THE STORY OF THE NELSON HOUSE

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for the Washington Crossing Association of New Jersey

1077

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THE STORY OF THE NELSON HOUSE

Rut Johnson, yeoman and resident of Somerset County, acquired large acerage in the Township of Hopewell, County of Burlington, Province of West Jersey, prior to 17 November 1699 when he was named as a land owner in the West Jersey Society's 30,000 acre tract which included what is now the City of Trenton as well as the townships of Ewing and Hopewell. (1, p.390) Although no deed has been found to outline the original tract, which included the Nelson House lot, deed searches have proven that it laid north of the present Mercer County Route 546 and south of the tract that now includes the Belle Mountain ski area. It is doubtful if Rut ever resided here himself but probably purchased the land as an investment affording him access to the trade and shad fishing of the Delaware River. Rut's son, Garret, probably took up residence here upon the event of his marriage which may have taken place about 1733 when he was 25 years of age.

Local records show that Garret was elected Overseer of the River Road at a meeting of the Inhabitants of the Township of Hopewell held on 8 March 1742. In February 1761 Garret recorded the loss of a yearling spotted steer. Since it was the custom of the day to allow all cattle to roam unrestricted by fence posts, owners distinquished their animals from their neighbors by altering the shape of the ears. This ear-marking practice no doubt afforded Garret the opportunity to recover a steer with brown face and a red two-year old heifer each marked with a crop and a halpenny in the near (right) ear which he had reported missing on January 18, 1763. (2, pp.21,103,105)

In August 1748, Rut Johnson made his will bequeathing the plantation to his son, Garret, who came into full ownership when Rut died the following spring. (3, p. 268) At the southern boundary of the land Garret had established a ferry with an upper and lower landing. As early as 1761 he had been granted a license for a tavern here probably for the accomodation of his passengers. (4, p.)

Garret made his will on February 27, 1766 and died less than two weeks later on March 8th. He was only 58 years old. His body was interred in the New Side Presbyterian Cemetery (now Methodist) on Delaware Avenue west of Pennington. (5, p. 72) He was survived by his widow, Judith, five sons and 7 daughters of whom 6 were underage. Sons, Rut and Robert inherited the Delaware River property: Robert received the northern portion and Rut the southern part including the ferry and tavern. (6, p. 220)

On September 25, 1766, Rut Johnson, his neighbor Henry Marjoram,
Noah Hunt, Chrinyance Vancleve, William Burrowes, Obadiah Howell, and
Andrew Vannoy petitioned the Hunterdon County commissioners to lay out a
public road, three rods in width, to begin "at the Delaware River at
Johnson's Ferry over lands of Johnson along line of Johnson and Margerum
and others; to end in the Great Road from Trenton to Bellmouth". (7,p.43)
The beginning point was a sapling hickory standing between the lower
and upper landing on the river bank and marked with four blazes and
twelve notches.

Rut Johnson operated the ferry for only one year and then James

Slack stated to the court "That whereas Your Petitioner hath Rented the

Plantation and Ferry belonging to Rut Johnson, Formerly the Estate of

Garrard Johnson, deceas'd, known by the name of Johnson's Ferry," he asks

permission to operate a tavern on the site. The application was dated 19 May 1767. (8, p. 662) At the 1768 May term meeting of the Judges and Justices of the Peace of the Hunterdon County Court of Quarter Sessions, Slack, calling himself ferryman, again petitions for a tavern license since he has rented "the ferry (Fate Garret Johnson's) for three years one of which is now expired paying a large rent and but small income by the ferry ...promising to do "to the best of his endeavors for passengers a speedy ferryage and good economy in his tavern." (8,p.663) At the May term of 1772, Joseph Burroughs, Henry Margeram and Henry Mershon testify that James Slack "is a person capable of keeping a good house of entertainment that the house in which he lives has by several years experience been found necessary and convenient for the entertainment of travelers and transacting of public business...and recommend him to the court as a proper person to keep a tavern where he now lives, it being a ferry." (8,p.664) James Slack, "ferry keeper on the Delaware River," continues in the operation of the tavern until 4 May 1779 "in the third year of American Independence" when Richard Slack now applies for the tavern license. (8, pp.665-668)

Unfortunately, neither son was to retain his inheritance very long. On 30 April 1770, Rut Johnson, Henry Margerum and Cornelius Hoff; executors of the estate of Garret Johnson sold to James Burroughs Robert's 50 acre portion of the plantation because he had failed to pay certain legacies therefore forfeiting his portion according to the dictates of the will. (10, recorded 9 Nov. 1770) Meanwhile the executors were trying to pay the estate debts but apparently were unable to do so because the Court of Common Please for Hunterdon County at its February term in 1770 order the 200 acre plantation inherited by Rut Johnson sold to

pay the creditors. After public notice had been given, the sale was held at the home of James Slack, the inn keeper. Abraham Harvey of Upper Makefield Township, Bucks County, Pennsylvania was the highest bidder. The deed was written 10 December 1770 but not recorded until 4 March 1776.

(11, p. 365) Perhaps the unsettled state of the colonies prompted Mr. Harvey to undertake the journey to Flemington to record the deed finally.

Probably Abraham contined to rent the plantation to James or Richard Slack until 1786 when he applied for a tavern license in May 1786 when he stated that he "hath moved to the Ferry known by the name of Slack's Ferry which he now owns". (12, p.737)

It is doubtful that Abraham Harvey lived there very long, if at all, because his will is filed in Bucks County, Pa. and he leaves the home plantation to his son, Abraham. To his son, Moses, he bequeathed the fishery and plantation in West New Jersey. (13, p.111)

On April 1, 1801, Moses Harvey and Alice, his wife, of Lower Makefield Township, Bucks County sold what is now termed a tract of 247 3/4 acres to Samuel Tomlinson (Tumbleson) for \$7000. The tract was situated on the river Delaware beginning at a stone standing on the high bank of the river Delaware formerly a white oak corner to lands of Jacob Hoff. (This description proved the most helpful in tracing the deed.) The sale was subject to a lease"to a certain company by the name of the Huffs" for the use of a shad fishery for the term of 35 years. (14,p.243) Moses Harvey held the mortgage of Samuel Tomlinson and Pamelia, his wife, for this property. (15,p.575)

Samuel was not to enjoy the fruits of ownership for even a year.

He died in mid-March 1802. The inventory of the estate made by his immediate neighbors James Burroughs and Jacob Hoff included ferry boats

valued at \$60 each. (16,p.456) Since Samuel's will ordered his real estate sold, we find the plantation changing hands again. Within a month of Samuel's death, Benjamin Taylor and Stephen Titus, the executors, sold to Joseph Tomlinson (Jr.) the same tract but now comprising 242 acres and "the said ferry thereon established". (17,p.277) (Because the study of related deeds indicates no boundary changes of any of the Johnson property, it can be assumed that improved surveying instruments and procedures had more accurately defined the acerage.)

On 13 April 1802, Joseph Tomlinson, Jr. of Wrightstown, Bucks Co., Pa., yeoman, "who is now about moving to the Township of Hopewell", mortgaged the property to Moses Harvey. Alice Harvey, executrix of the estate of Moses Harvey, cancelled Samuel's mortgage on 25 Aug. 1827 and Joseph's on the same day. (15, p.575; 18, p. 44) The Ferry which had been called Harvey's soon acquired the name of "Tomlinson's". (19, p.194)

Important in understanding the boundaries included in the deeds and road returns is the fact that Jacob Hoff, the nearest neighbor on the south died 12 December 1812, aged 45 years and 6 months and was buried in the cemetery beside the Pennington Presbyterian Church. His wife, Hannah, died 20 years later on 6 January 1832 in her 65th year and was laid to rest beside her husband and their infant daughter.

