

with very meager supplies of worldly goods...an axe, a rifle, a few pots and pans, a quilt or two and the clothes on their backs. The more affluent possessed a wagon, some horses, a cow or two...but they all carried with them dreams of a better future.

Upon arriving at a suitable place, the settler used his indispensable axe to build a shelter and to clear some land, then he applied for his grant. With his courageous wife and a houseful of industrious children to help with all the work, they settled in.

In just a few years time all the Tidwells left the Virginia frontier and migrated, with a few exceptions, to South Carolina. The leader of this exodus, or at least the first to receive his land grant, was Richard Tidwell Jr., (III). A grant to him of 100 acres of land on Wateree Creek in Fairfield County, South Carolina, was surveyed on April 7, 1763. As was the custom, he had probably arrived in the area some weeks or even months before he received his first grant.

Being curious about the method used in securing such a grant, I did some research and found a bit about the regulations governing such transactions. The head of a household was eligible for a grant of 100 acres, plus an additional 50 acres for each child between the ages of 2 and 16 living in the house. As more children were born, and