

Using Land Records in Family History Research

Winter Stay-At-Home 2023

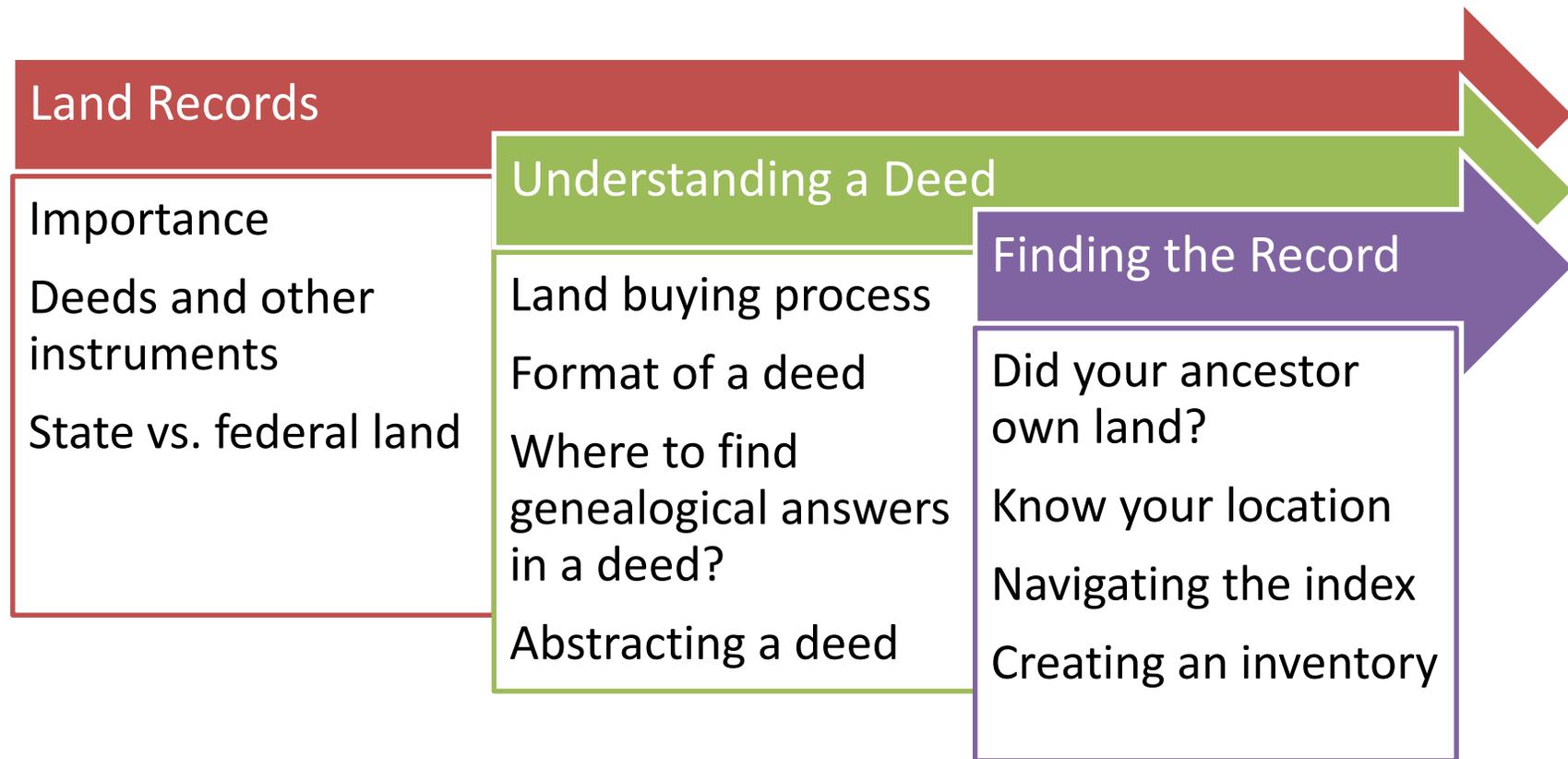
Ann G. Lawthers, Genealogist
February 2023

THE BRUE FAMILY LEARNING CENTER



American Ancestors®
by NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Session Roadmap



Land Records

- Legal document transferring ownership of property from one person to another
 - Before about 1850, did not need to be filed at the time of the transaction, see state laws
- Jurisdiction that holds the records varies from state to state
- Two or three-step process to find to the deed, depending on the type of indexing used by the jurisdiction holding the document

What Questions Can Land Records Answer?



Photograph by author

- Land records place a person at a specific location and a specific time
- Provide kinship information
- Biographical info
- Show Migrations

This Indenture made the Iwe and Twentieth Day of November
in the Third year of the Reigne of our Sovereigne Lord George by the Grace of
God of Great Brittain France and Ireland King Defender of the faith &c. Anno
Domini One Thousand seven hundred and sixtween Between Catharine Haack
of the City of New York Widowe of the one part and Obadiah Hunt of the said City
Vintner of the other part Whereas Isaac Rodlow late of the City of New York
Merchant father of the said Catharine in his Life time and at the time of his
Death was lawfully seized and possessed of the Dwelling house Lot of Ground and
premises with the Appurtenances herein after mentioned to be herein off
granted and Released and being so seized Dyed Intestate Leaving behind him
One son and three Daughters (to wit) Isaac Rodlow lately Deceased the said
Catharine afterwards the wife of Thomas Howardon Sarah afterwards the
wife of Claus Burger and Mary afterwards the wife of Joseph Smith and
whereas by Indenture Quadripartite bearing Date the Twenty ninth
Day of December in the year of our Lord One Thousand six hundred Ninety
and three between the said Isaac Rodlow (brother of the said Catharine) of
the first part Claus Burger and Sarah his Wife of the second part Thomas
Howardon since Deceased and the said Catharine his Wife of the third
part and the said Joseph Smith and Mary his Wife of the fourth part
made by which said Indenture the said parties for themselves did severally

← Parentage

← Marriage

← Sibling

New York County, New York

Information in a Land Record

- Grantor (seller)
- Grantee (buyer)
- Residences of Grantor and Grantee
- Location of the property
- Description of the property
- Abutters/neighbors
- Acreage
- Witnesses
- Dates

Types of Land Records

Types of Land Records

- Grant or Patent – Transfer of land from a government or proprietor to an individual
- Deed – Document to transfer ownership between individuals
 - Warranty deed – Seller has legal title
 - Quitclaim deed – Seller is relinquishing their right to a portion of the property
 - Sheriff’s deed – Selling of property that has reverted to government or proprietor (escheat)

First Land Transfers Grants and Patents

	Model One: New England	Model Two: Colonial (e.g. VA)	Model Three: Proprietor (e.g. PA & MD)	Model Four: Federal (post Rev War)
	Crown	Crown	Crown	Crown
↓	Colony	Colony	(Colony)	Colony
↓	Town /Proprietors		Individual /Proprietors	
↓				Federal Government
	Individual	Individual	Individual	Individual

Medfield. Noumber y^e 6.th 1729: att the House of m^r Joshua Morse. The Associates of William Ward & Joshua Morse — Proprietors Grantees of a Tract of Land Lying Between Oxford Brookfield Brimfield and the prouiner Line. Granted by the great and Generall Court of this prouince: 1729: Being assembled and mett — pursuant to a Notification giuen vnder the hand of William Ward who was Authorised and Impowered by the afores^d Generall Court to assemble the afores^d Grantees and to Act as Moderator in said Meeting, by Vertue of which Notification itt appeared vnder y^e Hands of said William Ward — And Joshua Morse That they had Notified y^e said Associates and Grantees — To meett att the Time & place afove mentioned.

2: Said Associates Grantees being Mett att the Time and place as afove said — A List of their Names was Read to the Number of Fourty Two: as followeth

Melatiah Bourn: Esq.	Joseph Baker	Abraham Harding:	Cap ^t John Dwight
William Ward: Esq.	Jonas Houghton	Moses Harding	Cap ^t Jon ^{as} Boyden
Ezra Bourn	Thomas Gleason	Josiah Ellice	Cap ^t Joseph Clark
Shubal Goram	Moses Gleason	Peter Balch	Nathan ^l Morse
Thomas Learned	Jonas Gleason	Ezra Clark	James Donison
Nathan Fisk	Joshua Morse	Samuell Ellice	Joseph Mash
Henry Fisk	Joseph Plimpton	David Ellice	
Cap ^t . Ebenezer Learned	Nathanell Smith	Francis Moquott	
Nahum Ward	Solomon Clark	Henry Adams	
Gorsham Keyes	Timothy Hament	Jehabod Harding	
Zerubbah Eager	William Plimpton	John Plimpton	
John Shoarman	Ephraim Partridge	Josiah Chaney	

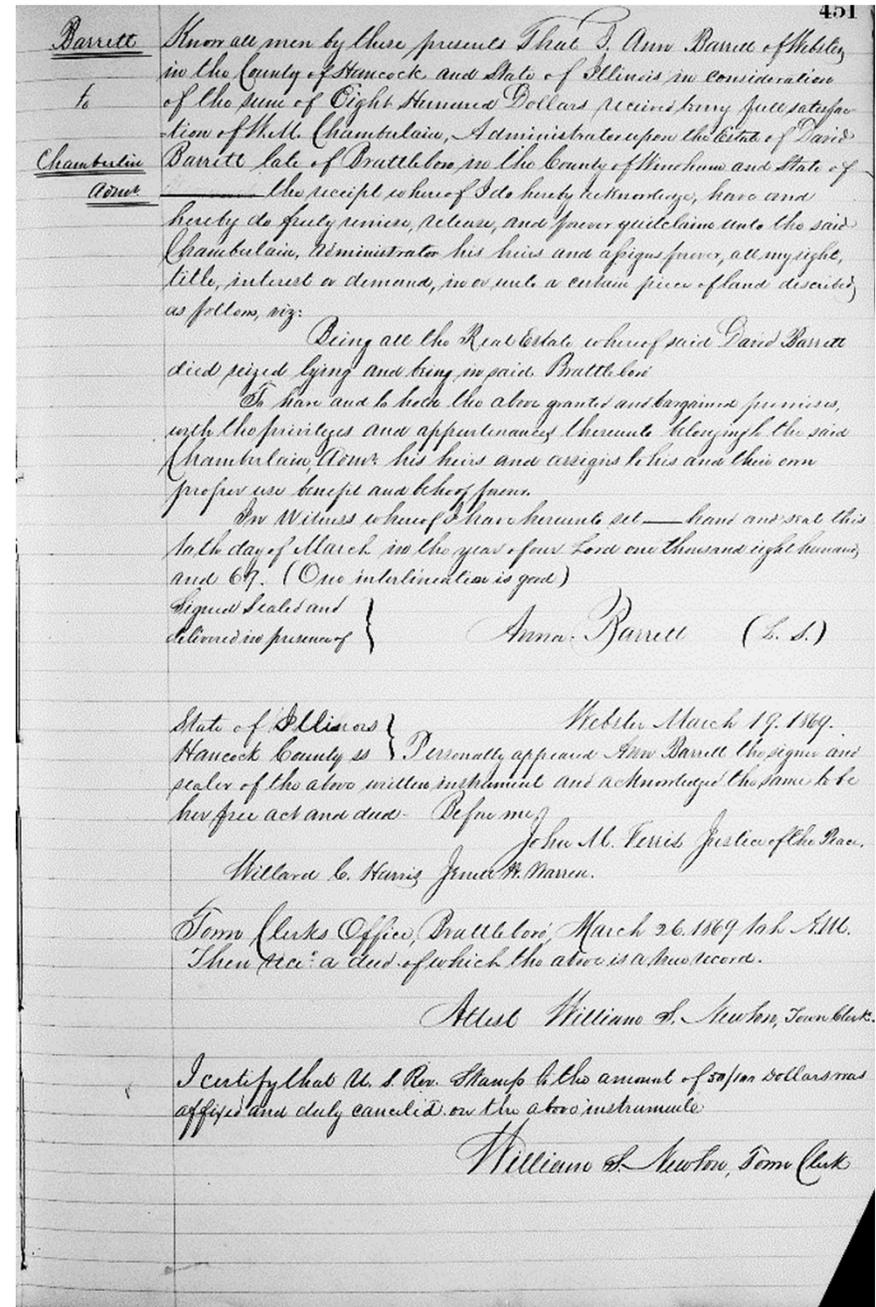
Land Grants - Sturbridge, Mass.

Quit Claim

- Instrument that releases grantor's interest in the property
 - Does not guarantee that title is valid
- Often used when landowner dies intestate
 - Interest in property transferred to heirs
- Common amongst family-to-family transfers

- Ann Barret of Webster, Illinois quit claims her interest in property of David Barrett of Brattleboro, deceased
- Sold to Will Chamberlain, administrator of estate of David Barrett

Brattleboro, Vermont

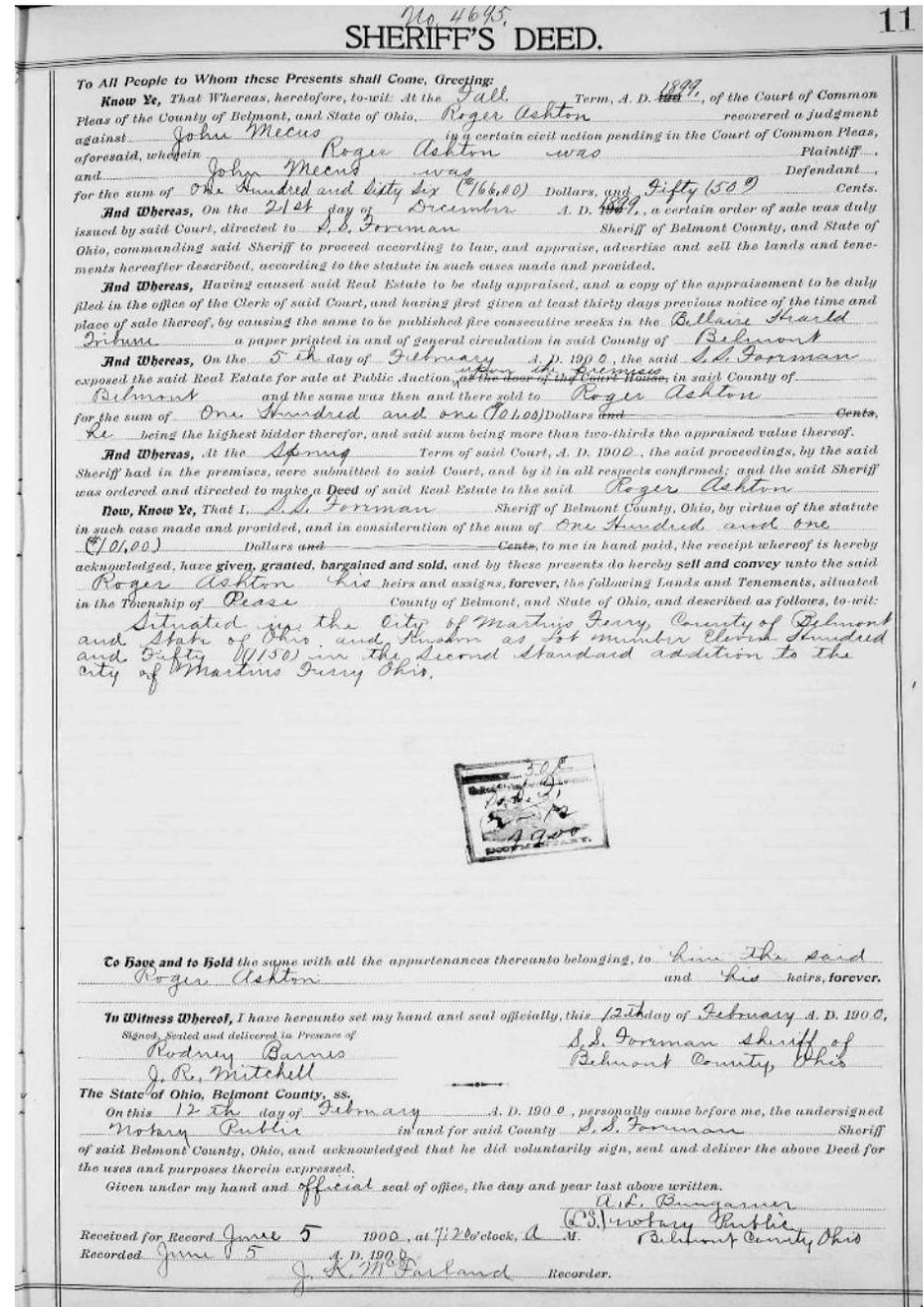


Sheriff's Deed or Sale

- Forced sale of property
 - Likely due to failure to pay taxes
 - Satisfy judgement against landowner
- Sheriff auctions off property
- Can be recorded under “Sheriff” in grantor index
- Deeds can sometimes be recorded in separate volumes
- Can also be recorded in court records

- Roger Ashton purchased property for \$101
- Former owner John Mecus was in arrears for \$166
- Land located in Martin's Ferry

Belmont County, Ohio



Other Types of Land Records

- Mortgages
- Leases
- Assignments
- Divisions/Partitions
- Power of Attorney

Mortgages

- Money borrowed using land as security
- Mortgagor = Person who mortgages property
 - Borrower
 - Owner of property
- Mortgagee = Person who holds mortgage
 - Lender
- Generally recorded on county level

How can I tell if it's a mortgage?

