

Using Land Records to Break Down Brick Walls
Virtual Winter Stay-at-Home 2023
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 THE BRUE FAMILY LEARNING CENTER
 AmericanAncestors.org
 By NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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Land Records

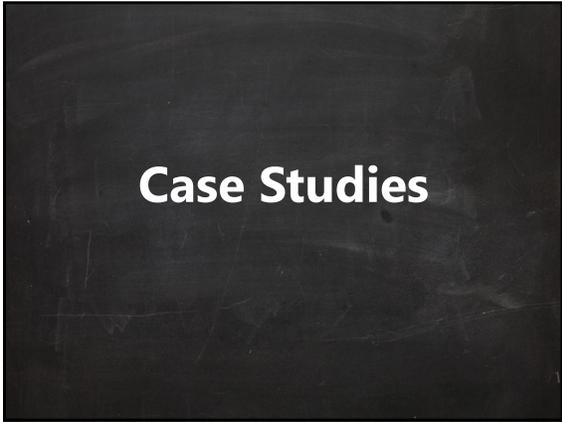
- Must be searched completely
- Need to be used in a systematic way
- Necessary to keep track of what is
 - Found
 - Abstracted
 - Compared
- Always questioned if you have them all

2

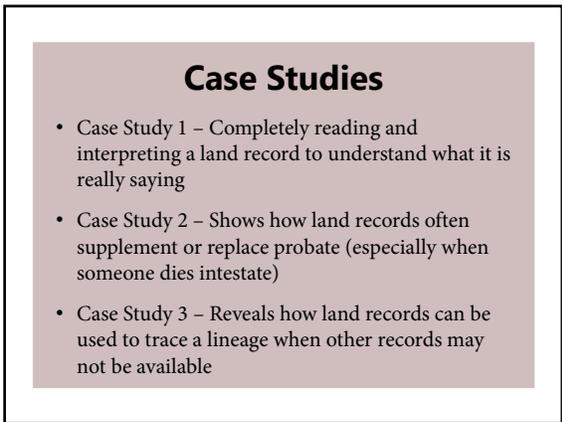
Brick Walls

- Often the result of missing or destroyed records
- May be more prevalent in earlier periods of a particular state
- Usually, the result of not exhausting all records
- May be aided by examining land records

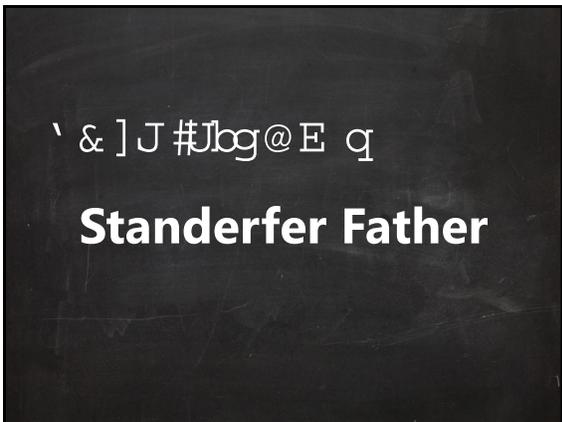
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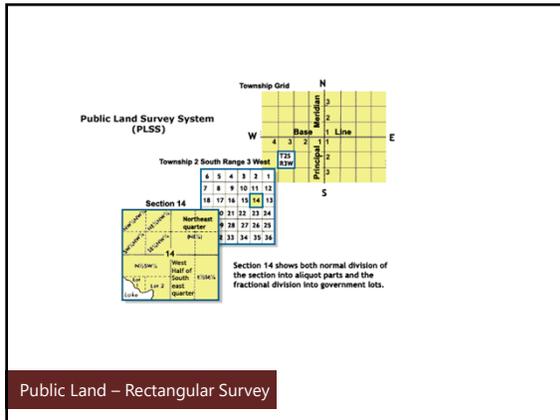
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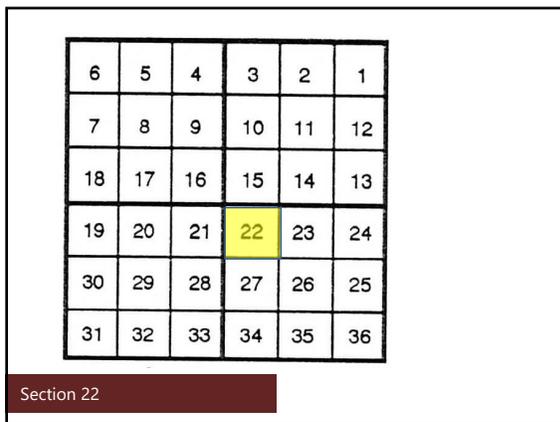


