

A BOOK OF MAPS

of

CAPE MAY

1610-1878

compiled and annotated by

Horace G. Richards

Cape May Geographic Society

Cape May, N.J.

1954

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Cape May Historical Society Collection

Maps have always fascinated me and I have spent many hours poring over them, planning trips and reviewing former travels. I have also found them exceedingly interesting in tracing changes that have taken place at a given place within historic time. In connection with my geological studies of the Cape May region and my attempts to trace the ancient shore lines, I became interested in some of the early maps of the region and the changes that they showed.

Of course, not all maps have been prepared with the same accuracy. This is particularly true in the case of those issued prior to 1750 when parts of New Jersey were not fully explored. However, evidence can be found to show that, in many places along the New Jersey coast, the shore line has receded possibly as much as a mile.

The present collection consists of twenty-eight maps selected from a much larger number. They have been chosen to show the changes in shore line, the growth of the settlements in Cape May County and the development of the highways and railroads.

It might be interesting to summarize some of the important events in the early history of the Cape May region so that the maps can be better interpreted:

- 1609 Discovery of Delaware Bay by Henry Hudson in the ship "Half Moon."
- 1623 Arrival of Cornelius Jacobsen Mey in the ship "Good Tidings." (No permanent settlement.)
- 1625 Settlement of Swannendaal near Lewes, Delaware; town destroyed by 1631.
- 1630 Purchase from the Indians of a tract of land along Delaware Bay from Cape May northward by Samuel Godyn and Samuel Bloommert for the Dutch West India Company. (No permanent settlement.)
- 1685 First permanent settlement in Cape May County established by whalers from New England at Town Bank.
- 1745 Settlement of Cape May Court House (called Middletown or Cape May).

- 1800 First permanent settlement at Cape Island (Cape May).
- 1827 First steamship between Philadelphia and Cape May.
- 1854 Atlantic City founded.
- 1863 First railroad to Cape May (later controlled by Pennsylvania Railroad).
- 1859 Great fire at Cape May.
- 1876 Settlement of Sea Grove (Cape May Point).
- 1878 Steamship "Republic" operated between Philadelphia and Cape May.
- 1878 Great fire at Cape May.
- 1879 Ocean City established.
- 1880 Sea Isle City established.
- 1883 Anglesea and Holly Beach established.
- 1888 Avalon established.
- 1889 Wildwood established.

Maps have been consulted in various libraries and in all cases permission has been granted to reproduce those needed in the present work. In this connection, thanks should be extended to the following: Historical Society of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia); American Philosophical Society (Philadelphia); Library of Congress (Washington, D.C.); Rutgers University (New Brunswick, N.J.); Yale University (New Haven, Conn.); John Carter Brown Library (Providence, R.I.) and the Huntington Library (San Marino, California).

Mr. F. Russell Lyons, of Cape May Point, N.J., has redrawn or retouched two of the maps and given advice on various other matters. Mr. J. Harcourt Givens, of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, has helped locate certain of the maps and has given assistance in tracking down bibliographic references. Miss Marie A. Richards has helped in arranging the lay-out of the maps and in preparing the manuscript for publication.

VELASCO MAP, 1610 (fig. 1)

This map was probably copied from an original taken by Henry Hudson on his third voyage to

America. It was apparently brought to London about 1610 and in some way fell into the hands of the Spanish Ambassador to London, Don Alonso de Velasco, who transmitted it to Spain together with a letter dated March 22, 1611. The map was discovered about 1885 in the Archives at Simancas, Spain, by Alexander Brown. For full discussion see Stokes, (1916; Vol. 2, pp. 51-61, CP1. 22A). This book suggests the possibility that there might have been Spanish spies in America about 1610 who were transmitting information on English and Dutch activities to Spain. The map is of particular interest because it shows the position of Delaware Bay. All maps prior to 1610 showed a straight coastline from New York to the Chesapeake. Since Delaware Bay was discovered by Hudson in 1609, it is probable that this is the first map to show this body of water. Hudson's original map has never been found. The fact that maps for many years subsequent to 1610 failed to show the existence of Delaware Bay suggests that this copy was "in safe keeping" somewhere in Spain.

BUCHELIUS MAP, 1640 (fig. 2)

The notation on the map reads "I have seen in a certain book by the hand of one who had command in New Netherlands or (New) Holland the bay of the land where our people have built (established) some colonies thus." The map was probably drawn by Buchelius from memory from a map of Pieter Minuit, Governor of New Netherlands between 1626 and 1632. The map is a very inaccurate representation of the coast between Manhattan Island and Delaware Bay. Staten Island is shown twice; Delaware Bay is called Godenis Bay and the Delaware River is the Wilhelmus River. The original is in the Dutch National Archives in The Hague. For copy and discussion see Stokes (1916, Vol. 2, pp. 113-115, CP1. 38).

VISCHER MAP, 1651 (fig. 3)

"Novi Belgii novaeque Angliae nec non partis Virginiae tabula multis in locis emendata a Nicolae Visschero." Published in Amsterdam about 1631. This is one of a series of maps of northeastern North America published in Holland about this time, and is generally spoken of as the "Vischer Map." The original contains a drawing of Nieuw Amsterdam (= New York). Note Indian names and location of Dutch and Swedish forts. (Courtesy Huntingdon Library.)

VAN DERDONCK MAP, 1656 (fig. 4)

Map of New Netherlands by Adriaen Van Derdonck published in Amsterdam in 1656. Reproduced in Absegami--Annals of Eyren Haven by Alfred Heston (1904, Vol. 1, p. 68). Very similar to the Vischer map.

SELLER AND FISHER MAP, 1677 (fig. 7)

"A Mapp of New Jersey in America by John Seller and William Fisher." This was first issued in 1675 as "A Mapp of New Jersey" in Atlas Maritimus published by J. Darby in London. It was redrawn in 1677 by John Seller and William Fisher and "printed for John Seller at the Hermitage Stairs in Wapping, and William Fisher at the Postern Gate on Tower Hill." It was accompanied by a descriptive text and used as a poster to induce colonists to settle in New Jersey. Note that the map is upside down according to present custom. (Courtesy John Carter Brown Library, Providence, R.I.)

JOHN WORLIDGE MAP, 1690 (fig. 9)

"A New Mapp of East and West New Jersey --Being an Exact Survey Taken by Mr. John Worlidge." John Thornton, Hydrographer, London 1690 (?). Note location of "Cape May Town" at Town Bank and the presence of Cedar Creek on the wrong side of the Cape. (Courtesy Rutgers University.)

THOMAS BUDD MAP, 1691 (fig. 3)

"A True and perfect Mapp of ye Several Priatys Syrveyed in April, May and June, 1691 p. order of Thomas Budd...." A map of the Cape May region. Budd was an early purchaser of land in southern New Jersey and the author of a book entitled Good Order Established in Pennsylvania and New Jersey in America (London, 1685). As far as is known this map has never been published. The original and several copies are in the Historical Society of Pennsylvania; the present reproduction is from an authentic copy of the original. (Courtesy Historical Society of Pennsylvania.)

GABRIEL THOMAS MAP, 1698 (fig. 5)

Map of Pennsylvania and West Jersey in the book An Account of Pennsylvania and West New

Jersey by Gabriel Thomas (London, 1698). Drawn by Philip Lea. Several reprints of this book have been issued.

CAMPANIUS HOLM MAP, 1702 (fig. 6)

"Novae Sveciae Tabula." Map from the book Kort beskrifning om provincien Nya Swerige uti America (Short Description of the Province of New Sweden in America) by Thomas Campanius Holm, Stockholm, 1702. Adapted from the Vischer map. (Courtesy Yale University.)

MAP OF "TOWN" OR PORTSMOUTH, 1726
(inside back cover)

"Map of 'Town' or Portsmouth as it appeared in 1726." This town was settled by whalers from New England in 1685, and was the first permanent settlement in the county. The original of this map is unknown. The late H. Walker Hand, of Cape May, owned a blueprint of the map with penciled additions showing the position of the shore line in 1868. Several copies of this blueprint are known to exist. The present map is from a drawing by F. Russell Lyons prepared for the Cape May Geographic Society in 1952.

BRONWALL MAP, 1731 (fig. 17)

"Delineatio Pennsylvaniae et Caesareae Nov. Occident seu West Jersey in America." In book Dissertatio gradualis de plantatione ecclesiae Sveranae in America by Dr. Andreas Brownall. Upsala, Sweden, 1731. Entire map covers parts of New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia. The book contains 34 pages of discussion of Swedish ecclesiastical settlements in America. (Courtesy Yale University.)

LEWIS EVANS MAP, 1749 (fig. 10)

"A Map of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York and the Three Delaware Counties," by Lewis Evans, S. Herbert sculp., Philadelphia, 1749. Several copies--authorized and unauthorized--appeared subsequent to this date. Evans was a friend of Benjamin Franklin, and the original (in the library of the American Philosophical Society) from which the present map was reproduced is a presentation copy to Dr. John Mitchel signed by Benjamin Franklin. Among the notes accompanying

the map is the statement "all our great storms begin to leeward; thus a NE storm shall be a day sooner in Virginia than Boston." This is probably the first statement in literature that our storms travel in a north easterly direction. This rare map has been discussed by several authors (Gipson, 1939; Stevens, 1924; Lingelbach, 1946; and Phillips, 1901). The first two works cited contain reproductions of the map. Evans is perhaps better known for his map of "Middle British Colonial America" published in 1755. (Courtesy American Philosophical Society.)

FISHER CHART, 1756 (fig. 13)

Chart of Delaware Bay by Joshua Fisher, Philadelphia, 1756. This is one of the earliest charts of the Bay and served as the basis for most of the charts issued during the following twenty-five years. For example, it was reprinted in The Pilot for North America in London in 1777. (Courtesy Historical Society of Pennsylvania.)

RATZER MAP, 1777 (fig. 14)

"The Province of New Jersey, divided into East and West, commonly called the Jerseys." Drawn by Bernard Ratzer from the survey made in 1769 by order of the commissioners appointed to settle the partition line between the provinces of New York and New Jersey. Engraved and published by Wm. Faden, Charing Cross, London, December 1, 1777. Various editions and reprints are known, the most recent having been issued by J. Warren Arnold of Cape May, N.J.

SARTINE CHART, 1778 (fig. 15)

"Carte de la Baye et Rivière de Delaware." Adapted from the Fisher charts of 1756 and later, and published by the order of M. de Sartine "Conseiller d'Etat, Ministre et Secrétaire d'Etat au Departement de la Marine." Paris, 1778. Contains instructions for entering the Delaware River. (Courtesy Historical Society of Pennsylvania.)

DES BARRES CHART, 1779 (fig. 16)

"A Chart of Delaware Bay with soundings and natural observations taken by Capt. Sir. Andrew Snape Hammond of the Navy, and others. Composed and published for the use of pilotage by

J.F.W. Des Barres, Esq, June 1, 1779." London. This was included in a book of maps known as The Atlantic Neptune published for the use of the Royal Navy of Great Britain. Note that Cape Island is called Four Mile Beach, and that present Cape Henlopen was called Cape James, the point then called Cape Henlopen being some miles south near Indian River. There was considerable confusion in the terminology of the Delaware cape, the names, Cape James, Cape Cornelis, and Cape Henlopen being used at various times. (Courtesy Historical Society of Pennsylvania.)

MAP FROM CAREY'S ATLAS, 1795 (fig. 18)

Map of New Jersey in Carey's American Atlas compiled by Samuel Lewis and published in Philadelphia. This atlas appeared in several editions, the present reproduction being from the edition of 1795.

SOTZMANN MAP, 1797 (fig. 19)

New Jersey. Entworfen von D.F. Sotzmann, Hamburg, Germany, 1797. (Courtesy Library of Congress.)

WILLIAM WATSON MAP, 1812 (fig. 20)

A map of the State of New Jersey by William Watson, dedicated to Joseph Bloomfield, Governor of Council and Assembly of the State of New Jersey. Published in Gloucester County, N.J., September 25, 1812. Note the use of the name Poverty Beach instead of Four Mile Beach. (Courtesy Historical Society of Pennsylvania.)

GORDON MAP, 1828 (fig. 21)

"A Map of the State of New Jersey with part of the adjoining states compiled under patronage of the legislature of said State by Thomas Gordon." Trenton and Philadelphia, 1828. Note lighthouse at Cape May Point and detailed network of roads. (Courtesy Historical Society of Pennsylvania.)

MAP IN GORDON'S GAZETTEER, 1834 (fig. 22)

Map of New Jersey in History and Gazetteer of New Jersey by Thomas Gordon, published in Trenton in 1834.

