

BETHEL ACADEMY: MORE IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS

GEORGE HERBERT LIVINGSTON

At the time my reports on Bethel Academy were published in *The Asbury Theological Journal*, vol. 49, no. 2, incomplete information was available about the 6,000 acres granted to Bethel Academy in 1798 by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The Act of Endowment is found reproduced on pp. 96-98 of the above mentioned *Journal* with a note at the end of it. This note has a factual error for the statement, "4,935 acres" for the total should have been 5,935 acres, and we now know that the parcels of land that made up this acreage are in Union County, which was formed from the western end of Henderson County in 1810.

The purpose of this article is to provide the text of the surveys and patents of the parcels of land that made up the endowment and maps of sections of Union County which show the location of the creeks mentioned in the documents. The secretary of the Union County Historical Society has informed me that bills of sale of these parcels of land are not now available because the deed book containing them is going through the process of microfilming and thus unavailable to the public. Hopefully, when the microfilms of the deed book are completed, the text of these bills of sale can be published.

There are five pairs of surveys and patents numbered: 3543, 3551, 3553, 5162 #2, and 5985. The documents each have a drawing of the parcel of land described. The surveys are kept in the Office of the Secretary of State, Commonwealth of Kentucky, Frankfort, Kentucky. Microfilms of the patents are kept in the Public Records Division, Department of Libraries and Archives in the same state and city.

This is the text of survey and patent number 3543:

Survey 3543

Surveyed for the Trustees of Bethel Academy: Francis Poythress, John Kobler,

George Herbert Livingston is professor emeritus of Old Testament at Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, Kentucky.

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Nathaniel Harris, Barnabas M'Henry, James Croucher (correct spelling Crutcher), James Howard (correct spelling Hord), John Metcalf, and Richard Masterson and their successors, 2780 acres of land granted by the legislature of Kentucky to said Trustees and their successors, lying in the county of Christian, on the Ohio River, to wit: Beginning on the Bank of the River at three Hicory, Elm and Muberry, running thence North 65 degrees E. 731 poles to a small Elm, Maple and Gum, thence North 25 degrees West 711 poles to two Hicorys, a small Elm and Ash on a ridge, thence South 58 degrees W. 777 poles to a water poplar on the Bank of the river, thence down the Meanders and bending thereon S. 25 degrees E. 308 poles thence South 30 degrees E. 324 poles to the beginning.

Dan'l Ashley D.S.
Surveyed June 20, 1798

Fielding Jones
John Buchanan
John Waggoner, M.
C. C. Examined and recorded the 2nd July 1798
Young Ewing S. C. C.

A map is top front of the document and these notations are on the back:

The Trustees of Bethel Academy 2780 Acres
Recorded and Examined N. 3543 5/404
Received 28th Nov. '98
Certified 28th June 1799
R in Bk 5, Page 404

Note: This record is now kept in the Office of the Secretary of State, of the State of Kentucky in Frankfort, KY.

Patent # 3543

James Garrard Esquire Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky to all whom these presents shall come greeting. Know ye that by virtue and in consideration of an act of the Assembly passed the tenth day of February, 1798 entitled an act for the endowment of certain Seminaries of Learning and for other purposes there is granted by the said Commonwealth unto Francis Poythress, John Kobler, Nathaniel Harris, Barnabas M'Henry, James Croucher, James Howard, John Metcalf and Richard Masterson, Trustees of Bethel Academy for the use and purpose as are proposed in the aforesaid act a certain tract or parcel of land containing two thousand seven hundred and eighty acres by survey bearing date the twentieth day of January one thousand seven hundred and ninety eight lying and being in the County of Christian on the Ohio River are bounded as followeth, to wit: beginning on the bank of the river at three Hickories and Mulberry, running thence North sixty-five degrees East seven hundred and thirty-one poles to a small Elm, Maple and Gum, thence North twenty-

Recorded and examined #3551
Received 28th Nov. '98
Certified 25th June '99
Recorded in Book 5 Page 412

Note: This record is now kept in the Office of the Secretary of State, of the State of Kentucky in Frankfort, KY., and also on microfilm in the State Library and Archives, Frankfort, KY.