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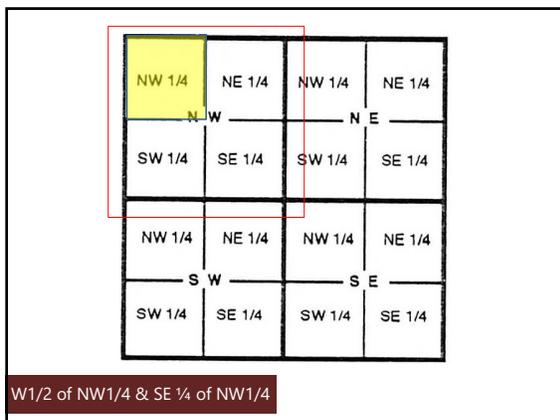
Public Land – Rectangular Survey

10



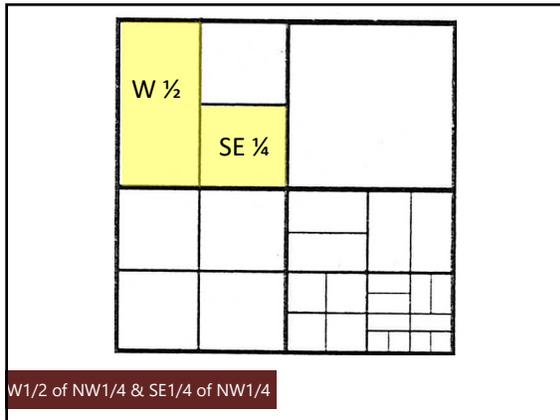
Section 22

11



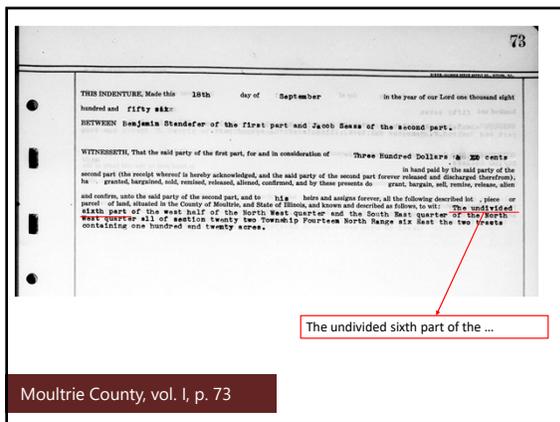
W1/2 of NW1/4 & SE 1/4 of NW1/4

12



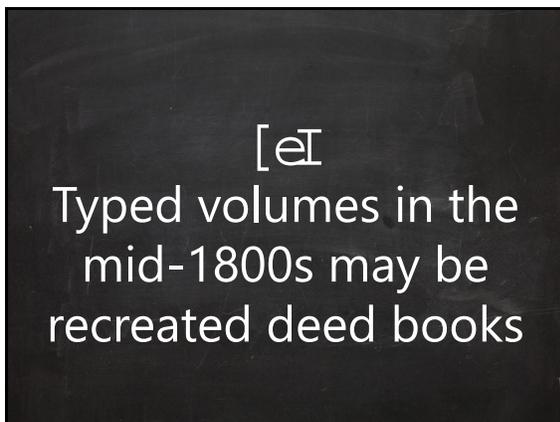
W1/2 of NW1/4 & SE1/4 of NW1/4

13

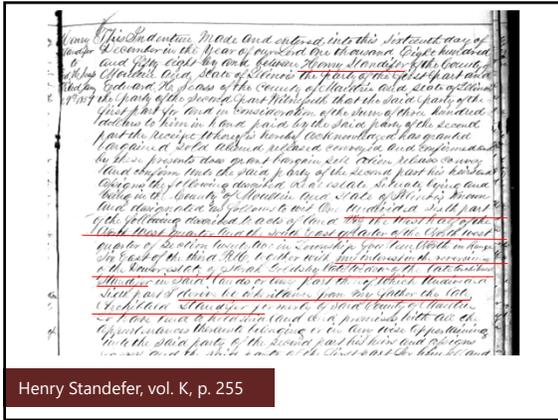


Moultrie County, vol. I, p. 73

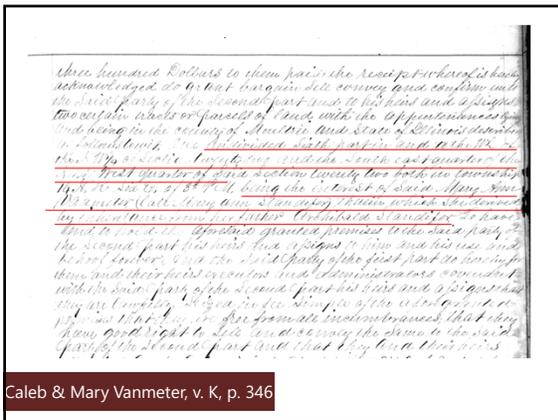
14



15



25



26

Name	County	Grantor	Deed No.	Acres	Year	Page	Volume	Page
Steele	Jacob	Standefer, John	Deed 200 00	100	18	14	112	8 397
Steele	Jacob	Harvey, John A.	Deed 040 00	80	18	14	112	8 404
Steele	Jacob	Steele, Charles L.	Deed 300 00	300	18	14	112	8 405
Steele	Jacob	Standefer, William	Deed 300 00	300	18	14	112	8 406
Steele	Jacob	Mink, Jacob & Dequaraine	Deed 300 00	300	18	14	112	8 395
Steele	Jacob	Standefer, John	Deed 05 00	5	18	14	112	8 396
Steele	Jacob	Stander, John	Deed 200 00	200	18	14	112	8 398
Steele	Jacob	Steele, Edward	Deed 200 00	200	18	14	112	8 399
