

Land Grant of 1741
As Granted to
John Stevenson,
Supporting Sarah Stevenson and Mary Stevenson,
For Lands Then Located in Augusta County
Along the Shenandoah River,
Now Page County.
Signed by
James Blair, Acting Governor of the Kings Council
Of the Colony of Virginia
October 1740 - July 1741



Transcription provided by:
Randy Buie
Valley Preservation Alliance for American History and Architecture
Harrisonburg, Virginia
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Notes Regarding this Transcription

While every effort has been made to complete a full transcription of the document, some words remain illegible either because of the fading of the ink or physical damage to the document in the form a water stains, dirt stains, tears or missing material. In all cases where the script is partially or completely illegible and there remains any question as to the identification of the word or phrase used then the corresponding text of the transcription will be provided in [brackets]. For those words for which there remains a great deal of uncertainty and the text provided in the transcription is a reasonable guess then a question mark will be included within the [brackets?]. If the word is completely unreadable it will be identified as manuscript illegible [*MS. illegible*]. If the original document is missing material the lost text will be accounted for as [*MS. damaged*] or otherwise described. All editorial comments will appear in *italics* within brackets.

This is a literal transcription. By this it is meant that no changes have been made to spelling, capitalization, punctuation, phrasing or sentence structure. The use of various fonts and font sizes have been employed to reflect the character and script usage of the original document, which reflect the grammatical writing structure of the period. The individual line format of this transcription demonstrates the dilemma of transferring the content of an oversized, single sheet, original document into a modern format. As such, each line between returns corresponds to a single line of script on the original sheet and have been sequentially numbered for easier reference.

Notes Regarding this Document

As a means to aid the reader's understanding of the content of this document the following information is provided:

- The Feast of Saint Michael the Arch Angel is September 29th
- "common Socage" or socage – The holding or having tenure of land in exchange for clearly defined requirements and fixed payments to be made at specified intervals. Sometimes in the form of agricultural goods, but especially in the form of rent.
- "Capite" – As part of holding tenure of land, being in service to the King as he requires.
- "Knights Service" - Also, as part of holding tenure of land, being required to provide military service to the King.
- The requirements of Capite and Knights Service as a condition of holding land, or tenure, were removed in England in the Tenures Abolition Act of 1660. English Acts of Parliament were not always deemed applicable within the Colonies until later dates, which may account for this specification in 1741.
- A "pole" is 16.5 feet, 320 poles comprise one mile.
- The text between the ^ insertion symbols ^ indicates words or phrases inserted above the text of the primary line of writing as inclusions of the original author.
- The Reverend James Blair (c.1655-1743) was the senior member of the Council of the Colony of Virginia, essentially the acting governor, from October 1740 to July 1741 while Governor Gooch was away on a military expedition to the West Indies.

Copyright and Citation

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- ¹ **George** the Second by the Grace of God of Great Britain France and Ireland King Defender of the Faith &C
To all to whom these
- ² Presents shall come Greeting **Know Ye** that for divers good Causes and Consideration but more especially for and in Consideration of the
- ³ Importation of three Persons to dwell within this our Colony and Dominion of Virginia whose names are John Stevenson [Sarah] Stevenson ^ and Mary Stevenson ^ [as] [*MS. illegible*]
- ⁴ ^ for^ and in Consideration of the sum of **Twenty five Shillings** of good and lawful money for our use paid to our Receiver [Gen]eral of ^ Revenues in this our ^
- ⁵ said Colony and Dominion of Virginia **We have** Given Granted and Confirmed and by these Presents for us our Heirs and Successors do Give
- ⁶ Grant and Confirm unto John Stevenson one certain Tract or Parcel of Land containing Four hundred Acres lying and being in that part of
- ⁷ Orange County called Augusta on a branch of the South River of Shannando called Stovers Mill Creek and Bounded as followeth (to wit)
- ⁸ **Beginning** at a black Oak near Stovers line Thence North fifteen Degrees East two hundred and Seventy Poles to a white Oak Thence
- ⁹ North thirty nine Degrees West two hundred and twenty Poles Thence Seventy five ^ Degrees^ West seventy six Poles to a black Oak on the West side of a Meadow
- ¹⁰ Thence South fifteen Degrees West one hundred Poles to a hiccory Thence South one hundred and seventy one Poles to a white Oak ^ and ^ Thence South East two
- ¹¹ hundred and fifty Poles to the Beginning **With all** Woods Underwoods Swamps Marshes Longrounds ^ Meadaows^ Feedings and his due Share of all Veins
- ¹² Mines and Quarries as well discovered as not discovered within the bounds aforesaid and being part of the said Quantity of Four hundred Acres of Land
- ¹³ and the Rivers Water and Water Courses therein contained together within the Privileges of Hunting Hawking Fishing Fowling and all other Profits
- ¹⁴ Commodities and Hereditaments whatsoever to the same or any part thereof belonging [or otherwise] appertaining **To have hold**
- ¹⁵ Possess and Enjoy the said Tract or Parcel of Land and all others the before granted Premises and every part thereof with their and every [of]
- ¹⁶ their appurtenances with the said John Stevenson and to his Heirs and Assigns forever To the only use and Behoof of him the said John
- ¹⁷ Stevenson his Heirs and Assigns forever To be held of us our Heirs and Successors [of our] Mannor of East Greenwich [in the] County of Kent

