

Homesteaders

Virtual Fall Stay At Home 2023

Melanie McComb, Senior Genealogist

THE BRUE FAMILY LEARNING CENTER



American Ancestors®
by NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Meet today's presenter



Melanie McComb

Senior Genealogist



Overview

- History
- Did Your Ancestor Have a Homestead?
- Using the Bureau of Land Management GLO Web Site
- Locating Homestead Records on Ancestry
- Requesting Land Entry Case Files from the National Archives
- Locating Tract Books on FamilySearch
- Locating Other Homestead Records on FamilySearch
- Strategies for Using Land Entry Case Files
- Case Study

History

Manifest Destiny

- A widely held cultural belief in the 19th century United States that American settlers were "destined" to expand across North America

American Progress (1872)
by John Gast (Library of Congress)



The Removal Act of 1830

- President Andrew Jackson granted land west of the Mississippi River to Native American tribes that would give up their homelands.
- By the end of his presidency, almost 50,000 Native Americans were removed to Indian Territory
 - West of the Mississippi River
 - Excluded the states of Missouri, Iowa, and the Territory of Arkansas

The Trail of Tears

- The Cherokee Nation challenged the rulings on their tribal lands in court. A Supreme Court ruling said that the Indian tribes were sovereign nations and immune to Georgia's laws.
- President Jackson obtained a signature from a Cherokee chief agreeing to relocation.
- In 1838 the Cherokee tribe was forced by the federal troops and Georgia militia to relocate from Georgia to the dry plains across the Mississippi.
- The trail ended in modern day Oklahoma (then Indian Territory) with the last detachment arriving on March 24, 1839.
- Between 3,000 and 4,000 out of the 15,000-16,000 Cherokee died enroute.

The Homestead Act

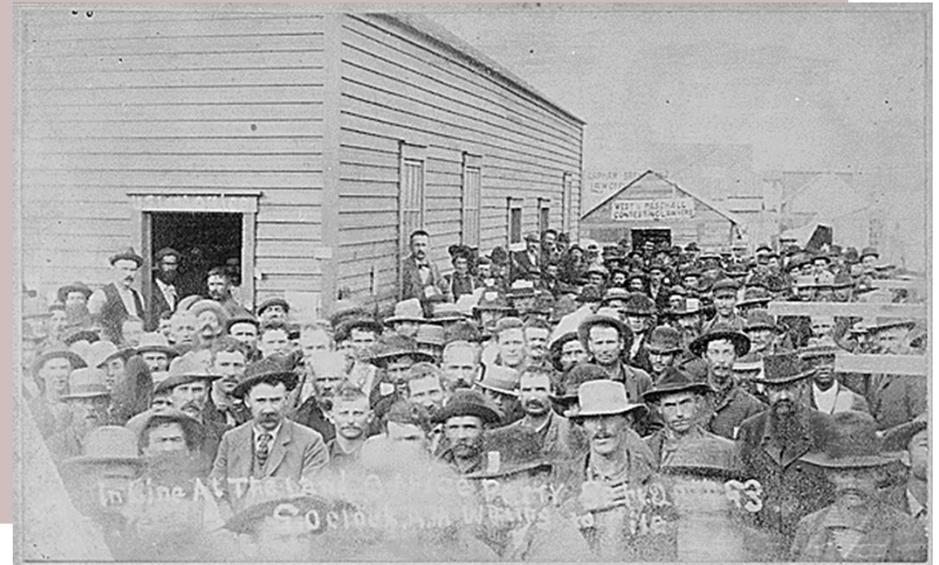
- Signed in 1862, this law allowed any American (or immigrant pursuing the citizenship process) to purchase up to 160 acres of federal land.
- The law was not fully repealed until 1986, when it expired in Alaska. All previous states had repealed the law by 1976.
- Buyer was required to live on the land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

Eligibility

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

The Process

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





The United States of America,

To all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting:

Homestead Certificate No. *1*
Application *1*

Whereas, there has been deposited in the **General Land Office** of the United States, a **CERTIFICATE** of the Register of the Land Office at *Brownville Nebraska*, whereby it appears that pursuant to the Act of Congress approved 20th May, 1862, "To secure Homesteads to actual Settlers on the public domain," and the acts supplemental thereto the claim of *Daniel Freeman* has been established and duly consummated in conformity to law for the South half of the North West quarter and ^{the} North East quarter of the North West quarter and the South West quarter of the North East quarter of Section twenty six in Township four North of Range five East in the District of lands formerly subject to sale at *Brownville now Beatrice Nebraska* - containing one hundred and sixty acres

Homestead Certificate 1, Daniel Freeman

What's in the Land Entry Case File?

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

Which States Did NOT Have Homesteads?

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

Items From the Junction Union,

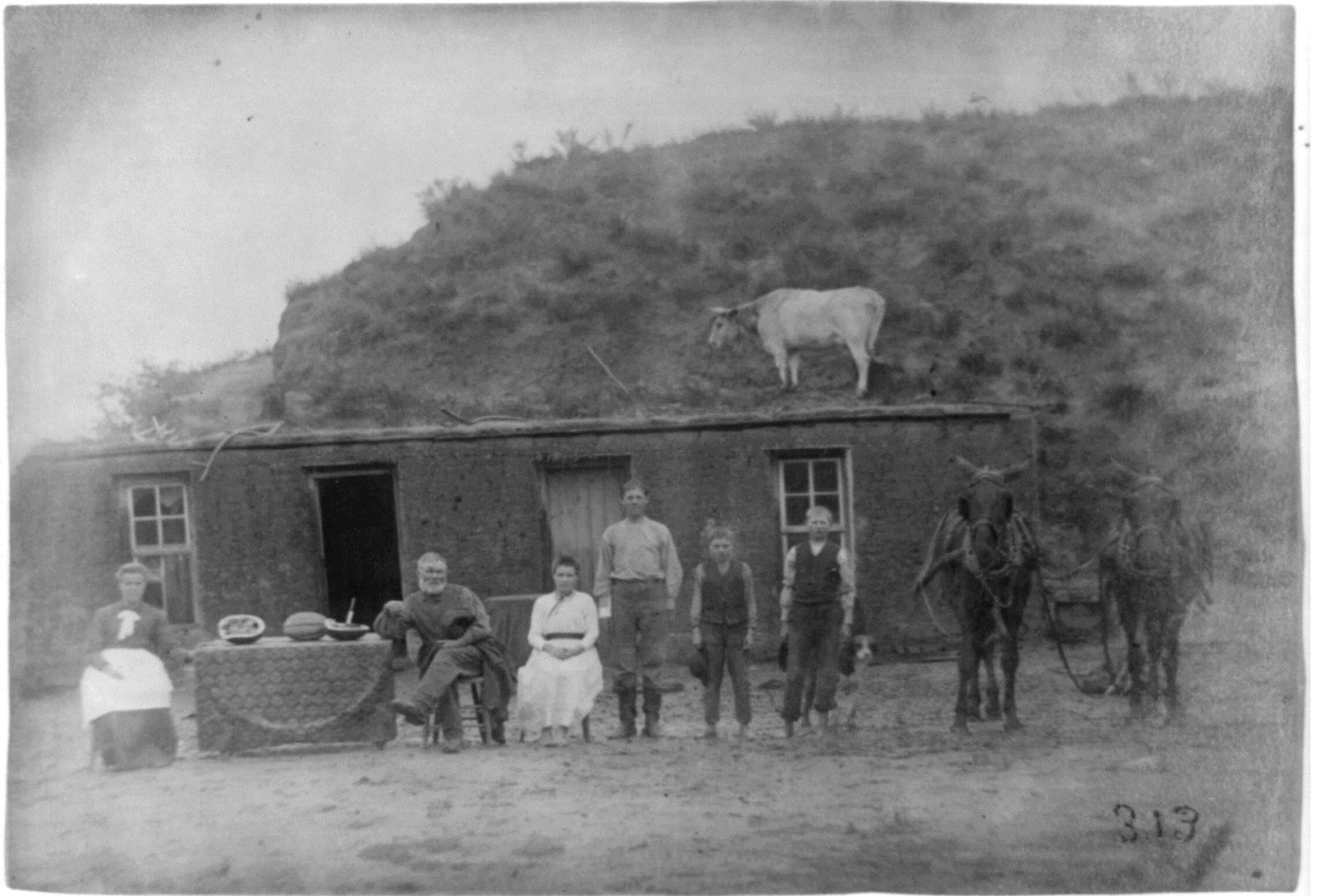
Emigration is beginning to pour into Western Kansas. The benefits of the Homestead Act are already being felt in this portion of the State. Come on, emigrants and home-seekers, this is the best country in the West.

