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MICHEL'S MAP. 1707
DOCUMENTS RELATING TO EARLY PROJECTED SWISS COLONIES IN THE VALLEY OF VIRGINIA, 1706-1709


Contributed and edited by Charles E. Kemper, Staunton, Va.

These documents were secured in the year 1907 from the Public Record Office, London. They contain all the knowledge possessed by the writer concerning the first exploration of the Valley of Virginia and are, in all probability, the earliest documents which exist in regard to the region in question.

The fact that George Ritter and his associates of Berne, Switzerland, are endeavoring to obtain a large grant of land in the Valley in 1705 indicates that a portion of the Valley had been explored as early as 1704 or 1705, but no account of the exploration is known to exist.

The first actual settlements in the Valley are described with considerable fullness in 'The Early Westward Movement of Virginia, 1731-34, by the appended notes for which see this Magazine, XII, 337-352; XIII, 1-16, 113-138, 281-297, 351-374.

The earliest document known to exist describing an actual
settlement in the Valley in a letter written by Jost Hite to Lord Fairfax in 1741. The original of this letter is in the Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, and in it Hite states that he had lived in Philadelphia County, Pa., where he owned a mill and had sold the property in 1731 and had moved in the fall of that year to the Valley of Virginia. This gives us the year of the Hite settlement in the region around Winchester, Virginia.

The map is one of the earliest, if not the earliest map of the Valley of Virginia. The original is on file in the Public Record Office, London, and it is now published for the first time.

CHARLES E. KEMPER.

Accompany the map is a “key”, which is here given in translation from the French original.


Reference to Map.

A. Rocks in the River called Potomack, as far as one can ascend in barques and beyond in small boats.
B. A spring which flows 60 miles from Annapolis.
C. First hut which was made to sleep in on the trail on their route.
D. A river called Quattaro [The Monacacy River, Md.].
E. Mountains of Virginia [The Blue Ridge and Alleghanies].
F. Region of the Mesesipi.
G. Mountains of Cenuntua [The Massanutten range].

Our friend who has made the voyage in this district, writes us that it contains mountains, valleys and plains.

There is land that is dry and barren and where it is difficult to pass through the wild brush-wood.

On the contrary, there is good land, where are great forest trees of oak, and where much game abounds.
All this country is uninhabited except some Indians. From one hut to another marks a day's journey.

We humbly pray his Majesty to have the grace to grant us this district with such privileges His Majesty may find suitable, to there establish a Swiss Colony.'

Mr. Kemper makes the following note on the map:

'This map of Louis Michel, based upon explorations made by him in 1707. The original is on file in the Public Record Office, London, in the Board of Trade Papers for 1708 and 1709. It is filed with a petition from Baron De Graffenried and Louis Michel who sought a large grant of land in the Shenandoah Valley in order to settle a Swiss colony there. The photographic copy was made from a wax tracing of the original. The starting point of the explorer was Annapolis, Maryland, and his journey ended in the neighborhood of the present Edinburgh, Shenandoah county, Virginia. The Massanutten range is shown in the forks of the North and South branches of the Shenandoah, and Michel calls the range "The Mountains of Cenuntua"; the earliest name the writer has yet found for the range in question. The tents represent the camping places of the explorer; the lines (dotted) his route'.

Mr. Kemper also sends the following from the Pennsylvania Records:

"At a meeting of the Provincial Council of Pennsylvania which was held at Philadelphia February 24, 1707, a message was received from the Indians on Conastogo in that Province, in substance to the effect that certain Europeans, namely: Mitchel (Louis Michell), a Swiss, Peter Bezalion, James LeTort, Martin Chartiere, the French glover from Philadelphia, Frank, a young man from Canada, and one from Virginia who also spoke French, had lately taken up their residence in Pennsylvania and had seated themselves and built houses upon the branches of the Potomac and pretended they were in search of some mineral or ore. Mitchell was the
leader of the expedition and had been gone for many weeks past from their settlement (Michell's) and presumably had one Clark, of Maryland, to assist him in the discovery. This is in substance the statement made by the Indians to the Council. The parties named above were required by order of the Council to appear and give account of themselves on the following day, February 25, 1707. Michell appeared as ordered, and stated that he had been employed by certain of his countrymen who were in treaty with the Crown and proprietor (William Penn) with reference to a convenient tract of land upon which to settle a colony of their people.