- ¹⁸ [in free and Common] Soccage and not in Capite or by Knights Service **Yielding and Paying** unto [us our] Heirs and
- ¹⁹ Successors for every fifty Acres of Land and so proportionably for a lesser or greater Quantity than fifty Acres the [Fee] Rent of one
- ²⁰ Shilling yearly to be paid upon the Feast of Saint Michael the Arch Angel and Also Cultivating and Improving three Acres part of
- ²¹ every ^ fifty ^ of the Tract abovementioned within three years after the Date of these Presents **Provided** always that if three years [of the said] Fee
- ²² Rent shall at any time be in Arrear and unpaid or if the said John Stevenson his Heirs or Assigns do not within the space of three years
- ²³ next coming after the Date of these presents Cultivate and Improve three Acres part of every fifty of the Tract abovementioned Then the
- ²⁴ Estate hereby granted Shall Cease and be utterly Determined and threerafter it shall and may be lawful to and for us our Heirs and Successors
- ²⁵ to grant the same Lands and Premises with the appurtenances unto such other Person or Persons as we our Heirs and Successors shall think
- ²⁶ fit **In witness** whereof we have caused these our Letters Patent to be made **Witness** our Trusty and Welbeloved James Blair Clerk
- ²⁷ Presiding of our Council and Dominion in Williamsburgh under the Seal of our said Colony
- ²⁸ the first Day of June one thousand seven hundred and Forty one In the Fourteenth year of our Reign

(SEAL)
[Ribbon, Wax Seal Missing]

James Blair

GEORGE the Second by the Grace of God of Great Britain France and Ireland King Defender of the Faith &c TO ALL WHOM THESE
Presents shall come Greeting KNOW YE that for divers good causes and Considerations but more especially for the better and more speedy
Inhabitation of these Parts to dwell within this our Colony and Dominion of Virginia whose names are John Stevenson Secy a k^e ^{and Thomas Jones} ^{and John Jones} ^{and John Jones}
and in Consideration of the sum of **Twenty five Shillings** of good and lawful money for our use paid to our Receiver General of our
said Colony and Dominion of Virginia **We have** Given granted and Confirmed and by these Presents for us our Heirs and Successors do give
Grant and Confirm unto John Stevenson one certain Tract or Parcel of Land containing four hundred Acres lying and being on that part of
our said County called Augusta in a branch of the South River of Albemarle called Steven's Mill Creek and bounded as followeth to wit
Beginning at a black Oak near Steven's line thence North fifteen Degrees East two hundred and seventy Poles to a white Oak thence
North thirty nine Degrees West two hundred and twenty Poles thence Seventy five West seventy six Poles to a black Oak on the West side of a Meadow
thence South fifteen Degrees West one hundred Poles to a hickory thence South one hundred and seventy one Poles to a white Oak thence South East two
hundred and fifty Poles to the Beginning **With** all Woods Underwoods Swamps Marshes Longwoods ^{Meadows} seedings and his due Share of all Mines
Mines and Quarries as well discovered as not discovered within the bounds aforesaid and being part of the said Quantity of four hundred Acres of Land
and the Rivers Waters and Water Courses therein contained together with the Privileges of Hunting Hawking Fishing Sawing and all other Rights
Customs and Hereditaments whatsoever to the same or any part thereof belonging or in any wise appertaining **So** have hold
Enjoy and Enjoy the said Tract or Parcel of Land and all other ther before granted Premises and every part thereof with their and every
their appurtenances unto the said John Stevenson and to his Heirs and Assigns forever to the only use and behoof of him the said John
Stevenson his Heirs and Assigns forever **So** be held of us our Heirs and Successors of the Manor of Westminst^r in County of West
minst^r in Socage and not in Capite or by Knights service **Yielding and paying** unto us our Heirs and Successors
for every fifty Acres of Land and so proportionably for a lesser or greater Quantity than fifty Acres the Rent of one
Shilling yearly to be paid upon the Feast of Saint Michael the Arch Angel and after Cultivating and Improving three Acres part of
every of the Tract abovementioned within three years after the Date of these Presents **PROVIDED** always that if three years of the said Rent
shall at any time be in Arrear and unpaid or if the said John Stevenson his Heirs or Assigns do not within the space of three years
next coming after the Date of these presents Cultivate and Improve three Acres part of every fifty of the Tract abovementioned then the
Estate hereby granted shall cease and be utterly Determined and thereafter it shall and may be lawful to and for us our Heirs and Successors
to grant the same Lands and Premises with the appurtenances unto such other Person or Persons as we our Heirs and Successors shall think
fit **In Witness** whereof we have caused these our Letters Patent to be made **Witness** our Trusty and Well loved James Blair Clerk
President of our Council and Commander in Chief of our said Colony and Dominion at Williamsburgh under the Seal of our said Colony
the first Day of June ~ ~ one thousand seven hundred and forty one In the fourteenth year of our Reign

James Blair