

Navigating Our Nation's Federal Records

Federal Land Records: Bounty Land, Land Entry Files, and Homesteading

Melanie McComb
NEHGS Genealogist

THE BRUE FAMILY LEARNING CENTER



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Meet today's presenter



Melanie McComb

Genealogist

OVERVIEW

- **Presentation** (60 mins.)
 - Federal and State Bounty Land
 - Land Entry Case Files
 - Homesteading
- **Q&A** (30 mins.)



Voice of
Melanie McComb,
Genealogist

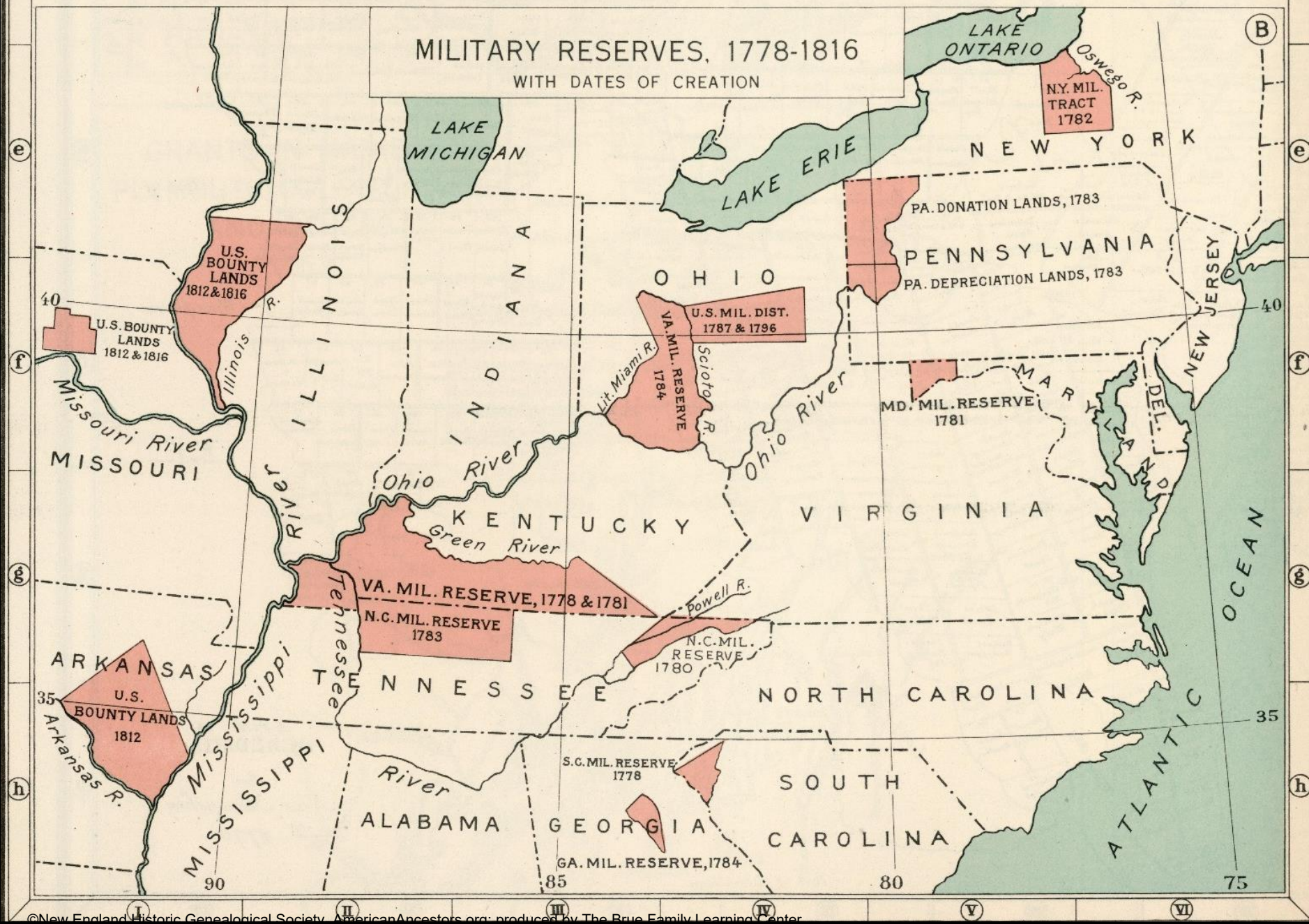
Overview

- Federal and State Bounty Land Warrants
 - Eligibility and Process
 - Finding That Paper
 - The Land
 - War of 1812 Bounty Land
 - Later Bounty Land Acts
- Land Entry Case Files
 - Using the Bureau of Land Management GLO Web Site
 - Locating Tract Books on FamilySearch
 - Requesting Land Entry Case Files from the National Archives
- Homesteading
 - Did Your Ancestor Have a Homestead?
 - Locating Homestead Records on Ancestry
 - Black Homesteaders
 - Strategies for Using Land Entry Case Files

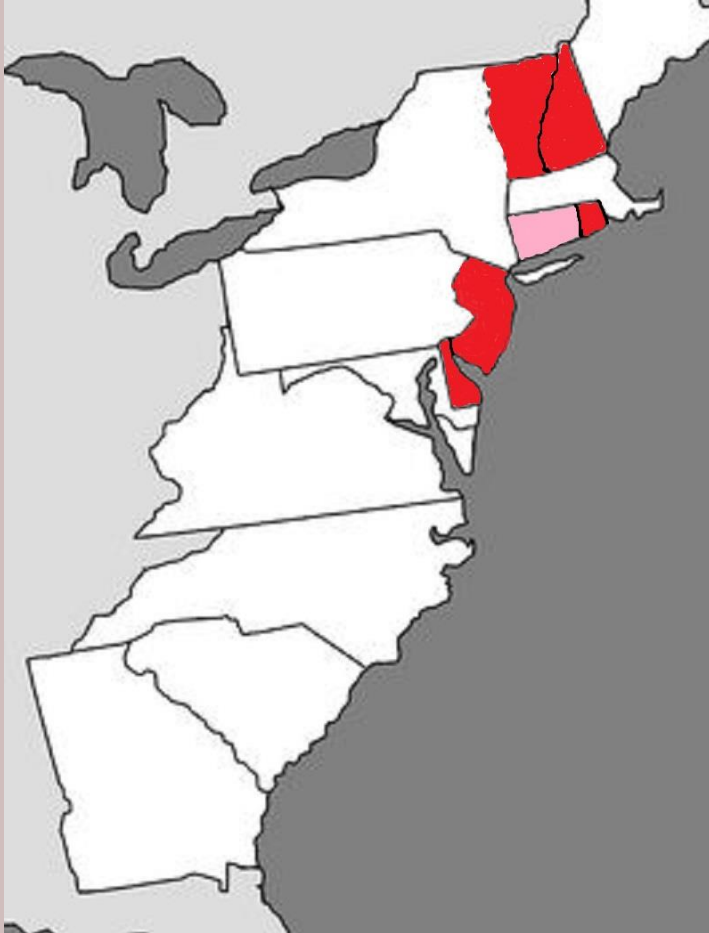
Federal Bounty Land Warrants

MILITARY RESERVES, 1778-1816

WITH DATES OF CREATION



States WITHOUT Bounty Land



- Colonies:
 - New Hampshire
 - Rhode Island
 - New Jersey
 - Delaware
 - Connecticut
- Independent
 - Republic of Vermont

First the Promise

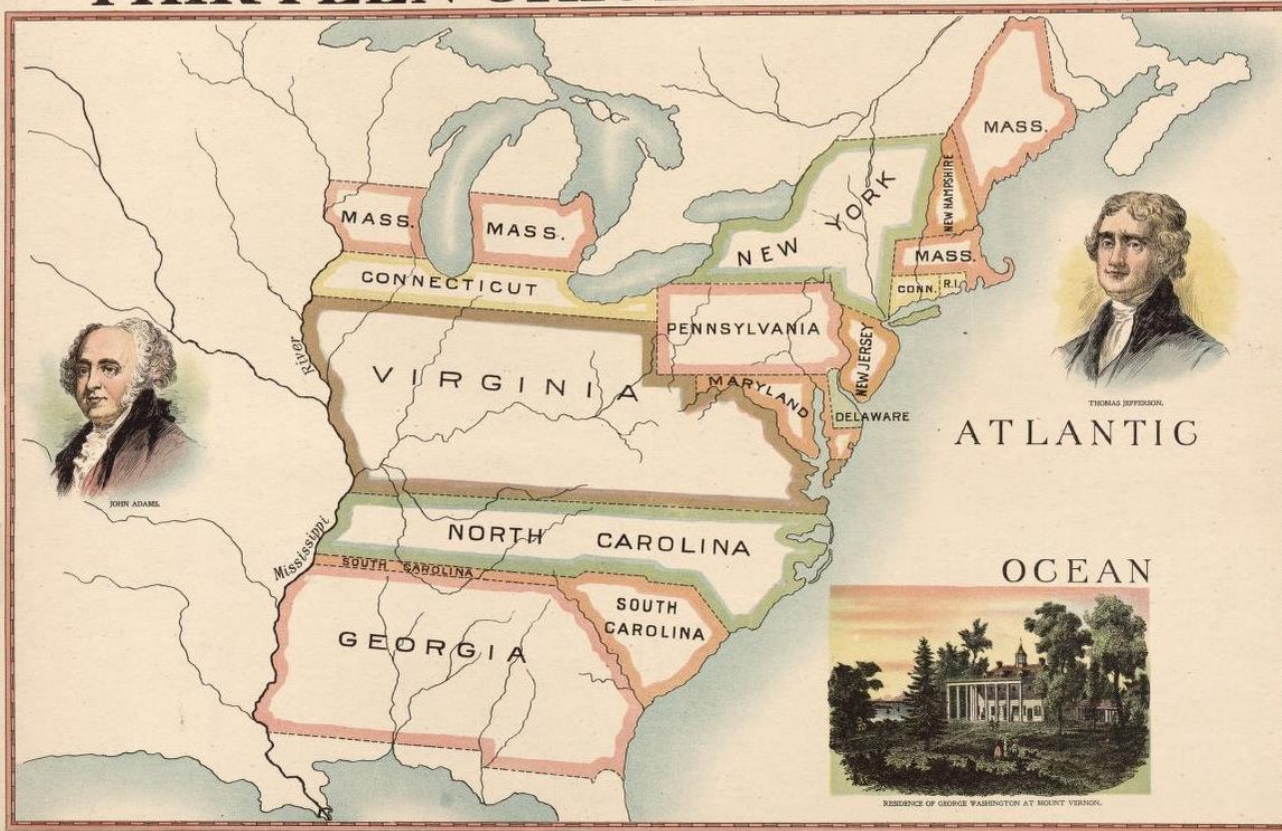
To enlistees in the Continental Army:

That Congress make provision for **granting lands**, in the following proportions: to the officers and soldiers who shall so engage in the service, and continue therein to the close of the war, or until discharged by Congress, and to the representatives of such officers and soldiers as shall be slain by the enemy

