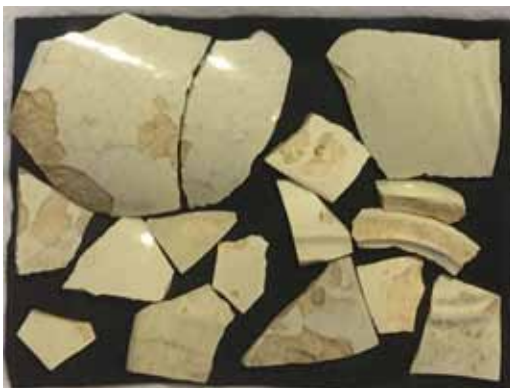
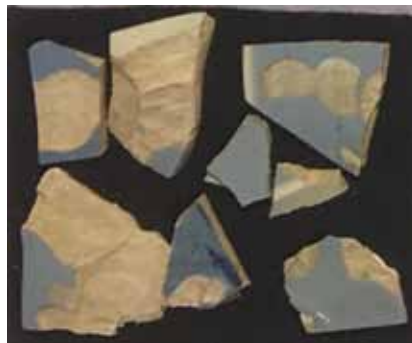


THE ARCHEOLOGY OF TEN MILE RIVER VILLAGE /TOWN OF TUSTEN



THE TEN MILE RIVER
SCOUT MUSEUM
2022

THE TEN MILE RIVER VILLAGE AND TUSTEN

Around 1757, the first settlement on the Delaware River at the mouth of the Ten Mile River was organized. It was founded by the Delaware Company under the authority of the State of Connecticut. A sawmill was established at the mouth of the Ten Mile River before 1762.

In October 1763, Native Americans wiped out the 22 settlers and destroyed their crops. This was known as the **TMR Massacre**. Soon afterwards, the **Ten Mile River Village** developed on this site. It was an important and vital community during the great bluestone and lumbering boom in the early 1800s. The Village consisted of a Baptist church, several homes, a grain mill and several sawmills. Bluestone from **Tusten Mountain** was ferried across the Delaware River to the **Erie Railroad** loading dock on the Pennsylvania side. The Village was the site of the first meeting of the Town of Lumberland, on April 2, 1779. For many years, it was considered the central point of Lumberland. At that time, Lumberland took up about half of what is today Sullivan County.

The collapse of the local lumber and quarrying industries in the late 1800s was largely responsible for the decline of the **Ten Mile River Village**.

In 1853, the **Ten Mile River Village** was reorganized and renamed the **Town of Tusten**, after Colonel Benjamin Tusten, Jr., a doctor who died in the battle of Minisink, in 1779. By 1875, Tusten had more than 20 dwellings, including a general store, a blacksmith's shop, parsonage and a post office.

The **Tusten Settlement Church**, the former Ten Mile River Baptist Church (a.k.a. Tusten Baptist Church), is an historic church on NY 97, at the junction with Cocheton Turnpike. It was built in 1856 and is a small frame meeting house with modest Greek Revival style detailing. It features a small, reconstructed bell tower and spire. The church cemetery includes the gravesite of Gustavus A. Neumann, founding editor of a newspaper, the *New Yorker Staats-Zeitung*. It is the last building standing from the Town of Tusten. The church is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The one-room **Tusten Schoolhouse** was erected by 1875, across the street from the Baptist Church.

The **Tusten Stone Arch Bridge** was constructed in 1896 by William H. Hankins, a local timber raftsman, stonemason and occasional postmaster. The bridge crosses the Ten Mile River just northeast of its confluence with the Delaware River. It is approximately 52 ft. long and 15 ft. wide and continues to operate as a single lane vehicle bridge for local traffic. The bridge is named in honor of Dr. Benjamin Tusten. It was constructed to facilitate travel to the milling center from north or south and for easier access to the **Erie Railroad**. The bridge is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Traces of the **Town of Tusten** still remain, including a sawmill, brickyard, ferry dock, gristmill, tavern, store and school.