(20,p.46) Jacob bequeathed his plantation to his wife during her lifetime, it then passing to their only son, Scudder. (21,p.184)

The next death to affect the property was that of Joseph Tomlinson in 1817. An inventory of the estate was taken 25 August 1817;

Isaac, Joseph B. and Samuel Tomlinson were named administrators. (22, p.430) Joseph was survived by 12 children including Joseph B., Charles,

and Abner. (23,p.277) The exact nature of the settlement of the estate has not been determined but apparently each child got a share in the fishery along the Delaware. (24,p.119;25,p.250;26,p.65) Now occurs the first division of the property inherited by Rut Johnson from Garret. The land was split lengthwise in Joseph B. and Charles Tomlinson jointly acquired the northern half; Abner, the southern including the ferry and the Nelson House property. Joseph B., Martha (his wife) and Charles Tomlinson mortgaged their 123 acre farm to James Burroughs on 1 May 1827. (27,p.115) Abner B. Tomlinson mortgaged his 120 acre "part of the farm Joseph Tomlinson died seized...beginning at a stone standing on the high bank formerly a white oak." Each reserved their fishing rights. (24,p.119)

Meanwhile the present River Drive in Titusville was more clearly defined in 1819. It was to run "as near the bank as may be for the convenience of the public" starting on the bank of the Delaware in the original laid out road near the tail race of Uriel Titus' saw mill and running down the river through the lands of Uriel Titus, Levi Knowles Esquire, Job Phillips, John Vannoy, James Burroughs, and lands late of Joseph Tomlinson, deceased, ending at the ferry landing of the said deceased. (28)

Mercer County Route 29 south of the Pennington-Washington Crossing Road (Route 546) was laid out as a public road three rods in width in 1819, also. It was to begin at Tomlinson's Ferry near Bernard Taylor's store and lumber yard (once Jacob Hoff's). (29)

Abner Tomlinson sold his farm less than a year after he had mortgaged it. The purchaser was Bernard Taylor of Upper Makefield Township in Bucks County, Pa. on 15 March 1828. (30,p.248) Mr. Taylor, like his neighbors, was to lose a small portion of his holdings to the Delaware and Raritan Canal Company. (31,p.478) Another portion was taken for the public road from Trenton to Lambertville and yet, another for the railroad.

The end of the fisher, and the demise of the ferry probably came at about the same time. In the mid-1830's all the Tomlinsons sold their rights in the fishery to the Taylorsville and Delaware Bridge Company "for the erection of a bridge across the Delaware at the Old Ferry Fishery. (25,p.250; 26,p.65)

Finally, in 1846, Alexander Nelson of Falls Township, Bucks Co.,
Pa, acquired the property on which the building sat that was to become
known as the Nelson House. On 31 March 1846, he bought two tracts from
Bernard Taylor and Mercy his wife of Taylorsville in Bucks County. The
two tracts included all "that certain tavern house and lot of land
together with the ice house and the land adjoining-all west of the
present Route 29. (32,p.122) In 1848, the Taylors sold Nelson two
more lots embracing all the lands between the canal feeder, the river,
Amos Moore and Nelson's other lot...again west of the River Road.

(33,p.122)

Alexander probably enlarged and modernized the tavern. In 1875, he first advertised in the Trenton City Directory as the proprietor of the Alexander Nelson Hotel. This was a wise venture since the Titusville area was a popular summer resort for city residents. The Nelsons raised at least six children of whom only Alexander and Abby remained in the area of Washington Crossing. (34,p.19) Alexander died intestate in 1893 and was interred in the Titusville Presbyterian Churchyard. (35,p.28)

In 1903, Dr. Isidor P. Strittmater of Philadelphia purchased the 123 acre farm which had been owned by Joseph B., Martha, and Charles Tomlinson. The deed had four exclusions: first, a lot "sold to Elias Keller in 1878 (for which no deed has been found); second, a right of way for the canal feeder; Third, the fishing rights; and fourth, a right of way over a piece of Bernard Taylor's property. (36,p.200)

On 6 May 1916 Isidor P. Strittmater and Clara A. (apparently his first wife) sold a strip 30 feet wide and 1356 feet long to the Mercer County Board of Chosen Freeholders. It was the intent of the deed to "convey the land necessary for the laying out and construction of the road known as the Delaware River Drive". (37,p.74)

Most of the eastern portion of Abner B. Tomlinson's property had been bought by Alstyn D. Blackwell and his wife, Eleanora. In January 1913, they sold the 100 acre tract to the State of New Jersey. (38,p.555)

An agreement of sale was entered into on 27 December 1921 between Dr. Strittmater and the New Jersey State Board of Conservation and Economic Development in which Strittmater gives the State the option to buy the remainder of his lands. (39, p.15) Isidor had already sold two tracts to the Diocese of Trenton. (40,p.288) As agreed, Dr. Strittmater and his wife, Marie, sold 110 acres to the State of New Jersey on 17 July 1923.

The State of New Jersey purchased the last remaining large part of Rut Johnson's southern portion when the six heirs of Alexander Nelson deeded their share to the State on June 10, 1924. One of the boundaries ended at the northeast corner of the old tavern house" - the Nelson House. (42, p.16)

ABSTRACTS OF IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS

1. Source 7

Hunterdon County Road Return Book 1, p. 43 etc. No other papers. Application made: 25 September 1766 Recorded: 14 February 1767

Three rod road from Johnson's Ferry on the Delaware to Belmount.

Application made by Rut Johnson, Henry Margeram and sundry petitioners to lay out a road from the ferry on the Delaware known by the name of Johnson's Ferry to the Great Road that leads from Trenton to Bellmouth. Beginning at the said river Delaware and contages to a sapling hickory standing between the lower and upper ferry landing on the river bank marked with four blazes and twelve notches and running thence: (1)"threw" Johnson's land NE 20 degrees 17 chains and 73 links (hereafter given as c for chains and 1 for links) (1170.18 feet) to the line of land between Johnson's and Margerum's and near to a white oak tree; (2) along said line the whole breadth still on Johnson's land NE 14 c. (924 feet) to f athornbush standing near the said line; (3) still by the said line the whole breadth of the road lying on the said Margerum's land NE to a birch corner to the rear of said Margerum's land; (4) contages to John Hart's land still NE the whole breadth of the road lying again on Johnson's land to a small black oak corner to said Johnson and John Hart's lands; (5) NE 21 degrees 15 minutes 19 chains (1254 feet) part through John Hart and part through Jno. Anderson's lands in the Great Road about 2 chains (132 feet) north of the Eight Mile post from Trenton. No map. It was signed by Noah Hunt, Chrinyance Vancleve, William Burrowes, Obadiah Howell and Andrew Vannoy.

2. Source 10.

Colonial Conveyances. Volume A-C, p. 123 etc.

Written: 30 April 1770 Recorded: 9 November 1770

Grantors: Rut Johnson, Cornelius Huff, and Henry Margerum, of Hopewell, Hunterdon County, Province of West New Jersey, executors of the last will and testament of Garret Johnson, late of the township of Hopewell, deceased

Grantee: James Burroughs of the same place.

Garret had willed to his son, Robert, a tract of land and plantation but Robert was enjoined to pay sundry legacies in consideration of his enjoying the land but he failed to do this and according to the will, Robert's portion was to be sold. The tract began at a stone on the south side of a run which was the division of the lands bequeathed to Rut and Robert and running thence (1) NW 41 degrees 15 minutes 30 c 20 l (1993.2 feet); (2) along Vannoy NW 42 degrees 15 minutes 13 c 80 l (910.8 feet) to a stone in the line of Anderson's old place; (3) bounded by the same SE 41 degrees 15 minutes 41 c 27 l (2723.82 feet) to a corner standing in the aforesaid run; (4) bounded by the same the several courses thereof to the place of beginning (POB). Fifty acres strict measure. Witnesses: Abraham Harvye and Daniel Lanning.

3. Source 11.

Colonial Conveyances. Volume A-1, p. 365 etc.

Written: 10 December 1770 Recorded: 4 March 1776

Grantor: John Barnes, Sheriff

Grantee: Abraham Harvey of Makefield, County of Bucks, Province of

Pennsylvania, yeoman

Whereas Mary Cubberly in the Inferior Court of Common Pleas held at Trenton May Term 1770 did recover against Rut Johnson, Henry Margerum and Cornelius Huff, executors of the estate of Garret Johnson a certain debt of 34 pounds 7 shillings and 11 pence; also, 5 pounds 18 shillings and 1 pence which was levied against Garret's plantation bounded by land of Robert Johnson, the Delaware River, John Smith and others containing 200 acres, the court ordered the said land sold to pay the debt. It was advertised and the sale was to be held at the home of James Slack, innkeeper in Hopewell by public vendue. It was sold to Abraham Harvey for 500 pounds and contained all that tract and plantation beginning at a maple tree and running thence (1) SE 41 degrees 4 c 96 1 (327.36 feet) to a small black oak being corner of John Hart's land; (2) SW 41 degrees 30 minutes 91 c 34 1 (6028.44 feet) to the river Delaware; (3) up the said river to a run of water emptying itself into the river; (4) along the run its several courses to the POB. Witnesses: Jno. Barnes, Jos. Worrall and Ben. Biles.

4. Source 14.

Hunterdon County Deed. Volume D now called Volume 4, p. 233 etc.

Written: 1 April 1801 Recorded: 8 June 1801

Grantor: Moses Harvey et. ux.

