop, daughter of Benoi, and sister to Margaret Bowman, sold to John Townsend two hundred acres of land next to where John Townsend lived on the south side of the northwest branch of the Murderkill. Now in 1702 Benoi had died and John Bowman and his wife sold their share in the land, as heirs of Benoi, for — "a competent sum of silver."¹¹⁹ In the same year the John Bowmans sold six hundred acres of the same tract, part of an original grant of one thousand and fifty acres.¹²⁰

George Cullen, in his lifetime, acquired three and one-half acres of Saw Mill Range. In 1700 John Cullen the "surviving" executor of the Cullen Estate deeded the land to William Burroughs, to whom George Cullen was indebted.¹²¹ You may recall that earlier we mentioned the birth of George Cullen Junior in 1687. The above John must have been an older brother, and we suspect that George Junior died in his infancy or youth, because we never hear of him again.

In 1702 Henry Bowman's widow, with her new husband Thomas Davis, sold one hundred and twenty seven acres of land at Cedar Creek to Thomas Tilton.¹²²

1706-1715

John Bowman sold to James Seytours three hundred and fifteen acres of that part of Saw Mill Range south of the Mispillion. The line ran up the Mispillion to a point appearing to be near to a point east of Goat Island and then ran southerly to Herring Branch (Marshall Pond Branch). This was the extreme eastern end of Saw Mill Range south of the Mispillion River.¹²³

John Bowman gave to his sisters a six hundred and fifty acre tract on the Broadkill, these were Mary and Elizabeth, now Mrs. Elizabeth Marsh and Mrs. Thomas Mariner.¹²⁴

1716-1725

Sometime prior to 1723, Joseph Booth came into possession of some one hundred and forty nine acres of the north Milford part of Saw Mill Range. It was north of the river, a long narrow parcel running south to north along the western side of Saw Mill Range, but not the full one mile long western border.¹²⁵ Because we found no earlier transfer of this land from John Bowman to Joseph Booth, this might have been Joseph Booth Junior. However, only one reference was found indicating there was a Junior (Deed Bk. K Vol. 1 P. 36 — C.H.)

1726-1735

While in the hands of John Bowman, very little of Saw Mill Range was sold, but it was a different story when John Junior took over the reign of the Range. In 1730 he sold five hundred and ten acres to Joseph Booth Senior. It ran along practically the whole western boundary of Saw Mill Range, the complete mile and then one half mile eastward along the northern boundary, and then southeastward about seven tenths of a mile to the Mispillion. This was a goodly portion of the whole west end.¹²⁶

In 1733 John Junior sold another large area of the Range north of the river. This was two hundred acres to Isaac Mason where Isaac lived, which means that Mason must have been renting from the Bowmans.¹²⁷

The two hundred acres that his uncle Nathaniel had retained was purchased by John Junior in 1734. This was south of the Mispillion. John Junior sold it almost immediately to Daniel Welsh. The parcel began about opposite the fertilizer plant on the island and then went southwest almost a mile, then west by north by a line of marked trees over three tenths of a mile, then northeast almost eight tenths of a mile to a corner tree on the Mispillion, then down the Mispillion to the starting place. This was the north central section. James Miers was living to the southeast.¹²⁸

During this time period John Junior sold two hundred acres of the old Henry Bowman's lands in the Slaughter Neck area.¹²⁹

1736-1745

One hundred acres of the north Milford section of Saw Mill Range was sold by John Junior in 1736 to Joseph Bradley. The line began at the same red oak marker mentioned in the Joseph Booth Senior deed, but ran down the Mispillion almost four tenths of a mile to the corner marker of the Isaac Mason land, then northerly along Mason's line approximately seven-tenths of a mile, then northwesterly until it intersected Booth's land, then southwesterly along Booth's line to the starting point.¹³⁰ With this sale eight hundred acres of Saw Mill Range north of the Mispillion disappeared from the control of the Bowmans, so that in 1736, practically all of it was in the hands of Joseph Booth Senior on the west, Isaac Mason on the east and Joseph Bradley in the middle and perhaps a south and southwestern part in the hands of Joseph Booth Junior.