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

The Topeka Tribune – 5 July 1862
(Newspapers.com)

Life on the Prairie

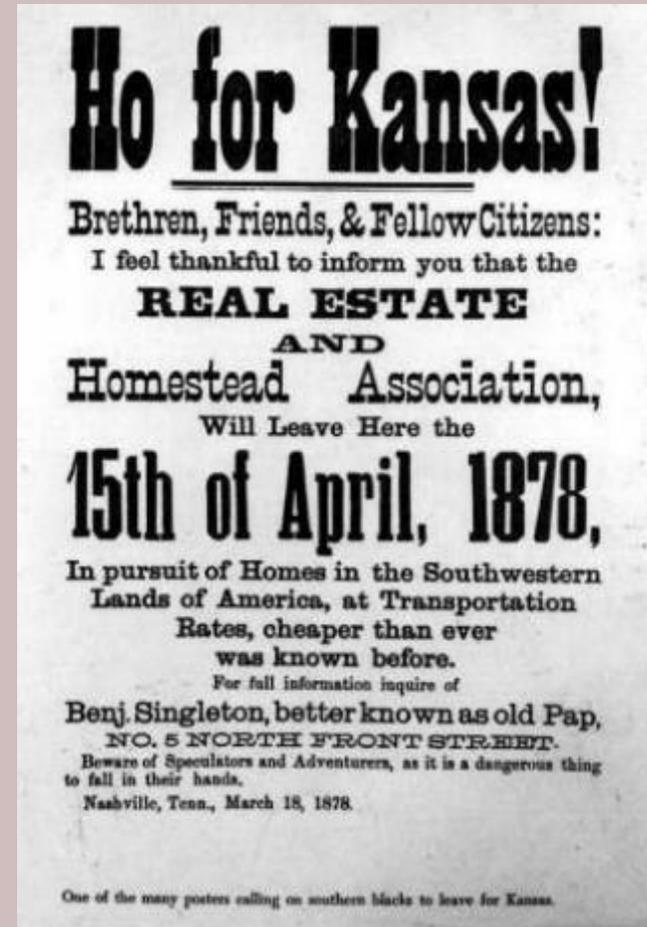
- Fierce winds and fires
- Grasshopper infestation
- Severe droughts
- The lack of trees forced many of the early settlers to create their houses out of sod.
- Settlers had to supply their own farming tools.
- It was common for settlers to give up their land claim or declare bankruptcy.



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

The Exodus of 1879

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



Library of Congress

Homestead Acts

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

Dawes Act

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

Did Your Ancestor Have a Homestead?

Clues for Possible Homesteading

1

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

2

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

3

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

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

1880 United States Federal Census for John Vadra
Nebraska > Fillmore > Geneva > 327

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



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

OF THE PERSON WHO CONDUCTS THIS FARM.				ACRES OF LAND.				
THE NAME.	YEARS.			IMPROVED.		UNIMPROVED.		
	Owner.	Rents for fixed money rental.	Rents for shares of products.	Tilled, including fallow and grain in rotation, (whether pasture or meadow.)	Permanent meadows, permanent pastures, orchards, vineyards.	Woodland and forest.	Other unimproved, including "old fields" not growing wood.	
				No.	No.	No.	No.	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Amickart Sam'l				1	210			210
Vodra John	1				80			80
Butt James	1			1				
Hosack William	1							
McMahon Jesse				1				1
Robert	1				125			35



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

Using the Bureau of Land Management GLO web site

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

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Search Clear Form

Location

State:

County:

Names

Last Name:

First Name:

Middle Name:

search patentees search warrantees

Land Description

Township: /

Range: /

Meridian:

Section #:

Miscellaneous

Land Office:

Document #:

Indian Allot. #:

Survey #:

Authority:

Issue Date: to

Militia:

Tribe:

Geo. Name/
Mining Claim:

[Search Patents](#)

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

To search for land patents:

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

Search Tips:

- Hover your mouse over a field to get a brief description.
- Get detailed information by checking the [Glossary](#) in the Reference Center.
- For more tips and help, check out our [Patent Search Overview](#).

glorerecords.blm.gov

The screenshot shows the BLM General Land Office Records website. The header includes "U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR", "BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT", and "General Land Office Records". Navigation tabs include "Search Documents", "Reference Center", "Support", and "Shopping Cart". A "Results List" is displayed for "Search Documents". A table lists patent records with columns: Image, Accession, Names, Date, Doc #, State, Meridian, Twp - Rng, Aliquots, Sec. #, and County. A red arrow points to the "Accession" link "NE1310 .351" in the first row. Another red arrow points to the "Search Documents" tab. The footer contains links for "USA GOV", "No Fear Act", "DOI", "Disclaimer", "About BLM", "Notices", "Get Adobe Reader", "Privacy Policy", "FOIA", "Kids Policy", "Contact Us", "Accessibility", "Site Map", and "Home".

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

Click Accession link to learn about the land patent

glorerecords.blm.gov

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

Home Search Documents Reference Center Support Shopping Cart

Search Documents Results Patent Details

Accession Nr: NE1310__351 Document Type: State Volume Patent State: Nebraska Issue Date: 5/15/1880 Cancelled: No

Patent Details Patent Image Related Documents Printer Friendly

Names On Document		Miscellaneous Information	
VODRA, JOHN N		Land Office:	Lincoln
		US Reservations:	No
		Mineral Reservations:	No
		Tribe:	---
		Militia:	---
		State In Favor Of:	---
		Authority:	May 20, 1862: Homestead EntryOriginal (12 Stat. 392)
Military Rank: ---		General Remarks:	---

Document Numbers		Survey Information	
Document Nr:	8391	Total Acres:	160.00
Misc. Doc. Nr:	14031	Survey Date:	---
BLM Serial Nr:	---	Geographic Name:	---
Indian Allot. Nr:	---	Metes/Bounds:	No
Coal Entry. Nr:	---		

Land Descriptions							
Map	State	Meridian	Twp - Rng	Aliquots	Section	Survey #	County
<input type="checkbox"/>	NE	6th PM	007N - 003W	SW¼	22		Fillmore

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

Home Search Documents Reference Center Support Shopping Cart

Search Documents Results List Patent Details

Accession Nr: NE1310__351 Document Type: State Volume Patent State: Nebraska Issue Date: 5/15/1880 Cancelled: No

