Robeson Rolling Mill

At the confluence of the Wissahickon Creek & Schuylkill River since 1690



The Robeson Mills looking from the west bank of the Schuylkill River. Watercolor by Captain Joshua Watson, 1816. Source: The Barra Foundation, Inc.

From a second black & white 1816 Watson print*, it is written on the rock in the middle of the Creek just below where the Mill's tail race once let the water back into the Wissahickon:

"Look up on the Whissihicon Bridge from the Iron Mills 4 October"

*1816 Captain Watson's with Wheel Circled.pdf (philacanoe.org)

In 1816, there were three mills on the west bank of the Creek, starting on 'Ridge Road' and going north to south down the Creek: a Sawmill, a Nail Factory, and the Rolling Mill nearest to the River as seen above. Contact the author for more information, and please report any problems with links: Griffin Affel, gpaffel@comast.net.

The History of the Robeson Rolling Mill in Fairmount Park, Philadelphia

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Preface

The "Robeson Rolling Mill" is located on the west side of the confluence of the Wissahickon Creek and the Schuylkill River and was built by 1690. The mill's historic importance dates back to the late 1600s, when it was an early corn mill, and again in the early 1800s, when it became an iron rolling mill.[i] The mill was maintained and occupied as the home of the Schuylkill Fishing Company of the State in Schuylkill, serving as their "Colony Castle" headquarters from 1876 to 1887 (leased for fishing until 1902). It was subsequently leased by the Philadelphia Canoe Club since 1905.

This paper provides the facts and sources used to compile the information needed by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission's State Historic Preservation Office (PHMC SHPO) to determine eligibility for the National Park Service (NPS) "National Register of Historic Places" designation.

The historic mill satisfies at least two of the SHPO/NPS's National Register's four eligibility criteria:[1]

X	A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
☐	B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past. *(May be added as applicable at a future date, i.e., Richard Townsend and his association with William Penn.)*
X	C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, … method of construction or represents the work of a master, … " (Richard Townsend)
☐	D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

The NPS guidelines for the selected "areas of significance" are provided below, along with the applicable criteria and the corresponding time period or periods.[2]

A. **Contribution to the broad patterns of our history**.
   a. Settlement: The establishment and earliest development of new settlements or communities. (Early western route on the Colony's Road system on the River, 1600s.)
   b. Economics: The study of the production, distribution, and consumption of wealth; the management of monetary and other assets. (Waterpower as an asset, 1600s to mid-1800s.)
   c. Industry: "The technology and process of managing materials, labor, and equipment to produce goods and services" (1690 Corn Mill and as an Iron Rolling Mill c. 1800 – 1843).
   d. Transportation: The process and technology of conveying passengers or materials. (Schuylkill River Ferry from/to Lower Merion and the 'Welsh Tract' starting 1693 on the owner's property, and also from the River upstream directly to the Mill.)

C. **Property embodies the work of a master**.
   a. Engineering: The practical application of scientific principles to design, construct, and operate equipment, machinery, and structures to serve human needs. (1690 corn mill and 2nd time as iron rolling mill with an exceptionally powerful waterwheel in the early 1800s.)
   b. Industry: The technology and process of managing materials, labor, and equipment to produce goods and services. (Site selection 1686 – lease start date.)

[1] Taken from the National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.
[2] Taken from NPS document National Register 16A (nps.gov) pages 40-41 (pdf pages 47 – 48).

PHMC SHPO Application Introduction

The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission's State Historic Preservation Office (PHMC SHPO) requests that four basic questions about the property be addressed before documenting its "important events, trends, people, or racial/ethnic groups … associated with the building." The property's 1.) name, 2.) location, 3.) owner, and 4.) physical appearance are presented below.

Property Name(s)

The name **Robeson Rolling Mill** is used for two related reasons. First, a member of the Robeson family owned or co-owned the mill for 137 of the 173 operational years between 1691 and 1862. The Mill's last period of significant use was c. 1800-1843 as an iron rolling mill: "…rolling is a metal forming process in which metal is passed through one or more pairs of rolls to reduce the thickness, to make the thickness uniform, to give it the desired shape, and or to impart a desired mechanical property" including nails." (Historical Development of Rolling Mills – IspatGuru.)

Second, the above name corrects a misnaming that had existed for about a hundred years: "Colony Castle." There was a period between 1776 and 1787 when "The Schuylkill Fishing Company of the State of the Schuylkill" leased and occupied the mill. During this time, the mill was considered its headquarters. However, the wooden building that was before then its "Castle" remained on land it leased on Rambo's Rock across and just downriver from Bartram's Botanic Garden. The Fishing Company moved their Club's HQ and the "Castle" from Rambo's Rock to Andalusia in 1887 (but continued to lease the mill until 1902).

In 1963, the Philadelphia Historical Commission added the mill to its register as built c. 1700, but the Commission reports that the documents supporting the registration have been lost. In 2023, three Indentures from 1690 and 1691 were transcribed for the first time, documenting that a corn mill was built on the western side of the Wissahickon Creek by 1690. In the 1684 grant of land by William Penn to Robert Turner, the 500-acre "tract of Land" was called "Shomack Park" by Penn.[3]

The Philadelphia Canoe Club lease started in 1905, and the "Colony Castle" name was co-opted. The Fishing Club renovated and saved the mill, but its official 'Colony Castle' is now in Andalusia. The Robeson family owned and had the most significant impact on the area. Respecting the mill's last notable commercial contribution to the area as an iron rolling mill, the mill is now known as the "Robeson Rolling Mill."

Location

The mill is located on the west bank of the Wissahickon Creek at its confluence with the Schuylkill River. Its existence is a Philadelphia 'hidden legend' as it is practically concealed from sight despite its size. The mill can barely be seen from the Ridge Avenue bridge and is difficult to spot from Kelly Drive, except during the winter.

While working at the Fairmount Park Commission, Robert Armstrong reviewed the mill's 'chain of title' and prepared a one-page summary that said, "Although an exact date cannot be determined based on the documentation available, the building now called Colony Castle was built sometime in the mid to late 1680s, specifically 1686-1689." As to its location, the report said that "Nowhere in the sources is there a mention of the destruction of Mill #1[4] *{the Robeson Rolling Mill"}*, therefore it is safe to assume that it is the same building."[5]

[3] Turner 1684 grant by Wm Penn.pdf
[4] On map drawn c. 1932 by Douglas Macfarlan, MD, author of *The Wissahickon Mills*.
[5] History PCC Clubhouse R Armstrong.pdf

Tax records set its physical address as 4600 Ridge Avenue, but the bulk of the property at that address is on the east side of the Creek in a different zip code, and the mill's mailing and street address is 4900 Ridge Avenue. The Philadelphia 'OPA' tax record can be found here with a map: Property | phila.gov > 4600 RIDGE AVE.

The OPA map shows the ~1 acre plot the City acquired in 1874. In 1876, the City leased the plot to The Schuylkill Fishing Company of the State of the Schuylkill, but in 1877, the City took back about 50 yards of the first part down from Ridge Avenue to build a one-lane bridge across the Wissahickon. The Fishing Company's lease expired in 1902, and the Philadelphia Canoe Club lease started in 1905 for the shortened property. (The one-lane bridge was taken down c. 1920, but a new one is planned to be built at the same point within the next several years.)

Property Owner

The OPA 885731360 tax record owner is listed as "Fairmount Park," the Canoe Club's points of contact for the mill's lease management and for its historic preservation approvals are employees of the Philadelphia Parks & Recreation Department (previously a separate organization, the "Fairmont Park Commission").

Physical Appearance

Below are three pictures of the mill. Going from left to right, the 1st is how it looks on most days, looking from the north to the south. The 2nd one was taken shortly after Hurricane Ida from the same perspective – the Creek is to the left of the mill, and the River behind it when not flooded up to this point. The third is a CAD rendering of how the mill looked c.



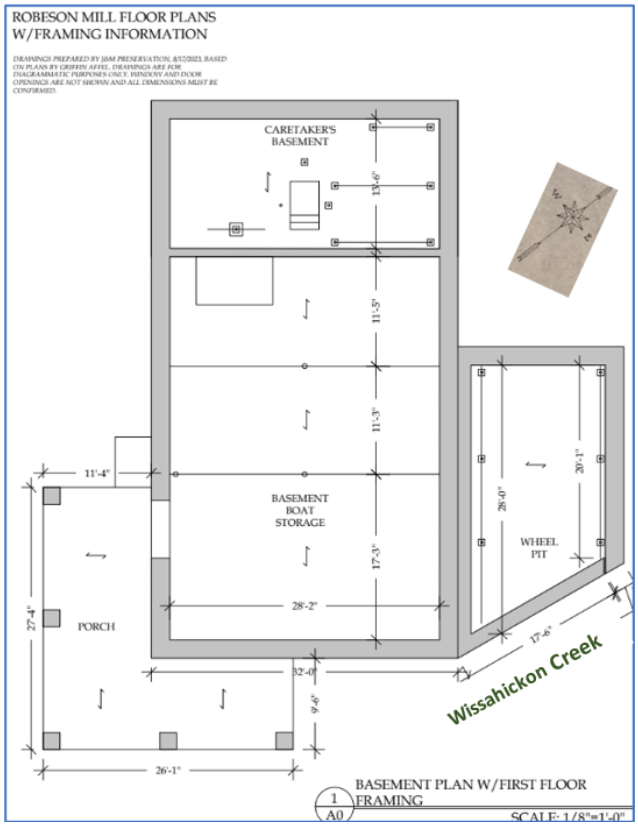


1820, described in detail later (on far right).

The Wissahickon Creek is on the left, and the Schuylkill River is behind the mill, or atop it, in the 3rd picture. Other pictures are in the Appendix.

Physical Appearance continued

The mill has a “Stone Floor” (a basement with an opening on the riverside and a window on the creek side) and two other floors. The floorplan is relatively simple; to the right is the basement plan, with the Wissahickon Creek being on the bottom and running next to the wheel pit’s tail race (exit to the Creek bottom right), and the other floor plans are attachments. In the two left pictures, the single-story addition on the left is a kitchen built above the wheel pit, c. 1879.



All the foundation and exterior structures are built of Wissahickon Schist, which is believed to have been quarried on the site. The mill’s architectural style can be described as traditional Georgian, but overall, its design is best characterized as functional and modeled after those mills in England familiar to Richard Townsend. Once, two other mills were on the property, a sawmill and a nail factory, but they last existed by c. 1856.

The other main features lost to the passage of time are the race and mill pond the mill once relied upon for water. The race started on the northwest side of Ridge Avenue and ran under the road into a mill pond channeled into the final “Head Race” onto the waterwheel. The Fishing Company filled in the mill race and pond in 1877.

The Porch that faces south and east was added c. 1907 as a wooden structure and then replaced c. 1929 with a brick and concrete structure. Not shown above, below the porch on the creek, a concrete apron was added, c. 1929, and an eight-foot Wissahickon Schist retaining wall was added along the creek with a boat ramp. In this section, the Wissahickon Creek runs close to due North.

Statement of Significance Summary

The Robeson Rolling Mill, constructed by 1690, is the third oldest grist mill built in the colony post-1681, and all three were built by the same Millwright, Richard Townsend. The mill is the oldest of the last four mills in the Wissahickon Valley, and two of the other three were rebuilt.

The mill meets two areas of significance criteria: A. Contribution to the broad patterns of our history and C. Property embodies the work of a master.

Contribution: The mill contributed to the patterns of the emerging Pennsylvania Colony as an early settlement in the late 1600s, then and later as a center for driving the growth of commerce and transportation, and an example of the new colony's economic strengths and evolving industries in two time periods (late 1600s and again in the early 1800s).

At one time, at least fifty-four waterwheel-powered mills in the Wissahickon Valley and adjacent watersheds were built or rebuilt from 1683 to 1850. The 58' by 32' Mill is an excellent example of the many other Wissahickon Schist stone mills. The building has two stories and a "Stone Floor" (the basement which housed the mill stone) with a large bay arch entrance facing the River. It is situated on Wissahickon Creek, with one corner literally on the Creek, 100 feet north of the Schuylkill River. (The appendix contains floor plans for the mill.)

Work of a Master: The mill embodies the work of a master Millwright and Carpenter, Richard Townsend, with its engineering, as demonstrated by its physical resilience and industrial strength, as exemplified by its site selection for strong and consistent waterpower.

The mill's setting is integral to its initial and later primary milling functions: a corn mill initially (1690) and an iron rolling mill later (c. 1752 briefly and c. 1810-1840). The Wissahickon Creek provided consistent water flow/waterpower, and being at the confluence of the Schuylkill River, the mill had critical river docking access that enabled boats and barges to deliver grains and, later, iron bars and later still people.

Additions: A kitchen has been built over the original wheel-pit, and two porches have been added, one now enclosed. The mill's "structural integrity" and its very survival are particularly notable: records show that before 1955, the mill's first floor flooded about every twenty-five years, and post-1955 after ramps to the twin City Line Bridges were built, it has flooded into the first floor every thirteen years (15 feet above average Creek and River levels).

Narrative Descriptions by the areas of significance:

Contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

Settlement: The new corn mill contributed to the establishment and earliest development of new settlements at the western end of Liberty Lands and Roxborough. While the first tax list for

Philadelphia County in 1693 lists the "Robeson & Sanders Mill"[6] as being assessed by the Northern Liberty Land tax collector, Mounce Cox, despite all the earliest surveys as having Turner's land on the Wissahickon Creek meeting the River in Roxborough.

None of Roxborough's 'Original Purchasers' are listed on the 1693 list, and there is no listing for a Roxborough tax assessor. William Ruttinghuyson (William Rittenhouse) is listed, albeit as being on the Germantown tax assessors list (Peter Knerless).

The steep contours of the gorge of the Schuylkill River in this area and the Wissahickon Creek gorge caused Daniel Pastorius to choose the flat lands of Germantown.[7] The settlements from the Falls of the Schuylkill (now East Falls) to the Indian Path that became the section Ridge Road, decades later leading up the steep hill to the upper flat area of Roxborough, had little farming potential, and much of by the River east of the Creek was in a flood plain. The "Shoomac Park" colonists lived far from Penn's vision of "Our Townships lie square; generally the Village in the Center."[8] However, as discussed in the Transportation section below, settlers were needed to support the growing industry and transportation needs of Germantown, Merion, Plymouth, and Roxborough.

Industry: The history of the Robeson Rolling Mill begins with its builder, Richard Townsend, being recruited in England by William Penn; the mill's construction is preceded by two other mills built by Townsend in the new Colony and provides first-hand insights into both Penn's and Townsend's relationships in trading with the Lenni Lenape.

William Penn prepared for the new colony's need for industry and a variety of craftsmen and merchants to ensure its success, including mills needed for shelter and food. Richard Townsend was a Master Millwright and Carpenter who brought on *The Welcome* the basic materials of a mill which he "brought ready framed from London, which served for grinding the corn and sawing of boards…"[9]

Townsend came in 1692 with Penn and recounted his and Penn's initial contacts and trading with the Indians "And as our worthy Proprietor treated the Indians with extraordinary humanity they became very civil and loving to us and brought into us abundance of provisions. As in other countries the Indians were exasperated by hard treatment which hath been the foundation of much bloodshed, so the contrary treatment here has produced their love and affection." It has been hypothesized that Townsend employed Indian labor to build his second mill in Germantown[10] (then Bristol Township) on Wingohocking Creek, named for the local Indian Chief. This hypothesis stems from the fact that the mill lay next to the principal camp of the local Lenape tribes and their Chief Wingohocking. Additionally, the hypothesis is based on the belief that Indian labor would have been needed as the manpower from the two dozen families in Germantown by 1683 would not have provided sufficient labor to build a mill.[11]

[6] Starts on page 142: The Pennsylvania magazine of history and brganiography
[7] Moak 1997 A FAIR AND IMPARTIAL SEATING? Thesis: Moak 1997 Thesis
[8] Ibid, page 26
[9] Full text of "Townsend--Townshend, 1066-1909: the history, genealogy and alliances of the English and American house of Townsend" (archive.org)
[10] See "The Redmens' Trail" by Edward B. Phillips, pg. 16. Chadwick-Papers-Volume-53.pdf (eastfallshistoricalsociety.org)
[11] There were 13 original families in 1683: Germantown, PA and the first public protest against slavery in North America - IGHS

Searches have yielded no records of the Robeson Rolling Mill needing to be rebuilt[ii], but by about 1800, it was 'reborn' and became the most productive iron rolling mills in the area, per the 1820 Census' Manufacturing Schedule.

Economics – Land, Waterpower, & Monopolies: Robert Turner was the first colonial owner of the Mill Property. Robert Turner was a friend of and the first person to whom William Penn wrote after King Charles II granted Penn the new colony on 5 March 1861. Turner was a "First Purchaser" of 5,000 acres in total, the maximum for an individual First Purchaser, and was granted "Shomack Park" (sic) with 500 acres in 1683 and several other plots.

Penn and Turner were investors in the Rittenhouse Paper Mill, which was built in 1690 and likely reinvested when, after a winter freshet washed away the first mill, it was relocated and rebuilt upstream in 1701. (This date and the freshet are significant as the mill Townsend built in 1684 in Germantown was also severely damaged in 1701. It is likely that the Robeson Rolling Mill was also damaged and possible that this event prompted the building of a larger mill about 400 yards north on higher ground.)

In addition to its access to transportation vis the River, Turner's 500 acres and its confluence of the Wissahickon Creek and the Schuylkill River, arguably had the best source of waterpower in Philadelphia County (the County then included all of Montgomery County and most of Berks County) as well as access from the farmlands in and next to Germantown.

William Penn declared early on that he held the monopoly on water-powered grist mills and later extended that to include windmills. His logic for this was that he needed the income to offset the early losses of the 'public mills' he built, e.g., the Chester Creek mill in 1682. Penn also declared that Ferries across the Schuylkill River required his approval; more on this below. Mills built by Townsend seemed to be exempt from the grist-milling monopoly.

The 101-year lease of 50.5 acres to a partnership, and the subsequent ownership of the mill by multiple parties in the colony ear exhibits how land was an important early version of the 'corporate' stock market of the day for investors.

Transportation - Robeson Ferry & Road Dockets: The western tip of the leased land also became the landing point c. 1693 for the first ferry to cross the Schuylkill River north of the city to & from Lower Merion. This was an important route as the Welsh Quakers who settled on the "Welsh Tract" on the western side of the River c. 1682 had no grist mills for several decades, and their grain crops likely came to the Robeson Mills to be milled or were forced to go the "Penn's Mill" on Chester Creek.

Early 'roads' were paths the Indians used and were not publicly supported until "Road Docket" requests were made and approved. The larger mill on the same tract as the original corn mill stood close to the road north to Germantown, at a place the Wissahickon Creek could be forded going west. The path/road split on the west side of the Wissahickon to go the river ferry to Merion, onto Conestoga Road, and on the other split in the road/path heading northwest to the growing settlements around Whitemarsh and Plymouth.

The first relevant Road Docket Survey entry was made in October 1700, and it was resurveyed in 1706 to build a public road from "Wissahickon Mills to Philadelphia." The December Session, 1723, and request for an improvement in "..the road from the Market Place of Germantown to Andrew Robinson's (Robeson's) mill and Ferry, and from the landing place of said Ferry through Merion into the great road leading from Conestoga (Old Lancaster Road) to Philadelphia (the said road having been used with great conveniency [sic] to the said petitioners for upwards of 30 years last past, but being only on sufferance)."[12] The location of the shallow falls south of the ferry's route can be seen on Thomas Holme's famous map "A map of the improved part of the Province of Pennsilvania in America : begun by Wil. Penn, Proprietary & Governour thereof anno 1681" A map of the improved part of the Province of Pennsilvania in America : begun by Wil. Penn, Proprietary & Governour thereof anno 1681 | Library of Congress.



The property's embodiment of the work of a master.

In addition to those who could afford to buy land, William Penn traveled extensively in Great Britain, Ireland, and Europe to recruit individuals with the essential talents in industry, commerce, farming, building, mining, and various artisanal skills needed to ensure the colony's success.

Richard Townsend exemplifies one such person Penn recruited: a "**Master Millwright**" and "Master Carpenter." Townsend's first success highlights Penn's planning abilities. Townsend arrived with Penn on the ship *Welcome* in 1682 and with timbers[iii] and other basic materials of a mill, he wrote "… which I brought ready framed from London, which served for grinding the corn and sawing of boards…"[13]

The Robeson Rolling Mill is the third of the first three water-powered grist mills constructed by Pennsylvania Colonists, all built or designed by Richard Townsend, Millwright. In 1686, Robert Turner leased 50.5 acres on the west side of the Wissahickon Creek for 101 years to Joshua Tittery and Richard Townsend. The mill was originally built as a corn mill, which was the most readily available grain crop at the time. Townsend was a member of the Religious Society of Friends and was invited to sail on *The Welcome* with William Penn in 1682. (Townsend was a contracted "servant" to the Society of Free Traders. It is notable that "Most of the society's servants traveled on that fast ship, the Jeffrey, which left in September; but Townsend wrote that he was "moved to go" with his friend Penn.") Tittery, also a servant of the Free Society of Traders, arrived on the ship America on the 20th of August 1683 with Francis Danial Pastorius, Thomas Lloyd, and 80 others.

The first mill built by a Penn colonist was on Chester Creek, circa 1683, utilizing pre-framed mill works that Townsend brought on the Welcome. With Tittery's help and others, it was constructed to either

[12] Full text of "History of old Germantown, with a description of its settlement and some account of its important persons, buildings and places connected with its development"
[13] Full text of "Townsend--Townshend, 1066-1909: the history, genealogy and alliances of the English and American house of Townsend" (archive.org)

mill corn or saw wood. (Townsend sold his one-eighth interest to the other Chester Mills investors after moving to Germantown.) The second grist mill was built by Townsend in 1684 on Wingohocking Creek, about a mile from the Germantown Square Market, near where he lived. The third mill Townsend built was a sawmill just north of the corn mill, both of which were in place by 1690, as referenced in a key "Indenture" (deed).

The record of Richard Townsend's building the first three grist mills in the Colony is well established.[iv] Given the records of the endurance of the two mills in Germantown (1684-1873) and Roxborough (1690-present), Townsend should be considered as the Colony's first 'Master Millwright.' His choices of the locations for these two mills could not have been better.

Given the size of the mill in Roxborough and the fact that Townsend was actively managing the mill in Germantown, it seems possible that he had the assistance of William Preston, a Master Builder, in constructing the Robeson Rolling Mill.

Preston arrived in 1683 on the ship *America* with Daniel Pastorius, and he knew Townsend's partner in the 101-year lease, Joshua Tittery, from before they came to the Colony. Preston was for a time a Keithian Quaker, which of note as he infamously participated with Robert Turner in a "testimony against galleries," (tore down Quaker Meeting 'pulpits,' and Preston noted in Philadelphia Meeting records as being assigned to building the first Quaker Meeting House in Philadelphia, the Center Square Meeting House built c. 1685.[v] The Quaker "Quarterly Meeting" records for 1684 have the list of "Friends appearing for Tackony & Poquessin, William Preston, Richard Townsend…" and so we know the two lived near each other from an early date.[vi]

The choice of the Wissahickon Creek mill site yielded very positive results for all those involved. By 1693, the corn mill was taxed as being "very profitable. …. just three years after (Andrew Sr.) Robeson and (Charles) Saunders went into business (then the owners), the mill property was valued at £350 for tax purposes." (Spelled "Sanders" per transcription of the tax list.)

Industry: The 'rebirth' of the mill at the beginning of the 1800s highlights the last phase of the use of waterpower while also tying together the Robeson family's ties to the iron mining and processing industry IN Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

Robeson Rolling Mill Ownership & Early Uses

Ownership Summary: See the next two pages for a recap of the ownership and leases of the land from 1681 to 1816. The first Endnote has a detailed list and has links to the images of the referenced documents[vii].

Pre-Penn: The mill's history starts with a grant from William Penn, but the Swedes in the "New Sweden" settlement at Upland claimed the land decades earlier. "In 1677, John Mattson, Swen Lom, and Lace Dalbo were granted a tract of 300 acres "att ye place called wiessahitkonk on ye westside up in ye Schuyl Kill" (Records of Upland Court, 62)."[14]

The Swedes were overtaken by the Dutch but allowed to continue as a "Swedish Nation." This ended about 1681 when William Penn received his charter for Pennsylvania and the three lower counties, present-day Delaware. Andrew Robeson III (b. 1699, d. 1740) married Magdelin Rudman, a local Swede, at Old Swedes Church. Her father was Andreas Rudman (b. 1668 in Sweden, d. 1708), and he married Elizabeth Mattson (1678 – 1736).

Ownership Complexity: The chain of ownership or control seems more complex than one might expect as the land & the mills were leased, partners added to the lease twice, partitioned by a Sheriff, occupied by 'dower rights,' sold at Sheriff sales, and inherited under various conditions of the Wills of its owners.

The objectives are to:

1.) Determine the date the Robeson's Rolling Mill was built,

2.) Document its primary purposes over time, i.e., Corn Mill, Rolling Mill, Logwood Mill, Stables, and

3.) Present its history in the historical context of the communities it served.

Geographic Focal Point: The 'year page' **1733** recaps the Mill's location within the **key eight-acre parcel of land** that contained the Rolling Mill as one of the three 'Wissahickon Mills' that were commonly owned in 1702.

Recap of Uses: The next three pages recap the uses of the mill and presents the key 1690 & 1691 Deeds that establish its erection date and the later Deeds or other documents that document it use.

Links in the Recap of Uses:

- Where possible, these links are to sites that are generally available to the public. Some links are to the Philadelphia Canoe Club web repository, which contains pictures of non-public paper deeds; these links generally end in philacanoe.org. Please report any problems with these and any other links: Griffin Affel, gpaffel@comast.net.
- References and some links to documents that do not contribute to establishing the use of the mill but do establish the chain of title to the land and mill are in **Endnote #1**.

[14] A History of the Indian Villages and Place Names in Pennsylvania https://books.google.com/books?id=5lyLDwAAQBAJ&pg=PT551&lpg=PT551&dq=%221677%22+wissahickon+%22john+mattson%22&source=bl&ots=DlaDLjvln7&sig=ACfU3U0tYy_G3IU-9Rtq9hmrHJv8KWIaMw&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwipooTXou71AhW5kIkEHaQQBwsQ6AF6BAgCEAM#v=onepage&q=%221677%22%20wissahickon%20%22john%20mattson%22&f=false and https://hsmcpa.org/images/thebulletin/1958vol11no2.pdf Swedish maps: https://etc.usf.edu/maps/pages/8100/8118/8118b.pdf and http://www.mapsofpa.com/17thcentury/1690lindstromb.jpg

Year	Name &/or Building Use	Robeson's Rolling Mill, References in Deeds & Wills, Maps, Pictures, Names and its Uses 1686 – 1905 Source and Notes	Key Links for Endnotes
1684	Original Land Grant	**1684** William Penn "grants" 500 acres to Robert Turner	1684 Deed Robert Turner 500 Acres.pdf (philacanoe.org)
1686	*See Sources & Notes*	**19 Jun 1686:** 101-Year Lease 50.5 acres from R. Turner to J Tittery with boundaries **land all on West side of the Wissahickon Creek**	Fifty and one half Acres Mapped.pdf (philacanoe.org)
1690	**"Corn Mill"** (On the West side of Wissahickon Creek)	**8 Nov 1690 Indenture** - Lease addendum adding C. Sanders & A. Robeson. West side of the Creek based on stated boundary lines and states that it contains a Saw Mill and a Corn Mill.	1690 Nov 8 J Tittery and R Townsend to A Robeson Word to Pdf.pdf (philacanoe.org)
1691	**"Corn Mill"** (On the West side of Wissahickon Creek)	**4 Apr 1691** Indenture adding J Tyzache **as of 1689** (addition of Tyzache predates Robeson/Sanders agreement) and states that it contains a Saw Mill and a Corn Mill.	1691 Apr 4 Tittery and Townsend Lease to Tyzache.pdf (philacanoe.org)
1691	**"Corn Mill"**	**11 Jul 1691** Indenture from R. Turner, Tittery et al. land & lease to A. Robeson and C Sanders; it states that it contains a Saw Mill and a Corn Mill.	11 July 1691 Deed.pdf (philacanoe.org)
1691	" " "	" " " (Different version, official transcription than above.)	https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSF1-91Y9?i=499&cat=227024
1702	**"One Water Corn Mill"**	**1702 Sep 15** A Robeson **Sr.** to John Vanlaer half 200 acres and half 8 acres. References "One Water Corn Mill" in 4th line on right and continued "Millns" (seems to be three milln [sic] under the same roof) upstream from the Corn Mill.	1702 Sep 15 A Robeson to J Vanlaer half 200 acres and half 8 acres.pdf (philacanoe.org)
1703	**"One Water Corn Mill"**	**1703 Oct 5 John Vanlaer and Sarah Sanders to** Andrew Robeson **Jr.**	1703 J. Vanlaer and S. Sanders to A. Robeson Jr.pdf (philacanoe.org)
1720	**"Roxborrow Mill and the Bolting Mill"**)	**27 Feb 1719/1720** Andrew Robeson Jr. Will - reports two mills: "…lands belonging to the Roxborrow Mill and Bolting Mill and..." (Roxborrow *(Corn/Grist)* on West side and Bolting *(Flour)* Mill on East side of the Wissahickon Creek)	Wills, 1682-1916; indexes to wills, 1682-1924; ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C9B2-P3NS-Q (familysearch.org)
1748	**"Corn or Grist Mill"**	**1748 Sep 22** Zachariah Whitpaine to Magdalen Robeson 8 acres: "…Water Corn or *[2nd mill]* Grist Mills or Millns (sic) (now being two grist mills with two pairs of Stones under one Roof) sometimes called or known by the name Wissahickon Mills and now called Roxborough Mills with their Appurtenances..." "Mill Race**s"** Plural.	Deeds (Philadephia County, Pennsylvania), 1683-1886 ; index to deeds, 1683-1916; ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSN1-D9NS-K?i=325&cat=227024 (familysearch.org)
1752	**"Corn or Grist Mill"**	**1752 May 22** Magdalen Robeson to Henry Shellenberg - The wording seems to be simply a copy of the wording in the deed that conveyed land and mills to Magdalen Robeson 4 years earlier with there being two Mills.	HYPERLINK "https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSFB-R9MY-H?cat=227024"Deeds

			(Philadephia County, Pennsylvania), 1683-1886; index to deeds, 1683-1916; ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSFB-R9MY-H?i=215&cat=227024 (familysearch.org)
1752	**"Rolling Mill"**	**1752 Aug 22** Deed Rudman **Robeson** to Henry Shellenberg - The wording is the same as in early part of the deed as Magdalen's deed, but a later section has in it "Rolling" descriptor, phrased as "Stables, Millhouses, **Rolling** Mills, Buildings,…"	Deeds (Philadephia County, Pennsylvania), 1683-1886 ; index to deeds, 1683-1916; ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSFB-YQ8X-L?i=228&cat=227024 (familysearch.org)
1755	**"Corn or Grist Mill"**	**1755 Jun 22** Deed Dorothy - Henry Shellenberg to John Vanderen - as above the May 1752 deed; Shellenberg seems to have converted back to being a corn mill.	1755 Shellenberg to John Vanderan.pdf (philacanoe.org)
1777	**Key Map**	**John Hills Map**: Sketch of the Surprise at German Town by the American Forces Commanded by General Washington October 4th, 1777	Sketch of the surprise of German Town by the American forces commanded by General Washington October 4th 1777 - Scanned Maps - CURIOSity Digital Collections (harvard.edu)
1789	**Corn Mill**	**1789 Dec 8**: James Ash, Sheriff, witnesses transfer from the Vanderan Estate to Peter & Jonathon Robeson. The document contains a reference to the Sheriff Deed Book. Mill may have been unused.	1789 Dec 8 James Ash Sheriff to Peter and Jonathon Robeson.pdf (philacanoe.org) See also 1st page 3rd ¶: Deeds (Philadephia County, Pennsylvania), 1766-1800: Philadelphia. Deeds 1766–1800 • FamilySearch
1790	**Corn Mill**	**1790 Mar 6:** James Ash, Sheriff, for the Vanderen's estate deed to Peter & Jonathon Robeson: "All those Corn and Grist Mills…on both sides of the Wissahickon Creek..."	1790 Mar 6 James Ash Esq Sheriff Vanderen estate Deed to Peter and Jonathon Robeson.pdf (philacanoe.org)
1802	Barn	**1802 Jul 6**: Sheriff Israel Israel [sic] to Peter Robeson to satisfy debts of Jonathon Robeson, deceased. 1790 "Corn Mill" is not referenced.	1802 Sheriff Deed to P Robeson.pdf (philacanoe.org)
TBD	Rolling Mill	TBD - When and who reinstalled the Rolling Mill wheel & works.	TBD
1816	**"Iron Mills"**	**J. Watson 1.) painting and 2.) pen & ink** with writing that reads: "Look up on the Whissihicon *(sic)* Bridge from the Iron Mills 4 October"	1816 Captain Watsons with Wheel Circled.pdf (philacanoe.org)
1816	Mill	**1816 Map** of Philadelphia County by John Melish has three mills	https://westphillyhistory.archives.upenn.edu/maps/1816-map-melish
1817	**"Robeson's Rolling Mill"**	**1817 records** for water height for "Peter Robeson's Rolling Mill."	1817 Water Heights Robeson's Rolling Mill.JPG (4032×3024) (philacanoe.org)

1816 - 1825	**Rolling Mill**	Schuylkill Navigation System Collection drawings 1st Reach 1-1.jpg. Has a notable boat landing or dock.	https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1PS8gXP__7M7U1LZZHXQBxaxERbVBEade
1820	**Rolling Mill**	**1820 Census of manufactures** original, documenting the mill being rented by Dr. John Moore, son-in-law of Peter Robeson; 4 page description.	Records of the 1820 census of manufactures; ark:/61903/3:1:3QHK-93PJ-XFFC?i=273&cat=280127 (familysearch.org)
1820	**Rolling Mill**	**1820 Census TRANSCRIPTION** - May need CTRL-CLCK	John Moore Renting the Rolling and Slitting Mill and Nail Factory 1820 Census.pdf (philacanoe.org)
1820	**Rolling Mill**	Computer-Aided Design (CAD) drawing	1823 Robeson Rolling Mill Illustration PORTRAIT.pdf
1822	**Rolling Mill**	Frederick Graff drawing and documents related to suit and Fairmount Dam raising the River water level upstream, with geographic diagrams and drawing of the Rolling Mill Waterwheel.	Philadelphia Architects and Buildings 1822 (philadelphiabuildings.org)
1822	Rolling Mill & the Nail Factory located between it & the Saw Mill on Ridge Ave.	Document in the Philadelphia City Archives Fairmount Park purchases, Dobson Files. Part of Robeson suit vs. the Schuylkill Navigation Company for the loss of water power when the Navigation Company built the lower dam c. 1816 (Fairmount Waterworks Dam). 2nd link has the critical water power measurements and some open questions about the Nail Factory.	1822 Measurements Robeson.pdf (philacanoe.org) 1820 1822 Robeson Mills Water Levels and Waterpower Measurments.pdf (philacanoe.org)
1827	Not Reported	Schuylkill Navigation Co. Maps Images 1-112 and 1-1	https://www.racc.edu/sites/default/files/imported/Yocum/canal/Reaches/Maps/Reach1/1-112.gif
1841	Rolling Mill	2nd set of Frederick Graff drawing and related 2nd suit documents with waterwheel and measurements for Freshet occurring 1839 and prior, being relevant as were before the dam was rebuilt in 1843-1844.	Philadelphia Architects & Buildings 1845 (philadelphiabuildings.org)
1841 - 1848	'Logwood Mill' making paints and dyes from logwood[15]	"Plan of the Township of Roxborough" and note from Jon. Robeson about raised level water at mouth of Creek as problem. *Public Ledger* 1841: "Wanted – A person well acquainted with Chipping and Grinding all kings of Dye Woods…at Robeson's Mills."	Township of Roxborough by M. Dripps [1848) Jonathon Robeson note flow of water to the Logwood Mill
1874	Stables	Used as or in conjunction with a stable by Fairmount Park Guards and pre-Revolutionary War erection date assertion (Author unknown.)	1902 Dec 8 Philadelphia Inquirer Article ONE Page.pdf (philacanoe.org)
1876	Social Eating & Fishing Club	The Schuylkill Fishing Co. of the State in Schuylkill - leased & Occupied as its HQ 1877 - 1887; leases through 1902 as base to fish	Schuylkill Fishing Co Background And An authentic historical memoir of the Schuylkill Fishing

[15] See background on dye mills here: Mills make the world go round – Page 11 – The Mills Archive

			Company of the State in Schuylkill by William Milnor | Open Library
1905	Canoe Club	Philadelphia Canoe Club	Philadelphia Canoe Club - Home (philacanoe.org)

Link: History Recap with all Links Updated June 13 2024.pdf (philacanoe.org)

Mill Erection Date

The mills in the Wissahickon Valley have been researched and documented by many historians and several amateurs, although one of the latter was quite accomplished, i.e., Douglas Macfarlan, MD.[viii]

In Macfarlan's preface for the three mills, labeled #1, #2, and #3, he wrote, "Location: Mouth of the Wissahickon. There were several mills at this location at various times, first a grist and saw mill; the earliest mills were on the west bank at the mouth and was later known as the Roxboro mill" (page 6). The "west bank at the mouth" is where Robeson's Rolling Mill still stands. It seems very likely that mill #2, the sawmill was built first to provide lumber to build houses, build the other mill, and build the head race (water source) to the Corn Mill.

The original of an early deed addendum of the leaseholders & builders was found (1690 Joshua Tittery, Richard Townsend adding Andrew Robeson and Charles Sanders) and is hard to read, so a partial transcription was created. A lengthier transcription and the images of the entire deed are included in the Endnotes.

Due to the involvement of multiple parties, the deed has a great deal of repetition; below is a crucial section relative to the erection date of the first two mills **by or before 1690 on the west side of Wissahickon Creek**:

> "And whereas the said Joshua Tittery by his deed under his hand and seal dated the eighth day of **November 1690**[16], did with the consent of the said Richard Townsend, Witnessed by his being party thereto for the consideration therein mentioned, grant alien, bargain, sell, estoppel, confirm, demise and assign to the said Andrew Robson and Charles Saunders[17], their ... heirs and assigns, equally between them, one full just and equal and undivided Moitie[5] & half part of said fifty and a half acres of Land[18], leases and premises with the half of **all the tilled Land, Improvements, Houses, Saw and Corn Mills, and of all the Iron Work, Timber work Millstones and Tools and improvements**, then belonging or intended to belong unto then provided or intended to be provided for the mills aforesaid and all the other Timber and Wood, sawed or unsawed, for during and unto the full end of the term yet to come and yet expired… (See Endnote[ix])

The research of the deeds suggests that the existing Robeson Rolling Mill is the original building, built before or finished in 1690. The archives of the Fairmount Park Commission were searched to document the history of the mill, and no evidence was found that the mill was later rebuilt.[x]

And, the mill stands in the original plot of the leased land.

[16] Reference to yet an earlier agreement wherein Tittery and Townsend create a 'partnership agreement.'.
[17] Charles Sanders (or Saunders) was a lawyer, and in 1694, he was appointed to the "Council of the Provinces of Pennsylvania" along with Andrew Robeson and Robert Turner: pg. 467 Pennsylvania colonial records. V. 1 (familysearch.org)
[18] All of which lay on the west side of the Wissahickon per the original (1686) and revised (1689 and 1690) leases.

Summary – Erection Date by 1690 on 50 ½ Acres

This assertion is based on the fact that that a "Corn Mill" is referenced in three deeds, 8 Nov. 1690, 4 April 1691, and the 11 July 1691 indentures, that leased or sold the land on the west side of the Wissahickon Creek and Robeson's Rolling Mill is the still existent Mill at the confluence of the Wissahickon Creek and Schuylkill River.[19]

Tittery and Townsend leased the land on the west side of the creek as there was enough land for both a saw and corn mill there just below a natural dam[20] on the Wissahickon Creek. Later, Robeson and Sanders came to see that an investment in a larger mill with multiple waterwheels could be built on the east side just above the dam when long race and larger mill pond was completed approximately 300 yards upstream .

After the larger 'Wissahickon Mills' complex was built upstream, the corn mill on the west bank may well have been used to just mill the grains that came down the Schuylkill River or across from Lower Merion by way of Robeson's Ferry. For more on this possibility, see Endnote[xi].

Modifications: The only notable alteration to the mill was likely to the widening of the wheel pit was c. 1752 or c. 1810 to fit the larger, ten-foot wide 'Rolling Waterwheel' – see the Year 1822 for the waterwheel's size.

Comparable Mills: There were once over fifty mills in the Wissahickon Creek and its tributaries. While the Robeson Rolling Mill could be as old as 333 years (built before c. 1690) or rebuilt as a Rolling Mill by 1752, its ranking as the oldest Mill still standing on the Wissahickon is remarkable.

See this Endnote for a review of the three other mills standing in the Valley outside of Philadelphia.[xii]

[19] The 11 July 1691 added John Tyzack as an owner, retrospectively, it seems. It references the "Tripartite Indentures of the co-partnership mentioned, and which bear date the twenty-fifth day of March 1689."

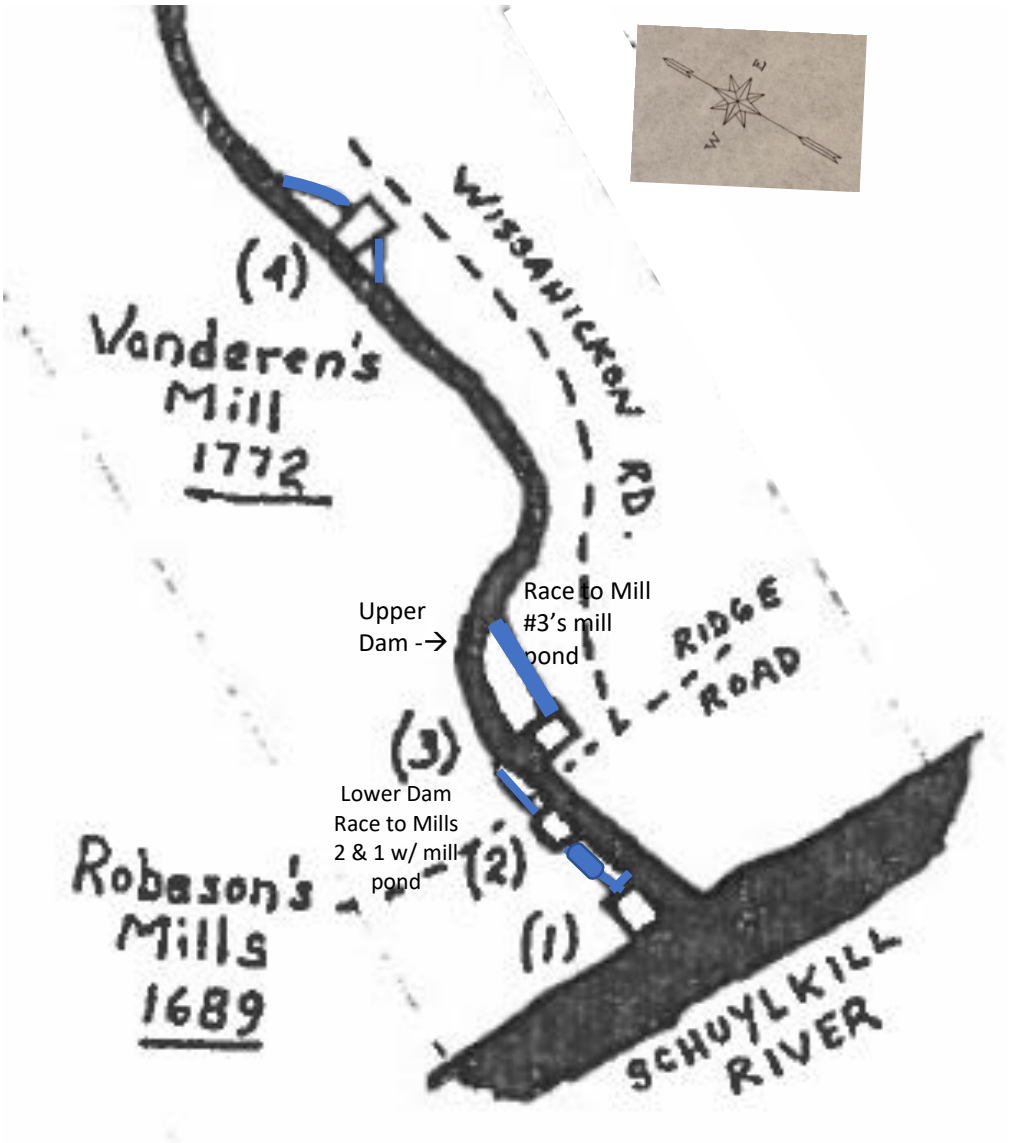
[20] See for reference to lower dam, Chap 11 "Early History" Full text of "The Wissahickon" (archive.org)

The Three Wissahickon Mills c. 1690 (2) and c. 1701 (3rd) on 200 Acres

The Robeson's Rolling Mill (#1). For perspective, here is a drawing of the water Races to the Wissahickon Mill (#3) and the Saw Mill (#2), whose tail race lead to the Rolling Mill (#1), which was in this time frame a Corn Mill.

The drawing is based on the map from John P. Myers, "The Early Mills of Roxborough," 1991, as drawn by his wife Karen. Blue coloring was added to show water in races. Early on, the Wissahickon was crossed via a 'ford' before there was a bridge. (The date the bridge was erected is still being researched.)

At first, there was a natural dam where the race provided water for Mills # 1 and #2, shown below as the "lower dam." The race to Mill #3, which carried much more water to that larger mill with three millstones "under one roof," may have needed the dam improved to provide or control the needed water; no pre-1800 map illustrates an upper dam. To improve and control the Creek's water flow, the natural "upper dam" above Mill #3 was perhaps fortified between 1693 and 1702, and a sluice gate and the race were added to connect the Creek to a "mill pond." A larger dam above Mill #3 was reportedly raised in height after 1746.[21]



The 500 ft. Race from Mill #2 to Mill #3 may well have looked like the below pictures:



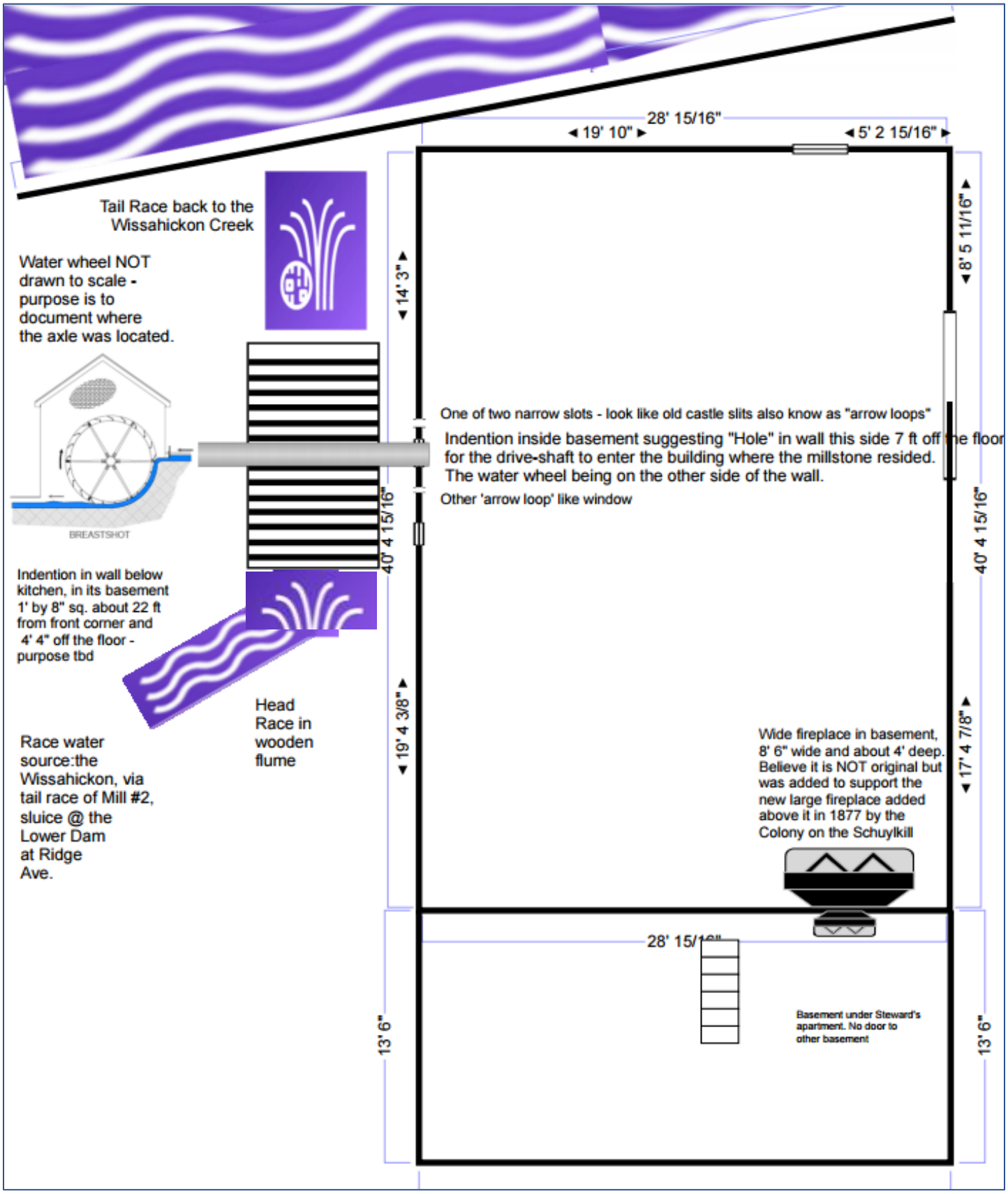


Thompson-Neely Mill Race at Washington's Crossing gate to head race from mill pond:



[21] Per H. G. Jones: "Historic notes of olden time in Roxborough and Manayunk" FamilySearch Books Search Results Pg 23. Note: Mills 1 and 2 were built by 1689, or at the latest 1690, but mill #3 was built later, c. 1700.

Design of the Robeson Rolling Mill (#1). This design illustrates the original structure is the basic rectangle as shown below, being the plan of the basement/stone floor[22]. The Wissahickon Creek runs at a slight angle at the top of the picture as shown on the prior page. (Endnote 1st floor; 2nd floor all opens above main room and two rooms above Stewards' quarters[xiii].)



[22] The floor on which the Millstones are situated. See Endnote for the layout of the 1st floor.

1681 – 1733: The Early Years & Mill Erection Dating Details

1681 - 1682 The arrival of Richard Townsend[23] one of the mill builders with Wm. Penn: more follows next page related to the Wissahickon Mills

William Penn and Richard Townsend: Here is a key quote from an often-referenced first-hand account of William Penn's trip to and arrival in Pennsylvania in 1682 as taken from "Testimony of Richard Townsend."[24]

> "…in the year 1682 several ships being provided, I found a concern on my mind to embark with them, with my wife and child; and about the latter end of the Sixth-month, having settled my affairs in London, where I dwelt, I went, on board the ship Welcome, Robert Greenaway, commander, in company with my worthy friend, William Penn; whose good conversation was very advantageous to all the company. His singular care was manifested, in contributing to the necessities of many, who were sick of the Small-pox, then on board; out of which company about thirty died.—After a prosperous passage of about two months, having had, in that time, many good meetings, on board, we arrived here."

