

Mahlon Stacy and Quakers in New Jersey



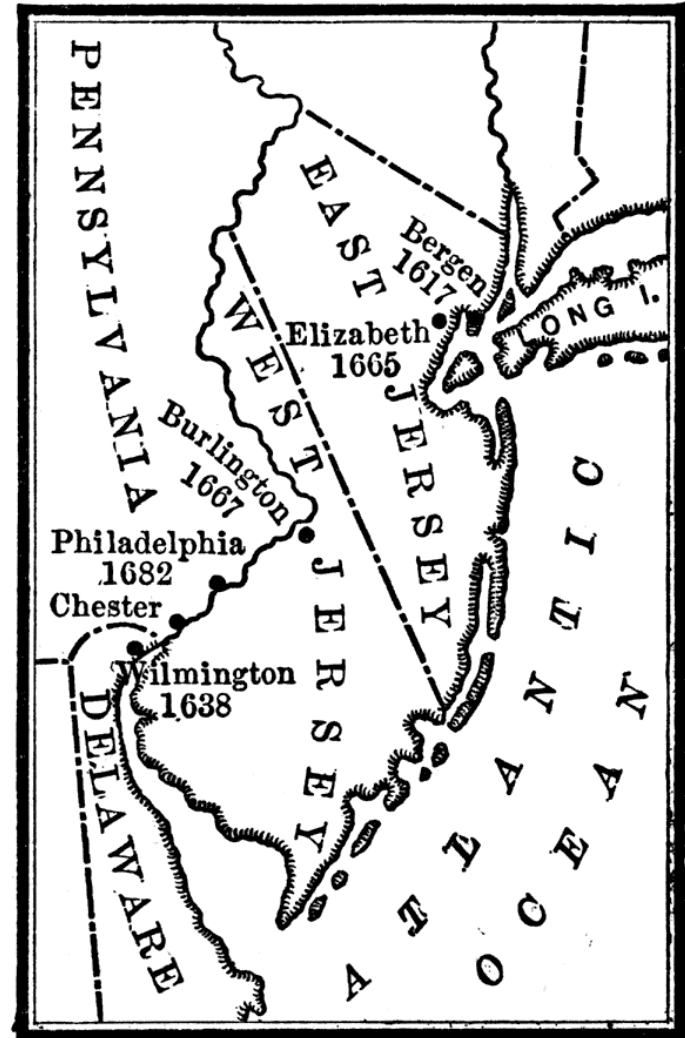
By Shawn Carney, Museum Administrator
2019

The Formation of New Jersey

- King Charles II granted a patent or tract of land in America to the Duke of York in 1664.
- The Duke then granted that tract of land, then called “Nova Caesarea” or New Jersey, by deeds of lease and release, to John Lord Berkeley and Sir George Carteret.
- The Quintipartite Deed – a five part deed, was made in July 1676, which divided New Jersey into two parts – East and West Jersey.

The Quintipartite Deed

- This deed was between Sir George Carteret, William Penn, Gawn Lawrie, Nicholas Lucas, and Edward Byllynge.
- This deed divided the province of New Jersey into two parts – East and West Jersey.



Quaker Purchases in New Jersey

- Quakers in Yorkshire and London purchased large tracts of land in West Jersey.
- Among the five Yorkshire Quakers was Mahlon Stacy of Hansworth, who held about 3,500 acres between Assunpink Creek in present-day Trenton and Burlington.

Who Were the Quakers and Why Did They Come to New Jersey?



The Society of Friends

- Founded by George Fox in the 17th century, during a period of war and when England did not permit religious beliefs and practices other than those of the Church of England.
- Members of the Society of Friends or Quakers believed that all people were equal as children of God. They refused to acknowledge the status differences of the time.
- Many were subjected to violence because of their beliefs and practices – they were pilloried, whipped and had their tongues pierced.
- Many Quakers fled this persecution and came to the New World.

Key Quaker Beliefs

- God is love and the light of God is in every person.
- A person who lets their life be guided by that light will achieve a personal relationship with God.
- Everyone can have a personal relationship with God without involving a priest or minister.
- Redemption and the kingdom of heaven are to be experienced now, in this world.

Quaker Values and Practices

- Peace – Quakers were pacifists. Would not pay taxes if they found that the funds were being used for war.
- Equality – Hence their refusal to use gestures or terms of deference such as to the nobility.
- Freedom of conscience.
- Simplicity in manners, speech and dress.

Persecution of Quakers



James Nailor Quaker set 2 howers on the Pillory at Westminster whiped by the Hang
man to the old Exchange London. Som dayes after, Stood too howers more on the Pillory
at the Exchange; and there had his Tongue Bored through with a hot Iron, &
Stigmatized in the Forehead with the Letter: B; Decem^r 17 anno Domini 1656;

Early Quaker Settlements in New Jersey

- The first settlement of friends south of Long Island was at Shrewsbury NJ, established in 1664.
- The first colony at West Jersey was John Fenwick's colony at Salem in 1675.
- The ship *Kent* arrived in Burlington in 1677, with Quaker passengers settling there.