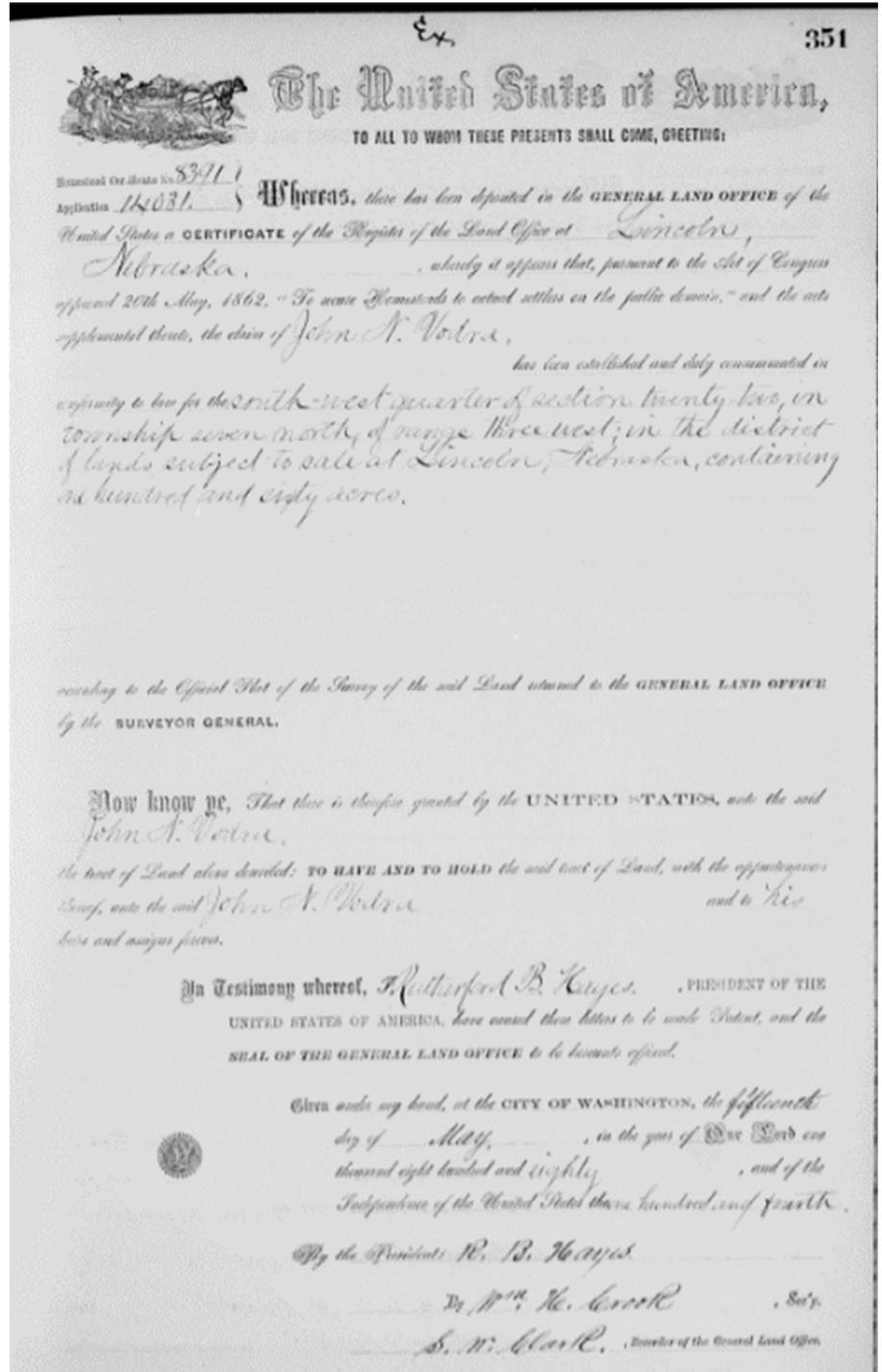
Patent Details Patent Image Related Documents Printer Friendly

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Land Patent of John N. Vodra



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Accession Nr: [NE1310__.351](#)
 Document Type: [State Volume Patent](#)
 State: [Nebraska](#)
 Issue Date: [5/15/1880](#)
 Cancelled: [No](#)

Patent Details
Patent Image
Related Documents
Printer Friendly

Below are documents matching the following *land description* from the current document: [NE 6th PM Township 7.0N Range 3.0W Section 22](#)

Patents ▶

[Surveys](#)

[LSR](#)

[CDI](#)

[Tract Books](#)

Image	Accession	Names ↑	Date	Doc #	State	Meridian	Twp - Rng	Aliquots	Sec. #	County
	NE1260__.198	BURT, JAMES W	5/15/1877	5762	NE	6th PM	007N - 003W	NW¼	22	Fillmore
	NE1290__.360	PANGLE, MORDECAI	7/20/1878	7396	NE	6th PM	007N - 003W	SE¼	22	Fillmore
	NE1310__.351	VODRA, JOHN N	5/15/1880	8391	NE	6th PM	007N - 003W	SW¼	22	Fillmore
	NE1340__.179	WHITE, SAMUEL M	5/10/1881	8924	NE	6th PM	007N - 003W	NE¼	22	Fillmore

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Locating Homestead Records on Ancestry

U.S., Homestead Records, 1863-1908

Search

Match all terms exactly

First & Middle Name(s)

Last Name

	Day	Month	Year	Location
Birth	—	—	<input type="text"/>	City, County, State, Count

Any Event	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	City, County, State, Count
-----------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------------

Keyword

e.g. pilot or "Flying Tigers" ▾

Range

Land Office

Section

Township



Provided in association with National Archives and Records Administration

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

State

Land Office

Final Certificate Year

Township and Range

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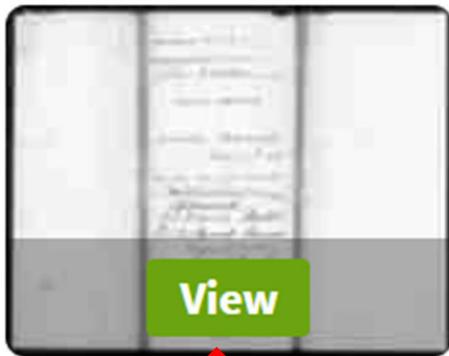
[U.S., Indexed County Land Ownership](#)

1863-1910

ancestry.com

John N Vodra

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



-  Add or update information
-  Report a problem

Name: John N Vodra

Final Certificate Date: 11 Oct 1878

Homestead Place: Nebraska, USA

Land Office: Nebraska City; Lincoln

Section: 22

Township: 7 North

Range: 3 West

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

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

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

✓ Saved

LAND OFFICE

AT

Lincoln Nebraska

Oct 11th, 1878.

Sect. *22*, Town. *7N*, Range *3W*

See to War Dept April 22/79

Approved
J B Mc Donald Register

152 of 337

al Archives and Records Administration

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Image 148 Image 149 Image 150 Image 151 Image 152 Image 153 Image 154 Image 155 Image 156

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Requesting Land Entry Case Files from the National Archives



Search Archives.gov [Search]

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Home > Research Our Records > Land Records > Land Entry Case Files and Related Records

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- [Land Entry Case Files](#)
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- [Record Group Explorer](#)
- [Access to Archival Databases](#)
- [Presidential Libraries](#)
- [Ask on History Hub](#)

Research in Person

Land Entry Case Files and Related Records

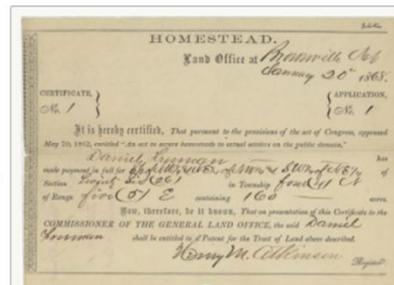
Introduction

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

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

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

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



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

[View in National Archives Catalog](#)

How to Order

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

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

Land Records

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- [Land Entry Case Files](#)
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Research Our Records

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Free at National Archives Facilities

Accessing Land Entry Records

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

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

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

New to land entry records? Please see:

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

Types of Land Entry Files

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

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

 Surrendered Military Bounty Land Warrants

 Pre-1908 Land Entry Files

 1908 and Later Land Entry Files

Contact Us

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

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

How to Order

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

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



Pre-1908 Land Entry Files

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

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

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

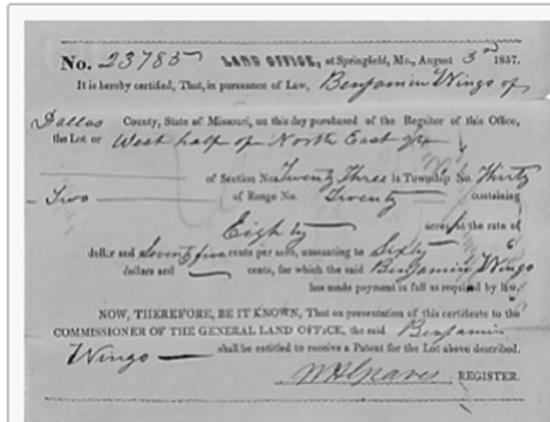
- State
- Land office
- Type of patent under law*
- Patent number**

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

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

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

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



Cash Land File of Benjamin Wingo

National Archives Identifier [300283](#)



archives.gov

Pre-1908 Land Entry Files

- National Archives has a name index on file cards for the following states:
 - Alabama
 - Alaska
 - Arizona
 - Florida
 - Louisiana
 - Nevada
 - Utah