Grantee: Samuel Tumbleson

Whereas Abraham Harvey deceased was in his lifetime possessed of the below described part of land and by his will dated 14 Oct. 1784 filed in the Surrogates Office, Newtown, Bucks County, Pa. (now filed in Doylestown) did devise the same to his son, Moses...the said Moses Harvey and Alice, his wife, of Lower Makefield, Bucks County, Pa. sell to Samuel Tumbleson of the Township of Hopewell, County of Hunterdon a tract of 247 3/4 acres situated on the river Delaware beginning at a stone standing on the high bank of the river formerly a white oak and corner to lands of Jacob Hoff and running thence (1) up the said river on the high bank thereof 5 c 64 1 (372.24 feet) to the middle of a run of water that empties into said river near the lower ferry landing; (2) along the middle of the run its several courses to the corner of Jacob Hoff's land in the middle of said run of water; (3) along Hoff's line and the ferry road NE 41 degree 77 c 34 1 (5104.44 feet) to a stone corner to James Burroughs; (4) along Burroughs line NW 41 degrees 4 c 96 1 (327.36 feet) to another small run of water and the line of James Burroughs; (5) along the middle of said run of water and the line of said James Burroughs the several courses to the edge of the river Delaware; (6) down the river 36 c 86 1 (2432.76 feet) to a corner by the edge of the river; and (7) NE 41 degrees 1 chain (66 feet) to the POB...subject to a lease under the Bank of the River Delaware to a certain company by the name of the Huff's for the use of a shad fishery for the term of

35 years from the commencement of said lease paying unto Samuel Tumbleson the Bank's share. Witnesses: Achilles Wilson and Charles Welling.

5. Source 17.

Hunterdon County Deed. Volume 6, p. 277 etc.

Written: 13 April 1802 Recorded: 5 May 1802

Grantors: Benjamin Taylor and Stephen Titus, executors of Samuel

Tomlinson, deceased of Hopewell Township, yeoman

Grantee: Joseph Tomlinson

Samuel Tomlinson's executors sell a tract of 242 acres which he had purchased of Moses Harvey and wife 1 April 1801 and recorded in Hunterdon County Deed Book D, p. 233...beginning at a stone on the high bank of the river Delaware formerly a white oak and corner to lands of Jacob Hoff and running thence (1) up the river on the high bank thereof 5 c 64 1 (372.24 feet) to the middle of a small run of water that empties into said river near the lower ferry landing; (2) along the middle of said run its several cources to the corner of Hoff's land in the run; (3) along Huff's land in the run; (4) along Hoff's line and the ferry road NE 41 degrees 77 c 34 1 (5104.44 feet) to a stone corner to James Burroughs; (5) with Burroughs line NW 41 degrees 4 c 97 1 (327.36 feet) to another small run with Burroughs and the run to the river; (6) down the river 36 c 86 1 2432.76 feet) to a corner the edge of the river; (7) NE 41 degrees 1 c (66 feet) to the POB...sold together with the ferry thereon established.

6. Source 30.

Hunterdon County Deed. Volume 49, p. 248 etc.

Written: 15 March 1828 Recorded: 17 March 1830

Grantor: Abner B. Tomlinson of Hopewell Township

Grantee: Bernard Taylor of Upper Makefield Township, Bucks Co., Pa.

a farm or plantation of 120 acres now in the possession of Abner B. Tomlinson beginning at a stone standing on the high bank of the river Delaware formerly a white oak corner to lands belongting to the estate of Jacob Hoff, deceased and running thence (1) up the river on the high bank 5 c 65 1 (372.24 feet) to the middle of a small run of water that empties into said river near the lower ferry landing; (2) along the middle of said run the several courses to corner of said Hoff's line in the middle of said run; (3) with Hoff's line and the ferry road NE 40 and a half degrees 77 c 20 1 (5095.2 feet) to a stone corner to Jesse Atchley; (4) with his line NW $41\frac{1}{4}$ degrees 4 c 38 l (289.08 feet) to a small run corner to James Burroughs; (5) with his line down the run the several courses to the corner of Joseph B. Tomlinson and Charles Tomlinson's farm which said corner in the run is 7 1 (4.62 feet) north of a small hickory standing on the bank marked; (6) with Joseph and Charles SW 43 degrees 27 c 29 l (1801.14 feet) to a stone; (7) still with their line SW 392 degrees 21 c 4 1 (1388.64 feet) to a stone; (8) still with their line SW 512 degrees 10 c (660 feet) to a stone; (9) still with their line SW 52½ degrees 29 c 84 1 (1969.44 feet) to the river; (10) down the river 19 c $\overline{67}$ 1 (1298.22 feet) to a corner; (11) thence

NE 40½ degrees 1 c (66 feet) to the POB...reserving 1 equal ½ part of the right of the fishery granted to Joseph B. Tomlinson and Charles Tomlinson by Bernard Taylor; also, reserving 1 equal 1/12 part of the whole fishery conveyed to Nathaniel L. Tomlinson by Joseph B., Charles, and Abner Tomlinson(subject to two mortages held by Alice Harvey and Charles Ewing, Esquire) Witnesses: Daniel Cook and Asa Titus.

7. Source 31.

Hunterdon County Deed: Volume 54, p. 478 etc.

Written: 1 April 1833

Recorded: 7 May 1833

Grantor: Joseph B. Tomlinson, Martha (his wife), and Charles Tomlinson

Grantee: Delaware and Raritan Canal Company

a certain tract of 2½ acres beginning on the NE side of said feeder and in a line of land of Bernard Taylor and running thence (1) by the said land SW 53 3/4 degrees 1 c 46 1 (96.36') and crossing the feeder to the southwesterly side; (2) up the same NW 34½ degrees 3c 601 (237.6'); (3)...NW 37½ degrees 4c 81 (269.28'); (4)...NW 30½ degrees 3c 71 (202.62 feet); (5)...NW 25 degrees 4c 61 (267.96'); (6)...NW 23 degrees 3c 471 (229.02') to the middle of a brook; (7)up the same by land of James Burroughs NE 51½ degrees 1c 601 (105.60'); (8) NE 51½ degrees 1 c 601 (105.60') crossing said feeder to the northeasterly side; (9) SE 20½ degrees 3c 821 (252.12'); (10) SE 25 degrees 3c 61 (201.96') (11) SE 28½ degrees 3 c (198'); (12) SE 37 degrees 4 c 871 (321.42'); (13) SE 34 3/4 degrees 3 c 61 1 (238.26') to the POB. *

8. Source 25.

Hunterdon County Deed. Volume 65, p. 250 etc.

Written: 13 June 1836

Recorded: 25 Oct. 1836

Grantor: Joseph B. Tomlinson et.ux.

Grantee: Taylorsville and Delaware Bridge Co.

The Tomlinsons convey an interest in the shad fishery situated partly on the farm of said Jos. B. Tomlinson or on the margin thereof and partly on the land or margin thereof of Bernard Taylor (adjacent or adjoining) to lands of Joseph B. Tomlinson on the river Delaware...also, 5 undivided 1/12 parts and ½ of a 1/12 of said shad fishery commonly called and known by the name of the Old Ferry Fishery and which was conveyed to Jos. B. and Charles Tomlinson by the children and heirs of Joseph Tomlinson deceased by deed dated 2 April 1827. The intent of the Bridge Go. is for the erection of a bridge across the Delaware at said Old Ferry Fishery.

^{*} omit degrees and measurements from course 7

9. Source 32.

Mercer County Deed. Volume I, p. 190 etc.

Written: 31 March 1846 Recorded: 2 April 1846

Grantor: Bernard Taylor and Mercy M. (his wife) of Taylorsville,

Bucks Co., Pa.

Grantee: Alexander Nelson of Falls Township, Bucks Co., Pa.

TRACT I 1 2/100 acres...all that certain tavern house and lot of land together with the ice house and the land adjoining situate in Hopewell Township - and beginning at a stone for a corner in the bank of the Delaware and Raritan Canal feeder and running thence (1) SW 52½ degrees 2 c 84 1 (209.44') to the river Delaware; (2) along the same SE 38 degrees 3 c 75 1 (247.50') to a corner near the Delaware Bridge; (3) NE 631/2 degrees 1 c 81 1 (119.46 feet) to the bank of the feeder; (4) NW $6\frac{1}{2}$ degrees 65 1 (42.9') to the center of the public road; (5) NW 22 degrees 1 c 12 1 (73.92') to the northeast corner of the tavern house; (6) NW 25 degrees 1 c 35 1 (89.1') to a stone on the bank of the feeder; (7) NW 39 degrees 1 c 21 1 (79.86') to the POB.

TRACT 2 . 6/100 acre...beginning at a stone in the river road 11 1 (7.26') from the northwest corner of the wing wall of the arch bridge in said road and running thence (1) NW 43 degrees 60 1 (39.6') to a stone in said road; (2) SW 43 degrees 1 c (66) to the river; (3) along the same SE 43 degrees 60 1 (39.6'); (4) NE 43 degrees 1 c (66') to the POB... comprising within said bounds the aforesaid ice house excepting and reserving the use and privilege of the bank along said river for the use of fishing and fowling.

10. Source 33.

Mercer County Deed. Book N, p. 122 etc.

