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T H E  
A R C H E O L O G

THE NEWS LETTER  
of the  
SUSSEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION  
Lewes, Delaware

*reprint*

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## THE ARCHEOLOG

Vol. II, No. 1  
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January 4, 1949

Dear Members:

As President of the Sussex Archaeological Association, I hope you have had a very pleasant Christmas, each in his own way, and may the New Year, 1949, hold for each of you success in the various lines of endeavor you undertake.

I want to thank the various officers of the Association for their cooperation in helping to make the Sussex Archaeological Association what it is today. I also want to thank each member who has contributed to the success of this group either by acting on committees, offering suggestions, or by attending and participating in our very interesting meetings.

May we, the members of the Sussex Archaeological Association get behind the new officers who will be elected and help them make our second year better than the first.

Sincerely,

K. D. Givan, Pres.



Report of the Project Committee

Since the publication of the first issue of The Archeolog, work at the Townsend Site has proceeded somewhat more slowly. A number of the diggers, because of the pressure of their seasonal businesses, were compelled to discontinue their participation almost completely. The few who were free to continue excavations were hampered by soil conditions during much of the early fall. Lack of sufficient rainfall kept the ground in such a hard-packed condition that digging was almost impossible until the late fall. And the necessity of earning a living restricted the operations of all the excavators to whatever could be accomplished over week-ends.

Certain developments of significance took place. Among these might be mentioned the finding of a perfect example of an intentionally lined pit, No. 53, by Jimmy Moore and Ralph Karl. This condition had been encountered in pits, but in no other was it so distinct. The men did an excellent job of excavation and good photographs were obtained. The only logical explanation for the presence of the layer of clam shells carefully placed, round side up, side by side over the entire flat, sandy bottom seems to lie in the fact that their presence improved the drainage of waste water from the pit.

Completion of the excavation of the only house site so far discovered was accomplished through the efforts of one of our new members, Franklin Yeager, and his good wife who laboriously sifted all the earth in order that no objects might be missed. Unfortunately the Yeagers came to the end of their holiday before the entire story was revealed and the job was carried to completion by Jimmy Moore and Geiger Omwake.

As the digging of this house site proceeded, an interesting chronological sequence of the usages of this particular area was revealed. Earliest and perhaps most significant was a refuse pit, No. 68 on the map, located partially outside the circle of post moulds which marked the wall of the Indian house. Because several of the post moulds were intrusive into the upper part of the pit, it is certain that the pit antedated the house. Of significance is the fact that all of the seventy odd pottery sherds found in the pit were grit tempered whereas all other pottery from the Townsend Site has thus far been shell tempered ware.

Intruding into pit 68 was pit 19, typical of the site. It is assumed that the digging of this refuse midden took place after the house had been destroyed because of the unlikelyhood that the Indians would place a garbage hole in the middle of their house.



Across the top of the western half of 19 lay the badly broken and plow damaged remains of several burials. Investigation and expansion of the excavations revealed a burial trench twenty feet long and four feet wide in which, in spite of the ravages of the modern machines of agriculture, it was possible to distinguish 19 individuals. That this burial trench extended outside the southern wall of the house was proof that the utilization of this particular area as a burying place was the fourth and final chapter in the chronological sequence. P

Excavation of burials at the Townsend Site became a commonplace event with the discovery by Jimmy Moore and Big Chief Ralph Karl of another refuse pit which had also served as a place of interment for the dead. In the process of removing the over burden from the pit, No. 77, Moore came upon fragments of human skull. He and Karl, proceeding at a somewhat slower pace, carefully uncovered the area and discovered that in addition to three plow damaged burials on the top of the pit others lay beneath the refuse burden.

When the extent of the burial and the excellent state of preservation of the bones beneath the refuse became evident, work was halted and an emergency call put in to Dr. Dale Stewart for help. Dr. Stewart was able to spend the Thanksgiving week-end on the site and under his careful direction thirteen burials were revealed and removed.