1908 and Later Land Entry Files

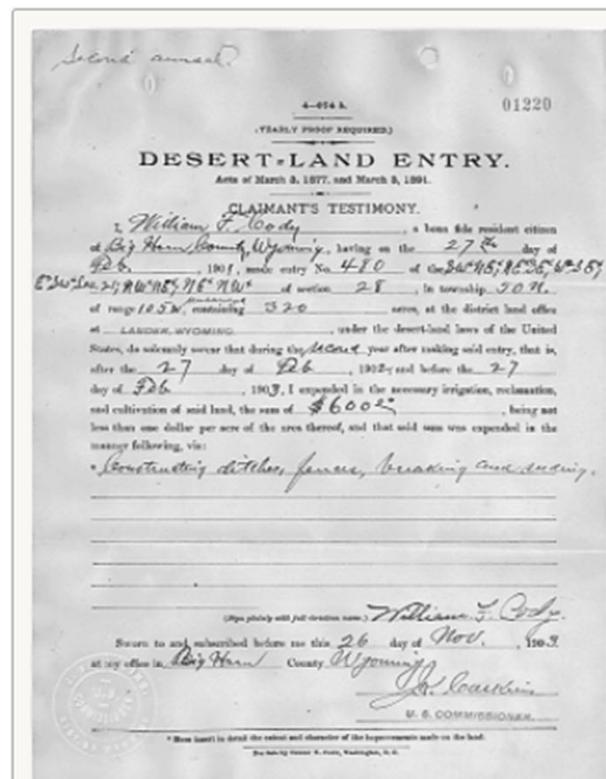
Beginning in July 1908, the GLO revised its system of issuing patents, assigning each consecutive patent issued a unique number instead of assigning numbers by state and land office.

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

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

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

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



Serial Land Patent File for
Buffalo Bill

National Archives Identifier 300285



archives.gov

Locating Tract Books on FamilySearch

Bureau of Land Management Tract Books

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



Research Wiki

- Wiki Home
- About the Wiki
- Online Genealogy Records
- Guided Research
- Research Resources

Centers/Libraries

- Family History Library
- Family History Centers
- FS Affiliate Libraries

Give Feedback

- Submit Wiki Content
- Report a Problem
- Contact Us

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- Become an Editor
- Upload File/Image
- Personal Sandbox
- Wiki Projects
- Wiki University

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- Related changes
- Special pages
- Printable version
- Permanent link
- Page information
- Cite this page
- Browse properties

Page Talk

Read Edit Edit source View history More Search by place or topic

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

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

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

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

familysearch.org/wiki



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

Description

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

[How to Use this Collection »](#)

Search Collection

Deceased Ancestor's Information

Name | [Alternate Name](#)

First Names

Last Names

Search with a life event:

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

Birthplace

Birth Year (Range)

 From To

Search with a relationship:

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

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

Search Documents Reference Center Support Shopping Cart

Search Documents Results List

Printer Friendly

Patents

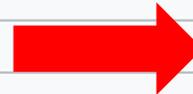
Image	Accession	Names	Date	Doc #	State	Meridian	Twp - Rng	Aliquots	Sec. #	County
	NE1310 .351	VODRA, JOHN N	5/15/1880	8391	NE	6th PM	007N - 003W	SW¼	22	Fillmore

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glorerecords.blm.gov

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



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FamilySearch Family Tree Search Memories Indexing Activities

Records Images Family Tree Genealogies Catalog Books Wiki

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

Source Box Attach to Family Tree

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



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FamilySearch Family Tree Search Memories Indexing Activities

Records Images Family Tree Genealogies Catalog Books Wiki

United States Bureau of L...Tract Books, 1800-c. 1955 ▾ Nebraska ▸

Source Box Attach to Family Tree

Volume (Land Office Location)

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



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8

TOWNSHIP NO.

DESCRIPTION OF THE TRACT.				Contents.		Rate per acre.		Purchase money.		NAME OF THE PURCHASER.
PART OF SECTION.	Section.	Township.	Range.	Acres.	100ths.	Dollars.	Cents.	Dollars.	Cents.	
Home 640	NE 22	7	3	169	00	250	10			Samuel W. White
	2277 NE	John Lee	Oct 10-12-70							
	3001 NE	N.S. Burt	apl 26. May 1. 71							
	3209 NE	Samuel W. White	May 18. 18. 71							
Home	NW 22	NW 22		160	00	250	10 00			James H. Burt
	2276 NW	Thomas Riley	Oct 10-12-70							
	3002 NW	J. H. Burt	apl 28. May 1. 71							
Home	SE 22	SE 22		160	00	250	10 00			Mordicai Pangle
	2187 SE	John Wheeler	Aug 15-18-70 - Riley							
	"	"	"							
Home	SW 22	SW 22		160	00	250	10 00			John N. Vodra
	2278 SW	Lewis Lee	Oct 10-12-70							
	2903 SW	Robert Carson	apl 19-19-71							

RANGE NO.		DISTRICT OF			
DATE OF SALE	Number of receipts and certificate of purchase.	BY WHOM PATENTED.	DATE OF PATENT.	Where recorded.	
				Volume.	Page.
July 27 72	11136	Final Cof. No 8924, July 18 1877			
Oct 2. 1871	7741	Final Cof. No. 5762, Dec. 19. 1876.			
Mich 30. 1871	7265	Final Cof. No. 7396, Aug. 1870			
October 29 1873	14031	Final Cof. No. 5391, Oct. 11. 1875.			

Tract Book, Nebraska, Vol. 97
(FamilySearch)

Locating Other Homestead Records on FamilySearch



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

Description

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

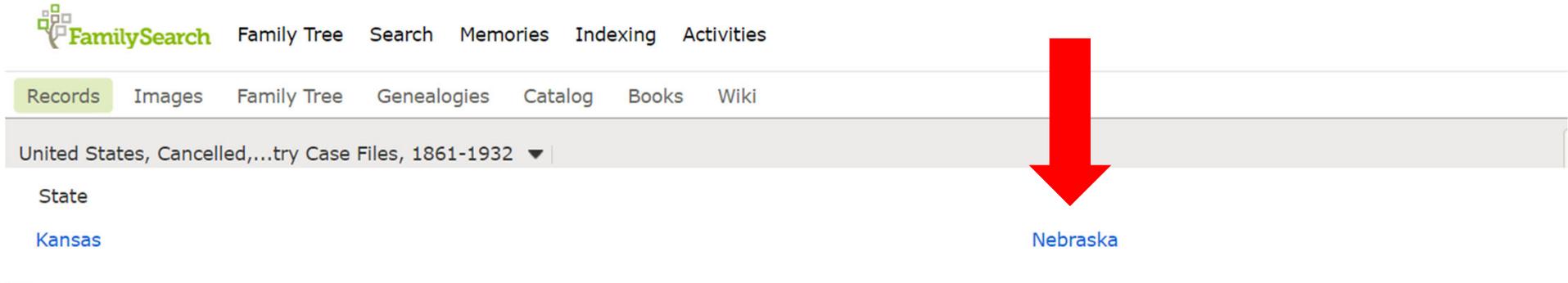
[How to Use this Collection »](#)

View Images in this Collection

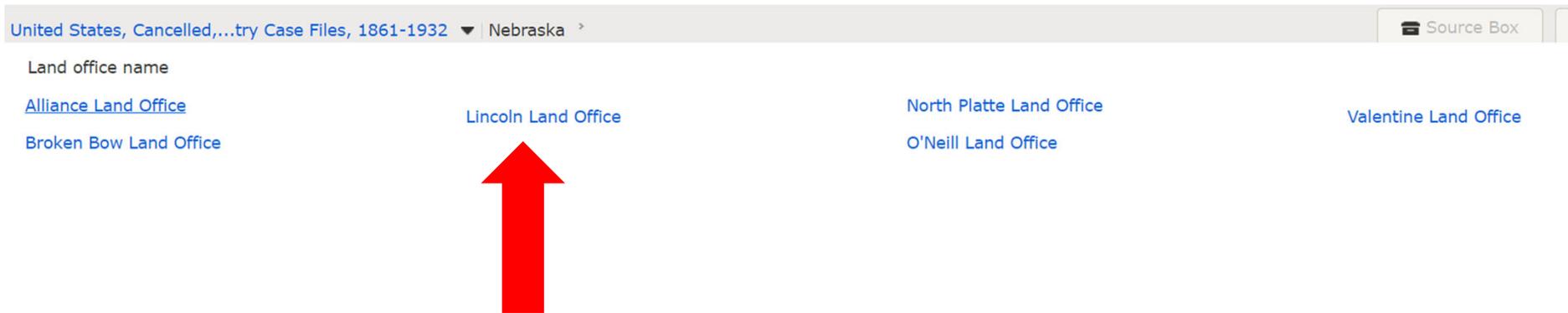
[Browse through 535,766 images](#)

Citing this Collection

"United States, Cancelled, Relinquished, or Rejected Land Entry Case Files, 1861-1932." Images. *FamilySearch*. <http://FamilySearch.org> : 29 March 2017. Citing NARA NAIDs 584006, 584041, 584054, 584158, 584169, 584161, 584170, 584151. National Archives at Kansas City.