Written: 28 March 1848 Recorded: 30 March 1848

Grantor: Bernard Taylor et. ux. of Bucks County, Pa.

Grantee: Alexander Nelson of Hopewell Township, Mercer Co.

TRACT 1

3.44 acres...beginning at the foot of the bank of the canal feeder and corner to said Nelson's other lot and running thence (1) with a line of the same SW $52\frac{1}{2}$ degrees 3 c 14 1 (207.24') to the river Delaware at the low water mark; (2) up the river along the low water mark NW 362 degrees 9 c (594') to a corner of Amos Moore's land; (3) with his line NE 55 degrees 4 c 53 1 (298.98') to the foot of the bank of the canal feeder; (4) along the same its courses 8 c 98 1 (592.68') to the POB... embracing all the lands lying between the said canal feeder and the river Delaware, Amos Moore's land and said Nelson's other lot but in the said lot above described said Bernard Taylor doth reserve to himself, heirs, and assigns the use of the shore and of all the lands adjacent to the river Delaware necessary for a fishing place providing that he will use it for no other purpose and will not damage the premises.

TRACT 2

1 92/100 acres...beginning at the NE corner of the bridge in the Trenton road and running thence (1) with Absalom Moore's and William B. Blackwell's land NW 29 degrees 7 c 67 1 (440.22') to a corner of said Blackwell's land at the bridge; (2) with his line NW 23 degrees 5 c 83 1 (384.78') to a corner at the gate in Amos Moore's line; (3) with his line SW 55 degrees 1 c 71 1 (112.86') to the canal feeder; (4) along line of said feeder SE 28 degrees 6 c (396') to a corner; (5) SE 25 degrees 8 c (528') to a corner in a small brook that empties into the canal feeder; (6) up said brook NE 39½ degrees 1 c 81 1 (119.46') to the POB.

11. Source 36.

Mercer County Deed. Volume 269, p. 200 etc.

Recorded: 9 January 1904

Grantor: John Rellstab, special master in Chancery

Grantee: Isidor P. Strittmater of City of Philadelphia, Pa.

As a result of a decree in chancery dated 16 Oct. 1903 wherein Mary C. Burroughs, and George Burroughs were complaintants and George Moore and others were defendants, it was ordered that a 123 acre tract be sold on Tuesday, 1 December 1903 after the land had been advertised in the Pennington Post and the Daily State Gazette for each of the four weeks prior to the sale. The tract was to begin at the river Delaware corner to Bernard Taylor and running thence (1) with Taylor NE 522 degrees 23 c 8 1 (1570.8') to a stone corner to Taylor; (2) with Taylor NE 51½ degrees 10 c (660') to a stone; (3) NE 39½ degrees 21 c 4 1 (1412.4') to a stone; (4) NE 43 degrees 27 c 29 1 (1801.14') to the middle of a run in James Burroughs line corner to said Taylor 7 links (4.62') north of a small hickory marked standing on the bank; (5) down the said run with Burroughs line the several courses to the river; (6) down the river 17 c 20 1 (1135.2') to the POB...with four exclusions: a lot sold to Elias Keller in 1878, the canal feeder, the fishing rights, and a certain right of way.

12. Source 38.

Mercer County Deed. Volume 352, p. 555 etc.

Written: 4 January 1913 Recorded: 10 January 1913

Grantor: Alstyn D. Blackwell and Eleanora, his wife of Hopewell

Township

Grantee: State of New Jersey

tract of 100 acres being a part of the same premises conveyed by Alstyn D. Blackwell and wife to Ira J. Blackwell on 1 May 1905 and recorded in Mercer County Deed Volume 279, p. 113 and which the said Ira J. Blackwell devised to Annie E.S Blackwell by his will proved 6 April 1910 and recorded in Book X of Wills of Mercer County, p. 624 and being a part of the premises conveyed to Alstyn D. Blackwell by Annie E.S. Blackwell, Elwyn W. Blackwell, Mary E. Blackwell (his wife), and Laura S. Blackwell by deed bearing even date herewith and about to be recorded...beginning at a stone in the southeasterly line of lands

of Isidor P. Strittmater and corner to lands now or formerly of Austin C. Cooley and running thence (1) along Strittmater NE 55 degrees 20 minutes 622.94' to a stake; (2) along same NE 53 degrees 52 minutes 856.30' to a stone; (3) along same NE 41 degrees 58 minutes 1123.44' to a stone; (4) along same NE 41 degrees 30 minutes 257.63 to a stone; (5) along same NE 46 degrees 01 minutes 420.12' to a stone; (6) along same NE 43 degrees 39 minutes 402.47' to a stone; (7) along same NE 46 degrees 43 minutes 734.37' to a stake; (8) along same NE 45 degrees 28 minutes 278.32' to a point corner to lands remaining to Blackwell; (9) along Blackwell SE 47 degrees 30 minutes 759.08' to a point in the middle of the road leading from Washington Crossing to Pennington; (10) down the road SW 42 degrees 30 minutes 3215.08' to a spike; (11) down the road SW 44 degrees 37 minutes 1405.44' to a stake in the middle of a small brook which empties into the Delaware and Raritan canal feeder; (12) down the brook SW 61 degrees 54 $\frac{1}{2}$ minutes 104.55 to a stake; (13) down the brook SW 43 degrees 20 minutes 98.93' to a stake; (14) down the brook SW 85 degrees 35 minutes 45.72' to a stake; (15) down the brook NW 84 degrees 35 minutes 146.25' to a stake; (16) down the brook SW 43 degrees 33 minutes 20.74 feet to a stake corner to lands of the Belvidere and Delaware Railroad Co.; (17) along RR Co. lands NW 9 degrees 2 minutes 43.6' to a spike in the aforesaid road from Washington Crossing to Pennington; (18) along the road and RR Co. lands SW 83 degrees 51 minutes 173.58' to a spike in the said road and corner to lands now or formerly of E.H. Sheruby; (19) still along the said road and Sheruby's land SW 51 degrees 31 minutes 108.2' to a spike in the corner of the road; (20) along the northeast line of a lane leading to the buildings on the aforesaid Sheruby's land NW 28 degrees 19 minutes 426.20' to a stake corner to lands now or formerly Sarah L. McCarty; (21) along McCarty NE 53 degrees 26 minutes 209' to a stake; (22) along McCarty and lands now or formerly of W.W. Johnson and land now or formerly of Austin C. Cooley NW 24 degrees 33 minutes 423.63' to the POB.

13. Source 37.

Mercer County Deed. Volume 392, p. 74 etc.

Written: 6 May 1916 Recorded: 12 June 1916

Grantor: Isidor P. Strittmater and Clara A., his wife of Philadelphia

Grantee: Mercer County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

a tract beginning at a point in the line of land of Austin Cooley which point if 69' easterly from the southwest corner of lands of said Strittmater where said corner joins land of the Nelson estate and running thence (1) NE 25 degrees 16 minutes 1356' to a point; (2) east at right angles to the first course 30' to a point; (3) SE 25 degrees 16 minutes and parallel to the first course 1356' to a point in the line dividing the land of Austin Cooley from land of Strittmater; (4) westerly at right angles to the third course 30' to the POB...it being the intent to convey the land necessary for the laying out and construction of the road known as the Delaware River Drive.

14. Source 41.

Mercer County Deed. Volume 517, p. 363 etc.

Written: 17 July 1923 Recorded: 30 August 1923

Grantor: Dr. Isidor P. Strittmater and Marie, his wife of Phila.