Congressional Act of 16 September 1776

Then the Land

THE THIRTEEN ORIGINAL STATES, 1783



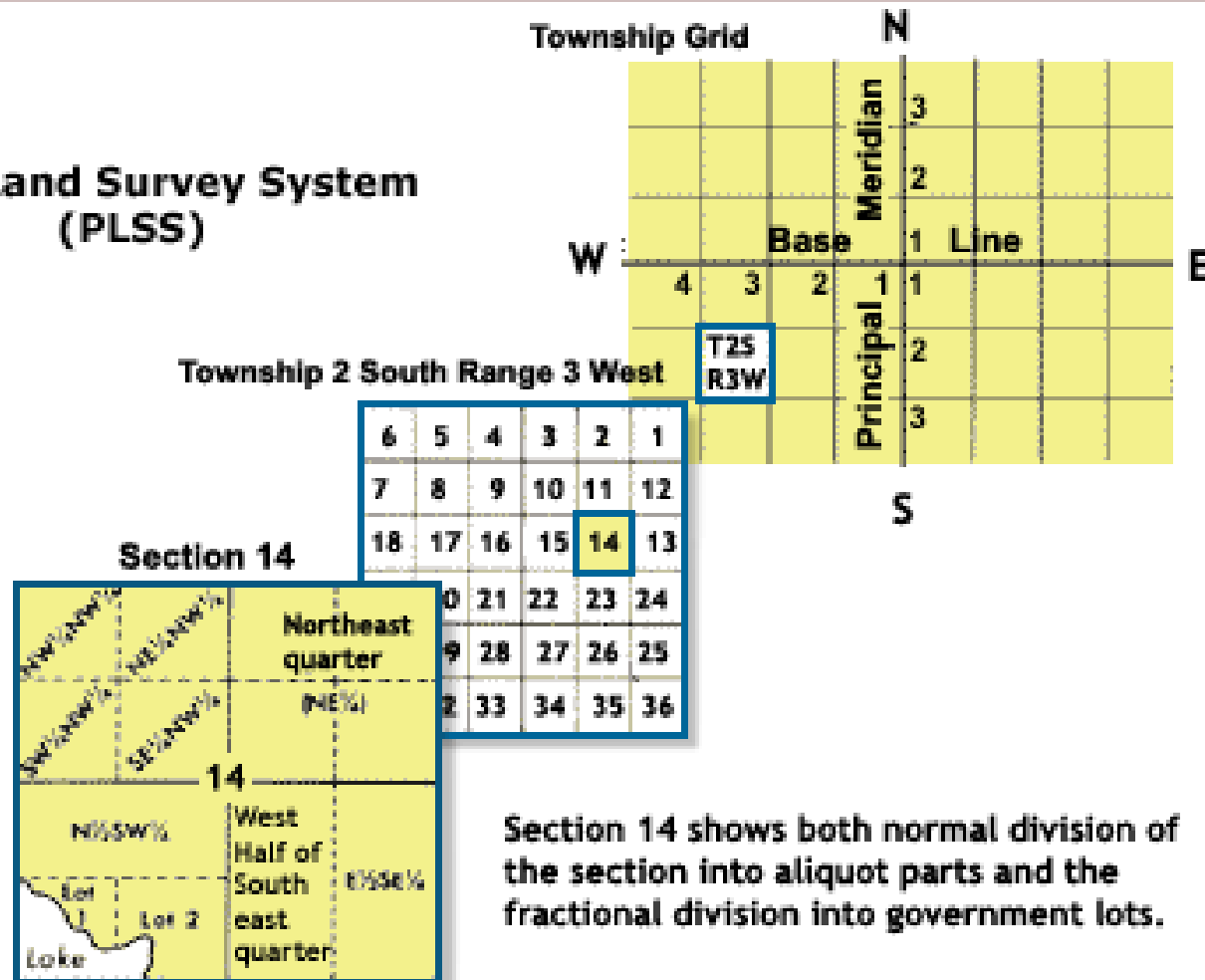
- LOC, Robertson, "The thirteen original states, 1783," 1898

Acts Authorizing Bounty Land Warrants

- Bounty Land Acts 1788, 1803, 1806, 1850, 1855.
 - These acts awarded land for service
 - 1788 allowed soldiers to sell/assign their award to someone else
 - Information about land received under these acts often combined in Revolutionary War pension files, if applicable

New Survey System

Public Land Survey System (PLSS)



Eligibility and Process

Did Your Ancestor Serve?

BIRTH YEARS	BATTLE YEARS	WAR
1726-1767	1775-1783	REV WAR
1762-1799	1812-1815	WAR 1812
1796-1831	1846-1848	MEX WAR
1811-1848	1861-1865	CIVIL WAR
1848-1881	1898	SPANISH/AMERICAN

Eligibility

- **Unit:** Continental line
- **Rank:** Soldier or non-commissioned officer
- **Duration:** Minimum three years of service
- **Assignment Allowed:** No (changed in 1788)
- **State Application Allowed:** Yes

Amount by Rank

Rank	Amount
Colonel	500 acres
Lieutenant Colonel	450 acres
Major	400 acres
Captain	300 acres
Lieutenant	200 acres
Ensign	150 acres
Private	100 acres
Resolution: 16 September 1776	

Process Generated Paper

- Steps



- Federal Agencies

- Secretary of War reviewed applications and issued warrants
- Treasury Department supervised selection of land and issued patents

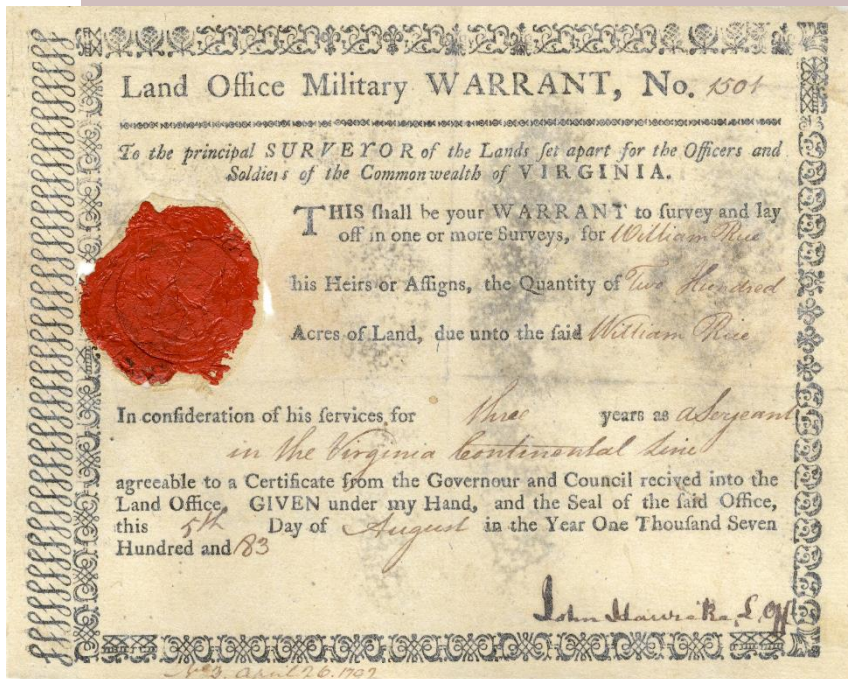
- State Agencies

- Unique to state

Application

- Serviceman submitted affidavits from commanding officers or fellow soldiers
- Submitted discharge papers
- If soldier died during service, heirs could file with documentation that they were legal heirs of the deceased

Warrant Authorizing a Survey

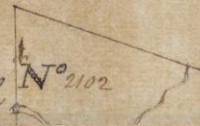


- Warrants issued – date of issuance, name and rank of veteran, state from which he enlisted
- Usually the state picked the land; Virginia allowed the soldier to choose

Virginia Warrant for William Rice 1783, land in Kentucky

Survey - 1793

Survey'd the 22nd day of Oct. 1793 for
William Rice 200 Acres of Land on
Military Warrant N^o 1501 on the west
fork of Ray's Creek Beginning where the



Survey'd the 22nd day of Oct. 1793 for
William Rice 200 Acres of Land on
Military Warrant N^o 1501 on the west
fork of Ray's Creek Beginning where the
upper line of Penoni Swearengen's 400 Acre
Survey crosses S. Creek at three Pickets
standing on the East side of the Creek



In witness whereof
Jⁿl. Delaney } C. L. William Wilson D. T.
Jⁿl. Nestler }
David Cook M^r James and recorded January 3, 1794
Richard C. Anderson S

Patent - 1803

267
 William Rice
 200 Acres
 Continental line
 N^o 572
 Ex^{at} del^{at} the
 Owner 30 apl
 1803
 3274

James Governor Esquire Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky to
 all to whom these presents shall come greeting KNOWING that by virtue and
 in consideration of a Military Warrant N^o 1501 there is granted by the
 said Commonwealth unto William Rice a certain Tract or parcel of Land
 containing Two hundred Acres by survey bearing Date the twenty second day
 of October one thousand seven hundred and ninety three lying and being in the
 district set apart for the Officers and Soldiers of the Continental line on the
 West side of Bear Creek and bounded as followeth, To wit, Beginning

Assignment

- If soldier with a warrant could not take up residence, he sold the warrant for cash
- Rules varied by state and over time
- Federal warrants could be assigned beginning in 1788

Finding that Paper

Disaster – 14,000+ Records Lost

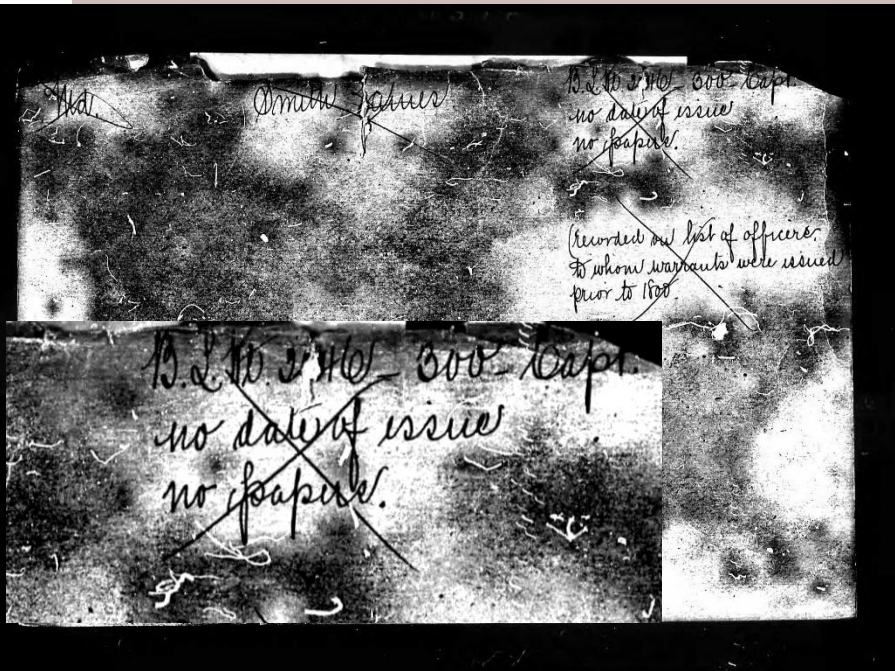


Print published 14 Oct 1814 by G. Thompson showing Washington, DC under attack

Finding Federal Applications and Warrants

- Destroyed bounty application files have been replaced by cards
 - Name of veteran, rank, unit, warrant number, numbers of acres granted, date issued, assignee
- National Archives (NARA)
 - **Applications:** M804 *Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Application Files 1800-1900*
 - **Warrants:** M829 *Revolutionary War Bounty Land Warrants Used in the U.S. Military District of Ohio and Related Papers*

Example



THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES
Form VM-51
10-3-95

Division of Veterans' Administration Archives

BOUNTY LAND WARRANT RECORD CARD

NAME Smith, James, 2nd GRADE Private LINE Maryland

WARRANT NUMBER 11674 ACREAGE 100 ISSUED July 8, 1797
to James DePaufre, assignee

*The information concerning the issuance of warrants carded on this form is found in volumes 2 to 4 of "Land Warrants Issued Prior to 1800" which are registers of bounty land warrants issued to non-commissioned officers and privates under congressional resolutions of September 10, 1790, and subsequent dates. Other records relative to the applications for warrants appear to have been destroyed in the War Department fire of November 6, 1800. Information concerning warrants surrendered to the Federal Government is to be found in General Land Office records in The National Archives.

The Land

Finding Your Patriot

Lloyd DeWitt Bockstruck, *Revolutionary War Bounty Land Grants Awarded by State Governments* (Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1996)

Morse, John. Mass. Sergeant. 10 Sep. 1832. 200 acres to heirs.

Bockstruck's book is on Ancestry as "Revolutionary War Bounty Land Grants"

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Revolutionary War Bounty Land Grants

Search

☐ Match all terms exactly

First & Middle Name(s)

Last Name

Year

Any Event

Location

City, County, State, Country

Keyword

e.g. pilot or "Flying Tigers"▼

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Page Number

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📄 Catalog Print List (0)

Massachusetts, land deeds, 1791-1884

Format:Manuscript/Manuscript on Digital Images

Language:English

Publication:Salt Lake City, Utah : Digitized by FamilySearch International, 2009

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Images

Notes

Digital images of originals housed at the Maine State Archives, Augusta, Maine.