BACHE'S CHART OF CROW SHOAL, 1836 (fig. 12)

"Cape May Roads including Crow Shoal, Del. Bay and showing a plan for an artificial harbor proposed for that place. Surveyed and drawn by Hartman Bache, Topog. Engin. Bt. Majr." Accompanied 25th Congress 2nd session, Document 155. September, 1836. The report was a recommendation for the construction of stone jetties for a deep water channel on the New Jersey side of Delaware Bay to take care of the shipments of coal from Pennsylvania. The total cost was to be \$1,590,843.30. (Courtesy American Philosophical Society.)

NUNAN MAP OF CAPE ISLAND, 1850 (fig 11)

"Map of the Borough of Cape Island and its vicinity" and published by P. Nunan, surveyor in 1850. A very detailed map showing roads and dwellings of the time with an insert map of Cape Island. Contains drawings of "Ocean View of Cape Island" as well as pictures of various hotels and churches. Retouched by F. Russell Lyons, 1954.

COOK'S GEOLOGICAL MAP, 1856 (fig. 23)

Map of the County of Cape May drawn in 1856 to accompany the book Geology of the County of Cape May by George H. Cook, published in Trenton in 1857.

HOPKINS MAP, 1861 (fig. 24)

Map of the State of New Jersey... compiled by C. Morgan Hopkins, civil engineer; adopted for use of State Geological Survey under the direction of William Mitchell. H. G. Bond, publisher, Philadelphia, 1861. Shows proposed railroads in Cape May County. The "Millville and Glassboro Extension" was opened in 1863 as the "Cape May and Millville Railroad" (later absorbed by the West Jersey and Seashore and still later by the Pennsylvania). The "R. and D.B. RR." (Raritan and Delaware Bay Railroad) was never constructed. Courtesy Historical Society of Pennsylvania.)

BEERS MAP, 1872 (fig. 25)

"Topographical Map of Cape May County... under direction of F.W. Beers. Published by

Beers, Comstock and Cline, New York. The original contains an insert of Cape May and other towns in the county. The peculiar bay near Cape May Point is open to question. (Courtesy Library of Congress.)

PLAN OF SEA GROVE, 1876 (fig. 27)

Plan of Sea Grove from booklet published by the Sea Grove Association in 1876. This was the year of the founding of this community, now known as Cape May Point.

WOOLMAN AND ROSE MAP, 1878 (fig. 26)

Map of Cape May County from book Historical and Biographical Atlas of the New Jersey Coast by T. F. Rose and H. C. Woolman, 1878. This book also contains plans of Cape May City, Sea Grove, and various other towns. Shows horse railroad from Cape May City to Seaboat Landing. (Courtesy Historical Society of Pennsylvania.)

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Fig. 1. 1610 VELASCO MAP



Fig. 3. 1651 VISCHER MAP

In 1640 gelyen in sekerke boere byde hant bayen die set
 komando in nide Nederland ofte Holland gesant sake
 de baye vant lant aldere de onse enige colonie ge-
 bout hebbty aldus : suet s.

