

**PROPOSAL TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE PHILADELPHIA HISTORICAL COMMISSION
TO REVIEW & APPROVE THE HOLME-CRISPIN PARK WITH THE HISTORICAL SHRINE¹
KNOWN AS THE THOMAS HOLME-CRISPIN FAMILY BURIAL GROUND
FOR INCLUSION UPON THE PHILADELPHIA REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

The Philadelphia Historical Commission may consider this proposal by giving Public Notice of the time & date of any associated review or action by the PHC.

1. ADDRESS OF HISTORIC RESOURCE: 2854 WILLITS ROAD also 2870 WILLITS ROAD, PHILADELPHIA. PA. 19136.
PHILADELPHIA CITY COUNCILMAN: THE HONORABLE BOBBY HENON OF THE 6TH — COUNCILMANIC DISTRICT
PUBLIC PROPERTY — BRT/OPA # 572079510 and BRT/OPA # 572076310 || PARCEL MAP: 157—N—12—27
PARCEL MAP: 152—N—12—26 || PARCEL MAP: 157—N—20—25 || PARCEL MAP: 157—N—20—29

2. NAME OF HISTORIC RESOURCE: THOMAS HOLME'S WELL-SPRING PLANTATION
Common Name: HOLME-CRISPIN PARK AND THOMAS HOLME-CRISPIN FAMILY BURIAL GROUND

3. TYPE OF HISTORIC RESOURCE

Building Structure X Site X Objects

4. PROPERTY INFORMATION

Condition: X excellent good fair poor ruins
Occupancy: X occupied vacant under construction unknown

Current use: Public Park – containing an Historical Shrine: Thomas Holme's Monument & Burial Ground

5. BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: A plot plan and written description of the boundary — **BEGINS ON PAGE 3**

6. DESCRIPTION: A description of this historic resource — **PAGE 7**

7. SIGNIFICANCE — STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE — PAGE 12 CONCLUSION — PAGE 21

Period of Significance: Circa 1692-1694 to Present day

Date(s) of construction: 1864, Trustees of LDA installed a monument marking the grave of Thomas Holme

Architect, engineer, and/or designer: Surveyor General Captain Thomas Holme Laid-Out This Site

Builder, contractor, and/or artisan: Trustees of Lower Dublin Academy designed the Holmes' Monument

Original owner: William Penn—> Samuel Clarridg —> Thomas Holme—> Crispin Family—> City of Phila.

Other significant persons: Many Members of the Crispin Family as Documented by William Frost Crispin²

¹ By Ordinance: "custody and control of the said premises was transferred to the Commissioners of Fairmount Park to be maintained as an historical shrine."
NOTE: The Commissioners of Fairmount Park and the City of Philadelphia have yet to maintain this premises as an **historical shrine**. See Deed on Page 42.

² Crispin, William Frost. *A Biographical and Historical Sketch of Captain William Crispin of the British Navy. Together with Portraits and Sketches of Many of His Descendants...* Akron, Ohio. Commercial Printing. 1901. 1-144. Web. 29th June 2017. <<https://archive.org/details/biographicalhist1901cris>>.

THE HISTORIC RESOURCE SATISFIES THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA FOR DESIGNATION:

- X (a) Has significant character, interest or value as part of the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the City, Commonwealth or Nation or is associated with the life of a person significant in the past; or,
- X (b) Is associated with an event of importance to the history of the City, Commonwealth or Nation; or,
- X (g) Is part of or related to a square, park or other distinctive area which should be preserved according to an historic, cultural or architectural motif; or,
- X (h) Owing to its unique location or singular physical characteristic, represents an established and familiar visual feature of the neighborhood, community or City; or,
- X (i) Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in pre-history or history; or
- X (j) Exemplifies the cultural, political, economic, social or historical heritage of the community.

8. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES — PAGE. 22 THOMAS HOLME’S APPOINTMENT — Appendix NO.1 PG.44
FREE AFRICANS IN LOWER DUBLIN —Appendix NO.2 PG.50 BARACK MARTIN’S TRANSCRIPT — Appendix NO.3 PG.69

9. NOMINATOR: Joseph J. Menkevich – Clairvoyant & Iconoclastic Researcher: menkevich.research@gmail.com
4740 Castor Avenue, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. 19124. Telephone: 215-289-0365
DATE: 29th December 2017. **NOTICE OF DESIGNATION:** USPS CERTIFIED MAIL 7017 1070 0000 3286 5184
CONTRIBUTOR: Fred Moore, President, Trustees of The Lower Dublin Academy. Email: fredmoore1@verizon.com
CONTRIBUTOR: Torben Jenk, Kensington History Project, Founder. Email: torben.jenk@gmail.com
CONTRIBUTOR: J.M. Duffin, Archivist/Historian Email: keeper@keepingphiladelphia.org
POSTHUMOUS CONTRIBUTOR: THOMAS FAIRMAN, OFFICER OF UPLAND COURT, ASSISTANT SURVEYOR, QUAKER
POSTHUMOUS CO-NOMINATOR: SILAS CRISPIN, SON OF CAPT. WILLIAM CRISPIN & SON-IN-LAW OF THOS. HOLME
POSTHUMOUS CO-NOMINATOR: SAMUEL C. WILLITS, TRUSTEE OF LOWER DUBLIN ACADEMY: HISTORIAN
POSTHUMOUS CO-NOMINATOR: MORDECAI JACKSON CRISPIN, TRUSTEE OF CRISPIN CEMETERY ASSOCIATION
POSTHUMOUS CO-NOMINATOR: ALBERT COOK MYERS, SECRETARY OF PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Nominators are Are not the property owner. CITY OF PHILADELPHIA OWNS THIS PROPERTY

PHC USE ONLY

Date of Receipt: 3 January 2018 (revised)

Correct-Complete Incorrect-Incomplete Date: 4 January 2018

Date of Notice Issuance: 4 January 2018

Property Owner at Time of Notice

Name: City of Philadelphia, Department of Public Property

Address: City Hall, Room 790, 1400 John F. Kennedy Blvd.

City: Philadelphia State: PA Postal Code: 19107

Date(s) Reviewed by the Committee on Historic Designation: 14 February 2018

Date(s) Reviewed by the Historical Commission: 9 March 2018

Date of Final Action: 9 March 2018

Designated Rejected Revised: 29th December 2017.

5. BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION OF THE HOLME-CRISPIN PARK & THE HOLME-CRISPIN BURIAL GROUND



Holme-Crispin Burial Ground

Photo: Joseph J. Menkevich - 20th September 2016

FOUR SEPARATE PARCELS ARE CONSOLIDATED TO FORM THE HOLME-CRISPIN PARK



Courtesy of Philadelphia Water Department³ & Philadelphia Zoning: <<https://atlas.phila.gov/#/2870%20WILLITS%20RD/zoning>>.

NOTE: No.1. The Holme-Crispin Park is currently zoned as a Parks and Open Space (Special Purpose) District (SP-PO-A).⁴

NOTE: No.2. The Holme-Crispin Family Burial Ground and baseball field of the Crispin Gardens Athletic Club⁵ are mainly accessed from about 3000 Holme Avenue. However their lot/parcels are consolidated within BRT/OPA Account No. 572076310 and they share 2870 Willits Road a common address, which is not near to either the Cemetery or baseball field.

³ NOTE: Some Philadelphia intradepartmental records on 2854 Willits Road are in conflict. Parcel Explorer does not exactly match PWD or Zoning records.

⁴ § 14-704 (2). **Steep Slope Protection.** "The open space and natural resource standards of this section are intended to promote safe and compatible development throughout the City of Philadelphia that avoids adverse impacts and degradation of the environment through open space preservation, protection of steep slopes, erosion control, and water quality protection. (a) **Applicability.** (1) These steep slope protection standards shall apply in all zoning districts to slopes of 15% or greater on any lot or portion(s) thereof located within the "Steep Slope Protection Area", as shown..."

⁵ Latitude: 40° 3' 26.6" N, Longitude: 75° 1' 13" W, Avg. elevation: 26m (75 feet). Web. 20th September 2016. <<http://mapcarta.com/29351378>>.

5. BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION OF THE HOLME-CRISPIN PARK AS FOUR CONSOLIDATED PARCELS

PARCEL (1 of 4), **2854 Willits Road**: 157N12—0027

PARCEL (2 of 4), **2870 Willits Road**: 157N12—0026

2854 WILLITS RD	
OPA/BRT Account	572079510
Owner	CITY OF PHILA DEPT OF PUBLIC PROP
Property Type	Exempt
Gross Area	2,786 ft ²
Impervious Area	3 ft ²
	SP-PO-A
	Fairmount
	Drainage
	Right-of-Way

Parcel Info	
Status	Active
Address	2870 WILLITS RD
Unit	[No Value]
Street Code	83420
Air Rights	[No Value]
BaseReg	157N12-0026
Parcel	0026
RecMap	157N12
Condo	No
Perimeter	2,806 ft
Area	244,600 ft ²

Additional Info	
Property Type	[No Value]
City Owned	Unknown
Council District	10
Ward	57
Census Tract	034801

Courtesy of Parcel Explorer & Philadelphia Zoning: <<https://atlas.phila.gov/#/2854%20WILLITS%20RD/property>>.

PARCEL (3 of 4), **2870 Willits Road**: 152N20—0025

Parcel Info	
Status	Active
Address	[No Value]
Unit	[No Value]
Street Code	[No Value]
Air Rights	[No Value]
BaseReg	152N20-0025
Parcel	0025
RecMap	152N20
Condo	No
Perimeter	4,978 ft
Area	962,964 ft ²

Additional Info	
Property Type	[No Value]
City Owned	Unknown
Council District	10
Ward	57
Census Tract	034801
Census Block	[No Value]

Above: Illustration Courtesy of Parcel Explorer. Web. <<https://secure.phila.gov/parcelexplorerauth/>>.

NOTE: No.3. The Thomas Holme-Crispin Family Burial Ground and Park, collectively occupy an area of land situated in watershed of Wooden-Bridge-Run; a tributary of the Pennypack Creek. It was the part of the Fairmount Park System, known as Pennypack Park. It is now currently under the jurisdiction of Philadelphia's Department of Parks and Recreation.⁶

NOTE: No.4. The Thomas Holme-Crispin Family Burial Ground has always had its own defined boundary and measurements. The One-Acre Burial Ground has always been excluded from all and every deed transaction executed within or between all the surrounding properties - until its acquisition by the City of Philadelphia in 1950.

NOTE: No.5. With the exception of the Burial Ground, the surrounding parkland is an irregular parcel formed by condemnation and acquisition of several smaller parcels for the purpose of creating Pennypack Park; therefore it does not follow a single parcel or deed description, as it represents the sum of many consolidated smaller parcels.

⁶ The mission of Philadelphia Parks & Recreation focuses on preserving and enhancing existing green spaces while also expanding the amount of green, public space available in the City. Web. 18th July 2017. <<http://www.phila.gov/parksandrecreation/Pages/default.aspx>>.

5. THOMAS HOLME-CRISPIN PARK AND FAMILY BURIAL GROUND – FOUR CONSOLIDATED PARCELS

PARCEL (4 of 4), 2870 Willits Road: 152N20—0029



Above: Illustration Courtesy of Parcel Explorer Web. <<https://secure.phila.gov/parcelexplorerauth/>>.

The Holme-Crispin Park — Segment Measurements — Courtesy of Preservation Officer, Kim Chantry (PHC)



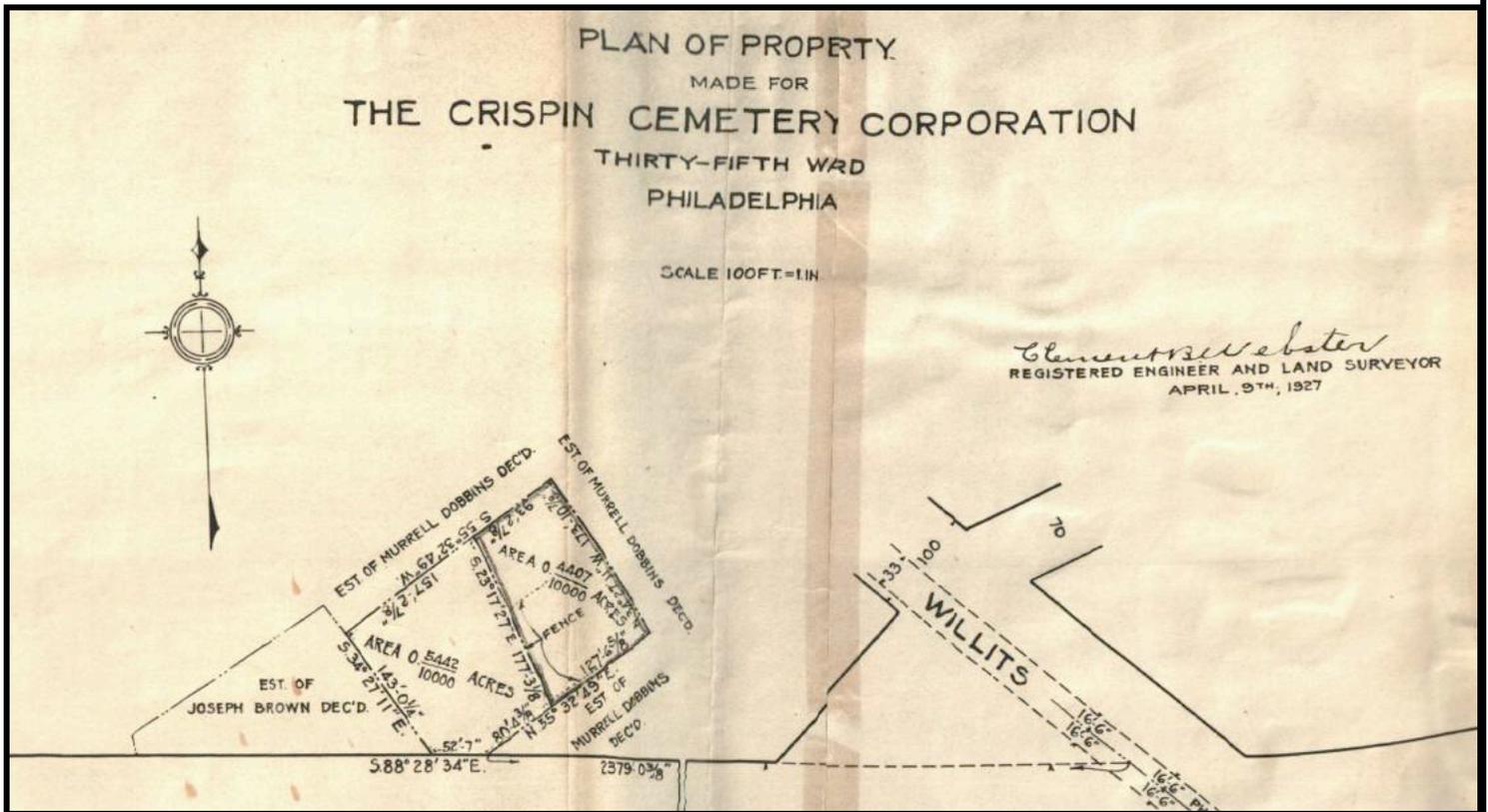
Above: Illustration Courtesy of Parcel Explorer & ERSI-ArcGIS. Web. <<http://resources.arcgis.com/en/help/arcgis-rest-api/>>.

The Holme-Crispin Park fronts 1,433 feet on Holme Avenue and travels along a railroad right-of-way 657 feet & 238 feet. It's boundary is then the rear property lines: 315 feet on Tolbut Street; continuing 534 feet, 296 feet and 331 feet on Tremont Street; 235 feet on Willits Road; 988 feet on Cloverly Road; 381 & 570 feet on Arlan Avenue; and 268 feet on Convent Ave.

NOTE: No.6. Unless noted, the maps and illustrations are visual aids. They are not official measurements performed by the Philadelphia Survey & Design Bureau; the Streets Department or any Philadelphia Survey District.

5. BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION OF THE CRISPIN CEMETERY – EXTRACT FROM THE DEED TO THE CITY ⁷

ALL THAT CERTAIN lot or parcel of land SITUATE in the Thirty-fifth Ward of the City of Philadelphia, shown upon a plan prepared for the Department of Law by Mr. Howard LeQuin, Surveyor and Regulator, First District, the said plan being dated March 2, 1950, and described as follows:



1927 Survey — Scanned 7th September 2016 — Philadelphia City Archives ⁸ Courtesy of Joseph J. Menkevich

BEGINNING on a the North side of Holme Avenue (150 feet wide) at the distance of 1,700 feet, 4 & 7/8th inches East of Holme Circle;

Thence North 34°27' 11" West 143 feet & 1/4th inch to a point;

Thence North 55° 32' 49" East 250 feet 5 & 3/4th inches to a point;

Thence South 34° 27' 11" East 173 feet 10 & 7/8th inches to a point;

Thence South 55° 32' 49" West 207 feet 11 inches to a point on the North side of Holme Avenue (150 ft. wide);

Thence along the North side of Holme Avenue, North 88° 28' 34" West 52 feet 7 inches to the first mentioned point and place of beginning.

BEING the same premises which was selected and appropriated for Municipal purposes by an Ordinance of the Council of the City of Philadelphia, approved April 26, 1950, entitled "AN ORDINANCE To select and appropriate for municipal purposes a certain lot or parcel of land known as Crispin Cemetery on the North side of Holme Avenue, one hundred fifty feet wide, at the distance of seventeen hundred feet four and seven-eights inches east of Holme Circle; and making an allocation of funds for the payment of damages for the taking of land.";

AND thereafter by an Ordinance of the Council of The City of Philadelphia, approved [BLANK DATE] 1950, custody and control of the said premises was transferred to the Commissioners of Fairmount Park to be maintained as an historical shrine. [NOTE: 9849/10,000th of an Acre in two parcels – one is fenced, the other is unfenced].

⁷ Crispin Cemetery to the City of Philadelphia, 16th December 1950. Deed Book: CJP. Vol. 2907, page 49. (Deed is on page 42 of this nomination).

⁸ Crispin Cemetery on Holme Avenue, burial place of Thomas Holme, Surveyor General for William Penn. 82-100.5 Scrapbook of City Solicitor, 1950. Web. 1st September 2016. <<http://www.phila.gov/phils/docs/inventor/textonly/archser/S082-100.htm#82-100.7>>.

6. DESCRIPTION OF THE HOLME-CRISPIN PARK & THE HOLME-CRISPIN BURIAL GROUND

The Far Northeast District Plan on Historic Preservation contains the following description:

Sites/Structures Goal: *Consider nomination of the following potentially-eligible historic sites to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places*

Holme Avenue & Convent Avenue, Holme-Crispin Cemetery (c. 1694-1863): This cemetery is the burial site of Thomas Holme, William Penn's Surveyor General, who laid out the famous grid of Philadelphia streets. In the seventeenth century, Holme maintained an estate, known as the Well Spring Plantation, in Lower Dublin Township near Pennypack Creek. When Holme died in May 1695, his son-in-law Silas Crispin was named executor of the estate. As Quakers, the Holme/Crispin family cemetery primarily featured graves marked with a small stone carved only with the initials of the deceased. In 1863, the Lower Dublin Academy, which Holme's will helped establish, dedicated an obelisk monument in the cemetery to their patron.⁹

Over the last 300 years, the Thomas Holme-Crispin Graveyard has several times fallen into cycles of abandonment and ill repair; latter to be resurrected and honored. Currently the park and burial ground has received much love and attention through the Holme Circle Civic Association, who held a flagpole dedication ceremony.¹⁰



Holme-Crispin Cemetery Flagpole Dedication Ceremony 3rd Nov. 2013. <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pwVo6FyZxDY>>.

A complete history of this area was first documented by Samuel C. Willits who (with his brother) established a mill adjoined to the Rowland Shovel Factory, near the mouth of Wooden Bridge Run.¹¹

In the immediate vicinity is the African American Community called "Harrisburg," which contains Bethany African Methodist Episcopal Church. Its deed is dated 1810. This Church and Community have a shared history with the vestrymen of All Saint's P.E. Church of Lower Dublin.¹² Greenbelt Knoll National Historic District, the first planned racially integrated development in Philadelphia, is on opposite side of Holme Avenue, across from the Thomas Holme Monument.

⁹ Philadelphia Historical Commission. "Philadelphia2035: Far Northeast District Plan." Pub. 2016-2017. 25. Web. 23rd November 2017. <https://www.phila.gov/historical/Documents/Far%20Northeast%20HP%20Memo_REVISED.pdf>.

¹⁰ Kenny, William. "Preserving History in Holme Circle" 14th Nov. 2013. Web. 23rd November 2017. <<http://bsm.l1.gmnews.com/2013/11/14/preserving-history-in-holme-circle/>>.

¹¹ The Academy of Natural Sciences. Fairmont Park Master Plan Downloads. Volume II, Chapter 5. Pennypack Park Master Plan. June 2000. II-431. Web. 23rd November 2017. <<http://www.ansp.org/research/environmental-research/projects/fairmount-park/>>.

¹² APPENDIX: No.2 — THE ROOTS OF THE FREE AFRICAN AMERICANS IN LOWER DUBLIN TOWNSHIP, On Page 50 of this Nomination.

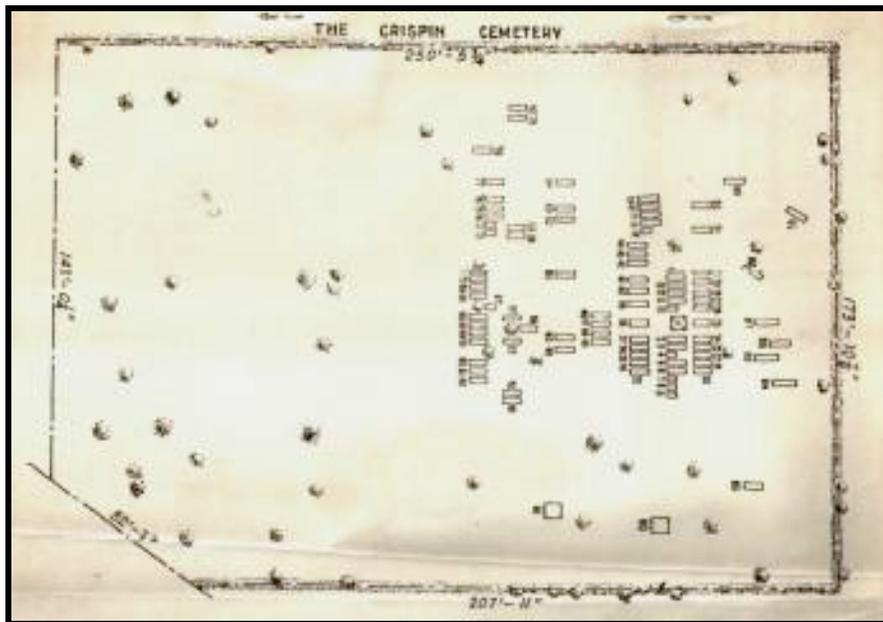
6. DESCRIPTION OF THE BURIAL GROUND

The Thomas Holme-Crispin Family Burial Ground is a City-owned property located next to a ball-field of the same name (Holme-Crispin). The site is nearly one acre, extending field side of Holme Avenue at Longford Street into the woods.



Above: Illustration Courtesy of Google

22nd May 2017



Left Image: 7th Sept. 2016 – City Archives
The complete One-Acre Site is an archaeological sensitive area, which must be protected from potential damage by city-workers in their performing normal maintenance. Several component watersheds & lands within Fairmount Park contain historically significant and archaeological sensitive sites, remnant buildings, footpaths, mills, dams and ruins. As the City develops plans for identifying historic resources, much of the historical treasures within Fairmount Park remain unprotected & unlisted on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places. Lenape artifacts, which have been found in N.E. Philadelphia creeks, are currently stored in the historical societies of Frankford and Byberry.

In 1901, William Frost Crispin said: "At the present time, the traces of about one hundred graves can be found, only half of which have stones, and of these only a dozen have legible inscriptions."¹³

¹³ Ibid. Crispin, William Frost., *A Biographical and Historical Sketch of Captain William Crispin of the British Navy*. 31. Web. 5th July 2017.

6. DESCRIPTION OF THE PARK AND GRAVESITE — HISTORICAL

“Upon authority given Mr. Jesse T. Vogdes, Chief Engineer to the Commissioners of Fairmount Park, by resolution of the Committee on Outlying Parks, adopted July 9, 1915, the writer was retained to prepare ‘a plan for the development of Pennypack Park, as now laid out on the City Plan, using the topographical surveys of the Bureau of Surveys as a basis.’

As these data were devoid of tree and other necessary locations, they were supplemented by surveys, sketches and observations made on the ground by members of the writer's office staff. Pennypack Park lies partially in that portion of Philadelphia known as Holmesburg, so named in memory of Thomas Holme, the Surveyor General, who, under the direction of William Penn's Commission, laid out the townsite of Philadelphia in 1682.

The Burial Place of Thomas Home



PLAN OF PENNYPACK PARK PREPARED FOR THE COMMISSIONERS OF FAIRMOUNT PARK

The name ‘Pennypack’ is said to be derived from the Indian name ‘Pemapecta’ or ‘Pemapecta’ given to the Creek running through the Park and intended to describe the winding, crooked course it pursues. ...

The country hereabouts is redundant in history. The body of Thomas Holme is buried just outside the limits of the Park, on an avenue now in course of construction, to be named Holme Avenue in memory of the Surveyor.

His grave is of especial interest, as is also the old Pennypack Baptist Church, founded in 1688 and still standing but a short distance from the entrance to the Park on Krewstown Avenue, between Oswald Avenue and Meeting House Road...”¹⁴

¹⁴ Leavitt, Charles Wellford. *Report to Accompany Plan of Pennypack Park Prepared For The Commissioners of Fairmount Park*. Philadelphia. 5th June 1916. 1-6. Web. 18th July 2017. <<https://archive.org/details/cu31924024461257>>.

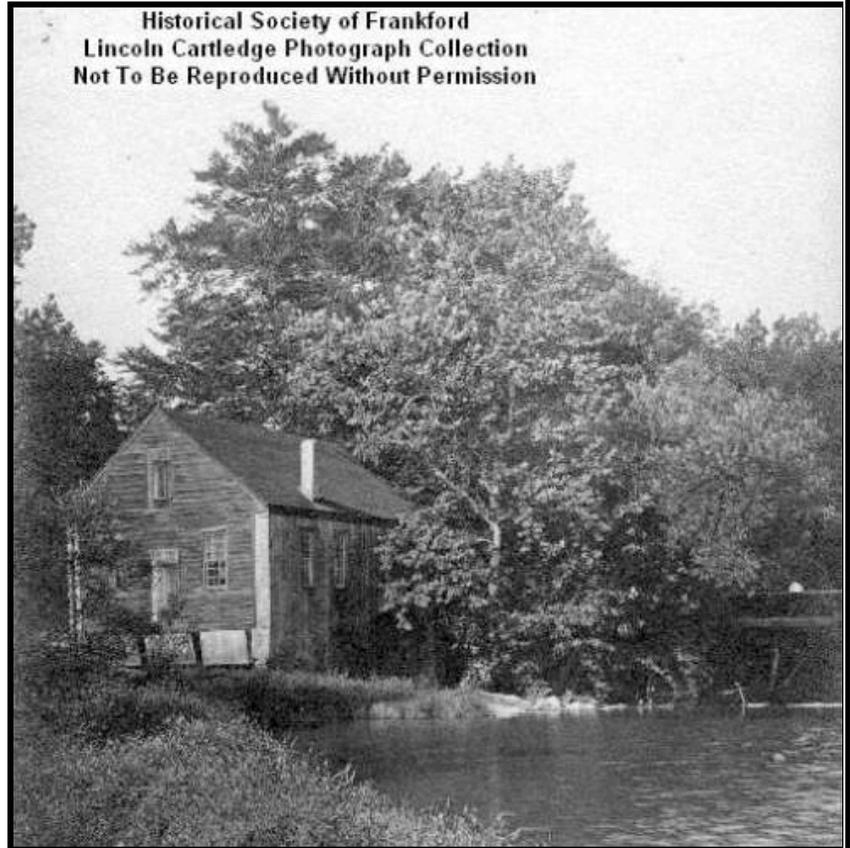
6. DESCRIPTION OF THE PARK AREA — HISTORICAL

The City of Philadelphia (when building the parks) demolished many buildings and structures. However by applying today's standards and criteria for nomination, the buried remnants must be considered historically protected archaeological assets.

Dr. I. Pearson Willits published this account:

"Just south of Rowland's station, on the creek, is an old mill, once a grist mill, which stands on the site of an eighteenth century saw-mill. This saw-mill was owned in the Paul family before the Revolution, but fell into disuse shortly after 1800, although much of the lumber to build the Lower Dublin Academy in 1800 and 1801 was sawed here. William Milliken and Peter Graham built the grist mill about 1814. In 1842 Samuel C. Willits and Brother bought the mill and converted it for the manufacture of linseed oil;—which they continued until 1852, when the Rowlands purchased it as an extension to their shovel factory. The sma'l house adjoining the mill was formerly the miller's residence. The water-power was obtained from a dam on a small stream known as Wooden Bridge run, which empties into the Pennepack nearby. This dam once went by the name Page's, and the remains of an old powder mill may still be seen below the flood-gates. Many years ago a dye-works stood here, of which a Mr.

Tinker was proprietor. On the wooded hill to the north of this dam and of the railroad, is the Thomas Holme cemetery, on the northeast side of the line of his imaginary Susquehanna Road.^{15 16}



Courtesy of HSF. <<http://www.phillyh2o.org/backpages/20050050055.html>>.



Courtesy of HSF and Adam Levine: <<http://www.phillyh2o.org/backpages/20050050051.html>>.

