

MADISON, WISC. 53705
19 Oct 1964

EUNICE M. VESTAL

CORONA DEL MAR, CALIF.

DEAR MISS VESTAL,

I am writing concerning John Matson. I do not know his parents though. It does seem to me that our John Matsons could be the same. This is all the information I have:

JOHN MATSON of MERION, PENN.
had at least one child: HANNAH
MATSON ~~born~~^{died} 25 Oct 1812. ⁵⁴ Married
9 DEC 1732/3 to CHARLES DAVIS b. 1706
in WALES.

Any additional information
you can send me would be greatly
appreciated.

Sincerely,
Martha J. Cline

(she shows Charles as dying 13 May 1801)

Reference

"Hartford Times"

11-18-1939, #7433:

Matson

Delaware Firms!!
(Long List)

among whom:

Mats Matson

(one of the first settlers)

For book, write Calder Book Co.,
139 E. 23rd St.,
N.Y. City.

1674

"Where Pa. History Began" (Henry D. Paxon)
1926 Matson

P. 221: At Senamensing at the other side of the
River: Record of Gloria Dei Church:

2-16-1674
Peter Matson = Catharine Rambo

- Eliza b. 2-7-1678

- Catharine b. 12-29-1679

- Maria b. 5-11-1682

- Peter b. 5-27-1685

- Mathias b. 8-12-1688

- Margaret b. 2-1-1692

- John b. 6-14-1694

- Jacob b. 5-25-1697

1643

"The Swedes on the Delaware"
(Amandus Johnson 1915)

Matson

P. 147:

It appears that two or three colonists who came to America on "The Fama and Swan" were from Finland, and John Matson, and the nobleman Knut and Per Liljebrök, were among the passengers.

Arrived in Delaware the end of January, 1643.
They came here by way of Antigua, W.I.

1717 The Hist. of Old St. Davids (Epis.)
Church, Radnor, Delaware Co., Pa.
(Henry Pleasants, 1915). (Denver
Library.) Matson
Davies

P. 287: Mattson, Mary, wife of Morris, d. 12, 18, 1759 (41st. YR.)

P. 319: William Davis (Davies), Warden 1717 
Vestryman 1725-1727.

My Note:

I believe this Davis - Davies line is of your family and it may be possible to get information of him which would lead to the family in London. I scent a very hot clue in the above item and I'm going after it hammer & tongs.

(See item 1859) Records of Old St. David's (Epis.)
are at Gen. Soc. of Pa., Phila.
★ ★

1677

"Watson's Annals of Phila."
II-249:

Matson

Valuable!

P. 249; "At Court 9-11-1677:

★ John Mattson, Swen Lom, Laxe Dalbo,
100 acres, at

Weiss a Kit Konk, now Wissahiccon."

My note:

"Mail to Philadelphia", so is a part now
of that city, where the Wissahiccon
Creek empties into the Schuyl Kill.

1677

Scharf's "Philadelphia."

I-74;

Matson

P. 74: Patents of Land within the present limits
of Philadelphia;

1677: "John Mattson,^{SR.} Swen Lom and Lacey Dalbo
300 acres on Schuylkill at Wessackitkonk,
on the west side,

opposite Wissahickon,"

1678: "Grant on Schuylkill 100 acres to John Mattson.^{SR.}
of Moyamensing."

→ Now Philadelphia.

1677

Watson's "Annals of Philadelphia." Matson
II-4v;

P. 4v: "The Battle of Germantown — 'part of
our troops encountered the British and Hessians
near the junction of the

Wissahiccon with the Schuylkill."

My Note: This was the exact location —

"opposite Wissahiccon" —

John Matson, ^{SA} received 100 acres in 1677." where

1677

Scharf's "Philadelphia"

Matson

I - P. 132.

P. 132:

List of Tithables (Swedes), Nov. 1677:

Johan⁽²⁾ Mattson SR.
Nils⁽¹⁾ Mattson

then below the names of tithables not included
in the above list:

Peter⁽²⁾ Matson

No. in family
1

Antony⁽²⁾ Matson

1

Chester Co.

1677

Record of Upland Court and Denny's Journal
(Major E. Denny, 1860). 1676 to 1681

Matson

P. 77:

Att Tao Kanink (Taconey): Tithables March 1677:

Peter⁽²⁾ Matson 1

Jan⁽²⁾ Matson 1

P. 79:

Att Car Koen's Hook:

Neeles⁽¹⁾ Matson 1

1677
ca.

Record of the Upland Court
1676-1681 (Major E. Denny)
(Now held @ Chester, Pa.)

Matson

P. 100;

(about 1677 ca.)

"Upon Petition of Lasse Andries, Ole Stille,
Andreas Benckson and

^{John}
Joan Mattson, ^{SR.} inhabitants of
Moxmensink (insert now the S.E. district of Philadelphia),
desiring a grant Each to take up 25 a. of MARRISH or
meadow between

The Hollander's Kill and Rosemonds Kill,
syde of this River delowar. on the west

1688

"Duke of York Record" Delaware Matson
 1646-1679 Delaware
 Gen. Assm. St. of Del.

P. 135

"A Confirmation granted Andries Maetsen
 for a parcel of land called ye Wild Hook of Delaware,
 lying & being called ye Indians or ye Wild Hook
 having a small streame of water bounding ye sd ld on ye East
 running by "Skill pacts Kill" to ye marke tree which is bet.
 it and Hans Pietersens land being about 100 rods in breadth
 and going into ye words North West 600 rods which
 sd place or parcelld lde hath heretofore been and now is
 in ye tenure or occupation of Andries Maetsen."

Patent is dated 14th of Nov. 1688.

Not our
 MATSONS.

1672 "Pa. Archives: 3rd Ser."

Matson
(Hutchins)

I - 50:

"Francis Lovelace, Esqr. Govr N.Y. by Patent dated
the 7th June 1672, did therein

Grant to Niels Matson

Parcell Riv in Upland (non Chertan) ^{a certain} bet. Israel Helms
Land in breadth and in length from Upland Kill to Niels Laers-
sens Land as also a small piece Land on the one side of it
abutting on the said Israel Helms Land on the one side and on
the other on Hans Juriansons Land and so forth from the
Kill to Niels Larsons together with a piece of bush or Wood
Land alongst the Kill and so into the Woods in breadth to
Niels Laersens Land containing about 22 acres or 11
Morgens now for a Confirmation to the s'd

Niels Matson &c.

To have and to hold the said Parcell of Land & Premises
&c. ^{Kirony &c.} yielding and paying &c. one bushell of good winter
wheat to his Royal Highness's use &c.

Niels Matson by Deed Poll dated the 31st Jan'y
1675 did grant bargain and Sell the above Land and Prem-
ises unto John Test his Heirs & Ors; forever who by
another short Deed dated the 14th of June 1676, did grant
Assign and set over unto Rich'd. Guy all the afo'd Land and
premises and to his heirs &c.

My note:

This parcel of land was no doubt
at CarKoen's Hook or Hook.

1684

"History of Chester Co., Pa."
(Futhey + Cope)

Matson

P. 412:

Witchcraft in Chester County:

"Margaret Matson's indictment before William Penn and his Council (insert - which included William Clayton, my ancestor, also) at Philadelphia, 2-27-1684.

She resided near mouth of Crum Creek.

Found guilty but not according to indictment.

Neels Matson and Antho. Neelson give bond for
\$50.0.0. for good behavior of Margaret for 6 months.

(See Pa. Archiver - Colonial Records.)
I - pp. 93, 95, 96.

for a full account
of Margaret's Trial, wife of Nils Matson,
for Witchcraft, the first and only witchcraft
trial in Pa.

Valuable Reference!

A/50

History of Delaware Co., Pa.

(Dr. George Smith)

Page 152

Acct. of Trial and names
of Jury.

Neels Matson was her husband.

Anthony Neelson was her son-in-law.

ante
1684

"Pa. Magazine, XVII-84:"

Matson

P. 84: "Noels Matson, alias Lawson, et al, held
300 acres by permit of Governor Carteret
in Gloucester County, N. J. before 1684."

Summons to appear before Court.

Swedish Settlers in Gloucester Co., N. J.
Previous to 1684, 3rd day of 4th mo,

James Ealson, alias Illman,
Lansing Coleman,

Noels Matson, alias Lawson, by John
Anderson in possession

held 300
acres by permit of Gov. Carteret.

P. 85: Neale Mattson did not appear.

Vol. IX-342: Lt. James Matson in Revol. War.

Vol. XIV-212: William Matson left no descendants.

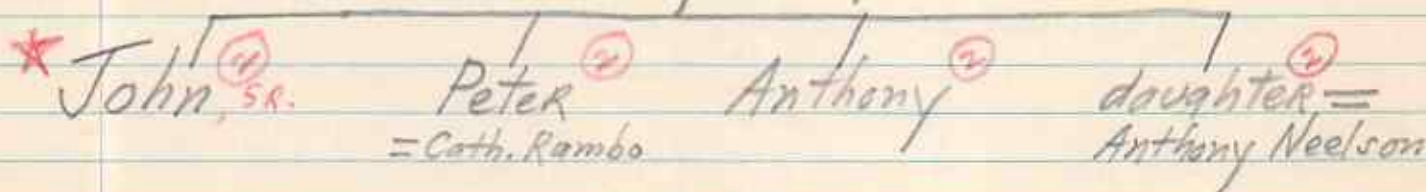
1688

Conjecture!Matson

I believe that in the year 1688, Nils Matson had at least 3 sons and 1 daughter, as follows:

"of Sweden"

* Nils^① Matson = Margaret :



Probably another son or a brother, Mathias.

1693

"Hist. of Chester Co., Pa."
(Futhey and Cope)
1881

Matson

P. 34:

Swedish Inhabitants, 1693: (Long List):

Johan Mattson

Persons

11

Nils Mattson

3

Still living and born in Sweden:

Nils Mattson.

1693

My note:

Nils Matson's wife's name may have been Margaret Long

In 1688 there was an Anthony Matson, who undoubtedly was the son of Nils and Margaret. In the list of Swedish Families Residing in New Sweden in 1693 (see) notice that in the entire list of 139 families, there is

only one Anthony,

Long, and his name immediately precedes

Nils Matson, and is followed by John Matson.

This is purely a conjecture and so take it for what it is worth.

1693

"Watson's Annals of Phila."Mattson

II-

The Swedes.Valuable!

P. 230

year 1693

Son * Johan Mattson
 Father * Nils "

Persons

11

3

Gives long list:

Rambo

Cock

Bankson

Bonde

Swanson

Nelson

Gustafson since Justice

Johnson

Joranson

Stake

Martenson

Yocum

Hollstein

Stille

Wihler (Wheeler)

Malica

Kyn (Keen)

Gastenburg

Stillman

Fick

Dalbo

Mattson

Longaker

Frende

Peterson

Kindrickson

Stedham

Andersson

Seneca

Wallroven

Poulson

Homans

Derickson

Hoppman

Pearson

Vanderveer

Manson

Tassa

Classon

Lucasson (Lucas)

Larson

Hullig

Erickson

Goranson

Rapett

Stalcof

Slobay

Resse (Reese)

Clemson

Kuckow

Meyer

Dennis

Savoy

Frapson

Stark

Long

Knutson

EKhern

Konigh

Mink

Jacob

Danielsen

Schrage

Thorsen

Olsson

Talley

Iwarsson

Skrika

Grantum

Kempe

Tay

Bure

Lock

Hallton

188 fami

907 midindag

Glen

OVER

Others

also Helm

Andrius

Swen

Ernoit

Morrensom

de Haes

Bortelf

Homman

Cram

Jud

Staeckel

Tom

Jurian

Boen

JNRGRX

Daniel

Aldrets

Justarsen

Jegou

Tanson

Inckhorn

Fabritus

Holstein

Orian

Jacobs

Hartsvelder

Holstein in Upper Meru

P. 240 Needles Mattson reconveys to James Sanderling
a patent for Land granted by Gov. R. Nicolls
in 1668, on the north side of the Kill, next &
adj. to Israel Helm & Torst Daniel

P. 249 John Mattson, Swen Lom, Lase Dalbo,
100 acres each, at Weissakit Konk, now
(at Court) Wissahiccon
9-11-1677

William Clayton 2000.
4-3-1678

a part now of
Philadelphia
(mail to Phila)
at mouth of
Creek of that name
which empties into
the Schuylkill river
in Phila.

over

1712

"Hist - Montgomery Co Pa"Matson

P. 28

(Buck 1859)

Montgomery has been made ^{that in} 1712 into Holston,
 Peter Rambo, Gunna Rambo, Peter Youm and
John Matson, ^{Jr.}

Settled in "Ammasland" with their families
 now called
Upper Merion.