Another big parcel, south of the Saw Mill Range, part of south Milford was sold by John Junior in 1736 to Henry Williams Senior or Junior.¹³¹ The parcel contained three hundred and ten acres. It was southwest of the Manor

line with Herring Creek as the southern border, very likely the extreme northern parts of Pathalia and the Bostok grants that extended north of Herring Creek. Then John Brown, in the same year, bought from John Bowman Junior one hundred acres, which seemed to be the remainder of the area south of the Mispillion to the Manor line and bordered on the east by the Spenser's land.¹³²

The following year, 1737, John Junior sold two hundred acres of old Henry's spread in the Slaughter Neck area to James Carpenter,¹³³ and in 1738 sixty more acres of the same to James White.¹³⁴

In 1739 John Junior got back to the south Milford portion of Saw Mill Range selling a small portion to William Selbridge¹³⁵ and in 1740 one hundred acres to William Spenser. A Mallon was also living in the northeastern area at this time.¹³⁶

The last sale in 1740 was of one hundred acres on the north side of the Murderkill River to Edmund McKenney.¹³⁷ This was our first indication of Bowman lands this far north, but there were grants heretofore mentioned that we could not trace.

We pointed out that in 1736 there were four owners of large sections of Saw Mill Range north of the Mispillion. One of these was Joseph Booth Junior with one hundred and forty nine acres acquired before 1723. Sometime in the intervening period up to 1742, Booth sold this land to William Manlove and in 1742, Manlove sold it to Alexander Byers.¹³⁸

John Brown had already acquired a portion of the South Milford Range. In 1741 he bought another fifty acres adjoining his other land. This must have been the residue of the south Milford part.¹³⁹

1746-1755

At the beginning of this period we have accounted for a total of one thousand, one hundred and eighteen acres of the north Milford part and seven hundred and fifty acres of the south Milford part of Saw Mill Range for a total of one thousand, eight hundred and sixty eight acres. And so, at the end of 1745, what must have been the pride and joy of old Henry Senior in 1680 had been broken up completely in a period of about sixty years and was entirely out of the hands of the Bowmans.

We lost another of our old timers about 1745 or 1746, by the death of Joseph Booth, who first came into the story in 1693. His property in the north Milford part of Saw Mill Range, upon which he was living when he died, was now, in 1746, in the hands of his widow, Frances, his son, John, his daughter, Anna, who was Mrs. George Morgan Junior and a spinster daughter also named Frances. Booth had mortgaged this land for one hundred and twenty pounds and the mortgage was held by the General Loan Office, trustees of which were Mark Manlove and John Tilton. To satisfy the debt, Joseph Green, sheriff, was directed to sell two hundred and sixty three acres, — "one plantation and the land thereunto belonging on the north side of the Three Runs". At the public auction it was purchased by John Cullen for seventy two pounds.¹⁴⁰ We had expected this to cover the Silver Hill and dwelling place of Joseph Booth, later developed into the Parson Thorne Mansion, and it did, but seemed not to extend quite to the western boundary of Saw Mill Range. The description of these two hundred and sixty three acres show that the parcel was almost a rectangle but tent shaped at top with

Cullen's Branch (Mullet Run, Tanner's Branch) forming the eastern boundary and the Mispillion, the southern boundary, it did not quite go to the two-mile east to west line, northern boundary of Saw Mill Range. Here is the description: begin at a spanish oak on the north side of the Three Runs, then north by east forty perches, little over one tenth of a mile, to an oak standing by the Kings Road, then northwest two hundred and twenty five perches, little over seven tenths of a mile to a black oak, then north by east eighty perches, then east by south to an oak standing on the southeast side of Cullen's Branch, then down Cullen's Branch three hundred and six perches, almost a mile to the mouth of the Branch, then up the Mispillion Creek binding therewith and likewise the Three Runs Branch two hundred and twenty eight perches, little over seven tenths of a mile, to the beginning.

