John Taylor Griffin — Virginia Military Grant — Survey No. 3551 (Land-Office Military Warrant No. 783; surveyor's No. 180)

1,000 Acres on a Branch of the North Fork of Tradewater (no county named)

Patentee

Land Record Abstract and Survey Summary

Disclaimer

The transcription was generated with Archival Document Transcriber Gemini, and Claude Sonnet 5 extracted the facts into the Kentucky Land Grants template. In November 2026, Claude Opus 5.5 checked every entry against the record images and corrected it. Bracketed text is an editorial reading or expansion; a question mark marks an uncertain reading. Some images include modern notes added by the Kentucky Secretary of State archivist.

Source Citation

Kentucky Secretary of State, Land Office, Virginia military grants, Survey No. 3551, John Taylor Griffin, 1,000 acres on a branch of the North Fork of Tradewater: Land-Office Military Warrant No. 783, 10 June 1783 (issued to William Cunningham); survey No. 180, 9 May 1785, examined and recorded 15 June 1785; received 17 September 1785, recorded page 364; patent, 26 June 1786, Grant Book 1, page 382. Digital images supplied by the Kentucky Secretary of State, Land Office. Willard Rouse Jillson, The Kentucky Land Grants (Louisville: Filson Club, 1925), p. 38, "Griffin, John T."

Abstract

Land-Office Military Warrant No. 783 was issued on 10 June 1783 to William Cunningham for 5,333⅓ acres, due to him for three years' service as a major in the Virginia Continental line. On 9 May 1785, 1,000 acres were surveyed for John Taylor Griffin as "part of a military warrant No. 783" on a branch of the North Fork of Trade Water, as survey No. 180: a 400-pole square on 45-degree bearings, beginning at a white oak, ash and poplar near the bank of the creek. John O'Bannon signed the survey, with Dennis Cane and Dan[ie]l Matheny as chain carriers and Wm. Carney as marker; Richard C. Anderson signed below. The survey names no neighbors, but James Curry's survey No. 173, made the same day, begins at the same white oak, poplar and ash, "south corner to John T. Griffin's survey No. 180," and names Griffin's east corner, two black oaks and a dogwood. Anderson certified that he held the warrant and signed the survey "Examined & Recorded" on 15 June 1785. The survey was received on 17 September 1785, and on 26 June 1786 Patrick Henry, Governor of Virginia, signed the patent to Griffin at Richmond; it is recorded in Grant Book 1, page 382.

Survey Description

Metes and bounds as written in the survey and confirmed against the patent. Distances are in poles. The survey writes the first course as 408 poles; the patent gives 400, which closes the square. See Research Notes.

Surveyed for John Taylor Griffin 1,000 acres of land, part of a military warrant No. 783, on a branch of the North Fork of Trade Water. Beginning at a white oak, ash and poplar near the bank of the creek; running N[orth] 45° W[est] 408 [patent: 400] poles to a black oak, elm and black gum; thence N[orth] 45° E[ast] 400 poles to an elm and two maples; thence S[outh] 45° E[ast] 400 poles, crossing a creek at 14 poles, to two black oaks and a dogwood; thence S[outh] 45° W[est] 400 poles, crossing a creek at 338 poles, to the beg[innin]g. Dennis Cane, Dan[ie]l Matheny, C.C.; Wm. Carney, M[arker]. John O'Bannon, May 9th 1785. Richard C. Anderson.

