

# Whitesbog Preservation Trust

## NEWSLETTER

4th Quarter

[www.whitesbog.org](http://www.whitesbog.org)

2014

Birthplace of the Highbush Blueberry - Historic Center for Cranberry Innovation

## Cranberry Culture

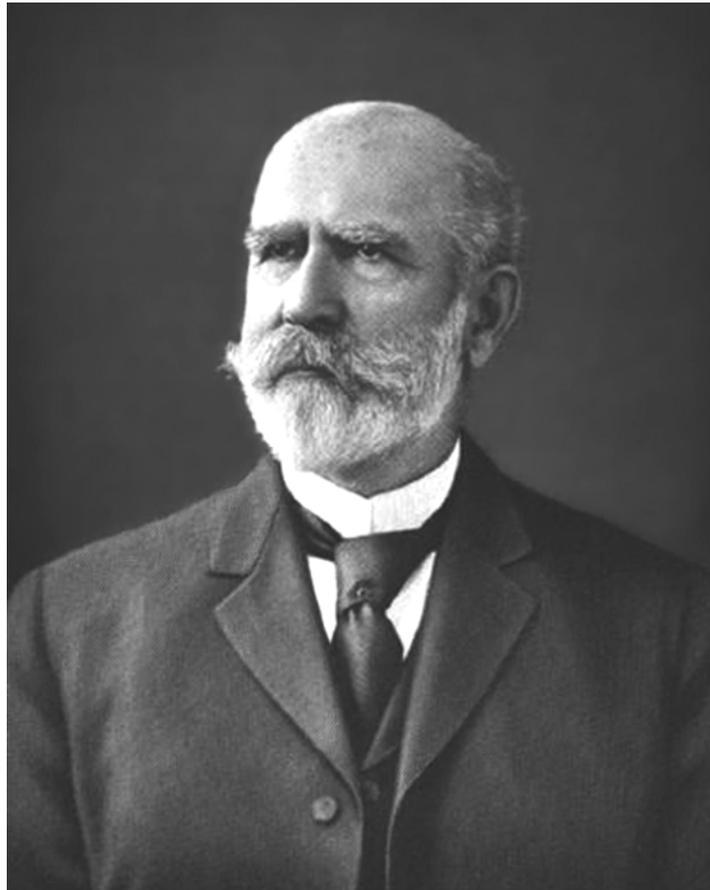
*A First-hand Account of the Development of the J. J. White Company*

by Joseph J. White

*In 1914, at the instigation of Elizabeth White, J.J. White wrote an account of the development of his cranberry business and holdings. Herein are presented excerpts from that document. The document in its entirety can be seen in the 'pdf extras' of the online version of this Newsletter at: [www.whitesbog.org/newsletter/](http://www.whitesbog.org/newsletter/).<sup>1</sup>*

During my early boyhood, we lived on my Father's farm near Jobstown, Burlington Co., N.J. He also owned a large tract of pine and swamp land on Wading River in the southern part of the County and about 25 miles from our home. There were numerous wild cranberry patches on this property and he was one of the pioneers in attempting to cultivate this fruit. At first the cranberries were brought to the farm in bags containing two bushels each standing upright in a spring wagon, the numerous red spots on the bags demonstrated their inefficiency as containers for fruit in transit. The cranberries were spread on the garret floor and cleaned and marketed thru the winter. When a boy I made occasional trips to this property and became interested in cranberry culture.

In the year 1860 when I was 14 years old Grandfather Restore S. Lamb asked Father to run out four 100 acre lots on his Rake Pond tract near New Lisbon, as he intended to give each of his grandsons 100 acres of land. Father being a good



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White, the builder of the Lehigh Canal, who bequeathed to me a small block of Lehigh Navigation Stock on account of my having “Josiah” in my name. I also inherited about \$400. from my great grandfather. Benjamin E. Ridgway, who gave the four sons of his granddaughter, Rebecca M. White, a \$1,000. bond of her father Restore S. Lamb. This sum with interest was paid to us by our grandfather's executors.

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*(continued on page 2)*

surveyor complied with this request Howard and I carrying the chain. He afterward mapped the lots thus surveyed and wrote deeds for the same. When this was accomplished, Grandfather invited us all down to his residence in Mt. Holly and gave us a sumptuous dinner, after which he called his four grandsons to him and handing Howard his deed said, “Howard, I present thee with 100 acres of land”. Howard thanked him and retired. He then handed me a deed saying, “Joseph, I present thee with 100 acres of land”. I also was duly thankful. George and Barclay were treated in like manner.

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Hearing of his success I examined my 100 acres with the view of ascertaining whether I had any land suitable for cranberry culture. About 30 acres were found which looked good to me, and upon having it inspected by uncle Restore and he pronouncing it good for the purpose, I built a log cabin and stable on the property. In the spring of 1866 several turfers were engaged to scalp the land at 25 cents per square rod. I also employed a strong Dutchman to live with me in the cabin and help lift the turf on the wagon and pitch it off while I built massive turf fences about the clearing. The turf was wet and heavy and the Dutchman, although having agreed to work 9 months, only stayed with me a few weeks, when he quit saying he thought he could find an easier job. The only time the Dutchman was known to have laughed while on the job was one evening after supper, when the cat crawling in between the rafters, jumped down upon the top of the hot stove, and bounced off without stopping to consider where she would land.

Hard work in the fresh air lifted beyond criticism our menu of boiled salt pork, molasses, fried potatoes, bread and butter and coffee. We wasted no time washing dishes, but turned our plates upside down to discourage the cat from washing them for us, thus reserving that privilege for the girls at the farm from whence we replenished our larder weekly. After the departure of the Dutchman, I hired another man and continued the work. In this, way about 30 acres were cleared and planted which proving successful, were quite remunerative.