PATENT #3551

Secretary of State, Kentucky Land Office, Old Kentucky Grants
Book 11, pages 517-518.

James Garrard Esquire Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky to all to whom these presents shall come greetings. Know ye that by virtue and in consideration of an act of the Assembly passed the tenth day of February, 1798, entitled an act for the endowment of certain Seminaries of learning or other purposes there is granted by the said Commonwealth unto Francis Poythress, John Kobler, Nathaniel Harris, Barnabas M'Henry, James Croucher, James Howard, John Metcalf and Richard Masterson, Trustees of Bethel Academy for the use and purpose as are proposed in the aforesaid act a certain tract or parcel of land containing two hundred and sixty-five acres by survey bearing date twenty-second day of June one thousand seven hundred and ninety-eight lying and being in the County of Christian on the waters of the Ohio River bounded as followeth, to wit: Beginning at sweet Gum and Dogwood on the side of a ridge running thence South twenty-one degrees West two hundred and sixty poles to two White Oaks crossing a small Branch at the one hundred and sixty poles thence South sixty-nine degrees East one hundred and seventy poles to two Black Oaks thence North twenty one degrees East to two Black Oaks on the side of a hill thence North sixty-nine degrees West one hundred seventy poles to the Beginning with appurtenances to have and to hold the said tract or parcel of land with appurtenances to the said Francis Poythress etc. and their heirs forever. In witness whereof the said James Garrard Esquire Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky hath hereto set his hand and caused the seal of the said Commonwealth to be affixed at Frankfort on the twenty-eighth day of June in the year of our Lord one thousand and ninety-nine and of the Commonwealth of the Eighth.

By the Governor James Garrard
Harry Toulman, Sec't

Notation on the left margin: Francis Poythress 265 acres
Christian County N. 818
Delivered to James Hord 2nd Aug '99

Note that these two parcels of land border on the Ohio River.

SURVEY #3553

Surveyed for the Trustees of Bethel Academy: Francis Poythress, John Kobler, Nathaniel Harris, Barnabas M^tHenry, James Croucher, James Howard, John Metcalf and Richard Masterson and their successors, 1090 acres of land granted by the legislature of Kentucky to said Trustees and their successors, lying in the County of Christian, on a branch of Lost Creek the waters of Ohio, to wit: Beginning at a poplar sugar tree and Black Gum running thence N. 21 degrees E. 43 poles to 2 Black Ashes and Hicory crossing a branch at 205 one at 236 poles, thence N. 20 degrees E. 80 poles to a Hicory, Black Ashe and White Oake in the head of a hollow, thence S. 70 degrees E. 420 poles to a sweet Gum and 2 poplars crossing a branch of Lost Creek several times at 140 poles, thence S. 21 degrees W. 252 poles to White Oake a Black Oake Hicory and large Dogwood on the point of a hill, thence S. 24 degrees W. 312 poles to Black Oak poplar and Hicory, thence N. 57 degrees W. 245 poles to the Beginning.

Dan^l Ashley D. S.
Surveyed June 18th 1798

Fielding Jones
John Buchanan
John Waggoner, M.
C. C.

Examined and recorded this 2nd July 1798 by
Young Ewing S. C. C.

A map is at the top front of the document and these notations on the back:

The Trustees of Bethel Academy 1090 Acres
Recorded and examined N. 3553 5/414
Received 28th Nov. '98
Certified 25th June 1799
R in Bk 5 Page 414

Note: This record is now kept in the Office of the Secretary of State, of the State of Kentucky in Frankfort, KY, and also on microfilm in the State Library and Archives, Frankfort, KY.

Note on left margin: Francis Poythress; 1090 Acres Christian County N. 819.
Examined and Delivered to James Hord 2nd Aug '99.

