William Preston the Surveyor: The Scotch-Irish Immigrant Who Shaped American History

By Jim Glanville, Independent Scholar
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An Assessment of the Preston Family
Patrick Donahue, 1879

“[P]erhaps we could not give a more interesting view of the influence of the Irish element in the United States than by selecting a part of Mr. Robinson's chapter on the Preston family.”

Remark by the magazine owner about a planned but never published book titled The Irish Element in the United States. From Donahoe's Magazine, 1: 61, 1879.

The Author’s Theses Today

• With some notable exceptions, William Preston is mostly neglected by the traditional corpus of Ulster-American literature
• I argue that he was the most successful of all the 18th-century Ulster immigrants to America

The James Patton Diorama in Omagh

Picture courtesy Diane Hoover, May 2002
A James Patton mannequin overlooks the Shenandoah Valley at the Ulster American Folk Park in Omagh. Conjectural: no image of Patton is known.

Talk Outline: Three Parts

1. Describe James Patton, and the settling of the “Irish Tract” at Beverley Manor in the Shenandoah Valley
2. Discuss the coverage of William Preston in the Scotch-Irish literature
3. Give a sketch of William Preston, Patton’s nephew and successor, who was a surveyor and a dynasty founder

James Patton, circa 1692-1755

• Probably born in County Donegal
• Published genealogies of him are untrustworthy
• Captained ships in the Virginia tobacco trade
• Elected Burgess of Kirkcudbright, Scotland, in 1734
• Moved permanently to the Shenandoah Valley in 1739
• Tough, combative man (UK and VA)
• His sister, Elizabeth, was William Preston’s mother
• Killed by Shawnee Indians in 1755

Outline …
William Beverley, 1696-1756

- Virginia oligarch and owner of plantations
- Based at Blandfield (Tappahannock)
- Tobacco planter, slave holder, many tenants
- Clerk of Essex County
- Member of House of Burgesses and later the Virginia Council
- Obtained in 1736 the first Virginia Council grant of land in the Shenandoah Valley

Blandfield on the Rappahannock

James Patton docked on the river beyond the plantation

Beverley Manor in Present Augusta County

Modern Augusta County, Virginia, is minuscule compared to the original, as-created county. Beverley’s 1736 grant (green) covered about 30% of the modern (much reduced) county.

James Patton and William Beverley

- Beverley’s extant 1737 letters to Patton reveal an intimate, long-standing relationship (smuggling?)
- In 1739 Patton burned his bridges in Europe and settled on the “Irish Tract” at Beverley Manor
- Patton brought the Preston family and other Ulster immigrants to the tract
- With Beverley’s patronage, Patton aggressively acquired land and power
- Later, in 1745, Patton received his own “Great Grant” from the Virginia Council (pay off?)

The Patton-Preston Settling Was a Nontraditional Scotch-Irish Emigration

- Did not travel to Virginia via Pennsylvania
- Patton arrived on the frontier with a direct connection to the Virginia oligarchy
- He immediately assumed several high Augusta County offices
- Patton and others (John Buchanan, the Lewises, etc.) surveyed land for the eastern oligarchs

The DAR Memorial Plaque in Augusta Courthouse

The beginning of the Scotch-Irish Virginia frontier elite
William Preston’s Early Years

- Crossed the Atlantic with on a ship commanded by his uncle, James Patton
- Landed at Blandfield in 1739
- His parents were the Irishman John Preston (birthplace uncertain) and Patton’s sister, Elizabeth
- William was their only son and had four sisters
- He was about nine when he arrived in Augusta
- He grew to manhood in a vigorous, feisty frontier community
- He began unlicensed surveying as a teenager

William Preston in the Scotch-Irish Literature …

William Preston and the Older Scotch-Irish Literature

Yes
- Authors based at present Washington and Lee University (formerly Augusta Academy and Washington College, all on the Irish tract) in Lexington, frequently wrote about William Preston in the nineteenth century
- A substantial Preston family genealogy was given in the first volume of Donahoe’s Magazine in 1879 — (Robinson’s unpublished chapter) — quoted up front

No
- William Preston is absent from: Charles A. Hanna’s The Scotch-Irish, 1902; Charles K. Bolton’s Scotch Irish Pioneers in Ulster and America, 1910; and Henry J. Ford’s The Scotch-Irish in America, 1915.

Henry White in 1890 called Augusta Academy a “…temple of the wilderness as the school for the training of Scotch-Irish prophets.”
William Preston’s Later Life

- Surveyor, four counties, for 32 years
- Frontier ranger in his twenties
- Traveled with George Washington in 1756
- Five times a member of the Virginia House of Burgess.
- Washington’s Land Supplier in the 1770s
- Fincastle offices held in 1772: Justice of the Peace, Vestryman, Militia Colonel, County Lieutenant, etc.

No authenticated picture of him exists. This silhouette is attributed but not proved.

The Family Life of William Preston

- Married Susanna Smith of Hanover County in 1761.
- He was 31, she was 21
- Twelve children — one born in Augusta County, six born in Botetourt County, and five born at Smithfield in Fincastle, later Montgomery, County

No authenticated picture of him exists. This silhouette is attributed but not proved.

William Preston’s Land Speculation

- Surveyors always had an inside track on getting the best land
- William Preston while still a teenager made money by land speculation
- He speculated successfully in land all his adult life
- He died a very wealthy man

A Summary of William Preston’s Career as a Surveyor

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Role</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1752-1769</td>
<td>Augusta</td>
<td>Deputy Surveyor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1770-1771</td>
<td>Botetourt</td>
<td>Surveyor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1772-1776</td>
<td>Fincastle</td>
<td>Surveyor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1777-1783</td>
<td>Montgomery</td>
<td>Surveyor</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

32 years a licensed surveyor, preceded by a few years of illegal surveying.
18 years a Deputy County Surveyor, 14 years a County Surveyor

This table is visualized on the following series of four maps …
Botetourt County (red), created 1770
Preston Surveyor 1770-1771

Fincastle County (blue), created 1772
Preston Surveyor 1772-1776

Montgomery County (dark blue), created 1777
Preston Surveyor 1777-1783

Preston the Land Supplier for George Washington

• Eight letters survive between George Washington and William Preston
• All circa 1774
• All concern land transactions, James John Floyd was a deputy surveyor to Preston

How Wealthy Was William Preston?
• As recorded in his will, Preston’s wealth was principally in slaves and land
  • The 1790 inventory of his estate (he died in 1783) amounted to over $7,500
  • About 60 percent of that was his 42 slaves
  • Most of the remainder was in his 10,000 acres of land spread across Virginia and Kentucky
• I estimate that Preston’s modern net worth was $70 million

George Washington’s estate was $57,300. He had a modern estimated net worth of $525 million and left 124 slaves.

