

History of Land Records in America

Virtual Fall Stay At Home 2023

David Allen Lambert, Chief Genealogist

THE BRUE FAMILY LEARNING CENTER



American Ancestors®
by NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Meet today's presenter



David Allen Lambert
Chief Genealogist

The People

Of the STATE of NEW-YORK,
By the Grace of GOD, Free and Independent :

TO ALL to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting: KNOW YE, That WE HAVE Given, Granted and Confirmed, and by these Presents, DO Give, Grant and Confirm, unto Joshua Mersereau *All that certain Tract of Land, situate in the County of Montgomery - being part of the Indian purchase made by Edward and Vincenzo Jessup and their Associates under a License granted to Zolten and Croppfield and known and distinguished in a Division of the said purchase into Townships by being part of Township Number Thirty one. Beginning at the most Westerly Corner of Township Number Twenty nine, and running thence North thirty degrees West Two hundred and sixty two chains and fifty links, then North sixty degrees East Two hundred chains, then South thirty degrees East eighty chains, then North sixty degrees East forty chains, then South thirty degrees East one hundred and eighty two chains and fifty links, then South sixty degrees West two hundred and forty chains to the place of Beginning: All which courses are run as the needle pointed in the Year one Thousand seven hundred and seventy two (Containing) Six thousand nine hundred and eighty acres.....*

TOGETHER with all and singular the Rights, Hereditaments and Appurtenances to the same belonging, or in any Wife appertaining, EXCEPTING and RESERVING to ourselves, all Gold and Silver Mines, and five Acres of every Hundred Acres of the said Tract of Land for Highways. TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the above described and granted Premises unto the said Joshua Mersereau his

Heirs and Assigns, as a good and indefeasible Estate of Inheritance, for ever. On CONDITION NEVERTHELESS, That within the Term of seven Years to be computed from the first Day of January next ensuing the Date hereof. ~~there shall be one actual Settlement made on~~ the said Tract of Land hereby granted *For every Six hundred and forty acres thereof* otherwise these our Letters Patent, and the Estate hereby granted, shall cease, determine and become void. IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, We have caused these our Letters to be made patent, and the Great Seal of our said State to be hereunto affixed. WITNESS Our trusty and well-beloved GEORGE CLINTON, Esquire, Governor of our said State, General and Commander in Chief of all the Militia, and Admiral of the Navy of the same, at our City of New-York, this *Eighth* Day of *July* in the Year of our LORD One Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty Six, and in the *Eleventh* Year of our INDEPENDENCE.

Approved of by the Commissioners of the Land-Office, and passed }
the Secretary's Office, the 15th Day of July 1786. }
Wm. Halliday Secy

George Clinton



Voice of
David Allen Lambert
Chief Genealogist

Land Records

Land transfers

Acquisition

- Grant
- Deed
- Quitclaim
- Will - inheritance
- Division/partition

Disposition

- Assignment
- Deed
- Quitclaim
- Will - bequeathment
- Division/partition
- Escheatment

Jurisdiction Levels

Crown/
Federal

- Nation to person(s)

Colony/
State

- Colony/state to person(s)
- Town to person(s)
- Colony/state to proprietor(s) to person(s)

County

- Person(s) to person(s)

Where do we find info on locations?



Maps, atlases, gazetteers



Websites



Local histories



Sociological studies

“Home of the Pioneer,” *History of the Early Settlement and Indian Wars of Western Virginia* (1851)

[APPENDIX TO CHAPTER VII]

LIST OF SETTLERS IN FAYETTE

AND IN CONTIGUOUS PARTS OF

GREENE, WASHINGTON & WESTMORELAND COUNTIES,
IN 1772:

COPIED FROM THE OFFICIAL ASSESSMENT ROLLS OF BEDFORD COUNTY FOR 1773.

In 1772, and until the erection of Westmoreland in 1773, Bedford county embraced all of South-western Pennsylvania.

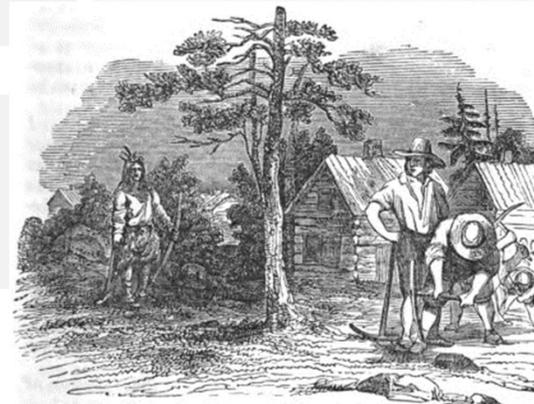
All of what is now Fayette county, east of a straight line from the mouth of Redstone to the mouth of Jacob's creek, composed two townships, Springhill and Tyrone, between which the division line was Redstone creek, from its mouth to where it was crossed by Burd's Road, thence Burd's Road to Gist's, thence Braddock's Road to the Great Crossings. That part of Fayette which is west (or north-west) of the line from the mouth of Redstone to the mouth of Jacob's creek, was included in Rostraver township; which then embraced all of the "Forks of Yough" to the junction.

All of Greene and of Washington counties, which were then supposed to be within the limits of Pennsylvania, and lying west of Fayette, seem to have been included in Springhill.

We give the entire lists for Springhill, Tyrone and Rostraver.(a)

SPRINGHILL TOWNSHIP.

Samuel Adams,
aft, Robert Adams,
George Boydston,

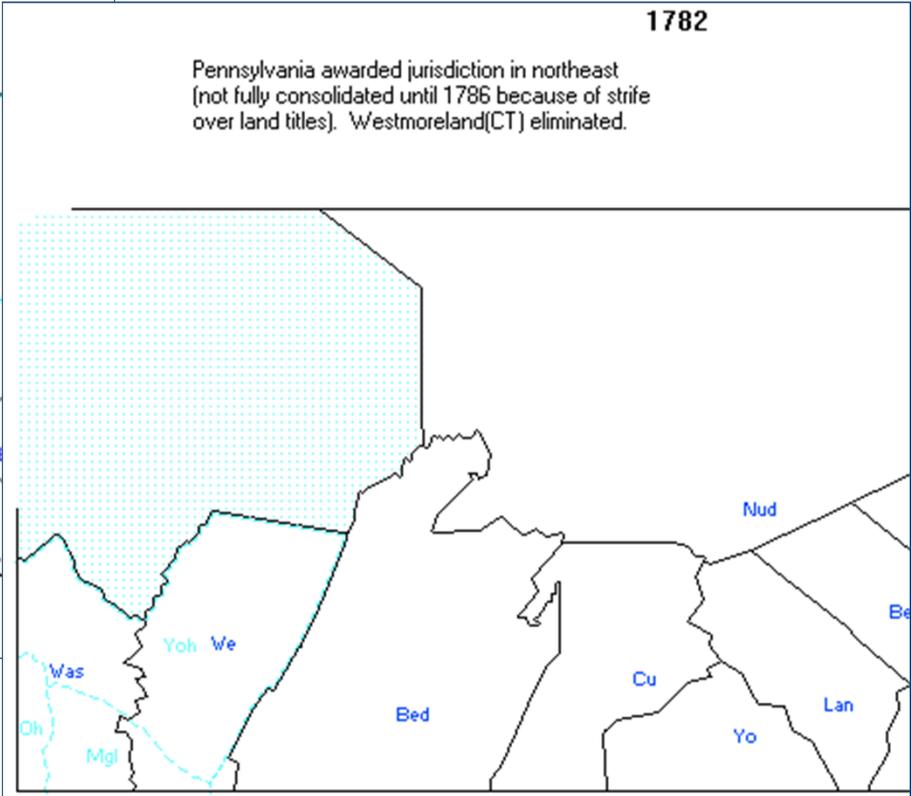
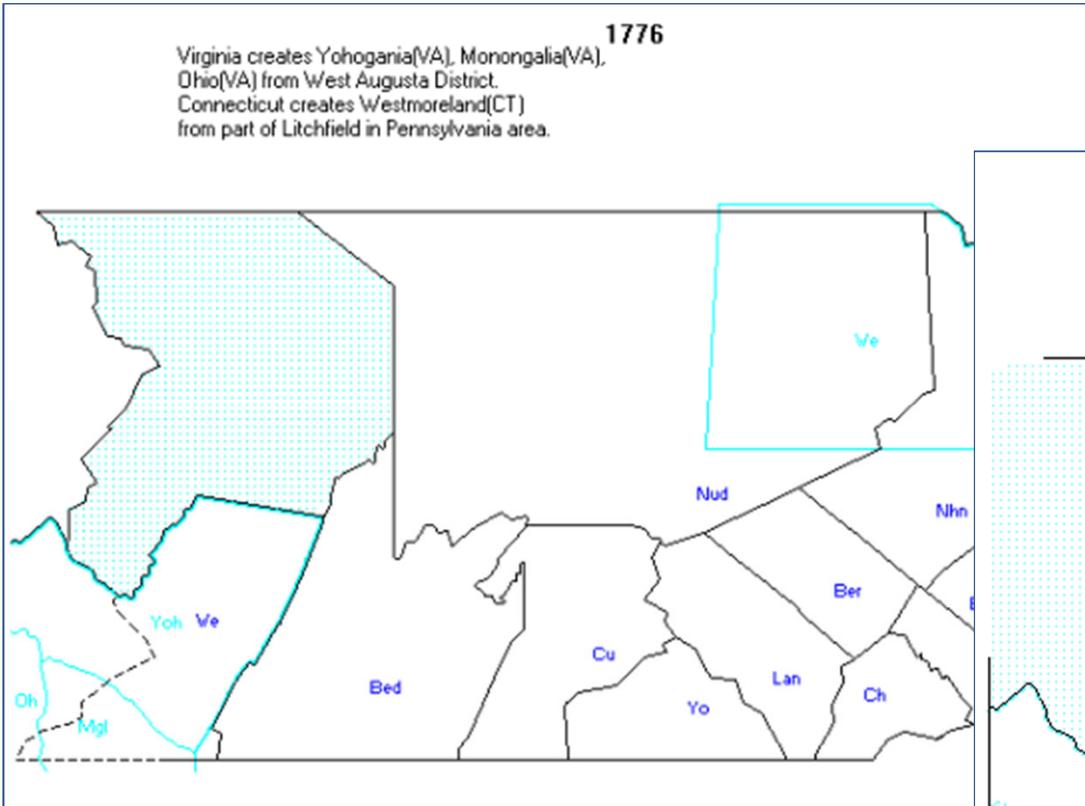


The Monongahela of Old, or, Historical Sketches of South-western Pennsylvania to the Year 1800 (1910)

Interactive Map of Pennsylvania County Formation History

(Pennsylvania maps made with the use [AniMap Plus 3.0](#) & with the Permission of the [Goldbug Company](#))

play stop <prev next>



MapofUS.org

Level 1 National

United States of America



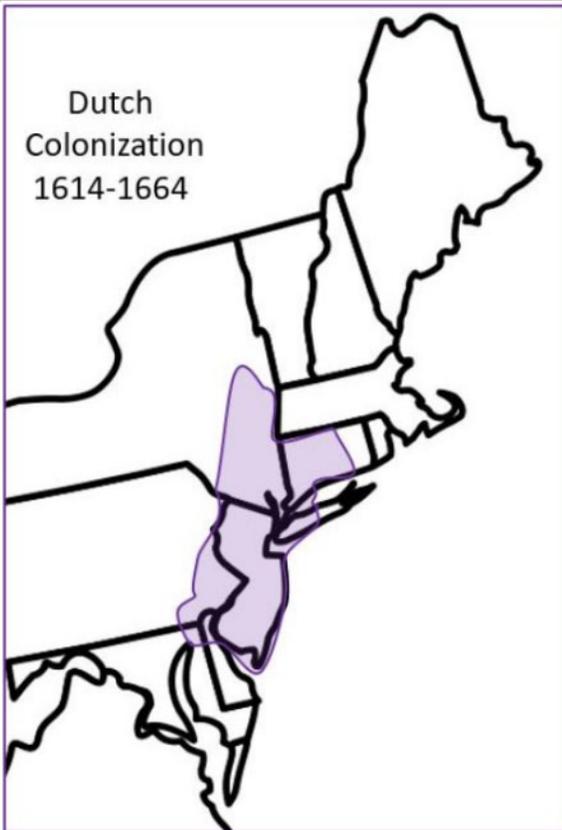
➤ 1763: End of French & Indian War

➤ 1783: American independence

➤ 1803: Louisiana Purchase

➤ 1821: Mexican independence

Smaller Colonies



Images from [FamilySearch.org/wiki](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki)

Spanish/Mexican

Spanish claims

- Florida(s)
 - 1500s-1763
 - 1783-1821
- Louisiana Territory
 - 1762-1800
- Southwest
 - 1500s-1821
- Puerto Rico
 - 1493-1898



Colonization Efforts

- Goal to expand Catholicism
 - Sent Catholic priests and established missionaries
 - Recruited Catholic populations like the Irish
- Attracted persecuted peoples
 - Scotch-Irish
 - Loyalists
- Generally, established by headright grants or land grants:
 - Pay own passage
 - Maintain property or provide a service to crown: military service, building/managing grist mills, raising cattle, etc.