One of the skulls, that of partially extended burial, had become mixed with the remains of four bundle burials, probably due to soil pressures and the settling of the refuse overburden, and its lower jaw had slipped inside the lower jaw of another individual. This peculiar occurrence gave rise to many obvious comments and despite Dr. Stewart's assurance that the skeleton was that of a young male, several of the excavators and most of the spectators were certain that the double-jawed skull was that of an over-talkative female.

Investigation of the area adjacent to pit 41 in which Louis Purnell and his Dad, Harold, had found white kaolin pipe stems, hand drawn nails, and "Dutch" bricks, revealed that the presence of such articles was not limited to that pit alone. That the area surrounding pit No. 79 nearby also contains similar items was discovered by Omwake during removal of the top soil. An effort to determine the total area in which these goods, which may be items of trade, are located was stymied by the onslaught of freezing weather followed by pouring rains which temporarily made further digging impossible.



To date 77 pits have been excavated and the location of eight more has been determined. Fifty eight burials have been removed and shipped to the United States National Museum where they are being carefully studied. Ten nearly complete and several partial skeletons of dogs have also been forwarded.

Mrs. Margaret Blaker, a member of the archaeological staff of the museum, has undertaken to make a ceramic study of the pottery from the Townsend Site and almost all that has been excavated is now in her hands.

Orville Peets, who suggested the name for our publication, returned from his New England summer vacation with the report on his study of pigments completed.

Roger Vandegrift has begun his report on the bone tools and implements and has revealed that to date 41 of the pits have yielded a total of 256 implements of bone, antler, or turtle shell which fall into 23 different categories.

A report on the stone implements recovered from the refuse pits has been undertaken by Geiger Omwake. To date nine classifications of stone tools have been recorded, including two finely made pendants discovered among the plow-shattered burials on the site of the Indian house and presumed to have been grave goods accompanying the burials.

Under the direction of Harold Purnell, research into the historical records of the Townsend Site has been begun and the report of Mr. E. Mustard who searched the old deed books in the Sussex County Court House at Georgetown has been received. This report, because of its general interest to many people, is published elsewhere in this issue of The Archaeologist.

Your committee feels that the progress of the investigation and reports on the Townsend Site has been very satisfactory and is pleased once again to commend the fine spirit of cooperation which all the diggers and other members of the association have shown throughout the project.

Respectfully submitted,

The Project Committee

Orville Peets  
Ralph Karl  
James Moore  
Roger Vandegrift  
Geiger Omwake, Chairman



OF INTEREST

A letter from Franklin Yeager suggests that each issue of The Archeolog should be volumned and numbered. Herewith we adopt the suggestion and insert a label to be pasted on the front page of our previous issue.

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Word from Harold Purnell tells us that Lewis and his family are well away up in New England. Lewis is digging hard into the books. Bet a dollar he'd prefer digging into refuse pits!

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Our official photographer, Fred Butcher and his family have gone south for the winter and are living in a trailer camp at St. Augustine, Florida. Butch hopes to find time to develop and print the more than 200 pictures he took on the site.

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Ray Steelman, one of the original discoverers of the Townsend site has been seriously ill all winter and confined to his home. The SAA presented him with subscriptions to "The National Geographic" and "The Saturday Evening Post" at Christmas time and all of us are hoping they will cheer up the long road to recovery.

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Our president, Ken Givan, has gone political on us, getting himself elected to the General Assembly as representative from The Lewes-Rehoboth-Milton area. He should lend considerable weight to the legislative deliberations. Good luck, Ken, and keep archeology in mind!

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Fragments of fourteen pipes have been found in the refuse pits. Several are highly decorated, and there is some indication that some of the designs may have been applied with a sort of tool which involved a toothed wheel. If so, our Townsend Site Indians had had some contact with white people. The clay used was of the native varieties and the shapes are typically Indian. It looks like the pipes might have been made by early whites and traded to the Indians. This could mean direct contact between Townsend Indians and whites.

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Evidence of pathological disturbances found on long bones of several of the skeletons dug up indicates the presence of syphilis among the Indians. Question: Did the Indians have it on their own responsibility or was it brought by the early whites and disseminated (by trade?) among the Indians? Contact?

