

# KEGLEY'S VIRGINIA FRONTIER

THE BEGINNING OF THE SOUTHWEST

THE ROANOKE OF COLONIAL DAYS

1740-1783

WITH MAPS AND ILLUSTRATIONS

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INTRODUCTION BY SAMUEL M. WILSON

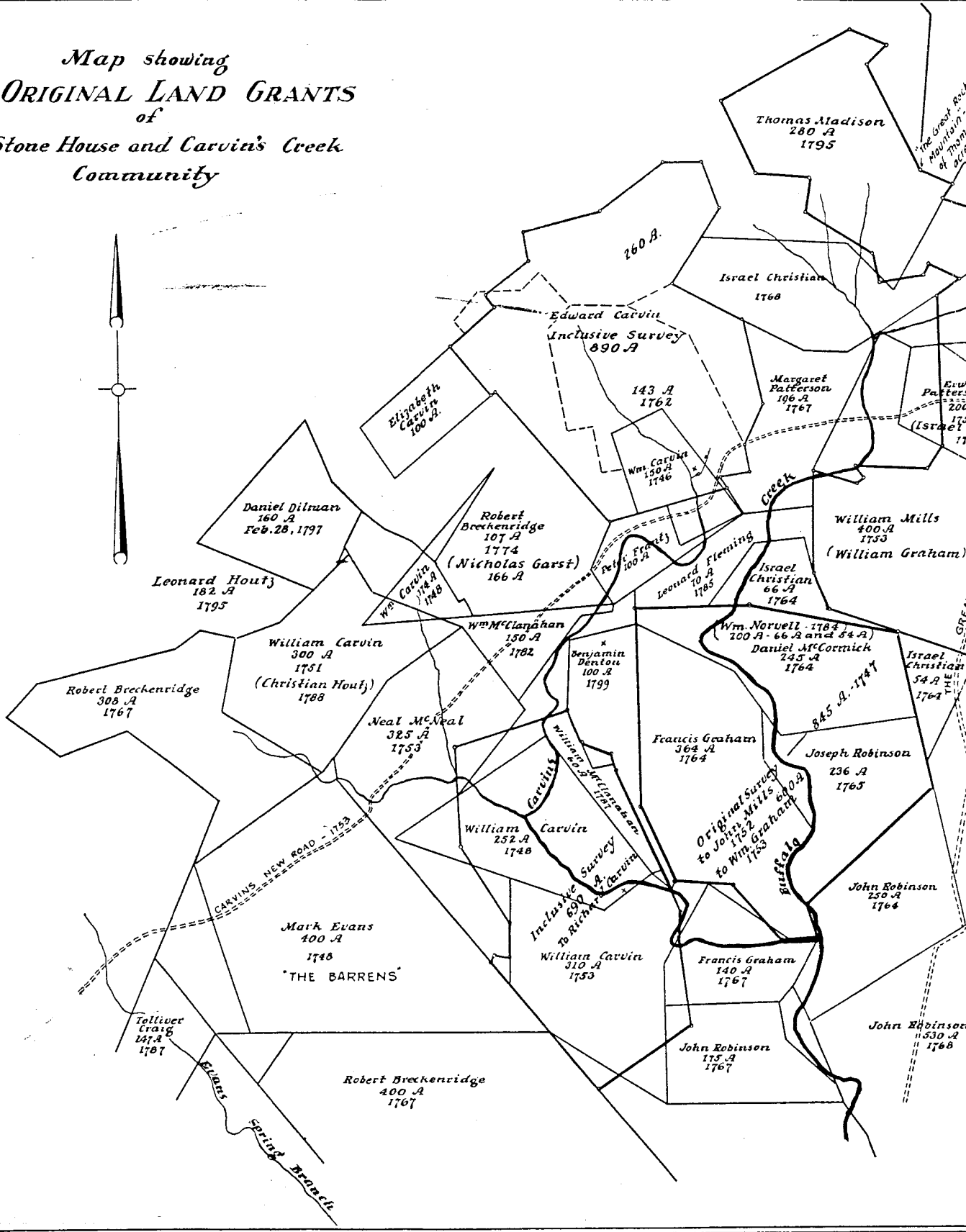
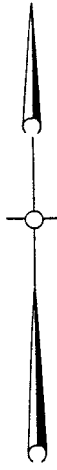
LXINGTON, KENTUCKY