PATENT #3553

Secretary of State, Land Grant Office, Old Kentucky Grants
Book 11, pages 518-519

James Garrard Esquire Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky to all to whom these presents shall come greetings. Know ye that by virtue of an act of the Assembly passed the tenth day of February 1798, entitled an act for the endowment of certain Seminaries of learning and for other purposes there is granted by the said Commonwealth unto Francis Poythress, John Kobler, Nathaniel Harris, Barnabas M'Henry, James Croucher, James Howard, John Metcalf and Richard Masterson, Trustees of Bethel Academy for the use and purpose as are proposed in the aforesaid act a certain tract or parcel of land one thousand and ninety acres by survey bearing date eighteenth day of June one thousand seven hundred and ninety-eight lying and being in the County of Christian on a branch of Lost Creek the waters of the Ohio and bounded as followeth, to wit: beginning at a poplar sugar tree and Black Gum running thence North twenty-one degrees East four hundred and thirty-four poles to two Black Oaks and Hickory crossing a branch at two hundred and five one at two hundred and thirty-six poles thence North twenty-one degrees East eighty poles to a Hickory Black Ash and White Oak in the head of a hollow. Thence South seventy degrees East four hundred and twenty poles to sweet gum and two poplars crossing a branch of Lost Creek several times at one hundred and forty poles, thence South twenty-one degrees West two hundred and fifty-two poles to White Oak and Black Ash and Hickory, thence North seventy degrees West one hundred and fifty-six poles to Black Oak Hickory and large Dogwood on the point of a hill, thence South fifty-seven degrees West two hundred and forty-five poles to the beginning with its appurtenances to have and to hold the said tract or parcel of land with its appurtenances to the said Francis Poythress etc. and their successors whereof the said James Garrard Esq. Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky hath hereto set his hand and caused the seal of the said Commonwealth to be affixed at Frankfort on the twenty-eighth day of June in the year of our Lord one thousand and ninety-nine and of the Commonwealth of the Eighth.

By the Governor

Harry Toulman, Sec't

James Garrard

Notation on the left margin: Francis Poythress 1090 Acres Christian County N. 819.
Examined and Delivered to James Hord 2nd Aug '99

Note that Lost Creek in present day Union County is mentioned. See Map #1 showing this stream in the northern part of that county.

The text of the survey and patent of number 5146 #2 follows.

SURVEY 5146 No. 2

Surveyed for the Trustees of Bethel Seminary 800 acres of land by virtue of an Entry made by Daniel Ashley for the Trustees, it being part of said Seminary claims which was taken by Military Claim to wit, off of the 1080 tract taken by David Stephenson survey 62 1/2 acres off of the South East side taken by John Green's survey 737 3/4 off of the 1875 acre tract off of the South East side. In Henderson County on the waters of Cypress a Branch of Tradewater. Beginning at two poplars and Dogwood southwest corner of Robert Curry's survey thence N. 25 degrees W. 334 poles passing Curry's corner at 184 poles to 2 Hickorys and Black Oak on side of a ridge, thence N. 60 degrees E. 260 poles to 3 Ashes and 2 Dogwoods corner of Henry Brandt's Survey, thence N. 15 degrees W. 275 poles to a Black Oak Dogwood and Gum on the side of a hill in Green's Military line, thence with his line S. 45 degrees W. 120 poles to a poplar Dogwood and Elm at corner of Green's Military survey thence S. 45 degrees E. 20 poles to a hickory Dogwood and Elm, thence S. 21 degrees W. 240 poles to a Black Oak and Dogwood, thence N. 45 degrees W. 100 poles to a honey Locust Sycamore White Walnut and Gum corner of Jefferson Seminary thence S. 21 degrees W. 180 poles to a sweet Gum and 2 Dogwoods on the side of a ridge corner of the 265 acre tract of the Bethel Seminary, thence S. 69 degrees E. 170 poles to 3 Black Oak on the top of a hill, thence S. 21 degrees W. 260 poles to 2 Black Oaks thence N. 69 degrees W. 170 poles to White Oaks on the top of a hill, thence S. 21 degrees W. 300 poles to a hickory ash and Elm in Cruppers Military line, thence N. 65 degrees E. 540 poles with said line to the Beginning.