Louisiana Territory

-Grants like headrights

Florida

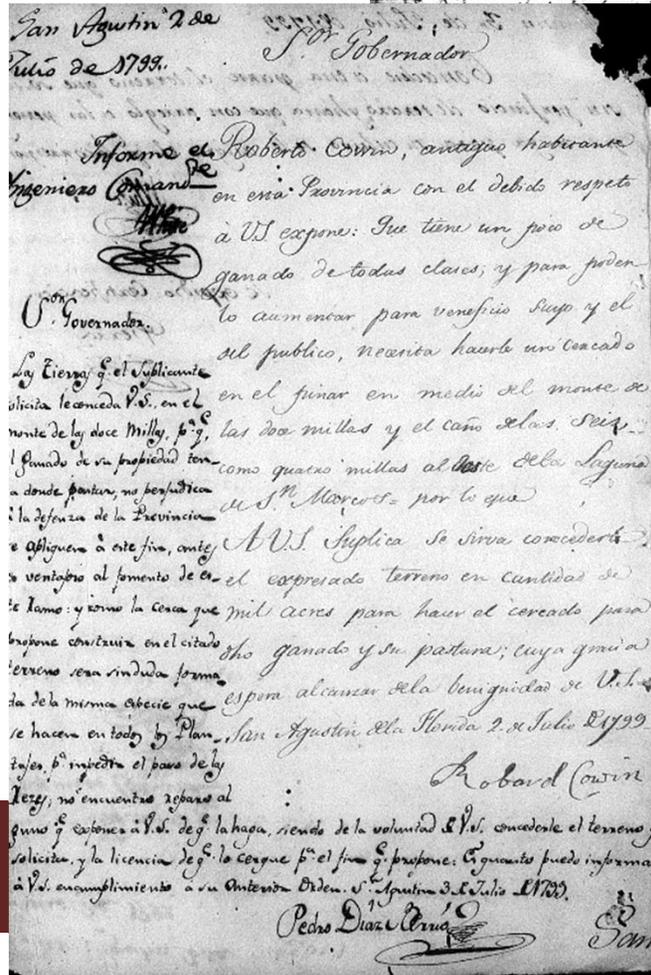
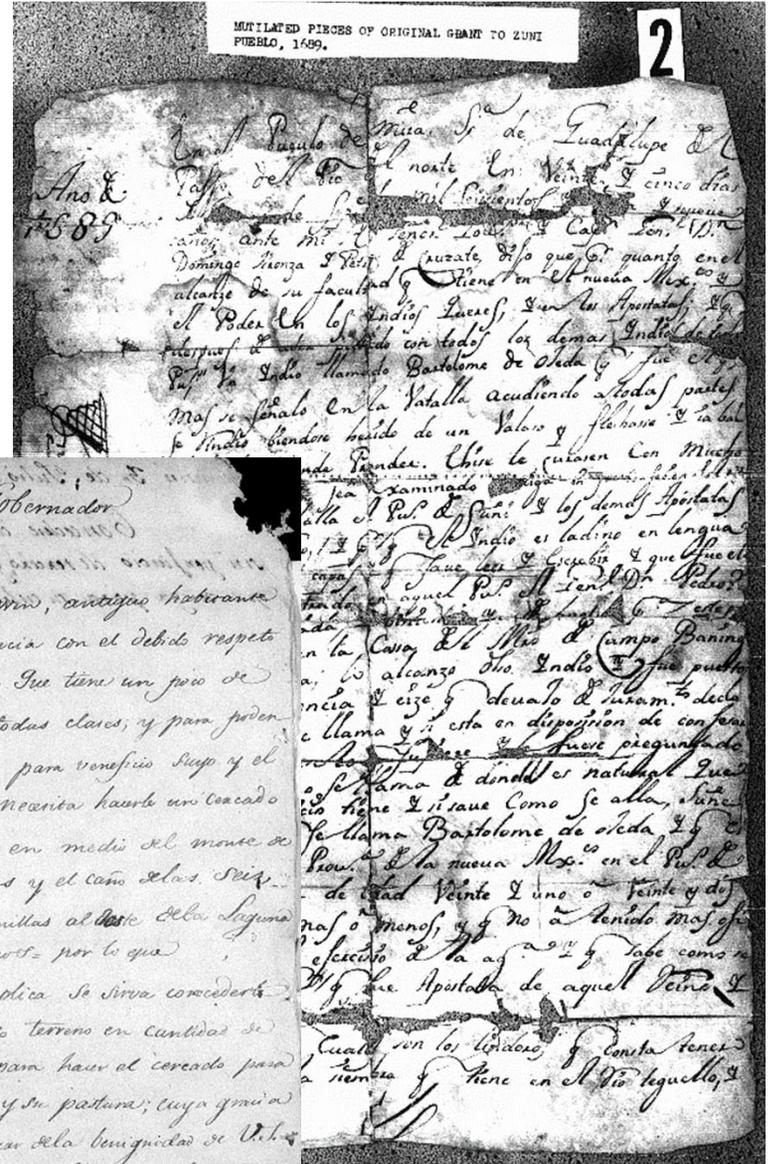
-Headright grants
-Memorials

New Mexico Territory

-Pueblo grants
-Presidio grants

Texas & California

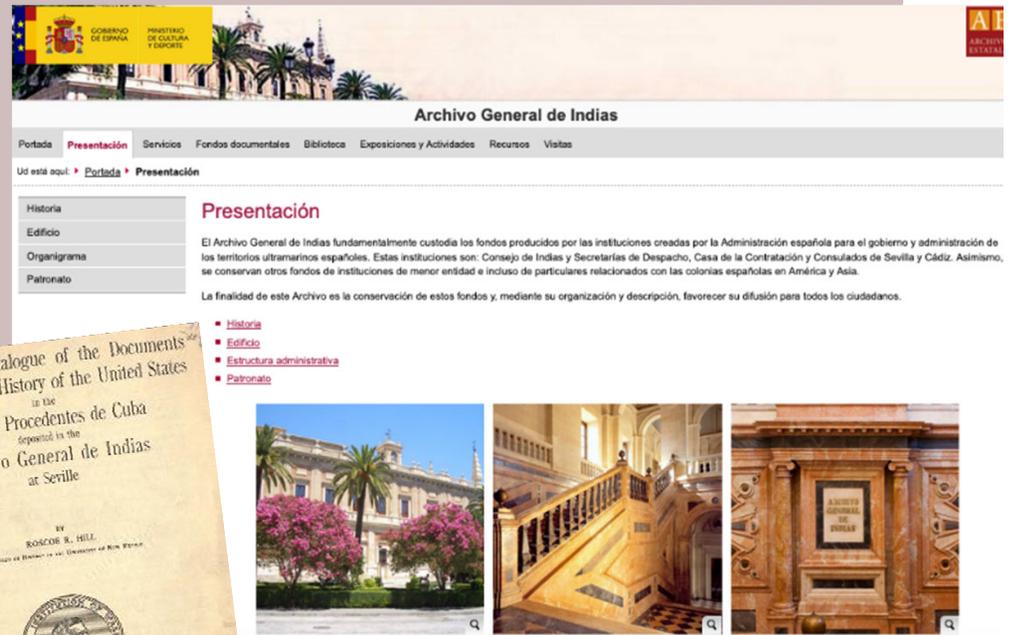
U.S. Private Land Claims



Records

Where do you find records?

- Archivo General de Indias (Archives of the Indies)
- Florida State Archives- Spanish Land Grant Archives/Files
- Louisiana State Museum Library
- New Orleans Public Library
- Louisiana State Library
- Louisiana Notarial Archives
- Family History Library
- *Many more, see handout*



Mexican claims

- 1821 – Independence from Spain
- Provinces:
 - West = California (and AZ)
 - North = New Mexico (and NV, CO, UT)
 - East = Texas (and OK, KS, WY)
- 1835-1845 – Republic of Texas
- 1848 – Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo
- 1854 – Gadsden Purchase

California

- Ranchos
- Pueblos
- Presidios

Texas

- Headright/empresario grants
- By petition

U.S. Private Land Claims

California, U.S., Spanish Land Records, 1784-1868
English Translations > Vol 6, Page 266 - Vol 8, Page 309

L.S.

I, Juana Pineda, a native of the Department of California, born in Mexico in Guadalajara; before Your Excellency in due form of Law, appear and say; That, being burdened, with a large family, and having a considerable amount of Stock, Cattle and horses, and needing a tract of land on which to place said Stock for their Security an opportunity is offered me to procure a tract of land by purchase from Don Joaquin, a neophyte of the Mission of Santa Catalina, who was granted to him in ownership, as appears by the Documents which I have not brought to Your Excellency, for which reason I pray you to be pleased to give me permission to purchase the same, and also to the same leave to sell it, for the latter has no means of cultivating it and so far as I am concerned, it is for the benefit of my numerous family.

Whereby I pray Your Excellency to be pleased to grant my petition, in which I will receive favor, making the necessary costs.

Montreux, October 30th 1844

Juana Pineda

Sr. Cefe Político

Al Sr. José Gorgonio en unión de los de su misma clase, José Ramón y Calistro, ambos tres, neofitos de la Misión de S. Clara, ante V. S. se presentan p.^{ra} medio de este escrito y segun hallan lugar; diciendo q.^o desde su infancia se han hallado sujetos al servicio molesto de los trabajos de la Misión, sin embargo de haverles sido concedido a primero, y segundo José Ramón, q.^o es su hijo, un pedazo de terreno p.^{ra} el finado Sr. Figueroa, no han tenido la ocasión de haber comprado su licencia y haber sido desfilidos de la sujecion de dicha Misión, de donde resulta los atrasos grandes q.^o de nos estan siguiendo tanto en otros cortos menes como en nuestros labores, p.^{ra} atender en primer lugar, a los trabajos comunes de la expresada Misión por ser p.^{ra} desuido de haver solicitado mi dicha licencia desde aquel

Records

French

French claims

- Louisiana Territory
 - 1699-1762
 - 1800-1803
- Canada (included Midwest states, parts of NY and PA)
 - 1535-1763



Colonization Efforts

- Goal to expand fur and mineral trade.
 - Established trading posts
 - Voyageurs networked with and married into local tribes
- Brought over:
 - 1717 French convicts, mostly debtors
 - 1717 African and Caribbean slaves
 - 1740s German and Alsace-Lorraine colonists
 - 1770s-1780s Acadians
- Crown granted charters to Land Companies or individuals:
 - Seigneuries

Where do you find records?

- French unconcerned with organizing and preserving records so mostly learned through Spanish claims
- Superior Council Records- land suits, inventories of property, leases, mortgages, as well as marriage contracts and civil suits (several repositories including the FamilySearch Library)
- Notarial Records- contain a variety of records but many Louisiana records removed by soldiers during Civil War
- *See handout for specifics*

British

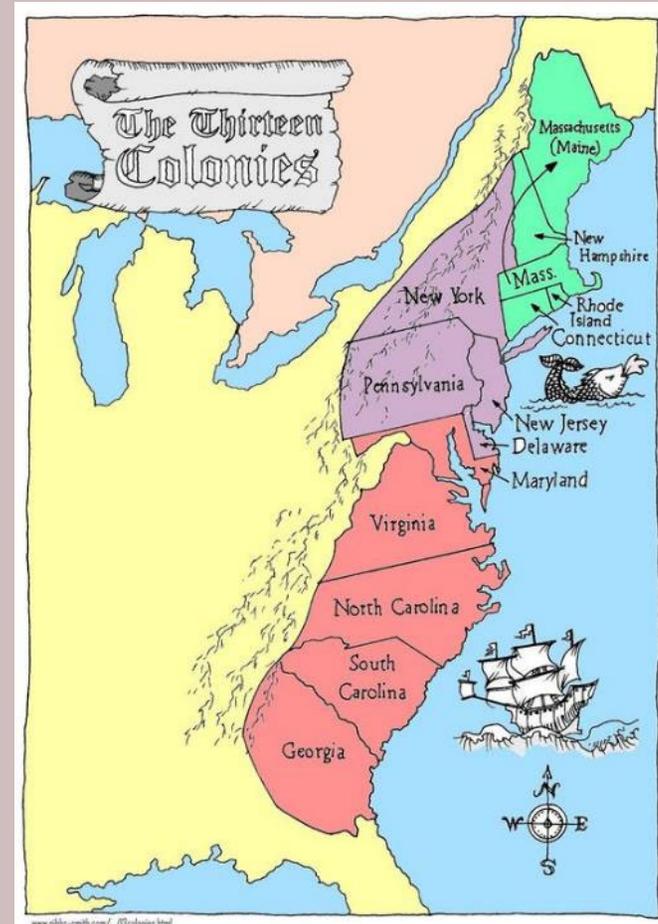
British claims

- Area east of Appalachian Mountains
 - 1607-1783
- Area east of the Mississippi River (not New Orleans)
 - 1763-1783
- East and West Florida
 - 1763-1783
- Oregon Country
 - 1778/1818-1846

