

Tully Archives: FDR Papers

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Box 11; Folder = Correspondence: Bevill-Champion, F. G., 1937

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July 20, 1937.

Dear Mr. Bevill-Champion:-

Thank you very much for calling my attention to that note in the Ulster County records.

There is, of course, no Crom Elbow controversy, as the facts are very simple. At a point on the east bank of the river at the northwest corner of my Mother's place, the river makes a turn, the point being on the inside of the turn. This turn in the direction of the river was called "The Crom Elbow" by Hendrik Hudson's pilot and has always been known as such ever since. It is also true that in early deeds land on both sides of the river was referred to as running down to the water at or near "The Crom Elbow" -- all of which is perfectly proper and logical. These descriptions appear both in Dutchess County and Ulster County deeds.

On the Dutchess County side of the river the creek which runs into the river about a mile north of the point is, and has always been called "The Crom Elbow Creek." Furthermore, in the Dutchess County subdivisions before the Revolution, the land in what is now called the towns of Hyde Park, Pleasant Valley and Clinton, was officially known as "The Crom Elbow Precinct." Up to a few years ago the Government maintained a post office on the eastern side of Hyde Park Township known as "The Crom Elbow Post Office."

Finally, the land owned by the family of John Crooke was settled by him and his family and tenants about 1745, and there are many letters in existence showing that the Crooke family called this place of theirs "Crom Elbow." Their land includes the land owned by my Mother, my sister-in-law, my niece, myself and several farmers on the eastern end of it.

There is no reason in the world why anybody owning land on either side of the river abutting on "The Crom Elbow" or "Turn in the River" should not call their place "Crom Elbow" if they want to, but the fact remains that the land owned by my Mother and myself was called "Crom Elbow" by the original occupants nearly two hundred years ago.

Thank you for your nice letter.

Very sincerely yours,

F. G. Bevill-Champion, Esq.,
Northcote House,
Stapleton,
New York.