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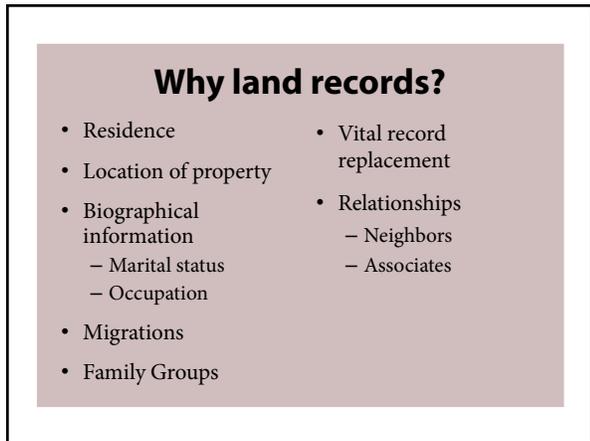
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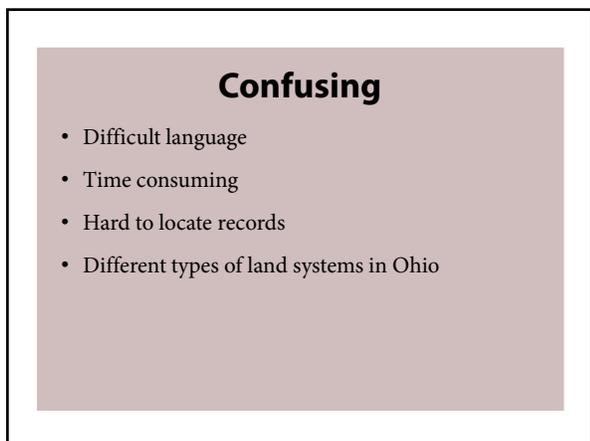
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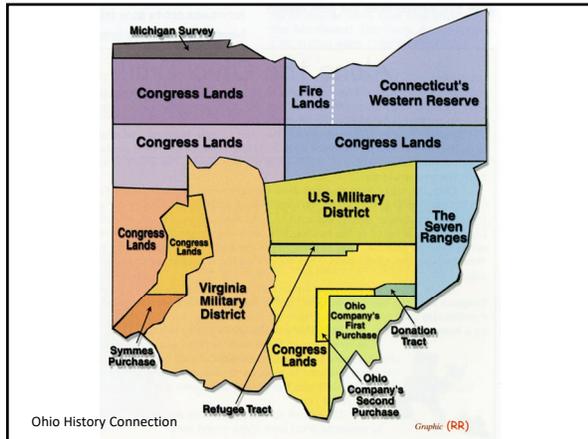
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**Types of land in Ohio**

- Federal land surveys
- Private land surveys/Sales to private groups
- County land records
  - Maintained by County Recorder

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**Federal Land Surveys**

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### Peace of Paris - 1783

- Ended American Revolution
- Great Britain ceded claim on western lands
- Virginia and Connecticut retained their western land claims established by their charters
  - Eventually ceded lands in 1780s

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### Land Ordinance of 1785

- Legislation passed to establish rules for Public Domain lands
  - Survey
  - Sale
  - Settlement
- Townships divided into 36 one-mile square sections
- Sections of each township reserved
  - 16 for support of public school
  - 8, 11, 26, 29 reserved for future sales

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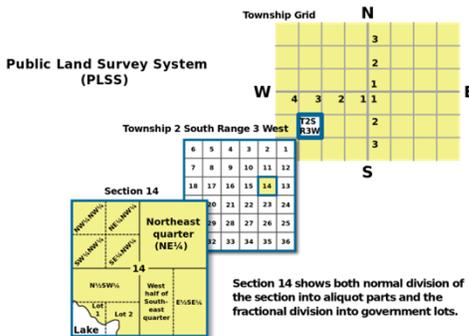
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### Public Land Survey System




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### Harrison Land Act of 1800

- Established federal land offices in Ohio
  - Steubenville
  - Marietta
  - Chillicothe
  - Cincinnati
- Minimum price \$2 per acre
  - Reduced minimum from 640 acres to 320 acres
- Credit system allowed purchaser to pay off land over course of four years
  - Buy land for 25% down payment

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### United States Military District

- Legislation passed on 1 June 1796 to create United States Military District
- Created to compensate veterans of Continental Line during American Revolution
- **Counties:** Coshocton, Delaware, Guernsey, Franklin, Holmes, Knox, Licking, Marion, Morrow, Muskingum, Noble, Tuscarawas