- Indicated in index
- Repayment information included within the deed
- Can be recorded in separate deed books
- Clerk often confirmed repayment in the left-hand column of deed

Terms

Payment satisfied

Property description

Mortgagor

Mortgagee

9161

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MORTGAGE. HANCOCK FORM.—Colleges & Gardens, Prisons and States, Quincy, Ill.

The Mortgagor, *David L. Walker and Almecia L. Walker his wife*

of the *Town of Senora* in the County of *Hancock* and State of *Illinois*

MORTGAGE AND WARRANT to *John F. Davis*

of the *Town of Senora* County of *Hancock* and State of *Illinois*

to secure the payment of *Four Hundred Dollars* to wit *One promissory Note of given date hereunto for \$400 Dollars payable in four years with interest at 10 per cent per annum what payable annually.*

the following described real estate: *About thirty (30) acres in the South East corner of the North East quarter of Section One (1) in Town Six (6) North of Range Eight (8) West of the 4th principal Meridian in Hancock County Illinois.*

situated in the County of *Hancock* in the State of *Illinois*, hereby releasing and waiving all rights under and by virtue of the Homestead Exemption Laws of this State.

Dated this *Fourth* day of *October* A. D. 1876.

Signet, Sealed and delivered in presence of

David L. Walker 
Almecia L. Walker 



STATE OF ILLINOIS,
Hancock County,)
 I, *John Brown* a Justice of the Peace
 in and for said County, in the State aforesaid, do hereby certify that *David L. Walker* and *Almecia L. Walker*
his wife
 personally known to me to be the same person whose names are subscribed to the foregoing instrument, appeared before me this day in person, and acknowledged that they signed, made and delivered the said instrument as their free and voluntary act, for the uses and purposes therein set forth, including the release and waiver of the right of homestead.

Given under my hand and seal, this *Fourth* day of *October* A. D. 1876.
John Brown J.P. 

Filed for Record the *16* day of *Oct* A. D. 1876, at *8* o'clock *A.M.*

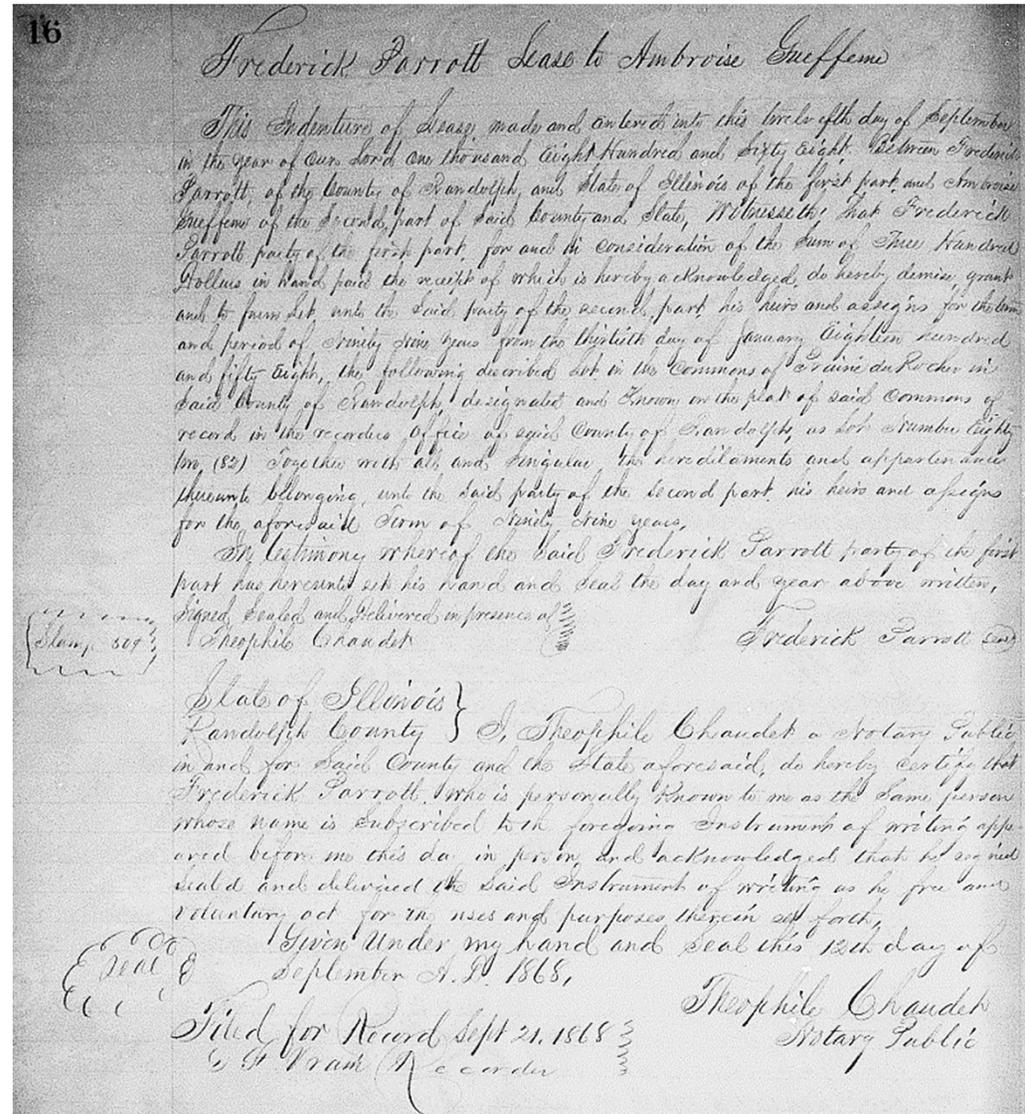
I have personally full and complete satisfaction of this mortgage and former release of the premises hereby conveyed John F. Davis
Witness J. Davis

Hancock Co., Illinois

Lease

- Transfer of use and possession of property
 - Not title or ownership
- Specific time period and fee
- Leases varied in length

- Frederick Parrott granted 99 year lease to Ambroise Greffeme
- Lease began 30 January 1858
- \$300 fee



Randolph County, Illinois

Assignments

- Transfer of interest or rights belonging to a document
 - Warrant or bounty land
 - Lease
- Mortgage can be transferred along with interest

- William Bemis transfers rights and interest he has in the property and the distillery to Peter Willard
- For the sum of \$100

William Bemis to Peter Willard Assignment. --

*I know well men by these presents that I William Bemis of Dummerston County
of Windham State of Vermont; in consideration of the sum of one hundred
Dollars paid to my full satisfaction of Peter Willard of said Dummerston
County to make over and sell to Peter Willard his heirs and assigns, all the right
title and interest I have in the within decr, and in the Distillery furnace
and storage belonging to said Distillery forever --*

*Signed sealed and
in presence of us
David Bemis
Abner Bemis
State of Vermont { Dummerston July the 17th 1835 Personally appeared
Windham County ss William Bemis, signed and sealed of the above written
Instrument and acknowledged the same to be his free act and deed --
Before me David Bemis Justice of the peace
Town Clerk's Office Dummerston Sept 8th 1835 & sealed of the
Assignment of which the above is a true record --
Attest Joseph Duncan Town Clerk --*

Dummerston, Vermont

Dower Right

- Lifetime interest in property allowed by law
- Allowed the widow to retain her rights in the property of deceased husband
- Also referred to as Widow's Thirds

Dower Release

- Wife agrees to the sale of land that included her dower rights
- Generally recorded following deed
- May be recorded as a separate transaction
- Can be recorded in separate volume
 - Sometimes with court records
- Not all states required Dower Release
 - Investigate inheritance laws of state to confirm

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And the said John Dean of the first part, for himself his heirs, executors, and administrators, do covenant, grant, bargain, promise, and agree, to and with the said party of the second part, his heirs and assigns, the above bargained premises, and every part and parcel thereof, in the quiet and peaceable possession of the said party of the second part, his heirs and assigns, against all and every person or persons, lawfully claiming or to claim the whole or any part of the said premises, will for ever Warrant and Defend.

In Witness whereof, the said parties of the first part, have hereunto set their hands and seals the day and year first above written.

SIGNED, SEALED, AND DELIVERED, }
IN THE PRESENCE OF

Geo Langford

John Dean (S.S.)
Lucinda M. Dean (S.S.)

Oneida County N.Y.

On the Eleventh day of May 1836 came before me John Dean and Lucinda his wife, to me known to be the grantors described in and who executed the within Deed, and severally acknowledging that they executed the same for the purposes therein mentioned; on separate examination of the said Lucinda separate and apart from her husband she acknowledged that she executed the within Deed freely & voluntarily, without the influence of fear from or compulsion by her said husband

Witnessed this 8th day of October 1836 at 1/2 past 10 o'clock A.M.

John J Selman Clerk

Dower Release

Oneida County, New York

State vs. Federal Land

State Land State

- Most land granted to individuals by colony or state
- Original 13 colonies plus Maine, Vermont, West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Texas and Hawaii
- Surveys used metes-and-bounds rather than a rectangular grid

Metes and Bounds

- Survey system describing a parcel of land
- Metes = direction and length of measurement line
- Bounds = boundaries as indicated by natural objects such as rocks and trees
- Measurement terms
 - Pole (or rod or perch) = 16.5 feet
 - Chain = 66 feet

<https://www.mountvernon.org/library/digitalhistory/digital-encyclopedia/article/surveying/>



New Survey System

CONGRESSIONAL TOWNSHIP RECTANGULAR SURVEY GRID

Township Grid

24 miles

Starting at the *Principal Meridian* and *Base Line* a surveyor marked off the township lines into grids of 36 square miles.

Townships were further divided into sections of one square mile (640 acres). Standard sections were then numbered from 1 to 36.

Sections were subdivided into a variety of sizes, most often rectangular in shape.

Township 2 South, Range 3 West

6	5	4	3	2	1
7	8	9	10	11	12
18	17	16	15	14	13
19	20	21	22	23	24
30	29	28	27	26	25
31	32	33	34	35	36

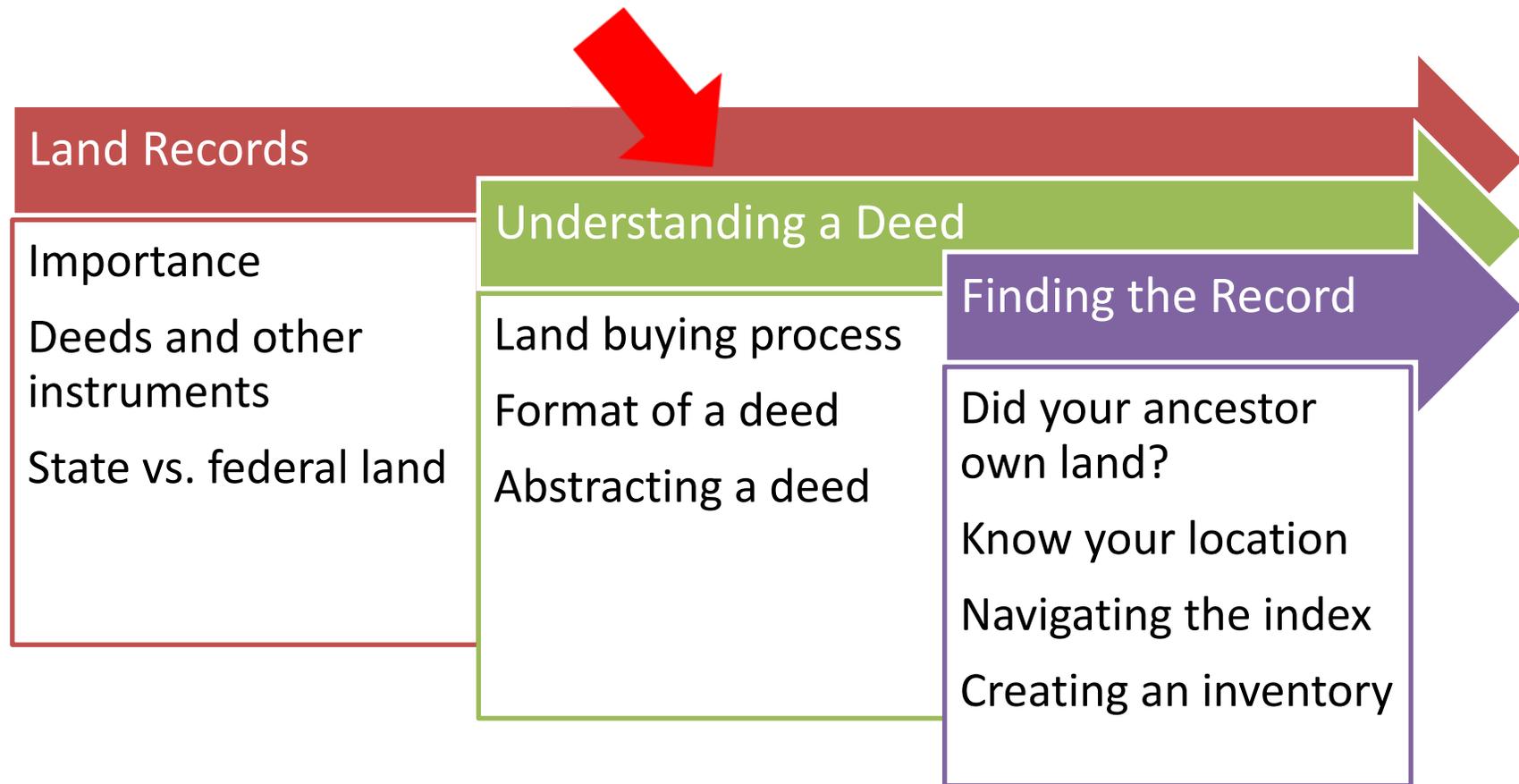
6 miles

SECTION 14

1 mile

Description. The land description for the brown property parcel on the right would be written as:
 "NE1/4NW1/4, Sec.14, T.2 S., R. 3 W."
 (that is, Northeast quarter of the northwest quarter of Section 14 of Township 2 South, Range 3 West.)

Session Roadmap



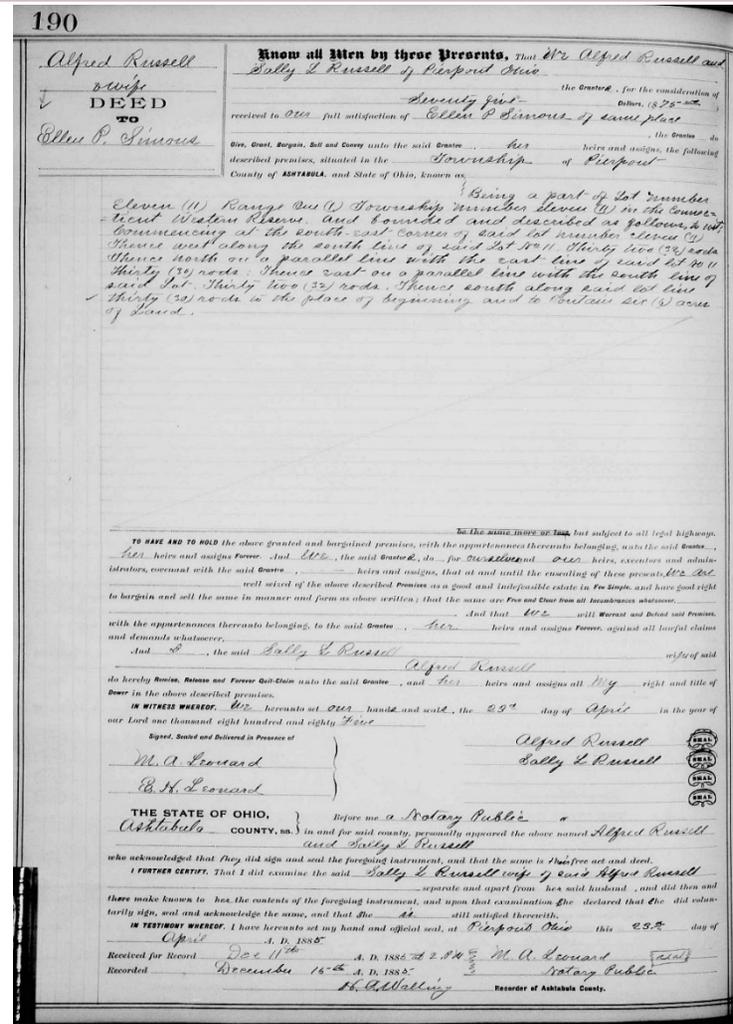
Process

1. Seller agrees to sell land to the buyer
2. Buyer pays the seller agreed upon amount
3. Deed is written
4. Seller takes deed to courthouse
5. Dower release (if necessary)
6. Clerk records deed
7. Deed given to buyer

