

Once Upon a Time in a Nucleated Village: English Land Use and Town Planning in Seventeenth-Century East Jersey

Michael J. Gall
Richard Grubb & Associates, Inc.
259 Prospect Plains Road, Building D
Cranbury, N.J. 08512

ABSTRACT

Townscape studies and landscape archaeology can supply significant information about broad cultural development in towns, states, and regions. The macroscopic view offered by examining communities provides a lens through which cultural, religious, socio-political, and commercial ideas are transferred between regions, modified by community members, and solidified in the creation of cultural identities. Examination of seventeenth-century English settlement patterns and their underlying influences in Woodbridge and Piscataway, Middlesex County, New Jersey provides insight into the role township corporation freeholders played in cultural identity formation in northeastern New Jersey. The townscape systems employed by these freeholders had lasting impacts on regional cultural development within the state.

INTRODUCTION

During the seventeenth century, New Jersey was colonized by the Dutch, Swedes, Finns and English. Each ethnic group arrived with their own ideas about the forms a settlement should take, the ways the spaces within it must function, and the multitude of roles it should serve in fulfilling cultural,

defensive, economic, religious, and social expectations. Even within groups great variation existed in the style, form, and function exhibited by vernacular townscapes for a variety of reasons. To explore this concept, this article examines the cultural transfer of vernacular townscape plans by New England immigrants to the Province East New Jersey. This examination focuses on mid-seventeenth-century English settlement of two New Jersey towns: Piscataway and Woodbridge Townships, in Middlesex County (Figure 1). By examining townscapes as designed and contrived artifacts on the landscape (Yentsch 1996:xxvii), one gains insight into the cultural transformation of space with dynamic, multifaceted cultural meanings (Beranek 2012:78; Thomas 2012:165-186) and the metamorphosis of perceived wilderness into organized communities. This transformation fulfilled aims toward wealth and power accumulation, concepts of cultural and religious identity, solidification of social and family relations, and promoted gender ideals and masculine responsibility. By carving the land into parcels with distinct, real and conceptual boundaries, English settlers who emigrated from New England physically imbedded their cultural identity on the New Jersey landscape, which had a lasting impact on the cultural development of the East Jersey Province.

Through landscape archaeology and historical research, this study examines the initial settlement of Piscataway and Woodbridge between the late 1660s and mid-1670s, with an emphasis on the latter town, and presents the ways in which English settlers utilized land to promote religious values and create a cultural identity. Among its merits, landscape archaeology has been used to examine, discern, and define the ways in which inhabitants transform landscapes into places with deep cultural meaning (Thomas 2012:182). Landscape archaeology studies in New Jersey have enabled archaeologists to explore the concept of “otherness” and the role “others” played in the Northeast region’s cultural development. In this study, “others” consisted of freeholders or town associates in restricted access or insular East Jersey township corporations. These

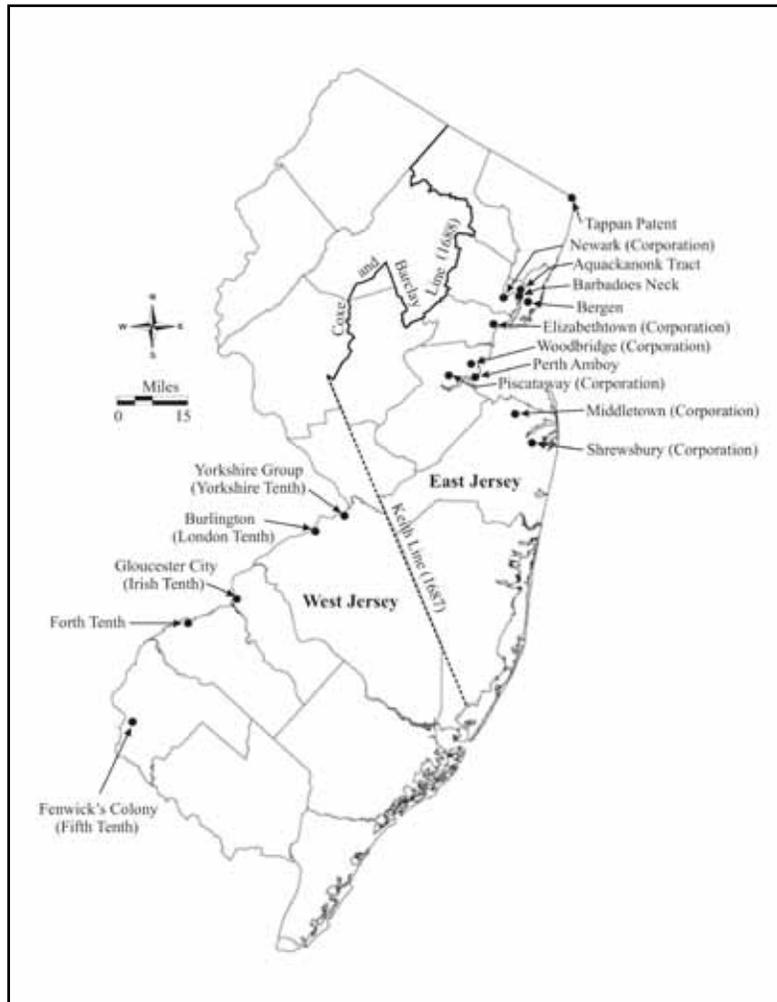


Figure 1. Map Showing Woodbridge, Piscataway, Other East Jersey Corporations, and Early West Jersey English Towns
(Drawing by Michael J. Gall).

associates established communities much different in appearance that the organic settlement distribution patterns that developed outside the township corporations (Gall 2013). It also provides a tool to examine the ways in which perceived wilderness was modified into landscapes easily recognizable by European immigrants.