[View this catalog record in WorldCat for other possible copy locations](#) 🌐

Subjects

Locality Subjects

[United States, Massachusetts - Land and property](#)

Film/Digital Notes

Note	Location	Collection/Shelf	Film	DGS	Format
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Land office. land deeds. Massachusetts. Bangor. Hamden. Hermon. Newburd. book 1.	Granite Mountain	United States &			

Patent

24

Know all Men by these Presents, That

I, whose name is undersigned and seal hereunto affixed, appointed an AGENT by the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to make and execute conveyances, agreeably to a resolve of said Court passed the seventeenth day of June, eighteen hundred and twenty, and pursuant to resolves of said Court passed *the fourth day of March eighteen hundred and twenty eight, the fourteenth day of February eighteen hundred and twenty nine and eighteenth day of February eighteen hundred and thirty one*

do give, grant, convey and confirm, and by these presents, in behalf of said Commonwealth, have given, granted, conveyed and confirmed unto *the heirs of John Morse, deceased, formerly a Sergeant in the sixth Massachusetts Regiment commanded by Col Nixon,*

who enlisted as a Soldier into the American Army to serve during the revolutionary war with Great Britain, and who was returned as a part of the Massachusetts quota of said Army, and who did actually serve in said Army the full term of three years, and was honorably discharged, and to *their* heirs and assigns, all the right, title, and interest of said Commonwealth, in and unto a lot of land numbered *thirty six*

situate and lying in a township, in the County of Washington, in the State of Maine, called Mars-hill, located near, or adjoining to the Eastern boundary line of the United States *said lot contains two hundred acres, bounded on the North by the town line, on the East by lot No. 24, on the South by lot No. 35 and on the West by lot No. 48,*

according to a plan of the survey of said township made by Charles Turner, Junior, in the month of September, eighteen hundred and four, and will more fully appear on reference being had to said plan now on file in the Land Office.

To Have and to Hold the aforegranted premises to the ~~said~~ *heirs of said John Morse* — *their* heirs and assigns, to *their* use and behoof forever. In TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand, and affixed my seal this *tenth* day of *September* in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and *thirty two*

Geo. W. Coffin. [L. S.]

Signed, Sealed and Delivered }
in presence of

Joseph Foster
John I. Linger

Suffolk, ss. *10 Sept. 1832* Then the above named GEORGE W. COFFIN appeared personally before me, and acknowledged the foregoing instrument by him subscribed, to be his free act and deed in his said capacity.

Edward L. Dunge Justice of the Peace.

War of 1812 Bounty Land

Did Your Ancestor Serve?

BIRTH YEARS	BATTLE YEARS	WAR
1726-1767	1775-1783	REV WAR
1762-1799	1812-1815	WAR 1812
1796-1831	1846-1848	MEX WAR
1811-1848	1861-1865	CIVIL WAR
1848-1881	1898	SPANISH/AMERICAN

War of 1812 Bounty Land

- Located in present day states of Arkansas, Illinois and Missouri (Michigan was planned but not fulfilled)
- First and Second Acts: 24 December 1811 and 11 January 1812 for 160 acres for soldiers and non-commissioned officers
- Act of 10 December 1814
 - Provisions for soldiers enlisting after 1814
 - 320 acres of land

Finding the 1812 Warrant

- NARA Publication
 - War of 1812 Military Bounty Land Warrants, 1815-1858 (M848, 14 rolls)
- Ancestry Database: “U.S., War Bounty Land Warrants, 1789-1858” (includes M848 and M829 – Ohio Warrants)
- Fold3 Database: “War of 1812 Military Bounty Land Warrants, 1815”

Search > Wills, Probates, Land, Tax & Criminal

U.S., War Bounty Land Warrants, 1789-1858

Search

☐ Match all terms exactly

First & Middle Name(s)

Last Name

Year

Military

Keyword

e.g. pilot or "Flying Tigers"▼

Warrant Number

Year

Warrant Year

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War

War of 1812 ▼

Record Set

Index To War of 1812 Military Bo ▼


Warrant Range

[ALL](#)

U.S., War Bounty Land Warrants, 1789-1858

War of 1812 > Index To War of 1812 Military Bounty Land Warrants; 1812 Warrants: 00001-01726 > ALL

40



Jan.	12	Colwell George	20448
Jan.	4	Columby Nicholas	170
Feb.	20	Combs George	20620
Jan.	4	Combs Will	3571
May	17	Compton William	21411
April	2	Congden John B.	21048

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U.S., War Bounty Land Warrants, 1789-1858

Search

☐ Match all terms exactly

First & Middle Name(s)

Last Name

Year

Military

Keyword

e.g. pilot or "Flying Tigers"▼

Warrant Number

☐ Exact

Year

Warrant Year

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


Record Set

Warrant Range

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Results

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Warrant Number: 20448

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U.S., War Bounty Land Warrants, 1789-1858

This database contains bounty land warrants issued to veterans of the U.S. Revolutionary War between 1789 and 1833, and to veterans of the War of 1812 between 1815 and 1858. It also contains some...

[Learn more about this database...](#)

[Browse Individual Records](#)

Results 1-2 of 2

View Record	Name	Warrant Year	Warrant Number	View Images	View Warrant
<div> To get better results, add more information such as First Name, Last Name, Birth Info, Death Info or Location—even a guess will help. Edit your search or learn more.</div>					
View Record	George Colwell	1819	2044 8		
View Record			2044 8		

1-2 of 2

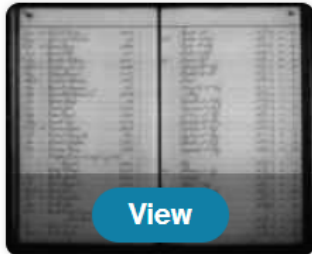
Per page

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George Colwell

in the U.S., War Bounty Land Warrants, 1789-1858



Name: George Colwell

Warrant Year: 1819

Warrant Number: 2044 8

Save ▾

Cancel



View Warrant

[✎ Add or update information](#)[⚠ Report a problem](#)

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and Records
Administration

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Make a Connection

[Find others](#) who are researching George Colwell in Public Member Trees

No.

George Colwell
Private
Corps of Artillery

Lost Warrant

L. Office
✓

No.

21748
 Pursuant to the second section of an Act of Congress, passed the 6th of May, 1812, authorising the Secretary of War to issue Land Warrants to the noncommissioned Officers and Soldiers enlisted in the service of the United States, conformably to the acts of the 24th of December, 1811, and of the 11th of January, 1812, *George Colwell*

late a *Private* in the company commanded by *Captain Henry K. Craig* of the *Corps of Regiment United States' Artillery* is entitled to ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY ACRES OF LAND, to be located agreeably to the said act on any unlocated parts of the six millions of acres appropriated by law for the original grantees of such military warrants; and this warrant is not assignable or transferable in any manner whatever.

GIVEN at the War Office of the United States, this *4th* day of *January* A. D. one thousand, eight hundred and *Nineteen*

J. B. Caboon

Secretary of War.

Registered

179

of 1178

179

Later Bounty Land Acts

- 27 July **1842** – Could use 1812 warrant for land outside of the three areas set aside
- 11 February **1847** – for one year's service in Mexican War, 160 acres
- 28 September **1850** – War of 1812 and Indian Wars
 - Nine months of service – 160 acres
 - Four months of service – 80 acres
 - One month of service – 40 acres
- 22 March **1852** – Removes restriction on assignment for all warrants
- 3 March **1855** – Extended land benefits to groups previously not covered, including Native Americans.

QUESTIONS?

Land Entry Case Files

What is a land entry case file?

- These are records that document the transfer of public lands from the U.S. government to private ownership
- The National Archives holds over 10 million land entry case files that cover 30 public land states!

Which States Were Not Included as Public Land?

- Original 13 colonies
 - Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Virginia
- Hawaii, Kentucky, Maine, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, and West Virginia

What Types of Land Entry Case Files Exist?

- Military Bounty Land Warrants
- Pre-1908 General Land Entry Files
- Post-1908 General Land Entry Files

Military Bounty Land Warrants

- Filed by the year of the congressional act that authorized the warrant, number of acres granted, and warrant number

Records Before July 1908

- Organized by state, land office, type of entry (ex. Credit, cash, homestead, timber, and mineral), and final certificate number
- Large portions of these files are NOT organized by name
- Seven States Index (Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Florida, Louisiana, Nevada, and Utah)
- Includes Canceled or Relinquished Land Entries

Records After July 1908

- Regardless of state or type, organized in one large series by a serial patent number
- The National Archives holds name indices that include the patent number through the mid 1950's.
- The Bureau of Land Management district office would need to be contacted for records after mid-1950's

Cash Entry Files

- Most land entries after the Cash Act of 1820 was passed and before the Homestead Act of 1862 were direct cash purchases
- The purchaser did not have to be a citizen, provide proof of residency, or improvements on the land.
- In the 1830's and 1840's, preemption laws required proof that the entryman met specific requirements

Affidavit of Benjamin Wingo (1857)

No. 23785 LAND OFFICE, Springfield, Mo., 185 .

I, Benjamin Wingo of Dallas County,
State of Missouri, being a married man over the age of twenty-one years, being desirous of entering the
W 1/2 of NE
of Section 23 Township 32 of Range 20 under the act entitled "An act to graduate and reduce the
price of Public Lands to actual settlers and cultivators," approved August 4th, 1854, do solemnly swear that
I enter the same for the use of an adjoining farm, owned by me, on which I reside and have
about five acres in cultivation dwelling house &c and situated on the
E 1/2 NE
of Section 23 in Township 32 of Range 20 and that, together with said entry, I have not acquired
from the United States, under the provisions of said act, more than three hundred and twenty acres, according
to the established surveys; and further, that said land is not now in the occupancy of any other actual settler,
whose settlement thereon existed at the date of said law; and further, that if there shall be an actual settler
residing upon said land at the date of my entry of the same, I hereby relinquish all claim to the same.

Benjamin Wingo
Sworn to and subscribed before me, on the 3 day of Aug, 185 7
Thomas P. Bishop

Using the Bureau of Land Management GLO web site

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

General Land Office Records

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1. Start by selecting the State.
2. **You do not have to fill in all fields**, but provide *at least* one additional field.
3. Click the **Search Patents** button.

Search Tips:

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- Get detailed information by checking the [Glossary](#) in the Reference Center.
- For more tips and help, check out our [Patent Search Overview](#).

MiscellaneousLand Office: Issue Date: to Document #: Militia: Indian Allot. #: Tribe: Survey #: Geo. Name/
Mining Claim: Authority: **Search Patents**

Note: This site does not cover every state, but we do have [resource links](#) for most states.

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Search Documents By Identifier

Patents

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Location

State: MISSOURI

County: ----- Any County -----

Names

Last Name: Wingo

First Name: Benjamin

Middle Name:

☒ search patentees ☒ search warrantees

Land Description

Township: --- / ---

Range: --- / ---

Meridian: ----- Any Meridian -----

Section #:

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Miscellaneous

Land Office: ----- Any Land Office -----

Issue Date: -- to --

Document #:

Militia:

Indian Allot. #:

Tribe: ----- Any Tribe -----

Survey #:

Geo. Name/
Mining Claim:



Authority: ----- Any Authority -----

Search Patents


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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT *PRIVATE CLAIMS* **General Land Office Records**

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Patents ▶

Image	Accession	Names ↑	Date	Doc #	State	Meridian	Twp - Rng	Aliquots	Sec. #	County
	MO5610 .132	 WINGO, BENJAMIN	6/1/1859	23785	MO	5th PM	032N - 020W	W½NE¼	23	Dallas
	MO5880 .096	 WINGO, BENJAMIN	6/30/1879	3299	MO	5th PM	032N - 020W	SW¼SE¼	27	Dallas

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[Search Documents](#) [Results List](#) [Patent Details](#)Accession Nr: [MO5610__132](#) Document Type: [State Volume Patent](#) State: [Missouri](#) Issue Date: [6/1/1859](#) Cancelled: [No](#)

Patent Details

Patent Image

Related Documents

Printer Friendly

Names On Document

[WINGO, BENJAMIN](#)

Military Rank:

Miscellaneous Information

Land Office: [Springfield](#)US Reservations: [No](#)Mineral Reservations: [No](#)Tribe: [---](#)Militia: [---](#)State In Favor Of: [---](#)Authority: [April 24, 1820: Sale-Cash Entry \(3 Stat. 566\)](#)General Remarks: [---](#)

Document Numbers

Document Nr: [23785](#)Misc. Doc. Nr: [---](#)BLM Serial Nr: [MO NO S/N](#)Indian Allot. Nr: [---](#)Coal Entry. Nr: [---](#)