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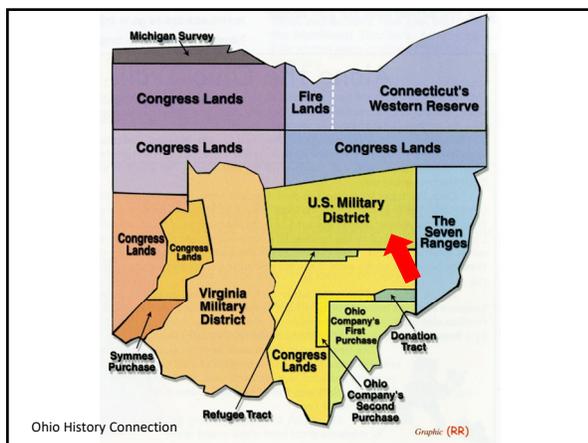
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**United States Military District**

- Each rank received different acreage
  - Private: 100 acres
  - Lieutenant: 200 acres
  - Colonel: 500 acres
- Soldiers and their heirs often sold bounty land
  - Purchaser may be named as “Assignee” of soldier
  - Sometimes this transaction is recorded in county land records

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**Process**

```

graph LR
  A[Application] --> B[Warrant]
  B --> C[Survey]
  C --> D[Patent]
  D --> E[Possession]
  
```

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

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**Application**

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

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## Warrant

- Rank of soldier
- State of service
- Date of issue
- Acreage

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## Where can I find records?

- Applications
  - Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Application Files, 1800-1900, Ancestry.com
- Warrants
  - U.S., War and Bounty Land Warrants, 1789-1858, Ancestry.com
- Fires in 1800 and 1814 destroyed many early applications and warrants

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## Survey

- Date of Survey
- Geographical features
- Ranges and Sections

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## Patent

- Patent: Successful transfer of federal land to private ownership
- Name and residence of grantee
- Land office
- Location of tract
- Date

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## Not all land was patented

- Not all applicants completed process to receive legal rights to their land
  - Abandoned process
  - Defaulted on payments
- General Land Office Records (glorecords.blm.gov) recorded **only** patented land

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### Tract Books

- Ledgers used to record transfer of federal land to private ownership
- Contains
  - Name of purchaser
  - Description of land
  - Date
  - Type of transaction
  - Final status

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### Tract Books

- Ohio Tract Books
  - Organized by land office
  - Township
  - Range
- FamilySearch.org
- Ohio History Connection

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Zanesville Land Office

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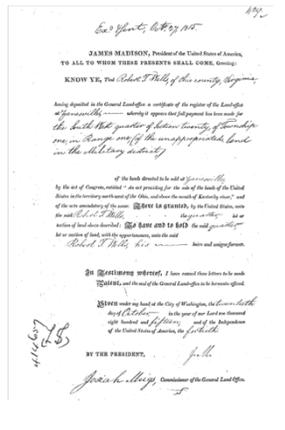
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- Robert T. Wells' patent
- Resident of Ohio County, Virginia – Now West Virginia
- Location of land



Robert T. Wells patent

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### Land Entry Case Files

- Documented transfer of federal land to private ownership
  - Recorded when ancestor applied for land
  - Can contain information about family, military service, citizenship
- Pre-1840 files contain more information about land
- Post-1840 files contain more information about individual

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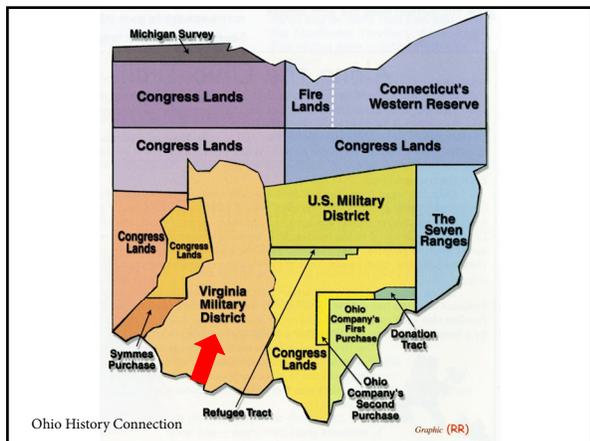
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## Virginia Military District

- Land claimed by Virginia
  - Between Scioto and Little Miami Rivers
  - 4,200,000+ acres
- Reserved for veterans of Revolutionary War
- Metes and bounds survey system
  - Relies on natural landmarks (tree, rock, etc.)
  - Not Public Land Survey System

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ohiohistory.libguides.com

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### Connecticut Western Reserve

- Land claimed by Colony of Connecticut in northeastern Ohio by royal charter
- Connecticut ceded much of territory to United States in 1786
- Maintained 3,000,000+ tract that became Western Reserve
- Lands sold to Connecticut Land Company

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### Connecticut Land Company

- Land speculation company founded in 1795
- Encouraged settlement in Connecticut Western Reserve
  - New Englanders




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### Where are the records?