The Virginia Frontier Ulster-American Elite

• Ulster settlers in Augusta County created a leadership elite modeled on the eastern oligarchy
• Established strong Scotch-Irish kinship connections
• Dominated the leadership positions
• Albert Tillson, (Gentry and Common Folk, 1991 book) describes this “Scotch-Irish” elite
• Turk McCleskey, “Real Estate and the Formation of a Social Elite in Augusta County” (1990 article title)
The Virginia Frontier: A Thoroughfare of Nation Building

- By 1770, the rutted wagon road traversing the southwest Virginia was the most heavily traveled route in all America
- In the decades following Independence, hundreds of thousands of Virginians moved westward to newly created states carrying with them their culture and their political institutions
- This movement shaped America
- William Preston made the thoroughfare possible

William Preston: Dynasty Founder

- Father and father-in-law of Virginia governors
- Grandfather of two Virginia governors
- Father of the treasurer of Virginia
- Later descendants included four US senators, one CSA senator, several US congressmen, many state legislators, college founders, college presidents, US presidential cabinet members, judges and many military and religious leaders
- John Cabell Beckinridge, US Vice-President (1857-1861), descended from William Preston's sister Letitia

Two More Assessments of the Preston Family

- “I know of no other family … in the country which has within the last century-and-a-half produced so many distinguished members.” J. P. Hale, 1886.
- “There are few American families which in all their branches have been represented both locally and nationally by so many distinguished descendants.” J. F. Dorman, 1982.

In Conclusion

- William Preston literally shaped America through his work as a surveyor
- William Preston metaphorically shaped America through his personal leadership and the family dynasty he founded
- His life stands as a paradigm of the Ulster American Heritage in America

End

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A support document for this presentation is available

Grave of William and Susanna Smith Preston. Smithfield Cemetery, Blacksburg, Virginia
William Preston the Surveyor: The Scotch-Irish Immigrant Who Shaped American History

A Narrative with Links and Citations to Support a Powerpoint Presentation

by Jim Glanville

Prepared June 24, 2014

This is the narrated and documented version of a 25-minute Powerpoint presentation titled “William Preston the Surveyor: The Scotch-Irish Immigrant Who Shaped American History;” made at the XXth Ulster-American Heritage Symposium in Athens, Georgia, on Friday June 27, 2014.

The pre-published abstract for the presentation read:

In 1740, the Ulster-American pioneer James Patton brought the eleven year old William Preston and his parents to settle on the western Virginia frontier at Beverley Manor (modern-day Staunton). Preston’s mother Elizabeth was Patton's sister and John Preston’s wife. When Patton (who had no sons) was killed by Shawnee Indians in 1755, Preston took over his uncle's far-flung land and business interests. Preston was successively the deputy surveyor of Augusta County and surveyor of Botetourt and Fincastle Counties. He speculated in land all his life and owned many thousands of acres at his death. As a land surveyor-speculator, Preston interacted with many eastern Virginia oligarchs and had a documented, many-year relationship with George Washington—to whom he supplied western land. Preston presided over the great eighteenth-century colonial Virginia western land grab by which the Virginians converted Crown land to their private, personal benefit. After the Revolution, this significant phase of colonial Virginia history extended to the history of America as new states were created from regions where Preston had supervised Virginia surveys. Preston was also a Ranger Captain, Justice of the Peace, and Colonel of Militia. He was a six-year member of the Virginia House of Burgesses and led an expedition against the Cherokees in 1780. He fathered twelve children and founded a family dynasty of remarkable influence throughout the South. The presentation sketches a remarkable Ulster-American founding family and discusses why Preston and his uncle are almost entirely neglected by the traditional corpus of Ulster-American literature.


Slide 2 Was titled “An Assessment of the Preston Family, Patrick Donahue 1879.” It read “[P]erhaps we could not give a more interesting view of the influence of the Irish element in the United States than by selecting a part of Mr. Robinson’s chapter on the Preston family.”

The slide was annotated “Remark by the magazine owner about a planned but never published book titled The Irish Element in the United States. From Donahoe’s Magazine, 1: 61, 1879.”

Patrick Donohue, 1811-1901, (en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patrick_Donahue) was a County Cavan-born American immigrant who worked as a journalist for much of his life and was an avid supporter of Catholic causes. The quote used in the slide comes from the article by Patrick Donohue and William E. Robinson, “The Irish Element in the United States” (Donahoe’s Magazine, vol. 1, pp. 64-75, January-July 1879; Boston: T. B. Noonan & Company, 1879). The article quotes extensively from a planned book by William E. Robinson to be titled The Irish Element in the United States. The chapter about the Preston family is quoted at length in the article and a detailed account is given of the many prominent, noteworthy, and successful descendants of William Preston. Apparently, the book was never published, although there are a number of subsequent literature references to it.

Slide 3 Was titled “The Author’s Theses Today” and made the following two bulleted points.

- With some notable exceptions, William Preston is almost entirely neglected by the traditional corpus of Ulster-American literature.”
- I argue that he was the most successful of all the 18th-century Ulster American pioneers

In a presentation the author made at James Madison University in November 2013 (citation in the list immediately below) he elaborated the second of his theses to say “This talk proposes that the development of Virginia’s western regions descends from an improbable relationship formed in the 1730s between the Essex County oligarch William Beverley and the Donegal (?) trader and ship captain James Patton. It proposes further that the Virginia east-west relationship was continued by George Washington and William Preston. It concludes that the export of Virginia culture to the greater South was mediated by these relationships.”

Immediately below is a selected bibliography of the author’s presentations and publications about William Preston and his Uncle James Patton.

**Bibliography of the Author’s Patton/Preston Work**


Slide 4 was titled “Talk Outline: Three Parts” and consisted of the three bulleted points below.

- Describe James Patton, and the settling of the “Irish Tract” at Beverley Manor in the Shenandoah Valley
- Discuss the coverage of William Preston in the Scotch-Irish literature
- Give a sketch of William Preston, Patton’s nephew and successor, who was a surveyor and a dynasty founder

Slide 5 was titled “James Patton, ca 1692-1755” and listed the seven bulleted points shown immediately below.