Survey Information

Total Acres: [80.00](#)Survey Date: [---](#)Geographic Name: [---](#)Metes/Bounds: [No](#)

Land Descriptions

Map	State	Meridian	Twp - Rng	Aliquots	Section	Survey #	County
<input type="checkbox"/>	MO	5th PM	032N - 020W	W½NE¼	23		Dallas

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Accession Nr: [MO5610__132](#) Document Type: State Volume Patent State: [Missouri](#) Issue Date: [6/1/1859](#) Cancelled: [No](#)

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MO5610__132 1 / 1 91%

132
Graduation
16. 3rd
CERTIFICATE }
No. 23785

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

To all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting:

Whereas Benjamin Wingo, of Dallas County, Missouri,

has deposited in the GENERAL LAND OFFICE of the United States, a Certificate of THE REGISTER OF THE LAND
OFFICE at *Springfield,* *whereby it appears that full payment has been made by the said*
Benjamin Wingo, *according to the provisions of the*

<https://glorerecords.blm.gov>



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Image	Accession	Names	Date	Doc #	State	Meridian	Twp - Rng	Aliquots	Sec. #	County
	MO5490__197	CLARK, SAMUEL R	5/15/1857	18600	MO	5th PM	032N - 020W	NW¼NW¼	23	Dallas
	MO5670__171	CLARK, SAMUEL R	3/1/1860	27175	MO	5th PM	032N - 020W	NE¼NW¼	23	Dallas
	MW-0253-015	CLAYTON, DAVID M, DAVIS, ELEANOR E, DAVIS, SAMUEL	7/1/1859	37267	MO	5th PM	032N - 020W	W½SE¼	23	Dallas
	MO5540__474	FORTNER, EFEL D	10/30/1857	16765	MO	5th PM	032N - 020W	W½SW¼	23	Dallas
	MO6010__048	REAVES, BENJAMIN E	7/9/1895	10082	MO	5th PM	032N - 020W	S½NW¼	23	Dallas
	MO5610__132	WINGO, BENJAMIN	6/1/1859	23785	MO	5th PM	032N - 020W	W½NE¼	23	Dallas

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT


PRIVATE CLAIMS

General Land Office Records

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Accession Nr: [MO5610__132](#) Document Type: [State Volume Patent](#) State: [Missouri](#) Issue Date: [6/1/1859](#) Cancelled: [No](#)

[Patent Details](#) [Patent Image](#) [Related Documents](#) [Printer Friendly](#) 

Below are documents matching the following **land description** from the current document: [MO 5th PM Township 32.0N Range 20.0W Section 23](#)

[Patents](#)
[Surveys](#)
[LSR](#)
[CDI](#)
[Tract Books](#)

<u>Survey</u>	<u>Approved / Accepted</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Meridian</u>	<u>Twp - Rng</u>	<u>Boundaries / Subdivisional</u>	<u>County</u>		<u>Field Notes</u>
Original Survey	8/6/1838	MO	5th PM	032.0N - 020.0W	Subdivisional	Dallas		-
Supplemental Plat		MO	5th PM	032.0N - 020.0W	---			-
<i>SECTIONS 1,2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 18, 19 AND 30 31</i>								

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[Search Documents](#) [Survey Details](#)

DM ID: 442089 Survey Type: Original Survey State: Missouri

[Survey Plat Details](#) [Plat Image](#) [Related Documents](#)

Survey Office:	St. Louis, Missouri
Surv. Type Other:	---
Fractional:	No
Acreage:	23173.68
Mining District:	---
Group Nr:	---
Min. Surv. Index:	---
Survey Nr:	---
Counties:	Dallas
Field Notes:	---

Survey Activities


Activity Type	Date	Description
Survey Commenced	10/1/1835	Richard J Holliday (Deputy Surveyor)
Contracts Instr. (MO)	4/2/1835	---

Plat Information: [Microfilm Duplicate](#)

DM ID:	441464
Duplicate Status:	Microfilm Duplicate
Supplemental:	No
Survey Based Supplemental:	No
Parent Plat:	
Child Plats:	

Land Descriptions

Map	State-Meridian	Twp - Rng	Boundaries
<input type="checkbox"/>	MO - 5th PM	032.0N - 020.0W	Subdivisional



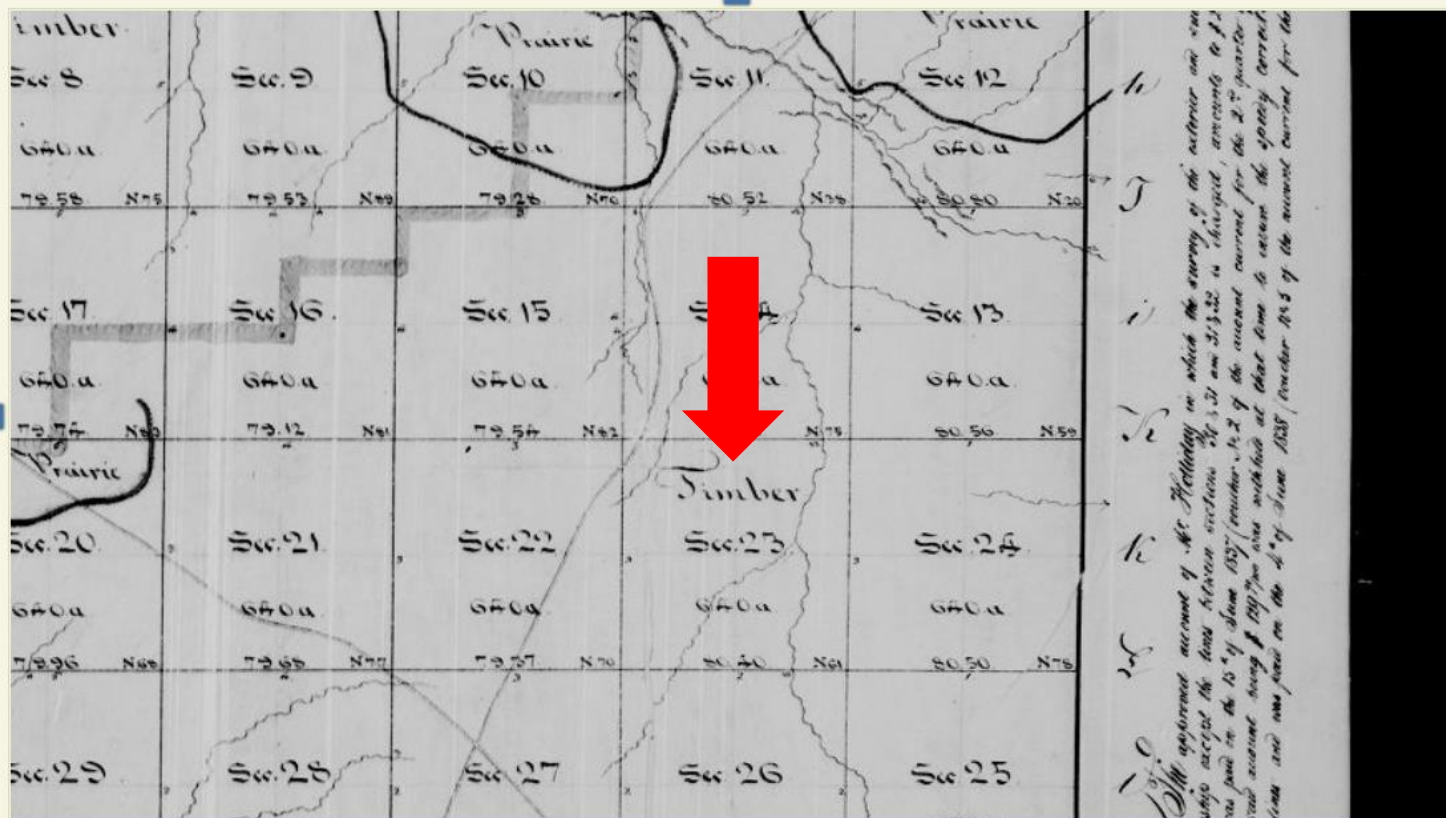
<https://glorerecords.blm.gov>

Survey Plat Details

Plat Image

Related Documents

Sheet: 1 Microfilm Duplicate



Hold down the Ctrl key to select a region with the mouse.

Basic Viewer



<https://glorerecords.blm.gov>

Locating Tract Books on FamilySearch

Bureau of Land Management Tract Books

- Contain the records of each parcel of land transferred from federal to private ownership in 28 of the 30 federal land states
 - The tract books for Alaska and Missouri are lost.
- Volumes are organized by state, in some states by land offices, and then by township number and range.
 - Within each volume, entries are arranged by Section, Township, Range.
- Use the Coverage Table on the FamilySearch wiki to identify which volume to find the corresponding tract book.


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 Search by place or topic

United States, Bureau of Land Management Tract Books Coverage Table - FamilySearch Historical Records



This article contains a [Digital Folder Number List](#) for a FamilySearch Historical Records Collection. To learn more about the collection and to access the records see: [United States, Bureau of Land Management Tract Books - FamilySearch Historical Records](#)

Learn more about the [United States Bureau of Land Management Tract Books](#) collection.
Access the [United States Bureau of Land Management Tract Books, 1800-c. 1955](#) records.

State	Land Office/ Volume Number	Description
ALABAMA	Vol. 1 GREENVILLE	Township 5-23, Range 5-21, 23
ALABAMA	Vol. 2 GREENVILLE	Township 5-6N, 11-12N, Range 7-8E, 15N, 17N 10-11E, 13E
ALABAMA	Vol. 3 GREENVILLE	Township 5-7, 9-22, Range 5-24
ALABAMA	Vol. 4 GREENVILLE	Township 12-16N, Range 21E
ALABAMA	Vol. 4 GREENVILLE	Township 12-15N, Range 22E
ALABAMA	Vol. 4 GREENVILLE	Township 12N, Range 23E
ALABAMA	Vol. 5 GREENVILLE	Township 3-7, Range 5
ALABAMA	Vol. 5 GREENVILLE	Township 12-14N, Range 23E
ALABAMA	Vol. 5 GREENVILLE	Township 12-13N, Range 24E
ALABAMA	Vol. 5 GREENVILLE	Township 12N, Range 25E
ALABAMA	Vol. 5 GREENVILLE	Township 7, 9, 11-14, Range 5, 7, 9- 16, 18, 22 10, 13- 14, 16, 20-21
ALABAMA	Vol. 6-7 GREENVILLE	Township 7N-15N, Range 5E
ALABAMA	Vol. 8-9 GREENVILLE	Township 15-18N, Range 5E
ALABAMA	Vol. 10 CAHABA	Township 5-8N, Range 6E

<https://www.familysearch.org/wiki>



United States Bureau of Land Management Tract Books, 1800-c. 1955

Description

3,907 tract books containing official records of the land status and transactions involving surveyed public lands arranged by state and then by township and range. These books indicate who obtained the land, and include a physical description of the tract and where the land is located. The type of transaction is also recorded such as cash entry, credit entry, homesteads, patents (deeds) granted by the Federal Government, and other conveyances of title such as Indian allotments, internal improvement grants (to states), military bounty land warrants, private land claims, railroad grants, school grants, and swamp grants. Additional items of information included in the tract books are as follows: number of acres, date of sale, purchase price, land office, entry number, final Certificate of Purchase number, and notes on relinquishments and conversions. Original documents are located at the Bureau of Land management in Springfield, Virginia.