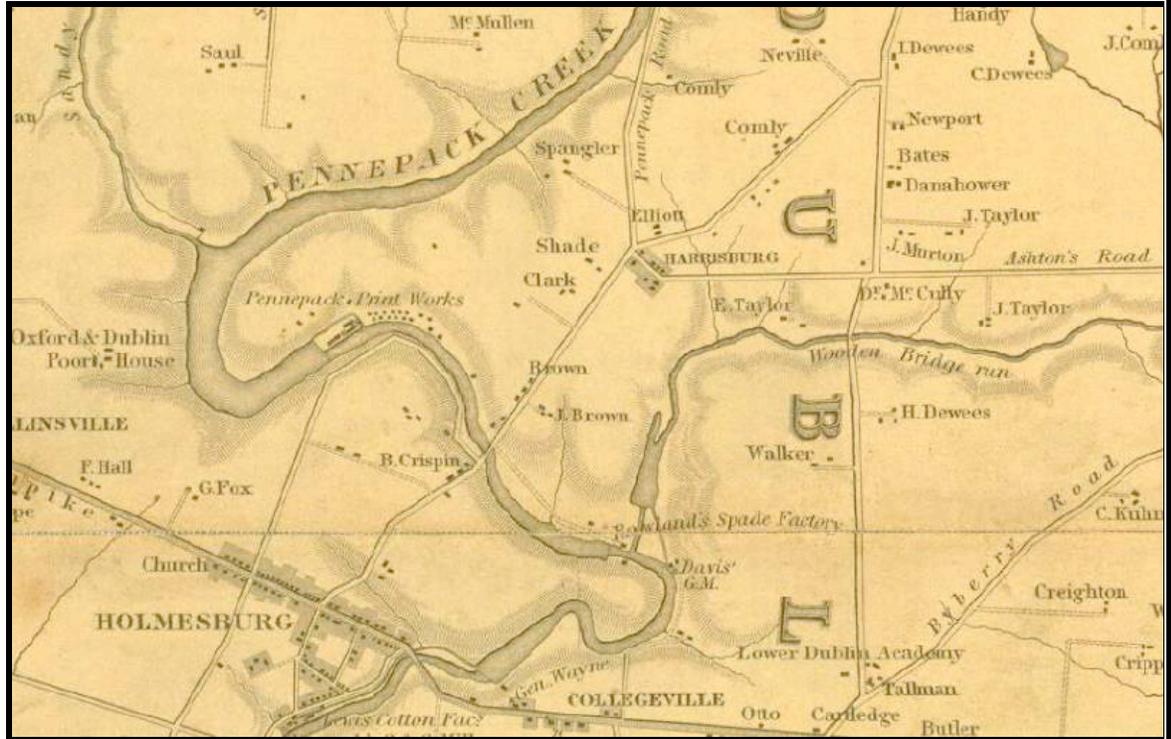
¹⁵ Willits, I P, and George S. Clark. *The Pennepack in Lower Dublin Township: Written for the City History Society of Philadelphia, and Read at the Meeting of October 13th, 1911*. Philadelphia: The Society, 1911. Web. 2nd November 2017. <<http://www.phillyh2o.org/backpages/pennypack1911.htm>>.

¹⁶ Lincoln Cartledge Photographs of Several Demolished Buildings inside Pennypack Park: <<http://www.phillyh2o.org/backpages/20050050055.html>>.

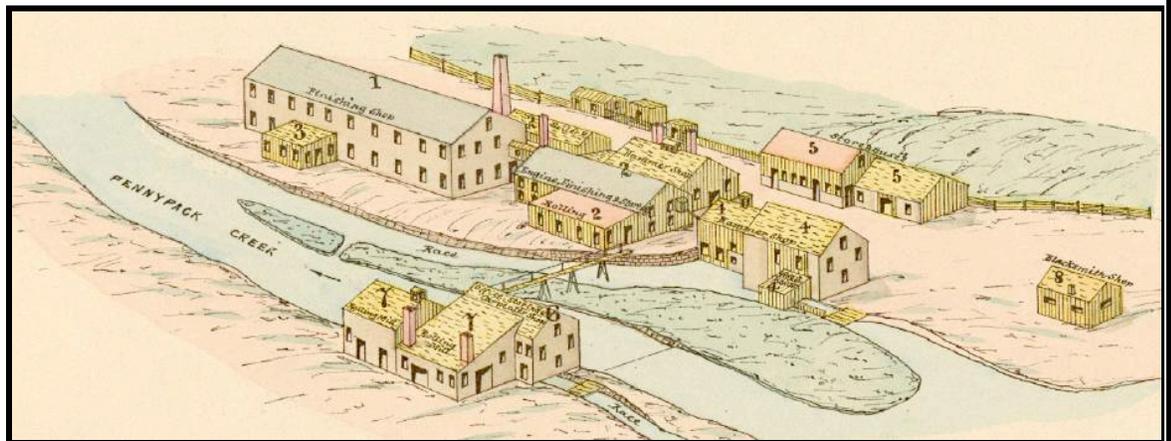
6. DESCRIPTION OF HOLMESBURG — CONTEMPORARY ACCOUNT

“By 1681, the English had gained political control of the Delaware Valley and settlement by a large number of immigrants interested more in farming than trade with the Indians began in earnest. A plantation system developed in the countryside, connected to the mouth of the Pennypack Creek, where goods and products could be sent to the growing city. The Pennypack Creek is tidal from its mouth almost to Frankford Avenue, where natural falls (at the geologic fall line) stop tidewater...

Holmesburg provided an easy creek crossing at low tide, and at high tide water travel was used to link people and the plantation produce to the city. The crossing marked an old Indian trail, which was used by settlers. By 1697, travel was so busy in the area that a stone bridge (the Frankford bridge, which is still in use) was constructed. North-south routes linked Philadelphia and the lower, western part of the Delaware Valley to Princeton and New York. Holmesburg got its name from Thomas Holme, who was granted over 1,600 acres by William Penn which he developed into a plantation... By the close of the 18th century, the lower



Charles Ellet. 1843. Web. <<http://www.philageohistory.org/rdic-images/view-image.cfm/ellet>>.



Hexamer General Survey. Web. <<http://libwww.freelibrary.org/digital/item/zoom/13334>>.

Pennypack Creek sported a cotton factory, a saw mill and a grist mill. By 1800 there were over 30 milling operations on the creek. What began in the 18th century, turned into large industrial complexes by the mid-19th century. For instance, the Rowland Shovel Works, located near the mouth of Wooden Bridge Run, opened its doors in 1826 with eight employees and expanded and stayed in business until 1920.¹⁷

¹⁷ Ibid. Volume II Chapter 5 Pennypack Park Master Plan. 9-10. Web. <<http://www.ansp.org/research/environmental-research/projects/fairmount-park/>>.

7. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Circa 1694, the Thomas Holme-Crispin Park and Burial Ground, its landscape, Obelisk Monument marking the grave of Thomas Holme, and other plain stone markers comprise an extremely significant historical site that merits designation by the Philadelphia Historical Commission and inclusion on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places. It is located on the 3000 block of Holme Avenue, with a city address of 2870 Willits Road in the Holmesburg section of Northeast Philadelphia.

The Grave of Thomas Holme



Photo Courtesy of Joseph J. Menkevich 20th September 2016

The resource satisfies Criteria for Designation A, B, G, H, J and I as enumerated in Sect. 14-1004 of the Philadelphia Code:

- (A) Has significant character, interest or value as part of the development, heritage, or cultural characteristics of the city, commonwealth, or nation, or is associated with the lives of persons significant in the past; or,
- (B) Is associated with an event of importance to the history of the City, Commonwealth or Nation; or,
- (G) Is part of or related to a square, park or other distinctive area which should be preserved according to an historic, cultural or architectural motif; or,
- (H) Owing to its unique location or singular physical characteristic, represents an established and familiar visual feature of the neighborhood, community or City; or,
- (I) Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, archaeological information important in history; or,
- (J) Exemplifies the cultural, political, economic, social or historical heritage of the community.

7. SIGNIFICANCE:

THOMAS HOLME-CRISPIN PARK

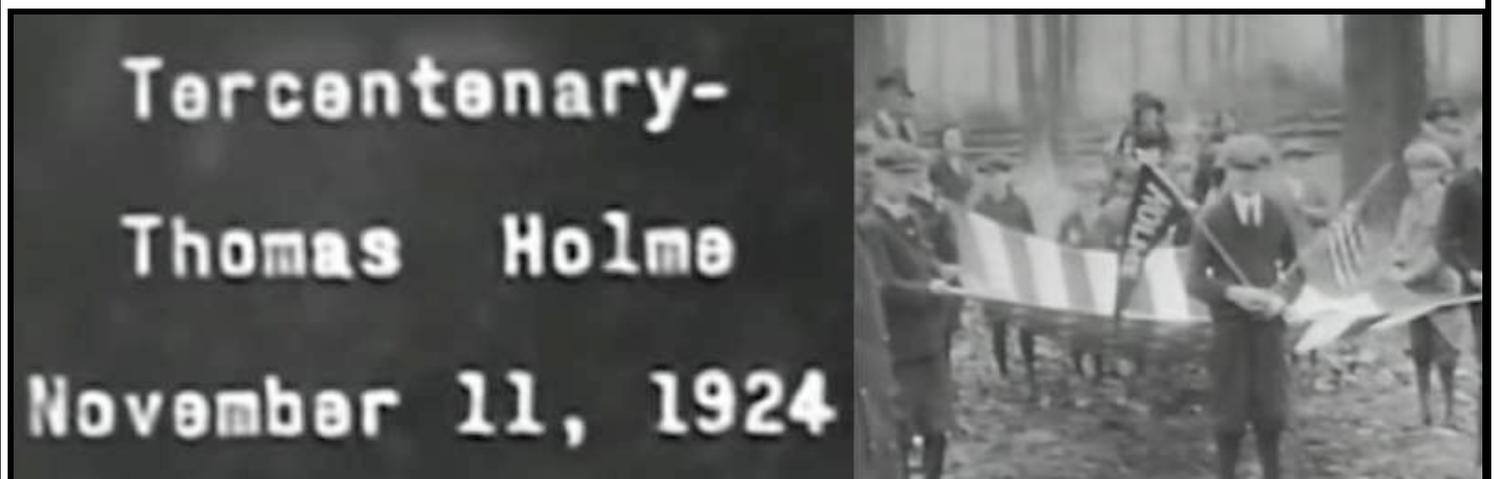
As the site associated with Thomas Holme, Surveyor General of William Penn, who mapped the City of Philadelphia and the State of Pennsylvania, it has significant value as part of the development, heritage, and culture of the City, Commonwealth, and Nation; is associated with an event central to the founding narrative of the Commonwealth, and; exemplifies the cultural, social, and historical heritage of the community of Holmesburg, and; for its association to the Trustees of the Lower Dublin Academy, the Obelisk Marker and the Tercentenary Celebration. It is a venerable site worthy of preservation, Satisfying Criteria A, B & J.

The Holme-Crispin Park as open space and city-park within an archaeologically sensitive watershed. Established circa 1915, the site commemorates the grave of Thomas Holme, and; it provides an area of open space & recreation for the neighborhood of Northeast Philadelphia. The Holme-Crispin Park represents a familiar visual feature of Holmesburg. For more than 300 years it contained a graveyard, which is a distinctive public square, and – between 1863-1864, the Trustees of the Lower Dublin Academy erected an Obelisk Monument, which is an early public monument – all of which are worthy of preservation, Satisfying Criteria G, H and I.

Elizabeth B. Crispin - Holme's Grave. **Image on the right:**



Extracted from the Philadelphia Evening Bulletin, McDowell collection at Temple Digital Collections. Web. 5th July 2017. <<http://digital.library.temple.edu/cdm/>>. Note: She latter became “The Countess Tripcovich.”¹⁸



A 58 seconds film clip of the Tercentenary has survived. Web. 6th June 2017. <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u8uC60lx6G8>>.

¹⁸ “NEW YORK.--An International alliance of wealth and ancestry is coming. The engagement is of Miss Elizabeth Brockway Crispin, daughter of a New York banker, to Oliverlo Tripcovich of Trieste, son of the late Commedatore Diedate Tripcovlch and the countess Gilda Tripcovlch-Pozza, an ancestor of Miss Crispin fought with William the Conqueror. Her fiancé is a member of a family that has become wealthy from the Italian mercantile marine.” The Bee (Danville, Virginia) 17th Dec. 1928, Mon. Page 7. Web. 27th November 2017. <<https://www.newspapers.com/newspage/47445970/>>.



THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PENNSYLVANIA.

A stated meeting of the Society will be held Monday, November 10, 1924, at 8.15 o'clock P. M., in observance of THE TERCENTENARY (1624-1924) OF THE BIRTH OF THOMAS HOLME, Born November 11, New Style.

MR. ALBERT COOK MYERS

Secretary of the Pennsylvania Historical Commission
will deliver an address (illustrated with lantern slides) on
 "CAPTAIN THOMAS HOLME: WILLIAM PENN'S FIRST SURVEYOR,
 GENERAL OF PENNSYLVANIA"

Members and their friends are invited to be present.

No cards of admission required.

R. STURGIS INGERSOLL,

Recording Secretary



MEMORIAL MEETING TO THOMAS HOLME ON HIS BIRTH TERCENTENARY, NOVEMBER 11, 1924, AT HIS GRAVE IN THE CRISPIN FAMILY CEMETERY, NEAR HOLMESBURG, PHILADELPHIA.

His descendants: to left of stone, M. Jackson Crispin, Mrs. Crispin, John S. Clark, James Watts Mercur; to right, Mr. Crispin's daughter, Miss Elizabeth Brockway Crispin, his brother, Clarence Gearhart Crispin and wife.

MEMORIAL MEETING TO THOMAS HOLME ON HIS BIRTH TERCENTENARY, 11TH NOVEMBER 1924 AT HIS GRAVE¹⁹

¹⁹ Report of the Pennsylvania Historical Commission. Harrisburg, Pa. 1926. 46-50. Web. 6th June 2017. <https://archive.org/details/reportofpennsylv00penn_14>.

Bronze Plaque Designed by Paul P. Cret is Currently Missing ²⁰



Image — Philadelphia City Archives 7th Sept. 2016

Service For First Surveyor General

SERVICE FOR FIRST SURVEYOR GENERAL

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 11. — Chief Justice Von Moschzisker of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court was the principal speaker today at the unveiling of a tablet on the site of the home of Captain Thomas Holme, first surveyor general of Pennsylvania, who laid out the plan of Philadelphia and whose tercentenary was being celebrated.

Miss Elizabeth Brockway Crispin, tenth in direct descent from the great surveyor, unveiled the marker at No. 113 Arch st., where the home of her ancestor stood, in the presence of representatives of the Pennsylvania Historical Commission, the Fairmount Park Art Association, and members of the Crispin family. The address of Chief Justice Von Moschzisker, giving a summary of the work of Holme in laying out the streets of Philadelphia, concluded with a suggestion that the parkway should have been made a great American street, lined with colonial structures.

Earlier in the day exercises were held in Crispin cemetery, Holmesburg, where Captain Holme is buried.

The Reading Times 12th November 1924

Chief Justice Von Moschzisker of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court was the principal speaker today at the unveiling of a tablet on the site of the home of Captain Thomas Holme... 113 Arch Street.

Earlier in the day exercises were held in the Crispin cemetery, Holmesburg, where Captain Holme is buried.

²⁰ Two especially notable commemorations were inspired and directed by the Commission: The Tercentenary, 1624-1924, of the birth (November 11, 1624) of Thomas Holme (died 1695), A memorial meeting, November 11, 1924, 10.30 A. M., at the grave of Holme in the Crispin Family Cemetery, on his Plantation Well Spring, near present Holmesburg, Reports of the Pennsylvania Historical Commission, Vol. 1-5. 1915. 17-19. Web. 6th June 2017. ([Google Books](#)).

7. SIGNIFICANCE: THE OBELISK MONUMENT MARKING THOMAS HOLME GRAVE

7th November 1864 — His Body Exhumed — Foundation Laid — Report:

“Thomas Holme died in 1695, aged about 71 years, 13 years after his arrival in the colony, and was buried near the centre of the ground he had selected; and there was placed at the head of his grave a split or a broken boother or large pebble stone of a yellow color, which stone has been pointed out from generation to generation in the direct decent of the Crispin family, as designating the grave of Thomas Holme.

Benjamin Crispin told me that his great uncle had pointed out to him, when he was a small boy, this as the grave of Thomas Holme, and as this uncles father, Thomas Crispin, was no doubt at the funeral of his grandfather Holme, this seems to be very direct. This stone is now in my possession having been taken up in November 1863, when the foundation for the tomb-stone was laid.

In digging for the purpose of laying the said foundation, we discovered that the earth that had filled in the grave – although it had rested there 168 years - dug very differently than that which had never been removed, and that the original sides of the grave could be followed down almost as if it had been a wall of stone. We imagined we could see the original spade marks on the sides, as the earth in the grave seemed less solid as the depth was increased it was concluded to go to the bottom for a foundation.

About four-and-a-half feet from the surface of a hollow space was found of some three or four inches in depth. We had no idea of finding any remains but told the man who was digging to be careful as he approached the bottom. To our great surprise an almost perfect skeleton of a man at least six feet in length was found – the scull and head bones with jaws so perfect that you could tell how many teeth he had lost while living and how many partially decayed ones he had at the time of death. There were no remains of a coffin except a few rusty nails.

There in the presence of Benjamin Crispin Esq.,²¹ we gathered up carefully the remains of his worthy ancestor, and Mr. Crispin having had made a proper box in which they were placed, we re-interred them in the centre of the stone foundation that supports the humble monument, erected by the trustees of the Lower Dublin Academy as a memorial to the worthy man through whom the grounds on which the Institution is erected, was donated.”

— Samuel C. Willits²²

About a mile from the village lie the remains of Thomas Holme, Penn's surveyor. The graveyard is private property, and is upon the Willits estate, the owners being direct lineal descendants of the pioneer surveyor. The ground bears the marks of total neglect, being overgrown with briars, saplings and underbrush, while young trees grow out of the neglected graves. A white marble shaft has been erected over the tomb of Holme. On the north side is inscribed the following:



This stone was erected in 1863, by the following named trustees of the Lower Dublin Academy as a mark of respect to the memory of the originator of the school: Benjamin Crispin, Jonathan Enochs, George W. Holme, Isaac Pearson, Geo. Fox, Henry Dewees, Samuel C. Willits, Charles W. Harrison, George Wagner, Alford Enoch, Thomas Shallcross, Firman D. Holme.

Facing west the face reads:

IN
MEMORY OF
THOMAS HOLME,
Died 1696,
Aged 71,
SURVEY-GENERAL OF
WILLIAM PENN.
HE DRAFTED THE PLAN AND LAID OUT
THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA.

Philadelphia Inquirer 11th January 1868

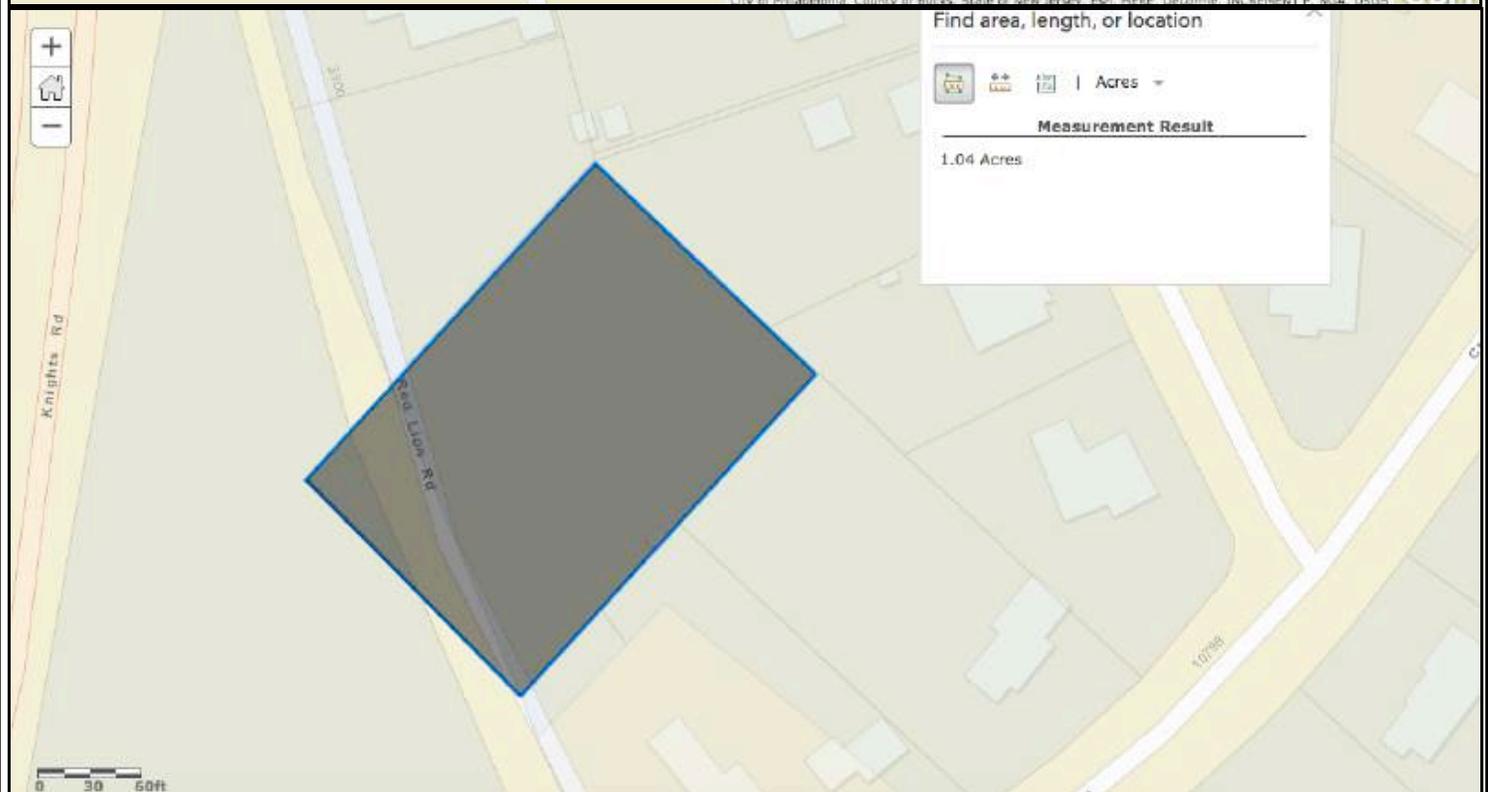
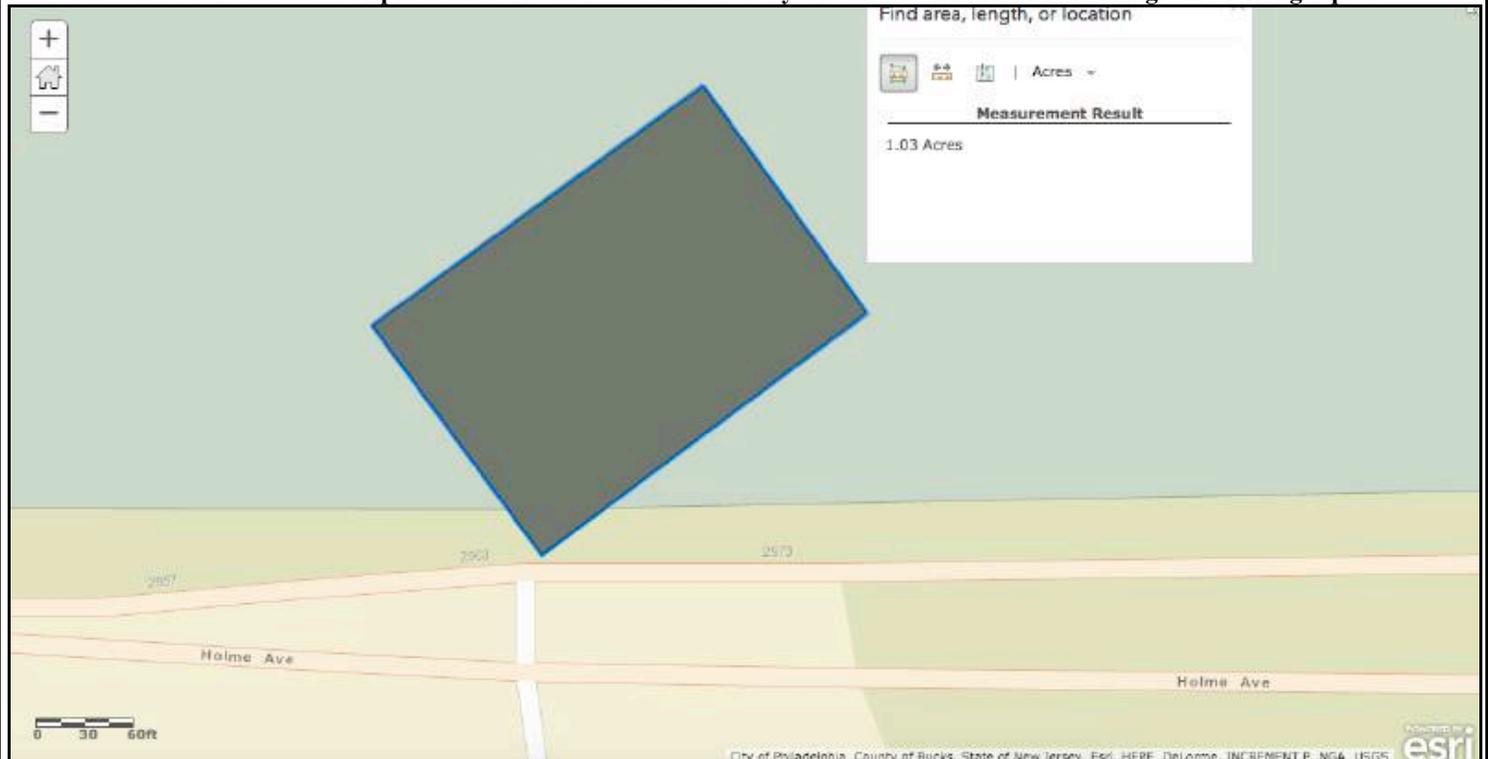
²¹ Benjamin Crispin, a Pennsylvania Senator, died 4th July 1864: <<http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/BiosHistory/MemBio.cfm?ID=4495&body=S>>.

²² Ibid. Willits MS. 287-288. [Note: The monument itself was installed sometime between May and November 1864, according to Willits MS. 38.]

7. SIGNIFICANCE: RURAL BURIAL GROUNDS AS PUBLIC SQUARES

The One-acre burying-ground was laid out on the northeast side of his Susquehanna Road and is within the five hundred-acre tract adjoining Holmes' Well-Spring Plantation on the North and West. [See: Samuel Clarridge to Thomas Holme, page 22].

The Circa 1686 Holme-Crispin Burial Ground Was Laid Out by Thomas Holme As A Parallelogram or Long Square

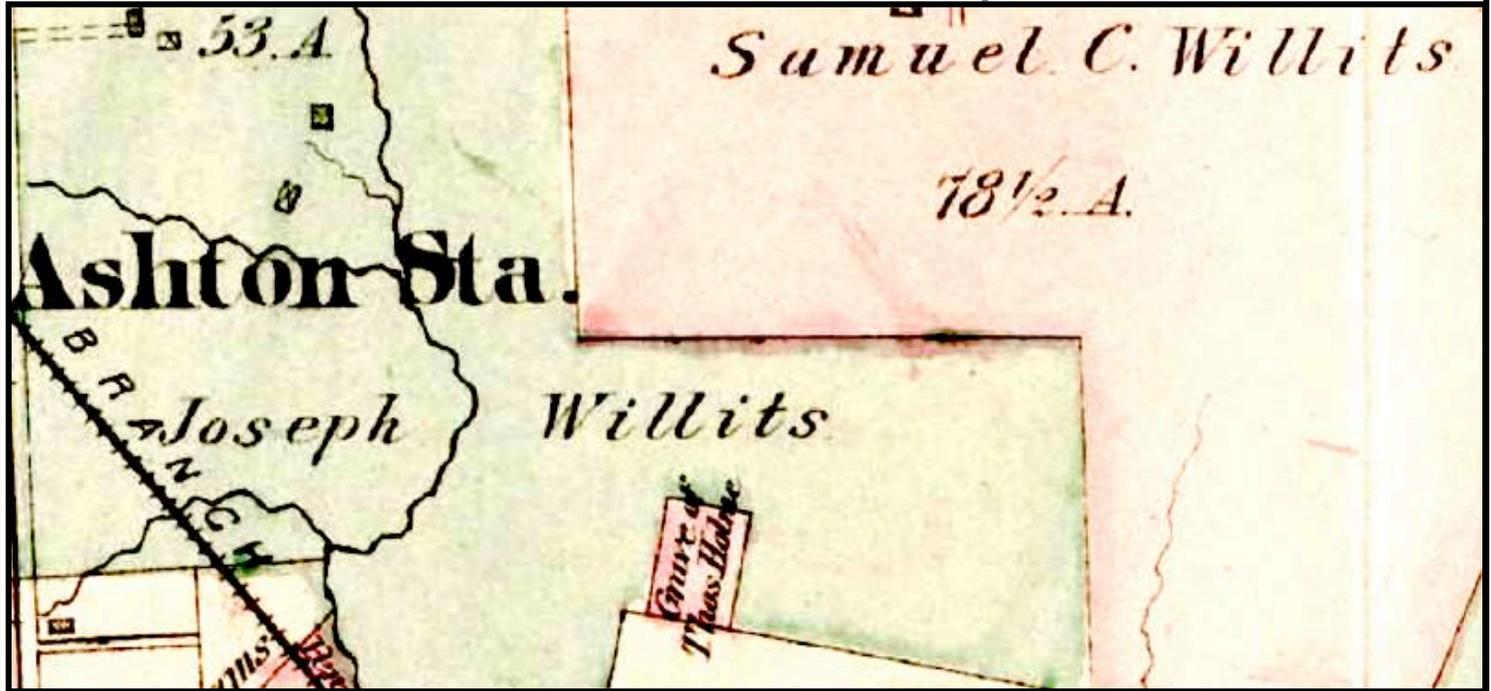


The 1682/83 Byberry Township Public Burial Ground Was Also Laid Out by John Hart As A Parallelogram or Long Square²³

²³ Designated by the PHC on the 25th Jan. 2017. Web. 20th Oct. 2017. <<http://www.phila.gov/historical/Documents/10725,10751-Knights-Rd-nom.pdf>>.