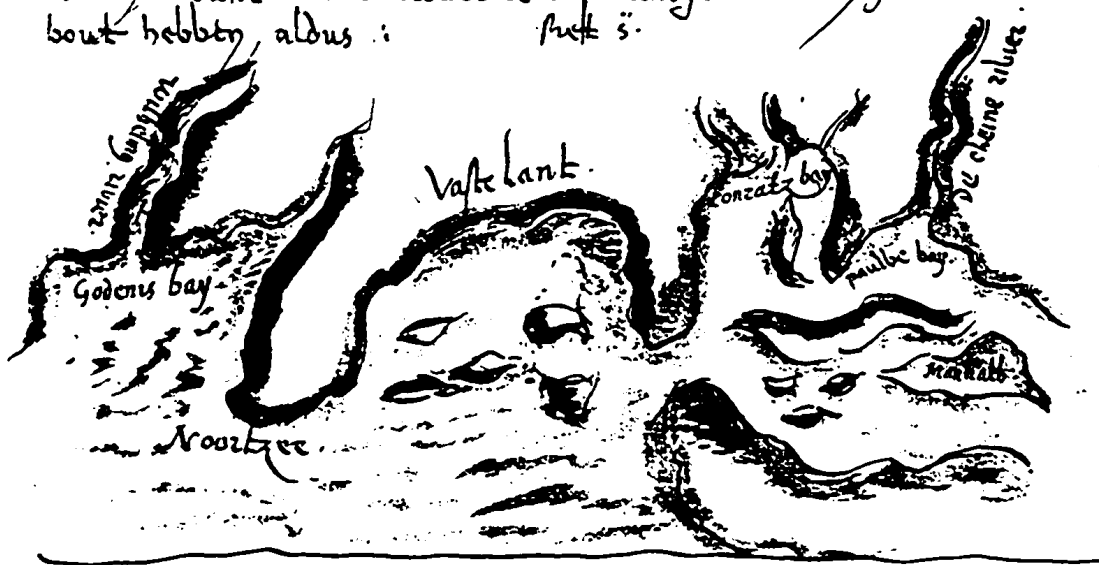


Fig. 2. 1640 BUCHELIUS MAP

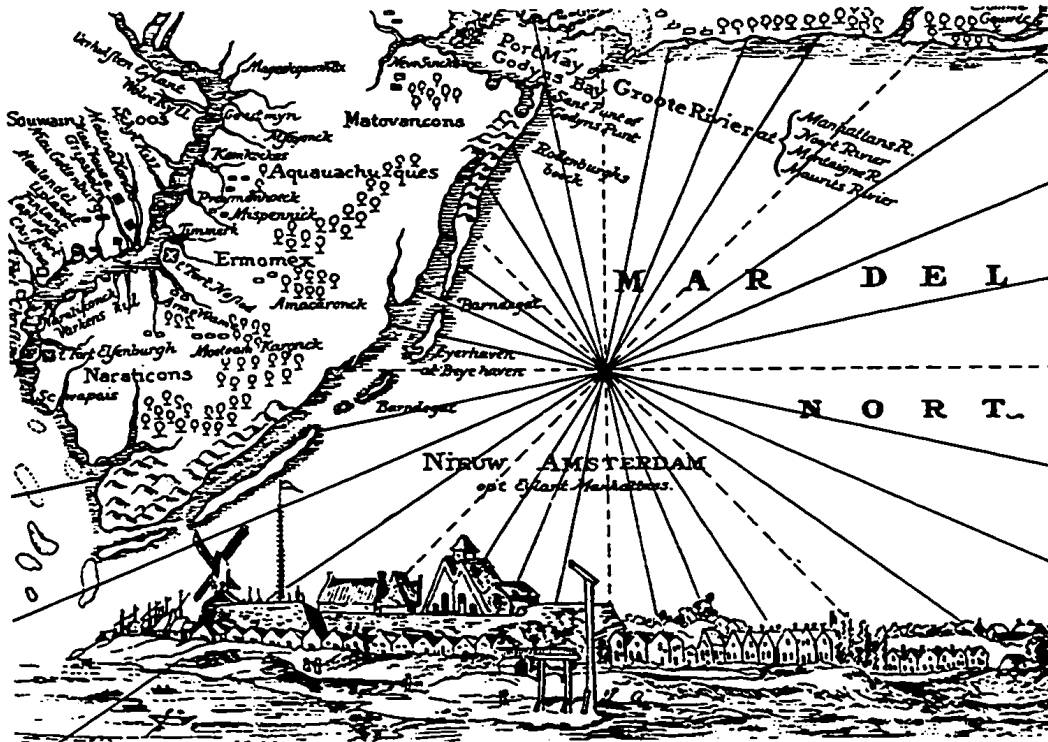


Fig. 4. 1656 VAN DER DONCK MAP



Fig. 5. 1698 GABRIEL THOMAS MAP



Fig. 6. 1702 CAMPIANIUS HOLM MAP

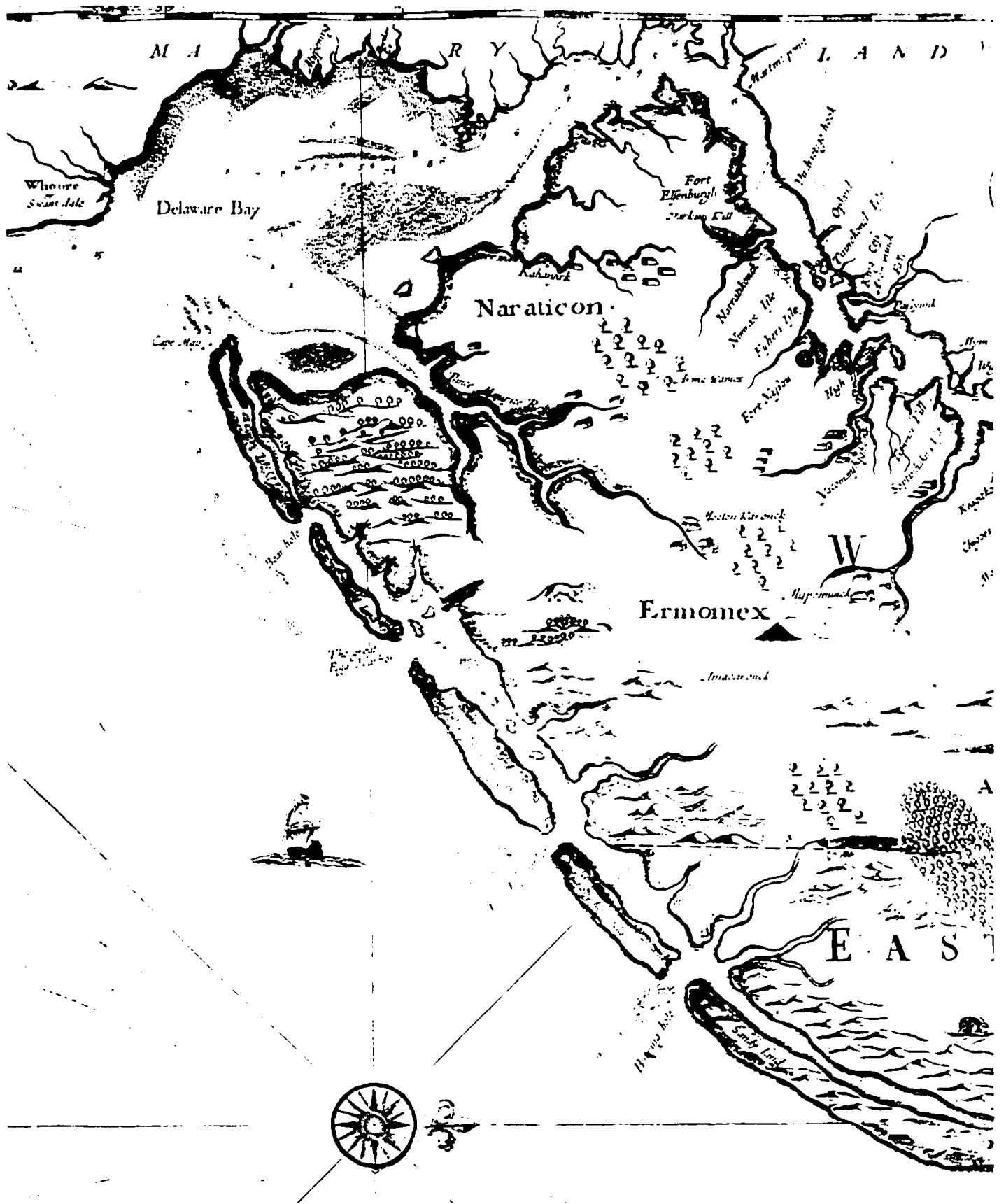


Fig. 7. 1677 SELLER AND FISHER MAP

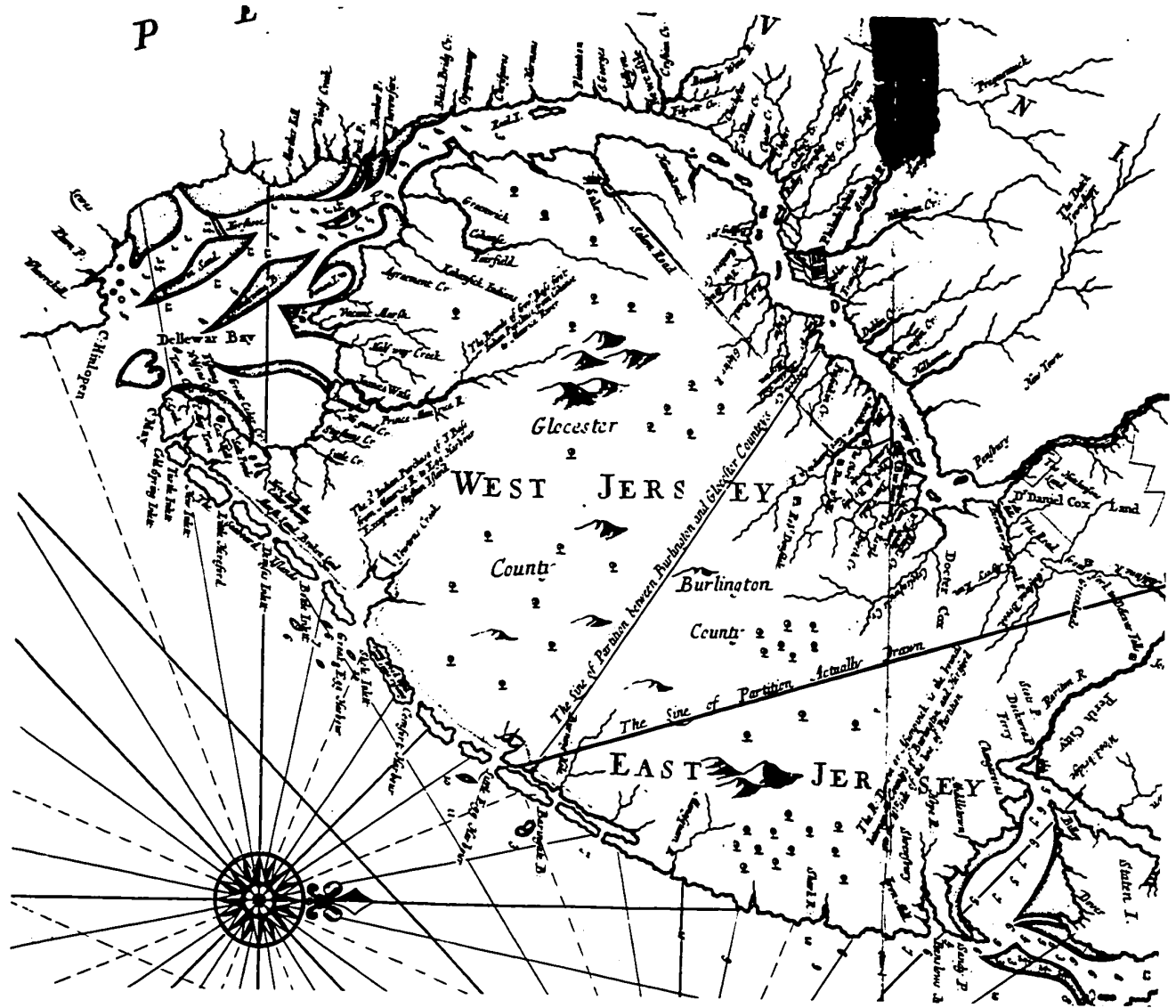


Fig. 9. 1690 JOHN WORLIDGE MAP

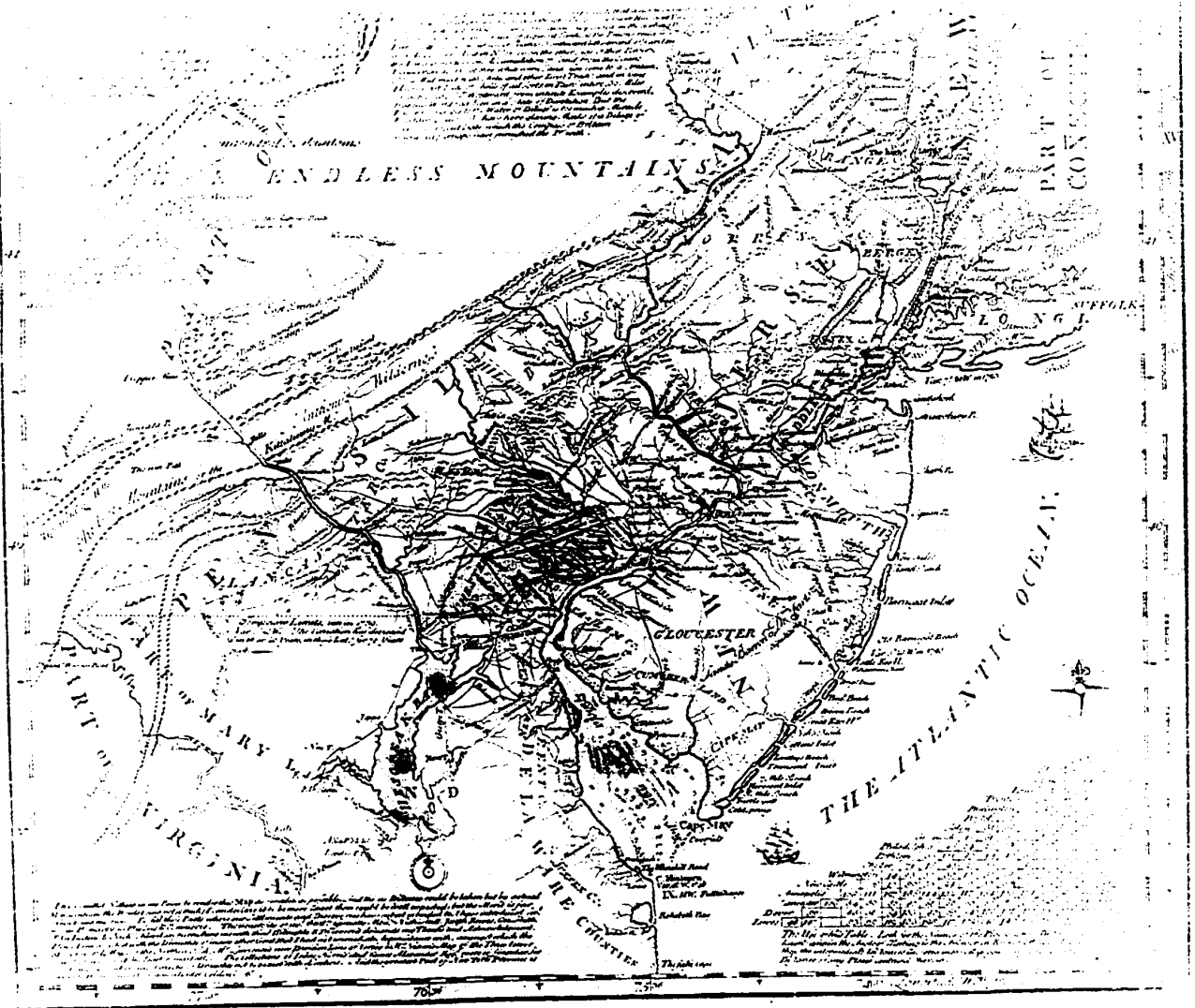


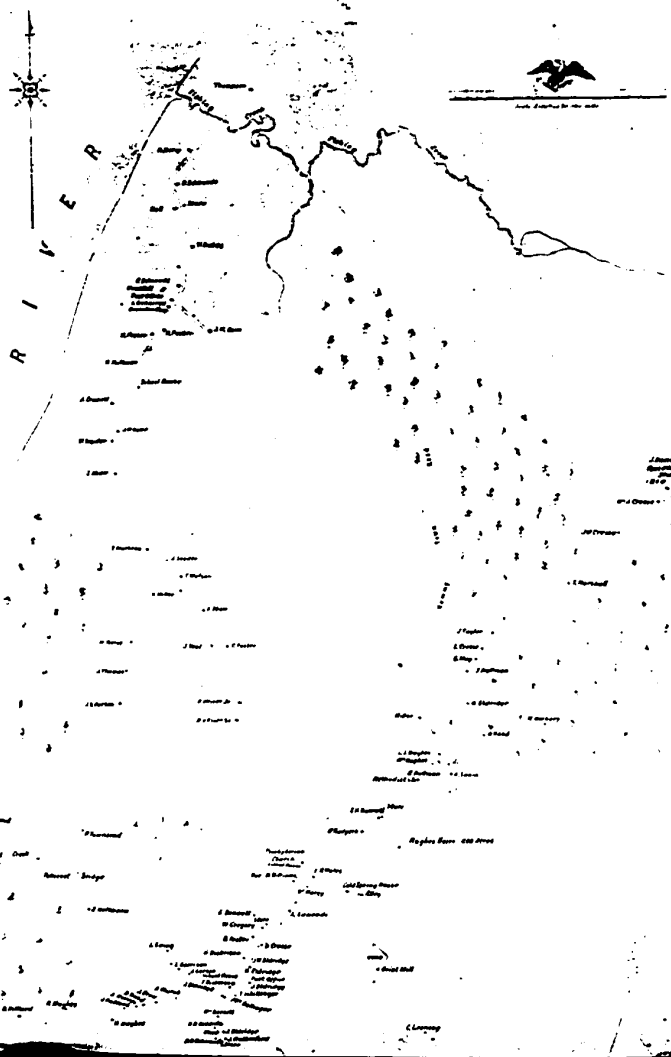
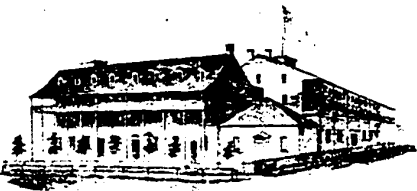
Fig. 10. 1749 LEWIS EVANS MAP

THE BOROUGH OF
CAPE ISLAND

and its Vicinity

CAPE MAY CO. N. J.

Surveyed and Published
by P. H. HANMAN, Surveyor
1850



PLAN
OF
CAPE ISLAND

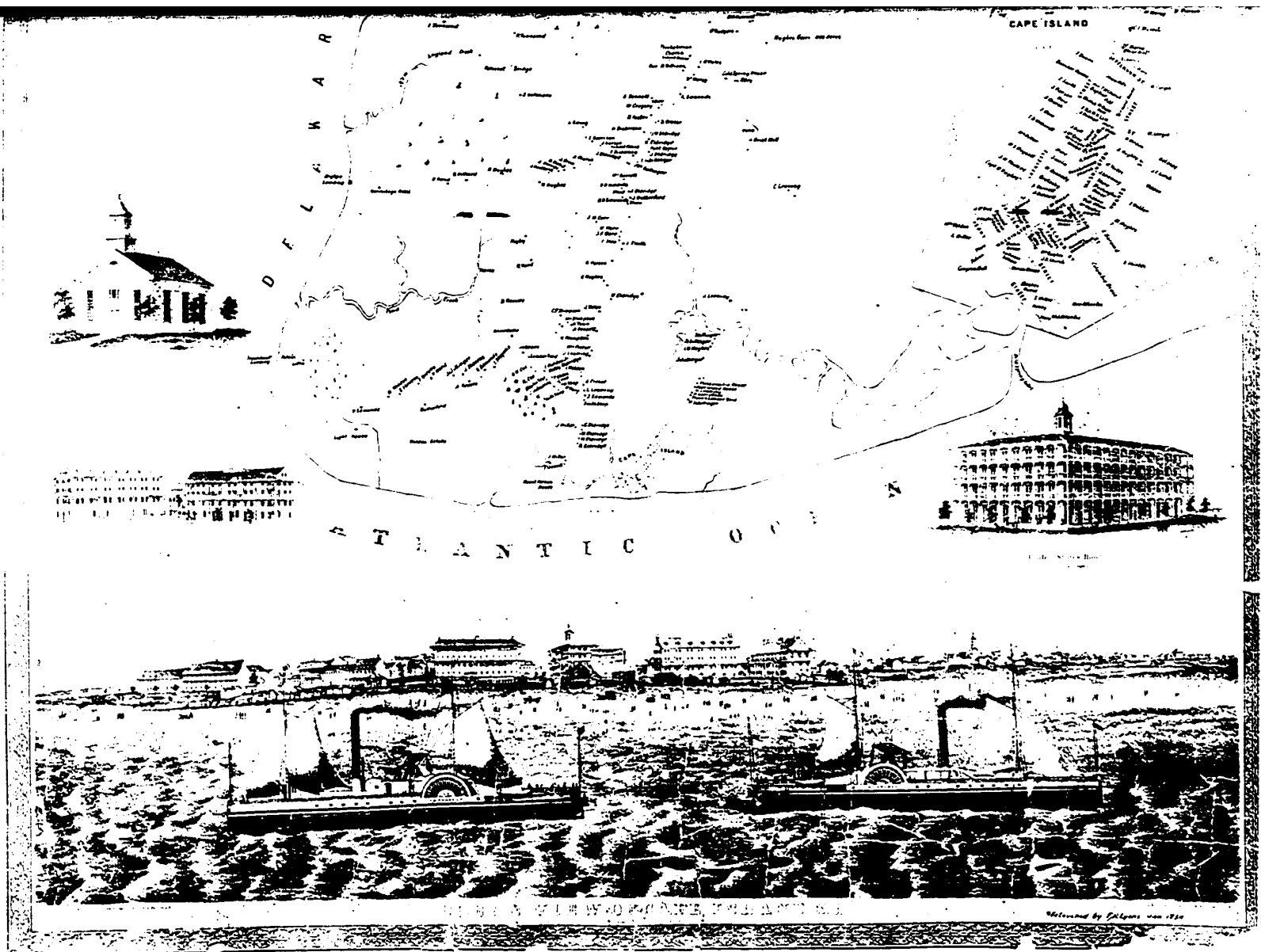


Fig. 11. 1850 NUNAN MAP OF CAPE ISLAND

TIDE REGISTER AT
TEAM DOCK WHARF

CAPE MAY ROADS.
INCLUDING
CROW SHOAL.
DEL. BAY.