[How to Use this Collection »](#)

Search Collection

Deceased Ancestor's Information

Name | [Alternate Name](#)

First Names

☐

Last Names

☐

Search with a life event:

Birth | [Marriage](#) | [Residence](#) | [Death](#) | [Any](#)

Birthplace

☐

Birth Year (Range)

From

To

Search with a relationship:

[Spouse](#) | [Father](#) | [Mother](#) | [Other Person](#)



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Search Documents Results List

Printer Friendly

Patents

Image	Accession	Names	Date	Doc #	State	Meridian	Twp - Rng	Aliquots	Sec. #	County
	NE1310 .351	 VODRA, JOHN N	5/15/1880	8391	NE	6th PM	007N - 003W	SW¼	22	Fillmore

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NEBRASKA	Vol. 95	Township 7-8N, Range 15E
NEBRASKA	Vol. 95	Township 7N, Range 16E
NEBRASKA	Vol. 96	Township 7-16N, Range 1-2W
NEBRASKA	Vol. 97	Township 7-16N, Range 3W
NEBRASKA	Vol. 97	Township 7-15N, Range 4W
NEBRASKA	Vol. 97-98	Township 7-14N, Range 5W
NEBRASKA	Vol. 98	Township 7-13N, Range 6W
NEBRASKA	Vol. 98	Township 7-12N, Range 7W
NEBRASKA	Vol. 98-99	Township 7-11N, Range 8W



<https://www.familysearch.org/wiki>

 FamilySearch Family Tree Search Memories Indexing Activities


Records Images Family Tree Genealogies Catalog Books Wiki

United States Bureau of L...Tract Books, 1800-c. 1955 ▼

State

Alabama	Idaho	Minnesota	Oklahoma
Arizona	Illinois	Mississippi	Oregon
Arkansas	Indiana	Montana	Utah
California	Iowa	Nebraska	Washington
Colorado	Kansas	Nevada	Wisconsin
Dakota Territory	Louisiana	New Mexico	Wyoming
Florida	Michigan	Ohio	

Source Box Attach to Family Tree



www.familysearch.org

Volume (Land Office Location)

Vol 1	Vol 31	Vol 60	Vol 90
Vol 2	Vol 32	Vol 61	Vol 91
Vol 3	Vol 33	Vol 62	Vol 92
Vol 4	Vol 34	Vol 63	Vol 93
Vol 5	Vol 35	Vol 64	Vol 94
Vol 6	Vol 36	Vol 65	Vol 95
Vol 7	Vol 37	Vol 66	Vol 96
Vol 8	Vol 38	Vol 67	Vol 97
Vol 9	Vol 39	Vol 68	Vol 98
Vol 10	Vol 40	Vol 69	Vol 99
Vol 11	Vol 41	Vol 70	Vol 100
Vol 12	Vol 42	Vol 71	Vol 101
Vol 13	Vol 43	Vol 72	Vol 102
Vol 14	Vol 44	Vol 73	Vol 103
Vol 15	Vol 45	Vol 74	Vol 104
Vol 16	Vol 46	Vol 75	Vol 105
Vol 17	Vol 47	Vol 76	Vol 106



DESCRIPTION OF THE TRACT.				Contents.		Rate per acre.		Purchase money.		NAME OF THE PURCHASER.
PART OF SECTION.	Section.	Township.	Range.	Acres.	100ths.	Dollars.	Cents.	Dollars.	Cents.	
Horne	NE 22	7	3	169	00	2	50	10		Samuel W. White
	2277 NE John Lee									
	3001 NE N. S. Burt									
	3209 NE Samuel W. White									
Horne	NE 22			160	00	2	50	10	00	James H. Burt
	3002 NE J. H. Burt									
Horne	SE 28			160	00	2	50	10	00	Mordicai Pangle
	2187 SE John Wheeler									
	" " "									
Horne	SW 29			160	00	2	50	10	00	John N. Vodra
	2278 SW Lewis Lee									
	2903 SW Robert Carson									

RANGE NO.		DISTRICT OF			
DATE OF SALE.	Number of receipt and certificate of purchase.	BY WHOM PATENTED.	DATE OF PATENT.	Where recorded.	
				Volume.	Page.
July 2/72	11136	Final Ctf. No 89211, July 18 1877.			
Oct 2. 1871	7245	Final Ctf. No. 5762 Dec. 19. 1876.			
Mich 30. 1871	7265	Final Ctf. No 7396 Aug 7. 1878			
October 29 1873	14031	Final Ctf. No. 5391 Oct. 11. 1878.			

Tract Book, Nebraska, Vol. 97
(FamilySearch)

Requesting Land Entry Case Files from the National Archives



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[Record Group Explorer](#)
[Access to Archival Databases](#)
[Presidential Libraries](#)
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Research in Person

Land Entry Case Files and Related Records

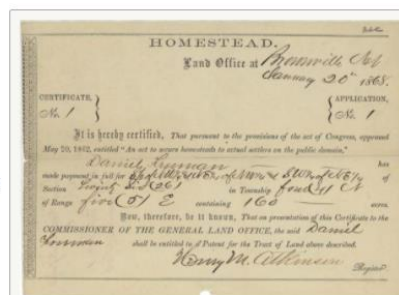
Introduction

The land records that are generally of most interest to genealogists are the land entry case files. These are records that document the transfer of public lands from the U.S. Government to private ownership.

There are over ten million such individual land transactions in the custody of the National Archives. These case files cover land entries in all 30 public land states.

The case files were filed as either military bounty land warrants, pre-1908 general land entry files, or as post-1908 land entry files. The information required to access and order copies of the records will differ depending on which of these 3 categories the transaction falls into.

- [Learn how to access these records](#) →
- For more background information and an overview of important terminology, review [Research in the Land Entry Files of the](#)



Homestead Entry Number 1, Brownsfield, Nebraska Land Office, for Daniel Freeman, January 20, 1868. This document is held at the National Archives in Washington, DC.

[View in National Archives Catalog](#)

How to Order

To order land entry case files (such as credit, cash, homestead, and mineral) or surrendered military bounty land warrants:

Use Form Number **NATF 84**, or
[Order Online](#)

www.archives.gov

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Orientation for on-site
Researchers

Free at National Archives
Facilities


Accessing Land Entry Records

Land entry files (land patent files) are records of the U.S. General Land Office (GLO) that document the initial transfer of public lands from the U.S. Government to individuals, businesses, and institutions.

The [National Archives Building in Washington, DC](#) (Archives 1), houses land entry files from the 30 Federal public land states (all states in the United States except the original 13 states, Vermont, Kentucky, Tennessee, Maine, West Virginia, Texas, and Hawaii). These records are part of Record Group 49, Records of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

The information required to access and order copies of land entry files will differ depending on the type of land entry file.

New to land entry records? Please see:

- [Land Entry Case Files and Related Records](#) for an introduction
- [Research in the Land Entry Files of the General Land Office](#)  for background information and an overview of important terminology

Types of Land Entry Files

Land entry files at Archives 1 are divided into three rough categories: (1) surrendered military bounty land warrants, (2) pre-1908 general land entry files, and (3) 1908 and later land entry files.

Researchers can search the BLM's [GLO Records website](#) to find the information needed to request each type of land entry file. Note that the GLO Records website only indexes patented or completed land entries. The site does not index cancelled land entries or expired leases.

+ Surrendered Military Bounty Land Warrants

+ Pre-1908 Land Entry Files

+ 1908 and Later Land Entry Files

Contact Us

Questions about **land entry files** at Archives 1?

Email us at: archives1reference@nara.gov. Due to the high volume of requests that we receive, please allow 10 to 12 business days for a response.

How to Order

To order land entry case files (such as credit, cash, homestead, and mineral) or surrendered military bounty land warrants:

Use [NATF Form 84](#)  or

[Order Online](#)



www.archives.gov

Pre-1908 Land Entry Files

The broadest range of land entry files at Archives 1 record the day-to-day business of the GLO field branches to approximately 1908.


These records include credit files (up to about 1820), cash files (from 1820 on), homestead files (from 1862 on), and related records for both patented and cancelled land entries.




The following information is needed to request pre-1908 land entry records on site at Archives 1:

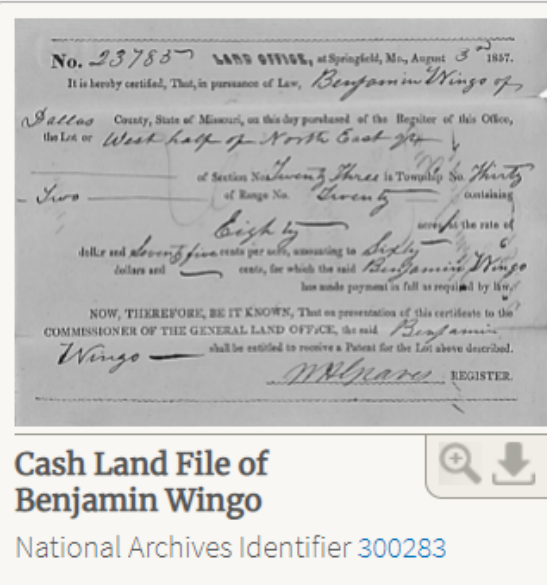
- **State**
- **Land office**
- **Type of patent under law***
- **Patent number****

*In the GLO Records database, the type of patent is generally listed in the "Authority" field.

**In the GLO Records database, the patent number is generally listed in the "Document Nr." field.

Pre-1908 land entry files can also be ordered remotely by using [NATF Form 84](#)  or placing an [order online](#).

Select homestead records have been digitized and made available online through [Ancestry.com](#)  (database title: "U.S., Homestead Records, 1863–1908"), [Fold3.com](#)  (database title: "Homestead Records (NE)"), and [FamilySearch.org](#)  (database title: "U.S., Homestead Final Certificates, 1863–1909").




1908 and Later Land Entry Files

Beginning in July 1908, the GLO revised its system of issuing patents, assigning each consecutive patent issued a unique number instead of assigning numbers by state and land office.

To request a serial land patent file on site at Archives 1, researchers only need the **serial patent number**. Serial patents at Archives 1 range from approximately 167 to 1,242,597.

In the GLO Records database, the serial patent number is generally listed in the "Accession Nr." field. The "Issue Date" will be July 1908 or later.

Serial land patent files can also be ordered remotely by using [NATF Form 84](#)  or placing an [order online](#).

Note: While the serial land patent files at Archives 1 can include documents dating as late as the early 1970s, files dating from the early 1960s on are often housed at the appropriate [NARA regional facility](#).

Serial Patent File for
Buffalo Bill

National Archives Identifier 300285

NATIONAL ARCHIVES TRUST FUND BOARD NATF Form 84 (rev. 01-2016)

OMB Control No. 3095-0027 Expires 08-31-2017

NATIONAL ARCHIVES ORDER FOR COPIES OF LAND ENTRY FILES <i>(See Instructions page before completing this form)</i>		
If we locate the record you identify below, we will reproduce it for you. The cost for these reproductions is \$50.00. Provide your Credit Card information at the bottom of this page. Orders with incomplete credit card information will not be processed. DO NOT SEND CASH OR CHECK. There is no charge for an unsuccessful search.		
1. Reference Number: E <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; font-size: small;"> M M D D Y Y # # </div>	Reference Number: Enter the date you fill out the form (example – MMDDYY = 012315). Enter the number of the request being submitted in the last two boxes. If you are submitting four forms and this is your second, you would enter 02. A completed reference number example is: 01231502.	
SECTION A. INDICATE BELOW THE TYPE OF FILE TO BE SEARCHED (Check ONE box only)		
2. FILE TO BE SEARCHED <input type="checkbox"/> GENERAL LAND ENTRY FILES <input type="checkbox"/> BOUNTY-LAND WARRANT FILES <i>Please refer to Instructions for descriptions of these types of land entry files.</i>		
REQUIRED MINIMUM IDENTIFICATION OF LAND FILE - MUST BE COMPLETED OR YOUR ORDER CANNOT BE SERVICED		
3. NAME OF ENTRY MAN <i>(Give last, first, and middle names)</i>	4. LAND LOCATED IN STATE OF	5. APPROXIMATE DATE OF ENTRY <i>(Exact date, if known)</i>
PLEASE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR GENERAL LAND ENTRY FILES		
PRE-1908 GENERAL LAND ENTRY FILES		POST-1908 GENERAL LAND ENTRY FILES
6. LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF LAND <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 30%;">SECTION NUMBER</div> <div style="width: 30%;">TOWNSHIP NUMBER</div> <div style="width: 30%;">RANGE NUMBER</div> </div>		10. SERIAL PATENT NUMBER
7. TYPE OF GENERAL LAND ENTRY (Check one) <i>If other, specify:</i> <input type="checkbox"/> CREDIT <input type="checkbox"/> CASH <input type="checkbox"/> HOMESTEAD ACT		
8. PATENT FINAL CERTIFICATE OR DOCUMENT NUMBER 9. NAME OF LAND OFFICE		
REQUIRED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR BOUNTY LAND WARRANT FILES, 1847–1855		
11. YEAR OF AUTHORIZING WARRANT	12. WARRANT NUMBER	13. NUMBER OF ACRES
<i>If available, please attach one copy of the original land patent, tract book pages, or Bureau of Land Management GLO listing for this land entry. Your completed order is available either as a paper reproduction or as .pdf. Delivery of .pdf files can be done via USPS on CD/DVD or through NARA's electronic transfer system. Check one box below for selection*.</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Paper Copies <input type="checkbox"/> CD/DVD <input type="checkbox"/> Electronic Transfer** email address: _____		
<small>* If no selection is made, paper copies will be generated; a certified copy cannot be generated of a .pdf ** Download speeds will vary based upon file size and your internet connection. A valid email address is necessary for electronic transfer.</small>		
SECTION B. THIS SPACE IS FOR OUR REPLY TO YOU		
We were unable to search for the file you requested above. No payment is required. Your request is returned because: <input type="checkbox"/> REQUIRED MINIMUM IDENTIFICATION OF LAND FILE WAS NOT PROVIDED. Please complete blocks 2, 3 (give full name), 4, and 5 and resubmit your order. For Bounty Land Warrant files, 1847–1855, you must also provide the year of the authorizing act, the warrant number, and the acreage (blocks 11–13).		