The Townsend-Penn relationship included a business purpose as summarized here: "Richard Townsend, carpenter, servant to y' Society *[Free Society of Traders]* for 5 years, — to have 50 ft ^ ann. salary : Anne Townsend, his wife, & Hannah their Daughter : W" Smith & Nathan Harrison, Berthol Green, his servants for 7 years."[25] As will be noted later, Richard Townsend was one of Penn's "First Purchasers" and had the means to buy several tracts of land in Philadelphia City & County in the Colony's early days.

Lumber to build the Mills: The first 'Chester Mill' may well have had the capacity to double as a sawmill or grist mill. In the case of the tract Townsend and Joshua Tittery leased in 1684 from Robert Turner, the partnership built a sawmill and a separate corn mill, and we would hazard a guess that the sawmill was built first because 1) the sawmill was closer to the water source and 2) it could then provide wood for the corn mill's needs.

"**1682** - Richard Townsend, a Millwright by trade, also a passenger on the "Welcome"[26], was sent out by the stock company to erect a mill "for grinding and the sawing of boards" so that the early settlers would have lumber for their houses and flour for their tables. He was awarded two shares in the partnership. The ship "Welcome" carried the first mill "ready-framed" for erection." *(The ready-framed mill was erected in Chester County, the Chester Mills.)*[27]

The Friends of the Caleb Pusey House, Inc., has an update to the above that says "Townsend built the original part of the Pusey house, now known to be the left (east) side, after his arrival on the Welcome with Penn in 1682."[xiv] This point is noted as it suggests that Townsend and or one of his three indentured servants had at least some building and masonry skills.[xv]

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[23] Free site and simple registration process to access, non-intrusive site: Richard Townsend IV (1645–1732) • Person • Family Tree Free site: https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/sources/LBBM-HH9

[24] The 1727 "Testimony of Richard Townsend" as text: MySource:Moverton/Testimony of Richard Townsend - Genealogy (werelate.org) or see this for URL for primary source from the book:http://books.google.com/books?id=IYEFAAAAQAAJ&ots=czOtoZoQ1L&dq=proud%20history%20of%20pennsylvania&pg=PA228#v=onepage&q&f=false

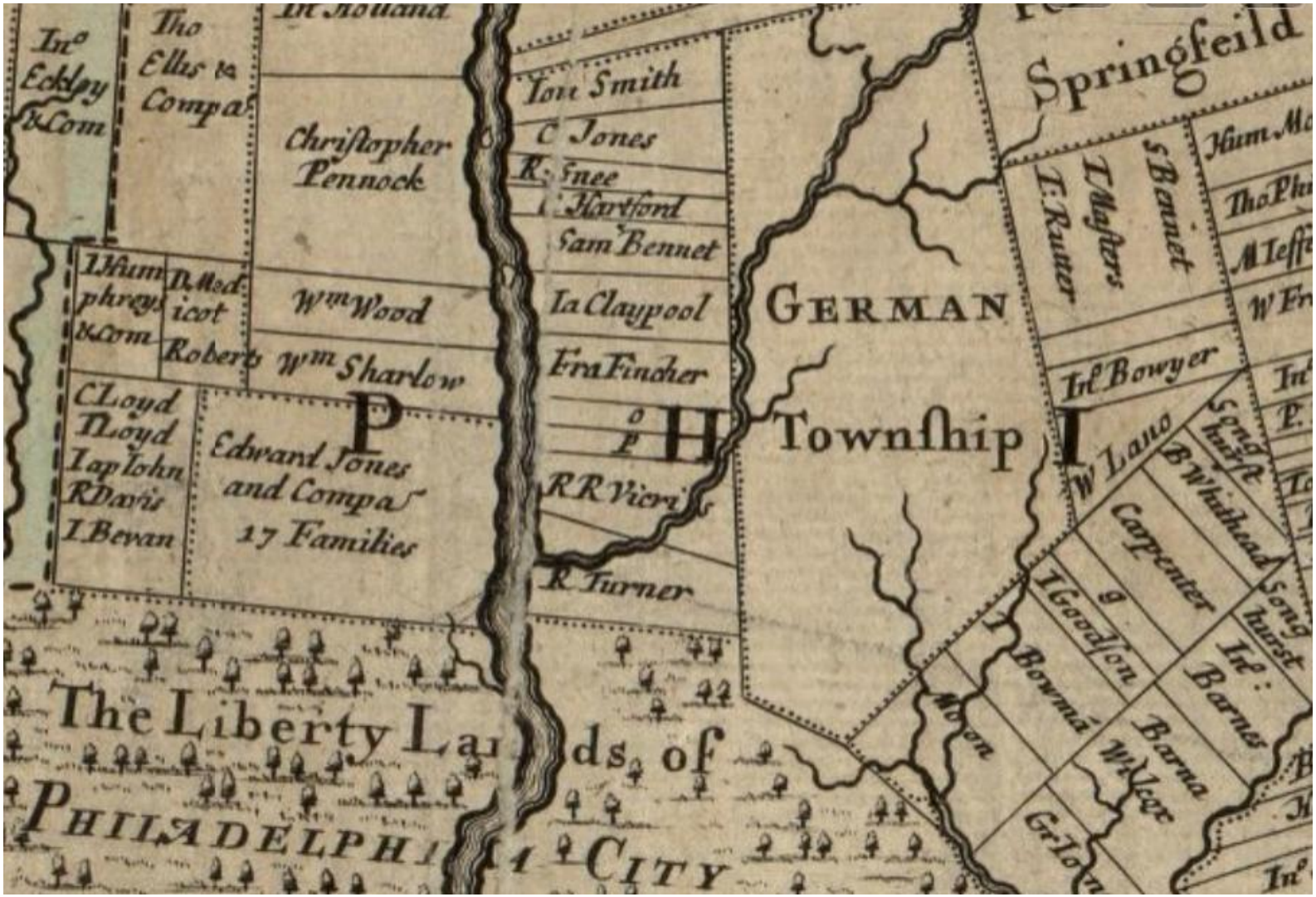
[25] From page 24 "History of Chester County, Pennsylvania with Genealogical and Biographical Sketches" by J. Smith Futhey and Gilbert Cope: History of Chester County, Pennsylvania - Google Books

[26] Arrived with Wm. Penn and came with his wife, a son born on the voyages, a daughter, and three indentured servants.

[27] For more on his move to Phila. And building a mill in Germantown ca. 1684 see: https://www.familysearch.org/library/books/viewer/726065/?offset=&return=1#page=11&viewer=picture&o=search&n=0&q=hutchins

1683 "A map of ye improved part of Pensilvania in America, divided into countyes, townships, and lotts - begun by Wil. Penn, Proprietary & Governour thereof anno 1681" Holme, Thomas, d. 1695 https://www.loc.gov/item/81692882/ enlarged https://www.loc.gov/resource/g3820.ct004136/?r=0.411,0.538,0.236,0.108,0

This famous map was published several times in London, and there are variations related to Turner's land. Compare his lot on this page to that on the next page, for example. Based on surveys seen, it appears this map preceded the next one, which has, for the sake of distinction, dated 1684.



1684 "*A map of the improved part of the Province of Pensilvania [sic] in America: begun by Wil. Penn, Proprietary & Governor (sic) thereof anno 1681*"

The date on the map "begun by" date "1681" came from the fact that King Granted William Penn the land in that year. There are some lot locations on this version that were not established until c. 1684. The Library of Congress makes no definitive note as to the date drawn. The Library of Congress implies that this version of the map could have been drawn as late as 1687 – see sections "Created / Published" and "Notes."
Map: https://www.loc.gov/item/2006625100/ enlarged https://www.loc.gov/resource/g3820.ct001815/?r=0.352,0.322,0.35,0.16,0 and also a survey completed for **Robert Turner** pre-Patent: Book D-75 pg 213.pdf (state.pa.us) and reverse side: Book D-75 pg 214.pdf (state.pa.us)



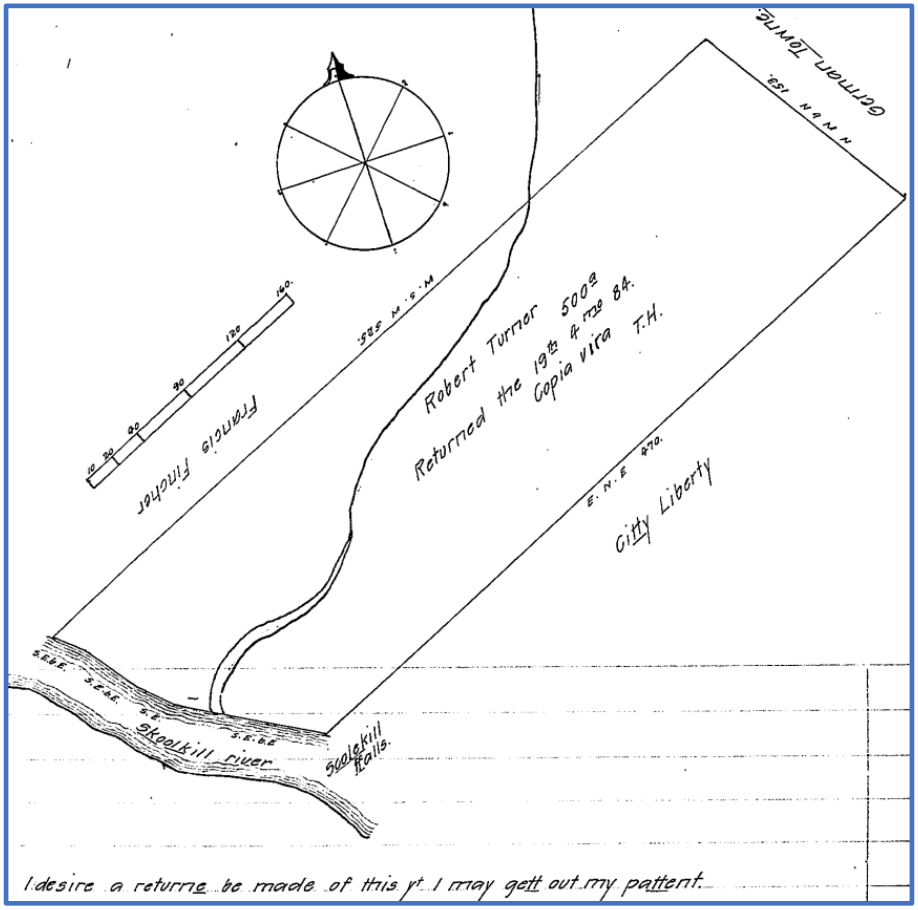
1641-1708. Survey on the right: Thomas Fairman, Surveyed "30th 1mo 1684" (source Original Purchaser Register) and "Returned 19th 4mo {16}84" per reverse side of the survey.

Created / Published London: Sold by Rob. Greene at the Rose & Crowne in Budg. Row and by John Thornton at the Platt in the Minories, Referenced as the '**1687 map'** in some places – the date published:
https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/2/25/Holme%27s_Map_of_Pennsylvania_%281687%29.jpg

See too another apparently earlier draft Survey with names such as **Andrew Robeson**, Wm. Plamer and Jon. Streper[28] (or perhaps Jan Streypers) & others to the east of Turner here: Book B22 438.pdf (state.pa.us)

It would seem that the original 'draft' (not found) may have been dictated by Robert Turner himself, as the bottom line of its transcription says, "**I desire a returne (sic) be made of this, yet I may get out my pattent**" (sic).

Map Contributor Names: Holme, Thomas. First Pennsylvania Surveyor General. Born 1624 and died 1695. Lamb, Francis, Greene, Robert, active 1674-1690. Thornton, John,



[28] Perhaps the father or uncle of William Streper who reportedly built Streper's Mill in Springfield Township (Montgomery County) c. 1761. See Historic Structures | Morris Arboretum and Genealogies Details — FamilySearch.org See to other Leonard and son John Streper family from Germantown and Springfield: Genealogies Details — FamilySearch.org

1684 The Patent dictated by William Penn: See the Endnote for the patent.[xvi]

Assertion: While there is no definitive proof that Penn handwrote the patent, the text of it certainly supports the assertion that he dictated the terms of the patent to his good friend Robert Turner.[xvii]

> The full document shown in the Endnote has not been fully transcribed. However, several **transcribed phrases in it** are written in a first-person possessive context that was not seen in any other grants found in this research effort, including many grants by Penn.
>
> For example, and with bold emphasis added, the typical deed says, "a Certain Tract of land {lies} in the County of Philadelphia...". In contrast, in this deed, there is a personal pronoun (my) and the deed reads "a Certain Tract of land in **my** County of Philadelphia."
>
> The words "**my**" and or "**myself**" appear several times, and or "**I**" or "**our**" (as possessives, e.g., "...Our Mannar {sic} of Springetts Berry my county aforesaid...") appear in the deed.
>
> Also, the date at the bottom has an additional phrase not seen in other deeds "... & the Fourth {year} of **my** Government... Wm Penn" (signature at the end).

The extensive and unusual use of the possessive voice, as well as the known friendship of the two men and the high value of the land, strongly suggests that William Penn dictated the text.

Importance: By the time this patent was issued, the surveys around Philadelphia were sufficiently complete for Penn and Turner to know that the Wissahickon Creek was perhaps the most powerful source of waterpower in or near Philadelphia.

> The site had two clear additional transportation-related attractions: 1. Less than a mile downstream at East Falls, boats from Philadelphia dock, and 2. There were established Indian Trails that could be followed to transport goods over land.
>
> Third transportation-related value: as described later (1693), the land includes a ford to the Marion side of the River that became an important site for trade and an early ferry.

1683 Second Colonial Mill & Richard Townsend, Millwright

Townsend's first mill in Philadelphia was erected in 1683 or 1684. On the left, the mill is drawn with its head race/water chute to the waterwheel intact from Keyser's "History of Old Germantown": The_Settlement_of_Germantown_in_1683.pdf (gfsnet.org). The original name of the mill was "Bucklebury Mill," as evidenced by his son Joseph's birth, which was recorded at Abington Monthly Meeting as being " of Bucklebury Mill."

On the right, c. 1890, when then known as Robert's Mill in Germantown, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Image of PHILADELPHIA: MILL, C1890. - Robert's Mill In Germantown, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Photograph, C 1890. From Granger - Historical Picture Archive

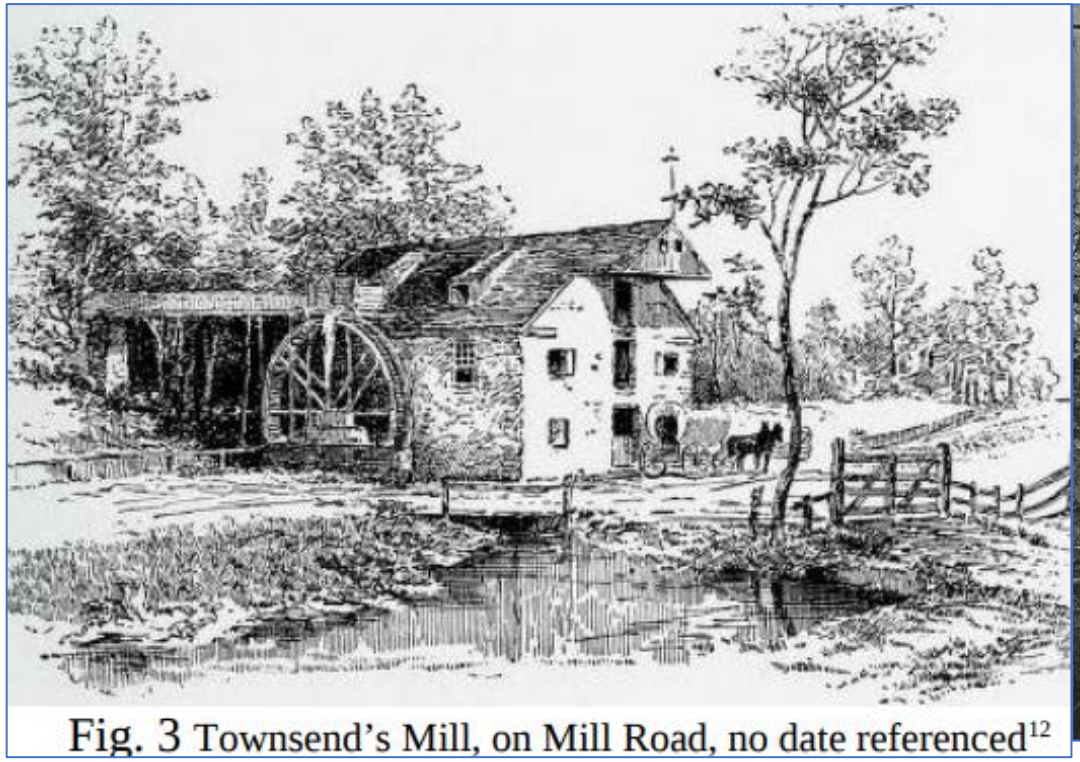


Fig. 3 Townsend's Mill, on Mill Road, no date referenced[12]



Sackamaxon: Background on Townsend's relationship with William Penn: Tag: Testimony Richard Townsend | Pilgrims and Patriots and the first mill in Chester: The Birth of Chester Mills (calebpuseyhouse.com) and Richard Townsend's Original Dwelling; Oldest Remaining House In Pennsylvania | Pilgrims and Patriots
William Penn: Penn purportedly invested in Townsend's second mill per Townsend Ward in his 1882 "THE GERMANTOWN ROAD AND ITS ASSOCIATION" pages 273-274: The Germantown Road and Its Associations (continued) on JSTOR. See also Scharf and Wescott Viewer pages 649 & 651: J. Thomas Scharf and Thompson Westcott, History of Philadelphia, 1609-1884, 3 vols. (Philadelphia, 1884) see History of Philadelphia, 1609-1884. V. 3 (familysearch.org)

1686 & 1689 Summary from a narrative from the Chadwick Papers[29]: (Note: at the link, page one is sequenced incorrectly after page 2)[Chadwick-Papers-Volume-36.pdf (eastfallshistoricalsociety.org)](Chadwick-Papers-Volume-36.pdf (eastfallshistoricalsociety.org)).

So far as can be found in searches of the Chadwick Papers, no one in his era documented that all leased land was on the west side of the Creek.

On June 19th 1686, Robert Turner leased for 101 years, 50½ acres along the Wissahickon to Joshua Tittery, a broad-glass maker, and Richard Townsend, a millwright, late of London; the partners agreeing to build mills and improve the property.

The grist mill, saw mill and dwelling were erected before 1686 and in 1689 they are mentioned in a deed of that year when the new owners sold a third interest in the mill and land to John Tysack, a broad-glass maker of London.

'First Purchasers' map with the fifty & half acres' east boundary being "Several Courses" down the Wissahickon Creek, perches in white font. A Birch Tree (with arrow) is the start of 8 reaches that bounded the fifty & half acres leased to Joshua Tittery & Richard Townsend.



[29] 'AC Chadwick', Alexander Cox Chadwick Jr. (1890-1957) was a newspaper editor in East Falls. He was editor of the Roxborough Times and, later, the Suburban Press newspapers which served Philadelphia's northwestern communities. The Chadwick Papers, 1900-1937, contains 73 scrapbooks on local history that are organized by subject.

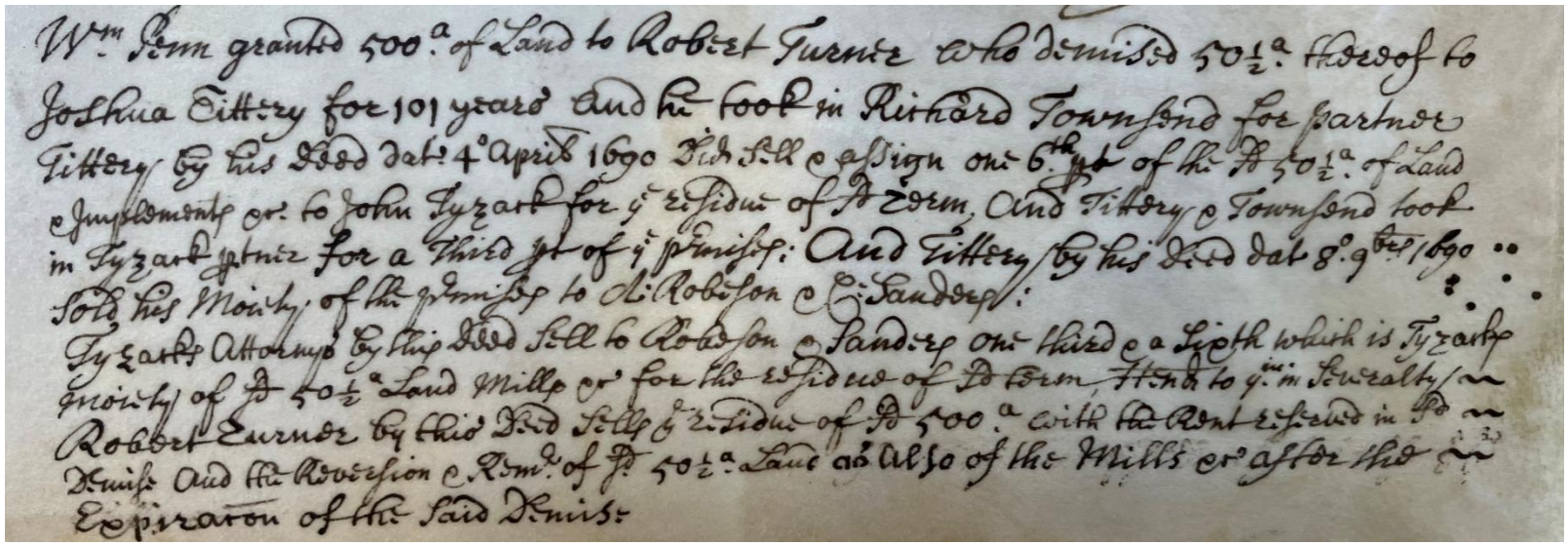
1689 - The Significance of the Indenture adding John Tyzache as of 25 March 1689

As of 1689, 1691 and as in the 1690[30] Indenture, all improvements were on the **West side of Wissahickon Creek and included a Saw Mill and a Corn Mill.**[31]



The dates of the Indentures that follow are a bit tortured as one leaseholder, John Tyzache, does not appear ever to have traveled to Pennsylvania, and William Preston acted as his attorney in fact. As a result, some documents and indentures add information not in early documents despite their preceding dates. The below document comes from the file kept in the Philadelphia City Archives and provides a good summary despite not being in the formal indenture/deed style:

"Wm Penn grants 500 acres of Land to Robert Turner who [leased] 50 ½ thereof to Joshua Tittery for 101 years and he took in Richard date 4 April 1690 Townsend for partner. Tittery by his hand did sell and assign one 6th of this [tbd] 50 ½ acres of land and improvements etc. to John Tyzask for



[30] See old transcription of 1691 Indenture here **Image 501 7th line**: Deeds (Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania), 1683-1886 ; index to deeds, 1683-1916 (familysearch.org)

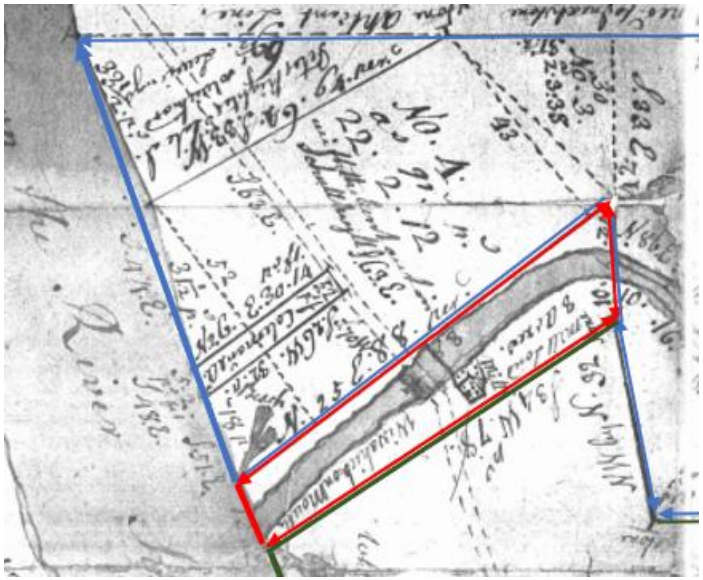
[31] Overlaid on the University of Pennsylvania "1777 Map" Series: CTRL+CLCK: Mapping West Philadelphia 1777 (upenn.edu)

1690 Nov 8: Fifty and a half acres lease: Boundaries of the Indenture adding Robeson & Sanders with boundaries of the Fifty & Half Acres lease by J. Tittery & R. Townsend as referenced in the 1690 and 1691 Indentures; the 1691 indenture references the 1689 partnership between Tittery & Townsend.[32]



"…Andrew Robson and Charles Saunders[33], their ... heirs and assigns, equally between them, one full just and equal and undivided Moitie[5] & half part of said fifty and a half acres of Land[34], leases and premises with the half of all the tilled Land, Improvements, Houses, **Saw and Corn Mills**, and of all the Iron Work, Timber work Millstones and Tools and improvements…"

Note that both the Saw and Corn Mills lay on the West bank of the Wissahickon as given by the Indenture date of 8 Nov 1690.



The newer & larger mill on the East side of the Creek was completed sometime before 1702, when the Writ of Partition created the 8-acre parcel shown on the left in a Lehman map from 1760. (This map is inserted here as it better defines the parcel that straddled the Creek than the one above, for reason explained later.)

[32] Overlaid on the University of Pennsylvania "1777 Map" Series: CTRL+CLCK: Mapping West Philadelphia 1777 (upenn.edu)

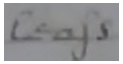
[33] Charles Sanders (or Saunders) was a lawyer, and in 1694, he was appointed to the "Council of the Provinces of Pennsylvania" along with Andrew Robeson and Robert Turner: pg. 467 Pennsylvania colonial records. V. 1 (familysearch.org)

[34] All of which lay on the west side of the Wissahickon per the original (1686) and revised (1689 and 1690) leases.

1691 Apr 4 Deed: Robert Turner, Josuha Tittery, & Richard Townsend Lease of 50.5 acres to John Tysache. (Named spelled Tyzack in some documents.)

Transcription: Indenture **4th day of April, 1691** Josuha Tittery to John Tyzache by Line Number staring at **[**line #s in brackets**]** with **key reference to 25th March 1689** 'Copartnership' with Richard Townsend – extension of the lease to Tysache pre-dated the Indenture on the prior page.
Transcription notes: Some paragraph breaks & commas have been added to ease reading; original punctuation is followed unless it seriously hinders are reading. Names are spelled as written, and keywords are emboldened.

[1] "This Indenture was made this 4th day of the second month April *Anno Domi (year of our Lord)* 1691 Between Joshua Tittery of the County of Philadelphia in the Province of Pennsylvania in America, Broad glass maker, of the one part

[2] And John Tyzache of the City of London, also broad glass maker of the other part. Whereas Robt Turner of the said town & County Merchant, by his hands  (?) Indented under his hand & seal, hath demified *(sic),* granted & to

[3] *(tbd 'his'?)* letter to the said Jousha Tittery his heirs & assigns a piece of land in the said county (being part and parcel of his *(R Turner)* five hundred acres of land and called Shoemack park. Beginning at a corner marked **birch tree** standing *(Same as 1691 deed with a **Birch** is on River NW corner of property)*

[4] *(reach 1)* on the Shuillhill *(sic)* river, thence **East North East two hundred and twenty three perches** to a corner marked popular standing upon Wessahickon Runn *(sic)*[35] , from thence down the Severale *(sic)* Courses of the said run Viz: *(to wit)*

South West [5] & by South Twenty perches *(reach 2)*,

Thence **South West twenty perches** *(reach 3)*,

Thence **South** *by* **South West fifty six** perches *(reach 4)*,

thence **West & by North fourty** Perches *(reach 5)*,

Thence **South West thirty four** perches *(reach 6)*.

Thence **South** *by* **South West fourty** *(perches) (reach 7)* [6] perches unto Shuillhill Creek,

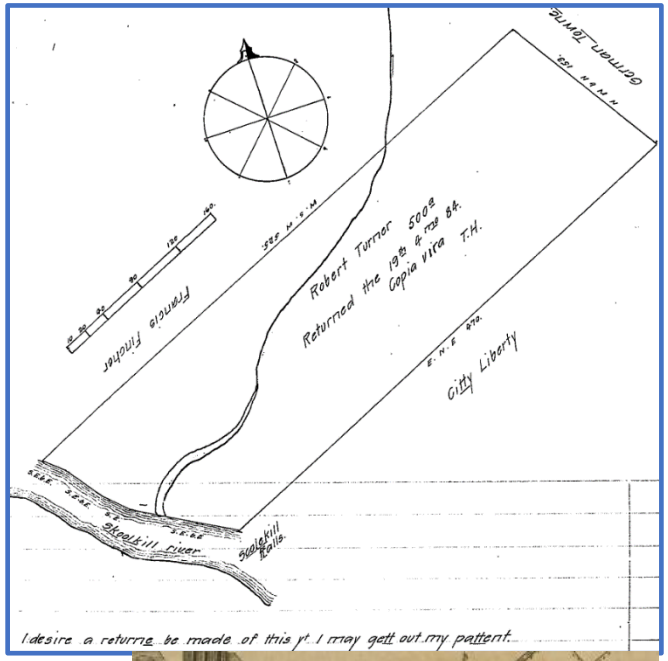
Thence **North West** by the said Shuillhill Creek **eighty four perches** *(reach 8)* to the said first marked Birch tree being the place of the beginning containing fifty & a half acres of land With all its Improvements [7] & appurtenances therein…"

Line **[10]** "… And Whereas the said Joshua Tittery, Richard Townsend & the said John Tyzache have entered into a Joint Copartnership in the said land *(50.5 acres)* & in other things in Manner in the said Indentures [11] of **Copartnership** Mentioned dated the **25th day of March 1689.** Now these present Indentures witnesseth that the said Joshua Tittery with consent of the said Richard Townsend for & in consideration of the [12] sum of fifteen pounds lawful monie *(sic)* of the said Province to him in hand paid or Secured to be paid by the said John Tyzache & his Attorneys the receipt whereof the said Josuha Tittery doth hereby acknowledge & thereof with [13] acquit exonerate & discharge the said John Tyzache his heirs estates & (?) for ever by their presence hath given granted & aliened, bargained, sold, enfeoffed confirmed demified & assigned & by these presents doth give…"

Line [14] "grant, alien, bargain, sell, enfeoff confirm of the said fifty & a half acres of Land Leases & premises with the Line [15] full equal & undivided Sixth part of all the tilled land improvements Houses Saw & Corn Mills & all the Iron work timber works, Mill Stones, tooles & Implements now belonging, unto, or which are Intented (sic) to [16] belong unto…"

[35] The **original document**: 1691 Apr 4 Tittery and Townsend Lease to Tyzache.pdf. See also 5 July 1691 Deed book H vol. 16 page 417 : Deeds (Philadephia County, Pennsylvania), 1683-1886 ; index to deeds, 1683-1916; ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSFB-T8B4

1691 Jul 11: Sale of land and lease – **500 acres** land from Robert Turner to Andrew Robeson Sr. and Charles Sanders and the rights to leased land from J. Tittery, R. Townsend and J. Tyzache not already owned by Robeson & Sanders as of 8 Nov 1690.

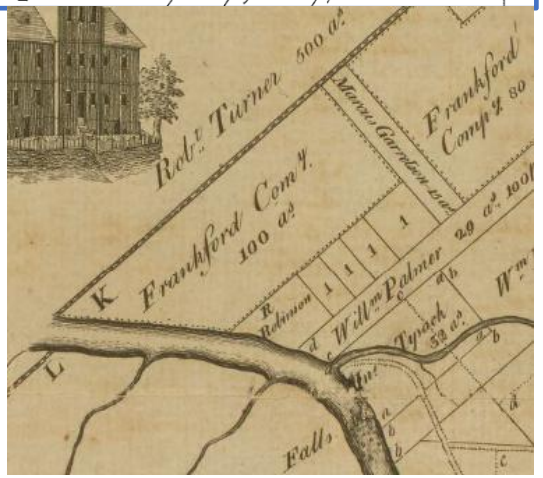


This indenture reiterates the two prior agreements and states that "Saw and Corn Mills" existed then and it adds the consent of three others not mentioned before: "…Robert Ewer[36], Thomas Tresse, of the same place, Merchants, and **William Preston of the same county, Mason**…"

William Preston is an interesting addition for several reasons. First, reportedly for his arrival: From "William Preston of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, England and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and Allied Families" by Charles Starne Belsterling, 1934. "William and his wife sailed from England in the ship America in company with Francis Daniel Pastorius, Thomas Lloyd and some 80 other passengers, leaving June 10, 1683 and arriving August 20, 1683." Note his place of burial, Oxford burial ground near the Tacony-Palmyra Bridge, and see too a description of his son Armor life: CTRL-CLCK: William Preston (1650-1717) and Paul Armor Preston (1684-1732)

As an interesting coincidence, William and Ann's daughter, Priscilla, married the son of John (Johannes) Vanlear (son was also John), and the father owned the ½ rights to the mills in 1701/1702. See the "Writ of Partition" later for more details (although how the father came to own the land is still being researched).

Master Builder – William Preston's Occupation has been reported as "Master Builder; Entrusted with the financial affairs and building erection of the Society of Friends of Philadelphia." Geni - William Preston (1650-1717)- Frankford While this cited reference[37] has not been verified, the original Indenture cited above reference to his being a "Mason" is interesting. It infers that perhaps Tittery & Townsend contracted with Preston to build the two mills and still owed him debts for the work.[38]



Falls's Creek Saw Mill[39]: The land at the next creek downstream from the Wissahickon, Falls Creek or Falls Run, was owned in part by a partner in the Robeson's Mills, John Tyzache. According to the 1750 A map of Philadelphia and parts adjacent https://www.loc.gov/resource/g3824p.ct000294/ or http://www.lowermerionhistory.org/atlas/scull.html , there was a saw mill on this stream, but it may have been on William Palmer's land. William Palmer was one of the twelve men who participated in the 1702 Writ of Partition of the 200 acres in 1702. Coincidently, William's son Paul (b. 1690 d. 1732) was regarded as a "leading iron worker of his day" and, of interest later, the value of nails in Colonial days is well described here on page 89 (page 74 in original text): William Preston of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, England and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and allied families (familysearch.org)

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[36] Robert Ewer's 1697 Will references Robert Turner, John Songhurst, and Samuel Carpenter among others: Genealogies Details — FamilySearch.org

[37] Update June 17, see page 67 Centre Square Meeting House and page 69: William Preston of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, England and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and allied families (familysearch.org) See also: Inventory of Church Archives: Society of Friends in Pennsylvania - Pennsylvania Historical Survey - Google Books

[38] In the 11 Jul 1691 deed, Preston is referenced as an "attorney" for Tyzache, but in the deed he later signed in London in 1692, Tyzache only "Nominate*(d)*" Patrick Robinson, Joseph Tittery, and Robert Ewer as "Attorneys," and not Preston

[39] See John Reeds map: . . . .Map of the city and liberties of Philadelphia, with the catalogue of purchasers, is humbly dedicated by their most obedient humble servant, John Reed. | APS Digital Library (amphilsoc.org)

1693 Robeson's Ferry: reported to have existed for 30 years[xviii] before the road east to Ridge was petitioned for in 1723 Not a Map, but reference to the Robeson Ferry: The Stony Part of Schuylkill:
https://www.jstor.org/stable/20086620?searchText=%28robeson+ferry%29+AND+%28schuylkill%29&searchUri=%2Faction%2FdoBasicSearch%3FQuery%3D%2528robeson%2Bferry%2529%2BAND%2B%2528schuylkill%2529&ab_segments=0%2Fbasic_search_gsv2%2Fcontrol&refreqid=fastly-default%3A583c39a803168510de854a950ad5dda4&seq=14#metadata_info_tab_contents

The Ferry was in close proximity to the location now occupied by the old Pencoyd Iron Works trestle. This spot would have originally been where Andrew Robeson's land met the land later owned by Peter Righter on the Roxborough side of the Schuylkill River (later named for its next owner, the Jones Ferry). This location was researched to show that the "Ferry House" noted on some maps was not Robeson's Rolling Mill. Map below link: **1750/1753** A map of Philadelphia and parts adjacent https://www.loc.gov/resource/g3824p.ct000294/

Earlier, perhaps, than any other ferry north of Fairmount, was that which Andrew Robeson operated across the Schuylkill, from just above his mill, at the Wissahickon, to the Lower Merion shore. In 1723, the Court was asked to confirm a road of about 30 years' standing, leading from the market-place of Germantown to Conestoga road, by way of this ferry. Strange, to say, no action upon this petition seems to have been taken *for more than forty years!* Meantime, the property had changed hands, and Peter Righter, of Roxborough, in 1741, received a grant to maintain a ferry between his plantation and the opposite shore. This privilege was to hold good for seven years, and could be—and was—renewed periodically.

The road from Germantown to this ferry (School lane), together with its continuation through Lower

364 *The Stony Part of Schuylkill.*

Merion (Righter's Ferry road), was opened in 1765. Two years later, the present Monument road was laid out to the ferry, and thence extended up-stream to Levering's mill. A petition of this period refers to "one of the first Established Ferrys on Schuylkill (and since confirmed by Patent to Peter Righter)."

THE STONY PART OF SCHUYLKILL ITS NAVIGATION, FISHERIES, FORDS AND FERRIES. BY CHARLES R. BARKER. (Page 363) Map: https://www.loc.gov/item/2006625100/



Heap & Scull: A map of Philadelphia and parts adjacent : with a perspective view of the State-House.



1693 Continued: The Robeson Rolling Mill may have been built to be used intermittently as a grain way station or warehouse as well as a Mill.

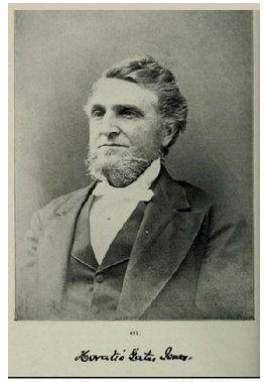
A document* by Horatio Gates Jones Jr. made an interesting observation about the early use of warehouses:

"Access to Robeson's *(the large Wissahickon Mill)* was of course quite convenient by means of the Schuylkill River, for farmers who lived in the interior on the Schuylkill were accustomed to send their grain down in long boats and sell it to the miller. **Several of the Wissahickon millers built warehouses on the banks of the Schuylkill**, where they were accustomed to store their grain and haul it away as it was needed."

If the original "Corn Mill" was later used as a warehouse, this would explain why the "Robeson Rolling Mill" was not referenced explicitly in documents form 1701-1748 as a separate mill as it would be considered as an "appurtenance" in deeds after the large "Wissahickon Mill" replaced it as the main mill c 1700/01.

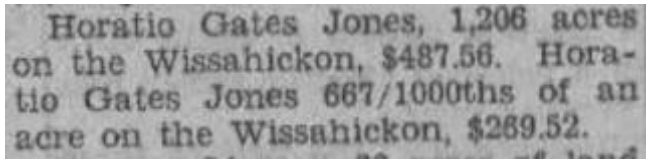
The Mill was perhaps an unnoticed appurtenance until later refitted a backup grist mill to the large Robeson Wissahickon Mill or converted to be a rolling mill – **see key 1748 deeds from Robeson family members, Rudeman and Magdalen Robeson to Henery Shellenberg, wherein the "Rolling Mill" is first mentioned**.

***** *Notes from Manayunk, Wissahickon and Roxborough* by Horatio Gates Jones. Initially published in 1859 in the Manayunk Star, preserved by A.C. Chadwick, and republished in the Manayunk Sentinel in 1880. The 54 pages can be found here in this link to his Volume 48: *Chadwick Papers Volume 48.pdf (wsimg.com)*


Horatio Gates Jones 1822-1893

Horatio Gates Jones Jr. short biography: Born and died in Roxborough Township, b. 1822, d. 1893. Son of Deborah Levering and Rev. Horatio Gates Jones Sr. (pastor of the Lower Merion Baptist Church). Elected to the Pa. State Senate in 1874 and served for two terms. Secretary Historical Society of Pennsylvania 1849-1867 and VP 1867-1893. Honorary fellow of the Royal Historical Society and he spoke Welsh Fluently. Author of "The Levering Family, Or, A Genealogical Account of Wigard Levering and Gerhard Levering."

Parents: Rev. Horatio Gates Jones, of Roxborough, Pastor of the Lower Merion Baptist Church, b. Feb. 11, 1777, in Tredyffrin Township, Chester Co., Pa., d 1853. **Mother Deborah Levering, b. 1791 and d. Sept. 9, 1823, at their home at Righter's Ferry, on the river Schuylkill, in Manayunk[40]** (originally, it was "Robeson's Ferry").


Horatio Gates Jones, 1,206 acres on the Wissahickon, $487.56. Horatio Gates Jones 667/1000ths of an acre on the Wissahickon, $269.52.

His large estate: 1869/1870 sales of land to the Park. "His father, the Rev. David Jones, was pastor of the Great Valley Baptist Church, and a Chaplain in the Revolutionary War." And "who was probably named in honor of the Revolutionary War general, Horatio Gates."

[40] Sources Levering family history: Full text of "Levering family : history and genealogy" (archive.org) and G004309.pdf (seekingmyroots.com)

1693 Taxes:

In 1693, "Robeson & Saunders mill in Northern Liberties township[41] was taxed on a valuation of 550£ (Source has as 350£ see below).

Reported Original Source: Penn. Mag., Vol. 8, pp. 95 and 377[42]. As reported here in the "An historical and genealogical account of Andrew Robeson, of Scotland, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, and of his descendants from 1653 to 1916", by Osborne, Kate Hamilton, 1847- ed.: CTRL+CLCK https://archive.org/details/historicalgeneal00osbo/pReportedage/10/mode/2up?q=liberties

The First Tax List for Philadelphia County. 95

Mounce Cox Northern Liberty

Brought over	—	£199	17s. 11d.
Daniel Pegg	250	1	0 10
Daniel Rugges	—	—	6 —

….. lower down….

Robert Stacy & Son	100	—	8 4
Ellis Jones Governrs Mill	72	—	6 —
Robert Turner	200	—	16 8
Sam:ll Carpenter	50	—	4 2
Wid:o Bowyer	30	—	2 6
Evan Oliver	30	—	2 6
Peter Dale	—	—	6 —
Robeson & Sanders Mill	350	1	9 2

Other Mills found to be taxed: Parsons's 40 £ (Oxford), Governors Mill (above) on Cohocksink Creek tax 72£.

It seems very unlikely that the new, larger mill north of Ridge Road was completed by September of 1693, so the Mill would be the "Corn Mill" referenced in the 1691 Indenture. There was no separate section for Roxborough and, except for Governors Mill, no other mills on the Wissahickon were taxed based on "mills" in the list nor family names. Below is page 82, its being page 130 in the linked document.

….., was entitled "An act for granting to King William and Queen Mary the ***rate*** of one penny per pound upon… … such as are not otherwise ***rated*** by this Act, to be employed by the Governor of this province of Pennsylvania… … of the ***rates*** and assessments hereinafter mentioned, which we desire they will please to accept… … to the use aforesaid after the ***rate*** of one penny per pound ; and to the end that this tax may be laid… … and territories, who have been out of their servitude by the space of six months, and shall not be otherwise ***rated*** by this Act, nor worth one hundred pounds,….

[41] At that time, that part of Roxborough likely was considered as part of the "Liberty Lands" and then Northern Liberties for tax purposes, the latter being an established township within Philadelphia County and the two township lines meeting right about the Wissahickon Creek mouth.

[42] See page 14 The First Tax List for Philadelphia County. A. D. 1693 : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming : Internet Archive or Philadelphia County Tax List, 1693 (genealogyvillage.com) (page 2 down 1/3 of the way) or see jstor.org: The First Tax List for Philadelphia County. A. D. 1693 on JSTOR

1696 Narrative – Map is a 1777 creation by a University of Pennsylvania Project. Text is from James F. Magee Jr. describing this slice of the Park that J. Vandeeren came to own in 1755/1760. This narrative and the map of eight acres are of particular interest due to the unusual Court Order referenced below.

CTRL+CLCK: [Chadwick-Papers-Volume-36.pdf (eastfallshistoricalsociety.org)]

"In 1696, **Samuel Robeson**, executor for his father, sold his half interest in the 200 acres of western Sumac [sic] Park and the mills to his cousin, Andrew Robeson 2nd [Andrew Jr.]. The 300 acres of the eastern section were sold to Joseph and Benjamin Morgan. In **1703**, Sara Saunders [sic], widow *(of Charles Saunders)*, wished to sell her half interest in the 200 acres and mills to Andrew Robeson 2nd [Jr.], but the court decided that the 8 acres at the mouth of the Wissahickon could not be divided, so she retained her half interest in the 8 acres but sold another 96 acres to Andrew Robeson 2nd. At this date, a corn mill and sawmill were mentioned as "The Wissahickon Mills"." *(Funds for the sale of the 96 acres, and the half interest in the 8 acres, being 500 Pounds, actually were paid to John Vanlaer, who purchased said land and rights in 1702 from Samuel Robeson, son of Andrew Robeson, Sr.)*



Parcel Details

Owner Name:	John Vandeeren
Township:	Roxborough
Year Acquired:	1755
Deeded Land Area:	8 acres
Source:	I 12.418



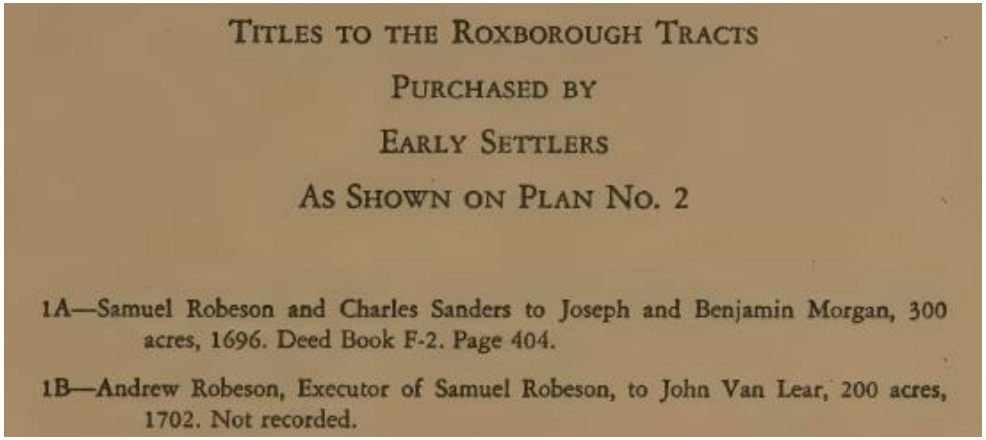
Owner Name: John Vandeeren
Township: Roxborough
Deeded Land Area: 53 acres

Return to parcel map or browse landowner data

In addition to keeping the half interest in the 8 acres with the mills, Sarah Saunders was given 96 acres in the partitioning, being the 53 acres shown on the left as owned in 1777 by John Vandeeren, plus the plot owned by John Righter, being 6 acres, plus two one acre lots, and various other lots farther upstream.

1696 – 500-acre estate split and **1697** - Caution: there are dates, spellings and deed transfers noted below that conflict with other sources.

The below comes from the book by **Joseph Starne Miles and Rev. William H. Cooper** "A Historical Sketch of Roxborough Manayunk Wissahickon" 1940. Map roads from 1850's it appears Sources: https://ia802303.us.archive.org/11/items/historicalsketch00mile/historicalsketch00mile_djvu.txt https://archive.org/details/historicalsketch00mile/page/54/mode/2up?ref=ol&q=map&view=theater



TITLES TO THE ROXBOROUGH TRACTS
PURCHASED BY
EARLY SETTLERS
AS SHOWN ON PLAN NO. 2

1A—Samuel Robeson and Charles Sanders to Joseph and Benjamin Morgan, 300 acres, 1696. Deed Book F-2. Page 404.

1B—Andrew Robeson, Executor of Samuel Robeson, to John Van Lear, 200 acres, 1702. Not recorded.

In 1686 Robert Turner **leased 50 1/2** acres of his tract to Joshua Tittery, broad glass maker, who took Richard Townsend, Millwright, into partnership and built the saw and corn mills near the mouth of the Wissahickon Creek. This was the first mill built along the Wissahickon.

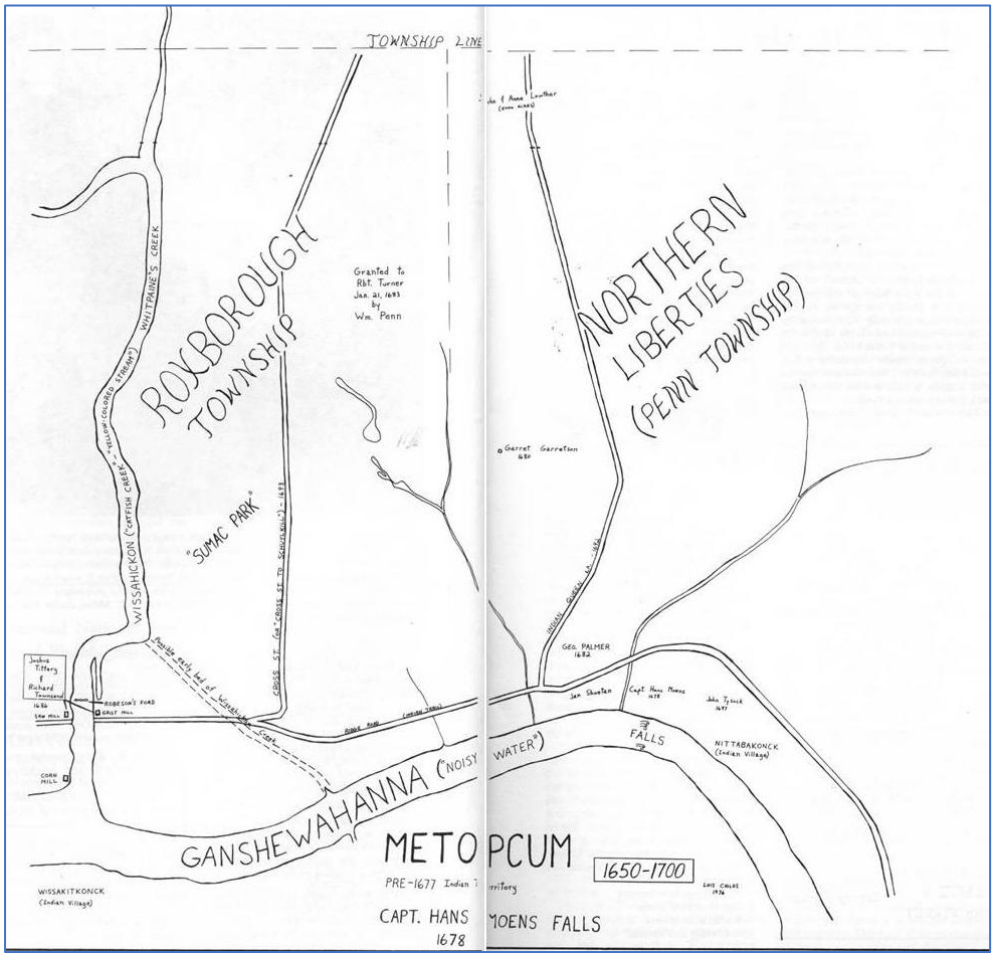
The mills that Tittery and Richard Townsend built were known as the "Wissahickon Mills" and later as the "Robeson Mills" and the "Vandaren's [sic] Mills."