Format

Format of a Land Record

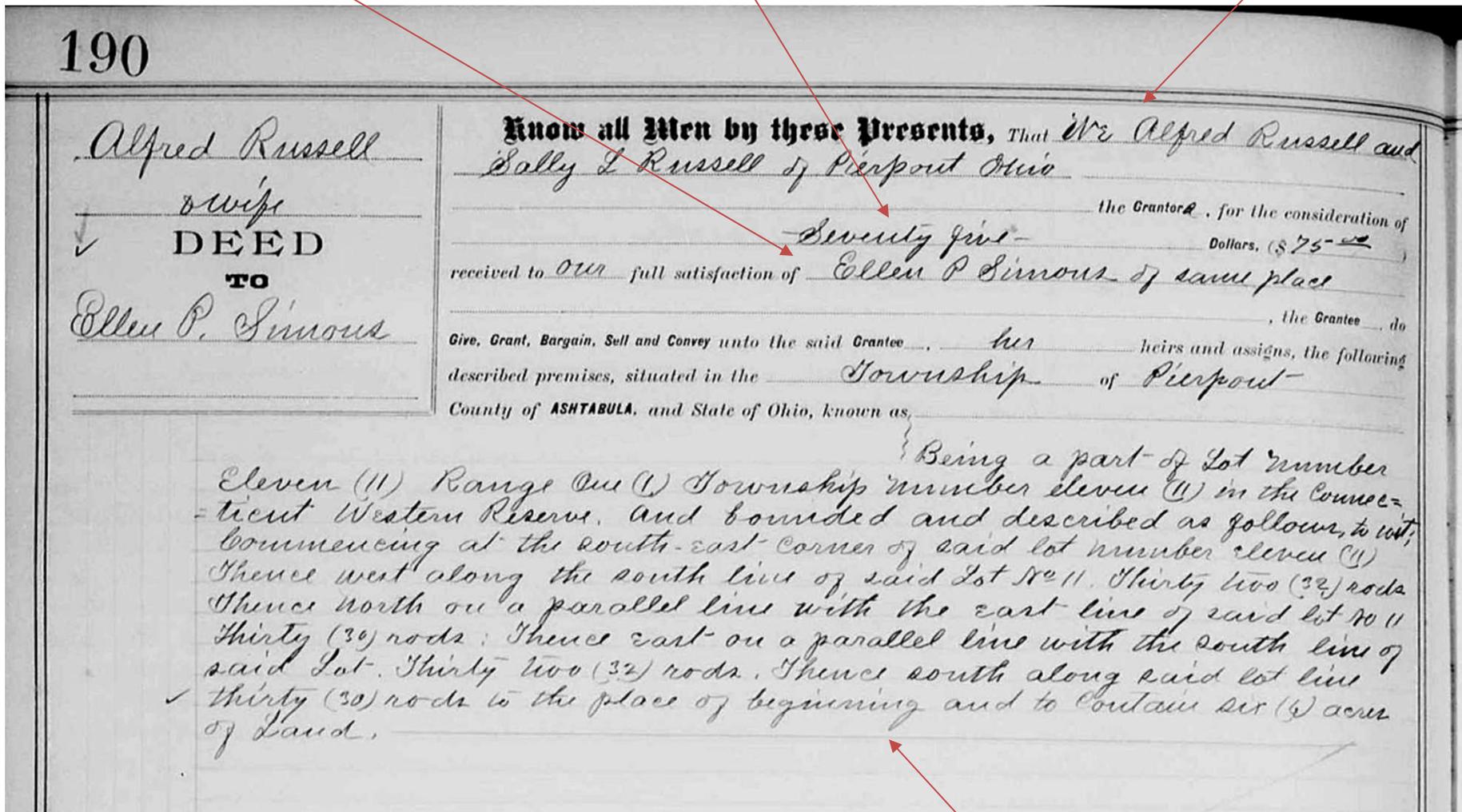
- Grantor (Seller) and Grantee (Buyer)
- Consideration (Payment)
- Property description
- Legal language
- Dates
- Witnesses



Grantee

Payment

Grantors



Ashtabula County, Ohio

Property description

Legal language

Deed date written

Witnesses

Date of Recording

~~be the same more or less~~, but subject to all legal highways.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the above granted and bargained premises, with the appurtenances therunto belonging, unto the said Grantee, her heirs and assigns Forever. And We, the said Grantor, do for ourselves and our heirs, executors and administrators, covenant with the said Grantee, her heirs and assigns, that at and until the enscaling of these presents, We are well seized of the above described Premises as a good and indefeasible estate in Fee Simple, and have good right to bargain and sell the same in manner and form as above written; that the same are Free and Clear from all Incumbrances whatsoever.

And that We will Warrant and Defend said Premises, with the appurtenances therunto belonging, to the said Grantee, her heirs and assigns Forever, against all lawful claims and demands whatsoever,

And I, the said Sally L Russell wife of said Alfred Russell

do hereby Remise, Release and Forever Quit-Claim unto the said Grantee, and her heirs and assigns all My right and title of Dower in the above described premises.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, We hereunto set our hands and seal, the 23^d day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty Five

Signed, Sealed and Delivered in Presence of

M. A. Leonard } Alfred Russell 
E. H. Leonard } Sally L Russell 



THE STATE OF OHIO, } Before me a Notary Public a
Ashtabula COUNTY, ss. } in and for said county, personally appeared the above named Alfred Russell
and Sally L Russell

who acknowledged that they did sign and seal the foregoing instrument, and that the same is their free act and deed.

I FURTHER CERTIFY, That I did examine the said Sally L Russell wife of said Alfred Russell separate and apart from her said husband, and did then and there make known to her the contents of the foregoing instrument, and upon that examination she declared that she did voluntarily sign, seal and acknowledge the same, and that she is still satisfied therewith.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and official seal, at Pierpont Ohio this 23^d day of April A. D. 1885

Received for Record Dec 11th A. D. 1885 at 2 P.M. M. A. Leonard Notary Public
Recorded December 15th A. D. 1885 H. A. Walling Recorder of Ashtabula County.

Ashtabula County, Ohio

Witnesses

- Always note the witnesses
- Can be a member of your ancestor's cluster
 - Family
 - Associates
 - Neighbors
- Always confirm identity

Genealogical Clues by Deed Section

Part of Deed	Clue
Grantor / Grantee	Kinship, Occupation
Consideration	Kinship
Residence	Prior or subsequent locations
Chain of ownership / provenance	Kinship
Dower release	Kinship
Witnesses	Kinship

Place and Time

- Important to fix a person to time
 - When did they arrive?
 - Where did they live before?
 - What is the date of the land transaction in relation to life events, e.g. births/marriages of children?
- Place and time important to finding other records

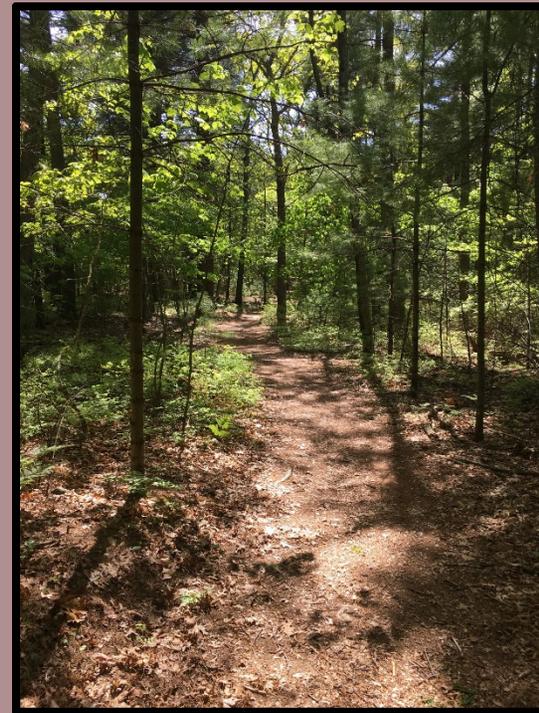


Photo by author

Jurisdiction

Date of Contract

Name and Residence of Grantor/Seller

Name and Residence of Grantee/Buyer

Price

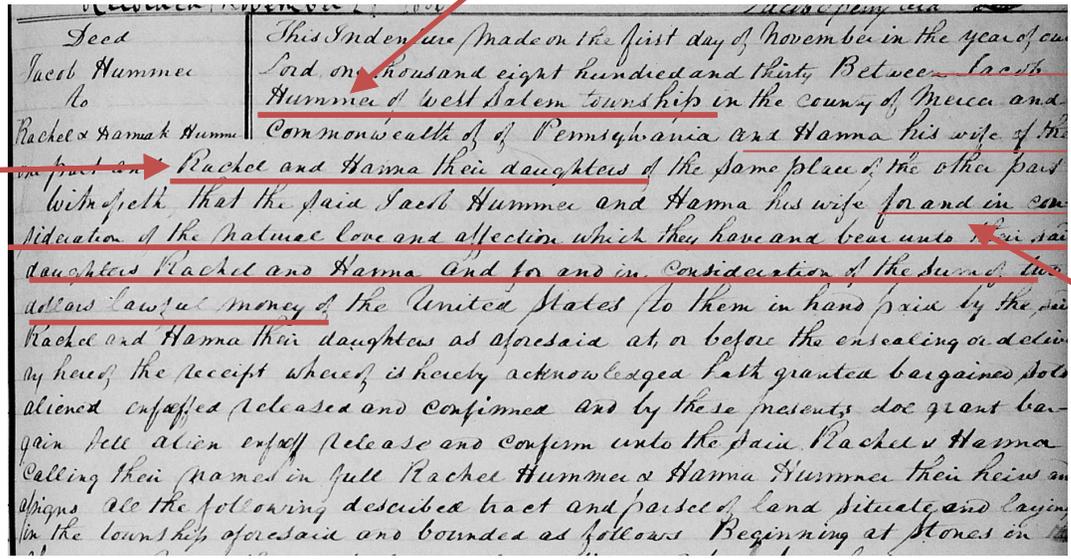
State of Georgia Warren County. This Indenture made this Sixteenth day of October in the year of our Lord One thousand Seven hundred and Ninety Eight, and twenty third of American Independence, between Samuel Allen Senr. of the County of Greenville & State of South Carolina, of the one part, and Jesse Dykes of the County of Jefferson, a State of Georgia of the other part, Witnesseth, That for and in consideration of the sum of One Hundred and twenty eight dollars & fifty cents seven and a quarter cents, to him the S^r. Samuel Allen, well & truly paid, before the sealing and delivery of these presents, the Receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, hath Granted, bargained, sold, released, conveyed and confirmed, and by these presents doth Grant, bargain, sell, release, convey and confirm, unto the S^r. Jesse Dykes his heirs and assigns, all that tract or parcel of Land, lying and being on Fox's Creek, in the County of Warren and State of Georgia, containing two Hundred acres.

Georgia, Warren County, Land Records

Deed Reveals Prior Residence

Grantor: "Between Jacob Hummer of West Salem Township. . . and Hanna his wife of the first part. . ."

Grantee: "... And Rachel and Hanna their DAUGHTERS ... of the other part"



Consideration: "... For and in consideration of the natural love and affection which they have and bear unto their said daughters. . . And for and in consideration of the sum of two dollars lawful money"

Pennsylvania, Mercer County Recorder of Deeds,
Deeds Book K1, page 445

Parent/child relationship explicitly stated

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 State of Georgia } Warren County. This Indenture made this 12th day
 of October in the year of Our Lord One thousand Seven hundred &
 Ninety Eight, and Twenty third of American Independence, between
Samuel Allen of the County of Greenville & State South Carolina
 of the one part, and James Allen of the County of Warren and
State of Georgia of the other part, Witnesseth: That for and in con-
 sideration of the Good will, which he the Said Samuel Allen bears
 to the Said James Allen, hath Granted, bargained, Sold, relinquish
 and conveyed, and by these presents do, Grant, bargain, Sell, relin-
 quish, Convey and confirm unto the Said James Allen, a certain
 tract or parcel of Land, situate, lying & being in the County a-
 fousaid, on Fox Creek, containing fifty acres, it being part of a
 survey containing two hundred acres, conveyed by Samuel Irwin
 to the Said Samuel Allen; Afterwards divided by said Samuel Allen
 into two equal parts, was conveyed by the S^d Samuel Allen to William
 Allen, (to wit the upper part) to be laid off, in the following manner
 (viz) Beginning Midway between the base corners of the line, of the Said
 2,000 acres
 (374)

Grantor: Samuel Allen of the County of Greenville and State South Carolina

Grantee: James Allen of the County of Warren and State of Georgia

Consideration: "That for and in consideration of the good will, which he the said Samuel Allen bears to the said James Allen, . . ."

Georgia, Warren County Deeds, Book

Kinship implied – Samuel Allen to James Allen

Buyer

Doth give grant bargain sell ~~and~~ release and confirm unto him the said Jacob Filler his heirs and assigns forever. All their Right of part of a tract or parcel of Land called "The resurvey on Weavers Loom" being part of said tract or parcel of Land left to Eve Crumbecker.

Origin of Land

Phillip Filler and Henry Filler as part of the heirs of Balser Filler deceased, who by his last will and Testament did Leave the aforesaid tract or parcel of Land to be sold and the money equally divided between all his the said Balser Filler's Children the said Eve Crumbecker Phillip Filler and Henry Filler being three of the heirs aforesaid do give and grant all their right title Interest property and right to the aforesaid tract or parcel of Land Beginning at the Original

Frederick County Courts,
Maryland, Deed Book

Kinship found in provenance description

Dower Release

- Wife agrees to the sale of land that included her dower rights
- Generally recorded following deed
- May be recorded as a separate transaction
- Can be recorded in separate volume
 - Sometimes with court records
- Not all states required Dower Release
 - Investigate inheritance laws of state to confirm

In: Huston Which is thus endorsed, to wit:
Frederick County To wit On the Thirtieth day of
March Eighteen hundred and ten appeared before us
two of the Justices of the peace for said County Jacob
Hummert the Grantor within mentioned, and acknow-
ledged the foregoing Instrument of writing to be his
act and deed and the two Lots or portions of Ground
with the appurtenances and other articles therein
conveyed, meant, or intended to be conveyed, to be
the right and Estate of the within named Simon
Dufhorn his heirs and assigns forever according
to the true intent and meaning thereof, and the act of
Assembly in such case made & provided
Acknowledged before Henry Williams, In: Huston.
State of Maryland Frederick County (to wit) on the
second day of April Eighteen hundred and ten came
Annah wife of the said Jacob Hummer and being
by us Examined apart and out of the hearing of
her said husband did freely relinquish all her right
title and Claim of Dower of in and to the two Lots
or portions of Ground to the said Simon Dufhorn
and declared she did the same of her own free will and
consent without being induced or compelled thereto by
any threats of or ill usage from her said husband
or for fear of his Displeasure,
Acknowledged Before Henry Williams, In: Huston

Dower
Release

Frederick County Courts, Maryland,
Deed Book WR 36 pp 655-657

Frederick County Maryland –
Jacob Homer

Abstracting

What is Important?

- Grantor
- Grantee
- Residences of Grantor and Grantee
- Volume and Page
- Location of the property
- Description of the property
- Abutters
- Acreage
- Witnesses
- Dates

Exam. and Delivered to Joseph Ogle on 10 January 1787. At the Request of Joseph Ogle the following Deed was recorded 5 February 1785 to wit

This Indenture made this twentieth day of January in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty five Between Jacob Hummer of Frederick County and State of Maryland of the one Part: and Joseph Ogle of the same place of the other Part Witnesseth that Jacob Hummer for and in consideration of the Sum of fifty Pounds Common Current Money to him in Hand paid before the sealing and delivery of these presents the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged he the said Jacob Hummer hath granted bargained and sold and by these presents doth grant bargain and sell unto the said Joseph Ogle his heirs and assigns All that Tract or Parcel of Land being Part of the Resurvey or Parcel Beginning at the end of four Perches on the south Course of said Land and running thence North eighty degrees West seventy Perches North twenty six degrees East forty eight feet South seventy two degrees East thirty eight Perches East seven Perches then with a straight Line to the Beginning containing thirteen Acres of Land more or less together with their rights Commodities Advantages Hereditaments and Appurtenances whatsoever to the said Land above described belonging or in anywise appertaining and the Reversion and Reversions Remainder and Remainders Rent Issues and Profits of the said Premises, and of every Part and Parcel thereof, and all the Estate right Title Interest Claim and Demand whatsoever which the said Jacob Hummer of in and to the said Land above described and Premises and every Part

Date Recorded

Date Made

Grantor

Grantee

Parcel

Consideration

Acreage

Ogle to Hummer, Frederick County, MD 1785 – page 307

FREDERICK COUNTY COURT (Land Records) WR 5, p. 0307, MSA_CE108_25. Date available 04/05/2006. Printed 02/14/2023.