Grantee: State of New Jersey

all that tract of 123 acres lying in Hopewell Township beginning at the river Delaware corner to Bernard Taylor and running thence (1) with Taylor's line NE 52½ degrees 23 c 80 l (1570.8') to a stone corner to said Taylor; (2) with his line NE $51\frac{1}{2}$ degrees 10 c (660') to a stone; (3) NE $39\frac{1}{2}$ degrees 21 c 4 l (1388.64') to a stone; (4) NE 43 degrees 27 c 29 1 (1801.14') to the middle of a small run of water in James Burroughs line corner also to said Taylor 7 1 (4.62') north of a small hickory marked standing on the bank; (5) down the middle of said run of water with James Burroughs line the several courses thereof to the river Delaware; (6) down the river 17 c 20 1 (1135.2') to the POB... excepting a lot of land sold to Elias Keller in 1878; also, so much sold to the Delaware and Raritan Canal Co. for a feeder; also, all the fishing rights conveyed to the Taylorsville Bridge Co. by Joseph B. Tomlinson deceased late of said place aforesaid; also, the free full and unobstructed right of way over the tract and parcel of land mentioned in deed Bernard Taylor to James B. Tomlinson, 4 September 1843 and recorded in Book F, p. 146 Mercer County...that is to say over all that parcel of land of said Bernard Taylor situate in Hopewell Township lying within 12' on each side of a centre line beginning at the lower gate post now standing in the line fence between said James B. Tomlinson's and Bernard Taylor 53 feet in an easterly direction from the east corner of said Tomlinson's spring house; and running thence in a straight line to a point in a small ravine about midway between the line of Tomlinson and the public road leading from Taylorsville to Pennington which point is 35 feet down the ravine from a small buttonwood tree standing at the upper end of a small stone bridge; thence, nearly in the same direction southeasterly towards the middle of the bridge for the public road over the brook which divides the land of Bernard Taylor from land formerly of Scudder Hoff deceased until it strikes the public road leading from Taylorsville to Pennington; also, excepting a tract in Hopewell Township beginning at a point in the road from Washington Crossing to Titusville on the easterly side of the Delaware and Raritan Canal feeder said point being 15' easterly from the middle of the concrete pavement in said road and also opposite a point 591.5' south (measured along the middle of said concrete pavement from a point where the middle line of said concrete pavement intersects the middle line of a stone culvert under said road at the northerly boundary line of Isidor P. Strittmater) and runs thence (1) easterly and at right angles to said concrete pavement 550' to a point; (2) northerly and parallel to said road about 865' to a point in middle of a brook bounding the northerly line of land of Isidor Strittmater; (3) westerly along the middle of said brook the several courses to a point 15' easterly from the middle of the road; (4) southerly and parallel to the middle of said concrete pavement about 595'. to the POB which Strittmater deeded to the Diocese of Trenton 20 Dec. 1921; also, a parcel of 2.41 acres conveyed to the Diocese of Trenton by Mr. Strittmater on 11 April 1921 and recorded in Mercer County Deed Volume 470, p. 288; also, two tracts at Washington Crossing according

to the magnetic bearing recorded in the deed Alystn D. Blackwell to the State of New Jersey on 4 January 1912.

Tract 1

beginning at a stone in the southeasterly line of lands of Strittmater said stone being the most northerly corner of lands now or formerly of Austin C. Cooley and the most westerly corner of lands of the State of New Jersey and running thence (1) NE 55 degrees 20 minutes 43' along line between Strittmater and the State to a stake; (2) NE 19 degrees 108' to a stake; (3) NW 18 degrees 200 feet to a stake; (4) SW 87 degrees 280' to a stake; (5) SW 60 degrees 210' crossing the county road to a point in the line of the Delaware and Raritan Canal feeder belonging to the RR about 40' east of the canal bank; (6) along RR line SE 28 degrees 425' to a stake at the intersection of the line of the RR right of way with Strittmater's southeasterly line; (7) NE 55 degrees 20 minutes 308' along Strittmater's southeasterly line again crossing the county road to the POB...containing 3.73 acres including the county road designation.

Tract 2

beginning at the intersection of the line of the Pennsylvania Railroad westerly right-of-way and the southeastern line of Strittmater's land said point being about SW 55 degrees 20 minutes 70' from the canal bank and 120' from the seventh corner of the first tract described below...

(1) NW 29 degrees 432' along line of RR right of way to a stake at its intersection with the continuation of the northwesterly line of the first tract described above; (2) SW 60 degrees 260' across a public road to a stake on the bank of the Delaware River; (3) SE 30 degrees 450' along bank to a point in Strittmater's southeasterly line; (4) NE 55 degrees 20 minutes 260' along Strittmater's southeasterly line again crossing a public road to the POB...2.68 acres including the road conveyed by Strittmater to the Mercer County Board of Chosen Freeholders...It being the intention of the party of the first part (Strittmater) to sell the remainder of the land now owned by him exclusive of the conveyance hereby recorded.

15. Source 34.

Mercer County Deed. Volume 550, 16 etc., 19 etc.

Written: 10 June 1924. Recorded: 8 Nov. 1924

Grantor: Heirs of Alexander Nelson

Grantee: State of New Jersey

Alexander Nelson died intestate in July 1893 leaving the following heirs: (1) Ade B. (wife of William H. Fisher) who died intestate in May 1923 leaving no children...a resident of St. Paul, Minnesota; (2) Anna C. Farley of St. Paul, Minnesota; (3) Alonzo, who died testate and whose will is filed in New York Book 1043, p. 421 leaving the following children: Alexander Gale (husband of Anna C.) of Wilmetta, Illinos; Aubrey P. (husband of Elsie R.) of Astoria, Long Island, New York; (4) Adonis (husband of Retta who died in 1918) who died intestate in March 1901 leaving the following heirs: Ada B. (wife of George Sanders) of Manchester, New Hampshire and Don A., single man of Trenton; (5) Alexowna, single woman of Washington Crossing, N.J. and (6) Abby L., single woman of Washington Crossing, N.J.

the heirs sell two tracts or parcel of land in Hopewell Township, in the County of Mercer and State of New Jersey

First Tract "Beginning at a point on the bank of the Delaware River, which point is the northwest corner of lands conveyed to the State of New Jersey by the Taylorsville-Delaware Bridge Company and which is 47.5 feet south, 65 degrees west from a stone in the north line of said property and extending (1) north 65 degrees east 167 feet more or less to an iron pin, said pin being the northeast coffner of said land and in the west line of the right of way of the Belvidere-Delaware railroad; thence (2) along said right of way north 5 degrees west 42.9 feet to a corner; thence (3) north 20 degrees 20 minutes west 73.9 feet to the northeast corner of the old tavern house; thence (4) north 26 degrees 23 minutes west 97 feet to a corner; thence (5) south 68 degrees 37 minutes west 10.56 feet; thence (6) north 27 degrees 53 minutes west 655.7 feet to a corner at the intersection of said right of way and the line of lands heretofore conveyed to the State of New Jersey by I.P. Strittmatter by deed dated February 28, 1922 and recorded March 30, 1922; thence (7) south 55 degrees 18 minutes west along said line 336 feet more or less to the bank of the Delaware River; thence (8) down the said river and the several courses thereof 830 feet more or less to the point of beginning containing 4.597 acres more or less. It is intended by the above description to include all the land between the railroad right of way on the east, the Delaware River on the west, the land conveyed to the State of New Jersey by I.P. Strittmatter on the north and that conveyed to the State by the Taylorsville-Delaware Bridge Company on the South.

Second Tract

Beginning at the corner of the State land nearest the intersection of the Pennington and Trenton roads at Washington Crossing, which point is also a corner of lands now or formerly of E.H. Sheruby and is the twentieth corner in the description of said lands in a deed dated January 4, 1913, Blackwell to the State of New Jersey; thence (1) north 29 degrees west 506.22 feet to a corner; thence (2) north 23 degrees west 382.6 feet to a corner, which point is a corner to lands formerly of Austin Cooley and in the line of lands heretofore conveyed by I.P. Strittmatter to the State of New Jersey; thence (3) south 55 degrees 18 minutes west 98.5 feet along said Strittmatter line to the right of way of the canal; thence (4) south 30 degrees 40 minutes east 145.2 feet along said right of way; thence (5) south 26 degrees 5 minutes east still along said right of way to a point where the center line of the canal bridge intercepts said right of way; thence (6) in a straight line 98 feet more or less to the point of beginning excepting, however, so much of said tract as is occupied by the right of way of the county road. The above described tracts being a portion of the tracts conveyed by Bernard Taylor to Alexander Nelson by deeds dated March 31, 1846, and March 28, 1848 and recorded April 2, 1846, Book J, p.190, and March 30,1848, Book N, Folio 122, respectively. The first tract being the same land and premises conveyed by Bernard Taylor...to Alexander Nelson by deed dated March 31,1846 and recorded in the Office of the Clerk of Mercer County on April 2, 1846 in Book J of Deeds pages 190 etc. and the second tract being the same... conveyed by Bernard Taylor and Mercy M. his wife to Alexander Nelson... by deed dated March 28, 1848 and recorded... Book N, p. 122 etc." (There is no Book J. The deed is found in Book I)

Source 20: Road Return 1820 161/26 375 1576 7,01 15365,30 1453/465,53 1408 4,50 151/2 60,16 046/2617,00 Creech line between Uniel Titus seristmorely road leading from Levi Smoods. How 142/46 16,61 137/26 6,00 large gulley line betreen devi Knowles and Job Phillips 143 65,60 840/2619,00 1401/2 817,00 Creech line between James Burrough 144 6 9,53 141/264,06 130 6 7,13 . 132 6 4,10 137/2 6 3,43 147348 334 ROAD RETURN na to the being landing FILE 19-6-12

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TAYLORS STORE BEGINNING AT LUMBER YARD TOMLINGON'S FERRY 5312°E THRU SCUDDER HOPF'S LAND 6034L 5283°E RIVER HUNTERDON COUNTY