In 1752 Thomas Bowman bought one hundred acres from Henry Hall in Kent County¹⁴¹ and we believe in Milford Neck. In 1747 Thomas, through his marriage to John Clark's daughter, had already come into possession of some Milford Neck land in the Fishing Creek, Lovelong Branch area. Clark, by will, left four hundred acres to his son, John, and one hundred acres to a son, William. William died before coming into his inheritance, and John Clark's daughters, Sara Clark Bowman and Elizabeth Clark Caton, came into possession of the one hundred acres. Later, the two couples sold out to Nathaniel Luff.¹⁴²

Apparently just before his death, Joseph Booth had borrowed fifty pounds to buy a one and one half acre lot in Dover. The loan was made by Thomas Stratton and in 1754 the lot was sold to satisfy the debt.¹⁴³

In 1752 John Crapper bought from Henry Skidmore two hundred acres just below the east-west line of that part of Saw Mill Range below the Mispillion. The starting point was very close to the bridge over Herring Branch.¹⁴⁴

1756-1765

In 1757 Levin Crapper added to the several pieces of land he had, out by Blair's Pond and the Bowman Branch area. He bought one hundred acres of the original Daniel Welsh land.¹⁴⁵

One of the third generation Bowmans, John Junior, died in 1760. He had liquidated Saw Mill Range. His death brought forth heirs who petitioned for a re-survey of some of Henry's old Bowman Farms to see if any land remained. The heirs of John Junior were entitled to two-thirds of any such land. Perhaps you remember John Junior's father, John, giving six hundred acres to his sisters Mary Bowman Mariner and Elizabeth Bowman Marsh. Well now, both the sisters and their husbands were deceased, and it was their children who wanted the survey. The Marshs' only living child was Comfort, now married to Daniel Brinkloe. The living children of the Mariners were John Mariner and Bowman Mariner. The petition was granted with any over plus to be divided.¹⁴⁶

In 1762 Levin Crapper bought five hundred acres of the Old Harts Choice in Cedar Neck from Benjamin Wynkoop.¹⁴⁷ For this date, this was a sizable purchase.

John Bowman Junior's widow, Mary, sold fifty acres of a three hundred and fifty seven acre tract in Sussex County.¹⁴⁸ Just where this was we do not know, but suspect that it was on the road from Milford to Brick Granery.

Mary Bowman must have been a woman of some spunk. In 1764 she apparently decided that there was some land in the north Milford Saw Mill Range area that had not been sold. She petitioned for a survey of the whole area and the result was the finding of ninety eight acres between the Elias Mason and Josias Bradley lands. Mary sold it to Josias Bradley for ninety pounds.¹⁴⁹ Mary sold another one hundred and ninety six acres out in the Williamsville area, a grant that had been made to John Junior in 1744.¹⁵⁰

Counting the above mentioned sale of ninety eight acres, we have seen the sale of two thousand and fourteen acres of Saw Mill Range which means that it was close to a two thousand acre grant as the 1687 surveyor indicated.

The above mentioned Elias Mason and Josias Bradley are new names. Elias Mason's father was Isaac who left his land to his two sons, Jacob and Elias, but Jacob died prior to his father and all was inherited by Elias. The original Joseph Bradley died in 1736 and his son William came into possession of his Saw Mill Range one hundred acres. Then upon his death it was inherited by Josias Bradley.¹⁵¹

In 1765, William Bowman sold Thomas Bowman one hundred and twenty five acres out by Baucombrig Creek. William was the son of Sarah Clark Bowman¹⁵² and the Thomas could have been his brother or his nephew. We feel rather certain that it was his nephew, Thomas Junior of the fourth generation.

A deed dated 1756 speaks of Gabriel West of Sussex County and Levin Crapper late of the same county. We wonder if Levin may have moved over into Kent County for awhile.¹⁵³

1766-1775

The death of John Junior about 1760, probably gave his brother Thomas some cause to think and in 1766 he made his will. He gave to his son Thomas the plantation called Cooper's Glade; a one hundred acre tract, part of the old Dark and Dismal Grant deep into Milford neck; the lands cited in two warrants and returns from these lands and one hundred and fifty acres that had been purchased from Mark Manlove. The Dark and Dismal land had been purchased from John Jester. Also, to Thomas Junior he gave three slaves. To his daughters he gave girl slaves, two each to Elizabeth and Jamima, and one each to Sarah, Susannah Fisher and Ruth Gordon.¹⁵⁴

While John Junior was selling it looks like his brother Thomas was buying, and Thomas Junior as we can see from the above will was not going to be impoverished by any means. His father had done very well. In covering the break up of the large grants, we found a Thomas Bowman, we believe Junior, living in Longfield along with Cornelius Dewesse, in another sale by the Land Co. in 1764, we find Bowman here also. The reference to Bowman in the deed makes one curious — "begin at a post the corner of Thomas Bowman's settlement."¹⁵⁵ This was about two to two and a half miles east of Lynch Heights, perhaps the site of Thompsonville.