308.
 and parcel thereof To have and to hold the said Land and Premises
 above mentioned and every part and parcel thereof with the Appurtenances
 unto the said Joseph Ogle his Heirs and Assigns to the only proper Use
 and Behoof of the said Joseph Ogle his Heirs and Assigns forever. And
 the said Jacob Hummer for himself and his Heirs the said Land and
 Premises above mentioned and every part thereof against him and his
 Heirs and against all, and every other Person and Persons whatsoever
 to the said Joseph Ogle his Heirs and Assigns shall and will warrant
 and forever defend by these presents. In Witness whereof the said
 Jacob Hummer hereunto set his Hand and affixed his Seal the day
 and Year first within written *Jacob ^{his} Hummer Seal*
 Signed sealed and delivered *M. Harrison*
 in the presence of *M. Magruder*

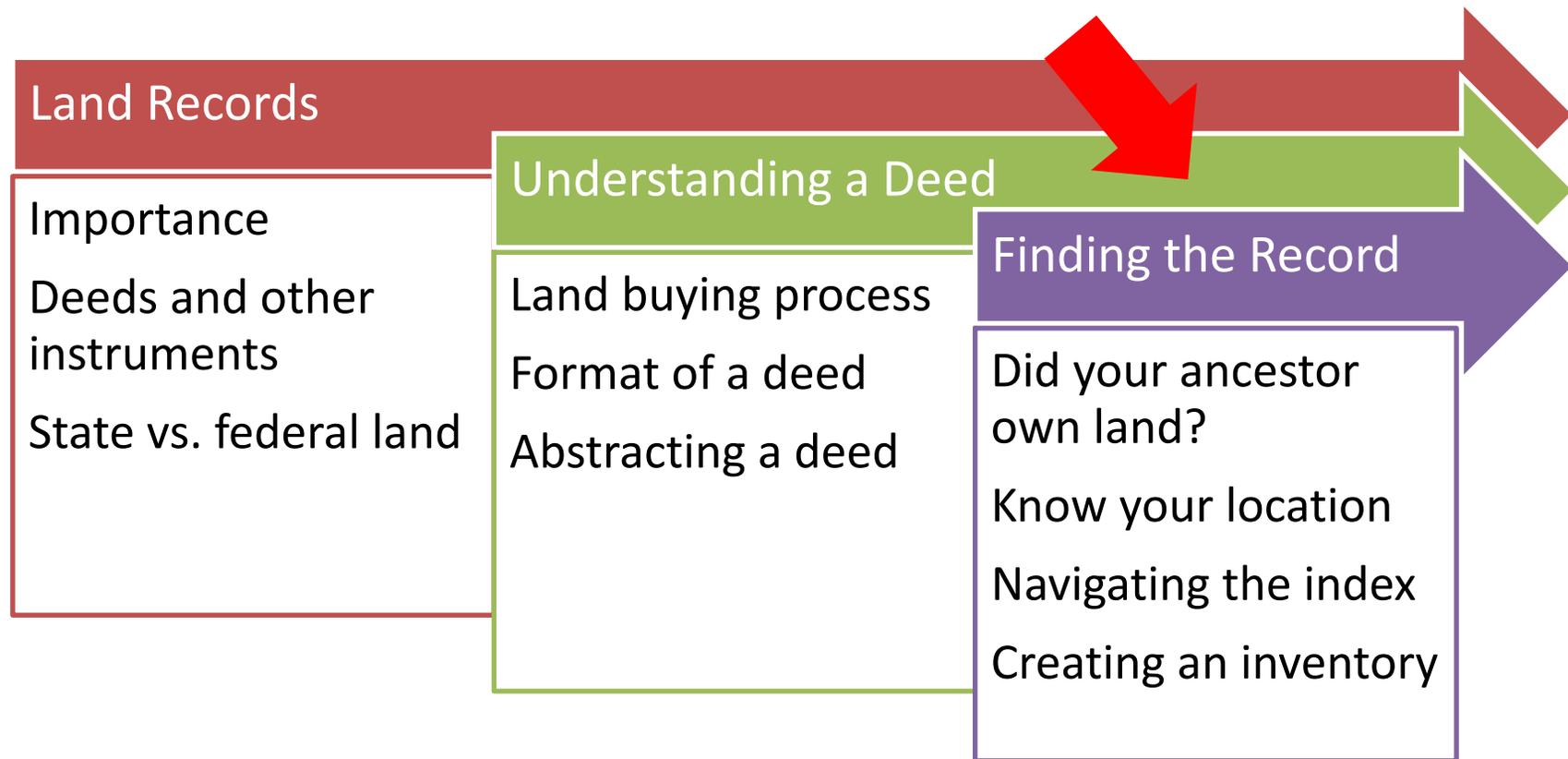
Ogle to Hummer, Frederick County, MD 1785 – page 308

Land Abstract Form – Date: February 15, 2023

FHL Film (or Registry Name) <u>MDLandRec</u>		Image FREDERICK COUNTY COURT (Land Records) WR 5, p. 0307, MSA_CE108_25. Date available 04/05/2006. Printed 02/14/2023.	
County and State Frederick County, Maryland		Book and Page # WR 5, pages 307 and 308	
Grantor (name, residence) Joseph Ogle, Frederick County, MD		Grantee (name, residence) Jacob Hummer, Frederick County, MD	
Type of Instrument X Deed <input type="checkbox"/> Mortgage <input type="checkbox"/> Patent/Grant <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)			
Date of Acknowledgment 20 January 1785	Date recorded: 5 February 1785	Consideration: 50 pounds "Common Current Money"	
Acreage 13 acres			
Description of property including pertinent physical features, e.g. water courses Part of Resurvey on Peace, Beginning at the end of four perches on the south course of said land and running thence north eighty degrees west seventy perches north <u>twenty six</u> degrees east forty eight perches south seventy two degrees east thirty eight perches east seven perches then with a straight line to the beginning.			
Neighbors None mentioned			
Witnesses John Harrison and William Magruder			
Dower release (name of wife)	Homestead release	Other release	
Other Information			

Abstracted Data

Session Roadmap



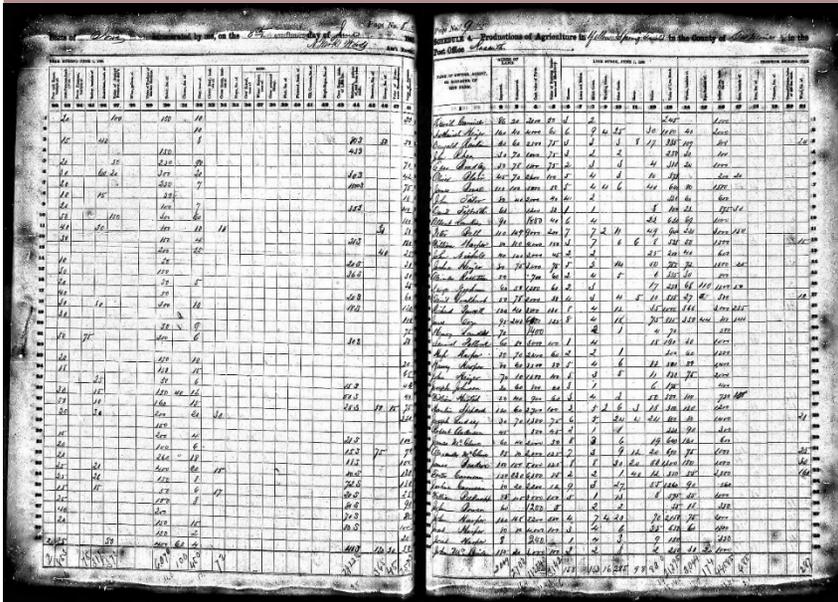
Did Your Ancestor Own Land?

Use the Census for Clues of Land Ownership

- Value of real estate owned
 - 1850, 1860 and 1870, **but not 1880**
- Owned or rented home or farm
 - 1900, 1910, 1920 and 1930
- Value of home, if owned
 - 1930, 1940

Name	Sex	Age	Color	Value of Real Estate	Home or Farm
George	M	1.00	W		R
Stephen	M	2.00	W		R
Samuel	M	3.00	W		R
George	M	4.00	W		R
1850 1870 Samuel Wells	M	12.00	W	1000	R
Samuel	M	13.00	W		R
George	M	14.00	W		R
Henry	M	15.00	W		R
Samuel	M	16.00	W		R
John	M	17.00	W		R
1850 1870 Robert Smith	M	25.00	W	1000	R
William	M	18.00	W		R
Stephen	M	19.00	W		R
Samuel	M	20.00	W		R
1850 1870 John Smith	M	21.00	W	1000	R
Samuel	M	22.00	W		R
Samuel	M	23.00	W		R
1850 1870 Robert	M	24.00	W	1000	R
Samuel	M	25.00	W		R
Samuel	M	26.00	W		R
1850 1870 Elizabeth Cummings	F	15.00	W		R
John Dagg	M	27.00	W		R
Robert	M	28.00	W		R
Samuel Duff	M	29.00	W		R
John	M	30.00	W		R
John	M	31.00	W		R
1850 1870 George King	M	32.00	W	1000	R
John	M	33.00	W		R
William	M	34.00	W		R
John	M	35.00	W		R
George	M	36.00	W		R
Samuel	M	37.00	W		R
John	M	38.00	W		R
1850 1870 John B. Bell	M	39.00	W	1000	R
Samuel	M	40.00	W		R
Elizabeth	F	41.00	W		R
John	M	42.00	W		R
Samuel	M	43.00	W		R

Farming as a Clue to Land Ownership



- Check occupation given on census
- Check the accompanying Agricultural Schedule for years 1850-1880
 - Amount of land owned
- Go to Ancestry.com – “Selected U.S. Federal Census Non-Population Schedules, 1850-1880”

Finding a Deed

First Steps

1. Establish location and timeframe
 - i. Where did they live?
 - ii. When did they live there?
2. Understand jurisdiction
 - i. Parent or daughter county?
3. What is available?

Where and When

- Use census, tax, vital records, and maps to place your ancestor in a particular **place** at a particular **time**



Construct a Timeline

Residences of Lewis Smith

Year	Source	Residence
1828	Birth Record of son, Manley Smith	East Thomaston, Maine
1833	Birth record of son, Elliott Smith	Thomaston, Maine
1840	US Federal Census	Thomaston, Maine
1850	US Federal Census	Worcester, Massachusetts
1860	US Federal Census	Worcester, Massachusetts

Jurisdiction

- Use guides and gazetteers to identify correct jurisdiction
- When was the county created?
 - FamilySearch Wiki
 - Atlas of Historical County Boundaries
 - <https://digital.newberry.org/ahcb/>

ATLAS OF HISTORICAL COUNTY BOUNDARIES

The Newberry Library Dr. William M. Scholl Center for American History and Culture

Select a state... Go

- Home
- Using the Atlas
- Download Files
- About the Project
- Publications

North Carolina

[Back to North Carolina detail page](#)

Historical Borders

Select Date of Border Change:

- 1740-08-20
- 1750-03-17
- 1751-06-12
- 1752-03-31
- 1753-03-27
- 1754-02-19
- 1754-04-08
- 1756-09-01
- 1756-09-25**
- 1757-11-01
- 1759-01-01
- 1759-04-10

County/Region:
GRANVILLE

Effective Dates:
Tue Aug 31 1756 - Fri Jun 08 1764

Description of Border Change:
[c. 1 Sep 1756] GRANVILLE re-created by the legislature in response to the Crown Instructions of 1 Jul 1755 (authorizing reenactment of the creations repealed on 8 Apr 1754).

Leaflet | © OpenStreetMap contributors, © C

digital.newberry.org/ahcb/

Where are they located?

- County land records
 - Located at Register of Deeds or County Court House
 - Corresponding websites
 - FamilySearch.org
 - Published abstracts and transcriptions

William Francis Galvin

Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts



Home | Contact | Directions

Why Should I Refinance And When Does it Pay to Do So?



The Secretary of the Commonwealth would like to welcome you to the Massachusetts Land Records website. This site provides you with quick access to land records across the State. For questions regarding use of the site, searching of particular documents, or general questions about Registry policies, please contact the specific Registry of Deeds directly. For technical assistance with troubleshooting access to the site, contact us at the [Secretary's office](#).



Massachusetts is divided into 21 registry districts with an elected Register of Deeds responsible for each office. Documents related to the ownership of real estate within the district are recorded at the Registry of Deeds. Recorded documents are assigned a sequential identifying number (known as the book and page number) and are then scanned into the registry's computer system. The resulting images are available for viewing on and printing from public access terminals at the registry and at your home or office over the Internet. In addition, all registries microfilm all recorded documents and most continue to produce record books containing document images on paper. In most cases, original documents are returned to the land owner. To assist customers in finding relevant documents, registries create a searchable index that contains the names of all parties to a document and the property address.

For more information, visit Secretary of the Commonwealth William Galvin's website <http://www.state.ma.us/sec/> or the County Home page of the registry that interests you.

Masslandrecords.com

Understanding the Index

Navigating the Index

- Indexing types vary by jurisdiction
- Common indexes
 - Alphabetical – often divided into Grantor and Grantee or Direct/Indirect
 - Cott – first two (or more) letters of surname
 - Campbell – alphabetical by first name (surnames grouped into books)
 - Russell Key Index
- Tips for using
 - Introductory pages to a record or a book might explain how the index is arranged and provide a key to abbreviations used.
 - Check all possible spelling variations.
 - Expect indexing errors to occur.

Some States Have Indexed Land Records



Family Tree Search Memories Get Involved Activities

📍 🌐 ? 💬 🔔 A A Lawthers

United States, New York Land Records, 1630-1975

Land and property records from the New York Land Office and county courthouses. The records include land grants, patents, deeds, and mortgages. This collection includes all counties except Franklin, Nassau, and Queens. Researchers, please note that the Oneida County records will be found with the Herkimer County records.

 HOW TO USE THIS COLLECTION

BROWSE ALL 8,129,310 IMAGES

First Names

Last Names

Place

City, County, State, Province, or Country

Year

Birth or Death Year

Other Indexes

- Grantor – Seller's Index
 - Forward
 - Direct
- Grantee – Purchaser's Index
 - Reverse
 - Indirect

1796 to 1800 AD

231

To	To	Book A	From	From
Harden Mark	To Martin	2	Hartuck Nich ^d	Frank Burtchaller 141
Keill Benjamin	" John Fox	5	Harden Henry	" Benj Braswell 170
Kapdo P Shiff	" B Johnson	8	Hutchinson Jan	" Burtchallers 232
Keill France	" delk of Probate	10	Hodley Ambrose	" Lewis Brantley 318
Keill Sarah	" Adm ^r of Joshua Hill	28	Keill Joseph	" George Brewer 319
Kickman Theophilus	" John Kuehin	29	Hearman John	" Sol ^r Barefield 444
Keardaway John	" John Glass	95	Keillhouse David	" Nat ^r Lrats 263
Keelton Abram	" Mrs Berenshaw	101	Keip John	" Rich ^d Eastberry 280
Keannah Thos	" Mrs E Hadden	137	Keenderson James	" Josiah Carter 307
Kearvey Jas & wife	" John Reese	146	Keatley Henry	" David Beck 575
Keolliman David	" Willis Perry	152	Keill W ^m	" Joseph Larson 574
" Sam ^l	" " "	160	Keill Mountain J	Armstrong Farm 208
Keillhouse David	" John Baker	187	Dougherty & Loman	337
Keoge William	" W ^m Berry	202	Keardin Henry	" Jno Davenport 338
Keardin Mark	" John Gibson	258	" " "	Benj Few 39
Keill John	" Howell Hight	278	Hutchinson J	" Sarah Goldmin 142
Keull John	" Byrd Pruitt	283	Keath Richard	" Henry Green 167
Keill Moses	" Jesse Ricketson	315	Keurt Elisha	" Henry " 538
Keall Dixon	" James Rogers	316	Keowell Sam	" Moses Hoing & wife 566
Keoward Rhesa	" Henry Hight	317	Keardin Henry	" George et al 4

Georgia Land Index – Family Search

GENERAL INDEX,

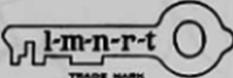
A		B		C		D		E		F		G		H		I J		K		L	
Given Name	Page																				
A..B..	1	A..B..	11	A..D..	39	A..B..	61	A..B..	73	A..B..	83	A..B..	94	A..B..	105	A..B..	125	A..B..	135	A..B..	146
C..D..	2	C..D..	14	C..D..	41	C..D..	62	C..D..	74	C..D..	84	C..D..	95	C..D..	107	C..D..	126	C..D..	136	C..D..	147
E..F..	3	E..F..	17	E..F..	43	E..F..	63	E..F..	75	E..F..	85	E..F..	96	E..F..	109	E..F..	127	E..F..	137	E..F..	148
G..H..	4	G..H..	20	G..H..	45	G..H..	64	G..H..	76	G..H..	86	G..H..	97	G..H..	111	G..H..	128	G..H..	138	G..H..	148
J..Jo.	5	J..Jo.	23	J..Jo.	47	J..Jo.	66	J..Jo.	77	J..Jo.	87	J..Jo.	98	J..Jo.	113	J..Jo.	129	J..Jo.	139	J..Jo.	150
KL..M..	6	KL..M..	28	KL..M..	51	KL..M..	67	KL..M..	78	KL..M..	89	KL..M..	100	KL..M..	117	KL..M..	130	KL..M..	141	KL..M..	152
NO..PQ.	7	NO..PQ.	31	NO..PQ.	53	NO..PQ.	68	NO..PQ.	79	NO..PQ.	90	NO..PQ.	101	NO..PQ.	119	NO..PQ.	131	NO..PQ.	142	NO..PQ.	153
R..S..	8	R..S..	32	R..S..	54	R..S..	70	R..S..	80	R..S..	91	R..S..	102	R..S..	120	R..S..	132	R..S..	143	R..S..	154
T..UV.	9	T..UV.	35	T..UV.	56	T..UV.	71	T..UV.	82	T..UV.	92	T..UV.	103	T..UV.	122	T..UV.	133	T..UV.	144	T..UV.	155
W..YZ.	10	W..YZ.	36	W..YZ.	57	W..YZ.	72	W..YZ.	81	W..YZ.	93	W..YZ.	104	W..YZ.	123	W..YZ.	134	W..YZ.	145	W..YZ.	156

TO FIND NAMES BY THIS INDEX TABLE (Find FIRST LETTER of SURNAME, which are listed in alphabetical order at top of Column Divisions in large type. In the same column, underneath, find initial letter of the GIVEN NAME, and the figure following indicates the page on which the name should be found. Total list printed name of Association, Corporation, or Firm Name, or Surname, and second principal word in Given Name.)