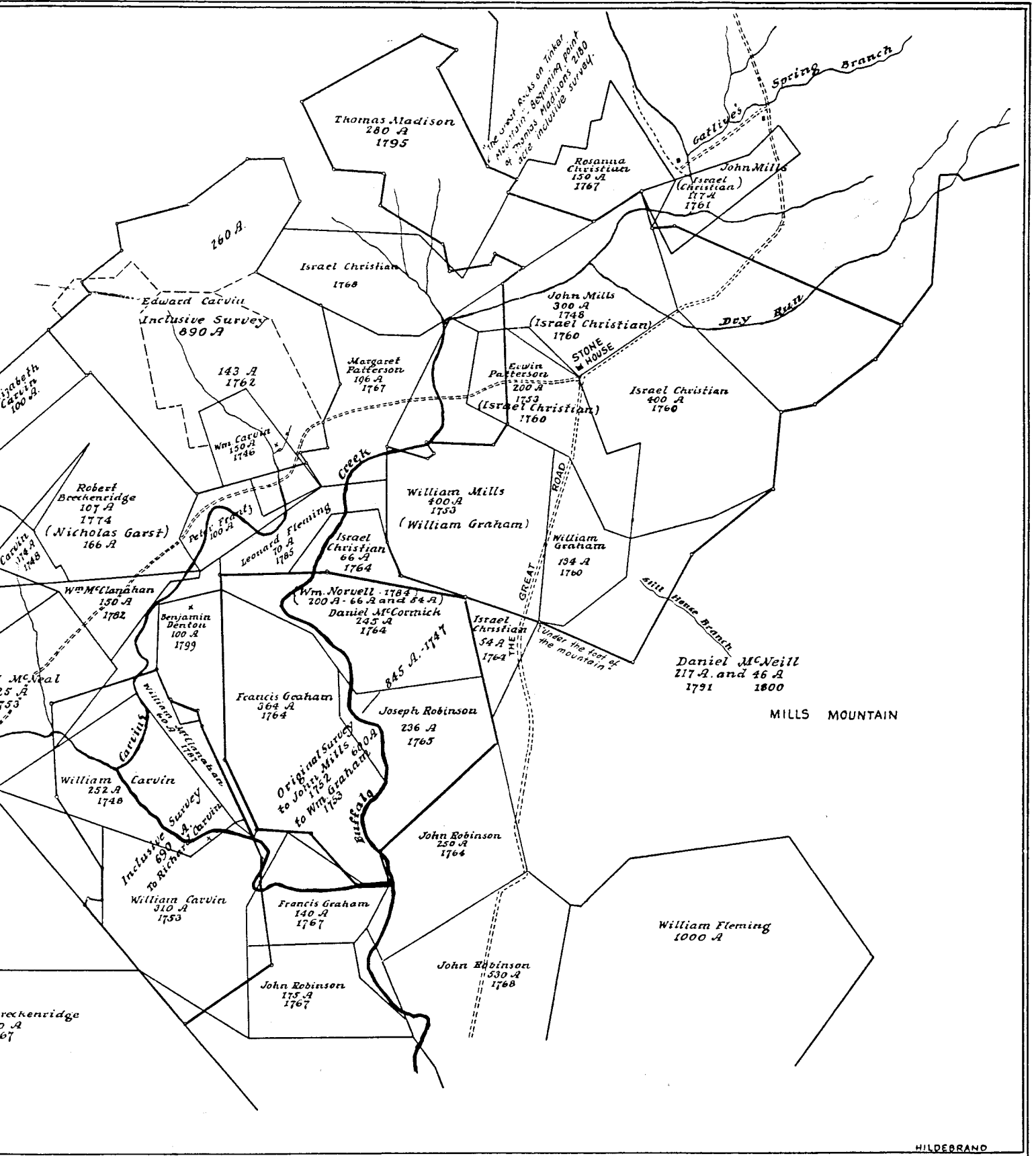
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Map showing  
**THE ORIGINAL LAND GRANTS**  
of  
The Stone House and Carvin's Creek  
Community





Coffman's by a line between the Lick and Thorny Spring branches could be cut off, or a tract called Blain's or 1000 acres south of the Ohio, or the land in Wythe.