The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the FamilySearch website. The 'FamilySearch' logo is on the left, followed by links for 'Family Tree', 'Search', 'Memories', 'Indexing', and 'Activities'. Below this is a secondary menu with 'Records' (highlighted), 'Images', 'Family Tree', 'Genealogies', 'Catalog', 'Books', and 'Wiki'. A dropdown menu is open under 'Records', showing 'United States, Cancelled,...try Case Files, 1861-1932' with a downward arrow. Below this, 'State' is listed, and 'Kansas' is selected. 'Nebraska' is also visible as a link to the right. A large red arrow points down from the 'Nebraska' link.



The screenshot shows the search results for 'United States, Cancelled,...try Case Files, 1861-1932' in Nebraska. The breadcrumb trail is 'United States, Cancelled,...try Case Files, 1861-1932 > Nebraska >'. A 'Source Box' icon is visible on the right. Under the heading 'Land office name', several links are listed: 'Alliance Land Office', 'Broken Bow Land Office', 'Lincoln Land Office', 'North Platte Land Office', 'O'Neill Land Office', and 'Valentine Land Office'. A large red arrow points up to the 'Lincoln Land Office' link.



FamilySearch Family Tree Search Memories Indexing Activities

Records Images Family Tree Genealogies Catalog Books

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

Source Box Attach to Family Tree

Record Type, Date Range, File no. range

Land entry case files that were cancelled, relinquished, or rejected; 1905-1920, no 3-126	Land entry case files that were cancelled, relinquished, or rejected; 1905-1920, no 527-574	Land entry case files that were cancelled, relinquished, or rejected; 1905-1920, no 1520-1639	2247
Land entry case files that were cancelled, relinquished, or rejected; 1905-1920, no 127-222	Land entry case files that were cancelled, relinquished, or rejected; 1905-1920, no 582-617	Land entry case files that were cancelled, relinquished, or rejected; 1905-1920, no 1640-1728	Land entry case files that were cancelled, relinquished, or rejected; 1905-1920, no 2238-2398
Land entry case files that were cancelled, relinquished, or rejected; 1905-1920, no 226-254	Land entry case files that were cancelled, relinquished, or rejected; 1905-1920, no 621-791	Land entry case files that were cancelled, relinquished, or rejected; 1905-1920, no 1729-1872	Land entry case files that were cancelled, relinquished, or rejected; 1905-1920, no 2253-2334
Land entry case files that were cancelled, relinquished, or rejected; 1905-1920, no 255-275	Land entry case files that were cancelled, relinquished, or rejected; 1905-1920, no 804-1007	Land entry case files that were cancelled, relinquished, or rejected; 1905-1920, no 1874-1929	Land entry case files that were cancelled, relinquished, or rejected; 1905-1920, no 2403-2499
Land entry case files that were cancelled, relinquished, or rejected; 1905-1920, no 276-348	Land entry case files that were cancelled, relinquished, or rejected; 1905-1920, no 1014-1264	Land entry case files that were cancelled, relinquished, or rejected; 1905-1920, no 1931-2020	Land entry case files that were cancelled, relinquished, or rejected; 1905-1920, no 2503-2618
Land entry case files that were cancelled, relinquished, or rejected; 1905-1920, no 355-426	Land entry case files that were cancelled, relinquished, or rejected; 1905-1920, no 1265-1419	Land entry case files that were cancelled, relinquished, or rejected; 1905-1920, no 2022-2074	Land entry case files that were cancelled, relinquished, or rejected; 1905-1920, no 2620-2718
Land entry case files that were cancelled, relinquished, or rejected; 1905-1920, no 427-469	Land entry case files that were cancelled, relinquished, or rejected; 1905-1920, no 1425-1518	Land entry case files that were cancelled, relinquished, or rejected; 1905-1920, no 2077-2163	Land entry case files that were cancelled, relinquished, or rejected; 1905-1920, no 2720-2957
Land entry case files that were cancelled, relinquished, or rejected; 1905-1920, no 471-525		Land entry case files that were cancelled, relinquished, or rejected; 1905-1920, no 2170-	Land entry case files that were cancelled, relinquished, or rejected; 1905-1920, no 2960-3051

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Lincoln HE 0543.
4-480. SPECIAL AGENTS MUST RETAIN A PRESS COPY OF THIS REPORT.
Adverse report.
2 Inc.
PRW.

REPORT OF FRAUDULENT CLAIM OR ENTRY.

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

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

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

FRED DENNETT,
Commissioner.

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

2. Dates and numbers of filing or entry and of final proof and certificate, with description of land:
**Lincoln HE 12903, Serial 0543, Dec., 15, 1903, for SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$,
Lot 2, Sec. 3-5-31, FC not issued.**

3. Date of examination: **July 8, 1909.**

4. Character of land: (Timber, Mineral, Agricultural, or Desert.) If timber land, whether, if cleared, it would be fit for agriculture; if a desert entry, whether grass or other agricultural crop could be produced without artificial irrigation; if mineral, character and evidence thereof:
**Land is all rough except about 15 acres. The rough land is
suitable for stock pasture only. Corn is growing on about 8 acres
without irrigation.**

Report of Fraudulent Claim or Entry (1903)

State of Nebraska)
) SS:
Hayes County)

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

(Signed) Peter Kucera.

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

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

Affidavit alleging fraud (1909)

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

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

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

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

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

Affidavits of witnesses secured.

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

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

13. What legal proceedings have been instituted?

None.

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

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

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

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

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

June 3, 1913, WJM

JR

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

REGISTER AND RECEIVER,
Lincoln, Nebraska.

Sirs:

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

A copy of said decision is herewith inclosed, for your information and for your files.

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

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

Cancelled Homstead Case (1913)



Refine your search

Search by:

- Place
- Surnames
- Titles
- Author
- Subjects
- Keywords

homestead

Search for:

- Call Number
- Film/Fiche Number

Availability

- Any
- Online
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Update Reset

Year

- ▶ 1500 (1)
- ▶ 1600 (3)
- ▶ 1700 (10)

Search Results for FamilySearch Catalog

PRINT Catalog Print List (0)

1-20 of 1,104 results

Print List

[The Dakota homestead historical newsletter](#)

Add

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

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

Add

Author: Alden, Fannie A Stall

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

Add

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

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

Add

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

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

Add

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

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

Add

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

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

Add

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

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

Add

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[← BACK TO SEARCH RESULTS](#)

PRINT Catalog Print List (0)

Colorado, Gilpin County, homestead records, 1868-1894

[Add to Print List](#)

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

Format: Manuscript/Manuscript on Digital Images

Language: English

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

Notes

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

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

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

Film/Digital Notes

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



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TIMBER CULTURE.