The order of the Council shows that Louis Michell and his party were then, February 25, 1707, living on the "forks of the Potawmac". *Minutes of the Provincial Council of Pennsylvania*, Vol. 2, pp. 420-422.

The foregoing record of the Provincial Council of Pennsylvania clearly shows that a settlement more or less permanent had been made by Louis Michell in the vicinity of the present Harper's Ferry, West Virginia, in 1706. The autobiography of Baron DeGraffenreid published in the *Colonial Record of North Carolina* shows that he visited the settlement mentioned in this Council Order in 1712, but it was then in Western Maryland in the Valley of the Monocacy River, because DeGraffenreid was on the north side of the Potomac and Sugar Loaf Mountain in the present County of Frederick, Maryland, is mentioned as being in the vicinity of this settlement.

The record quoted also indicates that Louis Michell explored the northern portion of the Shenandoah Valley in 1706. His map and the key to it shows that Michell started on his expedition from Annapolis, Maryland, and the Council Order of February 24, 1707, show that he was accompanied by "one Clark of Maryland".

[I. Letter from Mr. Hedges to the Board of Trade, submitting a petition for settling a colony of Swiss in Virginia, March 4, 1706].
1705/6, March the 4th.
LETTER FROM MR. SECy HEDGES REFERRING TO THE BOARD A PETITION FROM BERN, FOR SETLING A COLONY OF NATIVES OF SWITZERLAND IN PENNSYLVANIA, OR VIRGINIA.

To the Right Honble the Lords Commiss* for Trade & Plantations.

My Lords & Gentlemen,

Having Rec'd from Mr. Stanyan, by the last Post, the Inclosed Petition, for settling a Colony of the Natives of Switzerland in America, I send it to you, and desire your thoughts upon it, before I lay it before Her Majesty, which I desire you will please to send me the Petition again, as soon as Conveniently you can.

I am,

My Lords & Gentlemen, Your most humble Servant,

C. Hedges.

Cockpitt,
28th February 1705/6.

[II.] PETITION¹ FROM BERN RELATING TO THE SETTLING A COLONY OF SWITZERS IN AMERICA. 1705/6 MARCH THE 4TH.*

To The Queen.

George Ritter, citizen of the city of Berne, submits with the profound respect which is due to Your Majesty, that the noble Francis Louis Michel, citizen of the said city, having opportunely settled in Pennsylvania, did, through your petitioner,

¹ We are indebted to Dr. William J. Hinke, of Auburn, N. Y., for translations of the French Documents as indicated and for arranging them all. Dr. Hinke is already well known to our readers by most valuable contributions formerly made to this Magazine. The first was "Moravian Diaries of Travels Through Virginia", translated by Dr. Hinke and edited by him in collaboration with Mr. Kemper. These were diaries of Moravian Missionaries who passed through Virginia, mainly the Shenandoah Valley, 1743-53. These were published in Vols. XI, 113-131, 225-242, 370-393; XII, 55-82, 134-153, 271-281. They constitute probably the earliest personal narratives of travel through the western portion of the Colony. Dr. Hinke's other contribution was an admirably edited translation of the journal of Louis Michel (the same who explored the Valley) through eastern Virginia &c., 1701-1703, published in Vol. XXIV, 1-43, 113-141, 275-393.

* Translated from the French original.
solicit a number of persons of the laudable Canton of Berne, to go and settle near him in America, and being inclined to do this, after having obtained the permission of the noble Lordships of the said laudable Canton; the said Ritter has been charged, in the name of all, to entreat most humbly Your Majesty to consent to the establishment which they propose to make of a Swiss colony, and which they intend to form, in order to settle some territory hitherto uninhabited in the said Pennsylvania, or on the borders of Virginia, with the help of the divine grace and the powerful, royal protection of your Majesty.

This colony may consist at first of four to five hundred persons, Switzers, Reformed Protestants, merchants, manufacturers, artisans, traders, as well as farmers, for whom and in whose name the said Ritter petitions Your Majesty to grant them, if it is your good pleasure, the following conditions:

1. That they may be treated and regarded as true subjects of Your Majesty.
2. That to this colony may be granted a district, well situated as regards climate, soil and water, near some rivers and adequate to the number of the people.
3. That to each person be given about one hundred acres of land in the said district, which shall be called Berne. Let this article be merged in the preceding.
4. That it please Her Majesty to order her governor in that country to furnish to the said colony the grain necessary for seed and for food during the first year, on condition that it be returned either in kind or in value, during the first four years.
5. That there be full liberty to trade like the natives of the country and as do all the other subjects of Your Majesty.
6. That they be exempted from all taxes during the first ten years, after which they will pay them like the other subjects of Your Majesty.
7. That they have liberty to choose ministers of the holy Gospel, officers of justice and of police, at all times under the direction of Your Majesty's governor in the said country.
8. That after having publicly prayed to God for Your Majesty, they be permitted to pray also for their noble Lordships of the Republic of Berne, who have the honor to be allies of Your Majesty.

