



1



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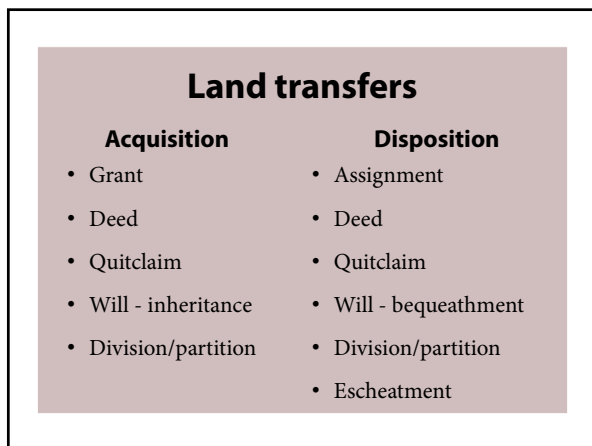
3



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Jurisdiction Levels

Crown/ Federal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nation to person(s)
Colony/ State	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colony/state to person(s) • Town to person(s) • Colony/state to proprietor(s) to person(s)
County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Person(s) to person(s)

7

Where do we find info on locations?

- Maps, atlases, gazetteers
- Websites
- Local histories
- Sociological studies

[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 1772.

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 Sandstone to the mouth of Jantz's creek, (including two townships, Springhill and Tyrone, between which the division line runs Sandstone creek, from the mouth to where it was crossed by Hays's Brook, thence North to Galt's, thence Southwesterly to the Green's Creek), that part of Tyrone which is east (or north-west) of the line from the mouth of Sandstone to the mouth of Jantz's creek, and included in Bedford township which have embraced all of the tracts of "English" in the province.

All of Greene and of Washington counties, which were then supposed to be within the limits of Pennsylvania, and 1794 west of Tyrone, were to have been included in Springhill.


We give the entire list for Springhill, Tyrone and Reddick's.

SPRINGHILL TOWNSHIP.

Wife, Robert Adams, Robert Adams, George Shydekin.

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

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



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Interactive Map of Pennsylvania County Formation History

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

1776

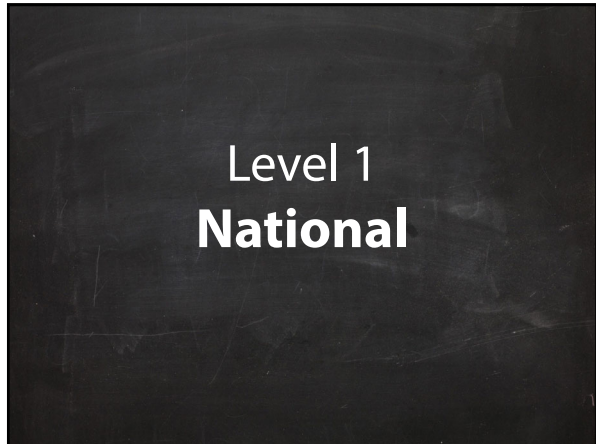
Virginia creates Yohogania(AZ), Monongahela(VA), Districts from West Virginia Districts
Connecticut creates Westmoreland(CT)
from part of Litchfield in Pennsylvania area.

1782

Pennsylvania awarded jurisdiction in northeast
(not fully consolidated until 1788 because of title
over land (AZ), Westmoreland(CT) abandoned)

MapofUS.org

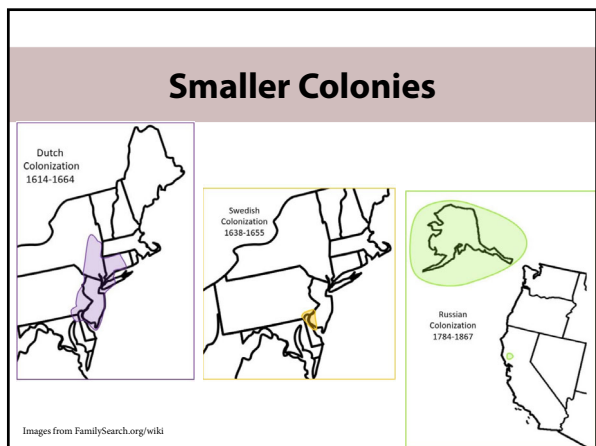
9



10



11



12



13

Spanish claims

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



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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.