Record Summary

Warrant	Land-Office Military Warrant No. 783, 10 June 1783 (Virginia), to William Cunningham, 5,333⅓ acres; this survey is "part of" it
Survey Number	3551 (No. 180 on the plat)
Original Warrantee	William Cunningham, major, Virginia Continental line (no assignment to Griffin appears in these images)
Surveyed For / Patentee	John Taylor Griffin; Jillson p. 38, "Griffin, John T."
Acreage	1,000 acres (400 by 400 poles)
Watercourse	A branch of the North Fork of Tradewater
County	None named
Adjoining	Named in neighboring surveys, not in this one: James Curry's survey No. 173, KLG 6442 (south-east); Charles Scott Jr.'s No. 330, KLG 5376, and Thomas Christie's No. 315, KLG 1120 (north-east)
Survey Date	9 May 1785
Examined and Recorded	15 June 1785, Richard C. Anderson
Received	17 September 1785; recorded page 364; B. 4, P. 413
Patent / Grant Issued	26 June 1786, signed by Patrick Henry, Governor of Virginia, at Richmond; Grant Book 1, page 382
Surveyor / Chain Carriers	John O'Bannon; Richard C. Anderson, principal surveyor; Wm. Carney, marker; Dennis Cane and Dan[ie]l Matheny, chain carriers

Chronology

10 June 1783	Land-Office Military Warrant No. 783 issued to William Cunningham for 5,333⅓ acres for three years' service as a major in the Virginia Continental line
9 May 1785	1,000 acres (No. 180), part of Warrant No. 783, surveyed for John Taylor Griffin by John O'Bannon; the same day James Curry's No. 173 (KLG 6442) and Charles Scott Jr.'s No. 330 (KLG 5376) are surveyed from its corners
15 June 1785	Survey examined and recorded by Richard C. Anderson, who certified that he held the warrant
17 September 1785	Survey received; recorded page 364
26 June 1786	Patent issued to John Taylor Griffin, signed by Patrick Henry, Governor, at Richmond; Grant Book 1, page 382

Persons Named in the Record

John Taylor Griffin	Surveyed for; patentee ("John T. Griffin" in the docket and margin)
William Cunningham	Warrantee of Military Warrant No. 783; major, Virginia Continental line
John O'Bannon	Signed the survey
Richard C. Anderson	Principal surveyor; examined and recorded the survey
Wm. Carney	Marker
Dennis Cane	Chain carrier
Dan[ie]l Matheny	Chain carrier
Patrick Henry	Governor of Virginia; signed the patent

Land Description

A 400-pole square (1,000 acres) on a branch of the North Fork of Tradewater, its sides on 45-degree bearings. Its south corner, the beginning, is a white oak, ash and poplar near the bank of the creek, which James Curry's survey No. 173 calls Griffin's south corner and takes as its own west corner; its west corner a black oak, elm and black gum; its north corner an elm and two maples; and its east corner two black oaks and a dogwood, which is also Curry's north corner, the west corner of Charles Scott Jr.'s survey No. 330 and the south corner of Thomas Christie's survey No. 315. The creek

crosses the north-east side near the north corner and the south-east side near the south corner.

Research Notes

The warrant. The warrant in this file is Land-Office Military Warrant No. 783, dated the 10th of June 1783, to "William Cunningham," his heirs or assigns, for 5,333⅓ acres due "in consideration of his services for three years as a Major in the Virginia Continental line." The survey and the patent both describe this tract as "part of a military warrant No. 783" and name only John Taylor Griffin; neither records an assignment from Cunningham, and none appears on the back of the survey, so how Griffin came to hold part of this warrant is not shown in these images. The earlier report said the warrant was not among the images and gave its date as 20 June 1783; the warrant and the patent both read the 10th of June.

The survey. The plat is numbered "No. 180" and marked "1000 Acres." The earlier report read the number as 130 and treated the "No. 180" cited in neighboring surveys as a discrepancy; the plat reads 180, matching the citations in James Curry's survey No. 173 (KLG 6442) and Charles Scott Jr.'s No. 330 (KLG 5376). The signatures read "Dennis Cane, Dan[ie]l Matheny, C.C.," "Wm. Carney, M.," "John O'Bannon, May 9th 1785" and "Richard C. Anderson." This is the crew whose names appear on Addison Lewis's survey of 12 May 1785 (KLG 3161), while the Curry and Scott surveys of the same day were made by Robertson's crew with Isaac Hitchcock as marker. On the back Anderson wrote, "I certify that I have in my possession the warrant on which the within survey was made. Examined & Recorded. Richard C. Anderson, June 15th 1785." The survey sheet carries a modern stamp, "SURVEY 3551 / WARRANT NOT LOCATED," although warrant No. 783 is in this file.