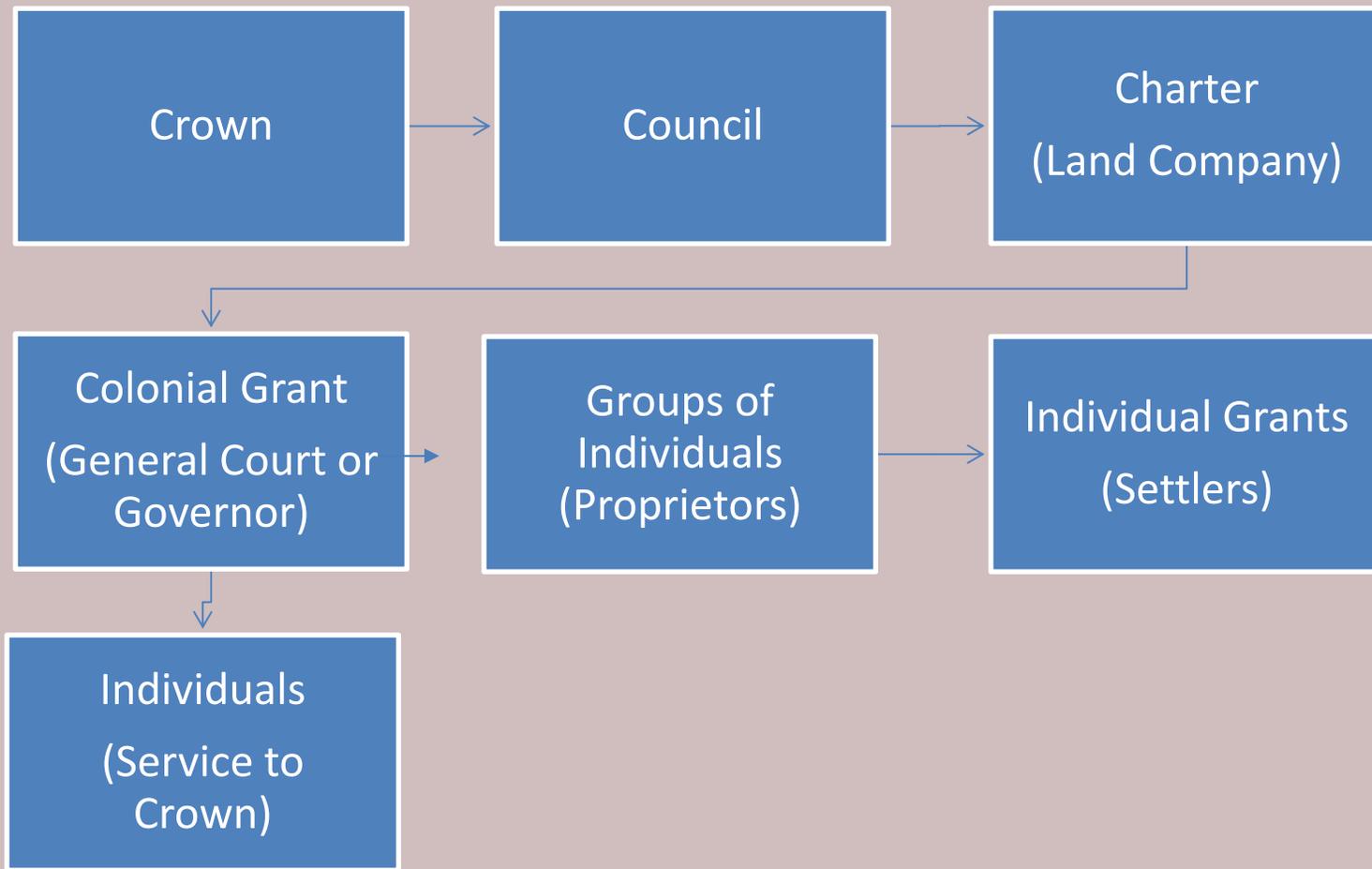


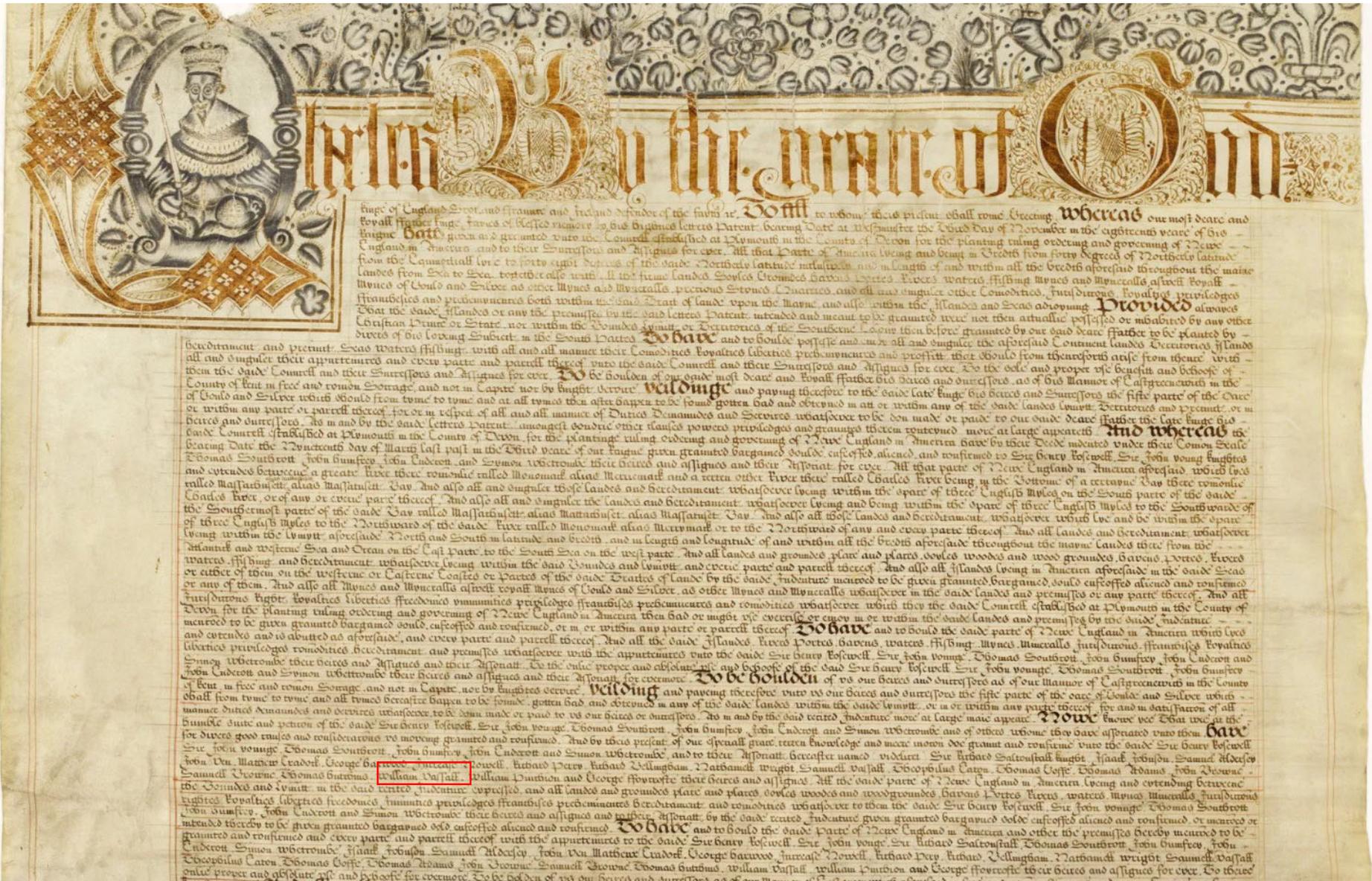
Colonization Efforts

- Reasons:
 - Make money
 - Compete with other European powers
 - Religious freedom
- Recruited:
 - Middle-class
 - Convicts and slaves
 - Immigrants from other countries



Legal Process





Charter

WILLIAM VASSALL

ORIGIN: London

MIGRATION: 1630

FIRST RESIDENCE: Boston

REMOVES: Scituate 1635, England 1646, Barbados 1648

RETURN TRIPS: Returned to England in fall 1630 on the *Lyon*, and back to New England 1635 on *Blessing*; returned to England on the *Supply*

OCCUPATION: Merchant [Aspinwall 177].

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP: About 1635 "Mrs. Anna Vassail the wife of Mr. William Vassaile [was admitted to Roxbury church]. Her husband brought five children to this land, Judith, Francis, John, Margret, Mary" [RChR 80]. "Mr. Vassel joined" Scituate church on 28 November 1636 [NEHGR 9:280].

FREEMAN: Took the oath of allegiance to the king, 1 February 1638/9 [PCR 1:110, 8:182].

EDUCATION: He made his mark to his will, but he signed his name numerous times as a witness [Aspinwall 30, 71, 218]. Vassall's surveying instruments were frequently used in Plymouth Colony [PCR 2:52].

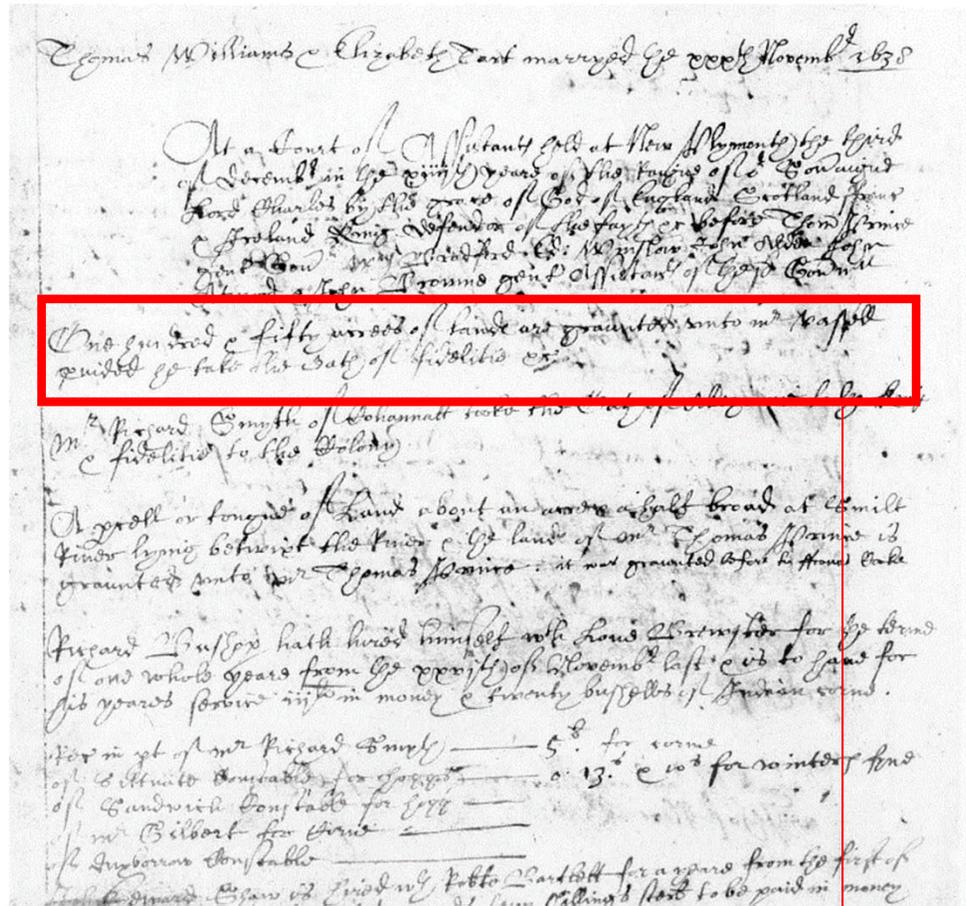
OFFICES: Assistant, Massachusetts Bay Company, 23 March 1628[9], 11 May 1629, 13 May 1629, 20 October 1629 [MBCR 1:37, 39, 40, 60]. Committee to consider division of lands, 5 March 1628/9 [MBCR 1:30]. Committee to resolve orders, 21 May 1629 [MBCR 1:44]. Arbitrator, 19 September 1629 [MBCR 1:51]. Present at a court of assistants on the *Arbella*, 23 March 1629[30] [MBCR 1:70].

Deputy, 27 September 1642 [PCR 2:46]. Council of War, 27 September 1642 [PCR 2:47]. In Scituate section of 1643 Plymouth Colony list of men able to bear arms [PCR 8:191].

ESTATE: On 15 December 1629 "Capt. Waller and Mr. Vassall were content to give the first £50 to the plantation, so as their other £50 might go on wholly to this new stock" [MBCR 1:67].

Rev. John Lothrop listed "Mr. Vassell's" first among the houses built in Scituate in 1636 [NEHGR 10:42].

General Court grants land

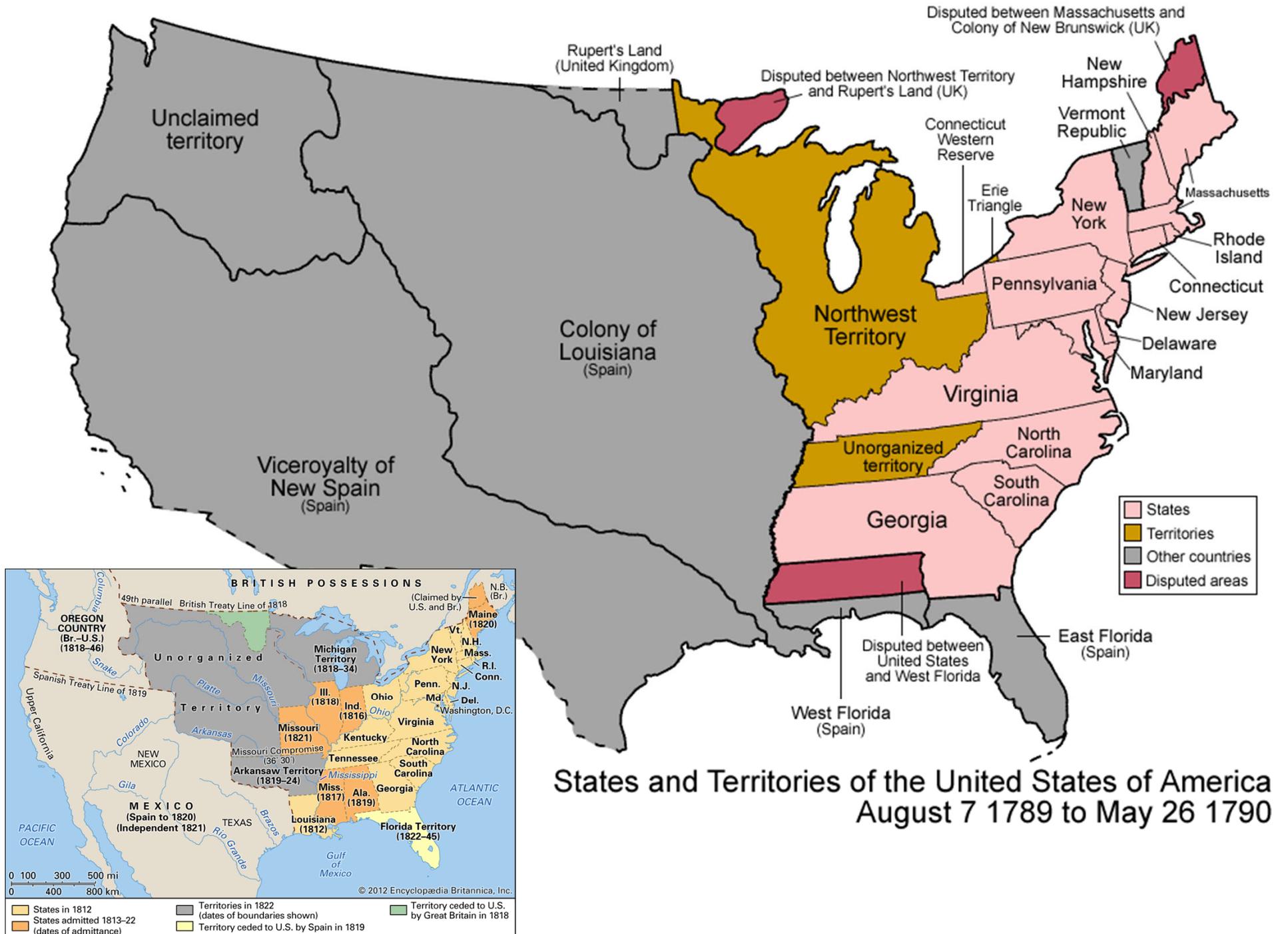


At a Court of Assistant℄ held at New Plymouth, the third of Decemb^r, in the xiiijth Yeare of the Raigne of o^r Sou^{er}aigne Lord, Charles, by the Grace of God of England, Scotland, France, & Ireland King, Defendor of the Fayth, &c.

BEFORE Thom. Prince, gent., Go^v, John Alden,
W^m Bradford, John Atwood, &
Ed: Winslow, John Browne,
Gent., Assistant℄ of the s^d go^vm^{ty}.

ONE hundred & fifty acres of land℄ are granted vnto M^r Vassell, guided he take the oath of fidelitie, &c.