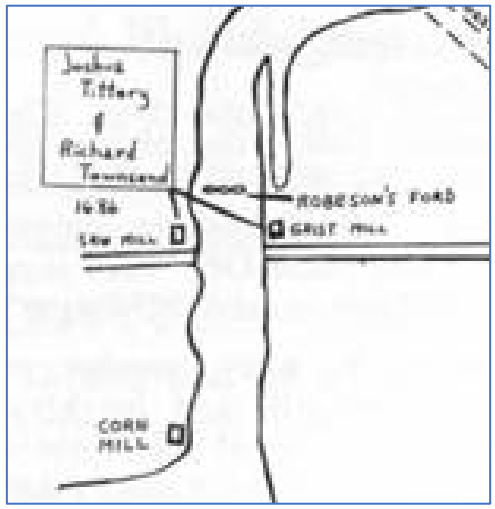
In 1689 Tittery and Townsend took a third partner in with them named John Tysache. **1691:** In **1691** Andrew Robeson and Chas. Saunders *(Charles)* purchased the mills and mill lands from Tittery, Townsend and Tysache and the entire 500 acres from Robert Turner. **In 1696 Joseph and Benjamin Morgan bought 300 of the 500 acres from Samuel Robeson and Chas. Saunders *(Charles)*.**

1697: The large 'sister' mill north of the then corn mill was built c. 1697 per 1930 article "Redmens Trail" page 17 – See "Schoolhouse Lane Section": Chadwick-Papers-Volume-53.pdf (eastfallshistoricalsociety.org). This mill had three waterwheels "under the same roof," and at one time, these wheels drove five mill stones. The site was last a Dobson Mill before being purchased by the City. See also in the "Redmens Trail" article this comment "We have often wondered if the Indians assisted in the erection of the mill and other building for Townsend in several statements speak o£ their care and usefulness."

1700 East Falls Maps 1650 – 1700 East Falls - 300 Years of History – CTRL-CLCK: https://eastfallshistoricalsociety.org/resources



Bottom left is enlarged here. Note that the lower dam is referenced as "Robeson's Ford"





The source of this map published by The East Falls Historic Society is still being researched. The "Saw Mill" location being North of Ridge Road is the first and only map found of a mill where it is North of Ridge vs. South of Ridge (Note that it is not a contemporaneous map). Pre-dating this source, James F. Magee references a map, which could not be found, and it states that a Saw Mill was located on the North side of the Creek and North of what became Ridge Road and before the bridge was built. While it makes sense to 1st build there since the water race could be very short, the site is high above the Creek and it water source, its race sluice gate on the Wissahickon hard to envision due to the elevation. The picture is dated 1923 and by then all but one of the mills on the Wissahickon had been demolished (almost all being a safety hazard). The building shown here to give a sense of the location. **See map "Year 1848" map for one of the best sources found as location of Mill #2, the "Saw Mill."**

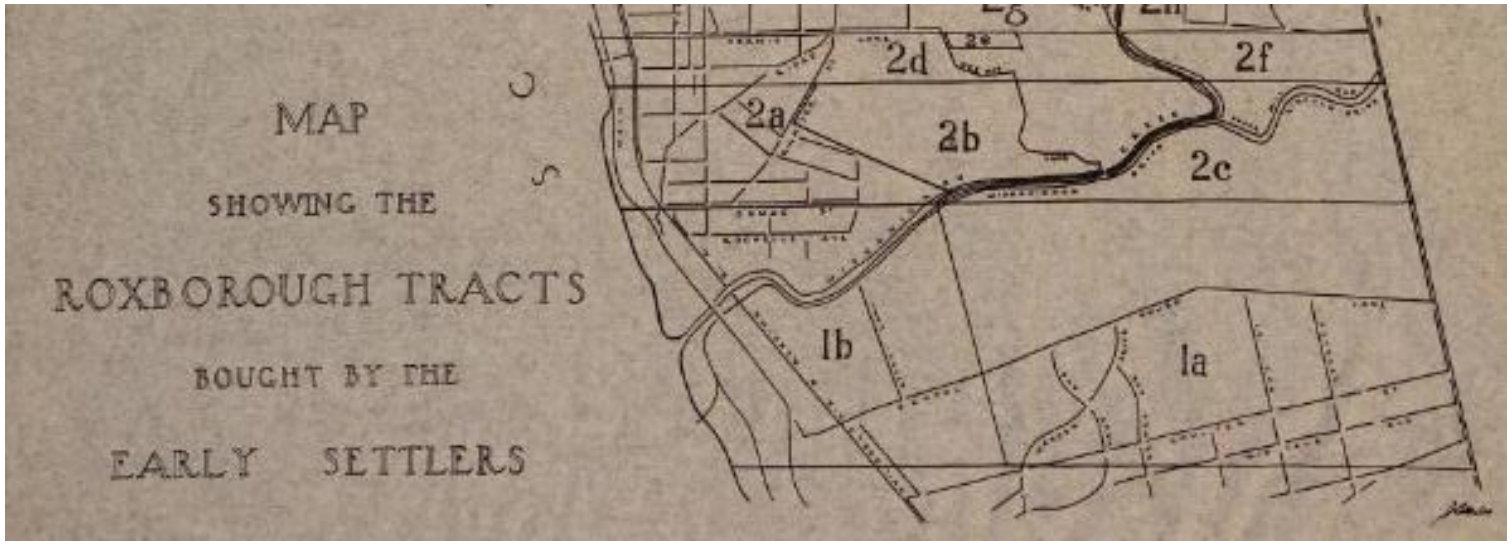
1702 John Van Laer (or Lear in some documents) and elsewhere Johannes George Van Laer[43]

The seminal work "A Historical Sketch of Roxborough, Manayunk, Wissahickon" by Miles, Joseph Starne[44] reports in its section the "Titles To The Roxborough Tracts Purchased By Early Settlers, As Shown On Plan No. 2" simply that plan's item "1B—Andrew Robeson, Executor of Samuel Robeson, **to John Van Lear**, 200 acres, 1702. **Not recorded**."

> The note should have said Van Laer owned a ½ interest in the 200 acres as documented on the next page, the other half being owned by William Sanders, son of Charles Sanders, with his mother Sarah Sanders as Guardian.

An extensive search does support the point that the Van Laer deed was "**Not recorded**" as none of the extensive searches through the deed indexes have surfaced the deed or any other information. Below is the well-known map that comes from the 'historical sketch.' Van Laer's occupation was reported in genealogical sites as a "Baker," so ownership in Grist Mill(s) makes sense.

Research continues **to find the survey that divided the 200 acres** into two equal parts of 96 acres with the remaining 8 acres left as jointly owned by Van Laer and Sanders in the "Writ of Partition" recounted on the next pages.



[43] Vanlaer sites: Vanleer Site (vanleerplus.org) (non-Ancestry.com site, or see Ancestry.com Johannes John George Van Laer - LifeStory (ancestrylibrary.com)
[44] A historical sketch of Roxborough, Manayunk, Wissahickon : Miles, Joseph Starne : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming : Internet Archive

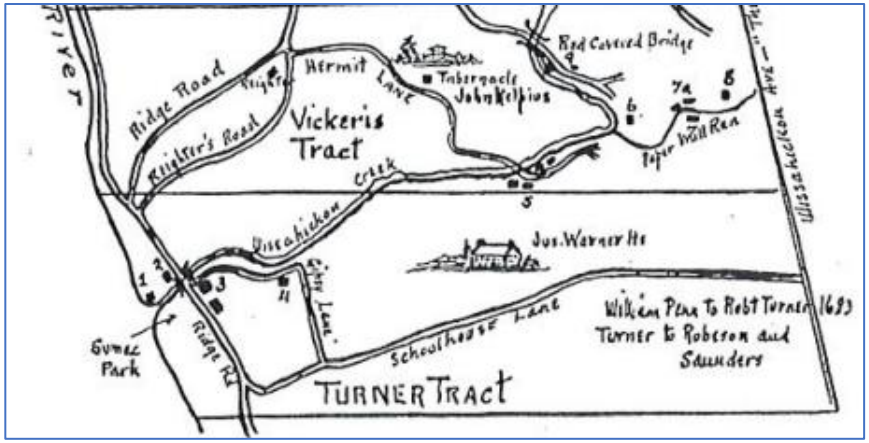
1702 Writ of Partition - Dec 3 John Van Lear petition v William Sanders. *Document found in the Pennsylvania Historical Society (HSP), not the Phila. Archives – notable as the "*Brief of Title*" presented later for the Robeson/Vanderen lands that became the Dobson lands as part of the Fairmount Park purchase did not have access to this document.*

> Petition to divide lands jointly owned: "And Whereupon the Plaintiff sayeth that, whereas he the said Plaintiff and the Defendant together and without Division Do hold to them & their heirs One Water Corn Mill **&** Millns (Being three Grist Mills under one Roof) Commonly called or known by the name Wessahickon *(sic)* Mills with their appurtenances Together with Two hundred acres of land (on part whereof the Said Millns stand) with its appurtenances All situate lying and being in the County of Philadelphia."

Due to the deaths of A. Robeson Sr. (1694) and William Saunders (1699) and the notable profitability of the operation of mills, a Court agreed division of the 200-acres had to be decided by a Writ of Partition overseen by the Sheriff & twelve freeman in 1702. The twelve men divided the land into about equally valued parts on the east and west sides of the Wissahickon Creek, **but they could not find an equitable way to divide the milling operations**. To solve this dilemma, they created an 8-acre lot with land on both sides of the Creek, from above the upper dam and stretching down to the Schuylkill River and containing all the Mills that had to remain under joint ownership until the owners could agree upon a better solution.



The Map from 1760 C. Lehman on right (not 1702). The eight acres of co-owned land was the remainder of the 200 acres split into two 96-acre plots. Searches at HSP have not yielded a survey likely drawn during or for the Writ of Partition. This eight-acre plot of land was not laid out or otherwise surveyed until 1760, although its boundaries were determined by the review the boundaries of the two 96-acre lots.

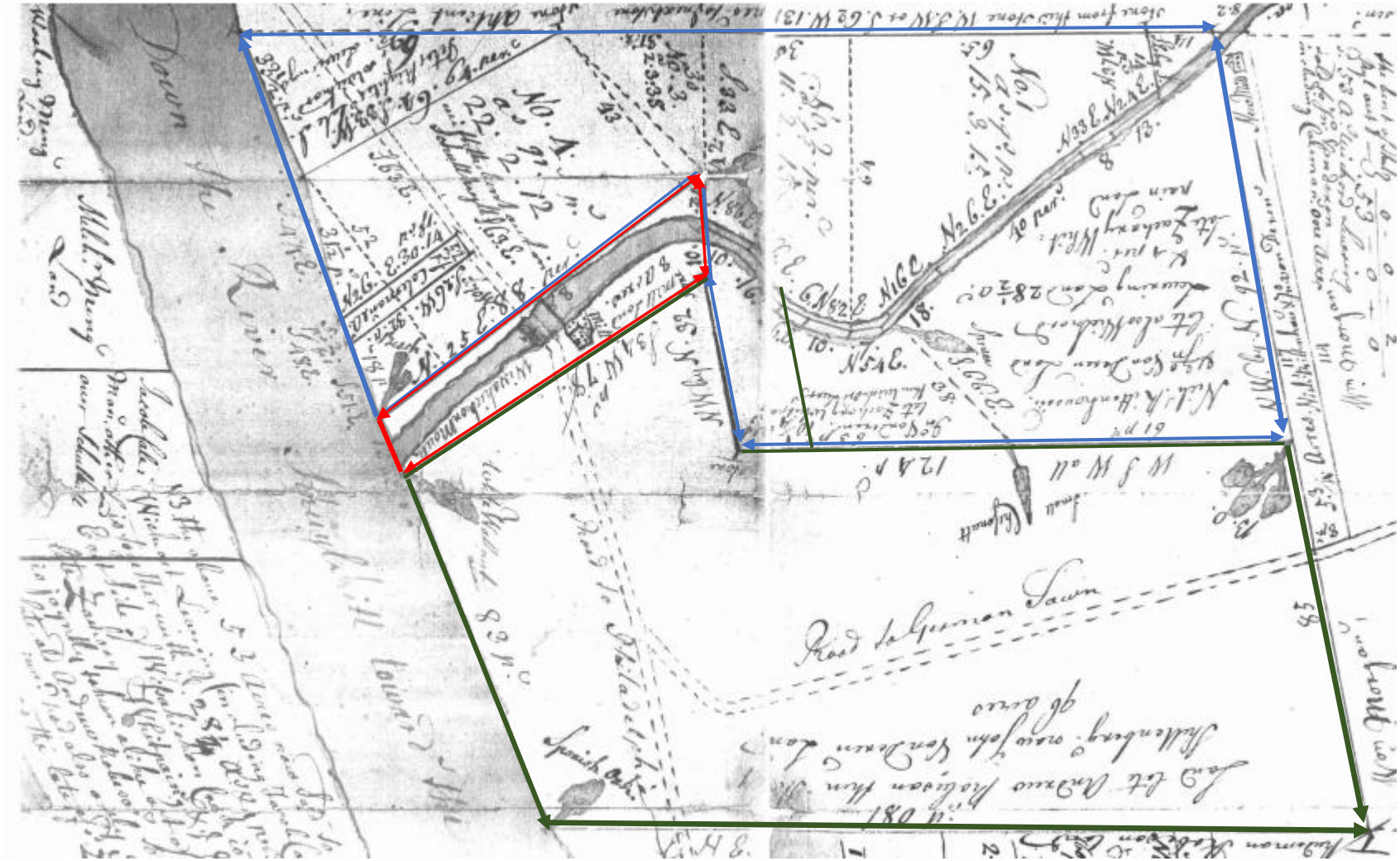


The map on the left was drawn by Jos. S. Miles in 1940 with additions by Douglas Macfarlan, MD, author of The Wissahickon Mills, 3 vols., 1949. c. 1932 by Douglas Macfarlan, author of *The Wissahickon Mills*.

It shows the Corn Mill as #1 and the "Millns" *(sic)* with three wheels under one roof as mill #3.

The Saw Mill (#2) is not explicitly mentioned in the Writ of Partition, and it seems that it was considered perhaps as an "appurtenance," being a building needed to support the Mills.

1702 Writ of Partition continued – overlaid on the Lehman Map c. 1760: <u>as of 1702</u> = **96 acres Blue** Sanders, plus **96 acres Green** Van Laer (or Vanlaer), and 8 acres **Red** Jointly Held



1702 Dec 3 John Van Laer petition v Wm Sanders TRANSCRIPTION Portrait Version.pdf

1703 Court of Common Pleas[xix]: – The 200 acres are partitioned as follows: 4 March 1703 Common Pleas Court decree 8 Acres "could not be divided" as from the Robeson/Vanderan "**Brief of the Title**" of 1760s:



"The said Charles Sanders died leaving a Widow Sarah and one only son and Heir, William Sanders – and on **Writ of Partition at the suit of John Van Laer** against **the said Sarah and William Sanders in the Common Pleas of Philadelphia County**, Partition of the said Mills and Lands was made by the Sheriff and Inquest, By which Partition the tract a, b, c, d, e, f of 96 acres was allotted to the said Jon Van Laer[45] and his Heirs in severalty and the tract d, e, g, f, h, I, k, of 88* acres[46] was allotted to the said Sarah and William Sanders in severalty – **and the Mills with 8 Acres of Estover Land[47] could not be divided the and therefore remained to them in common – which partition was returned to and confirmed by the Court the 4th day of March 1703."**

John Vanlaer gets 96 acres on the South side of the Creek – being same 96 acres that John Vandeeren comes to own in 1755 – and half of the 8 acres. The map is from UPenn 1777 map series.



Beginning at a Walnut Tree 2 perches (33 feet) below Wissahickon Creek and then
1. down by the Schuylkill 83. perches to the Spanish oak for a corner.
2. Thence East NE 180 perches to a stake upon a hill of stones.
3. Thence North. West by North 85 purchase to a black oak.
4. Thence West South West 124 perches through a black oak Sapling.
5. Thence Northwest and by North 32 purchases to a Spruce Tree.
6. Thence South 54 degrees West 78 perches.

To the place of beginning containing 96 acres, be it more or less.

*NOTE: It is unclear how the "Brief of Title" prepared from city and deed book records for the Fairmount Park purchase came to say that Sarah and William Sanders (her son) owned only 88 acres on the west side of the creek *(and half of the 8 acres that lie in between)* as opposed to 96 acres in the Writ of Partition.

[45] The South / East side of the Wissahickon.
[46] The North / West side of the Wissahickon.
[47] The right of taking necessary wood and stone for the use or furniture of a house or farm, from off another's estate.

1706 Page reserved for updates on research from 1706 to the time the **first Ridge Road bridge** over the Wissahickon was built (tbd) vs. there being a simple ford crossing.

Road Dockets: Road Dockets book **Vol 2 pages 27, 31 and 32** https://archive.org/details/historicalsketch00mile/page/16/mode/2up?ref=ol&q=1681&view=theater

"This bridge…" referenced below on the left is to the Perkiomen bridge. From 1706 to 1750, no references were found in The Philadelphia County Road Dockets to build a 'Ridge Road' bridge over the Wissahickon. The land contained a bridge that the owners built on their own very early on as they owned the land on both sides of the Wissahickon and farmers needed the road to take grains to the mills. Ridge Road later became the "Ridge Turnpike Company" in 1811, when Robeson's sons owned the land and a toll booth existed on the bridge.

In the March sessions of Quarter Sessions Court 1706 "The petition and humble request of the inhabitants of Plymouth Township humbly pray the Honorable Bench to grant them a common Cartway or Road to extend from Wissahickon Mills up into Perkioming Creek at Edward Lane's and others. The Court ordered Matthew Holgate, Thomas Stroud, Johannes Custis, John Redwitcher, Wm. Harmon and John Jacob to lay out the same agreeable to the prayer of the Petitioners." [2]

In the same year, pursuant to this order, Thomas Fairman, the Surveyor, certified to the Court that he had laid out such a road, describing in detail the directions and distances.[3]

"Wissahickon Mill" stood on the southern side of Wissahickon Creek, a short distance above the mouth and was owned by Andrew Robeson, one of the early pioneers. Edward Lane lived at this time at Collegeville and kept the first hotel where now stands the Perkiomen Bridge Hotel, built in 1701. It still stands a venerable and picturesque old inn.

"Where the Perkiomen Bridge now crosses the creek, was known as 'Philip's Ford.'

"On Feb. 21, 1797, the Legislature passed 'an Act for raising, by way of lottery, the sum of $20,000. to be applied to the erection of a stone arched bridge on the Perkiomen on the road leading from Philadelphia to Reading.' The contract for the work was given in 1798. At the end of the year the County had spent $34,683.12 and the bridge was only one-half completed. The bridge was finished in 1799 in the style it now stands and cost $60,000."

Was ever anything built within the estimated cost?

This bridge stands today a monument to those who built it and of design and workmanship worthy of being followed by present-day architects and engineers.

In the June Session of 1706 "upon Petition of several of the inhabitants of Merion, Radnor, Plymouth and Roxborough setting forth that there was formerly laid out and surveyed by order of the Court directed to Thomas Fairman, the Surveyor, a certain road leading from Wissahickon Mill land and the City of Philadelphia —yet remained unconfirmed—and that the said Road ever since has been and now is the Usual Road from the several Townships above named to the City of Philadelphia and pray that this Court be pleased to order and appoint Thomas Fairman to resurvey the said Road and to make return thereof at the next session here to be held, in order to be confirmed." [1]

The Court complied with the request and in the June Session 1707 Thomas Fairman reported that he "had laid out a certain road from Philadelphia, through the Northern Liberties to the Mill at Wissahickon, beginning at Sassafras Street[2] where the Sixth Street intersects," describing in detail the directions and distances.[3]

In 1709 a petition signed by John Henry Sprogel, Morris Jones and others recites that they had "plantations lying very remote in the country and on the edge or outskirts of any inhabitants of the country and no public road, they therefore pray for a road from the late house of Edward Lane, deceased, being in the Queens Highway, with Maunitauna etc." The Court complied with the request and the Ridge Road was extended to Manatawny, now Pottstown.

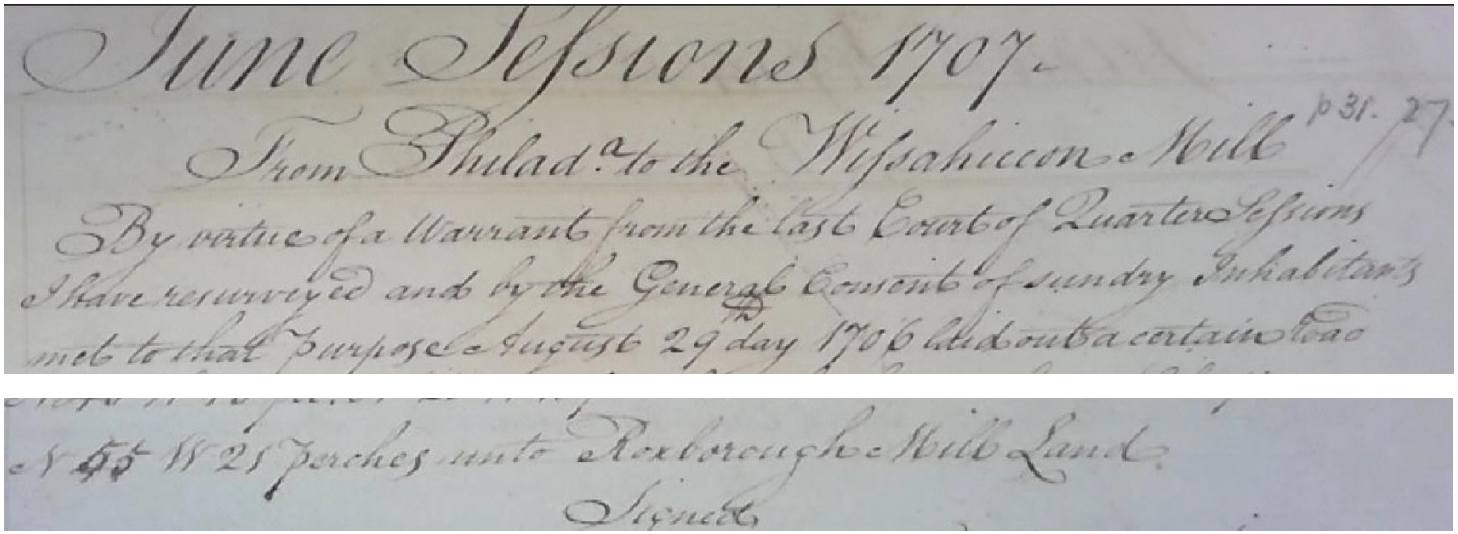
The Ridge Road through Roxborough at present, from Wissahickon to the County Line, follows almost identically the lines laid out in 1706, with the exception of that part from the foot of the hill at Wissahickon to the top at Hermit Lane.

[1] Road Dockets, Vol. 2, page 31.
[2] Race Street.
[3] Road Dockets, Vol. 2, page 32.

1706 – 1714 Road Docket[48] references with many various names of Ridge Avenue. See 1752 map and note another variation of the name of Ridge Avenue was give as "Wissahiccon Road.".

1706 from prior page: Thomas Fairman was ordered to lay out a road from the mouth of the Wissahickon to the Perkiomen at Collegeville, largely for the hauling of lime from Plymouth township. It has been called "The Great Road that leads from Plymouth to Philadelphia," the "King's Road leading to Philadelphia," "the King's Highway," "the Plymouth Road," the "Manatawney or Great Road," the "Reading Road," and the "Great Road leading from Philadelphia to Reading."

1707: June Sessions – Court of Quarter Sessions – Road Docket. Opening line: **"From Philadelphia to the Wissahickon Mill."** Closing Line after surveyor's description of the road "…West 25 perches **unto Roxborough Mill Land**." Point of including this survey docket here is to note that the large Mill on the north side of Ridge is referred to explicitly, while the old area and land on which the original mill was constructed is referred to as being on "Roxborough Mill Land."


June Sessions 1707.
From Philad.a to the Wissahiccon Mill
p 31. 27
By vertue of a Warrant from the last Court of Quarter Sessions I have resurveyed and by the Generall Consent of sundry Inhabitants met to that purpose the 29th day of August 1706 doe bound a certain Road
W 25 perches unto Roxborough Mill Land
Signed

1714 erection of the Shoomac Park House: https://silo.tips/download/old-towns-and-districts-of-philadelphia . In 1811 "The Ridge Turnpike Company" was incorporated, and it became the Ridge Road, and later Ridge "avenue." Near the point where it starts to climb is Wissahickon, a village founded by officials of the Pencoyd Iron Works, with a railroad station on the Norristown branch of the Reading, now the main passenger route to Reading. **To the right, as one enters the Wissahickon drive from Ridge Avenue, stands the house known as Shoomac Park, built about 1714 by Andrew Robeson**. *(Jr.)*

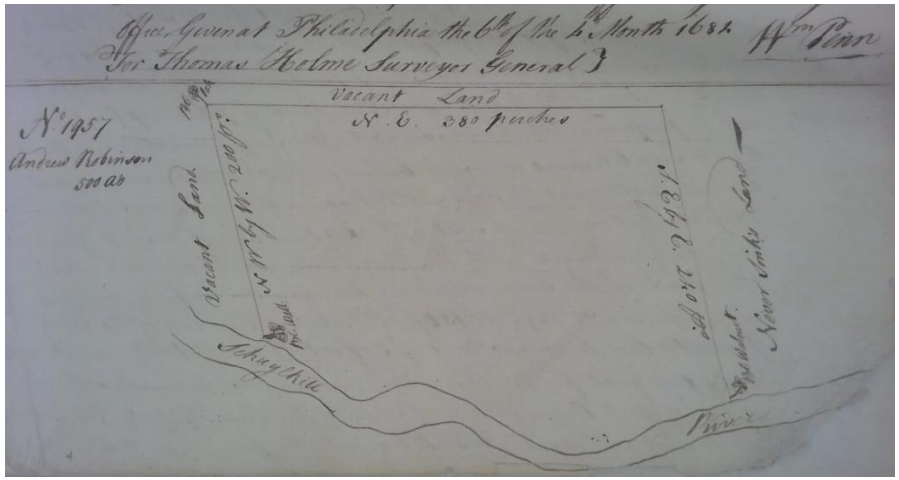
1714 See Page 122 (pg. 42 in pdf) of "Old Towns and Districts of Philadelphia" by WILLIAM BUCKE CAMPBELL, A.M,
Philadelphia History Vol. IV, No. 5 City History Society of Philadelphia, 1942, F158.68

[48] "As early as 1683, the Pennsylvania General Assembly passed legislation requiring the county court in every county to appoint highway overseers with the power to summon inhabitants to make and mend highways and bridges. Generally speaking, residents were required to perform four to six days of service in building and maintaining roads. Residents had the option of paying a fine instead; the money collected was used to hire laborers to undertake the work (Kaja 2011:127-128). Worlds in Motion: Internal Development and the Evolution of Transportation Systems in Early Pennsylvania, 1680-1800. Unpublished dissertation, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. cited by - Road and Highway Resources of Southeastern Pennsylvania, 1681-1970 https://gis.penndot.gov/CRGISAttachments/Survey/DRAFT2_3-28-2013-Southeastern_SE_PA_Transportation_National_Register_MPDF.pdf

1714 - 1720 Robeson Family and the Iron Industry

1714: Andrew Robeson Jr. acquires 500 acres on the Schuylkill River from Thomas and Richard Penn in what is now Berks County (was then still part of Philadelphia County – County Letter R No. 1957 surveyed by Thomas Holme). Later, No. 1958 records an additional 500 acres yet to be surveyed.

In addition to the land in the Wissahickon Valley, at his death in 1719, Andrew Robeson Jr. left 2,300 acres of land to five of his sons. The eldest son, Andrew III inherited his interests in the 200 acres in Roxborough.



1718[49]**:** "The son Andrew *(Robeson III)*, and daughter Magdalen, both married in 1718, and the father *(Andrew Jr.)* and other members of the family removed to the vicinity of Amity, in the Manatawny region Pa. *(now Berks County)* where Andrew, the father, joined **Magdalen's husband, Thomas Potts**, in developing the newly opened iron industry of that region; Andrew holding large grants of land there, on either side of the river Schuylkill.

The son Andrew had remained at the homestead and continued running the mill, and the son Israel was already married and settled in Manatawny region before the death of the mother, and later engaged in the iron industry with his father."

1720 Thomas Potts: Thomas Potts (husband of Magdalen Robeson) and Thomas Rutter were the builders and owners of "Colebrookdale Furnace was Pennsylvania's first cold blast furnace. Blast furnaces replaced earlier furnaces and forges in iron production because they produced better quality and larger quantities of iron. The site helped start the Pennsylvania iron industry and played a significant role in the state's early development of iron production."[50]

Point & Family Connections: By 1718 Andrew Robeson III was running the mills in Philadelphia (that he came to own half of in 1720) and his sister was married to a co-owner of the first furnace in Pennsylvania to produce iron bars[51]. The use of this iron in the Robeson Rolling Mill to produce nails & other metal is a plausible reuse of what was originally a corn mill. Andrew's brother Jonathon went on to build the Oxford iron furnace in New Jersey in 1742.

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[49] An historical and genealogical account of Andrew Robeson, of Scotland, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, and of his descendants from 1653 to 1916 : Osborne, Kate Hamilton, 1847- ed : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming : Internet Archive

[50] See reference and map here: Colebrookdale Furnace - 1720 (steelmuseum.org)

[51] ExplorePAHistory.com - Stories from PA History Iron Industry

1719 – 1756 The Conrad-Holgate Mills. Picture c. 1900 from the Shoemaker Collection; the mill was on Cresheim Creek just south of the point where Lincoln Drive re-starts. Matthew Houlgate purchased land in 1698, and the mill was built by 1720; it was demolished in 1906 by Geo. Woodward.

Matthew Houlgate[52] (or Holgate) was likely the same person as one of the "twelve freemen" who adjudicated the 1702 "Writ of Partition" of the eight-acre lot.

A picture of the Conrad-Holgate Mills is provided as the mill has the same roof design as the Robeson Rolling Mill. Bischoff's Mill on Bells' Mill Road, built in 1710 as a grist mill, also had the same relatively flat roof design. See also the Upper Magarge Paper Mill and the Old Fitzwater Mill for similar roof designs: Chadwick Papers Volume 36A pgs 23 and 53. The Holgate mill was a fulling mill "that cleaned, shrunk and strengthened cloth woven at home."[53]



The bridge in the picture is the Railroad Bridge that spanned the Creek between the St. Martin's and Allens Lane Stations.

[52] Mathew Houlgate, Sr., bought John Jennett's tract in 1698, extending from the Schuylkill River, to the line of Germantown township, and prior to 1720, erected a fulling mill on the Wissahickon, below Conrad's Lane. the ruins of this mill have lately been covered up by the workmen engaged in making the Wissahiccon turnpike. '!'his family erected the stone dwelling, now owned by George Markle, on Rittenhouse (Red Bridge) Lane. Page 187: G004309.pdf (seekingmyroots.com) Also see page 317 A history of American manufactures from 1608 to 1860 ... comprising annals of the industry of the United States in machinery, manufactures and useful arts, (umich.edu)

[53] "Philadelphia's Wissahickon Valley, 1620-2020: Metropolitan Paradise, the Struggle for Nature in the City" by David R. Contosta, and Carol Franklin. See also in Chapter 4, page 16, the drawing of the Upper Magargee Mill, built in 1737, with a relatively flat sloped roof. See also roof design of **Bishop's Mills** next to Bell's Mill Road: Bishop's Mills on the Wissahickon. [graphic]. | Library Company of Philadelphia Digital Collections

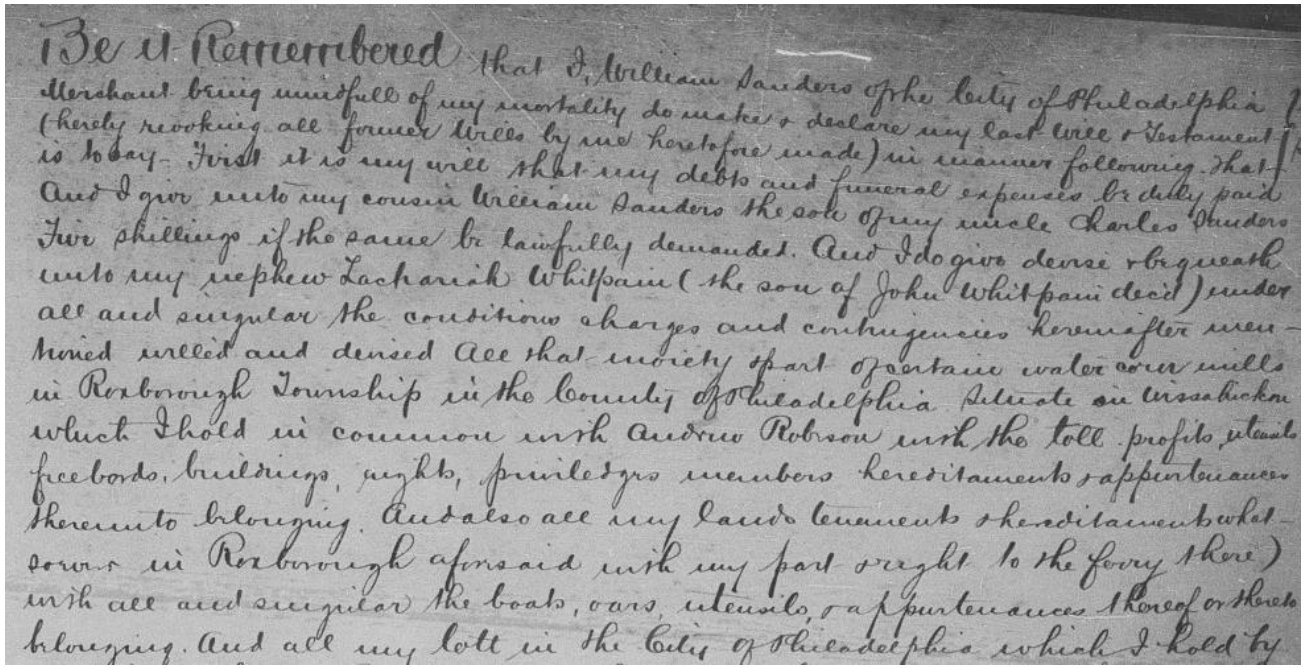
1731 Survey of City of Liberties Benjamin Eastburn *(Section where Liberties met Roxborough)***.** Photo taken at the City of Philadelphia Archives

Year 1693 has the initial discussion of **Robeson's Ferry**, later known as Righter's Ferry and last as Jones Ferry. In the center of the map, near the bottom, is depicted what appears to be the 2nd bridge in Philadelphia over the Wissahickon, one of two labeled as the "**Road to Germantown**." This was likely the Shur's Lane bridge (also spelled Shar's in an old map) over the Wissahickon at Henry Rittenhouse's Grist Mill that became Rittenhouse Lane (see 1842 map).



1733 Will of William Saunders, son of Charles and Sarah, Will Book E page 275 Will No 354 https://www.familysearch.org/records/images/image-details?place=11027603&page=1&endDate=1733&startDate=1699&rmsId=TH-909-52823-93766-60&imageIndex=556&singleView=true

Multiple Corn Mills and Toll Profits: Top section references the "…certain water corn mill**s** ***(corn mills plural)*** in Roxborough Township…" and also "…. the **toll profits**…" which would seem to be for the "tolls" collected for crossing their bridge to connect the two parts of Ridge Road over the Wissahickon Creek. Transcription starting mid-sixth line, a new sentence:


Be it Remembered that I, William Saunders of the City of Philadelphia Merchant being mindfull of my mortality do make & declare my last Will & Testament (thereby revoking all former Wills by me heretofore made) in manner following that is to say. First it is my will that my debts and funeral expences be duly paid And I give unto my cousin William Saunders the son of my uncle Charles Saunders Five shillings if the same be lawfully demanded. And I do give devise & bequeath unto my nephew Zachariah Whitpain (the son of John Whitpain decd) under all and singular the conditions charges and contingencies hereafter mentioned willed and devised All that moiety part of certain water corn mills in Roxborough Township in the County of Philadelphia situate on Wissahickon which I hold in common with Andrew Robeson with the toll profits utensils freeboards, buildings, rights, privileges members hereditaments & appurtenances thereunto belonging. And also all my land tenements & hereditaments whatsoever in Roxborough aforesaid with my part right to the ferry shore) with all and singular the boats, oars, utensils, & appurtenances thereof or thereto belonging. And all my lott in the City of Philadelphia which I hold by

"And I do give, devise & bequeath unto my nephew Zachariah Whitpain (son of John Whitpain deceased) under all and singular the conditions charges and contingencies hereafter mentioned, willed and devised, all that moiety part of certain **water corn mills** in Roxborough Township in the County of Philadelphia situate in Wissahickon which I hold in common with Andrew Robeson, with the toll profits**,** utensils, (tbd – freeboards?), buildings, rights, privileges, tbd, hereditaments & appurtenances thereto belonging.

And also, all my land, tenements & hereditaments whatever in Roxborough aforesaid, with **my part right to the ferry shore with all and singular the boats, oars, utensils & appurtenances thereto belonging**."

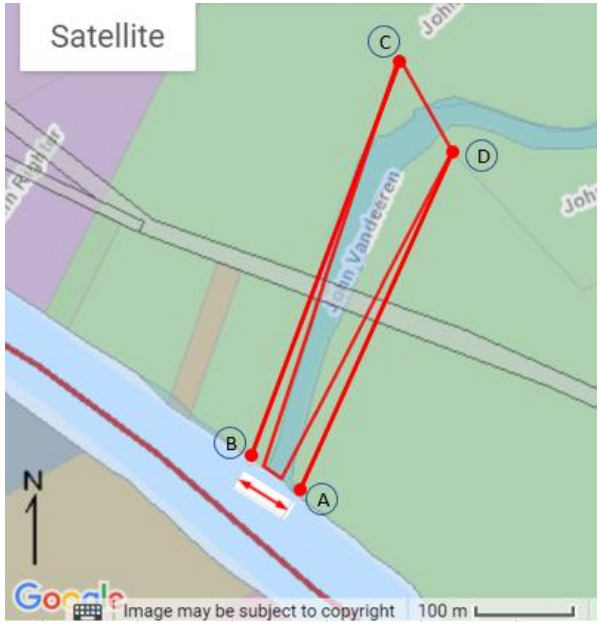
The first bequest to Z. Whitpain is for the 8 acres held "in common with Andrew Robeson" (III), son of Andrew Robeson Jr., in which the corn mills lay.

The second bequest gives Z. Whitpain[54] the 96 acres. William Whitpain came to own when the original 200 acres were partitioned in 1702 or 1703 at the request of Jon Vanlaer[55], by the Sheriff & twelve freemen[xx], and approved by the court. In that partition, Sarah (mother of William) and Wm. Whitpain received 88 acres on the west side of the Wissahickon and half (moiety) ownership of the "mills and 8 acres" that could not be equitably divided. John Vanlaer[56] received the other half of the interest in the 8 acres and mills and 96 acres. The remaining eight acres were now considered part of the public Ridge Road & School House Lane, and some were lost to re-surveys. In 1753, on Dec 26, Zachariah's widow, Sarah, sold the 88 acres and her half interest in the 8 acres to Weckhard Levering.

[54] There was a Zachariah Whitpaine who arrived in 1682 on 'The Welcome' with William Penn, likely this Zacharia's Grandfather: Genealogies Details — FamilySearch.org.
[55] Likely Johannes Vanlaer, Baker, b. 1667 d. 1722: Genealogies Details — FamilySearch.org and John Van Laer Family Tree • FamilySearch
[56] His son married Prescilla (or Priscilla) Preston, daughter of Ann (nee Taylor) & William Preston: Descendants of Daniel Hartung and Elizabeth Keen (familysearch.org) Preston is mentioned in the 11 July 1691 Deed and Preston's reported Occupation was mason and builder: Genealogies Details — FamilySearch.org Elsewhere: Master Builder John Van Laer (1690–Deceased), Priscilla Preston (1693–1720) • Landscape View • Family Tree • FamilySearch

1733 – The map is from the 1777 UP project, land owned as of 1755. Additional text continued from 1696 is from James F. Magee Jr. describing this slice of the Park.

Chadwick-Papers-Volume-36.pdf (eastfallshistoricalsociety.org)



"Of the 21 Colonial mills erected on the Wissahickon and its branches in Roxborough and Germantown Townships, but one building remains today [1933][57], and that is the famous mill built on the above-mentioned 8 acres *(1696-year prior section mention)* of land at the confluence of the Schuylkill River and the Wissahickon Creek.

This mill was built before 1733[58] and then called "the Wissahickon Grist and Bolting Mill", but before 1748 it became known as "The Roxborough Mill."[59] From 1703 until 1743, the 8 acres were owned jointly by the heirs of Andrew Robeson 2nd, Charles Saunders *(his heirs)*. The mill is first mentioned in the will of William Saunders[60] in 1733 "a grist mill-two pair of stones under one roof named the Wissahickon Mills[61], erected on 8 acres of land". In 1748 the mill was rented to Thomas Tilberry."[62]

Note: The above referenced "grist mill -- two pair of stones under one roof…" appears to have come from the deed 12 Aug 1752 Grantor: Rudeman Robeson to Henry Shellenberg.

(There is a great deal more about the slice of 8 acres on the map in year 1755-1757.)

[57] Written 1933-1934 – or Robeson's Rolling Mill

[58] Per the Article, t**he 1733 date** came from W. Sanders's Will, and the Author lacked access to earlier deeds. 1733 William Sanders Will - Will Book E page 275 Will No 354 https://www.familysearch.org/records/images/image-details?place=11027603&page=1&endDate=1733&startDate=1699&rmsId=TH-909-52823-93766-60&imageIndex=556&singleView=true

[59] Reference here is to all three mills as two Mill-stones "under the same roof" as of 1733.

[60] Sarah (Sara) Saunders died in 1733 (then married to Griffiths Owen). Charles Saunders died 1699 had a son William (1698 – **1726**) so it seems likely the 1733 reference is to Sarah's Will. https://www.ancestrylibrary.com/family-tree/person/tree/168039769/person/152208815972/facts?ssrc=&queryId=092f747e05dd0bdc88a8791bc361d0ad&ml_rpos=3

[61] This is unclear but seems to be a reference to the flour mill North of Ridge to south of the Creek. It seems highly unlikely that the race of water into Canoe Club Mill carried enough water for two or three mill stones. More on the water flow question comes up in the 1822 era.

[62] This reference is per the deed of Eliz. Robeson's 1/3 share of half the estate to her brother Rudman Robeson in 1748.

1734 – 1789: The Colonial Years & Revolutionary War

1742 – First Rolling Mills in New Jersey and in Pennsylvania

New Jersey: The first two furnaces (Tinton Falls and Mount Holly) extracted ore from bogs in South Jersey, impure deposits called bog iron**.** Oxford furnace, at Oxford, in Warren county, on a branch of the Pequest River, was **built by Jonathan Robeson** in 1742, the first constructed at a site where iron ore was mined. Tradition says that it was first blown by a water-blast. Cannon balls were cast at this furnace in the French war of 1755 /and for the Continental army.

Oxford Furnace produced a variety of products, including Pig iron: This was the primary product of the furnace. It was used to make a variety of other products, including tools, weapons, and construction materials such **as nails**. This last point is important as reports of the Robeson Rolling Mill producing nails has been found in historical accounts of the mill.[63]

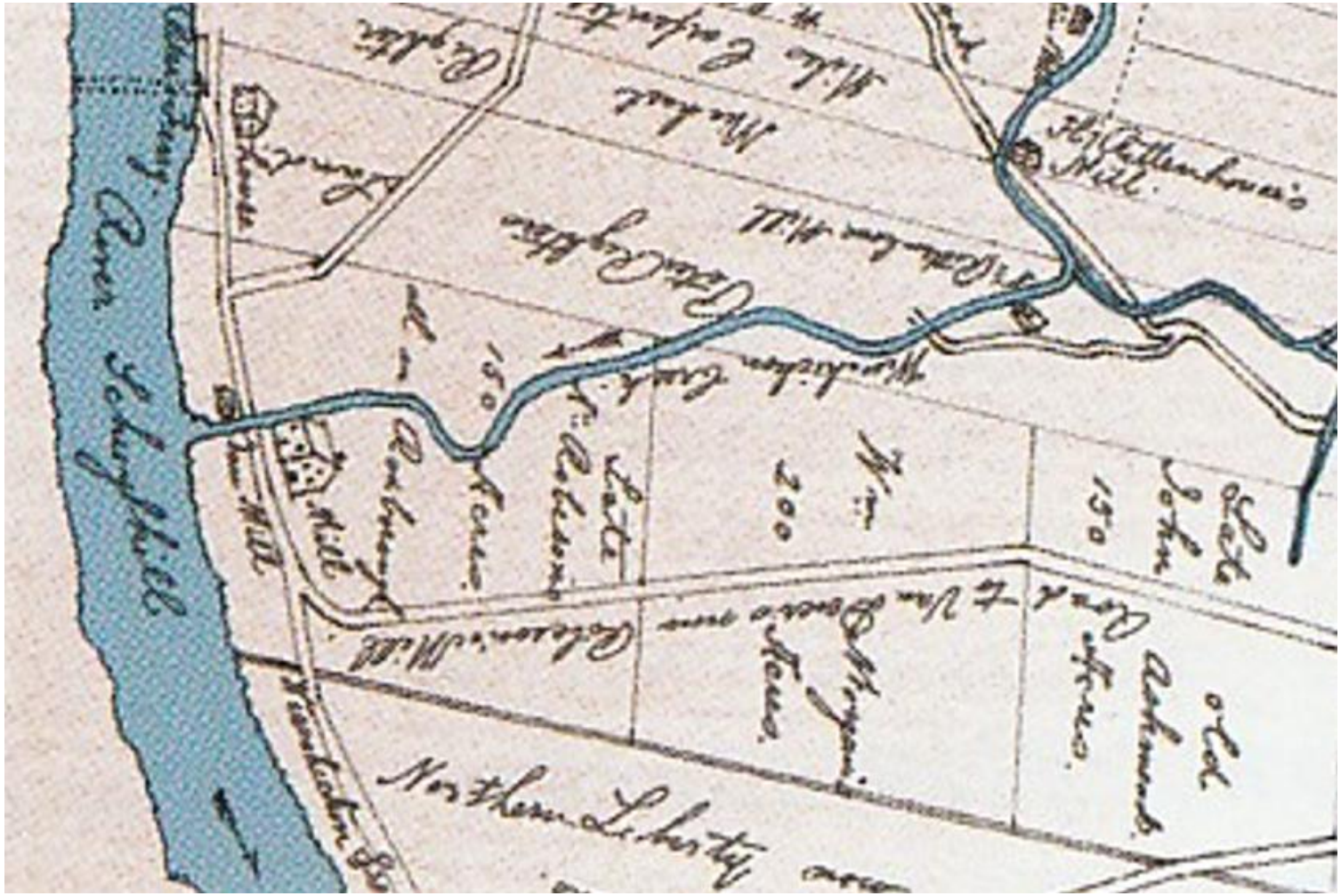
Pennsylvania[64]: "The first absolute proof that the forge was erected is the petition of Obadiah Bonsall for license to keep a tavern in Thornbury (Delaware County, Pa.), dated August 31, 1743, on "the road leading from the French Creek Iron Works to Thornbury Forge," in which he uses as his argument for the erection of the inn at that place the fact that there were "many people resorting to and working at and near to the Forge." Another indication that the forge was erected previous to 1746 is that on January 18, 1745, John Taylor made an agreement with Thomas Wills, forgeman and finer, to work in the forge for two years in making anconits *(sic)* at 22s. 6d. per ton. The only way to effect a partial agreement between the statements that John Taylor was an iron worker in 1742 and that the sheriff of Chester county reported that he built the rolling and slitting-mill in 1746, is to assert that his forge was his means of livelihood in 1742 and at that time designated by the sheriff the rolling and slitting mill was erected. James M. Swank, in his volume, "The Manufacture of Iron in all Ages," states that the enterprises conducted by John Taylor

> "were upon an extensive and varied scale, and included the manufacture of nails as well as nail rods. The tradition is preserved by his descendants that soon after the erection of the slitting mill, his store-keeper, in making one of his periodical visits to England to replenish his stock, surprised the Liverpool merchants by telling them that he could buy nails at Taylor's mill at lower prices than they quoted, a revelation which added weight to the clamor then prevailing in England for the suppression of slitting-mills and similar iron establishments in America, and which agitation resulted in the passage in 1750, of an act of Parliament, which prohibited the further erection of such works."

[63] Chadwick Papers Volume 81 conv 37 Roxborough News Jan 5th 1927.

[64] Jordan's V1 PG4 HISTORY OF DELAWARE COUNTY, PA, 1914 (genealogytrails.com)

1746 Original Map by Matthias Zimmerman, 1746, copied by Christian Lehman, 1766 and again by Joseph Lehman, 1824, GHS[65] A **Saw Mill** appears on this map, middle far left, near the confluence of the Creek & River. Map copied from the book; a high-resolution map is on order from the Beinecke Library, part of Yale University Library.


Mill
Mill
Mill

1748 Sep 22 Zachariah Whitpaine Deed to Magdalen Robeson[66]

Key Property Description: "…Corn or Grist Mills or Millns [sic – see the Glossary for 'Millns' discussion] (now being two grist mills with two pairs of Stones under one Roof) sometimes called or known by the name Wissahickon Mills and now called Roxborough Mills with their Appurtenances..." "Mill Races" in the plural form.

See discussion in the Glossary as one or both of the "or" words above should be "&."

Magdalen Robeson (b. 1687 d. 1764): In **1718,** Magdalen became the 2nd wife of Thomas Potts, a key leader in the development of the early iron industry in what is now Berks County and Robeson Township.

[66] Deeds (Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania), 1683-1886 ; index to deeds, 1683-1916; ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSN1-D9NS-K?i=325&cat=227024 (familysearch.org)

1750 – The "Iron Act of 1750" passed by the British Parliament on 5 May, 1750.

The Iron Act had two purposes; it sought to 1. encourage the production of raw iron in North America while 2. placing limitations and fines on the manufacturing of finished iron products in the colonies.[67]

The Iron Act of 1750 imposed a fine of £200 on any person who manufactured finished iron products in the colonies. The act also prohibited the construction of new slitting mills, rolling mills, and steel furnaces in the colonies. These restrictions were intended to protect the interests of British iron manufacturers, who were concerned about the growing competition from colonial producers.