The first course. The survey writes the first course "N. 45° W. 408 poles"; the patent writes "four hundred poles." With 408 poles the square would fail to close by 8 poles, since the third course returns only 400; with 400 it closes exactly, and Curry's survey runs Griffin's south-east side as 400 poles. The patent's figure is used for the plat. The earlier report also gave the third course as 408 poles; the survey and patent both give 400, and the crossing at 14 poles is a creek, not a branch.

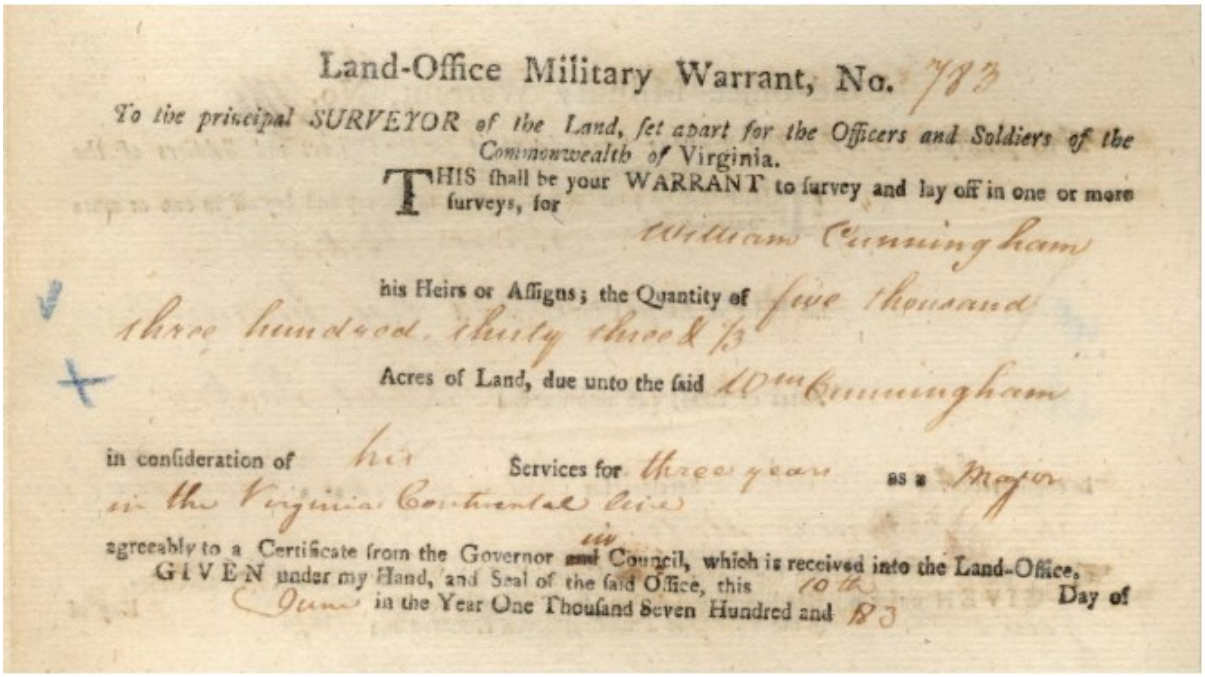
Recording and patent. The docket reads "John T. Griffin, 1000 Acre Survey, Rec'd 17th Sep. 1785, Grant issued 26th June 1786, Recorded page 364, Recorded B. 4, P. 413." The patent, with "John T. Griffin, 1000 Acres" in the margin, is issued in the name of Patrick Henry, Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, by virtue of part of military warrant No. 783 "issued the 10th day of June 1783," and was signed "P. Henry" at Richmond "on the twenty sixth day of June in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty six and of the Commonwealth the tenth." The earlier report gave 29 June 1786 and Grant Book 1, page 282; the patent reads the twenty-sixth, and the archival heading reads Grant Book 1, page 382.