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Two small pendants discovered by Jimmy Moore among the skeletons in the burial trench across the house site may represent grave goods. If so, they are the first on record in this area. Disturbed condition of the bones prevented positive identification as grave goods.

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Some fish bones taken from the pits have been identified as those of fresh water fish. Suggests that Pontex, alias Poutex, alias Potex, alias Pothooks, alias Wolfes Creek may have been above tide water at time of occupation of the Townsend Site.

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Ted Carpenter, who was responsible for making the topographical map of the Townsend site, told the members of the Eastern States Archeological Federation about our work during the recent Federation meeting in Trenton.

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Dale Stewart will complete his study of the primitive Highland Mayas of Guatemala during the balance of this winter. In his absence, physical anthropology at the U.S.N.M. will be in the capable hands of Marshall Newman, his first assistant, who has visited the Townsend Site. Up to the present various political upheavals in Central America have kept Dale in the good old U. S. A.

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Malcomb Watkins, an expert on early colonial goods, has recently joined the staff of the U.S.N.M. and will have a look at the trade (?) goods the Purnells' recovered from pit 41.

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Speaking of trade goods, the EB white kaolin pipe Louis Purnell found could have been the product of a pipemaker of Bristol, England, named Edward Battle, who began to work as a freeman in 1650, or it could have been from the pipe shop of the merchant Adriaan van der Cruys who registered the mark EB in 1672 with the pipemakers' guild in Gouda, Holland. The monogram EB, without a crown such as often distinguishes Dutch pipes, was employed by the maker Jacobus de Vrient who contracted with van der Cruys for their sale.

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No report on the yellow bricks has yet been received from G. C. Helbers, director of the Municipal Museum in Gouda. Mr. Helbers writes that the fragments sent to him are being examined by Dutch experts and a full report will be forwarded to us.

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Marshall Newman, Dale Stewarts' right hand man at the U.S.N.M. is now enjoying the pleasures of papahood for the first time. Haven't heard yet whether he drew a Mr. or a Miss. In either case, we'll bet it's a little squaw (Ker).

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Bones of the ordinary striped skunk have been identified among the refuse from several of the pits. We wonder whether the Indians ate these little animals, smell and all!

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Seven different kinds of marine snails have been identified among the shell samples sent to Dr. Remington Kellog of the U.S.N.M. Must have been some affinity between the Townsend Indians and fifty million Frenchmen who consider snails a delicacy. They also ate Quahogs, Oysters, Ribbed Mussels, Edible Mussels, and the Ark Shell.

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Dr. Kellog writes: "Ten lots, fifteen specimens of the mollusks were found suitable for retention in the national collection where they have been recorded as a gift in the name of the Sussex Archaeological Association."

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Mr. Julian Townsend has extended his generous permission for our members to continue excavations and the Association wishes to record publicly its appreciation for his kindness.

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Roger Vandegrift and Geiger Omwake traveled to Washington during the Christmas holidays to take the balance of the Townsend pottery to Mrs. Blaker for her ceramic study. Spent a wonderful afternoon behind the scenes in the U.S.N.M.

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Rev. Joseph Phillips, the new rector of the Episcopal Church in Lewes, visited the dig with his pack of Cub Scouts. Watched several members digging and generally had a good outing. Rev. Phillips plans to join the SAA and do some digging himself.

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The members who attended the SAA meeting at the house of Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Fulton in Rehoboth enjoyed a real treat. The Fultons were wonderful hosts and went all out to entertain the group. They have moved back to Dover for the winter but have paid a visit or two to the excavations.

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The Townsend material has been removed from the Zwaanendael Museum in order to be studied during the winter months by the persons who have the various projects in charge. When the Museum reopens in the spring, the SAA hopes to install a bigger and better exhibit. Miss Kate Maull, the genial curator, reports that visitors were much interested in our material.

