

**ROBERT TATE AND HIS LAND GRANTS  
ON BIG MOCCASIN CREEK  
OF RUSSELL COUNTY, VA.**

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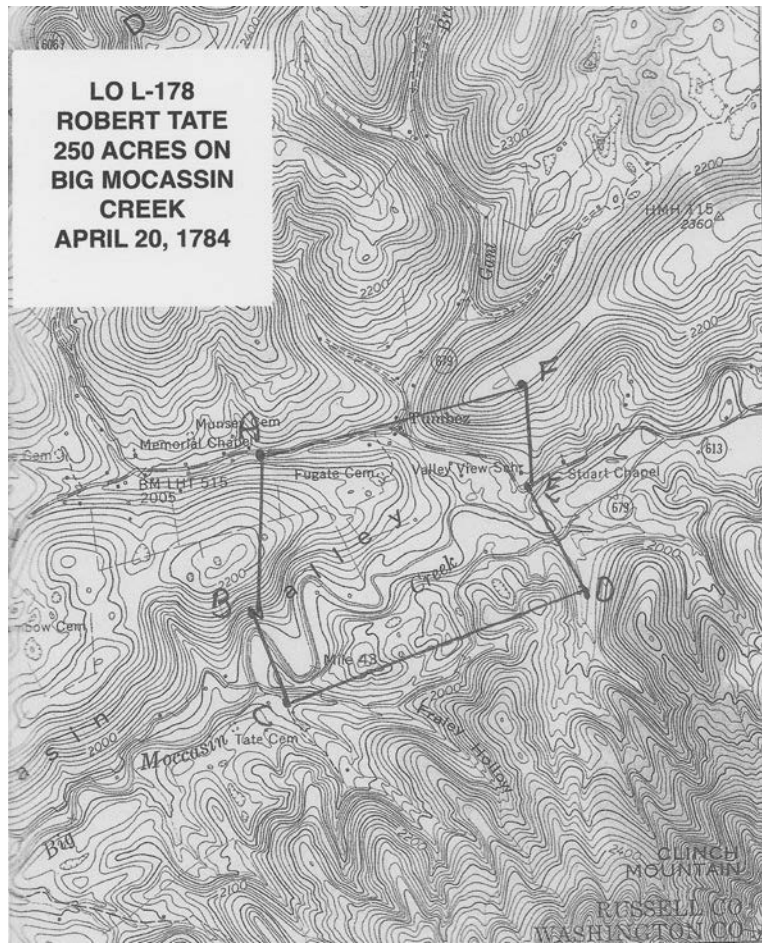
From a genealogic perspective, the related families of the Tates, Fugates, and the Fraleys are of great significance to the current people of Russell, Scott, Wise, and Lee Counties, Virginia. The starting point for this discussion could begin with either Frederick Fraley of Moore's Fort in Lower Castlewood, Virginia<sup>(1)</sup>, or with Col. John Tate of upper Big Moccasin Creek in Russell County, Virginia<sup>(1,2)</sup>, followed by a discussion of the Fugates of Rye Cove<sup>(3)</sup>. Many people are researching these families, projects that are fraught with multiple problems. All the siblings and all of the children of these founding fathers are not known, and in addition the same name is commonly recycled. In this context the issue of Robert Tate and his land grants on Big Moccasin Creek in Russell County has been raised. The data uncovered by research into this mystery should be made to be generally available.

