

Bucklesberry, Back in the Day

King George III Land Grant

One of the most important documents in Bucklesberry's history is a land grant to John Sutton from King George III. Dated 1763, the document does not name Bucklesberry, but identifies a section of land awarded to John, who lived in the heart of Bucklesberry. John was the first Sutton to migrate to Bucklesberry from Bertie County, NC in the mid 1700s.

How this old document has remained in the Sutton family for so many years is nothing short of a miracle. It was passed directly through the male line from John (1730-before 1773) to Benjamin (1752-1837) to Hardy (1803-1861) and eventually to Junius Eli (1846-1931).

The document stayed tucked away in the family safe of Junius' heirs in Bucklesberry through the late 1900s. Now in the possession of a descendant who lives out-of-state, the document is carefully framed and preserved between double glass. The following transcription was prepared from a photograph of the document (misspellings appear in the document):

No. 68. GEORGE the Third, by the grace of God, of *Great-Britain, France and Ireland*, King, Defender of the Faith, Etc. To all whom their Presents shall come, Greeting. Know ye, that We, for and in consideration of the Rents and Duties herein reservid, have Given and granted, by these Presents, for Us, our Heirs and Successors, do give and Grant unto John Sutton__a Tract of Land containing Seventy five__Acres, lying and being in the County of Dobbs__in our Province of North Carolina, On the No. side of Neuse River Joining John Giles's line Beginning at the Sweet Gum in a Branch near said Giles's line and Runs No. 20 Et. 2 [? hole in document] to a white Oak in said Giles's line And runs with said line Wt. 188 poles [? hole in document] stake then with said Giles's line again No. [? hole in document] Stake Then So. 75 Wt. 72 poles to a White Oak in Simon Herrings line then So. 20 Wt. 87 poles to a post Oak in or near his own line Then to the Beginning__

As by the Plat hereunto annexed doth appear; together with all Woods, Waters, Mines, Minerals, Hereditaments, and Appurtenances, to said Land appertaining, (One half of all Gold and Silver mines excepted;) To hold to him the said John Sutton his __Heirs and Assigns, for ever, as of our Manor of *East-Greenwich*, in our County of Kent, in free and common Soccage, by Fealty only: *YIELDING AND PAYING*, unto Us, our Heirs, and Successors, for ever, the Yearly Rent of Four Shillings Proclamation Money, for every Hundred Acres hereby granted ; to be paid unto Us, our Heirs and Successors, on the Second Day of *February* each Year, at such Places in our said Province, as our Governor, for the Time [? hole in document] with the Advice and Consent or our Council, shall think fit to direct and appoint.

Provided always, That in Case the said John Sutton his__Heirs and Assigns, shall not with [? hole in document] Years from the Date hereof, clear and [? hole in document] according to the Proportion of Three Acres for every Hundred; and [? hole in document] is a Minute or Docket of these our Letters Patent, shall not be entered in the Office of our Auditor-General, for the Time being, in our said Province, within Six Months from the Date hereof; that then, and in either of the said Cases, these our Letters Patent shall be void and of none Effect. IN TESTIMONY whereof, we have caused the Seal of our said Province to be hereunto affixed. WITNESS our trusty and Well-beloved Arthur Dobbs, Esq; Captain-General, and Governor in Chief, in and over our said Province, this 21st Day of Decemr in the Fourth Year of our Reign, *Anno Domini* One Thousand Seven Hundred and Sixty Three.

The other side of the document reads: Arthur Dobbs, By His Excellency's Command, Tho. Rutherford, D. Sec., No. 68 John Sutton 75 Dobbs, Recorded in the Secretary's Office in Book 18:12 page 18, Tho. Rutherford, D. Sec., Enrolled in the Aud. General's Office In Wilmington 27th Dec 1763, Ja Moran ? D. Aud.

John Sutton was a large landowner. Deeds, deed abstracts, patents and surveys, some contained in the Clellan Sutton Collection, document at least eight transactions where John was granted land through purchase or gift. Four of these transactions indicate he owned a minimum of 610 acres, significant at the time, since Bucklesberry was reclaimed swamp land.