Steele	Jacob	Holliday, Edward	Deed 100 00	100	18	14	112	8 400
Steele	Jacob	Walters, William	Deed 100 00	100	18	14	112	8 401
Steele	Jacob	Walters, William	Deed 100 00	100	18	14	112	8 402
Steele	Jacob	Illinois Central R.R. Co.	Deed 040 00	40	18	14	112	8 403
Steele	Jacob	Mink, Margaret A. W.	Deed 125 00	125	18	14	112	8 404
Steele	Jacob	Stander, John	Deed 100 00	100	18	14	112	8 405
Steele	Jacob	Harvey, William (Jr)	Deed 445 00	445	18	14	112	8 406
Steele	Jacob	Atkinson, James D.	Deed 30 00	30	18	14	112	8 407
Steele	Jacob	Illinois Central R.R. Co.	Deed 200 00	200	18	14	112	8 408
Steele	Jacob	Freeman, William B. Wash	Deed 300 00	300	18	14	112	8 409
Steele	Jacob	Steele, Levi & Elizabeth	Deed 300 00	300	18	14	112	8 410
Steele	Jacob	Steele, Francis J.	Deed 300 00	300	18	14	112	8 411
Steele	Jacob	Steele, George & Ellen A.	Deed 300 00	300	18	14	112	8 412
Steele	Jacob	Wright, R. W. (Jr)	Deed 300 00	300	18	14	112	8 413
Steele	Jacob	Standefer, Joseph A.	Deed 30 17	30	18	14	112	8 414