As this Ammasland
 has puzzled some of our antiquaries, we will venture an
 opinion. In records 1678 Darby Creek has been
 called "Ammasland" Creek, and also the country lying
 bet. the Schuylkill and Ridley Creek.

supposed that this name is derived from one has

Any, the Indian name
 for a road or path.

^{this name} that C is derived from Ameland, an island in
 the North Sea belonging to Holland. Also part.

From the earliest period the Penns and ^{their} descendants
 have shown a predilection to settle along the
banks of the Delaware and Schuylkill, and C-
 or C. & hold great quantities of our most
fertile lands.

→ and along those streams they still
 hold

Reference

"Pubs. Gen. Soc. of Pa."
XI - 204:

Not
Ours

Matson

P. 204:
of Finland. The Year Book of the Genealogical Society

In Volume VIII gives list of inscriptions of the
present number with the family names:

Among whom:

Anderson

Boström

Chapentier

Lindberg

Lindström

* Mattson
Nyberg

Sandelin

et al

families: together with Genealogical Data on the following

Backman

Berg

Bjorkman

Brunck

Holström

Le Bell

Sundman

Uddman

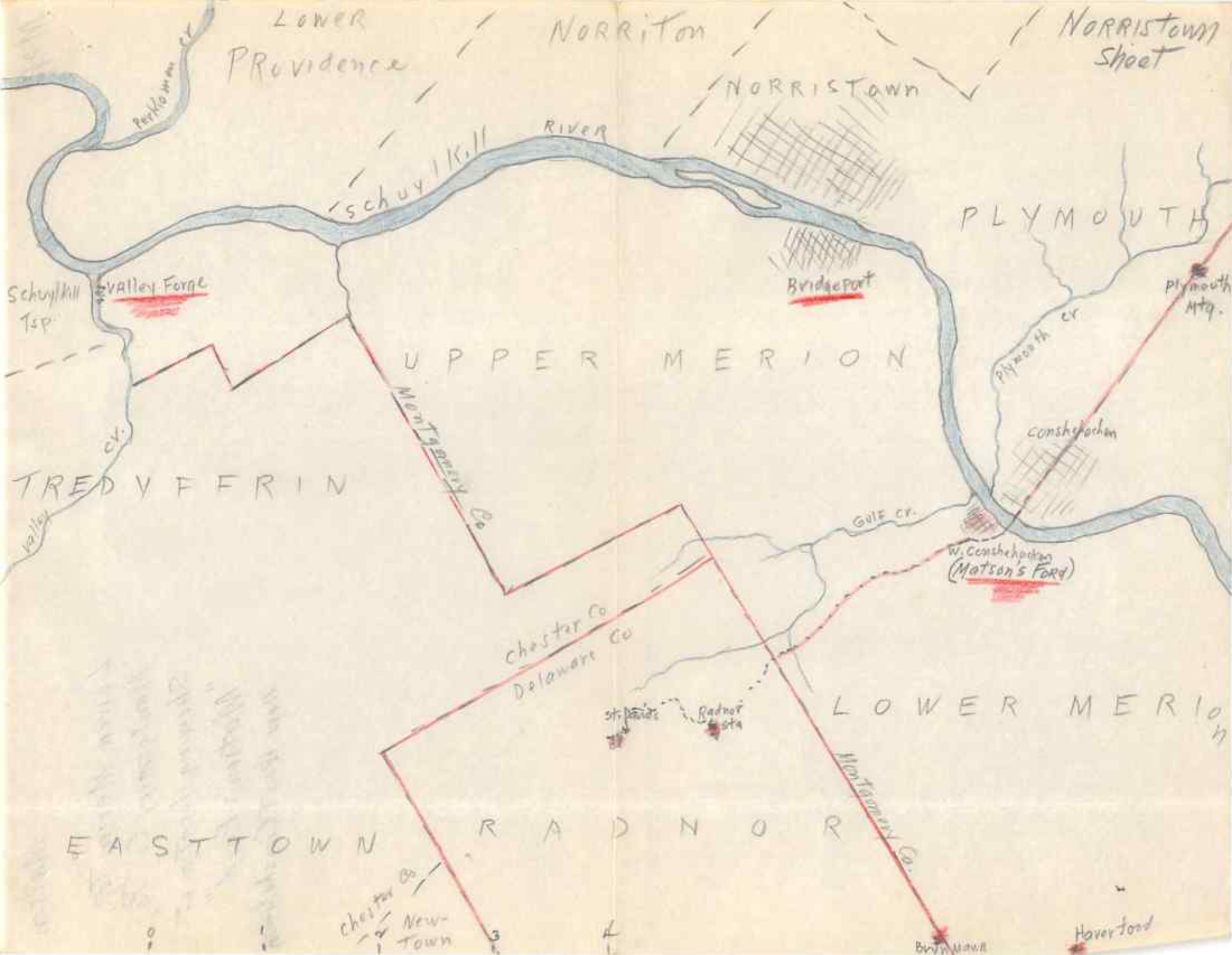
Kraukau

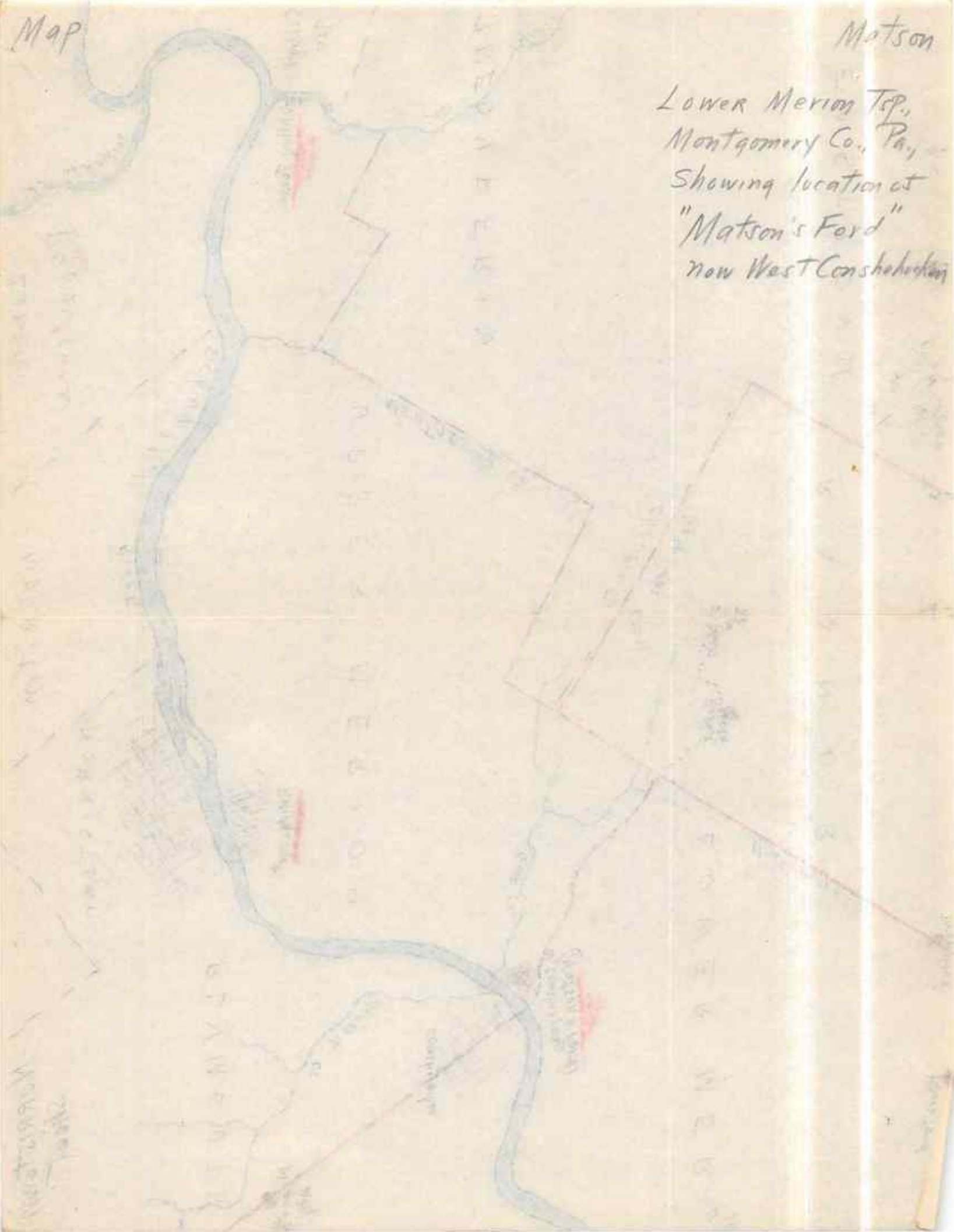
Svanljung

References!

Matson
Mattison
Mattison

- (22) Hist. Delaware Co., Pa. (Dr. Geo. Smith) p. 483, 521, 152;
- (26) Mattison This Old Monmouth of Ours. (Wm S. Horner 1932).
- (29) Hist. Chester + Del. Cos. (Cope + Ashmead) pp. 11;
- (32) Common. Biog. Rec. Central Pa. (J. H. Barco Co. 1898).
- (40) v. 4 Pub. Gen. Soc. Pa. v. 15-70; II-204;
- (55) v. 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7; Virkus.
- (59) Where Pa. Hist. Began (Henry D. Paxon 1926). 229, 227, 224;
- (62) 449, 9002, 6450 as Mattison. Gen + Hist. Wash., D.C.
- (64) 1098, Hist. Bucks Co. (J. H. Battle 1887) Pub. by A. Warner Co.
- (70) 3-1-52 #3696 (1). The Hartford Times.
- (94) Recs. Holy Trinity Chh. (old Swedes) Wilmington, Del. (Horace Burr 1919)
- 152 Hopewell, Va. Friends. (Wayland.)
- 153 v. 5, 12 Amer. Ancestry.
- The Swedes on The Delaware (Amandus Johnson 1915) p. I-147; II-641;
- Pa. Mag. III-419; VIII-157; XVII-84; IX-342; XIV-212; XXIV-521;
- The Swedish Settlements on The Delaware (as above).
- Pa. Archives, 351-50; 257-861; 35 index; 1860 Colon. Rec. I-93, 95, 96;
- Record Upland CRT. + Denny's Journal (Maj. E. Denny) pp. 77, 79, 100;
- Watson's "Annals of Phila." II-249; 230;
- Scharf's "Phila." I-74;
- Hist. Chester Co., Pa. (Futhey + Cope) p. 412, 16, 34, 36,
- Hist. Montgomery Co., Pa. (Wm. J. Buck 1859) p. 26, 41, 28, 78, 31, 39;
- The Sharpless Family (Gilbert Cope) p. 135, 182,
- Natl. Gen. Soc. Q. XX-86;
- N. J. Wills, Gloucester Co., Indot.
- Hist. Old St. David's Chh. (Epi) Del. Co., Pa. (Henry Pleasant 1915) p. 287;