NATF Form 84 – Land Entry Files

QUESTIONS?

Homesteading

The Homestead Act

- Signed in 1862, this law allowed any American (or immigrant pursuing the citizenship process) to purchase up to 160 acres of federal land.
- The law was not fully repealed until 1986, when it expired in Alaska. All previous states had repealed the law by 1976.
- Buyer was required to live on the land for five years and perform necessary upkeep and additions.
 - Civil War Union veterans could use time served in military towards the residency requirement.
 - Settlers could also acquire the title of land if they lived on the land for 6 months and paid the government \$1.25 per acre.

Eligibility

- Adults 21 years and older
 - Single women
 - Former enslaved people
 - (1868 – 14th Amendment was passed)
 - Immigrants
 - 1st papers required (declaration of intention)

The Process

- Go to the local land office.
- Pay a small filing fee (\$10)
- Live on the land and grow crops for 5 years.
- After the 5 years, file for the patent (land title). Pay the last fee (about \$8).
- If approved, patent was awarded.





The United States of America,

To all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting:

Homestead Certificate No. 1

Application 1

Whereas, there has been deposited in the General Land Office of the United States, a CERTIFICATE of the Register of the Land Office at Brownville Nebraska, whereby it appears that pursuant to the Act of Congress approved 20th May, 1862, "To secure Homesteads to actual Settlers on the public domain," and the acts supplemental thereto the claim of Daniel Freeman

has been established and duly consummated in conformity to law for the South half of the North West quarter and ^{the} North East quarter of the North West quarter and the South West quarter of the North East quarter of Section twenty six in Township four North of Range five East in the District of lands formerly subject to sale at Brownville now Beatrice Nebraska - containing One hundred and sixty acres


What's in the Land Entry Case File?

- Final Certificate
- Final Receiver's Receipt
- Testimony of Claimant
- Testimony of Witness
- Final Homestead Affidavit
- Application and accompanying affidavits

Which States Did NOT Have Homesteads?

- Original 13 colonies
 - Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Virginia
- Hawaii, Kentucky, Maine, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, and West Virginia

Items From the Junction Union,

 Emigration is beginning to pour into Western Kansas. The benefits of the Homestead Act are already being felt in this portion of the State. Come on, emigrants and home-seekers, this is the best country in the West.

The cattle and other stock in this county are getting excessively fat.— There is no better stock raising country in the world than Kansas. In this branch of industry is a mine of inexhaustible wealth. Our farmers are becoming aware of this fact and are acting accordingly.

Life on the Prairie

- Fierce winds and fires
- Grasshopper infestation
- Severe droughts
- The lack of trees forced many of the early settlers to create their houses out of sod.
- Settlers had to supply their own farming tools.
- It was common for settlers to give up their land claim or declare bankruptcy.



Sod house in Custer County, Nebraska (Library of Congress)

Homestead Acts

- Southern Homestead Act of 1866
 - Included and encouraged African Americans to obtain a homestead
- Timber Culture Act of 1873
 - Claimant required to plant trees
 - No residency requirement
- Kinkaid Amendment (1904)
 - 640 acres to new homesteaders in western Nebraska
- Enlarged Homestead Act (1909)
 - Doubled acreage from 160 to 320 acres in marginal areas
- National Stock-Raising Homestead Act (1916)
 - Granted 640 acres for ranching purposes

Dawes Act

- Passed in 1887 under President Grover Cleveland
- Allowed the federal government to divide tribal lands. Native Americans who accepted the division were allowed to become U.S. citizens.
- 160 acres of farmland or 320 acres of grazing land was granted to the head of each Native American family.
- To receive allotment, enroll with the Office of Indian Affairs. Their name went on the "Dawes rolls".

Did Your Ancestor Have a Homestead?

Clues for Possible Homesteading



1

Check census records for birthplace of head of family and children. You may notice a move shortly after 1862 out west.



2

Check census records for the occupation of the head of household. Look for farmers that owned property.



3

Review agriculture schedules to identify if the family had 160 acres (full portion) or 80 acres (half portion).

- Early 20th century, you may see a higher acreage (320-640 acres).

1880 United States Federal Census for John Vadra

Nebraska > Fillmore > Geneva > 327

Street	House No	Dwelling	Family No	Name	Race	Sex	Age	Birth Mon	Relationship	Single	Married	Widow/D	Married C	Occupation	Months U	Sick	Blind	Deaf and	Idiotic	Insane	Disabled	Attended	Cannot re	Cannot w	Birthplace	Birthplace of Father	Birthplace of Mother
				— Saml	W	M	13		Son	1				Helps on farm								1			Ill	Penn	Ma
				— Ratie	W	F	8		Daughter													1			Ill	Penn	Ma
				— Ruby	W	F	5		Daughter													1			Ill	Penn	Ma
				— Mandie	W	F	1		Daughter																Ill	Penn	Ma
				— John	W	M	49			1				Printer											N.Y.	(Canada)	N.Y.
				— Louisa	W	F	45		Wife		1			Keeping House											N.Y.	N.Y.	N.Y.
				— Arthur L	W	M	13		Son	1				Helps on farm											Iowa	N.Y.	N.Y.
				— Jennie J	W	F	11		Daughter	1				At School											Iowa	N.Y.	N.Y.

1880 U.S. Census – Geneva, Fillmore County,
Nebraska (Ancestry.com)

OF THE PERSON WHO CONDUCTS THIS FARM.				ACRES OF LAND.			
THE NAME.				IMPROVED.		UNIMPROVED.	
				Tilled, including fallow and grain in rotation, (whether pasture or meadow.)	Permanent meadows, permanent pastures, orchards, vineyards.	Woodland and forest.	Other unimproved, including "old fields" not growing wood.
				No.	No.	No.	No.
				2	3	4	5
Phenikast Sam'l						1	2 10
Vodra John				1			8 0
Burt James				1			1 0
Hosack William				1			3 5
McMahon Jesse						1	1 0
Robert				1			1 35

1880 Agriculture Schedule – Geneva, Fillmore
County, Nebraska (Ancestry.com)

Locating Homestead Records on Ancestry

U.S., Homestead Records, 1863-1908

Search☐ Match all terms exactly**First & Middle Name(s)****Last Name**

Birth

Day**Month****Year****Location**

City, County, State, Count

Any Event

City, County, State, Count

Keyword

e.g. pilot or "Flying Tigers" ▼

Range**Land Office****Section****Township**

Provided in
association with
National Archives and
Records
Administration

Browse this collection

To browse this image set, select from
the options below.

State

Choose... ▼

Land Office**Final Certificate Year****Township and Range**

Related data collections

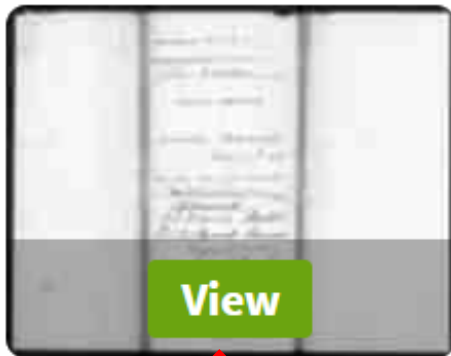
[U.S., Indexed County Land Ownership](#)

1863-1910

www.ancestry.com

John N Vodra

in the U.S., Homestead Records, 1863-1908

[View](#)[Add or update information](#)[Report a problem](#)

Name: John N Vodra

Final Certificate Date: 11 Oct 1878

Homestead Place: Nebraska, USA

Land Office: Nebraska City; Lincoln

Section: 22

Township: 7 North

Range: 3 West

[Save](#)[Cancel](#)

www.ancestry.com

U.S., Homestead Records, 1863-1908 for John N Vodra

Nebraska > Nebraska City; Lincoln > 1878 > 07 North, 03 West

✓ Saved ▾

LAND OFFICE

AT

Lincoln NebraskaOct 11th, 1878.Sect. 22, Town. 7N, Range 3WSee to War Dept April 22/79Approved
J B Mc Donell Register
C. H. B. St. Louis

152 of 337

al Archives and Records Administration

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Image 148



Image 149



Image 150



Image 151



Image 152



Image 153



Image 154



Image 155



Image 156

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Locating Other Homestead Records on FamilySearch

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United States, Cancelled, Relinquished, or Rejected Land Entry Case Files, 1861-1932

Description

Serialized land entry case files that were cancelled, relinquished, or rejected by the General Land Office. The applications include homesteads, mining claims, and land preemptions. This collection includes Kansas land offices at Dodge City and Topeka and Nebraska land offices at Alliance, Broken Bow, Lincoln, North Platte, O'Neill, and Valentine. The records are at the NARA Regional Center in Kansas City, Missouri. This collection is being published as images become available.

[How to Use this Collection »](#)


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United States, Cancelled,...try Case Files, 1861-1932 ▼

State

[Kansas](#) [Nebraska](#)

United States, Cancelled,...try Case Files, 1861-1932 ▼ | Nebraska > Source Box

Land office name

Alliance Land Office	Lincoln Land Office	North Platte Land Office	Valentine Land Office
Broken Bow Land Office		O'Neill Land Office	

www.familysearch.org



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? ⓘ 🔔 Melanie McComb

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United States, Cancelled,...try Case Files, 1861-1932 ▾ Nebraska > Lincoln Land Office >

Source Box

Attach to Family Tree

Record Type, Date Range, File no. range

Land entry case files that were cancelled,
relinquished, or rejected; 1905-1920, no 3-126

Land entry case files that were cancelled,
relinquished, or rejected; 1905-1920, no 127-
222

Land entry case files that were cancelled,
relinquished, or rejected; 1905-1920, no 226-
254

Land entry case files that were cancelled,
relinquished, or rejected; 1905-1920, no 255-
275

Land entry case files that were cancelled,
relinquished, or rejected; 1905-1920, no 276-
348

Land entry case files that were cancelled,
relinquished, or rejected; 1905-1920, no 355-
426

Land entry case files that were cancelled,
relinquished, or rejected; 1905-1920, no 427-
469

Land entry case files that were cancelled,
relinquished, or rejected; 1905-1920, no 471-
525

Land entry case files that were cancelled,
relinquished, or rejected; 1905-1920, no 527-
574

Land entry case files that were cancelled,
relinquished, or rejected; 1905-1920, no 582-
617

Land entry case files that were cancelled,
relinquished, or rejected; 1905-1920, no 621-
791

Land entry case files that were cancelled,
relinquished, or rejected; 1905-1920, no 804-
1007

Land entry case files that were cancelled,
relinquished, or rejected; 1905-1920, no 1014-
1264

Land entry case files that were cancelled,
relinquished, or rejected; 1905-1920, no 1265-
1419

Land entry case files that were cancelled,
relinquished, or rejected; 1905-1920, no 1425-
1518

Land entry case files that were cancelled,
relinquished, or rejected; 1905-1920, no 1520-
1639

Land entry case files that were cancelled,
relinquished, or rejected; 1905-1920, no 1640-
1728

Land entry case files that were cancelled,
relinquished, or rejected; 1905-1920, no 1729-
1872

Land entry case files that were cancelled,
relinquished, or rejected; 1905-1920, no 1874-
1929

Land entry case files that were cancelled,
relinquished, or rejected; 1905-1920, no 1931-
2020

Land entry case files that were cancelled,
relinquished, or rejected; 1905-1920, no 2022-
2074

Land entry case files that were cancelled,
relinquished, or rejected; 1905-1920, no 2077-
2163

Land entry case files that were cancelled,
relinquished, or rejected; 1905-1920, no 2170-

2247

Land entry case files that were cancelled,
relinquished, or rejected; 1905-1920, no 2238-
2398

Land entry case files that were cancelled,
relinquished, or rejected; 1905-1920, no 2253-
2334

Land entry case files that were cancelled,
relinquished, or rejected; 1905-1920, no 2403-
2499

Land entry case files that were cancelled,
relinquished, or rejected; 1905-1920, no 2503-
2618

Land entry case files that were cancelled,
relinquished, or rejected; 1905-1920, no 2620-
2718

Land entry case files that were cancelled,
relinquished, or rejected; 1905-1920, no 2720-
2957

Land entry case files that were cancelled,
relinquished, or rejected; 1905-1920, no 2960-
3051

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Lincoln HE 0543.