Tusten Schoolhouse



Tusten Settlement Church

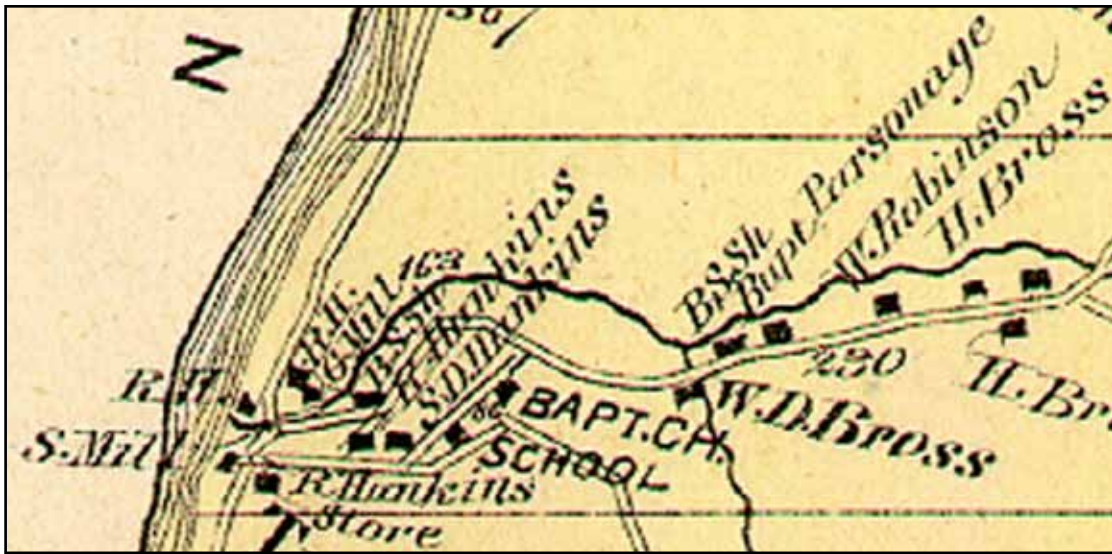


TMR Sawmill & Tusten Stone Arch Bridge



Town of Tusten Foundations and Walls

TUSTEN IN 1875



THE MINISINK COMPANY

In 1911, a group of New York City businessmen established the **Minisink Company** with the primary purpose of developing a 4,000-acre tract comprising the lands in the vicinity of the **Town of Tusten**. Engineers developed maps of the proposed project, showing some 325 lots available for development. According to the proposal, two bridges would cross the Delaware River in the vicinity of the Ten Mile River, providing easy access to the **Erie Railroad**.

An elaborate sales brochure was published, called "*Country Homes in Sullivan County*." In it, Rock Lake and Davis Lake were described as being of "*beauty unsurpassed*," fed by springs of pure water. 500 acres of the Davis Lake tract could be purchased for a club, hotel or summer estate. Also mentioned prominently were lots along a two-mile stretch of the Delaware River, suitable for bungalows and villas. Other tracts of land could be purchased for farming.



The Minisink Company Property

The **Minisink Company** actually sold very few lots and the entire project was abandoned in a very short time.



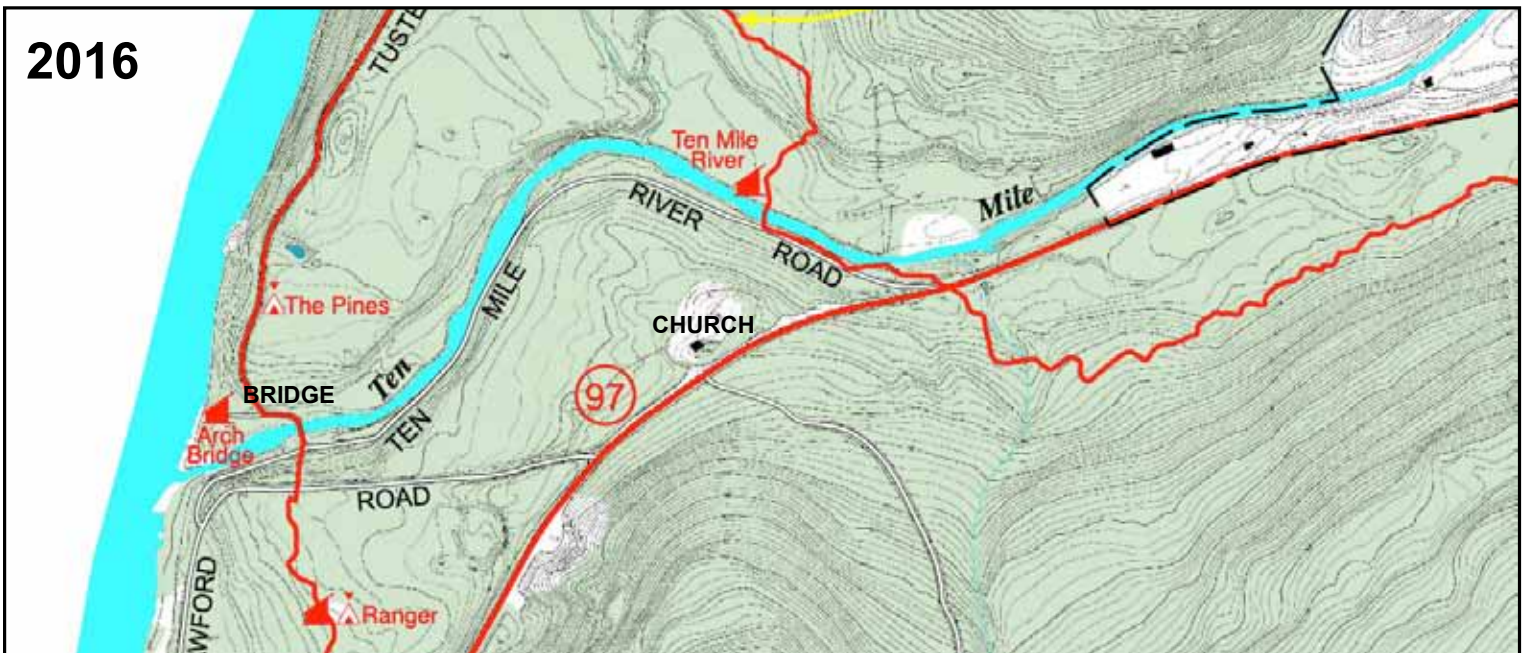
Proposed Minisink Company Lot Map in the vicinity of the Town of Tusten (1911). Note the church and schoolhouse. The major improvements, including a bridge over the Delaware River, were never implemented.