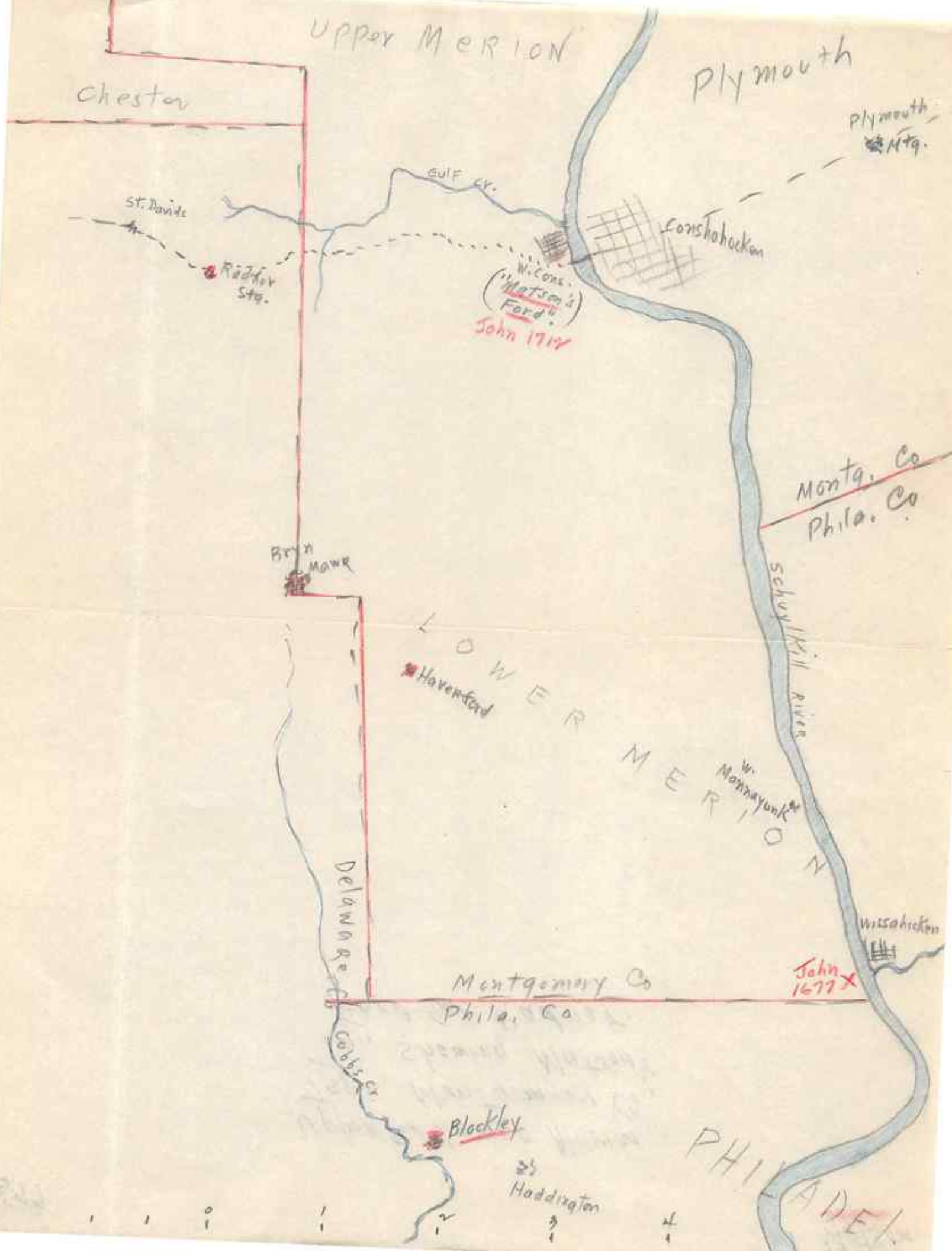




Map

Matson

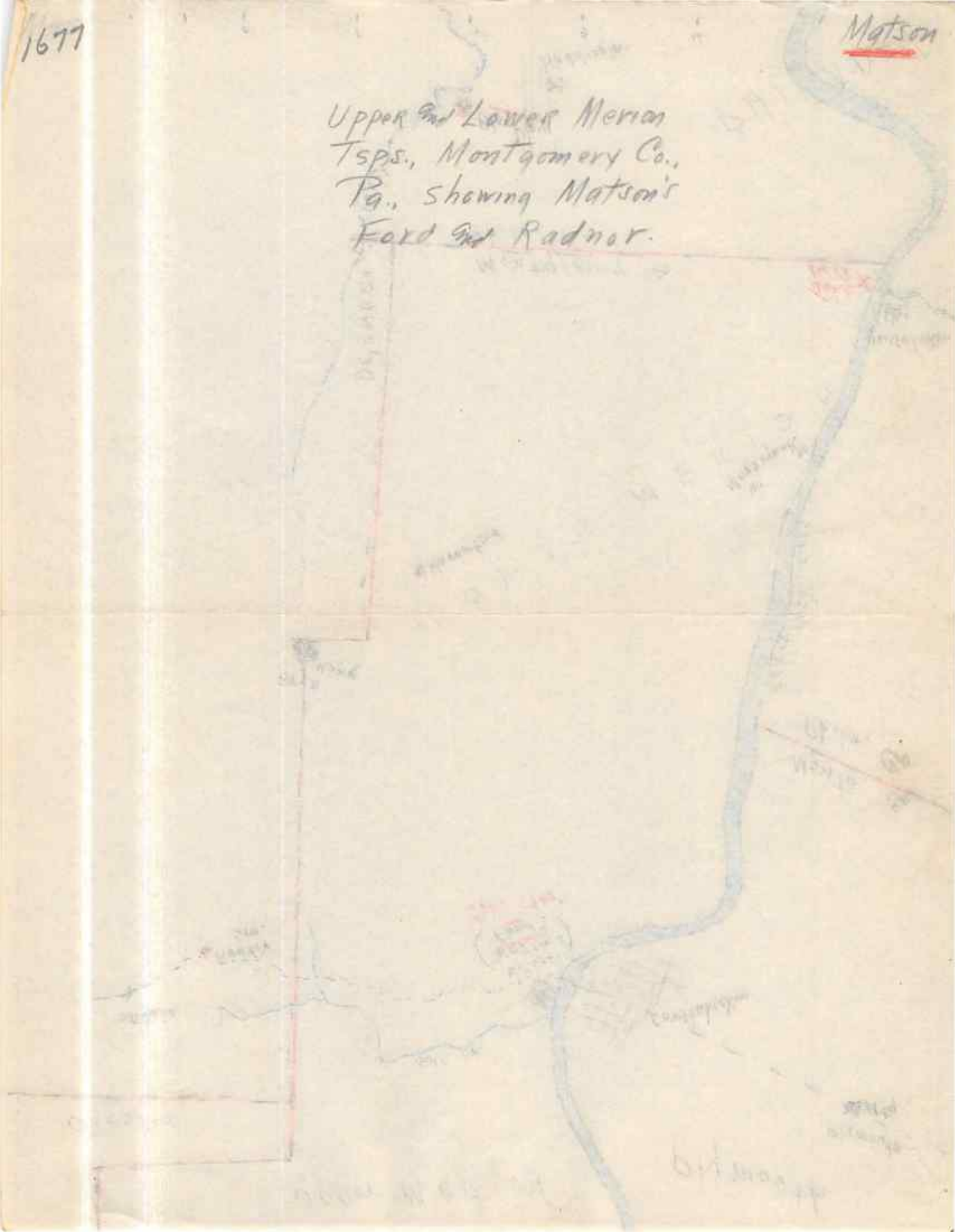
Lower Merion Twp.,
Montgomery Co., Pa.,
Showing location of
"Matson's Ford"
now West Conshohocken

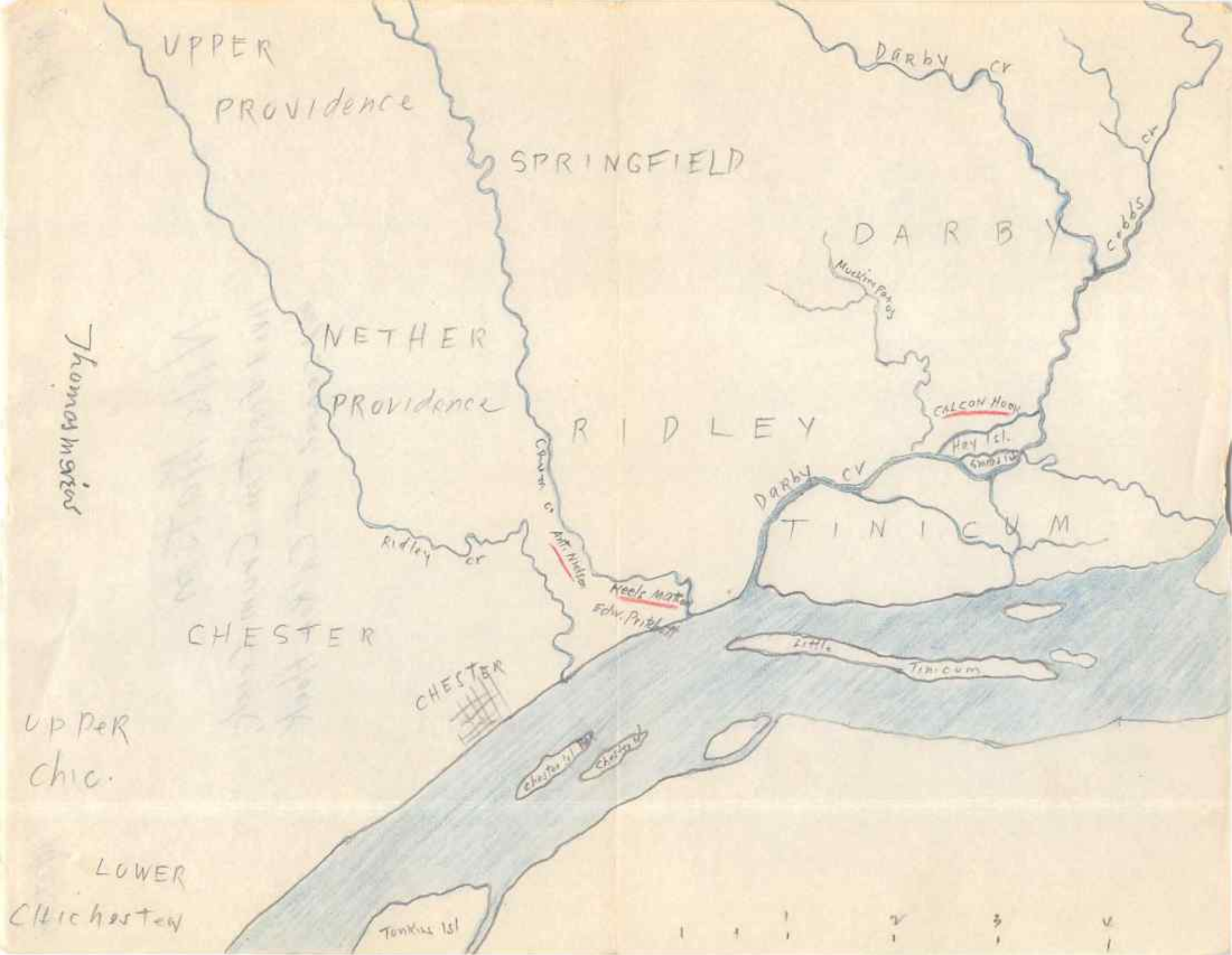


1677

Matson

Upper and Lower Merion
Tps., Montgomery Co.,
Pa., showing Matson's
Ford and Radnor.





UPPER
PROVIDENCE

SPRINGFIELD

DARBY

NETHER
PROVIDENCE

RIDLLEY

TINICUM

CHESTER

CHESTER

UPPER
CHIC.

