

RESEARCH OF

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INDIAN TOWN OF PLAYWICKEY

*Wrightstown Township
Lower Southampton Township*

“INDIAN TOWN OF PLAYWICKEY” by Josiah B. Smith, Newtown, Pennsylvania; read at the Wrightstown meeting of the Buck’s County Historical Society, July 31, 1883. (*Published in “A Collection of Papers Read Before the Bucks County Historical Society,” Volume 1; printed for the Society by B. F. Fackenthal, Jar., Riegelsville, Pa. Marx Room, Easton Public Library, Easton, Pa., H 974.821 B 926-c.*)

A number of places along the upper line of the first purchase of land of the Indians, in Bucks County, by William Penn, in 1682, have become a part of the history of the county, and increase in interest with time. The corner-marked spruce tree on the banks of the Delaware has been recognized as a corner on the upper line of the first purchase and also a corner in the lower line of subsequent deeds.

The location of the tree, it has been assumed on respectable authority was about one hundred and forty rods above the mouth of Baker’s, now known as Knowles’ Creek, and about ten miles above the gray stones, above the falls at Trenton.

From the corner spruce tree the line ran west-southwest along the edge of the foot of the mountain (Jericho hill) to a corner white oak, marked with the letter “P”, standing by the Indian path that leadeth to an Indian town called Playwickey, and from thence extending westward to a creek called Neshaminy.

The high rocks below the chain bridge have been pretty well established as the point referred to on the creek. The history of all that occurred at the white oak, which happened to be standing by an Indian path, in exactly the right place for a corner, at the entrance to Playwickey, has never been published; but the description given of the corner by the surveyor, is so full and explicit, it is reasonable to believe the tree, the letter “P”, the path and Indian town of Playwickey, were all situated near each other and had some important relation to the upper line of the purchase.

The object of running to the white oak and making it a corner, instead of running direct to high rocks, was not stated. But it would certainly be a loss of a good many acres to the purchaser; the only reason that seems plausible is, the straight line would run across the Indian field on the Hampton farm.

If Playwickey was situated at that place, as there is reason to think it was, the Indians would naturally feel disappointed and angry to find the line had been run as to strike the town and drive them from their ancient home.

To overcome this difficulty and retain their good will and friendship, the white oak standing by an Indian path, it may be assumed, was mutually agreed upon for a corner. The change made an angle in the line and left Playwickey undisturbed above it.

The wine drank, crackers eaten and pipes smoked while making a settlement of the difference and convincing the Indians they had no disposition to act unfairly, was not mentioned in the history.

The surveyor, however, appears to have confirmed the agreement by cutting the letter "P", the initial of Playwickey, upon the corner white oak, as the boundary line, and to prevent disputes in the future.

The existence of an Indian town called Playwickey, is proved by the same kind of evidence that proves the purchase of the land. The only question is its location.

The late Charles B. Trego, of Philadelphia, was born in Upper Makefield and spent many years of his life in the township. He was certain the corner white oak, marked with the letter "P", stood upon land long known as the Hampton farm, in Wrightstown township. He was also certain the chestnut tree, described in the history of the celebrated Indian walk, of 1737, was standing near the intersection of the Durham road with the road to Penn's Park, between the corner and the graveyard wall.

The evidence on which his opinion was formed had been collated from the original letter book of James Steel, the Franklin papers, contemporary writers and personal knowledge of the county from the Delaware to Neshaminy.

HAMPTON FARM

The Hampton farm on which the old Indian field can be seen, was a part of 1,200 acres of land sold by William Penn and his agents to Francis Richardson, in 1687, and patented to him in 1692. Richardson, his wife, and son John, died after a few years. The land then became the property of their two surviving children, Francis and Rebecca.

Rebecca married Thomas Murray, and her interest in the property was sold to her brother Francis Richardson, in 1707, making him the owner of the 1,200 acres. Francis, during the same year, sold the said 1,200 acres to Thomas Stackhouse, of Middletown. Stackhouse, in 1711, sold 224 acres of the land to Zebulun Heston, who removed to the place with his wife Dorothy and children and made it their home until his death about 1721 or 1722. It was then sold out of the family.

It came into possession of the Hamptons at an early period. In the fall of 1874, it was sold at public-sale as the estate of Moses Hampton, deceased.