On April 2nd, 1872, George conveyed to me his 100 acres for \$700. whereupon I incorporated the Rake Pond Cranberry Company and conveyed to it my 200 acres for \$30,000. or the entire capital stock of the Company. The majority of the stock was sold to Burlington County men, among the first Directors beings John C. TenEyck, U.S. Senator, Benj. Ridgway, Pres. of the Union National Bank and Judge William Parry, a leading horticulturist. The Company paid several annual dividends but when fungus diseases attacked the vines causing much of the fruit to decay, it became impossible to continue regular dividends. It has since however, paid occasional dividends [*sic*] and avoided indebtedness.

While clearing the Rake Pond bogs I became acquainted with Mary A. Fenwick, a comely virgin residing near New Lisbon, daughter of James A. Fenwick, a pioneer cranberry grower, whose plantation was on Cranberry Run. She

concluding to assume the risk, we were married on the 11<sup>th</sup> of November, 1869. This alliance was a direct result of my having engaged in the cranberry business, and proved to be my most successful venture.

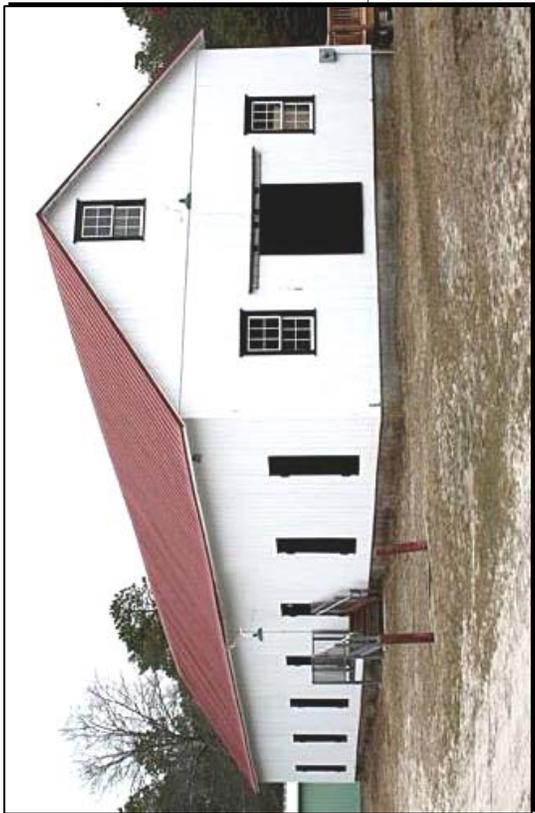
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This book gave me some publicity as a cranberry grower and I was frequently called upon to inspect lands in other States and advise the owners how to improve them. In 1869 I bought of Charles Lippincott about 40 acres of land including, the head of Laurel Spung near Lemontown, for \$30. per acre. I afterward sold an interest in this tract to Uncle Daniel S. White. 25 acres were improved at a cost of

about \$200. per acre This swamp proved to be infested with fungus, and although large crops were produced the fruit rotted badly, and as there was at that time no known remedy, the plantation was finally abandoned.

In 1882 James A. Fenwick died after a lingering illness, and as I had been appointed sole Executor of his will, the care of his bogs aggregating about 50 acres, devolved upon me. About two years before his death he had purchased of George B. Upton 500 acres, including the sites of the Pole Bridge bogs, South Spung, the Brush Pond bogs, Canal Pond and the Canal to and including Heron Lake for \$1500. Mr. Upton took a mortgage for the whole amount, with the understanding that Mr. Fenwick was to rebuild the flood gates and repair the dam so that he could raise a head of water in Canal pond for the purpose of diverting it thru the canal to his bogs on Cranberry Run. Mr. Upton imposed this condition so that the property would be improved to that extent in case it should revert to him thru default in payment of the interest. During the summer of 1882 it was evident that the crop on the Fenwick bogs would be light, and as the vines were infested with insects I flooded the main bog for about one week early in July. The result of this flooding was not only to destroy the insects but to invigorate the vines and cause them to make an extra-ordinary summer growth, the uprights increasing four fold. The new terminal buds matured before frost, and next year a crop of about 5000 bushels was produced. Most of the bog was flooded two nights early in September to escape damage from frost, but the water damage was probably much greater than the frost damage would have been. That year I sold from the Fenwick bogs about. 4000 bushels at \$2.75 per bushel, machine cleaned,

(continued on page 5)



In December 2014, The Cherry Valley Group (museum design consultants) produced a first draft of the design for the Blueberry and Cranberry Museum at Whitesbog. While much finalizing remains, we share some of this draft with you.