In 1817 Thomas Madison sold to John Tayloe, of the City of Washington, for \$25,000, 1132 acres of land on Tinker's Creek, being the greater part of 2218 acres granted to Thomas Madison, Sr., the father of said Thomas by inclusive patent of April 9, 1796. (Bot. D. Bk. 13, 80.) In 1824 John Tayloe devised to all his sons in joint tenancy the Brunswick and Cloverdale Estates, but by a later agreement and settlement the Botetourt property came into the possession and management of his son, George P. Tayloe, of Essex County, who came to the Roanoke to live.

#### THE CARVIN LANDS

Next to the Stone House Lands in location and importance in the community come the Carvin Lands on Carvin's Creek. Starting with a small tract of land (150 acres) at a key place on the waters of the creek which took his name the first William Carvin built up an enviable frontier estate and left it all to his son and heir bearing the same name. This William Carvin II enlarged the estate and died in 1804 leaving by his will to his wife, Sarah, the use of the place for her life time. His son, Edward, should have the home place, "the tract wheron I now live, lately made into one inclusive survey supposed to contain nine hundred acres, more or less, except one hundred acres known by the name of Brigs on the southwest end which I devise to my daughter, Elizabeth." Son, Richard, should have the tract of land lying on Carvin's Creek containing about seven hundred acres "where Bartlett Anderson lives." Daughters Mary and Nancy should have each one dollar "as they married totaly contrary to my consent and was regardless of that duty and obedience due from every child to their parent."

Teste: Thomas Madison, Susanna Madison and Sally Madison.

The executors were Thomas Madison, Elijah McClenachan and William Taylor.

Date April 23, 1794. Signed, William Carvin.

Edward Carvin's inclusive survey was made up of 150 acres granted to William Carvin July 25, 1746; 188 acres, part of 388 acres granted to William Carvin in 1759; 143 acres surveyed for William Carvin in 1751, grant of 1763; 409 acres assigned by William Taylor; and 260 acres on the east side of the 150 acres, later assigned by Isaac Taylor.

Richard Carvin's tract of 690 was built up around 252 acres called Carvin's Meadows granted to William Carvin in April, 1748. The supplement was added by William Carvin, Jr., Richard Carvin continued to live on his land until his death in 1822, when the place and all its farming utensils of every description went to his widow Lucy to be used and enjoyed by her,

provided she remained his widow during her natural life. If she married, she should have \$1000 and no more.<sup>1</sup>

Edward Carvin sold his land, the main part, 474 acres, including the home-place, to Christian and Martin Wingart, who divided it so that Christian got 274 acres including the Sulphur Spring and Martin the upper part. Christian sold his share to Charles Johnston in December, 1818, Martin held his until 1826 and then sold it to Johnston describing it as "joining the lands of Charles Johnston on which stand the Botetourt Springs." Martin Wingart reserved a half-acre lot on the western edge of the place above a new road that was then opened from Fincastle by Botetourt Springs to Salem for a meeting house or place of worship for all societies sects or denominations to preach in and expound the word of God and also answer the purpose of a house for a neighborhood school. From 1818 to 1826 Charles Johnston purchased a dozen or more tracts of land in the neighborhood and was interested in establishing the Tinker Creek Meeting House and the Town of Prestonville near his home. After the Botetourt Springs venture through a succession of owners came the Valley Union Educational Society and Hollins College on the original Carvin Patent.

The land between Botetourt Springs and Evan's upper tract (Waverly) was developed by the Garsts, the old fort house somewhat back at a head spring of Carvin's Creek being a monument to the family.