9. That the same favors and privileges above mentioned be also accorded to all those who in future shall come from Switzerland, to reinforce their colony, especially to those of the Canton of Berne.

10. And as this colony cannot pay the expenses of their journey and transportation to America, Your Majesty is most humbly petitioned to be pleased to give orders to have the said colony conveyed in safety to that place, including their baggage, in such a way that it may embark at Rotterdam in Holland, and to have them conveyed, at Your Majesty's expense, to the place assigned for their settlement. To that end the said Ritter, being notified in time, will betake himself, with the help of God, together with the said colony to Rotterdam, at such a time as may be appointed for him.

Manwhile the said Ritter and his associates pray God ardently for the happy and long preservation of Your Majesty's sacred person, for the prosperity of her flourishing kingdoms, and for the glory of her victorious arms.

George Ritter.²

[III. RECOMMENDATION BY THE COUNCILL OF BERNE TO MR. STANYAN, ENVOY EXTRAORDINARY OF GREAT BRITAIN, AUGUST 25, 1706.*]

Some of the citizens of their Excellencies, having duly submitted that under their agreement and permission they have the intention of forming a colony of four to five hundred persons from their part of the country, and of conducting and establishing it in the West Indies, a country under the jurisdiction of Her Britannic Majesty, and having to that end also presented a very humble petition to her said Majesty with a

²George Ritter, son of Jacob Ritter and Magdalena Gouttes, was baptized Aug. 8, 1667. He was a druggist by profession. He is said to have been twice in America.

*Translated from the French original.
prayer that it may please their Excellencies to cause it [the said petition] to be handed to Mr. Stanian, envoy extraordinary of said Britannic Majesty, and to accompany it with their recommendations to said Lord, to the end that thereby the said very humble petition be placed before her Majesty and that afterwards they might receive and learn the decision of said Britannic Majesty upon their proposal:

Their Excellencies, therefore, who have the advance of the interests of their citizens and subjects much at heart and particularly wish to see the petitioners succeed in their design and enterprise, have considered it advisable to send a delegation of the present Lords and members of their Council to the Envoy Extraordinary of her Majesty, the Queen of Great Britain, in order to pray in their behalf by the present memorial, to have the goodness to support this matter at Court and to second it with his powerful offices and great credit, to the end that their said citizens may receive favorable treatment in their request, and that they may enjoy the favor and protection of her Majesty, as also to be informed by her, that, in case the State be well disposed in time to send there a colony under certain conditions, they may be able to secure a large tract of land.

It is this favor that their Excellencies expect and ask of his Lordship, the Envoy, which favor they will try to reciprocate by all kinds of favors and services which devolve upon them, praying the Almighty that He may maintain the person of his Lordship, the Envoy, in His Holy and worthy keeping.

Done at Berne this 25th day of August 1706.

To the Queen.*

George Ritter, citizen of the city of Berne, submits with the profound respect which is due to Your Majesty, that the noble Francis Louis Michel, citizen of the said city, having opportunely settled in America, did, through your petitioner, solicit a number of persons of the laudable Canton of Berne, to go and settle near him in the said America, and being in-

*Translated from the French original.
clined to do this, after having obtained the permission of the noble Lordships of the said laudable Canton; the said Ritter has been charged, in the name of all, to entreat most humbly Your Majesty to consent to the establishment which they propose to make of a Swiss Colony, and which they intend to form, in order to settle some tract hitherto uninhabited in the said America, with the help of divine grace and the powerful, royal protection of Your Majesty.

This colony may consist at first of four to five hundred persons, Switzers, Reformed Protestants, artisans and traders as well as farmers, for whom and in whose name the said Ritter petitions Your Majesty to grant them, if it be your good pleasure, the following conditions:

1. That they may be treated and looked upon as true subjects of Your Majesty.

2. That to this colony may be granted a district well situated as regards climate, soil and water, near some rivers, navigable for commerce and proportioned to the number of the people.