Landscape studies in New Jersey have shed light on the imbued power of identity and cultural meaning settlers achieved through land ownership and manipulation. In his seminal work *Land and People: A Cultural Geography of Preindustrial New Jersey: Origins and Settlement Patterns*, Peter Wacker (1975) conducted a state-wide examination of

settlement patterns. Following Wacker's insightful work, numerous regional and townscape studies have been conducted, highlighting the nuances evident in settlement patterns across the state over time by different cultural groups. Recently, Hunter Research, Inc. (2012) and Ian Burrow (2013) have explored the design of the seventeenth-century Dutch settlement of Bergen in Jersey City, Hudson County, which offers an important, rare juxtaposition between the planned communities of two competing colonial powers in New Jersey. Rebecca Yamin (2011) has also recently synthesized over two decades of archaeological research at the lost eighteenth-century village of Raritan Landing in New Brunswick and Piscataway and utilized the data to examine the role of trade networks in pre-Revolutionary New Jersey. Richard Hunter, Inc. (2011) examined elements of an eighteenth- and nineteenth-century, urban riverfront community in Trenton, New Jersey near the Falls of the Delaware River. Richard Veit and Michael Gall (2013:297-322) have employed landscape archaeology to examine Joseph Bonaparte's massive 2,225-acre early nineteenth-century country estate in Bordentown. Bonaparte used his estate to convey a sense of wealth, transform nature into a controlled picturesque space, and re-create a familiar

French landscape that embodied a sense of home for an expelled monarch. The exiled King also used the estate as a vehicle to educate an American audience in French fine art, architecture, and design. The free African-American communities of Timbuctoo in Westampton Township, Burlington County, and Marshalltown, Salem County, have been studied, respectively, by Christopher Barton (2013:375-392) and Janet Sheridan (2012). The studies offer insight into marginalized communities and the agency land granted in their pursuit of a cultural and social identity. Over two decades of archaeological research by Matthew Tomaso and others (Tomaso et al. 2006:20-36) has unearthed the complex realities

of life in the mid-nineteenth-century mill community of Feltville in Berkely Heights, Union County. With the exception of Wacker's state-wide examination, the remaining aforementioned projects are characterized by small community studies. These community-based studies examine large spaces, within which numerous people interacted. There, individuals conceptually transformed land and nature into objects of material culture that could be utilized in myriad ways to assert control; uphold religious values, socio-political ideals, and economic paradigms; and create social harmony through the construction of exemplary communities and landscapes.

Through a process of documentary archaeology, this study endeavored to examine seventeenth-century deeds and town records as artifacts associated with the early settlers of Piscataway and Woodbridge (Beaudry 1993; Langhorne and Babits 1993: 132-137). The neighboring towns were created in the Province of East New Jersey. East New Jersey, the eastern division of the English colony of New Jersey, was governed and owned by the East Jersey Proprietors. The results reveal an amalgamated form of English and New England open and enclosed field systems, which were transferred through human exploration and migration (Monnette 1930:89). The cultural mores that shaped these systems are examined herein. This article also builds upon the work of Donald Mrozek's (1971:1-14) study of seventeenth-century land distribution in Woodbridge, which examines the process of land subdivision used by the Woodbridge freeholders. Here, the focus centers on the motives that drove the type of land distribution employed by the freeholders of both Woodbridge and Piscataway.

The neighboring New Jersey towns examined in this study were established by New England emigrants in 1666. The original

Piscataway settlers arrived from Dover, Portsmouth, and Hampshire in the Piscataqua River area near the present-day border between New Hampshire and Maine. Woodbridge was settled by emigrants from Newbury and nearby towns in Essex County, Massachusetts, roughly 24km south of the Piscataqua River (Monnette 1930:83, 89; Mrozek 1971:1). The New England residents first came to North America between the 1630s and 1650s from counties in south-central and southeastern England, including Oxfordshire, Wiltshire, Hampshire, Berkshire, and Lincolnshire (Greven 1970:42, 44; Monnette 1930:82) (Figure 2). Together, the Piscataway and Woodbridge settlers initially consisted of Baptists, Quakers, and Congregationalists, though within decades of settlement, Anabaptists and Anglicans also

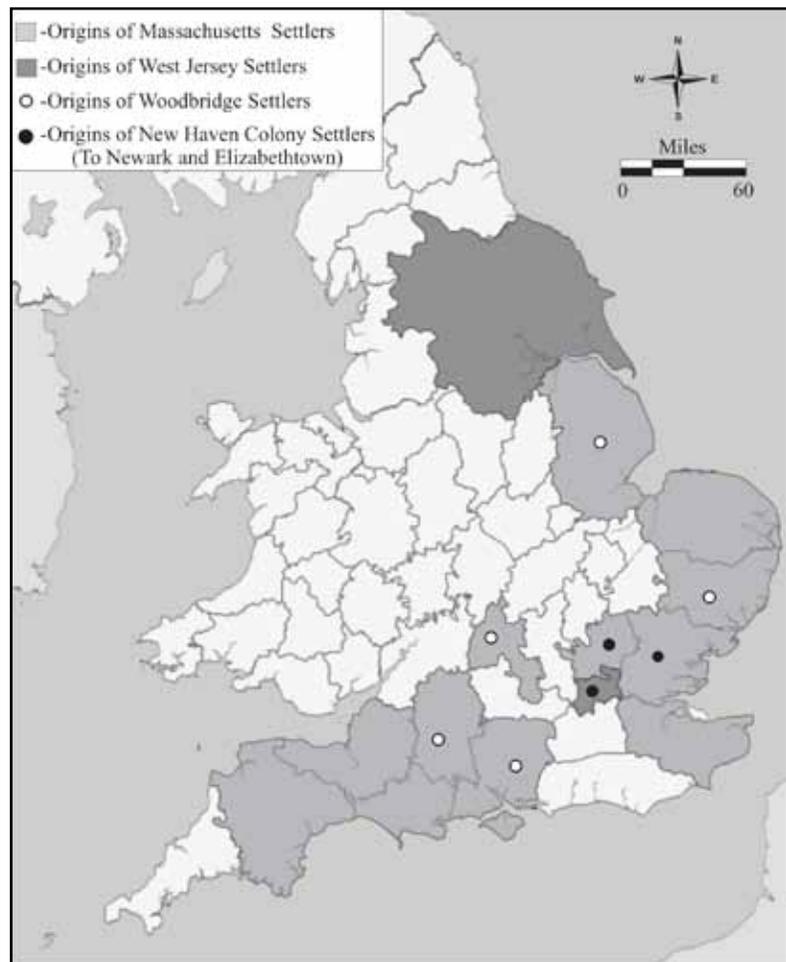


Figure 2. Map Showing English County Origins of Initial East and West Jersey English Settlers (After Fischer 1989:32, 440) (Drawing by Michael J. Gall).

populated the towns (Barber and Howe 1847:323). Anabaptists eventually dominated in Piscataway by the eighteenth century (Gifford 1944: 12). The initial freeholders were generally comprised of the lower gentry and included a variety of tradesmen, husbandmen, and planters, who sought the opportunity to re-settle in New Jersey for a variety of reasons (Hood 1996:126).