- Connecticut State Library
  - Includes deeds, financial transactions, correspondence
- Western Reserve Historical Society
  - Includes surveys, plats, correspondence

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**Firelands**

- Also known as “Sufferers Lands”
- Reserved for families that sustained losses during raids of Danbury, New Haven, Fairfield, Norwalk, and New London during American Revolution
- Western section of Western Reserve
  - Erie and Huron counties
  - 500,000 acres

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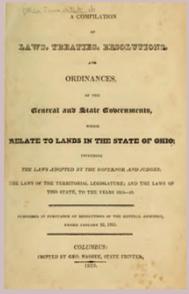
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**Firelands**

- Contains names of Sufferers
  - Losses incurred
- Organized by town
- FamilySearch.org




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**Where are the records?**

- Connecticut State Library
- Yale University
- Western Reserve Historical Society
- Check local collections, too
  - Town records

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**Types**

- Deeds
- Mortgages
- Sheriff's Deed or Sale
- Leases
- Assignments
- Quitclaims
- Divisions/Partitions
- Power of Attorney

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**Deed**

- Legal document that transfers the ownership of property from one party to another party
  - Also referred to as Warranty Deed

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**Process**

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

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**Format**

- Seller and Buyer
- Payment
- Property description
- Legal language
- Dates
- Witnesses



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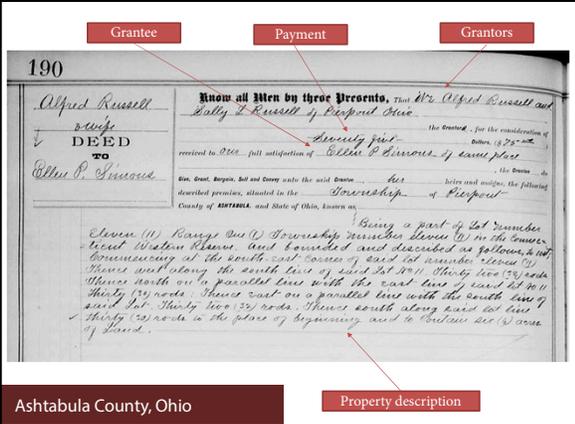
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**Know all Men by these Presents, that Mrs. Alfred Russell and Sally E. Russell of Crawford Ohio**

**DEED**

to

**Ellen P. Burrows**

Ashtabula County, Ohio

**Property description**

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**Cluster Research**

- **Cluster research:** Studying the records left by your ancestor's FAN Club
- Family
- Associates
- Neighbors

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**QUESTIONS?**

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**Mortgages**

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

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### How can I tell if it's a mortgage?

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

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### Sheriff's Deed or Sale

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

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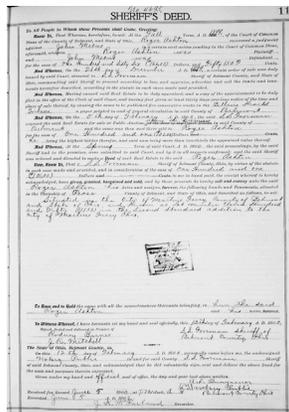
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- Roger Ashton purchased property for \$101
- Former owner John Mecus was in arrears for \$166
- Land located in Martin's Ferry

Belmont County, Ohio



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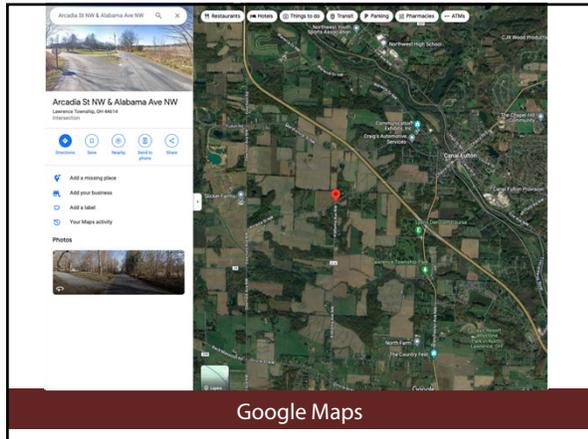












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**Conclusion**

- Understand the settlement of your ancestor's county
- Use guides and FamilySearch wiki
  - Learn about region
  - Record collections
- Perform an exhaustive search

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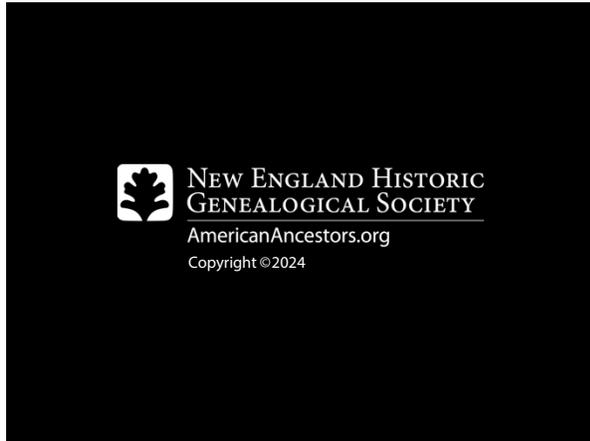
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