SEPTEMBER, 1836.

and showing the plan of an artificial harbor proposed for that place.

PLAN OF THE ARTIFICIAL HARBOR

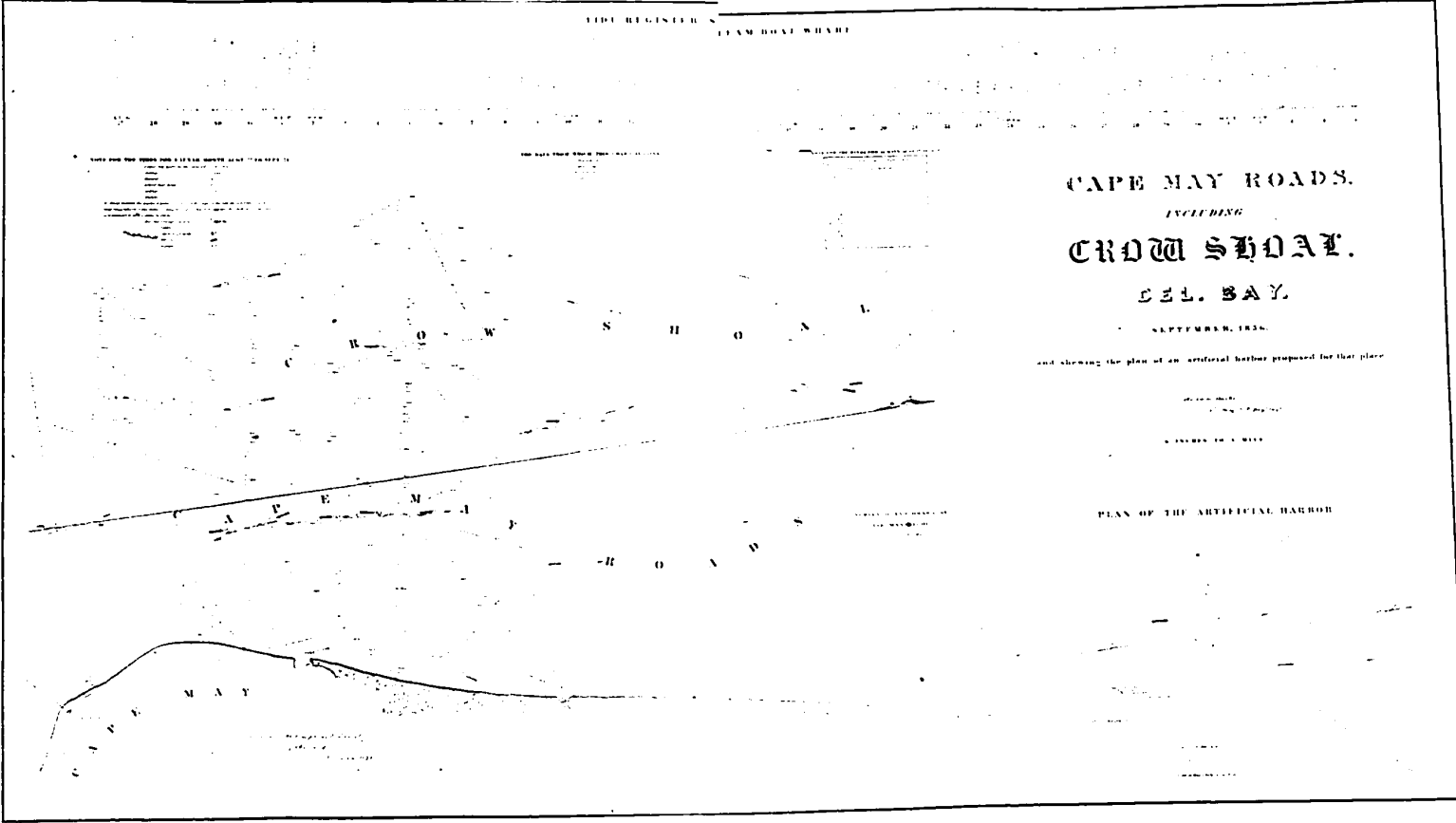


Fig. 12. 1836 BACHE CHART OF CROW SHOAL

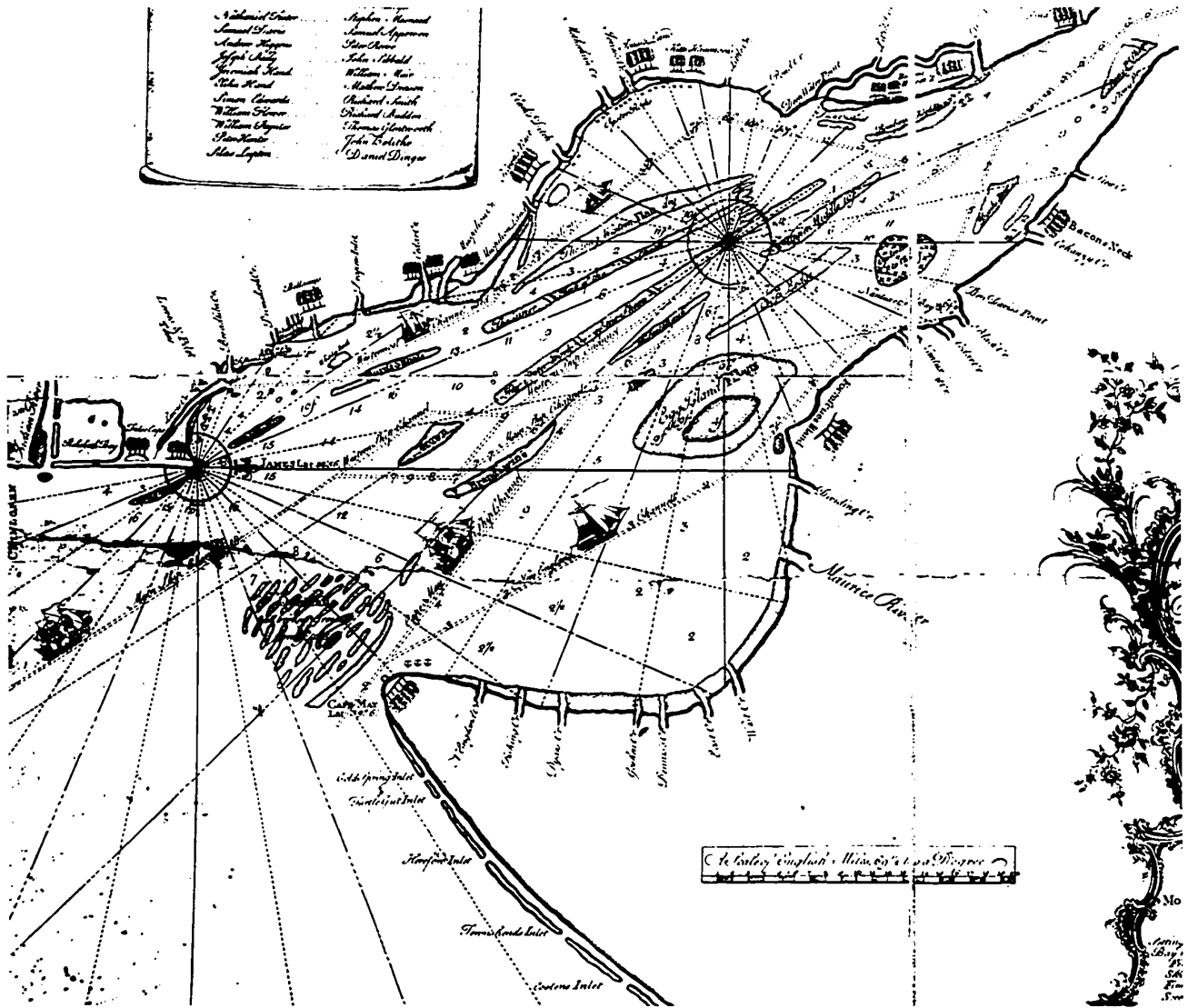


Fig. 13. 1756 FISHER CHART

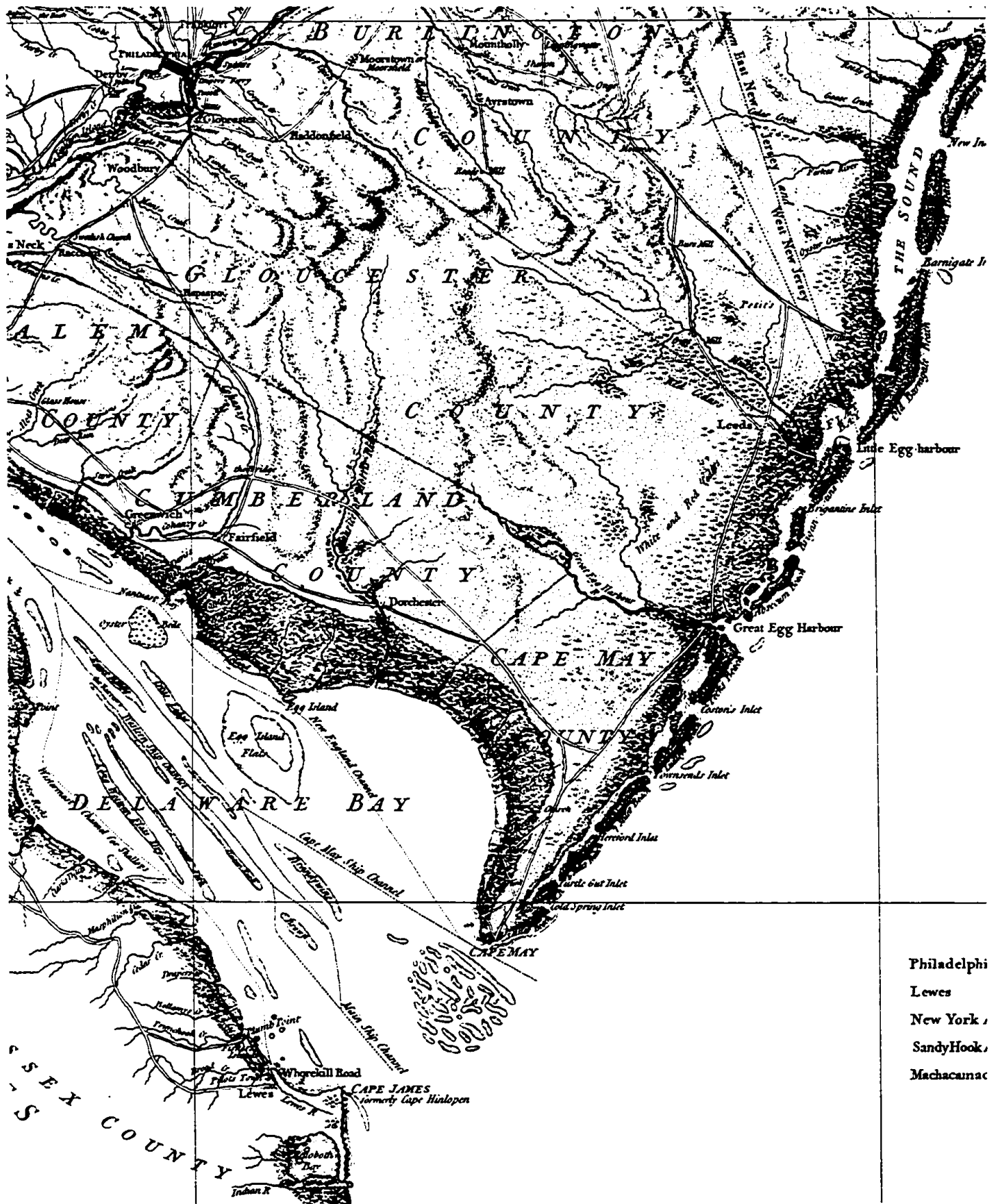


Fig. 14. 1777 RATZER MAP

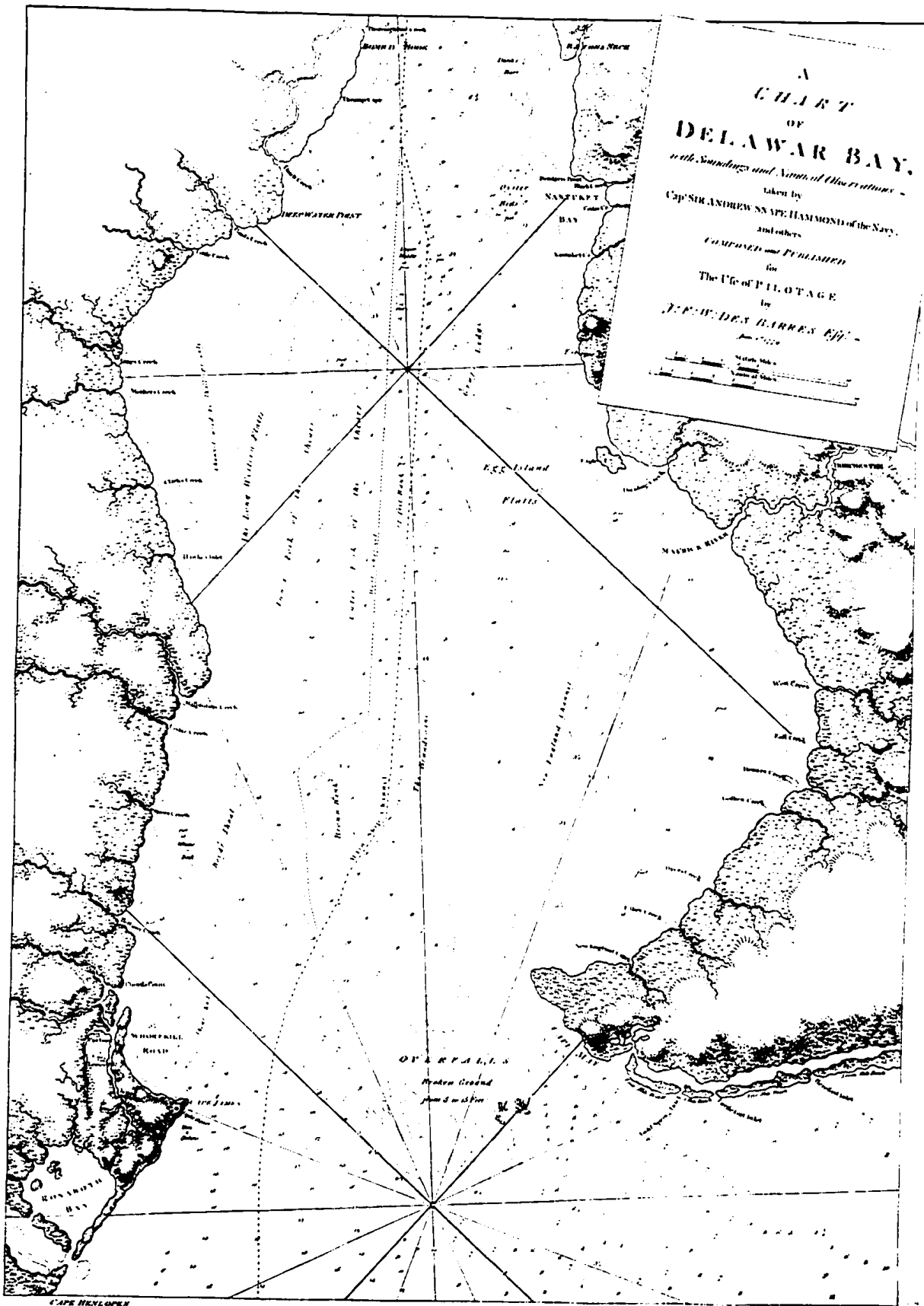


Fig. 16. 1779 DES BARRES CHART

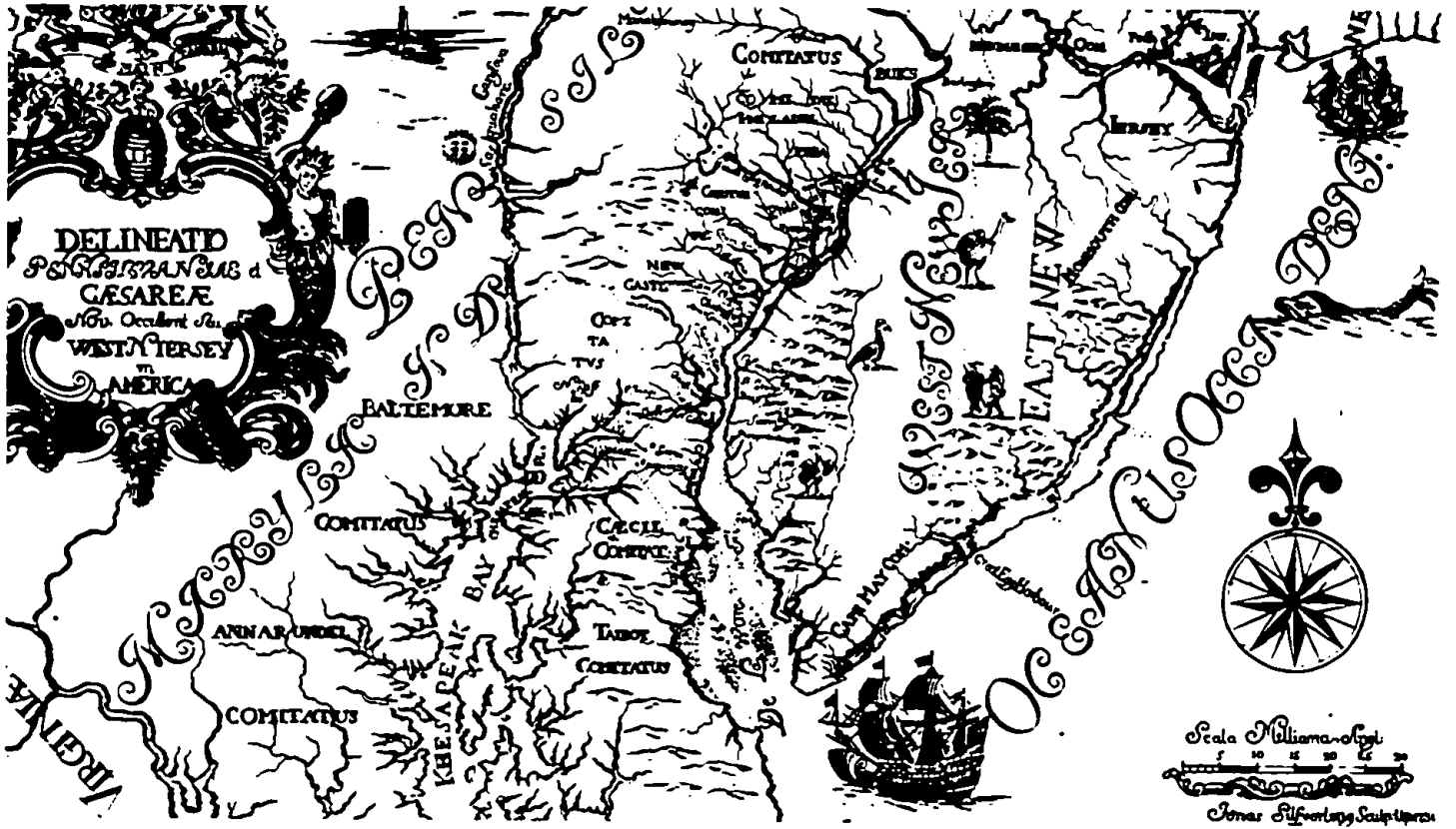