Federal





Government Land Programs

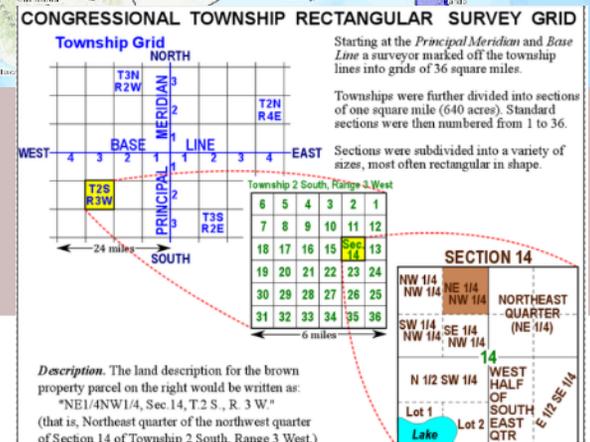
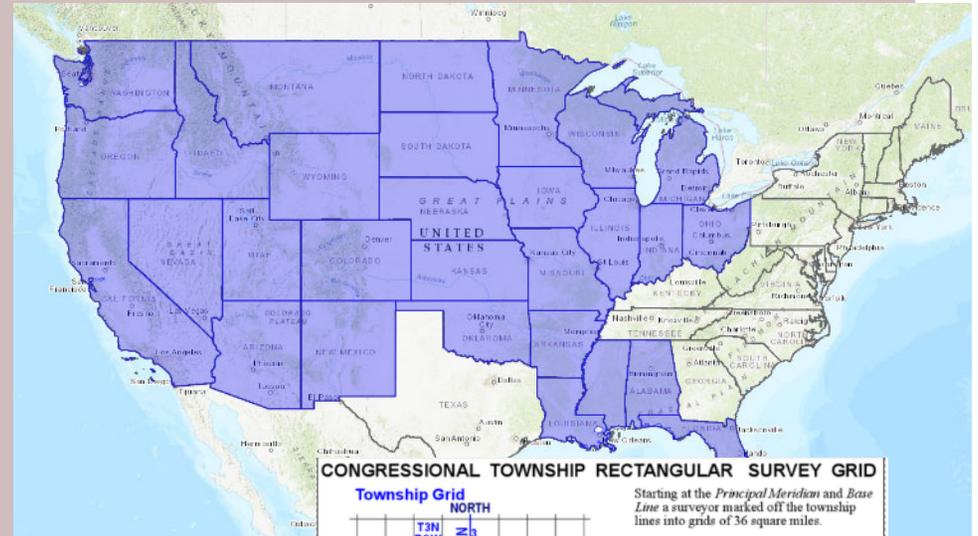
- Donation lands and cash or credit sales
- Homestead grants
- Grants to states
- Grants to railroads and others
- Military bounty lands
- Private land claims

Cash and Credit

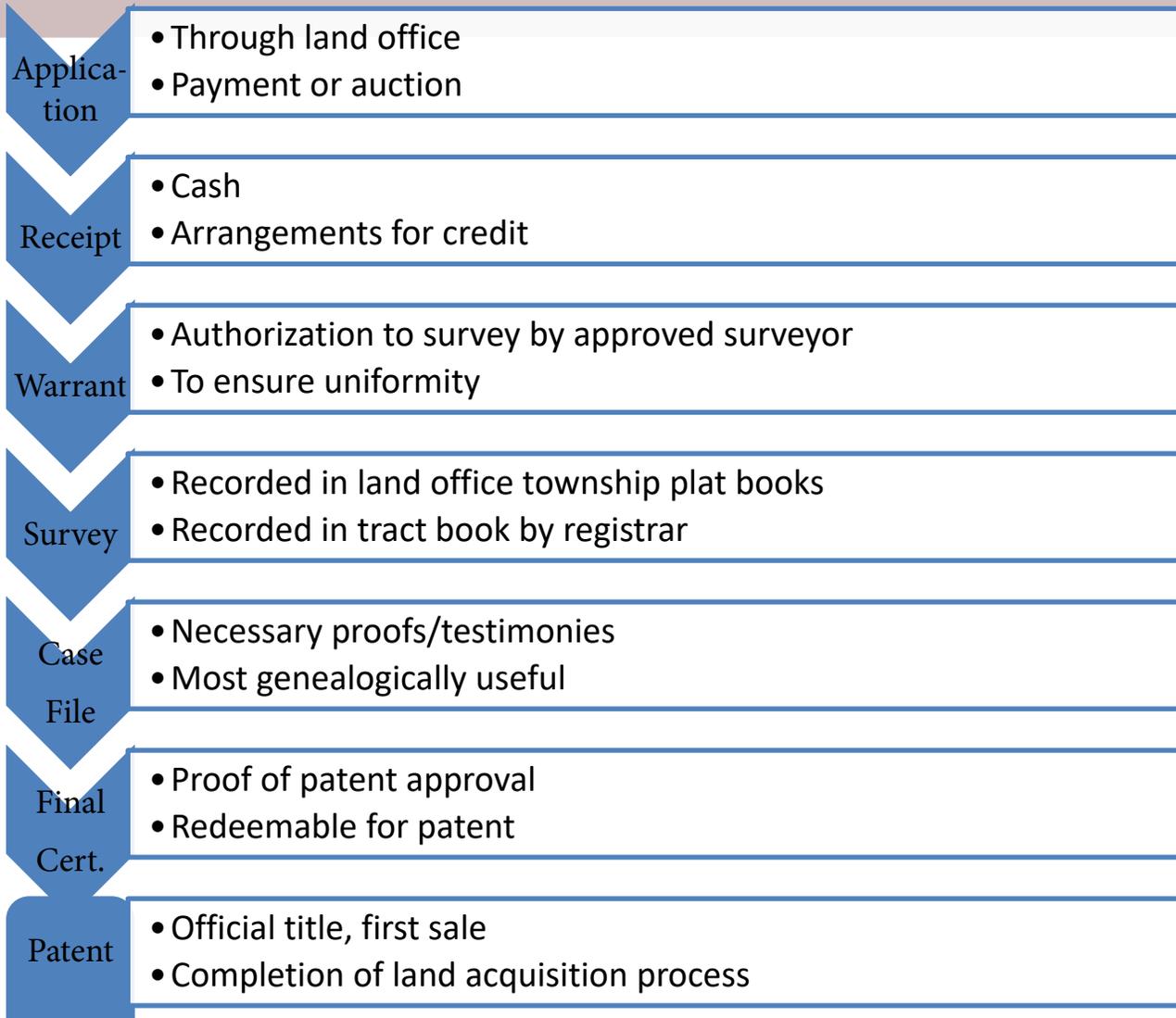
- Land Ordinance of 1785
 - Survey Northwest Territory
- Land Law of 1796
 - Cash-entry requirements established
- Land Law of 1800
 - Credit allowances established
- Land Law of 1820
 - Credit abolished and cash payment required
- Pre-emption Act of 1830
 - Preemption rights for up to 160 acres at \$1.25 each

Federal: Public Land

- Land surveyed then granted in lots by federal land offices; “survey before settlement” policy
- Rectangular system
- 30 states
- 3 objectives:
 - Raise revenues
 - Compensate soldiers
 - Encourage westward migration



Land Acquisition Process



454
CERTIFICATE **THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.**
 No. 9575
To all to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting:
WHEREAS Nathaniel Kennedy of Muskingum County Ohio,
 has deposited in the **GENERAL LAND OFFICE** of the United States, a Certificate of the REGISTER OF THE LAND
 OFFICE of *Janesville* whereby it appears that full payment has been made by the said
Nathaniel Kennedy,
 according to the provisions of
 the Act of Congress of the 24th of April, 1820, entitled "An Act making further provision for the sale of the Public Lands," for
 the north West quarter, of the South West quarter, of section four, in Township
 one, of range three, of the unappropriated lands in the Military District
 subject to sale at *Janesville Ohio* containing forty one acres
 according to the official plat of the survey of the said Lands, returned to the General Land Office by the SURVEYOR
 GENERAL, which said tract has been purchased by the said *Nathaniel Kennedy*
NOW KNOW YE, That the
United States of America, in consideration of the Petition, and in conformity with the several acts of Congress, in
 such case made and provided, HAVE GIVEN AND GRANTED, and by these presents DO GIVE AND GRANT, unto
 the said *Nathaniel Kennedy*
 and to his heirs, the said tract above described: **TO HAVE AND TO HOLD** the same, together with all the rights,
 privileges, immunities, and opportunities of whatsoever nature, thereto belonging, unto the said *Nathaniel Kennedy*
 and to his heirs and assigns forever.
In Testimony Whereof, I, Martin Van Buren
 PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, have caused these Letters to be made **PATENT**, and the
SEAL of the **GENERAL LAND OFFICE** to be hereunto affixed.
 WITNESS under my hand, at the CITY OF WASHINGTON, the *fifth* day of *August*
 in the Year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and *thirty seven* and of the
INDEPENDENCE OF THE UNITED STATES the *Sixty second*.
BY THE PRESIDENT: *Martin Van Buren*
W. G. McCoy acting Register of the General Land Office.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR PRIVATE CLAIMS
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT General Land Office Records

Search Documents Reference Center Support Shopping Cart

Accession Nr: OH1560.469 Document Type: State Volume Patent State: Ohio Issue Date: 8/5/1837 Cancelled: No

Patent Details Patent Image Related Documents Printer Friendly

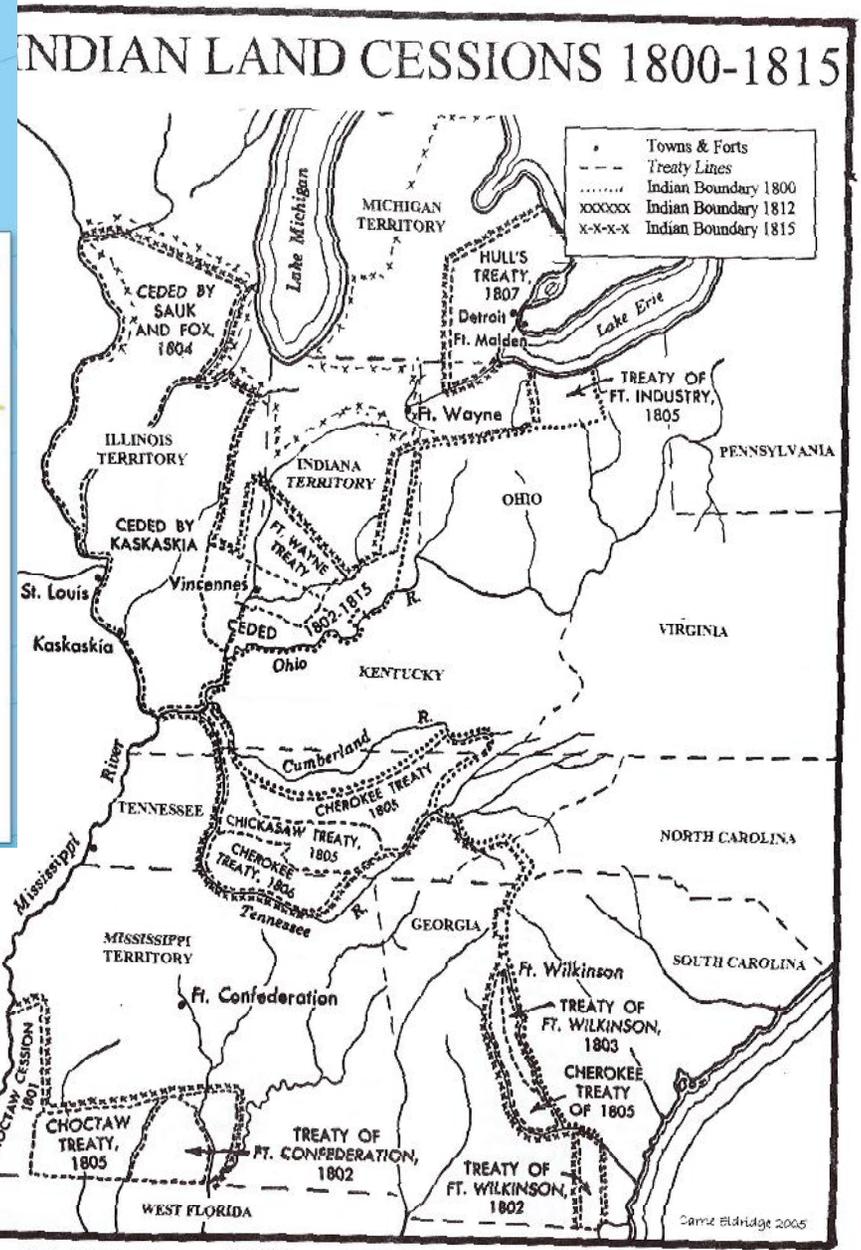
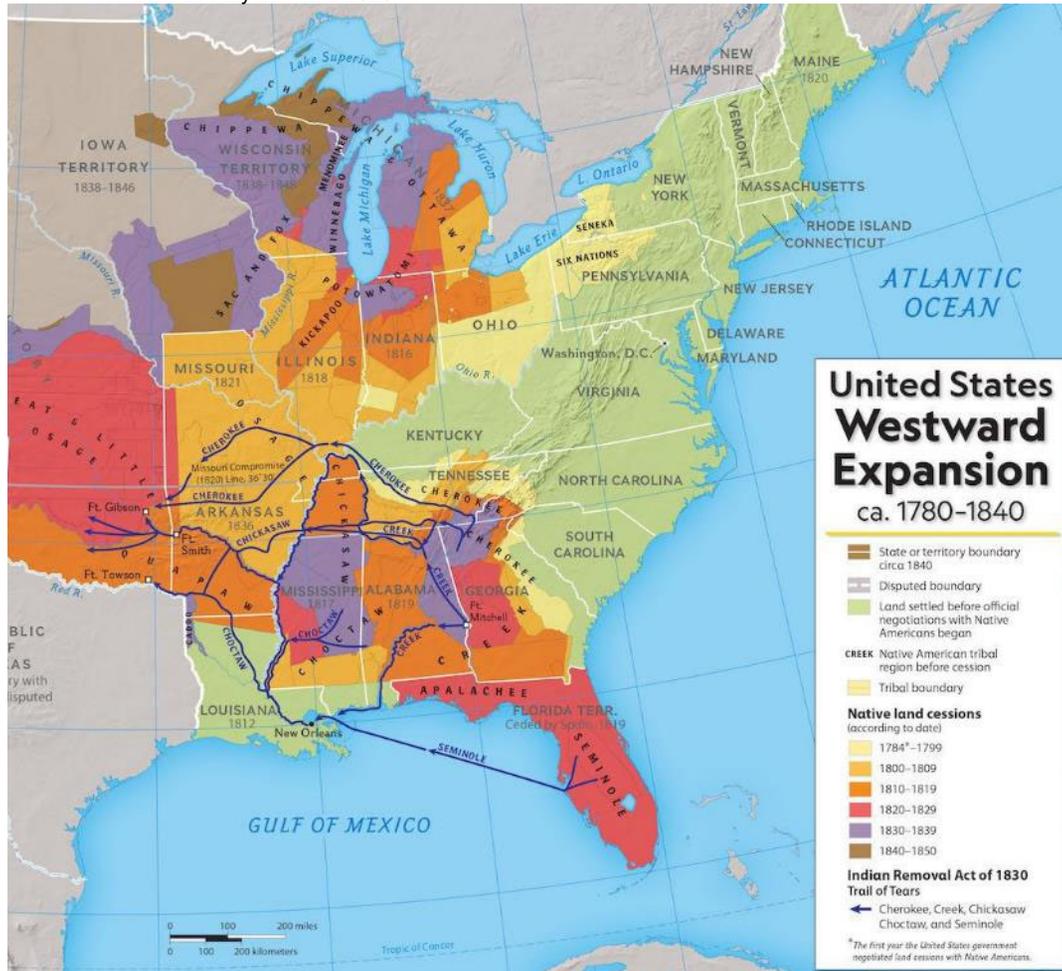
Below are documents matching the following *land description* from the current document: OH U.S. Military Survey Township 1.0N Range 3.0W Section 4