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A broken pipe stem bearing the letters LE was found Jan. 9 by Vernon Steen and Gerry Timmons while they were exploring the block assigned to them. LE stands for Luellin Evans, an apprentice of James Fox. He was a pipemaker who received his freedom as a burgess in 1661 in Bristol. This stem tends to indicate that the EB pipe of Louis Purnell is attributable to Edward Battle and suggests English rather than Dutch contact for the Townsend Site people.

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The retiring officers of the SAA wish to take this opportunity to extend to all the members their best wishes for a Happy New Year and to express the hope that all the members may give to the new officers the same loyal and constructive help which they have rendered to the officers who have seen the SAA through its first year of activity.



THE MIDDLE FIELD OF "PASTURE NECK"  
IN LEWES AND REHOBOTH HUNDRED, SUSSEX COUNTY, DELAWARE  
(See Map on Page 12)

(Language and Spelling as they are recorded in Sussex Co. Deed Books)

"Pasture Neck" was first laid out for 600 acres of land and granted unto Abraham Climant and Otto Walgast on 25 day of March A.D. 1676, by Edmond Adres, Esq. Left. Governor under James duke of York and by them and their assigns conveyed over to Wm. Clark and Thomas Oldman, By order of Wm. Clark Chief Surveyor. Resurveyed and laid out for said Wm. Clark and Thomas Oldman on the 20th day 8 month 1691 by E. Barkstead, Deputy Surveyor, under Wm. Clark, chief Surveyor.

This tract of land situated and being on ye west side of Delaware Bay in the County of Sussex and of ye Counties annexed to the Province of Pennsylvania and on ye Poutex Creek.

Beg. at ye mouth of Poutex Creek and running from thence up ye said creek bounding therewith to a corner W.O. Standing on ye North E. side of ye said creek, and from thence s. west 270 perches to a corner tree, then n.w. 210 perches to a corner tree of Alexander Molestous then sound of ye Alexandae Molestoris, Bounding therewith N.E. to ye Whore Kile Creek, alias Lewes Rivre, along ye Rivres Boundary therewith to the mouth of Poutex Creek, containing and laid out for 920 acres of land. Rent and ye remainder at a penny per acre.<sup>1</sup>

At a court held for the Town and County of Deal, by the King's authority this day of the month called December Anno Domi. 1681 Comp. present Luke Watson John Kiphavn and Wm. Clark.

A patton of 300 acres of land acknowledged and assigned over in Open Court by Wm. Clark and Honner, his wife unto Wm. Darvall and his heirs and assigns for ever.<sup>2</sup>

"To all Christain people before whom these presents shall come. Sendith greetings whereas I William Darvall of Kent County in the Teretories of Pennsylvania marchant for divers good consideration me hereunto to moving I authorize, constitute and appoint and by these presents do hereby firmly and absolutely authorize, constitute and appoint my Trusty and well beloved friend Major William Dyer of Sussex County in the Teritories of the province of Pennsylvania to be my True and Lowfull Attorney for me and in my name to give grant and make over or convey a certain Tract of Land called by the name of Pasture Neck, containing 300 acres of land unto James Pillow and company which I bought of William Clark as will appear by a conveyance bearing date the 30th of the 9 mo. 1681 holding for firm and vallid and sattisfying and allowing

1. Surveys and warrants, B-1776, p. 556, Sussex County Courthouse, Georgetown, Delaware
2. Deed Record A, No. 1, p. 4, Sussex County Courthouse, Georgetown, Delaware



all and whatever my said attorney shall Lawfully do or cause to be done in and about the premises with all and full power and absolute Authority as I myself where absolutely present or did do or cause the same to be done to all intents and purposes. In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 9th day of February 1686 in the year of our Lord 1686 in the 2nd year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord King James the Second."