Neighbors. Griffin's survey names no neighbor, but the Curry and Scott surveys made the same day tie it to them at two corners. Curry's survey No. 173 (KLG 6442) begins at "a white oak, poplar and ash on the bank of the creek, south corner to John T. Griffin's survey No. 180," the same three trees Griffin's survey begins at, and its north corner, "two black oaks and a dogwood, south corner to Thomas Christie's survey No. 315 and

east corner to Griffin," is Griffin's two black oaks and a dogwood. Curry then runs "with Griffin's line" south 45 west 400 poles, crossing the creek at 338 poles, to the beginning: the same course, distance and crossing as Griffin's closing line. So Griffin's south-east side is Curry's north-west side, and Griffin lies directly north-west of Curry. Scott's No. 330 (KLG 5376) names the same two black oaks and a dogwood as "east corner to John Taylor Griffin's survey No. 180," so Griffin's east corner is also No. 330's west corner. Thomas Christie's survey No. 315 (KLG 1120), made the next day by the same crew, begins at that corner and closes "with Griffin's line" from Griffin's north corner, an elm and two maples, crossing the creek at 14 poles, so Christie lies directly north-east of Griffin, along its whole north-east side.

Images. This report uses the four images in this file: the warrant, the survey and its back, and the patent.

Images / Appendix



Land-Office Military Warrant, No. 783

To the principal SURVEYOR of the Land, set apart for the Officers and Soldiers of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

THIS shall be your WARRANT to survey and lay off in one or more surveys, for

William Cunningham

his Heirs or Assigns; the Quantity of five thousand three hundred thirty three & ⅓

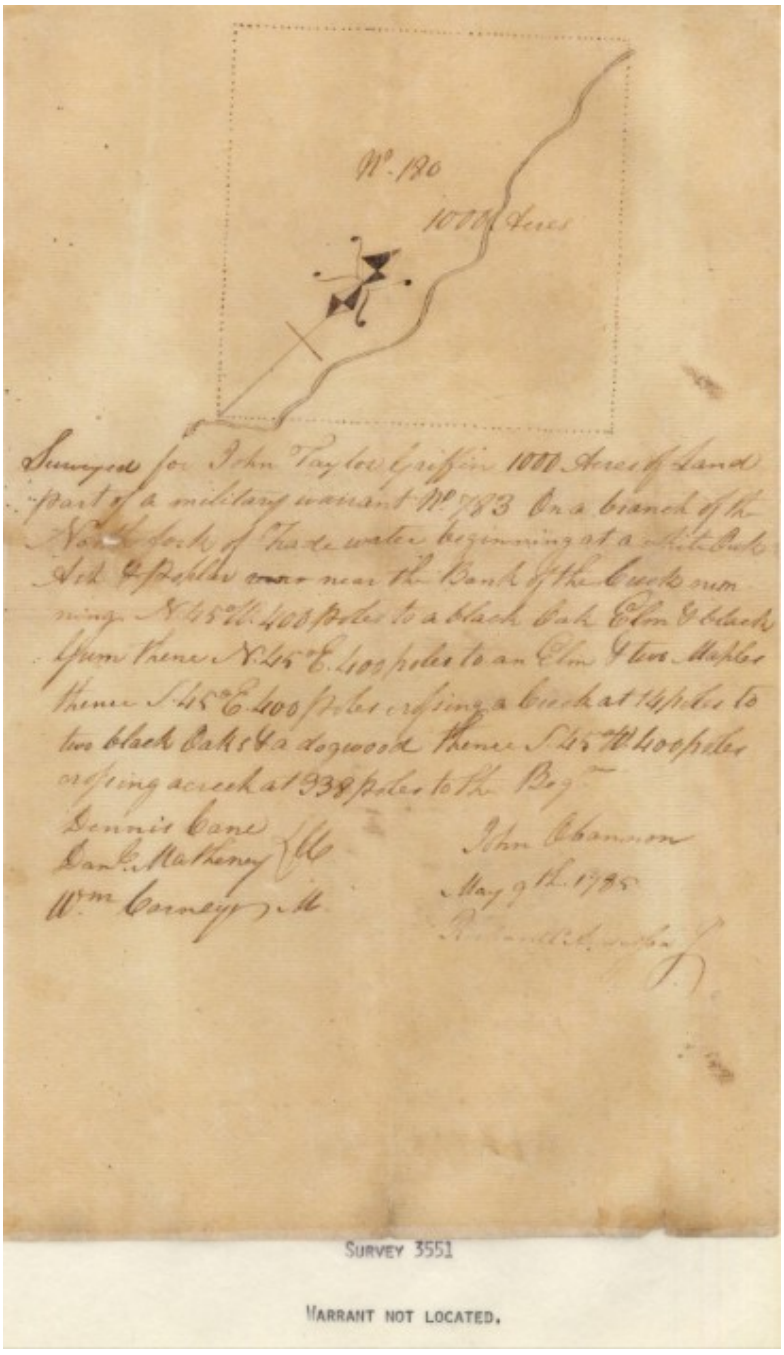
Acres of Land, due unto the said Wm Cunningham