The land was poor and the house looked so old and out of fashion it was the opinion of the best informed citizens of the neighborhood that it had been erected by Zebulun Heston. The most remarkable place on the farm, however, as well for locality as for appearance, was the old

Indian field, on the back part of the farm, supposed to be the site of an Indian town called Playwickey, to which the Indian path leadeth from the corner white oak, marked with the letter "P." It contains six or seven acres surrounded by woods. It is limited in width by two ravines, one on each side. The corners of the field are round, like a race course, on two sides, between the field and brink of the ravine is a strip, a few yards in width, of native trees, left for shade or other purposes.

The ground at the north end of the field is comparatively low, and rises at a reasonable uniform grade to the opposite end, which is quite elevated, affording a fine view of the whole field. At the time the farm was sold the field had not been plowed for a number of years and was destitute of everything green, except a thin strand of wiry looking weeds six or eight inches in height.

The cause of so much appearance of desolation is not known. But if the field had been the playground and dancing floor of Playwickey, and tract for training ponies many hundreds of years, we might think that the germ of all vegetation natural for the soil, except the wiry weeds, had been stamped out before it became the property of Francis Richardson.

UPPER LINE AT WRIGHTSTOWN

Some important information relating to the line, the purchase of 1686, and also that the Indians were very numerous near Wrightstown, was handed down by a committee of the Wrightstown Monthly Meeting (*of Quakers*). It appears from the records of the meeting, of 1752, a committee was appointed, under the advice of the Yearly Meeting in Philadelphia, for the following purpose: "To collect such information as they can form the oldest settlers, and others capable of acquainting them with any memorable transaction, since the first settlement of the country, and communicate the same to Samuel Smith, who has been appointed to compile a history of the province and settling of schools." The information was obtained and handed over to Smith, but from some cause the history was not written.

A part of Smith's unpublished manuscript now belongs to the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. The following extract, relating to Wrightstown, was selected from the work:

1684

JOHN CHAPMAN'S PLACE

"The Indians were now numerous hereabout, and used to frequent Chapman's house in great companies as they had occasion to pass that way, but behaved themselves civilly. One of their chiefs, however, one day coming to him, in an angry tone, told him it was their land he was settled on; pointing to a small distance, where he said the bounds of the English were, and borrowing an axe marked a line to the southeast of his house, and went away without giving him any other trouble at that time, and the proprietary's commissioners, soon after, making a second purchase, prevented any uneasiness for the future."

The above scrap of history was no doubt furnished by the committee appointed for the

with other history.

Another writer, trying to conceal that they were copying my writing, said the turtle shell-marked Indian village-site was on the western slope of Bowman's Hill. I therefore decided if possible to find that Indian village-site, for they always left some tools or chips to indicate where the sites were. I traveled over and around Bowman's Hill time and time again, visiting every likely place in the neighborhood, and found that the village-site had been on the Seth VanPelt farm, half a mile west of Bowman's Hill, directly opposite from where the road from Wrightstown to Bowman's Hill strikes the Lurgan road, at or near the turtle shell-marked village-site.

Chapman, in his early history of Wrightstown, said that our first roads were laid out on Indian paths. This is very reasonable to believe; they were first used as bridle paths, then for carts and wagons. This road, from Wrightstown, used to be known as the "Old Wrightstown Road," and was evidently laid out on an Indian path.

It was first laid out as a road in 1733, but finding that it was not quite the right place for carts and wagons, it was changed in 1763. It is quite reasonable to believe that Indians had paths from one village to another, and it was known that there was an Indian village near the mouth of Pidcock's creek. When the Wrightstown road or Indian path reached the turtle shell-marked village-site, it turned at a right angle and went almost direct to or near the Indian village-site at the mouth of Pidcock's creek. These are links in a chain of evidence, that this road was laid out upon an Indian path.

Davis's History of Bucks County tells us that the Durham road was laid upon an Indian path, and Warren S. Ely tells me that the records of Bucks county give an account of an Indian village near the west end of Buckingham Mountain. There are other links to prove that the Durham road was laid out on an Indian trail, and was intersected at Wrightstown by the Indian paths heading from the Indian village at Pidcock's creek to the turtle-shell village-site, and on to the Indian village-site near Isaac Lacey's, where it was intersected by the Indian path or lane across the Hampton and Lacey farms, and then on to Bridgetown, where probably it reached a path leading from the Delaware river to Playwicky, which also passed over the Indian village-site at the Cornell farm, near the junction of the three streams. Thus making a continuous path from the corner white oak, on the Hampton farm, to Playwicky.

