Some Theories and Thoughts About

John Brown of Deptford Township, NJ

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Rev 3

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Acknowledgements: A good deal of the research on this subject was conducted by and shared by T. K. O'Hare. Her work as well as her insights have provided a basis for my own observations, and I thank her.

NOTE: This is a draft document and contains only my own analysis, conjecture, and opinion. It should not be considered proof of anything at this point.

This article talks about my own unproven ideas. Two working theories talked about here are:

- Each John Brown (there were three from 1731-1736) lived on a different creek: Timber Creek, Woodbury Creek, and Mantua Creek
- Two John Brown's (1731-JB and CharityChew+JB) were connected via the cloth business (sheep to wool to cloth).

In addition, here are some wonderings about the possible scenarios for the father of My John Brown[1]

1. Trudy is correct – our John Brown was the son of John Brown of Upton. That means My John Brown was very young when he handled his father's inventory. It also means that the John Brown who married Charity Chew and gave his fulling mill to George Ward (of Upton) is somebody not related to us.

   Even if this hypothesis is correct, there were still possibly as many as three John Brown's alive in Gloucester County between 1700-1736. Which records between these years citing John Brown can be attributed to which person with that name?

2. I am correct in thinking the Upton Brown's are not related to us. That leaves us two other John Brown's of Deptford, one died 1731 and the other died 1736. 1731-JB did not have sons and 1736-JB did, so it seems clear which one is ours. But we still don't know who the father of each JB was. Putting that question aside for the moment, how do we tell 1731-JB and 1736-JB apart in the records? Seems to me the collateral names mentioned in their probate records help to determine where they were at time of death.
   - For 1736-JB (My JB):
     - Rambo name connected to Mantua Creek
     - Alexander Randall connected to Presbyterian Church in Woodbury
     - Possible movements for this JB:

1Noting that this discussion is all about persons of the name John Brown, but we don't know My John Brown's father was named John at all.

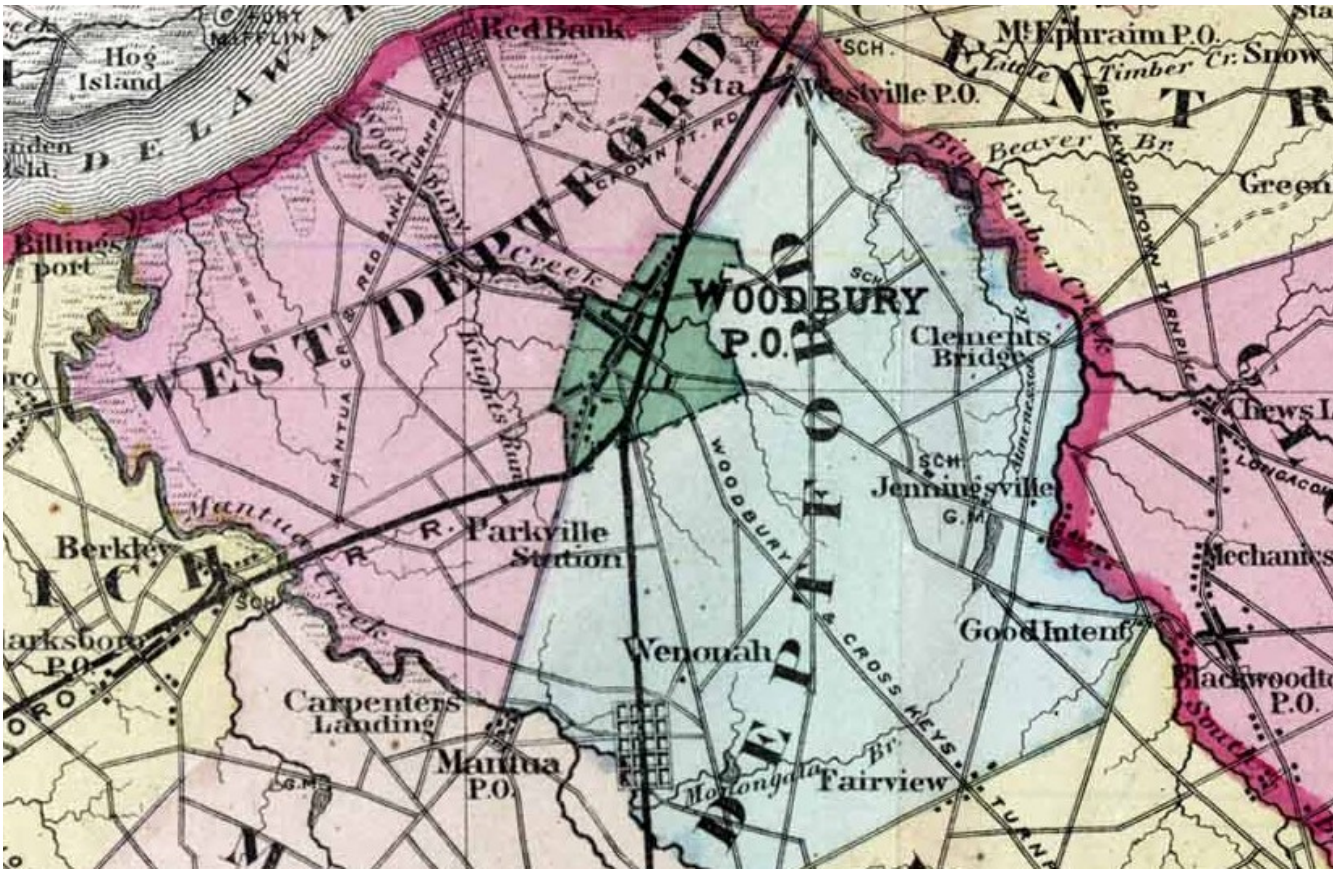
- lived on Woodbury Creek, then moved to Mantua Creek
- always lived on Mantua Creek, and only Mantua Creek
- lived on Mantua Creek but also owned property up on or near Woodbury Creek