- Probably born in County Donegal
- Published genealogies of him are untrustworthy
- Captained ships in the Virginia tobacco trade
- Elected Burgess of Kirkcudbright, Scotland, in 1734
- Moved permanently to the Shenandoah Valley in 1739
- Tough, combative man (UK and VA)
- His sister, Elizabeth, was William Preston’s mother
- Killed by Shawnee Indians in 1755

For such an important Scotch-Irish figure, James Patton has not been well covered in the corpus of Scotch-Irish literature. The author’s principal publications about Patton are the articles “William Beverley, James Patton, and the Settling of the Shenandoah Valley” and “The Mysterious Origins of James Patton. Part I,” both cited above under Slide 3.

Much information about Patton and his land transactions can be found in Frederick B. Kegley’s, *Kegley’s Virginia Frontier, the Beginning of the Southwest, the Roanoke of Colonial Days*. Roanoke: Southwest Virginia Historical Society, 1938.

An early account of Patton from the non Scotch-Irish literature can be found in William Elsey Connelley and Ellis Merton Coulter’s *History of Kentucky*, volume 1 (Chicago: The American Historical Society, 1922 and on line at http://books.google.com/books?id=gvYTAAAAAYAAJ.), 57, 75-80. Modern Scotch-Irish interest in James Patton can be attributed to Richard K. MacMaster’s “Captain James Patton comes to America 1737-1740” (*Augusta Historical Bulletin* 16(2): 4-13, 1980). MacMaster in that article called attention to Patton’s stormy relationship with the Whitehaven merchant Walter Lutwidge (see Walter Lutwidge, *Letter Book 1739-40*, Cumbria Archive item YDX 79/1) which consists principally of copies of outgoing letters, some to Patton and some to others that mention Patton. The only book length book length biography of Patton is Patricia Givens Johnson’s *James Patton and the Appalachian Colonists*, 3rd., ed., (Charlotte, NC: Jostens, 1983). Johnson (1932-1996) was a Christiansburg-born regional historian. A description of her papers and biographical sketch are at http://ead.lib.virginia.edu/vivaxtf/view?docId=vt/viblbv00087.xml. The “seven documented James Pattons” claims derives from David V. Agricola’s “The Patton Website” and *Patton Compendium*, main page at http://my.stratos.net/~dvagricola/. The late David Agricola (1946-2006) is one of only a handful of genealogists that the author cares to cite. Agricola last posted to his website in 2005, however it continues to be maintained (checked June 2014 by the author). Agricola’s obituary is at http://www.mayhouse.org/notices/DV-Agricola-obit.html. There are frequent claims in the Scotch-Irish literature that General George Patton of World War II fame is a descendant of James Patton. This claim is scarcely credible on its face as Patton was the father of two daughters and no sons. One example of this claim being made can be found in the booklet by Boyd Gray and Belinda Mahaffy titled *Discover Donegal: Ulster-Scots historical locations in County Donegal*. (East Donegal Ulster-Scots Association, circa 2007 and on line at www.eastdonegalulsterscots.com/newbookletsm.pdf).

Slide 6 was titled “The James Patton Diorama in Omagh.” This picture was taken by the author’s Blacksburg
acquaintance Diane Hoover in 2002 at the Ulster-American Folk Park in Omagh. Patton, incidentally, lies today in an unmarked grave in the Blacksburg area, having been killed there by American Indians in 1755. The diorama shows a mannequin James Patton overlooking the Shenandoah Valley. The mannequin is conjectural, as no image of Patton is known.

**Slide 7** Was titled “William Beverley, 1696-1756” and consisted of the six bulleted points below:

- Virginia oligarch and owner of plantations
- Based at Blandfield (Tappahannock)
- Tobacco planter, slave holder, many tenants
- Clerk of Essex County
- Member of House of Burgesses and later the Virginia Council
- Obtained in 1736 the first Virginia Council grant of land in the Shenandoah Valley

A recent biographical sketch of William Beverley is provided by Emory G. Evans in “A 'Topping People:’ The Rise and Decline of Virginia’s Old Political Elite, 1680-1790” (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2009), 96. Beverley is currently missing from the on line Encyclopedia Virginia (though his father Robert Beverley the Historian is there). However, a genealogist’s sketch is at [http://www.surnames.com/jamesriver(descendants/william_beverly/](http://www.surnames.com/jamesriver(descendants/william_beverly/). William Beverley’s will is on line at [http://genforum.genealogy.com/beverly/messages/457.html](http://genforum.genealogy.com/beverly/messages/457.html). For good background information about Beverley’s Chesapeake Bay trading activities see Calvin B. Coulter, Jr.’s “The Import Trade of Colonial Virginia” ([The William and Mary Quarterly, 2(3):296-314, 1945](http://genforum.genealogy.com/beverly/messages/457.html)); this article mentions William Beverley’s relationship with James Patton.

**Slide 8** Was titled “Blandfield on the Rappahannock.”

The slide showed a large, aerial image of the present-day Blandfield house and plantation looking to the north, with the Tappahannock River beyond. Gone today, are the many outbuildings, the wharves, and the warehouses of a working eighteenth century tobacco plantation. Patton reputedly made over twenty Atlantic crossings to this place bringing European goods and indentured servants to Virginia and taking tobacco back. At this period of time, it was traditional for ships’ captains to be well received and entertained by the plantation owner while their vessel was unloading and loading. Doubtless this was the context in which William Beverley and James Patton met and from which grew a strong personal relationship.

**Slide 9** Was titled “Beverley Manor in Present Augusta County” and showed a map of the Manor in relation to modern-day Augusta County. For reference, the map also showed the locations of Washington, DC, and the Blandfield Plantation. A blue line traced the route of ships down the Rappahannock River, down and out of the Chesapeake bay and pointed them towards Ulster.

**Slide 10** Was titled James Patton and William Beverley and consisted of the five bulleted points below:

- Beverley’s extant 1737 letters to Patton reveal an intimate, long-standing relationship (smuggling?)
- In 1739 Patton burned his bridges in Europe and settled on the “Irish Tract” at Beverley Manor
- He brought the Preston family and other Ulster immigrants to the tract
- With Beverley’s patronage, Patton aggressively acquired land and power
- Later, in 1745, Patton received his own “Great Grant” from the Virginia Council (pay off?)