REGISTER OF ENTRIES made at the Land Office at *Central City, Colorado.*
to the *Thirtieth* day of *June*

NO. OF APPLICATION.	DATE OF APPLICATION.	TRACT ENTERED. SECTION OR PART OF SECTION.	No. OF SECTION.	No. OF TOWNSHIP.	No. OF RANGE.	QUANTITY.		NAME OF APPLICANT
						ACRES.	100ths	
<i>2</i>	<i>June 24 1887</i>	<i>E 1/2 of Sec. 8 - 1/4 E 1/2 of Sec. 8 E 4</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>71 1/2</i>	<i>160</i>	<i>00</i>	<i>John C. Hedges</i>

Timber Culture Register of Entries, Central City, Colorado (1887)

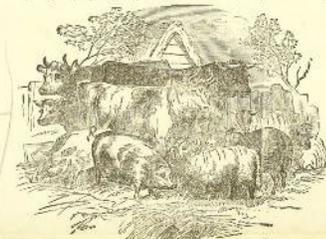
Strategies for Using Land Entry Case Files

Immigrant Origins

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

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Comm. Letter
"6" of March
27th 1878



Dec 27/78

State of Iowa, Clay County, ss:

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

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

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

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

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

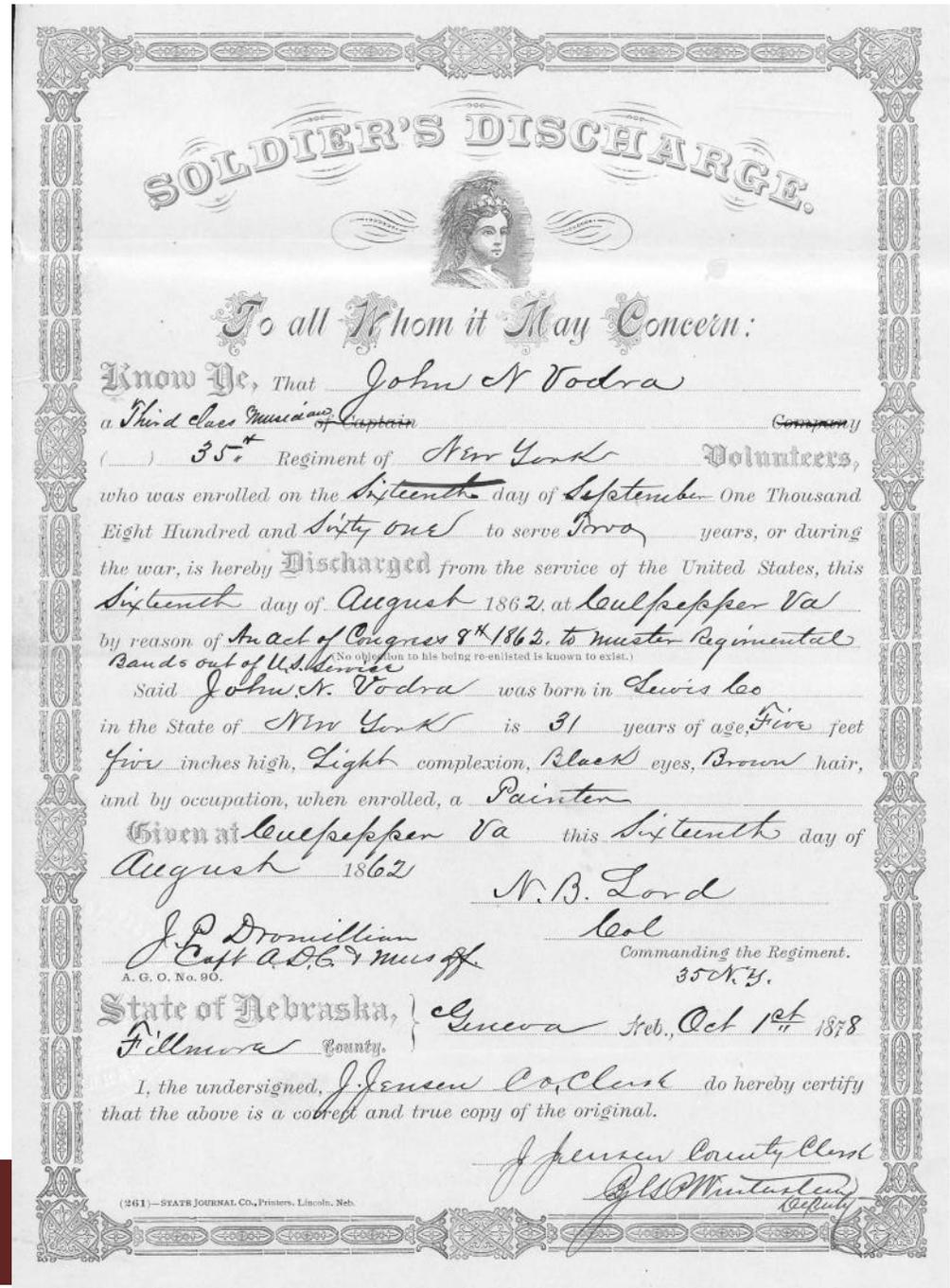
(Circular seal impression)

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

Military Service

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

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



To all Whom it May Concern:



Know Ye, That John A. Vodra
a Third Class Musician of Captain Regimental Band
Company () 35 Regiment of New York
VOLUNTEERS, who was enrolled on the 19th day of September
One Thousand Eight Hundred and fifty one to serve two years
or during the war, is hereby **Discharged** from the service of the United
States, this sixteenth day of August 1862, at Culpepper Va.
by reason of an act of Congress passed July 8 1862
to transfer Regimental Bands out of the 1st Series
(No objection to his being re-enlisted is known to exist.)*

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

Given at Culpepper Va., this sixteenth day
of August 1862

C. B. Lora
Col. Comd.
Commanding the Reg't.
35 Reg't

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

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

United States Land Office,
Lincoln, Neb., Oct 27th 1873

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

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

6.

War Department,
 ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
 Washington, D. C., May 12th, 1879.

Sir:

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

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

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

Statement of Service, Adjutant General's Office, Land Entry Case File of John Vodra (Ancestry.com)

African American Homesteaders

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

National Park Service National Park Service

Staking their Claim: Black Homesteaders' Successful Quest for Land

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

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

Six Black Homesteader Communities in the Great Plains

It is hereby certified that, pursuant to the provisions of Section 2201, Revised Statutes of the United States, [Name] has made payment in full of \$ [Amount] Sec. 33 [Location] Sec. 28

Township 26 N., Range 60 W., 6th pr. Meridian, Section 28

nps.gov/home/black-homesteading-in-america.htm

Staking their Claim: Black Homesteaders' Successful Quest for Land

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

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

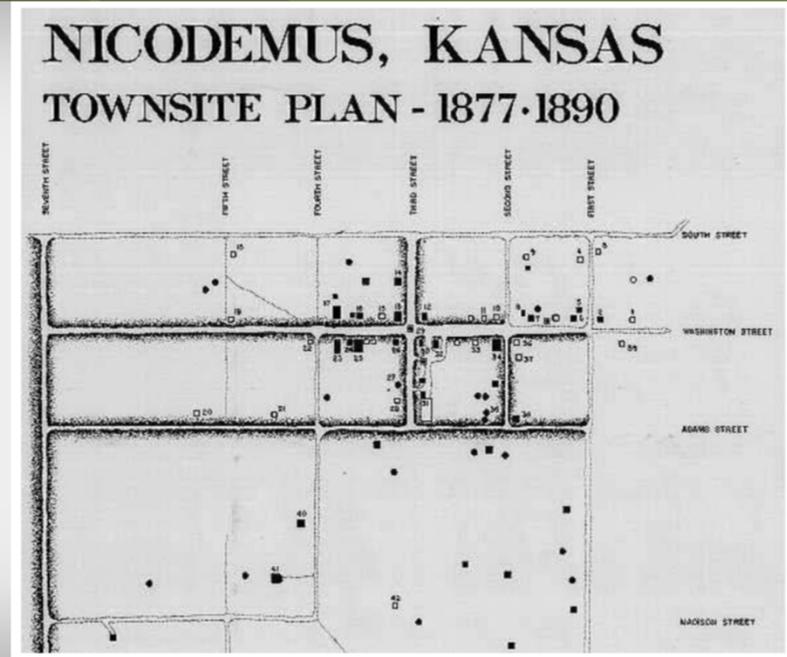
Nicodemus, KS

Background Information

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

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

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



nps.gov/home/black-homesteading-in-america.htm

National Park Service

National Park Service



Staking their Claim: Black Homesteaders' Successful Quest for Land

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

Nicodemus, KS

William Kirtley

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

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

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



nps.gov/home/black-homesteading-in-america.htm

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Nicodemus, KS

Homestead Map

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

Acres Claimed Map

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

Patent Year Map

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

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

Claimant: George Tucker

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

nps.gov/home/black-homesteading-in-america.htm

Case Study

Peter Dougherty

Peter Dougherty

- Born 1832 County Monaghan, Ireland. He was son of Francis Dougherty and Catharina Clarkin
- Moved with family to Prince Edward Island (PEI), Canada between 1836 and 1841
- Married Margaret Cairns in 1858 in PEI
- 1861 Census – Living on Lot 58 in PEI as head of household
- Four children born on PEI between 1861 and 1872 (John, Susan, Mary Ellen, and Margaret)
- No trace of him in PEI after 1861



Photo added by [Misty Vibbert/Detar Bius](#)

Peter Dougherty

BIRTH Aug 1832
County Monaghan, Ireland

DEATH 31 Jul 1923 (aged 90)
Elmo, Dickinson County, Kansas, USA

BURIAL [Mount Calvary Cemetery](#)
Elmo, Dickinson County, Kansas, USA [Add to Map](#)

MEMORIAL ID 62370686 · [View Source](#)

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It appears that both Peter and Margaret shared the same headstone.
His is ...