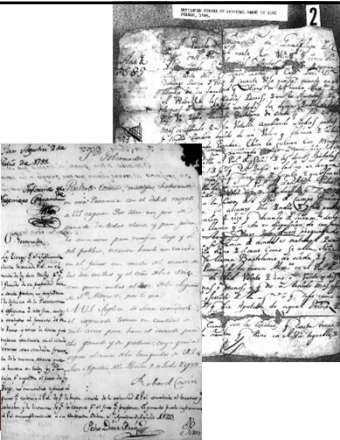
15

Louisiana Territory
-Grants like headrights

Floridas
-Headright grants
-Memorials

New Mexico Territory
-Pueblo grants
-Presidio grants

Texas & California
U.S. Private Land Claims



Records

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Where do you find records?

- Archivo General de Indias (Archives of the Indies)
- Florida State Archives- Spanish Land Grant Archives/Files
- Louisiana Historical Center
- New Orleans City Archives
- Orleans Parish Notarial Archives
- FamilySearch
- *Many more, see handout*



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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

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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

22

Louisiana Territory


- Grants like headrights
- Ribbon farms

Canada

- Concessions
- Seigneuries

U.S. Private Land Claims

Records



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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 FHL)
- Notarial Records- contain a variety of records but many Louisiana records removed by soldiers during Civil War
- See *handout for specifics*

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British claims

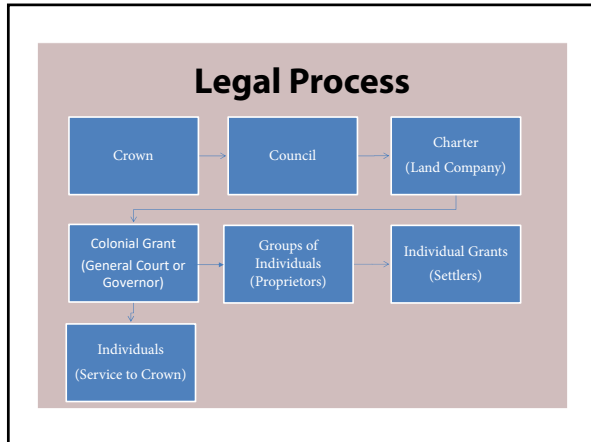
- Area east of Appalachian Mountains
 - 1607-1783
- Area east of the Mississippi River (not New Orleans)
 - 1763-1783
- East and West Florida
 - 1763-1783
- Oregon Country
 - 1778/1818-1846

26

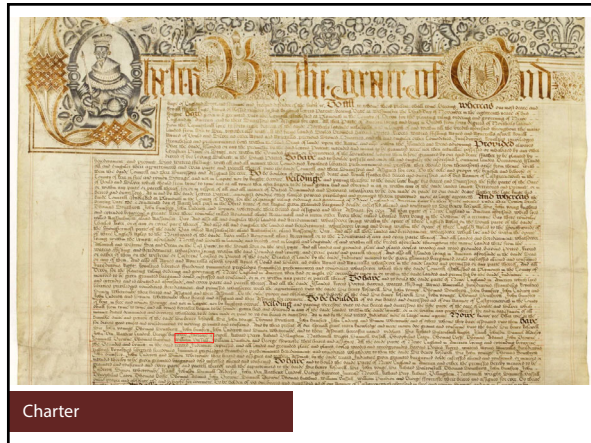
Colonization Efforts

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

27



28



Charter

29

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 *Biting*; returned to England on the *Supply*

OCCUPATION: Merchant [Aspinwall 177].

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP: About 1635 "Mrs. Anna Vassall the wife of Mr. William Vassalle [was admitted to Roxbury church]. Her husband brought five children to this land, Judith, Francis, John, Margaret, Mary" [RCBR 80]. "Mr. Vassel joined" Scituate church on 28 November 1636 [MEHCR 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 1629/9, 11 May 1629, 13 May 1629, 20 October 1629 [MBRCR 1:37, 39, 40, 60]. Committee to consider division of lands, 3 March 1628/9 [MBRCR 1:30]. Committee to resolve orders, 21 May 1629 [MBRCR 1:44]. Arbitrator, 19 September 1629 [MBRCR 1:21]. Present at a court of assistants on the *Arada*, 23 March 1629/30 [MBRCR 1:70].

Deputy, 27 September 1642 [PCR 2:46]. Council of War, 27 September 1642 [PCR 2:47]. In Scituate section of 1649 Plymouth Colony list of men able to bear arms [PCR 8:191].

ESTATE: On 16 December 1629 "Capt. Waller and Mr. Vassall were content to give the first 450 to the plantations, so as their other 450 might go on wholly to this new stock" [MBRCR 1:67].

Rev. John Lotthrop listed "Vassall's" first among the houses built in Scituate in 1636 [MEHCR 10:42].

