

LAND GRANT OF WILLIAM WILSON

Edmond Randolph, Esquire, Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia:
To All to Whom these Presents shall Come, Greeting:

Know Ye, That by virtue of a Warrant issued from the late Lord Proprietor's Office of the Northern Neck and in consideration of the Ancient Composition of One Pound five shillings Sterling paid by WILLIAM WILSON into the Treasury of this Commonwealth, there is granted by the said Commonwealth unto the said WILLIAM WILSON a certain tract or parcel of land containing 227 Acres, by survey bearing date of the 19th day of May 1762 lying and being in the County of Hampshire on both sides of Trout Run and bounded as followeth, To Wit,

Beginning at a red oak at the foot of the Chestnut ridge on the west side of the said run thence crossing it S E 104 poles to a Spanish red oak thence S 30 Deg. W 176 poles to a Spanish Ash among a parcel of Rocks, thence S 50 Deg. W 144 poles to a large white oak on the N E side of a branch thence crossing it N W 104 poles thence crossing the aforesaid run N 38 1/2 Deg. E 314 poles to the Beginning, with its appurtenances,

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said Tract or Parcel of Land, with its appurtenances, to the said

WILLIAM WILSON AND HIS HEIRS FOREVER.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the said Edmund Randolph, Esquire, Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, hath hereunto set his hand and caused the Lesser Seal of the said Commonwealth to be affixed, at Richmond, on the 23d day of June in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and Eighty Eight and of the Commonwealth the Twelfth.

Edm. Randolph.

Land Grant Book, Hampshire County, Virginia, Book No. 3, Page 64.

COMMENTS - LAND GRANT

The word for "pole" today is rod - 16 1/2 feet.

In pioneer days virgin land was plentiful and the owners, whether individuals or the state, were glad to sell out of their lands such tracts as a purchaser might select. This often resulted in irregular boundary lines running with the contour of the land or from one fixed object to another, as the purchaser was only interested in good tillable land and had no use for rough land even though timbered.

From the statements contained in the grant or deed given William Wilson, it appears that he had purchased and paid for a land warrant at the late Lord Proprietor's office of the Northern Neck (date not given) entitling him either to a certain tract already selected or within certain bounds from which he could select a tract, with the further stipulation that upon presentation of the warrant with the report of a survey of the tract to the Governor of Virginia, he would be given a grant or deed to the tract. When the tract was surveyed it was located in Hampshire County, but when he received his grant or deed about 26 years later, the location had become Hardy County on account of it being formed in 1785 out of Hampshire County. He really was entitled to this grant or deed upon completion of the survey in 1762 when Virginia's capital was at Williamsburg. This was a long distance then from his Trout Run home at Wardensville, so he waited till a more convenient time.

In the meantime, several of the sons had married and located over the mountains in the western part of the state where several new counties had been formed. Benjamin, William, Jr., and John took an active part in their formation and other political matters. Randolph, formed in 1786, had William, Jr. as its first representative in the Virginia Legislature at Richmond (capital after 1779). Benjamin and John represented Randolph County as delegates to the Virginia State Convention held in June, 1788, at Richmond for ratification of our National Constitution.

All three of these sons could have been in Richmond on official business this 23d of June, 1788, when the Governor issued this deed as well as three other deeds for tracts composing the 599 1/2 acres he later bequeathed to his son, Solomon. There may have been numerous other government deeds received at this time for public lands he had patented or had purchased from the patentee before the issuance of a deed, as he made numerous bequests of land at his death.

There is no doubt but what the boys on their trips to and from the state capital on official business, stopped overnight with Mother and Dad at the old home on Trout Run.

II WILLIAM WILSON, SR. AND ANCESTORS

AS A CITIZEN AND FATHER

From his will written in 1794 and the appraisal of his personal property at his death 1801, we learn that William Wilson, Sr. must have been successful as a general farmer and business man.

He owned around 2,000 acres of land, of which his son Solomon alone was bequeathed 599 1/2 acres and sold in 1814 for over \$3,000.00. He raised various kinds of livestock and produced various farm crops. His farm was well equipped to do this as he owned three Negro slaves, had a blacksmith shop for repairing and making tools, a weaver's loom for making his own cloth and carpet, a mill for grinding feed and making flour, and a still for making his own liquor. He was a wealthy citizen of his day.

At the beginning of the American Revolution in 1776, he was in his 54th year of age and we have no record of his active participation in the war, but he is listed in the D.A.R. Patriotic Index of 1966 as having performed Patriotic Service from Virginia. This qualifies his descendant "Daughters" for membership in the NSDAR.

