

**NJS Presents****Museums, Archives, Artifacts, and Documents****In this Issue:**

***Indian Deed to Area near Success Mill in Colliers Mill Wildlife Area – Jackson Township, NJ***

**By Ocean County Historical Society Volunteers**

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*The Ocean County Historical Society (OCHS) is pleased to share this document, dated July 12, 1734. It appears to record the sale of land now in Jackson Township's 12,000-acre Colliers Mills Wildlife Management Area, and has not been widely viewed since 1979. Additional research on this document (and a multitude of other Native American artifacts) is currently underway, as OCHS prepares a new Native American History exhibit for its Museum at 26 Hadley Avenue, Toms River, NJ 08753.*

The Ocean County Historical Society (OCHS) is pleased to share with the readers of *NJ Studies* this document, dated July 12, 1734. It appears to record the sale of land now in Jackson Township's 12,000-acre Colliers Mills Wildlife Management Area. The document was last widely viewed in 1979, when it was on display at the Ocean County Fair. The theme of the fair that year was "Ocean County Remembers the America Indian."

Much of what the Historical Society knows about the deed comes from research done during that year. [Elizabeth Meirs Morgan](#) of Forked River, then second vice-president of OCHS and Director of the Ocean Nature and Conservation Society, received the deed from her cousin, [Dr. David Meirs](#) of Cream Ridge. The document had been kept at his farm, Walnridge, for "countless years," according to a July 10, 1979 *Ocean County Times-Observer* article. Ms. Meirs Morgan deemed the document of particular significance, noting for the *Observer* that "it proved

that as late as 1734, there was still virgin Indian land that had not been purchased by white settlers.” The *Observer* article continues, “The Indian petitioner for the sale of rights on the...deed was [Bartholomew S. Calvin](#), known also as Wilted Grass or Shawuskukhkung...He was a Princeton-educated Indian who knew his ancestors did not realize how much they had given up in return for blankets, match coats, axes, and trinkets...the purchaser was Edmund Beakes, of Burlington County...” The land sold for 30 shillings.

Additional research on this document (and a multitude of other Native American artifacts) is currently underway, as OCHS prepares a new Native American History exhibit for its Museum at 26 Hadley Avenue, Toms River, NJ 08753. Please stay tuned to the Society’s [Facebook](#) page for timely updates, or better yet- [become a member](#)! For more on the history of Native Americans and NJ generally, please click [here](#) and [here](#).

### **A Transcription of the Deed**

This indenture made the twelfth day of July in the year of our Lord 1734 between Indian Pombelous (one of the natives of New Jersey), of the one part, and Edmund Beakes of the County of Burlington in the Western Division of New Jersey, yeoman, of the other part.

Witnesseth that the said Pombelous, for and in consideration of the sum of thirty shillings to him in hand paid and received, he doth hereby acknowledge every part and parcel thereof and do acquit and forever discharge to Edmund Beakes forever by these agents who have granted, bargained, sold, aliened, invested and confirmed and by those persons do grant, bargain, sell, alien, invest and confirm unto the said Edmund Beakes, his heirs and assigns a certain tract of land lying in the Eastern Division of New Jersey, near the Cedar Swamps bounded as followeth: Beginning on the branch of the Toms River where Beakes Saw Mill stands, and where Pelcookonossey comes in at the said branch, thence westerly by the side of Pelcookonossey till

we come to where we cross Covinshanock, then by a direct line to a cedar swamp commonly called Onhomanthen, then easterly by said swamp till it comes into the branch of Toms River above these, to the place of beginning. Together with all the wood and water (woods, mines, minerals, quarries, fishings, fowlings, hawkings, huntings) rights, royalties, liberties, privileges, water and water courses to the described tract of land belonging or in any way appertaining, to have and to hold the above described tract of land with all and singular the watercourses thereon and all other appurtenances there unto belonging or in any way appertaining unto the said Edmund Beakes, his heirs and assigns to the only proper care and behooves of him, the said Edmund Beakes, his heirs and assigns forever, and the said Pombelous doth covenant for himself and for his heirs to do with him the said Edmund Beakes, his heirs and assigns that at the time of the insealing hereof, hath full power and good right of absolute authority to grant, bargain and sell all and singular the above described tract of land with the appurtenances thereon, and that of said Edmund Beakes, his heirs and assigns shall peaceable and quietly have, hold and enjoy all of the above described tract of land with all and singular appurtenances there unto belonging or in any way appertaining without any molestation claim or demand of him the said Pombelous or his heirs or any other of the native Indians whosoever shall and will warrant and defend by those present. In witness where said Pombelous has set his hand and seal dated the day and year above written. 1734.

Signed, sealed and delivered in the presence of us.

Jim Scuish	Anthony Woodward	John Pombelous
Indian Tom	Thomas Cobbs	Indian Peter
Tuly Carpenter	James Freeze	Walolowaond
Weshawanskunk	Teedyuscung	

