

LAND GRANT DOCUMENTATION OF THE ROUTE OF THE WILDERNESS TRAIL BETWEEN JONESVILLE AND ROSE HILL, VIRGINIA

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The route of the Warrior's Path, or the Wilderness Road, between Jonesville and Rose Hill, Virginia has been previously documented only by an entry of April 26, 1779 in the Journal of Governor Henry "Hair Buyer" Hamilton in which he documents spending that night camped at Natural Bridge, which is southwest of Jonesville on State Route #T662. Prior to that discovery, US 58 had been said to have been the route of the Wilderness Road.

Discovery of the grant of 10,000 acres on "both sides of the Kentucky Road" Land Office (LO) 8-510 to Benjamin Say in 1787 finally provides land grant survey documentation that the route over Natural Bridge and on to State 661 (River Road) is correct. The description of the metes and bounds of this grant gives the information that it was located on both sides of the Kentucky Road, it was in Powell Valley, north of Powell River, shared a corner with an unidentified tract of Joseph Martin, went around 'Willson's Land', and touched two tracts of William Anderson.

It is known that Joseph Martin had tracts down Martin's Creek from Rose Hill (Martin's Old or Upper Station) on the way to the river, and that the Wilderness Trail passed over Wilson Hill on State Route #855 (Wilson Hill Road). Two grants to William Anderson (LO Q-399 & Z-161), were identified from the Land Grants on line at the Library of Virginia, which shared lines with Say, and which served to assist in locating Say on a modern topographic map of this general area. A corner of LO Z-161 is situated on the north side of Wallen's Ridge, and had the river passing through two of its lines. The western line of LO Q-399 runs down Glade Spring Branch (current Yellow Creek). Line 'F G' of Say runs down the river, but the call on the line running from 'E' to 'F' requires correcting a transcription error from N60E960P to S60E960P.

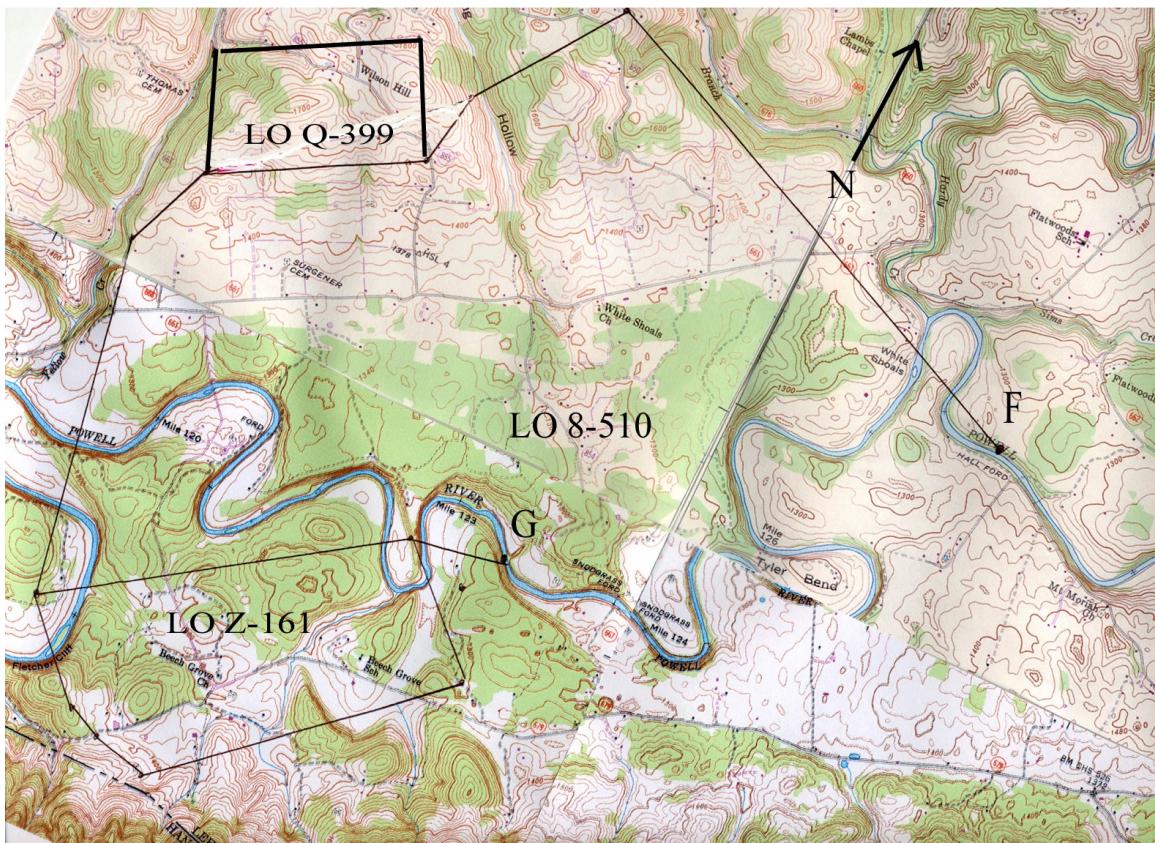
Two items of lost local lore have been retrieved by way of the body of the grant to LO 8-510. Corner 'G' is said to have been 'nearly opposite' to a large poplar known as 'Jereboam Standing in the Hurrican'.

This is a complex reference to King Jeroboam referred in Kings II 13:8 & following, and in Hosea 8:7 where the King of Israel was assailed by a whirlwind because of his wickednesses.

The second item of interest is that William Anderson's LO Z-161 was referred to in both Anderson's and in Say's grants as "Buffaloe Walks". One would assume

that the hub of trails coming together at Beech Grove Church near the center of LO Z-161 were old buffalo trails long before Anderson settled there.

White Shoals lie within LO 8-510, and was the junction of the Hunter's Trace with the Wilderness Trail. The Hunter's Trace comes toward the Shoals from the southeast side of the river, which it fords at the shoals, and joins the Wilderness Trail north of the shoals.



Bibliography:

Library of Virginia web site for Virginia's Land Grants
http://lva1.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/F/?func=file&file_name=find-b-clas30&local_base=CLAS30

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The Bible