WHAT HAPPENED TO TUSTEN?

With the failure of the Minisink Company development, the property was available for purchase by the Boy Scout Foundation of Greater New York when the Ten Mile River tract was assembled circa 1927. The Boy Scouts had no need for the buildings so they were torn down, leaving foundations but not much else above ground.



This map shows approximately 35 buildings in Tusten shortly before the purchase of the property by the Boy Scout Foundation of Greater New York in Oct., 1927. Most buildings are on either side of Crawford Road. Note the locations of the Stone Arch Bridge and the Tusten Settlement Church. (Source: Gaul & Kampfer.)



All of the buildings were removed after the property was acquired by the Boy Scouts in 1927. The Tusten Settlement Church property was never purchased and remains today. The erection of State Road 97 substantially changed the roads around the Tusten Settlement Church.

WHY DID THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE EXCAVATE THE THREE SITES?

In 2017, the National Park Service Inventory and Monitoring (I&M) Program worked with the New York State Geological Survey and existing geologic reports and map resources to develop a Geologic Resources Inventory (GRI) for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River. A Geologic Resources Inventory is one of 12 basic natural resource inventories that the NPS I&M Program is committed to providing all parks with significant natural resources. Part of the Upper Delaware GRI included up to 20 Geoprobe borings from a number of locations on Ten Mile River Scout Camps property near the Ten Mile River Access. See the *Geology of TMR* exhibit for details on the Geoprobe borings.

As a part of compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the National Park Service is required to determine whether its actions (such as the Geoprobe borings) will adversely effect cultural resources. Due to an unusually short notification period from within the agency regarding the drilling, the archeological testing that the NPS would ordinarily conduct prior to initiating projects could not be arranged before the GRI drilling, so it occurred at a later date, in July, 2018.

As the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River did not have an archeologist on staff, archeologist John Harmon from the Region came out to do shovel test pit (STP) excavations in areas nearby to where the drilling occurred on the property leased by the NPS to assess whether cultural resources were adversely effected.

In 2021, the resulting artifacts were returned to the Ten Mile River Scout Museum after being cleaned, identified, and inventoried by archeologist Amy Fedchenko of the Northeast Archeological Resources Program (formerly Northeast Region Archeology Program).

Sources: Lauren Hauptman, NPS, David Malatzky.



PHOTOS OF
EXCAVATED
SITES



(L) ARTIFACTS
BEFORE
CLEANING

(R) BOX
CONTAINING
ARTIFACTS

SHOVEL TEST PITS



The National Park Service excavated the three sites on TMR property using shovel test pits, or “STPs.” Essentially, an archeologist grids out an area a set number of meters apart, then excavates STPs until cultural material is found. If cultural materials are discovered, typically the next step is called digging “radials,” or STPs spaced about 2.5 and up to 5 meters in each cardinal direction away from the original STP location where artifacts were discovered.

Most of the time, a tarp will set up next to the location of a STP to be dug, and the dirt excavated from the STP using a shovel will be screened through a ¼ inch shaker screen to search for artifacts. All the dirt excavated from the STP will be used to refill the hole to prevent any negative impacts to the landscape and to wildlife.

In the Northeast, STPs are typically required to be excavated by hand up to one meter deep at which point it’s too difficult for an archeologist to excavate much deeper. The STP is one survey method that is indispensable in an archeologist’s methodological toolbox.