Worthington Ford’s article “Some Letters of William Beverley” ([William and Mary Quarterly Historical Magazine, second series, 3: 223-239, 1895](http://www.ulstervirginia.com/ulsterscotsvirginia.asp)) contains the very revealing 1737 letters from Beverley to Patton. The author is of the opinion (which he cannot prove) that successful smuggling was the basis of the longtime intimate relationship between Beverley and Patton. See also Richard MacMaster’s on line article “Ulster-Scots in Virginia: From Pennsylvania to Shenandoah” at [http://www.ulstervirginia.com/ulsterscotsvirginia.asp](http://www.ulstervirginia.com/ulsterscotsvirginia.asp), and especially the section
titled “James Patton and Beverley Manor.”
To the southwest of the 118,491 acre Beverley Manor grant lay the 92,1000 acre grant of land to Benjamin Borden which encompasses present-day Lexington, Virginia. Settlement of Borden’s “Great Tract” was contemporary with settlement of the Irish tract. Together, these tracts were the site of the first Virginia settlements beyond the Blue Ridge mountains. See chapter 2 “Beginnings Beyond the Mountains” (pp. 31-47) in Kegley’s Virginia Frontier cited under Slide 5 above. Maps of the tracts are shown on page 42 in that chapter. See also Katharine L. Brown and Kenneth W. Keller’s recent article “Searching for Status: Virginia’s Irish Tract, 1770s-1790s,” cited under slide 12.

Slide 11 Was titled “The Patton-Preston Settling Was a Nontraditional Scotch-Irish Emigration” and consisted of the five bulleted points below:

- Did not travel to Virginia via Pennsylvania
- Patton arrived on the frontier with a direct connection to the Virginia oligarchy
- He immediately assumed several high Augusta County offices
- He got his own land grant
- Patton and others (John Buchanan, the Lewises) surveyed land for the oligarchs

Partly repeating and revising what the author wrote above in connection with Slide 3 “[T]he development of Virginia’s western regions descends from an improbable relationship formed in the 1730s between the Essex County oligarch William Beverley and the Donegal trader and ship captain James Patton. [F]urther the Virginia east-west relationship was continued by George Washington and William Preston. It concludes that the export of Virginia culture to the greater South was mediated by these relationships.”


See also Lyman Chalkley, Chronicles of the Scotch-Irish settlement in Virginia, extracted from the original court records of Augusta County 1745-1800, in three volumes (Rosslyn, Va.: Mary S. Lockwood/Commonwealth Printing Co., ca. 1912).

Slide 12 Was titled “The DAR Memorial Plaque in Augusta Courthouse.”
DAR = Daughters of the American Revolution. As noted above in the citations under Slide 3, the author in October 2013 made a presentation to the Beverley Manor Chapter of the DAR. He did it at a location on the original land grant of Beverley Manor. A note on the slide commented that the date on the plaque of December 9, 1745 marks the beginning of the Scotch-Irish frontier elite in Virginia.

Not shown in this presentation because of time limitations was the author’s picture of the stone version of the 1886 Hotchkiss map which lies at the foot of the flag pole in front of the Augusta County courthouse in Staunton, Virginia. The monument was dedicated on November 9, 1988, the 250th anniversary of the formation of Augusta County. John S. Hale of Staunton designed the
monument, and it was made by Tony Grappone of Richmond. This map must surely be one of the most unusual monuments to the heritage of a county anywhere in the US.

Slide 13 Was titled “Patton’s Arrival Coincided with Augusta County — Established 1738 • Organized 1745”

This slide showed a map of the original Augusta County (colored green) as a huge extension of the pre-1738 Virginia shown in purple. The division between the green and purple areas is the chain of the Blue Ridge Mountains. The author has labeled this enormous expansion of Virginia’s area the “Great Virginia Land Grab” and written extensively about it in his article “William Preston the Surveyor and the Great Virginia Land Grab” cited under Slide 3. The slide showed the location of Beverley Manor as a red-colored diamond shape.

Slide 14 Was titled “William Preston’s Early Years” and consisted of the seven bulleted points below:

- Crossed the Atlantic with on a ship commanded by his uncle, James Patton
- Landed at Blandfield in 1739
- His parents were the Irishman John Preston (birthplace uncertain) and Patton’s sister, Elizabeth
- William was their only son and had four sisters
- He was about nine when he arrived in Augusta
- He grew to manhood in a vigorous, feisty frontier community
- He began unlicensed surveying as a teenager


Slide 15 Was titled “William Preston in the Older Scotch-Irish Literature” and consisted of the five bulleted points below:

- Authors based in Lexington at present Washington and Lee University (formerly Augusta Academy and Washington College, all on the Irish tract), frequently wrote about William Preston in the nineteenth century
- A substantial Preston family genealogy was given in the first volume of Donahoe’s Magazine in 1879 — (Robinson’s unpublished chapter) — quoted up front

A note on the slide said that Henry White in 1890 called W&L a “…temple of the wilderness as the school for the training of Scotch-Irish prophets.”

In western Virginia, present-day Washington and Lee University (under its various earlier names and at its earlier locations) has had a long association with Ulster American history. “The germ of Washington and Lee University was a Mathematical and Classical School, called The Augusta Academy, established in 1749, by Robert Alexander, and first located two miles southwest of the site of Greenville, in Augusta, and near the interlacings of the head springs of the Shenandoah on the eastward, and of the James River on the westward. ‘It was the first Classical School in the Valley of Virginia, and was continued by an uninterrupted succession of principals and assistant instructors, on successive sites, increasing in usefulness and influence, until it gradually developed into Washington and Lee University.” Quote from page 7 of Hugh Blair Grigsby, and editors, *Catalogue of the officers and alumni of Washington and Lee University, Lexington, Virginia, 1749-1888 …*,” (Baltimore: John Murphy, 1888) and on line at https://archive.org/details/catalogueofoffic00washrich. Writing ebulliently, Henry Alexander White in the “The Scotch-Irish University of the South: Washington and Lee” (pp. 223-246 in *The Scotch-Irish in America: Proceedings and Addresses of the Second congress at Pittsburgh, May 29 - June 1, 1890. Cincinnati: R. Clarke, 1890*) said. “In 1749, that year of high-tide in the old colonial life, when Boston Harbor was busily unfurling her commercial sails; when the cavalier on Chesapeake Bay swore allegiance to the king of England and read the prayer-book in the same breath — in that year was laid the foundation-stone of Washington and Lee University. Beneath the shadows of the Blue Ridge, in the Valley of Virginia, Scotch-Irish brawn upreared [sic] a rude cabin of oaken logs, and with fervent prayer did set apart this temple of the wilderness as the school for the training of Scotch-Irish prophets.”