Mahlon Stacy and other Quaker families landed at Burlington in December 1678, after sailing from England on the ship *Shield* for 16 weeks.

Mahlon Stacy at the Falls of the Delaware

- Mahlon Stacy was entitled to vast tracts of land on both sides of the Assunpink Creek, in all more than 3,500 acres.
- The area was called “The Falls of the Delaware” because a natural rock shelf exists in the river here.

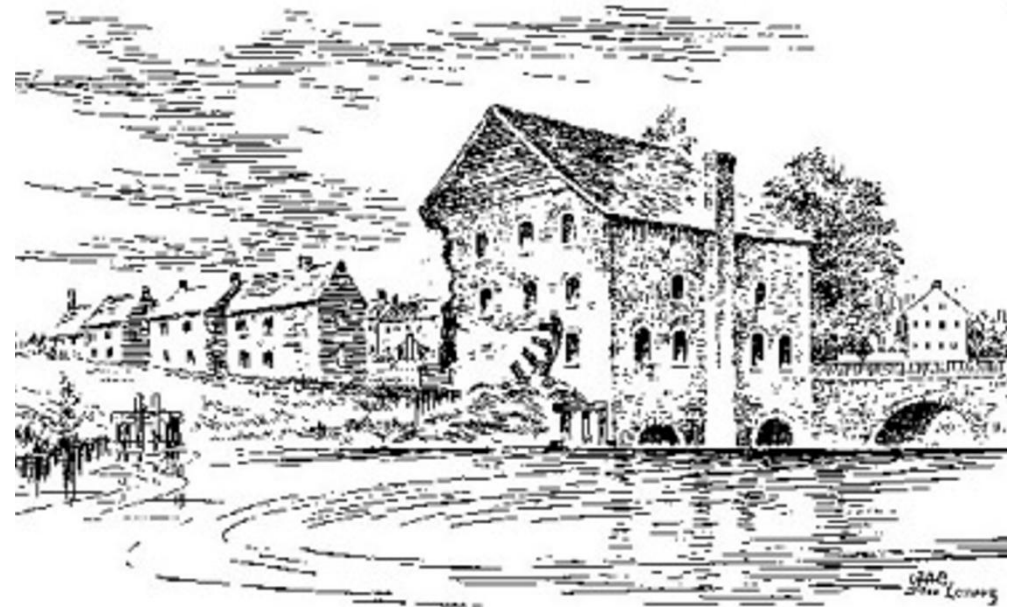
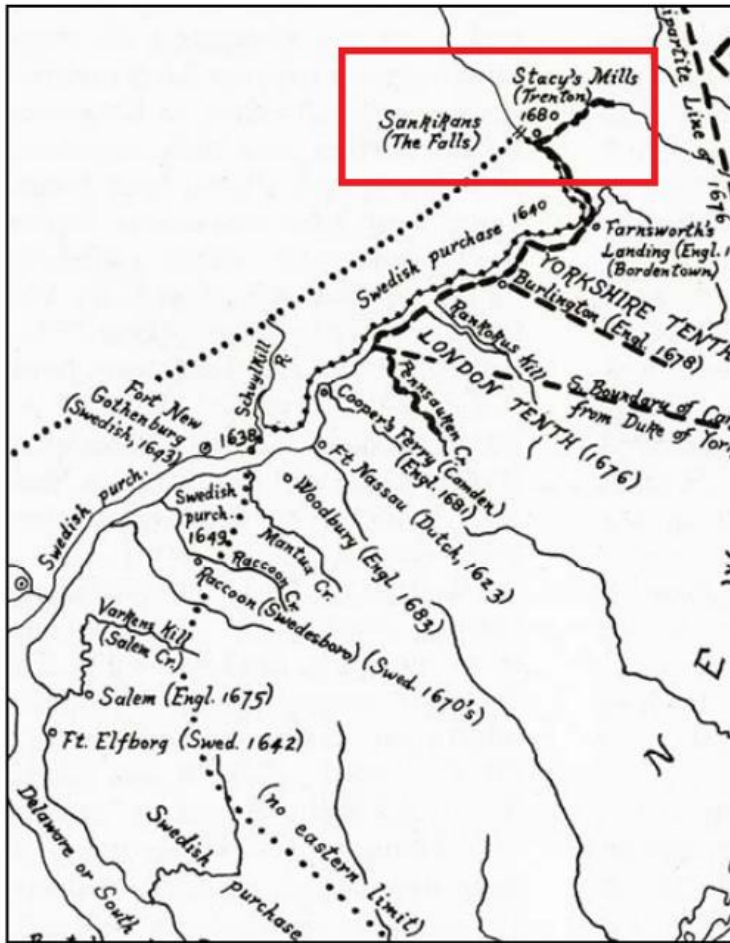
Stacy's Home at the Falls

- Upon arriving at the Fall, Stacy hastily built a small clapboard house on the property.
- This was later replaced by a more spacious, well-built house that he named "Dorehouse."
- As described in his will, it had two parlors, with a chamber over the parlors and a water pump, orchard and pasture lands.

