

Land Grant of 1747
As Granted to
John Harrison
For Lands Then Located in Augusta County
On Smiths Creek,
Now Shenandoah or Rockingham County.
Signed by
William Gooch, Lieutenant Governor
Of the Colony of Virginia
1727-1749



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 Soccage" 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 1747.
- A "pole" is 16.5 feet, 320 poles comprise one mile.
- The underscoring on line 9 appears under magnification to be in ink consistent with the original script.
- It is not within the scope of this transcription to identify the location of the tract of land represented in this grant, but it is either within the current boundaries of Shenandoah or Rockingham County. At the time this grant was made the boundary of Augusta County extended as far north as the Hume Line, which was surveyed in 1744 and separated Augusta and Frederick Counties. This boundary was moved south to the Fairfax Line in 1753.

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- ¹ **George** the Second by the Grace of God of Great Britain France and Ireland King Defender of the Faith etc
To all to whom these
- ² Presents shall come Greeting **Know Ye** that for divers good causes and considerations but more especially for and in consideration of
- ³ the sum of **Twenty Shillings** of good and Lawful money [for our] use paid to our Receiver General of our Revenues in this our Colony and
- ⁴ Dominion of Virginia **We Have** Given Granted and Confirmed and by those presents for us our Heirs and Successors do Give Grant and
- ⁵ Confirm unto John Harrison ~ · ~ one Certain Tract or parcel of Land containing one hundred and sixty six acres lying and being in the County
- ⁶ Augusta on both sides of Smiths Creek and bounded as followeth, to wit, **Beginning** at a white oak on the East side of the said Creek thence North
- ⁷ forty seven Degrees West seventy Poles crossing the Creek to two Pines South forty three Degrees West two hundred and forty one Poles to two white
- ⁸ oaks South seven Degrees West seventy two Poles to a small white oak South thirty four Degrees West one hundred and fourteen Poles to [two]
- ⁹ Pines South sixty seven Degrees East thirty two Poles to two Pines North forty Degrees East four Hundred Poles to the beginning [*Underlined by hand in original text*] **With all**
- ¹⁰ Woods Underwoods Swamps Marshes Longrounds Meadows Feedings and his due Share of all Veins Mines and quarries as well _____
- ¹¹ Discovered as not discovered within the bounds aforesaid and being part of the said quantity of one hundred and sixty six acres of Land and
- ¹² the Rivers Waters and Water Courses therein contained together with the privileges of Hunting Hawking Fishing Fowling and all
- ¹³ other profits Commodities and Hereditaments whatsoever to the same or any part thereof belonging or in anywise appertaining **To have**
- ¹⁴ **Hold** Possess and Enjoy the said Tract or parcel of Land and all other the before Granted premises and every part thereof with their and every
- ¹⁵ of their appurtenances unto the said John Harrison and to his [Heirs] and Assigns forever To the only use and behoof of him the said John
- ¹⁶ Harrison his Heirs and Assigns forever **To be held** of us our [*MS. torn-missing*] Successors as of our manno[r] of East Greenwich in the County of
- ¹⁷ Kent in free and Common Soccage and not in Capite or Kn[ights Service] [*MS. torn-missing*][**Yie**]ding **and Paying** unto us our Heirs and Successors
- ¹⁸ for every fifty acres of Land and so proportionably for a [lesser] [*MS. torn-missing*] [or greater quan]tity than fifty acres to Fee Rent of one shilling yearly to be paid

- ¹⁹ upon the Feast of Saint Michael the Arch Angel and also Cultivating and Improving three acres part of every fifty of the Tract abovementioned
- ²⁰ within three years after the date of these presents **Provided** always that if three years of the said Fee Rent shall at any time be in
- ²¹ arrear and unpaid or if the said John Harrison his Heirs or Assigns do not within the space of three years next coming after the date of
- ²² these presents Cultivate and Improve three acres part of every fifty of the Tract abovementioned Then the Estate hereby Granted shall cease &
- ²³ 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]
- ²⁴ with the appurtenances unto such other person or persons as we our Heirs and Successors shall think fit
In Witness whereof we
- ²⁵ have caused these our Letters Patent to be made **Witness** our Trusty and Welbeloved Sir William Gooch Baronet our Lieut Governor &
- ²⁶ Commander in chief of our said Colony and Dominion at Williamsburg under the Seal of our said Colony the twenty fifth day of June
- ²⁷ one thousand seven hundred and forty seven In the XXIst year of our reign

(SEAL)
[Ribbon with wax seal missing]

William Gooch

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 presents shall come Greeting Know ye that for divers good causes and Considerations but more especially for and in Consideration of the sum of Twenty Shillings of good and Lawful money for our use paid to our Receiver General of our Revenues in this our 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 Harrison one certain Tract or parcel of Land containing one hundred and sixty six acres lying and being in the County of Augusta on both sides of Smiths Creek and bounded as followeth to wit Beginning at a white Oak on the East side of the said Creek thence North forty seven Degrees West seventy Poles crossing the Creek to two Pine Oaks North forty three Degrees West two hundred and forty one Poles to two white Oaks South seven Degrees West seventy two Poles to a small white Oak South thirty four Degrees West one hundred and fourty Poles to two Pine Oaks South sixty seven Degrees East thirty five Poles to two Pine Oaks North forty Degrees East four hundred Poles to the beginning With all Woods Underwoods Swamps marshes Longgrounds meadows Feedings and his due share of all Veins mines and Quarries as well discovered as not discovered within the bounds aforesaid and being part of the said quantity of one hundred and sixty six acres of Land and the Rivers waters and Water Courses therein contained together with the priviledges of Hunting Shooting Fishing Fowling and all other profits Commodities and Hereditaments whatsoever to the same or any part thereof belonging or in anywise appertaining To have hold Possess and Enjoy the said Tract or parcel of Land and all other that before Granted premises and every part thereof with their appurtenances unto the said John Harrison and to his Heirs and Assigns forever To the only use and behoof of him the said John Harrison his Heirs and Assigns forever To be held of us our Heirs and Assigns as of our manor of East Greenwich in the County of Kent in free and Common Socage and not in Capite as by the Statute in that behalf made bearing date the first day of July last made and being in full force and effect and paying unto us our Heirs and Successors for every fifty acres of Land and so proportionably for a lesser quantity of Land the Fee Rent of one shilling yearly to be paid upon the Feast of Saint Michael the Arch Angel and also Cultivating and Improving three acres part of 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 Rent shall at any time be in Arrear and unpaid or if the said John Harrison 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 be utterly determined and thereafter it shall and may be lawful for us our Heirs and Successors to Grant the same Lands and premises with the appurtenances unto such other person or persons as our Heirs and Successors shall think fit In Witness whereof we have caused these our Letters Patent to be made Witnesses our Trusty and wellbeloved Sir William Gooch Baronet our Lieut. Governor & Commander in Chief of our said Colony and Dominion at Williamsburgh under the Seal of our said Colony the twenty fifth day of June One thousand seven hundred and forty seven In the xxj. year of our Reign.

William Gooch