#### CARVIN'S COVE

Carvin's Cove has a history all its own, the land grants running something like this:

1759. Grant to John Mills, 341 acres.

1763. John Mills to William Carvin—Grant, 341 acres on Carvin's Creek at a place called the Cove.

1770. William Carvin and Sarah to Joshua Phipps—Grant, 341 acres.

1771. James Laughlin—Grants, 136 and 34 acres; Thomas Price, 87 acres; John Laughlin, 54 and 84 acres.

1772. Joshua Phipps—Grant, 87 acres from Thomas Price; Thomas Troutman—Grant, 136 acres from James Laughlin and Jane.

1775. William Preston—Grant, 341 acres from Joshua Phipps.

1783. William Preston granted leave to include all his lands in Carvin's Cove in one survey.

1785. Charles Swan—Grant, 229 acres on Carvin's Creek.

1791. John Preston—Grant, 1560 acres on Carvin's Creek, a branch of Tinker Creek, on the waters of Roanoke at a place called Carvin's Cove.

1795. George Chambers—Grants, 2100 acres on waters of Mason's and Carvin's Creeks, 5300 on the branches of Roanoke; 12,700 on the branches of Roanoke.

<sup>1</sup>The old burial ground at the top of a cliff by the creek at Carvin's Meadows is probably that of the family of Richard Carvin. William Carvin I and II were likely buried on the upper or Sulphur Spring tract.



Garst Fort House, Carvin's Creek

1796. Alexander Quarrier—Grant, 1900 acres on Carvin's Creek.

1797. George Johnston—Grant, 1000 acres chiefly on waters of Carvin's Creek.

1800. Daniel Dilman—Grants, 110 and 280 acres in Carvin's Cove.

1807. Daniel Dilman and David Myers—Grant, 200 acres in Carvin's Cove.

Flanking the Cove and Garsts on the southwest was the land of Christian and Leonard Houtz, Michael Sollenberger, Andrew Bondrager, William McClenachan and John Meux. The Neal McNeal place was incorporated in adjoining farms. The McNeals migrated to Kentucky.

#### THE HARSHBARGER LAND AND MILL PLACE

Down in the forks of Carvin's Creek and Tinker Creek lay a body of land that was surveyed early for the James River and Roanoke Company and taken soon after it was surveyed by William Mills. It embraced 845 acres and at the time of settlement had the distinction of being the largest tract of good land in one survey in the community. In 1753 William Mills sold to William Graham 600 acres and to David Robinson, 245 acres. In 1767 William

Graham sold 364 acres of this land to his son, Francis Graham, and 236 acres to his son-in-law Joseph Robinson. Francis Graham added 140 acres to the southern end of his part and sold the whole 504 acres, to Samuel Harshbarger in 1793. On this land the Harshbargers built a stone house, a stone barn and a stone mill, all from a good quarry near by. A road leading off from the old Carolina Road by the mill through the Carvin and Evans lands towards the west was established and became in that period the Great Road to the West, and in later periods remembered as the Harshbarger Road, for the man who had it opened and profited most



Rear View, Garst's Fort House, Built Over a Spring

from its travel. The Harshbarger stone house is still in use and the ruins of the barn and mill are in place. The old log house by the creek on the Robinson share of the land is probably the original Robinson home on its original site.

The 245 acres of the Mills land sold to David Robinson was developed by Daniel McCormick and in later times this tract with some others adjoining became in turn the home place of Henry Wilson (1778), Moses Tullis (1779), William Norvell (1784) and Peter Noffsinger (1802).

A strip of rough land lying along the creek west of this Graham-Harshbarger land was taken up in 1799 by Benjamin Denton, who added some other



Detail of Structure—Garst House

left over patches and made himself a home. On this land there is an interesting graveyard known as the Tombstone Graveyard in which there is a sandstone tomb cut by Lawrence Krohn, or Crone, in the shape of a coffin carrying the record of the births and deaths of the Denton family. The children of Benjamin Denton were John, Margaret, Matilda, Dallas, Benjamin, Rebecca, Elizabeth and William. (Power of attorney of Benj. Denton of Pittsylvania Co. 1822)

*Denton*  
*Benj. Denton*  
*Deed BK. 17 p. 148*