- For 1731-JB:
  - Debt owed to John Brown Fuller – probably Upton Brown's. Could mean that this JB was related to them, or if he was not, that he also had connections to the cloth business (see Brown-Wood Connections)
  - Debt also owed to: George Ward and George Ward Jr. (believe this to be "George Brown alias Ward" and son?), as well as Thomas Chew, mentioned in Charity's will as a brother.
  - Location within Deptford Twp less well known, so by default I wonder if references to Woodbury Creek belong to him. Also found reference that Woodbury Creek was also called Red Bank Creek, so wonder if the conveyance referring to "Upper Red Bank" might refer to Woodbury Creek? In this case, his wife was named Ann and he acquired land from John Ladd in 1688/9 – also associated with weavers.

3. Neither of us is correct, and My John Brown who married Phebe Chatfield migrated into Gloucester County from some place else where he lived and raised his family and died. In this case, we might never know where he came from or who his parents were.

Creeks Theory

First, we need to understand that Deptford was not a town, but a township, which was formed in 1695. The following map dates from 1872 but gives a general idea of the area (I believe West Deptford was part of Deptford in the early times).



On this map you can see:

Big Timber Creek, previously called Gloucester River running along the north and east side of the township,

Woodbury Creek, previously referred to as Red Bank Creek, runs through the middle of what is today Woodbury (founded in 1683 by Henry Wood, a Quaker from England), and

Mantua Creek which runs along the west and south side of the township.

These creeks are used as identifiers in the conveyances and deeds to tell where a person lived.

Essentially, we have three distinct John Brown's in early Gloucester county:

1. John Brown Sr. of Deptford who died in 1731, no sons, Levi Pierce grandson was adm. [Woodbury Creek, previously called Red Bank Creek]
2. John Brown of Deptford who died in 1736, married to Phebe Chatfield [Mantua Creek]
3. John Brown of Gloucester who died in 1736, married to Charity Chew [Gloucester River/Big Timber Creek]

Of these, I think the father of #3 was John Brown of Upton; see my previous article "John Brown of Upton" for analysis pertaining to Big Timber Creek (previously Gloucester River).

