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Re: Map and Land Grant to William Vardeman

Dear Family:

I finally received a map from the Albemarle County Historical Society in Charlottesville, Virginia and Land Grant from the Virginia State Library in Richmond which show the area where our ancestor William Vardeman purchased a 200-acre plot of land near where Thomas Jefferson built his famous home, Monticello. I'll send a copy of the map and land grant by snail mail to those of you for whom I have an address. When you receive the map you will find Charlottesville in the upper, left-hand corner of the map. Two mountains can be seen just south and slightly west of Charlottesville called Carter's Mountain and Monticello just east of Carter's Mountain. By the way, Carter's Mountain is owned by June Carter's family, wife of Johnny Cash. The map shows a 1000-acre plot purchased by Peter Jefferson, father of Thomas Jefferson, in 1735. I visited Monticello early in March. The view south and west of Monticello is magnificent. It looks down on the Piedmont and you can see for at least a hundred miles. Thomas Jefferson later extended his holdings to over 5,000 acres to the south and west of Monticello.

The Rivana River flows southward along the east side of Charlottesville on the east side of Monticello and eventually into the James River which comes from west of Lynchburg. The James River flows past Richmond and into the Chesapeake, past Jamestown and Williamsburg near Norfolk. Most settlers traveled up and down the James River into the wilderness to settle. This entire area took common names from England and was a strong English colony under Lord Raleigh.

Note on the map a plot of land on the east side of the Rivana River granted to William Randolph south of Peter Jefferson's plot which includes the little town of Shadwell. This is where Thomas Jefferson grew up after his father died when he was nine years old. He went to live with his father's good friend, William Randolph. Later, Thomas Jefferson moved back to his father's mountain property and built Monticello. Interestingly, Shadwell was named after a town in east London from which Thomas Jefferson's mother came.

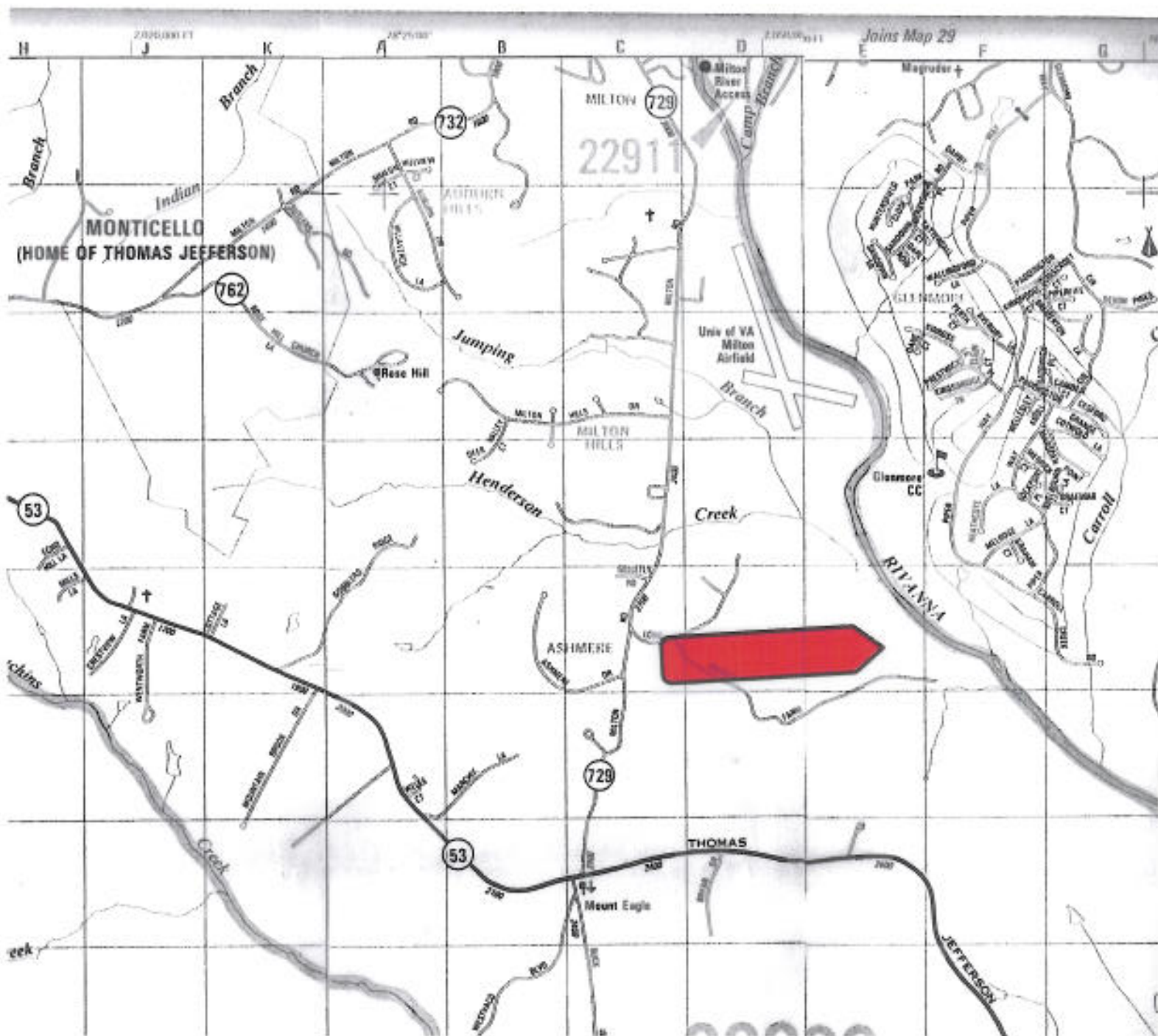
Further down the river, you can find a 1200-acre plot granted to Charles Lewis in 1731. I haven't confirmed this yet, but I suspect Charles Lewis is Meriwether Lewis' father whom Thomas Jefferson recruited to be his secretary when he was President and sent to explore the Northwest on the Lewis and Clark expedition. I know that Meriwether Lewis was born near Charlottesville.