William Preston’s family genealogy is presented in considerable detail in Patrick Donahoe and William E. Robinson’s 1879 article “The Irish Element in the United States,” from which the author quoted in Slide 2, and is cited above.


See also the author’s final note listed under Slide 16.

**Slide 16** Was titled “William Preston in the newer Scotch-Irish Literature.” The slide showed thumbnail images of the cover pages of the six books and below each image noted whether of not the book mentions William Preston. The citations of the books along with some annotations are listed below.

Leyburn, James G. *The Scotch Irish, A Social History*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina
Uncle James Patton is mentioned twice in this book but nephew William Preston is not mentioned.


Hofstra, Warren R., ed. *Ulster to America: The Scots-Irish Migration Experience, 1680–1830*. Knoxville, University of Tennessee Press, 2011. The essay “Searching for status: Virginia’s Irish tract, 1770s-1790” pp. 123-146 Katharine L. Brown and Kenneth W. Keller tells a good deal about the settlement of the Irish Tract and provides a good summary of the development of the Scotch-Irish “power structure” that the Ulstermen created (pp. 124-125). James Patton is discussed but William Preston is noted only from becoming the surveyor of Botetourt County (p. 126) and in a footnote (p. 143 note 15) as having had considerable surviving correspondence with his brother-in-law the Presbyterian minister John Brown.

The author considers that the books mentioned in slides 15 and 16 to represent at least a fair sample of the Scotch-Irish literature. He has examined many other works (books and articles). In particular, he has examined almost all of the works cited by Michael Montgomery in *Ulster-American Connections: A Select List of Books and Booklets* (compiled and annotated by Michael Montgomery of the University of South Carolina and published on line at http://www.ulstervirginia.com/scotchirishbooklist.asp.

Slide 17 Was titled “Albion's Seed and Bound Away.” The slide showed thumbnail images of the images of the cover pages of the two books with brief commentary about them. Their citations are


This author recalls reading *Albion’s Seed* a year or two after it was originally published, more than two decades ago, and in his wife’s book collection At the time of that reading, he was very impressed by the powerful, broad sweep of the book. As a, by then, two-decade resident of the backcountry he especially enjoyed the long section (pp. 605-782) titled “Borderlands to the Backcountry: The Flight from North Britain, 1717-1775.” Sadly, the book has not held up well in the author’s estimation. Not only does *Albion’s Seed* entirely omit the Patton-Preston story, it commits the fearful error (p. 379) in which the author places “Beverley Manor on the Rappahannock.” This situation is all too discouraging coming from an author who once wrote a book titled *Historians’ Fallacies: Toward a Logic of Historical Thought* (New York: Harper
Here’s part of what Rodger Cunningham of Alice Lloyd College said seven years ago in “Jane Smiley’s Divell Theorie,” an article originally published on line as “a cooperative venture between ePluribus Media and Appalachian Heritage—A Literary Quarterly of the Appalachian South” (published by Berea College in Kentucky). In addition to appearing here, this essay will be part of the Spring 2007 edition of Appalachian Heritage” and on line at http://www.epiburismedia.org/features/2007/20070319_janes_theory.html. “Sixteen years ago we Appalachian scholars thought we had D. H. Fischer sewed up, and in fact Albion’s Seed did disappear from the radar screen for most of the intervening time. But now, thanks to the blogosphere and Amazon.com, it’s been raised from the grave and will no doubt soon take its place in the Harry Caudill -- Jack Weller -- James Dickey -- Robert Schenkkan Grand Récit of Hillbilly Depravity.”

The preface to Bound Away begins: “This book began as a catalog for an exhibition, at the Virginia Historical Society, to mark the centenary of Frederick Jackson Turner’s thesis on ‘the significance of the frontier in American History.’” This book (p. 126) does acknowledge as one of the leaders in the “movement from the British borderlands” James Patton who was a member of the “backcountry ascendency.” However, it labels him as an ancestor of General George S. Patton.

The index entry for William Preston in this book points to page 216, where William Preston is not to be found. Even today (June 2014), the Virginia Historical Society web site repeats the ancestor of General Patton canard and in the same short paragraph manages to twice misspell Patton as “Patton. See the link below http://www.vahistorical.org/what-you-can-see/story-virginia/explore-story-virginia/early-virginia-1775/becoming-virginians

Slide 18 Was titled Three Extended Works About William Preston and showed thumbnail images of the cover pages of the works by Patricia Johnson, John Frederick Dorman, and Richard Osborn cited above under Slide 15.

Johnson’s book was described on the slide as a “biography by a regional historian.” Dorman’s book was described on the slide as a “Competent family genealogy. Osborn’s work was described as an excellent but unpublished thesis biography.

Slide 19 Was titled “William Preston’s Later Years” and consisted of the six bulleted points below:

- Surveyor, four counties, for 32 years
- Frontier ranger in his twenties
- Traveled with George Washington in 1756
- Five times a member of the Virginia House of Burgesses.
- Washington’s Land Supplier in the 1770s
- Fincastle offices held in 1772: Justice of the Peace, Vestryman, Militia Colonel, County Lieutenant, etc..

This sketch of Preston derives from the three works cited under Slide 19, published articles in the in the author’s files, and the author’s publications about Preston listed under Slide 3.

Local tradition in present-day Southwest Virginia accords considerable status and importance to the “Fincastle Resolutions.” These were adopted by a committee of freeholders of Fincastle County on January 20, 1775, in present-day Wythe County. The author discussed these Resolutions in depth in his article “The Fincastle Resolutions” cited above under Slide 3. The Fincastle Resolutions have even been fondly declared to be the first Declaration of Independence. The author’s view is that they were only a minor aspect of William Preston’s life. His writings have demonstrated the antecedent and little-known Fort Gower Resolves made in November, 1774, had genuine political impact in eastern Virginia as well as influencing the Fincastle and other frontier county resolutions made in early 1775.