In spring 1679 Stacy and his family settled at the Falls, beginning the first permanent colonial settlement there, that he called Ballifield after an estate in Yorkshire.



Stacy's Grist Mill on Assunpink Creek



OLD STACY MILL, ENLARGED AND IMPROVED BY WILLIAM TRENT,
AS IT APPEARED IN 1848, DILAPIDATED BY FIRE AND FLOOD.

Stacy's Political Life

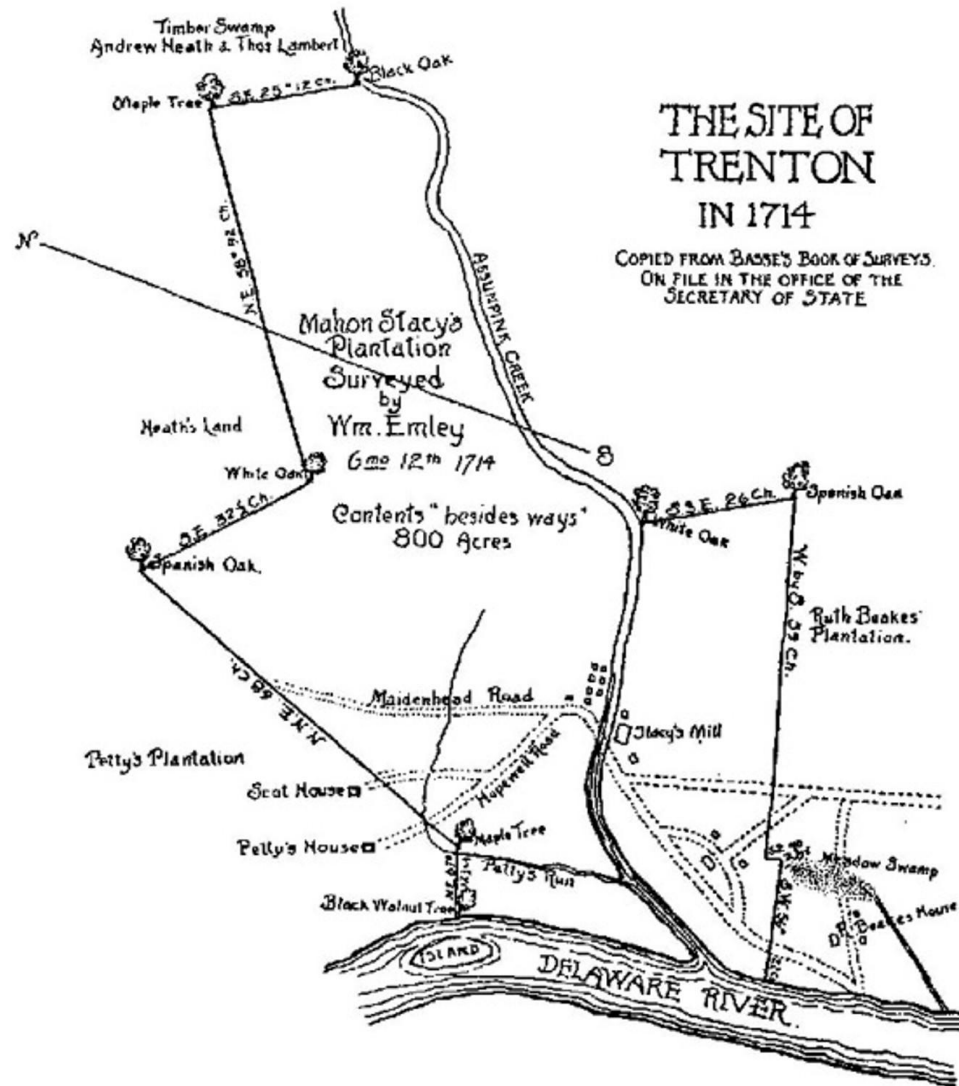
- Stacy was appointed to the Assembly of West Jersey in 1682.
- He was also chosen as member of the Council and as a Justice for Burlington County.
- He was reelected to the Assembly in 1684 and reelected to the General Assembly in 1685.

Stacy's Death

- Mahlon Stacy died on April 3, 1704, leaving his son, also named Mahlon, his plantation Ballifield, along with the mill and other buildings, lands and meadows.
- Mahlon Stacy, although a Quaker, owned enslaved people. His probate inventory listed “four Negroes.”