Image	Accession	Names	Date	Doc #	State	Meridian	Twp - Rng	Aliquots	Sec. #	County
	OH1560.349	HALL, JOHN	8/10/1837	9902	OH	U.S. Military Survey	001N - 003W	SE1/4NE1/4	4	Guernsey
	OH1550.454	KENNEDY, NATHANIEL	8/5/1837	9515	OH	U.S. Military Survey	001N - 003W	NE1/4SE1/4	4	Guernsey
	OH1550.469	KENNEDY, NATHANIEL	8/5/1837	9530	OH	U.S. Military Survey	001N - 003W	SW1/4NW1/4	4	Guernsey
	OH0430.182	MAXWELL, DAVID	9/14/1835	4680	OH	U.S. Military Survey	001N - 003W	NE1/4NW1/4	4	Guernsey
	OH1600.134	MAXWELL, JOSEPH	9/1/1838	11676	OH	U.S. Military Survey	001N - 003W	NW1/4NW1/4	4	Guernsey
	OH0490.279	MCCONAUGHY, JOHN	4/10/1837	7832	OH	U.S. Military Survey	001N - 003W	SE1/4SW1/4	4	Guernsey
	OH1560.149	NEVIN, JOHN D	8/10/1837	9702	OH	U.S. Military Survey	001N - 003W	SW1/4SE1/4	4	Guernsey
	OH0460.346	NEWMOM, JOHN	4/30/1835	6382	OH	U.S. Military Survey	001N - 003W	SE1/4SE1/4	4	Guernsey
	OH0460.166	OGIER, JOHN	4/30/1835	6201	OH	U.S. Military Survey	001N - 003W	SE1/4NW1/4	4	Guernsey
	OH1570.136	TORODE, JOHN	8/15/1837	10184	OH	U.S. Military Survey	001N - 003W	SW1/4SW1/4	4	Guernsey
	OH0460.341	WALLER, MARGARET	4/30/1835	6377	OH	U.S. Military Survey	001N - 003W	NE1/4NE1/4	4	Guernsey
	OH0390.452	WALLER, SAMUEL	4/2/1832	2967	OH	U.S. Military Survey	001N - 003W	W1/2NE1/4	4	Guernsey

glorerecords.blm.gov/search/

Acquiring lands from Native American Nations

- Donations/Sales to colonial representatives
 - Beginning 1633
 - Need to clear title
 - Right of Occupancy until 1682
- Treaties
 - Colonists assumed Natives recognized crown owned
 - Established perpetual reservations



Native land cessions

Figure 21. Indian Land Cessions 1800-1815

Distributing lands to Native Americans

- Allotment
 - Provided for displaced individuals
 - 1830s-1934
 - Plats, allotment schedules, tract books
 - Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Scrip
 - Select public lands in designated areas
 - Issued through Congressional acts so at NARA
 - Power of attorney, scrip certificates, testimonies, assignments

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
COMMISSION TO THE FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES.
MUSKOGEE LAND OFFICE.

MUSKOGEE, I. T. Dec 22 1904

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF Tupper Dumm
to take an allotment of land in the Creek Nation for Susie Dumm
accompanied by a certificate showing that the said Susie Dumm
has been listed for enrollment as a citizen of the said Nation.

Tupper Dumm being first duly sworn, testifies as follows:
Q. What is your name? A. Tupper Dumm
Q. What is your postoffice address? A. Okmah I.I.
Q. For whom do you make application for allotment? A. Susie Dumm
Q. Is she now living? A. Yes
Q. How do you represent this person? A. She is my wife

Application is made for the following described land:

Roll	No.	Subdivision	Sec.	Twp.	Range.	Area.
	<u>09</u>	<u>20257/11.3^{1/2} ac of 188²⁶ ac of</u>				

Department of the Interior
COMMISSION TO THE FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES

Muskogee, Indian Territory. 100 50 100

Tupper Dumm
Arbeka I.I.

Dear Sir:
The records of this office show that selection of 157.53 acres of land in the Creek Nation has been made for Susie Dumm, whose name appears on Creek Indian Roll No. 9.
It appears that in order to complete this allotment as nearly as practicable to 160 acres, an additional selection of land should be made.
You are therefore notified that 30 days from date hereof will be allowed you in which to appear at the office of the Commission in Muskogee, Indian Territory, and designate the lands desired to complete the allotment mentioned.
If at the expiration of said 30 days you have failed to so appear for the purpose of making selection the Commission will allot the necessary amount of land for the completion of said allotment.

Yours respectfully,

Chairman.

Commission to the Five Civilized Tribes.

No. 8

APPLICATION FOR ALLOTMENT.

CREEK NATION.

MUSKOGEE LAND OFFICE.

I, Tupper Dumm do hereby make application to have set apart to me, and to those whom I lawfully represent, lands selected by me, as follows:

Roll Number	NAMES	Relationship to Applicant	SUBDIVISION OF	Section	Town	Range	Acres	Value
<u>08</u>	<u>Tupper Dumm</u>	<u>Self</u>	<u>20257/11.3^{1/2} ac of 188²⁶ ac of</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>158</u>	<u>08</u>
<u>09</u>	<u>Susie Dumm</u>	<u>Wife</u>	<u>20257/11.3^{1/2} ac of 188²⁶ ac of</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>157</u>	<u>63</u>
<u>10</u>	<u>Harry Dumm</u>	<u>Son</u>	<u>20257/11.3^{1/2} ac of 188²⁶ ac of</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>160</u>	<u>---</u>
<u>11</u>	<u>Wannie Dumm</u>	<u>Daughter</u>	<u>20257/11.3^{1/2} ac of 188²⁶ ac of</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>164</u>	<u>08</u>
<u>12</u>	<u>Renton Dumm</u>	<u>Son</u>	<u>20257/11.3^{1/2} ac of 188²⁶ ac of</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>160</u>	<u>---</u>
<u>13</u>	<u>Nattie Sullivan</u>	<u>Acting Trustee</u>	<u>20257/11.3^{1/2} ac of 188²⁶ ac of</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>160</u>	<u>---</u>

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR.
Commission to the Five Civilized Tribes.
Muskogee Land Office, Saturday, April 1st, 1899.

I, Tupper Dumm actually been upon the lands so set as above described, and am fully j of the soil; that said lands are sui such lands, and will accept the sar and that no part of said lands is l

TUPPER DUMM, upon being sworn and examined by Acting Chairman Bixby testified as follows:

Q: What is your name? Answer: Tupper Dumm.

Q: Where do you live? Answer: Arbeka.

Q: Are you in actual possession of the lands you want to select for yourself and family? Answer: Yes sir.

Q: Are there any improvements on the land?

A: Two sections there that have no improvements on them.

Q: What improvements have you on the land?

A: Fields and houses.

Q: Improved fields? Answer: Yes sir.

Q: How much land have you cultivated?

A: One place I have 40 acres under cultivation and another 20 acres, and the place where I live has seven acres.

Q: Any body else claim any of these lands? Answer: No sir.

Q: Do you live on the land? Answer: Yes sir.

Q: Have you the land fenced?

A: I haven't it all fenced. Have forty acres fenced in one and twenty in another, and seven in another, and a house on another.

Q: Are these lands suitable for a home for yourself and family?

A: Yes sir.

Q: Are you selecting these lands in good faith for yourself and family?

A: Yes sir.



Approved and Certificate issued t

Allotments

Level 2

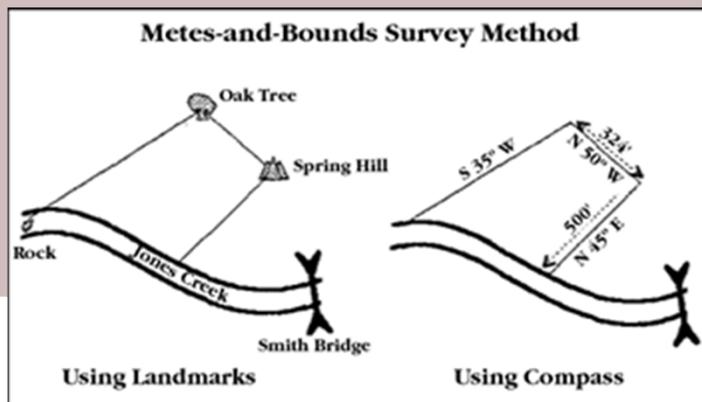
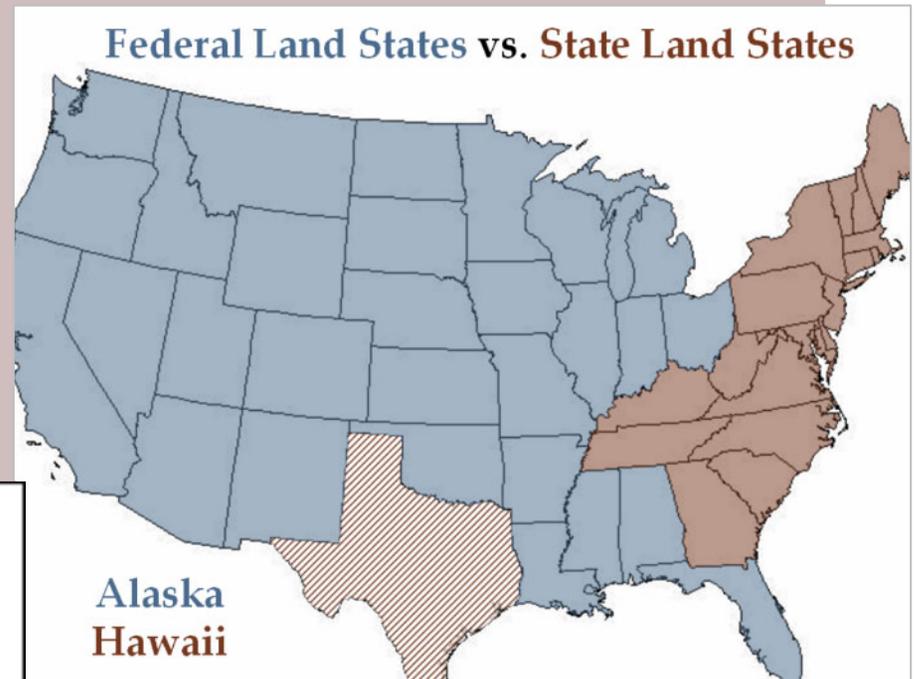
Local distribution

From colony to individual

Town	Colonial	Proprietor	Federal
Crown ↓	Crown ↓	Crown ↓	Crown ↓
Colony ↓	Colony ↓	(Colony) ↓	Colony ↓
Town/Proprietors ↓		Proprietor(s) ↓	
			Federal government ↓
Individual	Individual	Individual	Individual

State-land States

- Colony/state-controlled land grants/patents – not the federal government
- 20 states
- Metes-and-bounds system
- Held at state archives



Colony/State Government

Land Grant Process

Application

- Through land office/county recorder
- Describes conditions

Warrant

- Authorization to survey
- Accept previous survey

Survey

- Recorded in land office
- Description and neighbors

Patent

- Official title, first sale
- Completion of land acquisition process

1. Application

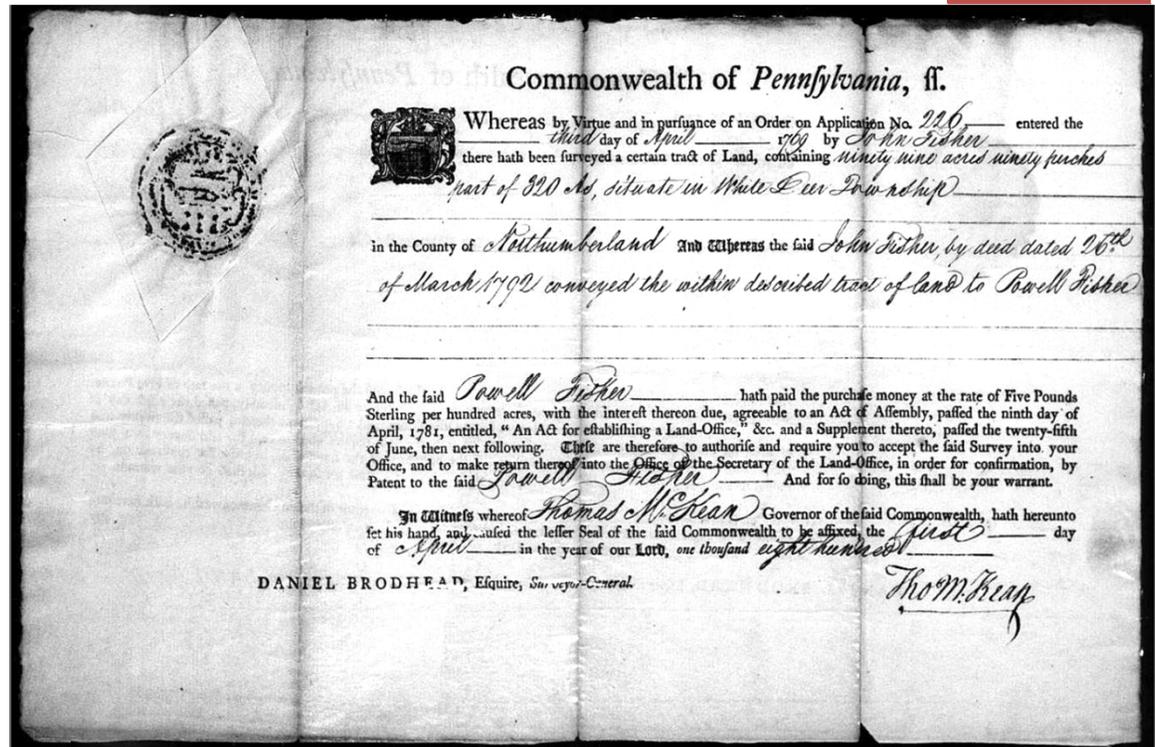
Drill	3	226	John Fisher 100as. Retd 6th Apl. 1797 to Michael Fisher	300	Near and above Michael Weylan on the West Branch of Susquehanna near Chickelamis Old Town .	D. 57 189 B 284 C. 64 249 IX 169 IX 170 C. 55 52	Formerly Berks Co. now Kelly Twp. Union Co.
			100 Retd 6th Apl. 1797 to Henry Fisher . 99a. 90p Retd 12 Apl 1800 to Powell Fisher .				