LOWER
CHICHESTER

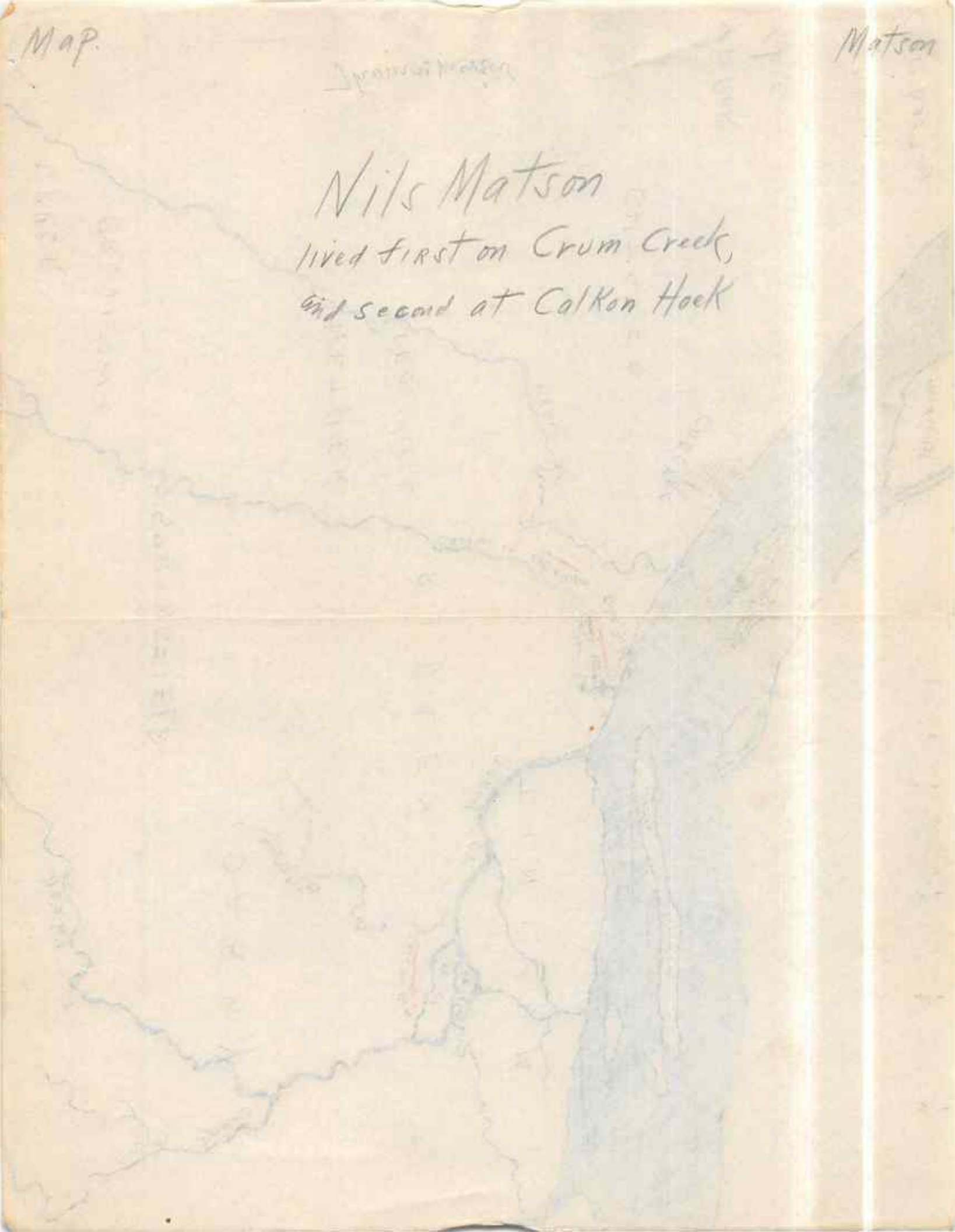
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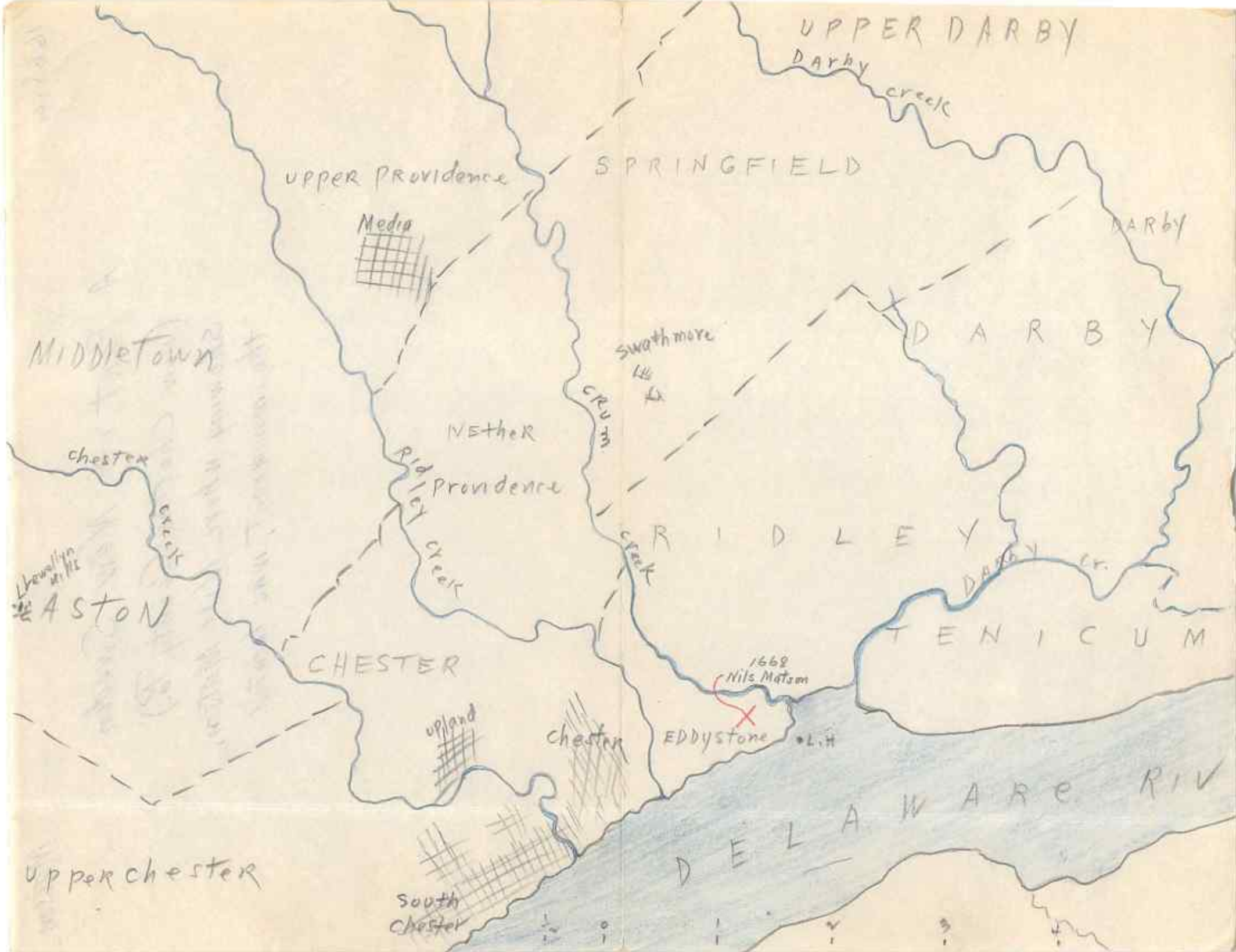
Map.