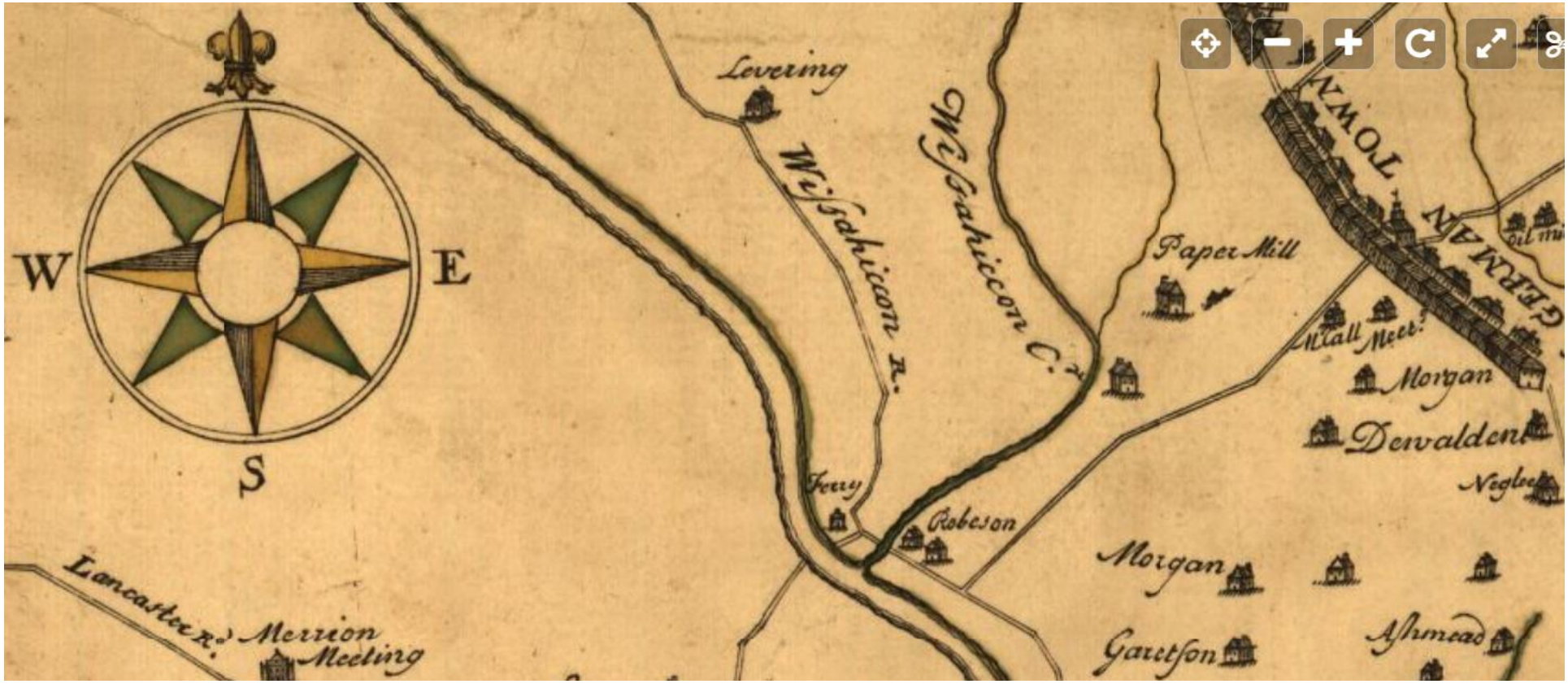
The Iron Act of 1750 was met with widespread opposition in the colonies. The colonists argued that the act was an infringement on their rights as British subjects. They also argued that the act would harm the colonial economy by driving up the cost of iron products. The act was eventually repealed in 1773.

There is no record of anyone in Pennsylvania being fined under the Iron Act of 1750. The act was unpopular in the colonies, and it was not strictly enforced. In fact, the Pennsylvania Assembly passed a resolution in 1751 declaring that the act was "repugnant to the rights of the people of this province."

[67] The Iron Act (1950) (alphahistory.com)

1750 A map of Philadelphia and parts adjacent https://www.loc.gov/resource/g3824p.ct000294/.

Created / Published Philadelphia: N. Scull et al., 1752. The Ferry, being upriver, is the old Pencoyd Iron Works trestle. Note the name of Ridge Avenue was give as “Wissahiccon Road.” (Another good source: A Map of Philadelphia and Parts Adjacent – Encyclopedia Virginia**)**

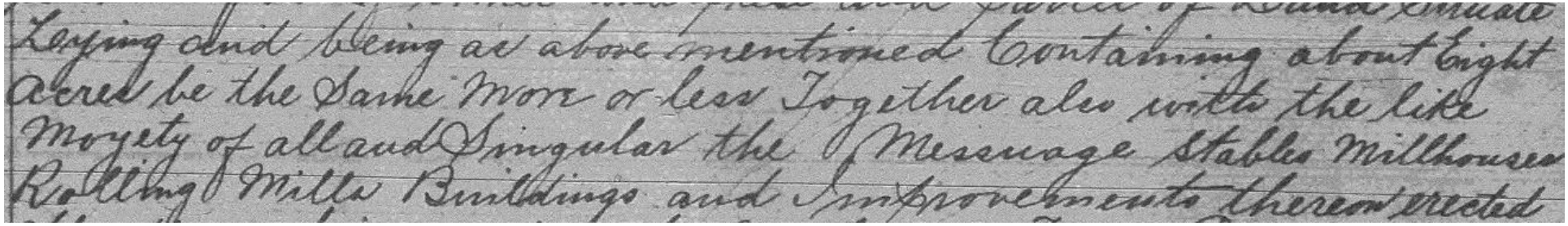


The Ferry: Andrew Robeson, Jr., continued to run the flour mill and in addition he operated a ferry from just above the mill across the Schuylkill to the Lower Merion shore. Then as now, Shoomac Park, standing at the head of the Wissahickon Valley, commanded an important crossroads. Travelers and waggoners [sic] going northwest from Philadelphia moved up the Ridge Road (called Wissahickon Road on the Scull & Heap "Map of Philadelphia" 1750) by the Robeson house and mill, and waggons [sic] and horsemen going southwest from Germantown came to Robeson’s ferry to cross the Schuylkill on their way to the Conestoga Road. Conversely, travelers from the back country, went past Robeson’s on their way to Philadelphia and those living west of the Schuylkill, used his ferry to cross to the east side. By mid-century, the ferry was kept by Peter Righter and known as Righter's ferry.

1752 Aug 22 Indenture Rudiman *(or Rudeman)* **Robeson to Henry Shellenberg 96 acres and his Share of the Eight Acre Parcel.** The 1752 May 22 Magdalen Robeson to Henry Shellenberg deed is essentially the same except it says more simply "Mills" in same place where the Rudiman deed says "Rolling Mills".

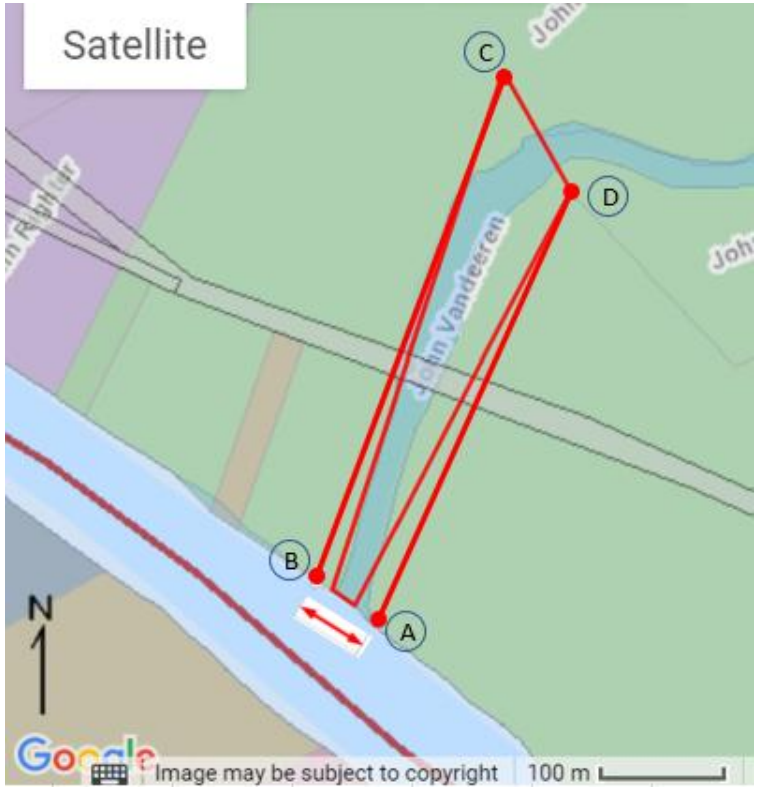
Page 1 of original, handwritten transcription found in the City Archives: "…two pair of Stones under one Roof…" *(notice not three pair of stones as referenced in 1702).* "Called or known by the name of Wissahickon Mills and now called Roxborough Mills with the Appurtenances and also and in the like Moriety of a certain parcel of Land Containing about Eight Acres Situate in Roxborough Township aforesaid and next adjoining to the said Mills which Eight Acres by their Consent of the former Owner thereof were left for Estovers and Common for the necessary use and Service of the said Mills and he the said Andrew Robeson being so thereof seized died intestate leaving Issue three Children, to wit Andrew the said Robeson his sons and Elizabeth his only Daughter. And whereas the said Andrew Robeson the Son also died Intestate and without Issue before any Division or Distribution was made… Said Rudiman having a Double Share…" *(Concerns 96 acres, not the eight acre parcel – see page 2; Elizabeth received 1/3 share).*

Page 2: "And also the one full equal and undivided Moriety or half part of and with the Mill and Mills with two pair of Stones and part and parcel of Land Situate Laying and being on above mentioned Containing about Eight Acres be the same more or less Together also with the like Moriety of all and singular the Messuage, Stables, Millhouses, **Rolling Mills,** Buildings and Improvement thereon erected."


Laying and being as above mentioned Containing about Eight
acres be the same more or less Together also with the like
Moiety of all and Singular the Messuage Stables Millhouses
Rolling Mills Buildings and Improvements thereon erected

1755 ownership: John Vandeeren https://maps.archives.upenn.edu/WestPhila1777/view-parcel.php?pid=143

Year Acquired: 1755, Deeded Land Area: eight acres, Source: I 12.418 Deed book)



Mapping West Philadelphia: Landowners in October 1777

"Mapping West Philadelphia: Landowners in October 1777" is a web-based, geographic data application and is open to the public. It was developed by the University of Pennsylvania's University Archives and Records Center from research provided by J.M. Duffin. The website is designed to assist scholarly research and the general public in efforts to analyze, interpret, and understand the history of the growth of West Philadelphia and the greater Philadelphia area at the time of the American Revolution. *It is a work-in-progress which will be updated on a periodic basis as research for different parts of the Philadelphia area is completed.*

Source: the primary source for the Owner Name, Year Acquired, and parcel boundary data. Unless otherwise stated all sources that include alpha-numeric combinations (e.g., AM 54.522) are Philadelphia Deed Book references.

Robeson Genealogy continued

https://archive.org/details/historicalgeneal00osbo/page/10/mode/2up?q=mill

When Henry Shellenberger died, his widow sold their land to John Vandeerin *(elsewhere Vandeeren)*, on June 8, 1755[68]. He then bought a considerable part of the original property but toward the close of his life became deranged.

At his death, his estate was sold by the sheriff and purchased on Dec. 8, 1789, by Peter and Jonathan Robeson, brothers and great-grandsons of Andrew Jr. They paid $15,400 for 263 acres. Jonathan died in 1799, and Peter purchased his interest. Peter was married to Martha Livezey.

[68] Sources Vandeeren purchase per the West Phila. 1777 project by date, acres and deed book: 1755 **96 acres Deed book:** I 12.418 and 1755 **8 acres Deed book** I 12.418 Search on name Vandeeren: https://maps.archives.upenn.edu/WestPhila1777/browse-parcels.php

1760: John Vandaren acquired the full interest in the mill in 1760.

It was this mill that was mentioned in Washington's order to General Armstrong on the morning of the Battle of Germantown, Oct. 4, 1777 "to pass down the Ridge Road and take guides to cross the Wissahickon Creek above the head of John Van Deering's mill dam."

It was also Vandaren's Hill at Wissahickon, on the Ridge Road from Wissahickon Creek to Roxborough, to which Captain Parr was dispatched on the 19th of May 1778, to head off the British troops under General Grey from coming up the Ridge Road, when Lafayette was encamped at Barren Hill.

In 1789 the mill and 263 acres of land were sold at sheriff's sale to Peter and Jonathan, Robeson. *(For other background on the Battle of Germantown and the Mills see: https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/03-11-02-0404 and http://lcweb2.loc.gov/master/pnp/habshaer/pa/pa0800/pa0884/data/pa0884data.pdf)*Source as a .pdf: https://ia802303.us.archive.org/11/items/historicalsketch00mile/historicalsketch00mile.pdf

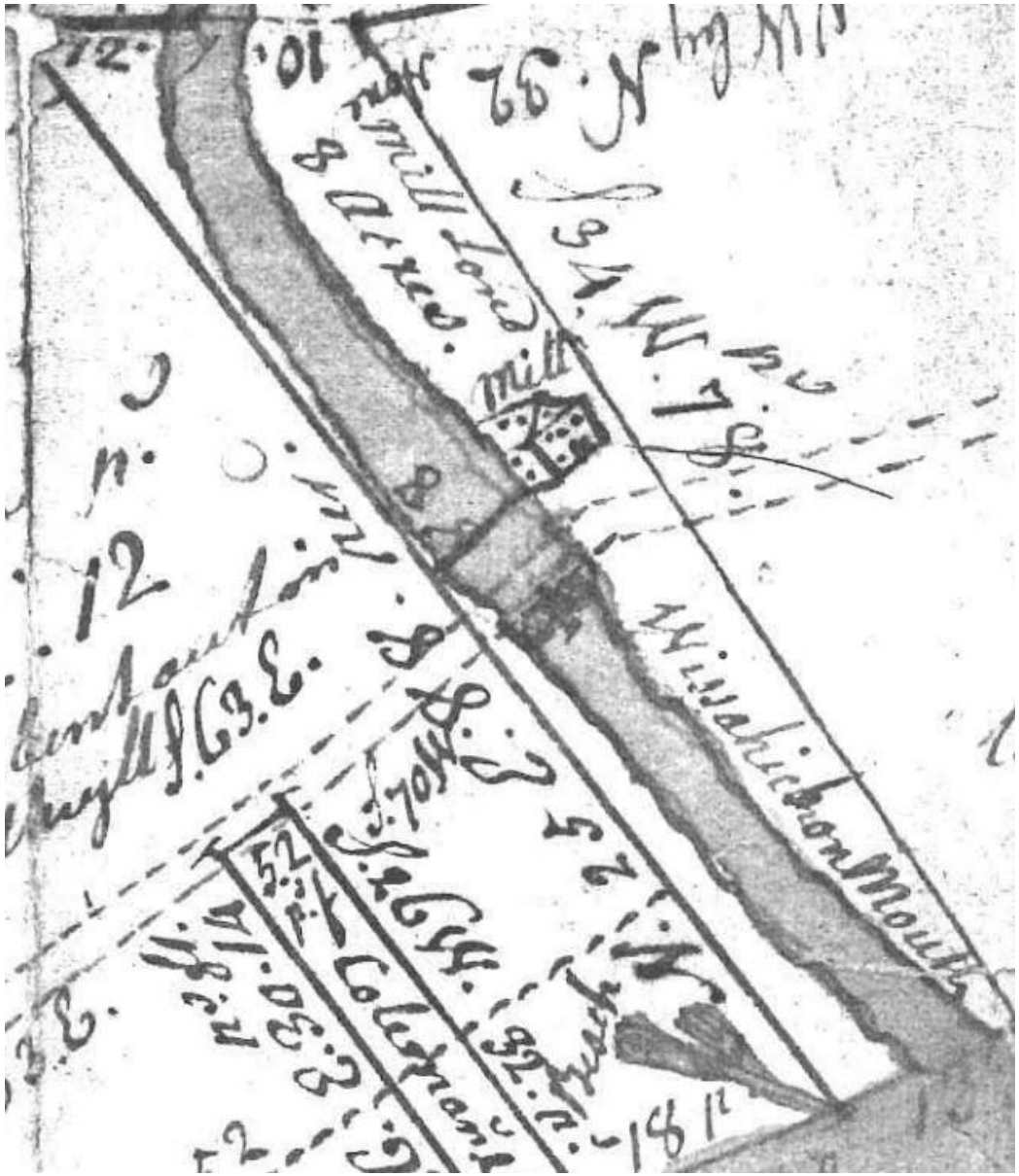
1760 Christian Lehman Plan. Lehman was the principal surveyor in the Germantown area in the mid-18th century.

This map has an enlarged section of the eight acres of interest on the next page. The Survey was completed as part of the sale of fifty-three acres by Wichard Levering to John Vanderen. The Robeson's Rolling Mill is not on the map, but neither is the Saw Miall which is named in many Deeds going back to 1691 and was, it seems, converted to a grist mill for a time – see the year 1733.



1760 Christian Lehman plan: Lehman was the principal surveyor in the Germantown area in the mid-18th century.

Here are the “Mill Land 8 acres” from the Survey. In addition to its missing the Saw Mill and the Robeson’s Rolling Mill, no other buildings are on the map except upstream the ‘new’ Nicholas Rittenhouse & John Vanderen Mill is noted (Mill #4 on the Macfarlan maps).



1777 Plan of the city and environs of Philadelphia Date January 1, **1777**. https://historicpittsburgh.org/islandora/object/pitt%3ADARMAP0350

Engraved and published by Matthew Albert Lotter. 1777. This is **Lotter's version of the Scull & Heap map**, apparently issued in both English and German versions per Seller & van Ee [sic] #1322.









1777 British Ensign John Hill Map: published by William Faden (1784) Sketch of the Surprise at German Town by the American Forces Commanded by General Washington October 4th, 1777 (See also map Forts on the Delaware River[69])

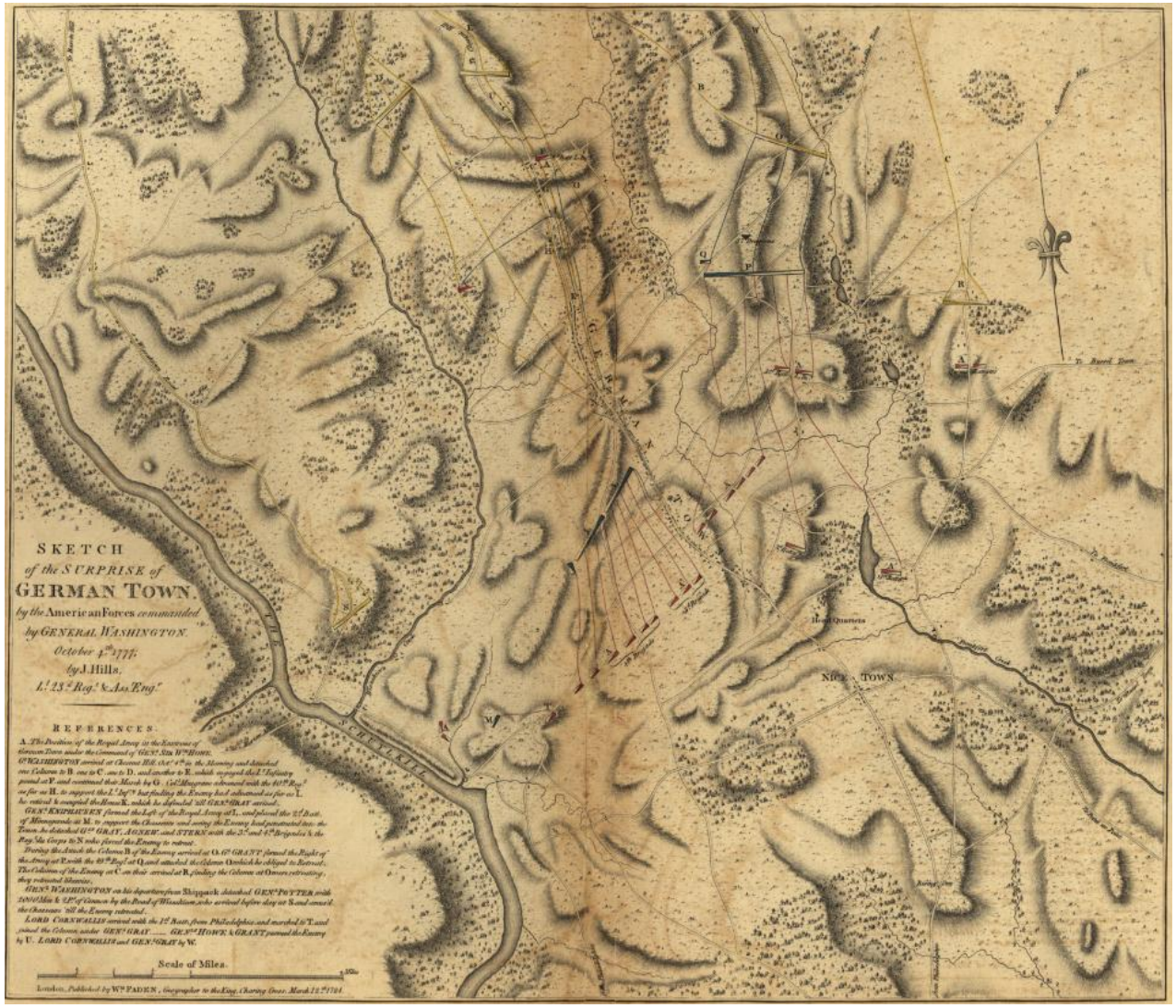
The scale of the map is large and the detail outstanding, so the reader is encouraged to download the large .tiff version (10 MB), use Windows Photo Viewer or a comparable tool to zoom in to then see the Wissahickon Mill #3 on the Creek and see Mill #1 at the confluence of the Wissahickon Creek and The River[70].

Use the Harvard.edu version and zoom-in: Sketch of the surprise of German Town by the American forces

commanded by General Washington October 4th, 1777 - Scanned Maps - CURIOSity Digital Collections (harvard.edu)

Drawn by a British cartographer and discussed in this critical Endnote.[xxi]



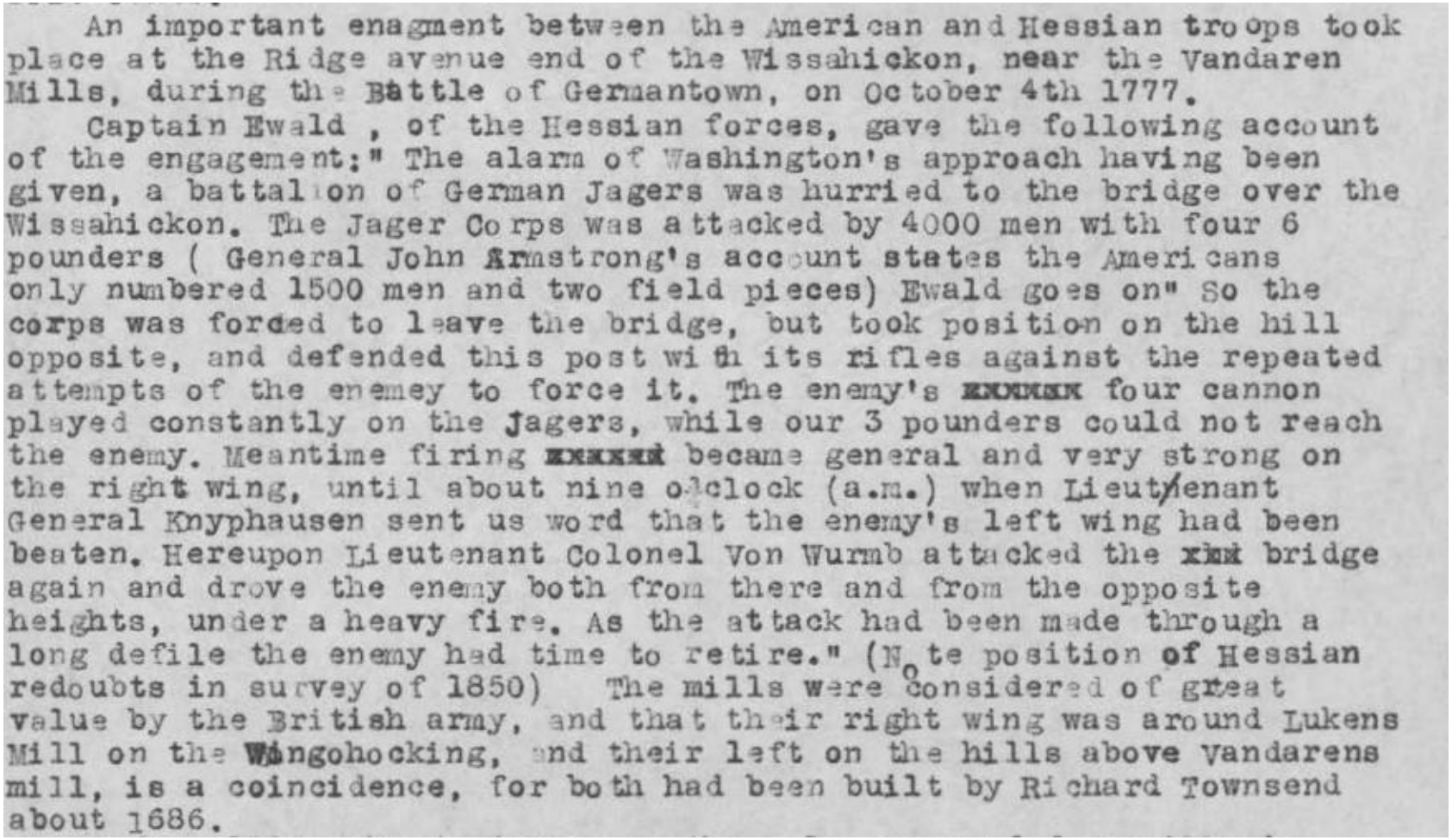


[69] Map by Johann Martine Will – Forts on the Delaware River – less detailed map. See Article here: Battle of Germantown – Part 2 – Revolutionary War Journal

[70] Library of Congress site for download: Sketch of surprise of Germantown, 4 October 1777 | Library of Congress (loc.gov)

1777 AC Chadwick Papers Volume 36, Page 5[71]

Chadwick's source of the below account of the action near the Mills during the Battle of Germantown is not known for sure, but it may well have been Horatio Gates Jones – see page 88 CTRL-CLCK Historic notes of olden time in Roxborough and Manayunk (familysearch.org).



An important enagment between the American and Hessian troops took place at the Ridge avenue end of the Wissahickon, near the Vandaren Mills, during the Battle of Germantown, on October 4th 1777.

Captain Ewald , of the Hessian forces, gave the following account of the engagement:" The alarm of Washington's approach having been given, a battalion of German Jagers was hurried to the bridge over the Wissahickon. The Jager Corps was attacked by 4000 men with four 6 pounders (General John Armstrong's account states the Americans only numbered 1500 men and two field pieces) Ewald goes on" So the corps was forced to leave the bridge, but took position on the hill opposite, and defended this post with its rifles against the repeated attempts of the enemey to force it. The enemy's xxxxxx four cannon played constantly on the Jagers, while our 3 pounders could not reach the enemy. Meantime firing xxxxxx became general and very strong on the right wing, until about nine o'clock (a.m.) when Lieutenant General Knyphausen sent us word that the enemy's left wing had been beaten. Hereupon Lieutenant Colonel Von Wurmb attacked the xxx bridge again and drove the enemy both from there and from the opposite heights, under a heavy fire. As the attack had been made through a long defile the enemy had time to retire." (Note position of Hessian redoubts in survey of 1850) The mills were considered of great value by the British army, and that their right wing was around Lukens Mill on the Wingohocking, and their left on the hills above Vandarens mill, is a coincidence, for both had been built by Richard Townsend about 1686.

[71] Note – Pages are not all in numeric order: Chadwick Papers Volume 36.pdf (wsimg.com)

1777 HEAT OF WAR IN THE ENVIRONS OF PHILADELPHIA: By Thos. Kitchin, Senior. Hydrographer to his Majesty. For the London Magazine 1777.

http://www.mapsofpa.com/18thcentury/1777kitchin.jpg

It appears here and, on another map, that there was a Ferry to the Northwest of Robeson's Rolling Mill where Robeson's land met Righter's land.





1778 Mill Disablement on George Washington's Orders

On the 1st of Feb., 1778, "George Washington ordered 27-year old Major John Jameson, in concert with 23-year old Brigadier General John Lacey to disable all the mills upon Pennepack & Wissahickon Creeks beginning on Sunday, 01 February 1778 with Morris' at Frankfort, Vanderen's on Wissahickon & Lewis' at Pennepack to reduce the food supply of British occupiers of Philadelphia." "As it will be impossible for you to remove the stones, I am advised to take off the spindles and saw off the spikes of the water wheels." [72]

A recap of Jameson's report back to Washington is below[73]

Page 250
"To **Major John Jameson**," February 1, 1778, PGW, 13:437. 113. "From **Major John Jameson**," February 2, 1778, PGW, 13:440. Beginning on February 8, Jameson and Lacey began destroying the mills. By the eleventh, their task was complete.

And from Brigadier General John Lacey, Jr., Camp Warwick Bucks [Pa.] Febry 11th 1778.[74]

> Dear General, I must again trouble you with an account of my Inability, on account of my Numbers which is Reduced to between Sixty and a hundred, I have informed the President of the State of my Situation, but have not Yet Rec'd any Relief, or answer.
>
> I have in Conjunction with Major Jameson party of Horse—Rendered the greatest part of the Mills Near the City entirely useless.

Postscript from a British Officer: "William Howe's aide Captain Muenchhausen wrote in his diary on 8 Feb. that "This morning several small rebel detachments ruined all the mills between our lines and their position. This does not hurt us very much because we are always sure of provisions from England, while they ruin their own country by such acts."[75]

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[72] From George Washington to Major John Jameson, 1 February 1778 (archives.gov): From George Washington to Major John Jameson, 1 February 1778," *Founders Online,* National Archives, https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/03-13-02-0356. [Original source: *The Papers of George Washington*, Revolutionary War Series, vol. 13, *26 December 1777–28 February 1778*, ed. Edward G. Lengel. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2003, pp. 437–438.]

[73] The Disaffected: Britain's Occupation of Philadelphia During the American**, b**y Aaron Sullivan

[74] To George Washington from Brigadier General John Lacey, Jr., 1 … (archives.gov)

[75] https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/03-13-02-0361

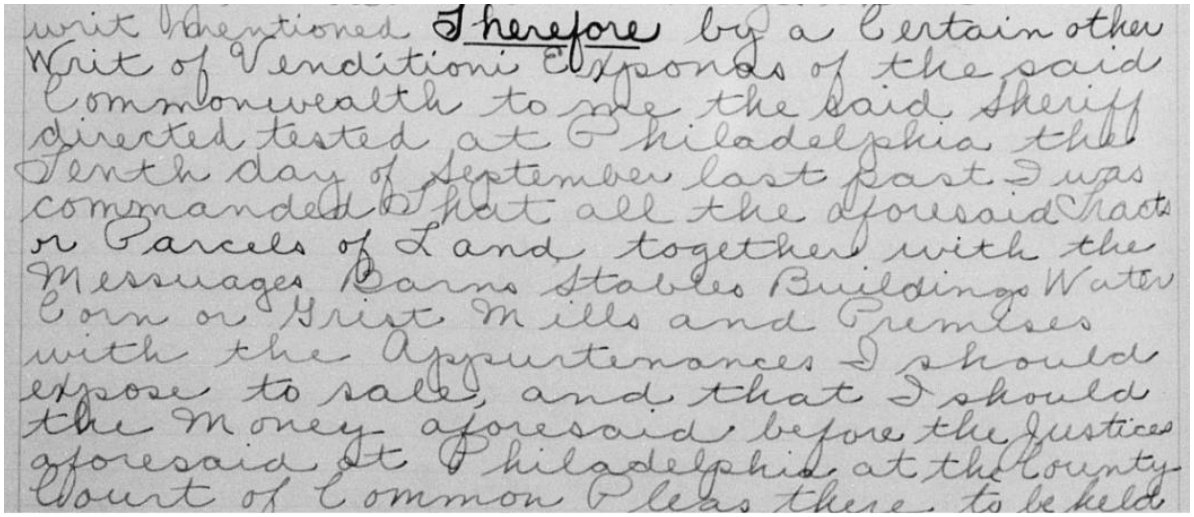
1789 – 1862: The Robeson family return, Milverton & the Loss of Water-Power

1789/1799: Jonathon Robeson & Peter Robeson III, Great-Grandsons of Andrew Robeson Jr., purchase 263 acres from the Vanderen Estate at a Sheriff Sale.

Between 1755 and c. 1760, John Vanderen completed a remarkable set of land purchases that essentially bought back all the 200 acres that were owned by the Robesons and Sander families in 1702 plus an additional 63 acres. In 1785 Mar 9 Pennsylvania Gazette, Vanderen advertised the 90 acres that included all the mills for rent. In the 1787 Feb 14 Pennsylvania Gazette, a bill to proclaim Vanderen as "Non comps mentis" was introduced to halt his ability to sell land or convey personal property. John Vanderen died in 1788 and a "writ of venditions exponsas" was direct to the Sheriff, John Ash, to sell the estate to pay debtors.

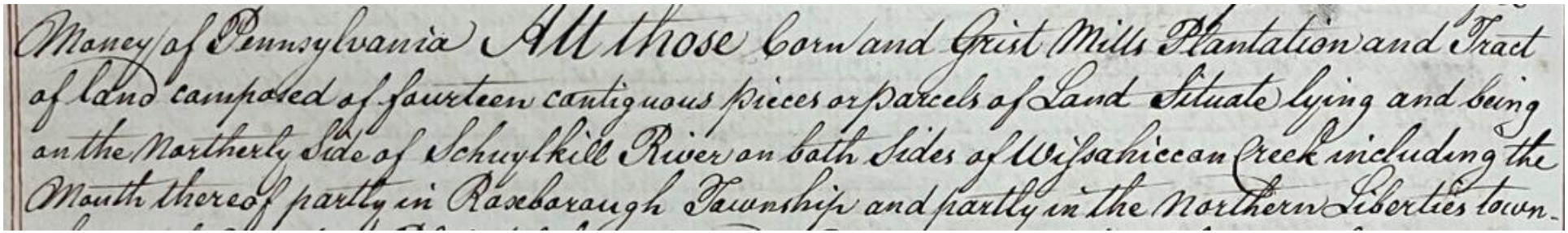
The Sheriff's sale was held in December 1789 and the deed transferred the land to the Robeson brothers on 6 Mar, 1790, and recorded 24 May, 1800.

Corn and Grist Mills: **The importance of these documents is that they establish that a "Corn" mill existed on the property in 1789 and 1790.**


writ Abentioned Therefore by a Certain other
Writ of Venditioni Exponas of the said
Commonwealth to me the said Sheriff
directed tested at Philadelphia the
Tenth day of September last past I was
commanded that all the aforesaid Tracts
or Parcels of Land together with the
Messuages Barns Stables Buildings Water
Corn or Grist Mills and Premises
with the Appurtenances I should
expose to sale, and that I should
the Money aforesaid before the Justices
aforesaid at Philadelphia at the County
Court of Common Pleas there to be held

Link: [1789 Dec 8 James Ash Sheriff to Peter and Jonathon Robeson.pdf (philacanoe.org)]

2nd link to Below: [1790 Mar 6 James Ash Esq Sheriiff Vanderen estate Deed to Peter and Jonathon Robeson.pdf (philacanoe.org)]


Money of Pennsylvania All those Corn and Grist Mills Plantation and Tract
of land composed of fourteen contiguous pieces or parcels of Land Situate lying and being
on the Northerly Side of Schuylkill River on both Sides of Wissahiccan Creek including the
Mouth thereof partly in Roxborough Township and partly in the Northern Liberties town-

1795 from the Duke de la Rochefoucauld as described in his "Travels through the United States of North America."

Below is a critical section of the Duke's account of his visit[76] with Peter Robeson about six years after Peter and his brother, Jonathon, purchased all of John Vanderen's lands in 1789, almost all of which were previously owned by the Robeson family until the mid-1700s.

"He (*Peter Robeson*) appears to be more skillful as a miller." ('More' than a farmer - see the prior page).

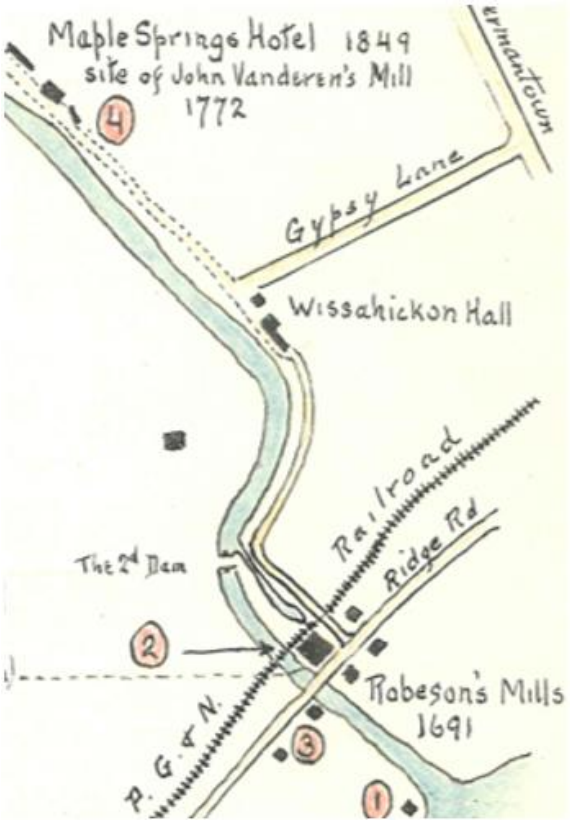
His mill, which is said to be the first built in America, is worked by a rivulet called Wissahickon, which turns twenty-five other mills before it reaches Robeson's.

It has <u>three separate water courses</u>, and three separate mills, two of which are for the manufactory (sic77), as they call it, and one for the public."

The underlining is added as it is important to note that there were three separate courses (races) for water in the Creek to power three separate mills, which are later described as grain mills.

The three mills would have been Robeson's Rolling Mill (#1 the original Corn Mill c. 1689-1690 or a rebuild of the mill), the much larger grain "Wissahickon Mill" north of Ridge Road (#2 built before 1701) and the mill that John Vanderen and Nicholas Rittenhouse built c. 1772 farther up the Creek #4. (#3 on this map is the Saw Mill built c. 1686-1689 and its water source, the lower dam was also the water source for mill #1.)

The map is from "The Wissahickon Mills" by Douglas Macfarlan, 1949. Gypsy Lane ends at School House Lane. On the route to Germantown. Return to the 1760 Christian Lehman plan map and see on the far right the land and mill owned by Vanderen and Rittenhouse on a narrow tract of land that went from the Creek up to School House Lane.



Side Note: **In 1793**, Jonathon Robeson purchased land from a Roxborough neighbor, John Righter, and built a Paper Mill across the River in Merion on Mill Creek. Robeson is referred to as a "blacksmith" in the 1926 article "Old Mills of Mill Creek, Lower Merion" by Charles R. Barker. There are reports of there being a blacksmith shop, across from the saw mill, on Ridge Ave. In addition to the large mill #2 on the map, Robeson may have reestablished or converted the mill on the Creek & Driver (#1) as a Rolling Mill and been known then for pressing iron bars into thinner iron to make wagon wheel hoops to repair wagons in the blacksmith shop[78].

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[76] CTRL+CLCK: eastfallshistoricalsociety.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Chadwick-Papers-Volume-48.pdf Page 21 (25th page at the link). See full volume and page 6 here: Travels through the United States of North America, the country of the Iroquois, and Upper Canada, in the years 1795, 1796, and 1797; with an authentic account of Lower Canada. By the Duke de La Rochefoucault Liancourt : La Rochefoucauld-Liancourt, François-Alexandre-Frédéric, duc de, 1747-1827 : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming : Internet Archive

[77] Factory is a synonym of manufactory. In obsolete terms, the difference between manufactory and a factory is that a manufactory is related to manufacturing while a factory is a trading establishment, especially set up by merchants working in a foreign country.

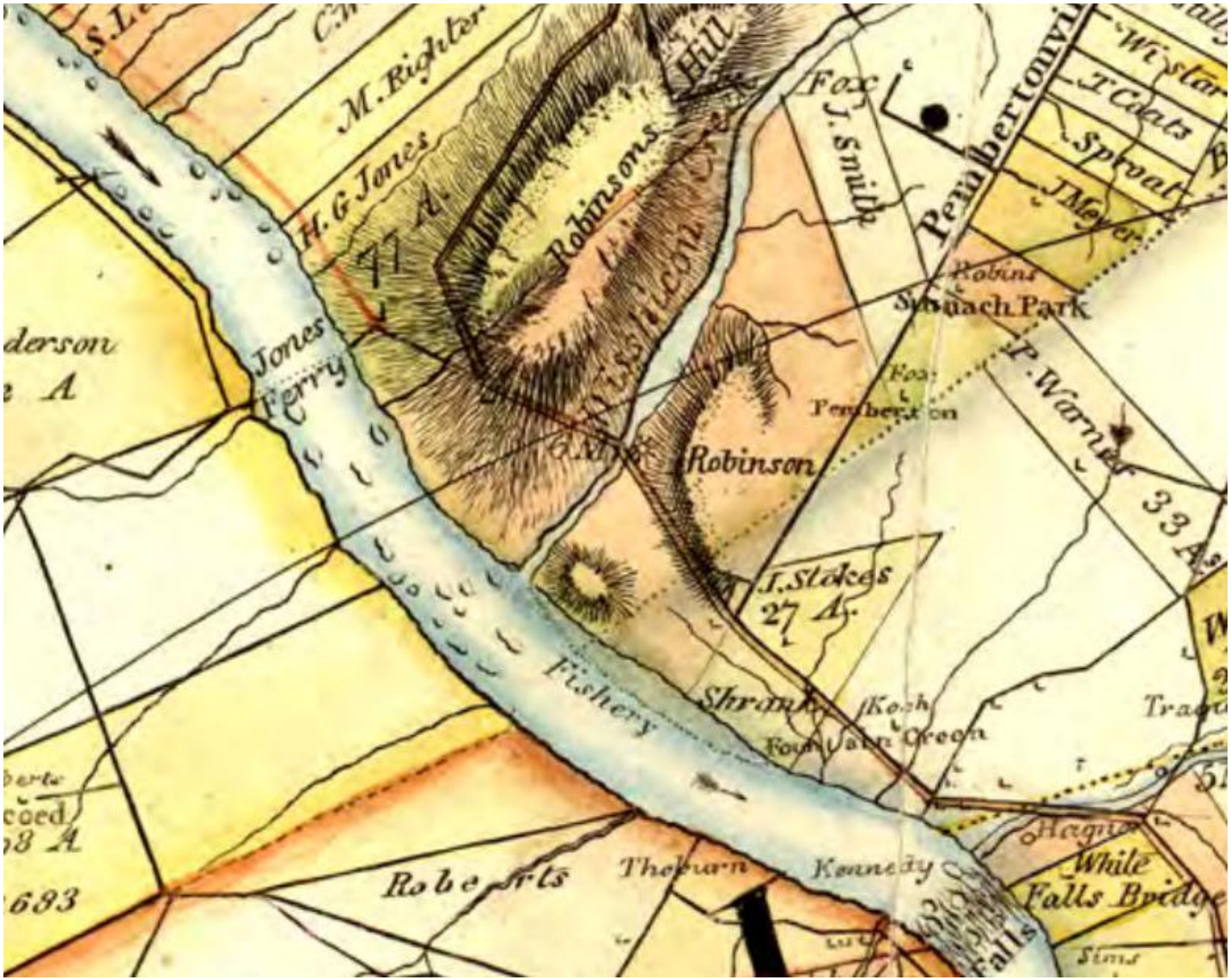
[78] Barker, Charles R., "Old Mills of Mill Creek, Lower Merion" 1926, *The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, Vol. 50, No. 1 page 14: Old Mills of Mill Creek, Lower Merion on JSTOR

1800 Stone Bridge over the Wissahickon, George Willie Beck. https://www.brooklynmuseum.org/opencollection/objects/2857

Below is a 'Romanticism era' picture from the Brooklyn Museum of the Ridge Road bridge, crossing the Wissahickon just up from where the Creek flows into the Schuylkill River. We believe it must be the Ridge Avenue bridge as this is the only place on the Wissahickon Creek with a bridge and then two Falls. Given the elevated perspective, it seems there is an excellent chance that it was painted from the second floor of Robeson's Rolling Mill, looking upstream. Regardless of this speculation, it is a beautiful picture.



1810 Map #106 – John Hills Record & Historical Map or Plan of the City of Philadelphia and Environs. The map is aligned with due North on top. At this time, the Ferry had been renamed "**Jones Ferry**" and is now owned by Horatio G. Jones. (Robeson misspelled "Robinson".)





http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/bah/dam/mg/di/m011/PDFs/m011Map0106_1.pdf

1816 “Metropolitan Paradise” Captain Watson's “Travels in America: The Sketchbooks and Diary of Joshua Rowley Watson”, 1772-1818. The Mouth of the Wissahickon and the Mill (page 128). CRTL-CLCK Borrow for one hour, see pg 128: Captain Watson's travels in America : the sketchbooks and diary of Joshua Rowley Watson, 1772-1818 : Foster, Kathleen A : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming : Internet Archive

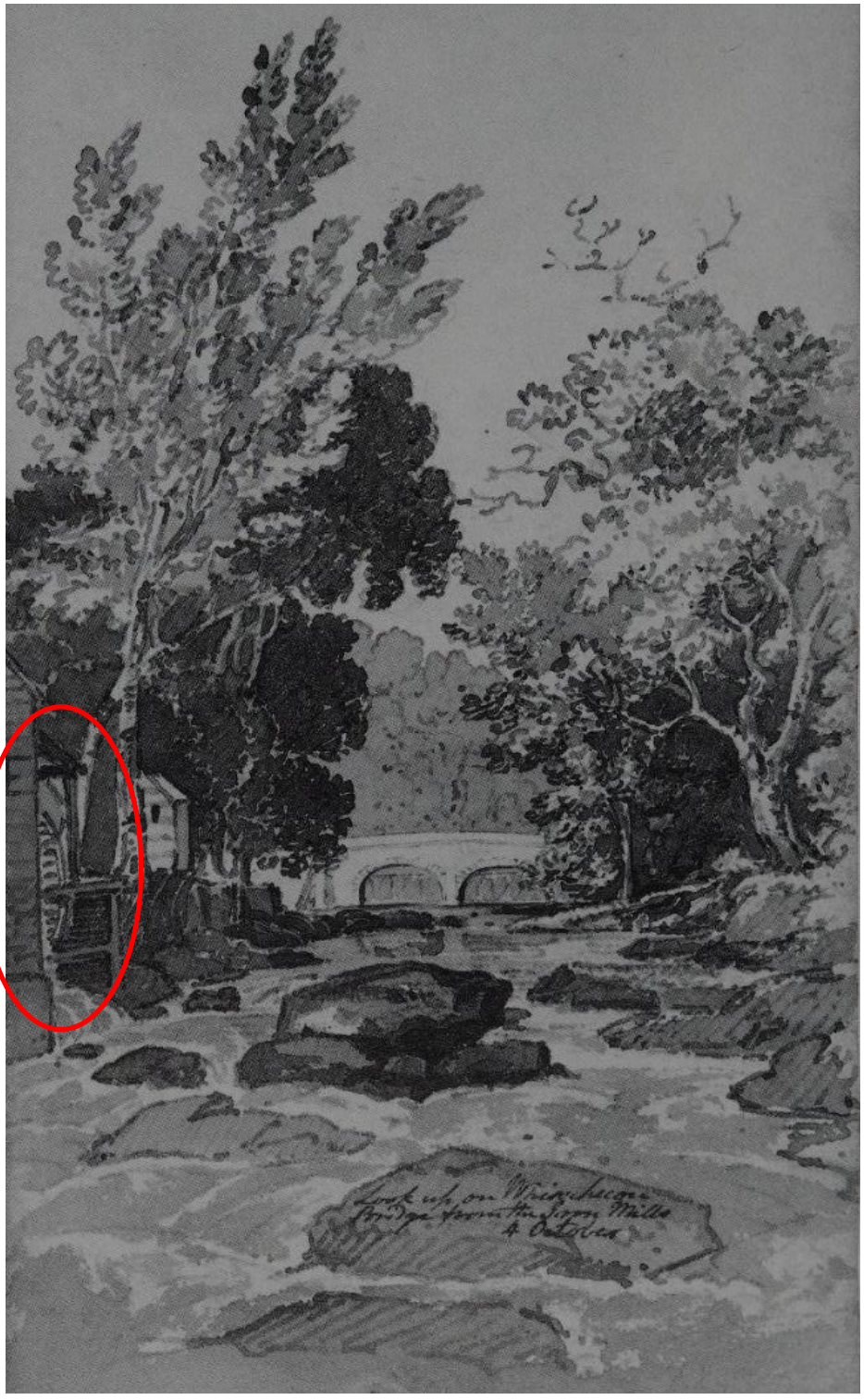


The Robeson Mills looking from the west bank of the Schuylkill River. Watercolor by Captain Joshua Watson, 1816. Source: The Barra Foundation, Inc.

See this picture also, as based on location of the small building close to the river it appears it may have been drawn from just south of the mouth of the Wissahickon looking west: CRTL-CLCK View above the Falls of Schuylkill, plate three of the first number of Picturesque Views of American Scenery | The Art Institute of Chicago (artic.edu)

1816 Captain Watson's "Travels in America: The Sketchbooks and Diary of Joshua Rowley Watson", continued[79]. Plate 32. Pen and black wash over graphite (B-93A)

The writing on the rock reads**:** "Look up on the Whissihicon Bridge from the Iron Mills 4 October. "



The NE corner of the Robeson Rolling Mill and a bit of the waterwheel's paddles can be seen on the right with water flowing out the tail race.