Fig. 17. 1731 BRONWALL MAP

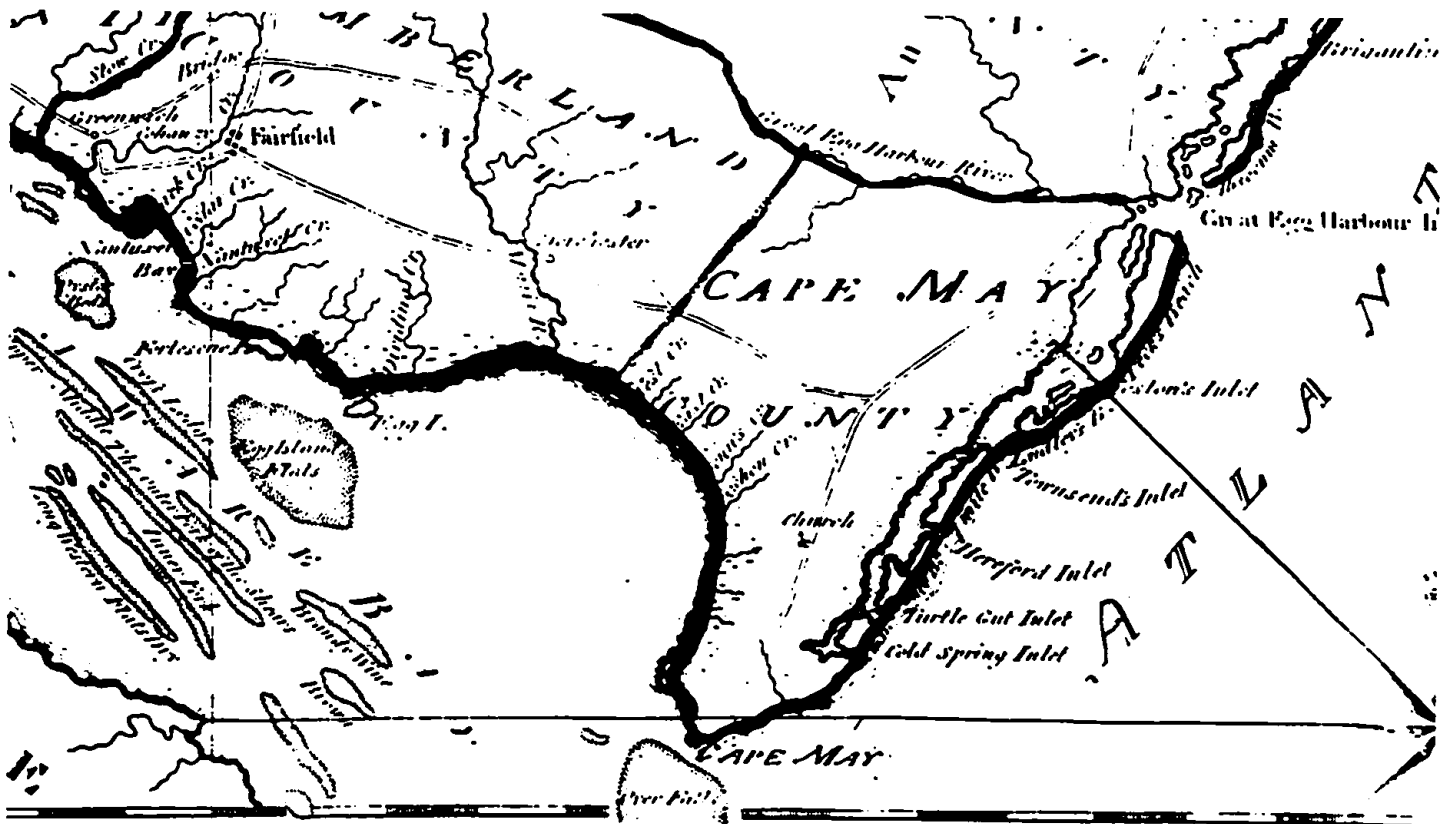


Fig. 18. 1795 MAP FROM CAREY'S ATLAS

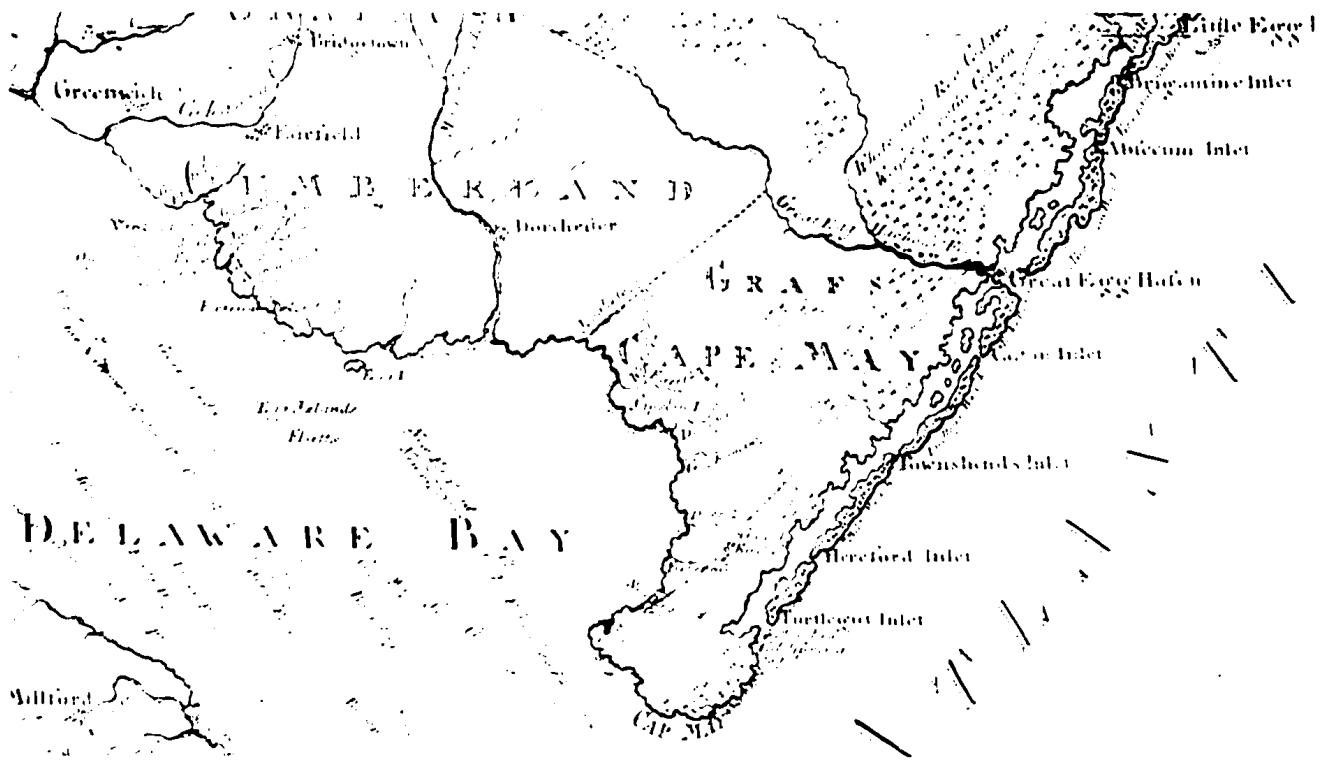


Fig. 19. 1797 SOTZMANN MAP

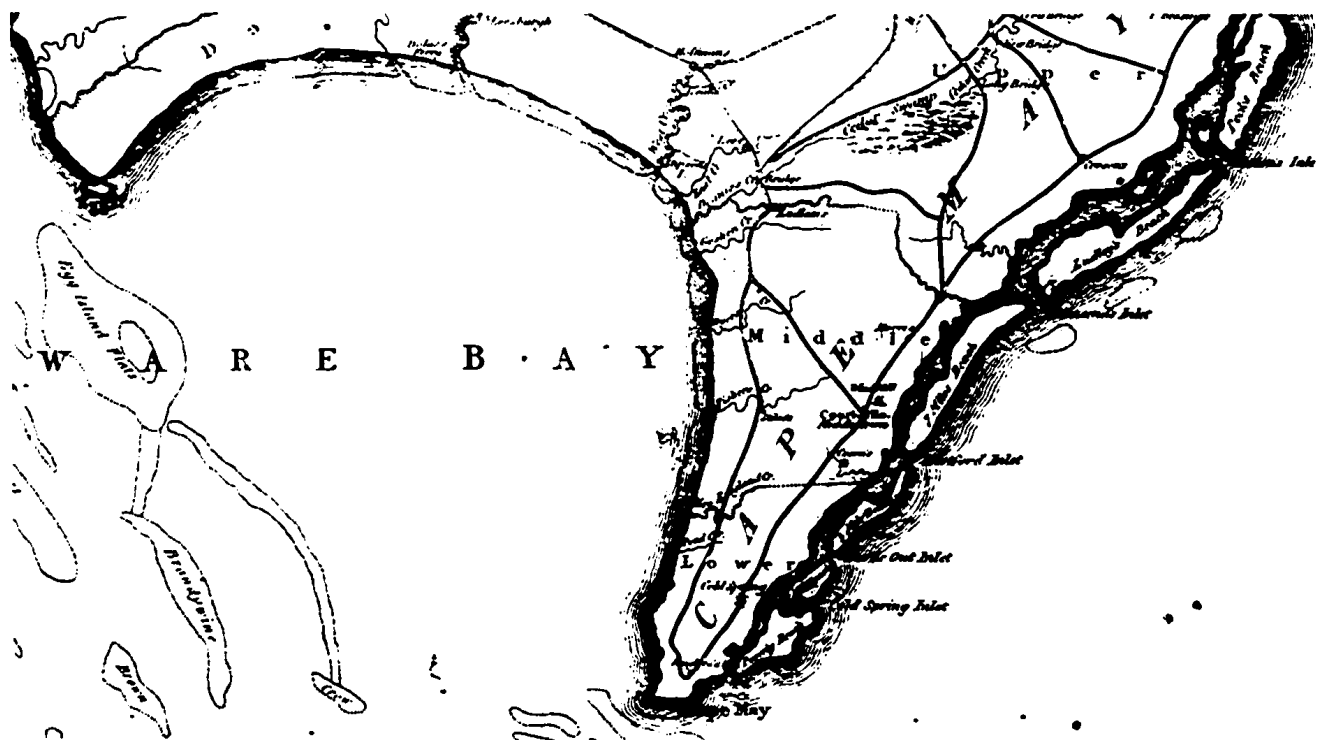


Fig. 20. 1812 WILLIAM WATSON MAP

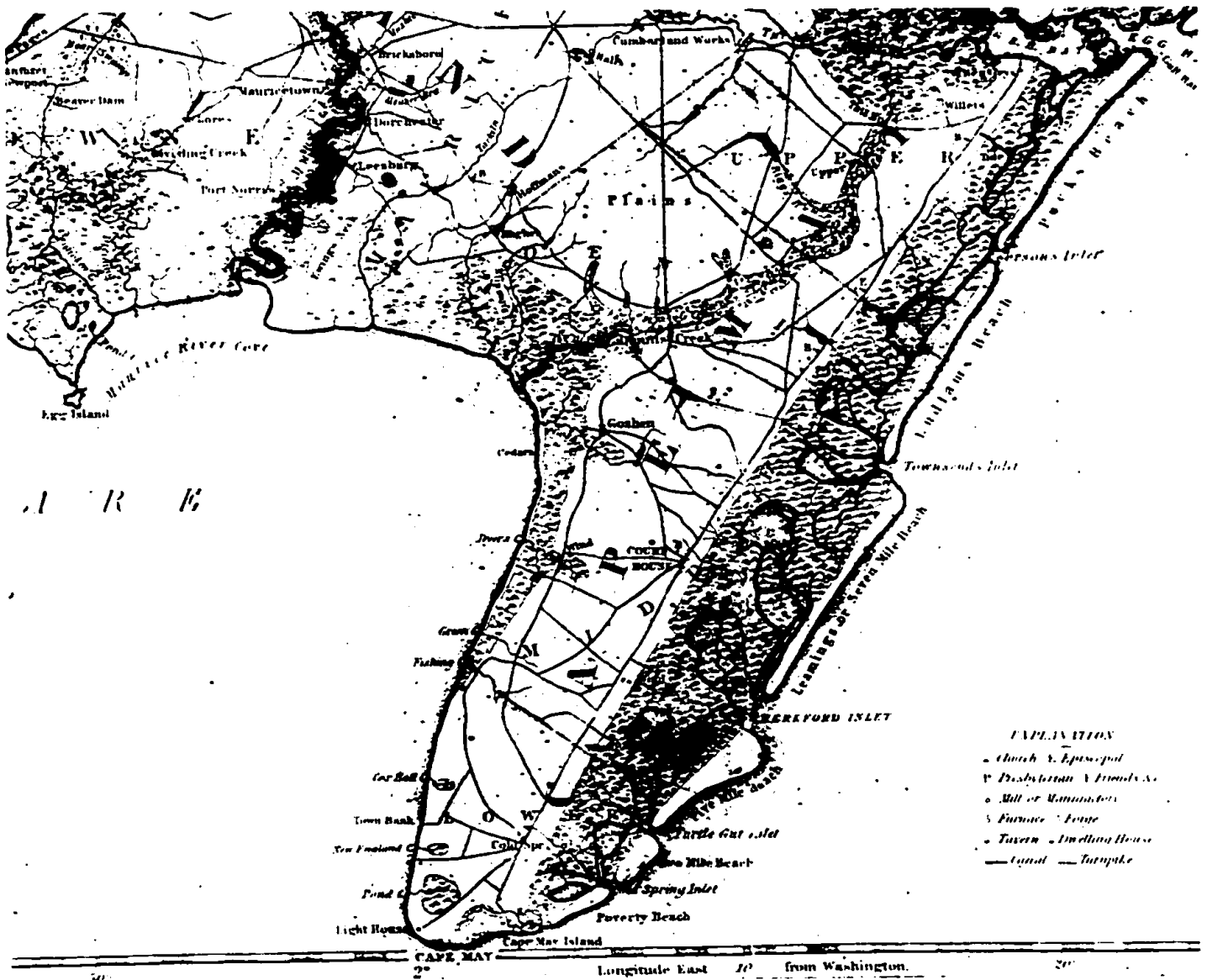


Fig. 21. 1828 GORDON MAP

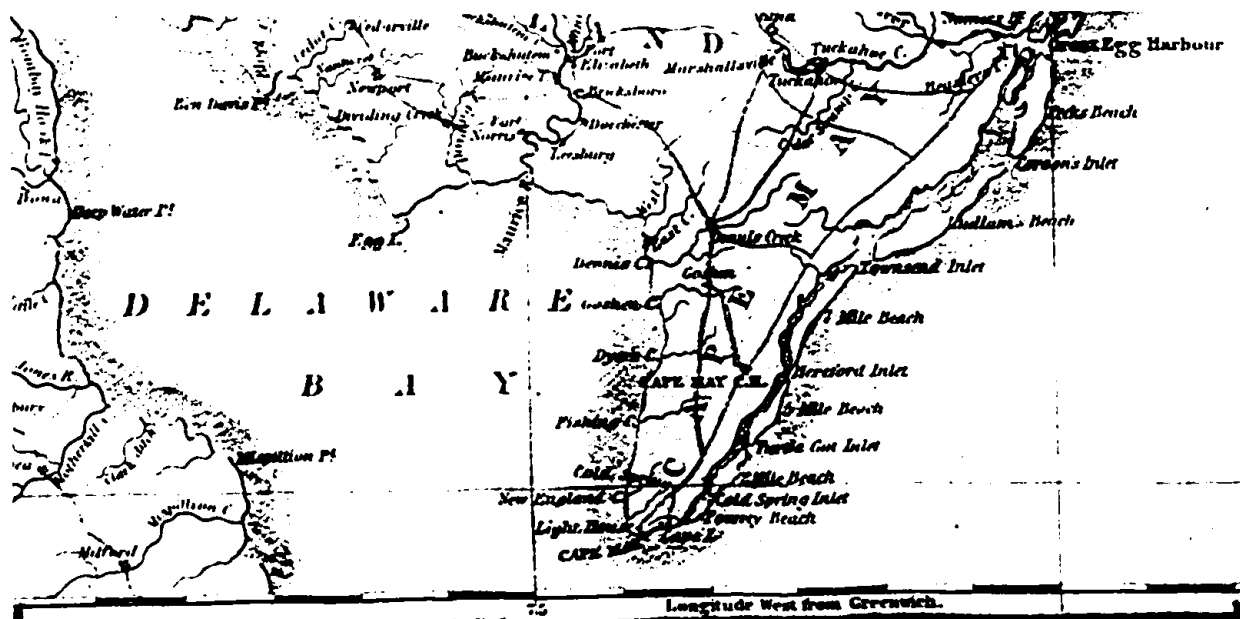


Fig. 22. 1834 MAP FROM GORDON'S GAZETTEER