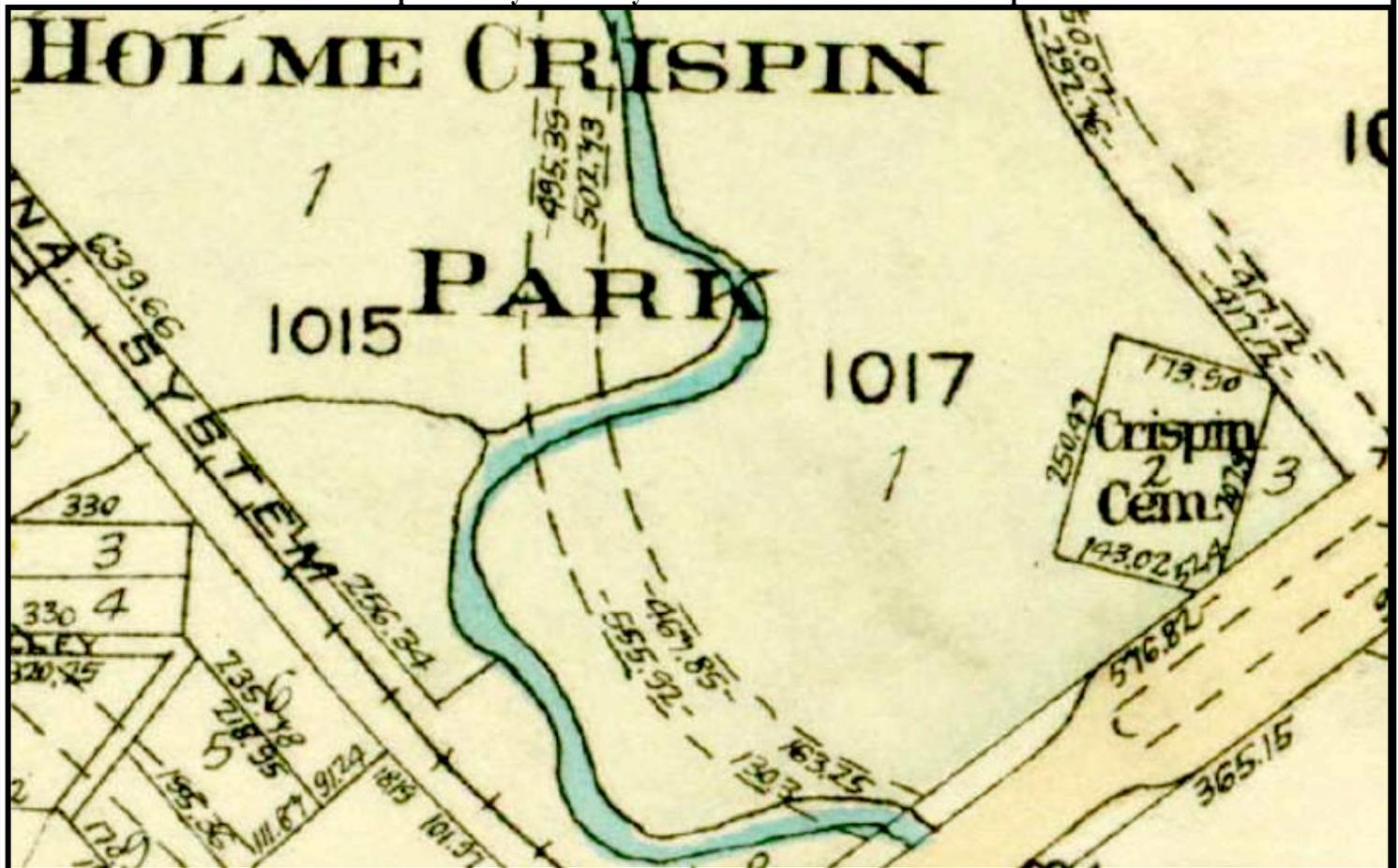
7. SIGNIFICANCE:

The Grave of Thomas Holme – The Estate of Joseph Willits²⁴



G. M. Hopkins – 23rd Ward, Plate L. 1876. Free Library. <<http://libwww.freelibrary.org/digital/item/zoom/46167>>.

1927 – Crispin Family Cemetery Situate Within the Holme-Crispin Park



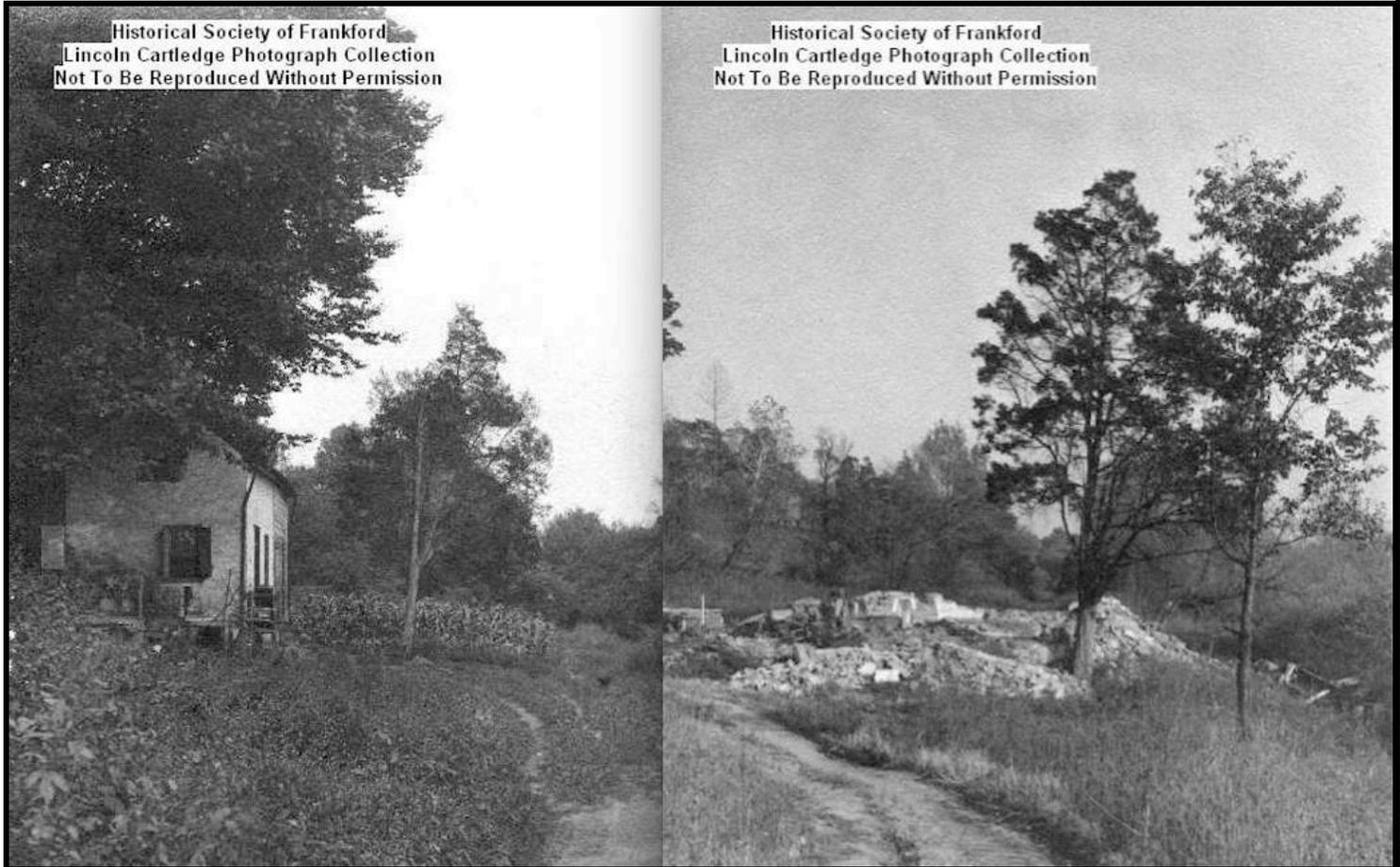
Frank H. M. Klinge – Philadelphia 35th Ward, Plate 55. Free Library. <<http://libwww.freelibrary.org/digital/item/zoom/10262>>.

²⁴ "The old graveyard is entered through Cottage Farm, the property of Mr. Joseph Willits, which was a part of the Well Spring Plantation, near Ashton Station on the Bustleton Railroad." - Samuel Fitch Hotchkin. 188, The Bristol Pike.

7. SIGNIFICANCE: THE DEMOLITIONS THAT MADE PENNYPACK PARK POSSIBLE

Thomas Holme-Crispin Family Park may have archaeological potential worthy of preservation.

LINCOLN CARTLEDGE PHOTO COLLECTION - COURTESY OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF FRANKFORD



2005.005.0053 House in Pennypack Village.

2005.005.0054 Ruins of a house above Welsh Road²⁵

Many sections of this park are well documented as former mills-seats and centers of industry in the Northeast Philadelphia.

The park's proximity and location is within a significant watershed, known to have supported Native American activity and travel routes. Ironically artifacts are still currently being located and documented, not by government agencies, but, instead by private citizens.²⁶

Sections of this park in the immediate vicinity of the Holmes-Crispin burial Ground had once contained early colonial dwellings and post revolutionary outbuildings that were once used as the living quarters of tenant farmers and African American laborers who worked for the major land owners.²⁷

In spite of the fact that various portions of Thomas Holme-Crispin Family Park presently exists on land that has been previously disturbed or may have had soil added as fill, the site's potential to yield information important in pre-history or history remains high.

All of these things contribute to its potential archaeological significance. Further studies and testing by the City of Philadelphia (to my knowledge) have never been done.

²⁵ Thumbnails: Lincoln Cartledge Photographs of Pennypack Park. <<http://www.phillyh2o.org/backpages/Cartledge.html>>.

²⁶ Naturalist Rowland Williams Gives Free Tours <<http://circuittrails.org/events/free-guided-tour-rowland-williams-%E2%80%93-friends-pennypack-park>>.

²⁷ See: The Testimony of Hill Freeborn, Appendix No.3 *The Case against Barack Martin* on page 69, and testimony of Jobanna Cook (a Mulatto) on page 71.

7. SIGNIFICANCE:

Ancient Burial Grounds, by their very nature, contain archaeological potential and demand historic preservation and protection from bureaucratic ignorance, which, in the past has obliterated many of Philadelphia's historic assets.

In a 1987 letter to the Pennsylvania Bureau for Historic Preservation, Dr. Richard Tyler, then-Executive Director of the Philadelphia Historical Commission, when writing about proposed alterations to Penn Treaty Park concluded that archeological resources that are buried deep, would not be disturbed by surface landscaping. He wrote:

From this data, we conclude that the proposed undertaking will have no effect on any surviving significant archeological resources 150 east of Beach Street. We premise this on historical evidence of fill beyond that line and the absence of any deep excavation associated with the project. West of that line, only field testing can demonstrate the presence or absence of archaeological material. Here, however, we anticipate no disturbance, for Fairmount Park's Plan entails mounding not excavating. Any excavation that takes place in this zone should be subject to archaeological testing and monitoring.

Although the Fairmount Park Commission's proposal for improvements at Penn Treaty Park may not result in the destruction of significant archeological remains, it does pose another preservation question. As the commemorative site of an important historic tradition, Penn Treaty Park and its historic landscaping have assumed significance. Indeed, the commemoration of Penn's Treaty this at this location predates by almost seventy years acquisition of the Park by the City. In view of this, to the extent that the historic landscape survives, it should be preserved and incorporated sensitively into the park complex...²⁸

Dr. Tyler's conclusion is that without testing and monitoring by the responsible City Agency, no deep excavation should be performed in a potential archaeologically significant area; he cited Jay F. Custer and Paul A. Raber.²⁹

Grave-marker of Pennsylvania's 1st Surveyor General, Captain Thomas Holme



Above: Photo Courtesy of Joseph J. Menkevich 20th September 2016

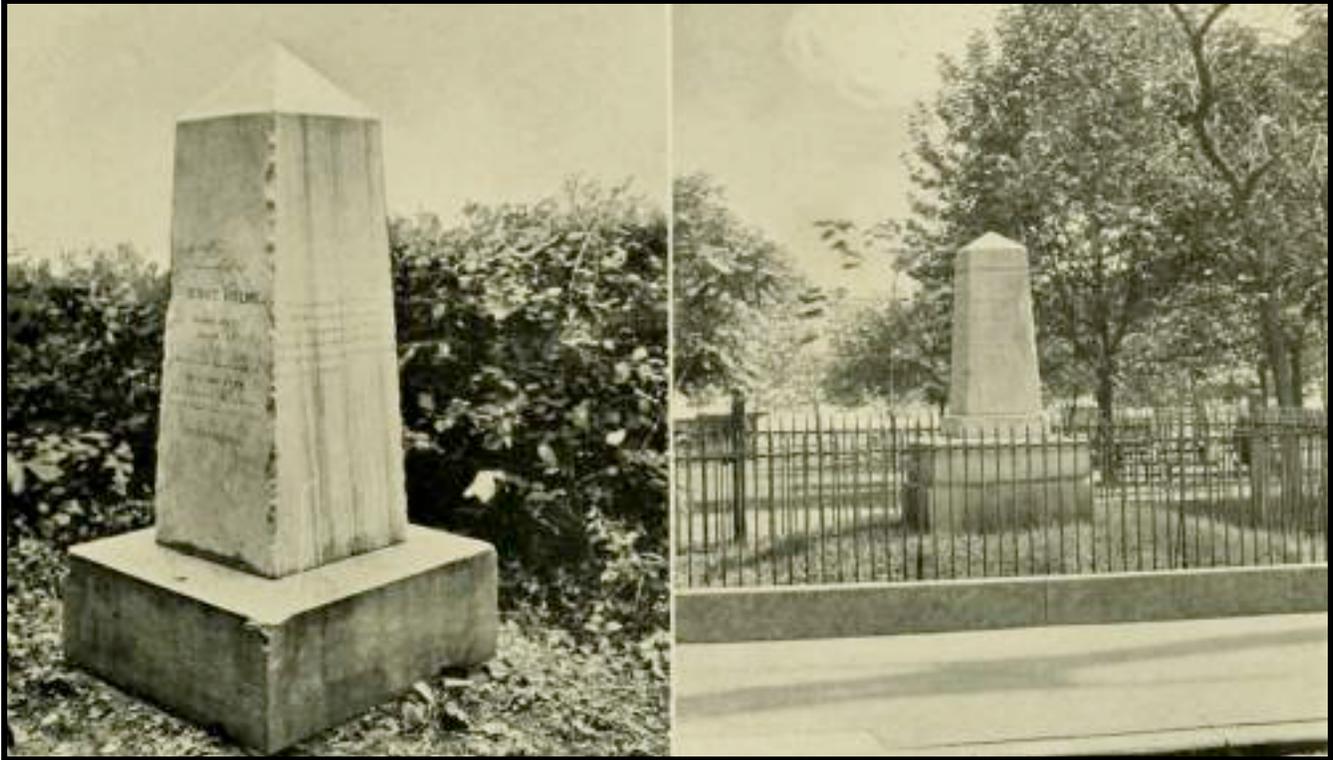
The Thomas Holme-Crispin Family Park has many parallels to Penn Treaty Park, including a similar obelisk monument. It is equally historic and equally worthy of historic preservation in its own right.

²⁸ Nomination. 1227-37 Beach Street; 1301 Beach Street. Web. <<http://www.preservationalliance.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/PennTreatyFinal.pdf>>.

²⁹ Raber, Paul A. *A Comprehensive State Plan for the Conservation of Archaeological Resources Volume II*. Harrisburg, Pa: Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, 1985. Web. 27th November 2017. <<https://archive.org/details/comprehensivesta00rabe>>. [Vol. II begins in the middle of this publication].

CONCLUSION

Circa 1694, the Thomas Holme-Crispin Park and Family Burial Ground, landscape, numerous stone markers and the Obelisk Monument over the Grave of Surveyor General Captain Thomas Holme comprise an extremely significant historical site meriting designation by the Philadelphia Historical Commission and inclusion on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places. Fronting at approximately 3000 Holme Avenue³⁰ in the Holmesburg section of Northeast Philadelphia, the Thomas Holme-Crispin Family Burial Ground satisfies the following Criteria for Designation: a, b, g, h, i, and j as enumerated in § 14-1004 of the Philadelphia Code. **The Thomas Holme-Crispin Family Park and Burial Ground are significant:**



Captain Thomas Holmes' Monument (left) Was Likely Copied From The Penn Treaty Monument³¹

- for its significant character, interest or value as part of the development, heritage, or cultural characteristics of the city, commonwealth, or nation, for its association with the lives of persons significant in the past, including but not limited to: Surveyor General Thomas Holme, who Mapped Philadelphia and parts of Pennsylvania, historian Samuel Willits, the Trustees of the Lower Dublin Academy who designed and installed Thomas Holmes' Monument, Albert Cook Myers who dedicated his life to historical research of William Penn, Mordecai Jackson Crispin & the Crispin Family, having preserved this cemetery, (Criteria a);
- is associated with an event of importance to the history of the City, Commonwealth or Nation, (Criteria b);
- is part of or related to a square, park or other distinctive area which should be preserved according to an historic, cultural or architectural motif, (Criteria g);
- owing to its unique location or singular physical characteristic, it represents an established and familiar visual feature of the neighborhood, community or City, (Criteria h);
- it has yielded, or may be likely to yield, (archaeological) information important in history, (Criteria i);
- it exemplifies the cultural, political, economic, social, or historical heritage of the Holmesburg Community and that section of Northeast Philadelphia along Wooden Bridge Run within Fairmount Park, (Criteria j).

³⁰ The Graveyard is fenced off & has a Pennsylvania Historical Marker near the site: Web. <<http://explorepahistory.com/hmarker.php?markerId=1-A-2A>>.

³¹ Staley, Frank W. *Staley's Views of Philadelphia, 1911*. Phila: Staley, 1911. 50. Web. 27th Nov. 2017. <<https://archive.org/details/staleysviewsofph00phil>>.

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Year:	Grantor:	Grantee:	Deed Number
8 th Sept. 1681	William Penn	Thomas Holme	1636 Acres By Warrant ³²
15 th Aug. 1684	William Penn	Thomas Holme	Patent Book A-No.1 page 92
17 th May 1686	Samuel Clarridg ³³	Thomas Holme	E.1.vol.5.528
14 th January 1694/95	Elinor Moss	Thomas Holme	E.3.vol.5.124
Will No.123 of 1695	Thomas Holme	His Descendants	Will Book A. page 309
18 th February 1723	Thomas Crispin	Andrew Hannis	F.3.381
	Thomas Crispin	John Hart	F.3.382
	Thomas Crispin	John Collet	F.3.383
	Thomas Crispin	Thomas Rush	F.3.384
	Thomas Crispin	Charles Bell & Eliza Finney	F.3.386
	John Collet	Thomas Crispin	F.3.388
1st March 1723	Mary Bell	Thomas Crispin	F.3.506
4 th June 1729	John Jones	Thomas Crispin	iC.3.523
27 th September 1735	John Hart	Thomas Crispin	F.3.435
10 th May 1740	Thomas Crispin	Evan Thomas (Mortgage)	G.1.78
10 th June 1742	Thomas Crispin	Evan Thomas (Mortgage)	G.6.236
6 th January 1745/46	Sarah Winthrop Westcomb	Thomas Crispin	G.9.136
23 rd of the 5 th Mo. 1748	Thomas Crispin	John Paul	G.9.347
18 th February 1768	Thomas Collett	John Paul	iC.26.329
2 nd March 1786	John Paul, the elder	Last Will	Will # 233 of 1786
	Joseph Paul (the eldest son of John Paul, the elder)		Died Intestate with seven children
26 th May 1797	Jonathan Paul, eldest son of Joseph Paul		Philadelphia Orphans' Court
15 th January 1800	Guardians of the Children, Orphan's Court, by Partition 21 st Feb. 1800		Jonathan Paul
1 st April 1802	Jonathan Paul	John Holme, jr.	EF.11.463
5 th March 1822	John Holme, jr	George Henry Walker	iH.2.715
2 nd April 1825	George Henry Walker, Letter of Agreement with Crispin Family for One Acre Burying Ground		
10 th March 1840	Crispin Cemetery is Incorporated		Penna. Act of Assembly
9 th May 1846	Marianne Walker	Abraham D. Herr	AWM.11.312
9 th May 1846	Louis L. Walker	Abraham D. Herr	AWM.11.316
18 th December 1847	Marianna Walker	to the Use of Joseph B. Willits	O.D.C Sheriff Book U.355
24 th May 1851	Lydia Willits, Widow	Samuel C. Willits	GWC.97.438
15 th June 1886	Phoebe P. Willits, Widow	Joseph Willits	GGP.160.133
16 th December 1950	Crispin Cemetery Corporation	City of Philadelphia	CJP.2907.49

³² P.H.M.C. Web. 6th June 2017. <<http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/bah/dam/rg/di/r17PatentIndexes/A-AAPatentIndex120.pdf>>.

³³ "One Hundred Fifty Seven Pounds Nine Shillings Lawful Money of England to me in hand paid at and immediately before the perfection hereof by John Tottenham of Bally [Loskeran], in the County of Waxford, Gent, by the order and appointment of Thomas Holmes of the City of Philadelphia in the Province of Pennsylvania ... And so as I the said Samuel Clarridg or my heirs be not compelled to travel above three miles from mine or their place of abode And lastly I the said Samuel Clarridg do hereby impower and Authorize Robert Turner John Fuller and John James of Philadelphia aforesaid Merch t. or any one or more of them jointly or severally to enter into and take possession of the premises or any part thereof... absolutely Release acquit exonerate and discharge the said Thomas Holme —for ever unto the said Thomas Holme All that and those the within mentioned Five Thousand Acres of land..." Note: This would include the 500 acre Clairridg tract in Lower Dublin adjacent to the Holme tract, separated by the Susquehanna Road on which sits the Holme-Crispin Burial Ground].

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Thomas Holme / Crispin Family – A Partial Inventory of Warrants and Land Surveys

W ^m Crispin } 5000 acres purchased of the Proprietary Silas Crispin }	
Silas Crispin a Warr ^t from the Commissioners for 1000 acres in the County of Philad ^a dated 13 th 8 ^{br} 1684	Surveyd (in part) 500 ^a in the County of Philad ^a 5 6 ^{mo} 1685 280 & 2 86
To Silas Crispin a Warr ^t from the Proprietor for a High Street Lot sixty five foot front and 40 acres of Liberty Land Dated 29 th May 94	Lot Surveyd 23 3 ^{mo} 83 Land 40 ^a 2 6 ^{mo} 84
Silas Crispin a Warrant from the Proprietor for 500 acres in the County of Philad ^a dated the 10 th August 1683	Surveyd the 26 th of the Same Month in the Said County
William Framton a Warr ^t from the Proprietor for a front Lot 40 foot 14 ^{mo} 1683 Broad in Right of Silas Crispin 17 7 ^{mo} 1683	
To James Joseph Benjamin Jane Ellenor Elizabeth Ann } Crispin } Children of William Crispin a Warrant from the Commissioners for 5000 acres in this Province dated the 23 ^d of March 168 ³ / ₄	No Survey or Return found
To Silas Crispin a Warrant from the Commissioners for a Lot on High Street and Strawberry Alley dated the — — — 7 4 ^{mo} 1690	Surveyd the 14 4 ^{mo} 1690
To Silas Crispin a Warrant or order from the Surveyor General th for 500 acres dated the 19 7 ^{br} 1682 Another of the Same Tenour Dated the 17 August 1682	Of these I find no Return of Survey
To Silas Crispin 2 Warrants each for 500 in Right of Tho. Horries both Dated the 9 of 8 ^{br} 1704	Surveyd 500 29. 9 ^{mo} 1705
To Silas Crispin a Warrant from the Commissioners dated the 28. 8 ^{br} 1702 for 1000 ^a in part of 5000 ^a bought by his father in Law T. Holm of Sam ^l Claridge Purchaser	Surveyd in the County of Philadelphia 28 May 1703

RG-17. Records of the Land Office COPIED SURVEYS, 1681-1912. {series #17.114} ³⁴³⁴ Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. Web. 04th July 2017. <<http://www.phmc.pa.gov/Pages/default.aspx>>.

2nd April 1825 – George Henry Walker's Agreement with Benjamin Crispin, Paul Crispin & Thomas Crispin

I further engage & agree not to damage or in any way to injure
 or encroach upon the burying ground situate on the farm bel-
 onging to me in Lower Dullin township reserved in Deed
 of Sale by Thomas Crispin and now made use of by the descend-
 ants of the said Thomas Crispin as a place of burial. And
 I further engage to keep the burying ground in neat and
 decent order and to provide such a road as shall be conveni-
 ent - to the ^(same) when necessary at the same time one that shall
 do as little damage to the crops as possible - it likewise being
 understood that every one wishing to make use of the burying
 ground shall bring a written order or permission to me for
 that purpose from one of the ^{undermentioned} persons Benjamin
 Crispin Paul Crispin & George Crispin being descendants of the
 above Thomas Crispin and claiming with other descendants of
 the same the exclusive right of use of the said burying ground.

April 2nd 1825
 Edward Duffield
 George Henry Walker

The above Instrument is a true Copy of Mr George H. Walker's
 acknowledgement of the right to and in the use of the burying
 ground on his farm to the descendants of Thomas Crispin
 that reserved the Acre of ground for a burying place -
 The original instrument being in the possession of Benjamin
 Crispin Esquire at Holmsburg Lower Dullin Township
 Philadelphia County - Thomas Creighton
 Benjamin Crispin
 Paul Crispin
 Geo. Crispin

GEORGE HENRY WALKER AGREEMENT

10th March 1840 — Crispin Cemetery — Incorporated³⁵

[No. 38.]

A N A C T

To incorporate the Crispin Cemetery, in the county of Philadelphia.

Name and style.

Powers and privileges.

Object of corporation.

Repealing clause.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same:* That Benjamin Crispin, Paul Crispin, Robert C. Green, Thomas Creighton, and James A. Creighton, and their successors shall be, and they are hereby declared one body politic and corporate, under the name, style and title of the Crispin Cemetery, and by the same name shall have perpetual succession; shall be able to sue and be sued, implead and be impleaded, in all courts of record or elsewhere; to have and use a common seal, and the same to break and renew at pleasure, and to do all such other things as are incident to a corporation.

SECTION 2. This corporation shall be authorized and empowered to preserve and keep in order the burial ground, in the township of Lower Dublin, in the county of Philadelphia, known by the name of the Crispin Cemetery; and the same to hold and lay out in suitable lots and walks, improve, ornament and sell, and shall make such by-laws, rules and regulations relative thereto, as they may deem proper and needful.

SECTION 3. The legislature reserves the power to alter, revoke or annul the privileges and charter hereby granted, whenever in their opinion the same may be injurious to the citizens of the commonwealth, in such manner however that no injustice shall be done to the corporators.

WM. HOPKINS,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

W. T. ROGERS,

Speaker of the Senate.

APPROVED—The tenth day of March, eighteen hundred and forty.

DAVID R. PORTER.

³⁵ *Laws of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Passed At The Session OF 1840.* Harrisburg, Pa: The State. William D. Boas. 1840. 108. Web. 22nd May 2017. <<https://archive.org/details/lawssofgeneralass1840penn>>.

7th March 1950

Frank F. Truscott - City Solicitor to Bernard Samuel - Mayor of Philadelphia

March 7, 1950.

Honorable Bernard Samuel
Mayor of Philadelphia
City Hall
Philadelphia 7, Pa.

Dear Mr. Mayor:

Pursuant to your request, I have prepared and I am enclosing herewith draft of Ordinance for the acquisition by the City by appropriation of Crispin Cemetery, which contains the grave of Captain Thomas Holme, who was the Surveyor General for William Penn and who laid out the City of Philadelphia.

After your announcement that you would recommend to City Council the acquisition of this land for incorporation in Pennypack Park and preservation as a historic shrine, the City received a number of communications from persons who were interested in the matter and some of whom state that they are direct descendants of Captain Holme through his daughter, Hester, who married Silas Crispin in 1683. Among these persons are Mrs. Russell S. Wood, Pelham Park Apartments, Philadelphia; Mrs. George P. Otto, Oreland, Pa. and Mrs. V. A. Nixon, Tucson, Arizona. Mrs. Wood has several documents relating to the cemetery, including a copy of the grant of the Charter to the Cemetery Company.

The Crispin Cemetery Company was chartered by an Act of Assembly dated March 10, 1840, P. L. 108 "to preserve and keep in order the burial ground, in the township of Lower Dublin, in the county of Philadelphia, known by the name of the Crispin Cemetery....". The incorporators named in the Act were Benjamin Crispin, Paul Crispin, Robert C. Green, Thomas Creighton, and James A. Creighton.

By the Ordinance of October 15, 1928, page 526, the City appropriated a tract of some thirty-seven acres in the Thirty-fifth Ward as an addition to Pennypack Park. Crispin Cemetery was within the boundaries of this tract but the Ordinance had a provision specifically "excepting therefrom the lot of ground of about one acre known as Crispin Cemetery".

The history of the appointment of Thomas Holme

as Surveyor General and his activities in that office, including a description of Holme's portraiture of Philadelphia is contained in the "History of Philadelphia" by Scharf & Westcott. The history of his descendants and of the Crispin Cemetery is contained in "Captain William Crispin and the Crispin Family" by Rev. Wm. Frost Crispin.

Respectfully yours,

Frank F. Truscott
City Solicitor

FFT:NoD:6

25th April 1950

Frederic Swing Crispin to Herman N. Schwartz – First Assistant City Solicitor

The Baronial Order of Magna Charta



FREDERIC SWING CRISPIN
 Generalist
 2267 OAKDALE AVENUE
 GLENSIDE, PA.

April 25th 1950

Hermann Schwartz Esq.
 City Hall Annex
 Phila.

Dear Mr. Schwartz:

For your information, if you do not already have it, I would offer the following:-

Thomas Holme in 1694 set aside one acre, more or less, to be used as a burial place for himself, his descendants and close relatives. Holme was buried there in 1696.

Only about one quarter of this acre was used for the ninety odd interments but if the City assumes control of the cemetery it should be with the understanding that it covers the entire acre and that the graves and markers as well as that of Thomas Holme will not be removed.

The sole authority for making any commitments regarding the cemetery is vested in the Crispin Cemetery Corporation; made up of the following trustees:-

M. Jackson Crispin, Berwick, Pa. Chairman
 Dr. Egerton L. Crispin, Los Angeles Cal
 Clarence Crispin, New York City
 Floyd Crispin, Vice Pres. Corn Exchange 1589 Chestnut St.
 John Clark, Holmesburg.

I will communicate with the Chairman and have him advise the others as to the status of the case. I personally held a proxy to act for my brother, Dr. Crispin of Los Angeles.

We are all grateful for your interest in this matter.

Sincerely

F. S. Crispin

5th May 1950

Herman N. Schwartz – First Assistant City Solicitor to F.S. Crispin

May 5, 1950.

Mr. F. S. Crispin
2367 Oakdale Avenue
Glenside, Pa.

Dear Mr. Crispin:

I am enclosing herewith for your information draft of an ordinance to transfer custody and control of a certain lot or parcel of land known as Crispin Cemetery, situate on the north side of Holme Avenue, one hundred fifty feet wide, at the distance of seventeen hundred feet four and seven-eighths inches east of Holme Circle, to the Commissioners of Fairmount Park as an addition to Pennypack Park and to be maintained as an historic shrine, which is being forwarded to the Mayor for introduction in City Council.

I will be very glad to discuss this matter with you further at a time convenient to you.

I would suggest that you telephone me in advance so that I may be sure to be here when you call. If you can bring with you at that time a copy of your charter and by-laws and the deed under which the cemetery corporation held title to the land, it would expedite the preparation of the papers necessary to complete the project.

Very truly yours,

Herman N. Schwartz
First Assistant City Solicitor

HNS:McD

*Crispin Cemetery
with your name
added to all papers
1950*

1st June 1950

M. Jackson Crispin to Herman N. Schwartz

Page 1

CHARTER NO. 500

The First National Bank

ORGANIZED 1867

Berwick, Pennsylvania

M. JACKSON CRISPIN
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

June 1, 1950

Dear Mr. Schwartz:

In 1924 incident to the Thomas Holme Tercentenary, I was elected President of the Board of Trustees of the Crispin Cemetery, which was incorporated by my great grand-father, the Hon. Benjamin Crispin, in 1840, who became Speaker of the Senate of Pennsylvania in 1843.

Mr. James Watts Mercur of Wallingford, Pa. was elected Secretary. The other Trustees were Louis Crispin, my uncle, New York City; Clarence Gearhart Crispin, my brother, New York City; and John Stephenson Clark of Holmesburg, whose father, the late Hon. George S. Clark of Holmesburg, devoted much time and effort to the affairs of the Cemetery. The Tercentenary was to be held on November 11, 1924, Armistice Day.

Reproduction #1

The expense of placing the Cemetery in proper condition for the celebration to be held there at 10:30 a.m. were assumed by me. I gave a luncheon at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel for about seventy-five of the descendants of Thomas Holme, my family relatives and some of the participants in the Tercentenary.