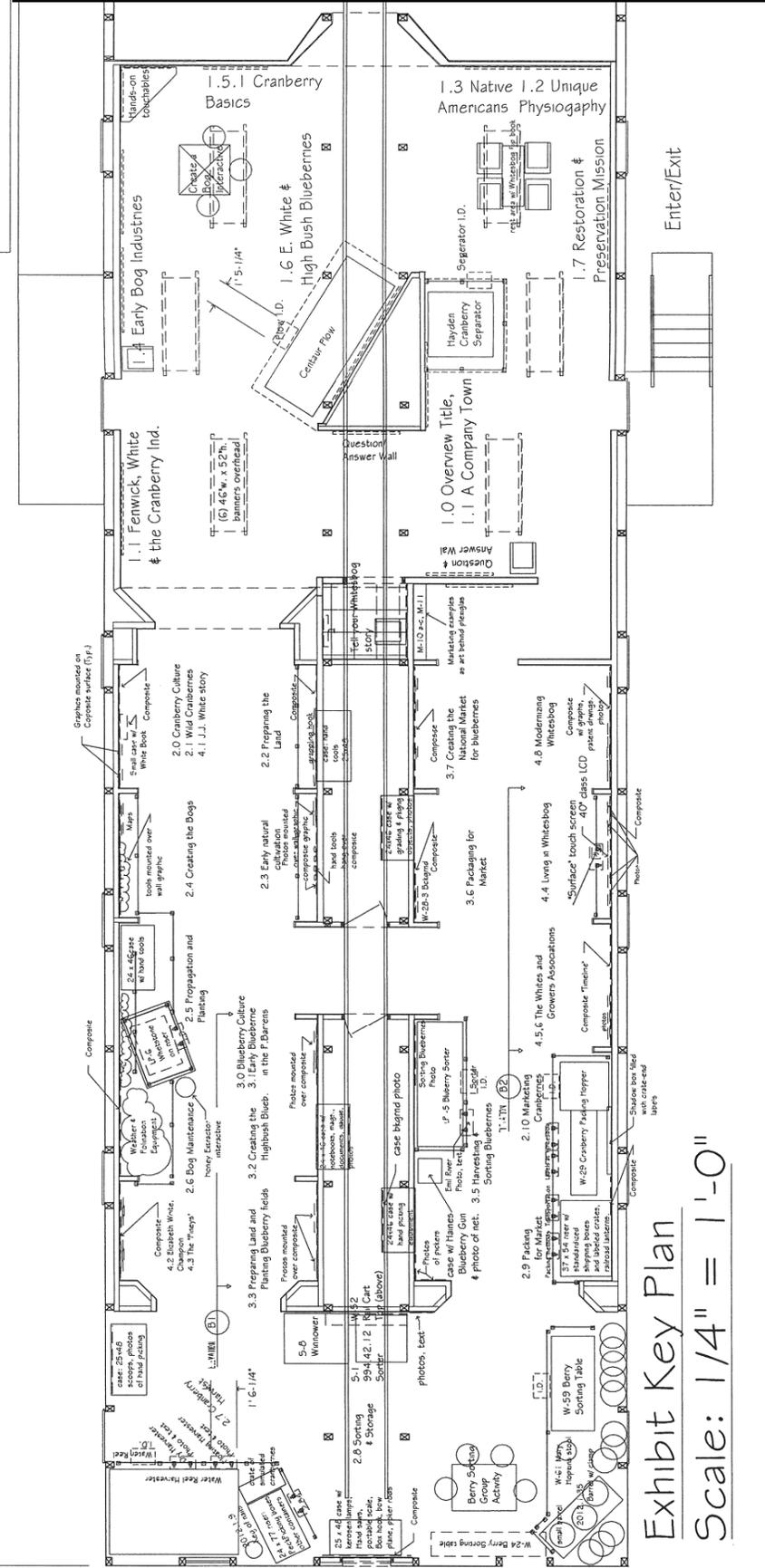


Exhibit Key Plan  
Scale: 1/4" = 1'-0"

# WHITESBOG EVENT SCHEDULE

For more information call (609) 893-4646,  
e-mail us at [WhitesbogPreservationTrust@comcast.net](mailto:WhitesbogPreservationTrust@comcast.net)  
or visit us on the web at [www.whitesbog.org](http://www.whitesbog.org).

## February

### 7 General Store Re-opens 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

The Store is open Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and by special request.

### 7 WPT Volunteer Workday 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Have fun with friends, working in the gardens, repairing trails, restocking the General Store and working around the Village. Lunch provided.

### 7 Whitesbog Village Tour 1 p.m.

Stroll the Historic Village, learn about Whitesbog's history, and visit Suningive, Elizabeth White's historic home, the worker's cottages and other buildings of Whitesbog's heritage. \$5 donation per person, reservations requested.

### 21 Whitesbog Village Tour 1 p.m.

\$5 donation per person. (See November 1).

## March

### 7 WPT Volunteer Workday 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

(See February 7).

### 7 Whitesbog Village Tour 1 p.m.

\$5 donation per person. (See February 7).

### 7 Moonlight Walk 7 p.m.

Worm Moon. Listen to the night sounds of the Pines, learn about Whitesbog and experience the seasonal changes of the Pinelands. Walks are 3 to 5 miles long, and led by experienced leaders. \$5 donation per person, reservations requested.

### 8 The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual 'Lines on the Pines' 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

A celebration of Pine Barrens authors, artists and artisans! Over 50 talented Pine Barrens People will be on hand to sign their books, display their artwork or craft, play their music and share their love of the Pine Barrens! **Frog Rock Golf & Country Club, Hammonton, NJ. Free - Open to the Public!** Post-event dinner by reservation only (see 'Lines in the Pines' website).

### 22 Living History Tours 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Experience life in the 1920's and tour Whitesbog Village with the 'Cranberry King', Joseph J. White, his daughter, Elizabeth, and Charles Beckwith, played by historical interpreters. \$15 donation per person - **reservations are required.**

## April

### 4 WPT Volunteer Workday 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

(See February 7).

### 4 Whitesbog Village Tour 1 p.m.

\$5 donation per person. (See February 7).

### 4 Moonlight Walk 7 p.m.

Fish Moon. \$5 donation per person, reservations requested. (See February 7 listing for details).

### 18 Whitesbog Village Tour 1 p.m.

\$5 donation per person. (See February 7).

### 26 Semi-Annual Membership Meeting 12 Noon

### 26 Volunteer Recognition Luncheon 1 p.m.

## May

### 2 WPT Volunteer Workday 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

(See February 7).

### 2 Whitesbog Village Tour 1 p.m.

\$5 donation per person. (See February 7).

### 2 Moonlight Walk 7 p.m.

Fish Moon. \$5 donation per person, reservations requested. (See February 7 listing for details).

### 9 NJ State History Fair 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Visit Whitesbog at this year's history making event at Washington's Crossing State Park. FREE. Suggested parking donation, \$10 per vehicle.

### 16 Whitesbog Village Tour 1 p.m.

\$5 donation/person. (See February 7).

### 24 Living History Tours 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

\$15 donation per person - **reservations are required.** (See March 22 for details).

