



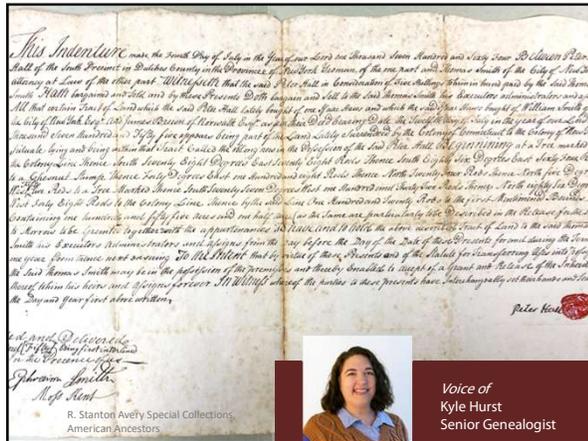
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Why use Land Records?

			
IDENTIFY FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS	ESTIMATE DATES	IDENTIFY FORMER RESIDENCE	IDENTIFY OCCUPATIONS
			
GLIMPSE INTO ANCESTOR'S FINANCIAL STATUS	DETERMINE THE SITE OF A HOUSE OR FARM	TRACE GENERATIONS OF OWNERSHIP	

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Finding Land Records

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Strategies

To find out:	Do:
• Where are they when?	 Make a timeline
• Where are those locations?	 Research the area
• How did they get there?	 Study migration routes
• Who made the records and where are they kept?	 Understand jurisdiction levels

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Levels of NY Land Records

- Colony/State – colony/state to person(s)
- County – person(s) to person(s)
- Town – town/person(s) to person(s)
- Proprietors –
 - colony/state to person(s)
 - person(s) to person(s)



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County Land Records

Include:

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

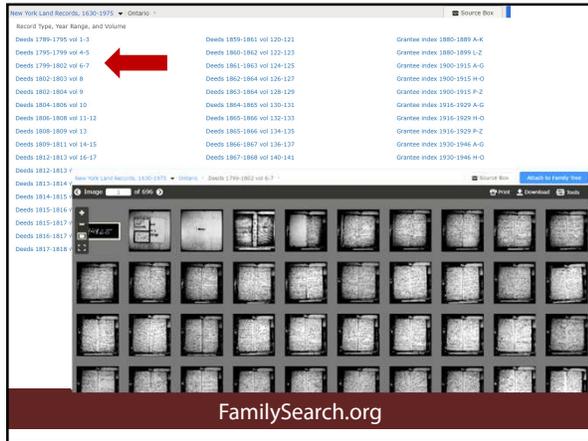
Where to look:

- Held by county clerk's office
- Microfilmed/digitized by FamilySearch

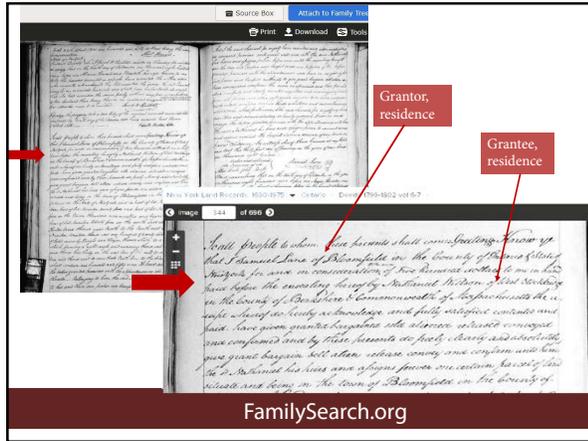
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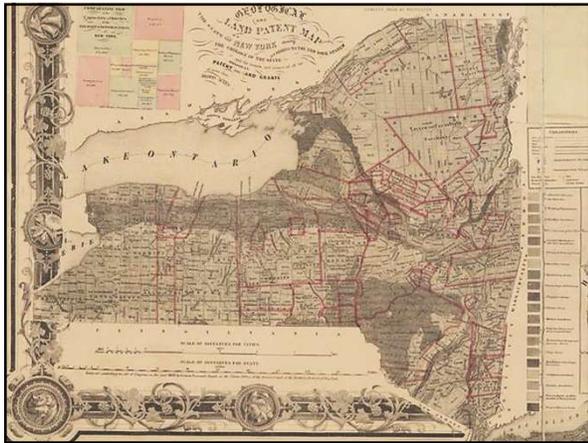


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Mortgages

- Money borrowed with real estate held as collateral
- NY required to record mortgages as of 1753
- Look in deed books or separate mortgage books at the county level
- Check for margin notes about mortgages paid

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Colony/State Land

- Colony/state to person(s) = New York controlled land grants/patents
- Process:
 - Indian deed > patent/sale
 - su >
- Descriptions:
 - Eastern counties described in metes & bounds
 - Western counties divided by lots, townships, and ranges

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Colonial Land

- Patroonships
 - Rensselaerswijck
- Patents
 - Beekman
- Manors
 - Rensselaerswyck
 - Livingston

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FamilySearch.org

- Deeds, 1659-1846 from Secretary of State
- Escheated land records, 1749-ca.1830
- Field books, New York, 1701-1848
- Indian deeds and treaties, 1748-1825
- Land office minutes, 1784-1869

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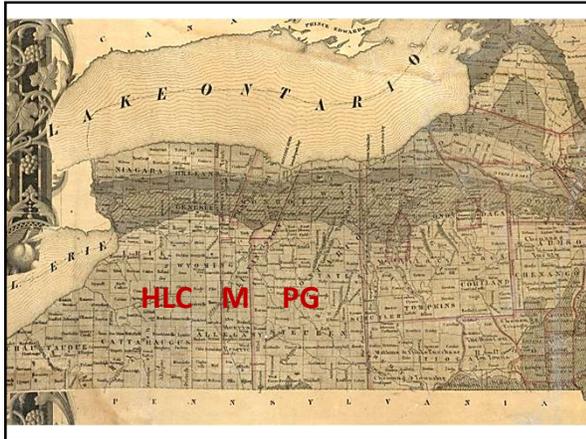
Land via Proprietor

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Proprietors

- What they did:
 - Purchased property from the government
 - Leased or sold land to individuals
- What they owned/represented:
 - Grant/patent
 - Manors
 - Land companies
- Benefits:
 - Profits
 - Boost land value
 - Produce goods (especially wheat)

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NAME	SURNAME	DATE	LOT	S	T	R	D	REF-PAGE
Alanson	Herriman	10Feb29	50	000610	D	507-0098		
Darlin	Conzo	12Feb29	42	000610	D	507-0098		
Ashbel	Watrous	18Feb29	31	000610	D	507-0098		
Mamus	Griwold	20Feb29	46	000610	D	507-0098		
Seth								

Modified with M 11/11/2025

Name	Street	Lot	Acres	Value	Assess
Alanson Herriman
Darlin Conzo
Ashbel Watrous
Mamus Griwold
Seth

Holland Land Company

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Proprietor Records

Include:

- Sale/reversion records
- Lease documents

Where to look:

- Corporate/personal holdings
- Manuscript collections of the landlord
- New York Historical Society, New York State Library, etc.

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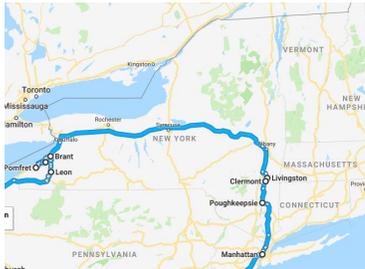
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Ins and Outs of NY Land



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QUESTIONS?

Schedule a consultation
consultations@nehgs.org

Hire Research Services
research@nehgs.org

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