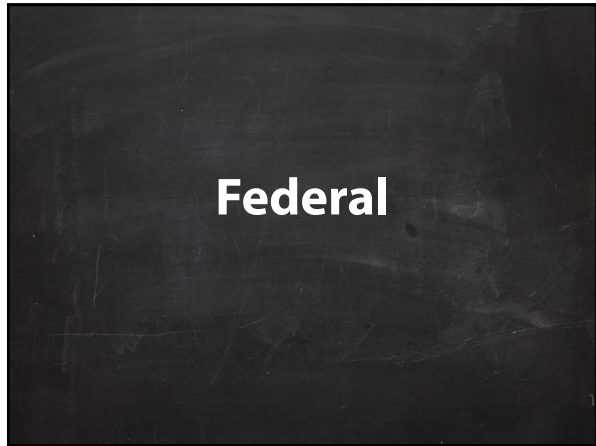
At a Court of Assistants held at New Plymouth, the third of Decemr, in the xliiith Year of the Reigne of o^r Sovereign Lord, Charles, by the Grace of God of England, Scotland, France, & Ireland King, Defender of the Faith, &c.

Erroz Thom. Prisco, gent., Go^{vt}, John Alden,
W^m Bradford, John Atwood, &
Ed: Winslow, John Browne,
Gent., Assistant of the s^d govt^{ms}.

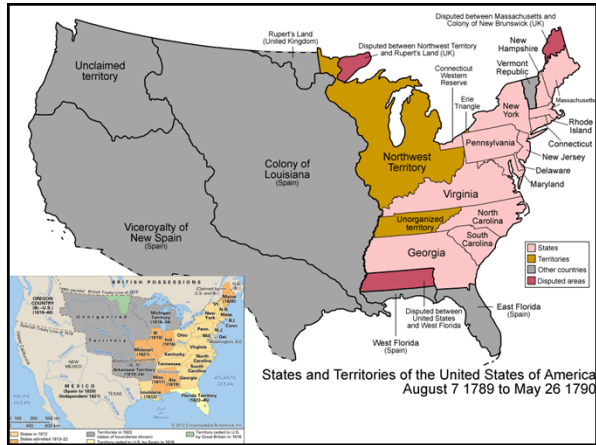
ONE hundred & fifty acres of land, are granted unto M^r Vassall, quilled he take the oath of fidelitie, &c.

General Court grants land

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31



32



33

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

34

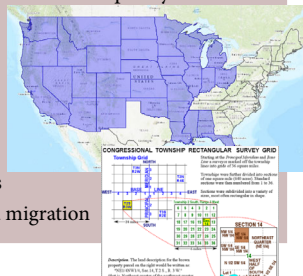
Cash and Credit

- 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

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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



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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

40

Indian deeds

41

Native land cessions

42

Level 2 Local distribution

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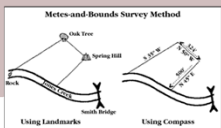
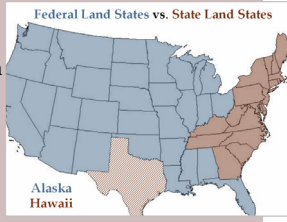
From colony to individual

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

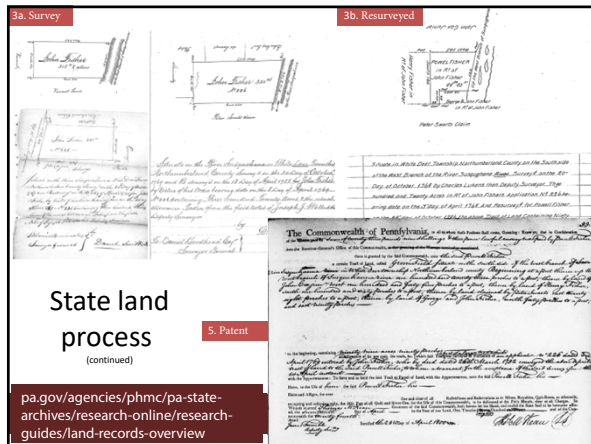
47

State-land States

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

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52



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Headrights

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

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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/digitized
- Town Clerk

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Land transaction in town records

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FamilySearch.org

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Table 1: Major Land Transactions: Grants, Patents, and Patents				Table 2: Major Land Transactions: Grants, Patents, and Patents			
Name (Year)	County/Location	Acres	Notes	Name (Year)	County/Location	Acres	Notes
Edwards (1786)	Albany	10,000	...	Edwards (1786)	Albany	10,000	...
...

NY Family History Research Guide and Gazetteer

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Western New York Land Transactions, 1825-1835						SHERMANS TOWNSHIP											
NAME	SURNAME	DATE	LOT	S	T	R	D	REF-PAGE	NAME	SURNAME	DATE	LOT	S	T	R	D	REF-PAGE
Alanson	Herriman	10Feb29	50	000610	D	507	0098		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Deplin	Conzo	12Feb29	42	000610	D	507	0098		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ashbel	Watrous	18Feb29	31	000610	D	507	0098		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Manus	Griswold	20Feb29	46	000610	D	507	0098	
Seth								

Private proprietor records

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639

Klauser Herron

...