As for the other two John Brown's, their father's names may or may not have been John – we can't know at this point. Same to be said about wives, Ann and Susannah could have been associated with either of the first two John Brown's.

Nevertheless, each man did live in the area into the 1730s, and I think each one may have lived on different creeks, which I have noted above. I'm not entirely sure about that theory yet and this article is an exploration of the evidence that might support or negate that idea.

Woodbury Creek

1687 1st d. 7th m. (Sept.). Do. John BROWNE, late of Woodbury Creek, Gloucester Co., **planter**, to William SALSBURY of the same place, carpenter, for 100 acres on said creek, N. W. Wm. WARNER, S. E. John TEST, lately grantor's. 40 (PAGE 649 Gloucester Deeds, No. 1.)

My comments: Where did this John Browne go after Woodbury Creek? Perhaps he went to Upton? Or maybe Mantua Creek? OR maybe this is 1731-JB and he sold only some part of his property to Salsbury and continued to live there as a neighbor? (see following section on Earmarks)

1697 April 10. Do. Isaac WOOD of Woodbury Creek, Gloucester Co., yeoman, to John BROWN of Upton on Glocester River, yeoman, for 50 acres in said Co., W. Anthony SHARP, E. James WHITEALL. 462

My comments: This doesn't say where the land being conveyed was..... Strangely, Isaac Wood is associated with the Irish Wood family and James Whitall is associated with the English Wood family. Both families were Quaker.

1701 Sept. 20. Do. John BROWN of Woodbury Creek, Gloucester Co., son and heir of John BROWN of Upton on Gloucester River dec'd, to Arthur POWELL of said Co., for 118 acres in several lots, to wit: 51 a., bought by the father of Israel WARD of said Upton January 9, 1698-9, of which 50 front the South branch of Gloucester R., adjoining Edward WILLIAMS and 1 a. adjoins Joseph TOMLINSON; 32 a., bought of Edw. WILLIAMS January 9, 1698-9, of which 30 front on said river, next to John HEDGER,and 2 a. are part of an 8 a. lot, surveyed to said WILLIAMS; 35 a. bought of William WARD of Upton December 9, 1698, of which 25 are on the South side of said South branch and 10 a. in the Cat taile meadow. 26

My Comments: If my guess is correct, this JB owned the fulling mill on the Gloucester River that eventually went to George Brown Ward. It's interesting to note that this JB moved to Woodbury Creek

after his father's death (or perhaps there was already family property there).

Also, here is some additional information about Arthur Powell:

Mary [d/o Archibald Mickle, an original settler, also from Ireland] who married Arthur Powel(l). Arthur was a carpenter, and the son of Arthur Powell Sr., who first settled on Penapaca Creek, in Philadelphia County, PA. The senior Arthur came from the town of Flushing, Long Island, in NY State, where his name, that of his wife Margaret, and those of two sons are set down in the census list made in 1698. According to that record he was of French extraction. In 1692 he (Arthur Senior) purchased of Thomas Chaunders, one hundred acres of land in West Jersey, at Mulberry Point, on the sea coast, near Great Egg Harbor. In the same year he purchased a like number of acres from Robert Turner, at the same place, and there is probably where he settled. He had two sons, Arthur and Richard (a shoemaker). Arthur Sr died intestate in 1718. In 1716 Arthur (Junior) purchased a farm from John Fisher, in Newton township, bounded by Cooper's Creek, being aprt of the original estate of John Zane, the first settlers, and that is where Arthur and his wife made their home. In 1730 Arthur Jr. purchased a large tract of land on Timber Creek, from John Brown, and also owned other real estate. He died in 1749. Arthur and Mary Powell had three children: James; Rachel, who married -- Lewis; and --- (dau) who married --- Kent.[2]

My comments: This is interesting because I have not yet found any conveyance in 1730 from John Brown to Arthur Powell. Perhaps this write-up is in error, or perhaps there was a second conveyance we haven't found yet.

2 From http://www.nj.searchroots.com/EG/mickle.htm

The following will establishes that a John Brown owned property on Woodbury Creek – but which John Brown? My theory is that it was John Brown #1 who died in 1731. And I have no idea who was Luke Gibson! [see following section for more Gibson info.]