*100^{as} Retd 6th Apl. 1797 to Michael Fisher -
100^{as} Retd 6th Apl. 1797 to Henry Fisher -
99a. 90p Retd 12 Apl. 1800 to Powell Fisher*

*226 John Fisher 300
near & above Michael Weylan on the West Branch
of Susquehanna near Chickelamis Old Town*

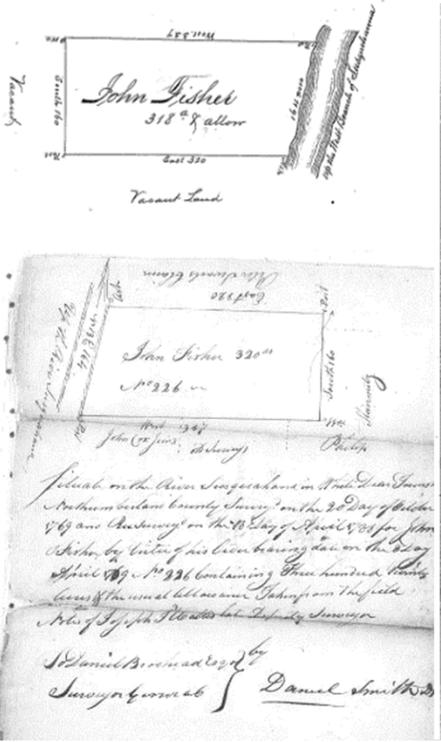
*1. 227 Miles Holburn 300
above and adjoining land of Richard Edwards*

2. Warrant

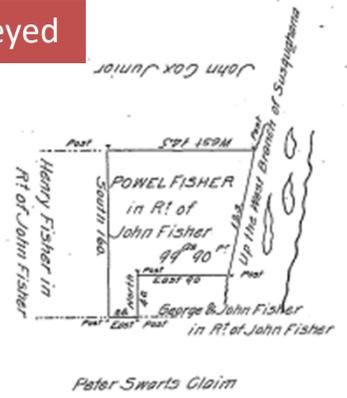
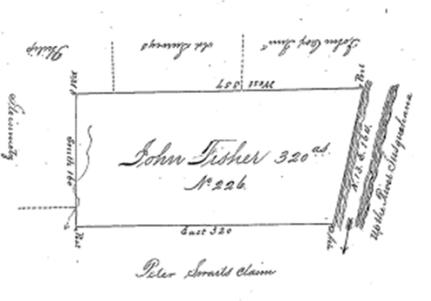


State-land process - phmc.pa.gov/Archives/Research-Online/Pages/Land-Records-Indices.aspx

3a. Survey



3b. Resurveyed



Situate on the River Susquehanna in White Deer Township Northumberland County Survey'd on the 20th Day of October 1769 and Re-survey'd on the 18th Day of April 1788 for John Fisher by Virtue of his Order bearing date on the 8th Day of April 1769 N^o 226 containing Three hundred Twenty Acres & the usual allowance taken from the field notes of Joseph J. Wallis's Deputy Surveyor

by Daniel Woodhead Esq }
Surveyor General } Daniel Smith Esq

Situate in White Deer Township Northumberland County on the South side of the West Branch of the River Susquehanna River Survey'd on the 20th Day of October 1769 by Charles Lukens then Deputy Surveyor Three hundred and Twenty Acres in R^t of John Fishers Application N^o 226 bearing date on the 3rd Day of April 1769 And Resurvey'd for Powell Fisher on the 18th day of October 1788 the above Tract of Land Containing Ninety

5. Patent

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, to all to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting: Know ye, that in Consideration of the ~~sum of twenty three pounds nine shillings & three pence lawful money~~ paid by Powell Fisher into the Receiver-General's Office of this Commonwealth, ~~at the granting of the Warrant~~ hereinafter mentioned,

there is granted by the said Commonwealth, unto the said Powell Fisher a certain Tract of Land, called Greenfield situate on the south side of the west branch of the River Susquehanna in White Deer township Northumberland county Beginning at a post thence up the west branch of Susquehanna river one hundred and twenty three perches to a post, thence by land of John Cox junr west one hundred and forty five perches to a post, thence by land of Henry Fisher, south one hundred and sixty perches to a post, thence by land claimed by Peter Swarts east twenty eight perches to a post, thence by land of George and John Fisher, north forty perches to a post, and east ninety perches

to the beginning, containing ninety nine acres ninety perches ~~part of a larger tract~~ and an allowance of six per cent. for roads, &c. which said Tract was surveyed in Pursuance of an application N^o 226 dated 3rd April 1769 entered by John Fisher, who by deed dated 26th March 1792 conveyed the above described tract of land to the said Powell Fisher, to whom a warrant for the acceptance of the said Survey issued the 1st April instant

with the Appurtenances: To have and to hold the said Tract or Parcel of Land, with the Appurtenances, unto the said Powell Fisher his Heirs, to the Use of him the said Powell Fisher his Heirs and Assigns, for ever

free and clear of all Restriptions and Reservations as to Mines, Royalties, Quit-Rents, or otherwise, excepting and reserving only, the fifth Part of all Gold and Silver Ore, for the Use of this Commonwealth, to be delivered at the Pit's Mouth, clear of all Charges. In Witness whereof Thomas McKean Governor of the said Commonwealth, hath hereto set his Hand, and caused the State Seal to be hereunto affixed, the seventeenth Day of April in the Year of our Lord, One Thousand Eight Hundred and thirty and of the Commonwealth the twenty fourth.

Attest: James Humber Deputy Secy Inrolled the 28th Day of April 1800.

Thos McKean

State-land process
phmc.pa.gov/Archives/Research-Online/Pages/Land-Records-Indices.aspx

File No. 218, Samuel Ratcliff

100 acres On a branch of the N. E. called Panther

Patent Book image; No Loose Document images on this site

Close

Archivist Notes at bottom

County: Duplin

Issued:
06 Mar 1759
[Book: 13 pg: 200](#)

Entered:
(no date)

Other Identifiers:
File no.: 218
MARS: 12.14.57.218

Subjects (in archivist order):
Ratcliff, Samuel
Panther Creek
Northeast Cape Fear River

Data courtesy of the State Archives of North Carolina MARS database

[Flag this record](#)

Thumbnails Full Images Tops Only

PAGE IMAGE FOR REFERENCED L:
Look for file number 218 circle
To zoom in/out use mouse wheel or +/- slider; To

South Carolina Department of Archives and History

Record and Image Search

Sort Customize Print Reload Clear ?

Archives.index.sc.gov

NCLandGrants.com

▼ Ratcliff, Samuel, Plat For 100 Acres In Craven County. Date: 1/7/1763



Click for images

People in this record:
Ratcliff, Samuel
Also: Belton, John; Leigh, Egerton

Places in this record:
Craven County; Lynches Creek

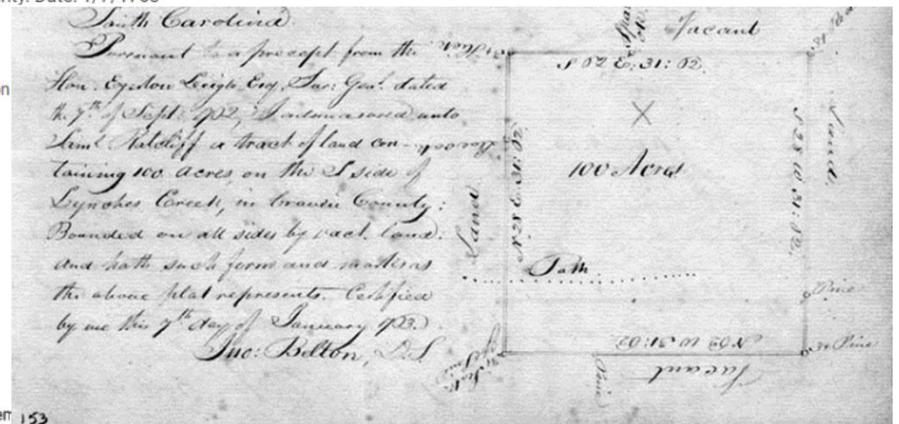
Topics in this record:

Record details:

Date: 1/7/1763
Series: Colonial Plat Books (Copy Series) (S213184)
Document Type: Plat
Images: Online

Identifiers:

Archives ID: Series: S213184 Volume: 0007 Page: 00305 Item: 153



Carolinas

Headrights

- To encourage settlement
- Gave set amount of acres to each person and those transporting them
- Where:
 - Virginia and Georgia
 - Maryland and Carolinas briefly
 - Florida
 - Texas

Colony/State Land Records

Include:

- Patents/grants, surveys, warrants, applications
- Bounty land

Where to look:

- Held by State Archives
- Microfilmed/digitized by Family History Library

Unique Cases

- Texas
 - 1836-1842 headrights
 - General Land Office of Texas
- Hawaii
 - Use distributed by royal families
 - 1848 Royal Land Commission to distribute titles



Land Grant Results

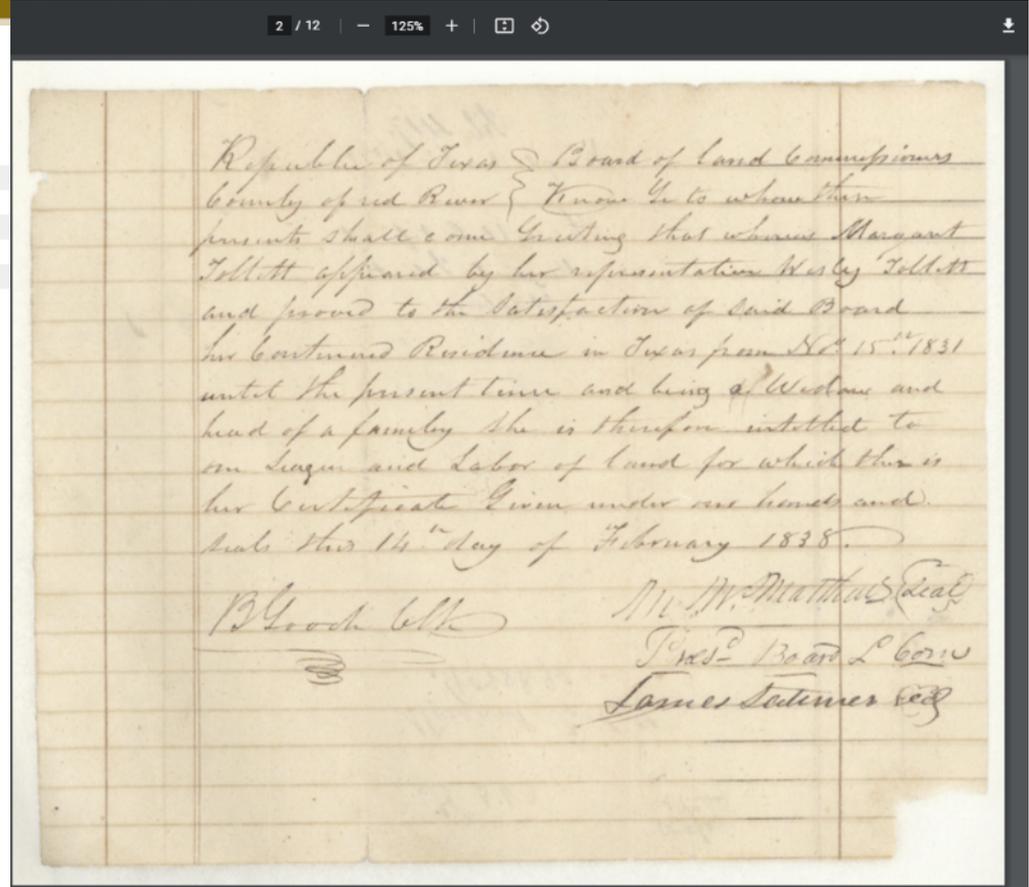
Records 1 thru 5 of 5 total

County	Abstr.	District Class	File Number	Grantee
Rains	258	Nacogdoches 3rd	000223 1/2	Wafer, Joel
Rains	229	Nacogdoches 1st	000417	Tollett, Margaret
El Paso	View	School	084009	Wafer, J N
Lamar	View	Clerk Returns	000043	Wafer, Joel
Red River	View	Clerk Returns	000018	Wafer, Joel

Records 1 thru 5 of 5 total

Back to Search

Export to PDF



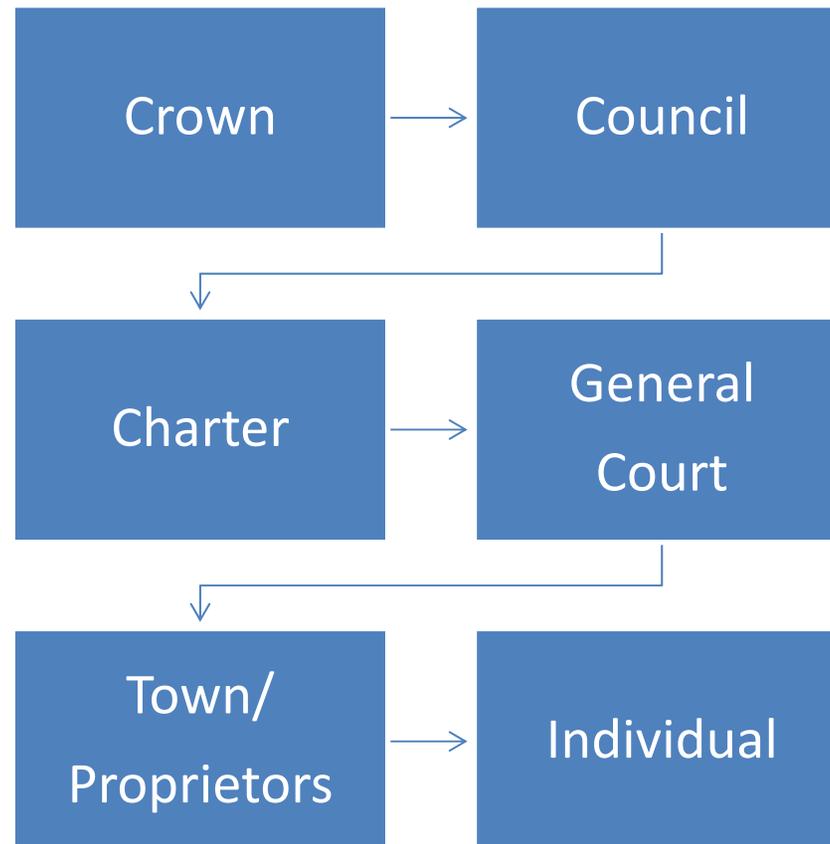
Texas

Memorandum of Applications for Land in Austin's Colony

Names of App ^{ts}	Where from	Date of Arrival	Date of Application	Family	Children	Occupation	Remarks
Joseph Baker	Maine Me.	7 Dec 1831	1 st Feb. 1835	Single man	-	Subsistence	Wants Land <small>North of McKinney & N. of McLaughlin surveyed for James O'Brien</small>
Wm. L. Webb	England	15 Jan. 1835	1 " "	Single man	-	Printer	Wants Land <small>west of 2nd street</small>
George Wood	Indiana	15 Dec 1834	17 " "	Married	2 Male	Farm	Locates Sec. No. 32 on San Antonio
1. his wife Sarah	-	-	-	46 years	3 Female	-	-
1. S. South wags	Vermont	16 Jan 1835	18 " "	39 years	3 Female	Farm	Locates above Wheaton Buffalo

Town

Process in New England



Town Land Records

Colony to town to person(s)