Surveyed July 20th 1800
by John Gordon D. S.
for Edw Talbok S. H. C.

Cyrus Choice
Henry Briant
John Waggoner Mar
C. C.

A map is at the top right corner of the document and these notations are on the back:

A plat to the Trustees of Bethel Academy 800 Acres
Examined and Recorded W. E. T. N. 5146 No. 2
Received 30th September 1801
Certified 30th March 1802 7/328

Note: This record is now kept in the Office of the Secretary of State, of the State of Kentucky in Frankfort, KY.

PATENT 2320 (For survey 5146 #2)

Secretary of State, Kentucky Land Office, Old Kentucky Grants

Book 14, pages 468-469

James Garrard Esquire Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky to all to whom these presents shall come greetings. Know ye that by virtue and in consideration of an act of the Assembly passed the tenth day of February 1798, entitled an act for the endowment of certain academis of learning and for other purposes there is granted by the said Commonwealth to the Trustees of Bethel Seminary a certain tract or parcel of land containing Eight hundred acres by survey bearing date the twentieth day of June one thousand eight hundred lying and being in the County of Henderson on the waters of the Cyprus a branch of Tradewater beginning at two Poplars and Dogwood south west corner of Robert Curry's survey running thence North twenty-five degrees West three hundred and thirty-four poles passing Curry's corner at one hundred and eighty-four poles to two hickories and black oak on the side of a ridge thence North sixty degrees East two hundred and sixty poles to three ashes and two Dogwoods corner of Henry Briant's Survey. Thence North fifteen degrees West two hundred and seventy-five poles to a black oak Dogwood and gum on the side of a hill in Green's Military line, thence with his line South forty-five degrees West one hundred and twenty poles to a poplar Dogwood and Elm a corner of Green's Military Survey thence South forty-five degrees East twenty poles to a hickory Dogwood and elm thence South twenty-one degrees West two hundred and forty poles to a Black Oak and Dogwood, thence North forty-five degrees West one hundred poles to a honey locust sycamore white Walnut and gum corner of the Jefferson Seminary thence South twenty-one degrees West one hundred and eighty poles to a sweet gum and two Dogwoods on the side of a ridge corner of the two hundred and sixty-five acre tract of the Bethel Seminary, thence South sixty-nine degrees East one hundred and seventy poles to three black oaks on the top of a hill, thence South twenty-one degrees West two hundred and sixty poles to two black oaks thence North sixty-nine degrees West one hundred and seventy poles to two white oaks on the top of a hill thence South twenty-one degrees West three hundred poles to two hickories ash and elm in Cruppers Military line, thence North sixty-five degrees East five hundred and forty poles with said line to the beginning with its appurtenances to have and to hold the said tract or parcel of land with its appurtenances to the said Trustees of Bethel Academy and their successors forever. In witness whereof the said James Garrard Esq. Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky hath hereunto set his hand and caused the seal of the said Commonwealth to be affixed at Frankfort on the thirtieth day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand and eight hundred and two and of the Commonwealth the Tenth.

By the Governor James Garrard
Harry Toulman, Secretary of State

Notation on left margin: Bethel Seminary 800 acres Henderson No. 2320

Note that these documents mention Cypress and Tradewater creeks. See map #2

for the location of these creeks in the southern part of Union County.

The text of survey and patent numbered 5985 follows:

SURVEY 5985

Survey for the Trustees of the Bethel Seminary 1000 acres of land by virtue of an entry made by Daniel Ashley for said Trustees in Henderson County on some small branches emptying into the Ohio and bounded as follows, to wit: Beginning at a Hickory Elm and Dogwood corner of Green's Military Survey, running South 21 degrees West 330 poles to a Black oak and Dogwood thence N. 45 degrees W. 500 poles to Black oak and poplar, thence N. 21 degrees E. 330 poles to a stake, thence South 45 degrees East 500 poles to the Beginning.

Surveyed May 20th 1801
By John Gordon D. S.
Edmund Talbot S. H. C.