1741-2, Feb. 16. Gibson, Luke, of Deptford, Gloucester Co., yeoman;

will of. Wife, Sarah. Eldest son, Luke, to have plantation (300 acres); also the grist-mill and 100 acres adjoining, he to pay legacies to my daughters, Mary, Sarah, Rebekah and Hannah, when they will be 23. Remaining lands upon Mantua Creek to be divided equally among my sons, Caleb, William and Joshua. The plantation, adjoining land of John Brown, deceased, upon a branch of Woodbury Creek, to be sold. Executors—wife, and son, Luke Gibson. Witnesses—Obadiah Gibson, Thomas Leeds, Michael Fisher. Affirmed 6 Feb., 1774. Lib. 5, p. 79.

1744-5, Jany. 17. Inventory (£222.15.2) includes wheat and rye, utensils in the grist-mill, corn in the ground, cattle and hay. Appraisers—Isaac Stephens, Obadiah Gibson.

this following must have applied to the son:

cester county, New-Jersey, being the property of Luke Gibson, late deceased, containing 287 acres, more or less, of which there are near 20 acres good meadow, well watered, the upland naturally good, 100 acres, or near it, cleared, and good for grass as well as grain, an apple orchard, and a well of good water at the door. Also a tract of land or plantation, containing 184 acres, on which there is a grist-mill that now goes, grinds well, and supplied by a constant stream of water; about 40 acres of upland cleared, and six acres of swamp that, when improved, will make good meadow. Likewise two tracts of woodland, one containing 117 acres, the other 77 acres, all adjoining, and very convenient for one person to purchase, if so disposed; situate about 12 miles from Philadelphia, and one and a half from a landing. For information respecting the title, enquire of the subscribers, who live near the premises.

JAMES COOPER, JOSHUA LORD.

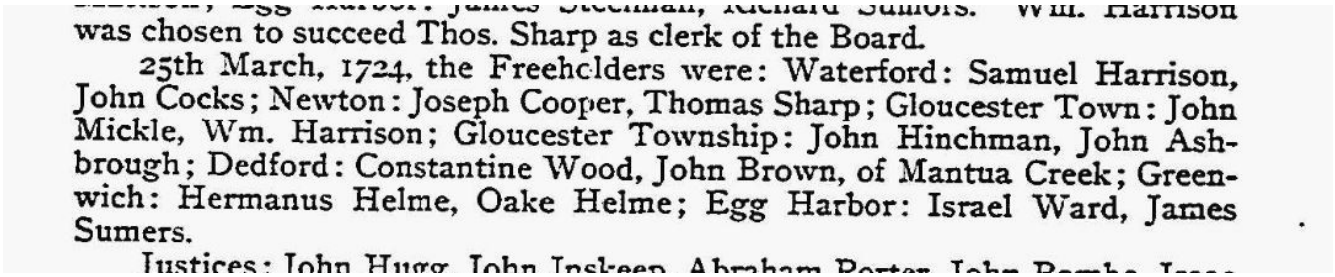
It's worth noting that Joshua Lord was an administrator in the estate of JB/2 and Cooper was the maiden name of JB/2's wife, Sarah.

Mantua Creek

From TKO:

> The property purchased in 1728 from Peter Cox -- the plantation along the Mantua Creek has been subdivided several times. In one source Gloucester, Cumberland, and Salem Counties, it mentions that the Kings Road (a later one from that found in your Upton article) crossed the property of the Widow Brown. The road was built around 1737 after John Brown/2 died, so Phebe owned the property. It crossed Kings Highway in West Deptford today. There is an oil tank farm located on the adjacent property. There are residences along the Mantua Creek now and it is very shallow, so I guess I will not get to see the old homestead. Sorry I am not giving proper citations, but I am telling a story as I perceive it.