In the afternoon at 3 o'clock, my daughter, Elizabeth, later Countess Tripeovich of Trieste, Italy, unveiled a Bronze Tablet designed by Paul P. Creet. It was erected on a building on the north side of Arch (113) near Front Street, by the Pennsylvania Historical Commission and the Fairmount Park Art Association.

November 8, 1924, I had the Cemetery surveyed and all of the grave stones which could be found, marked, numbered and charted, later. The initials and inscriptions on each stone were tabulated and recorded, ninety-two having been found. Enclosed is a brochure recording this information. The Cemetery was surveyed and blue-printed at this time by Mr. Clement B. Webster of Frankford.

Reproduction #2

Reproduction #3

Reproduction #4

Mr. Webster made another survey of the Cemetery April 9, 1927 when the City of Philadelphia surrounded it by the Holme-Crispin Park, which was part of the Pennypack Park. During these years, I personally had the Cemetery kept in proper condition.

1st June 1950

M. Jackson Crispin to Herman N. Schwartz

Page 2

The First National Bank
BERWICK, PENNSYLVANIA

Mr. Herman N. Schwartz

SHEET NO. - 2 -

My brother, Clarence Gearhart Crispin and I erected a seven-foot strike wire fence which surrounds about one-third of the Cemetery and jointly kept that part of it in proper condition until 1939.

The Board of Trustees was re-organized in 1947. Its membership became M. Jackson Crispin, President and Secretary; Clarence Gearhart Crispin, New York City; John Maxwell Rowland Clark; Dr. Egerton Lafayette Crispin, Los Angeles California, elected January 10, 1947, and Floyd A. Crispin, elected March 3, 1947. The two latter, members of the Crispin Family of New Jersey, were descendants of the second wife of Silas Crispin, the widow Mary Stockton Shinn. They all lived in that Colony and none are buried in the Crispin Cemetery.

Reproduction #5

Reproduction #6

It became known as the Crispin Cemetery because the sons of Thomas Holme died without issue and, therefore, only descendants of his daughters were buried there, most of whom bore the name Crispin.

Captain Thomas Holmes Arms

Reproduction #7

Captain Thomas Holme had been an officer in Cromwell's Army and was appointed the First Surveyor General of Pennsylvania by William Penn, between the time of the death of Captain William Crispin and his (Thomas Holme's) appointment as Assistant to Deputy Governor William Markham of Pennsylvania, to succeed Captain, Acting Rear Admiral and Colonel William Crispin (1627-1681/2) an officer of considerable importance under the Commonwealth and Royal Navies, who died (transmarinus) on the voyage to America on the "John and Sarah", who it has been assumed was intended to hold the office of Surveyor General, as the following paragraph seems to indicate.

Reproduction #8

Exhibit A

Captain William Crispin had previously been appointed by William Penn to head a Commission of Four 7th mo: 30th: 1681 for The "Settling of the Colony".

Reproduction #9

Silas Crispin I (c. 1635-1711) his son, married in 1683, Hester Holme, who died April 17, 1696, daughter and eventual heiress of Thomas Holme and Sarah Crafte (1621-1676) his first wife.

Captain William Crispin was appointed 18th:9 mo.: 1681 the Assistant to Deputy Governor William Markham of Pennsylvania by William Penn.

Reproduction #10

Captain Thomas Holme received the same appointment from William Penn dated at Gravesend, 2d 21.1682, as shown above. He sailed from England in the Amity 3d: 23: 1682 and arrived at Upland, now Chester, 7 mo.: 2: 1682. He had been living in Limerick, Ireland.

Reproduction #11

1st June 1950

M. Jackson Crispin to Herman N. Schwartz

Page 3

The First National Bank
HERNIMAN, PENNSYLVANIA

70 Mr. Herman N. Schwartz

sheet no. - 3 -

- Exhibit B Thomas Holme was baptized 3; November 1624 at Coniston, England, and married Sarah Crafte on 6th: 5: 1649 at Tewkesbury, England, who was baptized there May 6, 1621, who died 4th:30: 1676 in White Church, Glynn-Parish, County Wicklow, Ireland.
- Exhibit C Thomas Holme made a trip to England in 1688-9 and a second from 1690 to 1694.
- Exhibit D On his return he set aside an acre of ground more or less, for a Burying Ground for himself, for his family, for his descendants and relations. He, himself, was buried there in 1695. The Will of Thomas Holme does not mention the Burying Ground. Reproduction #12
- Title page of book on the persecution of the Quakers printed in 1672 by Thomas Holme and Abraham Fuller. Reproduction #13
- Thomas Holme member of the Council and first Assembly 10th: 1st mo: 1683. Reproduction #14
- Concerning lands purchased by Thomas Holme 7th: 5th mo: 1664 from the Indian Kings for William Penn. (Proud) This is the first document that Thomas Holme presented to the Indians for the purchase of land for William Penn. Reproduction #15
- Confirmation of the Indians of lands previously sold to William Penn in the presence of Great Men of the Indians and sealed and delivered to Thomas Holme, President of the Provincial Council and some of its members 30th:5th mo.: 1685.(Proud) Reproduction #16
- Thomas Holme's plan for the City of Philadelphia Reproduction #17
- Section of Thomas Holme's Map 1681 (Doubtful) Reproduction #18
- Map of Pennypack Creek in Lower Dublin by Dr. I. F. Willits. Reproduction #19
- Act incorporating the Crispin Cemetery in the County of Philadelphia. Reproduction #20
- George Henry Walker Agreement not to damage the burying ground whose property adjoined it, dated April 2d 1825. He was buried there. Reproduction #21
- Board of Surveyors of the City of Philadelphia, pamphlet of the Tercentenary in four pieces: The Tablet, Celebration at Cemetery, M. Jackson Crispin speaking. Reproduction #22
- Descendants and others at the monument. Reproduction #23
- Aeroplane view showing Fairmount Parkway leading directly to the Cemetery. Reproduction #24
- Aeroplane view showing view East along William Penn's High Street, now Market and along Chestnut. Reproduction #25
- Aeroplane view looking North along Broad and other adjoining streets showing the City far beyond Holme's Green Town. Reproduction #26
- Reproduction #27

1st June 1950

M. Jackson Crispin to Herman N. Schwartz

Page 4

The First National Bank
BERWICK, PENNSYLVANIA

-- Mr. Herman N. Schwartz

SHEET NO. - 4 -

Authority to turn over Crispin Cemetery at Holmesburg, to the State of Pennsylvania.

Reproductions
#28 & #29

Concerning the Crispin Cemetery and Captain Thomas Holme, I am enclosing twenty-nine Reproductions and four Exhibits for your information.

I have the Original Cemetery Minute Book and all of the Minutes since and including the Thomas Holme Tercentenary. (Nov. 11, 1924). These record as Trustees, the election of Dr. Egerton Lafayette Crispin of Los Angeles, California and Mr. Floyd A. Crispin of Philadelphia, representative of the Crispin Family of New Jersey.

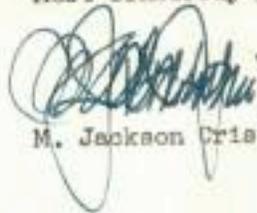
It is not easy for me to speak of the time I have spent in trying to preserve the Cemetery and the financial aid I have given, recited in the text, but the deplorable condition of the Cemetery today makes it obligatory. When the strike wire fence was erected in 1927 and thereafter, my brother, Clarence Gearhart Crispin of New York City joined me in the expense.

I have given to Mr. Frederic Swing Crispin, full authority to represent the Board of Trustees of the Crispin Cemetery in the negotiations now under way for the purpose of having the City of Philadelphia take over and preserve perpetually the Crispin Cemetery near Holmesburg.

I cannot sufficiently thank Mr. Crispin for what he has done in the present situation.

I am sending this information to you as a permanent record for the Office of the City Solicitor, City Hall Annex, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Most sincerely yours,



M. Jackson Crispin

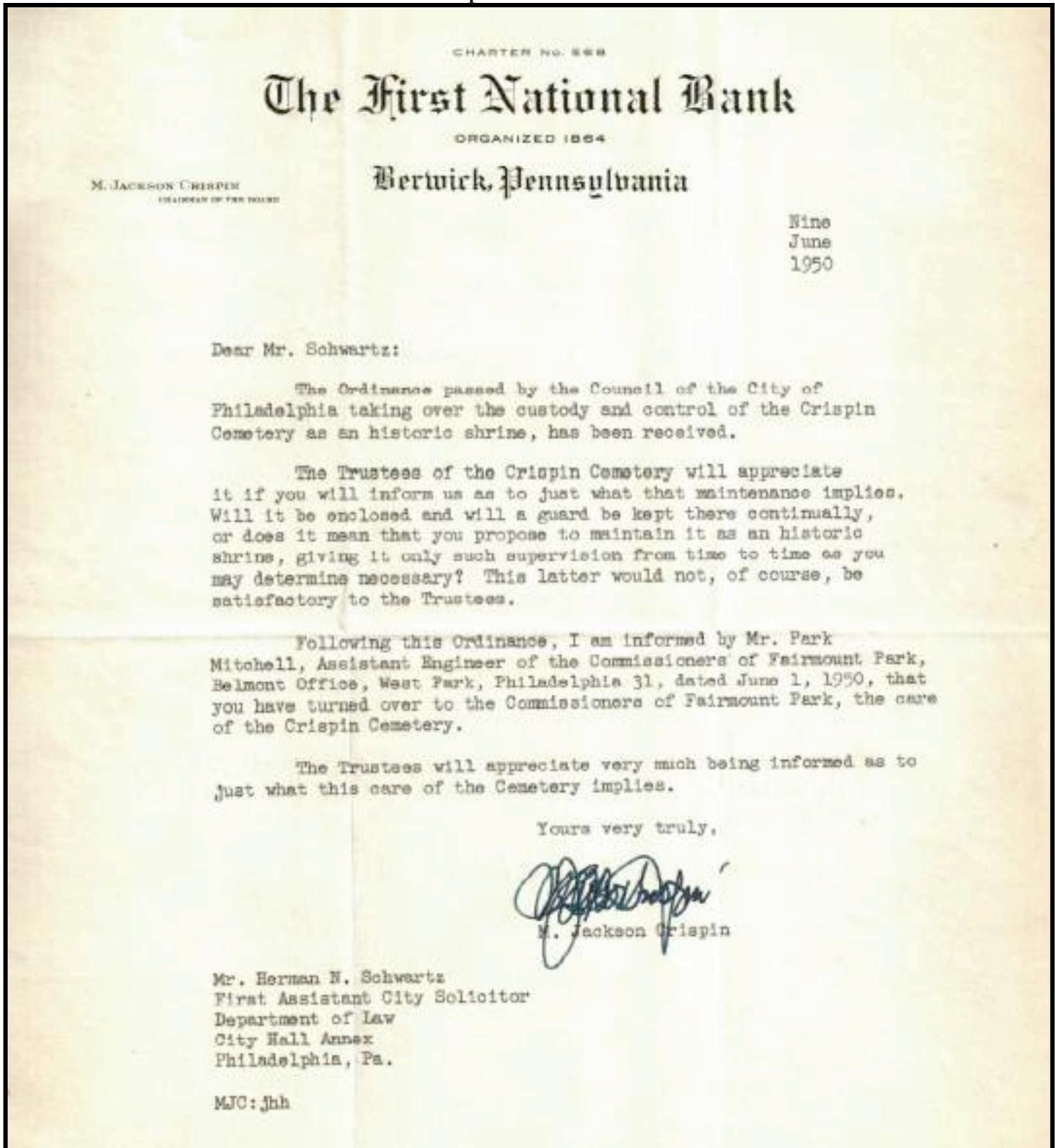
Mr. Herman N. Schwartz
First Assistant City Solicitor
City Hall Annex
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

MJC:jhh

P.S. I am sending you, also herewith, copy of a Deed showing the sale of a large portion of the "Well Spring Plantation" which shows that the Cemetery was always kept exempt from any sales.

9th June 1950

M. Jackson Crispin to Herman N. Schwartz

Image — Philadelphia City Archives 7th Sept. 2016

26th July 1950

Joseph P. Devine to O. Charles Broderson – Philadelphia Law Department

DEPARTMENT OF LAW
CITY HALL ANNEX

July 26, 1950

MEMORANDUM

TO O. Charles Broderson FROM Joseph P. Devine

SUBJECT: CRISPIN CEMETERY

It appears that the trustees of the Crispin Cemetery are ready to give to the City a deed of quitclaim for its property on Holme avenue, and a release of damages for the appropriation. I have prepared the attached deed of quitclaim which contains a release of damages. Will you examine the same and if you approve I will send it to Crispin Cemetery for execution.

7/27/50 enc.

Mr Broderson:
I have read deed and
feel it meets all
requirements of Law.
We have prepared petition
to withdraw our petition
for appt. of Board of view
which will be filed after
deed is executed
Horan

Joe: - 7/31/50
Mr Broderson
has approved
Horan

1st August 1950

Herman N. Schwartz – First Assistant City Solicitor to Frederick Swing Crispin

J. Deane

August 1, 1950.

Frederic Swing Crispin
2367 Oakdale Avenue
Glenside, Penna.

Dear Mr. Crispin:

I am enclosing herewith quit-claim deed from the Crispin Cemetery to the City of Philadelphia of the tract of land comprising the Crispin Cemetery, which was taken by the City for an historic shrine by the Ordinance of April 26, 1950.

Will you kindly have this deed executed on page 3 by the President and the Secretary of the Crispin Cemetery, and have the seal impressed at that place, and also have the Secretary take the acknowledgment on page 4?

When the execution has been completed, will you be good enough to return the executed deed to me for our files?

Very truly yours,

HERMAN N. SCHWARTZ
First Assistant City Solicitor

HNS:L
1 enc

19th December 1950

M. Jackson Crispin to Herman N. Schwartz – First Assistant City Solicitor

CHARTER NO. 500

The First National Bank

ORGANIZED 1864

Berwick, Pennsylvania

M. JACKSON CRISPIN
PRESIDENT OF THE BANK

December 19, 1950

Mr. Herman N. Schwartz
First Assistant City Solicitor
Department of Law
City Hall Annex
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Schwartz:

Enclosed please find the Deed to the Crispin Cemetery
Property, duly executed, and a copy of the Minutes of the
meeting conveying it to the City of Philadelphia.

Very truly yours,



M. Jackson Crispin

MJC:jhm
enc. 2

16th December 1950 — Crispin Cemetery Corporation to the City of Philadelphia. Deed Book: CJP Vol. 2907 Page 49.

Printed and Sold by John C. Clark Co. 1130 N. Penn Square, Phila.

This Indenture, Made the 16th day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and fifty (1950) Between **CRISPIN CEMETERY**, a Pennsylvania corporation, party of the first part, Grantor, and **THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA**, party of the second part, Grantee

Witnesseth, That the said party of the first part, for and in consideration of the sum of _____ lawful money of the United States of America, to it well and truly paid by the said party of the second part, at and before the writing and delivery of these presents, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, has _____ remised, released and quit-claimed, and by these presents, does _____ remise, release and quit-claim unto the said party of the second part, and to its successors and assigns forever, ALL THAT CERTAIN lot or parcel of land SITUATE in the Thirty-fifth Ward of the City of Philadelphia, shown upon a plan prepared for the Department of Law by Mr. Howard LeQuin, Surveyor and Regulator, First District, the said plan being dated March 2, 1950, and described as follows: BEHIND on the north side of Holme avenue (one hundred fifty feet wide) at the distance of one thousand seven hundred feet four and seven-eighths inches east of Holme Circle; thence north thirty-four degrees twenty-seven minutes eleven seconds west one hundred forty-three feet and one-quarter of an inch to a point; thence north fifty-five degrees thirty-two minutes forty-nine seconds east two hundred fifty feet five and three-quarters inches to a point; thence north thirty-four degrees twenty-seven minutes eleven seconds east one hundred seventy-three feet ten and seven-eighths inches to a point; thence south fifty-five degrees thirty-two minutes forty-nine seconds west two hundred seven feet eleven inches to a point on the north side of Holme avenue (one hundred fifty feet wide); thence along the north side of Holme avenue north eighty-eight degrees twenty-eight minutes thirty-four seconds west fifty-two feet seven inches to the first mentioned point and place of beginning.

BEING the same premises which was selected and appropriated for Municipal purposes by an ordinance of the Council of The City of Philadelphia, approved April 26, 1950, entitled "AN ORDINANCE To select and appropriate for municipal purposes a certain lot or parcel of land known as Crispin Cemetery on the north side of Holme avenue, one hundred fifty feet wide, at the distance of seventeen hundred feet four and seven-eighths inches east of Holme Circle; and making an allocation of funds for the payment of damages for the taking of said land.";

AND thereafter by an ordinance of the Council of The City of Philadelphia, approved _____ 1950, custody and control of the said premises was transferred to the Commissioners of Fairmount Park to be maintained as an historical shrine;

AND the said grantor does for itself, its successors and assigns by these presents, hereby remise, release and forever discharge The City of Philadelphia, its successors and assigns, of and from any and all damages or claims for damages which may, can or might arise by reason of the selection and appropriation for municipal purposes of the premises conveyed hereby under the ordinance of the Council of The City of Philadelphia, approved April 26, 1950, entitled "AN ORDINANCE To select and appropriate for municipal purposes a certain lot or parcel of land known as Crispin Cemetery on the north side of Holme avenue, one hundred fifty feet wide, at the distance of seventeen hundred feet four and seven-eighths inches east of Holme Circle; and making an allocation of funds for the payment of damages for the taking of said land."

499

OFFICE OF RECORDS & SURVEY

RECORDED

MAR 7 1951

456270

CRISPIN CEMETERY

THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

3-24-51 John C. Clark Company, Philadelphia.

MAR 6 - 1951

ABSTRACTED

8. BIBLIOGRAPHY – CONTINUED – WEB RESOURCES

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Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps: <<https://www.raremaps.com/>>.

FLP - Free Library of Philadelphia: <<http://www.freelibrary.org/>>.

Google Books. <<http://books.google.com/>>.

Greater Philadelphia GeoHistory Network: <<http://www.philageohistory.org/>>.

Historic Newspapers: <<https://www.newspapers.com/>>.

Holmesburg History: <<http://www.holmesburg.com/history/index.htm>>.

Internet Archive: <<http://www.archive.org/>>.

Library of Congress: <<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/gmdhtml/>>.

Mapping West Philadelphia 1777 (2012) - J.M. Duffin. <<http://www.archives.upenn.edu/WestPhila1777/map.php>>.

OpenDataPhilly: <<https://www.opendataphilly.org/dataset/opa-property-assessments>>.

Parcel Explorer Online: <<https://secure.phila.gov/parceexplorerauth/>>.

Philadelphia Athenaeum: <<http://www.philaathenaeum.org/>>.

Philadelphia City Hall - Philadelphia Historical Commission: <<http://www.phila.gov/historical/Pages/default.aspx>>

Philadelphia Land Records grantor/grantee indexes: <<http://philadox.phila.gov/phillyhistoricalindex/>>.

Philadelphia, Historical Land and Vital Records: <<http://www.phila-records.com/historic-records/web/>>.

The Commonwealth Land Office - State of Pennsylvania: <<http://www.phmc.pa.gov/Archives/Pages/default.aspx>>.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This nomination is a culmination of several years of collaboration with J.M. Duffin, Torben Jenk and Fred Moore, which involved a correlation of mapping combined with deed-research of Northeast Philadelphia.

Note: Research in this nomination was used and shared in other Nominations Submitted by the current nominator and may share some of the same images and/or research materials.

3322 Willits Road, Lower Dublin Academy.

<http://www.phila.gov/historical/Documents/3322-Willits-Rd-final.pdf>

The 1683 Byberry Township Public Burial Ground on Knights Road.

<http://www.phila.gov/historical/Documents/10725,10751-Knights-Rd-nom.pdf>

14700 Townsend Road. Nomination. Menkevich, Joseph J. *Byberry African American Cemetery*.

<<http://www.phila.gov/historical/Documents/Byberry-Cemetery-nomination.pdf>>.

1736 Meadow Street, Wilmot Public School. <<http://www.phila.gov/historical/Documents/1736-Meadow-St-nomination-final-lowres.pdf>>.

King James II, (formerly the Duke of York) in payment of a debt of £16,000 due, Admiral Sir William Penn.

In May 1653, an expedition was sent against the Dutch, under Col. Richard Deane and Col. George Monk, generals and admirals of the Parliament. The fleet consisted of three squadrons, one of which was commanded by Vice Admiral (afterwards Admiral Sir) William Penn, Crispin's brother-in-law. Captain Crispin commanded the "Assistance" frigate, 180 men and 40 guns, in Penn's squadron. This fleet on the 2d and 3d of June, 1653, took or destroyed between twenty and thirty Dutch ships-of-war, took 1,350 prisoners, and pursued the Dutch to their own harbors.

The next year Oliver Cromwell, who was then Protector, sent an expedition against the Spanish West Indies, secretly because England was at peace with Spain. The fleet of thirty-eight ships, in three squadrons, was commanded by Admiral Penn. Captain Crispin commanded the "Laurel," 160 seamen, 30 soldiers and 40 guns, in Penn's own squadron. They arrived in sight of Barbadoes Jan. 29, 1654-5. After a repulse at Hispaniola (now the island of Haiti) they eventually captured Jamaica. On June 25th part of the fleet went back to England, Penn with it. This made a temporary promotion for the other admirals and Crispin became acting rear admiral.

Capt. William Crispin, Richard Wadeson and Thomas Broughton were appointed to take charge of supplying the English forces in the island, and were called by the home authorities "Commissioners for supplying Jamaica." Crispin was back in England by April 1656. Meanwhile Penn and others of the expedition had gotten into trouble with Cromwell and Penn was sent to the Tower. Crispin sided with his brother-in-law and left the navy. After Penn's release he moved to Ireland...

In September, 1681, William Penn, son of the Admiral, having obtained the grant of Pennsylvania, appointed his uncle by marriage, William Crispin, one of three commissioners to settle the colony there; he also intended him for Chief Justice, as appears by a letter to Deputy Governor Markham, dated 8 mo. (at that time October) 18, 1681. Crispin started for Pennsylvania in the ship "Amity" the same year, but after nearly reaching the capes of the Delaware was blown off by contrary winds, and put into Barbadoes, where Captain Crispin died.³⁶



10th August 1653 - The [Battle of Terheide](#) of the First Anglo-Dutch War - Courtesy of [Rijksmuseum](#)

³⁶ *Historical and Biographical Annals of Columbia and Montour Counties, Pennsylvania, Containing a Concise History of the Two Counties and a Genealogical and Biographical Record of Representative Families.* Chicago: J.H. Beers & Co, 1915. 529. Web. 24th May 2017. <<https://archive.org/details/historicalbiogra01chic>>.



1694 Map of Ireland Courtesy of John Seller³⁷

Thomas Holmes - Quaker of Limerick, Ireland.

In 1657, Thomas Holme and others, "being peaceably in their Friends House in Cashel, and their Horses at an Inn, as travelling Men, were apprehended by a Guard of Soldiers, in the Year 1657, by Order of Colonel Richard Le Hunt, and being brought before him and examined, were violently (by Soldiers) turned out of the Town, and the Gates kept against them though it was near Night, and a dangerous Time for Englishmen to lie out of Garrison, because of the Tories or Robbers, and thereby exposed to the Hazard of their Lives." In 1659, he and fifty-two others published an address to Parliament reciting "the Cruel and unjust Sufferings of the People of God in the Nation of Ireland Called Quakers." This pamphlet relates that "Thomas Holme (late a Captain in the Army)...

³⁷ Seller, John. *A New Systeme of Geography: Designed in a Most Plain and Easie Method, for the Better Understanding of That Science: Accommodated with New Maps, of All the Empires, Kingdoms, Principalities, Dukedoms, Provinces and Countries in the Whole World: with Geographical Tables, Explaining the Divisions in Each Map.* Wapping: J. Seller, 1694. 45. Web. 28th December 2017. <<https://archive.org/details/newssystemeofgeog00sell/>>.

APPENDIX: No.1 — THOMAS HOLME — THE IRISH QUAKER — OVERVIEW

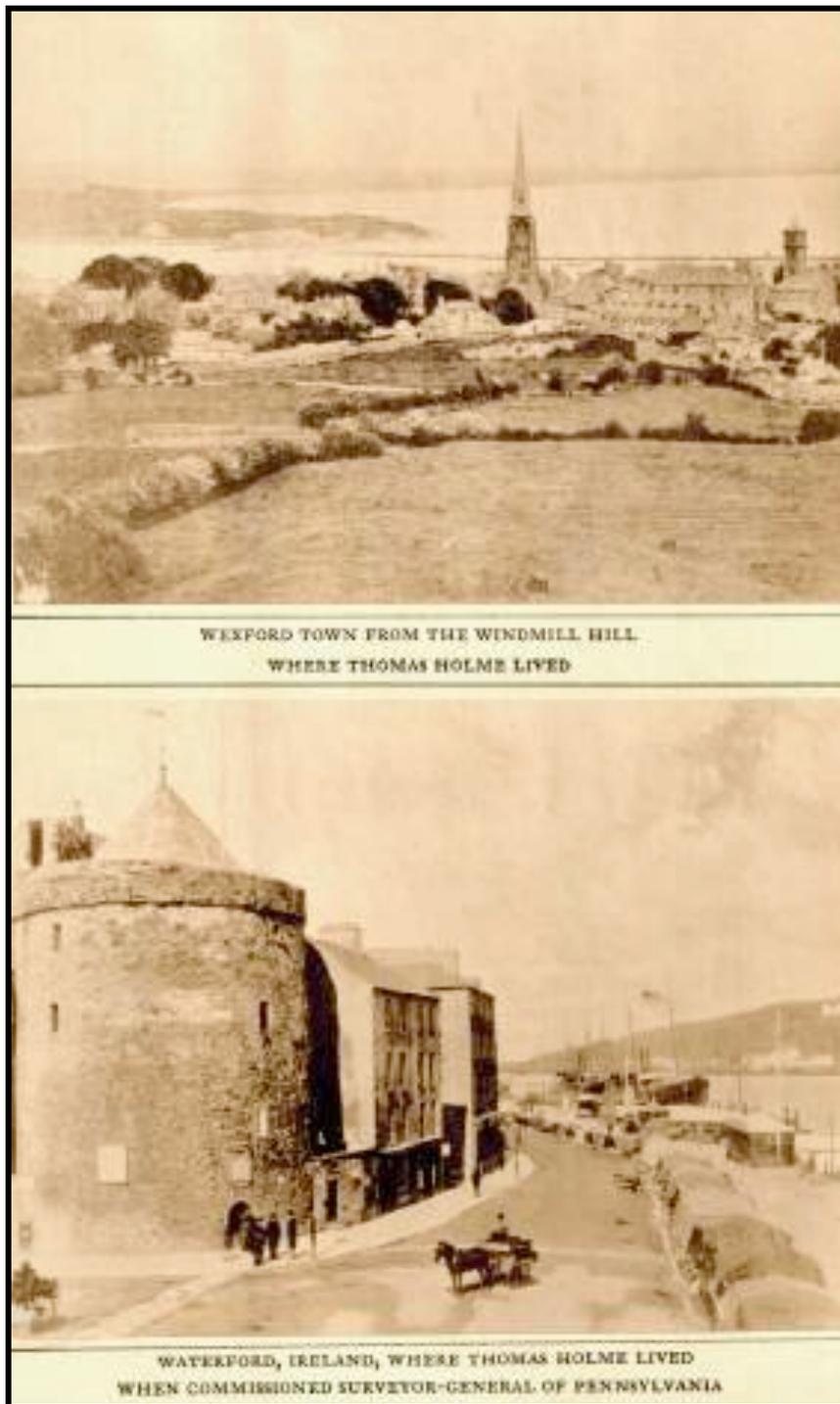
He became one of the earliest converts to Quakerism in the Island, and about the time of the issue of the address of 1659 was living in Limerick, for it is stated that a guard of soldiers from Colonel Ingoldesby, Governor of the town, "rifled the houses of Richard Piercy and Thomas Holme, and took away what books and papers they pleased." At a later date he was residing in Waterford, but probably held property in Wexford. He seems to have travelled extensively over the central and southern parts of the country, attending meetings of the Society.

Image Below — Philadelphia City Archives 7th Sept. 2016

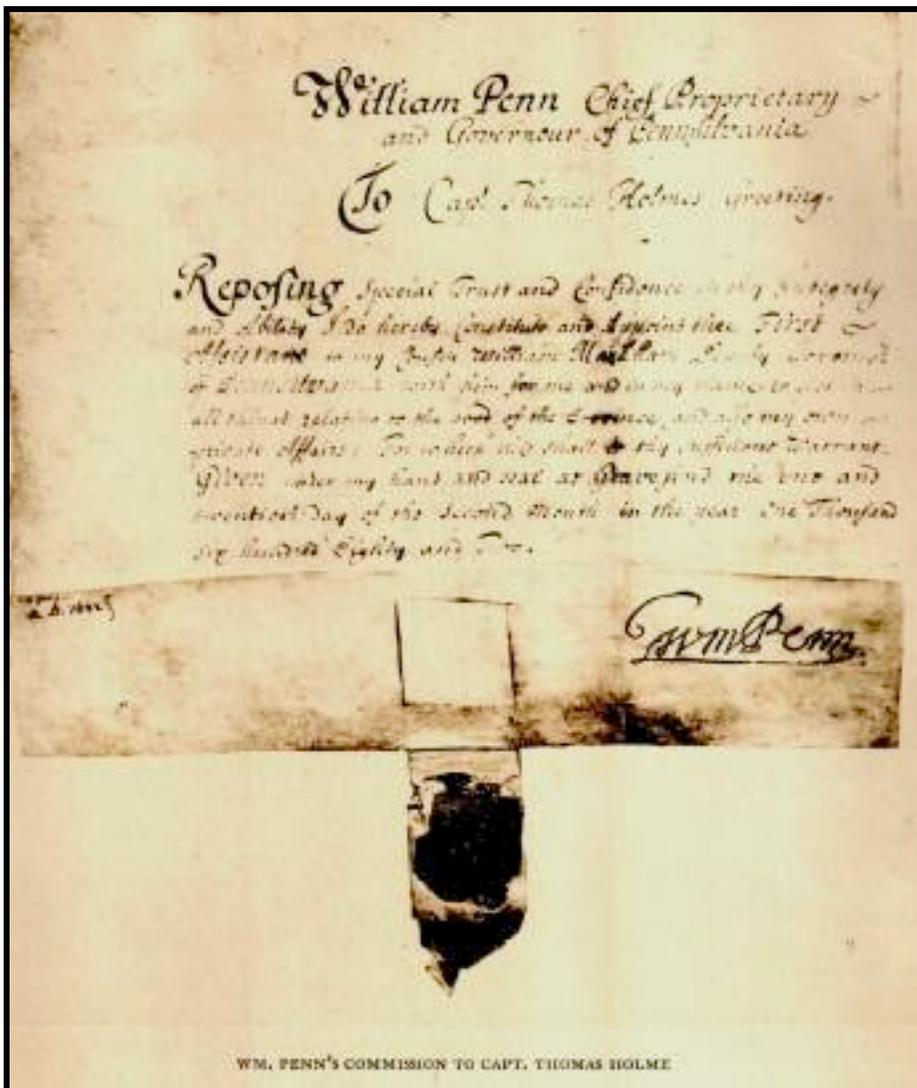
In 1660, and also in 1661, Thomas Holme and other Friends were taken from meetings in Dublin and committed to Newgate prison by order of the Mayor of the City. In 1672, he and Abraham Fuller, of Ireland, published "A Brief Relation of some of the Sufferings of the True Christians, the People of God (called in scorn Quakers) in Ireland for these last 11 years, viz. from 1660 until 1671. Collected by T.H. and A.F."...