3. That it may please Her Majesty to order her governor in that country to furnish to said colony the grain necessary for seed and for food during the first year, on condition that it be returned within three or four years in kind or in value.

4. That there be full liberty to trade like the natives of the country and as all other subjects of Your Majesty.

5. That they be exempted from all taxes during the first ten years of the settlement, after which ten years they shall pay them like the other subjects of Your Majesty.

6. That they have liberty to choose ministers of the holy Gospel, and the officers of police and justice, however at all times under the direction of Your Majesty's governor in the said country.

7. That, after having publicly prayer to God for Your Majesty, they be permitted to pray also for their Excellencies of the Republic of Berne, who have the honor to be allies of Your Majesty.

8. That the same favors and privileges above mentioned be also accorded to all those who in future shall come from Swit-
zerland, to reinforce their colony, especially to those from the Canton of Berne.

9. And as this colony will not be able to pay the expenses of their journey and transportation to America, Your Majesty is most humbly petitioned to be pleased to give orders that the said colony be conveyed, at the expense of Your Majesty, to that place together with their baggage, so that they may embark at Rotterdam in Holland, and that they may be conveyed, at the expense of Your Majesty, to the place chosen for their settlement. To this end the said Ritter, having been notified in time, will betake himself, with the help of God, together with said colony to Rotterdam, at such a time as may be appointed for him.

Meanwhile the said Ritter and his associates pray to God ardently for the happy and long preservation of Your Majesty's sacred person, for the prosperity of her flourishing kingdoms, and for the glory of her victorious arms.

[The foregoing document in Vol. 13 is followed by what appears to have been the cover or wrapper of the aforesaid document and is thus inscribed:]

(H. M. Public Record Office, Board of Trade Virginia Vol [O.] 13. 32.)

Earl of Sunderland to the Council of Trade.

My Lords and Gentlemen

I am commanded by the Queen to referr to your Consideration the enclosed Petition of several Inhabitants of the Canton of Bern who propose to make a Settlement on the Frontiers of Virginia; Her Majesty being desirous to have your Opinion how far it is practicable & may be for Her Majesty's Service & the benefit of Her Subjects to comply with what is therein desired.

I am,

My Lords and Gentlemen,
Your most humble Servant,

Council of Trade.

Sunderland.
[V. First Memorial of Michel and Graffenried, July 11, 1709].

The Magistrates of Bern in Switzerland recommends their Address by your Lordships most Humble Petition Petitioner Luis Michell.

Whom by his repeated travels in the Dominion of Great Brittain in North America has Discover'd on the Hed of Potomack River and its branches a considerable tract of wild and uncultivated deserts being the Westward part of her Majestys Province of Virginia, which Land by the Industry of a Necessitous and Laborious people may in Probability be made a Habitation for man. The same having not the conveniance of Water for carriage and transportation as the present settlement[s] have, in all probability will ly uncultivated and uninhabited for several ages which may prove of no good consequence to the Crown of Great Brittain being of the p'sent Settlement of the French on the Missisipi who are daily advancing on and towards the Brittish Dominions in America whereby that trade with the Natives on the Lakes and other part of that Continent is enjoyed by the Enemy For which reason but more especially in respect to the great favours and esteem which that Crown has treated us and the Protestant Cantons of Swisserland, withall has encouraged us to entreat for a Settlement in the said Wilderness for some of our Swisserland Natives whereby we may ever be in the Interest of the Great and Glorious Brittish Monarchie.

The great esteem as our Cantons have of such an Interest gladly Joynes them in a general and United Stock as to provide for all our transported People whereby they will by no means be Chargiable or Burthensome to this Crowne In whose Interest we hope to be serviceable and that all the duty's of Loyal Subjects may ever flow from those that shall settle America.

We hope Likewise that by the Permision of this Crowne, we may by our industry have the produce of the West India Islands which necesaries we have hitherto purchased of ye Dutch at no easy rate and we shall ever carry ye mark of
Gratitude in our hearts as to discover and propogate wt may be most suitable and Beneficial to the Interest of Great Brit-ain of wth we hope and expect Minerals Hemp flax Wine Salt and other Nescesarie improvements will soon appear to ye Crowne's Satisfaction and all our Interest wt further requires of this Negotiation we refer to his Excelency Abraham Stamina Esq' Envoy ffrom her Majesty of Great Brittain to ye Protestant Cantons of Swiserland.