1724:

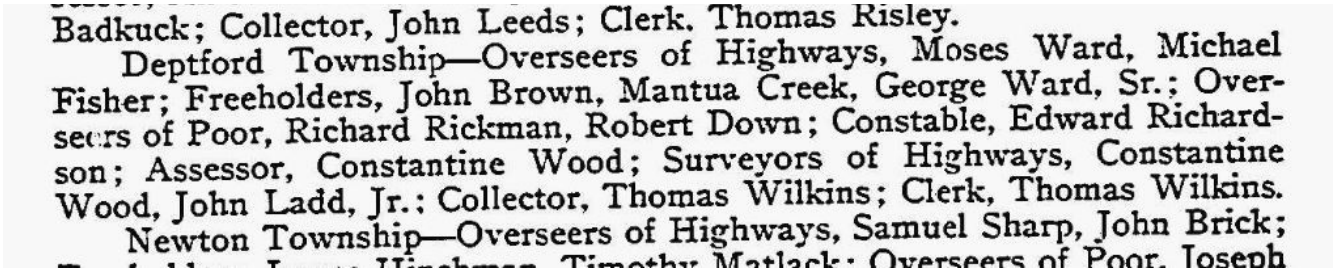


was chosen to succeed Thos. Sharp as clerk of the Board.

25th March, 1724, the Freeholders were: Waterford: Samuel Harrison, John Cocks; Newton: Joseph Cooper, Thomas Sharp; Gloucester Town: John Mickle, Wm. Harrison; Gloucester Township: John Hinchman, John Ashbrough; Dedford: Constantine Wood, John Brown, of Mantua Creek; Greenwich: Hermanus Helme, Oake Helme; Egg Harbor: Israel Ward, James Sumers.

My Comments: mention of Constantine Wood, name associated with English Wood's who married into our family (James Brown and Alice Wood)

1733-4:



Badkuck; Collector, John Leeds; Clerk, Thomas Risley.

Deptford Township—Overseers of Highways, Moses Ward, Michael Fisher; Freeholders, John Brown, Mantua Creek, George Ward, Sr.; Overseers of Poor, Richard Rickman, Robert Down; Constable, Edward Richardson; Assessor, Constantine Wood; Surveyors of Highways, Constantine Wood, John Ladd, Jr.; Collector, Thomas Wilkins; Clerk, Thomas Wilkins.

Newton Township—Overseers of Highways, Samuel Sharp, John Brick;

My comments: mention of George Ward, Sr – believe he was running the fulling mill over on Timber Creek near Upton (but on the south side, making him part of Deptford Twp.)

Cloth Connections Theory

The term "husbandman" almost immediately made me think of Animal Husbandry (this is how I've heard that word in modern times). The definition of husbandman can be this:

> The act or practice of cultivating crops and breeding and raising livestock; agriculture.

This made me think of the earmarks, and we have been assuming the animals in question were hogs. But what if they were sheep? What if one John Brown was raising sheep and providing wool to the other John Brown who was ran the fulling mill?

The following comes from South Jersey, A History (p. 409):

The Gloucester County Ear Mark Book—Under the earliest Provincial Laws of West New Jersey, hogs over one year old running at large were considered wild game if not ear marked. When the proprietors, Freeholders and inhabitants of Gloucester County on May 26, 1686, established their courts by permission of the Legislature, they ordered "That all persons within ye jurisdiction aforesad bring into the next Courte ye marks of their Hoggs and other Cattell in order to be approved and recorded."

It is evident that between the dates of May 26th and September 1, 1686, [illegible] of John Reading. The name of John Reading, in the Ear Mark Book, seems to be that of his signature.

This seems to have immediately been done by the land owners of Old Gloucester County and the names recorded in the ear mark book are a practical directory of the principal citizens of the county from its earliest days beginning 7th mo. 1, 1686.

So if I understand this record correctly, the names appear in order of the date they were recorded, starting with the earliest and moving forward in time.

Ear Marks—Francis Collins, afterwards the ear mark of Joseph Collins. Thomas Thackara. Jno. Wood, afterwards taken on January 22, 1770 by James Brown of Woodbury. Henry Wood. Samuel Coles. Samuel Spicer. John Taylor, later the mark of John Cooper. Thomas Howell. Daniel Howell, later taken by Jonathan Bellews (or Boleton) 6th of 8 mo. 1715. Thomas Chaundrs. Henry Sise. John Ashton, afterwards the mark of John Smallwood. Jonathan Wood. Robert Turner. George Goldsmith, later the mark of Isaac Jennings. James Atkinson. Robert Zane, later used by John Wills. William Alberson. Thomas Sharpe. Richard Arnold. Isaac Hollingham took this mark.