- *Or* person(s) to person(s) recorded by town

Include:

- Deeds
- Mortgages
- Distribution lists

Where to look:

- Town meeting records; often published and/or filmed
- Town Clerk

Refine your search

Search by:

Place

United States, Vermont, Wind

Search Results for FamilySearch Catalog

PRINT Catalog Print List (0)

Part of United States, Vermont, Windham

- ▶ United States, Vermont, Windham, Rockingham - Cemeteries (1)
- ▶ United States, Vermont, Windham, Rockingham - Census - 1920 (1)
- ▶ United States, Vermont, Windham, Rockingham - Church history (1)
- ▶ United States, Vermont, Windham, Rockingham - Church records (2)
- ▶ United States, Vermont, Windham, Rockingham - Directories (1)
- ▶ United States, Vermont, Windham, Rockingham - Genealogy (4)
- ▶ United States, Vermont, Windham, Rockingham - History (4)
- ▶ United States, Vermont, Windham, Rockingham - History - Periodicals (1)
- ▼ **United States, Vermont, Windham, Rockingham - Land and property (2)**

[Land records, 1761-1919; index to land records v. 1-23, 1779-1881](#)

Author: Rockingham (Vermont). Town Clerk

[Proprietor's records, 1752-1764](#)

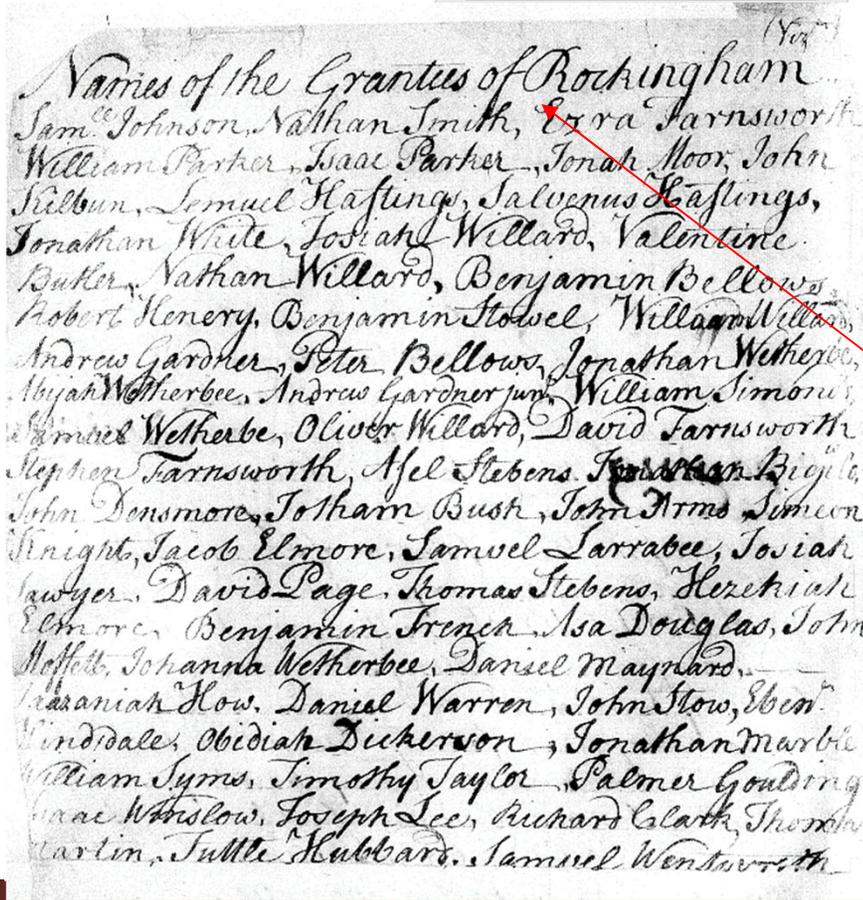
Author: Rockingham (Vermont). Proprietor's Clerk

- ▶ United States, Vermont, Windham, Rockingham - Politics and government (1)
- ▶ United States, Vermont, Windham, Rockingham - Public records (1)
- ▼ **United States, Vermont, Windham, Rockingham - Town records (1)**

[Land records, 1761-1919; index to land records v. 1-23, 1779-1881](#)

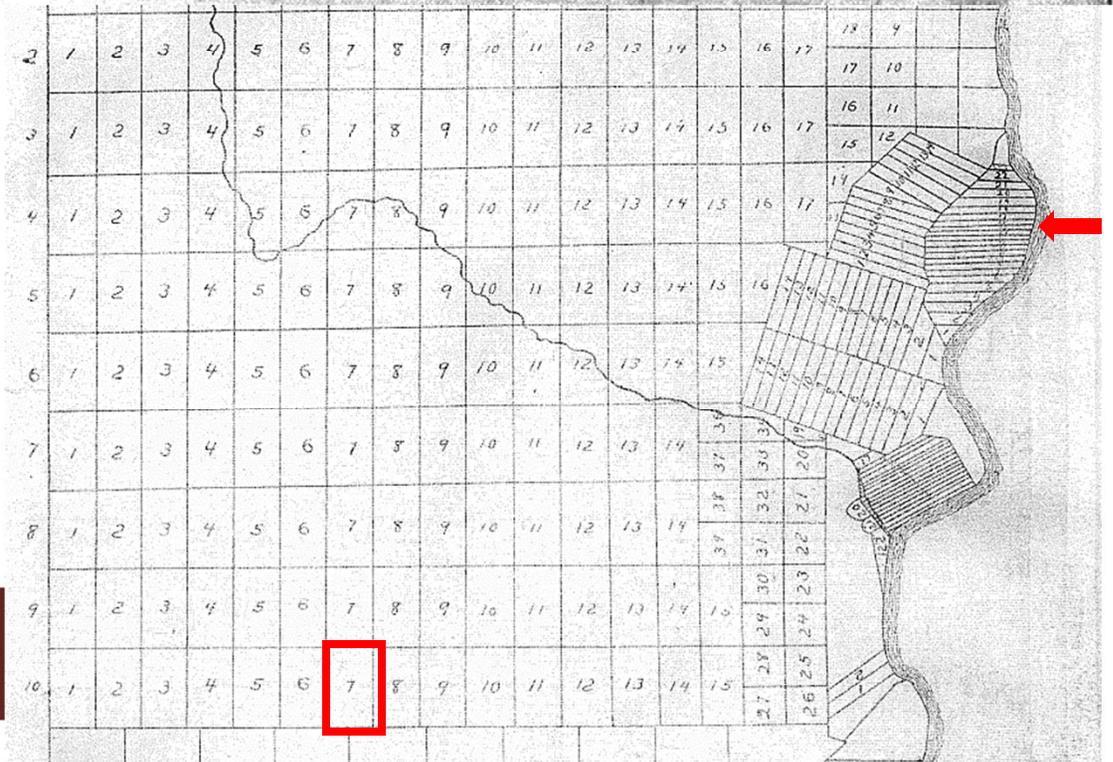
Author: Rockingham (Vermont). Town Clerk

- ▶ United States, Vermont, Windham, Rockingham - Vital records (6)



A list of land grants in Rockingham, Vermont, with a red arrow pointing to the entry for David Jones.

Name	Range	Lot	Meadow	Acres
William Willard	South Range	13	18	3
Jehanna Witheler	South Range	12	11	21
Jonathan Begeton	South Range	4	14	2
Saml Gubinson	South Range	5	15	3
John Densmore	South Range	6	16	4
David Jones	South Range	7	17	5
Robert [unclear]	South Range	8	3	1



Rockingham, Vermont

Proprietors

Proprietors

- What they did:
 - Purchased property from the government
 - Sold/leased/rented land to individuals
- What they owned/represented:
 - Grant/patent
 - Manors
 - Land companies
- How recorded:
 - Sales through the county
 - Personal/corporate records

Table 1: Major Land Transactions: Grants, Patents, and Manors			
Name (Year)	Counties Included	Acreage	Notes
Kakiat(c) Patent (1696)	Rockland	100,000–185,000	Daniel Honan and Michael Hawdon; both sold their land by 1716; estimates of acreage vary greatly; land was claimed by other patents and involved in NY/NJ boundary disputes
Kayaderoseras Patent (1708)	Fulton, Montgomery, Saratoga, Schenectady, Warren	ca. 400,000	Authorized 1701 to Manning Hermanse and others; series of revisions 1703–1708; land finally divided and surveyed in 1771 after years of disputes with Mohawks over fraudulent deed
Kingsborough Patent (1753)	Fulton	20,000	Sir William Johnson and Arent Stevens; Johnson settled English, Scots, and Irish immigrants as tenants and laid out the market town of Johnstown
Kipsburgh Manor-Rhinebeck Patent (1697)	Dutchess	ca. 20,000	Gerrit Aertson, Hendrick Kip, and Henry Beekman Sr.; boundaries changed June 8, 1703
Little Nine Partners (1706)	Dutchess	18,000–60,000	Sampson Broughton and others; boundaries ill-defined—18,000 acre patent mapped as approx. 60,000; also called Upper Nine Partners; comprises most of Town of Northeast
Livingston Manor (1686)	Columbia	ca. 160,000	Robert Livingston, Secretary of Indian Affairs and Speaker of the General Assembly, granted "the Lordship and Mannor of Livingston"; leased land in ca. 84-acre plots to tenant farmers; in 1728 son Philip inherited the manor and most of the land; by 1766 he had 266 tenants
Macomb Purchase (1792)	Franklin, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Oswego, St. Lawrence	ca. 3.6 million	After 1791 NYS law authorized public land sales, Alexander Macomb made large land purchase in northern NY along the St. Lawrence River; land was later divided into smaller tracts and sold to speculators
Massachusetts Reserve (1786)	Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Niagara, Ontario, Orleans, Schuyler, Steuben, Wayne, Wyoming, Yates	ca. 6 million	1786 Treaty of Hartford: MA gained the right to buy and resell land from the Indian Nations but NYS retained political jurisdiction—see Phelps and Gorham Purchase, Morris Reserve, and Holland Land Company Purchase
Military Tract—New (1782–1791)	Cayuga, Cortland, Onondaga, Oswego, Schuyler, Seneca, Tompkins, Wayne	ca. 1.5 million	Bounty land for Revolutionary War soldiers; Indian land claims delayed allocation, finally distributed in 1791
Military Tract—Old (1786)	Clinton, Essex, Franklin	ca. 640,000	Bounty land assigned in northern NY for Revolutionary War veterans because of the delay in allocating land in the "New Military Tract"; this land was rejected by veterans in favor of the former—more arable—land, and sold by the NYS land commissioners with the usual conditions of patents
Minisink Patent (1704)	Orange, Sullivan	200,000–300,000	Matthew Ling and others; land involved in protracted NY/NJ boundary dispute; estimates on acreage vary greatly; 1769 ruling in NY's favor established Hudson to Delaware boundary with NJ

Table 1: Major Land Transactions: Grants, Patents, and Manors			
Name (Year)	Counties Included	Acreage	Notes
Morris Reserve (1791)	Allegany, Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Orleans, Wyoming	750,000–800,000	Robert Morris bought 1.2 million acres of the Massachusetts Reserve from Phelps and Gorham in 1790 and swiftly sold to English investors; he bought another 4 million acres from MA and swiftly sold over 3 million to purchasers who became the Holland Land Company
Morrisania Manor (1697)	Westchester	1,920	Lewis Morris, Chief Justice of the Province of New York and Gov. of NJ, acquired 500 acres in 1660s; granted "the Mannour or Lordship of Morrisania" in 1697
Oblong Tract (1731)	Dutchess, Putnam, Westchester	50,000	Result of 1683 boundary treaty between NY and CT; patented and then sold to Equivalent Land Co. of 22 colonists; divided and sold lots in 1732; discrepancies over boundary lines caused disputes between tenants and other patents, e.g., Highland and Beekman Patents
Pelham Manor (1666)	Westchester	9,166	Land acquired from Indians in 1654 by Dr. Thomas Pell of CT; settled with 15 families and given royal grant in 1666 after English takeover of New Netherland; his nephew John Bell inherited 1669 and received a renewed patent with manorial privileges in 1687
Penet's Square (1788)	Jefferson	6,400	Ten square miles to Pierre Penet, part of land surrendered by Oneida Indians in Treaty of Fort Schuyler; land ownership later uncertain; John LaFarge established clear title in 1830
Phelps and Gorham Purchase (1788)	Allegany, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Schuyler, Steuben, Wayne, Yates	2.6 million	Phelps and Gorham (P&G) contracted to purchase land rights to all the Massachusetts Reserve (6 million acres); by 1790 the MA pound tripled in value so P&G could only afford the rights to 2.6 million acres and returned the rest; later in 1790 they sold 1.2 million acres to Robert Morris
Philipsburgh Manor (1693)	Westchester	ca. 90,000	Frederick Philipse; his son Adolphus owned Highland Patent, his grandson Frederick inherited both; as they were loyalists, manor confiscated by government and sold at public auction in 1779
Plum Island Manor (1675)	Suffolk	820	Granted to Samuel Wyllys with local autonomy, "an entire and enfranchized manor and place of itself"
Queens Village Manor (1685)	Queens, Suffolk	2,900	Granted to Henry Lloyd, "henceforth be called the Lordship and Mannor of Queens Village"; on Lloyd's Neck which was ceded by Queens Co. to Suffolk Co. in 1886
Rensselaerwyck (1629)	Albany, Columbia, Rensselaer	ca. 1 million	Kiliaen van Rensselaer granted a patroonship by Dutch West India Co.; began purchasing land in 1630; 1664 given title of Rensselaerswick Manor by English
Rombout Patent (1685) also Rumbout	Dutchess	ca. 80,000	Francis Rombouts (NYC mayor 1779–1780) and Gulian Verplanck; awarded land tracts to encourage settlement
Royal Grant / Kingsland Grant (1765)	Herkimer	ca. 93,000	Sir William Johnson petitioned for 40,000 acres and received approx. 93,000; inherited by son John in 1774; John fled to Canada in 1776, after the Revolution the land holdings were forfeited and confiscated by NYS
Sacandaga Patent (1741)	Fulton, Hamilton	28,000	Lendert Gransevoort and others, Royal Patent; later taken over by Sir William Johnson

NY Family History Research Guide and Gazetteer

Western New York Land Transactions, 1825-1835

Western New York Land Transaction, 1825-1835

TOWNSHIPS WITHIN COUNTIES

Allegany County-Range 1, Townships 1-6
Range 2, Townships 1-6

Wyoming County-Range 1, Townships 7-10
Range 2, Townships 7-10
Range 3, Townships 7-10
Range 4, Townships 7-10

Genesee County-Range 1, Townships 11-13
Range 2, Townships 11-13
Range 3, Townships 11-13
Range 4, Townships 11-13

Orleans County-Range 1, Townships 14-16
Range 2, Townships 14-16
Range 3, Townships 14-16
Range 4, Townships 14-16