Today we say that the Durham road leads to Bristol; at the time of the purchase of this land from the Indians, it was part of the Indian path that led to Playwicky.

From the best evidence I have been able to gather, and by frequent searches extending back over forty-five years or more, I was convinced that Playwicky was on the VanArtsdaden farm at or near the foot of the hill, almost opposite to the limestone quarry. Before the quarry was opened the spring was a gushing fountain of ten or twelve inches. It is a well-known fact that Indian had both a winter and a summer camp, and this was probably a summer camp, being on a hill where they could get better breezes and also plenty of shade.

About two hundred yards distant, on the adjoining farm across the ravine, there is a

Following this the writer established by deeds the site of Heaton's mill of 1756, as at the present Rocksville, but failed to find Draycot, and failed to find any trace of a large Indian village, anywhere along Mill creek from Rocksville to the Neshaminy.

After this inconclusive hunt, twenty years followed, in which no one else examined the unsettled question, until, in 1920, Albert Cook Myers again roused interest in the matter, by finding several notes in William Penn's handwriting, stating that the land or house of the widow of his friend, Cuthbert Hayhurst, in 1683, is "Near the Indian town Playwicky."

Thereupon Warren S. Ely fixed the site of the widow Hayhurst's holding, at the bend of Neshaminy creek, crossing the latter west of Langhorne, at the mouth of Mill creek, and then, turning back to Watson's statement, established the holding of Philip Draycot, in 1756, as a tract about a quarter of a mile wide, and a mile or more long, east and west, including the present farm of Arthur C. Emlen. This narrowed down the field of search so much that it has enabled us now, better than ever before to look for, and I think find, the site of Playwicky.

Matthias Hall, with remarkable enthusiasm, has examined the topography of this neighborhood, looked at all the springs, discovered an Indian site on the Cornwell farm, referred to later, and has been the first to recognize and point out, the remarkable environment of Mr. VanArtsdalen's house, as the site of Playwicky.

Together with the facts which he has presented, the writer has tried to weigh and examine the documentary, traditional and topographical evidence as follows:

First as to the notes of Penn and Watson: the site of Playwicky is about at the farm of Mr. Arthur C. Emlen and, below, or south of, Rocksville, according to Watson. It is near the Trenton cut off railroad bridge, crossing the Neshaminy at the mouth of Mill creek, according to Penn. Hence combining both statements, we infer that it was not to the north, or to the east, of this bend of the Neshaminy, but somewhere to the west of it, somewhere in the region between Neshaminy creek on the east, the Emlen farm on the west, Mill creek on the north, and an east and west line from the Neshaminy, a little south of Siles, on the south.

In considering the topography of this region, let us begin by cutting out the banks of Neshaminy creek, from the Falls to Mill creek, because the lower part of the dark gorge, above the Falls dam, is too narrow for foothold, while the low marginal flats further up, as far as Mill creek, are continually freshet swept, with two exceptions, first the terrace on the left bank under and below the railroad, which is not so much "near" the site of Hayhurst but rather at it; and, second, the terrace around the Neshaminy bend on the north side of the railroad bridge bluff, and on the left bank of the stream, which is too cold for Indians. Moreover, in any case, John Watson's language in the writer's opinion, excludes all sites on Neshaminy creek, since none such could have been reasonably said by him to be "about Philip Draycot's" (Mr. Emlen's), while further, if Playwicky had been on the Neshaminy, John Watson, the surveyor, would surely have said so.

Let us next examine the banks of Mill creek. Here with one exception along the whole southeast course of Mill creek from Rockville to the Neshaminy the topography is against Indian

habitation, notwithstanding the two springs on the Swarmer and Tomlinson farms that would furnish drinking water. These two springs near the hill top, nearly a mile from the creek, and the lower available levels for possible Indian villages are on the right bank, that is on the wrong side of the stream, they front north.

At the farm now and for three years past, worked by Clarence Tomlinson on the north side of the Bridgeton-Feasterville road, nearly opposite the Emlen farm, there is a good spring which does not go dry. From this a rivulet flows northward down the hill into Mill Creek nearly a mile away. Many surface stones have been gathered on the place but Mr. Tomlinson has heard of no Indian relics.

(Valentine Swarmer, a newcomer, occupies the next farm along the same side of the road to the east - formerly the Worthington farm - where there is also a spring. The north hillside frontage at both places is similar. - Information of Clarence Tomlinson to H. C. Mercer, by telephone, June 12, 1923.)