No record is had of his holding any public office or otherwise participating in public affairs.

There were no public schools then and only few private schools in urban and densely settled areas; but it is well known that the Scotch-Irish Presbyterians made it a part of their religion to see that their children had some education. This had to be in the home, and that it was done is demonstrated in their children's careers. Among the sons we find military leaders, judges, public officials, surveyors and businessmen.

William must have been of a devout nature as his personal property at death included five books of a religious nature.

THE FAMILY BREAKS UP

At the time of his death in 1801, Benjamin, William, Jr., John, and Elizabeth had left the Wardensville area and were permanently located in Harrison and Randolph counties beyond the Alleghenies. All of the remaining children, except the two deceased, lived near the old home.

At the Mother's death in 1806, David had died, but his family and Archibald with his family had moved to Licking County, Ohio, leaving the other three still living in the vicinity of the old home in Hardy County, Va.

II WILLIAM WILSON, SR. AND ANCESTORS

THE "OLD MEETIN' HOUSE GRAVEYARD"

As previously related, William Wilson, Sr. was born November 16, 1722, and Elizabeth, February 2, 1725. He died June 12, 1801, and she September 2, 1806. Both died at the old home near Wardensville, W. Va., and were buried in the family cemetery on their farm, now known as the "Old Meetinghouse Graveyard". The cemetery is located on the east bank of Trout Run on the E. W. Garrett farm, owned in 1956 by Blair Heishman, and one mile southwest of Wardensville on State Route 55.

The graves of William, Elizabeth and two year old son, Moses, were originally marked by rough field stones with crude but legible lettering of names and dates.

In 1953, the William and Elizabeth Wilson Memorial Association, Inc. erected a large granite monument with an appropriate inscription of names and dates of the parents and their eleven children. This association, organized in 1951, was headed by the late Chape Wilson, a descendant of John Wilson (E5#1), Minter L. Wilson, and Mrs. John H. Hoffman, all of Morgantown, W. Va., who with many other descendants contributed the funds for the erection of the monument.

It is related that a public road once passed by and there was a meetinghouse or church at the cemetery, but there is no trace of either today.

CHILDREN (#1) OF WILLIAM WILSON, SR. AND ELIZABETH BLACKBURN

Branch	Name	Born	Died	Number
A	Benjamin	11-30-1747	12- 2-1827	A1#1
X B	Archibald	6-13-1749	3- 7-1814	B2#1
C	David	9- 8-1751	8-12-1805	C3#1
D	William, Jr.	2- 8-1754	1- 1-1851	D4#1
E	John	4-12-1756	4-12-1827	E5#1
F	Moses	5- 1-1758	2- 7-1760	F6#1
G	Moses 2nd	4- 8-1761	4- 7-1786	G7#1
H	James	7-25-1763	8-13-1822	H8#1
I	Solomon	7- 2-1766	9- 8-1819	I9#1
J	Elizabeth	7- 2-1766	3-20-1849	J10#1
K	Margaret	4- 7-1769	9-19-1826	K11#1

The above dates are regarded as the most authentic of the dates examined. The reader may find it interesting to compare them with those shown by the old Bible record of William Wilson, Jr. (D4#1).

II WILLIAM WILSON, SR. AND ANCESTORS

CERTIFIED COPY OF WILLIAM WILSON'S WILL

IN THE NAME OF GOD, AMEN: I William Wilson, of the County of Hardy, and Commonwealth of Virginia, being sick and weak in body, but of sound mind, memory and understanding, thanks be to God for his mercies, and knowing that it is appointed for all men once to die, and being desirous to settle my worldly affairs, & thereby be the better prepared to leave this world, when it shall please God to call me, hence, do therefore make and publish this my last Will and Testament, in manner and form following, (that is to say) -

FIRST, and principally I commend my soul to God who gave it, and my body I commit to the earth to be decently buried at the discretion of my dear wife and executors hereafter named, who I doubt not, will manage it with all requisite prudence. And to such worldly estate as God of his Goodness hath bestowed upon me, after my Just Debts & funeral charges are paid, I give and dispose thereof in manner hereafter mentioned (that is to say) - I give and bequeath to my loving wife, Elizabeth Wilson, one third part of all my movable estate after my Just Debts and the Legacies hereinafter mentioned, also a Negro wench named Sue, during her life or widowhood, also that end of my dwelling House, known by the name my bed room, and half the kitchen adjoining said room, and all the Garden where she shall choose, likewise she shall have not less than fifteen Bushells of Wheat, ten of Rye, and ten of Corn, three hundred pounds of meal, and twenty Gallons of Rye Liquor, or brandy annually, and one horse and two cows fed (upon her buying the said Cows and Horse, of her own property) at the expense of my son James Wilson -