ENGLISH AND NEW ENGLAND SETTLEMENT SYSTEMS

During the early seventeenth-century, traditional agrarian community settlement patterns in southern and southeastern England, such as Charlgrove in eastern Oxfordshire, were based on open field plans with compact or nucleated towns (Hood 1996:126). The vernacular open field townscape pattern often consisted of tightly clustered house lots arranged along one or more highways, or clustered in rectangular ranges. Common land shared and utilized by townsmen surrounded the nucleated settlement and was often administered by the manor. Each resident paid a yearly rent and was permitted to farm one or more non-contiguous, unfenced narrow strips scattered throughout the town. The open field strips rotated between townsmen. Commons were also situated in meadows and uplands for the production of hay, animal pasture, building timber, and fuel. The open field system was heavily reliant on manorial administration, stem family units (whereby the eldest son works a farm, stays with his family, and inherits his father's land), and the inheritance system of primogeniture, by which the eldest son is bequeathed his father's estate while his siblings are left without a share. In England, the system of primogeniture or common law prevailed until the late seventeenth century. However, a form of partible inheritance known as gravelkind was utilized in Kent County much earlier (Alston and Schapiro 1984: 277; Homans 1937:48-56; Pitkin 1961:69).

This settlement form stood in stark contrast to the agriculturally productive and more economically efficient enclosed field system, which generally

consisted of large, fenced, single-family farmsteads or farm tracts dispersed across the countryside. In this system, greater emphasis was placed on the family unit rather than the community (Greven 1970:57). The nucleated village in both settlement systems was capable of supporting a variety of craft trade pursuits. By the early seventeenth century, enclosed field systems began to gain popularity in England, particularly in southeastern England after the Protestant Reformation (Hopcroft 1997:166-167). By the mid-seventeenth century, New England towns increasingly adopted enclosed field system townscapes.

A major influence in the change from communal to individualistic land systems or from open to enclosed field systems was a change in family structure from stem to joint families, whereby all or most sons remained in the household until adulthood. At this time, inheritance norms in New England also shifted from primogeniture to partible inheritance, as fathers, particularly among lower gentry Puritan households, found it increasingly fruitful to enact a more equitable division of personal and real property to sibling heirs. Historian G. Warden (1978:686-687) argues that Puritan clergymen in Germany and the Netherlands were exposed to partible inheritance civil laws through social interactions prior to the 1630s and disseminated the idea to their followers. Given its sound basis in scripture, many English Puritans readily accepted partible inheritance. The colonial political, economic, cultural, and religious environment in New England, as well as its removal from heavy-handed oversight in England, provided an experimental landscape that facilitated the adoption and implementation of partible inheritance on a large scale (Warden 1978:687). The political atmosphere also granted town founders the liberty to experiment with a new settlement form: the township corporation, which consisted of land shareholders and investors (i.e., freeholders, associates, and inhabitants) who financed town creation and controlled access to town land and government. These individuals owned the rights to town land. Upon majority votes, town land (known as commons or common land) was equally subdivided

among the associates, enabling all to get parcels equal in value or size, though sometimes their share was relative to their role or financial outlay as a founder. Membership as an associate was closely guarded and their numbers were strictly controlled. Unlike non-freeholders, otherwise known as residents or strangers, associates had the right to vote and serve as appointed officials.

The township corporation model employed in New England, and later transferred to East New Jersey, enabled township associates to acquire land in greater portions and value than possible in England. The model permitted partible inheritance practices and the division of economically profitable tracts to heirs. Equal division of owned land not only provided heirs with an advantage as they entered adulthood, but, as Beranek (2012:84) describes, also fulfilled moral and masculine responsibilities among fathers. In an effort to implement changes in inheritance and limit the continued use of primogeniture, laws ensuring partible inheritance were enacted in the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1641 and later in Woodbridge in 1729 (Woodbridge Board of Freeholders 1937). These fundamental changes necessitated ownership of larger, enclosed land parcels that remained economically productive after subdivision, a change that directly influenced town development and settlement patterns in New England and later in parts of New Jersey.

Initially, the vernacular open field townscape plan was earnestly transferred to New England by many English settlers during the Great Migration, in an attempt to re-create English towns in the New World (Garrison 1991: 18-19; Garvan 1951:42-61; Greven 1970:42-43). The open fields were, however, difficult to administer and the system was largely abandoned as the enclosed field system was favored, though some elements of the open field system survived. The greater availability of land in New England, the absence of manorialism, and the large size of families prompted town founders to allocate town property to other associates as large enclosed lots with diversified economic, resource, and production value (Breen and Foster 1973a:194-196).

Within two to three decades after settlement, the opportunity to enact more egalitarian forms of testate and intestate inheritance and land subdivision among associates led to the rapid adoption of enclosed field settlement forms (Anderson 1985:346-356; Hopcroft 1997:158-181; Pitkin 1961:67-69). This shift resulted in marked New England settlement transformations between the 1640s and 1660s. The shift was accelerated by partible inheritance intestate laws that aimed to stimulate land acquisition and development by creating the impetus for town commons subdivision and the creation of enclosed farms (Greven 1970:43; Haskins 1942:1281-1282). As a result, town plans were increasingly characterized by enclosed tracts dispersed beyond the compact towns and areas of common land that could still be utilized by townsmen. In several cases, the initially created nucleated town lot plan remained intact, and aided in the retention of control and order, social hierarchies, and religious coherence within communities, particularly as town associates could accept or deny the inclusion of non-freeholders into their community, and reserved the right to expel those who endangered aims toward cultural purity. The compact village form was an oft-replicated functional vernacular town plan with significant cultural meaning that instilled important nostalgic reminders of lifeways back in England and solidified freeholders' power in the New World (Fischer 1989:55; Lewis 1985:10; Wood 1986:54). Compact town forms would have also provided with a modicum of protection against dangers both real and imagined.

Within towns, community members interacted with one another daily, both in leisure and work, strengthening social relations. In an effort to retain the social, religious, and cultural cohesion within compact communities, town associates often discouraged settlement on outlying farm or clustered field tracts beyond specified distances from the village center. Town associates attempted this by issuing fines to families who relocated, and refusing or delaying subdivision of land held in common (Boyer and Nissenbaum 1974; Greven 1970:55). Regardless, the now-enclosed former common fields continued

to be settled and eventually developed into new villages, with their own administrative and religious institutions. The subdivisions resulted in decentralization of church and town associates' power, and a reduction in a town's land and raw resources.