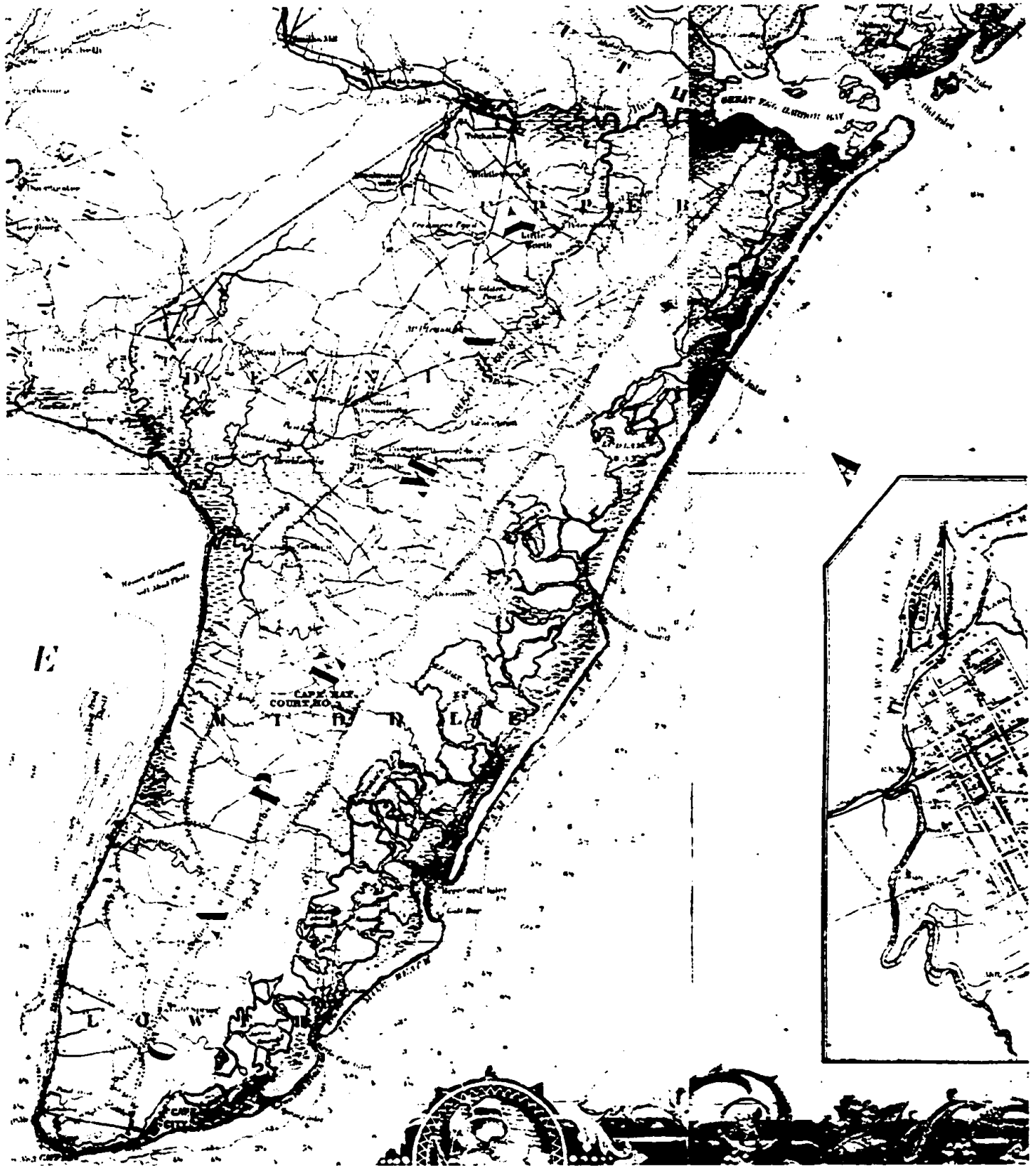


Fig. 24. 1861 HOPKINS MAP

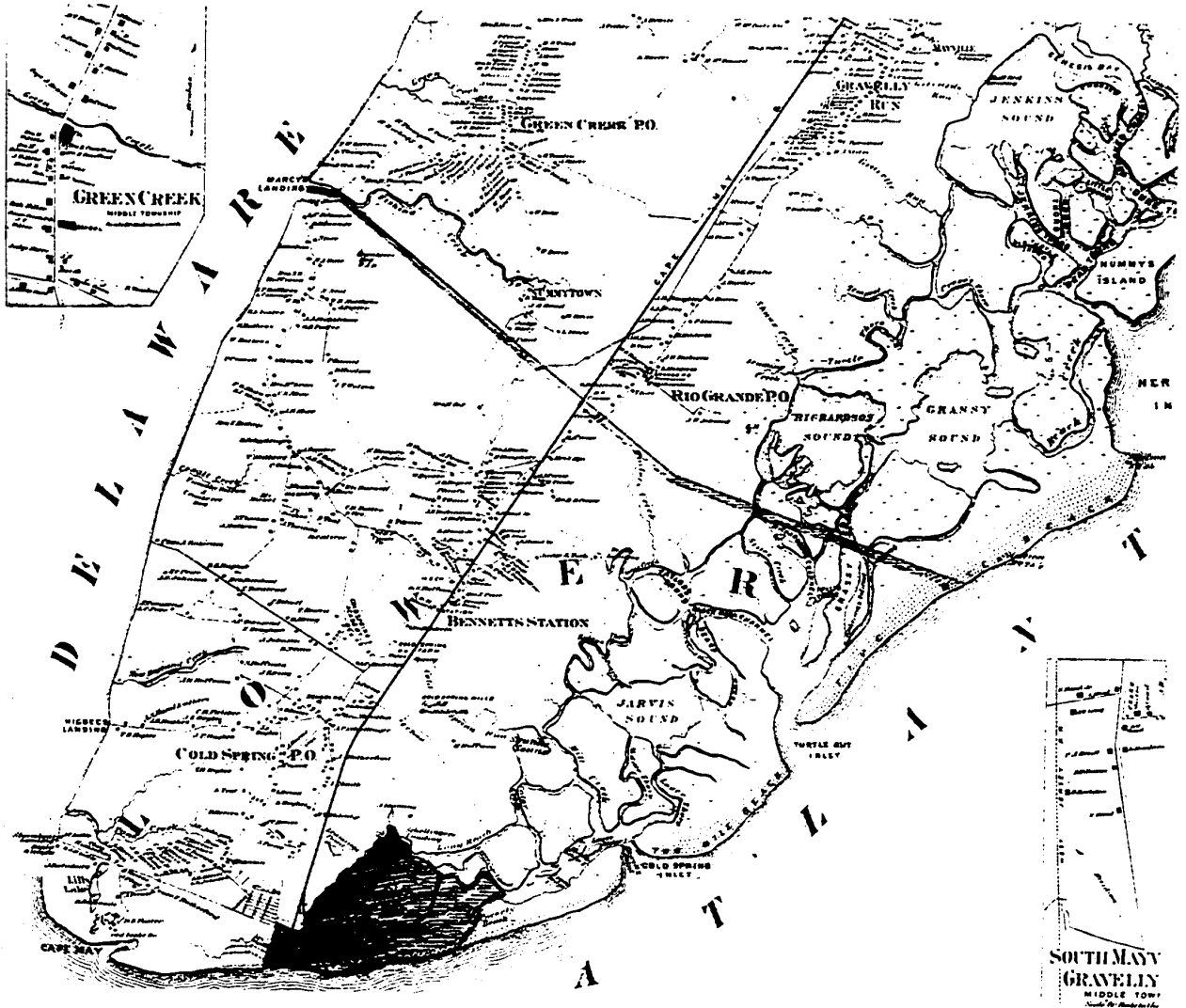


Fig. 25. 1872 BEERS MAP

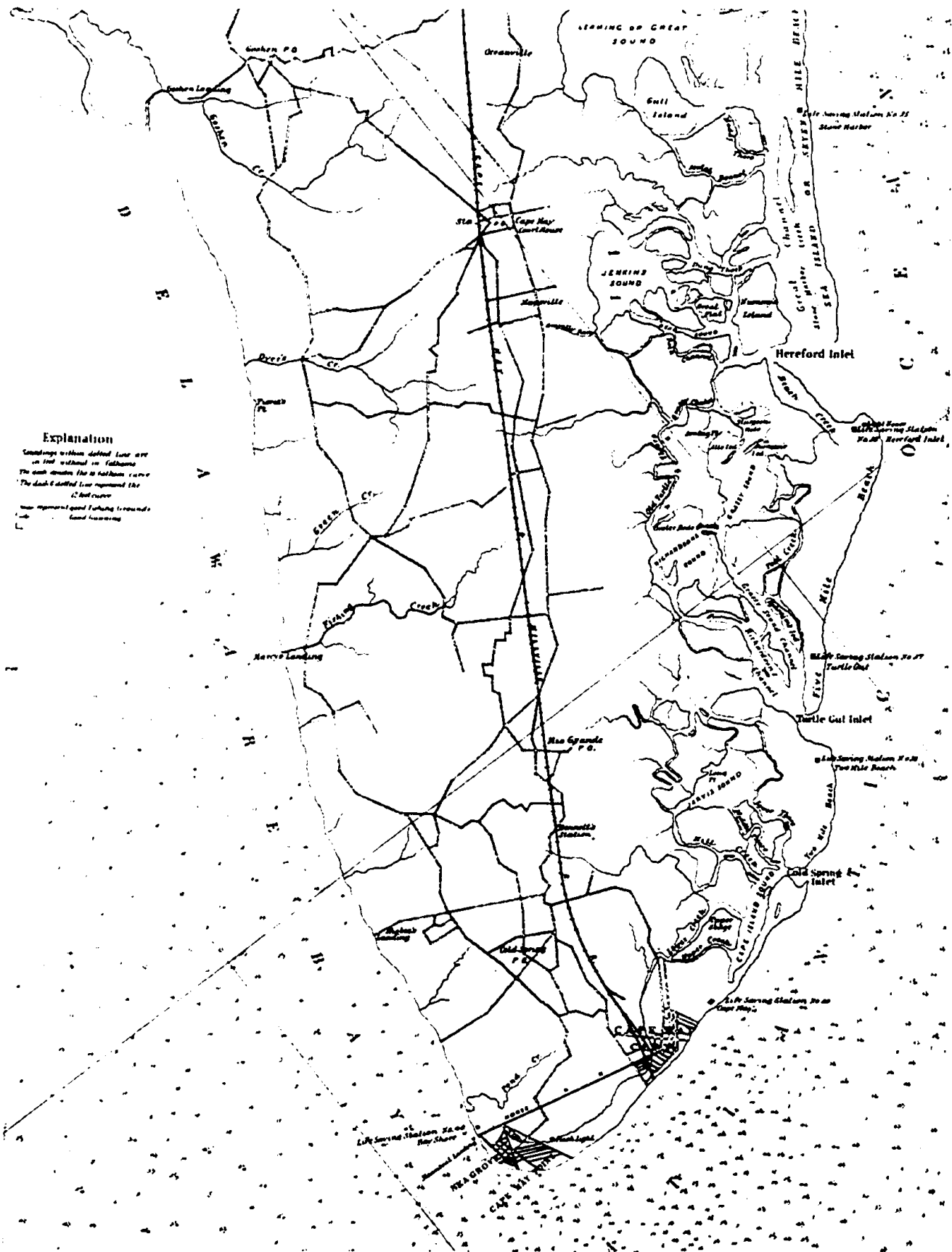


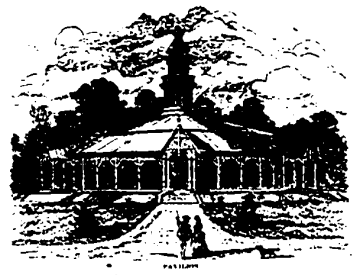
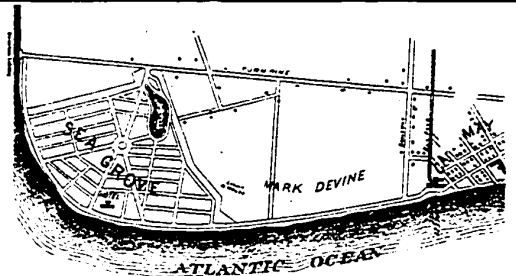
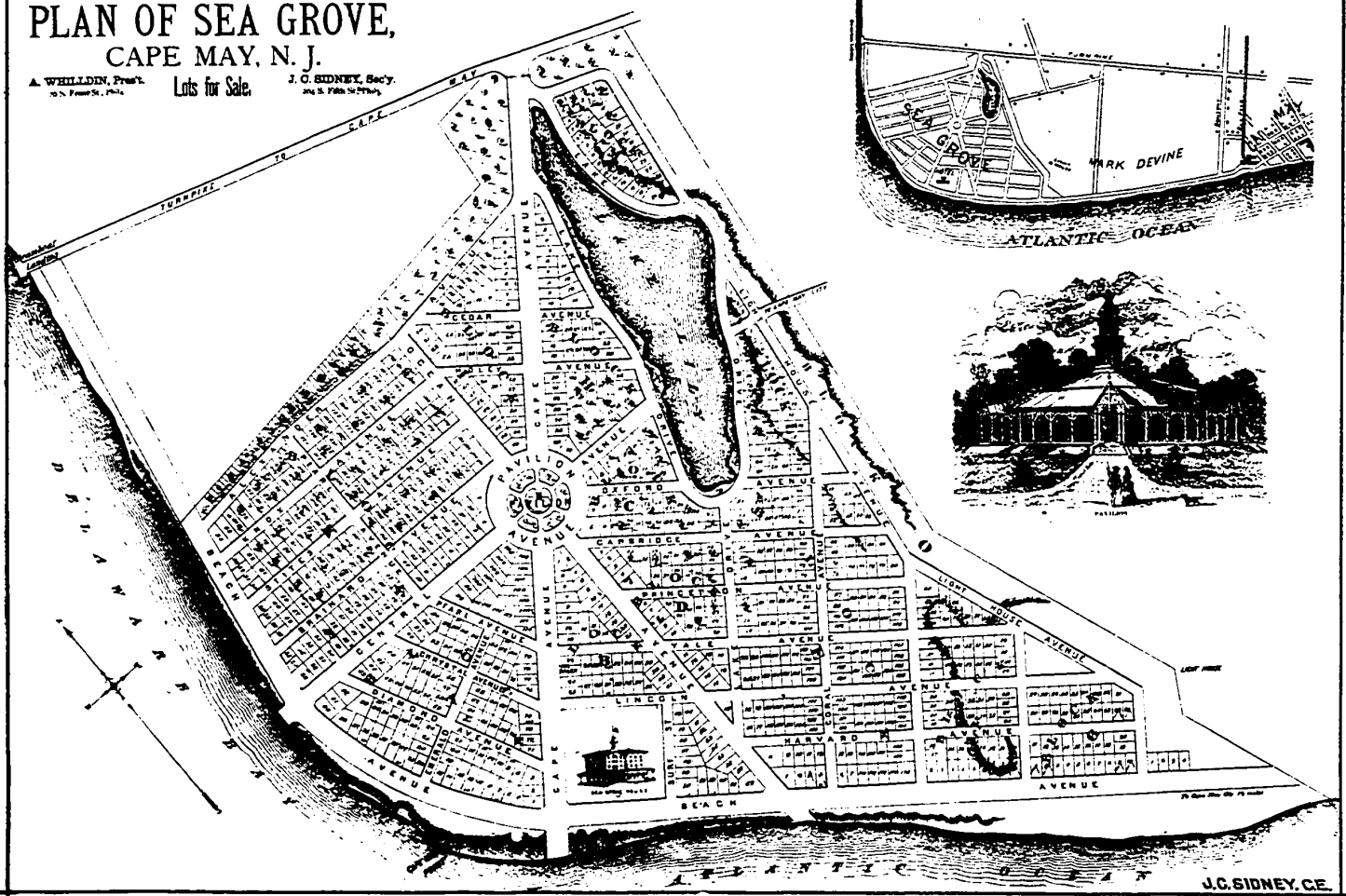
Fig. 26. 1878 WOOLMAN AND ROSE MAP

PLAN OF SEA GROVE, CAPE MAY, N. J.

A. WHELLDEN, Pres't.
20 N. Front St., Phila.

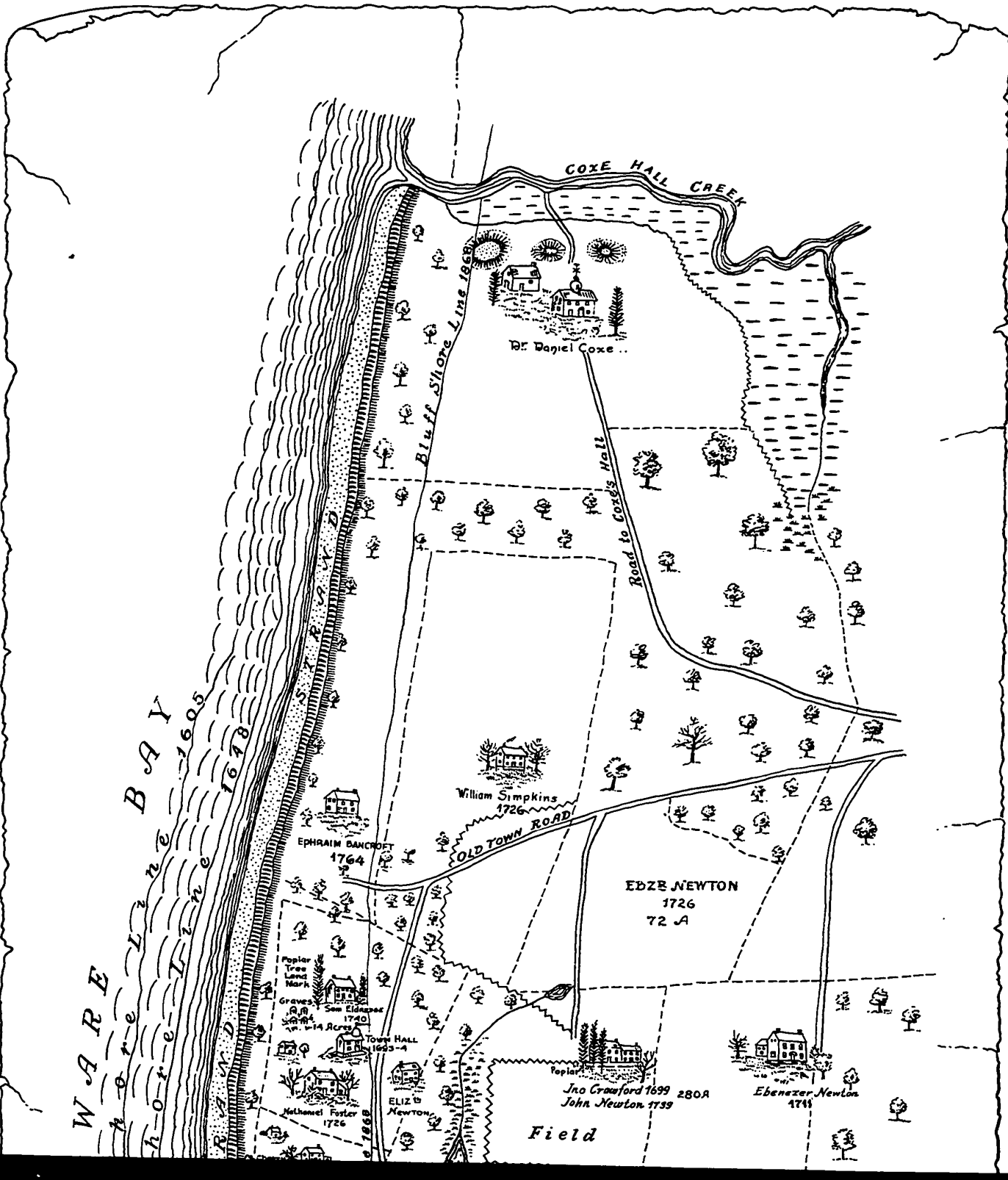