ITEM, I give and bequeath unto my sons Benjamin, Archibald, William, and John Wilson, and to My Grand son William Wilson, son of Benjamin Wilson five shillings sterling each, to them and their heirs forever-

ITEM, I give and bequeath unto Moses Wilson, son of William Wilson, two hundred and Eighteen acres of that land I bought of James Scot to him the said Moses Wilson, his heirs and assigns forever-

ITEM, I give and bequeath unto my grand Son, Archibald Wilson, son of Archibald Wilson, two hundred and Eighteen acres of that land I bought of James Scot to him the said Archibald Wilson, his heirs and assigns forever-

ITEM, I give and bequeath unto my son David Wilson, two hundred and fifty acres of the lower end of the plantation whereon he now lives, to him the said David, his heirs and assigns forever.

ITEM, I will and bequeath to my Grandson, Jacob Wilson, son of David Wilson, two hundred and fifty acres of land, the remaining part of that tract of land whereon David Wilson now lives, adjoining to George Claypoole, to him the said Jacob Wilson, his heirs and assigns forever.

II WILLIAM WILSON, SR. AND ANCESTORS

ITEM, I give and bequeath unto my eldest Daughter, Elizabeth Claypoole, a negro wench named Poll, to her the said Elizabeth Claypoole, her heirs and assigns forever.

ITEM, I give and bequeath to my youngest Daughter, Margaret Ruddle, a young negro Girl, named Linda, to her the said Margaret Ruddle, her heirs and assigns forever.

ITEM, I give and bequeath to my youngest son, Solomon Wilson, the tract of land known by the name of the lick place, also the water, and water courses from the head of the big spring down to the corner line between the two old surveys, standing on the S.E. side of said river at the head of the long Bottom, then the land from the opposite side corner on the N.W. Side of said run including all the new survey made by Mr. Poston, thence down the S.E. Side of said run till opposite the mill, thence leaving the run at the head of the bottom till opposite the middle of the bank which divides the high lands from the bottom till running the adum rock, thence across the bottom and across the run until Blackburn's line including all of Blackburn's place and so much of the lower old survey as lies on the N.W. side of said run and water mark whereon the mills stand, likewise a Negro Boy named Sam, to him the said Solomon together with the Smith's Tools, his heirs and assigns forever.

ITEM, I give and bequeath unto my son James Wilson, the plantation whereon I now live, except so much of the lower survey as is devised also to my son Solomon, the upper survey, containing one hundred and twenty five acres and the lower survey two hundred & twenty five, also the Negro wench named Sue, at his mother's decease, to him the said James Wilson, his heirs and assigns forever.

ITEM, I will & bequeath that my still and the utensils thereunto belonging be the Joint property of my two sons, James and Solomon Wilson, and that after my debts and Legacies are paid the moveable estate be equally divided between my Wife Elizabeth Wilson, and my said sons James and Solomon Wilson, except the bonds and book Debts, which shall be equally divided between my said sons James and Solomon, likewise that Solomon during his mother's life do pay annually unto his brother James for the support of their mother, five Bushels of Wheat & five bushells of Corn, and ten gallons of Rye liquor or brandy.

AND LASTLY, I do hereby constitute and appoint my sons, Archibald Wilson, James Wilson and David Wilson, executors of this my last Will and Testament, revoking and annulling all former wills by me heretofore made, ratifying and confirming this and none other to be my last Will and Testament.

IN TESTIMONY, Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this _____ day of May 25, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety four, and in the eighteenth year of American Independence.

William Wilson (Seal)

II WILLIAM WILSON, SR. AND ANCESTORS

Signed, sealed, published &

Declared in the presence of us
John Harford,
John Steward,
his
James x Steward
mark

At a court held for Hardy County the 9th day of September 1801.

This Last Will and Testament of William Wilson, dec'd, was proved by the oaths of John Steward and James Steward, two of the witnesses thereto, and ordered to be recorded, and on the motion of Archibald Wilson, James Wilson, and David Wilson, the executors therein named, who made oath thereto according to Law, certificate is granted them for obtaining a probate thereof in due form, giving security, whereupon they with Christian Simon and Anthony Miller, their securities entered into and acknowledged a bond in the penalty of two Thousand dollars, conditioned as the Law directs.