And to discharge my Duty shall ever be the Indeavours of yo' Lordships most humble most Obedient and most Devoted Servant

Lues Michell.  

[Endorsed: Virginia

MEMORIAL FROM MR. LUIS MICHEL AND MR. DE GRAFFEN-RIED, TOUCHING A COLONY OF SWITZERS WHO DESIRE TO BE SETTLED IN VIRGINIA.]

Recd: 11 July 1709. O. 33.
Read D°
Enyt. Virga D. 395.

[VI. Second Memorial of Mr. Graffenried, July 13, 1709]

May it please her Majestie of Great Brittain's most Honble Councillors to Countenance those Proposals from the Swiss Societie for planting some Collonies in North America, which are recommended to the Queen of great Brittain from the Canton of Bern By his Excellencie Abraham Stamina Esq' her Maj. Env.: And now laid before this Honble Board by Christopher Graffenried of the Soveraign Councell and late Governour of Yverdon, and Luis Michell

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3 Frances Louis Michel belonged to a prominent Berne family. He made two journeys to America between 1702 and 1704, was again in Pennsylvania and Virginia 1706-1707 and returned to Switzerland in 1708. His plan for a Swiss settlement in Virginia was not successful, but his efforts led to the formation of the joint stock company of George Ritter and Company, under whose auspices DeGraffenried founded the Swiss colony at New Berne, N. C., in 1710. For a fuller notice of Michel see this Magazine XXIV, 2.
Your Lordships most humble Petitioners

For as much as some Adresses of this Nature have already been offered by his Excellency N. . . . . Angliomby Esq' late Envoy and Sign'd by Mr. George Ritter wch we pray may be laid aside, and that these here presented may find admittance. Which are that we may have a tract of Land allotted us in the British Dominions in America on reasonable terms where we may plant some of our Natives wch (in the Highest measure) will oblige the Protestant Cantons of Swisserland, at all times to Espouse the Interest of that great and glorious Monarachie.

This is the humble Suit of the Lordships most obedient and Devoted Servants

Christopher De Graffenried
Luis Michell.

[Endorsed: Virginia]

SECOND MEMORIAL FROM MR. CHRISTOPHER DE GRAFFENRIED &C. RELATING TO A SETTLEMT TO BE MADE OF A COLONY OF SWITZERS IN VIRGINIA.]

Recd: 13 July 1709. O. 34.
Read
Eny. Virg* D. 395.

[VII]. Abstract of a Memorial for Settling a Swiss Colony in Virginia.

We humbly pray that Her Maj't would be Graciously pleased to Grant Us Lands for the Settlement of a Colony of Switzers

4 Baron Christopher De Graffenreidt, (or De Graffenried as it was later more commonly spelled) was of a noble Swiss family and was born Nov. 21, 1661. After the failure of his North Carolina colony, he, with many Palatines, came to Virginia in May, 1712, but soon returned to Europe and died not long afterwards. He married Regina Tscharner on April 25, 1684. His son Christopher De Graffenreidt, Jr., married, in Charleston, S. C., Feb. 22, 1714; Barbara Tempest Needham, a native of Hertfordshire, England, and afterwards removed to Williamsburg, Va. He has many descendants. For an account of some of them see William & Mary Quarterly, XV, 201 &c. All histories of North Carolina give an account of the De Graffenried colony there.
upon the South West Branch of Pottomack River in Virginia, We paying to her Majesty a Quit Rent in acknowledgment of Her Majesty's Soveraignty as is done in other like Cases. We ingage Our Selves, to Cultivate the said Lands in such manner that Her Majesty will receive a considerable advantage there-by; Besides that by this Settlement We shal be as a Fontier between Virginia and the French of Canada & Missisippi.

This Settlement so far from being injurious to Her Majesty's Neighbouring Colonies or proprieties will rather be an advantage to them by having these Desarts Cultivated & Inhabited which at present they are not.

In relation to Ecclesiastical, Civil & Military Affairs, We shall Conform Our Selves to the methods used by the rest of Her Majesty's Subjects, and We hope to enjoy the same privileges as the rest of Her Majesty's said Subjects do.

However as we have a Language peculiar to Our Selves, We humbly pray Her Majesty will be Graciously pleased to allow Us to have a Minister from Our own Country.

The people that We shall from time to time Transport thither, shal not be any way Chargeable to Her Maj'y unless Her Majesty be hereafter Graciously pleased in Consideration of the Progress We shal make in the said Settlement, to make some allowance.