Nils Matson

Matson

Nils Matson
lived first on Crum Creek,
and second at Calkon Hook

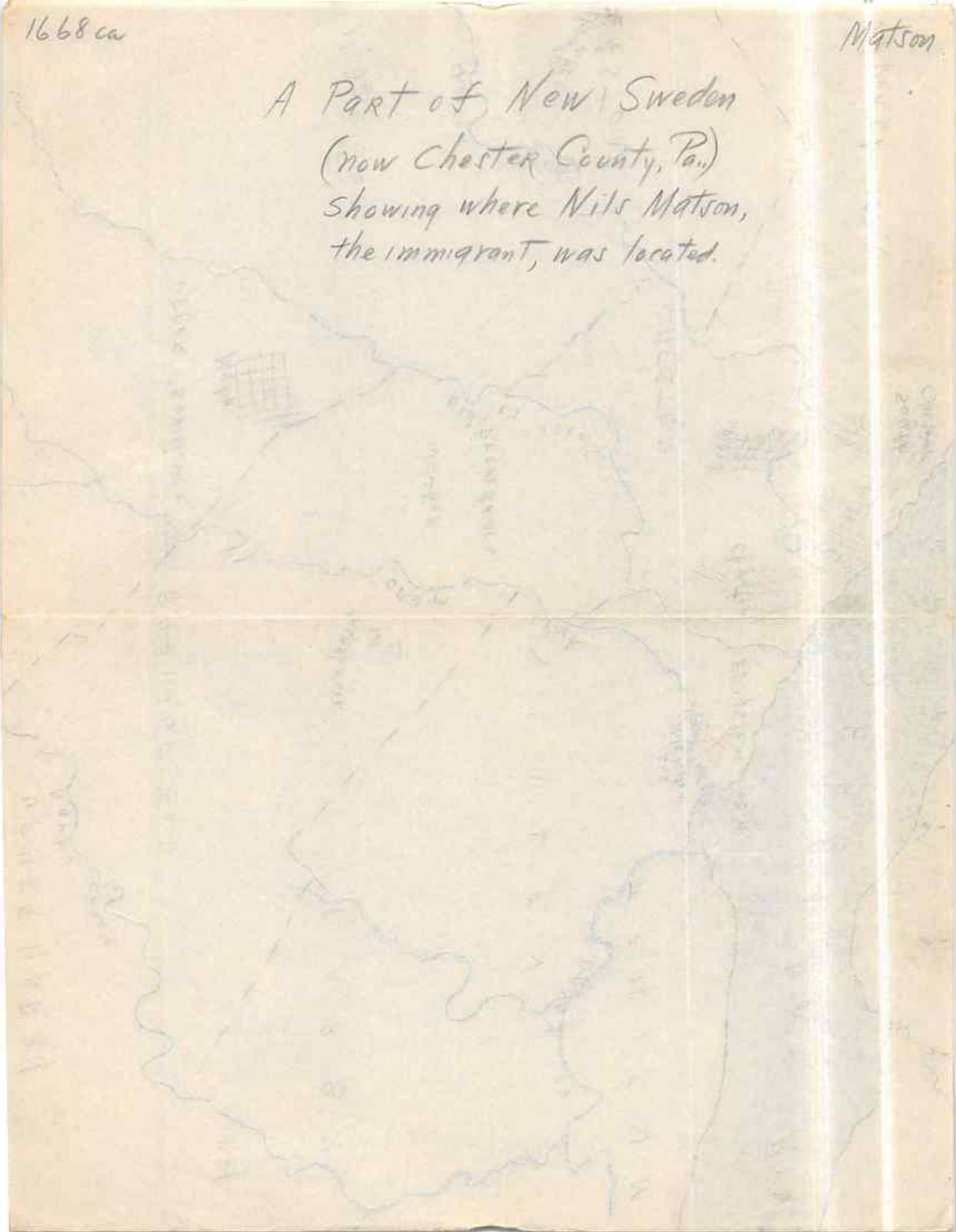




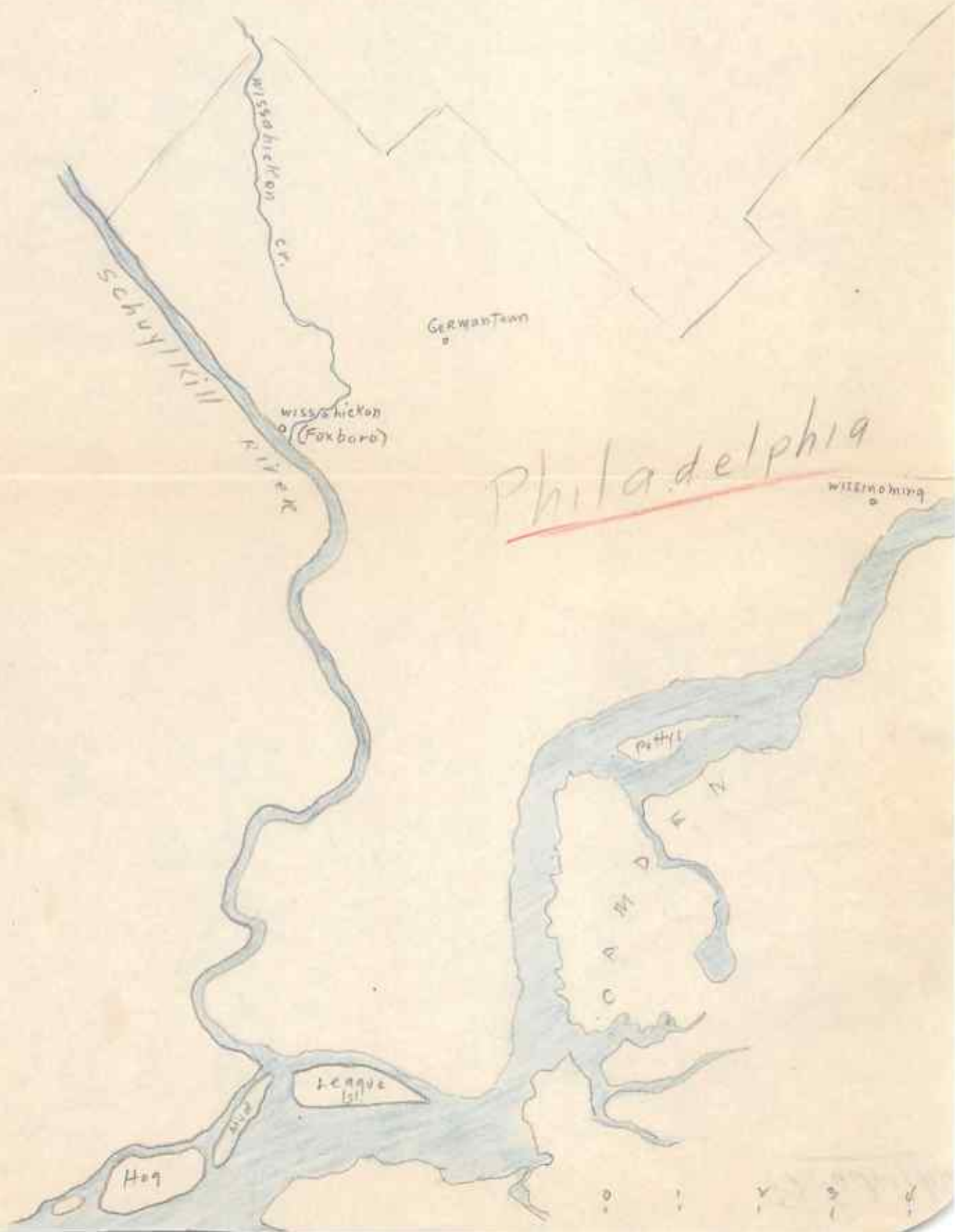
1668 ca

Matson

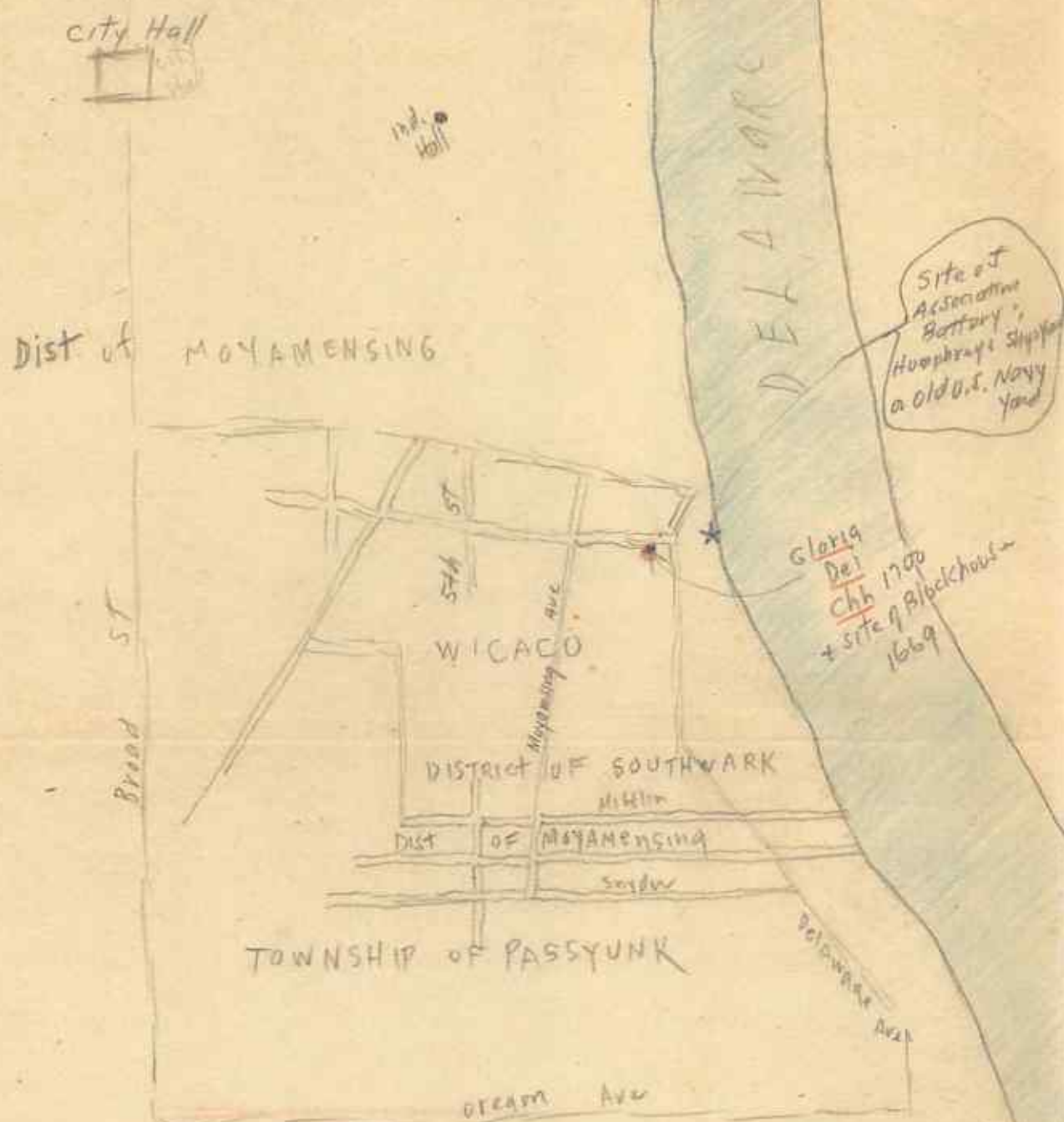
A Part of New Sweden
(now Chester County, Pa.)
Showing where Nils Matson,
the immigrant, was located.



Phila delphi



Philadelphia



A part of Philadelphia
showing location of
Gloria Dei Church
(Old Swedes)

0 1000' 2000' 3000'

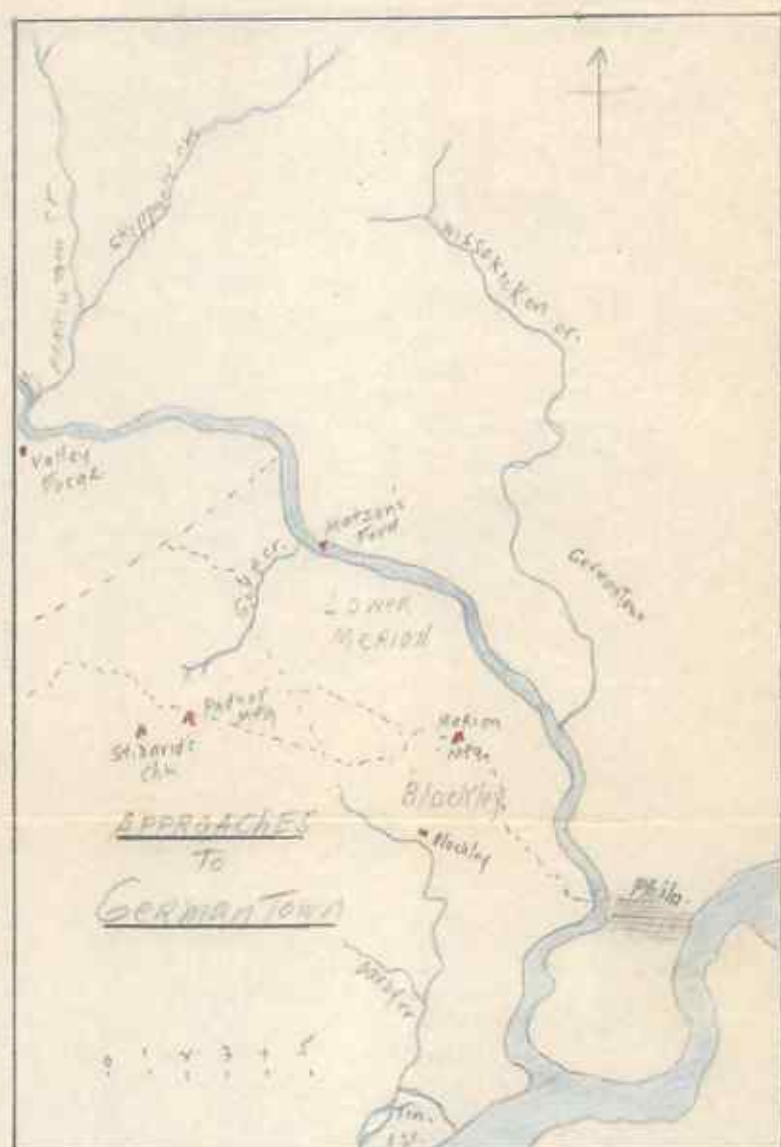
1-inch = 2000'

OR about $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches = 1 mile.

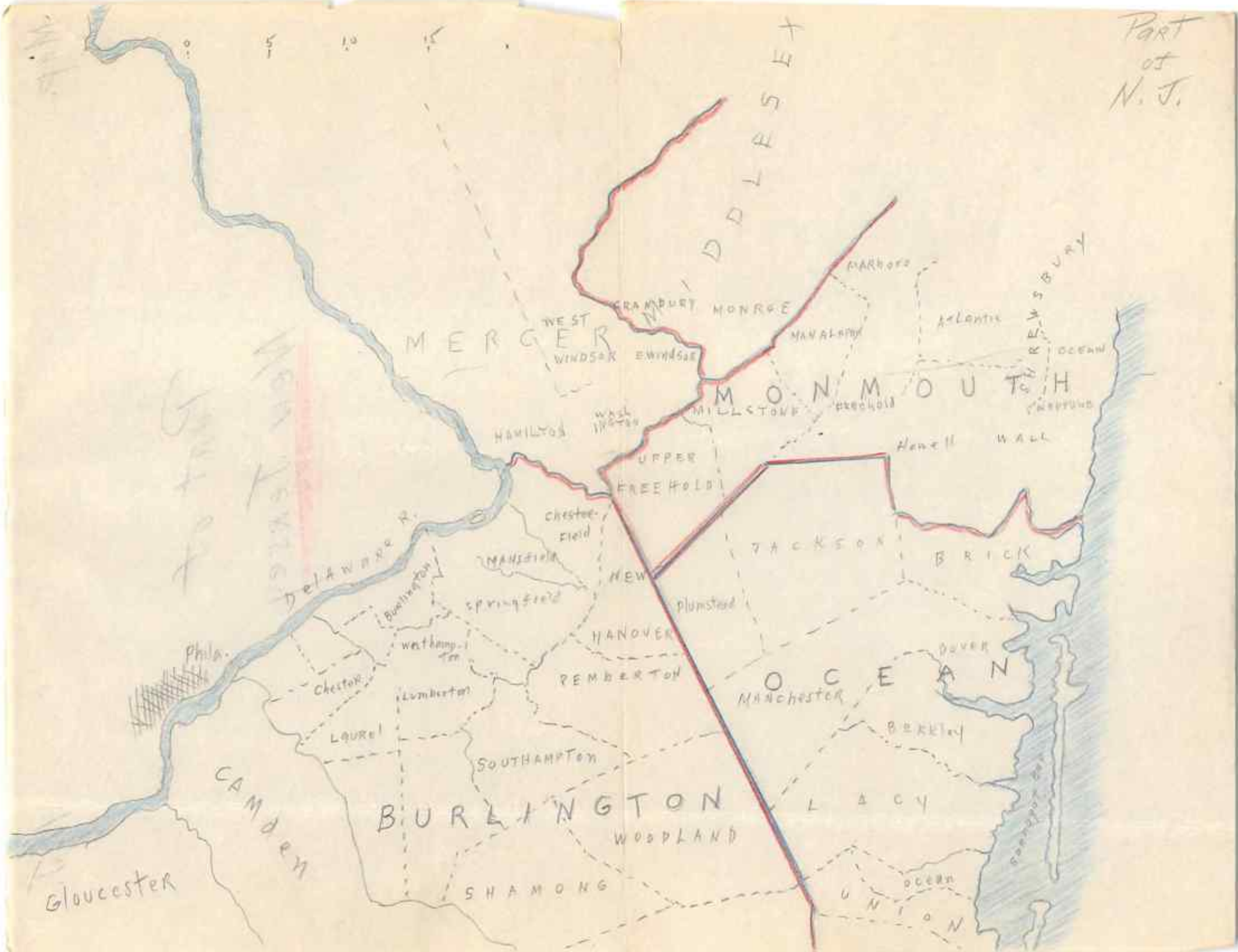
Map

Matson

A part of Philadelphia
showing site of
Gloria Dei Church.



Part
of
N. J.