## June

### 6 WPT Volunteer Workday 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

(See February 7).

### 6 Whitesbog Village Tour 1 p.m.

\$5 donation/person. (See February 7).

### 6 Moonlight Walk 7 p.m.

Flower Moon. \$5 donation per person, reservations requested. (See February 7 listing for details).

### 27 BLUEBERRY FESTIVAL 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

\$10 per carload.

The Mission of the Trust is to restore, protect and enhance the land, historic sites, and structures at Whitesbog, and to provide educational materials and interpretive programs that engage visitors in the history, culture, and natural environment of Whitesbog.

#### 2014-5 Whitesbog Board of Trustees

Stephanie Schrader, Pres. Mark Ehlenfeldt, V.P.

Joseph Darlington 2<sup>nd</sup> V.P. Paul Detrick, Treas.

Richard Prickett, Sec.

John Joyce Ted Gordon Jeffery Macechak

Perdita Connolly Janet Felt Terry Chittenden

Meetings Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.

Jan. 22, Feb. 25, March 25, April 26 (10 a.m. - Board of Trustees), May 20.

April 26 (Noon - Semi-annual membership meeting)

#### Staff

Susan B. Phillips, Executive Director

Jennifer Rubeo, Bookkeeper/ Assistant

#### Newsletter

Mark Ehlenfeldt & Susan Phillips - Editors

#### Committees - 2015

Buildings & Restoration - John Joyce

Finance - Paul Detrick

Fund Development - Susan Phillips

General Store - vacant

Marketing & Public Relations - Mark Ehlenfeldt

Interpretative Educ. & Archives - Ted Gordon

Landscape and Garden - Mark Szutarski

Nominating - Stephanie Schrader

Membership - Jeanne Streiter

Personnel - Stephanie Schrader



Whitesbog is administered by the State of New Jersey, Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Parks and Forestry as part of the Brendan T. Byrne State Forest.



The Whitesbog Preservation Trust has received a General Operating Support Grant for fiscal year 2015, and a 2014 Special Project Grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission, a division of the Department of State.



Funding for the 2014 Whitesbog Blueberry Festival and the Fiddling in the Forest Concert Series, a Local Arts Project, was made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/ Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts from a grant to the Burlington County Board of Chosen Freeholders, Department of Resource Conservation, Division of Parks.



The Whitesbog Preservation Trust has received a Recreational Trail Grant from the Department of Environmental Protection and the Federal Highway Administration for 2014 and 2015.

(continued from page 2)

and thus relieved the Estate of a \$2000. mortgage on the farm, and the \$1500. mortgage held by Upton on the Pole Bridge tract.

In 1912, my wife having inherited the Fenwick bogs, which by that time had grown to 200 acres, we deeded all of our cranberry properties to Joseph J. White, Incorporated, dividing the capital stock of \$100,000. in proportion to our respective interests as shown by an appraisement made by our children. This step was taken, primarily to prevent division of the property by our successors, and also to simplify the bookkeeping.

For a number of years we have been trying to buy several hundred acres of land lying east and west of our tract, known to us as the "Annex" and hoping to facilitate this transaction, Joseph J. White, Inc. purchased in 1912, 369.45 acres of swamp on North Branch for \$13000. The water supply controlled by this purchase is necessary for the proper development [*sic*] of Buffins Meadows.<sup>2</sup>

I shall not close this record without acknowledging the hearty cooperation and valuable assistance of my daughters, Elizabeth, Mary, Beulah and Anne in the conduct of my business. Although differing somewhat in temperament, tastes and talents they have all done what they could, and they have done much to help win success.

New Lisbon, N. J.

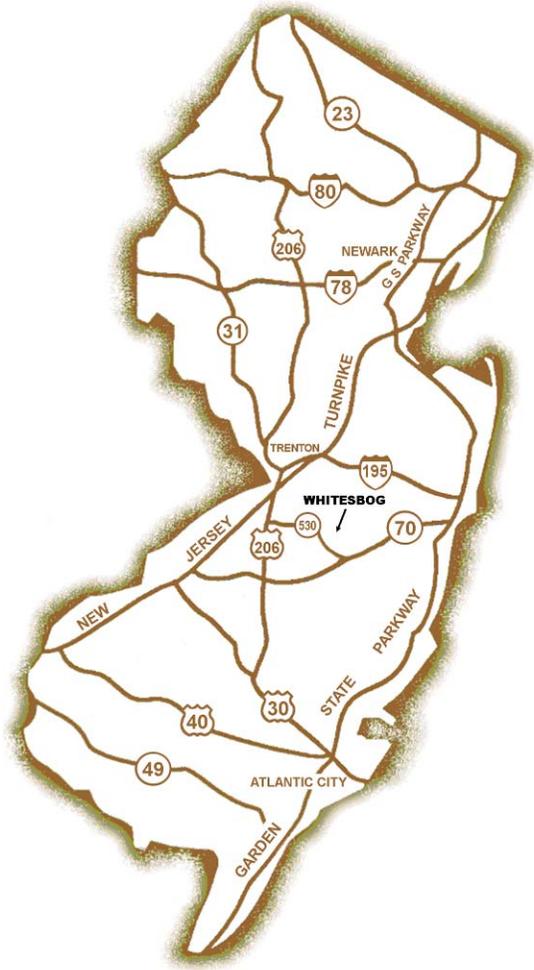
10 / 15 / 1914

#### Footnotes

<sup>1</sup> A map of the locations and holdings mentioned throughout this document are also included at the listed website.

<sup>2</sup> Buffins Meadows is the current day location of much of the privately held acreage of J.J. White Company. It lies across Route 70 from the state-owned Whitesbog Village acreage. ■





**Driving Directions:**

**From NJ Turnpike**

Take Exit 7 to Rt. 206 South to intersection of Rt. 206, Rt. 38 and Rt. 530. (Landmarks - Vincentown Diner and White Dotte)  
 Turn East onto Rt. 530 and follow to mile marker 13. (Landmarks – You will go through the towns of Pemberton & Browns Mills, passing Burlington County College on the right.)  
 Turn left onto Whitesbog Road. Parking lot on the left.