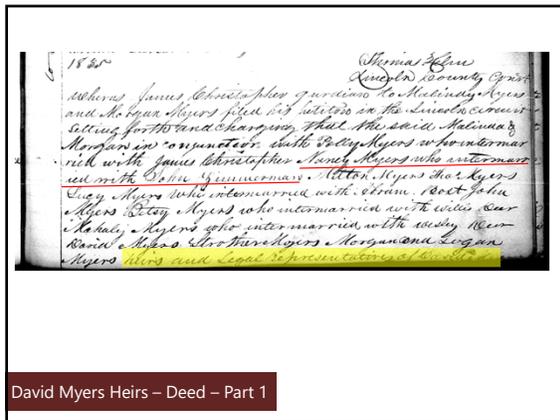
Grantee Index - Moultrie, Illinois

27

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
	Grantor	to/ From	Grantee	Vol.	Page	Money	Acrrage In	Acrrage Out	Notes	
1	Myers, David	From	Wm. Bryan	K	15	\$2,004.16	267		Indicated David was already living on the property and that it "part of the tract Jacob Myers purchased of Michael Honne"	
2	Myers, David	to	Garland Withers	K	24	\$8,000.00		267	Mentions boundary line of land belonging to the heirs of Michael Myers, dec'd.	
3	Myers, David	From	Saml Engleman	K	89	\$3,424.13	100		Tract described as being "to which John Pope, father of the said Nancy resided at the time of his death and on which said tract of land Mrs. Polly Pope the mother of the said Nancy now resides" - part of the land allotted to Mrs. Polly Pope as her dower. No acres listed.	
4	Myers, David	to	Thos. Pope	L	27	\$300.00			"Said decree exposed the tract of land to sale on the seventh day September in the year 1830" - deed lists all the children and mentions "Docca Myers, the widow of the said David Myers" along with "Nancy Myers who intermarried with John Zimmerman"	
5	Myers, David Mrs	to	James Crow	D	197	\$1,393.58	150 1/2		Actually to Ephraim Smith, and it is David Myers and his wife Nancy - it also mentions a boundary to the north of the land belonging to Michael Myers heirs.	
6	Myers D. &c	to	E. Linch	K	217	\$1,700	100		Belton, widow of George Myers, appears to be releasing her dower on the land David purchased from Saml Engleman. This appears to be David, who is married to Nancy, son of David Myers and Diccia Hughes	
7	Myers, Betsy	to	David Myers	K	173	\$2.00				

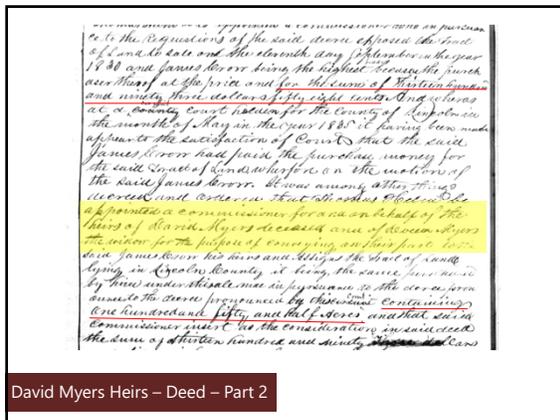
Systematic Land Research

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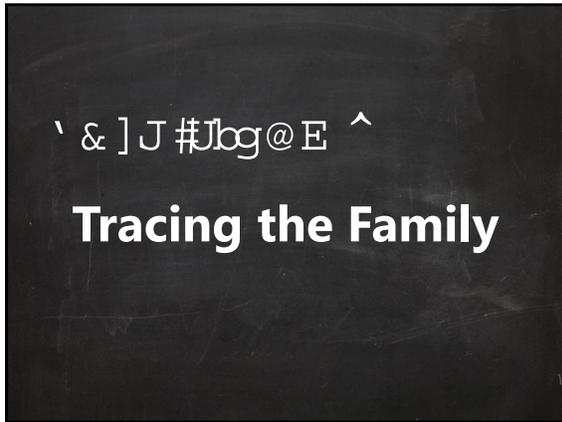
David Myers Heirs - Deed - Part 1

35



David Myers Heirs - Deed - Part 2

36



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Benjamin Endicott of Illinois

- GOAL: Was Benjamin Endicott who wrote his will in Henderson County, Illinois descended from John Endecott, Governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony
- Where was Benjamin born?
- Who were his parents?