Fielding Jones
William Harden
C. C. Ex'd and Rec'd

Notation: A map of the survey is at the top right of the page and on the back are these data: Bethel Seminary Platt & Cert. 1000 a's. Ex'd and Rec'd Rec'd 10th July 1801 No. 5985 Grant issued 11th January 1808. Recorded Book 8, page 539.

PATENT TO SURVEY 5985

Secretary of State, Kentucky Land Office, Old Kentucky Grants
Book 16, pages 611-612

Christopher Greenup Esquire Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky to all whom these presents shall come Greetings. Know ye that by virtue of an act of the Assembly for the endowment of certain seminaries of learning and for other purposes there is granted by the said Commonwealth unto the Trustees of Bethel Seminary, a certain tract or parcel of land containing one thousand acres by survey bearing date the twentieth day of May one thousand eight hundred and seven lying and being in the County of Henderson on some small branches emptying into the Ohio and bounded as followeth, to wit: Beginning at hickory Elm and Dogwood corner of Green's Military survey running South twenty-one West three hundred and thirty poles to a Black oak and dogwood thence North forty-five West five hundred poles to a Black oak and poplar thence North twenty-one East three hundred

and thirty poles to a stake thence South forty-five East five hundred poles to the Beginning with all appurtenances to have and to hold the said tract or parcel of land with the appurtenances to the said Trustees of Bethel Seminary, and their successors forever. In Witness whereof the said Christopher Greenup Esquire Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky hath hereunto set his hand and caused the seal of the said Commonwealth to be affixed at Frankfort on the Eleventh day of January in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eight and of the Commonwealth the sixteenth.

By the Governor Christo Greenup
Alfred W. Grayson Secretary

Note: In the upper left margin are these data: Bethel Seminary 1000 acres
Henderson County
Ex'd and D'd to Daniel Ashley 25th January 1808g

An interesting document among these surveys and patents is survey number 3552 which describes 1,785 acres. The text of this survey is as follows:

SURVEY #3552

Sidebar notation: The Trustees of Bethel Academy, 1785 acres, No. 3552 M, 23 Nov. 98. Missing l followed by a check mark.

Surveyed for Trustees of Bethel Academy (underlined): Francis Poythress, John Kobler, Nathaniel Harris, Barnabas McHenry, James Croucher (appears to be a misspelling of Crutcher), James Howard (appears to be a misspelling of Hord), John Metcalf, and Richard Masterson, and their successors, 1785 acres of land granted by the legislature of Kentucky to said Trustees and their successors, lying in the County of Christian (double underlined) on the waters of the Ohio (the last two words double underlined), to wit: Beginning at a black oak and poplar, running thence south 45 degrees east 500 poles to black oak and Dogwood, crossing a branch at 400 poles, thence south 45 degrees west 500 poles to two black oaks and Dogwood, thence north 21 degrees east 600 poles to Black oak, thence south 21 degrees west 600 poles to the Beginning.

Daniel Ashley D. S.
Surveyed 21st June 1798

Fielding Jones
C. C.

John Buchannan Examined and Received the 2nd July, 1798

John Waggoner M. Young Ewing, S. C. C.

ORIGINAL SURVEY WAS MISSING FROM FILES WHEN RECEIVED FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S OFFICE FROM LAMINATING. A PRINT-BACK COPY OF THE RECORDED SURVEY IS INCLUDED FOR EASE IN RESEARCH (Also a map of the plat is missing).

Sr. The plat and certificate of Eighteen hundred and Seventy-five Acres Surveyed for Bethel Academy which is returned to your office appears to clash with prior Claims. You are therefore directed not to issue the patents for the Same to Register Land Office.

James Hord Trustee
July 10th 1799

What does the phrase "clash with prior claims" refer to? The names of the surveyor and his three helpers make up the same team that surveyed numbers 3543, 3551, and 3553 which covered 4,135 acres. The addition of the 1,750 acres of #3552 would total 5,920 acres. Is it possible that this survey overlapped some of the areas of the three previous surveys? Note that both survey #3543, #3551 and #3552 locate their plats on the Ohio River, which may or may not be tied to the "clash of prior claims."