**From PA Turnpike**

Travel to NJ Turnpike North and follow above instructions.

**From 206 South**

Travel North to circle intersection with Rt. 70.  
 Travel East on Rt. 70 to Rt. 530. (Rt. 530 is between mile markers 33 & 34.)  
 Travel West on Rt. 530 for one mile to mile marker 13.  
 Turn right onto Whitesbog Road. Parking lot is on the left.

**From 206 North**

Travel South to intersection of Rt. 206, Rt. 38 and Rt. 530.  
 Turn East onto Rt. 530 and follow to mile marker 13.  
 Turn left onto Whitesbog Road. Parking lot is on the left.

**From Philadelphia**

From Ben Franklin Bridge, take Rt. 38 East, crossing over Rt. 206 and onto Rt. 530 East.  
 Travel East onto Rt. 530 and follow to mile marker 13.  
 Turn left onto Whitesbog Road. Parking lot is on the left.

The Trust Office and Welcome Center is across from the parking lot in the first workers cottage.



Visit our website: [WWW.WHITESBOG.ORG](http://WWW.WHITESBOG.ORG) or call: 609.893.4646



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# Cranberry Culture

By

Joseph J. White

During my early boyhood, we lived on my Father's farm near Jobstown, Burlington Co., N. J. He also owned a large tract of pine and swamp land on Wading River in the southern part of the County and about 25 miles from our home. There were numerous wild cranberry patches on this property and he was one of the pioneers in attempting to cultivate this fruit. At first the cranberries were brought to the farm in bags containing two bushels each standing upright in a spring wagon, the numerous red spots on the bags demonstrated their inefficiency as containers for fruit in transit. The cranberries were spread on the garret floor and cleaned and marketed thru the winter. When a boy I made occasional trips to this property and became interested in cranberry culture.

In the year 1860 when I was 14 years old Grandfather Restore S. Lamb asked Father to run out four 100 acre lots on his Rake Pond tract near New Lisbon, as he intended to give each of his grandsons 100 acres of land. Father being a good surveyor complied with this request Howard and I carrying the chain. He afterward mapped the lots thus surveyed and wrote deeds for the same. When this was accomplished, Grandfather invited us all down to his residence in Mt. Holly and gave us a sumptuous dinner, after which he called his four grandsons to him and handing Howard his deed said, "Howard, I present thee with 100 acres of land". Howard thanked him and retired. He then handed me a deed saying, "Joseph, I present thee with 100 acres of land". I also was duly thankful. George and Barclay were treated in like manner.

My capital of about \$2300. was inherited, \$1,000. coming from the estate of my grandmother Rebecca S. Bunting, and about \$900. from my great uncle Josiah White, the builder of the Lehigh Canal, who bequeathed to me a small block of Lehigh Navigation Stock on account of my having "Josiah" in my name. I also inherited about \$400. from my great grandfather. Benjamin E. Ridgway, who gave the four sons of his granddaughter, Rebecca M. White, a \$1,000. bond of her father Restore S. Lamb. This sum with interest was paid to us by our grandfather's executors.

About the year 1860, uncle Restore B. Lamb planted seven acres of cranberry vines on another portion of the Rake Pond tract and was successful in producing several large crops, one of which is said to have amounted to some 400 barrels worth at that time \$10. per bbl.

Hearing of his success I examined my 100 acres with the view of ascertaining whether I had any land suitable for cranberry culture. About 30 acres were found which looked good to me, and upon having it inspected by uncle Restore and he pronouncing it good for the purpose, I built a log cabin and stable on the property. In the spring of 1866 several turfmen were engaged to scalp the land at 25 cents per square rod. I also employed a strong Dutchman to live with me in the cabin and help lift the turf on the wagon and pitch it off while I built massive turf fences about the clearing. The turf was wet and heavy and the Dutchman, although having agreed to work 9 months, only stayed with me a few weeks, when he quit saying he thought he could find an easier job. The only time the Dutchman was known to have laughed while on the job was one evening after supper, when the cat crawling in between the rafters, jumped down upon the top of the hot stove, and bounced off without stopping to consider where she would land.

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In the fall of 1871 I received a letter from S. H. Comings asking me to come out and inspect a tract of land on the Eastern shore of Lake Michigan which he contemplated purchasing for cranberry culture. I visited the property, but did not find it desirable for the purpose, and so advised him. I then went, on my own account to the cranberry region of central Wisconsin. The Sacket Marsh near Berlin had yielded a large crop without frost damage that Fall, and as I found thousands of acres of marsh land growing wild cranberries, I called on Mr. Comings on my way home, and told him that if he wanted to engage in the cranberry business he had better go to Wisconsin. After reaching home I received a letter from him saying that he and Byron P. Moulton wanted me to come out at once and select suitable Wisconsin lands for them. I accordingly went to Black River Falls, Wis. and engaged a French Canadian land looker named Fred Marcelin. We prepared for camping out, and penetrated the wilderness of Jackson County. During this journey we encountered some hardships. Our "packs" were carried on our backs, and consisted of bread and raw pork wrapped in blankets. The weather was cold, and as we toasted our pork, held on forked sticks over the camp fire, we lamented the loss of the dropping grease.