We are still with Thomas Bowman Junior and his wife Sarah; they sold to Jesse Dickinson two hundred and five acres on the north side of Baucombrig Creek in 1768.¹⁵⁶

Since about 1742 there has been little additional break up of Saw Mill Range north of the Mispillion, it being held by Alexander Byers, the Masons, the Bradleys, the Cullens and some two hundred and forty seven acres by the Booth heirs. We have a much greater change in these last few years beginning

modestly in 1769 with the sale of four and three quarter acres of the extreme eastern end by Elias Mason to Zadock Crapper in the vicinity of Crappers Wharf.¹⁵⁷ In the same year Mason sold Levin Crapper the other one hundred, ninety five and one quarter acres.¹⁵⁸

Perhaps this would be a good time to sort out the Crappers before continuing to the conclusion of Part Three. John Crapper seems to have been the first to enter our story. His wife's name was Elizabeth and they had three sons, Zadock, Levin and John Chambers Crapper. There were three daughters, Mary, Rachael and Betty.¹⁵⁹ We do not know if Levin had more than two wives, but we know that he was married to Ann Moulton at one time. His last wife was named Betty. Levin had two sons, Moulton and Levin Junior, and three daughters named Amelia, Leah and Sarah. Leah married John Parker and Sarah married James Rench.¹⁶⁰

Getting back to the final break up, the Alexander Brier (earlier deed showed Byers) land passed by will to his two daughters, Ann who had married William Dill and Elizabeth who had married Robert Catlin. In 1771 the Dills and the Catlins sold thirty five and three eights acres to William Cullen. The land began at a white oak on the south side of the Landing Road, near the fence of Levin Crapper's plantation — "and supposed to be the first line of Saw Mill Range called the mile line." (It was one mile long), then northeast down the Landing road about two hundred and twenty three yards to an oak by the south edge of the Landing Road and on the northeast side of a small branch, (this would probably be a little stream running into Mullet Run) thirty three feet from the middle of the run thereof, where this line and road crosses the run, then northeast about two tenths of a mile to the line of William Cullen's land, then with the line northwest three tenths of a mile to Mile Line, then with Mile Line to the beginning.¹⁶¹ This land would appear to be just to the north side of Silver Hill. The extreme northwest corner of Saw Mill Range.

In the above deed description, the reference to Levin Crapper's plantation and fence must have been a fence that Mr. Crapper had built just west of the Silver Hill location of the Parson Thorne Mansion, along the eastern border of Wheatfield or some part of the one hundred forty one acres which Crapper bought from the Pennsylvania Land Company in 1768.¹⁶² The western boundary of Saw Mill Range and the eastern boundary of Wheatfield were the same for one mile. The wording, "Crapper's Plantation" and the fence makes one wonder if he had built a home on the land.

We have the introduction of Joseph Oliver for the first time in 1771, buying one hundred and fifteen acres of Saw Mill Range on the north side from Purnal Watson and Jacob Warrington.¹⁶³ Since Watson and Warrington are new people, also, it must be explained how they acquired land in Saw Mill Range. Originally Joseph Booth had acquired five hundred and ten acres, about the whole western third, but only two hundred and sixty three acres were sold to John Cullen to satisfy Booth's debts. Joseph Booth's son, John, willed this land to a son who died before his father, and John sold it to William Manlove in 1742.¹⁶⁴ William's daughters, Mary and Elizabeth, inherited the land. Mary married Purnal Watson and Elizabeth married, first a William Beauchamp and then Jacob Warrington. Thus, now in 1771 they sold the land to Joseph Olliver. This land was "eastward of where Joseph Booth did dwell."¹⁶⁵