135

ROBO RETURN

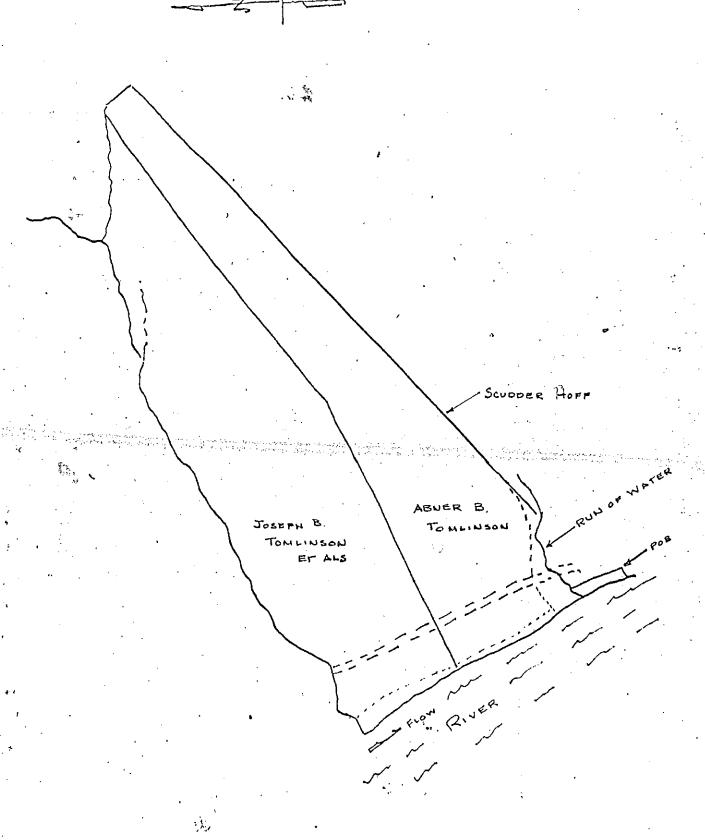
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22 Nov. 1820

MAP 2

Plot 5

Division of real estate of Joseph Tomlinson 1817



FILE 1- 2- 2 - READ RETURNS TO BEGIN AT A STAKE

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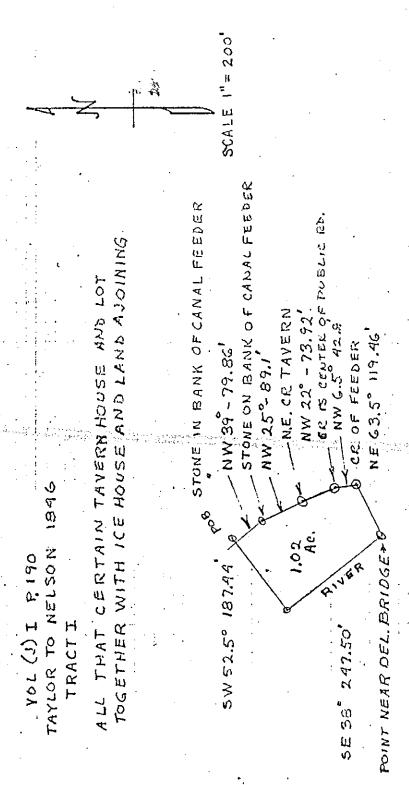
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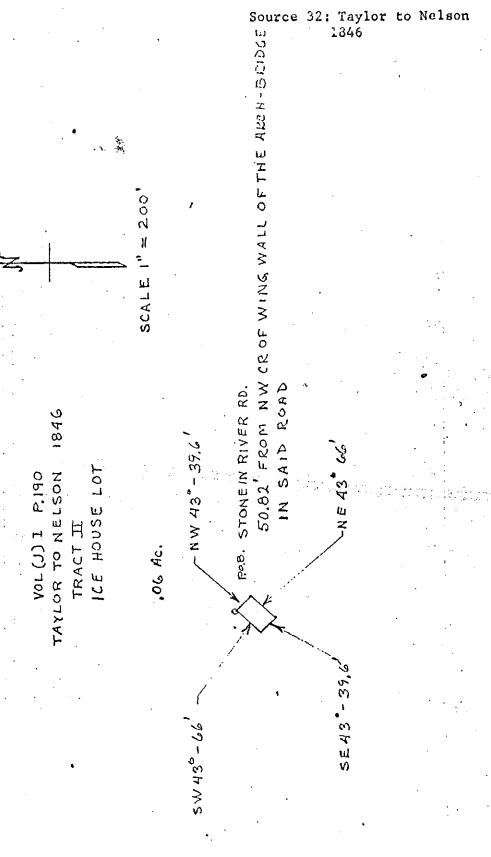
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Source 30: Abner B. Tomlinson to Bernard Taylor 1834 INSET MAP: Sources 32 & 33 See plots 8-10

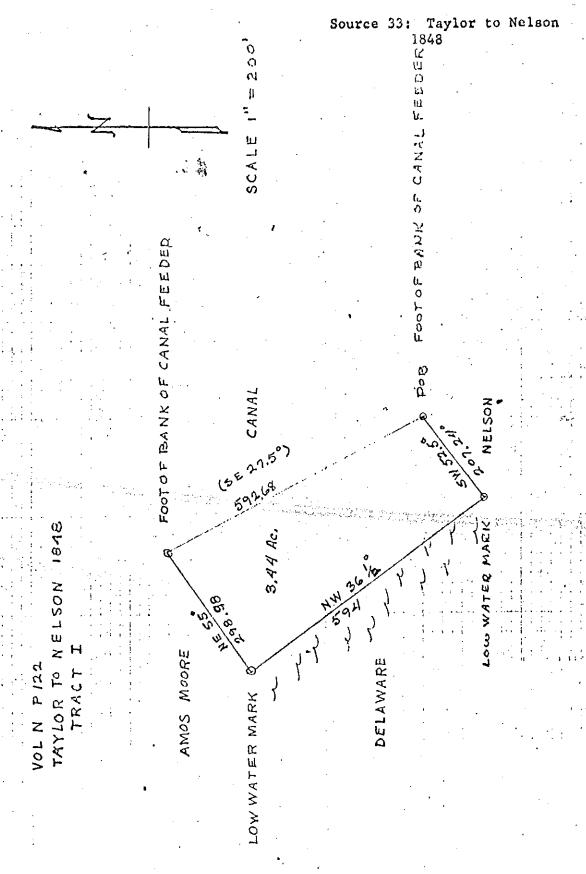
JESSE ATCHLEY JAMES BURROUGHS FERRY ROAD ESTATE OF JACOB JOSEPH B. AND CHARLES TONILINSON $i \lambda y$



