

# Preston, William, Land Grant

William Preston Land Grant

1773



## Title Statement

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## Profile Description

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## Descriptive Summary

### Unit ID

Ms.1994.027

### Unit Date

1773

### Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

### Abstract

This collection contains a land grant for 2,175 acres in Botetourt County, Virginia, that belonged to Colonel William Preston and the Preston family, which includes the land for Greenfield.

### Creator

Dunmore, John Murray, Earl of, 1732-1809

### Extent

0.2 Cubic Feet 1 oversize folder

### Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

## Administrative Information

### **Conditions Governing Access**

The collection is open for research.

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### **Source of Acquisition**

The William Preston Land Grant was donated to Special Collections and University Archives in memory of Frank Brockenbrough Preston, Jr., in August 1994.

### **Processing Information**

The processing, arrangement, and description of the William Preston Land Grant completed in October 2023.

### **Preferred Citation**

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], William Preston Land Grant, 1773, Ms1994-027, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

## **Biographical Note**

William Preston (1729-1783) emigrated from northern Ireland with his family in 1737. He married Susanna Smith in 1761 and settled at Greenfield in Botetourt County in 1769. Preston established himself as a leader in the Virginia frontier by serving in the militia in the French and Indian and Revolutionary wars, in the House of Burgesses representing Augusta County from 1766 to 1768 and Botetourt County in 1769, and as County Lieutenant of Fincastle and Montgomery. Preston was appointed as a commissioner to negotiate a treaty with the Shawnee and Delaware tribes in 1757. He was appointed surveyor of Fincastle County in 1772 and moved his family to that area. Preston was also a militia colonel during the American Revolution.

## **Administrative History**

The Greenfield Plantation was located in Botetourt County, Virginia, and was originally owned by Colonel William Preston. Greenfield was purchased as a 191 acre tract by Preston in 1759, and by the time this land grant was drafted the property consisted of more than 2100 acres. Preston and his family lived at Greenfield until they moved to the Smithfield Plantation in Blacksburg, Montgomery County, Virginia, in 1773. The house located on the property was destroyed by a fire in 1959.

External Source:

"Greenfield's Early Days", Botetourt County, Virginia website, <https://www.botetourtva.gov/799/Greenfields-Early-Days>

## **Scope and Content**

This collection contains a land grant for 2,175 acres in Botetourt County, Virginia, that belonged to Colonel William Preston and the Preston family, which includes the land for Greenfield. The document is signed by John Murray, 4th Earl of Dunmore, who was the Governor of Virginia from 1771 to 1775.

## **Related Archival Materials**

The following collections at Virginia Tech Special Collections and University Archives also contain materials related to William Preston:

Preston Family (Alice Preston Moore Collection) Papers, Ms1962-004

Anna Whitehead Kenney Papers, Ms1991-022

Preston Family (Charles Peale Didier Collection) Papers, Ms1985-020

## **Keywords**

Botetourt County (Va.)  
Local/Regional History and Appalachian South  
Preston, William, 1729-1783

## **Rights Statement for Archival Description**

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## **Description of Subordinate Components**

### **Land Grant**

**Unit Date** 1773

**oversize** 1 (folder)