It is usual for campers in the forest during cold weather to build a wind break, consisting of poles leaning at an angle of 45 degrees, with the upper ends resting on a horizontal pole supported by two trees. Branches of evergreen cover the poles and are spread under them for a bed, the camp fire being built in front. This makes an ideal camp, but one day Marcelin planned to camp in a shack which had been built by harvesters on a hay marsh. We reached the shack about dusk and found it lacking door, window sash and chimney. Where the sash should have been were only ragged mosquito nettings. A thick layer of hay covered the floor making it necessary to build a fire outside in front of the doorway. After supper, we attempted to sleep inside under our blankets, but as the temperature was near Zero, we soon found this impossible, and spent the night sitting round the blazing camp fire. I finally found a marsh that looked promising, near Bear Mount and about 3 miles south of "City Point", a laborers camp on the railroad from Green Bay to Lake Pepin, then under construction. I reported to Comings and Moulton, and we entered about 3000 acres, paying the State \$1.25 per acre. We also bought several hundred acres of White Pine and Marsh land from a lumber company at \$10.00 per acre. As I now remember the terms of our partnership, we were each to pay one third of the cost of the land. Mr. Comings was to act as manager one year at a salary of \$1000. per year, after which I was to act as manager four years at \$2000. per year. Mr. Comings wanted the job on account of his health. At the expiration of the first year he desired to remain, so I gave up my prospective salary, taking instead an amount equal to one third the cost of the land, and allowing him to continue as manager.

The marsh was nearly level, comparatively free from stumps and bushes, and well stocked with wild vines, producing cranberries of medium quality. The peat was about six feet deep and at the surface the turf was of a dense fibrous texture. The dams were made of this turf, and held water two feet deep surprisingly well. We ditched and dammed about 400 acres and constructed a reservoir. The vines improved and when the marsh was old enough to produce, we incorporated the Grand Marsh Cranberry Co., the Company becoming owner of all of the property; Treasury stock was provided for, and the balance divided according to our respective interests.

In 1882 James A. Fenwick died after a lingering illness, and as I had been appointed sole Executor of his will, the care of his bogs aggregating about 50 acres, devolved upon me. About two years before his death he had purchased of George B. Upton 500 acres, including the sites of the Pole Bridge bogs, South Spung, the Brush Pond bogs, Canal Pond and the Canal to and including Heron Lake for \$1500. Mr. Upton took a mortgage for the whole amount, with the understanding that Mr. Fenwick was to rebuild the flood gates and repair the dam so that he could raise a head of water in Canal pond for the purpose of diverting it thru the canal to his bogs on Cranberry Run. Mr. Upton imposed this condition so that the property would be improved to that extent in case it should revert to him thru default in payment of the interest. During the summer of 1882 it was evident that the crop on the Fenwick bogs would be light, and as the vines were infested with insects I flooded the main bog for about one week early in July. The result of this flooding was not only to destroy the insects but to invigorate the vines and cause them to make an extra-ordinary summer growth, the uprights increasing four fold. The new terminal buds matured before frost, and next year a crop of about 5000 bushels was produced. Most of the bog was flooded two nights early in September to escape damage from frost, but the water damage was probably much greater than the frost damage would have been. That year I sold from the Fenwick bogs about 4000 bushels at \$2.75 per bushel, machine cleaned, and thus relieved the Estate of a \$2000. mortgage on the farm, and the \$1500. mortgage held by Upton on the Pole Bridge tract.

During the year 1884 I exchanged a block of the Grand Marsh Cranberry Co. stock for 143 acres of land on Cranberry Run east of and near the Fenwick property. This tract contained about 60 acres suitable for cranberry culture and belonged to Mary W. D. Schaffer. The negotiations and exchange were made through her lawyer, J. Edward Carpenter of Philadelphia, who also gave me a deed of conveyance from himself and wife as he claimed to have an interest in the property.

Lying between the Schaffer and Fenwick properties just above what is now called Sandy Dam was a narrow strip of land reaching across the Cranberry Run Meadow, and belonging to Geo. B. Upton. This strip and enough more land along Rome ridge to make 25 acres, he sold to me for \$10000 per acre. He volunteered to give me a deed upon payment of \$5.00 per acre, saying I could pay him the other \$5.00 per acre, without interest, when it was made out of the property. This debt of honor was paid from the first profits. Upon acquiring this land I began to improve 60 acres above and adjoining the Fenwick tract. This operation some of my friends named "Whites folly". While improving this property I learned that John and Billy Smith had secured an option on 500 acres, including Ditch Meadows, for \$1200. and upon their failure to exercise their option I immediately bought the Ditch Meadow tract at that price, obtaining a deed for the same, from A. J. Morris, Trustee of Samuel H. Jones. The available cranberry land on all these tracts was improved as rapidly as my limited means would allow.

The Wisconsin Marsh was somewhat disappointing on account of frost damage, and we began to realize that late spring and early fall frosts made cranberry culture in Wisconsin extremely hazardous. Mr. Moulton had bought Mr. Comings interest, and sometime later he sold his entire interest in the Grand Marsh Cranberry Co. to a Mr. Cohn. Upon learning that Mr. Cohn had secured control of the property I concluded to dispose of the remainder of my interest, and finally turned it over to him, receiving in exchange the equity in two Camden houses and a cottage at Sea Side Park clear of encumbrance.

In 1895 I bought of Frederick Mead 500 acres on Antrims Branch and Cranberry Run, east of the Schaffer tract, for \$10.00 per acre, including the right to divert water from Gauntts Branch to Cranberry Run, in a ditch four feet wide at the bottom. Mr. Mead objected to granting the right to dig this ditch through his property, thinking it might interfere with a future sale; but I insisted upon it, and he finally yielded. After his death I found it desirable to dig a spillway through lands belonging to his estate from the reservoir back to Gauntts Branch. Upon interviewing his son Frederick in regard to selling me this privilege, I found him unwilling to do so, but he said he would be a good neighbor, and gave me to understand that I might go ahead with my project without a formal grant. Whereupon a spillway was dug from the lower end of the reservoir to Gauntts Branch in or about the year 1900, and up to this time 1914 there has been no objection from any source. I improved about 180 acres of the Mead tract for Cranberry Culture by building a reservoir dam at the foot of Jobs Swamp, and then drowning out the lower bogs on the tract first, using the reservoir water to maintain the heads. There were three exceptions in the Mead tract belonging to the Estate of Dr. Charles Ridgway, these were bought from his Executors Wm. R. Bishop and Wm R. Deacon in 1890 for \$250.00.