As the [discovery of this Country has been and the]* Settling of a Colony there will be of great Charge to the Petitioners Tis humbly hoped her Majesty will Grant them the same advantage as is allow'd to her Majy* other Subjects by the Constitution of Virginia.

[VIII]. A third Memorial from Mr. de Graffenried & Mr. Michel, relating to a Colony of Switzers to be settled in Virginia.†

Since the Lords of the Council, appointed by Her Majesty, have found the proposals demanded of the Society for the Swiss Colony of Virginia, too vague and general, so much so

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*The words in brackets have been crossed out.
† Translated from the French original.
that they desire that more precise explanations be given regarding the subject in question;—We take the liberty to submit with profound respect to Your Lordships:

1. That we pray very humbly Her Majesty to grant us this favor, and to have allotted to us, with the recognition due to the Sovereign which is usual on such occasions, the land in Virginia, commencing at the fork of the two branches of the Potomac River, which land is along that branch which runs to the south west, as may be seen better on the map. Such land we offer to improve in time by the labor and assiduous care of our good workmen to such an extent that the Crown will draw a considerable benefit from it, while at the present time nothing is derived from it. And by this means the colonies in North America will be protected from the attacks of the neighboring enemies of Canada and the Mississippi.

2. This establishment shall in no way be an injury to the neighboring Lords Proprietors, or other persons, but rather on the contrary, they will draw advantage from it. Its desert places will be, from all appearance, for a long time uninhabited, on account of the difficulties encountered for lack of transportation either by water or by land.

3. As to what concerns the ecclesiastical, civil and military affairs, the colony will conform to those of all the other faithful subjects of Your Majesty. On the other hand, the said colony hopes for the same favors and privileges that the other subjects of Your Majesty enjoy.

4. However, as we have a language peculiar to ourselves, we ask Your Majesty the favor of granting us a minister of our country to preach the holy Gospel and to keep the people in the fear of God and in the bounds of good demeanor.

5. As to the persons whom we may induce to come to us, we also promise that they will not come in large numbers, nor in disorder, nor without having first notified you. Neither shall they be at the charge of Your Majesty, unless, seeing the good beginning of our settlement, Your Majesty, for our better encouragement, wishes to grant us some favors.

6. Inasmuch as we have been for several years at a great expense to discover the land above mentioned, and will have
still more expense to establish ourselves, we hope that Your Majesty will have the kindness to grant to our society the benefits which the constitution of the country defines.

7. Inasmuch as it is impossible at the beginning of an enterprise, to think of all the things that may happen, the said society hopes the Council will grant a favorable hearing to the propositions that may be made later on.

The above is only to make a beginning so as to secure advantage and gain time for action which will be asked of Your Lorships.

The very humble and obedient servants,

De Graffenried
Michel.

[Endorsed: Virginia
A third Memorial from Mr. de Graffenried & Mr. Michel relating to a Colony of Switzers to be settled in Virginia.]

Rec'd 14th July 1709. O. 35.
Read 15th Do.
Ent. Virg* D. [395.]

[IV.] COPY OF AN ORDER OF COUNCILL OF THE 22nd AUGUST 1709 UPON A LETTER TO THE EARL OF SUNDERLAND ABOUT SETTLING A COLONY OF SWITZERS IN VIRG* &C.

1709, 10th Nov

At the Court at Windsor the 22nd of August 1709.

Present

The Queen's most Excell* Majesty in Councill.

Upon reading this day at ye Board a Report from the Lords Commissioners of Trade and Plantations to the Earl of Sunderland in the Words following viz.:

Memorandum, here the said Report was incerted
incerted touching Permission for sever* Inhabitants of Berne, to settle on the Frontiers of Virginia.
Her Majesty taking the same into Consideration was Graciously pleased to Approve thereof, And to Order that the Governor of Virginia doe upon the said Petitioners Arrival there, forthwith Allot unto them certain Lands on the South-west Branch of Potomac*, in such manner and Form as is mentioned in the said Report, and the Right Honble the Earl of Sunderland Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State, is to prepare what is necessary for the signification of Her Majesty's Royal Pleasure herein, According to the Purport of the same

John Povey

*The southwest branch of the Potomac was the Shenandoah. Mr. Kemper calls attention to the fact that *The Spotswood Letters*, under date May 12, 1712, show that DeGraffenried had at that date visited the vicinity of the present Harpers Ferry, so that Spotswood had some knowledge of the Valley before his expedition of 1716.