MERCER

DELEST

MONMOUTH

OCEAN

BURLINGTON

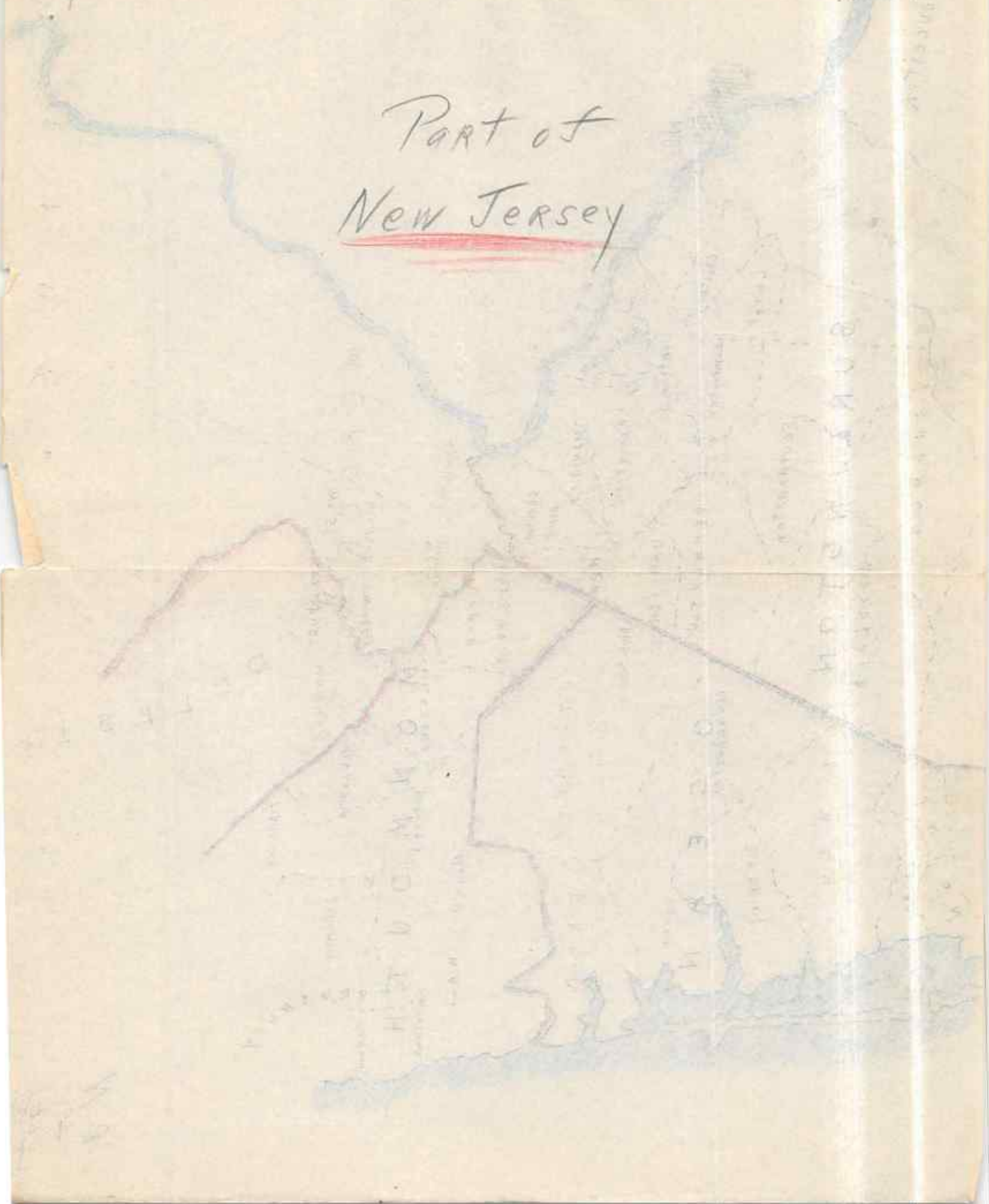
CAMDEN

Gloucester

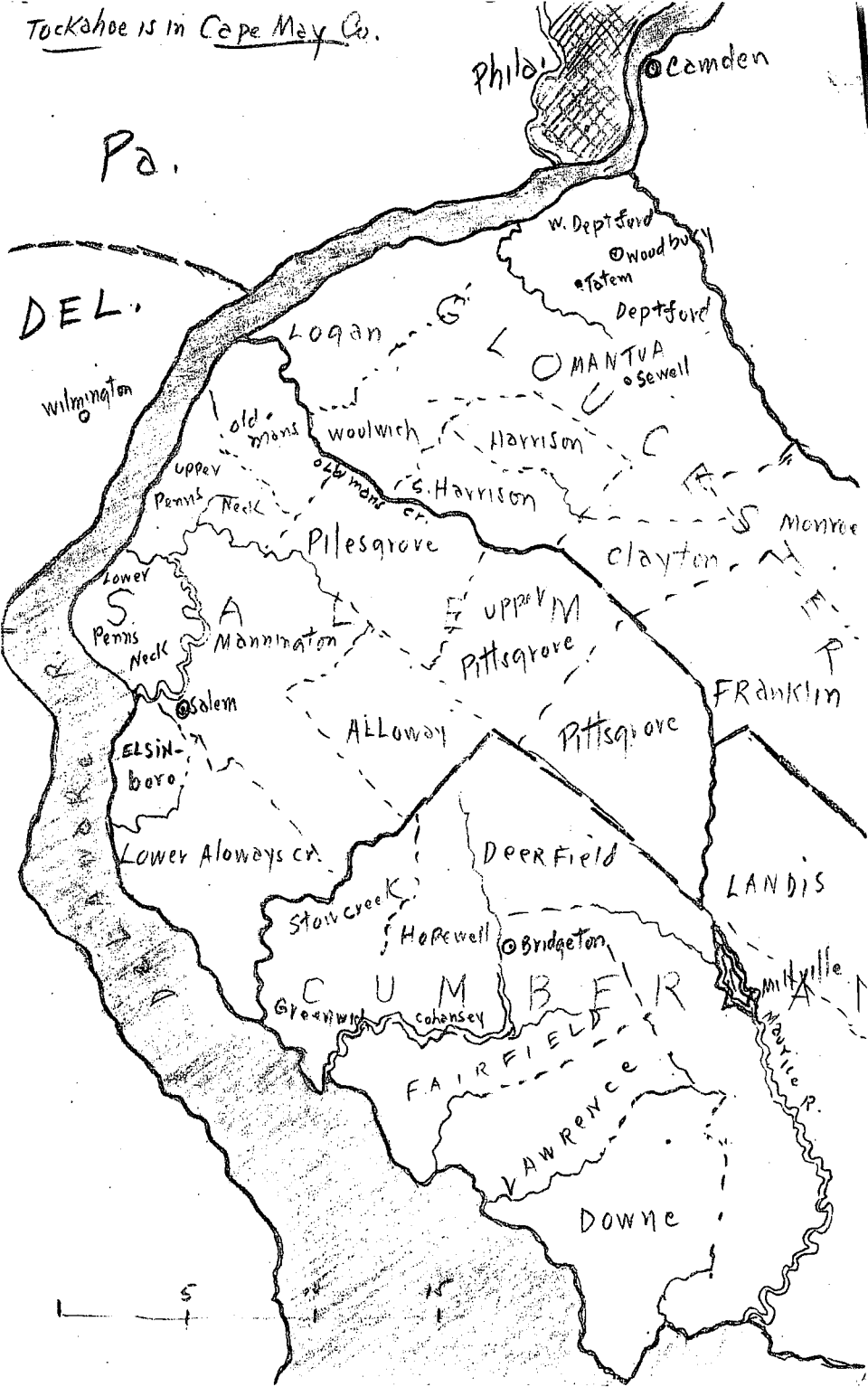
Map.

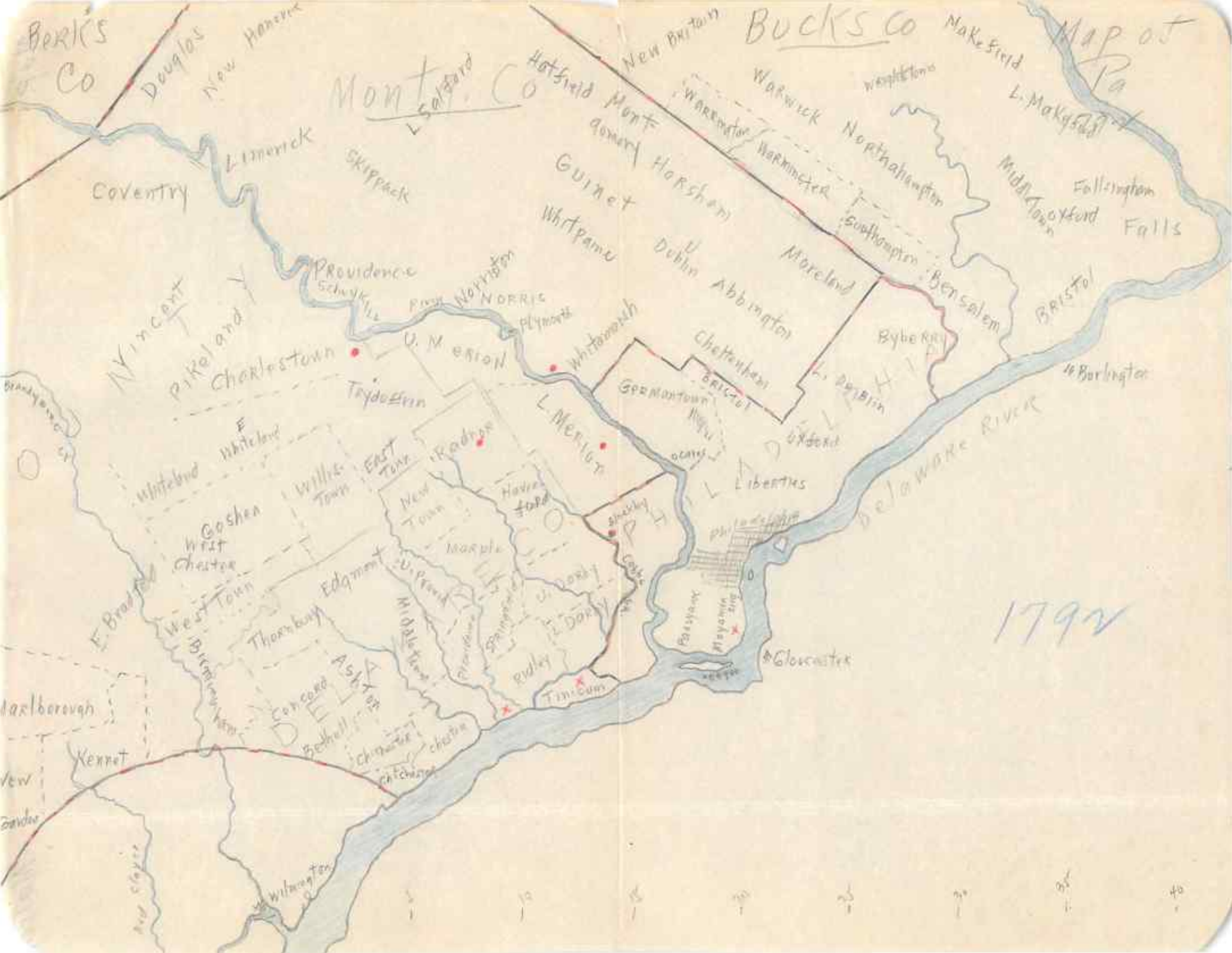
N. J.

Part of
New Jersey



Tockahoe is in Cape May Co.

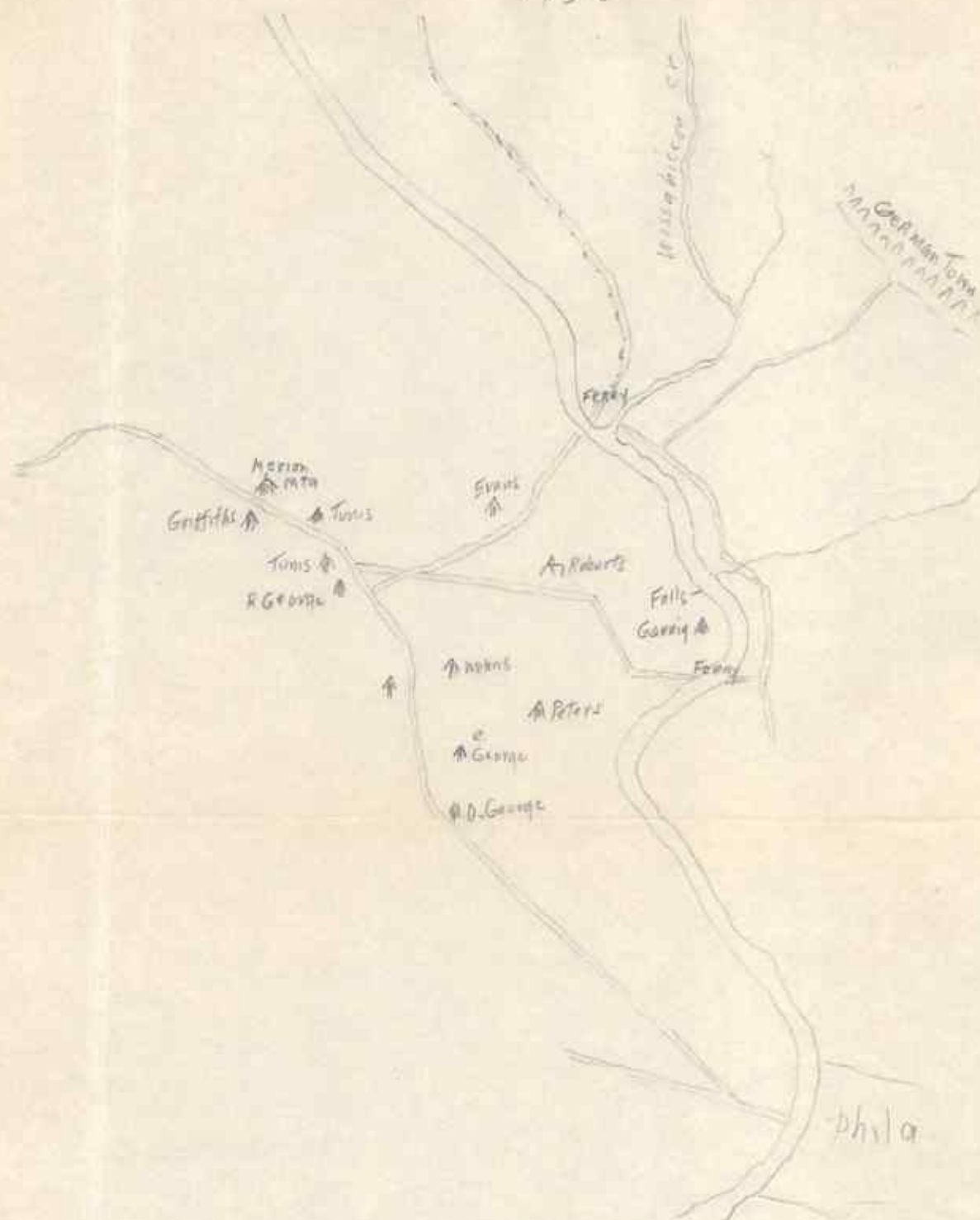




1750

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1750

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1750

Member of
New Jersey Historical Society
The Historical Society of Pennsylvania
Camden County Historical Society (Trustee)
Gloucester County Historical Society
Salem County Historical Society
Staten Island Historical Society

Haddonfield Historical Society
American Swedish Historical Foundation
Swedish Colonial Society
The Society of Colonial Wars (N. J. Registrar)
Huguenot Society of New Jersey (Chancellor)
Huguenot Society of Pennsylvania
Huguenot Society of Washington, D.C.