in consideration of his Services for three years as a Major in the Virginia Continental Line

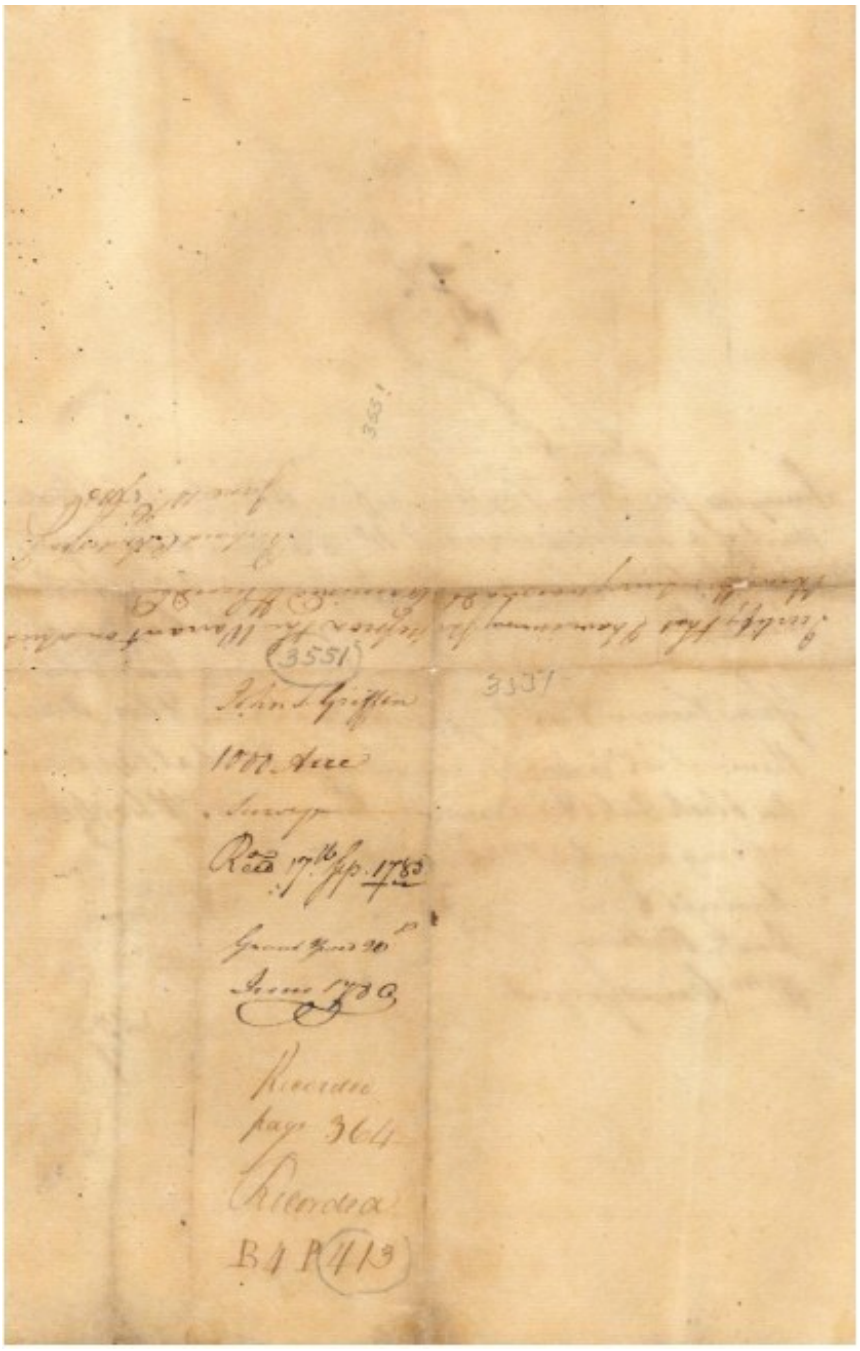
agreeably to a Certificate from the Governor and Council, which is received into the Land-Office.