Wm. Darvall<sup>3</sup>

Thomas Oldman and Wm. Clark conveyed 250 acres of "Pasture Neck" to a certain Albertus Jacobs, who dyed Instate and the sd. 250 acres was afterwards by Martha Jacobs Relict and Admt. to the said Albertus Jacobs sold unto said Wm. Clark. who afterwards by Deed sold same unto Wm. Clark Jun. and which Wm. Clark Jun. sold same to a certain Wm. Burton of Virginia who by his last Will and Testament gave it to his son William, who sold same to Wm. Burton of the Saw Mill of Sussex Coty, who by Deed sold to Thomas Lawrence of Philadelphia Esq. who by his letter of Atty. bearing date 10th day November A.D. 1744 did make Ordain constitute and appoint Tyees Wolf of Lewes in Coty of Sussex Esq. to be his true and lawful Attorney, who by Authority vested in him did sell and convey unto a certain Francis Woolfe of Sussex County Carpenter, father of the said Rice Wolfe the aforesaid 250 acres by Deed bearing date 7th day May 1746. and the sd. Francis Wolfe dying and not having sufficient personal estate to satisfy creditors, the said tract of land was taken in Execution at the Suit of Afs. Rice Wolfe. and the said Reese Wolfe conveyed unto Jacob Phillips Esq. by Deed dated 6th day of Septembre A.D. 1757: That tract of land and marsh situate in Lewes and Rehoboth Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware known by the name of "Pasture Neck" Beginning at a small gutt that proceeds out of Pothooks Creek the uppermost Boundre of formerly Thomas Oldman's land on Pothooks Creek side; run from thence up the Pothooks Creek on the several courses, binding therewith to a corner marked White Oak standing on N.E. side of said Creek, by a glade of marsh, and from thence up the said glade of marsh and Woodland N.W. untill it comes to the line of Alexander Mollestons Land, and from thence N.E. along line of marked tree's of Alexander Mollestons land untill it comes to uppermost corner of Thomas Oldman's Land standing in this line, and from thence S.E. 40 Perches along the line of said Oldman's land to a corner tree standing at the head of a gulley, and from thence down the gulley and Branch and Creek binding therewith to the first place of Beginning Containing 250 acres of land more or less.<sup>4</sup>

On the 2nd day of March A.D. 1762 Jacob Kolloch Esq. Executor of the last Will and Testament of Jacob Phillips conveyed the 250 acres of "Pasture Neck" to Reese Woolfe Jun.

3. Deed Record A, No. 1, p. 61, Sussex County Courthouse Georgetown, Delaware

4. Deed Record I, No. 9, p. 151, Sussex County Courthouse, Georgetown, Delaware



These lands decended unto a certain William Wolfe, whose Trustees Henry F. Hall, Henry F. Rodney and William M. Hickman sold same to Wm. B. Wolfe Septembre 19, 1854, who conveyed same to Edward Burton by Deed dated February 23, 1867. Edward Burton conveyed same unto Charles Gibbons by Deed bearing date July 9, 1871. Charles Gibbons departed this life on August 14, 1884, and devised this 250 acres of "Pasture Neck" to his three childrens Caroline H. Gibbons White, wife of George White, Sarah Lousa Gibbons Davis, wife of Edward M. Davis Jr. and Charles Gibbons Jr.<sup>5</sup>

These three children departed this life at various dates; and their heirs, namely: Joseph Neff, and Clara Luddow Neff, his wife, (late Clara Luddow Gibbons, widow of Charles Gibbons Jr.) Louisa Gibbons Davis, single woman, Issac R. Davis, and Betsy Warren Davis, his wife, and J. Corbit Davis, unmarried, conveyed, this portion of Pasture Neck unto Anna M. Willard by Deed dated August 14, 1897. Joseph W. Willard, and Anna M. Willard his wife, conveyed this land unto William H. Bookhammer by Deed dated June 14, 1913. This portion of "Pasture Neck" is now owned by J. G. Townsend Jr. and Co.<sup>6</sup>