Inability to acquire enough land to enable equitable inheritance prompted many to seek new opportunities elsewhere, which was exacerbated by a high reproduction rates among families. After roughly 20 years of occupation in Andover, Massachusetts, by 1662 most town associates, including two later Woodbridge associates, were given between 122 and 213 acres including a house lot, upland accommodations, and highly valuable marshland (Greven 1970:58). Those of greater social standing, capital wealth, or community role often received more land, though generally still within accepted norms, and used their allotment as a land bank to bequeath to their heirs, solidifying social hierarchy among families (Greven 1970:45). However, low acreage allotments for many in Essex County, Massachusetts and the possibility of gaining much larger land holdings through resettlement to ensure a family's future stability, was an important reason for emigration to New Jersey during the 1660s (Greven 1970:64). The desire to relocate was exacerbated by concerns over religious discrimination as town associates sought greater cultural homogeneity, and dissatisfaction with local law bodies intensified, particularly among non-freeholders (Lee 1912:216; Monnette 1930:69-77). Others, simply sought land as a capitalistic venture, but elected to remain in New England or return after short stints elsewhere. This was certainly the case with Daniel Pierce, Sr., who helped found Woodbridge and Piscataway. After a brief four-year stay in New Jersey to acquire and sell land, Pierce returned to his New England home, but left a family legacy in land behind (Beaudry 1995:19-50). His New England home, the Spencer-Pierce-Little house, was later the site of extensive excavations by Mary Beaudry.

LAND SYSTEM TRANSFER AND MODIFICATION

By the mid-1660s, New Englanders began a process of land settlement in Piscataway and Woodbridge shortly after English capture of the Dutch colony of New Netherland in 1664 and the acquisition of the 500,000-acre Elizabethtown Patent by several associates in December later that year (Pomfret 1964:3). On February 10, 1665, after gaining control of New Jersey, Lord John Berkeley and Sir George Carteret created the *Concessions and Agreements*, a liberal document devised to entice English subjects from Long Island and New England to re-settle in New Jersey. Settlers from these areas soon received word of the document, and some flocked to the colony (Leonard 1898:38). By May 1666, the area encompassing Woodbridge was purchased by John Pike, Andrew Tappan, and Daniel Pierce, Sr. to satisfy the arrival of settlers from Newbury, Massachusetts (Pomfret 1964:10). At the end of May, an agreement of articles outlining the terms of settlement was created, which included liberty for associates to devise their own town plans and freedom of religious consciousness. With the agreement in place, Pierce capitalized on the first article and subdivided his share to form two towns or corporations by selling 40,000 acres to four New Englanders from the Puritan-dominated Piscataqua River area in late 1666, who formed Piscataway (Colonial Conveyances 1666; Lee 1912:216; Scot 1846: 277).

By 1668, the Piscataway and Woodbridge associates began a process of enclosed field land subdivision to other freeholders. In a process to create culturally and morally homogeneous communities, the character of other prospective freeholders was vetted before acceptance into the association (Breen and Foster 1973b:10-13; Mrozek 1971). Efforts in Woodbridge were later made in 1692 to prohibit the poor from gaining freeholder status and creating a lingering economic burden on other associated who were responsible for pay the tax on commons not yet subdivided (Mrozek 1971:11). Thus, freeholders' role in land administration was utilized to instill social, religious, economic, and cultural order,

a process supported by the creation of familiar New England-style nucleated communities. After arrival, each associate received a 10- to 20-acre house lot in the town, and three to four accommodations consisting of small meadow lots and upland tracts containing between 60 to 120 acres. The upland tracts were placed in clustered ranges to the south or west beyond the nucleated town core. In Woodbridge, these ranges were known by several different plain or farm names (e.g., Chestnut Plain, Rahway Farms, Langster's Plain, and Barren Plain) in a pattern similar to that seen in England and New England. The plain and farm names connoted areas intended for enclosed fields. Conversely, the term field would have connoted areas intended for open field use. Subsequent settlement on the plan or farm ranges often resulted in its subdivision and the new settlement assuming the farm or plain's name. For example, Rahway Farms in the northern portion of Woodbridge became Rahway, though Langster's Plain or Farm became the village of Metuchen by the mid-eighteenth century.

In a similar fashion to the open field system, an individual's parcels were often initially scattered throughout the town, and most upland accommodations remained unimproved by the first generation of settlers until needed by their heirs (Mrozek 1971). The method proved problematic and by the 1680s and 1690s many town associates engaged in a practice of land exchanges with one another to consolidate dispersed tracts into single larger holdings (Mrozek 1971:10). Regardless, town associates recognized the importance of relatively egalitarian land division, and each townsman received a diversified portfolio of land types to satisfy different land use requirements. Those who provided a greater financial or service outlay in the town's establishment, however, generally received greater accommodation acreage. In an effort to thwart families with large holdings from gaining more common land allowed them as freeholders, town associates barred the sons of wealthy landholders from claims to such land when admitted as inhabitants. This restriction left more common land available for small and moderate landholders and their heirs during lat-

er common land subdivisions and aimed to promote partible inheritance among the wealthy. The efforts of this subdivision had effects on the nucleated towns in both communities, which retained their character into the second quarter of the nineteenth century (Dunham 1766, United States Coast Survey 1844-1845).

By 1677, at least thirty-nine male landholders and their families made Piscataway their home (Monnette 1931: 351-355; East Jersey Proprietors 1677). All of the deeds for the initial settlers prior to the 1680s were examined, some of which could be plotted based on references in the early deeds to known points in the town, such as the common greens or areas of common town use (Figure 3). Examination of house lot deeds indicate that Piscataway residents settled on house lots arranged in ranges north of a main highway connecting to Woodbridge opposite a large, 10 to 15-acre triangular common green. Houses on the lots likely fronted the highways. The common green contained a burial ground, town house, stocks, gaol, pound, ammunition magazine, church, and served as pasture land and a militia training ground (Brush et al. 1964:3; East Jersey Proprietors 1696). This green was also the center of civic, religious, and military activity within the town, and provided pasture for inhabitants' livestock. A second, rectangular oxen pasture field was situated north of the main road. Several other irregularly-shaped house lots encircled the large town common. Use of common land for animal pasture indicates animal husbandry was important within the community. The presence of common pasturage in the town is not surprising for two reasons. First, many areas of England initially characterized by enclosed fields were areas dominated by pastoralism, and, second, husbandmen dominated among English immigrants to New England, many of whom later removed to New Jersey (Anderson 1985:366; Hopcroft 1997:161).