Because of the relative dearth of Episcopalians on the frontier, Presbyterians often served in their
stead. “Despite several efforts to remove them, many prominent Presbyterians served on the ostensibly Anglican vestry board in Augusta County.” The quote comes from page 36 of Albert Tillson’s *Gentry and Common Folk: Political Culture on the Virginia Frontier 1740-1789* (Lexington: University of Kentucky Press, 1991)

Preston was involved for most of his lifetime defending the Virginia frontier against Indian incursions. An early experience with Indians came for him at age of 22, when Preston accompanied his uncle to Logstown (present-day downtown Pittsburgh) in 1752 to observe the making by Virginia commissioners (Patton was one) of a treaty (the Treaty of Logstown) with the Shawnee, Lenape, and Six Nations, Indians. Preston kept log of the names of persons wounded or killed by Indians in what is commonly referred to as “The Preston Register” and cited as “Indian Wars in Augusta County, Virginia” (*Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, 11(3), 397-404, 1895). In 1756, Preston went as a junior officer on an expedition led by Andrew Lewis with the plan of marching to Ohio to kill Indians on their home ground. The expedition was a disaster and the 26 year-old-Preston left a record of it in “Capt. William Preston’s Journal of the Sandy Creek Expedition, 1756,” on line at [http://www.as.wvu.edu/WVHistory/documents/003.pdf](http://www.as.wvu.edu/WVHistory/documents/003.pdf). One imagines that his Sandy Creek experience left a lifelong mark on Preston. See also B. Scott Crawford’s “A Frontier of Fear: Terrorism and Social Tension along Virginia’s Western Waters, 1742–1775” (*West Virginia History*, New Series, 2(2): 1-29, 2008).

**Slide 20** Was titled “Smithfield Plantation” and consisted of the three bulleted points below and showed the picture of the Plantation as seen on the front cover of the booklet offered in the basement gift shop for sale to visiting tourists.

- “At the western edge of the Virginia Colony on the eve of the American Revolution”
- Final home of William Preston
- He lived here from 1772-1783

The quotation in Bullet 1 comes from the web page of the Smithfield Plantation. At left of the slide was shown the cover of the March 2013 visitors’ booklet. The author prepared the text for this 28-page visitors’ booklet. Ms. Teri Hoover took the pictures.

**Slide 21** Was titled “The Family Life of William Preston” and consisted of the three bulleted points below:

- Married Susanna Smith of Hanover County in 1761.
- He was 31, she was 21
- Twelve children — one born in Augusta County, six born in Botetourt County, five born at Smithfield in Fincastle, later Montgomery, County

These bullets in the sketch of Preston derive from the three works cited under Slide 19, published articles in the in the author’s files, and the author’s publications about Preston listed under Slide 3. For information about the Preston dynasty the best single source is the genealogical work by Dorman cited under Slide 15.

**Slide 22** Was titled “William Preston’s Land Speculation” and consisted of the four bulleted points below:

- Surveyors always had an inside track on getting the best land
- William Preston while still a teenager made money by land speculation
- He speculated successfully in land all his adult life
- He died a very wealthy man

The bullets on this slide derive from the author’s article “William Preston the Surveyor” cited under Slide 3. The author holds the opinion that the specialist literature about Preston insufficiently emphasizes his role as a surveyor. He surveyed from his teenage years almost until the end of his life, and not only did his access to prime land give him a source of income, his
ability to find, survey, and supply land to members of the Virginia oligarchy ensured his place among the Virginia elite.

Slide 23 Was titled “A Summary of William Preston’s Career as a Surveyor.”

This slide showed a summary table of Preston’s rank (deputy surveyor or full surveyor) of a succession of four very large western Virginia frontier counties (shown on maps in Slides 25, 26, 27, and 28), the dates of the years that he held that rank, and the origin of the county. The process of formation of new counties on Virginia western frontier coincided with William Preston’s surveying career.

A notation on this slide read “This table is visualized on the following series of four maps.”

Slide 24 Was titled “Augusta County (green): Established 1738, organized 1745.”

A notation on this slide read “Preston Deputy Surveyor 1752-1769.”

Slide 25 Was titled “Botetourt County (red), created 1770.”

A notation on this slide read “Preston Surveyor 1770-1771”

Slide 26 Was titled “Fincastle County (blue), created 1772.”

A notation on this slide read “Preston Surveyor 1772-1776”

Slide 27 Was titled “Montgomery County (dark blue), created 1776”

A notation on this slide read “Preston Surveyor 1777-1783”

Slide 28 Was titled “Preston the Land Supplier for George Washington” and consisted of the three bulleted points below:

- Eight letters survive between George Washington and William Preston
- All circa 1774
- All concern land transactions, James John Floyd was a deputy surveyor to Preston.

This slide also showed an image of the State of West Virginia roadside marker which reads as follows: George Washington’s “Cole” River Tract of 2,000 acres was surveyed by John Floyd in 1774 and patented April 12, 1774. Bounded by the Coal and Kanawha Rivers, “5 miles and 88 poles”, it embraced the site of St. Albans.” The marker is located at St. Albans, on Route US 60 West (MacCorkle Ave.), at a place 0.4 miles east of Sattes Bridge and 1.8 miles east of West Virginia Route 35.

The author and his coauthor Ryan Mays corrected the errors in the language of this marker in their recent article “The William Preston / George Washington Letters” cited under Slide 3 above.

John James Floyd married William Preston’s ward Jane Buchanan, and in 1783 became one of Kentucky’s first judges only to be killed by Indians in April of that year. There is a very extensive surviving correspondence between William Preston and James John Floyd. See: John, Floyd and Neal O. Hammon’s John Floyd: The Life and Letters of a Frontier Surveyor (Louisville, Ky.: Butler Books, 2013). Floyd’s ethnic origin is obscure, probably English and Welsh.

Slide 29 Was titled “How Wealthy Was William Preston?” and consisted of the five bulleted points below:

- As recorded in his will, Preston’s wealth was principally in slaves and land
- The 1790 inventory of his estate (he died in 1783) amounted to over $7,500
- About 60 percent of that was his 42 slaves
- Most of the remainder was in his 10,000 acres of land spread across Virginia and Kentucky
- I estimate that Preston’s modern net worth was $70 million

The information on this slide is mainly drawn from unpublished work in the files of the Smithfield
To get a notion of Preston’s wealth we may compare his estate with that of George Washington. Washington died on 14 December 1799 and his estate was entered into the court records on 20 August 1810. See http://www.gunstonhall.org/library/probate/WSHTGN99.PDF for the Fairfax County Will Book J, 1801-1806, fol. 326. Washington’s total estate was $57,296.04. He owned 124 slaves at his death. In modern terms, Washington’s estimated net worth was $525 million according the Atlantic magazine article “The Net Worth of the U.S. Presidents: From Washington to Obama” (see http://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2010/05/the-net-worth-of-the-us-presidents-from-washington-to-obama/57020/.) The calculation $7500 ÷ 57296 × 525 million = $68.7 gives an estimate of $70 million for Preston’s net worth.

