

**Melvin, John and Jean Melvin, John and Hannah Miller, and John and Abigail Cowan to David Moore. Three 10-acre parcels inherited by the wives from their father, Peter Burr. May 5, 1795. Berkeley County Deed Book 12, pp. 299-301.**

This indenture made this fifth day of May in the year of our Lord One thousand seven hundred and ninety five between David Moore of the county of Berkeley and state of Virginia of the one part and John Melvin and Jean Melvin his wife, John Miller and Hannah Miller his wife, and John Cowan and Abigail Cowan his wife of the other part Witnesseth that for and in consideration of the sum of [one ?] hundred and forty pounds current money of Virginia to the said John Melvin, John Miller, and John Cowan in three equal divisions in hand paid by the said David Moore at or before the sealing and delivery of these presents the receipt whereof they do hereby acknowledge and thereof doth release acquit and discharge the said David Moore his executors and administrators by these presents they the said John Melvin and Jean Melvin his wife, John Cowan and Abigail Cowan his wife, and John Miller and Hannah Miller his wife have granted bargained and sold and by these presents do grant bargain and sell unto the said David Moore his heirs Executors Administrators or Assigns all and singular the three lotts or portions of land hereafter mentioned / to wit / the following Lott surveyed as /No. 1 / the said as bound John Melvin together with Jean Melvin his wife for themselves their heirs or administrators or assigns forever beginning at a black oak sapling [1] next adjoining the land belonging to Peter Burr and running south  $1\frac{3}{4}$  degrees West 98  $\frac{1}{2}$  poles to a stake [2] thence North  $44\frac{1}{4}$  degrees West 40  $\frac{1}{3}$  poles to a stake [3] thence North  $28\frac{1}{2}$  degrees East 73  $\frac{1}{2}$  poles to the beginning containing ten acres and the said John Miller together with Hannah Miller his wife for themselves their heirs executors administrators or assigns forever the following lott or portion of land surveyed as /No. 2/ beginning at a black oak sapling [1] the same sapling as the lott aforesaid and running South  $28\frac{1}{2}$  degrees West 73  $\frac{1}{2}$  poles to a stake [2] thence North  $44\frac{1}{4}$  degrees West 46  $\frac{1}{3}$  poles to another stake [3] thence North 65 degrees East 73  $\frac{1}{2}$  poles to the beginning containing also ten acres and also the said John Cowan and Abigail Cowan his wife for themselves their heirs executors and administrators in like manner bargain and sell unto the said David Moore his heirs and assigns forever the following Lott or portion of land surveyed /No. 3/ Beginning at a stake [1] in Wilson's line and running south sixty five degrees west seventy poles to another stake [2] thence North  $44\frac{1}{4}$  degrees West 46  $\frac{1}{3}$  poles to another stake [3] thence South  $88\frac{1}{4}$  degrees West 98  $\frac{1}{2}$  poles to the beginning also containing ten acres which three lotts of ground are the equal moiety portioned off to the said Jean Melvin Hannah Miller and Abigail Cowan by the last will and testament of Peter Burr deceased their father containing in all thirty acres and for the further assurance and securing the said three lotts to him the said David Moore his heirs and assigns forever the executor of the will of Peter Burr deceased aforesaid being his son Peter Burr and John Cowan for themselves their heirs or executors jointly and severally obligate themselves with the said David Moore and for the performance of the said conveyances [page 300] and all houses buildings orchards ways water courses profits commodities hereditaments and appurtenances whatsoever to the said premiss hereby granted or in any part thereof belonging or in any wise appertaining and the reversion and reversions remainder and remainders rents issues and profits thereof and also all the estate right title interest use trust property claim and demand whatsoever of them the said John Melvin John Miller and John Cowan or their heirs executors or administrators of in and to the said premiss and all deed evidences and writings touching or in any wise concerning the same. To have and to

hold the lands hereby conveyed and all and singular other the premisses hereby granted and every part and parcel thereof with their and every of their appurtenances unto the said David Moore and his heirs and assigns forever and the said John Melvin and Jean his wife, John Miller and Hannah his wife, and John Cowan and Abigail his wife for their heirs executors and administrators doth covenant promise and grant to and with the said David Moore his heirs and assigns by these presents that they the said John Melvin John Miller and John Cowan now at the time of sealing and delivery of these presents they are seized of a good sure perfect and indefeasible estate of inheritance in fee simple of and in the premises hereby granted and that they have good power and lawful and absolute authority to grant and convey the same to the said David Moore his heirs executors Administrators or assigns in manner and form aforesaid and be free and clear of and from all forever and all other gifts grants bargains sales dower right and title of dower judgements executions titles troubles charges and encumbrances whatsoever made done committed or suffered by the said John Melvin John Miller and John Cowan or any person or persons whatsoever / the land tax imposed by law only excepted and foreprised / And lastly that . . . the said John Melvin and Jean his wife John Miller and Hannah his wife and John Cowan and Abigail his wife and their heirs all and singular the premisses hereby granted and released with the appurtenances unto the said David Moore and his heirs and assigns against the said John Melvin and Jean his wife John Miller and Hannah his wife and John Cowan and Abigail his wife and their heirs and all and every other person and persons whatsoever shall warrant and forever defend by these presents. In witness whereof the said John Melvin and Jean his wife, John Miller and Hannah his wife and John Cowan and Abigail his wife together Peter Burr and John Cowan as joint executors aforesaid [page 301] and John Cowan for himself have hereunto sett heir hands and seals the day and year above written.

Jean Melvin, her mark John Melvin

Hannah Miller, her mark John Miller

Abigail Cowan, her mark John Cowan

Signed sealed and delivered in the presence of George J. Briscoe, R. [?] Strother

Berkeley Ct.

The Commonwealth of Virginia to George Hite Edward Tiffin and John Briscoe gentlemen, Justices of Berkeley County greeting. Whereas John Cowan, John Miller and John Melvin, and Jean Melvin, Hannah Miller, and Abigail Cowan by their certain indenture of bargain and sale bearing date the fifth day of May have sold and conveyed unto David Moore the fee simple estate of and in a certain tract of land lying and being in the said county of Berkeley containing thirty acres and whereas the said Jean, Hannah and Abigail cannot conveniently travel to the court of our said county to acknowledge the same therefore we command you or any two of you that you personally go to the said Jean Hannah and Abigail and receive their acknowledgment whether they do the same freely and voluntarily without their persuasions or threats and whether they are willing the same shall be recorded in our said county court together with the commission annexed and when you have received their acknowledgments and examined them as aforesaid that you distinctly and plainly certify us thereof. Under your hands and seals sending them there

this writ and the said indenture Witness Moses Hunter Clerk of our said court at the court house aforesaid the 8th day of May 1795 in the 19th year of this Commonwealth.

Mo. Hunter

In obedience to the annexed commission we have taken the private examination of Jean Melvin wife to John Melvin, Hannah Miller wife to John Miller, and Abigail Cowan wife to John Cowan separate and apart from their said husbands, and each of them have freely and voluntarily acknowledged their right of dower to the several tracts of land and wishes them to be recorded in the county court of Berkeley. Given under our hands and seals the 9th day of May 1795.

George Hite

J. Briscoe

At a court held for Berkeley County the 22nd day of June 1795 this indenture was acknowledged by John Melvin and John Cowan two of the parties thereto and ordered to be read at a court held for said county the 25th day of October 1795 the same was [page 301] ...