And now for a very peculiar twist; on the same day that he bought this

land, Joseph Oliver sold it to Levin Crapper.¹⁶⁶ Two years later in 1773, Levin Crapper sold it to Joseph Oliver.¹⁶⁷

In 1772 William Dill sold one hundred and three quarter acres of Saw Mill Range land to Matthias Davis.¹⁶⁸ This land was, we believe, the remainder of the one hundred and forty nine acres acquired by Joseph Booth Junior before 1723; was sold to William Manlove in 1723; was sold to Alexander Brier about 1742; was inherited by Brier's daughters, Ann Brier Dill and Elizabeth Brier Catlin; thirty five acres was sold by these heirs to William Cullen in 1771 and now the balance to Matthias Davis.

In 1773 John Cullen sold to his son, William, twenty six and seven eighth acres. The land was in the line of the Matthias Davis, Jonathan Cullen and William Cullen lands and ran close to William Cullen's store house. This had to be the first store in the Milford area. In the same year John Cullen sold to his son, George, twenty two and five eights acres on the southwest side of Mullet Run, including the present dwelling plantation of George Cullen. This deed and the one above, both had the following clause which was unusual. Trees could be used for timber and rails, but no green or growing timber could be used for fuel or firewood.¹⁶⁹

The last action in our time period was the division of his Saw Mill Range land by John Cullen, to his three sons in 1773.

Above we found that George Cullen bought the land on which was located his dwelling. The land that John gave to his son, William, also had a dwelling on it and the amount of land was seventy six and seven eights acres. Again William Cullen's store house was mentioned, as well as a new road.

To George Cullen, John gave seventy two and five eights acres, and the deed mentioned a Landing Road running by George Cullen's house.

To Jonathan Cullen, John gave his own plantation house and one hundred and ten acres of land.

Each of the boys paid five pounds for his part of the division;¹⁷⁰ old John Cullen was a very generous father.

By going just a little beyond 1775, we found some pertinent information, disclosing the acquisition of a part of Saw Mill Range by Sydenham Thorne. In 1785 George Cullen and his wife, Sarah, became indebted to Thorne, who at this time was also Clerk of Sussex County. The amount of the debt was one thousand six hundred and fifty pounds. By the bond, if the debt was not paid in George's lifetime, two hundred acres of his holdings were to be deeded to Sydenham Thorne. In 1787 George Cullen died and John (Jonathan) acting as executor of the estate, gave up the two hundred acres.¹⁷¹

Also, a deed of 1787 showed that Matthias Davis died owing David Beauchamp one hundred and fifty pounds and a parcel of land in Saw Mill Range was conveyed to Beauchamp. But the reason for our interest in this deed was the description of the land and the fact that Cullen Town was located in Saw Mill Range. The description: Begin where the Forest Road leading to the New Wharf on the Mispillion crosses the state road leading from Dover to Lewes — "at a place generally called Cullen Town bounded to the north by said Forest Road to the east by the land of William Cullen and to the southward by lands of Matthias Davis, with the houses, buildings and improvements, thereon." The amount of land was one quarter acre and thirty two perches. Part of this was described — "then running with the turn of the road and binding on a lot of William Cullen whereon his old store and other buildings stand, then to a stone boulder fixed in the turn of the road, thence

southwest binding on lands of the late Matthias Davis but now Sydenham Thorne's."¹⁷²

For Levin Crapper's Estate, his wife, Betty, and son, Moulton, were named as administrators, but Moulton died, and the task fell to Sydenham Thorne and Betty, after their marriage. Even Levin, with his reputed great wealth, like many others we have met in this discussion, had to give up lands for settlement of his debts. When we were on the break up of Wheatfield, we found that the one hundred and forty one acres of this tract was surrendered to Thomas Leadenham for a debt of two hundred and twenty six pounds. As late as 1788 the estate had not been settled, entirely. Levin had acquired a lot of land south of the Mispillion and especially out in the Bowman Branch area. In 1768, Levin signed a bond of indebtedness to a Richard Williams of Worcester County, Maryland. In this contract Levin mortgaged three parcels of land: a tract on the east side of Bowman's Branch; the old Gabriel West warrant of one hundred and sixty acres; a plot of one hundred acres on the west side of Bowman's Branch, which Richard Hays sold to John Truitt and from whom Levin Crapper made the purchase and a third tract in the same area which Levin had bought from Nicholas Veight. Now comes the strange circumstances surrounding the settlement. Moulton Crapper died before deeding the land to Richard Williams. Williams, by will, had already left the land to his son, John, but Richard Williams died before receiving the deed. Then John Williams died before receiving the deed. Finally in 1788, the land was divided and deeded to six or seven brothers and sisters of John Williams.¹⁷³