Instrument No.	WHEN FILED					GRANTEE	GRANTOR	Instrument	Where Recorded Book	Page	Date of Testame	
	Month	Day	Year	A. M.	P. M.							
50005	Nov	22	1911			Adams Arthur	Alexander W. Hornsbery	W.D.	22	224	Nov 23 1910	
50207	Feb	10		11 ³⁰		Albania Mtg & Investment Co	William D. Washburn	Mtg	P	117	Nov 1	
50223		14			11	Anderson Arthur	Mais Anderson		D	424	Dec 31	
50-96	Mar	20			3	Allard Alfred	U.S.	Pat	23	324	Sep 26	
50327		27			3	Anders Albert				22	221	Feb 4 1915
50332	Apr	21			4 ³⁰	Adams Arthur	Edw. Adams	W.D.	55	205		
5091	May				1	Salts Lino	Victor Kunda	Mtg	U	224	Apr 27	
5092					5	Lavance Hanna	Fredrick W. Martin	W.D.	89	254	Nov	
50951		7			10 ³⁰	Anderson Albert	Ernest W. Sawyer	W.D.	46	266	Oct 9	
50972		8			1 ³⁰	Salts Lino	Victor Kunda	Mtg	U	225	May 9	
5107						Salts Lino	Saad Kunda		U	226	Apr 27	
51040		11			11	Alton Lino	Wassukub G.	W.D.	31	420	May 2	
51051	July	20			10 ³⁰	Anderson Albert	Alexander McFarren	W.D.	26	447	Apr 20	
51063		7			11	Dep Albert	Anna Johnson	W.D.	33	396		
51081	Aug	9			9 ³⁰	Anderson Anna	James W. Mather	W.D.	62	150		
51087					1 ³⁰		W.D. M. Donaldson	W.D.	57	100	July 27	
51136		21			9 ³⁰	Anderson Andrew	Frank J. DeGrandpre	W.D.	X	474	Aug 11	
51104	Sept	8			11	Adamovich Andrew	Geo. A. Fisher, Martin Hughes	W.D.	26	571	Jan 17 1911	
52223	Oct	13			10 ³⁰	Archambo Augustus	Fred M. Baggett			33	429	Oct 11
52310		24			10 ³⁰	Anderson Alice	U.S.	Pat	67	36	June 26	
52335		27			2 ³⁰	Anderson Emma	Andrew Kapp	W.D.	37	195	Dec 30	
52396	Nov	30			10 ³⁰	Anderson Bert	Kovy Co			58	117	Jan 15 1913
52347										58	118	Oct 7
52417	Dec	20			10 ³⁰	Wagen Andrew	Lina Wagen	W.D.	30	136	Dec 3 1911	
5250		1			10 ³⁰	Wetzel Alice	Sturbaum	W.D.	57	179	Jan 22 1911	
52995	Apr	24			9	Wbaugh Alice	W. H. Stillmacher	W.D.	6	221	Apr 10 1912	
54540	June	2			10 ³⁰	Wland Carl	Wm. W. Otter	W.D.	20	358	June 3	
5-207		21			10 ³⁰	Anderson Andrew	Ernest P. Robinson	W.D.	46	374		

Cott Key Index

Form 417



TRADE MARK

TO LOCATE NAMES IN INDEX

Determine first Key-letter following initial letter in Family Name. Find section number in the column headed by said Key-letter, opposite given name initial desired. Names not containing a Key-letter will be located under "Misc." Corporations, etc., will be located under the first Key-letter following the initial letter in the first word of the name, or if no Key-letter, under "Misc." Always omit the article "The."

Given Name Initials	Key Letters and Section Numbers					
	l	m	n	r	t	Misc.
A	11	12	13	14	15	16
B	21	22	23	24	25	26
C	31	32	33	34	35	36
D	41	42	43	44	45	46
E	51	52	53	54	55	56
F	61	62	63	64	65	66
G	71	72	73	74	75	76
HI	81	82	83	84	85	86
J	91	92	93	94	95	96
KL	101	102	103	104	105	106
M	111	112	113	114	115	116
NO	121	122	123	124	125	126
PQ	131	132	133	134	135	136
R	141	142	143	144	145	146
S	151	152	153	154	155	156
TUV	161	162	163	164	165	166
WXYZ	171	172	173	174	175	176
Corp., Etc.	181	182	183	184	185	186

Patented and Patents Pending RUSSELL INDEX COMPANY, PITTSBURGH, PA.

Form 702

NOTICE—All firm or corporate names beginning with the name of an individual are indexed according to the surname of the individual. Example: "George Washington Fire Insurance Co." indexed as "Washington, George, Fire Insurance Co." under "Corps., Etc."

Pennsylvania Russell Index-Key

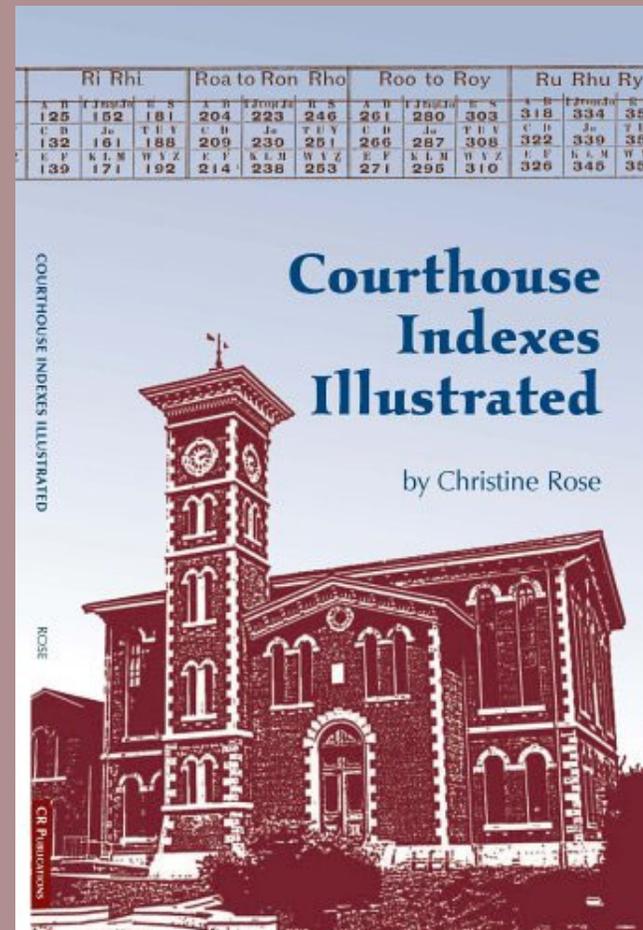
GRANTOR		INDEX		11 1	
All Names contained in this section are arranged in these columns. The number following a name indicates the page of this section where all entries of that name may be found.					
L	Allison	4	Althausen	9	
Alde	1 Allister	4	Applegate	9	
Alex	1 Alexander	4			
Allebach	1 L R				
Alabugh	1 Alger	7			
Albough	1 Alcorn	7			
Alabugh	1 Alber	8			
Alabach	1 Albrecht	8			
Alabough	1 Albrecht	8			
Alabini	2 Alery	8			
Appleby	2 Aylworth	8			
Applebee	2 Aigle	9			
Auml	2 Axland	9			
Ackloy	2 Adelberger	9			
L K	Auleberger	9			
Adriann	2 L T				
L N	Ault	9			
Allen	2 Alter	9			
Allin	2 Alston	9			
Aisen-s	4 Aitken	9			

GRANTOR	GRANTEE	Warrent No. Map	Year of Exp.	Date of Record Month Day Year	ARLA Kind of Inst. or Location
Alde	Alonso W John McKissick	61	1962	1970 Dec 13 1970	P of A
Alex	Amilia con J H Falton	389	175	1822 Nov 22 1822	Oil City W pt L 235
Alabugh	Anna con Angeline Fownell	Q	65	1858 Dec 4 1858	Hickory pt Tr 3690
Allebach	A W al P H Miller	al	T 133	1861 Mar 27 1861	Compl
Allebach (or)	A W al R C Glyde	FF	263	1864 Nov 3 1864	Lease-Compl-On A river
Albough	Anna al Silas Wolcott	II	290	1864 Jan 2 1865	P of A
Alabach	A W al Wa S Lane & True	al	KK 221	1864 Jan 12 1865	Acquit-Compl
Alabach	Aaron W al Wa S Lane & True	al	KK 221	1864 Jan 12 1865	Compl 1 A 40 P
Albough	Ann al T B Clark	OO	414	1865 May 11 1865	Hickory 101 A & P
Alabough	Aaron By Treas J N Bredin	Treas	2 400	Jan 28 1869	Compl 100 A
Alabach	Aaron By Treas David Sterrett	Treas	3 76	Oct 27 1870	Compl 100 P
Alabach	A W Jacob F Benn	96	13	1873 Sep 3 1873	Oil City L 106 to 111 incl
Alabach	A W Jacob F Benn	al	101 138	1874 Dec 30 1874	Oil City L 672 pt 689
Alabach	A W ux Christian Rees	107	197	1877 Mar 22 1877	Oil City 3 Wd L 108-109-110-111
Alabough	Aaron W ux John S Klein	127	238	1881 Feb 19 1881	Oil City 3 Wd L 5-6-7-8
Alabough	Aaron W O W Kline	126	106	1883 Jan 9 1883	Oil City L 386-390-388
Alabough	Aaron V al J S Shearer Trus	136	345	1883 Jan 16 1883	(1st of Acquit-Oil City L 672-673-674-688-3-2299 pt 689-RL Co Corpl (Und & 72 A 1400 Shares of Stock

Russell Index - Page

Indexes Explained

- Christine Rose, *Courthouse Indexes Illustrated* (San Jose: CR Publications 2006)
- Family Search Research Wiki – “United States Index Systems”
- Kimberley Powell, “Navigate Courthouse Indexes like a Pro,” NGS Magazine, Vol 44, page 38



Grantor

Grantee

Volume and Page

80 1870-1880 Classified and Descriptive Grantors Index.					Middlesex Registry of Deeds.—Southern District.		81
DATE OF RECEPTION. Year. Month. Day.	GRANTORS.	GRANTEES.	Book.	Page.	City or Town where the Lands lie.	DESCRIPTION.	
1875 May 1	<i>Gibbons & Board.</i> William Mitau	Edward S. Bigelow	1347	17	Marlborough	Franklin St. Catharine Loomis lot	
	"	Affidant of Sale	"	18		Aff. of Sale 1166-209	
	"	Edward S. Bigelow	"	19	Marlborough	Franklin St. Ad. Fay 1319-534	
27	" Mitau	Doris Blanchette	1350	446	"	Lithon St., Lot 9, Ch. S. Bigelow, Oct. 7, 1870 = Gibbons & Board Sts., Lot 11, 2d Pl. Allan D. Board lot.	
	"	Affidant of Sale	"	448		Aff. of Sale 1135-421	
June 25	"	Lawrence Cary	1357	359	Marlborough	Lithon St., Lot 12, Ch. W. Gibbons lot, S. Bigelow, Oct. 7, 1870 With st. in Sts. to Main St.	
Aug. 13	" Mitau	Edward S. Bigelow	1361	331	"	Main & Broad Sts. Abner Parmenter lot.	
	"	Affidant of Sale	"	332		Aff. of Sale 1217-588	
1876 Mar. 31	"	Edward Farns	1389	121		Deeds Mort. 1187-38	
Apr. 11	"	Ernest Doyle	"	460		" " 1155-208	
May 21	"	Doris Blanchette	1393	540		" " 1350-454	
Aug. 12	"	Matthew O'Keefe	1406	496	Marlborough	Lithon St., Lot 5, Ch. W. Gibbons lot, S. Bigelow, Oct. 7, 1870	
Nov. 27	"	Joseph Boyd	1418	550		Deeds Mort. 1135-419	

Date of Recording

Property Description

Grantor (Direct) Index – Middlesex Co., MA

Grantee

Grantor

Volume and Page

112 1881-1890 Classified and Descriptive Grantees Index				Middlesex Registry of Deeds.-Southern District. 113			
DATE OF RECEPTION. Year. Month. Day.		GRANTEES.	GRANTORS.	Book.	Page.	City or Town where the Lands lie.	DESCRIPTION.
		<i>Van Voorhis contd.</i>					
1881	Dec. 21	Henry W.	William Ham Est.	1586	440		Possn. Mort. 1220-543
1882	June 6	" "	" " "	1600	600		" " 1220-543
	13	" "	James Grant	1602	223	Stonham	Central St, Pt. Lot 20, Pl. "Farm Hill Est." Shedd & Edson, Jan. 1, 1864. Mort.
	Aug. 26	" "	Thaddeus Richardson	1609	62	"	Farm Hill Rd. 2 pcs.
	Nov. 14	" " Jr.	William H. Nash	1615	431	Everett	Chelsea St., Lot 5, Pl. B. 25 P. 14 Mort.
1883	July 28	" " +al.	John W. Sinclair	1640	61	Malden	Salem St. Mort.
	Oct. 23	" " Jr.	John B. Hall + w. + al.	1647	291	Everett	Main St.
		" " "	D. Oakes Clark	"	393	"	" " Mort.
1884	July 16	" " +al.	Mary A. Tirrell	1673	461	"	Bow St. Par. Bel. Mort. 1514-331
1886	Mar. 18	" " "	Agreement	1740	434	"	Lots 19 + 20, Pl. H. W. + J. C. Van Voorhis Est., July 1875
	May 21	" " Exor. + Tr.'s assigns	Charles Eastham + al.	1750	192		Lots described in Bond to John Eastham + al. to ...

Date of Recording

Property Description

Grantee (Indirect) Index – Middlesex Co., MA

Record books of the registry of deeds, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, 1649-1900; indexes: grantee (1639-1905) and grantor (1639-1950)

Add to Print List

Authors:	Middlesex County (Massachusetts). Register of Deeds (Main Author) Middlesex County (Massachusetts). Register of Deeds (Repository)
Format:	Manuscript/Manuscript on Film
Language:	English
Publication:	Cambridge, England : [s.n.], 1965-1966
Physical:	1780 microfilm reels ; 35 mm.

Notes

Massachusetts Land Records are available online, click [here](#).

Microfilm of manuscript.

These registries of deeds are of the Southern District.

Includes index.