John Hugge, Samuel Harrison had this mark. John Reading, John Gill used this mark. William Warner. John Browne, Levi Peirse ye grandson in law of John Brown took this mark March 28, 1732. William Salsbury. Andrew Robertson, Jr. Anthony Neilson. Wooley Dalbo. Peter Dalbo. Benja Braman. Israell Helme. Lacye Coleman. John Henderik. William Cobb, no mark described. Mathew Medcalfe, Jacob Medcalfe 4 mo. 26, 1722 had this mark of his fathers for his own. John Test at Jeoff Wainwrights. Jno. Ladd, at his death his mark was taken by his son John and later taken by Hannah Ladd, his widow.

My Comments:

James Brown, son of our John Brown and Phebe Chatfield, took over his ex-father-in-law's earmark in 1770 – he was apparently living in Woodbury at that time. Nevertheless, the name of John Wood (Alice's father) is the 4th name on this list, so John Wood's earmark was probably recorded in 1686.

Jonathan Wood is mentioned in first paragraph (see Brown-Wood Connections).

Levi Pierce, the grandson, took on John Brown's earmark, which tells me that 1731-JB was raising animals.

The layout of each paragraph in this Earmarks Record almost appears to be a neighborhood list of sorts – it seems landowners who lived next to each other are listed close together, if not one after the other. For example, remember this conveyance:

> 1687 1st d. 7th m. (Sept.). Do. John BROWNE, late of Woodbury Creek, Gloucester Co., **planter**, to William SALSBURY of the same place, carpenter, for 100 acres on said creek, N. W. Wm. WARNER, S. E. John TEST, lately grantor's. 40 (PAGE 649 Gloucester Deeds, No. 1.)

Note in the Earmarks Record that William Warner and William Salsbury are listed on either side of John Browne, and John Test appears at the end of the paragraph. Also note John Ladd (see Brown-Wood Connections). Maybe neighbors came in to recorder's office together so that drawing the ear marks in the book would be known between themselves?

Hugg, Jr. Samuel Taylor. John Ashbrook. John Burroughs. William Bates.

Marcus Lawrence. Daniel Reading. Thomas Gibson, later became

My Comment: GIBSON was the name that placed John Brown on Woodbury Creek!

the mark of Joseph Gibson. Andreas Anderson. Isaack Pearson. Elthen Cornok. James Thomas. John Tatum. John Willis. Thomas Buckman. James Whiteall. Moses Lakin. John Parker. Robert Parker. Joshua Lord. Edward Burroughs. John Rambo. John Siddon. Isaac Wood. Katherine Howell, afterwards the mark of Jonathan Bell. Andrew Hopman, later that of Lawrence Hopman. Wooley Peterson. Paule Pawlson. Phillip Paul. George Webb. Henry Treadway—Robert Zane to alter his mark by order of Court. Samuel Tomes. Archibald Mickell.

Henry Wood. Jacob Cozens. Charles Crosswait. Thomas Nixson, his former mark to be void. Henry Johnson. Joseph Tomlinson, the right ear two slits and ye left cropt. Richard Heritage. William Chester. Thomas Nixson. Israel Ward. John Ireson. John Willis, later that of Robert Zanes. Thomas Bull. Elias Hugg. George Ward. Garratt Vanima. John Worthington.

Charles Crosswait—former mark void, also that of Andrew H...

My comments:

In same paragraph with Gibson: John Tatum, John Rambo, Isaac Wood, and Archibald Mickel.

Henry Wood was associated with Lancashire Wood's.

Joseph Tomlinson had land that adjoined JB Jr. of Upton (1701 conveyance Brown to Powell), the Chester name is associated with Rambo, and Brown land was bought from Israel Ward.