GIVEN under my Hand, and Seal of the said Office, this 10th Day of June in the Year One Thousand Seven Hundred and 83

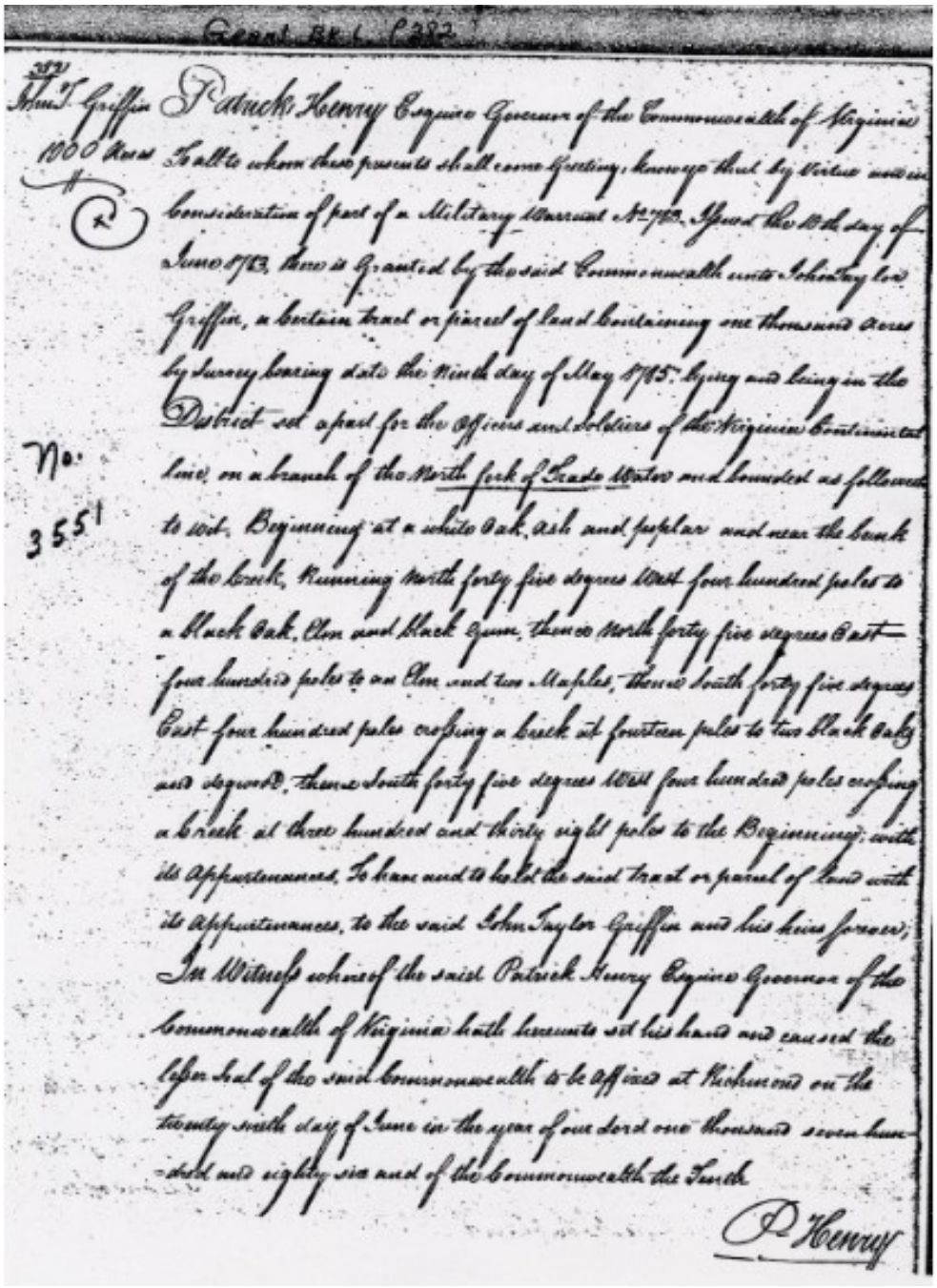
Appendix Image 1. Land-Office Military Warrant No. 783, 10 June 1783, to William Cunningham for 5,333⅓ acres (major, Virginia Continental line).