4-480.

SPECIAL AGENTS MUST RETAIN A PRESS COPY OF THIS REPORT.

Adverse report.

2 Inc.

PRW.

REPORT OF FRAUDULENT CLAIM OR ENTRY.

This form must be used only in cases found or believed to be fraudulent or abandoned. Cases found to be lawfully made and maintained may be reported by letter when necessary.

In cases of homestead claims the blanks must be filled up strictly as here indicated. In other cases the form will be followed as closely as applicable, and in ALL CASES reported such other points will be covered as the nature of the case may require.

In EVERY INSTANCE when names of parties or witnesses are given, the post-office address and residence must also be stated.

FRED DENNETT,
Commissioner.

1. Name and post-office address of claimant: James Broz, St. Ann, Neb.

2. Dates and numbers of filing or entry and of final proof and certificate, with description of land:

Lincoln HE 12903, Serial 0543, Dec., 15, 1903, for SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$,
Lot 2, Sec. 3-5-31, FC not issued.

3. Date of examination: July 8, 1909.

4. Character of land: (Timber, Mineral, Agricultural, or Desert.) If timber land, whether, if cleared, it would be fit for agriculture; if a desert entry, whether grass or other agricultural crop could be produced without artificial irrigation; if mineral, character and evidence thereof:

Land is all rough except about 15 acres. The rough land is
suitable for stock pasture only. Corn is growing on about 8 acres
without irrigation.

Report of Fraudulent Claim or Entry (1903)

State of Nebraska }
 { SS:
Hayes County }

I, Peter Kucera, being duly sworn, upon oath say: I am 60 years of age. Thornburg, Neb., is my postoffice. I reside about one half mile from the sod house that is on the homestead land of James Broz. His said land is in Sec. 3, T 5 N., R 31 W. I have lived at my said place of residence for the last seven years. I am well acquainted with the said James Broz. I am also well acquainted with the father of said James Broz. The father lives about 4 miles from the sod house on the James Broz land. During the first year after the said James Broz made said entry he made his home and resided with his brother-in-law, Frank B. McKillip and since then he has made his home and resided with his father. He has never made his actual home on his said homestead land.

(Signed) Peter Kucera,

Subscribed and sworn to before me, this July 8, 1909.

(Signed) P.R.Wadsworth,
 Special Agent, G.L.O.

Affidavit alleging fraud (1909)

9. *Residence of claimant.*—When actually established on the land, and whether continuous for the period required. If the head of a family, of whom does the family consist; whether the family resides on the land, or has an actual residence elsewhere. State every fact relative to the good or bad faith of the claimant in establishing and maintaining actual residence, and whether he was legally qualified to make the entry, and is known in the neighborhood of the claim:

Claimant is a single man and has never been married. He was qualified to make the entry and is well known in the neighborhood of the land. He has not made his actual residence and home on this land as required by law, having resided and made his home with his father and with a married sister.

10. Evidence that the entry was made at the instance or in the interest of a party or parties other than the claimant: Whether sale or contract of conveyance has been made; date of sale or contract, name of purchaser or transferee, price given or agreed upon, nature and date of any instrument in writing, and whether the same has become a matter of record; whether the entry has been abandoned or relinquished, and, if so, when and for whose benefit:

There is no evidence that the entry was made in the interest of anyone other than the claimant.

11. If you have not secured affidavit of any witness, state why not, with the name of such witness:

Affidavits of witnesses secured.

12. Have you requested claimant to make a statement? If so, and he does not intend to offer proof, did you try to obtain a relinquishment or an affidavit to that effect (without coercion)?

I requested claimant to make a written statement but he said that he did not have anything to state except what he had already sent in

13. What legal proceedings have been instituted?

None.

14. The undersigned special agent protests against the validity of said entry for the following numbered causes:

1. That the entryman has never resided upon the land.

Report of Fraudulent Claim or Entry Cont'd (1903)

1 Ex. to C.F.D.
4-137

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GENERAL LAND OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

June 3, 1913, WJH

JH

The United States	Involving H. E. No. 12903, McCook
vs.	series, made December 15, 1903,
James Broz	for SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, and lot 2, Sec. 3, T. 5 N., R. 31 W., 6th P.M.

REGISTER AND RECEIVER,
Lincoln, Nebraska.

Sirs:

In reference to the above-entitled case, you are advised
that the decision of the Secretary of the Interior, dated
March 24, 1913, has become final.

A copy of said decision is herewith inclosed, for your informa-
tion and for your files.

The case is hereby closed. So note on your records.

The entry is canceled, and you will so advise the defendant.

Cancelled Homestead Case (1913)

Refine your search ▼

Search by:

[Place](#)[Surnames](#)[Titles](#)[Author](#)[Subjects](#)

Keywords

Search for:

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Year

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Search Results for FamilySearch Catalog

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1-20 of 1,104 results

[Print List](#)[The Dakota homestead historical newsletter](#)[Add](#)

Author: Bismarck-Mandan Historical and Genealogical Society (Bismarck, North Dakota)

[Edith Burnham : or, How the homestead was saved](#)[Add](#)

Author: Alden, Fannie A Stall

[Colorado, Denver County, homestead records, 1864-1908](#)[Add](#)

Author: United States. Department of the Interior. General Land Office; United States. National Archives (Denver, Colorado)

[Colorado, Garfield County, homestead records, 1884-1908](#)[Add](#)

Author: United States. Department of the Interior. General Land Office; United States. National Archives (Denver, Colorado)

[Colorado, Gilpin County, homestead records, 1868-1894](#)[Add](#)

Author: United States. Department of the Interior. General Land Office; United States. National Archives (Denver, Colorado)

[Colorado, Gunnison County, homestead records, 1882-1907](#)[Add](#)

Author: United States. National Archives (Denver, Colorado)

[Colorado, La Plata County, homestead records, 1882-1908](#)[Add](#)

Author: United States. National Archives (Denver, Colorado)

[Colorado, Lincoln County, homestead records, 1890-1908](#)[Add](#)


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Colorado, Gilpin County, homestead records, 1868-1894

[Add to Print List](#)

Authors:

[United States. Department of the Interior. General Land Office](#) (Main Author)
[United States. National Archives \(Denver, Colorado\)](#) (Repository)

Format:

Manuscript/Manuscript on Digital Images

Language:

English

Publication:

Salt Lake City, Utah : Digitized by FamilySearch International, 2015

Notes

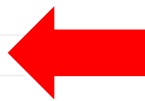
Digital images of originals held by the National Archives and Records Administration, Denver, Colorado.

The Timber Culture Act was a follow-up act to the Homestead Act. The Timber Culture Act was passed by Congress in 1873. The act allowed homesteaders to get another 160 acres of land if they planted trees on one-fourth of the land... . (Wikipedia)

[View this catalog record in WorldCat for other possible copy locations](#)

Film/Digital Notes

Note	Location	Collection/Shelf	Film DGS	Format
Registers of homestead entries, no. 1-1065, 1868-1893	Granite Mountain Record Vault	United States & Canada Digital	100897962	
Registers of homestead entries, no. 1066-1110, 1868-1894	Granite Mountain Record Vault	United States & Canada Digital	100897963	
Register of final cash certificates, v. 125, 1868-1893	Granite Mountain Record Vault	United States & Canada Digital	101180292	
Receiver's register of homestead final receipts, v. 127, 1873-1894	Granite Mountain Record Vault	United States & Canada Digital	100920954	
Register of timber culture entries, v. 130, 1878-1891	Granite Mountain Record Vault	United States & Canada Digital	101180315	



TIMBER CULTURE.

REGISTER OF ENTRIES made at the Land Office at *Central City, Colorado.*

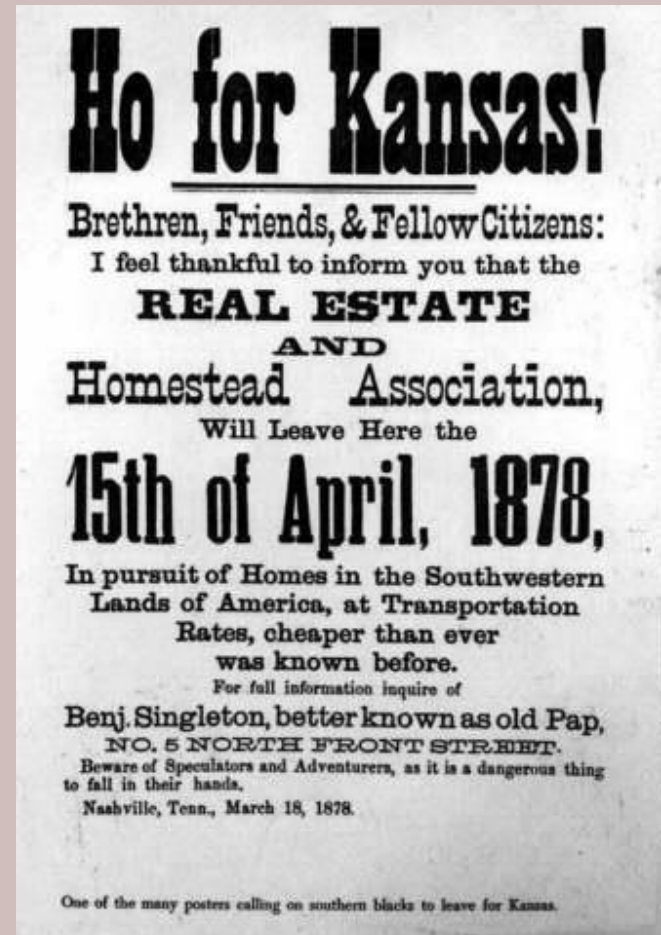
to the *Thirtieth* day of *June*

NO. OF APPLICATION.	DATE OF APPLICATION.	TRACT ENTERED. SECTION OR PART OF SECTION.	No. OF SECTION.	No. OF TOWNSHIP.	No. OF RANGE.	QUANTITY.		NAME OF APPLICANT
						ACRES.	100ths	
<i>2</i>	<i>June 24 1887</i>	<i>E 1/2 of Sec 14 & E 1/2 of Sec 15</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>7 1/2</i>	<i>160</i>	<i>00</i>	<i>John C. Hedges</i>

Black Homesteaders

The Exodus of 1879

- First mass migration of African Americans from the South after the Civil War
- Many were former slaves (known as exodusters)
- Settled in the states of Colorado, Kansas, and Oklahoma.