In the early days, Zebulon Gauntt had located and purchased a tract of swamp land on what was afterward named Gauntts Branch. This tract descended to his son Uz. Gauntt, who gave it to his sons. Benjamin, Elisha, Samuel and Jefferson. In 1895 I bought of Dr. Franklin Gauntt and the other heirs of Benjamin their interest in the tract. Elisha Gauntt's heirs refused to sell as they wished to retain something that had belonged to their grandfather Uz. The records failed to show

any transfer of the Samuel Gauntt interest, and upon finding in Camden a son of his named Ridgway Gauntt who was not aware that he had any interest in the tract, I bought all his right title and interest in the tract for \$10.00. His wife refused to sign on general principles, and, she being an elderly woman, I allowed her to retain her dower interest. Jefferson Gauntt had sold his interest to John Norcross, and as the records showed no conveyance from him, I endeavored to buy that portion from his widow and daughters. The widow and two of the daughters were willing to sell, but the other two daughters, who had not known that they had any interest in the property until I called their attention to it, refused. I wanted the swamp on this portion for raising a head of water. Finding I could not obtain a deed for it I bought of the widow, as Administrator of the Estate, and two of the daughters the right to flood the swamp. This grant is not on record, but the writing is with the papers of Joseph J. White Inc.

Immediately after obtaining this concession I built a dam at the head of my Ridgway Gauntt lot, flooded the Norcross swamp, and diverted the water through a ditch, four feet wide at the bottom, to my reservoir at the foot of Jobs Swamp. The other heirs have made no objection, and if they do not until we have exercised the right 20 years, we will probably acquire a right by prescription so far as they are concerned. When they are ready to sell, we will be ready to buy.

Realizing the importance of conserving the water in Jobs Swamp, I bought all the right title and interest of Howard D. Vansant in a tract containing 75 acres just above Troy Island for \$100.00. He said he had sold 20 building lots from this swamp survey, but as they had been described as being on "the new road leading from Whiting to Jobs Swamp" and never surveyed, the purchasers have doubtless lost the small amounts paid for them.

To further protect this water supply I also bought of Asher Parker all of his holdings in Jobs Swamp amounting to 154.90 acres for \$1200. This included several surveys, among them being one formerly owned by Alfred Balck running from Troy Island to the head of the swamp. I also acquired in 1906 a survey containing 29.63 acres west of Troy Island and near to the head of the reservoir, Wm. H. Bishop conveying it to me for \$200. During the same year Edward Emly asked me to meet him at Troy Island to see if an arrangement could be made that would enable him to sell the timber on about 3 acres near Troy Island which he owned but could not locate. I owned the including survey and as there was a clump of cedar near where he thought his lot ought to be, I allowed him to sell this clump to Bill Hartshorn provided he would give me a deed for the land. This he was glad to do. He sold the timber and when I went up to look after Bill some months later I found he had cut all the cedar from about twice as many acres as Emly had owned. Even then he did not want to stop, but he did.

In 1902 I purchased from the Estate of Frederick Mead 99.74 acres of land on Antrims Branch below my other land, including part of the Otter Pond bog, at \$10.00 per acre. The original Antrim survey of 19.56 acres, from which the Branch was named, was an exception in this tract and was located in what is now the Otter Pond bog. Before I could obtain this exception, Frank Green bought it, but I soon purchased it from him at an advance, and received a conveyance direct from Franklin Antrim March 11, 1904. On February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1903 I purchased 112 acres of land from the Forest Lakes Co. for \$400. This tract lies north of the Whitesbog village and now embraces the Blue Bogs.

On June 23, 1903 I was granted letters patent of the United States for an improvement in assorting machines. This patent was basic, covering twenty one claims. As every feature of the

machine was novel, much experimenting was required to attain success. Finally a machine was produced that would separate frosted from sound fruit, something that had never been successfully accomplished before, and 24 of them were installed in our warehouse.

With the view of conserving the waters of Pole Bridge Branch I have acquired at various times, five surveys on that branch above Canal Pond and shall buy more as the way opens. An amusing incident occurred during negotiations for one of these tracts owned by the heirs of Caleb Newbold. While George Webb was peddling huckleberries he encountered Mrs. Newbold who told him she had a swamp on Pole Bridge Branch which she wished to sell. George repeated the conversation to me, and I examined the swamp. Finding only small timber on it, I stated what I was willing to pay, and remarked that if I bought it I would buy it for posterity. Sometime later he met her again, submitted my offer and added "he says if he buys it he will buy it for prosperity", then said she, "I will keep it for prosperity." So the matter hung for a year or more. Finally I happened to meet one of her neighbors Wm. W. Earl in the Ridgway House, Philadelphia, and he knowing I had land up that way, remarked that Mrs. Newbold was anxious to sell her Pole Bridge Swamp. I gave him the details of my effort to buy it, and upon his telling her the story, she concluded to hold it no longer for "prosperity" and accepted my offer.

In 1901 I bought John and Billy Smith's ten acre bog including a few small buildings for \$1800. and as this piece was an exception in the Fenwick tract the conveyance was made to my wife, who afterward inherited the surrounding property.

When the vines on Antrims Branch were two years old the winter water was held until about July 1<sup>st</sup> without injury to the vines, but the grass was almost completely killed, much to the disgust of a host of army worms whose parents had laid their eggs among the grass, satisfied that their offspring would be abundantly provided for.

In 1902 we suffered considerable loss on the, main Fenwick bog from bloom worms. In 1903 this bog was flooded as late as June 7<sup>th</sup> apparently eliminating this pest for several years.