The slide was annotated “George Washington’s estate was $57,300. He had a modern estimated net worth of $525 million and left 124 slaves.”

Slide 30 was titled “The Virginia Frontier Ulster-American Elite” and consisted of the five bulleted points below:

- Ulster settlers in Augusta County created a leadership elite modeled on the eastern oligarchy
- Established strong Scotch-Irish kinship connections
- Dominated the leadership positions
- Albert Tillson, (Gentry and Common Folk, 1991 book) describes this “Scotch-Irish” elite
- Turk Macleskey, “Real Estate and the Formation of a Social Elite in Augusta County,” (1990 article title)

Albert Tillson’s book is cited above under Slide 11. Its Chapter 2 is titled “The Political Culture of the Colonial Elite.” In that chapter he says that the “small elite group” of Ulster settlers that dominated Augusta County politics “shared the major social characteristics of the eastern Virginia gentry.” William Preston features prominently in Tillson’s Chapter 2 along with the Lewis, Maclanahan, and Madison, Ulster-originating families.


See also Katharine L. Brown and Kenneth W. Keller’s recent article “Searching for Status: Virginia’s Irish Tract, 1770s-1790s,” cited under slide 12.

Slide 31 was titled “Thoroughfare of Nation Building” and consisted of the three bulleted points below:

- By 1770, the rutted wagon road traversing the southwest Virginia was the most heavily traveled route in all America
- In the decades following Independence, hundreds of thousands of Virginians moved westward to newly created states carrying with them their culture and their political institutions
- This movement shaped America
- William Preston made the thoroughfare possible

The title of this slide was the same as that of the author’s article “Southwest Virginia: A Thoroughfare of Nation-Building” cited above under Slide 3. One historian who has spoken about significance of western Virginia history is the two-time Pulitzer Prize winner David McCullough. In the video program shown at the Visitors’ Center at the Frontier Culture Museum of Virginia in
Staunton, and speaking of that place, he says: “What started here [on Beverley Manor] a long time ago as a hodgepodge of dissenting immigrants evolved into the America of today — a patchwork quilt of many influences and beliefs existing side by side. These diverse immigrants from Europe became the backbone of America. Jamestown may have been the site of the first European settlement in Virginia, but it was here that America took root — here in the Valley of Virginia.”

To understand more about Virginians’ cultural legacy to the nation, it is valuable to read Wilbur J. Cash’s *The Mind of the South*, published in 1941, the year its author died. Despite the book being over seventy years old, and despite its being severely criticized over the intervening years, “Cash’s book, for all its flaws, remains a very great book indeed. For anybody who is interested in the hillbilly South, it remains the indispensable guide - a veritable Baedecker to the boondocks. And anybody who is interested in Southerners has to know about hillbilly Southerners.” Preceding quote from David Hackett Fischer, *Historians’ Fallacies: Toward a Logic of Historical Thought* (New York: Harper Torchbook, 1970), 220.

**Slide 32** Was titled “William Preston: Dynasty Founder ” and consisted of the five bulleted points below:

- Father and father-in-law of Virginia governors
- Grandfather of two Virginia governors
- Father of the treasurer of Virginia
- Descendants included four US senators, one CSA senator, several US congressmen, many state legislators, college founders, college presidents, US presidential cabinet members, judges and many military and religious leaders
- John C. Beckinridge, US Vice-President (1857-1861), descended from William Preston’s sister Letitia

William E. Robinson wrote (pp. 221-222) in “Prestons of America” in *The Scotch-Irish in America: Proceedings and Addresses of the Second Congress at Pittsburgh, May 29 - June 1, 1890* (Cincinnati: R. Clarke, 1890) “This Preston family was a southern family of old Virginia and Kentucky, and therefore it is not surprising that it furnished so many brave and impetuous officers to the Confederate army; but love of the Union was warm in the hearts of many of its members, conspicuous among whom were the Browns, and Blairs, and Carringtons, of southern states, as well as the Porters, of the northern section. Its members were generally Democrats, and firm friends of Jefferson and Jackson. It formulated ‘ The Resolutions of 98.’ They were almost all Presbyterians, and some of them violent controversionalists, who had measured pens, if not swords, with two of the most illustrious prelates of their Catholic countrymen, Archbishop Hughes, of New York, and Bishop England, of South Carolina. They were generally persons of great talent and thoroughly educated, of large brain and magnificent physique. The men were brave and gallant, and the women accomplished and fascinating and incomparably beautiful. There was no aristocracy in America that did not eagerly open its veins for the infusion of this Irish blood; and the families of Washington, and Randolph, and Patrick Henry, and Henry Clay, and the Hamptons, Wickliffes, Mashalls, Peytons, Cabells, Crittendens, and Ingersolls felt proud of their alliances with this noble Irish family. // They were governors, and senators, and members of Congress, and presidents of colleges, and eminent divines, and brave generals from Virginia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri, California, Ohio, New York, Indiana, and South Carolina. There were four governors of old Virginia. They were members of the cabinets of Jefferson, and Taylor, and Buchanan, and Lincoln. They had major-generals and brigadier generals by the dozen; members of the Senate and House of Representatives by the score; and gallant officers in the army and navy by the hundred. They furnished three of the recent Democratic candidates for vice-president of the United States. They furnished to the Union army General B. Gratz Brown, General Francis P. Blair, General Andrew J. Alexander, General Edward C. Carrington, General Thomas T. Crittenden, Colonel Peter A. Porter, Colonel John M. Brown, and other gallant officers. To the southern army they gave Major-General John C. Breckinridge, Major-General William Preston, General Randall Lee Gibson, General John B. Floyd, General John B. Grayson, Colonel Robert J. Breckinridge, Colonel W. P. C. Breckinridge, Colonel William Watts, Colonel
Gary Breckinridge, Colonel William Preston Johnston, aide to Jefferson Davis, with other colonels, majors, captains, and surgeons, fifty of them at least the bravest of the brave, sixteen of them dying on the field of battle, and all of them, and more than I can enumerate, children of this one Irish emigrant from the county of Derry, whose relatives are still prominent in that part of Ireland, one of whom was recently mayor of Belfast.”

Note that the Preston family legacy is just one prominent example of the role that Augusta County Ulstermen played in the development of America. There are thousands of other less well-known families. The story of that development is the theme of the author’s article “Southwest Virginia: A Thoroughfare of Nation-Building” cited above under Slide 3.