(The writer visited both the above sites - Tomlinson and Swarmer - on June 14, 1923. Both springs are on the north side of the same hill which shelters the VanArtsdalen amphitheater, namely the long ridge which here follows Mill Creek nearly a mile away. No doubt Indians may have camped near both these springs. No doubt relics have been and may be found around them. Both are very insignificant compared with the VanArtsdalen springs so near them on the south side of the same hill. Judged by all the tests of such places known to the writer, these springs and the north fronting hill slopes around them should in his opinion be thrown out of consideration.)

There is no good foothold on the steep south fronting banks opposite. The exception is the meadow at the mouth of the creek on its left side of the Cornell farm. At this point the northern hills, above mentioned, recede. Pine run flows into Mill creek, about three hundred yards above its mouth, enclosing a high and dry relic-bearing meadow.

I missed this in 1897, but Mr. Hall found it recently. Though about a quarter of a mile distant from the nearest spring, the relics found there show that it has been dwelt upon by Indians, and judged by Penn's language alone, it might be Playwicky, because it is certainly near the old site of Cuthbert Hayhurst's house, just across the Neshaminy creek. Nevertheless this site, in the writer's opinion, should be ruled out because, though within the language of Penn, it does not fulfill the requirements of John Watson's sentence. It is not reasonably "about Philip Draycot's" (now Mr. Emlen's, and not reasonably "below" (i.e., south of in surveyor's language) but too far above, i.e., to the east, and a little to the north, of Heaton's mill (Rocksville).

For the same reason the whole course of Mill creek, whatever its topography, notwithstanding the Swarmer and Tomlinson springs, and whether the writer's hunt in 1893 was satisfactory or not, should be eliminated from the present search.

The above, if correct, narrows down our examination to some one of the several springs, necessary for an Indian village, that rise in the tract in question, below the Bridgetown-Feasterville road. These springs form, or flow into, three rivulets, the only three that drain the tract and as there are no other springs let us consider these rivulets one by one.

The first to flow into the Neshaminy on the right bank, as we come north from the Falls, is about one mile long. It rises about half-a-mile south of Mr. VanArtsdalen's house, on the farm just sold by Thomas Larue. Here access to the Neshaminy over a hill to the east, or down the steep ravine of the stream, is inconvenient. The spring rises in a swamp about two hundred yards in diameter. No doubt the south fronting hill slopes around this swampy source might have been inhabited by Indians at times. Mr. Larue reports a few relics found in the ten-acre field across the road to the south. But the whole place is so very inferior to the VanArtsdalen site, to be described later, only half a mile away, that in the writer's opinion, it should be discarded, and with it the whole lower course of the rivulet, with or without possible tributary springs, because its banks are too steep.

(The present house on the Larue farm was built by the father of Thomas Larue about 1840-1858. When the former bought the farm in 1832 a log house with a well stood at the site and a springhouse, over the spring, in the swamp. Another log house, across the road, built by the father of Thomas Larue, is now gone. A few years ago twenty-five arrow heads were found by an Indian boy employed by Mr. Thomas Larue, in the ten-acre field, once covered with cedar trees, on the rivulet across the road to the south. - Information of Thomas Larue of Langhorne, by telephone, to H. C. Mercer, June 8, 1923.)

Still keeping on the right or west bank of the Neshaminy, the only side thereof now under consideration, a second rivulet, entering the Neshaminy north of the above, and flowing down a similar ravine, rises in two springs, about a hundred yards apart, on the adjoining Albert Paxson and Mather farms, and half-a-mile east of the Larue springs. Here the conditions are better. We have two springs instead of one, and no swamp. The same south-fronting meadow slopes, close by, but access to the Neshaminy, over the same eastern hill, or down a similar ravine, are equally inconvenient.

Mr. Paxson reports an absence of relics, during the thirty or more years of his residence. His neighbor, Mr. Mather, is a newcomer, and knows nothing of the place. But this negative evidence is inconclusive, owing to the fact that Paxson's land, around the spring, has been kept as an uncultivated pasture meadow. There can be little doubt that here again Indians must have occasionally camped at the spring. Still this place, though better than the Larue spring, from the Indian's point of view, is so very inferior to the VanArtsdalen spring, hardly one mile away, not yet described, that it, and the whole course of the rivulet below it, should again, in the writer's opinion, be thrown out of consideration.