41

1860 Census—United States										Family History Department										
State					County					Precinct					District					
ILLINOIS					HENDERSON					Twp. 12 N. S. 13 E.					CROWN HILL					
Age	Sex	Color	Name	Mar.	Prof.	Value of real estate	Value of personal property	Marriage	Foreign born	Color	Sex	Name	Mar.	Prof.	Value of real estate	Value of personal property	Marriage	Foreign born	Color	
46	M		GEORGE ENDICOTT	M	FARMER	1200	100	23												
			LUCAS	F				12												
			NANCY	F				12												
			CHRISTINA	F				12												
			CHARLES E.	M	FARM HAND			11												

1860 Census – Son George

42

Research Log
Ancestor's name

Objectives	1850 Federal Census	Location	Localities
9/14 PHL 1371857 Date of search Location Description of source Author, title, year, pages Link(s) 1870 - 1902	1870 - 1902 Mansfield Co, Vermont Deaths, Deaths 1870 - 1902	1870 - 1902 Mansfield Co, Vermont Deaths, Deaths 1870 - 1902	1870 - 1902 Mansfield Co, Vermont Deaths, Deaths 1870 - 1902
9/14 PHL 1371857 Item 5	1870 - 1902 Mansfield Co, Vermont Deaths, Deaths 1870 - 1902	1870 - 1902 Mansfield Co, Vermont Deaths, Deaths 1870 - 1902	1870 - 1902 Mansfield Co, Vermont Deaths, Deaths 1870 - 1902
9/14 PHL 1371857 Item 1	1870 - 1902 Mansfield Co, Vermont Deaths, Deaths 1870 - 1902	1870 - 1902 Mansfield Co, Vermont Deaths, Deaths 1870 - 1902	1870 - 1902 Mansfield Co, Vermont Deaths, Deaths 1870 - 1902
9/14 PHL 1371857 Item 3-5	1870 - 1902 Mansfield Co, Vermont Deaths, Deaths 1870 - 1902	1870 - 1902 Mansfield Co, Vermont Deaths, Deaths 1870 - 1902	1870 - 1902 Mansfield Co, Vermont Deaths, Deaths 1870 - 1902
9/14 PHL 1371857 Item 1-3	1870 - 1902 Mansfield Co, Vermont Deaths, Deaths 1870 - 1902	1870 - 1902 Mansfield Co, Vermont Deaths, Deaths 1870 - 1902	1870 - 1902 Mansfield Co, Vermont Deaths, Deaths 1870 - 1902
9/14 PHL 1371857 Item 1-2	1870 - 1902 Mansfield Co, Vermont Deaths, Deaths 1870 - 1902	1870 - 1902 Mansfield Co, Vermont Deaths, Deaths 1870 - 1902	1870 - 1902 Mansfield Co, Vermont Deaths, Deaths 1870 - 1902

Research Log Needed

43

Benjamin Endicott Will - 1847

Mentioned:
 • Wife - Elizabeth
 • Children - George Endicott, Barzillai Endicott, children of Alexander & Mary Taylor, Joseph Endicott, children of John & Sarah Morehead, the children of Fergusus & Cristina Morehead, Jonathan Endicott, William, infant son of Nancy Wooters