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

Subjects

Locality Subjects

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

FamilySearch.org

Subjects

Locality Subjects

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

Film/Digital Notes

Note	Location	Collection/Shelf	Film	DGS	Format
Deeds, vol. 1543-1544	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	498017	7442938	
Deeds, vol. 1545-1547	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	498018	7442939	
Deeds, vol. 1548-1550	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	498019	7442940	
Deeds, vol. 1551-1553	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	498020	7442941	
Deeds, vol. 1554-1555	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	498021	7442942	
Deeds, vol. 1556-1558	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	498022	7442943	
Deeds, vol. 1559-1561	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	498023	7442944	
Deeds, vol. 1562-1564	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	498024	7442945	
Deeds, vol. 1565-1566	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	498025	7442946	
Deeds, vol. 1567-1569	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	498026	7442947	
Deeds, vol. 1570-1572	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	498027	7442948	
Deeds, vol. 1573-1574	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	498028	7442949	
Deeds, vol. 1575-1576	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	498029	7442950	
Deeds, vol. 1577-1579	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	498030	7442951	
Deeds, vol. 1580-1581	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	498031	7442952	
Deeds, vol. 1582-1584	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	498032	7442953	
Deeds, vol. 1585-1586	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	498033	7442954	
Deeds, vol. 1587-1589	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	498034	7442955	
Deeds, vol. 1590-1592	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	498035	7442956	

1586
 mortgage, for the purpose, by him declared, of foreclosing said mortgage for breach of the condition thereof. Albert W. Lewis, of Horace Green - Commonwealth of Massachusetts Middlesex ss December 20th 1881. Then personally appeared the above named Albert W. Lewis and J. Horace Green and made oath that the above certificate by them subscribed is true. Before me, Silas Dean Justice of the Peace.
 Middlesex ss Dec. 21st 1881 Recd & Recorded.
 Attest Chas B James Reg

William Ham's Est.
 to
 Van Voorhis

We hereby certify that on the twentieth day of December in the year one thousand eight hundred and eighty, we were present and saw Henry W. Van Voorhis the assignee of the mortgage named in a certain mortgage given by William Ham to William J. Stevens, Thaddeus Richardson and Henry W. Van Voorhis dated July 18, A.D. 1872, and recorded in Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds, Libers 1220, Folio 543, make an open, peaceable, and unopposed entry on the premises described in said mortgage, for the purpose, by him declared, of foreclosing said mortgage for breach of the condition thereof. Albert W. Lewis, of Horace Green - Commonwealth of Massachusetts Middlesex ss December 20th 1881. Then personally appeared the above named Albert W. Lewis and J. Horace Green and made oath that the above certificate by them subscribed is true. Before me, Silas Dean Justice of the Peace.
 Middlesex ss Dec. 21st 1881 Recd & Recorded.
 Attest Chas B James Reg

Know all Men by these Presents that I Charles Pishy of Groton in the County of Middlesex and Commonwealth of Massachusetts in consideration of five hundred dollars paid by Edgar H. Clapp of Medham in the County of Norfolk and said Commonwealth the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, do hereby give grant, bargain, sell and convey unto the said Edgar H. Clapp his heirs and assigns forever a certain parcel of land with the buildings thereon situated in the westerly part of Groton on the northerly side of the road leading from Shirley to Groton Center and bounded as follows viz: Beginning at the southwest corner by the land of Horace Pattee thence westerly by said Shirley Road about (138) one hundred and thirty eight feet to stake and stone thence northerly by land of Granville S. Shepley in a straight line with two pine trees about (185) one hundred and eighty five feet to stake and stone by land of Mrs William H. Sedley thence westerly by land of said Mrs Sedley about (138) one hundred and thirty eight feet to land of Horace Pattee thence southerly by land of said Pattee about (185) one hundred and eighty five feet to point of beginning. To Have and To Hold the granted premises, with all the privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging, to the said Edgar H. Clapp and his heirs and assigns, to their own use and behoof forever. And I hereby for myself and my heirs, executors and administrators covenant with the grantee and his heirs and assigns

Middlesex, D. 1922, P. 102

[eI
Survey the deeds
before diving in

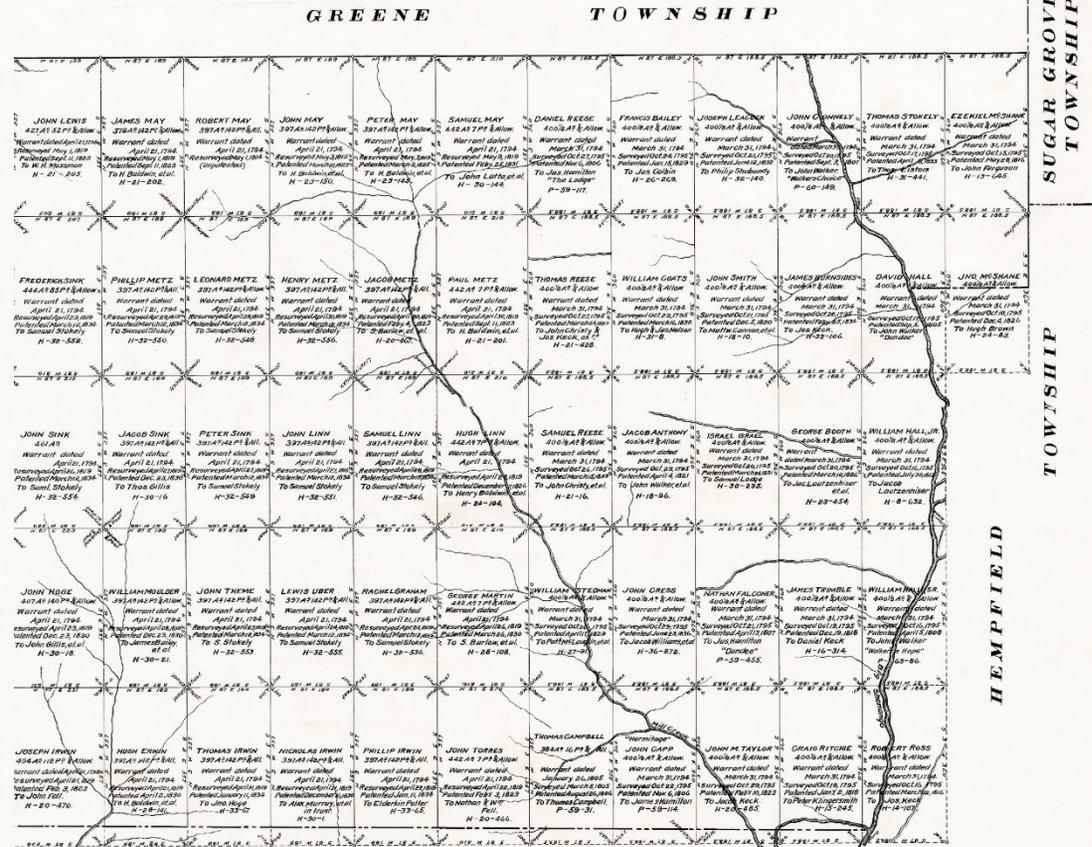
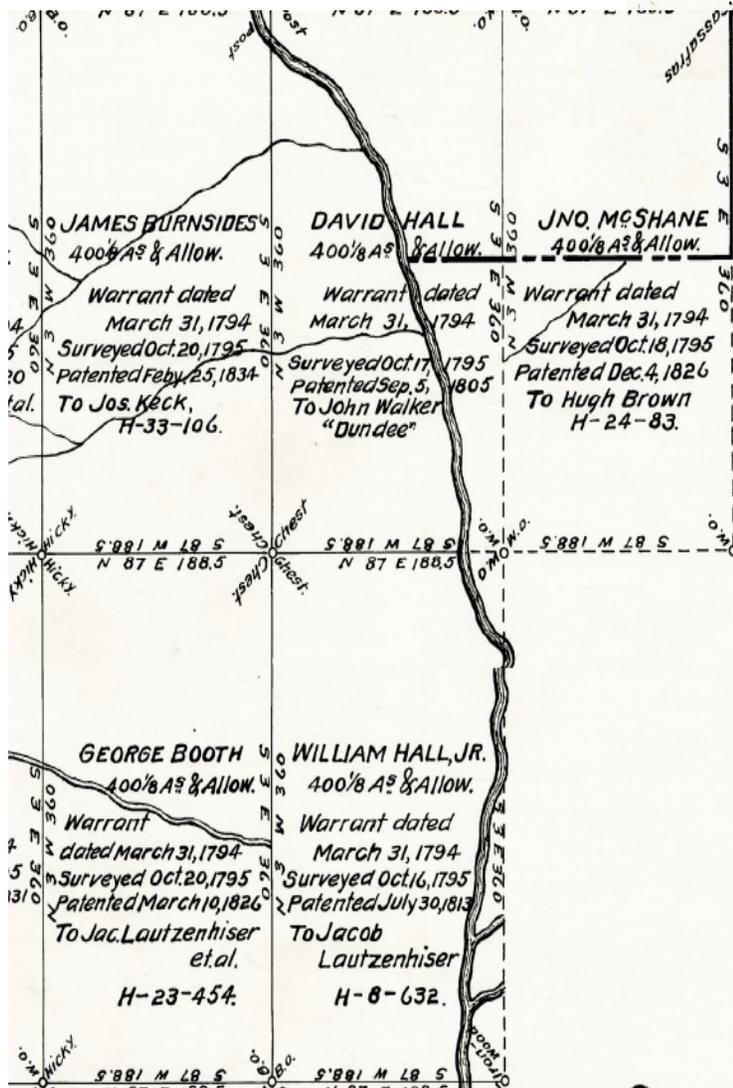
Deed Survey

- Identify all possible transactions involving your ancestor – you don't know ahead of time which document has the “gold”
- Deeds may have delayed recording; relevant deeds appear long after expected
- Survey the surname – others with the same surname may be relatives
- Don't forget son-in-law and brother-in-law records

[eI Use Maps

Why Use Maps

- Locate cultural features: churches, cemeteries, fence lines, ruins, boundaries, building
- Search for place names
- Study migration for connections between places: trails, canals, roads and railroads
- Find, in some cases, maps that show property boundaries, which lead to property deeds, tax, and probate records
- Describe the physical landscape: Is it forested? Mountainous? Rural? Urban? Served by roads and/or railroads?
- See how the landscape impacted our ancestors' lives.



PYMATUNG TOWNSHIP

WEST SALEM TOWNSHIP
MERCER COUNTY

A CONNECTED DRAFT of the tracts of land situated in West Salem Township, Mercer County, Pa. warrants, surveys, and patents, showing where, respectively, as above set forth, constructed from and compared with the original drafts remaining on file in the Department of Internal Affairs of Pennsylvania, under the direction of Warren J. Daniel, Director of the Land Office.

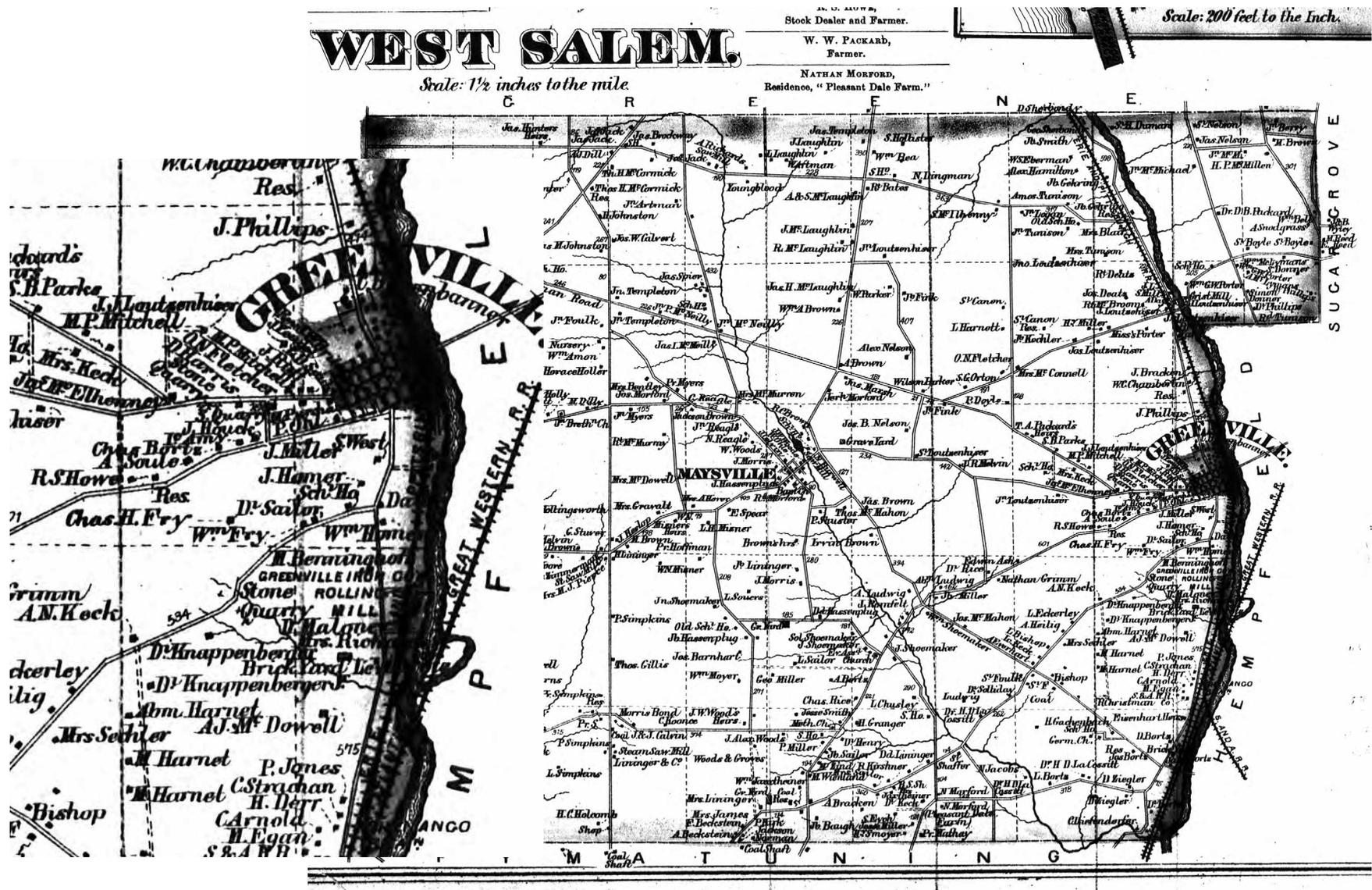
In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the said Department to be affixed at Harrisburg this ninth day of July, A.D. 1896.



William J. Daniel
Secretary of Internal Affairs

- Name of warrantee
- Name of patentee
- Number of acres
- Name of tract
- Dates of warrant, survey and patent
- Survey and patent numbers also may be given

Warrantee Map – West Salem Township, Mercer, PA



1873 West Salem Township Property Owners Map

Maps

- Library of Congress
 - www.loc.gov/maps
- Norman P. Levanthal Map and Education Center
 - <https://collections.leventhalmap.org>
- David Rumsey Map Collection
 - www.davidrumsey.com
- American Geographical Society
 - <https://collections.lib.uwm.edu/digital/collection/agdm/search/>

Conclusion

- Land Records can help answer questions of
 - Location and a specific time
 - Kinship (check grantor/grantee information, consideration and description of chain of ownership)
 - Ancestral biographical details
 - Show Migrations
- State land refers to 20 states who did not cede unclaimed land to federal government; used metes and bounds survey system
- Federal land was distributed by federal government and used the rectangular survey system.
- Survey the deeds that may be associated with your ancestor before diving in
- Understand different index systems
- Fully abstract deeds to ensure efficient and accurate research



THANK YOU!

AmericanAncestors.org/Education



NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

AmericanAncestors.org

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Surveying and Abstracting Deeds

Winter Stay-At-Home 2023

Ann G. Lawthers, Genealogist
February 2023



American Ancestors
by NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Surveying Deeds

Why Survey Deeds

- Identify all possible transactions involving your ancestor – you don't know ahead of time which document has the “gold”
- Deeds may have delayed recording; relevant deeds appear long after expected
- Survey the surname – others with the same surname may be relatives
- Don't forget son-in-law and brother-in-law records