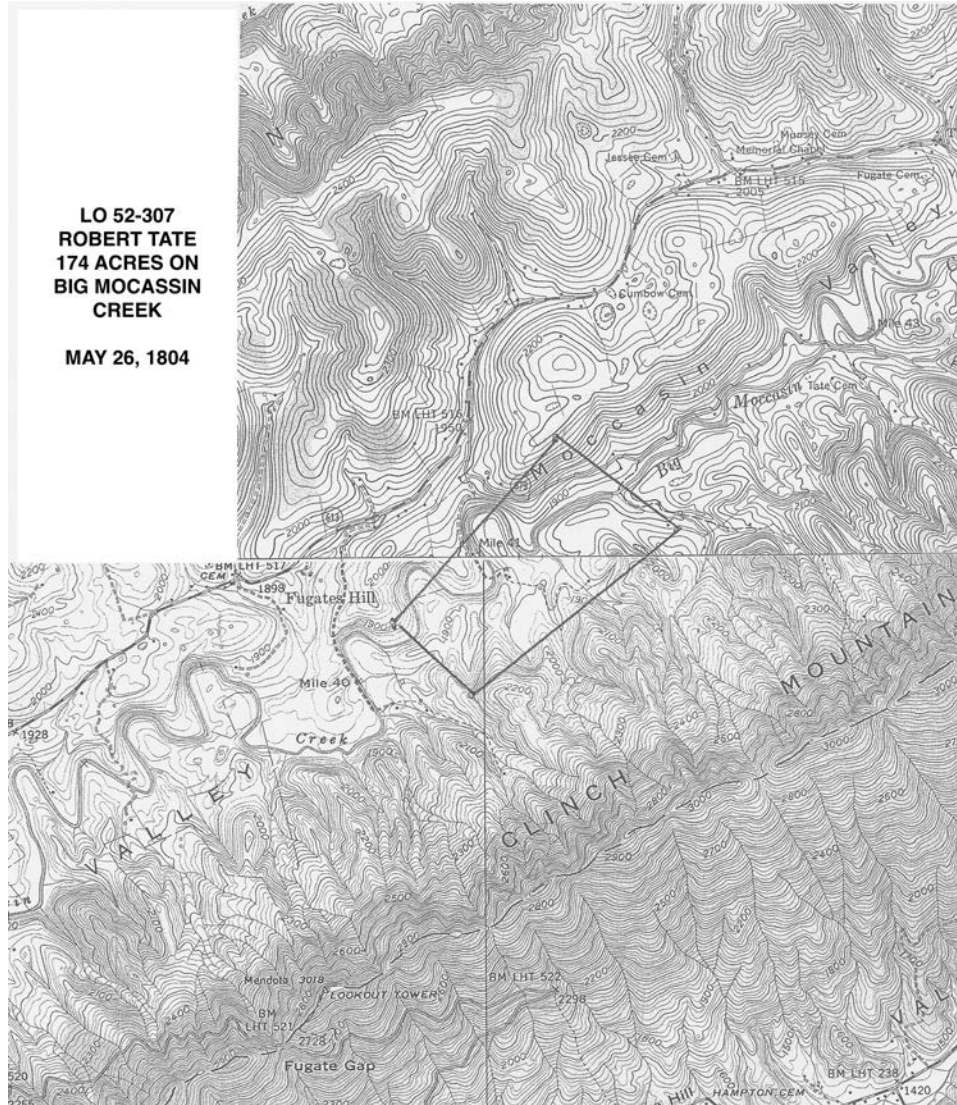
There are several dates of record existing on a 'Robert Tate'. The index of land grants at the Library of Virginia lists four grants to 'Robert Tate'. There are two dated 1731 in Hanover County, and two on Big Moccasin Creek dated 1784 and 1804 respectively. I should say that folks frequently refer to the first date mentioned in these grants, which is the survey date. This date is of interest, but is irrelevant. The date given at the end of the grant is the date of issue, and is the date used by the legal system. It is also the date used in indexing these grants on the Library of Virginia Library computer and the tag by which one retrieves them. The customary way to refer to them is by the symbol 'LO' which refers to Land Office, and by two numbers separated by a hyphen. The first number is the microfilm strip it is recorded on, and the second is the page number. The two listed to Robert Tate on Big Moccasin Creek are LO L-178 & LO 52-307. Due to the time intervals, it is unlikely that the Hanover Robert Tate is the one on Big Moccasin. Due to the time interval between the two grants on Big Moccasin, I suspect that they are not the same individual. Perhaps one could be Col. John's brother, and another his son or nephew. The Google genealogy says that Col. John had both a brother and a son named Robert Hood Tate. This author makes no claims relevant to the accuracy of this genealogy.

The author would like to call attention to two grants that he has previously plotted. The reader has access to both. The first is the grant to Col. John Tate LO 20-217 shown on page 154 of the book Forts of the Holston Militia. The second is the Zachariah Fugate grant LO 22-487 in the essay on the Fugates of Rye Cove<sup>(3)</sup>. It is likely that the two Robert Tate Big Moccasin Creek grants adjoin one or the other.

In order to give one's self a little wiggle room on the plotting of these grants, let us say that both are hard to locate on the map because they are small, rather featureless **blockish** forms that run from tree to tree. Even the term used in their **metes** and bounds, "a creek" does not always specify Big Moccasin Creek, or its tributaries. These old surveys were technically primitive, and often done by poorly educated men. They frequently do not fit together neatly like **Legos**, but overlap. This characteristic is so common that folks refer to it as "shingling". None of the four grants in question (the two Robert Tate ones, and the **Fugate** and Col. John Tate ones) close. That at the start shows inaccuracies in the surveys. Problems are noted with both the earlier grants, and any decisions to correct them are purely on a "best guess" basis. So, while one would not want to stake one's life on the complete accuracy of every square foot of placement of these grants, one feels reasonably confident that they do reasonably show their grants location.

Family oral tradition is that "they were about three miles from Col. Tate's grave. Assuming that this is correct, this places them near the Tate Cemetery downstream (southwest). They could not occupy the same land as the two **Fugate** grants. Based on all these considerations, the attached are the locations of the two Robert Tate grants on Big Moccasin Creek.





**Bibliography:**

1 – Fleenor, Lawrence J. & Carter, Dale – Forts of the Holston Militia

2 – Fleenor, Lawrence J. – Big Stone Gap Publishing.com, extension “New Information”, extension “Forts of the Holston Militia”, extension “Tate’s Fort”  
<http://www.bigstonegapublishing.com/tatefort1.htm>

3 – Fleenor, Lawrence J. – “Fugates of Rye Cove” – Big Stone Gap Publishing.com, extension “Other Writings”, extension “Fugates of Rye Cove”  
<http://www.bigstonegapublishing.com/otherwritings.htm>