According to the Land Grant from King George II to William Vardeman, his plot extended from the south side of the Rivana River starting at Charles Lewis' home. King George II was the father of King George III. King George III alienated the American Colonists leading to the American Revolution. I have yet to locate the William Vardeman home site exactly, but the people at the historical society indicated it was probably in the flatland near the River, so I suspect William Vardeman's 200-acre plot was along the west side of the river north of Charles Lewis' plot and south of Arthur Hopkin's plot or else south of Charles Lewis' plot as the river passes through a narrow slot in the mountains. I hope to get back there this fall or next year to check it out and actually see the site. William Vardeman apparently didn't stay near Monticello too long as he purchased property near the Peaks of Otter further south in Virginia near Roanoke. David and I have copies of these land grants from King George III in 1760.

It's interesting that one of our ancestors was a neighbor to Peter Jefferson and may have known Thomas Jefferson when he was a boy. Our family arrived in the area about the same time, or possibly slightly before the Jeffersons. Peter Jefferson was a surveyor and did much of the surveying in and around Charlottesville and into the mountains to the west. William Vardeman was involved in the militia, as was Peter Jefferson, so they probably knew each other well.

I hope you enjoy learning about our ancestors in Virginia as much as I have. I'll try to keep you informed as I learn more.

Larry Vardiman



William Vardeman
200 acres
New land form
p. 3

GEORGE the second, to all, 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 by these presents for our heirs and successors do give grant and confirm unto William Vardeman of the county of Goochland one certain tract or parcel of land containing two hundred acres lying and being adjacent to the south side of the river Rivana near the mountains and bounded as followeth (to wit). **BEGINNING** at a white oak by the river running by the house of Charles Lewis south seventy eight degrees west one hundred sixty six poles to a pine and down a new line north twenty one degrees west and two hundred and ten poles to a chestnut of 200 feet by the river eastward...down the river and going to its meander to the first station. **WITH ALL AND TO** have and to be held and yielding and paying and provided and in witness and witness our trusty and wellbeloved William Gooch esquire our lieutenant governor and commander in chief of our said colony and dominion at Williamsburg under the seal of our said colony the twenty seventh day of September one thousand seven hundred and thirty four in the eighth year of our reign.

William Gooch

1 POLE = 1 200 = 16 1/2 FEET

18th Nov 1800
200 Acres
1100 Acres
P. 3.
For the purpose of all our knowledge that for diverse good causes and considerations but more especially for and in consideration of the sum of Twenty Millions of good and lawful money for our use paid to our Receiver General of our Revenue in this our Colony and Dominion of Virginia **De Bary** given granted and confirmed and by these Presents for us our Heirs and Assigns Do give grant and confirm unto William Gordon of the County of Yorkland one certain tract or parcel of Land containing two hundred and sixty and being adjacent to the South side of the River Rivanna near the mountains and bounded as follows to wit:

Beginning at White Oak by the River running thence on Charles Lewis South -
Seventy eight Degrees west and North sixty six Degrees to the same and on the North -
Twenty one Degrees west two hundred and thirty one poles to a place in the River called
Down the River amounting to its meanders to the first station **Wichita** to a place called
To be called holding and paying as provided of the witnesses and the said
William Gordon Esq. our Lieut. Gov. and Governor in lieu of our said Colony and Dominion at
Williamsburg in the year of our said Colony the twenty seventh day of September the
thousand seven hundred and thirty four in the eighth year of our reign

William Gordon