Thomas Holme was one of the first of the Irish Friends to take an active interest in William Penns's proposed colony of Pennsylvania; he was a first purchaser, having acquired the title to 5,000 acres, and also became a member of the Free Society of Traders, subscribing for £ 50 of stock. On 18th April 1682, Penn appointed him Surveyor-general of the Province. The Commission reads:

I, the said William Penn, reposing special confidence in the integrity and ability of my loving friend, Captain Thomas Holme, of the city of Waterford, in the kingdom of Ireland, do by these presents elect, empower, and establish him, the said Thomas Holme, in the office, trust, and employment of surveyor-general of the said province of Pennsylvania, for and during his natural life, he behaving himself honestly and faithfully in the said office...³⁸



³⁸ Myers, Albert C. *Immigration of the Irish Quakers into Pennsylvania, 1682-1750, with Their Early History in Ireland. [with Illustrations.]* Swarthmore, Pennsylvania: The Author, 1902. 248-258 Web. 19th February 2014. <<https://archive.org/details/immigrationofiri00myer>>.



William Penn Chief Proprietary ~
and Governour of Pennsylvania

To Capt. Thomas Holmes Greeting

Reposing Special Trust and Confidence in thy Integrity
and Ability I do hereby constitute and Appoint thee First ~
Assistant to my Cousin William Markham Deputy Governour
of Pennsylvania with him for me and in my name to Act in ~

all things relations to the good of the Province and for my own ~ private Affairs:

For which this shall be thy inffinant Warrant.

Given under my hand and seal at Gravesend the one and twentieth day of the second month in the year One Thousand six hundred Eighty and Two.

21st 2nd Mo. 1682.

WM. Penn.

Courtesy of M. Jackson Crispin — Philadelphia City Archives — 7th Sept. 2016

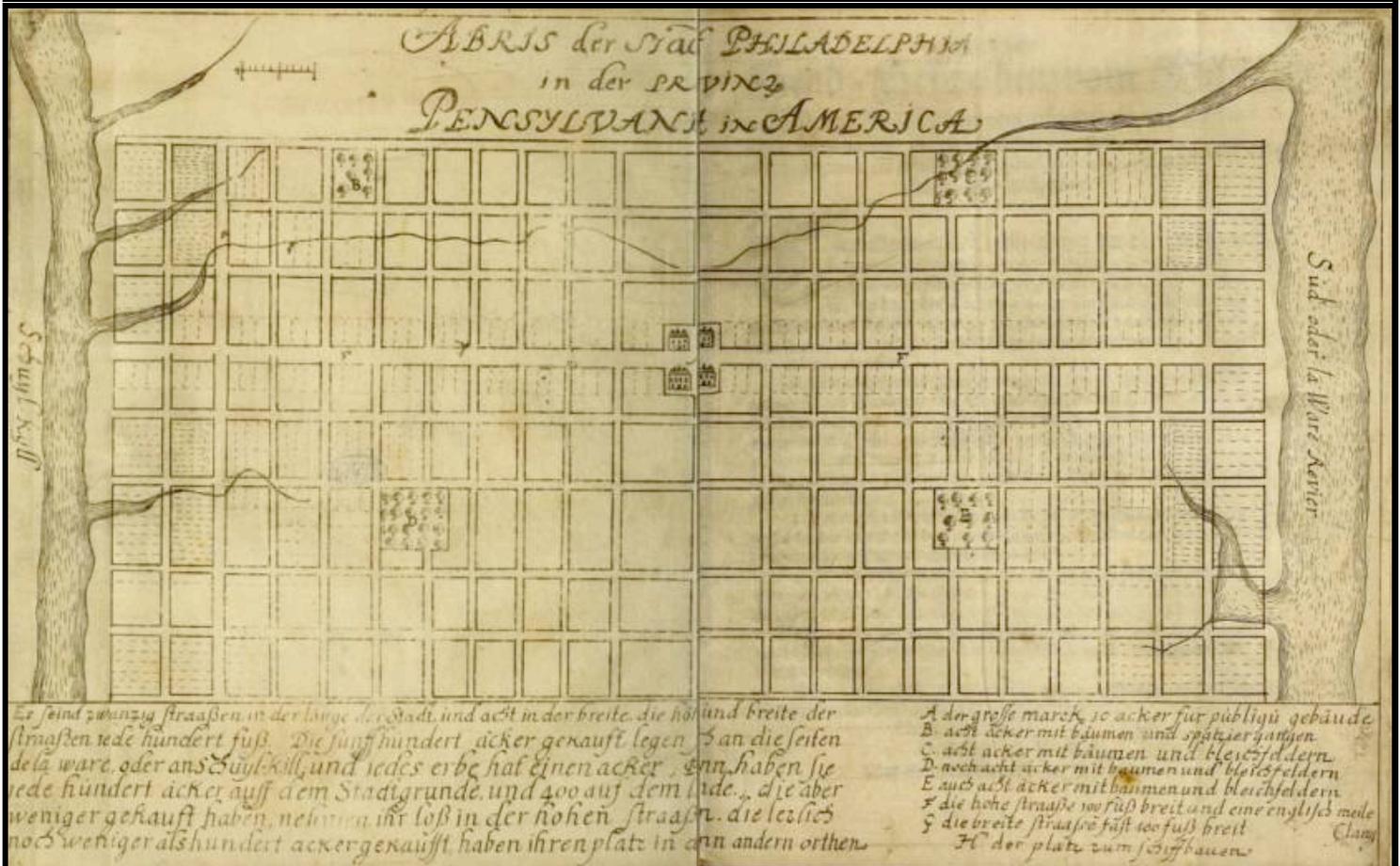
Before his death Captain Holme laid out one acre on his plantation in Dublin township as a burying-ground for himself and his descendants forever and he was buried in it. The land surrounding this lot was inherited by the children of Holme's daughter, Esther Crispin, who in 1723 divided the estate, reserving the one-acre for the use of all. It thus became known in the locality as the "Crispin Burying Ground." In 1831 the heirs to this one acre were very numerous and widely scattered, so on January 22 of that year a number of them met at the house of Benjamin Crispin (whose land was part of the original Holme Plantation) and formed the "Crispin Burial Ground Community," to look after the same. In 1840 a bill was introduced by the same Benjamin Crispin, a member of the State Legislature, and passed by that body granting a charter to Benjamin Crispin, Paul Crispin, Robert C. Green, Thomas Creighton and James A. Creighton and their successors, under the title of the Crispin Cemetery Corporation, to take charge of the property. Their successors still hold this ground in trust for the descendants of Thomas Holme. In 1883 the trustees of the Lower Dublin Academy erected a small monument here over the grave of Captain Holme. Thomas Holme married before he came to Pennsylvania, but his wife's name is not known. She probably died before 1682, as she did not accompany her husband to Pennsylvania.³⁹

³⁹ Jordan, J. W. Colonial and Revolutionary Families of Pennsylvania. Vol. 1. New York: Lewis, 1911. 345. Web. 22nd May 2017. <<https://archive.org/details/colonialrevoluti01jord>>.

Auch sämtlicher Reviren des Landes /
 Sonderlich der Haupt-Stadt
PHILA-DELPHIA

Alles glaubwürdigst
 Aus des Gouverneurs darinnen erstatteten
 Nachricht.

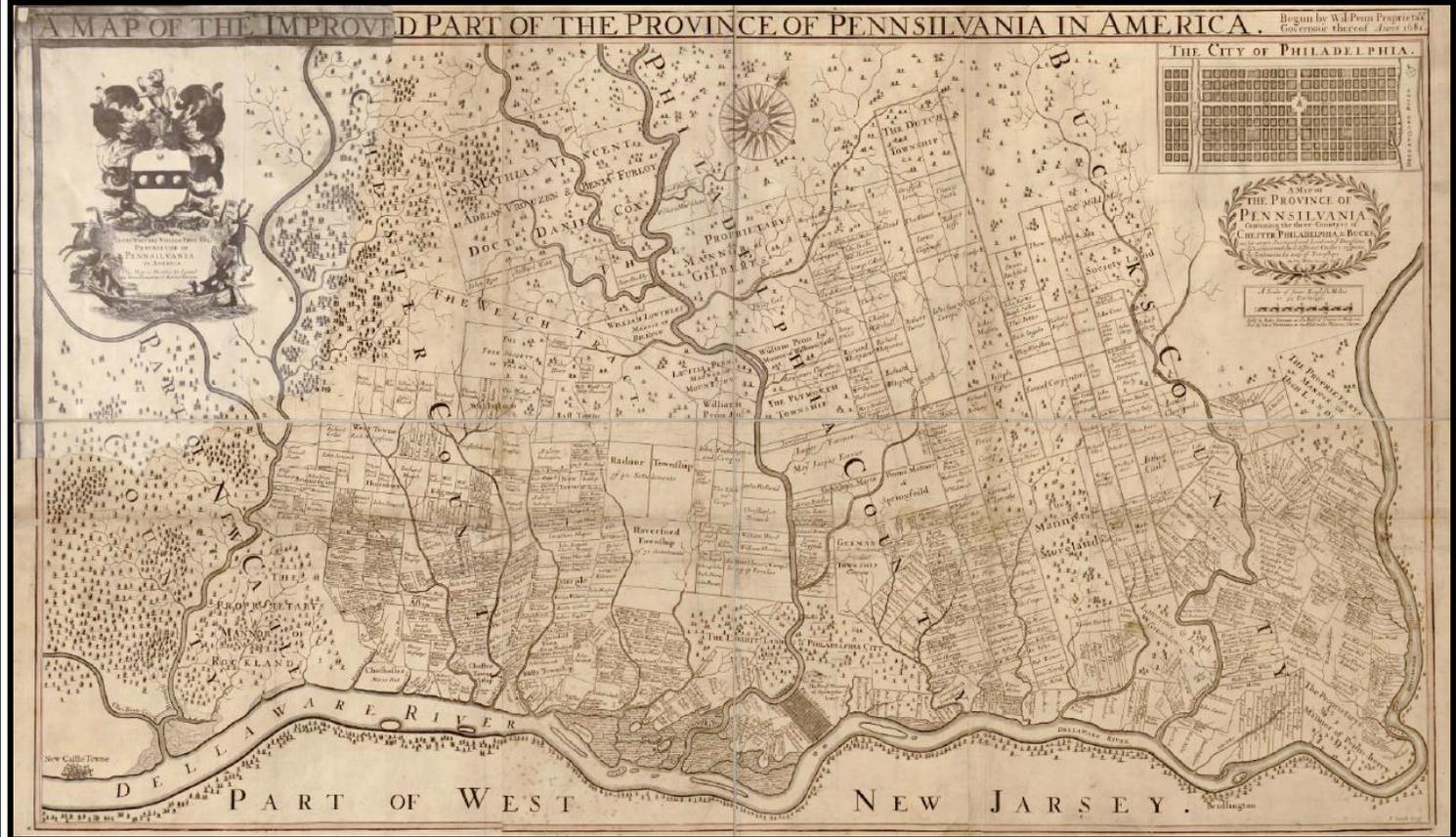
In Verlegung bey Henrich Heuß an der Banco /
 im Jahr 1684.



A letter from William Penn proprietor and governour of Pennsylvania - to the Committee of the Free Society of Traders

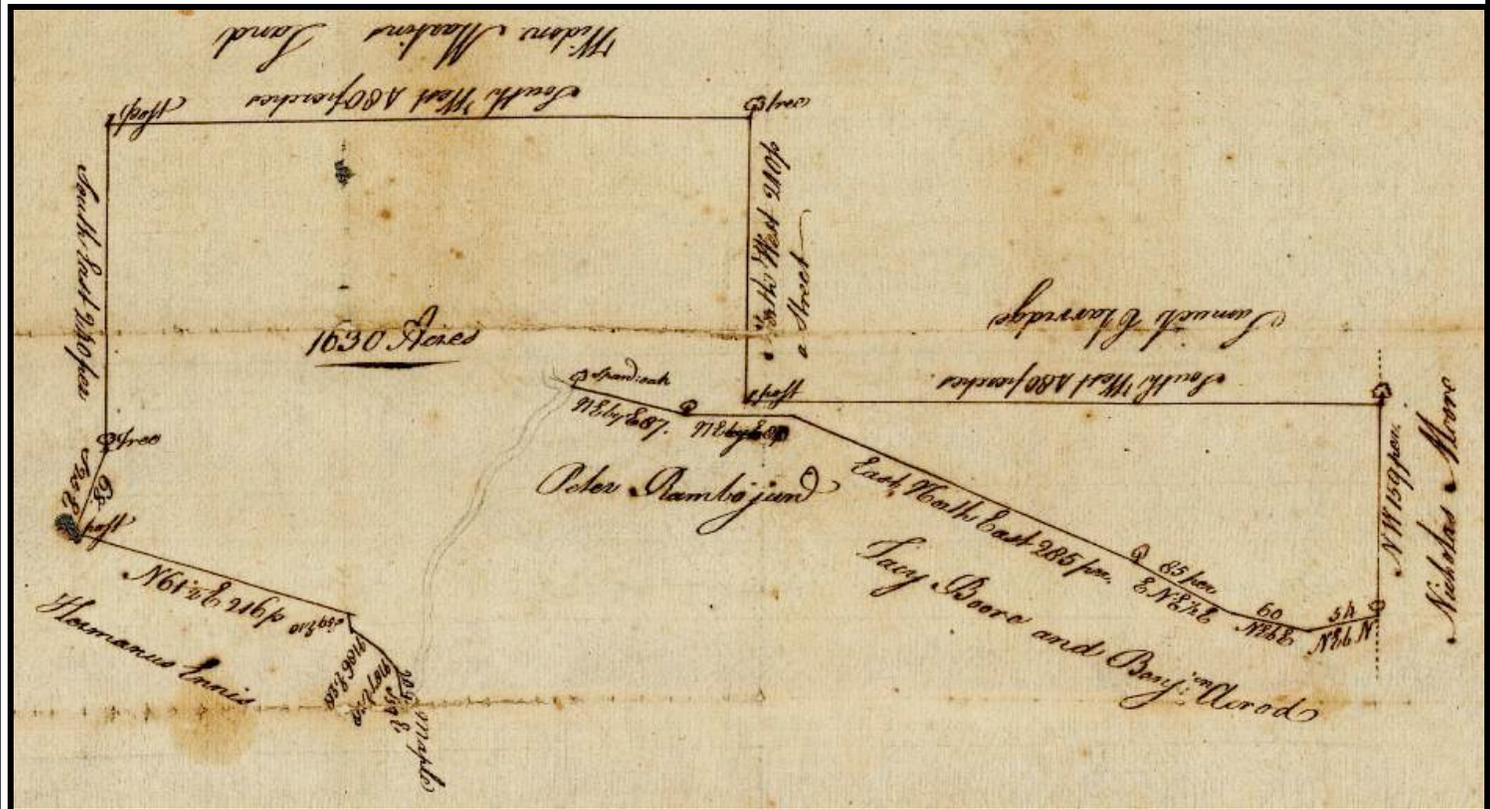
⁴⁰ Penn, William, J J, Benjamin Furly, Thomas Holme, Thomas Paschall, and J W. *Beschreibung Der in America Neu-Erfundenen Provinz Pensylvanien: Derer Inwohner, Gesetz, Arth, Sitten Und Gebrauch: Auch Sämtlicher Reviren Des Landes, Sonderlich Der Haupt-Stadt Phila-Delphia Alles Glaubwürdigst Auss Des Gouverneurs Darinnen Erstatteten Nachricht.* Hamburg: Jn Verlegung bey H. Heuss, 1684. 11. Web. 24th March 2016. <<https://archive.org/details/beschreibungderi00penn>>.

APPENDIX: No.1 — THOMAS HOLME — CARTOGRAPHER



The Improved Part Of The Province Of Pennsylvania In America <<https://www.loc.gov/resource/g3820.ct001815/>>.

THOMAS HOLMES' PLANTATION CALLED WELLSRING



Courtesy of HSP: M. Jackson Crispin Collection, Mss.155 / AM 04851. Accessed 5th May 2009.

APPENDIX: No.2 — THE ROOTS OF THE FREE AFRICAN AMERICANS IN LOWER DUBLIN TOWNSHIP

It had been a long held belief that William Penn's first chosen site for the City of Philadelphia was on the Poquessing Creek, but records to verify those claims have been lacking. Depending upon interpretation, those claims appear as several tracts of land Warranted to his son, William Penn Junior, shortly after his birth on 14th March 1680/81, (ten days after the grant of Pennsylvania). In November 1704, William Penn Junior left America after a riotous brawl at Enoch Story's Tavern.⁴¹ However, William Penn Sr. was already liquidating his Son's assets on the Poquessing Creek. This land latter found its way into the hands of Jeremiah Hopton, the son-in-law of Thomas Fairman. This deed has led to controversy among scholars.⁴²

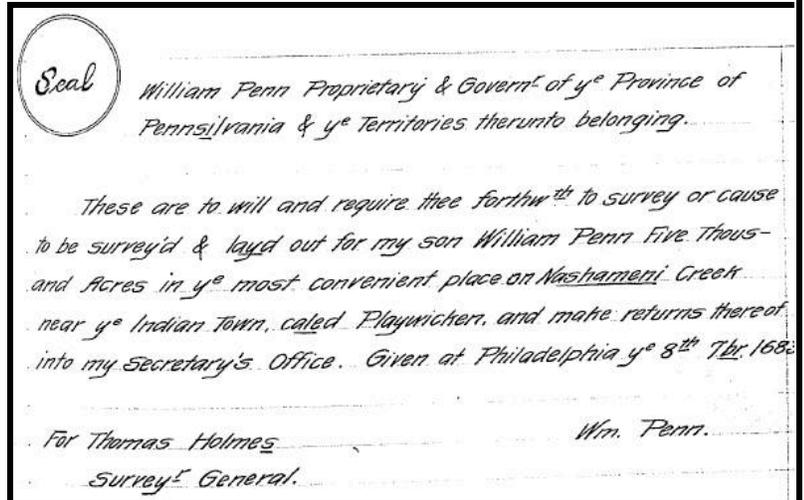
William Penn Proprietary & Governr of ye Province of Pennsylvania & ye Territories thereunto belonging

These are to will and require thee forthwth to survey or cause to be survey'd & layd out for my son William Penn Five Thousand Acres on Nashamene Creek near ye Indian Town caled Playwicken, and make returns thereof into my Secretary's Office.

Given at Philadelphia ye 8th 7br. 1683.

*For Thomas Holmes
Surveyr General.*

Wm. Penn



State of Pennsylvania Scanned Land Records online.

William Penn Proprietary & Governr of ye Province of Pennsylvania & ye Territories thereunto belonging.

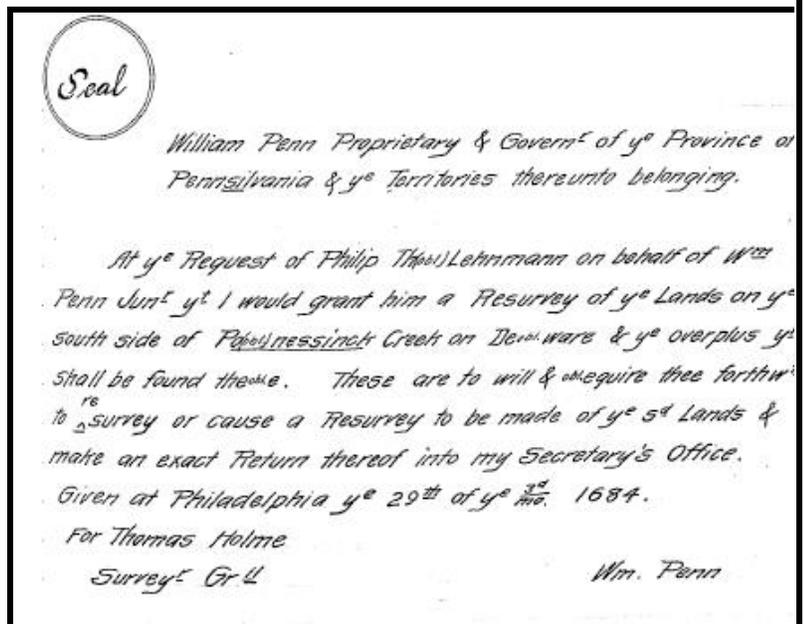
At ye Request of Philip Th[obl] Lehmann on behalf of Wm Penn Jun^r y^t I would grant him a Resurvey of ye Lands on ye south side of Po[obl]nessink Creek on De[la]ware & ye overplus yt shall be found the[r]e. These are to will & [re]quire thee forthwth to resurvey or cause a Resurvey to be made of ye sd Lands & make an exact Return thereof into my Secretary's Office.

Given at Philadelphia ye 29th of ye 3^d/mo. 1684.

For Thomas Holme

Surveyr Gr II

Wm. Penn



State of Pennsylvania Scanned Land Records online.

Eventually, 50 acres out of this controversial tract of land became the homestead of four African Americans (former slaves), who were set free and provided with a "life estate." By 1771, Provost William Smith of the University of Pennsylvania would establish All Saints Protestant Episcopal Church of Lower Dublin on approximately one and a quarter acre of this tract.

⁴¹ Jenkins, Howard M, Will Penn, Mary Penn, and Springett Penn. "The Family of William Penn. Viii: William Penn, Junior (continued)." *The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*. 21.2 (1897): 137-160. Web. 4 November 2017. <<https://archive.org/details/pennsylvaniamaga21hist>>.

⁴² Moak, Jefferson M. *A Fair and Impartial Seating? Division, Distribution and Development of Land in Southeastern Pennsylvania 1682-1741: The Application of the Land Policies and Practices of William Penn and Other Proprietary Officials to Roxborough, Chestnut Hill, Whitmarsh and Springfield in the Lower Wissabickon Valley*. Thesis Temple, Phila., Pa: s.n, 1998. 104-106, 156. Accessed: 10th December 2015. [I found Moak's Thesis fascinating and inspiring, reserving some disagreement].

APPENDIX: No.2 — THE AFRICAN AMERICANS (FORMER SLAVES) OF LOWER DUBLIN TOWNSHIP

Samuel C. Willits documents the following:

“On the 8th of the 11th month, 1701-2 William Penn had granted a patent to Edward Hopton for 250 acres of land along the south end of Poquessing creek. In 1709 Hopton gave it to his son Jeremiah. In 1720 the son conveyed it to John Swift, who, in 1734, was sold out by then Sheriff of Philadelphia – Septimus Robinson, - the property being purchased by Hermanns Abrick. Abrick conveyed it to Sheriff Robinson in the next year, who held it until his death in 1767, leaving it to his son Thomas. The latter lived but a short time after his father. His executors, William Parr and Peter Robeson, sold the place in 1771 to Christian Minnick of Germantown, subject to a proviso in the will of Robinson that 50 acres should be set aside for the use and enjoyment of four slaves – Ishmael and Sarah and Prince and Margaret – so long as they or any of them should live.”⁴³

Mr. Cary H. Rush, documents the following:

All Saints' Church was founded in 1772 on ground donated by Christian Minnick, who stipulated that the Swedish residents could also use the church on a monthly basis. At the time of its founding, Torresdale was part of Lower Dublin Township in the county of Philadelphia. Dr. William Smith, our first Rector, was also serving as Rector of Trinity Church, Oxford. [There was a provision in the grant that four black slaves (Ishmael Williams, his wife, and two others), could continue to live in a house on the property. The Family lived out their lives in the house and were buried in the churchyard.] During the American Revolution, the British forces occupied Philadelphia and our church was closed for a brief period. Dr. Smith returned after the occupation and the church began to establish itself again. Dr. Smith left shortly afterwards to become the first Provost of the University...⁴⁴



Survey D113 Page 118 © RG17 Land Office, State of Penna.

D113-118, Draft by Benjamin Eastburn, copied from Jacob Taylor.
Second draft is signed per. Tho. ffairman.

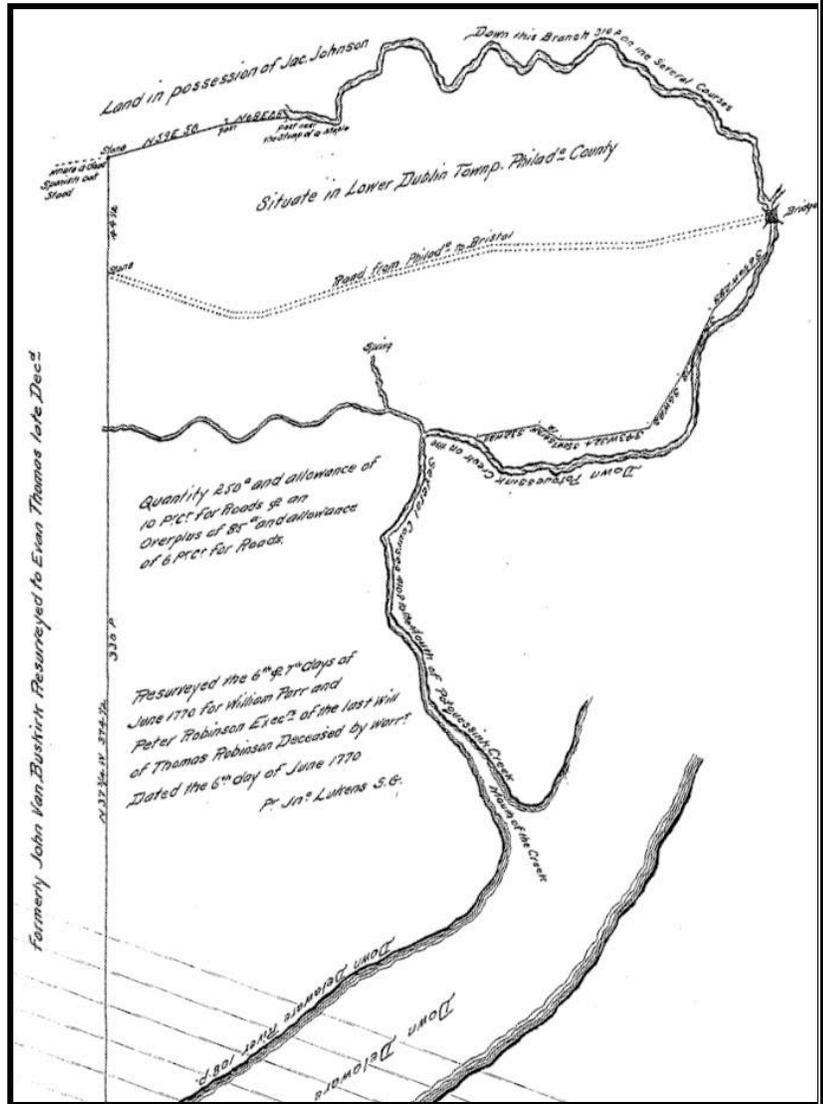
⁴³ Willits MS. 370

⁴⁴ Rush, Cary. *All Saints' Church: A 225 Year History of a Parish, 1772 to 1997*. Philadelphia, Pa.: C.H. Rush, 1996. 15-19 (Accessed: Menkevich Library).

APPENDIX: No.2 — THE AFRICAN AMERICANS (FORMER SLAVES) OF LOWER DUBLIN TOWNSHIP

Last Will & Testament of Thomas Robinson:

“I inpower and order my said Executors and the Survivor of them with all convenient Speed after my decease to Bargain Sell alein and Absolutely Convey inffeesimple unto any person or purchasers thereof for the best price that can be reasonably had, All that my plantation with Improvements thereon erected Situate lying and being in the Township of lower dublin in the County of Philadelphia (except fifty acres part thereof hereby given to four old Negroes during their Natural lives and in this my Will hereafter named)... Item: I give and bequeath unto my four Negroe Slaves Ishmael and Sarah his Wife, Prince and Margaret the fifty acres of Land herein before-mentioned excepted and reserved part of my Plantation Situate in the Township of lower dublin aforesaid to be laid out on any part of my said Plantation at the direction of my Executors together with a Log-house to be thereon erected at the expense of my Estate Tenantable and fit for them to dwell in To-hold to them the said Negroes for and during the Term of their Natural lives and the life of the longer liver of them without waste except Wood for Necessary fencing & fuel and from and after the decease of the Survivor of them the said Negroes to hold-to such persons or persons in FeeSimple as my Executors or the Survivor of them may have Sold the same unto Subject to the lives of the said Negroes as aforesaid, Also I give and bequeath unto the said Negroes two Horses with their Gears a plow a Harrow and all other Utinsils of Husbandry Necessary for working the said fifty acres, and two Cows six sheep and six hogs...And I herby Nominate Constitute and appoint my friends William Parr of the City and County of Philad.a Gent. and Peter Robinson of the same place Innholder Executors of this my Last Will and Testament ...Philad.a November 15th 1768, personally appeared C. Evans, William Hollingshead and Anthony Seyfert ... Given under the seal of the said Office per Benjamin Chew Reg. Genl.”⁴⁵



Land Office, State of Penna.

“... Whereas the said William Parr and Peter Robeson having set out and allotted the said fifty acres and Built a Log House thereon – for the said Negroes – carrying into execution the last Will aforesaid...Containing Two hundred fifty acres with the Appurtenances But and a late Resurvey made the Fifth & Seventh days of June One thousand Seven hundred and Seventy and returned to the Surveyor generals Office by virtue of a Warrant for that purpose obtained by William Parr and Peter Robinson dated the fifth day of June One thousand seven hundred & seventy...contained Three Hundred Sixty Five Acres...”⁴⁶

⁴⁵ Will 218 of 1768 - Book O page 287, Register of Wills, Room 189, Philadelphia City Hall. 26th June 2012. Transcribed Extract© by Joseph J. Menkevich.
⁴⁶ Philadelphia Deed Book D.53.383 William Parr to Christian Minnick & Deed Book D.33.383 Christian Minnick to Daniel Walton. ©Transcribed Extract.

APPENDIX: No.2 — THE AFRICAN AMERICANS (FORMER SLAVES) OF LOWER DUBLIN TOWNSHIP

(Tax of 1781), Ishmael Williams, a free negro⁴⁷

Christ'r Minnick's est'e.	1.15	0			
Ishmael Williams, a free negroe,					
Christ'r Minnick's est'e.	15	0	0		
Jacob Ashton,	88	2	4	10	1
Ishmael Williams,	50	4	3	11	..
Jeremiah Northrop,	126	3	3	4	..