(Mr. Thomas Larue says that he heard from his father that Indians had lived at a small flat place about fifty yards square, on the right of this rivulet rising at the Paxson and Mather springs, about a quarter of a mile south of the road, and that pikes of stones, still existing, had been placed in the woods on the steep left bank opposite, by Indians, to capture deer by breaking their legs. - Information of Thomas Larue of Langhorne, by telephone, by H. C. Mercer, June 8, 1923.)

This leaves us with the third rivulet, the next to enter the Neshaminy on the right bank above the Paxson stream, as we come northward, and the only one remaining in the field of search. This streamlet, rising in two or more insignificant springs, along the Bridgetown to

Feasterville road, and augmented by two other springs, one of them near the Emlen house, and another near a ruined house, a quarter of a mile below it, enters a very remarkable amphitheatre, surrounded by low hills, on the VanArtsdalen farm and passes thence, by way of a narrow gorge, about half-a-mile long into Neshaminy creek; and it is the striking topography and history, of this amphitheatre, that forces us to believe, that here, and here alone, with reasonable certainty, we have at last discovered the lost site of Playwicky.

Discarding the above mentioned springs, above this amphitheatre and the narrow bed of the rivulet below it, the amphitheatre itself, with its surrounding levels, and the springs that flow into it, fill all the requirements of an Indian town.

Here we find a flat meadow, nearly a mile long, east and west, and tapering to a point, at its eastern end. Low hills surround it on all sides. The rivulet, in question enters it on the wide western end, crosses it, and leaves it, at the narrow eastern end. The gentle lower hill slopes, on its north side, give the requisite southern frontage for Indian habitation in winter. While some of the steeper north fronting slopes, on the south, might serve for cool temporary dwelling in summer.

On the other hand, the meadow proper, because, as we learn, sometimes submerged by freshets, is too wet for a village-site. Close around this meadow rise three springs, two on its north side, the first at the VanArtsdalen house, the second just below it to the east, both good springs, both rising, not in the meadow, but on the dry habitable slopes in question. The third spring, far larger and finer, perhaps the largest in southern Bucks county, enters the meadow and rivulet, from the steep hillside on the south, just as the rivulet leaves the amphitheatre.

So much in general for the topography of the place. Next as to its history:

According to the information of Mr. VanArtsdalen, his family have, in the last eighty years, gathered two collections of Indian relics near the amphitheatre. The first, associated with minerals found in opening the limestone quarry at the large lower spring above mentioned, and loaned or given to the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, possibly for their exhibit at the Philadelphia Centennial in 1876, and seen at the Academy by Mr. VanArtsdalen about 1885. No record of which relics has as yet been found at the Academy.

(The writer visited the VanArtsdalen Farm on June 14, 1923, when the mother of Mr. Winder VanArtsdalen told the writer very positively that she had frequently heard her father-in-law, Mr. VanArtsdalen's grandfather, say that he had loaned, not only a collection of minerals but also therewith a collection of Indian relics to the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia, and that on wishing to take back both collections, he had been persuaded to give them both to the Academy. Mr. Winder VanArtsdalen then told the writer, that as a boy nine years old, he had been taken by a relative, Miss Sally, about 1885, to the Academy, and had there been shown not only the VanArtsdalen minerals, but the VanArtsdalen Indian relics, placed near them, in the showcases of the Academy.)

The second, a later accumulation, sold by Mr. VanArtsdalen to Col. H. D. Paxson a few years ago, and here shown. Mr. VanArtsdalen tells us that not all these relics were found at the

amphitheatre, but some over the hill top on the north, or upon, or beyond, the hill slopes to the south, or possibly elsewhere, on adjoining farms. But this foreign admixture, is not significant, if he is right, as we think he is, saying that a reasonable number of them were found close to the amphitheatre.

Having weighed this information, let us examine the place for ourselves.

Unfortunately we find that the inhabitable north margin of the amphitheatre is occupied either by the VanArtsdalen house and buildings, or covered with old meadow grass, showing no exposed surface, except at the asparagus field, at its extreme lower end, opposite the great spring.

Nevertheless, if Playwicky existed at the amphitheatre, the site of this asparagus field could not have escaped Indian habitation, and its dry level surface, not buried in talus from the southern hill slopes too far away, should still show some of the stone remains that would prove the fact, not finished axes, arrow heads, polished celts, gorgets, pestles, etc., so long hunted for at the place, but the no less significant rude and broken stones, that no amateur collector collects.