Appendix Image 2. Survey No. 180 (Kentucky survey 3551), 9 May 1785, with the plat ("No. 180," "1000 Acres") and the modern stamp "WARRANT NOT LOCATED".



Appendix Image 3. Survey — Back (Anderson's certificate, 15 June 1785; docket: received 17 September 1785, grant issued 26 June 1786, recorded page 364, B. 4, P. 413).



Grant Bk 1 P382

382
John T. Griffin
1000 Acres

Patrick Henry Esquire Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia
To all to whom these presents shall come Greeting, know ye that by Virtue and in
Consideration of part of a Military Warrant No 783. Issued the 10th day of
June 1783, there is Granted by the said Commonwealth unto John Taylor
Griffin, a Certain tract or parcel of land Containing one thousand Acres
by Survey bearing date the Ninth day of May 1785. lying and being in the
District set apart for the Officers and Soldiers of the Virginia Continental
line, on a branch of the North fork of Trade Water and bounded as followeth
to wit. Beginning at a white Oak, Ash and poplar and near the bank
of the Creek, Running North forty five degrees West four hundred poles to
a black Oak, Elm and black Gum, thence North forty five degrees East
four hundred poles to an Elm and two Maples, thence South forty five degrees
East four hundred poles crossing a Creek at fourteen poles to two black Oaks
and dogwood, thence South forty five degrees West four hundred poles crossing
a Creek at three hundred and thirty eight 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 John Taylor Griffin and his heirs forever;
In Witness whereof the said Patrick Henry Esquire Governor of the
Commonwealth of Virginia hath hereunto set his hand and caused the
lesser Seal of the said Commonwealth to be Affixed at Richmond on the
twenty sixth day of June in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hun-
-dred and eighty six and of the Commonwealth the Tenth

P. Henry

No. 3551

Appendix Image 4. Patent to John Taylor Griffin, 26 June 1786 — Grant Book 1, page 382 (signed by Patrick Henry, Governor).