

A Guide to the Graham/Powell Land Indentures, 1772

Graham/Powell Land Indentures 1772

1772



A Collection in the Thomas Balch Library OM 010

Thomas Balch Library

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History

Processed by: Rebecca K. Ottinger

Title Statement

A Guide to the Graham/Powell Land Indentures, 1772

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Author: Rebecca K. Ottinger

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Profile Description

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2013-11-21 Converted to schema conforming EAD by dtd2schema.vh.xsl.

Descriptive Summary

Collection number

OM 010

Language

English

Abstract

The collection contains two land indentures for a 1,175 acre parcel of land.

Collector

Loudoun County Public Library Administration, Leesburg, VA

Extent

2 items

Repository

Thomas Balch Library

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

Collection open for research .

Use Restrictions

Physical characteristics and conditions affect use of this material. Photocopying not permitted.

Acquisition Information

Loudoun County Public Library Administration, Leesburg, VA.

Processing Information

Processed by Rebecca K. Ottinger, 29 September 2008.

Formerly filed in NUCMC 65 with Eighteenth, Nineteenth and Twentieth Century Collection.

Preferred Citation

Graham/Powell Land Indentures (OM 010), Thomas Balch Library, Leesburg, VA.

Accruals

1989.0005

Alternative Form Available

None

Adjunct Descriptive Data

Related Material

None

Bibliography

Family Files (Chinn, Ellzey, Powell, Graham), Thomas Balch Library, Leesburg, VA

Graham/Powell Land Indentures (OM 010), Thomas Balch Library, Leesburg, VA

The Ancestors and Descendents of Lt. Col. Leven Powell (1737-1810)

The History of Middleburg and Vicinity

Other Finding Aid

None

Technical Requirements

None

Historical Information

John Graham (1711-1787) was born in Dumfries, Scotland. When his family encountered financial hardship, he came to America. He settled in Prince William County, VA where he became a successful merchant, planter, and County Clerk of Fairfax County, VA. He was later County Clerk for Prince William County. He donated 60 acres of land that became the town of Dumfries, named for his birthplace.

Leven Powell (1737-1810) was born in Prince William County. He moved to Loudoun County in 1763 where he engaged in mercantile business and operated a grist mill from 1771-1782. He served in the Revolutionary War first as a major and later a lieutenant colonel. After the war he was active in Virginia politics including serving as a delegate to Virginia's convention to ratify the U.S. Constitution in 1788.

On 7 January 1763 Powell bought 500 acres of land in Loudoun County from Joseph Chinn (n.d.), who had inherited the property from his father Rawleigh Chinn (1684-ca. 1741). Soon after Powell bought the land, he sub-divided 50 acres and developed a plan for a town which showed 70 lots, separated by two major streets- Washington Street and Madison Street. Since the land was situated on Ashby Gap Road (now Route 50) about half-way between Alexandria and Winchester, Powell named it Middleburg. The town was officially established on 2 November 1787 by an act of the Virginia Assembly.

Scope and Content

The collection contains two land indentures for a 1,175 acre parcel of land. An indenture was an early form of a deed in which two copies of a document were made and they were cut apart in scallops so that each party had a copy which could be verified by matching the scallop pattern.

During the 1770s the families of Leven Powell and Charles Chinn began to engage in a real competition for land in Loudoun County. In 1772, Charles Chinn bought a 349 acre parcel previously owned by John Grant (n.d.). The two indentures in the collection are from the same year, when Leven Powell bought a 1,175 acre tract of land from John Graham for £30. The 1,175 acre parcel of land was originally purchased jointly by John Grant and John Graham in 1743; ownership had passed to Graham by survivorship. The first document, signed on 11 November 1772, was a one-year lease between Leven Powell and John Graham, which may have acted as an option to secure the land until arrangements could be made to purchase it. The second indenture, signed on 12 November 1772, was to purchase the land. Information on the back of each document shows they were proved and recorded in the Loudoun County Court on 23 November 1772.

Contents List

Container OM 010

Folder 1: Land Indenture, 11 November 1772

Folder 2: Land Indenture, 12 November 1772