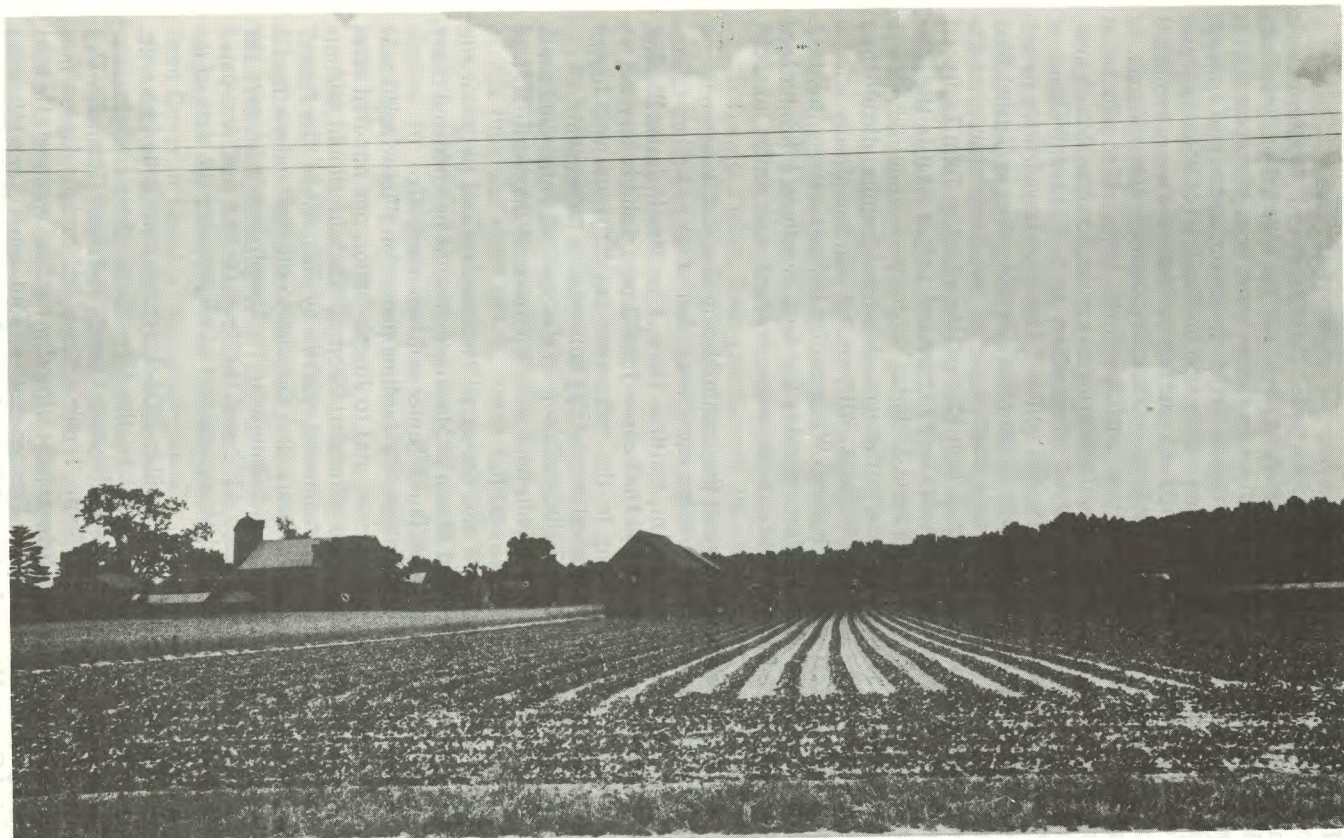
On the eve of the Revolution the land holders in Saw Mill Range, north of the Mispillion and probably living there were: John Cullen, William Cullen, George Cullen, Jonathan Cullen, Matthias Davis, Elias Mason, Josias Bradley, David Beauchamp and perhaps the heirs of John Brown. Landowners, but we doubt that they were living in the area, were Levin Crapper and Joseph Olliver. There may have been others, renting as farmers or tradesmen.