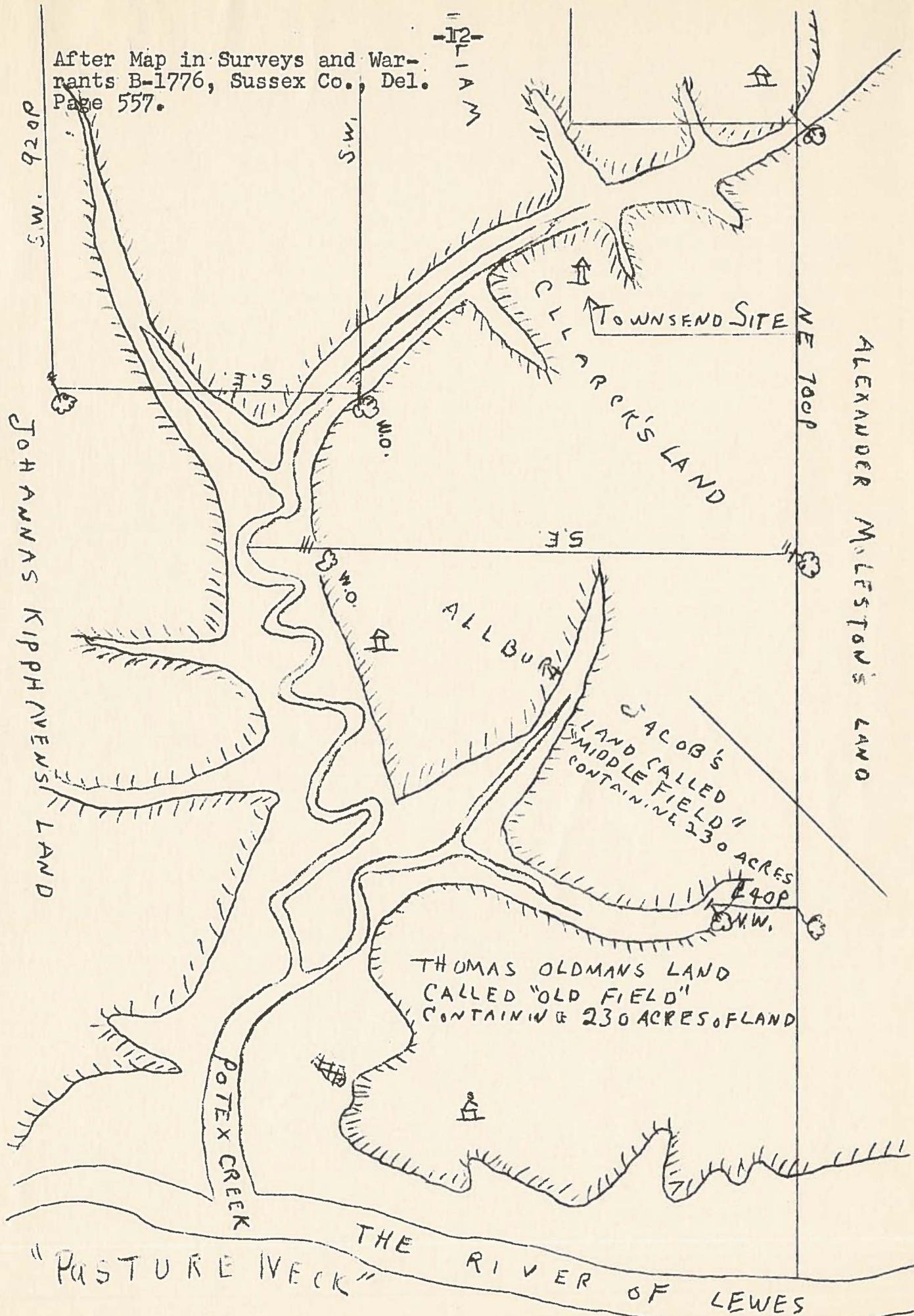
These data compiled by

E. L. Mustard, C.E.  
Georgetown, Del.

5. Deed Record I, No. 9, p. 370, Sussex County Courthouse, Georgetown, Delaware.
6. Information derived from various deed books of more recent date, Sussex County Courthouse, Georgetown, Delaware.



After Map in Surveys and War-  
rants B-1776, Sussex Co., Del.  
Page 557.





"PASTURE NECK"  
 AFTER MAP IN SURVEYS AND WARRANTS B-1776, SLESSY CO., DELAWARE  
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