Added by: [Misty Vibbert/Detar Bius](#)



Added by: [Misty Vibbert/Detar Bius](#)
on 7 Sep 2013



Very weathered and hard to read

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on 7 Sep 2013



Otherside of P Dougherty headstone

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Peter Dougherty

in the Kansas, U.S., State Census Collection, 1855-1925



Saved to: [Dougherty, Peter O.](#) in tree "Melanie's Family Tree"

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Name:	Peter Dougherty												
Census Date:	1 Mar 1875												
Residence County:	Dickinson												
Residence State:	Kansas												
Locality:	Jefferson												
Birth Place:	Ireland												
Family Number:	145												
Gender:	Male												
Age:	44												
Birth Year:	abt 1831												
Race:	White												
Household Member(s):													
	<table><thead><tr><th>Name</th><th>Age</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Peter Dougherty</td><td>44</td></tr><tr><td>Margaret Dougherty</td><td>42</td></tr><tr><td>S Dougherty</td><td>11</td></tr><tr><td>M E Dougherty</td><td>8</td></tr><tr><td>Maggie Dougherty</td><td>3</td></tr></tbody></table>	Name	Age	Peter Dougherty	44	Margaret Dougherty	42	S Dougherty	11	M E Dougherty	8	Maggie Dougherty	3
Name	Age												
Peter Dougherty	44												
Margaret Dougherty	42												
S Dougherty	11												
M E Dougherty	8												
Maggie Dougherty	3												

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Peter Dougherty

in the U.S., Selected Federal Census Non-Population Schedules, 1850-1880

✓ Saved to: Dougherty, Peter O. in tree "Melanie's Family Tree"

[Remove](#)



Name: Peter Dougherty
Enumeration Date: 8 Jun 1880
Place: Banner, Dickinson, Kansas, USA
Schedule Type: Agriculture
OS Page: 11
Line Number: 5

Make a Connection

[Find others](#) who are researching Peter Dougherty in Public Member Trees.

Add or update information

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Report a problem

SCHEDULE 2.—Productions of Agriculture in Basiner Township in the County of Dickinson enumerated by me on the 8th day of June, 1880.

OF THE PERSON WHO CONDUCTS THIS FARM.				ACRES OF LAND.				FARM VALUE.			FENCES.		LABOR.		
THE NAME.				IMPROVED.		UNIMPROVED.		Of Farm, including land, house and buildings.	Of Stock, implements and machinery.	Of Live Stock.	Of Fencing and equipping in 1879.	Of Fencing in 1880.	Wages paid for labor in 1879, including family labor.	Wages paid for labor in 1880, including family labor.	Value of stock in 1879.
Owner.	Months for fixed money rental.	Months for shares of produce.	No.	Ac.	No.	Ac.	Dollars.								
1			60			200		2000	100	200					58
2			120			200		2000	50	300					200
3			90			70		1500	10	250					200
4			100	1/2		50		1200	35	130					100
5			80	2		78		1200	100	300					300



1880 Agriculture Schedule – Dickinson County, Kansas (Ancestry.com)

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First Name:

Middle Name:

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Land Description

Township: --- /

Range: --- /

Meridian:

Section #:

Miscellaneous

Land Office:

Document #:

Indian Allot. #:

Survey #:

Authority:

Issue Date: -- / -- to -- / --

Militia:

Tribe:

Geo. Name/ Mining Claim:

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Patents

Image	Accession	Names	Date	Doc #	State	Meridian	Twp - Rng	Aliquots	Sec. #	County
	KS2710 .402	 DOUGHERTY, PETER	12/10/1880	5467	KS	6th PM	016S - 002E	S½NW¼	20	Dickinson

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 Document Type: [State Volume Patent](#) |
 State: [Kansas](#) |
 Issue Date: [12/10/1880](#) |
 Cancelled: [No](#)

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Names On Document

[DOUGHERTY, PETER](#)

Military Rank: ---



Miscellaneous Information

Land Office:	Salina
US Reservations:	No
Mineral Reservations:	No
Tribe:	---
Militia:	---
State In Favor Of:	---
Authority:	May 20, 1862: Homestead EntryOriginal (12 Stat. 392)
General Remarks:	---

Document Numbers

Document Nr:	5467
Misc. Doc. Nr:	15178
BLM Serial Nr:	---
Indian Allot. Nr:	---
Coal Entry. Nr:	---

Survey Information

Total Acres:	80.00
Survey Date:	---
Geographic Name:	---
Metes/Bounds:	No



Land Descriptions

Map	State	Meridian	Twp - Rng	Aliquots	Section	Survey #	County
<input type="checkbox"/>	KS	6th PM	016S - 002E	S1/2NW1/4	20		Dickinson

glorerecords.blm.gov

402



The United States of America,

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, GREETING:

Homestead Certificate No. *5467*

Application *13-178*

Whereas, there has been deposited in the GENERAL LAND OFFICE of the United States a CERTIFICATE of the Register of the Land Office at *Salina Kansas*, whereby it appears that, pursuant to the Act of Congress approved 20th May, 1862, "To secure Homesteads to actual settlers on the public domain," and the acts supplemental thereto, the claim of *Peter Dougherty*

has been established and duly consummated in conformity to law for the south half of the north west quarter of section twenty five township sixteen south of range two east of the Sixth Principal Meridian in Kansas containing eighty acres

according to the Official Plat of the Survey of the said Land returned to the GENERAL LAND OFFICE by the SURVEYOR GENERAL.

Now know ye, That there is therefore granted by the UNITED STATES, unto the said *Peter Dougherty*

Peter Dougherty Land Patent

Time to Request the File!

- The land entry file was requested from the National Archives and photographed.
- Peter Dougherty's file was 54 pages long!
- The following is a sampling of what was included.

Rec'd Printers of the Abilene Gazette

No. 1.—HOMESTEAD.

Land Office at _____

_____ 18__

I, Peter Dougherty, of Rhoades Co. Dickinson Co. Kan

who made Homestead Application No. 15178 for the

1/2 of NW 1/4 of Section 20 in Township 16d.

of Range 2 E.

do hereby give notice of my intention to make final proof to establish my claim to the

land above described, on Wednesday, the 2^d day of June 1880

before the Judge of the Probate Court at his office in Abilene, Dickinson County, in said

State, and that I expect to prove my claim by the following witnesses:

Thomas O Connell of Rhoades, Dickinson County, Kas., and

Patrick Karans of ", Dickinson County, Kas., and

John Hughes of ", Dickinson County, Kas., and

John Armstrong of ", Dickinson County, Kas.

Peter Dougherty
(Signature of claimant)

Land Office at Salina K.

_____ 1880

Notice of the above application will be published in the Abilene Gazette, printed at

Abilene, Dickinson County, Kansas, which I hereby designate as the newspaper published

nearest the land described in said application.

Notice of Intention to Make Final Proof for Claim to Land, Peter Dougherty)

TESTIMONY OF CLAIMANT.