44

Research Log
Ancestor's name

Objectives	1850 Federal Census	Location	Localities
9/14 PHL 1371857 Date of search Location Description of source Author, title, year, pages Link(s) 1870 - 1902	1870 - 1902 Mansfield Co, Vermont Deaths, Deaths 1870 - 1902	1870 - 1902 Mansfield Co, Vermont Deaths, Deaths 1870 - 1902	1870 - 1902 Mansfield Co, Vermont Deaths, Deaths 1870 - 1902
9/14 PHL 1371857 Item 5	1870 - 1902 Mansfield Co, Vermont Deaths, Deaths 1870 - 1902	1870 - 1902 Mansfield Co, Vermont Deaths, Deaths 1870 - 1902	1870 - 1902 Mansfield Co, Vermont Deaths, Deaths 1870 - 1902
9/14 PHL 1371857 Item 1	1870 - 1902 Mansfield Co, Vermont Deaths, Deaths 1870 - 1902	1870 - 1902 Mansfield Co, Vermont Deaths, Deaths 1870 - 1902	1870 - 1902 Mansfield Co, Vermont Deaths, Deaths 1870 - 1902
9/14 PHL 1371857 Item 3-5	1870 - 1902 Mansfield Co, Vermont Deaths, Deaths 1870 - 1902	1870 - 1902 Mansfield Co, Vermont Deaths, Deaths 1870 - 1902	1870 - 1902 Mansfield Co, Vermont Deaths, Deaths 1870 - 1902
9/14 PHL 1371857 Item 1-3	1870 - 1902 Mansfield Co, Vermont Deaths, Deaths 1870 - 1902	1870 - 1902 Mansfield Co, Vermont Deaths, Deaths 1870 - 1902	1870 - 1902 Mansfield Co, Vermont Deaths, Deaths 1870 - 1902
9/14 PHL 1371857 Item 1-2	1870 - 1902 Mansfield Co, Vermont Deaths, Deaths 1870 - 1902	1870 - 1902 Mansfield Co, Vermont Deaths, Deaths 1870 - 1902	1870 - 1902 Mansfield Co, Vermont Deaths, Deaths 1870 - 1902

Research Log Needed

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Deed Index Survey									
Searched by: Rhonda R. McClure		Date: 14-Sep-1993		Name Researched: Endicot		Index: FHL		Form #: 1377850	
County: Henderson		State: Illinois		Index: FHL		Form #: 1377850			
Grantor/Deed/Seller Deed Index Book:		Time Period Covered:		Notes about index arrangement:					
16	Endicot, George	W.D.	12 May 1865	12 May 1865	23	317	X		
17	John Moorehead	Property Dees.	Oct 10 acres Lot 3, SW1/4 Sec. 14 Twp 12N Rge 9W	4 Oct 1865	20	354	X		
18	Endicot, Moses	G.C.	26 Jan 1865	4 Oct 1865	20	354	X		
19	David Rivers	Property Dees.							
20	Endicot, Noah	G.C.	26 Sep 1865						
21	William Ingers	Property Dees.							
22	Endicot, Caswell	Bond	31 Jul 1867	31 Jul 1867	25	166	X		

Deed Index Survey Page 1 Deed Index Survey Page 2 Deed Index Survey Page 3

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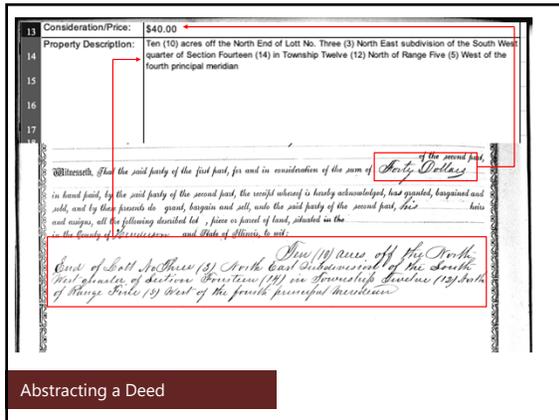
Date of search	Location	Description of source	Comments	Doc #
9/15	FHL 1342715	HENDERSON CO, ILLINOIS Deed records 1841-1843 Deed records	purpose of search: records where names searched records for deeds which are voluntary & e.c. but not other where where of record book.	137
9/15	FHL 1342785	HENDERSON CO, ILLINOIS Deed records 1841-1843 Deed records v.19, c1 1841-1841 G.W. claim deeds v. 20 1841-1849	Want through out of volume 20 because for G.C. of which ENDICOTT law of which name.	
9/15	FHL 1342789	HENDERSON CO, ILLINOIS Deed records 1841-1843 Deed records v. 24, 25 1841-1841	Abstracted deeds	
9/15	FHL 1342788	HENDERSON CO, ILLINOIS Deed records 1841-1843 Deed records v. 25, 27 1841-1841 Voluntary deeds v. 26 1841-1841	Abstracted deeds	
9/15	FHL 1377850	HENDERSON CO, ILLINOIS Deed records 1841-1843 Bond records v. 24 1841-1841 v. 25 1841-1841 v. 26 1841-1841	Abstracted deed	
9/15	FHL 1377853	HENDERSON CO, ILLINOIS Deed records 1841-1843 Deed records v. 30-35 1845-1849	Abstracted deed	
9/15	FHL	Salem Co, Ohio Partish records	could page w/ map on Am e. A. C. 1841-1841	