Source: National Park Service

SITE: TMR ACCESS ROAD

SURFACE COLLECTIONS



Ferrous Kettle



**Contact Molded
Bottle - Colorless
(Owens Bottle
Company)**



Soda Bottle

SHOVEL TEST PIT 1 - LEVEL 1

SITE DESCRIPTION: Silty sand with many pebbles, compact. Modern glass, wire nail. River/slope sediment.



**Windowpane
Plate Glass**



Machine-Cut Nail



**Whiteware
Pottery, Plain**

SHOVEL TEST PIT 2 - LEVEL 1

SITE DESCRIPTION: Silty sand, compact. Numerous pebbles/cobbles. Whiteware sherds, modern glass, overbank/slope deposit.



**Windowpane
Plate Glass**



**Whiteware
Pottery, Plain**

SITE: CRAWFORD ROAD HOUSE

SHOVEL TEST PIT 1 - LEVEL 1

SITE DESCRIPTION: Silty fine sand, few pebbles/gravel, ceramic, glass, metal, 1 flake.



Annular Ware, Banded Pottery



Annular Ware, Mocha Pottery



Lead Glazed Coarse Earthenware Pottery



Pearlware, Plain Pottery



Creamware Pottery, Plain



Jackfield-Type Ware Pottery



Whiteware Pottery, Plain



Redware Pottery



Chert Flake



Contact Molded Bottles - Aqua Tint



Cinder



Large Bolt

SHOVEL TEST PIT 2 - LEVEL 1

SITE DESCRIPTION: Compact silt/fine sand. Many roots and rootlets. Pebbles and interface with underlying ceramic, glass, wrought nail. Coal fragments not collected.



Pearlware, Plain Pottery



Redware Pottery



Creamware Pottery, Plain



Jackfield-Type Ware Pottery



Annular Ware, Banded Pottery



Porcelain, Bone China



Whiteware Pottery, Plain



Stoneware, Black Basalt



Cinder



Lamp Glass



Screw

SITE: CRAWFORD ROAD HOUSE

SHOVEL TEST PIT 3 - LEVEL 1

SITE DESCRIPTION: Silt, many roots/rootlets, few pebbles. Ceramic (100+), glass, metal, numerous coal fragments - not collected.



Jackfield-Type Ware Pottery



Pearlware, Edged Pottery



Whiteware, Hand Painted Pottery



Porcelain, Bone China



Lead Glazed Coarse Earthenware



Stoneware, White Salt Glazed



Whiteware, Transfer Printed Pottery



Stoneware, Black Basalt



Whiteware Pottery, Plain



Lamp Glass



Contact Molded Bottles, Colorless



Cinder



Wire Fence



Machine-Cut Nails



Brick



Drinking Glass



Contact Molded Bottles, Aqua Tint

SITE: CRAWFORD ROAD HOUSE

SHOVEL TEST PIT 4 - LEVEL 1

SITE DESCRIPTION: Silt, many roots/rootlets, few pebbles. Ceramic (100+), glass, metal, numerous coal fragments - not collected.



**Lead Glazed
Coarse
Earthenware**



**Jackfield-
Type Ware
Pottery**



**Yellow
Ware**



**Pearlware,
Plain**



**Redware
Pottery**



**Whiteware
Pottery, Plain**



**Mammal
Bone**



**Lamp
Glass**



**Slate Tile
Roof**



**Windowpane
Plate Glass**



**Hat/Hair
Pin**



**Contact
Molded
Bottles -
Aqua Tint**



Wire Nail



Brick



Cinder

SITE: ARCH BRIDGE LEAN-TO SITE

SHOVEL TEST PIT 1 - LEVEL 1

SITE DESCRIPTION: Moderate compact silty sand. FCR, redware, whiteware.



Jackfield-Type Ware Pottery



Redware Pottery



Lamp Glass



Building Stone



Brick

SHOVEL TEST PIT 2 - LEVEL 1

SITE DESCRIPTION: Moderate compact silty sand. Nails, glass, penny.



Redware Pottery



Contact Molded Bottles - Olive Green



Machine-Cut Nails



U.S. Penny, 1970



Plaster



Mason Jar Lid



Lamp Glass



Milk Glass



Wire Nail

SHOVEL TEST PIT 3 - LEVEL 1

SITE DESCRIPTION: Moderate compact silty sand. Many pebbles and large cobbles. Redware sherds, nails, dime, glass marble.



Redware Pottery



Jackfield-Type Ware Pottery



Lead Glazed Coarse Earthenware



U.S. Dime, 1978



Wire Nail



Marble