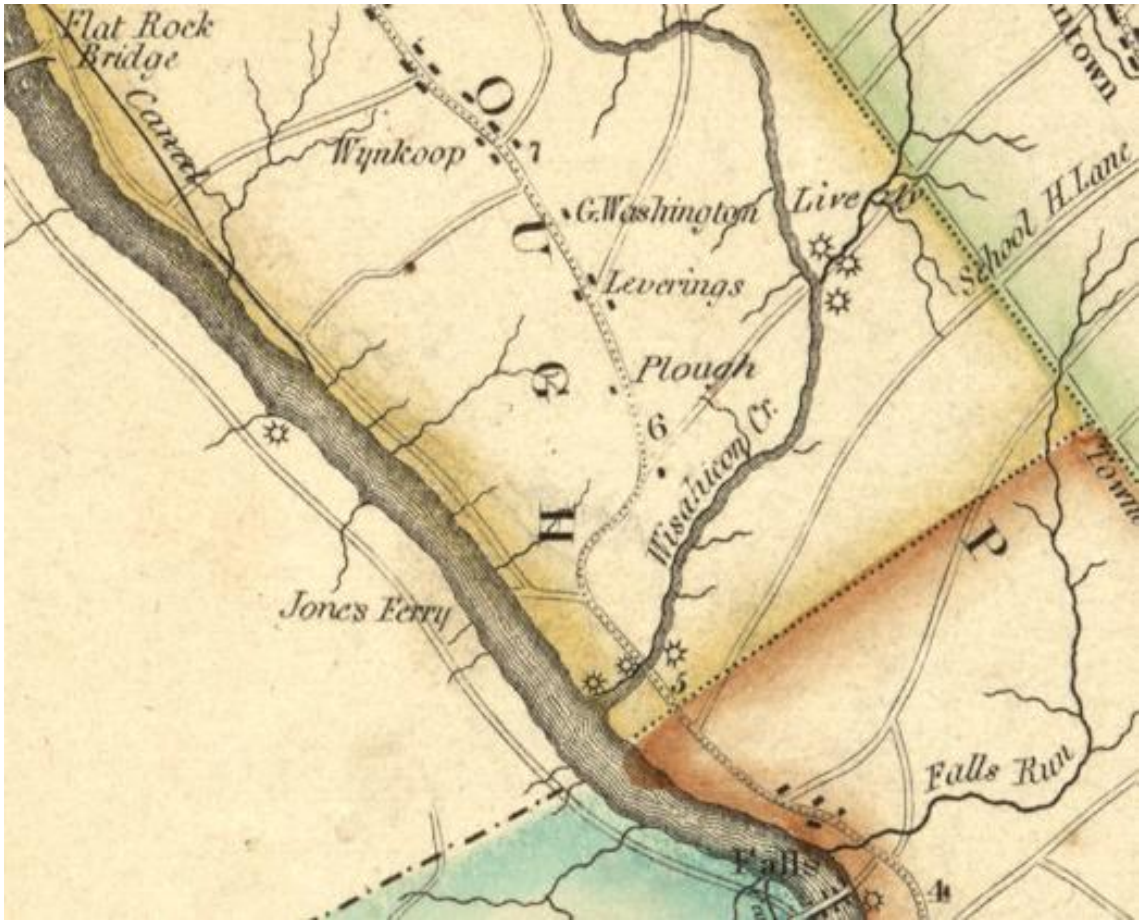
While the wheel was ten feet wide based on drawings from 1822, the artist must have paddled up the Creek to see it clearly, then paddled back and painted the wheel in the drawing.

Farther up on the left is the Saw Mill – see next page.
The bridge crossing on Ridge Road in the background (as on previous page).

[79] Page 131: Captain Watson's travels in America : the sketchbooks and diary of Joshua Rowley Watson, 1772-1818 : Foster, Kathleen A : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming : Internet Archive (32) See the lithograph: "Railroad Depot at Philadelphia" printed by Kennedy & Lucas, 1832. Copies at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania and the Library Company of Philadelphia, reproduced in Wainwright, Philadelphia in the Romantic Age of Lithography, no. 305. The Second Annual Report of the Commissioners of Fairmount Park (Philadelphia: King and Baird, Printers, 1870) contains a detailed "Map of the survey of Wissahickon Creek from its mouth to Paul's Mill Road."

1816 Map of Philadelphia County: John Melish. The oldest map found to date with both of the two mills on the northwest side of the confluence of the Schuylkill & Wissahickon. Question: Other than the 1777 map, could it be that the mill at the confluence of the Creek & River was as not in earlier maps owing to the fact that it was a smaller mill and not visible from Ridge Road.

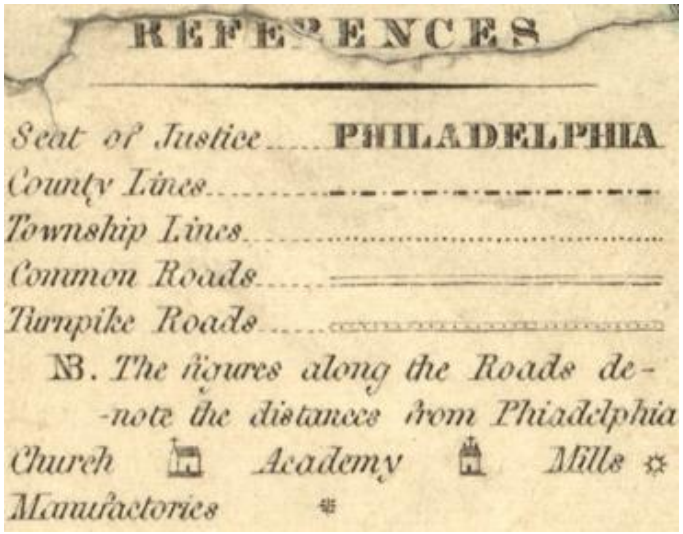
Click or CTRL-CLCK: https://westphillyhistory.archives.upenn.edu/maps/1816-map-melish or here: https://www.loc.gov/item/79695293/





Mill: 

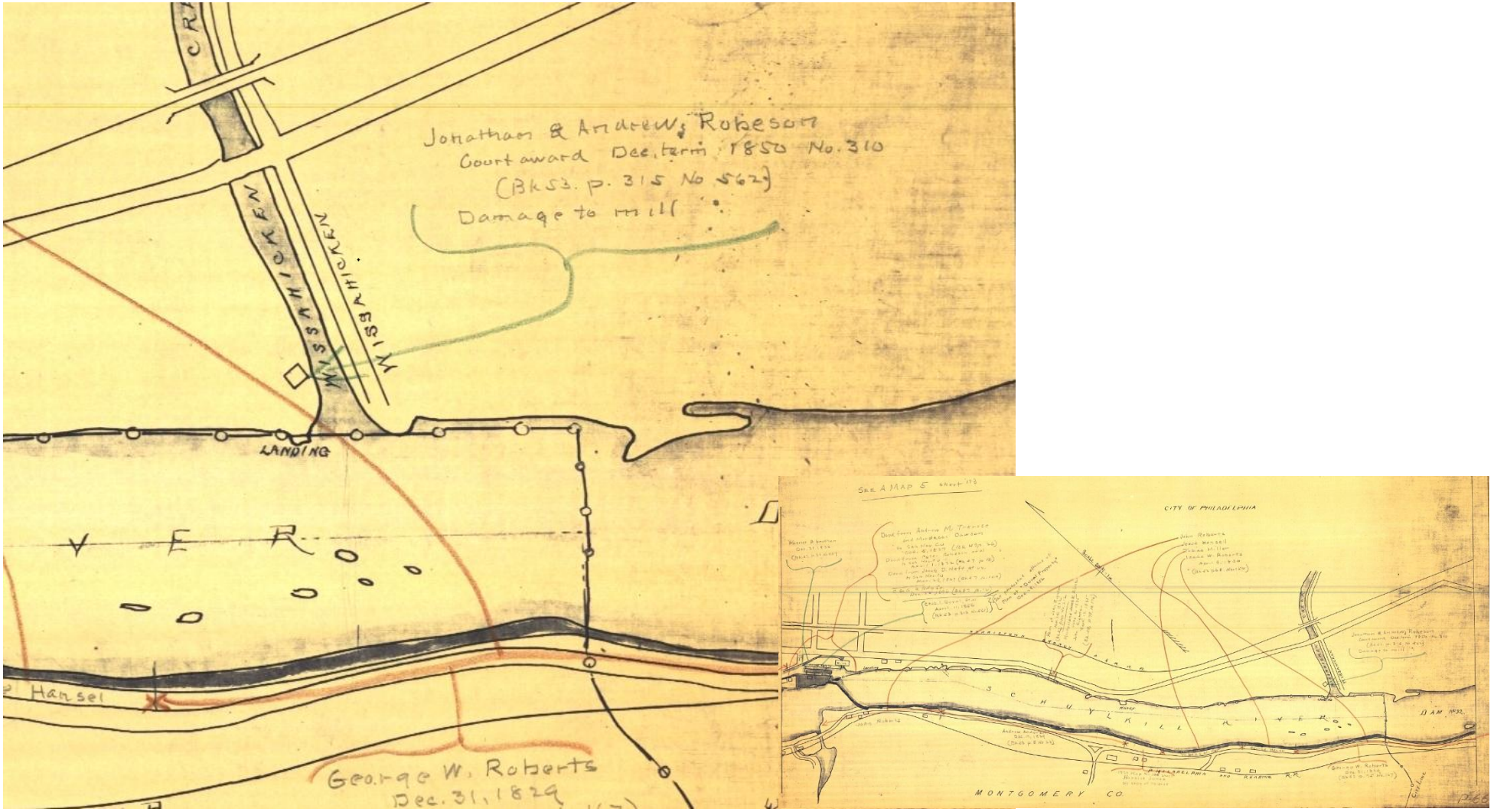
The # 5 on the Philadelphia Township Line means five miles to the center of Philadelphia



The mill on the Southeast side of the Wissahickon and North of Ridge Road (above mile-mark #5) would have become the largest Robeson's Mill; see 1830 and 1843 maps. The mill and other land were sold to John Vanderen over the years 1755 to 1771. "John Van Daren's [sic] house stood along the lower Ridge Road a short distance below Wissahickon Creek. His most referenced 'Grist Mill' stood on the south/east side of the creek about where the railroad crosses it. His mill dam was at the sharp bend in the creek just above the lower Ridge Road." Source: "A Historical Sketch of Roxborough, Manayunk, Wissahickon" by Joseph Starne Miles, 1940.
https://ia902303.us.archive.org/11/items/historicalsketch00mile/historicalsketch00mile.pdf Page 34 (.pdf page 52).

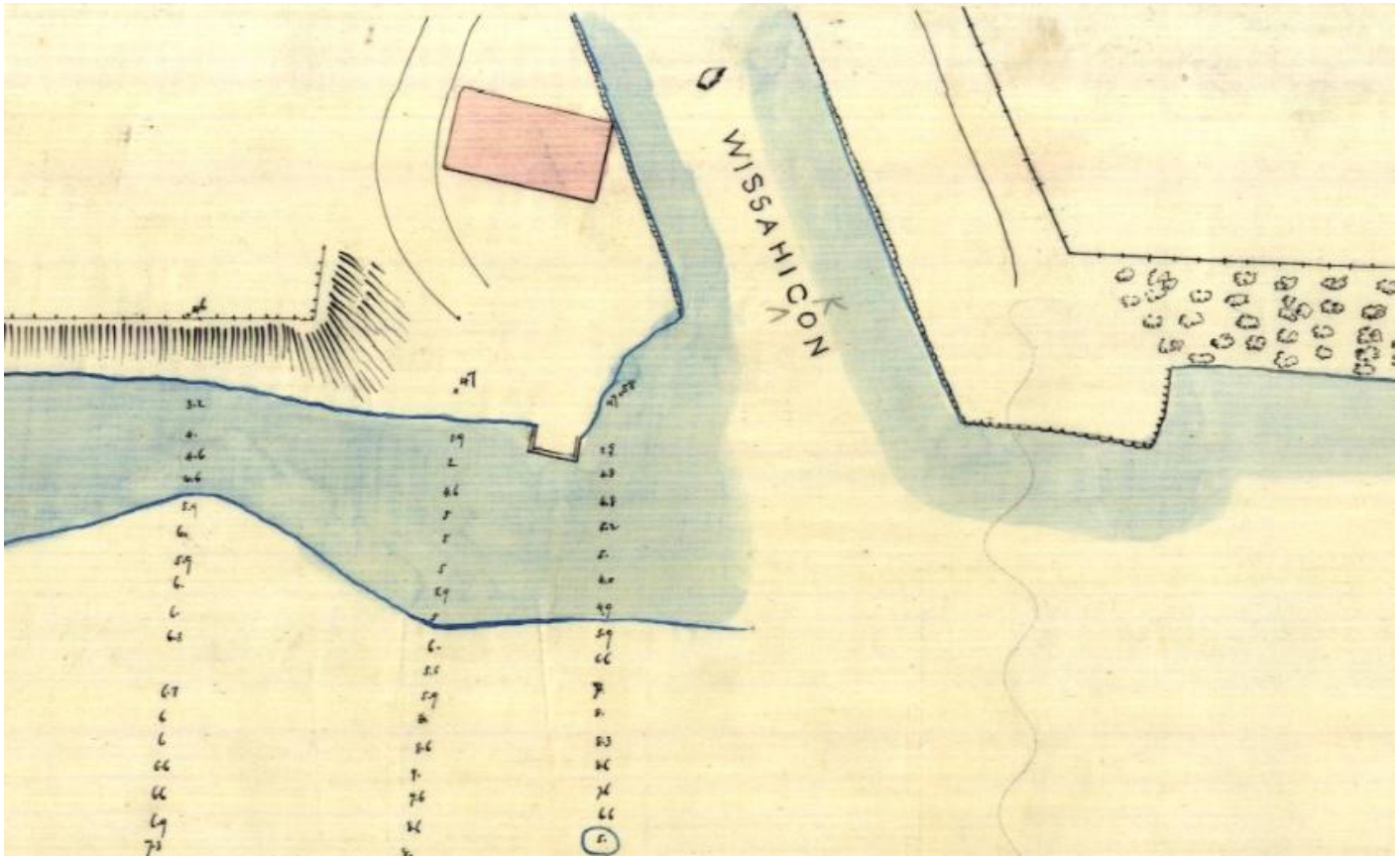
1816 – 1825 Schuylkill Navigation System Collection

Reach 1 https://drive.google.com/file/d/109w1-B963c1KdVD6Xr4S3zrZWlFweKYb/view No date on the map in original writing; there is a stamp with a date of 1888, but seems likely that original map was completed earlier. Regardless, the referenced material in a later note will be researched and supplies evidence of a mill on the site. Dating this map is problematic. The Schuylkill Navigation System and mapping **were started in 1816 and locks were completed by 1825**, but mapping updates continued to the late 1800's says: "**Jonathon & Andrew Robeson, Court award Dec. term 1850 No. 310 (Bk 53 p. 315 No 562) Damage to Mill.**" No notes or dates are on the other original map.



1816 – 1819: Schuylkill Navigation System Collection Item **Reach 1-1** "Fairmount Pool". CTRL+CLCK: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1PS8gXP__7M7U1LZZHXQBxaxERbVBEade. Double-Click 1-1 and enlarge by moving cursor down to bottom in middle of screen (- and + appear) and see section right of mid-point. Do same on image 1-3 and move to far left on map to see "Pencoyd Iron Works" and across on N side landing where Robeson Ferry, then later the Righter Ferry docked, now RR Bridge.

Note rock off the corner of the building that is still there today and is referenced in a deed as the point in the middle of the Creek. Note also the road to a landing dock.



In 1824, Peter Robeson was listed as a 'Manager' of the "Ridge Turnpike Company." Peter was a great-grandson of Andrew Robeson, Jr.; Andrew Jr. likely built the 1st toll bridge over the Wissahickon in the early 1700s.[80]

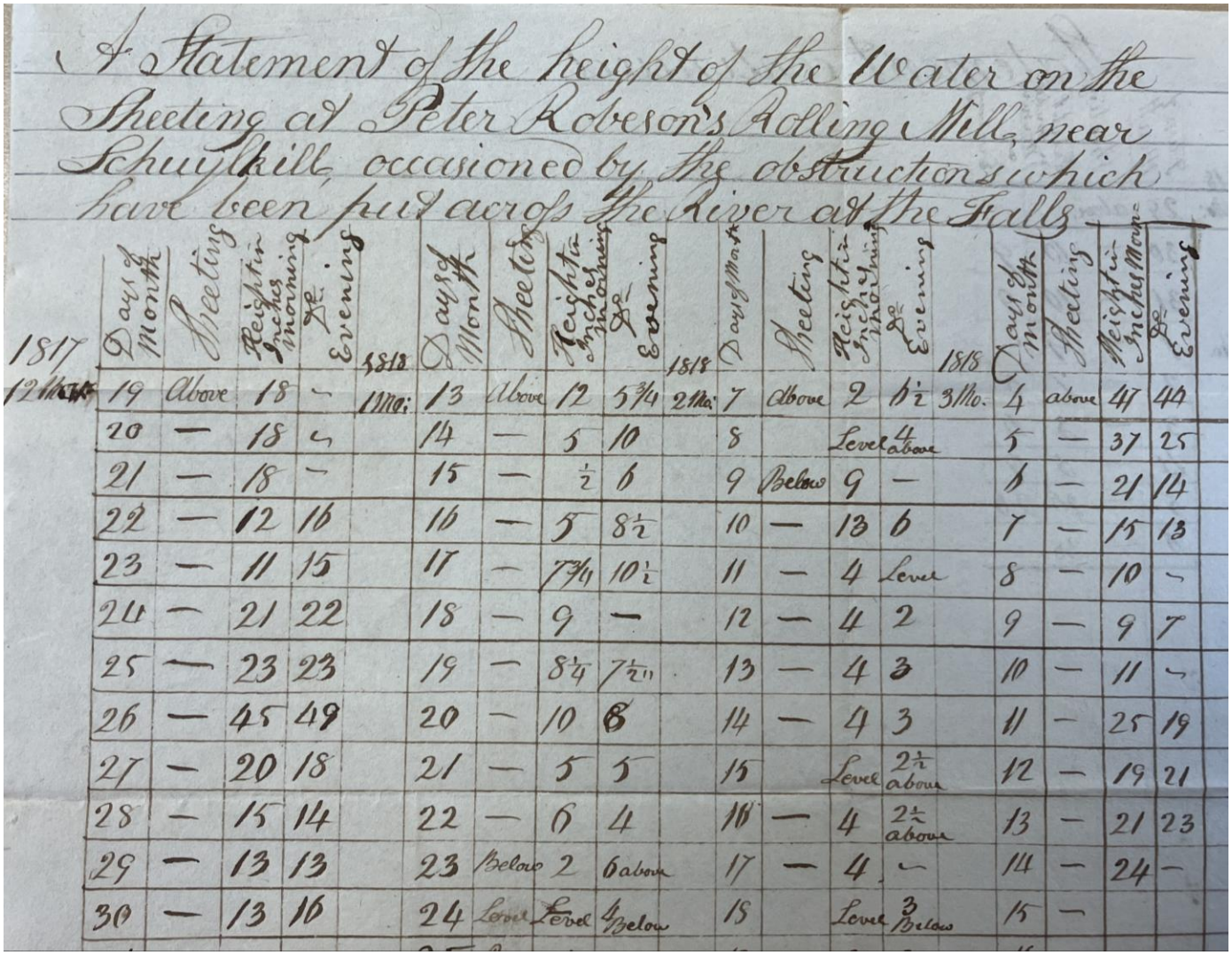
Clipping from the "Edwin C. Jellett Collection of Scrapbooks" says "A picture[81] was shown of the mouth of Wissahickon Creek and Robeson's grist mill. The canal boats used to come alongside, and unload grain and take on flour."

[80] See page 306 CTRL+CLCK: https://hsmcpa.org/images/thebulletin/1953vol8no4.pdf

[81] The collection will be searched to add the referenced picture.

1817 Note is in regards water height for "Peter Robeson's Rolling Mill

"A statement of the height of the water on the Sheeting at **Peter Robeson's Rolling Mill** near the Schuylkill occasioned by the obstructions which have been put across the River at the Falls."



A Statement of the height of the Water on the Sheeting at Peter Robeson's Rolling Mill near Schuylkill occasioned by the obstructions which have been put across the River at the Falls

1817	Days of Month	Sheeting	Heights Inches Morning	Do. Evening	1818	Days of Month	Sheeting	Heights Inches Morning	Do. Evening	1818	Days of Month	Sheeting	Heights Inches Morning	Do. Evening	1818	Days of Month	Sheeting	Heights Inches Morning	Do. Evening
12 Mo.	19	Above	18	–	1 Mo.	13	Above	12	5¾	2 Mo.	7	Above	2	½	3 Mo.	4	above	47	44
	20	–	18	–		14	–	5	10		8		Level	4 above		5	–	37	25
	21	–	18	–		15	–	½	6		9	Below	9	–		6	–	21	14
	22	–	12	16		16	–	5	8½		10	–	13	6		7	–	15	13
	23	–	11	15		17	–	7¾	10½		11	–	4	Level		8	–	10	–
	24	–	21	22		18	–	9	–		12	–	4	2		9	–	9	7
	25	–	23	23		19	–	8¼	7½		13	–	4	3		10	–	11	–
	26	–	45	49		20	–	10	8		14	–	4	3		11	–	25	19
	27	–	20	18		21	–	5	5		15		Level	2½ above		12	–	19	21
	28	–	15	14		22	–	6	4		16	–	4	2½ above		13	–	21	23
	29	–	13	13		23	Below 2		6 above		17	–	4	–		14	–	24	–
	30	–	13	16		24	Level	Level	4 Below		18		Level	3 Below		15	–		

Document photographed in the Philadelphia City Archives. [1817 Water Heights Robeson's Rolling Mill.JPG (4032×3024) (philacanoe.org)]

1820 Rolling & Slitting Mill and Nail Factory[82] - United States Census Manufacturing Schedules

"The Roxborough works consisting of a Rolling & Slitting Mill & Nail Factory Roxborough Township, Philadelphia County, Pa."

John Moore is given as employer as he rented the mills from his father-in-law, Peter Robeson, in 1820 (per page 2) and later owned them one-third part (per P. Robeson letter and 1834 deed) upon the death of his father-in-law, Peter Robeson. In 1804, Dr. John Moore married Catherine Robeson, b. 1781 d. 1860, who was the daughter of Peter Robeson and Martha Livezey. Peter Robeson was the great-grandson of Andrew Robeson Jr. (Andrew Robeson Jr. was the nephew of Andrew Robeson Sr. (purchased the land in 1691), not his son, and Andrew Jr. came to own the land in 1703 after Andrew Sr. died). Martha Livezey was the granddaughter of Thomas Livezey, Miller, whose home, "Glen Fern," is the last surviving millers house in the Wissahickon.

Question No. 1. Raw Materials Employed: In **Rolling & Slitting Mill Bar Iron. Nail Factory Hoop Iron**.

2. Annually consumed: Bar Iron 135 Tons, Hoop Iron 82 Tons.
3. Annual Cost: Bar Iron $13,884, Hoop Iron $10,660
4. # Men: In R&S Mill Four Men. Nail Factory Three men consistently & occasionally three others heading nails. 5. & 6. None (No Women or Boys/Girls)
7. Machinery: In R&S Mill, one sett (sic) of Rolling & 6 setts cutters with necessary appendages. In Nail Factory, two patent Machines for cutting & heading nails at the same operation & one side Machine for cutting Brads & points, also, Four tools for heading nails by hand.
8. Quantity of Machinery in Operation: In R&S Mill, all. In Nail Factory, all.
9. Expenditures: Amount capital invested: In R&S Mill $3,000, In Nail Factory $3,000.
10. Annual Wages: R&S Mill, $867, Nail Factory, $1,497.
11. Annual Contingent Expenses: R&S Mill, $1,229, Nail Factory, $1,820.
12. Articles Manufactured: R&S Mill, Hoop & Rod Iron. Nail Factory, Nails & Brads.
13. Annual market Value: Hoop & Rod Iron, average price $ 125 $^{88/100}$ per ton. Nails & Brads 8 ¾ lots per lb.
14. General Remarks concerning the Establishment, as to its actual and past condition, the demand for, and sale of, its Manufactures.

The above works are the property of Peter Robeson, rented by John Moore & by him carried on, through his agent. The works are in good repair. The demand for & sales of Hoop & Rod Iron has been dull for the last year occasioned by the importation of large quantities of foreign Iron of those descriptions, more particularly small hoops. The R&S Mills is capable of Manufacturing 300 tons of Hoop & Rod Iron annually if the demand thereof was adequate thereto,

The demand for & sail of Nails has been for the last year.

In No. 8, it is stated that all the Machinery in the Nail Mill are in operation, which must be understood with some exceptions, on respect to the Tools for heading nails by hand, there being four of them one which is occupied occasionally by the man who works the side machines the other three, by three of the hands who work in the R&S Mill only when they have nothing to do therein. Also, respecting Cutters in the R&S Mill R&S Mill there being Sett of different sizes, but one sett only are in operation at a time. There is also one Blacksmith constantly employed in keeping the Machinery in repair, whose wages are $416 per annum, which sum is inclusive in the amount of contingent expenses No. 11 together with the cost of coal & wood consumed, hauling to & from Market. Agents Salary being apportioned between R&S Mill and Nail Factory.

The foregoing Statements I believe to be nearly correct for the last year ending the 1st Instant.
8th Mo. 16, 1820 James Davis, Agent, for John Moore.

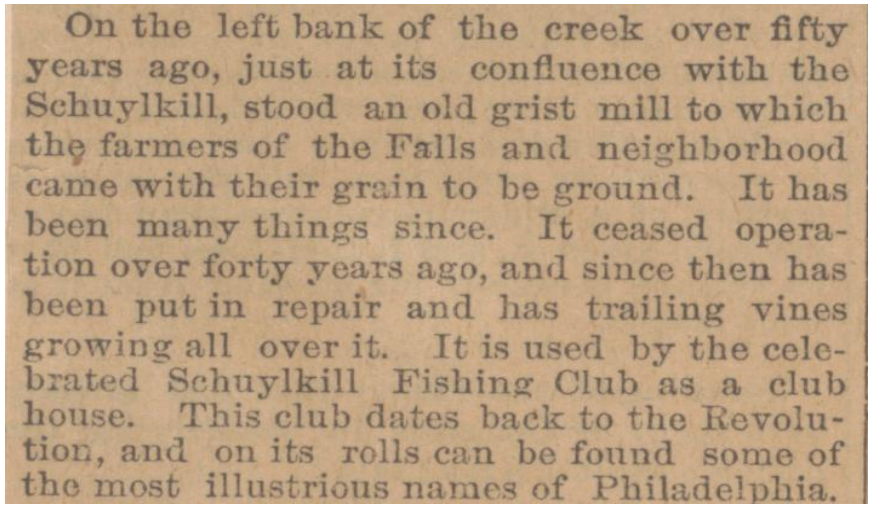
For the entry for Peter Robeson's flour mill 200 yards upstream see CTRL-CLCK: Records of the 1820 census of manufactures (familysearch.org)

[82] See here for the form and extended versions of the 14 questions - CTRL-CLCK: Records of the 1820 census of manufactures (familysearch.org)

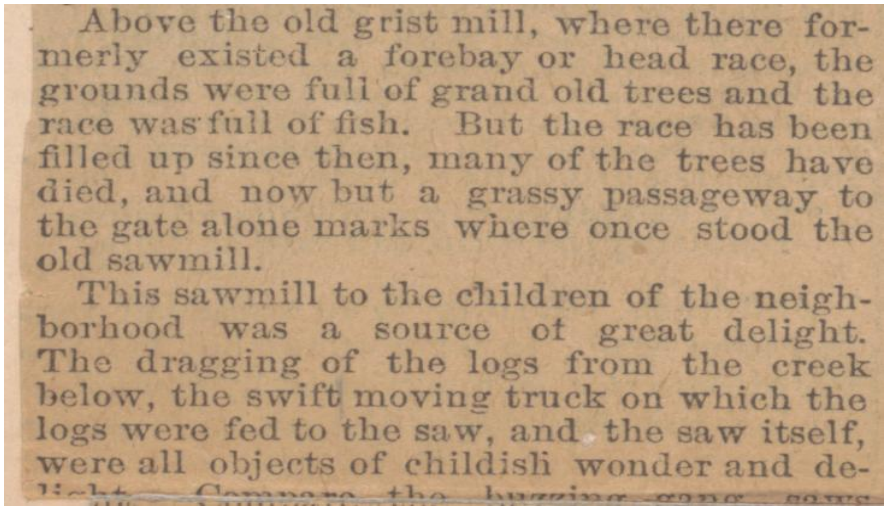
1821 (estimate) Mill activities of that time. *(based on copyright date reverse side of 1891 article)* Section of an article "The Old Wissahickon - Recollections of the Stream Fifty Years ago *{1821}*, from the Schuylkill to Gorgas Lane" by Wm. M. Runkel *(Could be same Wm. M. Runkel who authored "The United States Mint : A Brief History of the Institution, with a Full Description of the Manner in Which Gold, Silver, Nickel and Copper Are Converted Into Money" and was a First Lieutenant 3rd Regiment, Pennsylvania Heavy Artillery in Civil War.)*

https://libwww.freelibrary.org/digital/item/zoom/61794

Selected sections: Transcription to be added; read down then to right.

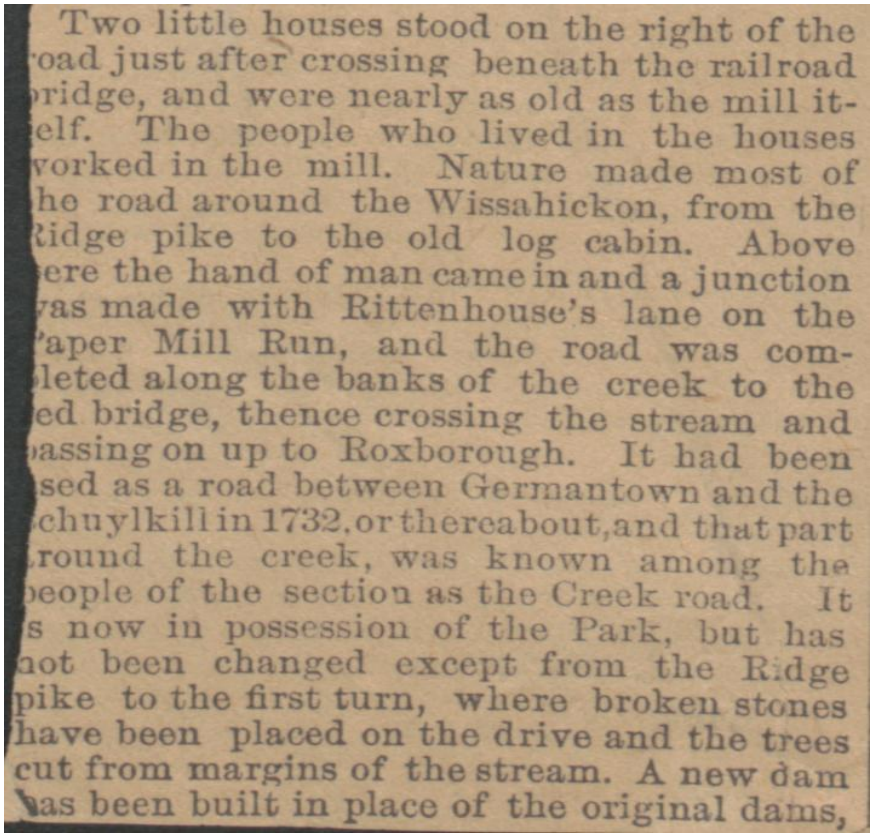


On the left bank of the creek over fifty years ago, just at its confluence with the Schuylkill, stood an old grist mill to which the farmers of the Falls and neighborhood came with their grain to be ground. It has been many things since. It ceased operation over forty years ago, and since then has been put in repair and has trailing vines growing all over it. It is used by the celebrated Schuylkill Fishing Club as a club house. This club dates back to the Revolution, and on its rolls can be found some of the most illustrious names of Philadelphia.

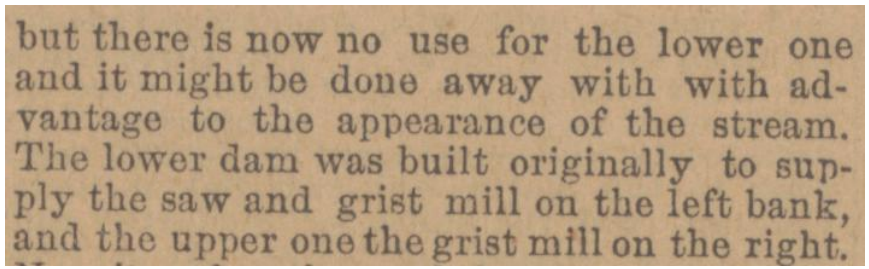


Above the old grist mill, where there formerly existed a forebay or head race, the grounds were full of grand old trees and the race was full of fish. But the race has been filled up since then, many of the trees have died, and now but a grassy passageway to the gate alone marks where once stood the old sawmill.

This sawmill to the children of the neighborhood was a source of great delight. The dragging of the logs from the creek below, the swift moving truck on which the logs were fed to the saw, and the saw itself, were all objects of childish wonder and de-



Two little houses stood on the right of the oad just after crossing beneath the railroad ridge, and were nearly as old as the mill itelf. The people who lived in the houses vorked in the mill. Nature made most of he road around the Wissahickon, from the Ridge pike to the old log cabin. Above ere the hand of man came in and a junction as made with Rittenhouse's lane on the aper Mill Run, and the road was completed along the banks of the creek to the ed bridge, thence crossing the stream and assing on up to Roxborough. It had been sed as a road between Germantown and the chuylkill in 1732, or thereabout, and that part round the creek, was known among the people of the section as the Creek road. It s now in possession of the Park, but has not been changed except from the Ridge pike to the first turn, where broken stones have been placed on the drive and the trees cut from margins of the stream. A new dam as been built in place of the original dams,



but there is now no use for the lower one and it might be done away with with advantage to the appearance of the stream. The lower dam was built originally to supply the saw and grist mill on the left bank, and the upper one the grist mill on the right.

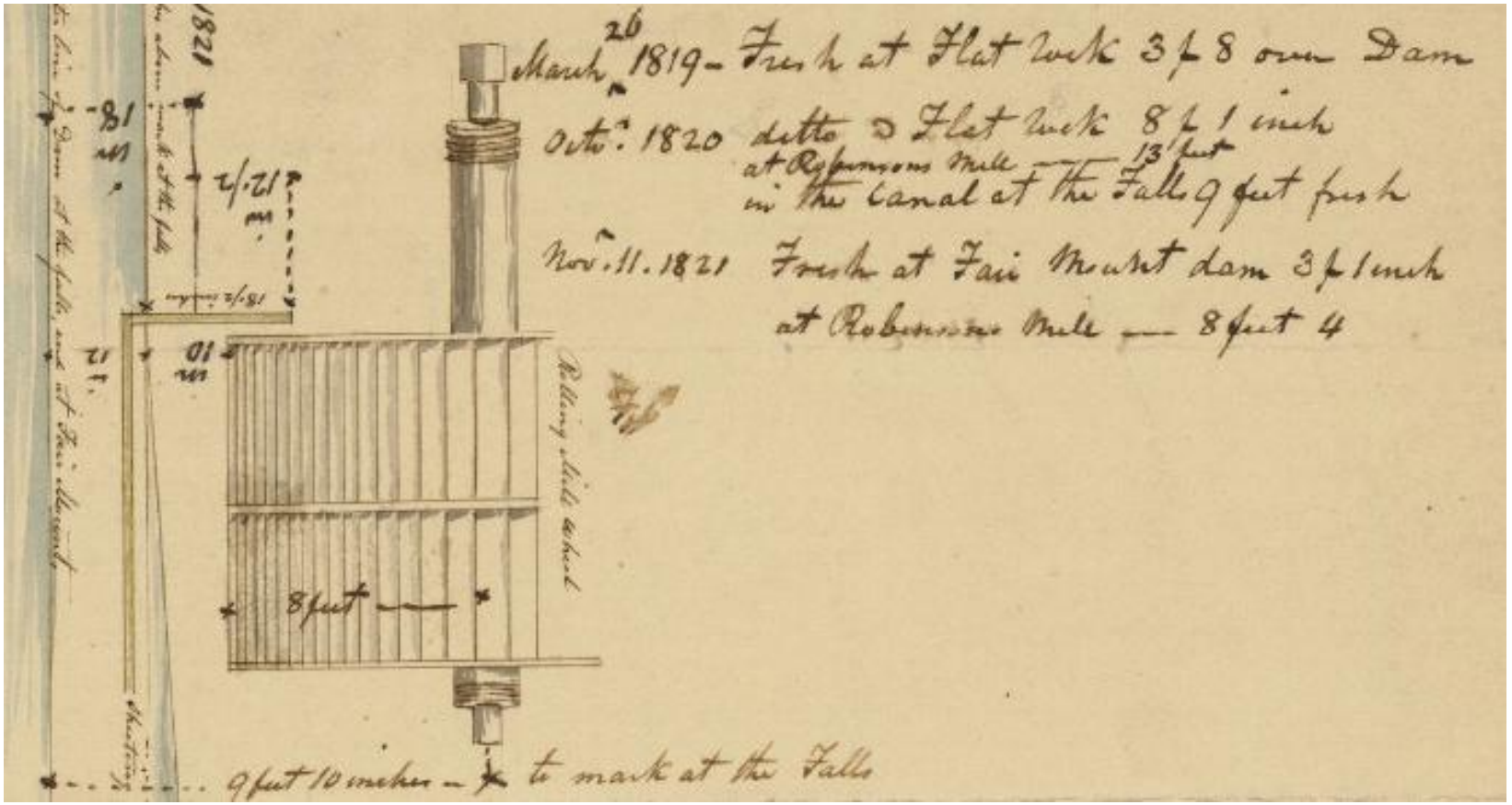
Two sentences in the last paragraph: "A new dam has been built *(1821)* in place of the original dams, but there is now no use for the lower one and it might be done away with, with advantage to the appearance of the stream. The lower dam was built to supply the saw and grist mill on the left bank, and the upper one the grist mill on the right.

1822 Graff Collection - The Franklin Institute, courtesy of the Philadelphia Water Dept. Archives

See the footnote for the link to the full drawing[83].

Title: "Peter Robinson's mills above the Falls examined by the Watering Committee as leveled by Graff[84] same day Sep. 25, 1821." "Description Peter Robinson's mills above the Falls examined by the Watering Committee as leveled by Graff same day Sep. 25, 1821 in order to ascertain how much the raising of the dam 18 inches at Fair Mount would injure them" *("Them" being the Robesons.)*

The wheel is shown to have a 16-foot diameter and was 10 feet wide (see 1822 Saw Mill, Nail Factory, and Rolling Mill Measurements).

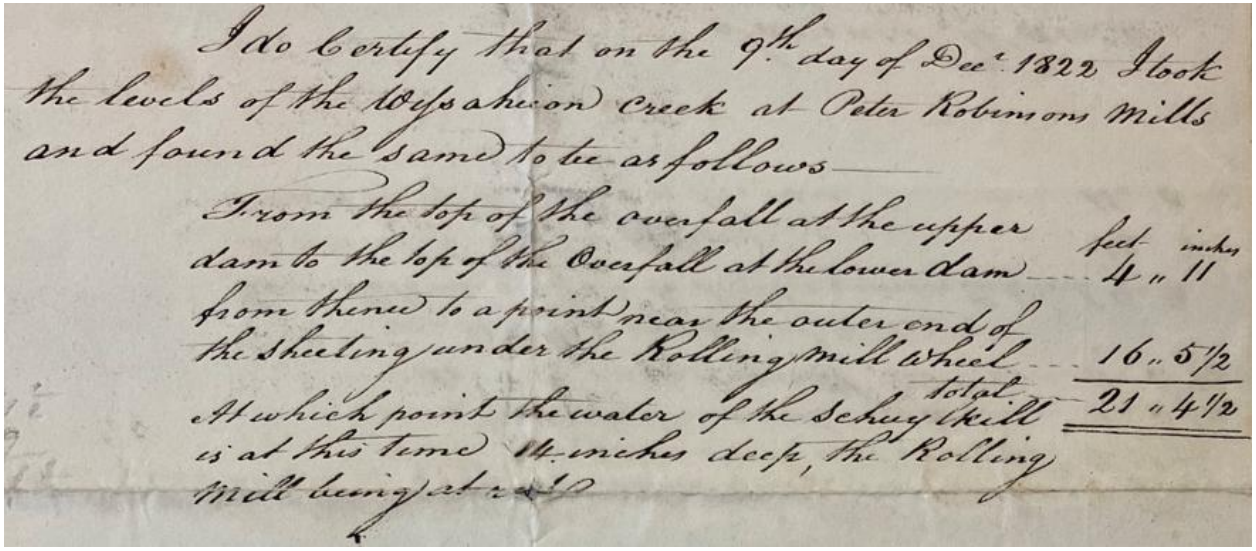


[83] Best quality: -- Philadelphia Architects and Buildings (philadelphiabuildings.org) or CTRL+CLCK: Peter Robinson's mills above the Falls examined by the [Watering?] Committee as leveled by Graff same day Sep. 25, 1821 - 1821 | Philadelphia Water Department (pastperfectonline.com)

[84] Graff, Frederic, Jr. (1817 - 1890) -- Philadelphia Architects and Buildings (philadelphiabuildings.org)

1822 Measurements Robeson's two Mill 1.) the "Rolling Mill and 2.) "Merchant and Grist Mills" (three wheels)

A transcription of measurements taken as part of Robeson suit vs. the Schuylkill Navigation Company for the loss of water power when the Navigation Company built the lower dam c. 1816 and reduced the amount of water the Rolling Mill received. Endnote includes other mill with three wheels.[xxii]



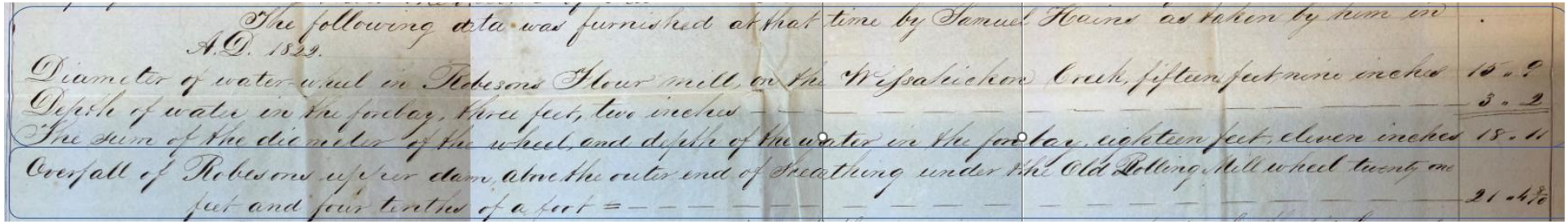
I do Certify that on the 9th day of Dec.r 1822 I took the levels of the Wissahickon Creek at Peter Robinsons Mills and found the same to be as follows

	feet	inches
From the top of the overfall at the upper dam to the top of the Overfall at the lower dam	4	11
from thence to a point near the outer end of the Sheeling under the Rolling mill wheel	16	5½
At which point the water of the Schuylkill is at this time 14 inches deep, the Rolling mill being at rest	total 21	4½

The Robesons won the 1st suit and sued again later for additional compensation when the dam was raised a second time c. 1821.

Of great interest here, below is another recap of water flow measurements made in 1822 wherein the mill is referred to as "…the **Old Rolling Mill."** (Next to last line below on far right.)

Knowing that there never was a 'new rolling mill', it seems reasonable to posit that the **writer (Samuel Haines) is implying that the rolling mill was built well before the turn of the century.**



The following data was furnished at that time by Samuel Haines as taken by him in A.D. 1822.

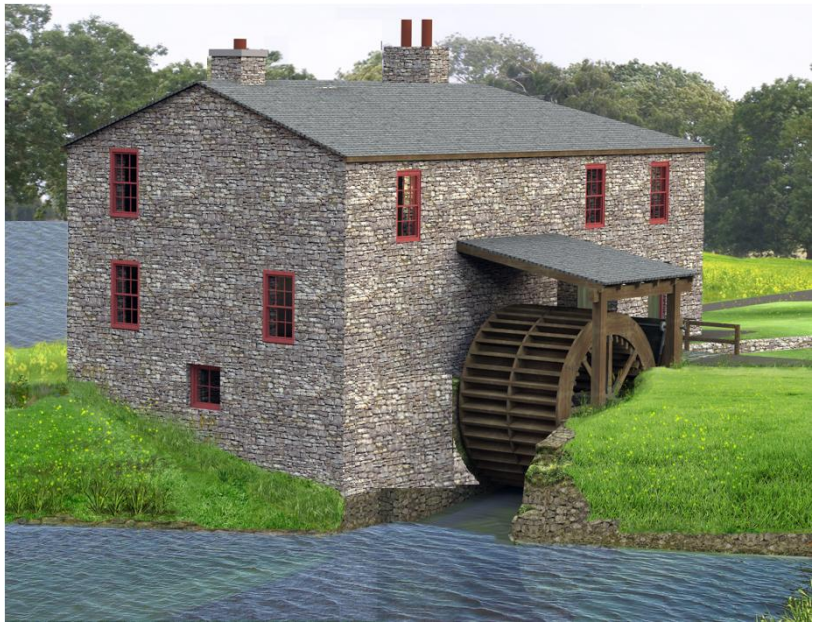
Diameter of water wheel in Robesons Flour mill on the Wissahickon Creek, fifteen feet nine inches	15.9
Depth of water in the forebay, three feet, two inches	3.2
The sum of the diameter of the wheel, and depth of the water in the forebay, eighteen feet, eleven inches	18.11
Overfall of Robesons upper dam, abt the outer end of Sheathing under the Old Rolling Mill wheel twenty one feet and four tenths of a foot =	21.4/10

1822 Robeson Rolling Mill Illustration

Based on Fredrick Graff's 1823 drawings of the waterwheel, melded with current pictures, aerial videos, and engineers' measurements of the Mill, computer-aided design (CAD) illustrations of the mill c. 1820 were created.

On the right, viewed from the east side of Wissahickon Creek, as if on Kelly Drive, the mill wheel had a shed over it to protect it (the shed's existence is known from an 1827 Schuylkill Navigation map).

Below is the mill viewed from an overhead northern perspective with the Schuylkill River in the background. Not illustrated here but known from an 1835 map, there was a "mill pond" where there is now a parking area, and the Mill's "head race" then carried the water under a small bridge to the "center-shot" waterwheel.





Built by 1690, and 1st used to mill corn, a sawmill was built at the same time, lying south of but next to 'Ridge Road.'

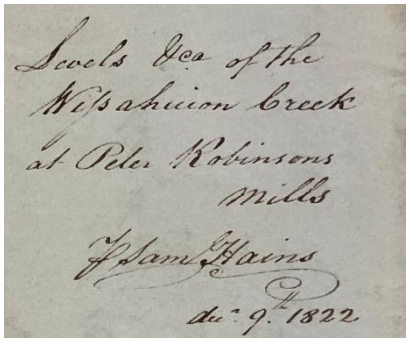
Based on the 1820 United States Census Manufacturing Schedule, the mill was part of "The Roxborough Works consisting of three mill Rolling & Slitting Mill & Nail Factory" complex.

Details included "Annually consumed: Bar Iron 135 Tons, Hoop Iron 82 Tons" and employees "In R&S Mill Four Men. Nail Factory Three men consistently & occasionally three others heading nails." Per the census, the 'R&S' rolling mill flattened iron bars and then slit them into narrow strips. Then, the "Nail Factory" punched out nails from the strips. The flattened "hoop iron" became hoops for barrels or wagon wheels.

Illustration Credit: CAD Artist John Brandrick, who lives in Wales: http://milldrawings.com/index.html.

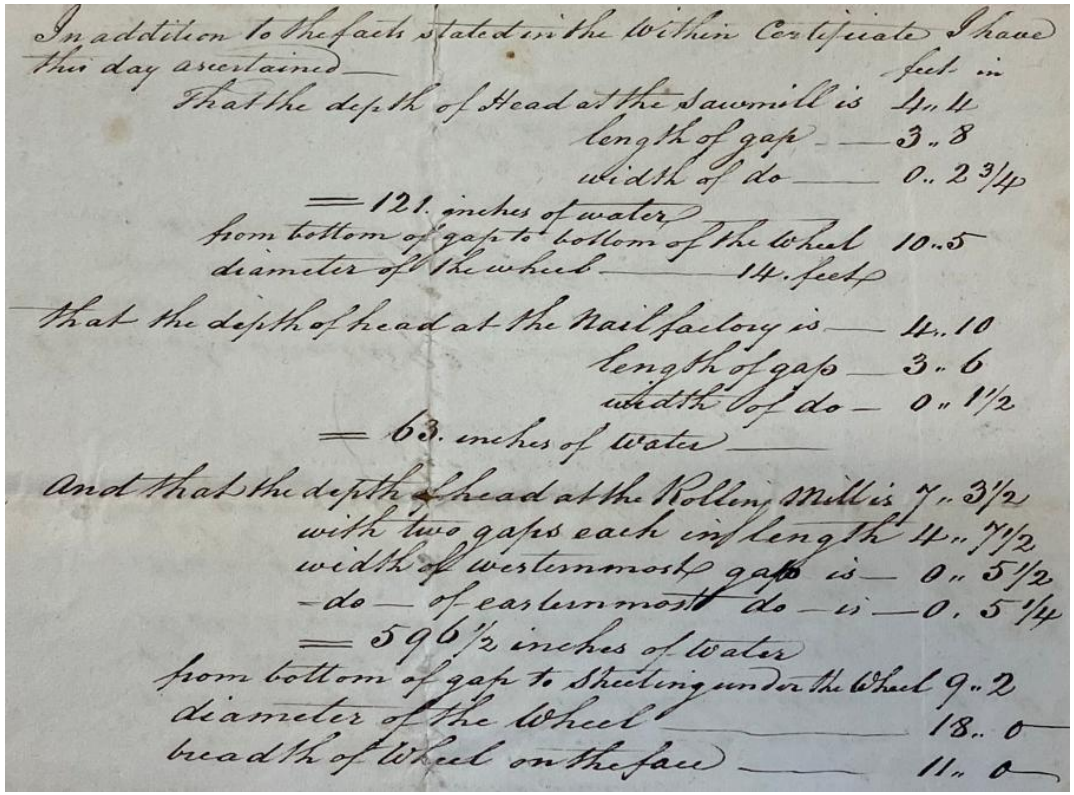
Frederick Graff designed the Fairmount Dam and Waterworks.

1822 Saw Mill, Nail Factory, and Rolling Mill Waterwheel Measurements[85]


Scools &c. of the
Wissahicon Creek
at Peter Robinsons
Mills
Sam. Hains
dec. 9th 1822

The document introduced on a prior page has evidence that a **Nail Factory** existed on the same race that the Saw Mill and Rolling Mill used to draw their power[86]. The document comes from the Philadelphia City Archives Fairmount Park purchases, Dobson Files: "Levels &, etc… Claims of the Peter Robeson on the Corporation" being the Schuylkill River Navigation Corporation for raising the dam.

Water power was measured in "inches of water" the mill produced and it is interesting to note that the Saw Mill had **121** inches of water, the Nail Factory **63** inches of water and the Rolling Mill an impressive **596.5** inches of water – details in this Endnote[xxiii]. Also, a 'nail factory' is referend to in some documents as a "**slitting mill** to make strips that could be fashioned into nails or other products."[87]


In addition to the facts stated in the within Certificate I have this day ascertained —
That the depth of Head at the Sawmill is 4 ft 4 feet in
length of gap — 3 . 8
width of do — 0 . . 2 3/4
= 121 inches of water
from bottom of gap to bottom of the Wheel 10 . 5
diameter of the wheel — 14 feet
That the depth of head at the Nail factory is — 4 . . 10
length of gap — 3 . . 6
width of do — 0 " 1/2
= 63 inches of Water
And that the depth of head at the Rolling Mill is 7 . . 3/2
with two gaps each in length 4 . . 7/2
width of westernmost gap is — 0 " 5/2
— do — of easternmost do — is — 0 . 5 1/4
= 596 1/2 inches of Water
from bottom of gap to Shelling under the Wheel 9 . . 2
diameter of the Wheel — 18 . . 0
breadth of Wheel on the face — 11 " 0

[85] 1822 Measurements Robeson.pdf (philacanoe.org)

[86] See also reference in the Chadwick Papers to its being the first nail factory in the United States, albeit unsourced; pg 8: https://www.eastfallshistoricalsociety.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Chadwick-Papers-Volume-16.pdf

[87] See here and search on word "nail" ExplorePAHistory.com - Stories from PA History **Furnace and Forge of America**

1827 First Reach of the Schuylkill Navigation Maps Images 1-112 and 1-1
https://www.racc.edu/sites/default/files/imported/Yocum/canal/Reaches/Maps/Reach1/1-112.gif

Note the extension of the original building on the Northside. This extension does not appear on the 1848 or 1863 maps and may simply have been a shed-like roof over the waterwheel and wheel pit (tail race to the Creek).