Source 32: Taylor to Welson



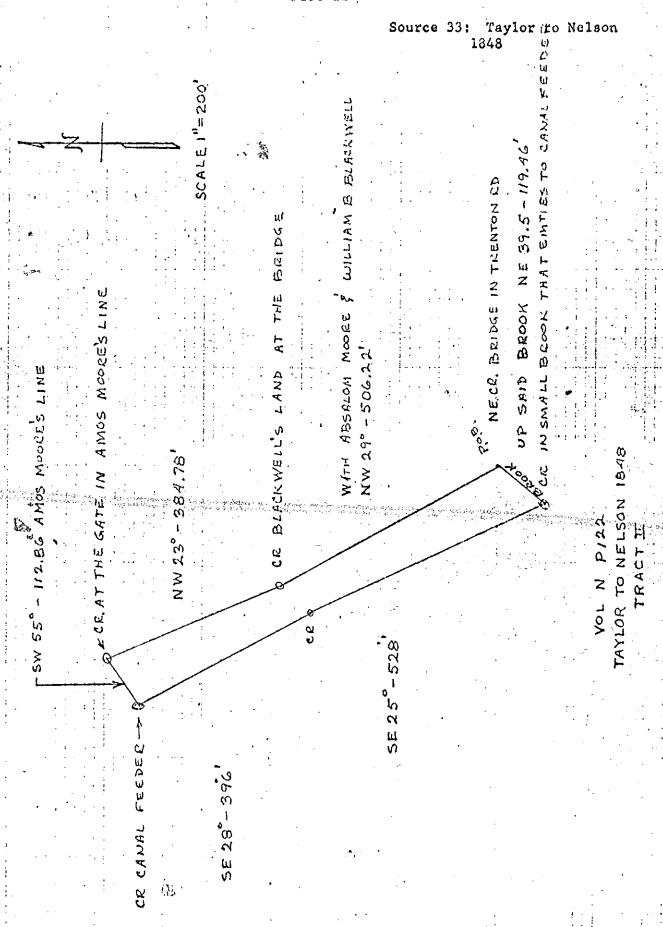
Source 32: Taylor to Melson

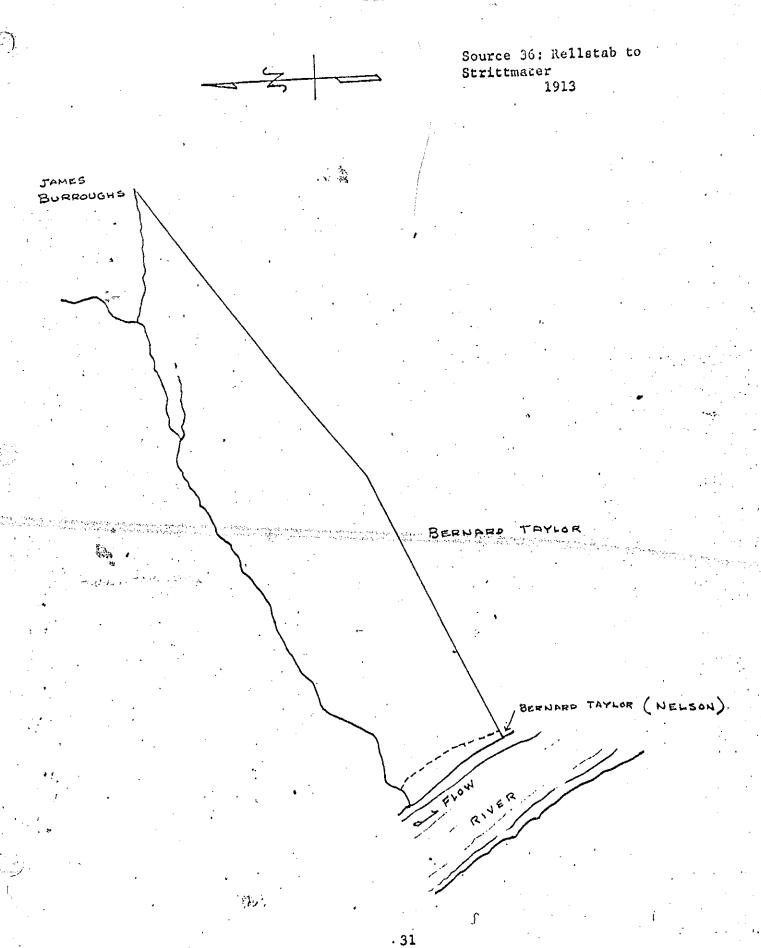


Source 33: Taylor to Melson

Plot 10

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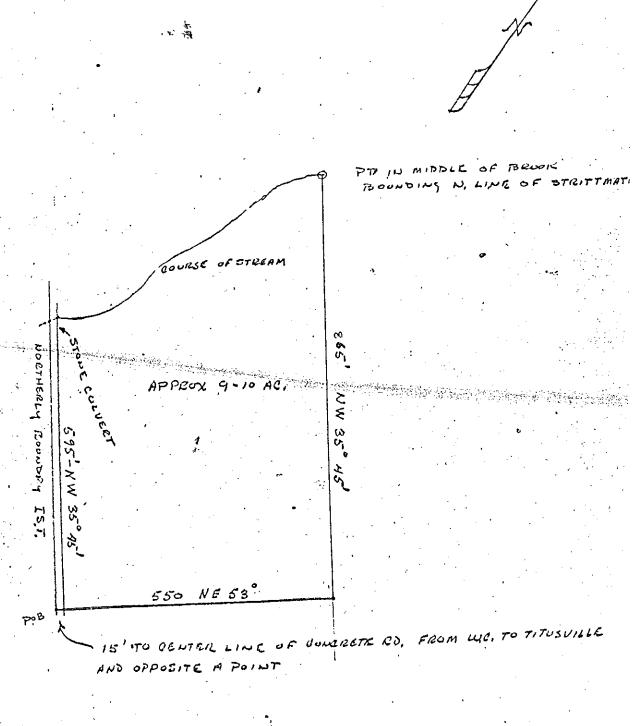


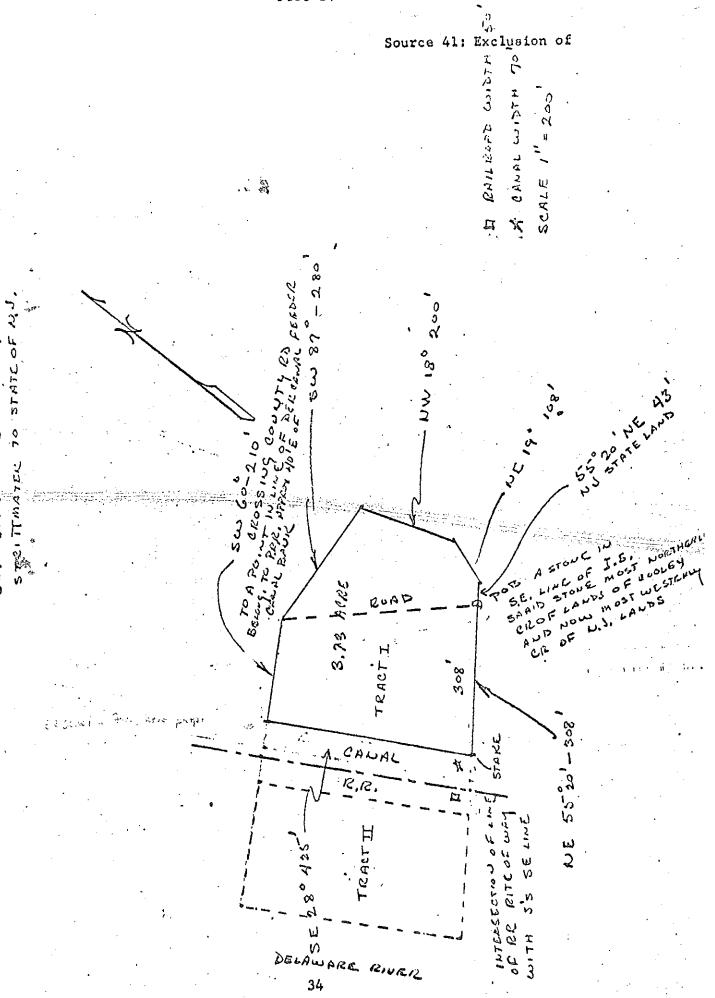


EXCLUSION OF DEEDVELT P363 1923 1.P.S. TO STA (STRITTMATER TO DIOCESE OFTRENION 40 LCC, 1921) SCALE 1" 200'