Holland Society of New York
Netherlands Society of Philadelphia (Past V Pres)
Sons of the Revolution (Past President N. J.)
Sons of the American Revolution
Genealogical Society of New Jersey
Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania
National Genealogical Society

ELMER GARFIELD VAN NAME

230 BELLEVUE AVENUE

HADDONFIELD, NEW JERSEY

TELEPHONE: HA 9-5777

October 5, 1963.

Dear Miss Vestal:

At the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. I looked at the index to the Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography. and found:

Vol. 7, p. 419n (1644) Jan Matson, soldier.

Vol. 8: 157. Nils Mattson is mentioned.

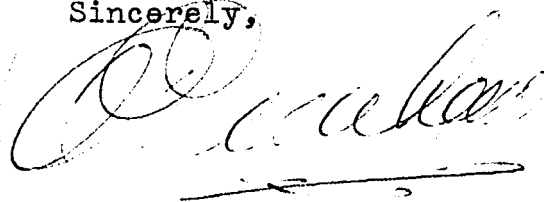
Vol. 17;85. Anthony Nelson had 180 acres in N.J.

Vol. 30:287,285. Andreas Sandel married Mary, daughter of Peter and Maria Matson, born 1682 (of Mantua Creek (N.J.)), died in Sweden, 1739

Vol. 37:208. Peter Matson, Constable, Gloucester County, 1752

These might well be compared with Peter Nelson and Peter Long.

Sincerely,



ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Matson Family

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ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA
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1663

"History of Delaware Co. Pa."
(Dr. George Smith, 1862)

MatsonValuable!

P. 483:

Matson, Niels or Neels, born in Sweden, was an early Swedish settler who owned and occupied a tract of land immediately on the south side of Crum Creek, extending to the Delaware, for which Gov. Lovelace issued him a patent on the 10th of March, 1670. In 1673, he served as an arbitrator by appointment of the then Upland Court, in a controversy about land in Kingessing. It was Margaret, the wife of this man, who figured as defendant in the only trial for witchcraft that ever occurred in Pennsylvania. From the testimony in that trial, it may be inferred that this persecuted couple had resided in the county at least

20 years prior to the date of trial, (1683) ^{or 1663}

In 1678, Neels Matson conveyed to James Sandelands, two lots in Upland for which he had received a patent from Gov. Richard Nicols in 1663."

1690
Q. 521

"Hist of Delaware Co Pa." (Smith) Matson

Secretary of States Office, Albany. Abstracts
of Patents, Vol. ii - 1865 June 13th 1670:

"To Neals Matson, a grant of "a piece of land on the
Delaware, bounded on the South East with the river called
Delaware River, and on the North-east with the creek
called Crum hill or creek, on the South-west with
Clave Andries land and running into the woods directly
North West containing by estimation one hundred acres,
or fifty morgen."



1712

"Hist. of Montgomery Co. Pa."
(Buck, 1839)

Matson

Conshehocken Township (13 miles from Phila.)

"It appears as early as 1712 that John Matson^{sr} took up a large tract of land on the opposite side of the River (Schuylkill), and as the population increased, roads were laid out to this place, and thus became known to the country around

as Matson's Ford.

However it was not supplanted till about 1800, when the town was laid out
as Conshehocken."

1768

"3rd Ser. - Pa Archives"Matson

11-432	<u>Jno Matson</u>	freeman in	<u>Ash Town</u> ,	<u>Chester Co Tex</u>	1768
11-559	<u>John Matson</u>	"	<u>Ash town</u> ,	" " "	1769
11-675	<u>Aaron</u> "		<u>Aston</u>	" " "	1771
11-675	<u>Maurice</u> "		<u>Aston</u>	" " "	1711
11-143	<u>Jacob</u> "		<u>Edgment</u>	" " "	1766 1767
11-143	<u>Morris</u> "		<u>Edgment</u>	" " "	1766 1767
11-575	<u>Jacob</u> "		<u>Newtown</u>	" " "	1768
11-531	<u>Jacob</u> "		<u>Newtown</u>	" " "	1769
12-30	<u>John</u> "		<u>Bethel</u>	" " "	<u>1774</u>
12-459	<u>John</u> "		<u>Aston</u>	"	<u>1781</u>
12-459	<u>Levi</u> "		<u>Aston</u>	"	1781
12-459	<u>Aaron</u> "		<u>Aston</u>	"	1781
12-459	<u>Nehemiah</u>		<u>Aston</u>	"	1781
12-579	<u>Aaron</u>		<u>Aston</u>	"	1781
12-579	<u>Levi</u>		<u>Aston</u>	"	1781
12-579	<u>Nehemiah</u>		<u>Aston</u>	"	1781
12-579	<u>John</u>		<u>Aston</u>	"	<u>1781</u>
14-138	<u>Josias</u> shipwright		<u>Southwark</u>	<u>Prph. nate</u>	1769
22-556	<u>John</u>		<u>Menallen</u>	<u>Fayette Co</u>	1785 13 6
22-617	<u>John</u>		<u>Menallen</u>	" "	1786

1776
cal.

"
Pa. Mag. 24-521."

Matson

"Incorporation of Swedesboro, N. J. P.E. Church.
(in the time of George III).

List-among whom:

Peter Matson
William Matson.

"Records at Gen. Sec. of Pa."

Matson



Radnor - St. David's EPISC. 1706-1859;

Radnor Mo. Mtg. 1682-1871; births, mgs., deaths.

Radnor Mtg. Mgs. 1680-1788; Minute 1693-1744;

Radnor + Merion Mtgs - Mgs., Burials + Remarals. 1700-1812

Radnor + Merion Minute. 1684-1686; Mgs. 1688-1788.

Christ Church - Leacock

Christ Ch.

Reference

"Pub. Gen Soc Pa XIII - 328"

Matson

Delaware County:

Picture of this chh. in
Hist Montg Co (Book)
Page 274

Radnor, St. David's Episc. 1706-1859

Radnor Mtg B's Mtg D's 1682-1871

Radnor Mtg Mges 1610-1788 Mins. 1693-1744 9 vols

Radnor + Havertown Mtgs, Conf. of Penn. 1726-1728

Radnor + Merion Mtgs, M's Banns, Conf. of Penn.
1700-1812; mins. 1684-1686
Mges. 1610-1788

Upper Providence Parish 1801-1855

1859

"Hist. of Montgomery Co. Pa." Matson
(Buck 1859)

P. 31: "West Conshohocken (on the line between Upper and Lower Merion) is immediately opposite the borough of Conshohocken. This place, it is said, was much of its prosperity to the enterprise of

★ William Davis, ★ (see item 1717)

who owned most of the
land on which it is built. Formerly, here was

Matson's Ford,

which name it bore some time previous to the Revolution, being so called after the descendants of an early settler and landholder. The bridge here was incorporated in 1832 as "Matson's Ford Bridge" and is still called by that name."

1865

"Hist. of Montgomery Co., Pa."
(Buck)

Matson

P. 39: "

The Matson Ford Road passes from Delaware County, (by the stone meeting-house belonging to the Christian Baptists or "Plummerites" built in 1865)

to Conshohocken, and forms the boundary between Upper + Lower Merion.

My Note:

<Insert - "continuing this road across the bridge becomes Fayette Street in Philadelphia; the Road then passes on westward to old St. David's Church (Episcopal) and Radnor Meeting of the Quakers."

No date

"Where Pa. History Began." (Paxon)
1976

Matson

P. 224:

In the City of Philadelphia: Single men:

Nicholas Matson (no date)

1712

"Hist. Montgomery Co Pa"Matson

P. 26

(William J. Buck 1889)

MatsonValuable!!

Nils Matson was a native of Sweden, and was very probably the ancestor of John Matson, mentioned in the list of 1693. The latter is represented as having at that time a family of 11 persons. One of the name, very likely a son, moved into Upper Merion in 1712, where he took up a large tract of land fronting on the Schuylkill, and ~~it~~ lay partly on this tract lying adjacent to the township of Lower Merion. In the course of time, as the country became settled, a ford was established on the Schuylkill, and as it lay partly on this tract, it received the name it

Matson's Ford.

A bridge is now built over the spot, at Conshohocken, and is called the

Matson's Ford Bridge.

During the Revolution, the ^{Amor.} Army crossed several times at this ford; it was then owned by Peter Matson, and on his death, the

land was divided among his four sons, leaving each a farm. Isaac Matson was one of these sons. A Hill in this vicinity, on the Lower Merion line, is still called Matson's Hill. In the list of voters in Upper Merion for 1858 but one is now found bearing the name of Matson.

Conjecture: Nils Matson = Margaret ? Long? Andries?
 John Matson Sr =
 John Matson Jr =
 Hannah Matson = Charles Davies

Comments:

Isaac Matson's land was a part of Valley Forge battle-ground.

1778

"Hist. Montgomery Co., Pa."Matson

P. 78

(Buck 1859)

Matson's Ford

"During the Revolution the American Army crossed the Schuylkill at this place (Matson's Ford) several times.

On the 19th May, 1778, while La Fayette was stationed with a detachment of two thousand one hundred men at Barron Hill, 3 1/2 miles from here, the British attempted to surprise him with a greatly superior force divided into 3 divisions. One was led by General Grant and the others by Sir Henry Clinton and General Grey. When the divn. under Grant had approached within a mile of his rear, through an officer who had been sent early in the morning to reconnoitre, La Fayette recd the first intelligence of their presence. Apprehending his situation critical,

he withdrew in haste to this Ford,

and as the last division of his command were crossing with the artillery, the enemy's advanced parties made their appearance on the banks and fired a volley after them, when a skirmish ensued in which the Americans lost 9 men killed & taken. The British loss was 2 light-horsemen killed & several wounded. La Fayette pursued to the high ground opposite and formed in the order of battle, when the divn. under Grant & Clinton made their appearance, but who, not deeming it safe to cross, though they had more than 4 times the number men, wheeled around and marched disappointed & chagrined to the city (Phila.).

In consequence of this affair the old road which led to the Ford and on which this retreat was effected has been called

Fayette Street."