NAME	SURNAME	DATE	LOT	S	T	R	D	REF-PAGE
Alanson	Herriman	10Fe29	50	000610	D	507-0098		
Darlin	Conro	12Fe29	42	000610	D	507-0098		
Ashbel	Watrous	18Fe29	31	000610	D	507-0098		
Manus	Griswold	20Fe29	46	000610	D	507-0098		
Seth								

), Townships 1-6
, Townships 1-6
, Townships 1-SE part of 7
, Townships 1-6

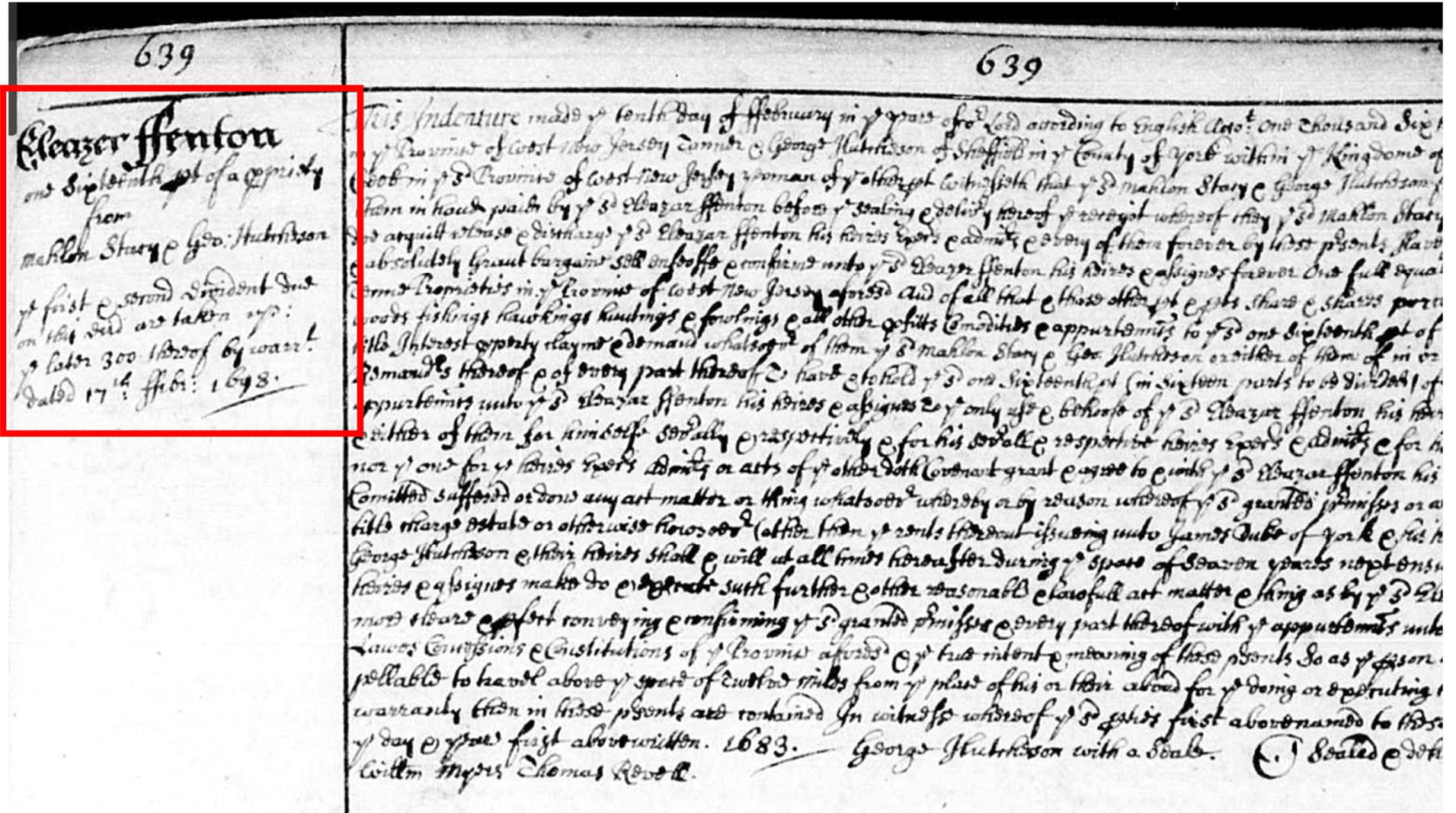
ships 6-13
, Townships 6-9, 11-13
, Townships 6-9, 11-13
, Townships 6-9, 11-12
, Township 8

ownships 13-16
, Townships 13-16
, Townships 13-15
, Townships 12-15
, Townships 13-15

Modified Sales *M* in 1839

Names	Date of Contract	Lot	S	T	R	D	Acres	Money rec'd	Residue	
X 27 Daniel C. Crandall	Nov. 11, 1829	50	000610	D	507-0098		5.14	52.00	152.00	
2175 28 Same	" " "	"	"	"	"	"	54.50	194.00	50.00	
2176 29 John Burr	" " "	"	"	"	"	"	50.00	172.25	22.00	
								2072427005.20	17089.20	5926.10
Cha Dr.										
177 1 George Carr	Jan 3 1839	1	0011	00	210.00	00.00	0.00	180.00		
2 Benjamin Coy	" 17	"	0011	00	180.31	20.00		157.31		
3 John Mack	" "	"	0011	00	112.50	27.00		185.50		
4 Isaac Gage	" "	"	0011	00	120.00	111.00	0.00	789.00		
5 Thomas White	" 20	"	0011	00	120.00	111.00	0.00	222.50		
6 Isaac Gage	Feb 5	"	0011	00	120.00	111.00	0.00	369.30		
7 Daniel Farnum	" "	"	0011	00	100.50	100.00	0.00	210.80		
8 Alanson Herriman	" 10	"	0011	00	20.70	20.00	0.00	79.50		
9 Darlin Conro	" 12	"	0011	00	20.00	102.56	20.00	142.56		
10 Ashbel Watrous	" 18	"	0011	00	100.00	400.72	50.00	550.72		
11 Manus Griswold	" 20	"	0011	00	101.50	284.02	50.00	435.52		

Private proprietor records



Proprietor sale

Records for Non-owners

- Lease
- Rent books/rolls
- Day books
- Surveys
- Account books
- Receipts
- Promissory notes
- Taxes

Wheat Rents Settled and paid
In Money or otherwise
1796

Philip Clum 27 ⁰	20 ⁰	by the Char.
Wm Hoath 27 ⁰	20 ⁰	Tent now
Carp. Shultz 27 ⁰	20 ⁰	by the Char
Widow Cramer 27 ⁰	20 ⁰	do of Cat
Lillian Minklar 27 ⁰	20 ⁰	by 2 Cows
Anna Sapendorf 27 ⁰	18 ⁰	by Benne
Fred ^k Meyer 27 ⁰	20 ⁰	by Little
Jno Cooper	30	Settled
Widow Lasher	17	p ² in m
David Minklar	38	p ² in Ca
Jno Schism	30	p ² in Ca
And ^r Baskle	5	p ² in Cor
Wm Wilson	67	p ² in Aut
Beds Farm	100	p ² in Mo
Henry Blaps	40	p ² do
J ^o Suffer	20	p ² do
Mat ^r Cooper	30	p ² in Call
Her ^t Coon	27 ⁰	20 ⁰ p ² in m
W ^m H. Clum	25	p ² in 2 Cows
Henry Pisher	25	p ² by N ^o
I ^s Conard	30	p ² in Money
J ^o Quin Brooks 3/6	10	p ² in Aut
	566 ¹ / ₄	
Wheat in Store	858 ³ / ₄	
650 ⁰ add ^o		
	1325	

90. Jno. Ruppenthal
Ar^o 4 P² - Def^o m^o
1789
Settled

91. Chal. Binnelly 15 Sk^o
Ar^o 30 Sk^o

92. I. Conard £30
1790 p² in Wheat in Store \$32.50
90 July 19th Cash 100.00 29.00
Nov. 10th 80 55.50
paid \$66.00
will money pay a Note \$ 9

Apr 1st 1795 Rec^d from William Wilson
Five pounds for four Loads of Hay in full
Isaac Conard

Dear Sir,
German Town 4 Apr^l 1799

Isaac Conard has been here last evening, and I believe wanted to find out something respecting Cooper's plan. he asked me what Rent I should be willing to give him provided he should purchase the place, which he said he could do in partnership with another Person, that Cooper & he had two weeks ago agreed for £550. including what the Chapqueller was to have, that he could have it for that Price yet. the only obstacle was that Mr^s Cooper would not sign off - but that he could now surmount that difficulty, but how, he did not tell me. I do ^{not} believe much of what Conard told me - nor should I wish to hire of him if he actually had the plan. My Object in writing to you on this Business is. that to let you know that Conard ^{appears to be} doing all he can

Examples of tenant documents

Proprietor Records

Include:

- Sale/reversion records
- Lease documents

Where to look:

- Corporate/personal holdings
- Manuscript collections of the landlord
- Deed books – county, colony, or state

Level 3 County

County Land Records

Person(s) to person(s)

Include:

- Deeds/Conveyances books
- Mortgages books (beginning in 1753)

Where to look:

- Held by county clerk's office
- Microfilmed/digitized by Family History Library



Research Wiki

Getting Started

- Wiki Home
- About the Wiki
- Online Genealogy Records
- Research Resources
- Browse by Country
- Browse all Wiki Content
- Family History Library
- Family History Centers
- Submit Wiki Content
- Report a Problem
- Contact Us

Volunteer and Helper

- Personal Sandbox
- Upload File/Image
- Edit the Wiki
- Adopt a Page
- Manual of Style
- Guiding Principles
- Community News
- Community Meetings
- Wiki Support
- Wiki University

Tools

- What links here
- Related changes
- Special pages
- Printable version
- Permanent link
- Page information
- Cite this page

Page [Talk](#)

Illinois Land and Property

[United States](#) → [U.S. Land and Property](#) → [Illinois](#) → [Land and Property](#)

Contents [\[hide\]](#)

- 1 Online Resources
- 2 Introduction
- 3 Early Settlers
- 4 Government Land Transfers
 - 4.1 Published Materials
- 5 Individual Land Transfers
- 6 Maps
- 7 Internet Resources

Online Resources

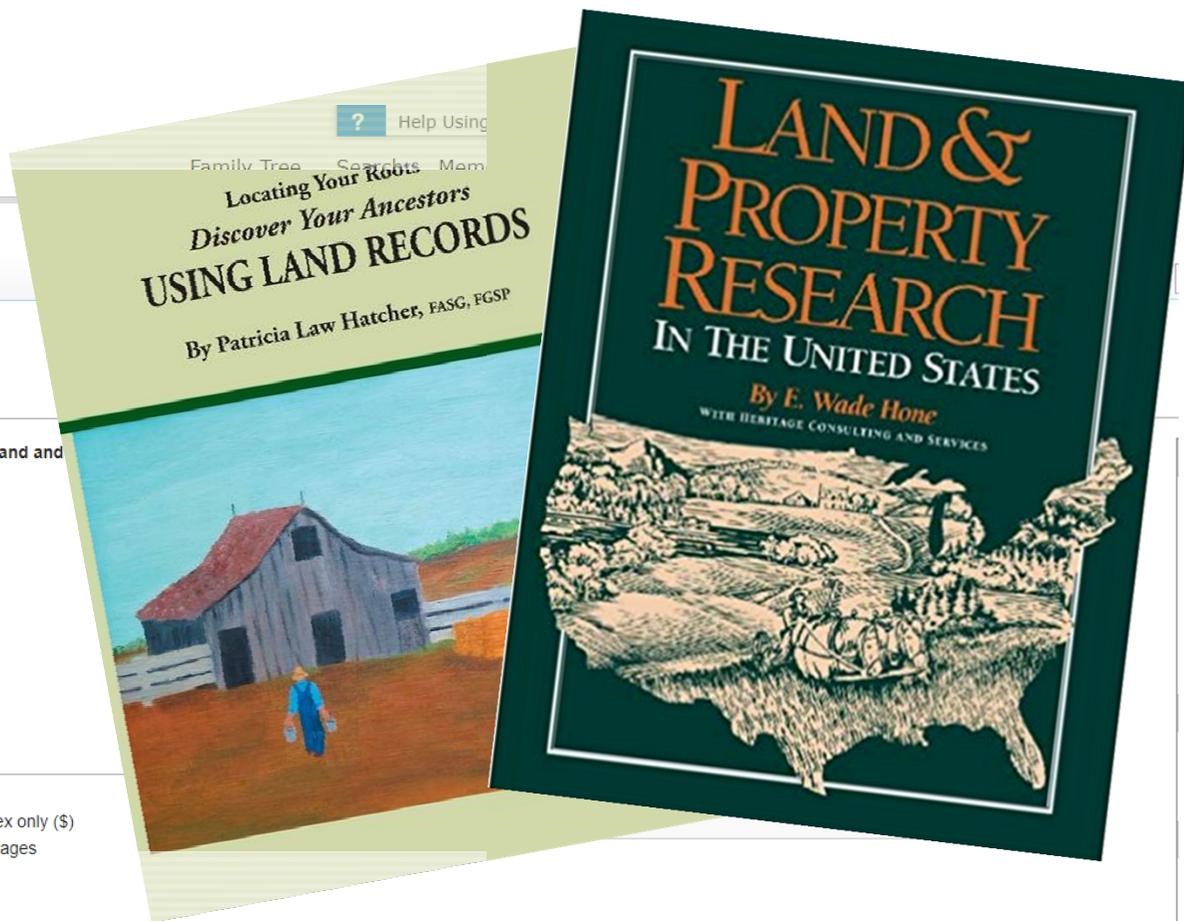
- [Illinois State Archives Public Domain Land Tract Sales](#)
- [Illinois, Public Land Purchase Records, 1813-1909](#) Index only (\$)
- [U.S., Homestead Records, 1863-1908](#) (\$) index and images

Introduction

The value of land records lies in the fact that land was highly sought after and the transactions were recorded from the time settlers began to arrive. Therefore, they are a consistent and continuous record of many ancestors' lives. Land records can be used to learn where and when an individual lived in certain areas, and often reveal useful and interesting family information.

Illinois was a "federal-land" state, where unclaimed land was surveyed, then granted or sold by the government through federal and state land offices. The first sale of a piece of land from the government was called a land patent and the first owner of the land was called a patentee. Later when the land was sold or mortgaged by private owners the document was called a deed. The transactions were recorded at the office of the county register of deeds. Family history researchers usually use land records from county offices. Records from federal and state offices can also have genealogical value. For detailed descriptions of land record types see [United States Land and Property](#).

If you are new to land research, you may wish to read the Beginner's corner and other articles included on the [United States Land and Property](#) page.



familysearch.org/wiki/



THANK YOU!

AmericanAncestors.org/Education



NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

AmericanAncestors.org

Copyright © 2023