Lots for Sale.

J. C. SIDNEY, Sec'y.
204 S. Fifth St. Phila.



J.C. SIDNEY, CE.

Fig. 27. 1876 PLAN OF SEA GROVE



WARE BAY
Shore Line 1603
Shore Line 1678

COXE HALL CREEK

Dr. Daniel Coxe ..

Bluff Shore Line 1681

Road to Coxe's Hall

William Simpkins
1726

COLD TOWN ROAD

EDZE NEWTON
1726
72 A

EPHRAIM BANCROFT
1764

Graves
Sam Eldessee
1740
14 Rovers

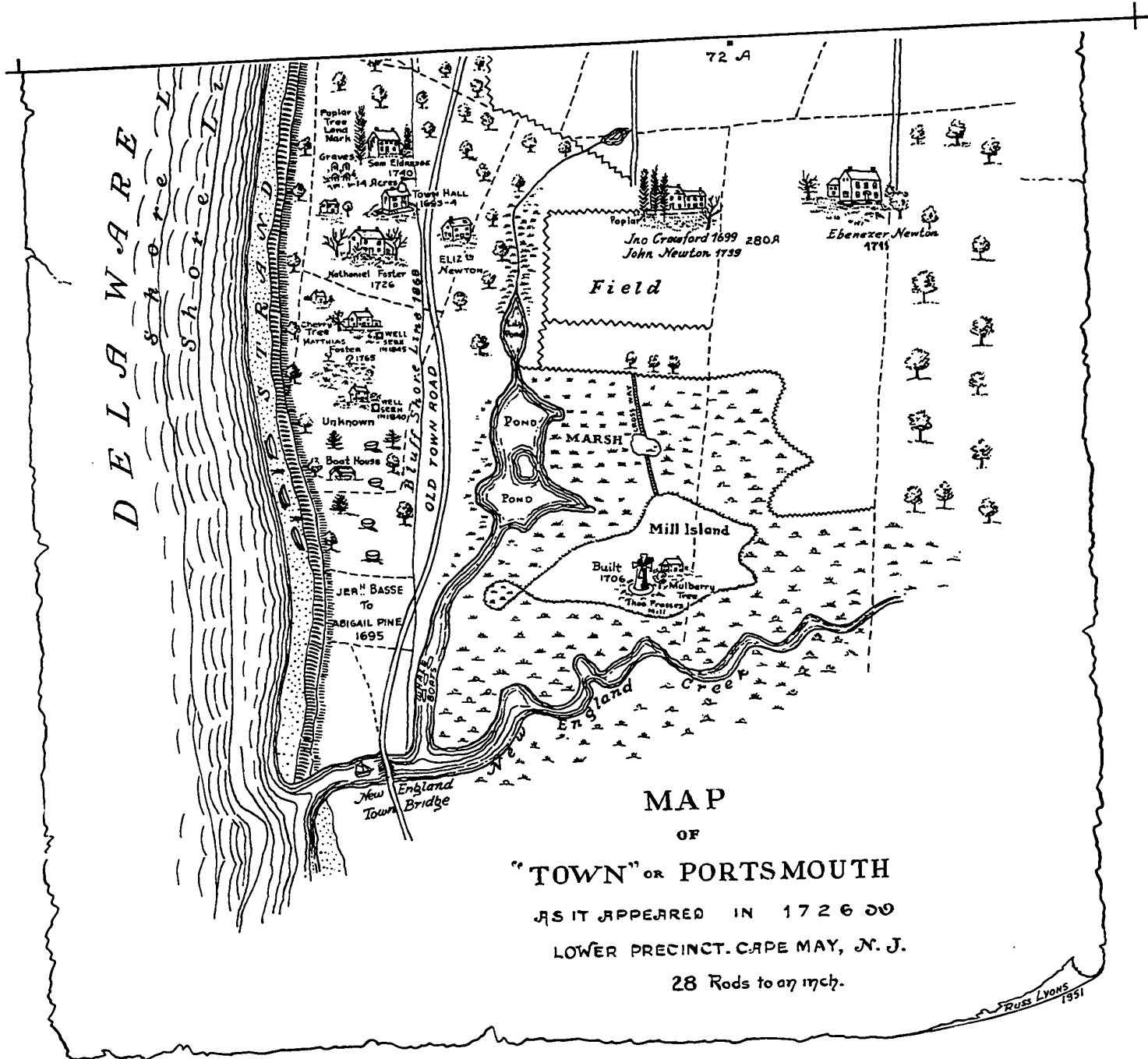
Town Hall
1663-4

ELIZ B
Newton
1726

Jno Crawford 1699 280A
John Newton 1739

Ebenezer Newton
1711

Field



MAP
 OF
 "TOWN" OR PORTSMOUTH
 AS IT APPEARED IN 1726
 LOWER PRECINCT. CAPE MAY, N. J.
 28 Rods to an inch.

Russ Lyons 1951

Copied from an original map showing the site of the first white settlement at Cape May on the shore of Delaware Bay about four miles above Cape May Point. Present scale: 56 rods to an inch. Cape May Geographic Society, Cape May, N. J.