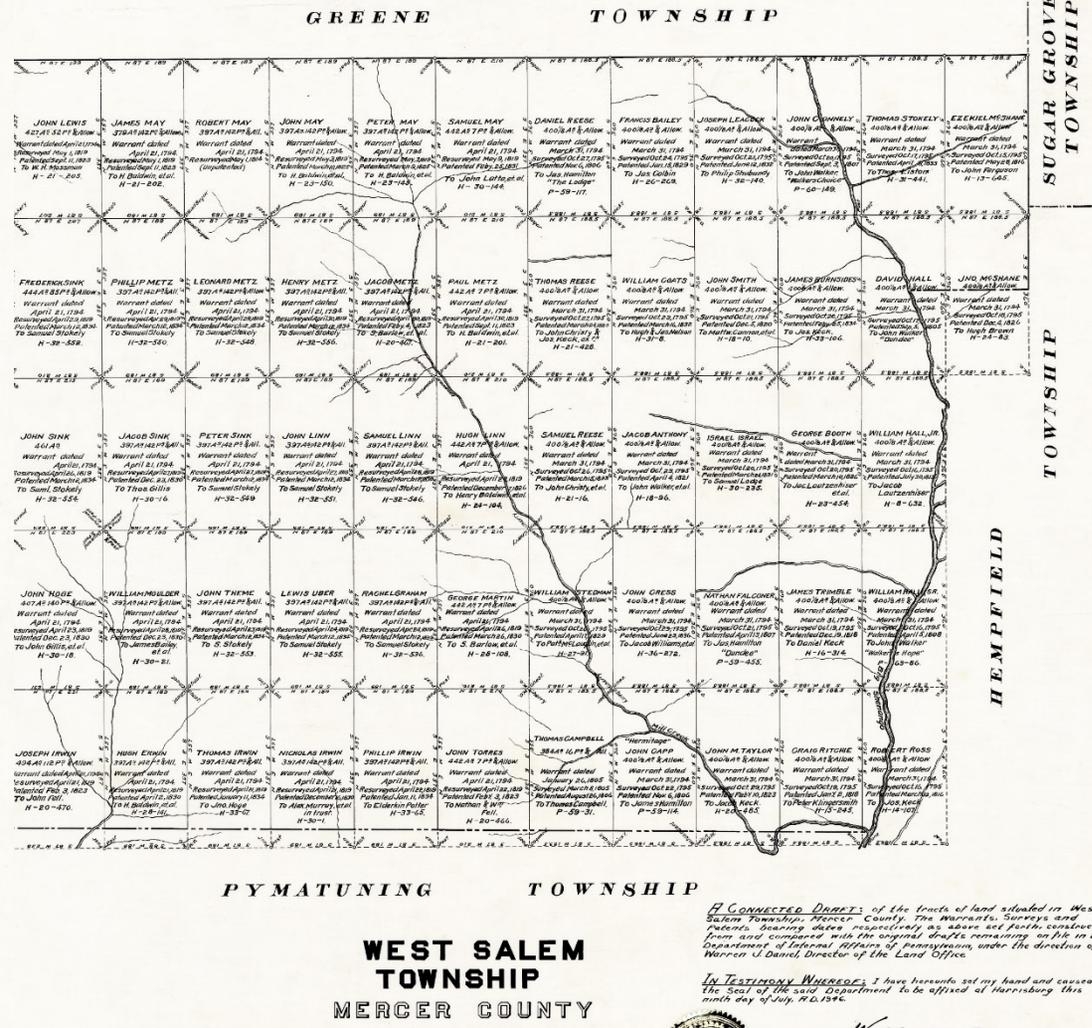
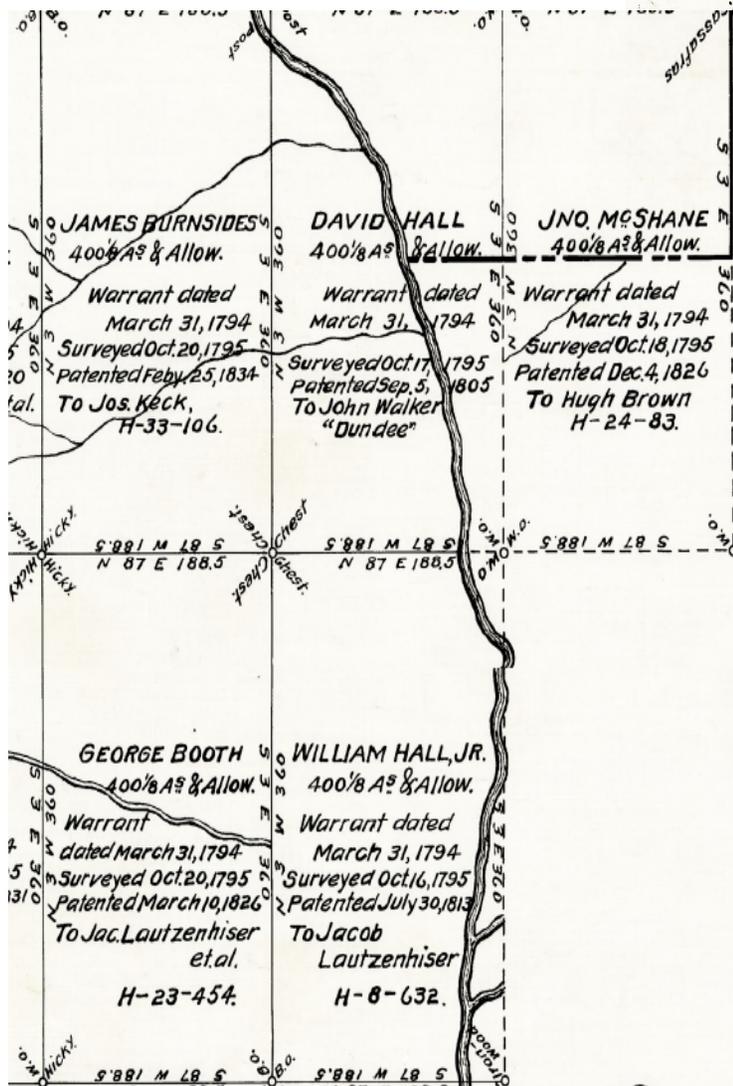
Steps

1. Determine goal, e.g.

- Find kin
- Find earlier or later residence
- Create complete picture of relative

2. Determine scope, e.g.

- Limit years?
- Limit to single person? Or include all with surname?
- Search for collateral kin?



WEST SALEM TOWNSHIP
MERCER COUNTY

A CONNECTED DRAFT of the tracts of land situated in West Salem Township, Mercer County, Pa. warrants, surveys and patents, showing where, respectively, as above set forth, constructed from and compared with the original drafts remaining on file in the Department of Internal Affairs of Pennsylvania, under the direction of Warren J. Daniel, Director of the Land Office.

In TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the said Department to be affixed at Harrisburg this ninth day of July, A.D. 1896.



William J. Daniel
Secretary of Internal Affairs

- Name of warrantee
- Name of patentee
- Number of acres
- Name of tract
- Dates of warrant, survey and patent
- Survey and patent numbers also may be given

Warrantee Map – West Salem Township, Mercer, PA

Using Family Search

- Use catalog – choose country and then “Land and Property”
- Look for records from the registrar
- Once in the film –
 - Look at spine – make sure have correct book – names and dates
 - Orient to index
 - Find names and record

Deed books, 1803-1886; index to deeds, 1803-1919

Add to Print List

Authors: [Mercer County \(Pennsylvania\). Recorder of Deeds](#)
(Main Author)

Format: Manuscript/Manuscript on Film

Language: English

Publication: Salt Lake City, Utah : Filmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah, 1971, 1983

Physical: 70 microfilm reels ; 35 mm.

Notes

Microfilm of original records in Mercer County Courthouse, Mercer, Pennsylvania.

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

Subjects

Locality Subjects

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

Film/Digital Notes

Note	Location	Collection/Shelf	Film	Image Group Number (DGS)	Format
Grantee index v. A-B 1803-1919	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	878941	7895293	
Grantee index v. C-D 1803-1919	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	878942	7902477	
Grantee index v. E-G 1803-1919	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	878943	7902478	
<u>Grantee index v. H-I 1803-1919</u>	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	878944	<u>7842332</u>	
Grantee index v. J-L 1803-1919	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	878945	8036045	
Grantee index v. M-Q 1803-1919	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	878946	7842333	
	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor			

FHL Land and Property – Mercer County, PA

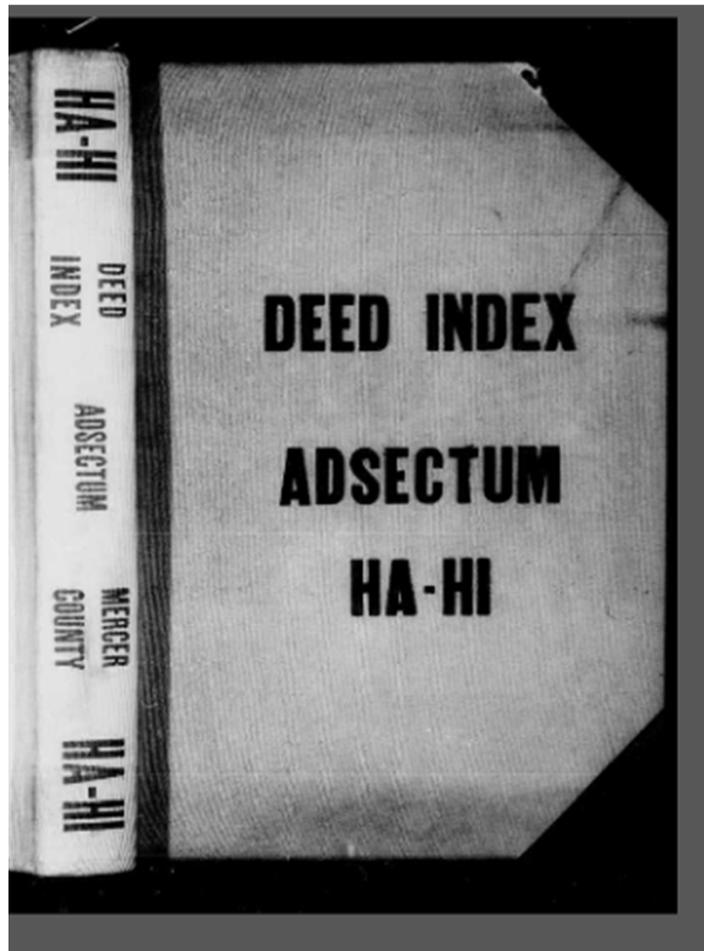


Image 5

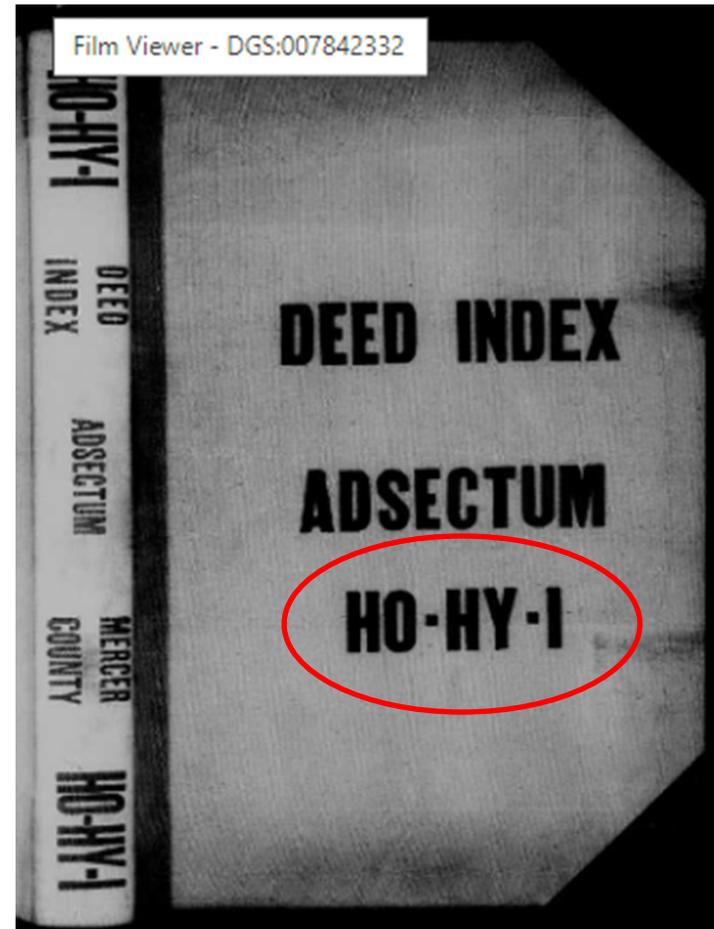


Image 197

Film 7842332

MERCER COUNTY.

Ho Hy I
DEED INDEX ADDITION
Cott's Patent Index and Index Tables—Patented April 22, 1879

Hoa to Hol			Hom to Hoy			Hu Hy			I		
A B	I J Except Jo	R S	A B	I J Except Jo	R S	A B	I J Except Jo	R S	A B	I J Except Jo	R S
1	24	49	70	93	118	139	170	204	230	246	263
C D	Jo	T U V	C D	Jo	T U V	C D	Jo	T U V	C D	Jo	T U V
7	32	55	76	101	124	147	181	212	234	251	267
E F	K L M	W Y Z	E F	K L M	W Y Z	E F	K L M	W Y Z	E F	K L M	W Y Z
13	40	58	82	109	127	155	193	216	238	257	269
G H	N O P Q	Cor. or Firm.	G H	N O P Q	Cor. or Firm.	G H	N O P Q	Cor. or Firm.	G H	N O P Q	Cor. or Firm.
18	46	64	87	115	133	162	200	223	242	261	273

	GRANTOR.	Book.	Vol.	Page.	Date of Deed.	Date of Record.	Location
ew	Alexander Galbraith	73	1	293			
ew	Thomas Hamilton	C	1	365			
w	John Wilson	I	1	549			