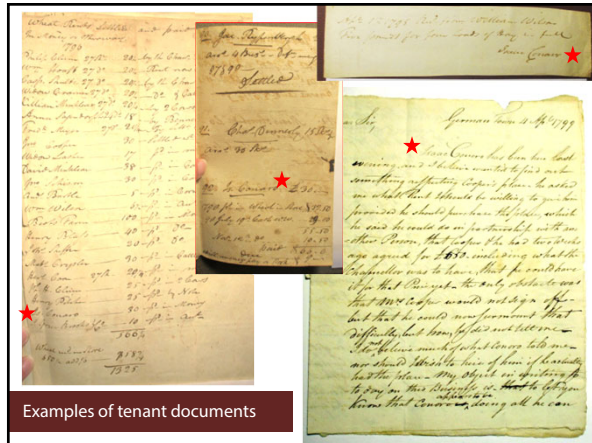
Proprietor sale

69

Records for Non-owners

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

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Proprietor Records

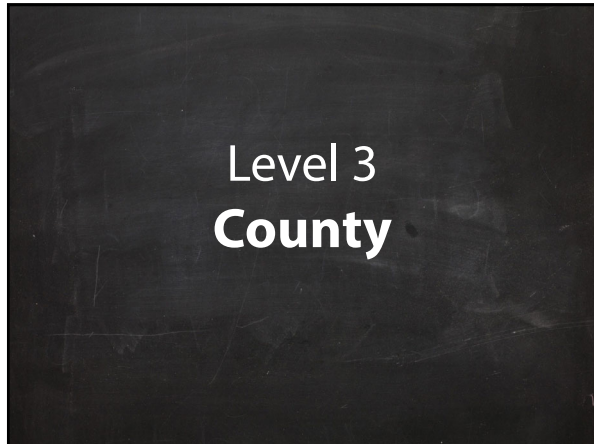
Include:

- Sale/reversion records
- Lease documents

Where to look:

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

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County Land Records

Person(s) to person(s)

Include:

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

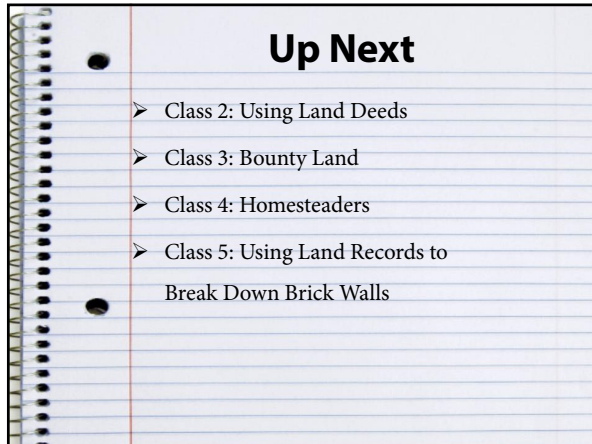
Where to look:

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

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The screenshot shows a FamilySearch website page titled "Illinois Land and Property". It features a sidebar with navigation options like "Home", "About Us", "Help", and "Advanced Search". The main content area includes a "Getting Started" banner for "American Ancestors" with the text "Getting Started with Land Records". Below the banner, there are sections for "Introduction" and "Online Resources". Two book covers are displayed: "Discover Your Ancestors Using Land Records" by Pauline Law Hancock and "Land & Property Research in the United States" by L. Wade King. The URL "familysearch.org/wiki/" is visible at the bottom of the page.

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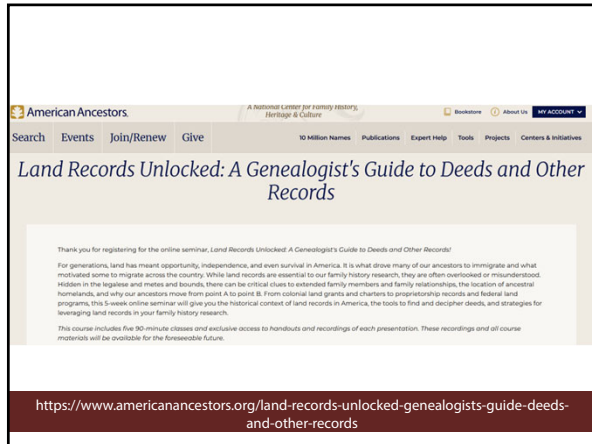
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