1830 – 1860 Maps, Drawings and Paintings

1830: PHILADELPHIA & ENVIRONS "The Strangers' Guide to the Public Buildings, Places of Amusement, Streets…. of the City of Philadelphia" http://www.mapsofpa.com/19thcentury/1830-8587.jpg.

Two Mills on the 1816 map on the West side of the Wissahickon are missing/not recorded here. The only Mill, the large one on the other side of Ridge Road and was Robeson's Mill originally, and later (1760) Vandeeren's Mill. This is the last map found to date pre-dating the railroad. Of other interest, see Robin Hood Inn bottom right.





Common Legend for a Mill:



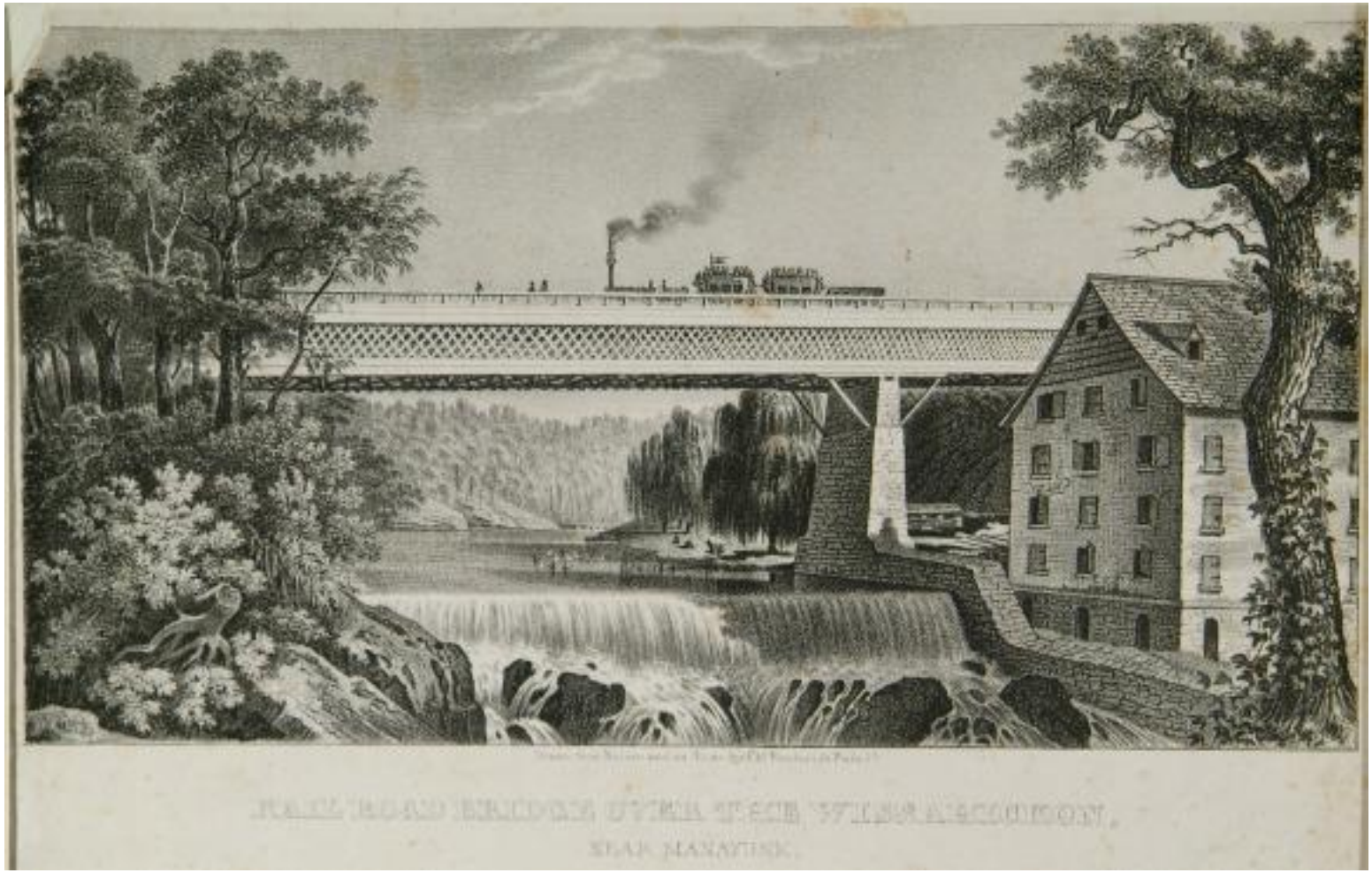
1830 By William Loder Browne, aka Breton, 1771–1855, and woodcut later by George Gilbert, born ca. 1834 lithographer. Woodcut: https://digital.library.villanova.edu/Item/vudl:99189#?c=&m=&s=&cv=&xywh=-1772%2C-116%2C6353%2C2312

W L Breton – basis of est. date drawn: Wm L. Breton, Nineteenth-Century Philadelphia Artist



1834 Railroad Bridge over the Wissahickon, Near Manayunk, circa 1834 (HSP Bb 7 R131) Fondly, Pennsylvania: Notes from Archives and Conservation – A project of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania (wordpress.com), Castner Scrapbook v.30, Park and Schuylkill River 2, page 75 - Free Library

The mill on the right is the "Robeson Mill" just north of Ridge Road (neither the road nor its bridge are shown). The wooden bridge was first erected c. 1833. In that year, the owner was Peter Robeson, b. 1748, d. 1833[88].

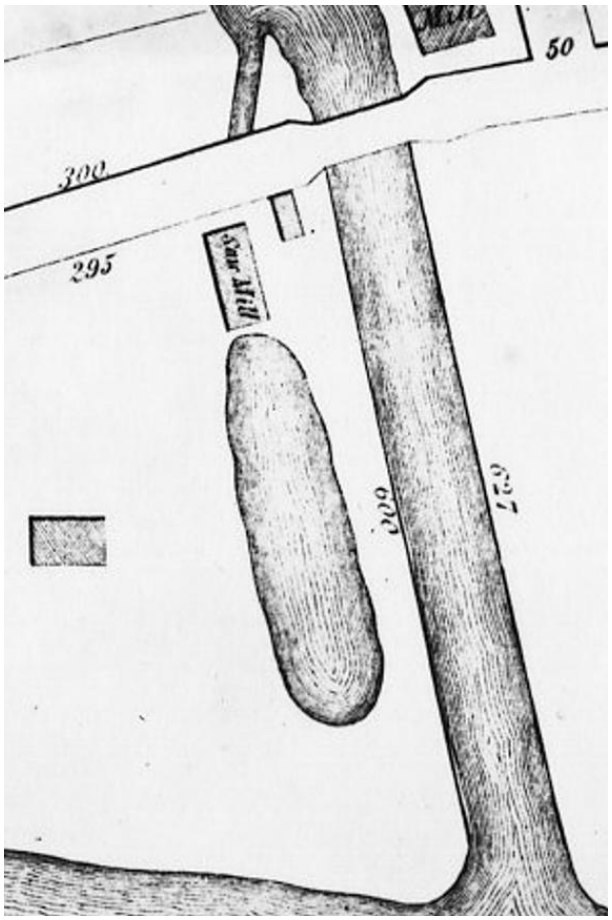


[88] See another reproduction also Railroad bridge over the Wissahickon, near Manayunk. [graphic] / Drawn from nature and on stone by Chs. Fenderich Philada. | Library Company of Philadelphia Digital Collections, and different less romantic view bottom: Castner Scrapbook v.30, Park and Schuylkill River 2, page 67 - Free Library, and one unusual, audited picture: Castner Scrapbook v.30, Park and Schuylkill River 2, page 29 - Free Library

1835 – 1838 Black and white photograph of the **Robeson Estate** (Manayunk) at the mouth of the Wissahickon From glass negative belonging to Clarence Johnson From the plan: "Plan of the Robeson Estate, near Robeson Estate Plan, Manayunk."[89]

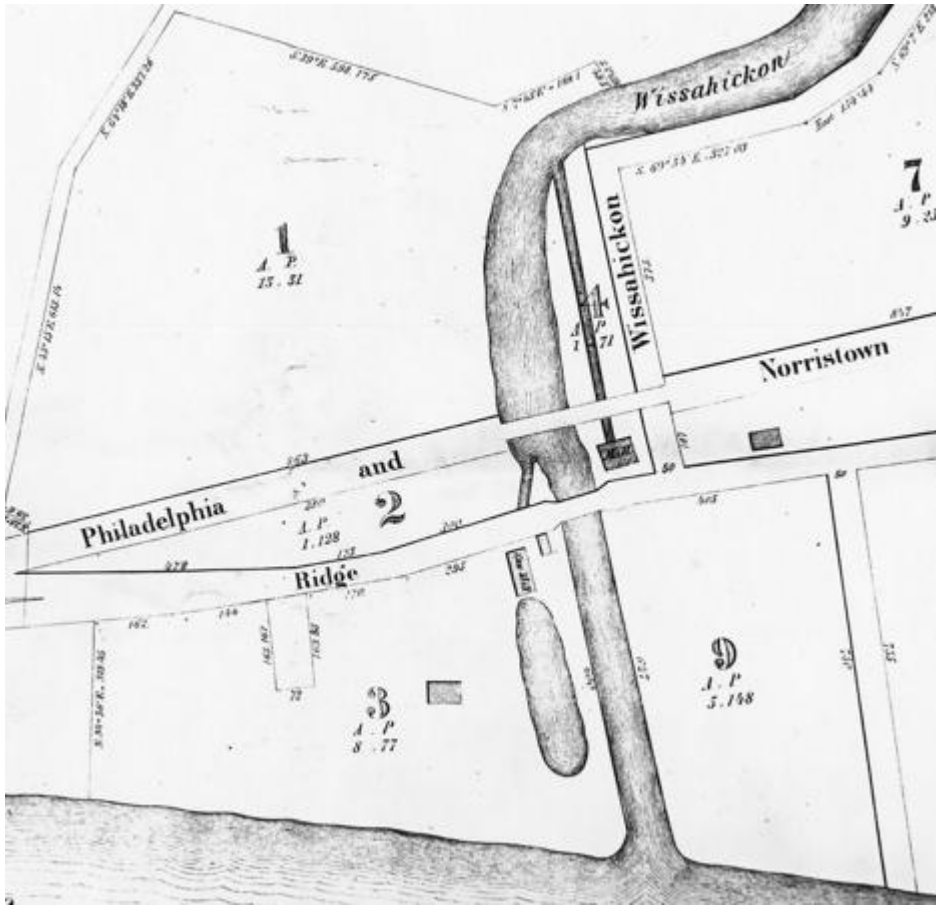
The date range starts with when the Philadelphia, Germantown, and Norristown Railroad Company line branch from 16th Street Jct. to Norristown was completed in August 1835.[90] The Robeson family owned the land from 1789 until 1864; the main Mill North of Ridge Avenue burned down in August of 1862.

In 1848 Jonathon Robeson brought suit vs. the Schuylkill Navigation Company for its having raised the dam a second time and cut-down water flow to the Mill race, making it inoperative. See the year 1848 for more details.



The key elements of this map are that it shows the mill race flowing under Ridge Road, and the water first used by a "Saw Mill" on the South side of Ridge. It shows the saw mill's "tail race" going into the Mill Pond that provided the Robeson Rolling Mill a consistent flow of water power (before the Navigation Company raised the dam).

Ironically, the map maker could see the pond but not the mill farther downstream. The next page shows the mill on a map from 1816, one of several done by the Schuylkill Navigation Company. The mill pond was filled in by the Fishing Company.

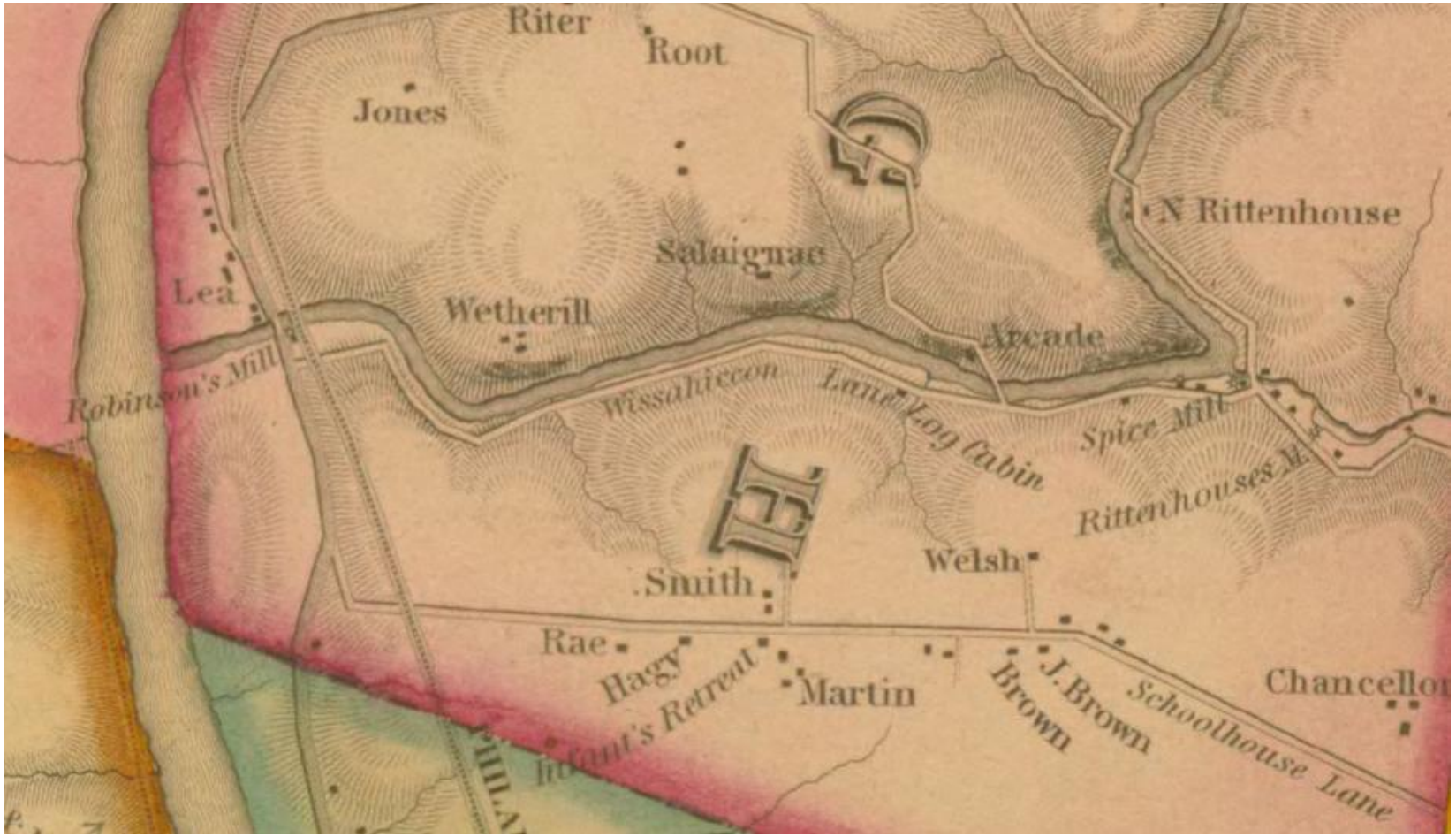


[89] CTRL+CLCK: 2010.303.6.1-3 - Print, Photographic (catalogaccess.com) Germantown Historical Society.
[90] Philadelphia, Germantown, and Norristown Rail Road Company - Social Networks and Archival Context (snaccooperative.org)

1843 A Map of the County of Philadelphia from Actual Survey, 1843, Map: Robeson Mill, pronounced and below as "Robinson's" with mill between Ridge Road and the Railroad on the Eastern side of the Wissahickon.

View Full Record https://libwww.freelibrary.org/digital/item/zoom/11764 or https://www.loc.gov/resource/g3824p.la000784a/?r=0.362,0.183,0.083,0.038,0

Note the reference to "Lea" which seems to denote ownership of the Milverton Estate by Mary C. Lea, or her father; Mary married Wm Minster 1 Sep 1840.



https://www.loc.gov/resource/hhh.pa0884.sheet/

"Shoomac Park" - The Robeson House[91] does not appear to be on the 1843 map; the house was torn down in 1961. The house was on the South side of "Wissahickon Turnpike" [Lincoln Drive] and not on the creek itself. Historical American Building Survey 1933. The map is oriented a bit



differently than most – see compass above.

[91] http://lcweb2.loc.gov/master/pnp/habshaer/pa/pa0800/pa0884/data/pa0884data.pdf

1845 Graff Collection - The Franklin Institute courtesy of the Philadelphia Water Dept. Archives

See footnote for link to **full drawing**[92]. Date estimated based on fact that the dam was in 1843-1844 which prompted 2nd suit by Robesons.

Title: Profiles showing the **heights of freshets** on the Schuylkill River, at Fairmount Dam, Peter Robinson's Mill in East Falls, and Flat Rock Dam.
Desc.: Profiles showing the heights of freshets on the Schuylkill River, at Fairmount Dam, Peter Robinson's *Mill[s]* in East Falls, and Flat Rock Dam. "The effects of the different freshets [at Fairmount?] as represented were observed and measured by F. Graff." Waterwheel on left is labeled "Rolling Mill" and two on right are "Grist Mill" No. 1 and No. 2.



[92] High-quality view with zoom: -- Philadelphia Architects and Buildings (philadelphiabuildings.org) Originally found here CTRL+CLCK: [Profiles showing the heights of freshets on the Schuylkill River , at Fairmount Dam, Peter Robinson's Mill in East Falls, and Flat Rock Dam. - 1845 ca. | Philadelphia Water Department (pastperfectonline.com)
Graff drawings and interest ones of other waterwheels: -- holding: Wheels Both Sides -- Philadelphia Architects and Buildings (philadelphiabuildings.org) and index Frederick Graff Collection - Franklin Institute Archives - Philadelphia Architects and Buildings (philadelphiabuildings.org)

1845 The last days of sufficient water power for the mill rolling iron

Referenced here Charles V. Hagner[93]: http://freepages.rootsweb.com/~dynamo53/genealogy/Manayunk/EarlyHistory/EarlyHistManayunk.html

> Excerpt: "My old friend Amos Jones, a most worthy man and a resident of Roxborough, **rented of the Robeson's the rolling mill at the mouth of the Wissahickon**.[94] On a certain dry time, he had not sufficient water to drive his mill. **It took some time to heat the iron, and only half an hour to run it through the rolls**; and he thought, by horse power, he could pump into his forebay a sufficient additional supply of water to drive his mill the half-hour.
>
> He erected the pump, but the Navigation Company, who had litigation and lawsuits with the Robeson's, with which Mr. Jones had nothing to do, forbid him to use the pump, as he had no right to take the water out of the river, although it ran immediately back.
>
> Mr. Jones then said he would move his pump further up the Wissahickon and pump the water there; but this was also forbidden, on the ground that it was one of the tributary streams of the river, and he had no right to divert it."

[93] Hagner's "father owned the two lower mills on the Falls Creek. "He also says of interest in 1869" "The Wissahickon is small in comparison to what it was, and I am satisfied the Schuylkill River has much diminished in size or quantity of water flowing down it." Early history of the Falls of Schuylkill, Manayunk, Schuylkill and Lehigh navigation companies, Fairmount waterworks, etc. (wsimg.com)

[94] Circa 1845 based on the reference to the Robeson suits, which came first in c 1822 after the Fairmount dam was completed and then a second suit c. 1845 after the dam was rebuilt and raised in 1843-44. 76001662.pdf (nps.gov)

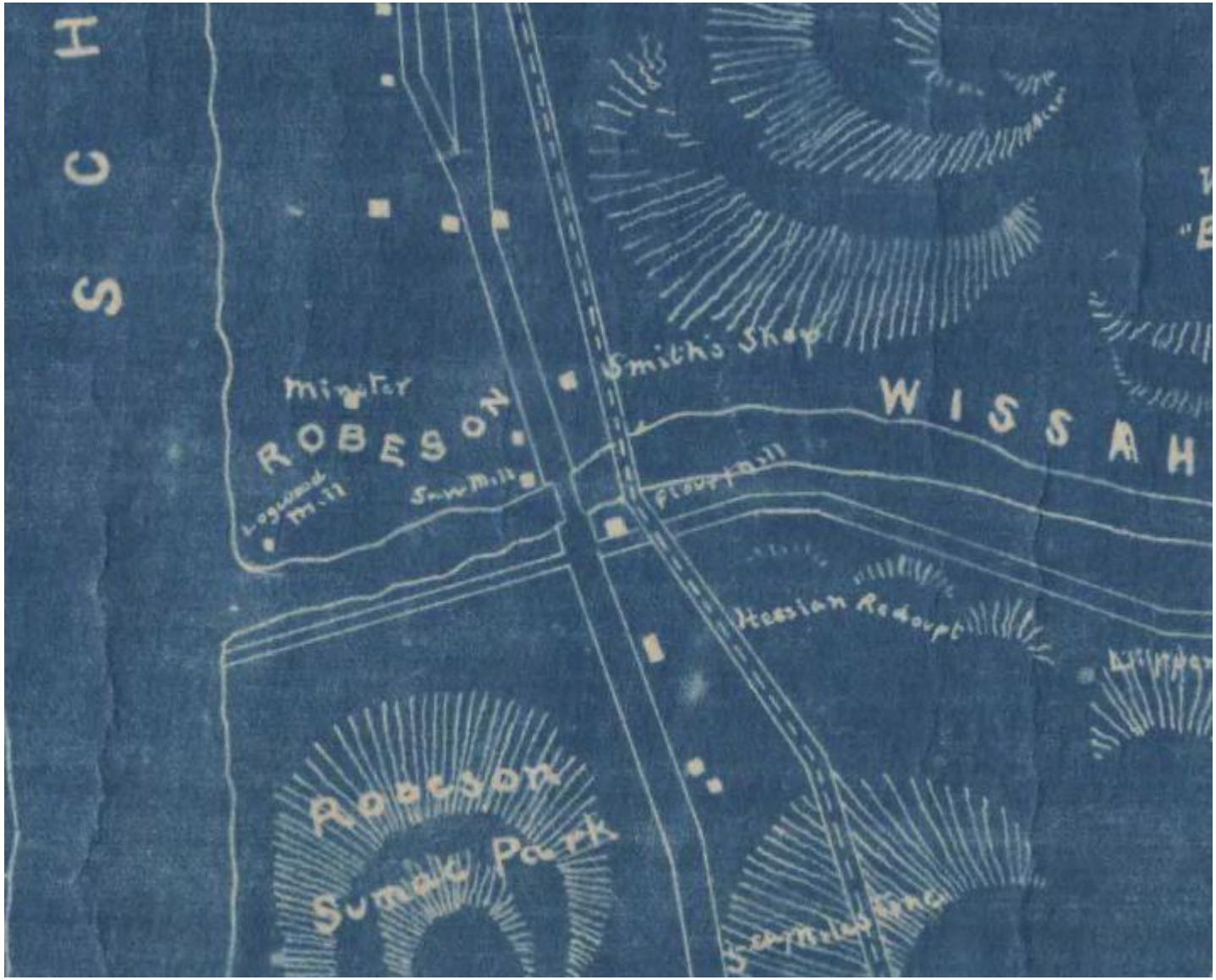
The Annual Report of the Watering Committee (1852) notes the following:

Water flowed over dam for first time 25 July 1821. Dam rebuilt 1842-43. (p. 30).

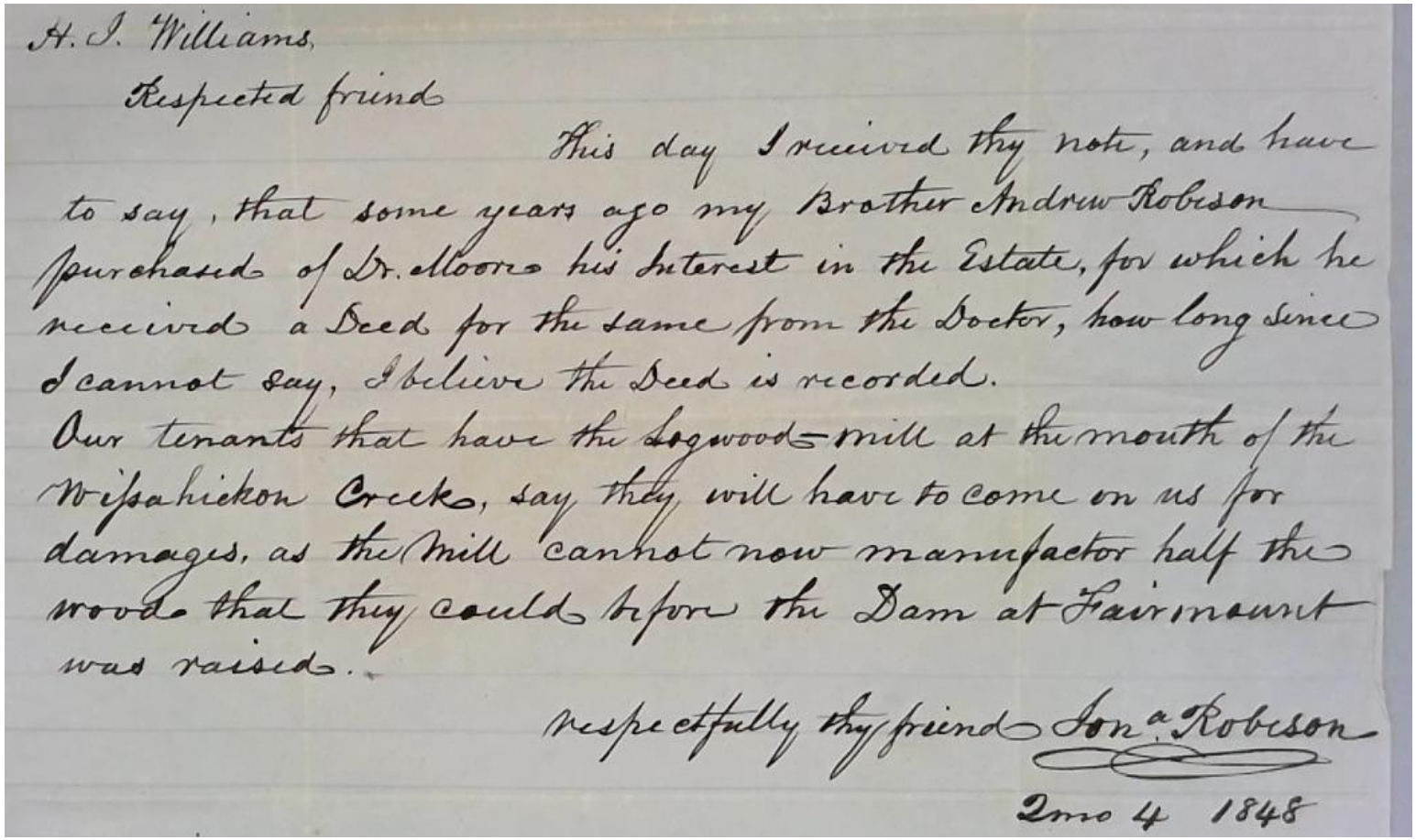
1848 "Plan of the Township of Roxborough with the property holders' names &c. Manayunk" by Jno. Levering. Surv. Published by M. Dripps, 1848., 1848
https://www.philageohistory.org/rdic-images/view-image.cfm/FF-Maps_Dripps_Roxborough

Note that The Mill is labeled as a "Logwood Mill;" in 1848 per James F. Magee, Jr., the heirs of Andrew Robeson leased it to someone who made "**paints and dyes from logwood**."

See also the 1860 painting of the Milverton house lived in Geo. Minster and wife Sarah Robeson Minister and later occupied by Joseph Lea and Sarah Ann Robeson, the daughter of Peter Robeson.



1848 Related to the prior map. Below from the City Archive is a note from Jonathon Robeson about the problems with the flow of water to the Logwood Mill[95].



H. I. Williams,

Respected friend

This day I received thy note, and have to say, that some years ago my Brother Andrew Robeson purchased of Dr. Moore his interest in the Estate, for which he received a Deed for the same from the Doctor, how long since I cannot say, I believe the Deed is recorded.

Our tenants that have the Logwood-mill at the mouth of the Wissahickon Creek, say they will have to come on us for damages, as the Mill cannot now manufactor half the wood that they could before the Dam at Fairmount was raised.

respectfully thy friend Jona. Robeson

2mo 4 1848

The Schuylkill Navigation Co. completed the Fairmount Dam in 1821 below the water reservoir, just below Boathouse Row[96]. This change raised the water level in the Tail race's sheeting which often interfered with the wheel's turning "…the Navigation Company, still acting by the agency of the corporation, have raised it higher." Court Decision 1852 https://cite.case.law/grant/3/186/ The raising of the dam raised the level of water at the tail race to the Mill on the Wissahickon, Mill #1 (Robeson's Rolling Mill) and the rebuild of the Fairmount Dam in 1842-43 essentially ended its use as a Mill of any sort – the backflow from the River too often impeding the flow of water through, or rotation of the mill's waterwheel[97].

[95] A mill used to process logwood, the inner red wood of a South American tree used widely in dyeing. Imported in the form of logs and cut and ground into dye by a mechanical process.

[96] 76001662.pdf (nps.gov)

[97] 2nd raising/rebuild dates 1842-43 which prompted 2nd suit by Robesons: 76001662.pdf (nps.gov)

1862 – 1955: The Fairmount Park, The Fishing Co. & the Philadelphia Canoe Club

1877 Picture. The picture was taken at the time the Schuylkill Fishing Company of the State of the Schuylkill leased the building. Date per book "History of the Schuylkill Fishing Company of the State in Schuylkill."[98] See three men in middle on right, one or two may the cooking white aprons the Club member's wear[99]. The Fishing Company moved their Castle on Rambo's Rock and Club to Andalusia in 1887, bit leased the mill on the Wissahickon until 1902 (Castle, State of Schuylkill - Digital Collections - Free Library).

Note that the South bank of the Wissahickon Creek was then much lower than now, and that area down to East Falls acted as a flood plain. See the 1870 – 1876 maps to see that floodplain.



In 1869, the Schuylkill River crested 17 ft. while Hurricane Ida in Sept. 2021 crested at 16 ft. 4 inches. Ida's 16.4 measurement was taken at Latitude: 39.968 Longitude: -75.189 which is across from the Water Works and Boat House Row. The 1869 measurement was in about the same place. The Robeson Mill stood across and North from a flood plain that would have greatly widened the River and most likely than not raised the level in the building as high as occurred during Ida in 2021.

[98] https://books.google.com/books?id=MOE_AAAAYAAJ&pg=PA41&source=gbs_toc_r&cad=3#v=snippet&q=wissahickon&f=false

[99] Schuylkill Fishing Company, 1889, A History of the Schuylkill Fishing Company of the State in Schuylkill, Page 254 A History of the Schuylkill Fishing Company of the State in Schuylkill ... - Google Play Books

1902 March 1 (The headline below is the date it was published.)

The March 1902 flood ranks as 3rd highest crest in the Schuylkill River: A series of snowstorms followed by heavy rains caused flooding on the Lehigh and Delaware Rivers as well as the most destructive flood on the Susquehanna in the Wyoming Valley since 1865. (Pre-Ida list floods: Philadelphia.pdf (weather.gov)). Article on next page describes how this was the flood that caused the Colony on the Schuylkill to give up their lease on the "Fish House."


The Philadelphia Sunday Press, April 20, 1902.

THE FAMOUS "FISH HOUSE" IN FAIRMOUNT PARK, AS IT APPEARED DURING THE FRESHET.

1902 Dec 8 Philadelphia Inquirer Article

THE DESERTED OLD FISH HOUSE



Club's Request to Occupy One Time Home of State in Schuylkill Abandoned, and the Park Commission Considers Demolition of Building

An old Park landmark the one-time iron mill at Riverside, which lately has been the Schuylkill club house of the "State in Schuylkill"—will probably be demolished. About a year ago it was abandoned by the Fishhouse Club[100], as the "State in Schuylkill" is colloquially known, as it had been rendered uninhabitable by the floods from the Wissahickon.

Recently a newly-formed, unnamed social club. of which Worrell Wagner, a son of John Wagner, is the prime mover, asked permission of the Park Commission to make the old mill its headquarters. The Commission, however, regards the structure as dangerous for habitation, susceptible as it is to floods, which often reach the second story and compel the housekeeper to make his exits and entrances by means of a boat, and have about decided to refuse the new club's request.

The matter, however, has not been definitely decided upon, pending an investigation on the part of the Commission's chief engineer and the Committee on Superintendence and Police.

The mill was built some years previous to the American Revolution and was the first nail mill located in the country. It was operated with a wheel swung under the side of the structure, turned by the waters of the Wissahickon carried through a mill race, which emptied into the Schuylkill.

After the Revolution, newer and larger mills, with improved machinery, put the old place out of business, and it was, abandoned for its original purpose and used as a dwelling.

Was Purchased by City

About 1860[101] it was purchased by the city and added to the Park Property to prevent the contamination of the water by sewerage. It was then used as a stable for Park guard horses, until the "State in Schuylkill," in April, 1876, secured its possession for their club house, at a nominal rental[102]. It then became the scene of many of the festivities which have made this social fishing organization famous. They fitted up the old structure in an attractive way inside, allowing its outward seeming to remain as it had stood for a century.

It was the habit of the club to give fish dinners on the lawn, a lawn redeemed from the old mill race by filling it to a level with the banks and fencing it in from the Riverside property. Here, out in the open air, in an iron oven the rock fish and perch were boiled and panned after the method of the ancestors of this old club.

The "State in Schuylkill" marks its birth—1732. It was organized by a coterie of well-known citizens of Philadelphia, who enjoyed cooking the fish taken with their own lines. Their first home was located on the west. bank of the Schuylkill on a spot between the Pennsylvania Railroad and Girard avenue bridges, as they now stand, and the ground was given them by "Baron" William Warren, who exacted a yearly tribute of three sun perch, which the club served him on a huge pewter platter.

Famous for Its Punch

The club house was known as the "Castle." In 1820 the Castle was floated down to Rambo Rock, on the Lower Schuylkill, opposite Bartram's Garden, where it remained until 1888, when it was taken apart and reset up at Eddington, on the Delaware, across the river from Beverly, and is now the rallying ground of the anglers under the sobriquet of "The Fishhouse"—famous for its punch as well as fish stories.

The old mill on the Schuylkill was selected as a handy spot for parties and it was used quite as much as the "Castle,"[103] until the floods drove fishermen away.

These floods, a member of the *{State in Schuylkill}* club says, have been due to the narrowing of the channel at that point[104], the remit of encroachments made by the Pencoyd Iron Works, which for years has been dumping slag along the bank. It is thought that it would be impossible to prevent this flooding except at a great expense, and as a result, the Commission has practically decided to tear down the old landmark, take away the fence, and level the ground to conform with the treatment of the bank all along the River Drive.

---

[100] The Club moved its official Colony Castle and HQ in 1887 to Andalusia, but its lease of the Mill did not expire until 1902.

[101] It was a property appropriated for public use by the Act of Assembly, 14 April 1868, but not Deeded over until 1874 for $10,000.

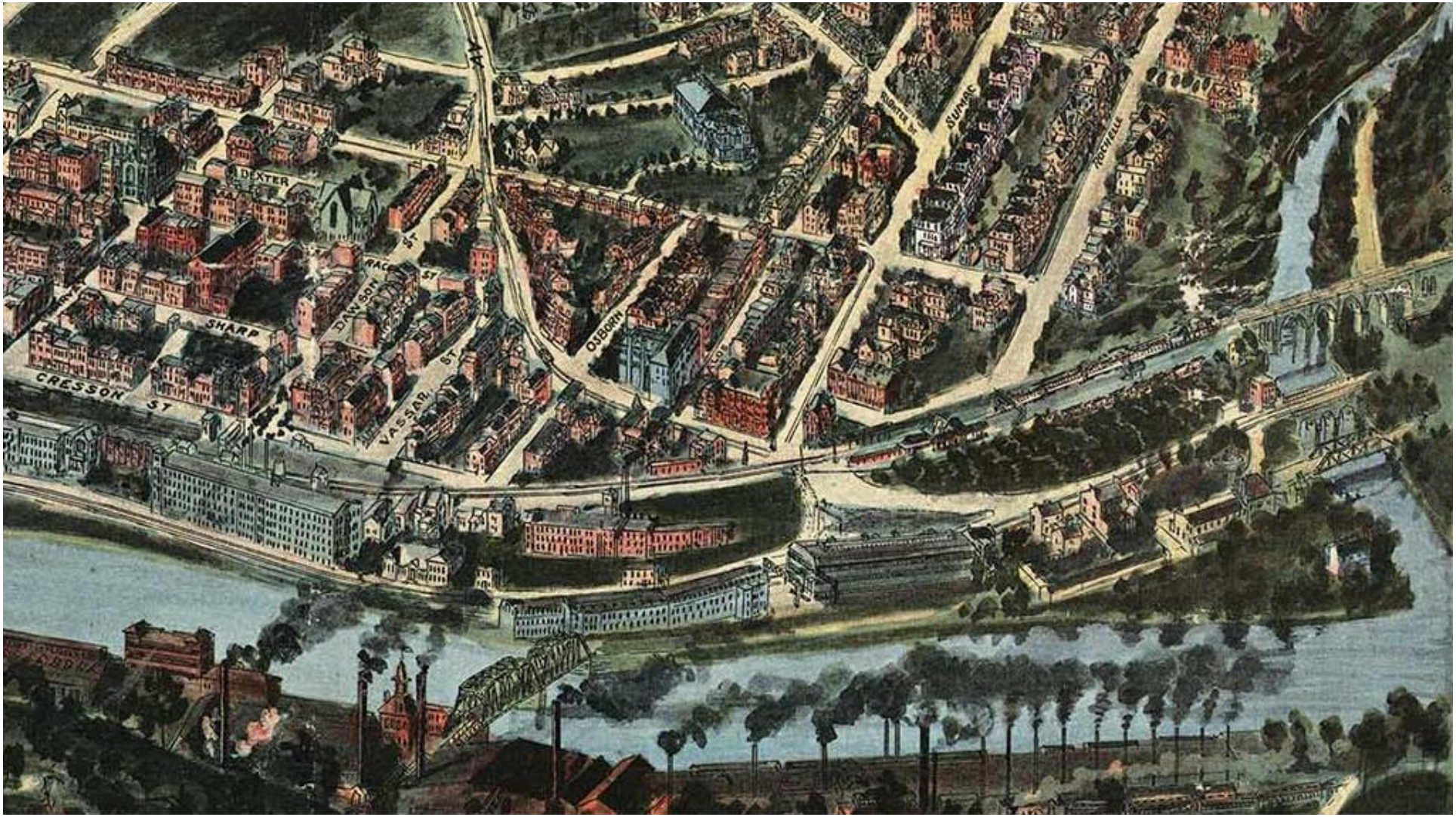
[102] $5.00 per document in the Fairmount Park archives.

[103] In 1887, the Colony's 'real' Castle was in Eddington; it moved to Andalusia in 1944. The March 1902, the flood waters rose two & a half feet into the Mill's main room. The 1902 flood matched 1869 levels in some places per the July 2020 Manayunk Main Street Historic District Flood Guide.

[104] East River Drive entranceway added c. 1891-1893.

1907 "Birds Eye View of Manayunk, Wissahickon - Roxborough from West Laurel Hill Cemetery," 1907
http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/bah/dam/mg/di/m011_0567/m011_0567_0000_079a_manayunk.jpg

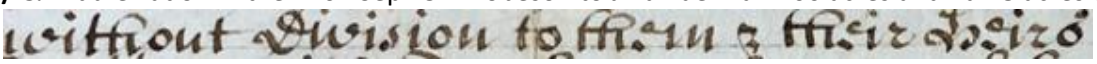
The Robeson's Rolling Mill is on the map, now in 1907 and as of 1905, home of the Philadelphia Canoe Club. Note that the pedestrian/horse bridge South of Ridge Ave. is no longer there, but its rebuild as a pedestrian/bike bridge is planned.



Glossary of Key Words and Abbreviations in the Deeds and Indentures

The Glossary includes key phrases (shown in quotes) and abbreviations, shown with examples, from the deeds[105] to add context and to track the phrases as property descriptions change and/or are transcribed by different parties over time. Original deeds were analyzed wherever available, but only second-generation copies, the now official record deed transcriptions were available in some cases, the original lost deeds as transcribed by City Officials.

Glossary[106]

And / &: Abbreviation in the 1702 Sep 15 A Robeson to J Vanlaer half 200 acres and half 8 acres document  as in  "without Division to them & their heirs"

This explanation is necessary as some early transcriptions misidentified the abbreviation as being "**or**" as the writer did not see it in context to a preceding and unambiguous phrase's use. The key property description at issue read correctly "One Water Corn Mill **&** Millns…" but a miss-transcription changed the second "&" to "or" and so read as "Corn or Grist Mills **or** Millns." An extended discussion of this issue can be found at the end of the Glossary.

Bolting Mill: Process of separating flour from bran or skin of the wheat by using fine mesh cloth serving as a sieve. (Credit to The Mills Archive.) The term is used in the 1720 Will of Andrew Robeson Jr. to describe property he leaves to his son Andrew (III): "…Roxborrow Mill and Bolting Mill and Team…"

Corn Mill: The Chester Mill (1683), the Townsend-Roberts Mill (1683/4 originally as "Bucklebury Mill," on Mill Street, later renamed Church Lane, and Wingohocking Street Search results | Library Company of Philadelphia Digital Collections) and the mill built by Tittery and Townsend before 1690 were all originally referred to as "Corn Mills" as that was the first predominate crop in the Colony. Corn mill products are not as finely milled as wheat and other grains.

Corn vs. Grist: Corn was the predominant crop in the early years of the Colonial and wheat and other grains came later hence the first several mills in Pennsylvania are "corn mills.".

Grist Mill: One in which the grain is crushed but not finely ground to flour (older term for a flour mill) per the Mills Archive. A "Flour Mill" produces a finely ground product meant for human consumption. Grist can be "meal' for animal consumption. The Wissahickon Mill evolved from being a 'grist mill' c. 1702 to a Bolting/Flour mill by 1720.

Millns: A new American word or abbreviation as not recognized in Britain. Definition could be a plural form of "millstones" as used in context of multiple stones in a mill or it could be referencing a mill with multiple waterwheels as it refers to a mill that is known to have contained three waterwheels "under the same roof" as substantiated in documents related to the Robeson suit vs the Schuylkill Navigation Company..

Moiety: Refers to half of something. The term was generally used to refer to a one-half interest in real estate but is rarely used today. It is derived from an old French word "moitié," meaning half.

Rolling Mill: A mill used to take pre=process iron and compress it into more easily processed, thinner iron that blacksmiths or water wheel driven tilt hammers could make into nails or carriage wheel or barrel hoops.

Roller Mill: A process that replace millstones for grinding wheat into flour and was invented in the mid-1800s (like process, but unrelated to rolling iron).

Water Corn Mill: In early colonial times, there were corn mills powered by horses as opposed to water.

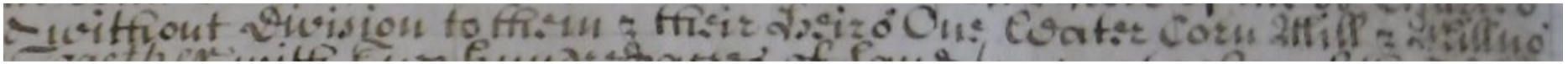
[105] The term deeds can include documents such as the 1702 "Writ of Partition" and leases of property and the Glossary includes some words used in 'Last Wills and Testaments.'

[106] Credit to and please see also the Glossary – The Mills Archive

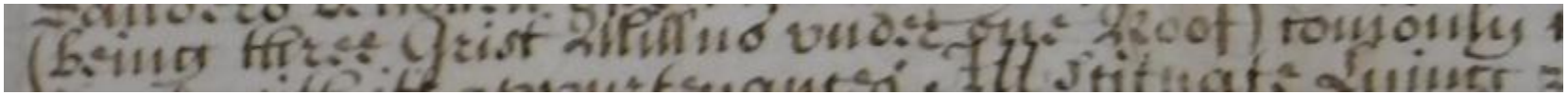
Glossary Continued: This section of the Glossary reviews key indentures and deeds to analyze the word "**Millns**" in the deeds, perhaps used as an abbreviation,[107] **and** analyze two other critical words and their abbreviations: and / **"&"** versus the word **"or."**

The **& vs. or** analysis was completed as part of the effort to determine the number of mills being discussed: singular or plural. The distinction is related to separating the descriptions of the mill(s) on a.) the west side of the Wissahickon Creek versus b.) the Mill on the east side of the Creek. The one mill on the east side is referred to in the plural as it had multiple millstones, and later multiple waterwheels under the same roof (enclosed, not external wheels).

1702 Sep 15 A Robeson to J Vanlaer half 200 acres and half 8 acres; 4th line down the right side of Indenture "Without Division to them **or** heirs One Water Corn Mill & Millns":

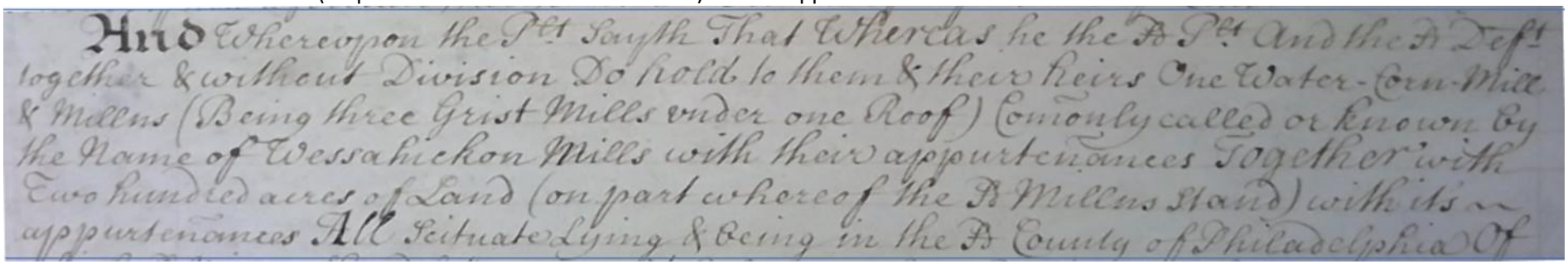


5th line goes on "(**being three Grist Millns under one roof**) commonly called Wissahickon Mills:



1702 Dec 3 John Van Lear petition v William Sanders TRANSCRIPTION – **Note** the dashes between the words water-corn-mill that combine it as a single entity.

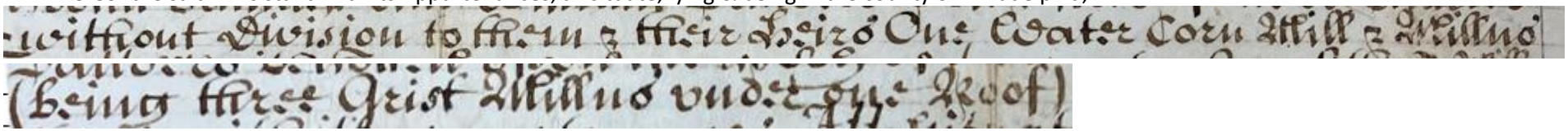
And whereupon the Plaintiff sayeth that, whereas he the said Plaintiff and the Defendant together and without division do hold to them and their heirs, One Water-Corn-Mill & Millns (**Being 3 Grist Mills under one Roof**) Commonly called or known by the name Wissahickon Mills with their appurtenances Together with two hundred acres of land (on part whereof the Said Millns stand) with its appurtenances.

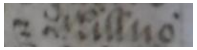


[107] An Archivist, Nathanael Hodge, at The Mills Archive Trust in the UK (www. millsarchive.org) reviewed the deed and reported that "Millns" is not a known word in the Mills Archives Glossary nor a known abbreviation. Seems to be a new 'US' invention to save on paper/writing. The document is on paper 16+ inches wide by 30 long.

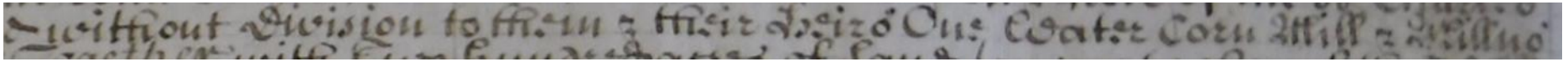
Sample Deed: 1703 Oct 5 John Vanlaer and Sarah Sanders **to** Andrew Robeson (*Jr.)*
Part in this sample is same as 1st sample as regards to "**(being three Grist Millns under one roof**)." Original samples 2 and 3 said "Mills under one roof."

> Whereas the said John Vanlaer[108] and William Sanders, son and Heir of the said Charles Sanders begotten upon the body of the Sarah Sanders, became lawfully seized as Tenants in Common and did hold together and without division to them and their heirs, **One Water Corn Mill & Millns (being three Grist Millns under one roof**) commonly called or known by the name Wissahickon Mills, with their appurtenances[109], Together with 200 acres of land on part whereof the said mills stand with its Appurtenances, all situate, lying & being in the county of Philadelphia,



the word/abbreviation in the earliest deed  is "and"/"**&**" because the same abbreviation  **is in the wording just seven words prior in the phrase "Without Division to them & their heirs..." The abbreviation can be seen occurring twice in the line below.**

1702 Sep 15 Andrew Robeson to John Vanlaer half 200 acres and half 8 acres; 4th line down right side of Indenture "Without Division…One Water Corn Mill & Millns":



Old transcription in deeds book also has as "&"
Deeds (Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania), 1683-1886 ; index to deeds, 1683-1916; ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSFB-T9G7-R?cat=227024 (familysearch.org)

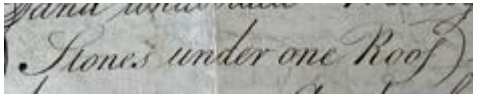
John Vanlaer purchased half land and rights of 200 acres from Samuel Robeson, son & Executor of Andrew Robeson **Sr.,** in 1702.