Library of Congress

African American Homesteaders

- 6 Primary Homesteading Communities
 - Nicodemus, Kansas
 - DeWitty, Nebraska
 - Sully County, North Dakota
 - Empire, Wyoming
 - Dearfield, Colorado
 - Blackdom, New Mexico

National Park Service

National Park Service



Staking their Claim: Black Homesteaders' Successful Quest for Land

(Click National Park Service title above to return to Black Homesteading in America site)

Overview

Nicodemus, KS

Sully County, SD

Blackdom, NM

Dearfield, CO

Empire, WY

Dewitty, NE



Six Black Homesteader Communities in the Great Plains

It is hereby certified that, pursuant to the provisions of Section 2201, Revised Statutes of the United States, _____

has made payment in full of _____ Sec. 33
_____ Sec. 28

Section 28

Township 26 N., Range 60 W., 6th pr. Meridian,

<https://www.nps.gov/home/black-homesteading-in->

National Park Service



Staking their Claim: Black Homesteaders' Successful Quest for Land

(Click National Park Service title above to return to Black Homesteading in America site)

Overview Nicodemus, KS Sully County, SD Blackdom, NM Dearfield, CO Empire, WY Dewitty, NE Acknowledgements

Nicodemus, KS

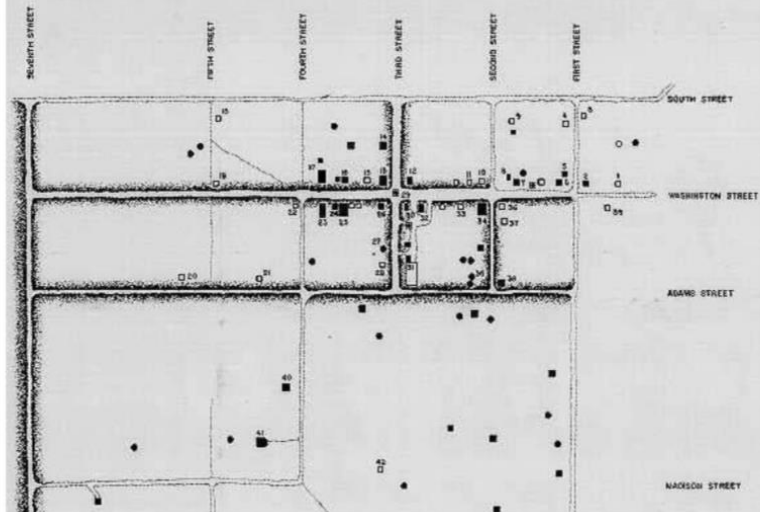
Background Information

Nicodemus is the only surviving Black homesteader colony in the Great Plains.

In 1877, Black entrepreneurs in Topeka formed the Nicodemus Town Company to recruit homesteaders for its site in north-central Kansas. The first group or "colony" of 30 people settled, then a colony of 300 arrived from Kentucky. Half of the Kentuckians, discouraged by what they viewed as Nicodemus's bleak prospects, immediately turned around and went home.

By 1879, the town center had a general store, hotel, churches, livery

NICODEMUS, KANSAS TOWNSITE PLAN - 1877-1890



<https://www.nps.gov/home/black-homesteading-in-america.htm>

National Park Service

National Park Service



Staking their Claim: Black Homesteaders' Successful Quest for Land

(Click National Park Service title above to return to Black Homesteading in America site)

Overview Nicodemus, KS Sully County, SD Blackdom, NM Dearfield, CO Empire, WY Dewitty, NE Acknowledgements

Nicodemus, KS

William Kirtley

William Kirtley, a former slave who arrived in the Nicodemus colony in 1878, homesteaded and became a champion for education in the community.

Kirtley believed that owning land was key to building self-sufficiency. He secured rights to a preemption claim located three miles southwest of Nicodemus, and after six months, he filed on this claim of 160 acres. He built three sod houses and later a frame building. Kirtley secured his patent in 1888 and remained on his land for sixty years.

Kirtley saw education as a right of all full and equal citizens and a path to self-sufficiency. He brought with him to Nicodemus two Bibles, an elementary speller, and an unabridged dictionary. He insisted that Nicodemus's children had the right to learn, and he



<https://www.nps.gov/home/black-homesteading-in-america.htm>

National Park Service



Staking their Claim: Black Homesteaders' Successful Quest for Land

(Click National Park Service title above to return to Black Homesteading in America site)

Overview Nicodemus, KS Sully County, SD Blackdom, NM Dearfield, CO Empire, WY Dewitty, NE Acknowledgements

Nicodemus, KS

Homestead Map

Here we have mapped all of the known homestead plots in Nicodemus. Click on a claim to learn more about the claimant.

Acres Claimed Map

Here you can see how many acres of land a claimant acquired under the Homestead Act.

Patent Year Map

Here you can view the period a claimant acquired their patent under the Homestead Act.

Boarders?	No
Profession	
Patent Year	1890
Patent Date	3/12/1890
Statute	Homestead Act (original)
County	Graham
Land Office	Kirwin
Acres Claimed	160.00
Township	007S
Range	021W
Section	32
Legal	SE¼
Description	

Claimant: George Tucker

Last Name	Tucker
First Name	George
Middle Name	
Alternate Name	
Sex	Male
Race	Black
Birth Place	Illinois
Birth Year	1,849
Marital Status	Not listed
Spouse Name	
Household Size	1

<https://www.nps.gov/home/black-homesteading-in-america.htm>

Strategies for Using Homesteading Case Files

Immigrant Origins

- Immigrants were required to have already filed their first papers (declaration of intention) in order to apply for a homestead.
- Many land entry case files contain copies of the naturalization papers that were filed by the applicant.
- Applications also list details about an ancestor's birthplace.
 - Pre-1906 naturalization records often list the name of the country with no specifics on county or townland.

Certificate of Naturalization of Mrs. Mary Crain (Ancestry.com)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Comm. Letter
'6" of Decm
27th 1878



Dec 27/78

State of Iowa, Clay County, ss:

BE IT REMEMBERED, That at a term of the Circuit Court holden in and for said County, in the town of Spencer therein on the 27th day of January in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy eight was present the Honorable Jos. St. Vrain sole presiding Judge of said Court, when the following among other proceedings were had, to wit:

Mrs. Mary Crain
a native of Ireland and at present residing within said State, appeared in open Court, and makes application to be admitted to become a Citizen of the United States; and it appearing to the satisfaction of the Court, that he had declared on oath before the Clerk of the District Court for Clay County Iowa

a Court of Record, having common law jurisdiction, and using a seal, two years at least before his admission, that it was bona fide his intention to become a citizen of the United States, and to renounce forever all allegiance to any foreign Prince, Potentate, State or Sovereignty whatsoever, and particularly to the Queen of Great Britain & Ireland of whom he was heretofore a subject; and said applicant having declared on oath, before this Court, that he will support the Constitution of the United States, and that he doth absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to every foreign Prince, Potentate, State or Sovereignty whatsoever, and particularly to the Queen of Great Britain & Ireland of whom he was a subject.

The Court being satisfied that said applicant has resided within the United States for the term of five years next preceding his admission, without being at any time during the said five years out of the territory of the United States, and within this State one year at least; and it further appearing to the satisfaction of this Court that during that time he has behaved as a man of good moral character, attached to the principles of the Constitution of the United States and well disposed to the good order and happiness of the same. Thereupon the Court admitted the said applicant to become a citizen of the United States, and ordered all the proceedings aforesaid to be entered of Record, which was accordingly done by the Judge of this Court.

In Testimony Whereof, I J. St. Vrain
Clerk of the Court aforesaid, have hereto set my hand and affixed the seal of the said Court, at my office in the town of Spencer in said County, this 27th day of January in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy eight

J. St. Vrain Clerk.

Military Service

- Veterans who served in the Union during the Civil War were eligible to apply for a homestead and use their military service towards the 5-year residency requirement.
- Soldier's Discharge records are included as proof of service.
 - Information includes regiment information, where enlisted or drafted, occupation, birth date and birthplace.

SOLDIER'S DISCHARGE.



To all Whom it May Concern:

Know Ye, That John N Vodra
a Third Class Musician of Captain Company

() 35th Regiment of New York Volunteers,
who was enrolled on the Sixteenth day of September One Thousand
Eight Hundred and Sixty one to serve Three years, or during

the war, is hereby Discharged from the service of the United States, this
Sixteenth day of August 1862, at Leulpepper Va

by reason of An Act of Congress 8th 1862, to muster Regimental
Bands out of U.S. Service No objection to his being re-enlisted is known to exist.

Said John N. Vodra was born in Lewis Co
in the State of New York is 31 years of age, Five feet
five inches high, Light complexion, Black eyes, Brown hair,
and by occupation, when enrolled, a Painter

Given at Leulpepper Va this Sixteenth day of
August 1862 N. B. Lord

J. P. Dromilliam
A. G. O. No. 90.

Col
Commanding the Regiment.
35th N. Y.

State of Nebraska, } Geneva Feb., Oct 1st 1878
Fillmore County.

I, the undersigned, J. Jensen Co. Clerk do hereby certify
that the above is a correct and true copy of the original.

J. Jensen County Clerk
J. W. Minter
Deputy

Soldier's Discharge Certificate, Land Entry
Case File of John Vodra (Ancestry.com)

To all Whom it May Concern;



Know Ye, That John A. Vodra
 a Third Class Minion of Captain Regimental Band
Company () 35 Regiment of New York
VOLUNTEERS, who was enrolled on the 18th day of September
One Thousand Eight Hundred and fifty one to serve two years
 or during the war, is hereby **Discharged** from the service of the United
 States, this Eighteenth day of August 1862, at Bulfepper Va.
 by reason of an act of Congress passed July 8 1862
to shorten regimental terms out of the U.S. service
 (No objection to his being re-enlisted is known to exist.)*

Said John A. Vodra was born in Leeds county
 in the State of New York, is thirty one years of age,
five feet five inches high, light complexion, black eyes,
Brown hair, and by occupation, when enrolled, a Painter

Given at Bulfepper Va., this Eighteenth day
 of August 1862

*This sentence will be erased should there be anything
 in the conduct or physical condition of the soldier
 rendering him unfit for the Army.

[A. G. O. No. 99.]

United States Land Office,
 Lincoln, Neb., Oct 23rd 1873 }

I, the undersigned Regina M. S. L. C. do hereby certify that the
 above is a correct and true copy of the original.

C. B. Lora
Col. Comdr.
 Commanding the Reg't.
B. S. Lora

Letter accompanying discharge certificate, Land
 entry case file of John Vodra (Ancestry.com)

C.

War Department,

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,

Washington, D. C., May 12th, 1879.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the
22nd day of April, 1879, requesting a
"Statement of Service" of John W. Vodra

The following information has been obtained from the files of this
Office, and is respectfully furnished in reply to your inquiry:

It appears from the Rolls on file in this Office, that
John W. Vodra was enrolled on the 16th
day of Sept., 1861, at Watertown, in Co. Band
35th Regiment of New York Volunteers, to
serve 3 years, or during the war, and mustered into service as
a Musician on the 18th day of Sept., 1861,
at Watertown, in Co. Band 35th Regiment
of New York Volunteers, to serve 3 years, or during the
war. On the Muster Roll of Co. F. S. Band of that Regiment for the
months of dated October 31st, 1862, he is reported
mustered out Aug. 10, 1862.

Review

1. Bounty land was an incentive for enlistment and may explain why your ancestor moved outside of their county and/or home state.
2. Federal land entry files may hold valuable clues about your ancestor's migration, their military, and citizenship status.
3. Multiple sources should be consulted to learn more about your ancestor's story.

QUESTIONS?

Hire Research Services

research@nehgs.org

Chat with a Genealogist

AmericanAncestors.org/chat

Navigating our Nation's Federal Records 2022

Thank you for registering for the online course, *Navigating our Nation's Federal Records*!

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) in Washington, DC is home to a genealogical goldmine of federal records kept since our nation's founding. From military pension records to federal land grants to immigration and naturalization records and beyond, this five-session online seminar will introduce you to the many records available, discuss how to access them from home or in-person, and demonstrate how to leverage these resources in your family history research.

This course includes five 90-minute classes; exclusive access to handouts and recordings of each presentation; and in-depth q&a sessions with the instructors. These recordings and all course materials will be available for the foreseeable future.

JOIN THE LIVE SESSIONS

Click here to join the live broadcasts: <https://zoom.us/j/99357341114>

If you are unable to attend the live session, you will be able to watch the recordings on this course page.

COURSE SCHEDULE

September 28 - Class 1: Overview of the NARA System

Presented by Ann G. Lawthers

The website of the National Archives and Records Administration ([Archives.gov](https://www.archives.gov)) is your at-home portal to a myriad of records. This first class will demonstrate how to navigate the online catalog, access or request records from home, and, because not everything is online, discuss tips for planning a research trip. We will also discuss the difference between the National Archives in Washington, DC and the regional branches found across the country.

October 5 - Class 2: Military and Pension Files

Presented by David Allen Lambert

The military records at the National Archives detail service given between 1775 and 1912. Military expert David Allen Lambert will discuss how to locate, access, and utilize compiled service records, pension applications, and other resources that detail your veteran ancestor's service. He will also discuss briefly more recent records available through the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) in St. Louis (WWI-present).

October 12 - Class 3: Federal Land Records: Bounty Land, Land Entry Files, and Homesteading

<https://www.americanancestors.org/navigating-our-nations-federal-records-2022>

THANK YOU!

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