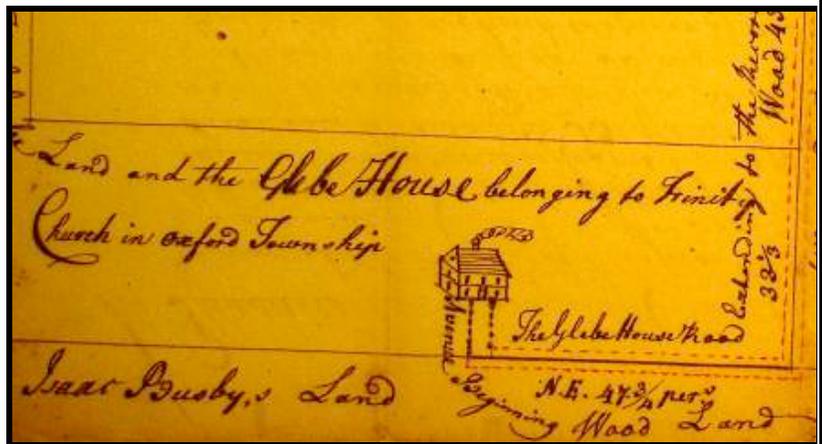
(Tax of 1783), 50 acres, 4 horses, 3 cattle, 11 sheep⁴⁸

STOLEN out of the stable of the subscriber, living in Lower Dublin township, Philadelphia county, on Friday night last, a black MARE, near 14 hands high, a large star in her forehead, has two white feet, her hoofs small, thick tail and mane, a natural pacer, but trots some, has neither brand nor earmark, about 12 years old, a short chunky well-set creature.

Whoever secures said mare, so as the owner may have her again, shall have FIVE DOLLARS reward, and FIVE DOLLARS more for securing the thief, if convicted, and reasonable charges, paid by ISHMAEL WILLIAMS, 8th May 1786.⁴⁹

STOLEN out of the stable of the subscriber, living in Lower Dublin, township, Philadelphia county, on Friday night last, a black MARE, near 14 hands high, a large star in her forehead, has two white feet, her hoofs small, thick tail and mane, a natural pacer, but trots some, has neither brand nor earmark, about 12 years old, a short chunky well-set creature. Whoever secures said mare, so as the owner may have her again, shall have FIVE DOLLARS reward, and FIVE DOLLARS more for securing the thief, if convicted, and reasonable charges, paid by **ISHMAEL WILLIAMS, ¶**
May 8, 1786.

“12th April 1790 Easter Tuesday, being very wet, the Corporation did not meet and this day was appointed in the noon of Tuesday last for this year only. They accordingly met at Trinity Church Oxford when the Rev. Dr. William Smith delivered up the old vestry book – The deeds for the Glebe & sundry of other papers belonging particularly to that Church into the hands of the minister and wardens. The Deed of gift for this church (All Saints) he produced but kept it in his hands to get it recorded.



Photograph: Philadelphia City Archives 7th August 2013 by J. Menkevich

Ishmael William’s release of his Life right, he gave to Benjamin Johnson, churchwarden to get [Ishmael] Williams to acknowledge it in order to have it recorded also. The witnesses to Christ. Minnick’s deed of gift for the lot of ground (in which All Saints is built) Wh. Contains 1 acre one quarter and ten perches are George Hunter and Charles Hurst.⁵⁰

Brought forward			290		
Enoch Edwards	2	2	1	3	3
Jonathan Jackson	1	1	2		
Elizabeth Singley	2	2	5		
William Streetly	1	1	2		
Jacob Rich	2	2	4		
Jonathan Perry	1	1	5		
Ishmael Williams					5
Sam. Marshall			3		

1790 Census – Dr. Enoch Edwards: 3 Slaves. Ishmael Williams: Family of 5.

In 1790, Ishmael Williams is in Byberry;⁵¹ by 1800, back to Lower Dublin.⁵² By 1813, the land once occupied by the Negroes was long sold off.⁵³

⁴⁷ Hazard, Samuel. *Pennsylvania Archives*. Series 3. Vol. XV. 1897. 60. Web. 5th November 2017. <<https://archive.org/details/pennsylvaniaarch53penn>>.

⁴⁸ Hazard, Samuel. *Pennsylvania Archives*. Series 3. Vol. XVI. 1897. 586. Web. 5th November 2017. <<https://archive.org/details/pennsylvaniaarc00penngoog>>.

⁴⁹ The Pennsylvania Gazette (Philadelphia). 10th May 1786, Wed. Page 1. Web. 5th November 2017. <<https://www.newspapers.com/image/41024443/>>.

⁵⁰ *All Saints Episcopal Church, Torresdale, Pa. Vestry Book, 1787-1886*. HSP. Microfilm Roll XCh80. Accessed 22nd May 2013. © Transcription by J. J. Menkevich.

[NOTE: Christian Minnick’s “Deed of Gift” to Provost Smith has never been found, leaving a possibility that All Saints was built upon the Negroes’ 50 acres].

⁵¹ *Population Schedules of the First Census of the United States, 1790*. Wash., D.C. 1965. Web. 5 Nov. 2017. <<https://archive.org/details/populationsc17900009unit>>.

⁵² ...*2nd Census of the United States, 1800, Pennsylvania, (excluding the City of Phila)*. Wash., D.C. 1961. <<https://archive.org/details/populationsc18000042unit>>.

⁵³ Phila. Deed Book: GS.21.174 Jonathan Thomas to the Wardens and Vestrymen of the Episcopal Church of All Saints Lower Dublin 17th February 1813.

APPENDIX: No.2 — THE AFRICAN AMERICANS (FORMER SLAVES) OF LOWER DUBLIN TOWNSHIP

John Adams to Abigail Adams⁵⁴

June 2 1777

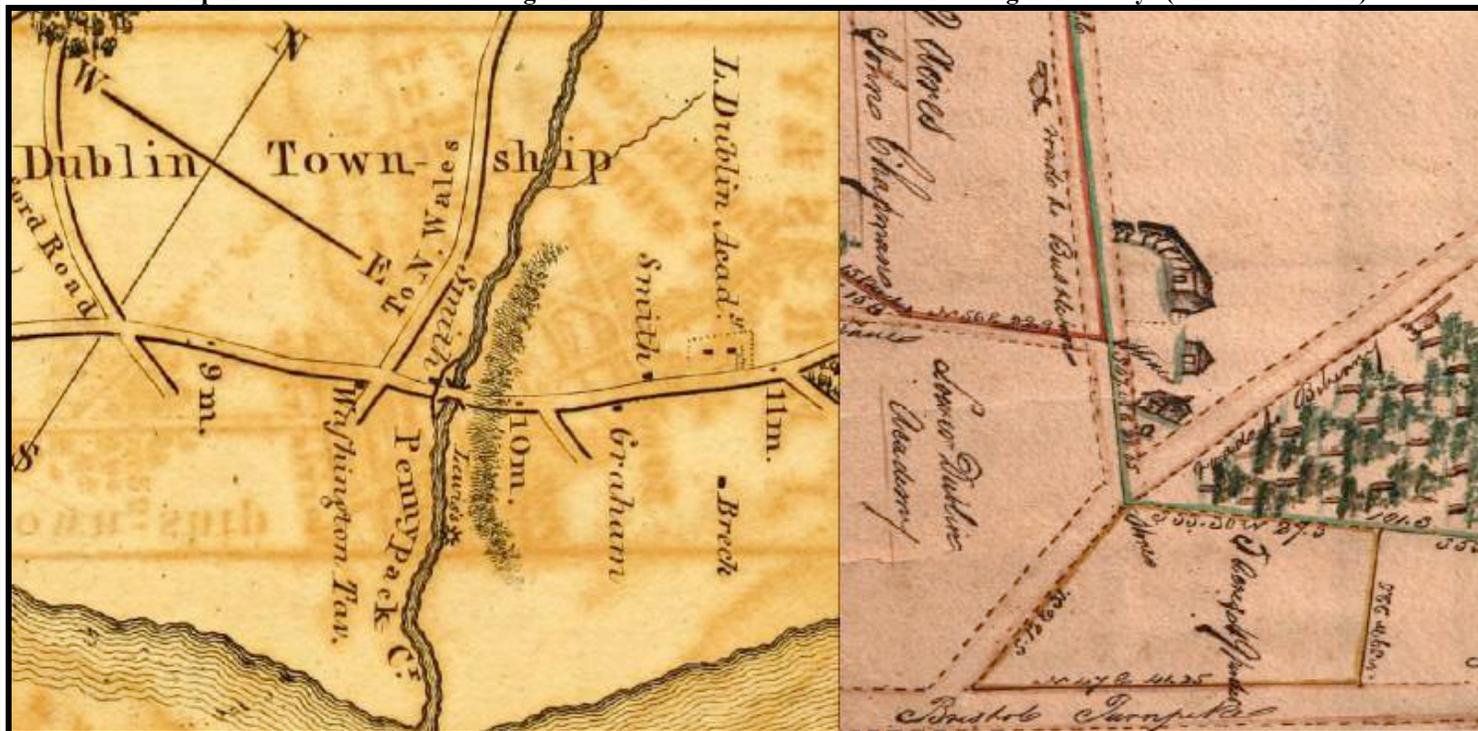
Yesterday, I took a ride to a beautiful Hill eleven Miles out of Town. It is called Rush Hill. An old Lady Mrs. Morris and her Daughter Mrs. Stamper, live here with a Couple of servants, and one little Boy, who is left with the Family for Education.

It is the most airy, and at the same Time the most rural Place in Pensilvania. The good Lady has about sixty Acres of Land, two fine orchards, an excellent Garden, a charming Brook, beautiful Meadows and Clover in Abundance.

This excellent Lady is the Mother of Dr. Rush and Mr. Jacob Rush the Lawyer. I went out with the Lawyer, and I relished the Excursion the more because I know the Pleasure of visiting a Mother.—This ride has refreshed me much. I ride every day. A fine growing Season here—plentiful Crops—and at present perfect Peace.

My Love to N. J. C. and Th. Pray how does the other one, or two?

Bristol Turnpike Road as it Passed through Lower Dublin With Various Intersecting Road-Ways (Circa 1804-1812)⁵⁵



(Welsh Rd.) To N. Wales – Pennypack Creek – Lower Dublin Academy – (Willits) Road to Bustleton – (Academy Rd.) Road to Byberry

Rush-Hill was a 52-³/₄ acre farm just off the Bristol Turnpike, past a Log School-house (now Lower Dublin Academy) and a short distance up the Road to Bustleton (now called Willits Road) to a creek named Wooden Bridge Run.⁵⁶

⁵⁴ *Founding Families: Digital Editions of the Papers of the Winthrop and the Adamses*, ed. C. James Taylor. Boston: Massachusetts Historical Society, 2017. Web. 9th November 2017. <<https://www.masshist.org/publications/apde2/view?id=ADMS-04-02-02-0197>>. There are two additional foot notes which state:

Note. 1: “The precise location of Rush Hill is not known to the editors. Presiding over it was Benjamin and Jacob Rush's mother, Susanna (Hall) Harvey Rush Morris, whose younger daughter was Mrs. Thomas Stamper, the former Rebecca Rush. See Benjamin Rush, Letters, 1:55, 98, 139–140, 237, and passim.” Note. 2: “Jacob Rush (1747–1820), College of New Jersey 1765, sometime student at the Middle Temple, and from 1784 to 1806 a prominent judge in the Pennsylvania courts (same, 1:44 and passim).”

⁵⁵ Moore, S. S., and T. W. Jones. *The Traveller's Directory: Or, A Pocket Companion, Shewing the Course of the Main Road from Philadelphia to New York; and from Philadelphia to Washington ... from Actual Survey*. Phila: Printed for Mathew Carey, 1804. Web. 31 July 2014. <<https://archive.org/details/travellersdirect00moor/>>.

© Image of Lower Dublin Academy (on the right of illustration above), Survey is the Nominator's Personal Map Collection.

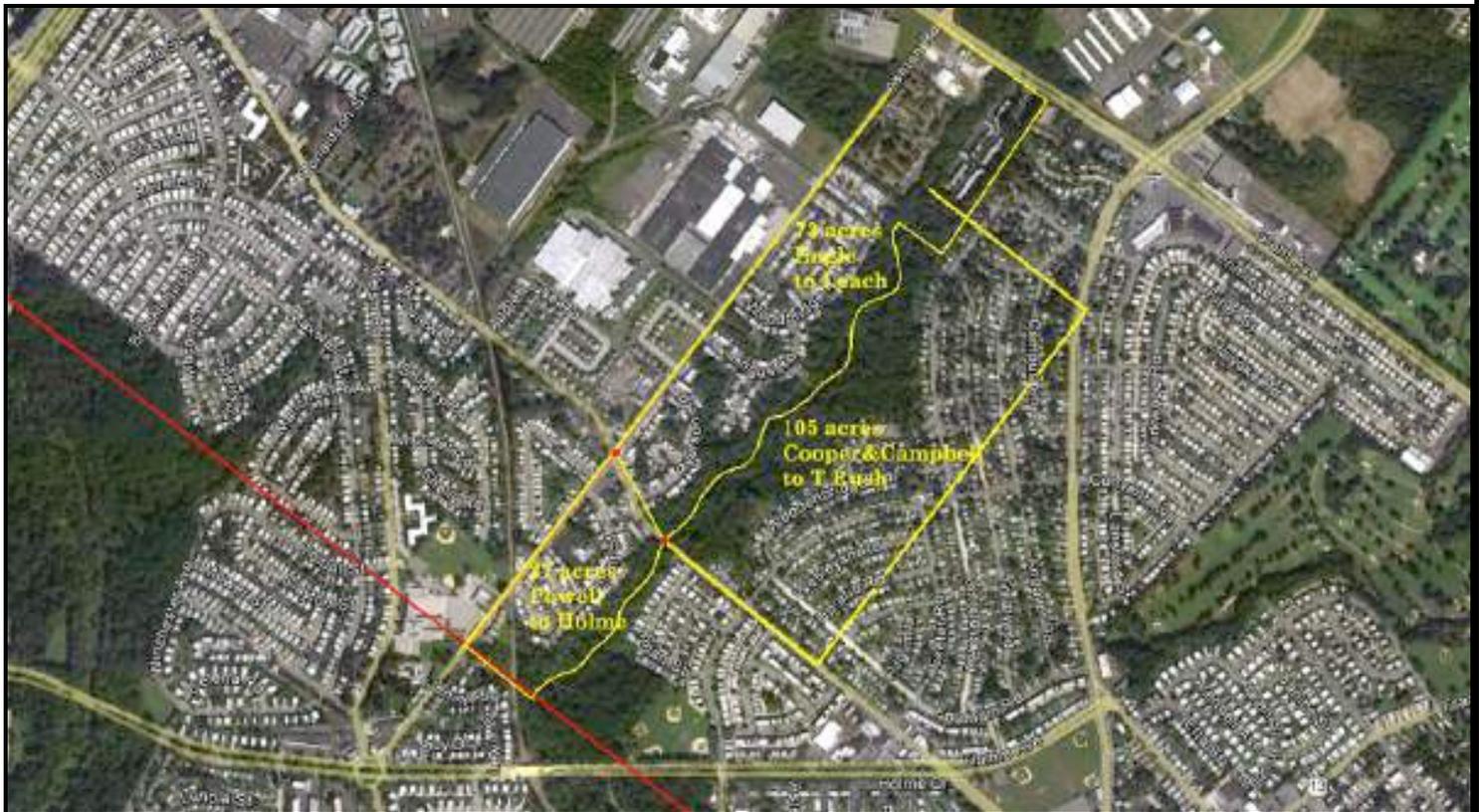
⁵⁶ Philadelphia Deed Book D.19.25 Thomas Taggart to Susanna Morris on the 18th March 1776. Two parcels: one measuring 25-³/₄ acres, the other 27 acres.

APPENDIX: No.2 — THE AFRICAN AMERICANS (FORMER SLAVES) OF LOWER DUBLIN TOWNSHIP

Rush-Hill probably derived its name from Thomas Rush, a grandson of the “Old Trooper” John Rush. He was a cousin⁵⁷ to both Jacob Rush and Benjamin Rush: “it was from Thomas Rush, my brother received the old man's sword.”⁵⁸ Thomas Rush had married Esther Crispin, the daughter of Silas Crispin and Esther Holme Crispin, the daughter of Thomas Holme.

Thomas Rush & his wife Esther acquired several large parcels of land, as her inheritance in the Well-Spring Plantation that had not been sold by her father to Charles Sanders.⁵⁹ There was also another 105 acres on Wooden Bridge Run that T.R. had purchased.⁶⁰ Susanna Morris’s sister Rebecca Leech (who was also a widow) purchased/leased land on Wooden Bridge Run:

“All that Messuage Plantation and Tract of Land Situate in Lower Dublin Township aforesaid Beginning at a Corner by the Side of Wooden Bridge Run thence extending by the Land of Thomas Powell North Thirteen Degrees West forty eight Perches to a Corner Stone Thence extending by the Land of Joseph Ashton NorthEast Two Hundred and fifty one Perches and a half to a Corner stake at or in a Run of Water Thence extending by the Land called Silas Crispins South East sixty Perches to a Corner Stake and South West Eighty five Perches to a Corner White Oak and Thence North West twenty perches to a Steak in Wooden Bridge Run Thence along the same Run according to Several Courses thereof to the Place of the Beginning containing Seventy Three Acres ...”⁶¹



Holme-Crispin Park - Area - Illustration: Courtesy of Fred Moore and Google Earth – 2012

⁵⁷ Note: I erroneously identified Thomas Rush as an uncle to Dr. Benjamin Rush and as having received Trooper John’s sword. See: Nomination of Lower Dublin Academy, page 71, F/n 101. <<http://www.phila.gov/historical/Documents/3322-Willits-Rd-final.pdf>>.

⁵⁸ Rush, Benjamin, and Louis Alexander Biddle. *A Memorial Containing Travels through Life or Sundry Incidents in the Life of Dr. Benjamin Rush : Born Dec. 24, 1745 (Old Style), Died April 19, 1813 ; Written by Himself, Also Extracts from His Commonplace Book as Well as A Short History of the Rush Family in Pennsylvania*. Philadelphia: [s.n.], 1905. 234-235. Web. 01st August 2014 <<https://archive.org/details/memorialcontaini00rush>>.

⁵⁹ Philadelphia Deed Book H.9.113-118 Silas Crispin to Charles Sanders, 1st May 1695: “A certain Tract of Land in Dublin Townshipp... Called Wellspring. Beginning at post upon Pemmapecca Creek... Thence by the Land Late Anna Salter North 61 & 1/2 Degrees Easterlie through an Indian Field to a Post standing in a valley... Thence up several courses of the said Creek to the place of beginning Containing resurveyed and Layd Outt the second day of April Last past by thomas ffairman Surveyor for Nine Hundred and thirty three Acres of Land be it more or less... [Also the rights & in River lotts about 16 acres and... free access to the all land belonging to Thomas Holme adjacent on the east side of the said Pemmapecca Creek... with access to & from a Mill...] - By virtue of a Patent Confirmation for 1630 Acres of Land (Whereas 933 acres and several River Lotts being about 16 acres are part & parcel).

⁶⁰ Philadelphia Deed Book F.7.70 Samuel Cooper to Thomas Rush – 15th May 1735.

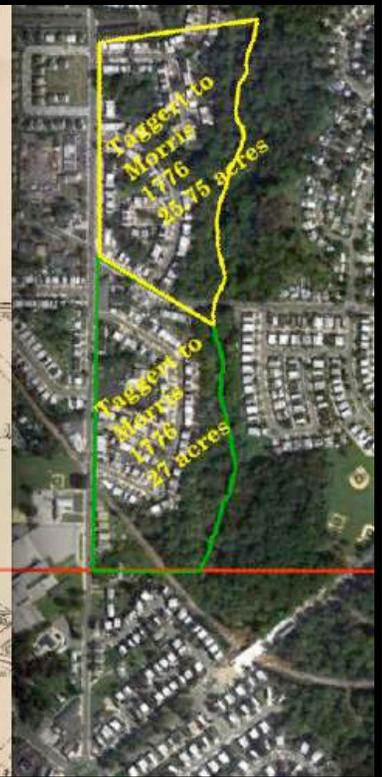
⁶¹ G.5.484 Benjamin Ingle (Engle) to Rebecca Leech – 25th March 1745. [73 acres part of a larger tract of 100 acres – [House & 25-3/4a. will become Rush-Hill.]

APPENDIX: No.2 — THE AFRICAN AMERICANS (FORMER SLAVES) OF LOWER DUBLIN TOWNSHIP

Thomas Taggart to Susanna Morris – 1776 Indenture

Two tracts: 25-¾ acres & 35 perches, also 27 Acres.

Wife their heirs and assigns. A Certain Mortgage or Concomitant and Tract or piece of Land situate in the Township of Lower Dublin aforesaid Beginning at a stone standing in Woodens Bridge run, thence by land late of Thomas Taggart North seven-tenth degrees and twenty minutes West forty nine perches and an half to a stone, thence North East by Thomas Whitens Land seventy four perches East half to a stone, thence South fifty four degrees and thirty five minutes East by land late of the said Thomas Taggart now of John Vanhorn sixty one perches and six tenth parts of a perch to a whole Oak on the bank of the aforesaid run thence down the several courses of the said run to the place of beginning containing by computation twenty five acres and one hundred and fifty five perches of land be the same more or less, Also one other Tract or piece of Land situate in the Township of Lower Dublin, aforesaid, Beginning at a small Chestnut stump and a stone for a corner by Woodens Bridge run, thence North West by Hans Schmits Land thirty eight perches and an half to a heap of Stones, thence North East by Land of Benjamin Higby, one hundred and eight perches and an half to a road, thence South thirteen degrees East forty eight perches to a stone by the said run, thence down the several courses of the said run to the place of beginning, containing twenty seven acres be the same more or less [which said Mortgage or Concomitant and two described Tracts or pieces of Land Thomas Taggart of the County of Northumberland Weaver, and Mary his wife by Indenture bearing date the eighteenth day of March 1776 did grant and convey



Rush Hill was sold; latter to be called Cottage Hill.

The Willits Family called it Cottage Farm.

Mrs. Morris' sons stayed very close. Benjamin often stopped while traveling to Annis Stockton, his mother-in-law at Morven in Princeton N.J., or to visit Elizabeth Graeme Fergusson in Horsham. He purchased a property in Oxford Township, off the Bristol Pike, about equidistant from his business in Philadelphia and his Mother's Farm in Lower Dublin. He writes:

1780 Bought a house & Small farm
of 16 acres of Philip Moore on the Frankford
Creek 4 Miles & ½ from town
Febr 16th. – for £ 400 in gold. – [Next entry]
1782 April 9. 10. 11. 12. Planted 200 apple trees
near the Rocks of the description. Price 1/6 each...
1782 Novr 1 Planted 12 pear trees
12 Cherry trees 12 Plum trees
7 Peach trees with planting cost £ 7-4-0...⁶²

*1780 Bought a house & small farm
of 16 acres
of Philip Moore on Frankford
Creek 4 miles & 1/2 from town
Feb^y 16th - for £400.00 in gold. -*



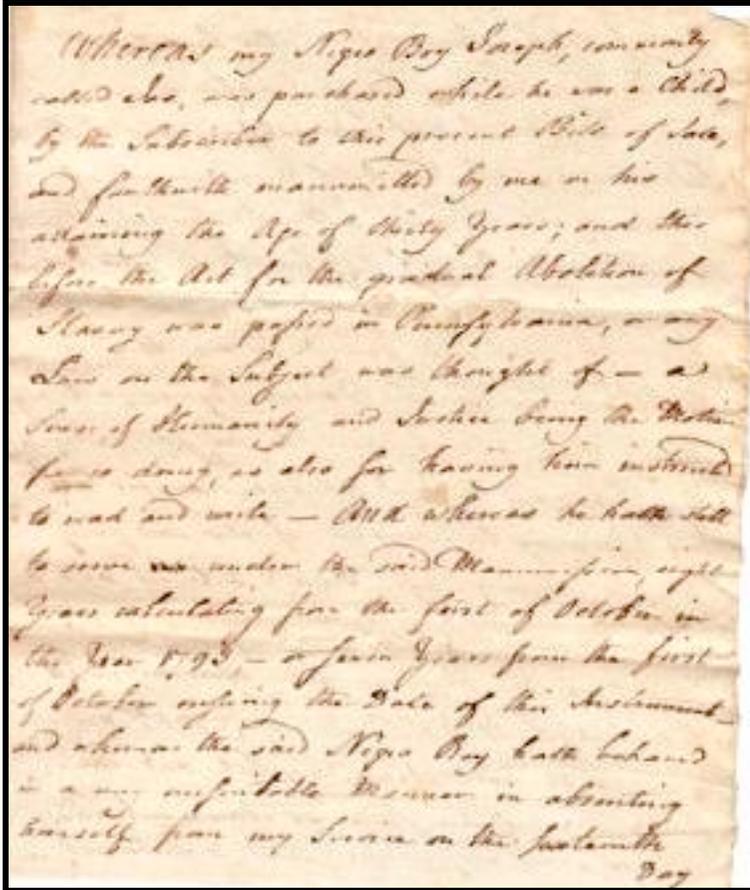
Oxford Twn. <<http://www.archives.upenn.edu/WestPhila1777/map.php>> J.M.Duffin

Jacob Rush acquired 150 acres in Lower Dublin.⁶³
In 1783, he purchased the rights to erect a dam near the mouth of Sandy Run where it met the Pennypack Creek, adjacent to (150 acres) he already owned.⁶⁴ This farm was not far from his mother Susanna Morris. Jacob held a church pew at All Saints, Lower Dublin.

⁶² Duke Univ. Web. 15th Nov. 2017. <<https://repository.duke.edu/>>. See: Deed Book i.15.343 Nathan Whitman to Philip Moore 13th May 1776.
⁶³ The Pennsylvania Gazette, 15th February 1792. For Sale: Plantation of 150 acres in Lower Dublin, property of Jacob Rush. (Deed of purchase – not found).
⁶⁴ Philadelphia Deed Book D.8.280 Joseph Lewis to Jacob Rush (27th August 1783, with Right to dam Sandy Run, for the sum of six pounds).

APPENDIX: No.2 — THE AFRICAN AMERICANS (FORMER SLAVES) OF LOWER DUBLIN TOWNSHIP

It is a known fact that Mrs. Morris owned and sold slaves. She advertized in the Public Newspapers as early as 1755.⁶⁵ In 1790, Jacob Rush was still chasing his “Negro Boy Joseph” after he ran away from his Lower Dublin Farm.⁶⁶

A handwritten document on aged, yellowed paper. The text is written in cursive and is a bill of sale for a man named Joe. It mentions that Joe was purchased while he was a child and is now about 18 years old. The document is dated October 4, 1790, and is signed by Jacob Rush. It includes details about Joe's appearance, his skills, and the terms of his manumission, including a reward of six dollars for anyone who brings him back to his master.

1794 Bill-of-Sale by Jacob Rush for “Joe” Courtesy of Ebay.⁶⁷

ON Wednesday, the 22d of last month, during the absence of the subscriber from home, his Negroe boy, named JOE, quitted his service. He is about 18 years old, very talkative, of small stature, a yellow complexion, and has his front teeth set wide apart. When he went away, he was dressed in a white linen shirt and trowsers, a sailor's blue jacket, and a flapt hat. He has been in the family from the time he was five years old; can write and read tolerably well; and at the age of 30 will be free, in consequence of a deed of manumission, under hand and seal, executed by the subscriber soon after he came into his possession. --- Whoever brings him back to his master, shall receive SIX DOLLARS as a reward, and a reasonable allowance for expences and trouble. JACOB RUSH. Philadelphia county, Oct. 4, 1790. N.B. He has been seen sculking in New Jersey, near Burlington.

Dr. Benjamin Rush had published “The Paradise of Negro-Slaves.—a dream” in the Columbian Magazine,⁶⁸ just as his mother, Susanna Morris and his brother Jacob, were selling the Lower Dublin farm:

To be Sold at public Sale, On the thirty-first day of March next,
A VALUABLE PLANTATION, in the township of Lower Dublin, and county of Philadelphia, about 11 miles from the city, and within three quarters of a mile of the Bristol road. It consists of rather more than 50 acres, and has on it a good house, barn, frame barrack and stables. Near the dwelling is a good log house, which for many years has accommodated a family, exclusive of that which occupies the mansion-house. In the above tract are 16 or 17 acres of watered meadow, which may be much improved, and two excellent orchards in their prime, bearing pippins and other good fruit. Within the yard enclosing the dwelling-house is a collection of the best fruit, such as apricots, pears, cherries, &c. and near the door a well of fine water. There are also a few acres of woodland belonging to this farm. The situation is high, healthy and agreeable. As there is a road running thro' the plantation, which divided it into two equal parts, and in each about the same quantity of meadow and orchard, it is proposed to sell them separately. The person or persons purchasing will be expected to pay fifty pounds for each part in three weeks from the day of sale. A very considerable credit will be given for the residue of the purchase money. The sale will be on the day abovementioned, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, on the premises, when and where attendance, on behalf of Mrs. Susanna Morris, the owner of the above farm, will be given, and further terms of sale be made known, by JACOB RUSH .

N.B. Possession of the premises will be given the first of April to the persons purchasing. Jan. 15, 1787.⁶⁹

⁶⁵ The Pennsylvania Gazette. 21st Aug. 1755, Page 4. “A WHITE LAD, and a Negroe Woman.” Web. <<https://www.newspapers.com/image/39388541/>>.

⁶⁶ The Pennsylvania Gazette, Philadelphia, Pa. 6th October 1790. Web. 22nd April 2009. <<http://www.accessible-archives.com/>>.

⁶⁷ Web. 14th December 2010. Image in Public Domain. Ebay. Item number: 230560761250. Ended. Dec. 14, 2010. 11:25:38 PST. US \$ 404.00 [20 bids].

⁶⁸ The Columbian magazine : or, monthly miscellany 1786-1787. 235. Web. 15th Nov. 2017. <<https://archive.org/details/columbianmagazin17861787phil>>.

⁶⁹ The Pennsylvania Gazette, Philadelphia, Pa. 17th January 1787. Web. 22nd April 2009. <<http://www.accessible-archives.com/>>.

APPENDIX: No.2 — THE AFRICAN AMERICANS (FORMER SLAVES) OF LOWER DUBLIN TOWNSHIP

In 1780, "An act for the gradual abolition of slavery" was passed.⁷⁰ Apparently, several former slaves from surrounding townships began living on the farmlands of the Whites as sharecroppers or tenant laborers, including the farm of Mrs. Morris.

Jacob and his mother continued advertizing the Lower Dublin farm throughout January, until the 14th of February 1787. On the 28th February 1787, a fire broke out and a Black Man and his Wife were arrested and charged with the crime of Arson.