1748 Sample.

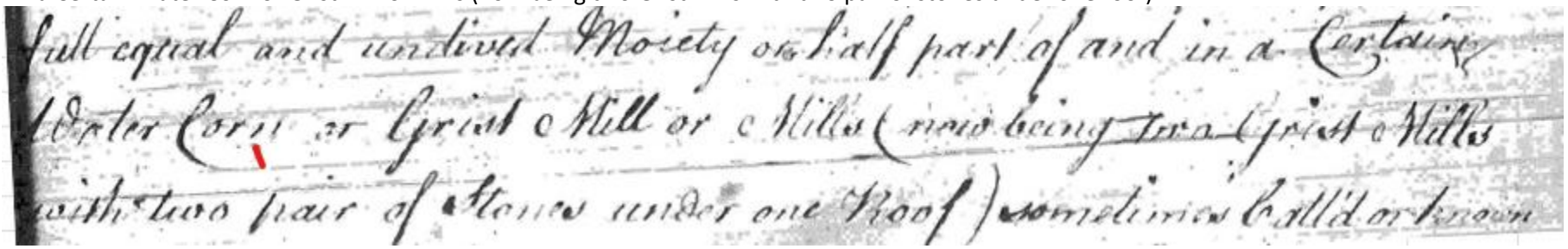
1748 Nov 4 Zachariah Whitpaine to Magdalen Robeson

Line 5: "…Corn or Grist Mills or Millns *(sic)* (now being <u>two grist mills with two pairs of Stones</u> under one Roof) sometimes called or known by the name Wissahickon Mills and now called Roxborough Mills"

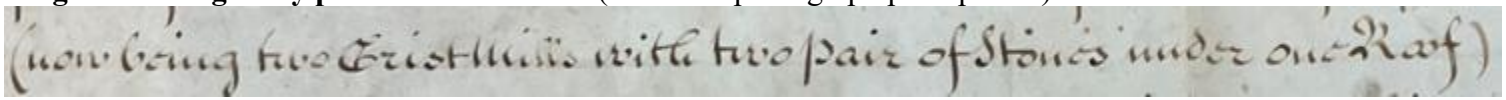


Line 6: 

NEW SAMPLE #5 - 1752 May 22 Magdalen Robeson sale to Henry Shellenberg half 96 acres and half 8 acres & mills. Old transcript, not original writing.
"in a Certain Water Corn or Grist Mill or Mills (now being two Grist Mills with two pair of stones under one roof)"



Original writing – key part that is available (need to rephotograph prior phrase) – same as 1748



BIBLIOGRAPHY – Primary Sources for Indentures are in the "Recap of Uses" section.

By Author or Topic (some internet sites lack an author). Does not include stand-alone Maps, map collections, or Picture links in the footnotes, nor does the below include the links to the LDS Family Search/Ancestry Library notes or Ancestry.com. LDS links may require you to have first registered – it is free: www.familysearch.org

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Update Log – Notes recapping major updates.

Significant Updates made after the 2023 PHMC review was completed 16 Feb. New document dates and key phrases are in bold and the updates are in chronological order in the first group.

1. **Townsend-Pusey House 1683**: The National Register of Historic Places lists Richard Townsend as the Architect of the Pusey, Caleb, House House NPGallery Asset Detail See also this link for more details: Per *The Friends of the Caleb Pusey House site and* "A View From 1963" The Caleb Pusey Plantation in Upland, Pa. (The view from 1963) "Townsend built the original part of the Pusey house, now known to be the left (east) side, after his arrival on the Welcome with Penn in 1682."

2. **Found and transcribed 19 June 1686 lease** of fifty & half acre of land by R. Turner to J. Tittery and established that all land leased for improvements and the subsequent building of corn mill was on the west side of the Wissahickon Creek (side of Creek where the Robeson Mill stands). **Import:** Prior historians [110]assumed that the 50.5 acres of leased land spanned the both sides of the Creek and land and the early mills were built on both sides of the Wissahickon. Fifty and one half Acres Mapped.pdf (philacanoe.org)
3. **Highlighted key sections** of **8 Nov. 1690 Indenture**, the basic terms and boundaries and buildings, that updated the 1686 lease from R. Turner, J. Tittery & R. Townsend and convey to Andrew Robeson, Sr. & Charles Sanders half ownership in the fifty & half acre, 101-year lease. **Import:** The indenture repeated the boundaries of the 1686 lease pre-improvements, with all land being on the west side of the Wissahickon Creek, and states that it includes rights to profits from "…tilled land, improvements houses, **Saw & Corn mills**… (on the west side of the Creek)"[111] 1690 Nov 8 J Tittery and R Townsend to A Robeson Word to Pdf.pdf (philacanoe.org)
4. **Transcribed key sections** of **4 April 1691 Indenture**, the basic terms and boundaries and buildings, that updated the 50.5 acre lease retrospectively to 25 March 1689 to bring John Tyzache into a 'Copartnership' with Josuha Tittery and Richard Townsend. **Import:** The indenture repeats the boundaries of the 1686 lease, the 1690 addendum with all land being on the west side of the Wissahickon Creek, and on line 14 states Tyzache owns an "…undivided Sixth part of all the tilled land improvements Houses **Saw & Corn Mills** & all the Iron work timber works, Mill Stones, tooles & Implements now belonging…" 1691 Apr 4 Tittery and Townsend Lease to Tyzache.pdf (philacanoe.org)
5. **Extended the transcription** of **11 July 1691 Deed**[112] wherein R Turner sells all 500 acres of land to Robeson & Sanders and Tittery, Townsend and Tyzache convey their ownerships in the lease to Robeson & Sanders. **Import:** The Deed reviews all the three prior transactions and confirms that the "Saw and Corn Mills" were built on the leased land (west side of the Wissahickon Creek) and identifies the likely mason deserving credit for working with Townsend as "…William Preston of the same county, Mason…" 11 July 1691 Deed.pdf (philacanoe.org)
6. **Extended the transcription of 3 Dec 1702 Pleas –** Writ of Partition John Van Lear petition v William Sanders. **Import:** The Writ of Partition confirms the existence of the "**One Water-Corn-Mill**" and goes on to say there now exits a by this date a second mill, described in the plural sense "& Millins (Being 3 gristmills under one Roof)…" 1702 Sep 15 A Robeson to J Vanlaer half 200 acres and half 8 acres.pdf (philacanoe.org)
7. **1752 Aug 22 Deed partially Transcribed:** Deed Rudman Robeson to Henry Schellenberg - The wording is the same as in early part of the deed as Magdalen's deed, but a later section has in it "Rolling" descriptor, phrased as "Stables, Millhouses, **Rolling Mills**, Buildings,…" 1752 Aug 22 Rudman Robeson to Henry Shellenberg 96 acres TIGHT.pdf (wildapricot.com) and Deeds (Philadephia County, Pennsylvania), 1683-1886 ; index to deeds, 1683-1916; ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSFB-YQ8X-L?i=228&cat=227024 (familysearch.org)

[110] No evidence has been found of others finding this document or having transcribed and mapped the section stating the boundaries of the lease, which was a time-consuming task that was not expected to yield new information.
[111] See **sixteenth line** on Indenture. Consent of R. Townsend "Millwright" was part of the agreement as he and Joshua Tittery had entered a partnership agreement after 1686.
[112] Recorded 8 July 1763.

8. **1755 Jun 22 Deed Transcribed:** Deed Henry Shellenberg to John Vanderen - as above 22 Aug 1752 deed, the but a later section adds the "Rolling" descriptor, phrased as "Stables, Millhouses, **Rolling Mills**, Buildings,…" 1755 Shellenberg to John Vanderan.pdf (philacanoe.org)
9. **1789 Sheriff's pre-Sale Notice found:** James Ash Sheriff sale references the existence of a Corn mill as well as the Grist mill, with the mills being on opposite sides of the Wissahickon Creek. 1789 Dec 8 James Ash Sheriff to Peter and Jonathon Robeson.pdf (philacanoe.org)
10. **1790 Sheriff's Deed Found:** James Ash 'Sheriff Deed' again notes the existence of a Corn mill as well as the Grist mill, with the mills being on opposite sides of the Wissahickon Creek. . 1790 Mar 6 James Ash Esq Sheriff Vanderen estate Deed to Peter and Jonathon Robeson.pdf (philacanoe.org)
11. **1820 US Census - Schedule of Manufactures**: Found and transcribed complete description of the mill and sister Nail Factory. John Moore Renting the Rolling and Slitting Mill and Nail Factory 1820 Census.pdf (philacanoe.org)
12. **1822 Frederick Graff drawing** of the mill's waterwheel with documents related to suit and Fairmount Dam raising the River water level upstream, with geographic diagrams and drawing of the Rolling Mill Waterwheel. Philadelphia Architects and Buildings 1822 (philadelphiabuildings.org)
13. **1845 Frederick Graff drawing** 2nd set of Frederick Graff drawings and related 2nd suit for loss water power after the Fairmount Dam was rebuilt. Philadelphia Architects & Buildings 1845 (philadelphiabuildings.org)
14. **Fairmount Park Commission Archive**: Robert Armstrong, 2005, then at the Park Commission, wrote a paper that says research that "Nowhere in the sources is there a mention of the destruction of Mill #1, therefore it is safe to assume that it is the same building." Mill #1 is a reference to the Robeson Rolling Mill / PCC Clubhouse in Douglas Macfarlan's 1949 typescript, *The Wissahickon Mills*. History PCC Clubhouse R Armstrong.pdf

Endnotes – Some, such as the recap of ownership, are still works-in-progress.

[i] Robeson Family: Both Andrew Robeson Sr. and his nephew, referred as Andrew Robeson Sr., were born in Kelso, Roxburghshire, Scotland and it seems likely that the current "Roxborough" district's name originates from their ownership of the mill. Swedish roots: The wife of Andrew Jr., Mary Helm, was the daughter of the Swedish Captain Israel Åkesson Helm, who arrived in Pennsylvania in 1641.

[ii] The Fairmount Commission search of its records and resultant brief history of the mill: History PCC Clubhouse R Armstrong.pdf, AKA Robeson Rolling Mill brief History R Armstrong.pdf

[iii] Reference to "timbers" being brought, 'No Title' Richard Townsend IV (1645–1732) • Person • Family Tree

[iv] The first mill in the Philadelphia area, pre-Penn's Colony, was reportedly buit by a Swede on Cobbs Creek. See page 50 second paragraph: Old towns and districts of Philadelphia; an address delivered before the City history society of Philadelphia, February 26, 1941

Elsewhere, it has been noted in Jason Townsend's research that another Swede mill existed: Story of Philadelphia By John St. George Joyce, pages 88-89: Story of Philadelphia : Joyce, John St. George, 1846- [from old catalog] ed : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming : Internet Archive.

> "There was a grist-mill on Wingohocking Creek about a mile northeast of Germantown. It had been established in 1683 by Richard Townsend, an English millwright, who came with William Penn on the Welcome. It was afterward called Robert's Mill and did a thriving business. There had been two grist mills in the colony before this one, both in the Swedish settlements, one on Cobb's Creek **and the other on Frankford Creek**, but Robert's Mill served a much larger custom."

[v] Quaker Meeting Minutes documenting Preston's involvement pages 33 and 34: PGM-Vol1No4-251-298.pdf

[vi] See Page 24 "Minutes of Philadelphia Monthly Meeting": PGM-Vol1No4-251-298.pdf

Three pages of the details of the land/mill ownership start on the next page.

R**obeson Rolling Mill:**

Ownership of the land around the Robeson Mill and which now lies on about One Acre in the Park.

[vii] Three pages of the details of the land/mill ownership start on the next page.

R**obeson Rolling Mill:**

Ownership of the land around the Robeson Mill and which now lies on about One Acre in the Park.

Robeson Rolling Mill

Ownership of what is now One Acre in the Park

Italics = land split-off, ***not*** *the 8-acre Mill land (kept for references to 'Mills').*

Start Date Grantee - Buyer / Warrantee - Patentee	**End Year /** ***Record Yr.***	**Grantee or New Owner at the date - Notes & Sources (e.g. Leasee) or Will**	**Deed - Purchase book from a source or clear Deed Indices or "Will"**	**Acres** Jointly owned if 2+ People
1681	1681	William Penn	Crown to Penn Grant 1681 - Treaty Indians 1682	-
1682	1683	William Penn "Penn's Treaty with the Indians at Shackamaxon"	A 8 242	-
1683 Jan 20	1686	Robert Turner	Warrant 20 Jan 1683 and purchase 20 Jan 1683. Recorded 19 Apr 1684 Tho. Holme Named Surveyor General, By the Shoomark Parke (No. 252) Patented 29 May 1684; **Patent #26; A 1 pg. 43-46 Recorded 1684 Jun 24;**	500
1686 Jan 29	1690	Joshua Tittery and Richard Townsend **Partnership**	The date is given in 1690 Nov 8 indenture - see below. Recorded 8 July 1763. And Date/partnership is noted in 1691 Jul 19 Indeture.	50.5 Acre Lease All on the West side of the Creek!
1686 Jun 19	1691	Joshua Tittery (101 yr. lease)	Abstract: Ck H 4 pg. 549 and H 10 pg. 12 (Rent 25 shillings and three pence) Townsend Not referenced	50.5 Lease All on the West side of the Creek!
1689 Mar 25	1691	Richard Townsend, J Tittery Partnership includes John Tyzache	"Partnership" as referenced/documented in the Indenture date 4 Apr 1691	
1690 Nov 8	1691	Andrew Robeson Sr. & Charles Saunders	Per Brief of Title 1878 - 1/2 rights to lease 50 1/2 acres "Recited" includes "Saw and Corn Mills"	Half of 50.5 Lease
1691 Apr 4 (as of 1689)	1691	John Tyzache formally added to "Tripartite Indentures" as of 1869	**Book F Vol 6 page 410** Saw and Corn Mills also **City Archives** 6 pg. 114	50.5 Lease
1691 Jul 11	1694	Andrew Robeson Sr. & Charles Saunders	Andrew Grantee, Grantor Chas Sanders Deed Book H-16 Pg. 417; **"Dobson" Brief of Title** says Recorded recorded May 23, 1734 (City Archives found in the Dobson files)	500 includes payment for lease of 50.5 acresland
1692 Jul 28	1694	Andrew Robeson Sr. & Charles Saunders	Deed that formally finalized the above for J. Tyzache's 1/6th ownership in the land lease found in City Archive	50.5 Lease
1694	1695	**Elizabeth** Robeson & Charles Saunders	Andrew Robeson Sr. died 1694 and Eliz died 1695. son Samuel is Executor (he died 1699)	500
1696	*1696*	*Benj. & Jos. Morgan*	*The 500 acre 'Robeson/Sanders' estate now down to 200 acres F vol. 2 page 404*	*300 acres*
1695	1699	**Samuel** Robeson and Charles Saunders	Samuel inherits half ownership on death of his Mother, Elizabeth. Will Book B pg 341.	200
1699 July 21	1699	Samuel Robeson and **Sarah Sanders** on behalf of son William	Will	
1699 Sept. 21	1702	**Estate of Samuel Robeson** (son Andrew Sr. & Eliz.: Andrew Robeson Jr. as one of three Executors) & Sarah Sanders/Wm Sanders	Will **Book B, Page 341** Proofed 2/25/1703-1704 to Samuel - Need check as A. Robeson Sr. died 1699 and Estate sold his portion of the property to nephew A. Robeson Jr.	200

Robeson Rolling Mill

Ownership of what is now One Acre in the Park

Italics = land split-off, ***not*** *the 8-acre Mill land (kept for references to 'Mills').*

Start Date Grantee - Buyer / Warrantee - Patentee	**End Year /** ***Record Yr.***	**Grantee or New Owner at the date - Notes & Sources (e.g. Leasee) or Will**	**Deed - Purchase book from a source or clear Deed Indices or "Will"**	**Acres** Jointly owned if 2+ People
1702 Sept. 15	1703 Oct. 5	**John Van Laer** ("of Philadelphia Baker") & Sarah Sanders/Wm Sanders	Found in City Archives Fairmont Park Collection Oversized 146.9 Dobson File	half ownership **200 acres**
1702 Dec 3	1703 Oct. 5	John Vanlaer **96 acres** Sarah Sanders for Wm Sanders **96 acres and 8 acres jointly owned**	**Writ of Partition** - Partition confirmed by the Court 4 March 1703" (96 acres v. 88 acres and 1/2 share 8 acres.)	96 being ~half 200 (excluding 8 acres) + 1/2 ownership 8 acres
1703 Oct. 5	1720	**Andrew Robeson Jr.**: Granted 96 acres and half ownership of the 8 acres (A. Robeson Jr. died 19 Feb. 1720 Douglasville Pa.' wife Mary Spencer (or Helm) died in 1716)	Book G Vol 11 page 604 **CK Book G Vol. 58 pg 604 and look for "plan ...*of* "Estover Land""** Have an original paper 30+ Inches wide, Recorded on 12 Jan 1749/50; have also old 2nd copy transcribed and now 3rd copy transcribed in Word .doc. Need the '**plan of estover land**'	96 being half 200 (excluding 8 acres) + 1/2 ownership 8 cares
1720	1740	Andrew Robeson III (b. 1686, d. 1740), m. Gertrude Madalena Rudman	(recheck: A - No 6 6 Jul 1724)	96 being half 200 (ex the 8 acres) + 1/2 ownership 8 cares
1733 Sep 11	1748	Zachariah Whitpain (Nephew of Wm Sanders) son of Charles & Sarah Whitpain Zachariah	Wm. Sanders: Will Book E Page 275 - entry # 354 Proved April 29th 1734 No deed in Deed Books	88 acres (west side of the Creek) + half of the 8 acres
1740	1748	Eiizabeth Robeson (1/3)	(See below Ridiman get two thirds as brother died before father and by customer surviving male gets brothers' share)	
1740	1752	Rudeman/Rudiman Robeson and Elizabeth are named as the "only son and dau. of Andrew Robeson *(3rd)*, miller, of Roxborough." 1686-1740.	H 15 289 - assume A. Robeson 3rd as Grantor as of death 1740	96 acres east side of the Creek + 1/2 ownership 8 acres
1748 Nov 24	1760/1760	Rudeman Robeson	Need to find Patent; 1762 sold to Vanderen. See reference in 1752 Aog 22 deed	96 East Side + 1/3 interest of 8 acres
1748 Sep 22	1752	Magdalen Robeson	JTO No. 30 page 328 **Recorded April 1807**	"undivided moiety or *half part*" of 8 acres
1752 **May** 22	1755	Henry Shellenberg or Heinrich Schellenberger (later Widow Dorothy at sale 1755)	H vol 2 page 228 *H 3 442 R Robeson endorsed Magdalen H 3 444 M. Robeson OK*	"undivided moiety or half part" of 8 acres
1752 **Aug** 22	1755	Henry Shellenberg (later Widow Dorothy at sale 1755 (referenced 6 acres s/b the 8 acres below)	**H vol 3 page 442** *H 3 442 R Robeson endorsed Magdalen H 3 444 M. Robeson OK*	96 Acres **East** Side + half interest of 8 acres
1753 Dec 16	***1760***	*Weckhard Levering*	***H vol 8 pg 13*** *(Ref F v6 p14 dead end)*	*53 West side of Creek Does NOT incl half of 8 acres - see sale below*

Robeson Rolling Mill

Ownership of what is now One Acre in the Park

Italics = land split-off, ***not*** *the 8-acre Mill land (kept for references to 'Mills').*

Start Date Grantee - Buyer / Warrantee - Patentee	**End Year /** ***Record Yr.***	**Grantee or New Owner at the date - Notes & Sources (e.g. Leasee) or Will**	**Deed - Purchase book from a source or clear Deed Indices or "Will"**	**Acres** Jointly owned if 2+ People
1755 Jun 8	**1789**	**John Vanderen** (d. 1785 and Mill left to sons Charles & Joseph with four-sixth value to other four children)	Book I vol. 12, pg. 418 Recheck/reread	"All the said Mills and **8** acres and the said **96** acres more or less"
1760 May 8		*John Vanderin ("in" in Deed, generally spelled Vanderen)*	*Deed records v. EF 3 1766-1800 pg 177 (Image 92)*	*25 (Excludes 8 acres)*
1760 Dec 22	*1789*	*John Vanderen*	*Book H vol 14 Page 30*	***53*** *(Excludes 8 acres - No ref. except as boundary - see 1755)*
1683-1809 Index Dates		*John Vanderen*	*Various* *Image 69 in index Grantee index to deeds v. Qu 1683-1903 v. R 1863-1872 v. U-V 1683-1903 v. Y-Z 1851-1878*	*Various ex-8 acres*
1760 *1769*	*n/a*	*Jacob Coleman* *William Smith*	*TBD - 53 acre lot now 52 acres -* *2nd lot to Wm Smith so 51 acres*	*~2*
1789 Dec 6		Jonathon & Peter Robeson (III) Great-Grandsons of Andrew Robeson Jr.	Execution Docket, Dec 6 1789, No. 1; Sheriff Deed Book 6, page 146 *(link to image with note on the right)*	38
1790 Mar 6	1799	Jonathon & Peter Robeson (Jon. Died 1799 & Estate / deed transferred to Peter by Sheriff Israel Israel 1802)	Deed Poll Deed Book E. F. No. 3 page 181 (Image 94)	263 acres in 14 contiguous lots Including the 8 acres
1799	1833	Peter Robeson (d. 1833)	See next entry	241
1820	-	Leased per 1820 Census: Dr. John Moore (Peter's brother-in-law)	J ohn & Catherine Robeson Moore breifly owned 1/3 part of the land 1833-1834 on death of P. Robeson)	1
1833	1862 / *1864*	Andrew 1/3 & Jonathon Robeson 1/3 (sons of Peter; Andrew d. 1862 & Jon. d. 1859) and John Moore & Katherine Robeson	Bk 53 p. 315, No. 562 J	241
1862 est.	1874 Sep 23	Harvey Bancroft	Sale - Mortgage Books 1 Aug 1870 JAH v 54 p 237 JAH v 57 p 484	**10 to 15 est.**
1864	*1869*	*John and Joseph Dobson (Large Mill by RR and* ***Not*** *8 acres)*	*Land* ***did not include*** *the Canoe Club Mill land on West side of the Creek* ***BUT*** *past deeds at City*	*8 + est 235*
1874 Sep 23	Present	Fairmont Park - Src Deed Historical Index	F.T.W. Book 150 Page 352	**1**
1874	" "	Source Deed Fairmont Park Purchases	FTW v. 138 p 328	**1**
1877	1887	The Schuylkill Fishing Co. of the State in Schuylkill - leased & Occupied		**1**
1887	1902	State in Schuylkill - leased		**1**
1902	1905	**Fairmont Park - not leased**		**1**
May 22 1905	Present	**Philadelphia Canoe Club**		**1**

[viii] The Rittenhouse Paper Mill is perhaps the best-documented Mill in the valley and was built in the same era as the three "Wissahickon Mills." It seems likely that Macfarlan and his predecessors read the "HISTORY OF PHILADELPHIA. 1609—1884. BY J. THOMAS SCHARF AND THOMPSON WESTCOTT. IN THREE VOLUMES. VOL. III. PHILADELPHIA" published 1884; see History of Philadelphia, 1609-1884. V. 3 (familysearch.org) : "The Robesons at that early date built a grist-mill and bolting-house near the Schuylkill, in the old borough of Roxborough, which were known as " Wissahickon Mills."

The first Paper Mill was destroyed by a spring flood, a 'freshet' in 1701, and rebuilt in 1702 on the Monoshone Creek, aka "Paper Mill Run." The original owner of the land in Roxborough, Robert Turner, was a partner in this Paper Mill venture along with Thomas Tresse (see 1691 Deed – recap follows Year 1691 and in full in Endnotes): https://freedomsbackyard.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/GC-The-Rittenhouse-Paper-Mill-and-Its-Founders.pdf

The Townsend Mill also was reported to suffer severe flood damage in 1701 "On 31 August 1701 it was recorded that contributions were taken because he had "lost a great part of what he had, lately by a great Flood."" The remark about his was seen in an Abington Quaker Meeting Minutes and reported here: Richard Townsend IV (1645–1732) • Person • Family Tree.

See here also in a statement that "a great freshet destroyed his mill." Top left view 12: Genealogical data and correspondence relating to a series of articles published in the North American regarding old Philadelphia families; Townsend -Turner

'Rittenhouse Town' no longer has its mill building on the Monoshone, but the Village stands today as a great tribute to the people and perseverance of all those who built the fifty-plus mills along the Wissahickon.

Two of the three Robeson Mills were taken down at about the same time as the Rittenhouse Mill: "In 1891, the (Rittenhouse) mill was taken down by Fairmount Park Commission along with a number of nearby buildings as part of a plan to create parkland for city residents and to eliminate sources of pollution which were making the city's drinking water (taken from the Schuylkill River) unsafe." https://rittenhousetown.org/about/

The 'Robeson's Rolling Mill,' earlier known as the Roxboro Mill, lacks any attractions or appeal in the context of a village and surrounding buildings. Its exterior is not an architectural beauty. However, what the Mill lacks in beauty and context, it has made up for in terms of luck and sheer perseverance. Luck, the Park did not tear it down as it did 20+ other mills still in existence then. Perseverance is a virtue in that it has survived flooding from freshets and hurricanes over the last two or three hundred years.

At this point, we stand near where Douglas Macfarlan stood seventy years ago: "The exact dates when these mills were built is still uncertain, for all the information attainable is from deeds." ("The Wissahickon Mills", Volume 1 of the three-volume set that covered 50 mills in the valley, 1949 by D. Macfarlan.)

It appears that by "exact," Macfarlan may have meant 1686, 1687, 1689, 1690, or 1691 as the year built could not be determined or could not specify an exact year for each mill. On the key maps Macfarlan drew, the 1691 date is present, and the reader is left to believe all three Mills were built by 1691.

[ix] **11 July 1691 Deed**

The 1691 Deed covers the both the unexpired term of the 101-year lease of "fifty and a half acres," and it includes the "Saw and Corn Mills"[ix] on the western bank of Wissahickon Creek[ix] within the 500 acres owned by Robert Turner.

The partial transcription of this 1691 deed focuses on the sections that speak to the existence of the Mills that Tittery, Townsend, et al., built while they leased the fifty and a half acres land from "…the nineteenth Day of June 1686…" to the date of this deed in 1691.

The deed is a bit complicated as the Landowner, Robert Turner, first leased the 50.5 acres to Joshua Tittery, who then formed partnerships with Richard Townsend and John Tyzache, and the leases are terminated within this deed. Before this date and sale of both the full 500 acres and the unexpired lease, Andrew Robeson Sr. and Charles Sanders purchased a half share of the 50.5 acre lease (8 Nov 1690). So, Andrew Robeson Sr. and Charles Sanders, on this date, bought out the other half of the lease (Tittery, Townsend & Tyzache) and the full 500 acres from Robert Turner.

The roles and/or rights of these four others named in the indenture are yet to be determined: "…Robert Ewer, Thomas Tresse, of the same place, Merchants, and William Preston of the same county, Mason,… with consent of Patrick Robinson…"

Transcription Notes: The full Deed follows the transcription. Some paragraph breaks have been added to ease reading; the original text has very few periods or commas. Otherwise, the original punctuation is followed unless it hinders reading for content: some commas were added in the current writing style, but many words are left Capitalized as in the original. Names are spelled as written in the Deed. Some additions added in italics added to also ease reading; the link to the full Deed is in the Endnotes in the 'History Recap.' Sections in bold address the existence of two or more Mills and their uses given the tools and Millstones: Saw, Corn, and Iron mill works (iron mill works likely for stamping-out nails).

11 July 1691

Deed Robt Turner & al Attorneys for John Tyzack

This indenture made this 11th day of the 5th month July, in the third year of the reign of William and Mary, King and Queen of England, Anno Domi 1691, between Robert Turner of the town and county of Philadelphia in the province of Pennsylvania, with American merchant Joshua Tittery of the said place, Broadglass maker, **with consent of Richard Townsend of the said place, millwright**, and Robert Ewer, Thomas Tresse, of the same place, Merchants, and William Preston of the same county, Mason, attorneys for and in name and behalf & for the Proper use and behalf of John Tysacke of London, in the Kingdom of England, also Broadglass maker, with consent of Patrick Robinson, of the said place, all of the one part and Andrew Robeson and Charles Sanders, both of the same place, Merchants, of the other part.

Witness that whereas William Penn, proprietor and governor of the said province, by his letter Patents, under his hand and seal dated the 24th of 4th month 1684, did give grant and confirm to the said Robert Turner, his heirs and assigns therein mentioned, a certain tract of land in the said county called Shomack [sic] Park.

Beginning at a corner marked *(by a)* Spanish Oak standing by the Skoolkill [sic] River, from hence East North East by Philadelphia Liberties four hundred and seventy perches to a corner marked White Oak, from hence North West and by North by the Germantown one hundred fifty and three perches to a corner marked stake from there southwest five hundred and twenty-five perches to a corner marked Birch standing by the Schuylkill River then down said river on several courses to the first mention Spanish Oak containing Five Hundred acres of Land as the said recorded in the office of Rolls and public register at Philadelphia the twenty-ninth of the 5th month 1684 ... more... and whereas the said Robert Turner by his seal indentured under his hand and seal did demise, and to farm, lease to the said Joshua Tittery, and his heirs and assigns, 50 acres and a half of the said 500 acres of land as part and parcel they're of situate *(tbd)* being and bounded in manner they're in mentioned with all its improvements and appurtenances from the nineteenth Day of

June 1686, which is the Date of the said Lease for one hundred and one years under the yearly rent therein expressed and payable at the fixed terms therein mentioned during the said term.

As in the same indenture of lease containing several other mutual clauses and covenants therein which are held as fore in expressed more at length in contained.

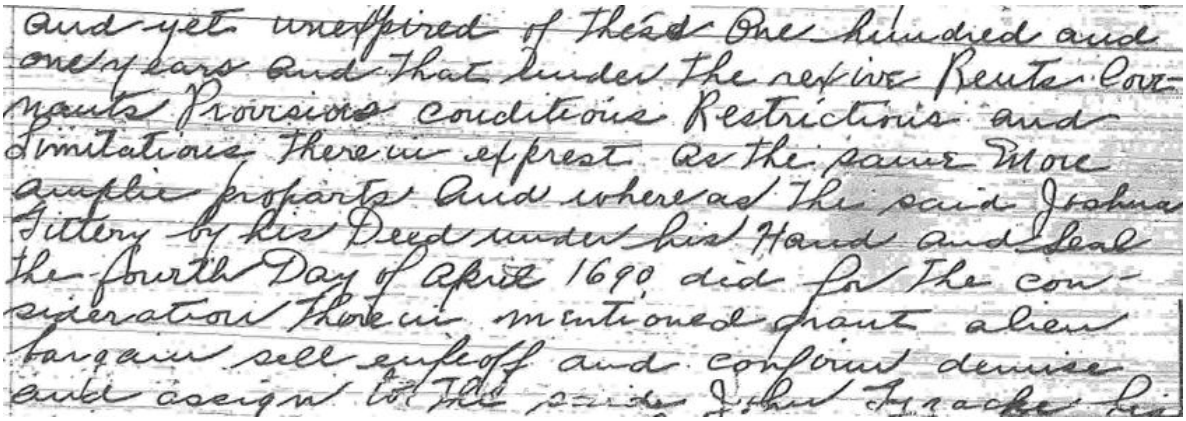
And whereas the said Joshua Tittery, by an indenture pact between him and the said Richard Townsend, under their hands and seals dated the 29th January 1686, did bargain and agree for them and their heirs and assigns from the day of the date thereof, to the full end and term of the said lease, to be partners in and upon the said fifty and a half acres of land, and equally to pay the rent and equally to bear the charge of building the mill Mills *(sic phrase "mill Mills" with no comma between the words)* or the improvements that they, or Heirs above written, should agree to make and equally to divide the profits and bear the Leases, as in the same containing some clauses therein more at large is expressed.

And there whereas the said Joshua Tittery and Richard Townsend, by their indentures under their hands and seals have sold and conveyed the said Joshua Tyzacke, his heirs and assigns, for during an unto the full end & term yet to come and unexpired of the said Lease, one full and equal third part (the whole having been in three parts equally divided) of the said fifty and half acres of Land leases and premises, and of all the tilled Land, Houses, Saw and Corn Mills, and all of the Iron and Timber Work Millstones, Tools and improvements then belonging or intended to belong and then provided, or intended to be provided for the mills aforesaid, and all Timber and wood, Sawed and unsawed, under the said John Tyzacke and his payment of the rents, duties and covenants in the said first Lease mentioned,

And whereas it is in the said indentures mentioned that the said Joshua Tittery, Richard Townsend and John Tyzacke have entered and did enter into a joint co-partnership in the said 50 1/2 acres of Land, for during and unto the full end and term yet to come, and yet expired of the said one hundred and one years for the Tillage of Land, Building of houses, building and management of Saw or Corn Mills, or any other Mill or mills, or any other improvements whatsoever upon that said fifty acres and a half of Land premises or aforesaid, or any parts or Parcell [sic] thereof in manner in the said Tripartite Indentures of the co-partnership mentioned, and which bear date the twenty fifth day of March 1689 as the said the Indentures tripartite containing therein, diverse other mutual clauses, covenants, articles, Conditions, Privileges, Limitations and Restrictions more fullie [sic] and at large is expressed.

And whereas the said Joshua Tittery by his deed under his hand and seal dated the eight day of November 1690, did with the consent of the said Richard Townsend, Witnessed by his being party there to for the consideration therein mentioned, grant alien, bargain, sell, (*tbd),* confirmed demise and assign to the said Andrew Robson and Charles Sanders, their ... heirs and assigns, equally between them, one full just and equal and undivided Moitie[5] & half part of said fifty and half acres of Land, leases and premises with the half of all the tilled Land, Improvements, Houses, Saw and Corn Mills, and of all the Iron Work, Timber work Millstones and Tools and improvements, then belonging or intended to belong unto then provided or intended to be provided for the mills aforesaid and all the other Timber and Wood, sawed or unsawed, for during and unto the full end of the term yet to come and yet expired...."

Transcription stopped on page 3 near the bottom of the old transcription (not page 3 original document); legalize with no references to land or Mills for John Tyzache added to partnership in 1690, by which time the saw and corn mills were already built (in next transcribed section):


And yet unexpired of the One hundred and
one years And That under the respective Rents Cov-
nants Provisions conditions Restrictions and
limitations therein expressed As the same More
amplie appears And whereas The said Joshua
Sittery by his Deed under his Hand and Seal
the fourth Day of April 1690 did for the con-
sideration therein mentioned grant alien
bargain sell enfeoff and confirm demise
and assign to the said John Tyzacke his

John Tyzache became 3rd 'partner' in 1690:

….and assigned to the said John Tyzacke his ….sixth part of all the tilled land improvements houses, **Saw and Corn mills** and all of the iron and timber works millstones tools and improvements their belonging or intended to belong...*(repeats parts just above in bold above as his share was less than others)*

See page six, two thirds of the way down for remainder of the Deed.

Remainder Not transcribed as all repetitive legalize with no new references to the land or Mills.

1 6 V 7

Deed
Robt. Turner
& al
Attornies for
John Tyzack

This Indenture made this Eleventh Day of the Fifth Mō July in the Third Year of the Reign of William and Mary King and Queen of England Anno Domi 1691 Between Robert Turner of the Town and County of Philadelphia in the Province of Pensylvania in America Merchant Joshua Fittery of the said place Broadglass maker with Consent of Richard Townsend of the said place Millwright and Robert Ewer Thomas Tress of the said place Merts and William Preston of the said County Mason Attornies for and in name and Behalfe & for the Proper use and Behoofe of John Tyzacke of London in the Kingdom of England also Broadglass maker with Consent of Patrick Robinson of the said place all of the one part And Andrew Robeson & Charles Saunders both of the said place Merts of the other part Witnesseth that Whereas Wm Penn Proprietor and Governor of the said province by his Letters Patents under his Hand and Seal dated the Twenty Fourth of the Fourth Mō 1684 did Gr. grant and confirm to the said Robert Turner his Heirs and assigns (there in mentioned) a certain Tract of Land in the said County called Shomack Park Beginning at a corner marked Spanish Oak Standing by the Skoolkill River from thence East North East by Philadelphia Liberties Foure Hundred and seventy perches to a corner marked White Oak from thence North West and by North by the Germantowne One hundred fifty and three Perches to a Corner marked Stake from Thence South West Fwr Hundred Twenty and Fwr perches to a corner marked Burch Standing by the Skullkill River Then down the said River on several courses to the first mentioned Spanish Oak Containing Five Hundred Acres of Land as the same Recorded in the office of Rolls and publick Registrie at Philadelphia the twenty ninth of the fifth Mō 1684 fol 13 more amplie & parts And whereas the said Robert Turner by his Seale Indented under his Hand and Seal

did Demise and to farm Lett to the said Joshua Tittery his Heirs & Assigns fifty acres and a halfe of the said five hundred Acres of Land as part and parcell there of situate lying being and bounded in manner there in mentioned with all its improvements and appurtenances from the nineteenth Day of June 1686 which is the Date of the said Lease for one hundred and one Years under the yearlie Rent therein expressed at the rate and at the other terms there in mentioned during the said term as in the same indentures of Lease containing severall other mutual clauses and covenants therein (which are held as fore in effect more at length) contained And where as the said Joshua Tittery by an indenture past between him and the said Richard Townsend under their hands & Seals dated the 29th January 1686 did bargain and agree for them their Heirs & Assigns from the Day of the Date there of to the full End and term of the said Lease to be partners in and upon the said fifty and a half Acres of Lands and equallie to pay the rent and equally to bear the charge of building the mill Mills or other improvements that they or their above written should agree to make and equallie to Divide the profits and bear the Losses as in the same containing sons other clauses therein more at Large is expressed And where as the said Joshua Tittery and Richard Townsend by their indentures under their hands and seals have sold and conveyed to the said John Tyzacke his Heirs and assigns for during and unto the full end & term yet to come and unexpired of the said Lease one full and equall third part (the whole having been in three parts equally divided) of the said fifty and a half acres of Land Leases and premises and of all the tilled Land Houses Saw and Corn Mills and of all the Iron and Timber Work Millstones Tooles and Implements there belonging or intended to belong and there provided or intended to be provided for the mills aforesaid and of all Timber and wood Sawed and unsawed under the said John Tyzacke his peyment of the Rents duties and covenants in the said first Lease mentioned And where as it is in the said indentures mentioned that the said Joshua Tittery Richard Townsend and John Tyzacke have entred and did enter into a joynt Co-partnership in the said fifty and a half Acres of Land for during and unto the full end and term yet to come and unexpired of the said one hundred and one years for the Tillage of Land Building of Houses building and Management of Saw or Corn Mills or any other Mill or mills or of any other improvements what so ever upon the said fifty Acres and a half of Land premises aforesaid or

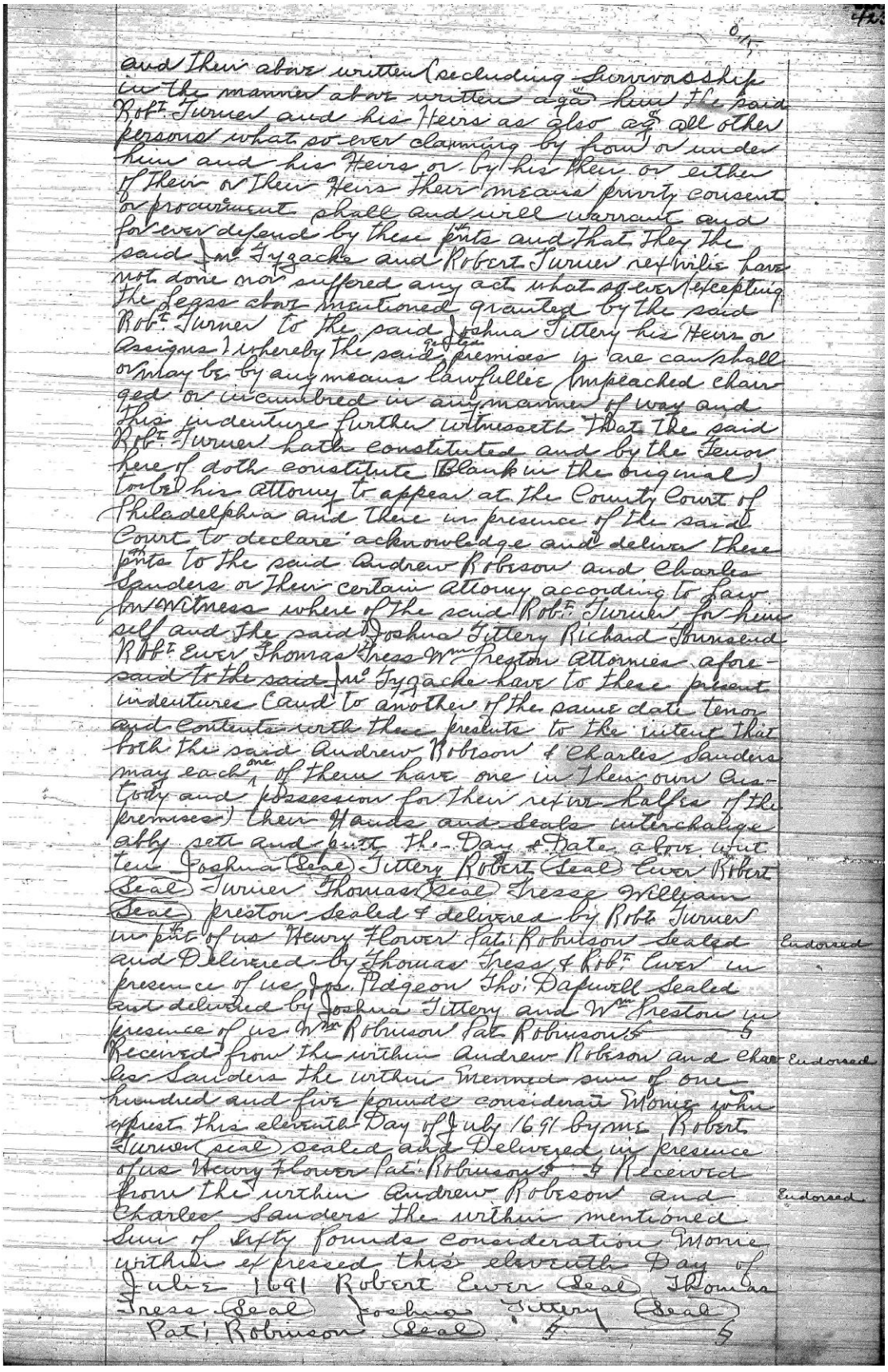
any part or Parcell there of in manner in the said
Tripartite Indentures of Copartnership mentioned
and which bear date the twenty fifth Day of March
1689 as the said Indentures tripartite containing
there in diverse other mutually clauses Covenants
articles Conditions Privileges Limitations and
Restrictions more fully and at large is ex-
pressed And whereas the said Joshua Fittery
by his Deed under his Hand and Seal dated the
Eight Day of November 1690 did with the consent of
the said Richard Townsend Witnessed by his being
partie there to for the consideration therein ment-
tioned grant alien bargain sell enfeoff con-
firm demise and assign to the said Andrew
Robeson and Charles Saunders their respective Heirs
and assigns equallie between them one full just
and equal and undivided Moitie & half part
of the said fifty and a half Acres of Land Leases
and premises with the half of all the tilled Land
Improvements Houses Saw and Corn Mills and
of all the Iron Work timber worke Millstones
Tooles and implements belonging or intended to
belong unto them provided or intended to be pro-
vided for the mills aforesaid and of all other
Timber and Wood Saleable or unsaleable for during
and unto the full end and term yet to come
and yet unexpired of these One hundred and
one years And that under the respective Rents Cov-
enants Provisions conditions Restrictions and
Limitations there in expresst as the same More
amplie proports And whereas The said Joshua
Fittery by his Deed under his Hand and Seal
the fourth Day of April 1690 did for the con-
sideration there in mentioned grant alien
bargain sell enfeoff and confirm demise
and assign unto the said John Tatche his
Heirs and assigns one full equall and un
divided sixt part of the said fifty and a
halfe Acres of Land Leases and premises
with the sixt part of all the tilled Land
Improvements Houses Saw and Corn Mills
and of all the Iron and timber Worke
Millstones tools and implements there belonging or
intended to belong unto them provided or intended
to be provided for the Mills aforesaid and of all
other Timber or Wood Saleable or unsaleable for dur-
ing and unto the full end and term yet to come
and unexpired of the said one hundred and
one years and That under the respective rents Cov-
enants Provisos Conditions Restrictions and Limitations
there in expresst as the same more at large also purports
Now These Presents Indentures Witness That for and in
consideration of the Sum of three score pounds lawfull Silver
Money of the said Province in Hand paid by the said Andrew
Robeson & Charles Saunders to the said Richd Ewer Thomas Cheese and

O.K

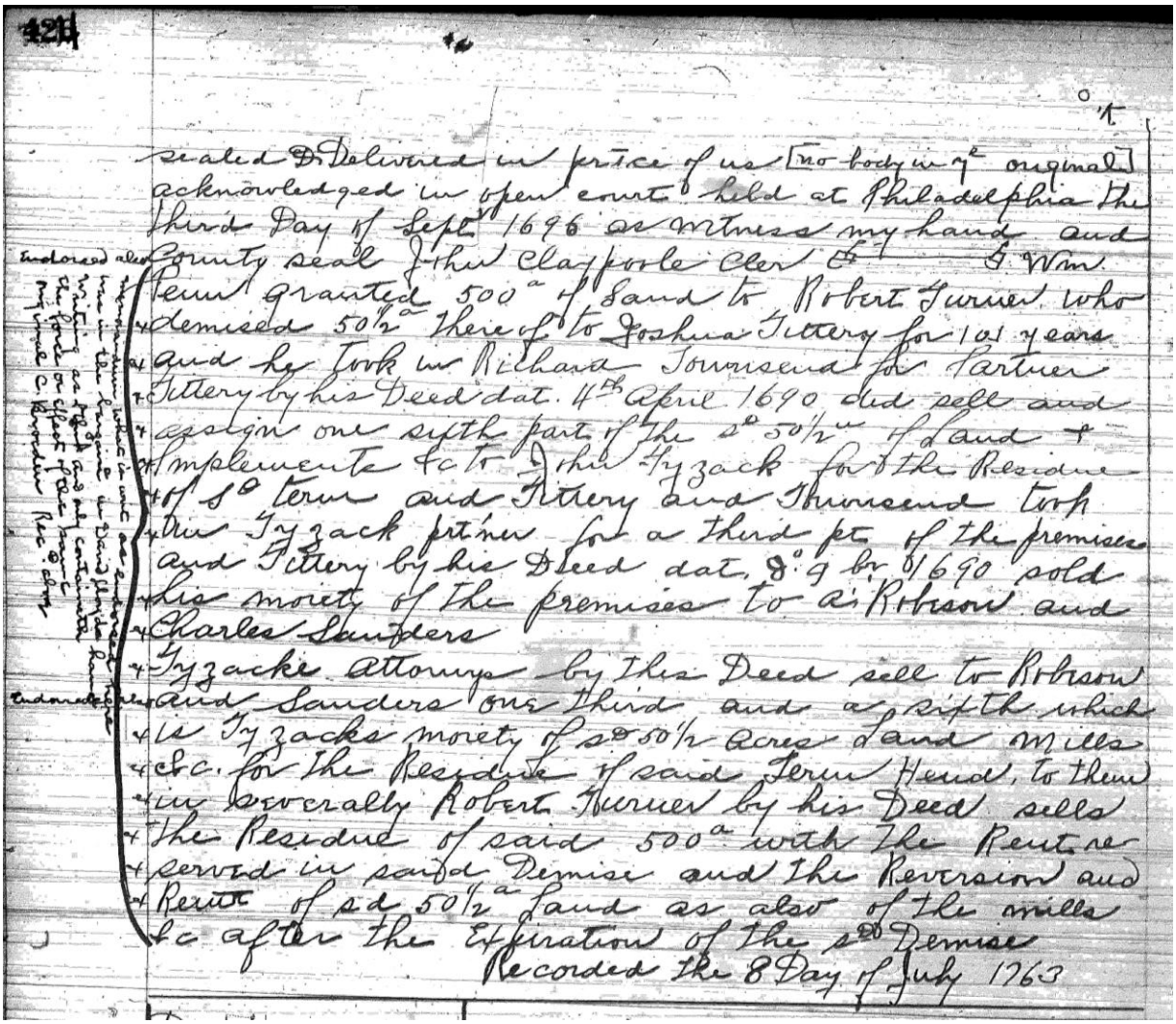
William Preston and Joshua Fittery Attornies for and in name behalfe and for the proper use and Behoofe of the said Jno Tyzacke his Heirs and Assigns (for the said Jno Tyzacke his one Third and one sixth which is one just and equall moitie and half part of the said fifty and a half Acres of Land Mills Implements and premises during the years yet to come and unexpired of the said Leases) the receit whereof the said Attornies doe hereby acknowledge and therof and in Name and behalfe aforesaid doe acquite and discharge the said Andrew Robeson & Charles Sanders their Respective Heirs Extors and admrs for ever by these pnts They the said Attornies do by advise by a letter direct from the said Jno Tyzacke to the said William Preston to buy or sell with consent of the said Patrick Robinson have granted alienated bargained sold enfeoffed demised assigned transferred and made over and by these pnts doe grant bargain sell enfeoffe demise assign transfer and make over to the said Andrew Robeson and Charles Sanders their respective Heirs and assigns equallie between them all his the said Jno Tyzacke his Right Title interest use possession property claim & Demand what so ever in and to the said one third and one sixt which is one just and Equall moitie and halfe part of the said fifty and a halfe acres of Land of Land Mills Implements and premises with all the writings relating There to To have to hold to them the said Andrew Robeson and Charles Sanders their respective Heirs Extors admrs and assigns equallie between them for during and unto the pnts and Term yet to come and unexpired of the said One Hundred and one years mentioned in the Leases above recited and that under them the said Andrew Robeson and Charles Sanders and their aforewritten respectively their payment of their proportionable part of the yearly Rents and their performance of the other Duties and particular Covenants in the said Leases and indentures of Copartnership mentioned to be performed by the said John Tyzacke to the said Robert Turner and in and to do the Clauses Covenants Articles Restrictions Conditions and Limitations therein contained Conceived in favour of the said John Tyzacke and their above written And the said Attornies in name and behalfe aforesaid do Covenant for the said John Tyzacke and his above written to warrant the said assignment of the said Leases indentures of Copartnership during the years yet to come and unexpired of the said One Hundred and one Years to them the said Andrew Robeson and Charles Sanders their respective &

their respective Heirs and assigns, the said John Fyzacke & his Heirs and assigns as also against all others claiming by from or under him Them or any of them or by his Them or any of Them or Their respective Heirs or assigns Them means private Consent or procurement shall and will warrant and for ever defend by these Presents And these Presents Indentures do also Witness that for and in Consideration of the Sum of one hundred and five Pounds lawful money of the said Province in Hand paid by the said Andrew Robeson and Charles Saunders to the said Robt. Turner the receit where of the said Robert Turner doth hereby acknowledge And there of doth acquit and discharge the said Andrew Robeson and Charles Saunders Their respective Heirs Exrs Admrs for ever by These Pnts He the said Robert Turner hath granted aliened bargained sold enfeoffed enfeoffed and confirmed and by These Pnts doth absolutely grant bargain sell enfeoffe and confirm to the said Andrew Robeson and Charles Saunders equally between them each one an equall moiety in quantity and quality of the said first above recited whole five hundred Acres of Land called Shomack Park situate lying and being in manner above recited (excepting forth there of the said fifty and a halfe Acres of Land by the said Robt. Tucker Demised to the said Joshua Tittery for the said Term of One hundred and one year and to which the said Andrew Robeson and Charles Saunders have now right in manner & form above mentioned with all the rights members and appurtenances what so ever of the said five hundred Acres of Land (excepting as is above excepted) held used and enjoyed therewith or reputed as any part of the same and the reversions Remainders Rents and profitts there of and all the Estate Right Title Interest use possession property claim and demand what so ever of the said Robert Turner his and to the said Land and premises (except as is above excepted) and all Deeds Grants Charters Surveys Returns Letters patents and other Evidences & writings concerning the said premises (except as is above excepted) all which are situate lying and being in the said County and are now (except as is above excepted) in the possession of the said Robert Turner by Vorture of the premises above recited As also he the said Robert Turner hath granted aliened bargained sold enfeoffed and confirmed and by these Pnts doth absolutely grant alien bargain sell enfeoff and

confirm to the said Andrew Robeson and Charles Saunders equallie between them each one an equall moitie all his right Title and interest in and to the yearly rent mentioned in the said indentures of Lease given by the said Robt. Turner to the said Joshua Tittery and past between them during the years of the said Lease fifty by past and yet to come and unexpired Resting Due and in and to all the other Rents clauses and covenants therein expressed conceived in favour of the said Robert Turner & his Heirs and assigns & in and to all and singular the Reversion & Reversions Remainder and Remainders of the said fifty and a half Acres of Land after the expiration of the said Lease land in land to the fee simple and Estate of Inheritance of the said fifty and a half acres of Land Houses and Mills there on Built or to be built after the expiration thereof to them the said Andrew Robeson and Charles Saunders equallie between them after the expiration of the said term of One hundred and one years together with all the benefit of the said Lease from the Day of the Date hereof to the full end and term of the same and in and to which Lease and all and singular the clauses Covenants Articles and conditions therein contained Hee the said Robert Turner doth hereby assign the said Andrew Robeson and Charles Saunders equallie between them each one an equall Moitie and to their respective Heirs and assigns forever To have and to hold the said Five hundred Acres of Land (except as is above excepted) and the said fifty and a half Acres of Land as part and parcell thereof as also all the Benefit profit and advantage of the said Lease during the term yet to come and unexpired of the said One hundred and one years with the reversion thereof and all the articles clauses and Convenants therein contained conceived in favours of the said Robert Turner his Heirs and assigns with all and singular its impruvements and appurtenances reserving and premises to them the said Andrew Robeson and Charles Saunders equallie between them their Heirs and assigns and to the only use and behoofe of the said Andrew Robeson and Charles Saunders equallie between them each one an equal moitie thereof and their respective Heirs and assigns for ever (excluding) and hereby excluding survivorship & all benefits thereof in law or equity forever hereafter and under the yearly Rents from henceforth to become due to the Chief Lord of the soil of the said Five Hundred Acres of Land and premises And the said Robert Turner doth Covenant for him and his Heirs with them that they the said assignment and Deed of Sale of the said Five Hundred acres of Land (except as is above excepted) and the said fee simple thereof to them the said Andrew Robeson and Charles Saunders equallie between them



and Their above written (excluding Survivorship
in the manner above written against him the said
Robt. Turner and his Heirs as also against all other
persons what so ever claiming by from or under
him and his Heirs or by his Them or either
of Their or Their Heirs Their means privity consent
or procurement shall and will warrant and
for ever defend by these ptits and that They the
said Mr Fygache and Robert Turner neither have
not done nor suffered any act what so ever (excepting
the Lease above mentioned granted by the said
Robt. Turner to the said Joshua Tittery his Heirs or
Assigns) whereby the said premises or are can shall
or may be by any means lawfully impeached charged
This indenture further witnesseth That the said
Robt. Turner hath constituted and by the Tenor
here of doth constitute (Blank in the original)
to be his Attorney to appear at the County Court of
Philadelphia and there in presence of the said
Court to declare acknowledge and deliver these
ptits to the said Andrew Robison and Charles
Sanders or Their certain Attorny according to Law
In Witness where of the said Robt. Turner for him
self and the said Joshua Tittery Richard Townsend
Robt. Ewer Thomas Tress Wm Preston Attornies afore-
said to the said Mr Fygache have to these present
indentures (and to another of the same date tenor
and Contents with these presents to the intent that
both the said Andrew Robison & Charles Sanders
may each one of them have one in Their own Cus-
tody and possession for Their respective Rights of the
premises) Their Hands and Seals interchange
ably sett and dated the Day & Date above writ
ten Joshua (Seal) Tittery Robert (Seal) Ewer Robert
(Seal) Turner Thomas (Seal) Tresse William
(Seal) preston Sealed & delivered by Robt Turner
in ptnce of us Henry Flower Pati Robinson Sealed Endorsed
and Delivered by Thomas Tress & Robt. Ewer in
presence of us Jos. Pidgeon Tho: Dapwell Sealed
and delivered by Joshua Tittery and Wm Preston in
presence of us Wm Robinson Pat. Robinson 5
Received from the within Andrew Robison and Char Endorsed
les Sanders the within Mentioned sum of one
hundred and five pounds considerati Money within
expresst this eleventh Day of July 1691 by me Robert
Turner (seal) Sealed and Delivered in presence
of us Henry Flower Pat: Robinson 5 Received
from the within Andrew Robison and Endorsed
Charles Sanders the within mentioned
Sum of fifty pounds consideration Money
within expressed this eleventh Day of
July 1691 Robert Ewer (Seal) Thomas
Tress (Seal) Joshua Tittery (Seal)
Pat: Robinson (Seal) 5



sealed & Delivered in presence of us [no body in 2d original] acknowledged in open court held at Philadelphia the Third Day of Sept. 1696 as witness my hand and County seal J. Thos Clayporle Clerk &c G. Wm. Penn granted 500a of Land to Robert Turner who demised 50½a There of to Joshua Fittery for 101 years Quid by Took in Richard Townsend for Partner Fittery by his Deed dat. 4th April 1690 did sell and assign one sixth part of the s.d 50½a of Land & Implements &c to John Fyzack for the Residue of s.d term and Fittery and Thurnsend took Jno Fyzack partner for a third pt of the premises and Fittery by his Deed dat. 8.d 9br 1690 sold his moiety of the premises to a Robison and Charles Saunders

Fyzacke Attorny by This Deed sell to Robison and Saunders one Third and a Sixth which is Fyzacks moiety of s.d 50½ Acres Land Mills &c. for the Residue of said Term Hend, to them severally Robert Turner by his Deed sells The Residue of said 500a with The Rents reserved in said Demise and The Reversion and Rents of s.d 50½a Land as also of the mills &c after the Expiration of the s.d Demise

Recorded the 8 Day of July 1763

x

[xi] Reference to Canal Boats docking and unloading at the mill being researched 2013.34.1.111a-c - Scrapbook (catalogaccess.com) :

A picture was shown of the mouth of Wissahickon creek and Robeson's grist mill. The canal boats used to come alongside, and unload grain and take on flour.