Index – Image 198

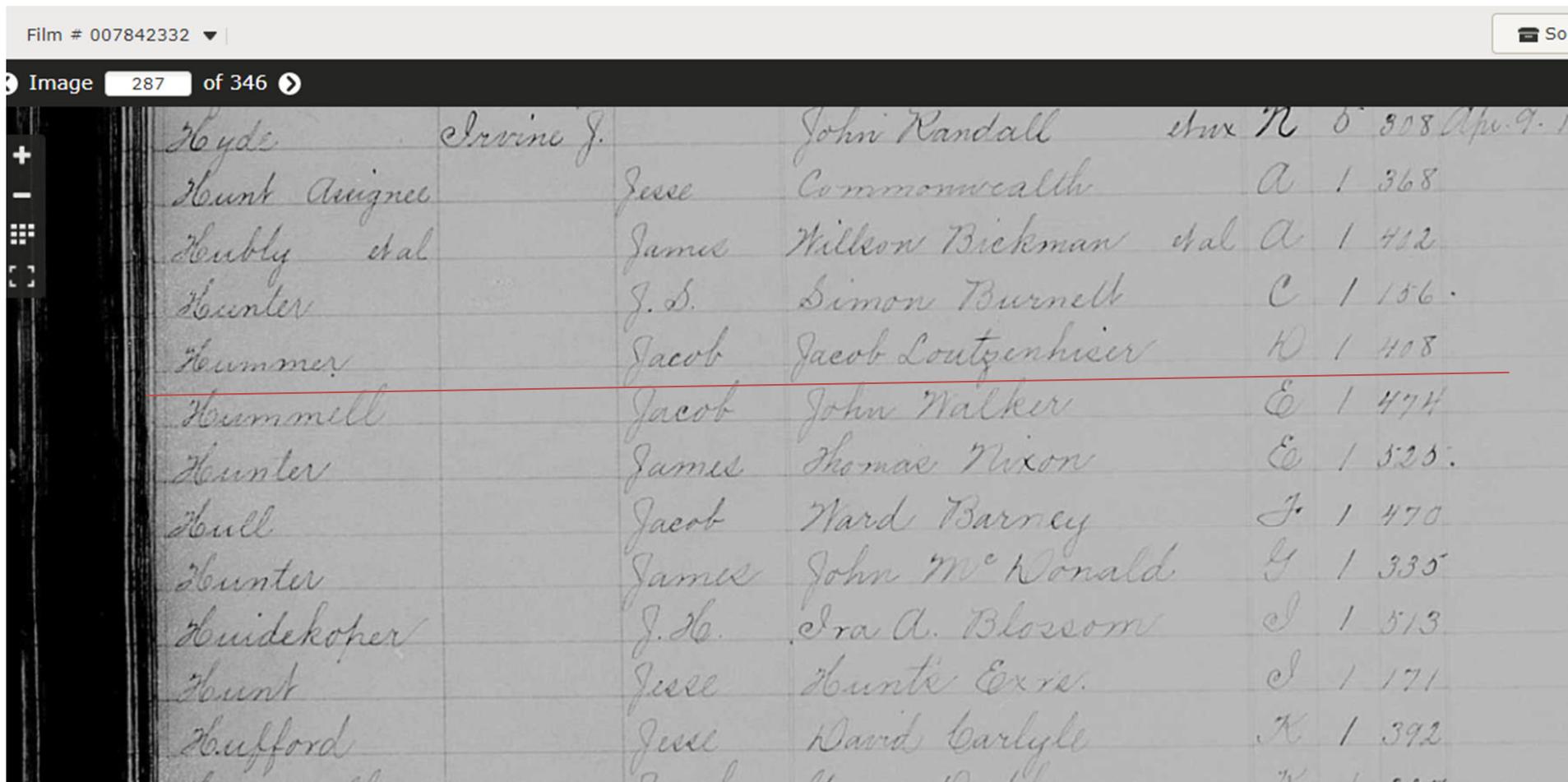


Image 247, Mercer County, Indirect Index

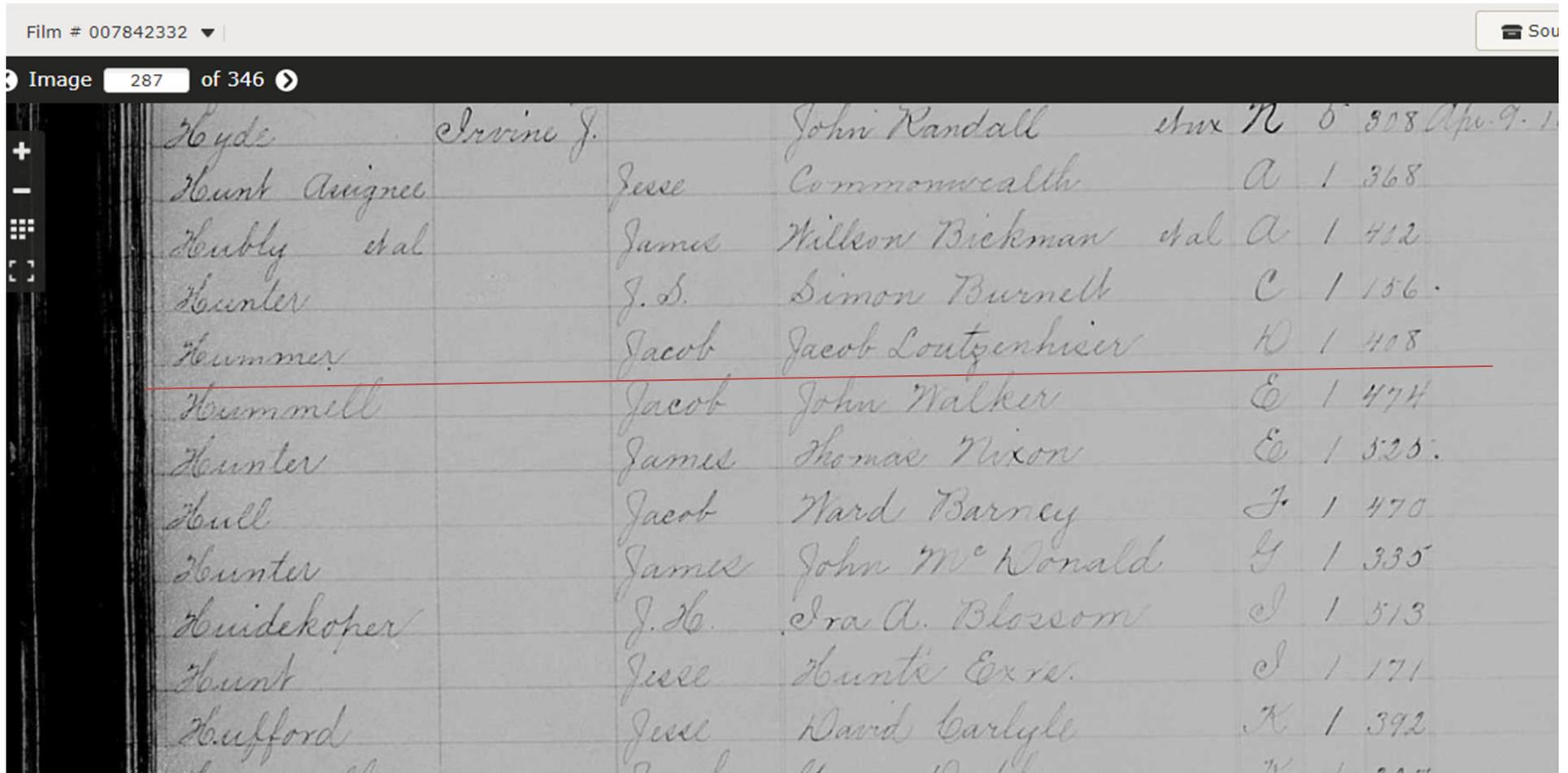


Image 287, Mercer County, Indirect Index

Deed Index Survey									
Abstracted by: Ann Lawthers					Date: 21-Feb-23				
Names Researched: Jacob Homer, Jacob Loutenhizer, Joseph Keck, Hugh Brown									
County: Mercer		State: Pennsylvania			Repository: Family History Library				
Name of Book: Ho-Hy-I					Time Period Covered: 1803-1919				
Notes about index arrangement: Cott Index, Grantor and grantee in separate books, by surname (two or three letters), 1803-1919									
Name 1	To/From	Name 2	Type of Instrument	Date of Instrument	Date of Filing	Book	Page	Property Location	Film and Image #
Homer, J. A.	To	S. W. Homer	Deed	Aug 13 1881	Mar 26 1883	R 4	204	Delaware	7842332 / 247
Hummer, Jacob	From	Jacob Loutzenhiser	Deed	Not given	Not given	D 1	408	Not given	7842332 / 287
Hummer, Jacob	From	Alexander Dumars	Deed	May 17 1847	June 24, 1805	Z 1	1	Greenville	7842332 / 287

Mercer County Deed Survey - Homer

Abstracting Deeds

What is Important?

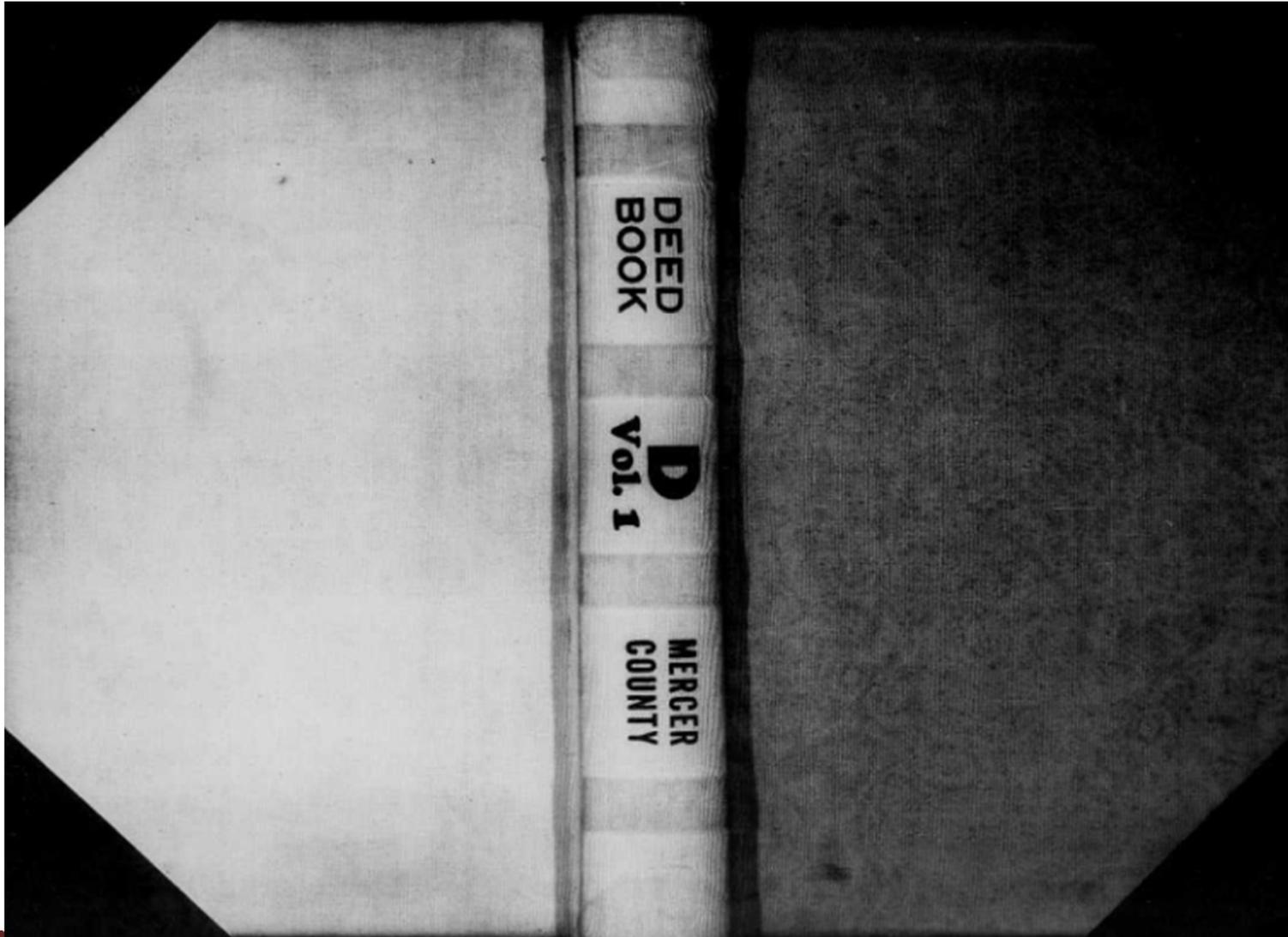
- Grantor
- Grantee
- Residences of Grantor and Grantee
- Volume and Page
- Location of the property
- Description of the property
- Abutters
- Acreage
- Witnesses
- Dates

Why is this important?

- Important biographical information
- Witnesses and abutters could be family members or associates
- Places ancestor in time and place
- Understand how much property a person owned
- Efficient and accurate research

Grantor index v. N-R 1803-1919	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	889513	7896734	
Grantor index v. S 1803-1919	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	889514	8084477	
Grantor index v. T-Z 1803-1919	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	889515	8084478	
Deed books v. A1-B1 1803-1809	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	889516	8036049	
Deed books v. C1-D1 1809-1817	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	889517	7894997	
Deed books v. E1-F1 1817-1822	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	889518	7902512	
Deed books v. G1-H1 1822-1827	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	889519	8084479	
Deed books v. I1-K1 1827-1831	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	889520	7896735	
Deed books v. L1-M1 1831-1835	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	889521	8084480	
Deed books v. N1-O1 1835-1837	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	889522	7894998	

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/235255?availability=Family%20History%20Library>



FHL Film 7894997 – image 315

January one thousand eight hundred and sixteen
 51-516
 Recorded July 30: 1816
 John Luck

This Indenture made the twenty eighth day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixteen by and between Jacob Lutzenhiser and Mary his wife of Allegheny county and State of Pennsylvania of the one part and Jacob Hummer of the same place of the other part - Witne both that the said Jacob Lutzenhiser and Mary his wife for and in consideration of the sum of thirteen hundred and thirty dollars to them in hand paid at and before the enrolling and delivery hereof by the said Jacob Hummer the receipt whereof they do hereby acknowledge have granted, bargained and sold and by these presents do grant, bargain and sell unto the said Jacob Hummer his heirs or assigns all the following described tract of land situate in the county and State aforesaid, beginning at stones in the creek thence by land of the said Lutzenhiser or or town of Granville South sixty degrees West ninety-four perches to a White oak; thence South eighty-seven degrees West ninety-two perches to a stone; thence South three degrees East one hundred and twenty-five perches to a Black-oak; thence by land of Peter Fleck North eighty-seven degrees East one hundred and eighty-eight perches to a Buck-horn; thence by land of John Christy North eighty-seven degrees East one hundred perches to an Elm thence North three degrees West one hundred and fifty-five perches to a white-oak thence South eighty-seven degrees West one hundred perches to the creek, thence up the creek thirty perches to the beginning; Containing two hundred and forty-two acres and allowance of six per cent for roads &c (It being) part of two tracts of land by one called "The big bottom" which the commonwealth of Pennsylvania by patent dated the 5th day of September 1807 and enrolled in the Halls office in patent book of 60 page 163 granted to John Walker, who conveyed the same to the said Jacob Lutzenhiser by deed dated the 14th day of December 1807 - The other being part of a Commonwealth by patent dated the 30th day of July 1813

FHL Film 7894997 – image 535

unto the said Jacob Hummer his heirs or assigns all the following described tract
of land situate in the county and state aforesaid, beginning at stones in the creek
thence by land of the said Lutjenhiser or or town of Granville South sixty degrees
West ninety-four perches to a White-oak; thence South eighty-seven degrees West nine-
ty-two perches to stones; thence South three degrees East one hundred and two
ty-five perches to a Black-oak; thence by land of Petter Fleck North eighty-seven
degrees East one hundred and eighty-eight perches to a Buck-horn; thence by
land of John Christy North eighty-seven degrees East one hundred perches to an elm
thence North three degrees West one hundred and fifty-five perches to a white-oak
thence South eighty-seven degrees West one hundred perches to the creek, thence up
the creek thirty perches to the beginning; Containing two hundred and forty-two
acres and allowance of six per cent for roads &c. (It being) part of two tracts of land
by one called "The big bottom" which the commonwealth of Pennsylvania by patent
dated the 5th day of September 1807 and entered in the rolls office in patent book
of 60, page 163 granted to John Walker, who conveyed the same to the said Jacob
Lutjenhiser by deed dated the 14th day of December 1807 - The other being part of a
Commonwealth by patent dated the 30th day of July 1813

[Home Index](#)
[Information](#)

FHL Film 7894997 – image 535

dated the 5th day of September 1807 and enrolled in the Rolls office in patent book
 of No. 60, page 163 granted to John Walker who conveyed the same to the said Jacob
 Loutzenhiser by deed dated the 14th day of December 1807 - The other being part of a
 tract which the said Commonwealth by patent dated the 30th day of July 1813
 and enrolled in patent book II, No. 8, page 632 granted to the said Jacob Loutzenhiser
 and reference therunto being had will more fully and at large appear.) together with
 all and singular the rights, liberties, privileges, improvements, hereditaments and
 appurtenances whatsoever therunto belongin or in anywise appurtenant; and the
 messuages, remainders, rents, issues and profits thereof of them the said Jacob Loutzenhiser
 and Mary his wife of, in and to the same. To have and to hold the above described
 parcel of land with the appurtenances unto the said Jacob Hummer his heirs and
 assigns forever and the said Jacob Loutzenhiser and Mary his wife for themselves and
 their heirs doth hereby covenant to and with the said Jacob Hummer and his heirs
 and assigns, that they the said Jacob Loutzenhiser & Mary his wife the above described
 parcel of land with the appurtenances to the said Jacob Hummer his heirs and
 assigns shall and will ^{forever} warrant and defend against all persons and claimers whatsoever
 In testimony whereof the said Jacob Loutzenhiser & Mary his wife have hereunto set
 their hands and seals the day and year first above written. Jacob Loutzenhiser
 signed, sealed and delivered in presence of Arthur G. Long, William Cook & Mary ^{his} Loutzenhiser

Same document

FHL Film (or Registry Name)

7894997

County and State

Mercer, PA

Grantor (name, residence)

Jacob Loutzenheiser and Mary his wife, Mercer, PA

Type of Instrument

X Deed Mortgage Patent/Grant Other (Specify)

Date of Acknowledgment

8 Aug 1815

Image

535

Book and Page #

D1 408

Grantee (name, residence)

Jacob Hummer, Mercer, PA

Date Consideration:

recorded: \$1330

Acreage 241 acres

Description of property including pertinent physical features, e.g. water courses

- Beginning at stones in the creek and thence by land of said Loutzenheiser and town of Granvile [sic] south fifty degrees west, ninety four perches to a white oak;
- Then south three degrees east one hundred and twenty-five perches to a black-oak;
- Thence by land of Peter Keck north eighty-seven degrees east one hundred and eighty-eight perches to a buck-thorn;
- Thence by land of John Christy North eighty-seven degrees east one hundred perches to an [???];
- Thence north three degrees west one hundred and fifty-five perches to a white-oak;
- Thence south eighty-seven degrees west one hundred perches to the creek;
- Thence up the creek thirty perches to the beginning.

Part of two tracts of land one called "The Big Bottom" which the commonwealth of Pennsylvania by patent dated 5 Sep 1807 on book Nr. 60, page 163 granted to John Walker who conveyed the same to Jacob Loutzenheiser on 14 Dec 1807.

The other being part of a tract which the said Commonwealth by patent dated the 20 July 1813 and enrolled in patent book H-Nr. 8-page 632

Neighbors

Peter Keck, Jacob Loutzenheiser, John Christy, John Walker

Witnesses

Arthur G. Long

William Scott

Dower release (name of wife)

Mary

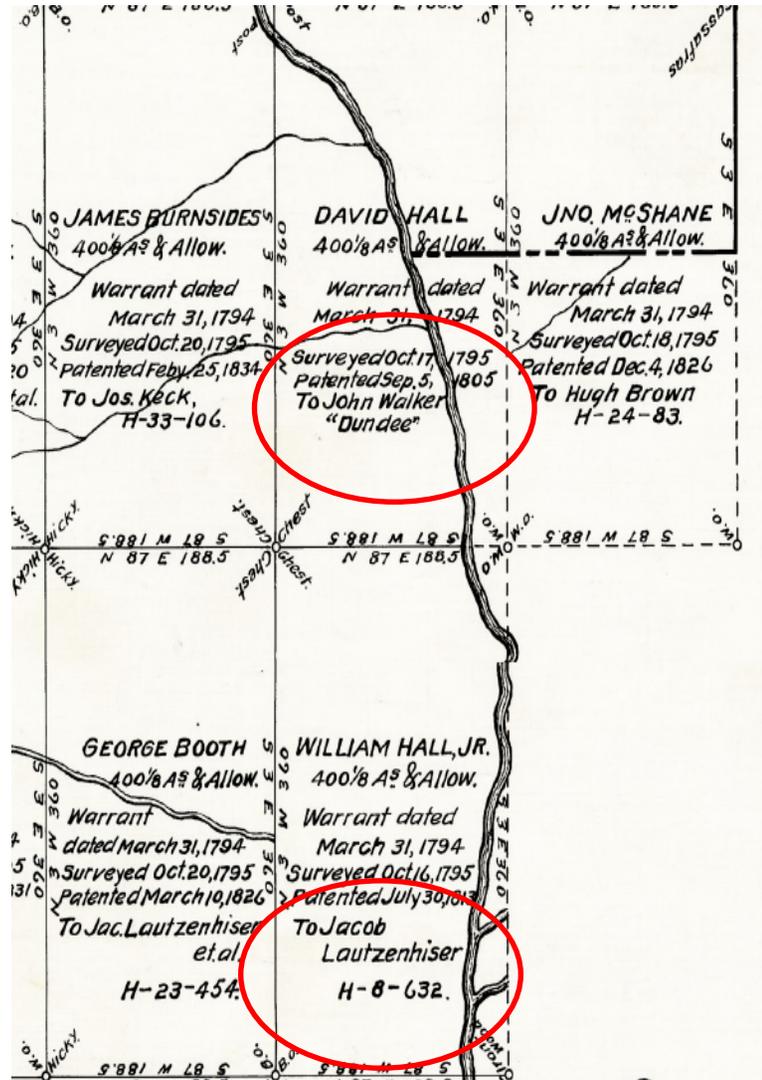
Homestea Other release

d release

NA

Other Information

Abstract



Warrantee Map – West Salem Township, Mercer, PA



THANK YOU!

AmericanAncestors.org/Education



NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

AmericanAncestors.org

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