Further east, the nucleated town of Woodbridge was much larger based on mapped seventeenth-century house lots (Figures 4 and 5). There, town associates created a nucleated settlement by positioning

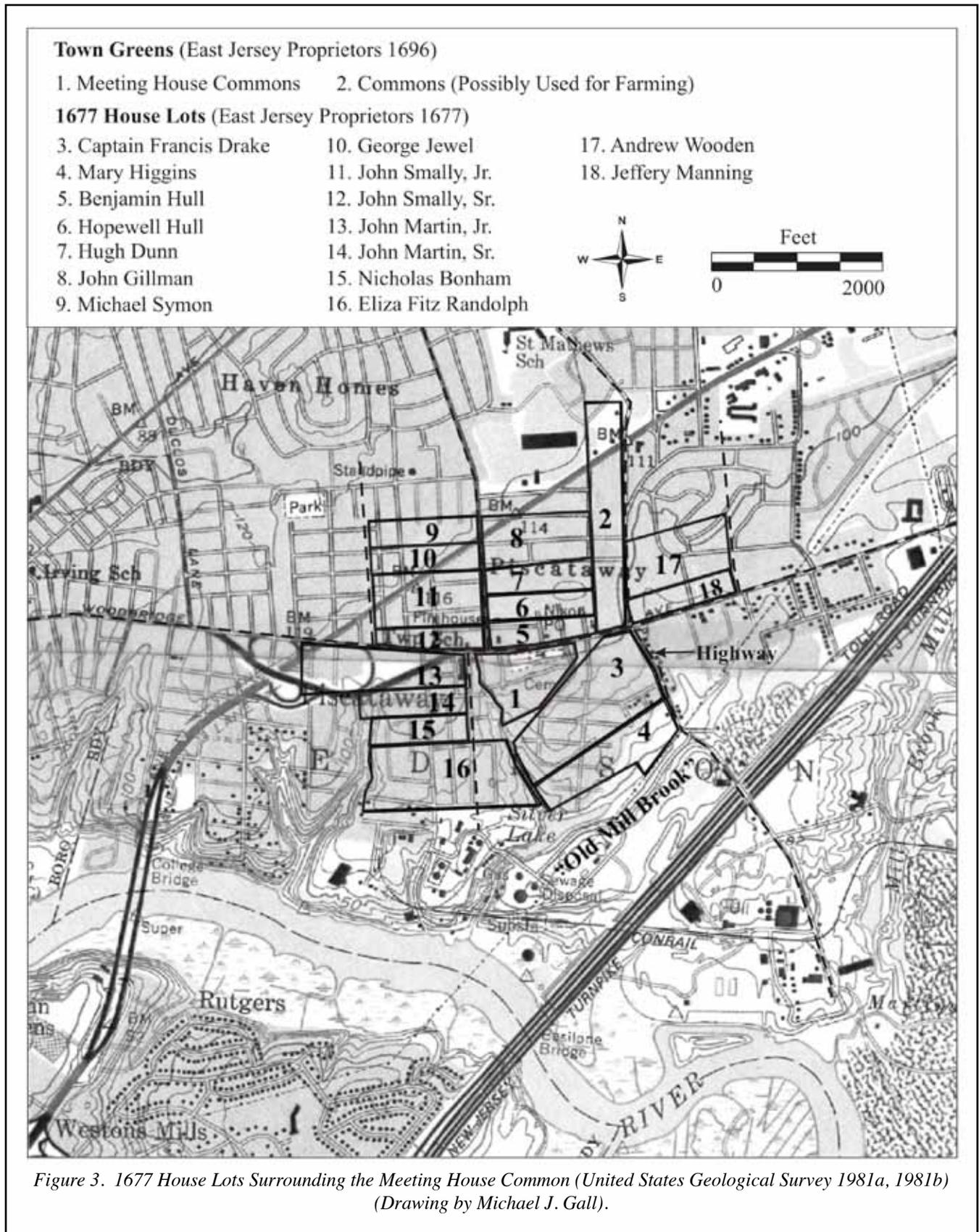


Figure 4. Map Showing Approximate Locations of House Lots, Meadow Lots, Upland Accommodations Allotted to the Initial Settlers between 1668 and 1676. This Map also shows Meeting House and Sheep Pasture Commons, and Land Allocated to Perth Amboy and East Jersey Deputy Governor Thomas Rudyard. Note, some parcels could not be plotted. (Drawing by Michael J. Gall).

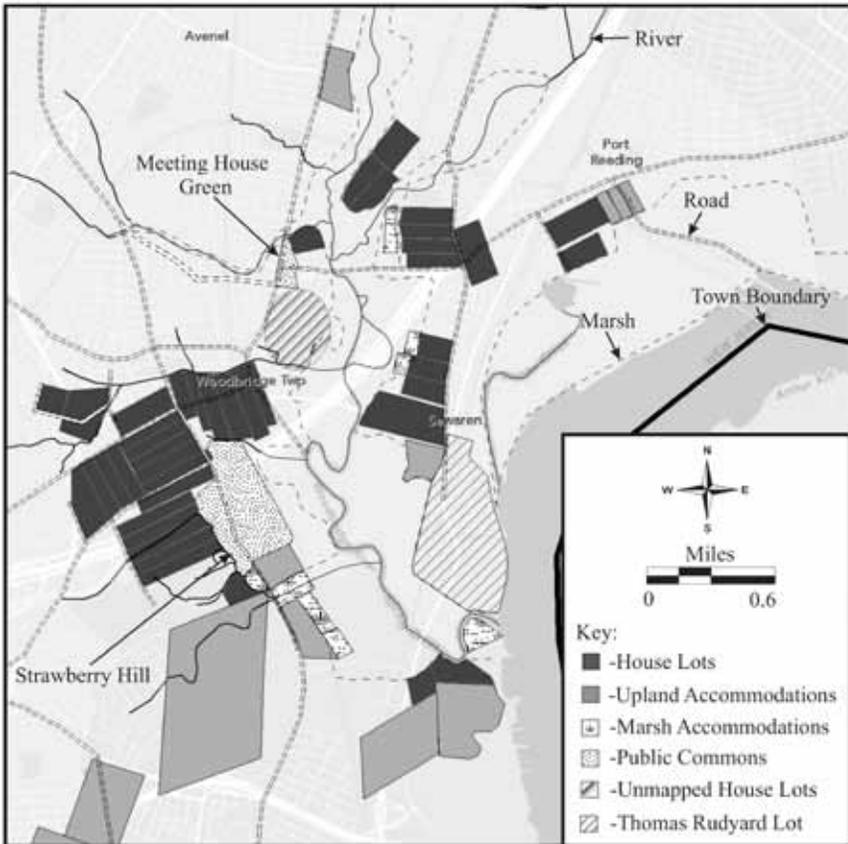
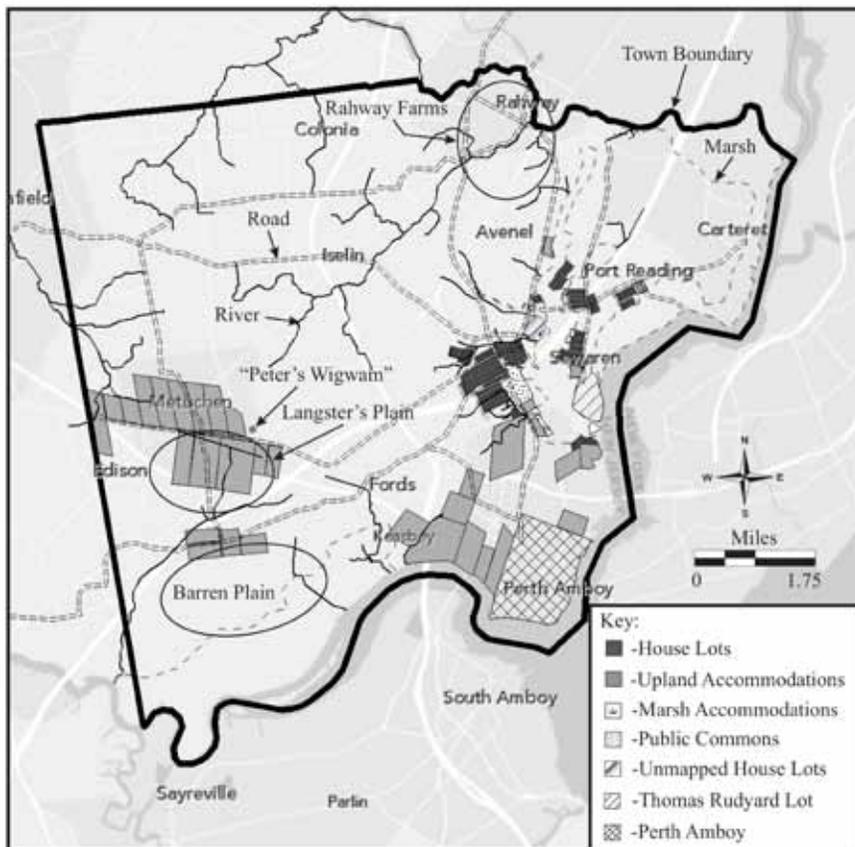