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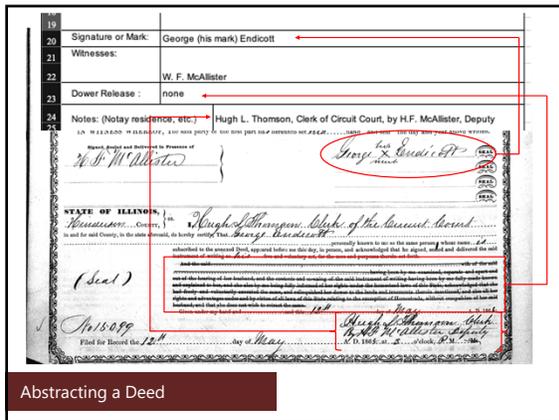
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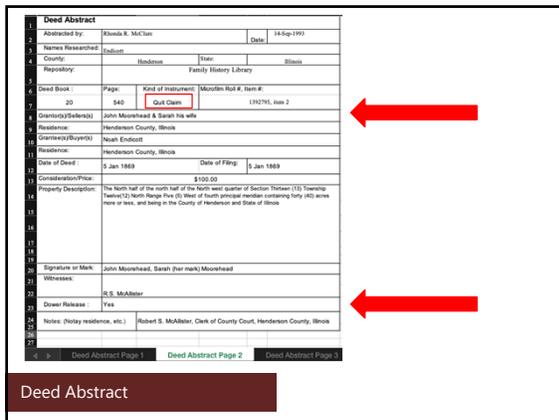
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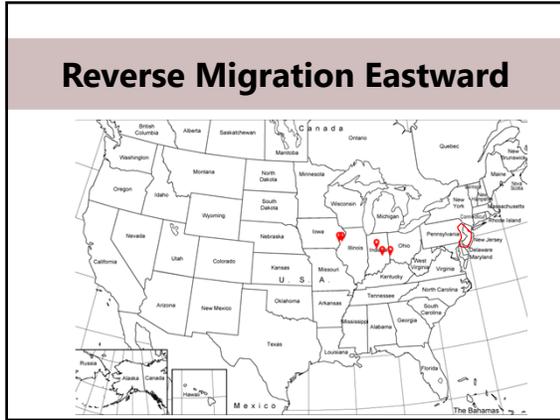
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53



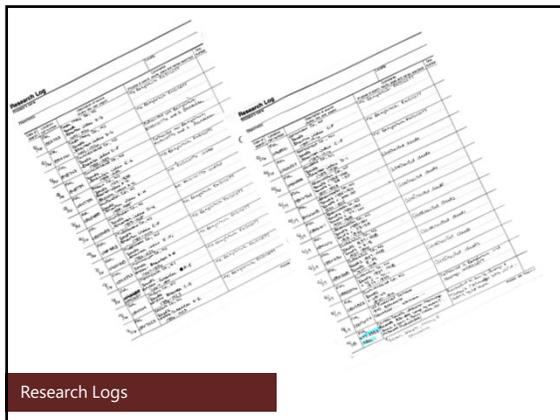
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What did it take?

- 7 Research log pages (84 entries)
- 30 Deed Index Survey pages
- 36 Deed Abstract pages
- 4 days at the Family History Library (roughly 10-11 hours a day)
- AND DONE BEFORE COMPUTERS

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Review

1. Land records serve many genealogical purposes
2. They require patience, perseverance, and planning
3. Amidst the legal descriptions can be gold mines
4. Can't pick and choose the records
5. Need to ensure you have all the deeds

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THANK YOU!
AmericanAncestors.org/Education

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