REPUBLICA v. Barak Martin & Tamar Martin

Respublica } Arson. True bill as to Barak Martin Ignoramus as to
Barak Martin & Tamar Martin } Tamar Martin. Barak Martin hungaigned pleads
Non Cul & hoc pof & Similitur: And now to wit 18th
Test April 1787 a Jury being called come to wit John Stein Michael
Hill Freeburn su Waltman Porter, David McCulloch William Ogden Warwick
John Halle su Hall John Singer, miron Kinnord, John Fiegle, Thomas Hale
Robert Freeburn su Adam melcher Joseph Kiper and Michael Gilbert who being duly
Joanna book su impanelled returned tried elcted by ballot sworn and affirmed
John Eastburn su upon their oath and affirmation respectively do say that Barak
Publ Martin is guilty of the felony and Arson whereof 4^o Nulla bona 4^o
Michael Grover aff
Judgment that Barak Martin
be hanged by the neck till he be dead Int. Com. Tamar Martin discharged
paying fees.
George Baker a Juror excused
George Grotz Certificate of his sickness by his physician filed

Clemency Files – Pennsylvania State Archives

“Some bald acts of black vengeance appear in the record. Barrick Martin, a former slave, angry with Susannah Morris of Lower Dublin Township, Philadelphia County, torched her barn and several out-buildings.”⁷¹

“Prominent white Philadelphians like Owen Biddle and Francis Bailey urge the court to be lenient with Barrick Martin, convicted of arson, because he was a good father and a hard-working husband who had accomplished much having been born in Africa, enslave, and denied a good education.”⁷² — G.S. Rowe.

⁷⁰ PHC. File: 14700 Townsend Road. Nomination. Menkevich, Joseph J. *Byberry African American Cemetery*. 2015. Page 31. Web. 27th November 2017. <<http://www.phila.gov/historical/Documents/Byberry-Cemetery-nomination.pdf>>.

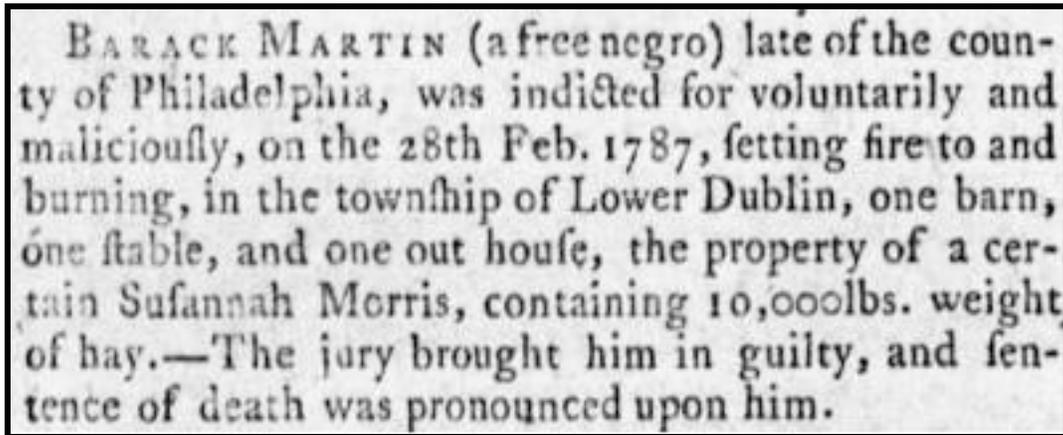
⁷¹ Rowe, G. S. "Black Offenders, Criminal Courts, and Philadelphia Society in the Late Eighteenth-Century." *Journal of Social History* 22.4 (1989): 685-712. Accessed 29 July 2009, HSP. [NOTE: The microfilm must have been bad, as Rowe's statements run contrary to the documents he cited: Footnote # 21 Clemency File, RG-27, PHMC, reel 40. - Jurors Petition of May 2, 1787, Footnote # 22 The Columbian Museum, or Universal Asylum (Phila.), Jan, 1793), 45.

⁷² Ibid. 702. Footnote# 68: Clemency Records (May 02, & 5th) and Universal Asylum and Columbia Magazine (Phila.), August, 1790: 74.

APPENDIX: No.2 — THE AFRICAN AMERICANS (FORMER SLAVES) OF LOWER DUBLIN TOWNSHIP

In the case against Barack Martin, the State of Pennsylvania has not produced a trial transcript, which might determine any motivation associated with this alleged crime against Widow Morris.⁷³

BARACK MARTIN (a free negro) late of the county of Philadelphia, was indicted for voluntarily and maliciously, on the 28th February 1787, setting fire to and burning, in the township of Lower Dublin, one barn, one stable, and one out house, the property of a certain Susannah Morris, containing 10,000lbs. weight of hay.— The jury brought him in guilty, and sentence of death was pronounced upon him.



BARACK MARTIN (a free negro) late of the county of Philadelphia, was indicted for voluntarily and maliciously, on the 28th Feb. 1787, setting fire to and burning, in the township of Lower Dublin, one barn, one stable, and one out house, the property of a certain Susannah Morris, containing 10,000lbs. weight of hay.—The jury brought him in guilty, and sentence of death was pronounced upon him.

The Freeman's Journal or The North American Intelligencer Wed. May 2, 1787

It is undetermined how G.S. Rowe concluded that Barack Martin was angry. According an account of the trial, as published, Barack Martin never spoke to Mrs. Morris. He did speak plenty to neighbors. Rowe did not cite the newspaper account.

What probably began as an accidental fire in Lower Dublin Township, ended in the conviction of Martin. The Hon. Jacob Rush and several neighbors gave testimony in the account published in the Pennsylvania Packet 27th April 1787.

Martin's "crime" was that he was hot-tempered and spoke out against being "ordered" about by his White neighbors. When Martin was threatened with being shot in the backside, his response was equal, as Martin also possessed a firearm. Sometime before the fire, while Barack was away, neighbors visited his home, seized his firearm and discharged it.

In spite of the fact that Martin tried to extinguish the fire, the evidence, which was used against him was that the neighbors overheard his wife Tamor, consoling him, as they both wept in fear of being accused of setting the fire.

The premonitions were well founded, as they both obviously understood the neighbors' contempt. Barack was accused, tied with a rope & arrested. He stood silent and did not resist.

Just how the unfortunate Barack Martin became the first prisoner represented by the Philadelphia Society for Alleviating the Miseries of Public Prisons is a remarkable account and worthy of further study.

The newspaper accounts (for the purposes of this nomination) document an early settlement of Free African Americans living in Lower Dublin Township, on Mrs. Susanna Morris's property and in the area in general.⁷⁴

⁷³ Republica v Martin Inventory received in July 2011 from the Archivist State of Pennsylvania:

(1) - RG-33, Records of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania: Eastern District; Court of Oyer and Terminer, General Gaol Delivery Docket (series 33.127), 1787-1828. Docquet of Oyer and Terminer ... Commencing April 1787 (3 Oversized pgs. 12x17) entry For Barack Martin appearing on page 3 (numbered 6 by the Court) "RG-27, Record of Pennsylvania's Revolutionary Governments; Supreme Executive Council; Clemency File (series 27.25), 1787, M"

(1) - Three pages (8.5 x 14) of transcript & cover titled: "1787 April 23rd. Transcript of the Record of Conviction of Barak Martin" "Read in Council April 23rd 1787"

(2) - List of Jurors dated May 2d. 1787 - one page (8.5x14)

(3) - Petition to Benjamin Franklin for Clemency 5th Day 5th Month 1787 signed by Benjamin Rush & etc. - 3 pages (8.5 x 14).

⁷⁴ SEE: APPENDIX: No.3 — IN THE CASE AGAINST BARACK MARTIN, on page 69 of this document.

APPENDIX: No.2 — THE AFRICAN AMERICANS (FORMER SLAVES) OF LOWER DUBLIN TOWNSHIP

On the 9th of March 1787, Dr. Benjamin Rush visited the home of his Excellency Benjamin Franklin Esquire, President of the Supreme Executive Council of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and presented him with a publication, excerpts:

EXPERIENCE proves, that public punishments have encreased propensities to crimes. A man who has lost his character at a whipping-post, has nothing valuable left to lose in society. Pain has begotten insensibility to the whip; and shame to infamy. Added to his old habits of vice, he probably feels a spirit of revenge against the whole community, whole laws have inflicted his punishment upon him; and hence he is stimulated, to add to the number and enormity of his outrages upon society. The long duration of the punishment, when public, by encreasing its infamy, serves only to encrease the evils that have been mentioned.⁷⁵

Laws, therefore, which inflict death for murder, are, in my opinion, as unchristian as those which justify or tolerate revenge; for the obligations of christianity upon individuals, to promote repentance, to forgive injuries, and to discharge the duties of universal benevolence, are equally binding upon states. The power over human life, is the solitary prerogative of H I M who gave it. Human laws, therefore, rise in rebellion against this prerogative, when they transfer it to human hands.⁷⁶

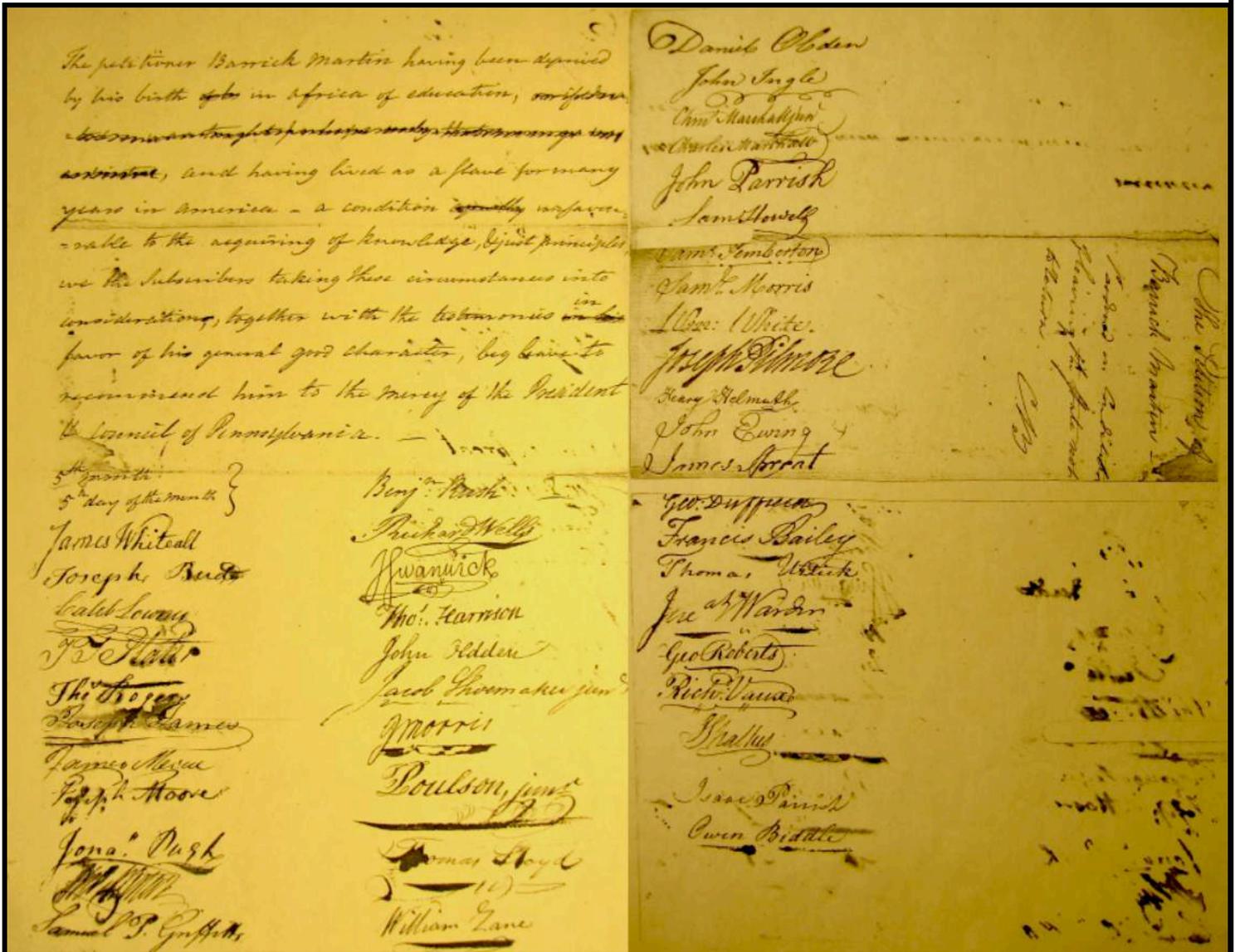
IN May 1787, A Petition to Benjamin Franklin regarding Convicted Arsonist Barack Martin was delivered, signed by:

Dr. Benjamin Rush,

James Whitehall,	Richard Wells,	
Joseph Bude,	John Stanwick,	
Caleb Lownes,	Thomas Harrison,	
[Illegible],	John Oldden,	
Thomas Rogers,	Jacob Shoemaker Junr.,	
Joseph James,	J. Morris,	
James Mecue,	Z. Poulson, Junr.,	
Joseph Moore,		
Jona'h Pugh,	Thomas Lloyd,	
[Illegible]	[Illegible]	
Samuel P., Griffiths,	William Zane,	
Daniel Olden,	John Ingle, Christopher Marshall, Junr.,	Charles Marshall,
John Parrish,	Samuel Howell, Daniel Pemberton,	Samuel Morris,
Bishop William White,	Rev. Joseph Pilmore,	Rev. Henry Helmuth,
Rev. John Ewing,	Rev. James Sproat,	Rev. George Duffield,
Francis Bailey,	Thomas Ustick, John Warder,	George Roberts,
Richard Vaux,	J. Shallus, Isaac Parrish,	Owen Biddle.

⁷⁵ Rush, Benjamin. *An Enquiry into the Effects of Public Punishments Upon Criminals and Upon Society: Read in the Society for Promoting Political Enquiries, Convened at the House of His Excellency Benjamin Franklin, Esquire, in Philadelphia, March 9th, 1787.* Philadelphia: Joseph James. 1787. 4. Web. 21st November 2017. Web. <<https://collections.nlm.nih.gov/catalog/nlm:nlmuid-2569014R-bk>>.

⁷⁶ Ibid, Rush, An Enquiry. 16.



RG-27 Pa. State Archives. Petition to Benjamin Franklin for Clemency 5th Day 5th Month 1787 signed by Benjamin Rush

Dr. Rush, in latter publications, omitted key details on this arson and how it involved his mother and brother. Instead, he profiled Martin as a vengeful, angry, uneducated slave – unsuited for America.⁷⁷ The unaltered text of his journal is below:

Barrack Martin was condemned to die by the Supreme Court in April 1787 for burning my mothers barn. May the 6th I signed the following petition to the Council to one signed by himself, for his pardon.

The petitioner B. Martin by having been deprived by his birth in Africa of education, *or if educated was only taught perhaps that revenge was a virtue*, & by having lived in a place for many years in America - a condition *equally* unfavorable to the acquiring of knowledge & just principles, we the Subscribers taking these circumstances into consideration, together with the testimonies in favor of his former good Character, beg leave to recommend him to the mercy of the President & Council of Pennsylvania.⁷⁸

By masking his family’s role in the prosecution, Rush has misled and maligned the science of criminology and psychiatry.

⁷⁷ Young, W. *The Universal asylum, and Columbian magazine*.1790. 74. Web. 15th November 2017. <<https://archive.org/details/universalasylumc21790phil>>.

⁷⁸ HSP. Rush Collection: Y i 2, 7262. F. Vol.4 Letters, Facts & Observations Upon a Variety of Subjects. 1777-1788. (Indexed). Page 148. Note: pages numbered 149 to 166 are torn out and missing before 1914. Accessed on the 13th May 2010.

"Although an order was issued, three days since, by the Supreme Executive Council, that Barrack Martin (a negro under sentence of death, but who had been pardoned,) should be released from his irons, yet they had not been removed"⁷⁹ [Note: Martin was released on the condition he leave the state of Pennsylvania.]

A R S O N.

ARSON is the crime of slaves and children. Its motive is revenge, and, to a free mind, the pleasure of revenge is lost when its object is ignorant of the hand that inflicts the blow. Twelve persons have been tried for this offence in the last fourteen years: and of these, three were negro slaves—four were children, and two were vagrant beggars. The remaining three were acquitted under circumstances which made it probable the fire was accidental.

This offence may be committed so secretly that it is seldom possible to collect proof sufficient on a charge that is capital. Other crimes are committed in the presence of witnesses, or are attended with circumstances which point out the criminal: but in arson there are no eye-witnesses—the presumptive proof will seldom be violent, and confessions are only to be expected from the ignorance of slaves and children. These confessions (too

ARSON is the crime of slaves and children. Its motive is revenge; and, to a free mind, the pleasure of revenge is lost, when its object is ignorant of the hand that inflicts the blow. Twelve persons have been tried for this offence in the last fourteen years: and of these, three were negro slaves—four were children—and two were vagrant beggars. – William Bradford.⁸⁰

It should be noted: many of Dr. Rush's lectures revolved around various tragedies of William Shakespeare,⁸¹ where revenge, or the "spirit of revenge" appeared.⁸² Additionally, according both Rush and the newspaper, Barack Martin was not a Slave, but a former Slave, who also knew how to read and write. See: "In The Case of Barack Martin" in the Appendix.

⁷⁹ Vaux, Roberts. *Notices of the Original, and Successive Efforts, to Improve the Discipline of the Prison at Philadelphia, and to Reform the Criminal Code of Pennsylvania: With a Few Observations on the Penitentiary System.* Philadelphia: Kimber and Sharpless, 1826. 17. Web. 15th November 2017. <<https://archive.org/details/101474468.nlm.nih.gov>>.

⁸⁰ Bradford, William and Caleb Lownes. *An Enquiry How Far the Punishment of Death Is Necessary in Pennsylvania: With Notes and Illustrations.* by William Bradford, Esq. to Which Is Added, an Account of the Gaol and Penitentiary House of Philadelphia, and of the Interior Management Thereof. by Caleb Lownes. Philadelphia. 1793. 31. Web. 21st November 2017. <<https://archive.org/details/enquiryhowfarpun00brad>>.

⁸¹ Shakespeare, William, Edmond Malone, Samuel Johnson, Alexander Pope, and Nicholas Rowe. *The Plays and Poems of William Shakspeare: In Ten Volumes: Collated Verbatim with the Most Authentick Copies...* London. H. Baldwin for J. Rivington and Sons; 1790. 147. Web. 21st Nov. 2017. <https://archive.org/details/playspoemsofwill11shak_0/>. [Revenge]

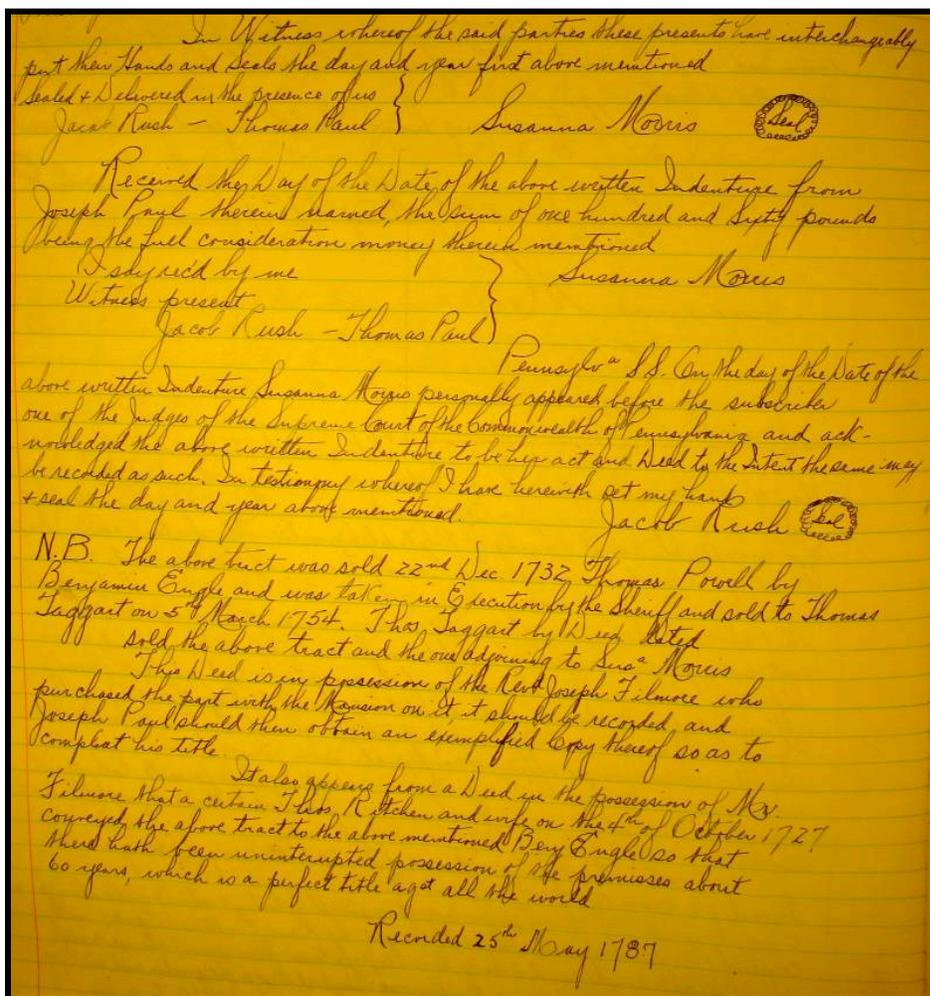
⁸² Rush, Benjamin. *Essays, Literary, Moral & Philosophical: By Benjamin Rush, M.d. and Professor of the Institutes of Medicine and Clinical Practice in the University of Pennsylvania.* Philadelphia: Printed by Thomas & Samuel F. Bradford, no. 8, South Front Street, 1798. 66, 139, 159 Web. 20 November 2017. <https://archive.org/details/essaysliterarymo00rush>. [Revenge]

APPENDIX: No.2 — THE AFRICAN AMERICANS (FORMER SLAVES) OF LOWER DUBLIN TOWNSHIP

Aftermath of the Fire of 28th February 1787: Mrs. Morris's split the farm, by selling 25-³/₄ acres to Episcopal minister, Rev. Joseph Pilmore and the other 27 acres sold to Joseph Paul who had inherited 1/3rd of his father's sawmill on the creek.⁸³

9th April 1787. On the Date of the above written Indenture Susanna Morris personally appeared before the subscriber one of the Judges of the Supreme Court of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and acknowledged the above written Indenture to be her act and Deed to the intent the same may be recorded as such. In testimony whereof I have herewith set my hand & seal the day and the year above mentioned. - JACOB RUSH⁸⁴

N.B. The above tract was sold 22nd Dec. 1732 Thomas Powell by Benjamin Engle, and was taken into execution by Sheriff and sold to Thomas Taggart on 5th March 1754. Thos. Taggart by Deed dated [] sold the above tract and the one adjoining to Sus.a Morris. This deed is in possession of the Rev.d Joseph Pilmore who purchased the part with the Mansion on it, it should be recorded and Joseph Paul should then obtain an exemplified Copy thereof so as to complete his title. It also appears from a Deed in the possession of Mr. Pilmore that a certain Thos. Kitchen and wife on the 4th of October 1727 conveyed the above tract to the above-mentioned Benjamin Engle so that there hath been uninterrupted possession of the premises about 60 years, which is a perfect title agst all the world. Recorded 25th May 1787.⁸⁵



Indenture - Susanna Morris of Lower Dublin Township to Joseph Paul - 27 Acres

What is the significance of this sale to Joseph Pilmore? It is possible he preached to the Blacks in Lower Dublin.

“IN 1769 Pilmore had been sent by John Wesley to help lead the fledgling Methodist movement in America. He did so at St. George's Methodist Church ... After a decade in England, however, Pilmore returned to Philadelphia and was ordained in the Episcopal Church. He was serving as the assistant rector at St. Paul's in 1790 when the Free African Society began holding services of worship. His anti-slavery views were strong – and likely made stronger still when he married the niece of Quaker Anthony Benezet who had been a benefactor of the black community in Philadelphia decades earlier...”⁸⁶

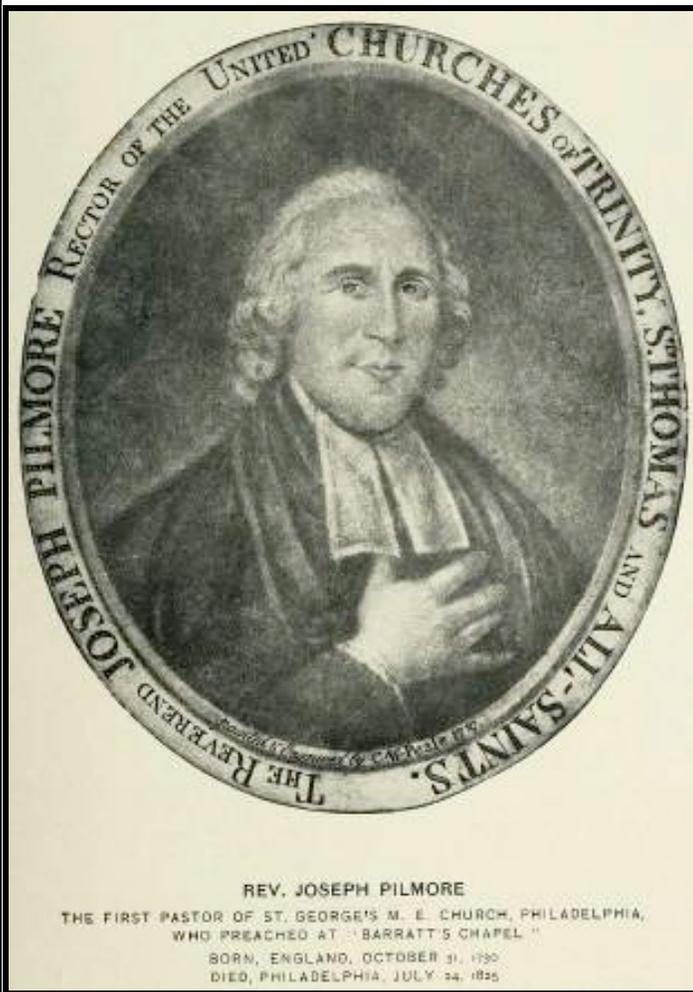
⁸³ Lower Dublin, 1767 Tax on John Paul. UPENN: Ms. Codex 1261 - Philadelphia County (Pa.). Commissioners. 53v. Web. 29th November 2017. <http://dla.library.upenn.edu/dla/medren/pageturn.html?id=MEDREN_9915456013503681¤tpage=114&rotation=0&size=2>.

⁸⁴ Philadelphia Deed Book D.18.418 Susanna Morris of Lower Dublin Township Widow to Joseph Paul, Farmer (9th April 1787)

⁸⁵ Jacob Rush's Recital: Deed Book F.3.548 Thomas Kitchen to Benjamin Engle, Sheriff Deed Book A.1.116 John Holme v. Thomas Powell - Deed to Thomas Taggart, Deed Book EF.9.287 John Engle to Thomas Taggart (5th March 1757), Deed Book D.19.25 Thomas Taggart to Susannah Morris (18th March 1776), Deed Book EF.9.283 Susanna Morris to Joseph Pilmore (13th March 1787).

⁸⁶ Methodist Walking Tour of Philadelphia. Stop #13: St. Paul's Protestant Episcopal Church and Joseph Pilmore. Web. <<http://philawalk.org/paul/>>.

APPENDIX: No.2 — THE ROOTS OF THE AFRICAN AMERICAN ENCLAVE ON RUSH HILL



29th day of November 1785

The Bishop made this entry in his “Registry of Ordinations:”
“At a special Ordination held in St. Paul's Church in Wallingford on the 27th day of November, 1785.

“Joseph Pilmore, recommended by The Rev'd Mr. Charles Wesley of London, the Rev'd Mr. William Stringer of Barnet in England, the Rev'd Mr. John Bowden of Norwalk, Connect., & Joseph Galloway, Esqr., late of Pennsylvania, was admitted Deacon. And

“At a special Ordination held in the same Church on the 29th day of November, 1785, the above named Joseph Pilmore was ordered Priest.” [Reprint, 1882, p. 4.]

Mr. Pilmore took charge of Trinity Church, Oxford, All Saints', Pequestan, known as Lower Dublin, and St. Thomas's, Whitemarsh.

These parishes had previously been served by the Rev. Dr. William Smith, the provost of the College of Philadelphia.⁸⁷

It is significant that Joseph Pilmore, a Wesleyan Methodist missionary took a “shell of a church,”⁸⁸ established St. George's Methodist Church in Philadelphia,⁸⁹ where in 1784 Richard Allen and Absalom Jones became the first African Americans licensed by the Methodist Church. Rev. Joseph Pilmore left St. George. “...the American Methodist Episcopal Church was established as a separate denomination from Anglicanism in 1784, and (he) went on to lead St. Paul's Episcopal Church.”⁹⁰

Pilmore became an Episcopal Minister in 1785. Between the years of 1786 to 1791, he was placed in charge of three Protestant Episcopal Parishes: Trinity, Oxford, St. Thomas's, Whitemarsh and All Saints, in Lower Dublin Township.

Soon after his appointment, he signed a petition for Barack Martin's clemency and pardon and then he purchased part of the property on Rush-Hill where the fire had taken place and where Black Families were still living.

It is most probably that Rev. Joseph Pilmore while the minister of All Saints Lower Dublin, formed a connection to the Black Families in the area. This geographical and religious nexus must have a connection to Bethany A.M.E Church and cannot be ignored. The Rev. Joseph Pilmore sold the property in 1791 and moved into Philadelphia.⁹¹ This same 25-¾ acres would eventually be called “Cottage Hill,” in Trust of George Breck and William Lardner.⁹² (Both were vestrymen of All Saints).

⁸⁷ Hobart, John H, and Arthur Lowndes. *The Correspondence of John Henry Hobart, 1775-1830*. New York: Privately printed [at the Merrymount Press, by D.B. Updike]. 1911. 262. Web. 16th November 2017. <<https://archive.org/details/corresponden04hoba>>.

⁸⁸ Atkinson, John. *History of the Origin of the Wesleyan Movement in America: And of the Establishment Therein of Methodism*. Jersey City, N.J: Wesleyan Pub. Co, 1896. 155. Web. 16th November 2017. <<https://archive.org/details/historyoforigino00atki>>.

⁸⁹ Deed Book EF.8.437 Miles Pennington to Richard Boardmen, Joseph Pilmore, Thomas Webb, Edward Evans, David Montgomery, John Dowers, Edmund Beach, Robert Fitzgerald and James Emerson (11th September 1770).

⁹⁰ Ibid. Methodist Walking Tour of Philadelphia. Stop #13: St. Paul's Protestant Episcopal Church and Joseph Pilmore.

⁹¹ Deed Book EF.9.284 Joseph Pilmore to George Graham of Bensalem (3rd March 1791).

⁹² Philadelphia Deed Book iW.5.3 Dr. John Heysham Gibbon to George Breck & William Lardner, in Trust (3rd November 1819)

Calling Holme Home A Historic Black Enclave Clings To Its Identity

Excerpts: According to a pamphlet... "There is a tradition that Gen. Lynfield Lardner ... freed his slaves at his death and gave them a piece of ground about a mile from Holmesburg, up the Welsh Road, and here they formed a settlement called Harrisburg."

William Chase's son, Elias, joined his father at Holme Circle, settling on Ashton Road, not long after his marriage in 1858 to Malvina James, an emigrant from Bermuda, Hyde said. But they moved back to Frankford, where Elias had been born in 1834, a few years later so their children could attend school, she said.