Then notice Thomas Bull and George Ward (also 1701 conveyances). I would say these are people from the Upton area!

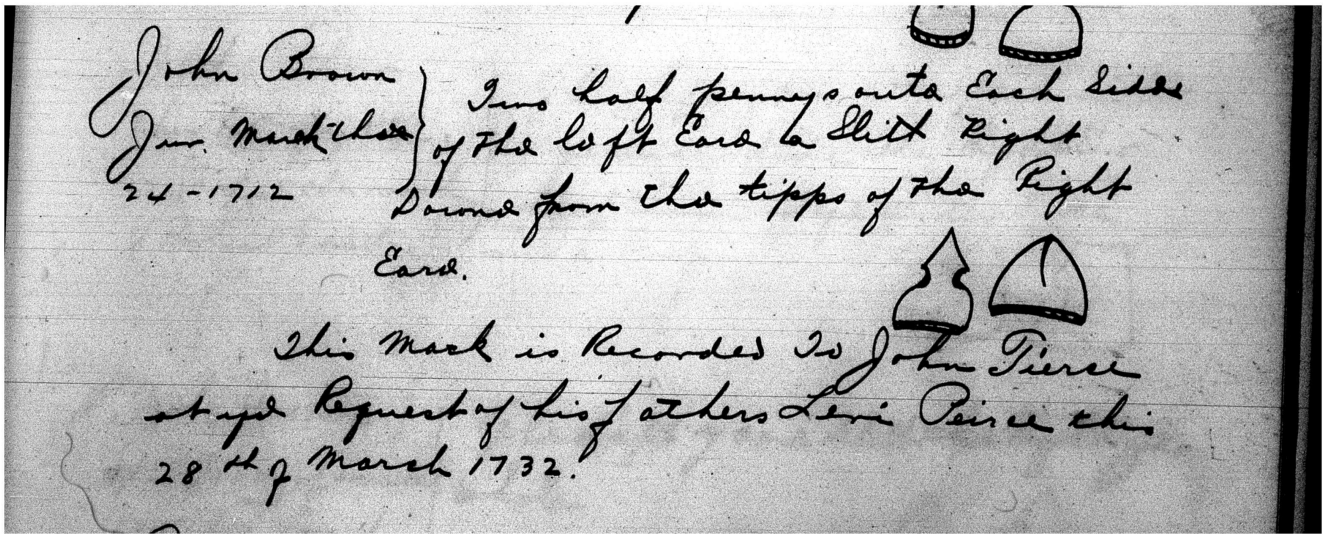
17, 1711.

John Ladd, Jr., Feb. 14, 1711, formerly the mark of Sam'l Tomes. Robert Bryan, April 7, 1712—Robert Minors mark. Patrick Flaningham, April 21, 1712. Philip White, April 25, 1712. Valington Howell, April 25, 1712. John Van Ema, May 2, 1712. Nathaniell Chew, Sept. 25, 1712. Joseph Langly, March 24, 1712—taken by Joseph Perce, 1759. John Brown, March 24, 1712.

Robertt Zane, 6-5th mo. 1715. Samuel Harrison, 21-5th mo. 1715—the

Here is a John Brown – not sure I can say which one this JB might be – probably not 1731-JB as his was already recorded, so it was either My 1736-JB or JB+CharityChew.

WAIT! Here is something from my last trip to SLC:


John Brown
Jun. Mark Thus
24-1712

Two half pennys outa Each Side of The left Ear & Slit Right Downe from the tipps of the Right Ear.

This Mark is Recorded to John Pierce at ye Request of his Fathers Levi Peirce this 28th of March 1732.