Ed Williams.

Will Book No. 1, Page 207 &c.
Hardy County Court Records-
"A true Copy;"
Attest; C. C. Wise Clerk
County Court, Hardy County, West Va.

II WILLIAM WILSON, SR. AND ANCESTORS

CERTIFIED COPY OF APPRAISEMENT OF PERSONAL PROPERTY OF WILLIAM WILSON

BY VIRTUE OF AN ORDER OF HARDY COURT BEING DATE YE 10th SEPT. 1801 TO US DIRECTED TO APPRAISE THE PERSONAL ESTATE OF WM. WILSON, DEC'D. WE HAVE BEING FIRIST SWORN PROCEEDED TO APPRAISE THIS 19th DAY OF SEPT. 1801, AS FOLLOWEETH, TO WIT-

	Dol.	Cts.
One Eight Day clock	26	75
one bed, bedstead and furniture	15	--
one do in the North corner of the room	14	25
one do in the upper room	8	--
one chist in the upper room	1	30
one ovel table	1	25
one dow trough small 25, one do large 1.00	1	25
one trunk, 50, money scales 50	1	--
1/2 doz. chairs 1.50, one large bible 75	2	25
Ambrose looking unto Jesus 45, Impartial Testimony .25	--	70
Willson Sacramental meditation 20, Confession of faith 15	--	35
Psalm book 12, pamphlets 5, one cutlass 75, spectacles & case 25	1	17
1 Great coat 1.75, 1 strait coat 1.75, 1 ditto 1.00	4	50
2 shirts 1.dol. 1 pair velvit breeches 35, 3 pair overhalls 75	2	10
3 west coats 30, remment of lincy 60, 2 pair stockings 20	1	10
1 Wool Hat	1	25
1 old saddle 25, horse gear 25, 1 curry knife 25, 3 spinning wheels 3.00	3	75
2 check reels 50, 1 hoghead 75, 2 double barrels 1.10, 1 barrel 50, 1 open vessel 40	3	25
1 cross cut saw 1.50-large augur 25	1	75
1 Red Cow with white face	11	--
1 Black Cow with white back	9	--
1 young pied cow	9	75
1 brindle cow with white face	9	50
1 Brown Cow with cruked horns	9	75
1 Gray horse 10.00, one bay mare 15.00	25	--
one large hay stack in the upper meadow	6	--
one small ditto 4.15 one ditto in the low meadow 8.00	12	15
one heifer 6.63, one steer 1 year old 3.00, 1 heifer 1 year old 2.25	11	88
one pide steer calf 1.65, one heifer calf 1.50, one black steer calf 1.50	4	65
one steer calf 1.75, seven sheep 8.30, one weaver's loom 3.00, 5 reeds 2.00	15	5
one razor and hone 25, 8 Hogs 10.00, one field of corn 25.00	35	25
Black smiths tools	10	--
1 handsaw- axes and addes 1.75, one still and utensils 20.00	21	75
1 screw & tong 20, 2 plows, 1 pair Irons, Clevises & double tree 2.50	2	70

II WILLIAM WILSON, SR. AND ANCESTORS

	Dol.	Cts.
2 axes mall ring & Iron wedge 1.75, one rifle Gun 5.50	7	25
2 pair shoes 1.00, one pair steelyards 80, one sythe 25	2	08
1 Round Plain 12, quill wheel & Swifts 6, two racks 1.50	1	65
fire tongs & shovel 75, one large pot 2.50, one small pot 1.25	4	50
one pot 75, one do small 75, 2 dutch ovens with lids 1.75	3	25
2 small pot and Griddle 75, three wash tubs 75, 2 broad hoes 1.00	2	50
2 smoothing Irons 25, lantern 35, six pails & piggins 1.00	1	60
one churn 50, one dresser and furniture 11.44	11	94
one Cag 30, 70 doz of wheat 18.40	18	70
12 doz of Rye 3.00 - Negro Sam \$300.00	303	--
Negro Sue \$60.00, Negro Snider 150.00	210	--
Cash	12	87

Amt. \$ 864 46

Henry Frye, Jr.
David Ogden
Thos. Frye

At a court held for Hardy County the 9th day of Dec., 1801.

This Inventory and appraisement of the Estate of William Wilson, dec'd, was this day returned into Court and ordered to be recorded.

By the Court-

Ed. Williams-

Will Book No. 1, Page 212 &c.
Hardy County Court Records.
"A true copy;"
Attest; C. C. Wise Clerk
County Court, Hardy County W. Va.