A master carpenter, Elias Chase built furniture, clock cases and numerous houses along Welsh Road that since have been demolished to widen the road, family members said. Tradition also says he built the tiny, white-frame Bethany African Methodist Episcopal Church on Ashton Road, which still holds services every Sunday.

Members of the church say it is the second-oldest in the African Methodist Episcopal denomination, a point that has been questioned within the denomination. A sign on the building states that it was built in 1817. Elias Chase probably was the one who rebuilt it, which records say occurred in 1853...

Elias Chase moved back to Holme Circle in the 1880s with his wife and four children - William, Mary, Elias and Malvina - in time to build the family homestead, Hyde said. The three-story frame house, completed in 1887, still stands at Welsh Road and Holme Circle...⁹³

The Blakiston Pamphlet, *Excerpts:*

There is a tradition that General Lynfield Lardner freed his slaves at his death, and gave them a piece of ground about a mile from Holmesburg, up the Welsh road, and here they formed a settlement called Harrisburg. There is a small church there and a burying ground, and the little village continues to be the home of most of the people of that race in the neighborhood. In connection ... it is interesting to know that Ralph Sandiford ... lived over on the Bustleton Turnpike, bore testimony against the negro trade...⁹⁴

The Pamphlet and the Philadelphia Inquirer are filled with both facts and folklore, as Lynford Lardner's Will⁹⁵ lacks any such stipulation. There are no records verifying he freed any slaves (in Lower Dublin) & no land transaction, which confirms the account. However, a gifted contractor and Freemason who built schools and churches in Frankford was Elias Chase:

You remember that the M. W. G. Lodge of Pa. layed a corner stone in the burg of Frankford, Pa., on the 24th of June last, to be erected thereon a masonic temple. The building is now complete, and on the 26th of February the M. W. Grand Lodge proceeded to dedicate the house to the principals of Ancient Craft Masonry. The Hall: N.E. cor. of Paul and Oxford sts, Frankford. It is a brick building, three stories high, 29 feet 6 inches in width by 60' feet 3 inches in length ... Principal Architect, R. W. Elias Chase; W. W. Bro. Chas. Witaker, G. Taylor; W. Bro. John Watson, G. Persuivant; R. W. the Rt. Rev. J. P. Campbell, Bishop of the Sixth Episcopal District of the A. M. E. Church, G. Chaplain, assisted by P. M. W. G. Master John Rhodes.... the architect (Bro. Elias Chase) addressed the Grand Master as follows: Having been entrusted with the superintendence and management of the workman employed in the construction of the edifice, and, having according to the best of my ability...⁹⁶

⁹³ Ellis, Lisa. 15th February 1987. Philadelphia Inquirer. Web. 16th Nov. 2011. <<https://www.facebook.com/notes/holme-circle/holme-circle-inquirer-article-feb-15-1987/10150450531587326/>>.

⁹⁴ Blakiston, Mary. *A Few Facts and Traditions About the Lower Dublin Township* by Mary Blakiston written for the City Historical Society of Philadelphia and Read at the Meeting of December 12th 1906. Printed by Horace F. McCann, Germantown and Published for the Society. 1911. 207-237 (Page 220 of the Nominator's Copy)

⁹⁵ Roberts, Charles R. "Lynford Lardner and Grouse Hall." *Proceedings and Papers Read Before the Lehigh County Historical Society*. Allentown, Pennsylvania, published by The Society, 1908. Page 19, for the meeting of 1909. <<https://archive.org/details/proceedingspaper00lehighrich>>.

⁹⁶ Pacific Appeal, Volume X, Number 31. 28th March 1874. Web. 5th November 2017. <<https://cdnc.ucr.edu/cgi-bin/cdnc?a=d&d=PA18740328.2.4>>.

DOLLAR MONEY RECORD. workers have been idle for quite a season. They are now prepared to go to work. Henceforth they will represent those who pay the "Dollar."
"SO BUILT WE THE WALL; AND ALL THE WALL WAS JOINED TOGETHER
UNTO THE HALF THEREOF; FOR THE PROPEL MIND TO WORK."

BENSALEM

George H. Longstreet, 1.00
Rachel Lonsgreet, 1.00
Sarah Briggs, 1.00
Rebecca James, 1.00
Benjamin Lee, 1.00
Rachel Lee, 1.00
Peter Watson, 1.00
James Tilman, 1.00
Sarah Henry, 1.00
William Dison, 1.00
Hannah Chamberlin, 1.00
Elizabeth King, 1.00

BENSALEM AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH



BUCKS COUNTY, PA. <<http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/pa1729/>>

HARRISVILLE HILL

Peter Rickets, 1.00
Maria Rickets, 1.00
Rachel Williams, 1.00
Alfred Harris, 1.00
Lydia Harris, 1.00
Ana E. Frances, 1.00
Kesiah Chase, 1.00
Sarah Hatchet, 1.00
Anna Harris, 1.00
George B. Moore, 1.00
Malvina Chase, 1.00
Mary Harris, 1.00
Elizabeth Jimison, 1.00⁹⁷

BETHANY AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH



8820 ASHTON ROAD – PHC FILE PHOTO: 14TH SEPT. 2012

Early census records indicate that outside the City of Philadelphia, Blacks were living near mills, quarries or farms and were listed as laborers. When census records are cross-referenced with the deed books, land ownership among Negroes is almost nil – indicating that members of the Black Community were transients, migrant workers, tenant farmers or sharecroppers. Elijah Moore⁹⁸ and Cuffee Todd⁹⁹ were the first recorded African American landowners in Lower Dublin. In 1814, John Comly, a minister in the religious Society of Friends, provided evidence of an African American settlement in the area:

Went thence to visit black Ishmael's family, by Pennepack; found there a company of coloured people and his aged mother, ninety-three years old, who had walked eight miles to see them.¹⁰⁰

⁹⁷ The Christian Recorder, Philadelphia Pa., 10th April 1873. Web. 5th June 2012. <<http://www.accessible-archives.com/>>.

⁹⁸ Philadelphia Deed Book: LRB.147.384 Elisha Gordon and Elisabeth, his Wife & Joshua Jones to Elijah Moore, dated the 28th May 1804.

⁹⁹ Philadelphia Deed Book: TH.163.374 John Williams to William Chase Jr. (conveyed on the 23rd October 1850), "...Being the same premises which Elijah Moore granted to Cuffee Todd on the 5th February 1808 in fee and also the same premises that Benjamin Crispin administrator to the estate of Cuffee Todd, by order of the Orphans Court, conveyed to John Williams on the 11th July 1844..."

¹⁰⁰ Comly, John. *Journal of the Life and Religious Labours of John Comly: Late of Byberry, Pennsylvania*. Philadelphia: T. E. Chapman, 1853. 146. Web. 5th November 2017. <<https://archive.org/details/cu31924029465410>>.

APPENDIX: No.2 — AN AFRICAN AMERICAN ENCLAVE ON HARRISVILLE HILL – BETHANY A.M.E.

Bethany African Methodist Episcopal Church shares a connection with All Saints Protestant Episcopal Church of Lower Dublin, currently on Frankford Avenue. The deed of 11th October 1810 is still in the name of a Vestryman of that Church.

"In Trust nevertheless to and for the only proper Use and Behoof of people of Colour who are descendants of the African Race who do or may hereafter reside in the said Township of Lower Dublin and County aforesaid to and for the Use or purpose of Burying Ground or Place of Burial for the people of Colour and whereon hereafter they may erect or Build the House of Church of Devine Worship for their selves and in Trust further..."¹⁰¹

The African American Community called Harrisville¹⁰² (Harrisburg) was also known as Guinea Hill.¹⁰³



1863. United States Coast Survey. Bache, A. D. — Library of Congress. <<https://www.loc.gov/item/99446457/>>.

Bishop Campbell, Elias Chase and Bethany A.M.E Church have a shared history with the A.M.E Church in Frankord.¹⁰⁴

Along with being editor of the Christian Recorder, Jabez Pitt Campbell served as the eighth bishop of the A.M.E. Church. He served as bishop for twenty-seven years. He was the first bishop to visit California and subsequently organized the Western conference at Sacramento in 1865. He was also the first bishop to visit Haiti and organized that conference in May of 1887. Born in Delaware in 1815 and sold into servitude by his father to pay a debt, Campbell bought his freedom at the age of eighteen. Five years later he preached his first sermon at Bethany A.M.E. Church in Holmesburg, PA.¹⁰⁵

¹⁰¹ Philadelphia Deed Book MR.16.534 David Marple to George Breck, in Trust. (For information on Breck, see: The Bristol Pike by S.F Hotchkin).

¹⁰² Phila. Deed Book: LW.100.35 Thomas Briscoe of Harrisville in the 23rd Ward of Phila., laborer and Harriet N. Briscoe to Jane Cathrell (29th Jan. 1880)

¹⁰³ Willis MS. 342-343. Contains an account of the Murder of Cuffer Todd in Harrisville, on Guinea Hill.

¹⁰⁴ Mary S. Chase of Holmesburg married Rev. John Wesley Beckett, D.D., a widower & son-in-law of Bishop Jabez P. Campbell, see: Nomination of Wilmot Public School, page 39. Web. 31st October 2017. <<http://www.phila.gov/historical/Documents/1736-Meadow-St-nomination-final-lowres.pdf>>

¹⁰⁵ Butler-Mokoro, Shannon A. *Racial Uplift and Self-Determination: The African Methodist Episcopal Church and Its Pursuit of Higher Education*. Dissertation, Georgia State University, 2010. 356. Web. 31st October 2017. <http://scholarworks.gsu.edu/eps_diss/64/>.

“The first racially integrated housing development in Philadelphia, and a model for the nation, was built in 1956 by Morris Milgram, a nationally recognized developer and civil rights proponent. Prominent building and landscape architects, including Robert Bishop, Margaret Duncan, and Louis Kahn, created Modernist houses in the natural setting...”¹⁰⁷

Greenbelt Knoll, a cul-de-sac - Across from Holme-Crispin Park & Burial Ground



Greenbelt Knoll Historic District, U.S. Department of the Interior - National Park Service/National Register of Historic Places ¹⁰⁸

The African American Enclave at Harrisburg - Bethany A.M.E Church - The Holme-Crispin Burial Ground



G. M. Hopkins - 23rd Ward, 1876, Plate L. Free Library of Philadelphia. <<https://libwww.freelibrary.org/digital/item/46167>>.

¹⁰⁶ THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA: A RESOLUTION, Recognizing the many contributions of the African-American community, Web. <<http://www.legis.state.pa.us/CFDOCS/Legis/PN/Public/brCheck.cfm?rxType=HTM&sessYr=2009&sessInd=0&billBody=H&billTyp=R&billNbr=0489&pn=2752>>

¹⁰⁷ State Marker Dedication 10th June 2006. Pennsylvania Heritage Society / PHMC. 2006-2007. Annual Report. 26. Web. 30th October 2017. <http://www.phmc.pa.gov/About/Public-Information/Documents/phmc_annual_report_2006_07.pdf>.

¹⁰⁸ National Register. Web. 2nd Nov. 2017. <http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/portal/communities/pa-suburbs/files/Greenbelt_Knoll_NR_Draft.pdf>.

Proceedings of Court of Oyer and Terminer and General Gaol Delivery for the City and County of Philadelphia, held at the State-house, on Monday the 16th of April 1787, before the honorable Thomas M'Kean, Esquire Doctor of Laws, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, and of Courts of Oyer and Terminer and General Gaol Delivery, the hon. William Augustus Atlee, Esq. the honorable Jacob Rush, Esquire, and the hon. George Bryan Esquire, justices of the said court.

BARACK MARTIN, (a free negro) late of the county of Philadelphia, was indicted for voluntarily and maliciously, on the 28th February 1787, setting fire to and burning, in the township of Lower Dublin, one barn, one stable, and one out house, the property of a certain Susannah Morris, containing 10,000lbs. weight of hay. The attorney general managed the prosecution, and after opening the evidence against the prisoner, he supported the charge by the following witnesses.

Hill Freeburn, Sworn.

COURT: Relate what you know of this affair.

WITNESS: I live in Lower Dublin Township, on the place of Mrs. Morris's — there is also near the house another small one, where negroes have usually lived. This Barack Martin came there and said he had leave of Mrs. Morris to live there, but she had said that he was not to come, however he remained there, and brought his things. I had then a little pig pen which joined his house, in which a sow fattening, and he found fault with it, and said I must take it away. I told him (in order to avoid any noise) that I would in about two weeks: he swore that I should take it away directly, or he would, and a few hours after, I saw him tearing away and puling it to pieces. This passed over, and a few days afterward he was feeding some pigs on the green, and had left the gate open. I had told him he must not leave the gate open, as the cattle would get in and do some injury, and Mrs. Morris would be displeased. He answered me that he would shut it when he was done, but did not want to be directed by me: after he had done he shut the gate, and nothing further passed at that time. But some time after, when he had been out cutting brush, he made a practice of bringing the wood on his shoulders across my place, and over the fence. The road went just by, and I told him, you should go the other way, and not be getting over and breaking the fences (I had found one of the poles broken.) He immediately swore that he would go which way he pleased — that the fences were Mrs. Morris's and he would come that way — He was mightily affronted, and called his Maker to damn me. I forbid him then to come that way anymore — Says I, don't let me see you come that away again. A little after that, on a raw and drisling day, I heard the fence crack, and I looked out and saw him coming again across. I asked him why he did not go to the gate, and he damned me, and told me this was his way. Well, says I, Barack if you do come this way any more, I will put some shot in your back side. [Continued at top of page]

He cursed and swore at me, and told me that if I would come out he would soon do for me. He was in a great passion, and called me a great many names, you maw-mouthed son of a bitch, says he, come out. There was a stick of wood in the kitchen, which I had been splitting, so I took up the wooden wedge, which I had been working with, and I threw it at him, and struck him about the middle of the thigh. His wife came out to desired him to leave off jawing, and said he ought not to come so often across the fence when Mr. Freeburn had forbid him — — he swore at her and drove her in, saying that he wanted no more of her sauce. I sent my son to call one of the neighbors, that they might see his behavior. After this was over, his wife came to my house, and desired me not to affront her husband, for he was very passionate and might take away my life. She told me not the mind the fence; for if Barack broke it down, he should mend it up again. I said his behavior was a great sign he would mend it if he broke it down. After this I went to my landlady and complained to her that I could not live on the place for this man, and that my family was in danger from him — she wrote a few lines to him, and sent them over by my child, and he told the child to take it back to the maw-mouthed son of a bitch, your father, that he wanted no letters from me. In the evening Barack wanted to see the note, and I went to send it to him, but there was a note of hand for about 3 £. which I sent by mistake — after I discovered it, I sent over the letter, and desired the note might be returned. The child went to the door with it, and gave it to him, he would send neither back, but promised to do it before bed time, when he had got them read.— Next day I sent for it again and he sent it, but said that Mrs. Morris had never sent him that letter, but that I had counterfeited her hand, and he would let her know of it: he now found that he could spit no more spite, but took hold of a ladder which was there, and dashed it away.

COURT: Well, but this is not to the purpose, what do you know about his setting the barn on fire? What time was it when Barack Martin came to live there?

WITNESS: It was last fall. When he had been chopping brush he came across the fences, and I forbid him: he said if I am not to come across this way which way am I to come? I then pointed him out the way, it was just round, and I heard my wife say one day, she could not live with him, that she was afraid that he would commit murder, and said he was a dreadful man.

COURT: But what about the fire?

WITNESS: Why, the fire broke out on the 28th of January, about an hour before day; it was a most dreadful fire. I was awakened first by hearing Barick's wife crying out 'Freeburn, murder, fire.' I was almost afraid to get up, however, I called out, what is the matter?

[Continued — next page, top left]

WITNESS Hill Freeburn, continued:

She told me the stable and hay barrack were on fire. While I was getting on my clothes, I sent my eldest son to let the creatures out of the stable. When I got to it the boy had just time to get the horses out, and I observed the rack and manger to be reduced to coal in two places, and the last time going in for the gears, the top of the building came down, so that I had to run to make my escape. My son stepped back and waited till it fell, when he ran thro' the flames. We then went to wet the end of the barn.

COUNCIL M'Kean for the prisoner.

Q. Did you not see Barack Martin all this time?

A. Yes, when I came down I saw him run out in his shirt, I think tho' my son said he had his trousers on, and immediately assisted in getting water.

Q. Did it seem as if he was in earnest while assisting you.

A. Yes, my neighbor J. Eastburn came down also and assisted us in getting water.

Council. You say the first time you say the prisoner he was in his shirt, and run to get water.

A. Yes, he seemed very earnest in getting the fire out (as I thought) but then he began to throw snow, which made the fire sparkle and fly about. I told him not to do it, and he left off. As soon as the barn was burning (which caught from the stable when the fire burst out at the top of a sudden) Barack put his hands upon his head and cried out he was ruined. No my dear, says his wife, I know they will say you did it, but they can't prove it - She mentioned it several times during the fire.

COUNCIL.

Q. Where did the fire begin?

A. I believe it was in the rack and manger, for it was burnt in one place almost to a cinder when I went in.

Q. How could the fire get there?

A. The place at the back of the stable along the rack was left open for hay to be put in at.

JURY.

Q. Did you find any chunks in the rack where it was so much burnt?

A. No, I was afraid to venture, and was in such a hurry that I could not look.

Q. What time in the evening were the creatures put up?

A. I came home before sun-set, and my son gave the horse a feed at the door, and put him in the stable — before it was dark.

COUNCIL.

Q. Had any body a candle in the stable that evening?

A. No.

Q. Had you any fire?

A. Yes, on the hearth, but it was well covered up.

Q. What distance is the stable from the house?

A. About forty or fifty yards.

Q. How far from Barack Martin's is it?

A. About ten yards.

Q. Could not the fire have communicated from the negroe's chimney?

A. No, it stands catter-corner'd off from the barn, as the wind blew, and it blew very hard, for I found burnt shingles that were blown 500 yards that night.

Q. Which way was the wind?

A. I believe it was north west, or there about, and if the fire came out of Barack's chimney it must have caught the first hay-barrack, but that was not the case, for it began at the furthest, and the first bar-rack was burnt last.

Q. Had you a large fire that night?

A. No, I don't know if the negroes had.

Q. Were they up late?

A. I don't know.

Mr. J. M'Kean.

Q. Had you any other quarrels before the stable was burnt?

A. No, none.

Q. Were the horses in the stable?

A. Yes, and every on of them was singed more or less in getting them out, if it had not been for the negro woman alarming us they would all have been burnt.

Q. When you came out was Barack at the fire?

A. Yes, he was endeavouring to put it out, at least I thought so until he began to throw the snow.

COUNCIL. Q. Why, you was not afraid the snow would burn?

A. No, but it made it sparkle. The well was a very deep one, about forty feet — after the water was almost gone, I saw a tub standing at the neighbor's door, and I went to get it to throw upon the fire, when the prisoner damned me and shoved me away, saying I should not take that, for he would keep it to prevent his own house from catching.

Q. When you first saw him, was he full dressed?

A. No, I thought he had only his shirt on, but my son said he had his trowsers too.

Q. Was he frightened?

A. I cannot Tell, I was in such confusion.

Q. Did you charge him with having done it?

A. No, I never thought of him — the neighbors who had come down first mentioned it.

Q. Did he attempt to run away?

A. No, not that I know of.

Q. Was the hay over the stable?

A. Yes, it was a hay-barrack, and the stable underneath.

COUNCIL.

Q. Was it not possible for the sparks to have caught the hay?

A. No, the wind did not blow that way.

John Hall, Sworn.

The first time I saw the prisoner he came over to my house to enquire if he could have that house. He appeared a civil man, I told him he must get somebody who knew him to give him a good character: he went down and got a paper signed from Mr. Howell, Mr. Lardner and Mr. Emlin. I understood he had worked for Mr. Howell. The next I heard of him was that he had got into the house. Sometime after he came over with a wooden wedge and complained of Freeburn, and said he had struck him on the belly with it, and that he had threatened to shoot him & that he could not live in the house for him. — He appeared a civil inoffensive fellow, and related how it happened, — that he had brought some brush across his fence, it being a nearer and better way than the roads, which at that season were very bad. I told him he should not do so, and as he was forbidden it was wrong in him to do it again. Soon after Freeburn came over and complained of Barack, and said he was afraid of mischief. I therefore went over to endeavor to prevent it, and took Eastburn with me. We went to Barack's, but he was not at home. I asked his wife about his behavior, and seeing a gun hang up, I asked if it was loaded: she said it was, and I thought it was best to have it fired off but she refused to let us. We then got leave of her to draw the load but could not, at length she consented to let it be fired off. I asked he why the gun was kept loaded? She said it was to defend themselves, that a man had come and peeped in their window the other night and they were afraid of being injured — I had a notion that it was loaded with a brace of balls, but when Eastburn fired it off, he shot at the fence, and we found it was only a large load of shot — some of them appeared pretty large.

COURT.

Q. When was this?

A. About two or three days before the barn was burnt. When I came over to the fire I saw there was no possibility of saving anything, and I saw Barack and said to him, Barack it is you that has done this, it is you that have fired the place: his wife said it was Freeburn, who had done it in order to ruin them. Why, says I can you suspect Freeburn would burn his own house and ruin himself to hurt you? - I taxed him again with it, but he denied it.

Q. Did he offer then to run away?

A. No, but I was afraid he would, and called for a rope to tie him. After a while we got a rope and tied him. He stood quiet and made no resistance.

Q. Did he seem frightened when you charged him?

A. No.

Q. What did he say?

A. He denied knowing thing of it.

Q. Do you know Freeburn, is he not a passionate and violent man?

A. I have known him these two years, but I never knew any harm of him, only he is a little hasty or so.

Robert Freeburn Sworn.

Q. How old are you?

A. About sixteen.

[THE COURT] Relate what you know of the fire.

A. I was awakened up before the day by the negro wench hallooing murder. She said the barrack was all on fire.

[THE COURT] He corroborated what his father had said, that the negro fetched only one tub of water and carried it to the fire, & the next to his own house. He declared the negro was the first at the fire, and he had on his shirt and he believed trowsers too. Barack was barefooted and there was show on the ground.

Jobanna Cook (a Mulatto) Sworn.

I lived with Barack three weeks wanting a day.

Q. How long did you leave him before the fire?

A. Three days, when I went to live at Mr. Huffey's, just by. In the morning I heard Barack's wife call murder. I got up and run down, and she said Freeburn had set the barn on fire in order to ruin them, and she had called him but he would not get up. She was afraid that her clothes and things would be burned. I went to go home and dress myself, but she begged me to stay and take care of her child. When the barn had caught fire Barack came in and brought a tub of water and Freeburn wanted to take it, but Barack said it was to save his own house, and damned him he should not have it, and the devil might take the rest. He put his hand on his head when he saw the barn catch, and said, I am ruined. Barack's wife said, never mind, I know they will say it was you, but they cannot prove it. She said afterwards that she was very cold, and asked me to make up a fire, and Barack said there was no fire in the house and by God none should come in.

Q. Was there no fire when you came?

A. No. sir. I went to the fire place and could not find any stick or chip to rake the ashes, so I put my hand to them, and the ashes were wet and stuck to my hand and burned me: there was not a spark of fire. And I afterwards went out to the ruins and got some.

Q. Did you ask her how she came to find the fire out in the morning?

A. Yes, and she said her husband had got up in his shirt to go out, and came in again, and said Fadamy, Fademy, the barn and barrack is on fire.

COURT: Who is Fadamy?

A. His wife, she lived in the Jerseys, and they called her Fadamy, but I believe her name is Tamor.

Q. Did you say the ashes were wet?

A. Yes they were very wet.

Q. You say you lived with him some time, did you ever hear any threats of Barack?

WITNESS Jobanna Cook, continued:

A. Yes, I heard him threaten Freeburn, and Freeburn threatened him. When he came in the one day he said that Freeburn had threatened to shoot him, and that he had as much right to shoot Freeburn as he [Freeburn] had to shoot him. His wife tried to quiet him but he was very angry, and he asked for powder and shot, but there was none. Well, he says, it is no matter, I lent some to somebody, and I'll go and get it. He went, and was gone about a quarter of an hour, when he came back and loaded the gun. Tamor begged of him not to do any mischief, nor go over Freeburn's fence, but he did not mind; he said he would shoot him, if he went to shoot him, or do him some injury which should hurt him greatly.

Q. Did he say anything more?

A. Yes, he said if he was so great a sinner he could do him much harm — he could burn up all he had.

John Eastburn Sworn

I live next to Mr. Freeburn.

COURT: At what distance?

A. About one hundred yards. I heard that the negro and Mr. Freeburn had been quarreling, and Mr. Hall sent for me to go down with him to the negro's house, as he was apprehensive some mischief would happen. When we came there Barack was not at home (he here related the same circumstances with Mr. Hall). After I went home the next day, Barack came up to my house to know of what business I had to fire off the gun? I told him it was by order of Mr. Hall, and that he had better behave himself or that he would be put in the gaol. He said nobody dare do that, for he had done nothing to deserve it.

ATTORNEY GENERAL.

Q. Did he say any thing to you about burning Freeburn's barn?

A. Yes, he said Freeburn used him very ill, and he could burn down his barn and all if he had a mind.

Q. When did this conversation pass?

A. On Friday, and Freeburn's stable was burned on Sunday morning following.

Q. Was you there at the time?

A. Yes, I heard the negro woman hallooing and I got up and run down when I came there Barack and Freeburn were endeavoring to put it out.

Mary Freeburn Sworn

The first news I heard of the fire was the negro wench's hallooing murder! When my husband got up and asked her what was the matter? She said that the barn was on fire.

Q. Did you see Barack?

A. No, not then, I was so weak and frightened I did not move, and the two children were crying and screaming, so that I had to stay and quiet them.

Q. Well, when you first saw him what dress had he on?

A. His shirt and trowsers — he was the first at the fire — his wife had told me before, that notwithstanding the quarrels between my husband and him, yet he would be the first to help him if he was distressed: this came into my mind, and I saw him assisting in putting out the fire. I saw the negro woman run up the road with her petticoat about her shoulders, crying fire.

Q. Did you know of your husband's quarrels?

A. Yes, I knew of them very well but I never thought of the fire.

Mr. J. M'Kean, council for the prisoner, read some certificates of his character, and called witnesses to support it.

Michael Grover

COURT: Do you swear or affirm?

A. I affirm:

Q. Are you scrupulous of taking an oath?

A. I never took an oath in my life.

Q. But are you conscientiously scrupulous of taking an oath?

A. I am, to tell the truth, and that may be done without swearing.

Q. Why don't you give a direct answer?

A. Why I never took one in my life, nor never intend.

[**COURT**] Give me a direct answer or you shall suffer for your insolence.

Q. Are you conscientiously scrupulous of taking an oath? Your never having taken one is no excuse.

A. Well then I am.

[**COURT**] Why could you not say so before and avoid this trouble?

AFFIRMED.

Q. What do you know of the prisoner at the bar?

A. I don't know much, I believe he is a civil and quiet fellow, but I know nothing of the man.

Q. Did you ever see him before?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you ever speak to him?

A. Yes, he has been at my house: I lent him a half a bushel and he returned it very safe.

Q. What then, he did not abuse you for lending it?

A. No.

Q. Do you know any thing of the fire?

A. Yes, it was almost over when I went there.

Q. Did you see the prisoner there?

A. Yes.

Q. What was he doing?

A. He was walking backwards and forwards.

Q. Was he helping to extinguish it?

A. No, nobody was trying to put it out, for it was too far gone.

Q. Do you know any thing of Freeburn?

A. Yes.

WITNESS *Michael Grover, continued:*

- Q. What sort of man is he?
 A. Why he is like other men, I never had any dealings with him.
 Q. What then, you never lent him your half bushel?
 A. Yes I have.
 Q. Well did he abuse you for it?
 A. No, he never abused me.
 Q. Did you know any thing of their quarrels?
 A. I have heard they quarreled, but that was none of my business: they quarreled among themselves.

COURT. Call another witness.

Joseph Hufty Sworn.

I came down to the fire when it was almost over. We did what we could to save some of the hay, but it was too far gone. I was with Freeburn when he went to take the tub of water, Barack would not let him have it, for he said it was to save his own house.

COUNCIL.

- Q. Was not the fire then past being got under?
 A. Yes. every body had left off.
 Q. And was there any more water in the well?
 A. Very little - we could not get up half a bucket.
 Q. Do you know any thing of Freeburn, what kind of man is he?
 A. I don't know.
 Q. Is he not very passionate and quarrelsome?
 A. I cannot say.
 Q. What is the opinion of the neighbors?
 A. I cannot tell.

His Honor Judge Rush Sworn

He has known Freeburn many years and had employed him as a carpenter — he thought he was passionate, but by no means malicious — that was not any part of his character — he took him to be rather the reverse.

Mr. J. M'Kean entered into a defense of the criminal, which was answered by the attorney general.

COURT.

Gentlemen of the jury, the prisoner at the bar stands indicted for an offense against society most heinous in nature: it was anciently considered in the law as a species of treason, and it still remains a felony of death without the benefit of clergy. And if the prisoner shall be clearly convicted by you of this crime death will be his portion, for such characters are unworthy of society and of life. He is charged with having committed the crime of Arsen, as denominated in the law, by having wilfully and maliciously on the 28th day of February last set fire to the stable and out-houses of Susanna Morris. The evidence against him is not positive; positive evidence being when a person can swear from being present and seeing the fact. In this case such testimony can hardly be expected, for if a person saw him setting fire to the barn and did not restrain him, he would be equally guilty almost of the crime with which the prisoner is charged, and people when they go about to perpetrate such crimes endeavour to be private and concealed, and go about it in the most secret manner: they also have the means of effecting it and cannot be guarded against. The subject of your enquiry is as to the facts, and whether the prisoner is guilty as he stands indicted. The burning is well proven, and you have heard the evidence so far as it tends to affix the crime on him. If you are of the opinion that is conclusive testimony against him, you must bring him in guilty, — but if you doubt or are not perfectly satisfied that he is the person who set fire to the buildings, you will acquit him, and it is better that five, nay, even ten guilty persons should go unpunished than one innocent man suffer.

The jury brought him in guilty, and sentence of death was pronounced upon him.¹⁰⁹

PHILADELPHIA, May 2.

At a Court of Oyer and Terminer and General Goal Delivery for the city and county of Philadelphia, held at the State-House, on Monday the 16th ult. before the honorable Thomas M'Kean, esq. doctor of laws, Chief Justice, and his associates, Justices of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.

B A R A C K M A R T I N (a free negro) late of the county of Philadelphia, was indicted for voluntary and maliciously, on the 28th of Feb. 1787, setting fire to and burning, in the township of Lower Dublin, one barn, one stable, and one out house, the property of a certain Susannah Morris, containing 10, 000 lbs. weight of hay. — The jury brought him in guilty, and the sentence of death was pronounced upon him.¹¹⁰

¹⁰⁹ The Pennsylvania Packet, and Daily Advertiser, 04/27/1787; Issue 2556, page 2 & 3. <<https://www.newspapers.com/image/39417685>>.

¹¹⁰ The Freeman's Journal: or, The North-American Intelligencer; 05-02-1787, Vol. VII; Issue: CCCXV. Page 2. <<https://www.newspapers.com/image/39957935>>.

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