Peter Dougherty being called as a witness in *his*
own behalf in support for *his* homestead entry for *Sec. 20. Township 16 S. of Range 2 E.*
Kansas testifies as follows:

Ques. 1. What is your name? (Be careful to give it in full, correctly spelled, in order that it may be here written exactly as you wish it written in the patent which you desire to obtain.)
Ans. *Peter Dougherty*

Ques. 2. What is your age?
Ans. *47 years.*

Ques. 3. Are you the head of a family, or a single person; and, if the head of a family, of whom does your family consist?
Ans. *he is the head of a family of wife & 4 children*

Ques. 4. Are you a native-born citizen of the United States? If not, have you declared your intention to become a citizen, and have you obtained a certificate of naturalization?
Ans. *has obtained Certif. Cat. of Naturaliz. Nat.*
See Certified Copy enclosed

Ques. 5. Are there any indications of coal, salines, or minerals of any kind on the land embraced in your homestead entry above described? (If so, state what they are, and whether the springs or mineral deposits are valuable.)
Ans. *No*

Ques. 6. Is the land more valuable for agricultural than mineral purposes?
Ans. *yes for agricultural purposes*

NOTE.—At the time of making proof the party should be required to surrender his original homestead duplicate receipt, or file an affidavit accounting for the same.
*In case the party has been naturalized, a certified copy of his certificate of naturalization must be furnished. In case of commuted homesteads it is required that a certified copy of his declaration of intention must be furnished.

Testimony of Claimant, Peter Dougherty

IN THE DISTRICT COURT
OF
The *8th* Judicial District of State of Kansas,
Sitting in and for the County of Dickinson.

March Term, A. D. 1880

BE IT REMEMBERED, That on this, the *19th* day of *March*
U. S. 1880, personally appeared in open court, *Peter*
Dougherty — a native of *Ireland* —
and applied to be admitted a Citizen of the United States, and produced a certificate of
his declaration of his intention to become a citizen.

Issued by the Clerk of the District Court of Dickinson County of
State of Kansas, dated *January 26th*, 1874, and proved
to the satisfaction of the court here that he has resided in the United States for more
than the period of five years next preceding this application, and for one year last past,
within the State of Kansas, and that during the whole of that period he has conducted
himself as a man of good moral character, attached to the principles of this Government
and well disposed to the good order and happiness of the same.

Thereupon, the Court being fully satisfied that said applicant has fulfilled all the
requirements of the laws of the United States respecting the naturalization of Foreigners,
and the said *Peter Dougherty*,
having declared on oath, that he will support the Constitution of the United States, and
renounce and abjure forever all allegiance and fidelity to every Foreign Power, Prince,
Potentate, State or Sovereignty whatever, and particularly to ~~the~~ *Queen Victoria*
Queen of England of whom he was heretofore a subject. It is
ordered by the Court, that the said *Peter Dougherty* —
be and he is hereby declared a citizen of the United States of North America, with all
the rights and privileges thereto.

STATE OF KANSAS,
DICKINSON COUNTY,

Sct.

W. S. Davidson

Clerk of the

Court aforesaid, do hereby certify the above and foregoing to be a true and perfect
copy of the order naturalizing *Peter Dougherty* as the same now

Naturalization Petition, Peter Dougherty

Ques. 7. What is your post-office address?
Ans. *Roads Dickinson Co. Bank*

Ques. 8. Have you ever made a homestead entry except for this land, No. *15178*? (If you have, give, as nearly as you can, the date thereof and description of the land, and state whether the entry still subsists, or, if it has been cancelled, state the cause of its cancellation.)
Ans. *no.*

Ques. 9. Have you sold the land or conveyed to any one your right and interest in the same; and if so, to whom and for what purpose?
Ans. *have not*

Ques. 10. Does any one except yourself claim the land under the homestead or pre-emption laws?
Ans. *no one does*

Ques. 11. When did you first make settlement on the said land?
Ans. *20th of November 1873.*

Ques. 12. When did you first establish a residence upon the land?
Ans. *20th of November 1873.*

Ques. 13. At the date you have given as being the date that you first established your residence upon the land, did you move thereon in person?
Ans. *I did*

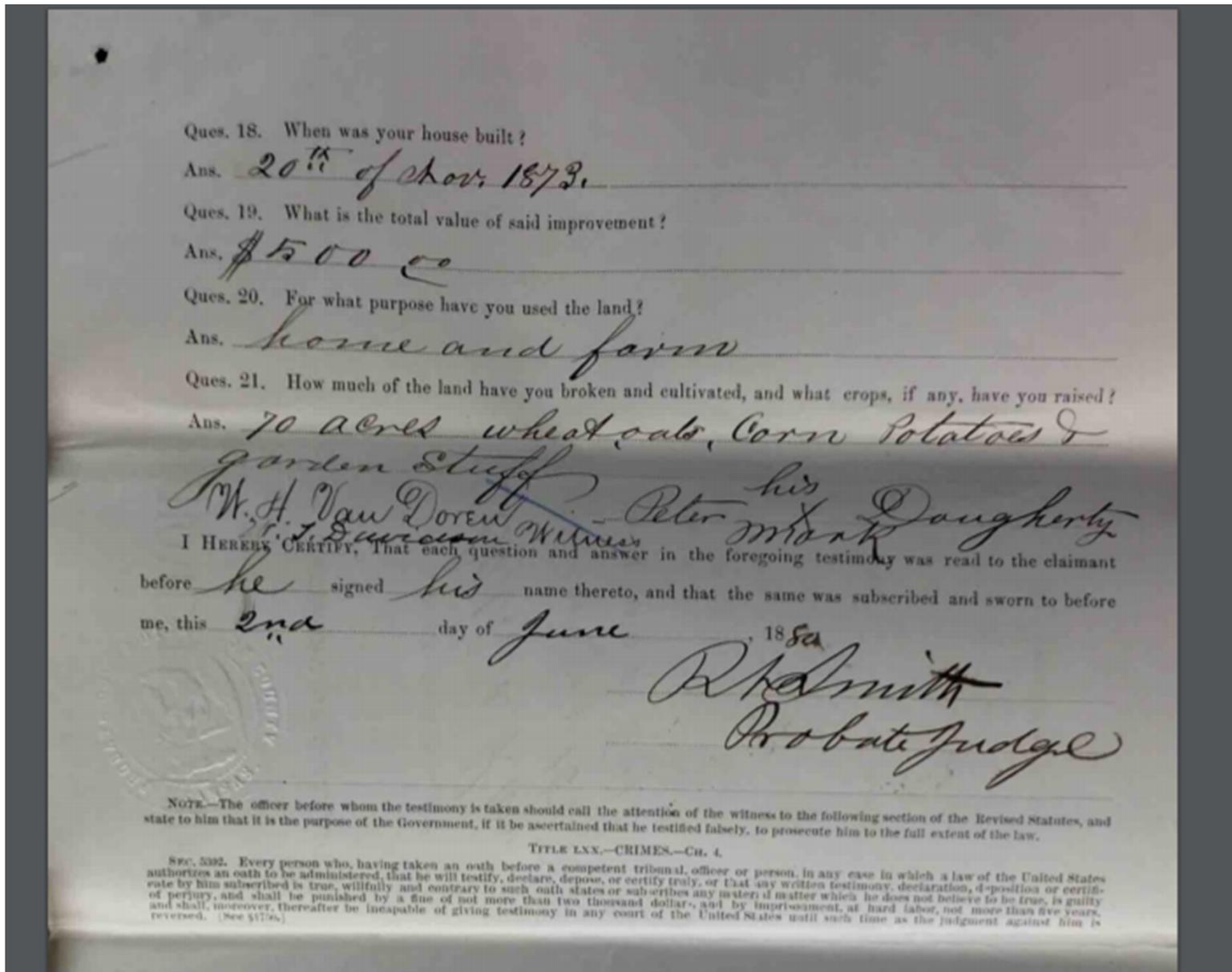
Ques. 14. Up to what time have you resided on the land?
Ans. *To the present time*

Ques. 15. Was your residence upon the land continuous during the period named?
Ans. *yes*

Ques. 16. If you had a family during said period of residence on the homestead, did your family reside thereon?
Ans. *yes*

Ques. 17. What improvements have you made or do you possess on the land? (Describe them.)
Ans. *1 Story Stone basement 14 X 18 1 Stone Stable for 4 Horses 1 Stone granary 12 X 14 X 8 1 Stone Chicken House, Stone Hog Corns dug one well Planted fruit & forest trees Placed Hedged all around along 1 side*

Testimony of Claimant Cont'd of Peter Dougherty



Testimony of Claimant Cont'd, Peter Dougherty



THANK YOU!

AmericanAncestors.org/Education



NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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