We note at this point that the break up of the Saw Mill Range land south of the Mispillion is not complete and that a portion of the North Milford Booth lands remains unaccounted for.

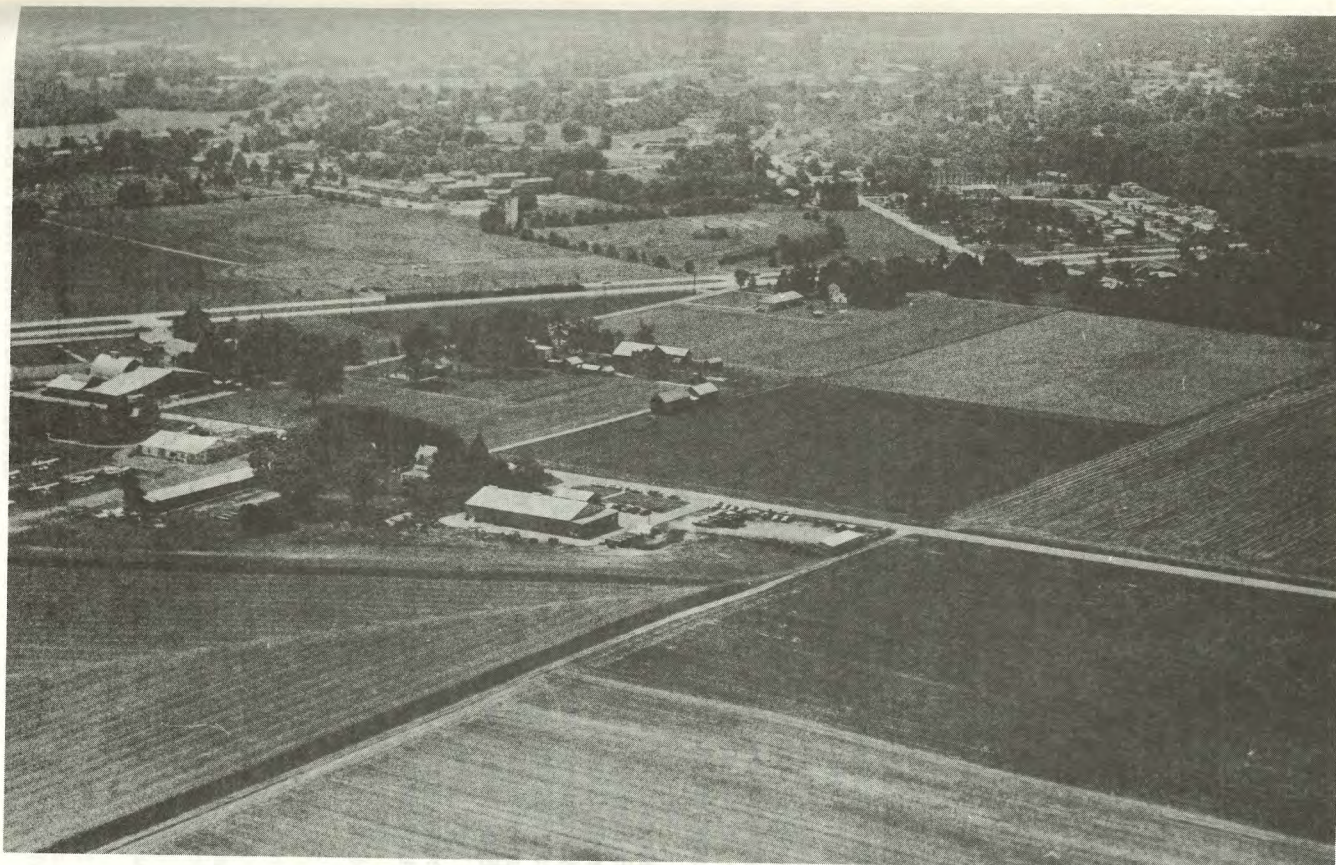
Of Booth's five hundred and ten acres, two hundred and sixty three to Cullen and one hundred and fifteen to Manlove leaves one hundred and thirty two acres. There was a Joseph Booth Senior and Junior and III.