Figure 5. Detail map of Approximate House Lot Locations Given to Some of the Initial Settlers between 1668 and 1676. This Map also shows Meeting House and Sheep Pasture Commons, and Land Allocated to East Jersey Deputy Governor Thomas Rudyard. Note, some parcels could not be plotted. (Drawing by Michael J. Gall).

elongated house lots in ranges east and west of the Woodbridge Creek (formerly known as Papiack Creek) and adjacent to highways. Of the initial 70 associates granted land between 1668 and 1676, the house lots for 42 settlers could be roughly mapped based on the metes and bound descriptions in the deeds, such as river confluences, highways, town boundaries, and town greens. Some marsh or meadow lots and large upland accommodation lots could also be mapped. In particular, 19 upland accommodations located at Langster's Plain or Farm generally consisted of 60-, 120, 180, and 240-acre tracts. Fourteen of the 19 upland accommodation lots have been roughly plotted in the western portion of the town. While not a complete mapping of the initial lot distribution, the arrangement and location of the lots that could be roughly mapped provides a glimpse of the land distribution system used and sought by the town freeholders in the initial years of occupation.

In the first division of town land alone between 1668 and 1676, the original 70 associates were granted between 15 and 512 acres. Three individuals received less than 88 acres and the average person was given 128 acres. This land was in addition to 240 acres promised to the initial nine settlers. Eight subsequent divisions of common land by Woodbridge associates between 1700 and 1758 resulted in more than 103 additional acres granted to each eligible associate, greatly increasing the quantity of land held by families (Dally 1873:147-149; Wacker 1975:260). Thus, in the first year of settlement, Woodbridge associates obtained more land than New Englanders received in over 20 years of settlement in some towns like Andover, enabling families to subdivide their property and pass economically productive estates to heirs (Greven 1970:58).

To confine settlement and prevent unwanted township divisions, Woodbridge associates limited land division in 1669 to areas within one mile of three points in the compact village (Dally 1873:40). To serve their collective needs, associates also established several commons, including a large sheep pasture known as Strawberry Hill. In a similar vein,

in 1707 associates converted several commons into open fields to be planted with grain crops (Woodbridge Board of Freeholders 1937). Clearly, elements of open field settlement were not abandoned wholesale within the enclosed field towns.

In 1683, the southeastern portion of Woodbridge was divided off to form the City of Perth Amboy. This city was planned by the Scottish East Jersey Proprietors as the proprietary capital of East Jersey. Initially envisioned to contain an enormous defensive fort overlooking the Arthur Kill to the east and Raritan River to the south, the fort was to be bounded to the north and west by property lots. Plans to construct the fort never manifested. Instead, Perth Amboy was developed as a port community with a gridded street plan surrounding a central town market square. The form of the Perth Amboy settlement was dissimilar to that of the corporate towns nearby.

Today, the nucleated Piscataway village, like that of Woodbridge, contains dense 20th-century commercial and residential development. In Piscataway, the municipally-developed town commons remains largely intact as a landscape feature in an otherwise suburbanized portion of the Township. It is one of notably few extant New England-type commons in the state. This commons, and the original house lots that surround it have the potential to yield significant data about the material culture and built landscape in seventeenth-century Piscataway. Similarly, an understanding of settlement locations in Woodbridge may aid future archaeological research and the identification of archaeological deposits associated with the town's earliest settlers. In a similar vein, a close examination of the street system reveals several of the highways installed during the 1660s and 1670s in both towns also remain extant, providing an inconspicuous reminder of the original nucleated communities in the neighboring township corporations. With marked post-mid-nineteenth-century landscape transformation from intensified development, understanding the nature of seventeenth-century town settlement and land use in Piscataway and Woodbridge can aid

in pin-pointing archaeological deposits associated with the nucleated communities that may still exist. Several early structures also exist in the town, including the brick home owned by Jonathan Dunham just east of the original meeting house green. There, archaeological testing in the form of shovel test pits and excavation units encountered archaeological evidence consistent with a late seventeenth- or very early eighteenth-century occupation (Richard Veit, personal communication 2014). Understanding early settlement patterns undoubtedly aids in creating a context and research design for locating other early aspects of and archaeological resources associated with the settlement. Just east of Dunham's house, Hunter Research, Inc. (2005) recorded extant structural elements associated with his mill on the Woodbridge Creek. Additionally, this author conducted archaeological investigations on the extant, neighboring Piscataway meeting house green, where the archaeological remains of a gaol, ammunition magazine, stocks, and meeting house have the potential to survive intact (Gall 2009). The identification of Old World and New England settlement patterns in the state strongly suggests other cultural patterns were likely transferred through resettlement, such as foodways, consumer behavior, taskscape use, and architectural forms. Further, this study indicates that archaeologists in the state should look to the towns of origin for early settlers to provide guidance for future archaeological research and interpretation in New Jersey.