[xii] The other three old Wissahickon mills standing North the Fairmount Park are remarkable too, although they were built, or rebuilt after 1787 as noted below.

The Evans-Mumbower Mill (first built in 1744, **rebuilt c. 1858** https://www.wvalleyhs.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Evans-Mumbower-Mill-June-2017.pdf) in Upper Gwynedd is the only operating mill on the Wissahickon Creek, and it is still milling flour. The mill's 2008 NPS National Register Application has the Robeson Rolling Mill date built as 1689 (see page 11 via CTRL+CLCK: https://www.montcopa.org/DocumentCenter/View/3259/NatAreaInv2007_Chap10?bidId= and NPS National

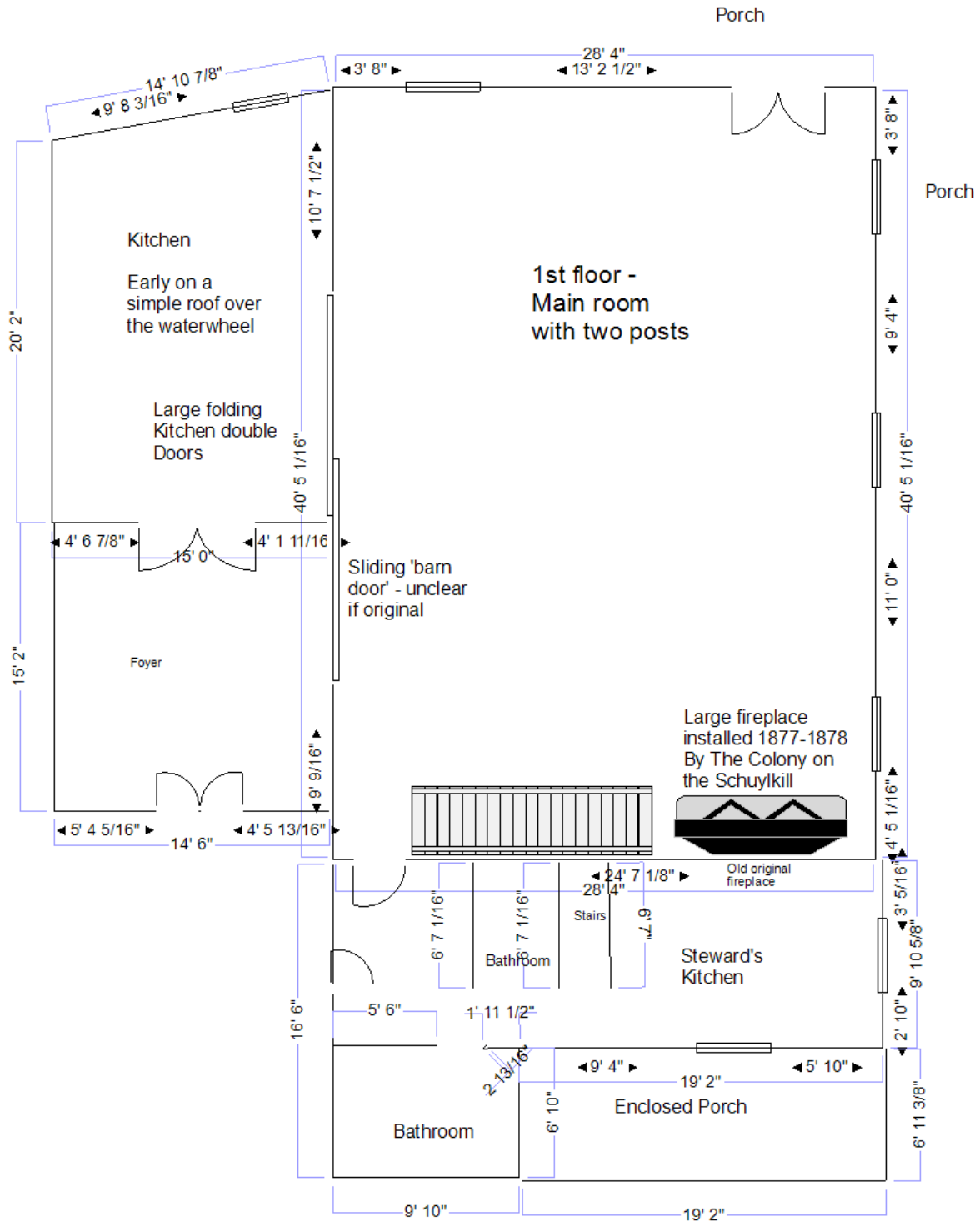
Register Application: H087190_01H.pdf (penndot.gov).

The Streeper Mill, AKA Springfield Mill. From a different source, "Another old mill building remaining along the Wissahickon Creek is the Springfield Mill on the Morris Arboretum's Bloomfield Farm property. Originally built in 1761 as a grist and sawmill, the Springfield Mill was operated as a gristmill as late as 1907. The building, which was **rebuilt and enlarged in 1854**, still contains the interior mill works."

The Farmar Mill, aka the Mathers Mill, built by Edward Farmar (1672-1745), is still standing but deemed unsafe for visiting. It was built perhaps as early as 1690[xii] and "…probably **rebuilt in 1787 by Issac Mather…"** per its National Historic Registration application (Farmar Mill_05/19/1972). Coincidently, Peter Robeson married Edward Farmar's daughter Sarah (1705-1755), and Peter Robeson's nephew Jonathan Robeson, Jr. married Catharine (or Katherine 1728-1770), another daughter of Edward Farmar https://archive.org/stream/historicalsketch01hist/historicalsketch01hist_djvu.txt, on February 17, 1745. See the Douglas Macfarlan map of the fifty mills in this Endnote[xii]. On the positive side, the Mill was recently purchased in 2022 and will be rehabilitated as office space.

See here for the first Grist Mill in Pennsylvania built by Col. John Printz, 1643, New Sweden, now Tinicum Township, in Delaware, County Search UW-Madison Libraries (wisc.edu) - A history of American manufactures from 1608 to 1860 : exhibiting the origin and growth of the principal mechanic arts and manufactures, from the earliest colonial period to the adoption of the Constitution.

[xiii] Main floor layout next page. 2nd floor is all open above the main room (except for a bathroom), and there are two rooms above the Stewards' quarters. It appears that there was once a doorway from the main 2nd floor to the Stewards' quarters that came into a room above the stairway. There is no 2nd floor above the main kitchen on the left (north side) or above the Stewards' enclosed porch (west side) or the 1st-floor bathroom to the left of that porch.


Porch
28' 4"
3' 8"
13' 2 1/2"
14' 10 7/8"
9' 8 3/16"
3' 8"
Porch
10' 7 1/2"
Kitchen
Early on a simple roof over the waterwheel
1st floor - Main room with two posts
20' 2"
9' 4"
Large folding Kitchen double Doors
40' 5 1/16"
40' 5 1/16"
4' 6 7/8"
15' 0"
4' 1 11/16"
Sliding 'barn door' - unclear if original
11' 0"
15' 2"
Foyer
Large fireplace installed 1877-1878 By The Colony on the Schuylkill
9' 9/16"
4' 5 1/16"
5' 4 5/16"
14' 6"
4' 5 13/16"
24' 7 1/8"
Old original fireplace
28' 4"
3' 5/16"
6' 7 1/16"
7 1/16"
Stairs
6' 7"
Bathroom
Steward's Kitchen
9' 10 5/8"
16' 6"
5' 6"
1' 11 1/2"
2' 10"
2 13/16"
9' 4"
5' 10"
19' 2"
Enclosed Porch
6' 10"
Bathroom
6' 11 3/8"
9' 10"
19' 2"

[xiv] "A View From 1963" The Caleb Pusey Plantation in Upland, Pa. https://www.calebpuseyhouse.com/the-view-from-1963.html
[xv] 1685 For more for on the first 'William Penn era' Pennsylvania mill see:
https://www.uplandboro.org/sites/g/files/vyhlif5111/f/uploads/chronology-of-upland.pdf

> **"1685** – Richard Townsend relinquished his four shares in the mill and premises and sold his 50 acres along Chester Creek to Caleb Pusey and moved to Germantown[xv], where he built his own mill."
>
> Inserted for future research: "1727 – Richard Townsend, **in his autobiographical notes of this year**, said that he brought over the mill (Chester Mills), built it, and that it was very successful, but his name does not appear in the deeds, except as an early shareholder."
>
> See too "Proud, Robert "History of Pennsylvania, 1797: Richard Townsend's Account" from https://www.delawarearchaeology.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Number-7-New-Series-1969.pdf

[xvi] **Patent** 24 Apr 1684 **dictated by William Penn.** See next page. A patent is the "final, official deed from the Penns or the Commonwealth, which conveys clear title and all rights to the private owner." Quoted from Land Records Overview (pa.gov)

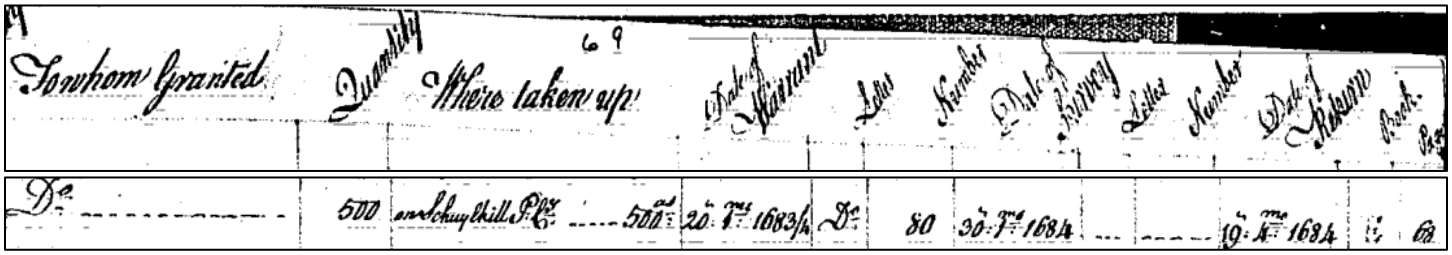
The 'one-page' patent has a date on the Patent is not easily read; the "Patent Index" entry says the 'Date of the Patent' was **24 April 1684**. A-AAPatentIndex309.pdf

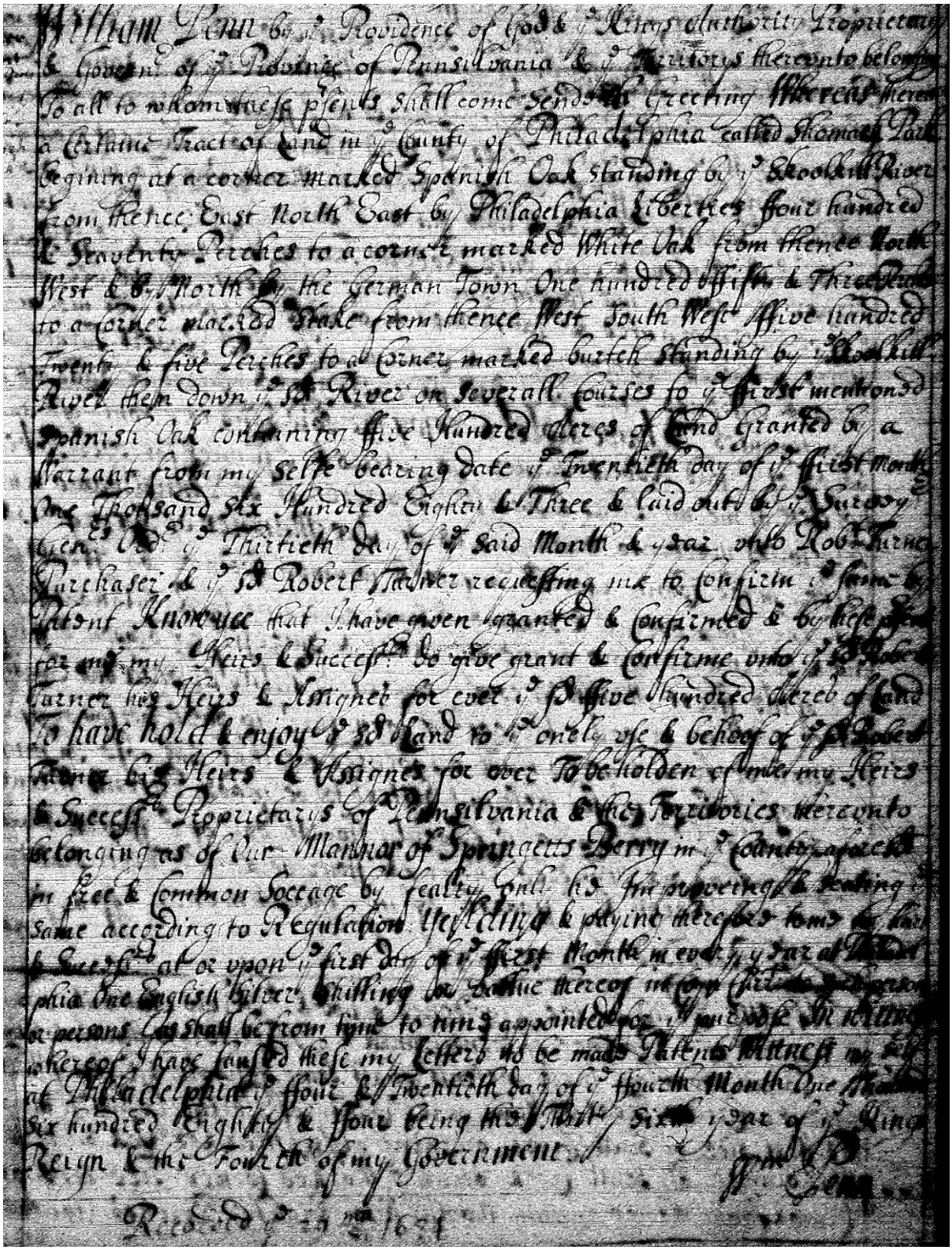
DATE OF PATENT Day	Month	Year	Page	PATENTEE	AREA Acres	Prs.	WARRANTEE	NAME OF TRACT	DATE OF WARRANT Day	Month	Year
A- Nº 1 - Dec- 1683 - Nov- 1691											
20	April	1683	11	Turner. Robert	City Lot		Robert Turner		14	April	1683
19	"	"	12	"	"		"		"	"	"
24	"	1684	13	"	500	—	"		20	Jany	"

The '**Date of the Warrant**' on the far right is likely an 'Old Calender' (Julian) date as it says "20 Jany 1683" whereas the "Old Rights Register" below says "20th 1mo **1683/4**" which means 1684 in the new calendar (Gregorian).

The relevant excerpt of the "First Purchaser Register" - "Old Rights Register" for the dates of the Warrant, Survey, and Survey Return. (All of Robert Turner's nine entries for 5,000 acres can be seen here: r17-83OriginalPurchReg 143.pdf.)

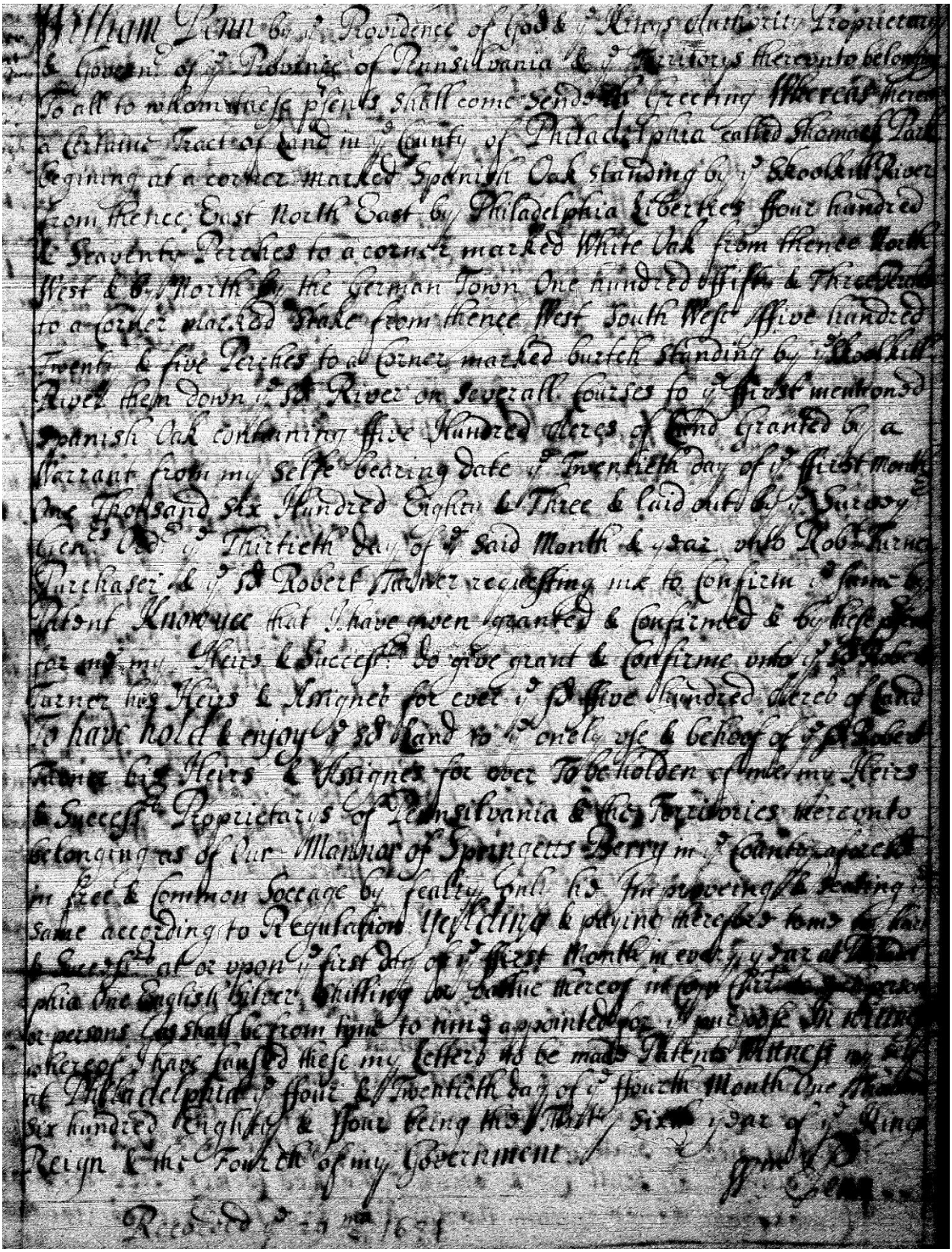
The mark "**Dº**" is an abbreviation for ditto which refers to the 1st line of nine entries, "himself", i.e., Robert Turner. The "Date of Survey" appears to be in "Old Calendar" style and reads as "30th 1mo 1684" which in the New Calendar is 30 March 1684.





Warrant referenced in the text as "granted: 12 Jan 1683. Note that it was called "Shomack Park." (The date at the bottom is the "Recorded" date.

[xvii] **Patent** 24 Apr 1684 **dictated by William Penn** the "final, official deed from the Penns or the Commonwealth, which conveys clear title and all rights to the private owner." Quoted from Land Records Overview (pa.gov)



Warrant referenced in text as "granted: 12 Jan 1683. Note that it was called "Shomack Park."

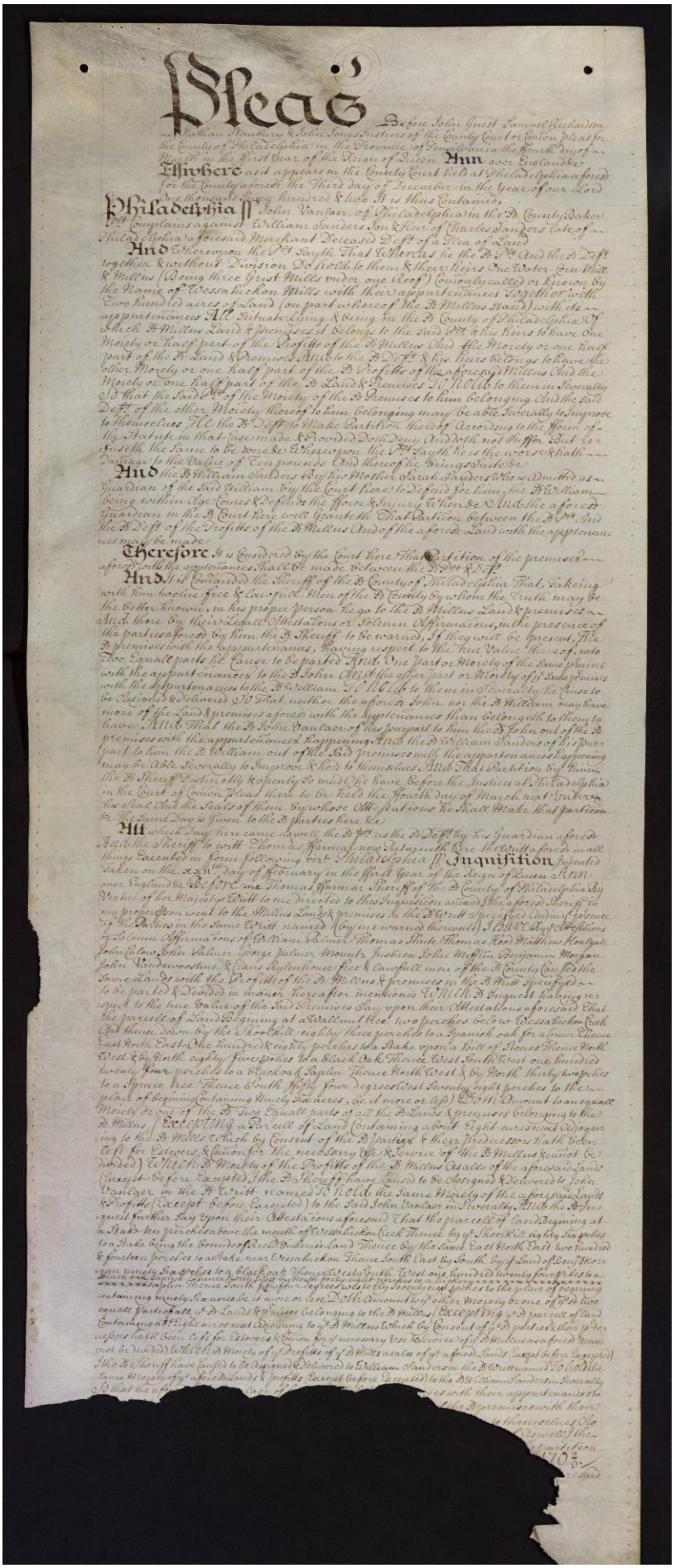
[xviii] **One basis for Robeson Ferry having first started 1693**:

The following from the Court Records will show that although what we call School Lane had been used as a road, yet it was only "on sufferance:"

Road Docket DECEMBER SESSION, **1723**.

Divers of the inhabitants of Germantown, Roxborough and Merion, by their petition desiring that the road from the Market Place of Germantown to Andrew Robinson's (Robeson's) mill and Ferry, and from the landing place of said Ferry through Merion to the great road leading from Conestoga (Old Lancaster Road) to Philadelphia (the said road having been used with great conveniency to the said petitioners for upwards **of 30 years last past,** but being only on sufferance), might be confirmed, which being considered by the Court, they do appoint Robert Evans, Robert Roberts, William Palmer, Jacob Duberry, Henry Scull, and Anthony Klenking to view the said road and make return to the next Court in order to be confirmed. (Road Docket, Vol. 2, p. 108.)

Full text of "History of Old Germantown, with a Description of Its Settlement and Some ..." (archive.org)



Pleas Before John Guest Samuel Richardson Nathan Standbury & John Jones Justices of the County Court or Common Pleas for the County of Philadelphia in the Province of Pensylvania the Fourth day of March in the First Year of the Reign of Queen Ann over England &c

Whereas a writ appears in the County Court held at Philadelphia aforesd for the County aforesd the Third day of December in the Year of our Lord One thousand Seven hundred & two It is thus Contained.

Philadelphia ss John Vantaer of Philadelphia in the P. County Baker Pet Complains against William Sanders Jon & Heir of Charles Sanders Late of Philadelphia aforesaid Merchant Deceased Deft of a Plea of Land

And thereupon the Pet Sayth That Whereas he the P. Pet And the P. Deft together & without Division Do hold to them & their Heirs One Water-Corn Mill & Millens (Being three Grist Mills under one Roof) Commonly called or known By the Name of Wessahickon Mills with their appurtenances TOGETHER with Two hundred acres of Land (on part whereof the P. Millens Stand) with its appurtenances All Situate Lying & Being in the P. County of Philadelphia Of which P. Millens Land & premises it belongs to the said Pet & his Heirs to have One Moiety or Half part of the Profits of the P. Millens And the Moiety or one Half part of the P. Land & Premises And to the P. Deft & his Heirs belongs to have the other Moiety or one Half part of the P. Profits of the aforesd Millens And the Moiety or one Half part of the P. Land & Premises TO HOLD to them in Severalty So that the said Deft of the Moiety of the P. Premises to him Belonging And the said Deft of the other Moiety thereof to him Belonging may be able Severally to Improve to themselves TO the P. Deft to Make Partition thereof According to the Form of the Statute in that Case made & Provided Doth Deny And doth not Suffer But Refuseth the Same to be done &c Whereupon the Pet Sayth He is the worse & Hath Damage to the Value of Ten pounds And thereof he Brings Suit &c

And the P. William Sanders By his Mother Sarah Sanders Who is Admitted as Guardian of the said William by this Court here to Defend for Him the P. William being within Age Comes & Defends the Force & Injury When &c And the aforesd Guardian in the P. Court here well Grants & That Partition between the P. Pet And the P. Deft of the Profits of the P. Millens And of the aforesd Land with the appurtenances may be made.

Therefore It is Considered by the Court here That Partition of the premises aforesd with the appurtenances Shall be made between the P. Pet & Deft

And It is Commanded the Sheriff of the P. County of Philadelphia That Taking with him twelve free & Lawfull Men of the P. County By whom the Truth may be the better known, in his proper Person he go to the P. Millens Land & premises And there By their Legall Attestations or Solemn Affirmances, in the presence of the parties aforesd By him the P. Sheriff to be warned, If they will be present, The P. premises with the appurtenances, Having respect to the true Value thereof, into Two Equall parts to Cause to be parted And One part or Moiety of the same Parted with the appurtenances to the P. John And the other part or Moiety of the said Parted with the appurtenances to the P. William TO HOLD to them in Severalty the Same to be Chosen & Delivered TO That neither the aforesd John nor the P. William may have more of the Land & premises aforesd with the appurtenances than Belongeth to them to have And That the P. John Vantaer of his part to him the P. John out of the P. premises with the appurtenances Happening And the P. William Sanders of his part to him the P. William out of the said premises with the appurtenances Happening may be able Severally to Improve & Hold to themselves And That Partition By them the P. Sheriff Distinctly & openly to me and the have before the Justices at Philadelphia in the Court of Common Pleas there to be Held the Fourth day of March next Under his Seal And the Seals of them By whose Attestations he Shall Make that partition &c The same Day is Given to the P. parties here &c

All which Day here came as well the P. Pet as the P. Deft by his Guardian aforesd And the Sheriff to writt Thomas Farmar now Returneth Here to Court a Precept made thereupon Executed in form following Viz. Philadelphia ss Inquisition Indented Taken on the xxii. Day of February in the first Year of the Reign of Queen Ann over England &c Before me Thomas Farmar Sheriff of the P. County of Philadelphia By Virtue of her Majesty's Writt to me directed to this Inquisition annexed The aforesd Sheriff To me proper Person went to the Millens Lands & premises in the Writt Specified And by Virtue of the Precepts in the Same Writt named & by the Oaths & Attestations of Twelve Affirmations of William Palmer Thomas Shute Thomas Read Matthew Hoodgate John Salter John Palmer Seaze Palmer Mounts Justices John Mifflin Benjamin Morgan John Vandewoodstine & Caleb Pusthouse free & Lawfull men of the P. County Sworn the Same Lands with the Profits of the P. Millens & premises in the Writt Specified to be parted & Decided in manner hereafter mentioned Which P. Inquest having respect to the true Value of the said Premises Say upon their Attestations aforesaid That the parcell of Land Beginning at a Walnut tree two perches below Wessahickon Creek And thence down By the Shoolkill eighty three perches to a Spanish oak for a Corner thence East North East One hundred & eight perches to a Stake upon a Rock of Stones thence North West & by North eighty seven perches to a Black Oak Thence West South West one hundred twenty four perches to a Black oak Sapling thence North West & by North thirty two perches to a Spruce tree thence South West four degrees West Seventy eight perches to the place of Beginning Containing Ninety six acres, be it more or less) Doth Amount to an equall Moiety or one of the P. two Equall parts of all the P. Lands & premises belonging to the P. Millens (Excepting a Parcell of Land Containing about Eight acres next Adjoyning to the P. Millens Which by Consent of the P. parties & their Predecessors hath been Left for Cleavers & Common for the necessary Use & Service of the P. Millens & not to be Divided) To HOLD a Moiety of the Profits of the P. Millens As also of the aforesaid Lands (Except before Excepted) The P. Sheriff have Caused to be Assigned & Delivered to John Vantaer in the P. Writt named To Hold the Same Moiety of the aforesaid Lands & Profits (Except before Excepted) to the Said John Vantaer in Severalty And the P. Inquest further Say upon their Attestations aforesaid That the parcell of Land Beginning at a Stake ten perches above the mouth of Wessahickon Creek thence by the Shoolkill eighty six perches to a Stake being the Bounds of Rich. Peters's Land thence by the Same East North East two hundred & fourteen perches to a Stake near Wessahickon thence South East by South by the Land of Rich. Moon ninety Six perches to a Black oak Thence West South West one hundred twenty four perches to a Black oak Sapling thence North West & by North forty two perches to a Spruce tree thence South four degrees West Seventy eight perches to the place of Beginning Containing ninety Six acres be it more or less Doth Amount to the other Moiety or one of the two Equall Parts of all the P. Lands & premises belonging to the P. Millens (Excepting the P. parcell of Land Containing about Eight acres next Adjoyning to the P. Millens Which by Consent of the P. parties & their Predecessors hath been Left for Cleavers & Common for the necessary Use & Service of the P. Millens as aforesaid not to be Divided) To HOLD a Moiety of the Profits of the P. Millens As also of the aforesaid Lands (except before Excepted) The P. Sheriff have caused to be Assigned & Delivered to William Sanders in the P. Writt named To Hold the Same Moiety of the aforesaid Lands & Profits Except before Excepted to the P. William Sanders in Severalty To that the aforesaid [illegible] with their appurtenances to the P. premises as with their [illegible] to themselves So [illegible] as well the [illegible] from [illegible] 1702

Page **129** of **133**

[xix] 5 Dec 1702 Writ of Partition

[xx] Persons involved in the **1702 Partition** be as below – initial spelling as read and in the same order:

Sheriff Thomas Farmar appears to be the son of Jasper Farmar Sr. and the nephew of Edward Farmar (1672*-1745) who built Farmar's Mill (now known as Mathers Mill) in Plymouth Township [Mather Mill — Historic Hope Lodge]. Jasper Farmar Jr. and Jasper Farmar Sr. both died on the trip to Pennsylvania in 10685 on 'The Bristol Merchant.' Jasper Farmar Sr., Edward's father purchased the land Patent from Wm. Penn that covered most of Plymouth Township 0)

*Edward Farmar's daughter Sarah (1710-1755) married Peter Robeson (1710-1768). Ancetry.com link **$$** or go to a library outside of Philadelphia*: https://www.ancestrylibrary.com/family-tree/person/tree/50664042/person/400005345189/facts

William Palmer*, (1672 – 1747). See early Survey containing his name and land in an area reserved for "The Frankford Company" to the east of Robert Turner's land: Book B22 438.pdf (state.pa.us)

Thomas Shute (wife was Elizabeth Hood, and he likely brother-in-law of Thomas Hood until her death in 1695; 2nd wife was Elizabeth Powell, dau. of Wm. Powell, d. 1721 buried Friends Arch Street Meeting House Burial Ground).

Thomas Hood, (wife Sarah Hallowell Genealogies Details — FamilySearch.org; could be Hoodt based on FamilySearch Genealogies Details — FamilySearch.org) and Hoodt Survey B 23 pg 237 (Whood on some surveys but indexed as Wood.) Thomas's father was likely John Hood and his name appears on the William Palmer survey.

Matthew Houlgate (likely Immigration 31 Oct 1685 aboard the ship 'Rebecca'). See Full text of "History of Old Germantown, with a Description of Its Settlement and Some ..." (archive.org) "Matthew Houlgate had a fulling-mill in operation on the Wissahickon, near Germantown, before the year 1720." See page 1719 Conrad-Holgate Mills.

John Calow, (likely "**Callow**" as in Surveys; else, it seems could have been John Colly or Colley, b. 1644, Death 20 Nov 1724 Byberry, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, United States, and Grandson of Sir Henry Colley, married Susanna Gray: Genealogies Details — FamilySearch.org) Arrived 1683: Passengerselcome on 1683 Ships - The Welcome Society of Pennsylvania. Could be the son of John Callow Sr., who died 28 Jul 1699 and is buried in Friends Arch Street Meeting House Burial Ground).

John Palmer*, (1660 – 1742)
George Palmer*, (abt. 1660 – 1727) *(believed to be Geo**. Jr**. eldest son of Sr, died on the voyage to Pa.)*

***Three Palmers all likely brothers, sons of George Palmer, Sr., and Elizabeth, and arrived on the ship 'Elizabeth, Ann and Catharine' in 1682 (George Sr. died on the voyage) Genealogies Details — FamilySearch.org] See too Book B23 248.pdf (state.pa.us) and narrative here: Book B23 248.pdf (state.pa.us) for 5,000 acres

Mounce Justice [elsewhere Mountse Justicen, d, c. 1749 or Mounce Gustafsson Justis b. 1658, or 1659 in Kingsessing, Philadelphia – a Swede here before William Penn (Mountse and Mounce likely the same person)], See Mounse Justice 272 acres Survey Book B23 pgs. 196, 200-203 for land and text about "Sweeds Land" Book B23 406.pdf (state.pa.us). See too land for him and Chriss Swanson: Book B22 438.pdf (state.pa.us)

John Mifflin (could be great grandfather or Gr-Gr-Grandfather Thomas Mifflin – the for whom Fort Mifflin is named), Thomas /Mifflin/ (1744-1800), Sarah /Morris/ (1747-1790) • Landscape View • Family Tree • FamilySearch

Benjamin Morgan (neighbor adjacent property to the North, Blacksmith, arrived 1685 on the *Unicorne,* died in August 1706 and was married Amelia Anna Sophia Levering in Roxborough 1700. Her father was John Wigard Levering and her mother Magdalena Bokers, their son or grandson, Wechard (or Wigard) Levering, was the owner of the land and mills in 1753). See Levering family : history and genealogy (familysearch.org)

Also from that source “She {Amelia Levering} married at Roxborough to Benjamin Morgan, a blacksmith, who died in August, 1706. Letters of administration on his estate were granted to the widow on August 19, 1706. The inventory of the estate aggregated .£75.09.3, as appraised by Andrew Robeson {Jr.} and William Palmer. Mr. Jones stated: " 1 have seen a release dated March 8, 1745-46 from Amelia Morgan to William Levering, Exr. of Wigard Levering, deceased, for a legacy of ,£10. 1 think it probable that the shop was near to Robeson's Mills, at the Wissahiccon.

Ship *Unicorne* reference: A Partial List of the Families Who Arrived at Philadelphia between 1682 and 1687 on JSTOR

John Vandervooshine [could be Hans Nous Reiner VanderSluys, Death 13 Jul 1713 Germantown, Pennsylvania,

Claus Rytenhouse [sic - seemingly Nicholas Claus Rittenhouse, son of William, the builder of the Rittenhouse Paper Mill]

[xxi] The 1777 Map of the Battle of Germantown documents Mill #1’s earliest ‘cartographic’ presence. A key point is made here: He *(Hills)* also seems to have been in contact with various local surveyors in both New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Hills John Fl 1777 1816 and William Faden 1750 1836 - AbeBooks. While Hills reportedly was “direct eyewitness to many of the events he portrayed on his maps….” clearly Hills must have had access to other maps of the area that he then used to document the Batlle from British ‘after-action reports.’ The search for these maps continues.

The legend “References” is hard to read, but a transcribed version was updated and is provided below:

The original map measures 25 inches long by 23 inches tall. Sketch of the surprise of German Town by the American forces commanded by general Washington October 4th, 1777, by J. Hills Lt. 23rd Regt; ass. **Essential the below is a recount of the Battle from the British perspective.**

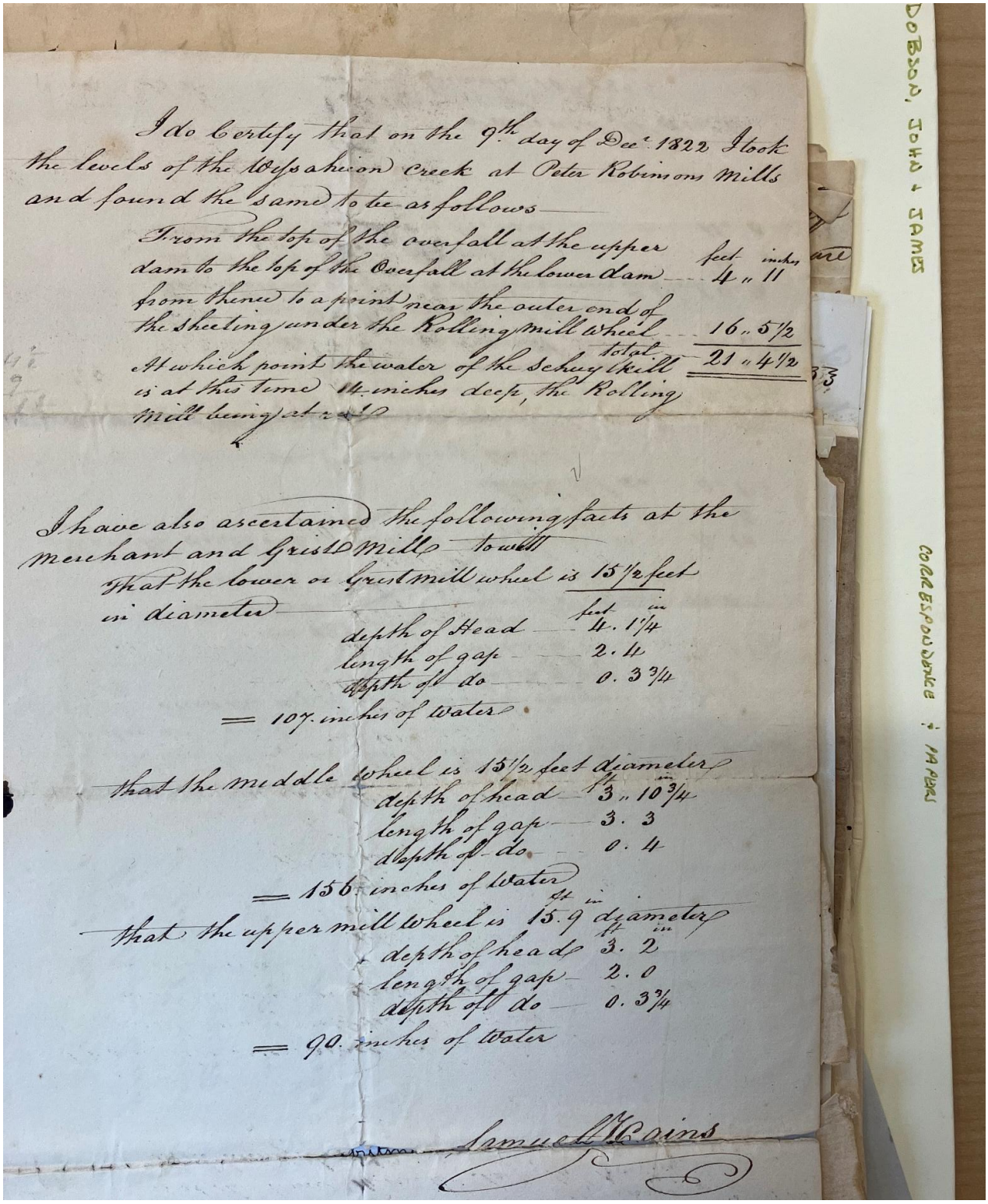
References: A. The position of the royal army in the environs of German Town under the command of General Sir Wm Howe G. Washington arrived at Chestnut Hill oct 4th in the morning and detached one column to B one to C one to D and another to E which engaged the lt. Infantry (light infantry) posted at F and continued their march by G. Col Musgrave advanced with the 40th regt (regiment) as far as H to support the left inf but finding the enemy had advanced as far as I. he retired & occupied the house (Chew House or Cliveden) K. which he defended till Genl Gray arrived.

Genl Kniphausen formed the left of the Royal Army at L. and placed the 2nd Batt (2nd Battalion) of Minnegerode *(a type of cannon)* at M. to support the Chasseurs and seeing the Enemy had penetrated into the Town, he detached Gls (generals) Gray, Agnew, and Stern with the 2nd and 4th Brigades & the Regt du Corps to N who forced the enemy to retreat.

During the attack the column B of the enemy arrived at O. Gl Grant formed the right of the army at P. with the 49th Rgt at Q. and attacked the column O which he obliged to retreat. The column of the enemy at C on their arrival at R. finding the column at O were retreating they retreated likewise. Genl Washington on his departure from Skippack detached Genl Potter with 2000 men & 2 pieces of cannon by the Road of Wissahicon who arrived before day at S and amus'd the Chasseurs till the Enemy retreated Lord Cornwallis arrived with the 1st Batt. from Philadelphia and marched to T. and joined the column under Genl Gray Genls How & Grant pursued the Enemy by U. Lord Cornwallis and Genl Gray by W.

London published by William Faden geographer to the King Charing cross, March 12th, 1784. A different version/interpretation of the References can be found here: Hills John Fl 1777 1816 and William Faden 1750 1836 - AbeBooks

[xxii] **1822** Measurements Robeson's two Mill 1.) the "Rolling Mill and 2.) "Merchant and Grist Mills" (three wheels)



I do Certify that on the 9th day of Decr 1822 I took the levels of the Wyssahicon Creek at Peter Robinsons Mills and found the same to be as follows

	feet	inches
From the top of the overfall at the upper dam to the top of the Overfall at the lower dam	4	11
from thence to a point near the outer end of the Sheeting under the Rolling mill Wheel	16	5½
At which point the water of the Schuylkill is at this time 14 inches deep, the Rolling mill being at rest	total 21	4½

I have also ascertained the following facts at the Merchant and Grist Mills to wit

That the lower or Grist mill wheel is 15½ feet in diameter

	feet	in
depth of Head	4.	1¼
length of gap	2.	4
depth of do	0.	3¾

= 107. inches of Water

That the middle wheel is 15½ feet diameter

	ft	in
depth of head	3	10¾
length of gap	3.	3
depth of do	0.	4

= 156. inches of Water

That the upper mill wheel is 15.9 diameter

	ft	in
depth of head	3.	2
length of gap	2.	0
depth of do	0.	3¾

= 90. inches of Water

Samuel Weaver

DOBSON, JOHN & JAMES

COLLECTION DEPOSITED IN HSP

[xxiii] Measurements to validate water power 1822 part of suit Robeson's v. Schuylkill Navigation Co. for loss of power due to Fairmount dam raising level of the River.

1822 Measurements Grain Mill Waterwheels	**Wheel** Diameter	Depth of Head Feet		Length Gap Feet		**Gap Total Inches**	Depth Inches Gap	INCHES of **WATER**	Formula **Gap x** Gap Depth
Lower	15.50	4	1.25	2	4	**28.00**	**3.75**	**107**	105.00
Middle	15.50	3	10.75	3	3	**39.00**	**4**	**156**	156.00
Upper	15.75	3	2	2	0	**24.00**	**3.75**	**90**	90.00

Three mills South of Ridge Ave	**Wheel Diameter**	Depth of Head Feet		Length Gap Feet		**Gap Total Inches**	Gap Depth **West**	Gap Depth **East**	Total Depth Depth	Document INCHES of **WATER**
Sawmill	14.00	4	4	3	8	**44.00**	**2.75**	-	2.75	**121**
Nail Factory	*Missing*	4	10	3	6	**42.00**	**1.5**	-	1.5	**63**
Robeson's Rolling Mill*	**18.00**	**7**	**3.5**	**4**	**7.5**	**55.50**	**5.5**	**5.25**	**10.75**	**596.5**
and its Head of the Wheel on its Face	**11.00**	***(width)***	1822 Graff Drawing has Wheel 10 inches above tail race bottom clearance				*Two Blade Buckets On the drawing **do.** = ditto			

Gap = distance between buckets on the wheel that carried the water to turn the wheel.