Of these we found about fifteen water rolled geologically recent pebbles, some broken, probably by fire, some pitted by hammering, some showing scarcely any marks of use. Not indigenous to the place, all must have been brought there by Indians, as boiling or cooking stones, or hammers. Otherwise, leaving out of consideration the few chips and a grooved stone axe recently found in the asparagus field by Mr. VanArtsdalen, the surface, compared with the average Indian sites elsewhere examined by the writer in Bucks county, seemed very bare indeed. It showed nothing except two large fire-blackened areas, either of pioneer or Indian origin, and therefore inconclusive.

We dug three trenches upon the asparagus field, about four feet long, one and a half feet wide, and two and a half feet deep. These, with two smaller circular holes, showed a superficial band of blackened earth about fourteen inches deep, evidently discolored by fire, showing rarely, but unmistakably, minute fragments of charcoal at its bottom, below plough depth, and resting on the clean clay.

In one of these trenches Mr. VanArtsdalen found a broken arrow head of argilite, and Mr. Mann an artificial chip of white quartz. I myself found no Indian relics associated with this charcoal in any of these holes, and therefore prefer to argue nothing from our excavations. More hunting on the surface might have found more pebbles; more digging, more relics. The asparagus patch, as examined by us, is a very small part of the inhabitable area. Nevertheless it is very significant, because directly upon the habitable south fronting level, and hard by the best of all the springs.

When all is considered, allowing for the relics previously carried away from the place, the surface pebbles found there by us are, in the writer's opinion, conclusive - in now way less so than such relics as the grooved stone axe, the finished arrow head, the blade maker's chip, the potsherd, the polished celt, or the pestle and mortar itself. Always and invariably, all such places, proof positive of permanent Indian habitation.

It is not necessary that we should find the site of a very large or very ancient Indian village here, a place where the surface relics should be one-third or even one-tenth as abundant, as at such sites, on the Delaware river, as Lower Blacks Eddy, or Gallows Run. The fact that Playwicky is mentioned in the deed of 1683, and by Penn, etc., only means that it happened to be a noted place at that time. It might well be that the town was not much inhabited by the Delawares, until after the Swedes and Dutch had crowded them off the lower river banks about 1640, and that between 1640 and 1690 it rose to importance, as the final retiring place for the Indians before their departure, and during their last lands sales in the lower county.

Finally how do the references to Playwicky, by Penn as “near Culburt Hayhurst’s widow” in 1683, and by John Watson, as “about Philip Draycot’s below Heaton’s mill” in 1756, apply to this place?

According to Mr. Ely’s discoveries, which have made this research possible, Philip Draycot’s tract, in 1756, adjoined the west end of this amphitheatre, and is now represented, as before mentioned, by the Emlen farm. Draycot’s house, we think, probably stood at the site of the present house of Mr. Emlen or another ruined house, about a quarter of a mile further this way, on the rivulet crossing the amphitheatre in question.

(More probably than any possible site on the same rivulet above Mr. Emlen, because the springs above him are inferior to his, or than any site, now lost away from the springs on their tract would not have dug a well before 1756, or than the Larue site, if the latter ever should be found to belong to the Draycot tract, because, while the Emlen site, then, as now, had its road (the Bridgetown-Feasterville Road), there was no road at the Larue site in 1756.)

If Watson’s phrase, “about Philip Draycot’s” refers to Draycot’s whole tract, then this VanArtsdalen site is as well covered by his words as the Larue or Paxson sites. If his sentence refers to Draycot’s house, then this remarkable place of Mr. VanArtsdalen’s, is about half-a-mile nearer Philip Draycot, than either Larue or Paxson. On the other hand, Penn’s language taken alone, might include, but would not exclude, either Paxson, Larue, or VanArtsdalen.

To sum up then, the topographical, documentary and traditional evidence shows, in the writer’s opinion, that there are only three possible sites for Playwicky, in the region referred to in the language of William Penn and John Watson, namely, this VanArtsdalen site and the Paxson and Larue sites, and that the former (this amphitheatre of Mr. VanArtsdalen’s), is far superior to the other two.

That Playwicky, probably not a very large, or very ancient Indian town (and probably abandoned soon after as the last secluded halting place of the Delawares in the lower county in Penn’s time), was situated here and nowhere else.