CONCLUSIONS

By gaining insight into the cultural traditions practiced by English immigrants to the New World, one gains insight to the ways in which those traditions manifested in the formation of diverse cultural identities across the New Jersey landscape. Even among the English, different regional cultural traditions were practiced and transferred across the Atlantic. The newly formed "American" identities were further transformed through contact with and marriage between other ethnic groups, such as

the Dutch and Swedes, who also established settlements in the state during the seventeenth century. By examining the meaning and function associated with vernacular landscapes on a broad scale, we arrive at a more nuanced understanding of the roles ideology, family structure, inheritance, religion, community, desires for cultural cohesion, and both commercial and agricultural systems played in the lives of the state's seventeenth-century inhabitants. Information obtained through the lens of townscape studies can be used to better inform archaeological interpretations of individual sites identified within a community. This information also creates a stronger link between identified sites and the broader regions in which they are contained (Kolb and Snead 1997:612; Lewis 1999:3-13).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Special thanks is given to thank Philip Hayden, architectural historian at Richard Grubb & Associates, Inc., for providing insight into New England settlement patterns. The staff of the New Jersey State Archives is thanked for research assistance. Mark Nonestied, Director of Exhibits & Public Programs at the East Jersey Olde Town Village, and Walter Stochel of the Metuchen-Edison Historical Society are thanked for providing funding for research pertaining to the Piscataway commons. Christopher Matthews, Ph.D., Richard Veit, Ph.D., and Peter Siegel, Ph.D. are thanked for providing comments on an earlier draft of this article and for including an abbreviated version of this paper in the New Jersey session at the 2013 Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology conference held in Newark, Delaware. The efforts of ASNJ Bulletin editor James Lee are appreciated in seeing this article through to print.

REFERENCES

- Alston, Lee J. and Morton Owen Schapiro
1984 Inheritance Laws Across Colonies: Causes and Consequences. *Journal of Economic History* 44(2):277-287.

- Anderson, Virginia DeJohn
1985 Migrants and Motives: Religion and the Settlement of New England, 1630-1640. *The New England Quarterly* 58(3):339-383.
- Barber, John W., and Henry Howe
1847 *Historical Collections of the State of New Jersey; Containing a General Collection of the Most Interesting Facts, Traditions, Biographical Selections, Anecdotes, Etc. Relating to the History and Antiquities, with Geographical Descriptions of Every Township in the State, Illustrated by 190 Engravings*. S. Tuttle, New York.
- Barton, Christopher P.
2013 It Takes a Village: Archaeology and Identity at Timbuctoo. In *Historical Archaeology of the Delaware Valley, 1600-1850*, edited by Richard Veit and David Orr, pp. 375-392. University of Tennessee Press, Knoxville.
- Beaudry, Mary C. (editor)
1993 *Documentary Archaeology in the New World*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.
- Beaudry, Mary C.
1995 Scratching the Surface: Seven Seasons at the Spencer-Peirce-Little Farm, Newbury, Massachusetts. *Northeast Historical Archaeology* 24:19-50.
- Beranek, Christa M.
2012 Ethnicity, Masculinity, and Lineage: The Cultural Biography of a Colonia Massachusetts Parcel of Land. *Historical Archaeology* 46(2):75-90.
- Boyer, Paul, and Stephen Nissenbaum
1974 *Salem Possessed: The Social Origins of Witchcraft*. Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts.
- Breen, Timothy H., and Stephen Foster
1973a Moving to the New World: The Character of Early Massachusetts Immigration. *William and Mary Quarterly* 30(2):189-222.
1973b The Puritans' Greatest Achievement: A Study of Social Cohesion in Seventeenth-Century Massachusetts. *The Journal of American History* 60(1):5-22.
- Brush, John E., Donald Sinclair, and Edward Shippee
1964 *The Piscataway Book: Minutes of Town Meetings and Records of Elections 1683-1933*. Transcription. Manuscript on file, Rutgers University Library, Special Collections, New Brunswick, New Jersey.
- Burrow, Ian
2013 On the Brink(dorp): The Archaeology and Landscape of the Fortified Dutch Village of Bergen, Jersey City. Presented at the Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology Conference, University of Delaware, Newark
- Colonial Conveyances
1666 Daniel Pierce to John Martin, Hugh Dunn, Charles Gillman, and Hopewell Hull (Liber 1:Folio 20), December 18, 1666. On file, New Jersey State Archives, Trenton.
- Dally, Joseph W.
1873 *Woodbridge and Vicinity. The Story of a New Jersey Township, Embracing the History of Woodbridge, Piscataway, Metuchen and Contiguous Places, from the Earliest Times; the History of the Different Ecclesiastical Bodies; Important Official Documents Relating to the Township, Etc.* A. E. Gordon, New Brunswick, New Jersey.
- Dunham, Azariah
1766 NB by Az. Dunham in 1766. On file, Special Collections, Alexander Library, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey.
- East Jersey Proprietors
1677 Carteret's Conveyances, Liber II, Part II, Folio 71-87. On file, New Jersey State Archives, Trenton.
1696 Board of the Proprietors of East Jersey to the Town of Piscataway, October 1696. Survey Liber E, Folio 413-414. On file, New Jersey State Archives, Trenton.
- Fischer, David Hackett
1989 *Albion's Seed: Four British Folkways in America*. Oxford University Press, New York.
- Gall, Michael J.
2009 The Piscataway Commons: A History of Town Land Use in Piscataway Village. Report prepared for the Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission, New Brunswick, New Jersey. Manuscript on file, Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission, New Brunswick, New Jersey.