My comments: This is a bit different than previously stated in the South Jersey History. How was 1731-JB a "Junior" in 1712 if he was a "Senior" in 1731 when he died? Hmmm..... It seems to suggest different combinations of JB's in the same area at each time? Here are two scenarios, both purely speculative:

a) This John Brown Junior is the son of John Brown of Upton who died in 1700. Technically, I would not think he would still be called Junior after his father's death, but just in case, let's say he was. Because of the tie to Levi Pierce, that would make this John Brown Junior = 1731-JB = the son of JB of Upton instead of JB h/o Charity Chew being the son of JB of Upton, as proposed in my "John Brown of Upton" article. How was 1731-JB then a Senior in 1731? Because by then a) JB h/o Charity Chew lived in Gloucester or PHL and was no longer in the area AND b) My 1736-JB arrived in the same area between 1712-1731 and he was the younger of the two JB's.

b) Let's forget any reference to John Brown of Upton who died in 1700. What this record meant in 1712 was there were two JB's in the same area, one of whom, the younger one, was 1731-JB, based on the tie to Levi Pierce. That means of the other 2 JB's we know about, one was not in the same area and the other was older, so we must imagine one of the following:

   - Let's say that JB h/o Charity Chew was the man not in the same area – maybe he was living in Gloucester by 1712. That would mean My 1736-JB was the older man in the area with 1731-JB, which doesn't make sense if we assume My 1736-JB was the younger man in the area in 1731 when JB-Senior died. So this scenario doesn't work at all, unless of course, there was yet another John Brown who we don't know about.

   - Now let's reverse the supposition variables, and let's just say My 1736-JB was the one not in the same area as 1731-JB in 1712. That would mean JB h/o Charity Chew was the older man in the area, so his "plantation in Gloucester County" must have been some place in the same area (check for Jones!). In this scenario, we imagine that 20 years later, My 1736-JB WAS in the same area as 1731-JB (one or the other having moved in the following 20

years), and JB h/o Charity Chew was the one no longer in the area (of Gloucester and/or Philadelphia). This scenario could be plausible.

15, 1732.
Will Ward, 9th April, 1731. George Howell, 28th Aug. 1727—taken by Wm. Van Irling April 11, 1750, also by John Down. William Calling, 12th Dec. 1728—taken by Thos. Jones, May 17, 1757. Christopher Taylor, 18th December 1728—taken by Wm. White April 24, 1759. Edward Richardson. 27th December, 1728—the mark of George Bird, deceased. Levy Pierce, 20th May, 1775. John Pierce, 20th May, 1775. George Pierce, Feb. 19th, 1776.

Finally, it looks like Levi Pierce was still in the mix by time of the Revolution.

According to: *Notes on old Gloucester County, New Jersey*
(https://archive.org/stream/notesonoldglouce01stew/notesonoldglouce01stew_djvu.txt)

Tax

A tax was laid for the cost as follows :

For every hundred acres of land taken up and surveyed one shilling

For every horse and mare exceeding three years old one shilling

For cattle exceeding three years old six pence

For sheep exceeding one year old two pence

For each free man in hired service or otherwise three shillings

For each negro exceeding twelve years old three shillings

to be paid into the county treasurer at or before the first day of the first month next ensuing the date hereof either in current silver money or corn or any other country produce at money price to be delivered and brought into ye County Treasurer at his dwelling house by the respective inhabitants within the time aforesaid.

So we know there were sheep in Gloucester and perhaps the same earmarking used for hogs was used

on other animals to prove ownership?

Also this discussion tells more about early NJ sheep and the science of fulling:
https://msuweb.montclair.edu/~olsenk/wool.htm

Also this talks about how the Whitall's raised sheep and flax and paid professional weavers in Woodbury to make cloth:
http://articles.philly.com/2006-10-01/news/25417224_1_historic-sites-underground-railroad-preservation

What Conclusions?

The Creek Theory is going to be hard to prove using the existing data. I'm really hoping there is more deed information to be found that will shed more light.

The Cloth Connections theory holds a bit of water, I think. Here's what I think we know:

- 1731-JB owed debts to "John Brown Fuller" as well as to George Ward, who was bequeathed a fulling mill by John Brown who married Charity Chew (who I believe was one in the same as "John Brown Fuller"). Why would 1731-JB owe a fuller money unless he provided them with wool he wanted processed?
- 1731-JB had an earmark which was taken over by his grandson Levi Pierce. Perhaps he was raising sheep?
- This theory is really tied to my Brown-Wood Connections article, still forthcoming. Quite complicated, indeed, so stay tuned!