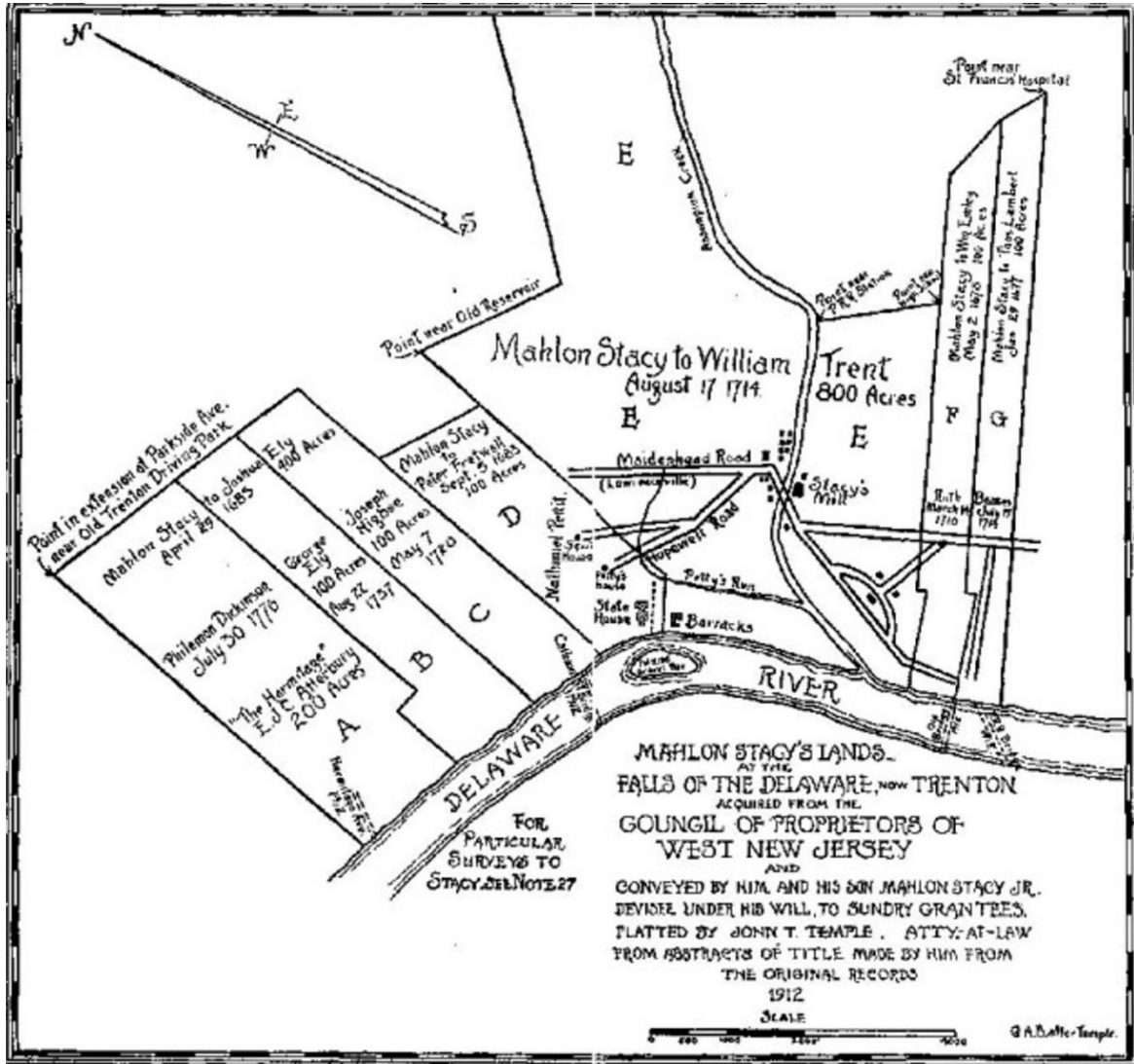
Stacy's Plantation in 1714

A 1714 map shows a few houses on the Stacy land near the grist mill, probably also owned by Stacy.



Sale of Stacy Land to Trent

Stacy's son sold 800 acres to Trent in August 1714 for 1400 pounds - the Stacy plantation of 500 acres with the grist mill and other buildings and 300 acres of adjoining land.



“Signing the Deed” – 1923

William E. Pedrick



William E. Pedrick

Born Mount Holly, New Jersey
in 1868

Studied at the National
Academy of Design and the
Pennsylvania Academy of Fine
Arts

Publisher, part-owner, and
artist for *Acme Magazine* in
Trenton

Best known for oil paintings of
historical events in Trenton

Died in an accident in 1927