On July 20<sup>th</sup> 1897 we flooded the lower Pole Bridge bog, and the lower Centennial bog on Ditch Meadows, keeping the water on three weeks, for the purpose of killing briers, grass etc. The Ditch Meadow vines had been planted in the spring of 1895 and the Pole Bridge vines in the spring of 1896. The result of covering the bogs with water for three weeks in midsummer was to kill about three acres of vines on Pole Bridge and about 3 acres on Ditch Meadows and to injure many more. The briers, rushes and water grass were also killed but the sickle grass and hassocks were uninjured.

In 1914 summer flooding of the lower Cranberry Run Meadow from the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> of July caused a vigorous growth of vines, similar to that produced in the Fenwick bog some years ago, making it evident that summer flooding in moderate doses acts as a tonic, while in large doses it acts as a poison. The buds on the new growth thus produced would be more likely to mature before frost, if the vines were flooded earlier, say from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 7<sup>th</sup> of July.

In 1912, my wife having inherited the Fenwick bogs, which by that time had grown to 200 acres, we deeded all of our cranberry properties to Joseph J. White, Incorporated, dividing the capital stock of \$100,000. in proportion to our respective interests as shown by an appraisement

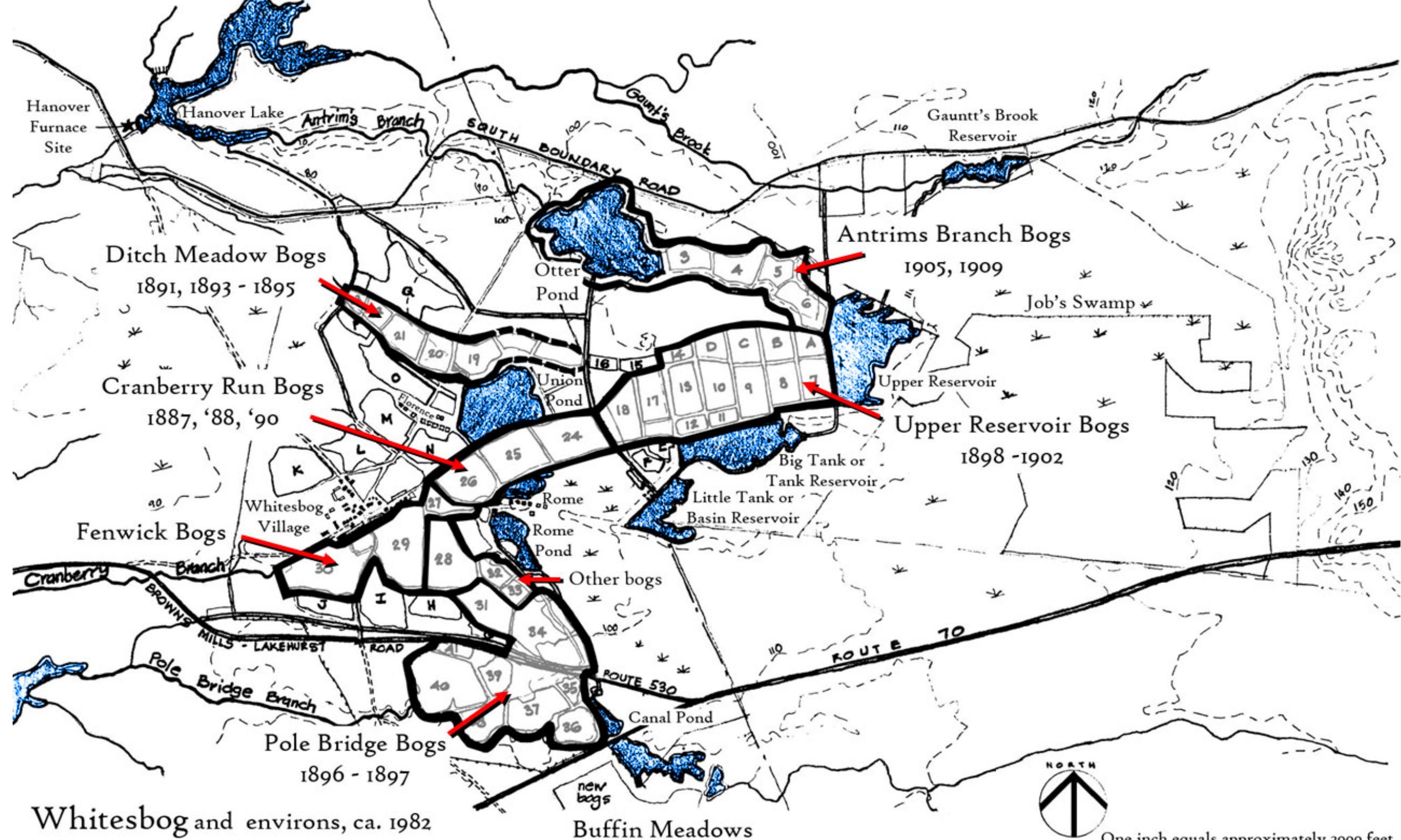
made by our children. This step was taken, primarily to prevent division of the property by our successors, and also to simplify the bookkeeping.

For a number of years we have been trying to buy several hundred acres of land lying east and west of our tract, known to us as the "Annex" and hoping to facilitate this transaction, Joseph J. White, Inc. purchased in 1912, 369.45 acres of swamp on North Branch for \$13000. The water supply controlled by this purchase is necessary for the proper developement [*sic*] of Buffins Meadows.

I shall not close this record without acknowledging the hearty cooperation and valuable assistance of my daughters, Elizabeth, Mary, Beulah and Anne in the conduct of my business. Although differing somewhat in temperament, tastes and talents they have all done what they could, and they have done much to help win success.

New Lisbon, N. J.

10/15/1914



Whitesbog and environs, ca. 1982

Buffin Meadows



One inch equals approximately 2000 feet