- Garrison, J. Ritchie
 1991 *Landscape and Material Live in Franklin County, Massachusetts, 1770-1860*. University of Tennessee Press, Knoxville.
- Garvan, Anthony N. B.
 1951 *Architecture and Town Planning in Colonial Connecticut*. Yale University Press, New Haven.
- Gifford, Henry Hale
 1944 Manuscript of the Rev. Henry Hale Gifford, B.D., Ph.D. In *The Story of St. James' Church, Piscataway, New Jersey and the Neighborhood*, by W. E. Phillips, Unpublished Manuscript. Rutgers University Library, Special Collections, New Brunswick, New Jersey.
- Greven, Jr., Philip J.
 1970 *Four Generations: Population, Land, and Family in Colonial Andover, Massachusetts*. Cornell University Press, Ithaca, New York.
- Haskins, George L.
 1942 The Beginnings of Partible Inheritance in the American Colonies. *The Yale Law Journal* 58(8):1280-1315.
- Homans, George C.
 1937 Partible Inheritance of Villagers' Holdings. *Economic History Review* 8(1):48-56).
- Hood, J. Edward
 1996 Social Relations and the Cultural Landscape. In *Landscape Archaeology: Reading and Interpreting the American Historical Landscape*, edited by Rebecca Yamin and Karen Bescherer Metheny, pp. 121-146. University of Tennessee Press, Knoxville.
- Hopcroft, Rosemary L.
 1997 Rural Organization and Receptivity to Protestantism in Sixteenth-Century Europe. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 36(2):158-181.
- Hunter Research, Inc.
 2005 Cultural Resource Investigations, Woodbridge Creek Mitigation Site, New York and New Jersey Harbor Navigation Project, Woodbridge Township, Middlesex County, New Jersey. Interim Report. Prepared for, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District. Manuscript on file, New Jersey Historic Preservation Office, Trenton.
- 2011 Archaeological Data Recovery Excavation and Monitoring, New Jersey Route 29, City of Trenton, Mercer County, New Jersey, Volumes I-V. Prepared for, New Jersey Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration. Manuscript on file, New Jersey Historic Preservation Office, Trenton.
- 2012 The Apple Tree/Van Wegenan House, 298 Academy Street, Bergen Square, City of Jersey City, Hudson County, New Jersey, Archaeological Investigations (2006-2010), ADA Ramp, Porch Construction, and Interior and Exterior Restoration. Prepared for Holt Morgan Russell Architects, City of Jersey City. Manuscript on file, New Jersey Historic Preservation Office, Trenton.
- Kolb, Michael J., and James E. Snead
 1997 It's a Small World After All: Comparative Analysis of Community Organization in Archaeology. *American Antiquity* 62(4):609-628.
- Langhorne, Henry and Lawrence E. Babits
 1993 Anthropological Title Searches in Rockbridge County, Virginia. In *Documentary Archaeology in the New World*, edited by Mary C. Beaudry, pp. 132-137. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.
- Lee, Francis Bazley
 1912 *New Jersey As A Colony and as a State, One of the Original Thirteen*. Biographical Volume. The Publishing Society of New Jersey, New York, New York.
- Leonard, O. B.
 1898 Pioneer Planters of Piscataway, N.J., During the First Half Century of Their Settlement, 1666-1716. In *The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record* 29(1):38-42.
- Lewis, Kenneth E.
 1999 The Metropolis and the Backcountry: The Making of a Colonia Landscape on the South Carolina Frontier. *Historical Archaeology* 33(3):3-13.
- Lewis, Thomas R.
 1985 The Landscape and Environment of the Connecticut River Valley. In *The Great River: Art and Society of the Connecticut Valley, 1635-1820*, edited by Gerald W. R. Ward, and William N. Hosley, Jr., pp. 3-15. Wadsworth Antheneum, Hartford, Connecticut.

- Monnette, Orra Eugene
1930 *First Settlers of Ye Plantations of Piscataway and Woodbridge Olde East New Jersey, 1664-1714, A Period of Fifty Years*. Part One. The Leroy Carman Press, Los Angeles.
- Mrozek, Donald J.
1971 The Distribution of Land in Seventeenth-Century Woodbridge, New Jersey. *The Journal of the Rutgers University Library* 35(1):1-14.
- Pitkin, Donald S.
1961 Partible Inheritance and the Open Fields. *Agricultural History* 35(2):65-69.
- Pomfret, John E.
1964 *The New Jersey Proprietors and Their Lands, 1664-1776*. Van Nostrand, Princeton.
- Scot, George
1846 *The Model of the Government of the Province of East Jersey in America*. Reprinted from Original 1685. New Jersey Historical Society, Newark.
- Sheridan, Janet L.
2012 Marshalltown: Reconstructing a Fragmentary Historic Black Settlement. Presented at the New Jersey Historic Preservation Conference, Rider University, Lawrenceville, New Jersey.
- Thomas, Julian
2012 Archaeologies of Place and Landscape. In *Archaeological Theory Today*, 2nd Edition, edited by Ian Hodder, pp. 165-186. Polity Press, Cambridge, England.
- Tomaso, Matthew S., Richard F. Veit, Carissa A. DeRooy, and Stanley L. Walling
2006 Social Status and Landscape in a Nineteenth-Century Planned Industrial Alternative Community: Archaeology and Geography of Feltville, New Jersey. *Historical Archaeology* 40(1):20-36.
- United States Coastal Survey
1844-45 Map of New York Bay and Harbor and the Environs. United States Coastal Survey, Washington, D.C.
- United States Geological Survey
1981a 7.5' Quadrangle: New Brunswick, N.J. (1954; Photorevised 1981).
- 1981b 7.5' Quadrangle: Plainfield, N.J. (1955; Photorevised 1981).
- Wacker, Peter O.
1975 *Land and People: A Cultural Geography of Preindustrial New Jersey: Origins and Settlement Patterns*. Rutgers University Press, New Brunswick, New Jersey.
- Warden, G. B.
1978 Law Reform in England and New England, 1620 to 1660. *William and Mary Quarterly* 35(4):668-690.
- Wood, Joseph S.
1986 The New England Village as an American Vernacular Form. *Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture* 2:54-63.
- Woodbridge Board of Freeholders
1937 *A Book Belonging to the Freeholders of the Town of Woodbridge- 1707*. Copied by the New Jersey Historical Records Survey.
- Veit, Richard and Michael J. Gall
2013 "He Will Be a Bourgeois American and Spend His Fortune in Making Gardens": An Archaeological Examination of Joseph Bonaparte's Point Breeze Estate. In *Historical Archaeology of the Delaware Valley, 1600-1850*, edited by Richard Veit and David Orr, pp. 297-322. University of Tennessee Press, Knoxville.
- Yamin, Rebecca
2001 Rediscovering Raritan Landing: An Adventure in New Jersey Archaeology. Prepared for the New Jersey Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration.
- Yentsch, Anne Elizabeth
1996 Introduction: Close Attention to Place---Landscape Studies by Historical Archaeologists. In *Landscape Archaeology: Reading and Interpreting the American Historical Landscape*, edited by Rebecca Yamin and Karen Bersherer Metheny, pp. xxii-xliii. University of Tennessee Press, Knoxville.