Slide 33 Was titled “Two More Assessments of the Preston Family” and consisted of the two bulleted points below:

- “I know of no other family … in the country which has within the last century and a half produced so many distinguished members.” John Peter Hale, 1886.
- “There are few American families which in all their branches have been represented both locally and nationally by so many distinguished descendants.” J. F. Dorman, 1982.

The source of the Hale quote is cited below. The source of the Dorman quote is cited under Slide 15.

John Peter Hale writing in Trans-Allegheny Pioneers (Cincinnati: The Graphic Press, 1886, p. 100) said: “From this point (Draper’s Meadows or Smithfield) this remarkable family, its descendants and connections radiated over the State, and to all parts of the South and West; and for talent displayed, for honorable and commanding positions occupied, and for exalted character and worth, know of no other family connection in the whole country which has, within the last century and a quarter, produced so many distinguished members.” Draper’s Meadows was the name of the original settlement on the site of present-day Blacksburg.

Slide 34 Was titled “In Conclusion” and consisted of the three bulleted points below:

- William Preston literally shaped America through his work as a surveyor
- William Preston metaphorically shaped America through his personal leadership and the family dynasty he founded
- His life stands as a paradigm of the Ulster American Heritage in America

Slide 35 Was titled “End ”

The slide showed a picture of William Preston’s grave in the cemetery at the Smithfield plantation.

Appendix/Notes

Preston’s Slaves and Land

The two paragraphs below are from the files of the Smithfield Plantation. They are excerpted portions of a study commissioned in 2001-2002 by the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities—Montgomery Branch, funded by the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities, and conducted by Dr. Philip Troutman, with consultation by Ms. Leni Sorensen.

“As a Scots-Irish boy of about eight, William emigrated with his family from Ulster, Ireland in 1738 on the ship of his uncle, James Patton. The family settled in Augusta County, where his uncle had received large land grants from the government of the colony. During the same period thousands of Scots-Irish came to this country to escape the harsh laws that England had imposed upon Northern Ireland. Colonel Preston acquired his first plantation, Greenfield, near Fincastle, in 1759. That same year, he bought 18 enslaved Africans from the ship True Blue. The ship had left Anomabu, in West Africa, with 50 crew members, 12 guns, and 280 slaves. They arrived on the Rappahannock River with 242 Africans on board; 38 died on the journey. [Troutman -Document
He bought and sold European indentured servants, in partnership with an agent in Richmond. Some servants he kept himself, having them raise hemp, some for his own profit and some for theirs. Land and labor went together in his and others plans for the backcountry. Smithfield was founded in the midst of a great immigration of Africans. It was a large plantation from nearly the start, especially for western Virginia. It was over 2,000 acres with 40 to 90 slaves living and working here after 1790. He brought some of the Greenfield slaves here; but we do not know exactly how many servants and slaves he had at that time. Preston conceived of Smithfield as an extension westward of the culture he knew in Williamsburg, the seat of Virginia’s government. He served as an importer for the entire region, in fact, procuring English and European import items for friends and neighbors, acting as a sort of merchant from his plantation. Smithfield was only one part of the large network of Preston family members and plantations.

Preston was the image of successful pioneer planter. He died in 1783 during the war while attending a military muster and when his estate was finally inventoried in 1790 it was worth over $7,500, about 60 percent of that represented by his 42 slaves, who were together worth more than his 10,000 acres of land in Virginia and Kentucky. Slaves were the single most valuable form of capital in 18th and 19th century Virginia.”

Note also: Phillip D. Troutman, “A ‘Sorrowful Cavalcade’: Enslaved Migration through Appalachian Virginia,” The Smithfield Review, V: 23-46, 2001. At the time this article was published Troutman had recently received his doctorate in history from the University of Virginia.

**Genealogy as History**

Craig Kilby is a prominent Virginia genealogist who runs the very active Northern Neck genealogy discussion group. During the time that the author was preparing his Powerpoint presentation for the 20th Ulster American Heritage Symposium, Kilby made the following posting to his own discussion group: “Subject: [VA-NORTHERN-NECK] Bon mots from Ed Whites new book // From: Craig Kilby <persisto1@gmail.com> // Date: 6/14/2014 4:09 PM // To: Northern Neck Northern Neck List <VA-NORTHERN-NECK@rootsweb.com> //Ed Whites new book Land and Lesser Gentry is full of amusing quips. In his opening section on “Research and Methodology” he takes us through the mires and thicketks we all run into. Under “Family Tree” I had to laugh out loud. I quote him here: “It does not take long in viewing internet family trees to realize that one needs to possess a suspicious mind. Unfortunately, a huge part of what is posted on the internet is copied from others, and the nearly total lack of primary source documentation is appalling. Some of what has been published in books suffers from the same disease. [I would have said “MOST instead of SOME] // Here’s the good part: “An unbelievable example of internet inaccuracies is the ‘research’ involving the wife of Robert Self, who died in 1717. Scores of family trees list his wife Jane as “Makeing.” His will says: ‘All the rest of my estate unto my beloved wife Jane _makeing_ her my whole executrix.” // Gotta love it! // Craig.”

**Slide removed** Was titled “James Patton Signatures.”

On its left Slide 6 showed Patton’s signature from the Kirkcudbright Town Council Minute Book 1728-1742., p. 174, and 28 December 1734. He signed the book in connection with his being appointed a Burgess of the town of Kirkcudbright. During the year 1734-1738 the Lutwidge records show that Patton was active at the ports at both side of the Solway Firth (estuary). The picture was sent to the author in 2011 via email by David Devereaux of the Stewartry Museum in Kirkcudbright. On the right the slide shows Patton’s signature from the Augusta County Judgment case file, August 1754. Here, he was signing as a witness in May 1754. The author took this picture himself in the basement storage vault of the Augusta County courthouse, where that are many documents with Patton’s signature.
Russia Today’s policy correlates significantly with the objectives of the Russian information strategy. Debates over Russia’s influence on the election of the American president, though heated, are not justified, since coverage of D. J. Trump by RT was not much more biased than H. Clinton’s. Nevertheless, in the context of close attention to the Russian Federation because of the election results, the interest in RT on the part of both the media and intelligence. The scientific methods of case study and content analysis were employed in the thesis work. Some data security, in particular, RT’s KPI and audience analyses, presented a restriction to the study.