In Joseph Senior's will he gave his dwelling plantation, "on which I now live" (the Parson Thorne Mansion site) to Joseph Junior; one hundred acres of the same plantation to his grandson, Thomas, when he should become twenty one and eighty acres "commonly known by the name of The Point." This undoubtedly was the Peninsula and the land to the east and north of it between Cullen Branch and the Peninsula. To Joseph Junior he gave the remainder. This will was dated 1732 and the deed for this land was dated 1730, but it should be noted that possession often preceded the date of the deed.

Joseph Booth Junior made a will in 1736; his family consisted of his wife, Mary, a son, Joseph, (this would be the III with all three living) a son Thomas, a son John and daughters Eleanor, Francis, and Anna (Hannah). This will was made on Joseph Booth Junior's death bed and he lapsed into unconsciousness as it was being read to him for his final approval. He died two days later of small pox. Frances died without issue. Anna (Hannah) married George Morgan Junior and "moved out of this government."



Probable northwest corner of Saw Mill Range. Just north and slightly west of Jake Roosa's house and barns is the likely site. Cameraman was standing in the southwestern end of Longfield. The right hand portion of picture was in Wheatfield.



Aerial view of the above.

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Now we know that the Thomas Booth, herein twice mentioned, died before reaching maturity and it may have been about this time from the same dread disease.

The John Booth, son of Joseph Junior, seems to be the one who finally came into possession of the Booth land in Saw Mill Range and disposed of the parcels to Cullen and Manlove. We believe that he was dead by 1753 and that his widow, Mary, married Andrew Caldwell. A John Booth mentioned in 1750 was described as the "eldest son and heir at law of Joseph Booth the younger, deceased." We believe that it was this John, who, by his will of 1751, disclosed that his family consisted of a wife, Mary, and a son, Waitman. Waitman in his will specified that the "one hundred acres that I have on the Three Runs be sold to discharge my debts." A deed of 1768 of a sale of land by Waitman mentions that he was a grandson of Joseph and only son of John, the only son of Joseph and the only heir. As far as we know, Waitman was still living in 1776 and the residue of one hundred or one hundred and thirty eight acres had not been sold for his debts. (Ref. Will Bk. H.P. 64: P. 122, Will Bk. K. P. 34 Deed Bks. O, Vol. 1, P. 260, R, Vol. 1, P. 263).

In south Milford we will develop west to east. From the west to the first stream, Presbyterian Branch was the Henry Pedington (Pennington grant of four hundred acres in 1698. (Ref. P 1 No. 6W-Arch) Thomas and Anna May bought it in 1705. (Ref. D'd. Bk. A 1776 P. 433; A1 P. 223 Arch). Thomas May passed the land to his son, Thomas, who by will of 1722 authorized the sale of 100 acres to William and Lucilla Selbridge (Selthridge), Lucilla was Thomas May's sister. This was a long narrow strip about eight to nine tenths of a mile long and one and one-half tenths wide just to the west of Presbyterian Branch. In 1739 the Selbridges deeded a small portion, where Jack Sheaffer is now building a home, to the Presbyterians with a house for worship. (Ref. D'd Bk. G7 P. 320 Arch). In 1744 the balance of this one hundred acres passed to Abraham Wynkoop, bought at a sheriff sale.

In 1778 the land to the west of the above was in the hands of Alexander Palmour and the land to the east, to the Saw Mill Range line, was in the hands of Saul Davis (Rev. D'd. Bk. M12, P. 232 Arch.).

Next going east to just beyond Walnut Street bridge was the William Spenser one hundred acres bought from John Bowman Jr. in 1740. The further break up will be covered under "Their Mills".