Reference

"Pa. Archives"
3rd Series (Index)

Matson

- Matson Aaron 12-24, 283, 458, 579.
" Enoch 12-136, 235, 289, 477, 841.
" Isaac 14-455, 724.
15-166, 555.
16-45, 221.
" Israel 14-549, 826.
15-306, 607.
16-425.
" Jacob 12-107, 111, 194, 327, 536
14-627.
15-66, 436.
16-127, 591.
" James 12-284,
17-127, 736.
" * John 11-470, 559, 787.
12-30, 489, 849.
14-138
22-617, 556

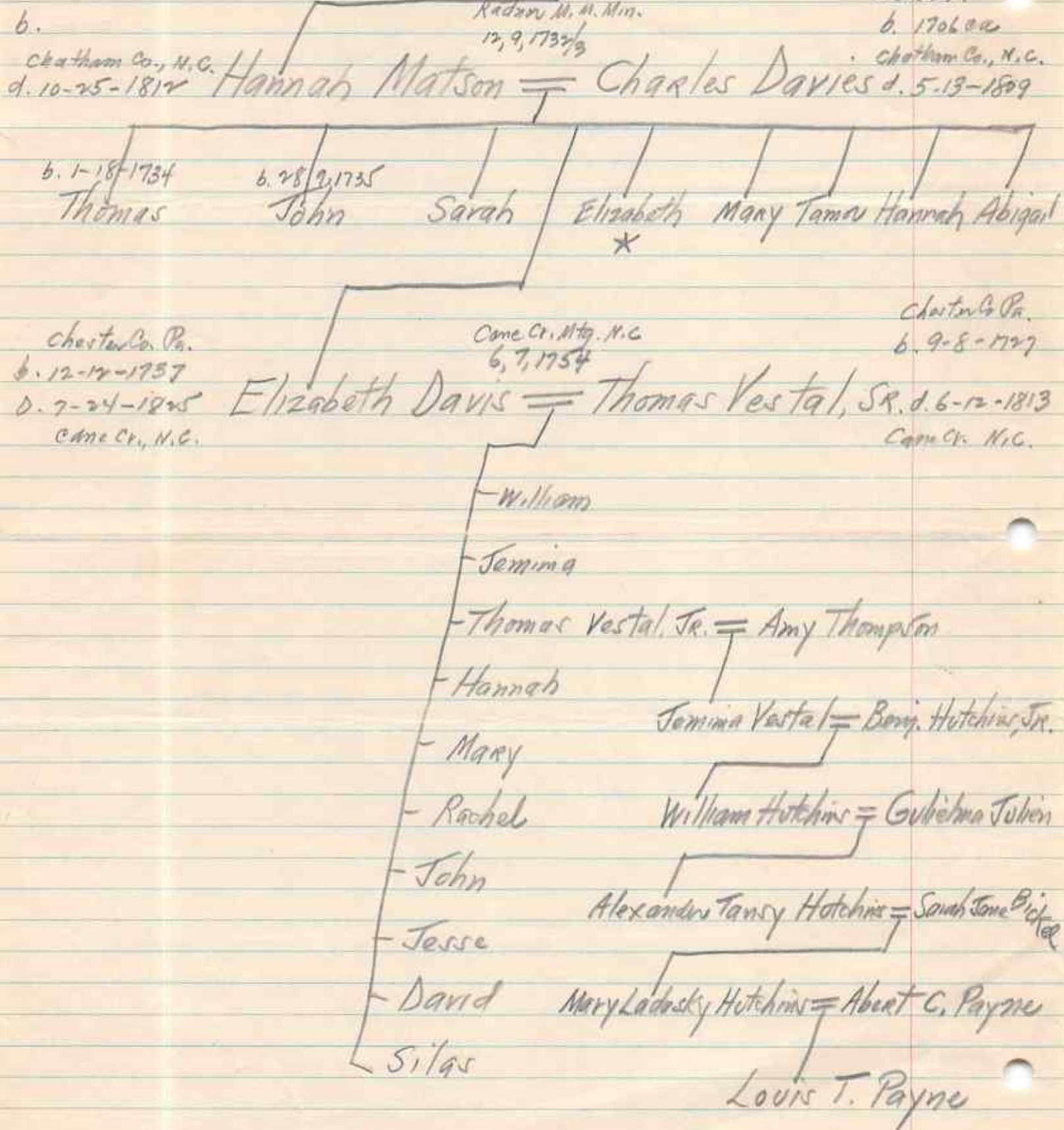
Also Peter
Levi
Morris
Moses
Nehemiah
Richard
Thomas
Timothy
Uriah

Not
copied

Conjecture

Nils Matson = Margaret ?
John Matson, SR. = ?
John Matson, JR. = ?

Matson



Corona del Mar, California 92625

January 4, 1965

Mrs. A. L.
(Miss Martha G.) Cline

Madison, Wisconsin 53705

Dear Miss Cline:

I'm sorry to be so extremely long in answering your letter but I'm pretty well snowed under with genealogical correspondence.

The Matson line is one on which I haven't found too much as yet as there seems to be a conflict in the data. I found a note in my cousin Earl Davis' material as follows: "In course of time as country became settled a ford was established on Schuykill and as it lay partly on this tract it received the name Matson's Ford. A bridge is now built over the spot, at Conschohocken and is called the Matson's Ford Bridge. Conjecture: Nils Matson - Margaret (Long?) or (Andries?); son John Matson, Sr.; son John Matson, Jr.; dtr Hannah Matson 1732 Charles Davis." There was no indication as to where the Matson's Ford was. *(Scale, I mean)*

I have received a copy of a book from a man who has done a lot of study on Anthony Nielson which indicates that the Matson generations followed the prevailing practice and after one in this country took the name of Niels son, his descendants were known as Nielsons rather than Matsons - if this is true, it leaves us nowhere! as we show three generations of Matsons following Nils. What little data I had collected prior to receiving this book indicated that John Matson, Jr. had three brothers Peter who married Catherine Rambo 2-16-1674, Anthony, and Mathias, and that he had a sister, name unknown, who married Anthony Neelson. This doesn't stand up in view of the Nielson book.

What I do have in my records on Hannah, shows that she was the daughter of John Matson of Merion and she married Charles Davies 12th month 9th day 1732/3 old style. They had 8 children--one daughter, Elizabeth, married Thomas Vestal, and my line is Vestal from then on.

Charles Davies was born ca 1706 in Wales, the son of either Charles or Joseph (brothers); one was a wealthy wine merchant and the other a lace weaver. Charles was bound out as an apprentice by his mother in the weaver's trade. He secured passage to America without his mother's knowledge. ~~Charles died in Philadelphia 26, 1785 and his second wife, Sarah Capline; she died~~ October 25, 1812, in the same county.

If you want data on the children of Charles and Hannah I will be glad to send this to you - but the Matson information is still to be found since the Neelson book upset my few Matson records. I am curious as to what

your line is that has a John Matson in it? The other names involved in the marriages of Charles and Hannah's children are Chamness, Knox, Cox, Moffitt, Osborn and Williams.

Sorry I can't be more helpful - some day when I get the Vestal book re-copied and finish typing the first draft of the Crooke book, I hope to delve into some of these collateral lines more fully - but the Swedish lines, with their changes in name from one generation to the next are always difficult and I probably will have to have some professional help on the Matsons.

I am returning your form, unfortunately, without adding anything to it. I notice we have different dates for the death of Charles Davis - where did you get yours? I copied mine from Earl Davis' book and have never made any attempt to verify it.

Thanks for writing me.

Sincerely,
(Miss) Eunice M. Vestal

P.S. Now that I've found your envelope in this mountain of material I see that your Mrs. A. L. Line, so I apologize for addressing you as Miss! Also, I can't find the Neelson book right now but as soon as I do I will send you the early Matson line out of that to see if it helps you.

Corona del Mar, California 92625
January 5, 1965

Mrs. A. L. Cline

Madison, Wisconsin 53705

Dear Mrs. Cline:

After I sealed my letter to you yesterday evening, I found the material I was looking for, but decided to write you again today as it was pretty late then!

"Matson research by Louis T. Payne, on the Matson family, 1954. 1641 History of Chester Co., Pa., Purthey & Cope p. 11 Swedish records in Stockholm; third expedition on the Kalmor Nyckel and Charitas 1641 Hindrich Matsson.

1643 The Swedes on the Delaware, Amundius Johnson 1915, p. 147 It appears that two or three colonists who came to America on the 'Pema and Swan' were from Finland, and John Matson, and the nobleman Knut and Per Lilgehok were among the passengers. Arrived in Del. end of Jan. 1643.

1663 History of Delaware Co., Pa. Dr. Geo. Smith 1862 p. 483 Matson, Niels or Neels, b in Sweden was an early Swedish settler.

1674 "Where Pa. History Began, Henry D. Paxson 1926 p. 221 At Senamensing at other side of river records of Gloria Dei Church: Peter Matson 2-16-1674 Catherine Rambo -- Eliza, b 2-7-1678; Catherine b 12-29-1679; Maria, b 5-11-1682; Peter b 5-27-1685; Mathias b 8-12-1688; Margaret b 2-1-1692 John b 6-14-1694 Jacob b 5-25-1697

1688 I believe that in yr 1688 Nils Matson had at least 3 sons and 1 dtr as follows: Nils Matson = Margaret; John; Peter who m Catherine Rambo; Anthony; dtr who m Anthony Neelson; probably another son or a brother Mathias.

1712 History Montgomery Co. Pa., Wm. J. Buck 1859 p. 26 Nils Matson was a native of Sweden and very probably the ancestor of John Matson mentioned in list 1693. Latter is represented as having at that time a family of 11 persons. One of the names, very likely a son moved into Upper Merion in 1712 where he took up a large tract of land fronting in the Schuylkill lying adjacent to township of Lower Merion."

Notice - the above item says that a John Matson in 1693 had 11 persons in family and this could be our John, Jr., the father of Hannah???? I don't know who Louis T. Payne is or way - this was just the way I copied it from Earl Davis' records.

In a book called "Welsh Settlement of Pennsylvania" by Charles H. Browning, Phila. Wm. J. Campbell 1912, p. 566, 567, I copied "it may be seen from the following lists from the records of the surnames of people buried at the Merion meeting house from the year 1705, that there were few Welsh names, and that this meeting had ceased to be purely one of Welsh Friends twenty-five years after its foundation, and suggests the quick assimilation of the Welsh and English families ... Matson." I thought this might be an indication that the Matsons were Quakers but perhaps people of other faiths were also buried there.

The book I referred to in my other letter was "Anthony Nelson, Seventeenth Century Pennsylvania and New Jersey and Some of His Descendants" by Elmer Garfield Van Name - Haddonfield, N.J. 1962. This starts out with Neals (Nils) Mattsson who arrived in 1654 in New Sweden during the Swedish occupation of the Delaware River. He died after May 31, 1693 in Gloucester Co., West New Jersey. His wife's name was Margareta. Neals was a millwright from Box Torshalla (near Stockholm) Sweden - left Gothenburg on Feb. 2, 1654 on the "Orn" - had a terrible trip, wrecked, put upon by Turkish pirates, etc. (100 of the 350 passengers died on the way). In 1683 Margaret Mattsson was tried as a witch and I am enclosing a copy of the proceedings since I think you will find it interesting - Nils and Margaret had a son Anthony and this is the one this book is about mostly - he was called Anthony Neelson as the son of Neels or Nils and his descendants were all Nelsons, then. However, in one place it says Anthony Nelson, alias Long, and Mr. Van Name said this might bear out the little note that I had that Nils' wife Margaret was either a Long or an Andries. Also, in the Tax List of 1677 there was a "neelas Matson" followed by "anthony matson" which Mr. Van Name says was probably used because of the English influence. Another reference says "Anthony Nelson Long had a servant..."

In May 31, 1693 in the census of heads of Swedish families there were listed "neighbor following neighbor" "peter Dalbo, Otto Dalbo, Johan Matson, Anthony Long, Niels Matson, etc." Mr. Van Name does not list any other children - in a letter to me dated October 3, 1963, he said "I felt fortunate in being able to establish that Nels Matson was the father of Anthony Nelson. There were other Matsons in the area, but I did not determine their relationship, if any. It is entirely possible that Nels had other children who continued to use the name Matson. There was a Peter Matsson Dahlbo. I am told that his will was written by Rev. Dr. Rudman, his son-in-law. But Acrelius says that Mats Matsson was Rev. Rudman's father in law (page 315). See also 'John Fenwick' by Frank H. Stewart, p. 38. I did not find the maiden name of Nels Matson's wife. You indicate that it might have been Long or Andries. This may give some significance to the fact that Anthony Nelson was called 'alias Long'! Your information that Nels' daughter married Anthony may be a mis-interpretation of the statement by Margaret that Anthony's wife was her daughter. She probably meant daughter-in-law. If Hannah Matson (Davis) was married in 1732 and died in 1812 she must have lived to be about 100. And if John, Sr. and Peter (who wed 1674) were brothers of Anthony (2), then John, Jr. would be of a later generation than them. Would he not have to be in order to father Hannah (Davis)? This would make Anthony and Peter uncles of John Jr., not brothers, as you say."

There is a great deal of material in Mr. VanName's book which doesn't seem to be of help to us - I was much embarrassed to find out that Mr. Van Name is a top-flight genealogist who contributes to the National Genealogical Society publications and so on as he did send me a lot of material and would only take a dollar for his little book and I know it is worth a lot more than that. But I guess he just wanted to be nice to an "amateur"!

There is one other possible source of information that I know of - a Porter Matteson, HFD 2, Waterloo, New York, wrote me in 1962 offering to check records for a dollar - I haven't ever done this as I've been so busy on my other names - he says he has "110,000 Matteson records" so maybe we should get in touch with him!

My lunch hour is over so must stop - hope this is of some help to you.