Source 40

Plot 13

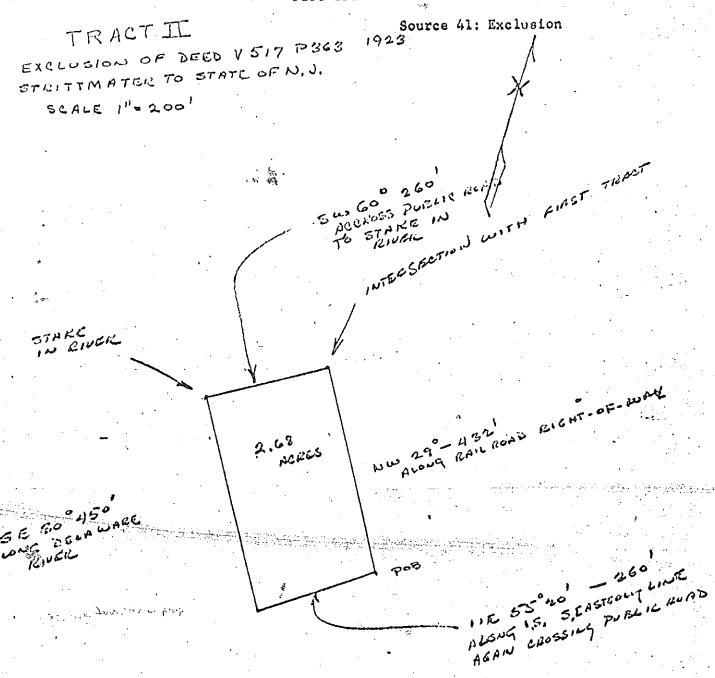




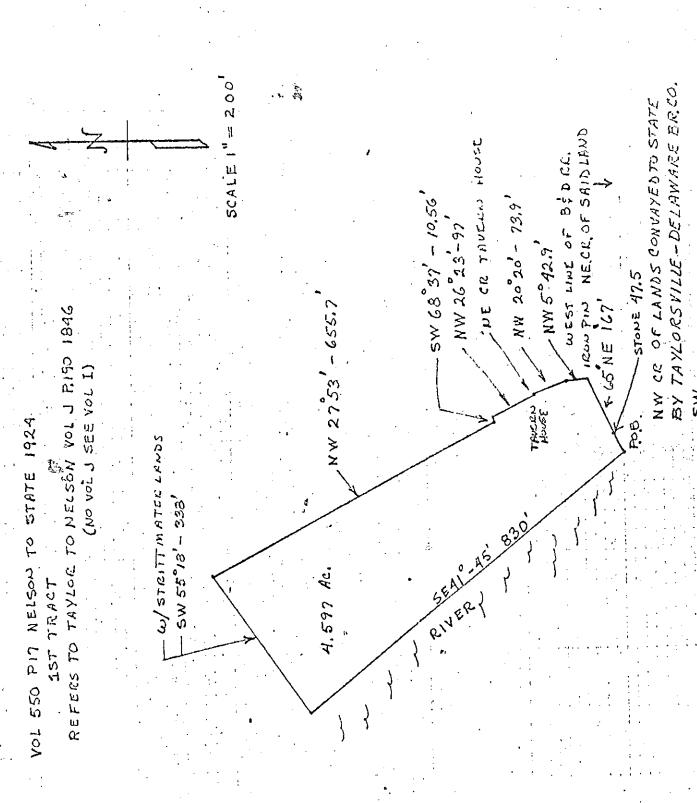
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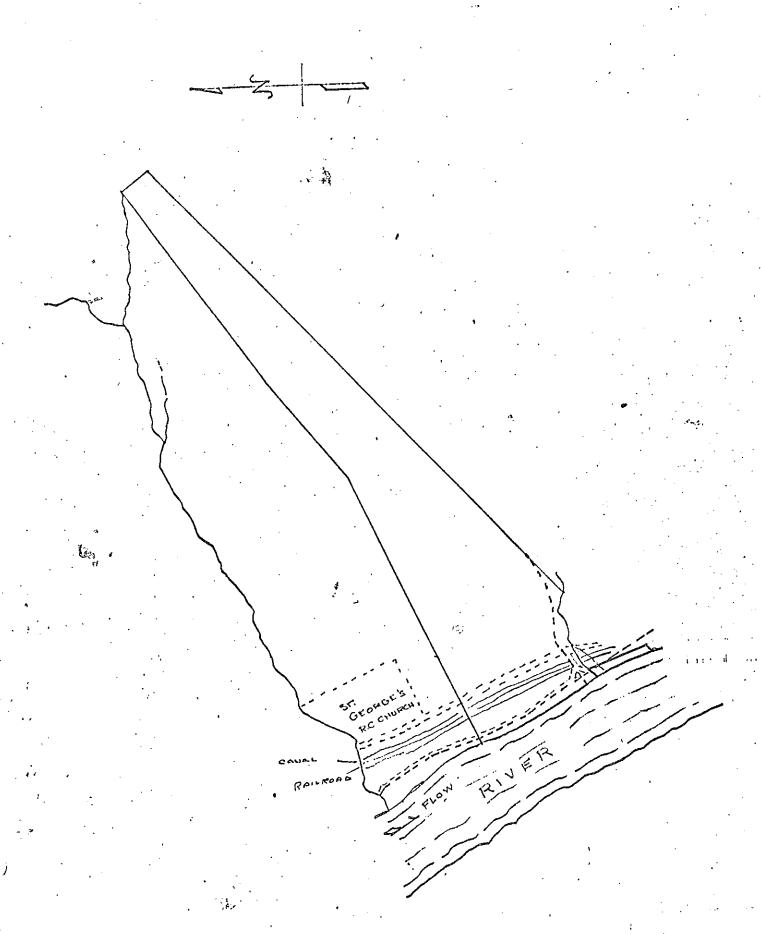
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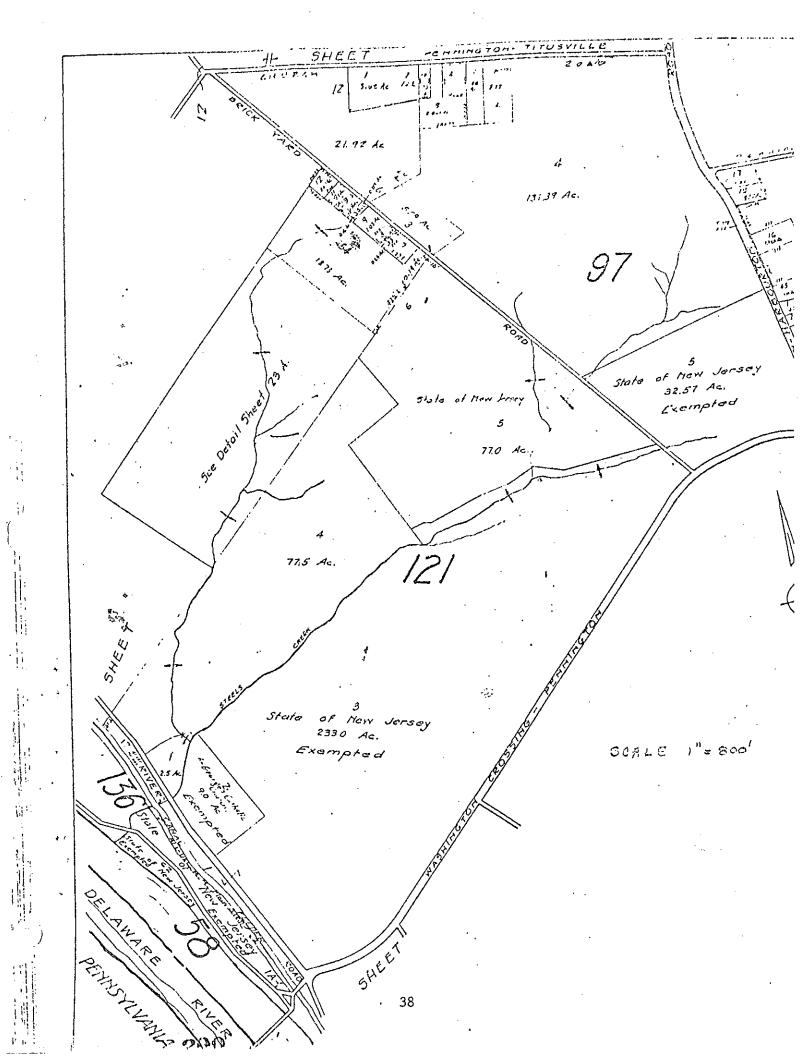
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PENNINGHON - TRANSPORTER 2074 CR BLACKIVELL TO STATE EXCEPT PART OF SCCUPIED BY RIGHTS AND OF COULTY ED, 98.5' ALONG STRITTMATER LINE TO RIGHT-OF -WAY OF CANHL CR.TO AUSTIN COOLEY IN LINE OF LANDS STRITIMATER TO STATE P555 - INTERSECTION CR TO E.H. SHERUBY REFERS TO TAYLOR TO NELSON VOL. N 10 JUNE 1924 SW 55°18' NELSON TO NJ SE30°40'-,







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- 10. Colonial Conveyances. Volume A-C, p. 123, recorded 9 November 1770. (Executors of Garret Johnson to Joseph Burroughs.)
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 - 16. New Jersey Archives. 1st Series, Volume 39. Abstracts of Wills, Volume 10, 1801-1805, p. 456. (Will of Samuel Tumbleson)
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- 18. Hunterdon County Mortgage. Volume 3, p. 44. (Joseph Tomlinson, Jr.Moses Harvey)
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 - 20. Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey. Volume 43, Number 1, p. 46. (Pennington Presbyterian Cemetery Records.)
 - 21. New Jersey Archives. 1st Series, Volume 41. Abstracts of Wills, Volume 12, 1810-1813, p. 184. (Will of Jacob Hoff)
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 - 25. Hunterdon County Deed. Volume 65, p. 250, recorded 25 October 1836. (Jos. B. & Martha Tomlinson to Taylorsville and Delaware Bridge Co.)
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 - 31. Hunterdon County Deed. Volume 54, p. 478, recorded 7 May 1833. (Jos. B., Martha, and Charles Tomlinson to the Delaware and Raritan Canal Co.)
 - 32. Mercer County Deed. Volume I, p. 190, recorded 2 April 1846. (Bernard Taylor to Alexander Nelson)
 - 33. Mercer County Deed. Volume N, p. 122, recorded 30 March 1848. (Bernard Taylor to Alexander Nelson)
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 - 37. Mercer County Deed. Volume 392, p. 74, recorded 12 June 1916. (Isidor P. Strittmater et.ux to Mercer County Board of Chosen Freeholders.)
 - 38. Mercer County Deed. Volume 352, p. 555, recorded 10 January 1913. (Alstyn D. Blackwell et. ux. to State of New Jersey.
 - 39. Mercer County Deed. Volume 486, p. 15, recorded 17 Feb. 1922. (Agreement between Isidor P. Strittmater and the Board of Conservation and Development)
 - 40. Mercer County Deed. Volume 470, p. 288, dated 11 April 1921. (Dr. Isidor P. Strittmater to Diocese of Trenton)
 - 41. Mercer County Deed. Volume 517, p. 363, recorded 30 August 1923. (Dr. Isidor P. Strittmater to State of New Jersey)

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