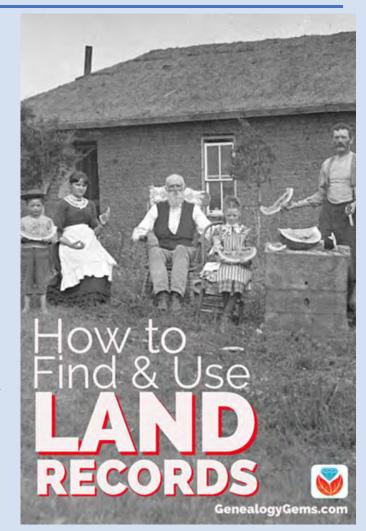


The Value of Land

- □ The quote from the novel "Texas" by James A. Mitchener, below on the notes page, seems to me to be a very appropriate and brief explanation of the ultimate value of land.
 □ Land is more than dirt.
 ❖ It is financial and emotional security if you can prove the land is yours.
 - * Thus, we need deeds, land grants, plats, bounty warrants, and documents of other kinds to secure our claim to the land; in our hands and in the county courthouse.
- ☐ Land is more than law.
 - **!** It is an emotional connection to ancestors, decedents, and to the society at large.
 - **❖** It is no wonder that the land starved citizens of the United States and many foreign countries yearned for a piece of land for themselves and their children.
- ☐ Because land records are so much about family and contain so much family information, they can be very valuable for family history research.
- ☐ So, this class is about what info is available, where to find it, and how to use it.

How to Find and Use Land Records for Genealogy

- ☐ Land records are some of the most underutilized, yet most useful, records available in genealogy.
- ☐ Often, they are the only records which state a direct relationship between family members.
- ☐ They can also be used to prove relationships indirectly by studying the land laws in force at the time.
- ☐ Sometimes they can even be used to locate an ancestor's farm or original house, so that we can walk today where our family walked long ago.
- ☐ This class will show how to find land records and how they can help you scale seemingly impossible brick walls in your genealogy research.



Handout 1

History of Land Records

☐ Most immigrants came from countries where universal land ownership was rare.
☐ Even if possible, it was often too expensive and thus out of reach for most people.
☐ As a result, the lure of vast expanses of relatively cheap and plentiful land has proved irresistible to millions of immigrants over the past 400 years.
☐ There are vast amounts of land records created throughout those years to document ownership of all that real estate.
☐ Even in the face of catastrophic record loss in some locations, land records are generally plentiful.
☐ They usually exist from the date of formation of colonial, state, and county governments.
☐ The search for new land is one of the main themes of American history.
☐ Land records are an important part of researching that history.

Information Contained in Land Records

Land records often are the only records in which you will find your ancestors mentioned in some areas.
Land records often state relationships or provide other, indirect, evidence of family relationships.
Governments kept land records before vital records because of tax income
Lenders wanted security so mortgages often contained family relationships
This makes land records an invaluable resource for genealogists.
May solve genealogical mysteries using land records by understanding: ❖ What kinds of land records exist, ❖ Where to find them, and ❖ How to use them

5 Types of Land Records and How to Use Them

- ☐ Land Deeds
- ☐ Land Grants and Patents
- **□** Mortgages
- ☐ Property Tax Records
- ☐ Probate Records

1. Land Deeds

Ш	The deed is the most essential land record.
	Deeds document the transfer or sale of title, or ownership, of a piece of land or other property from one party to another.
	As well as land, or "real" property, deeds can mention moveable or "chattel" property, such as household goods.
	They can contain explicit, direct statements of relationship between family members, but also other heirs.
	In the early years of a settlement, deeds books also often contained other types of transactions such as wills.
	These are often records for which no other copies survive.
	Thus, surviving deed books should always be checked for ancestors and their family members in every jurisdiction in which you do genealogy research.

Land Deeds con't

l Check published abstracts of deeds as witnesses to deeds were not included in most indexes to the original deed books.
Witnessing a deed was one of many ways relatives assisted one another.
If one of your ancestors was a witness for someone else, they had a relationship, which might lead to the discovery of unknown ancestors or FANs.
Not all states required the recording of deeds or not in a timely fashion.
Check the indexes for deeds and other transactions many years after the person in question died or left the area.
In the case of colonies and states with massive record loss, such as Virginia, land records recorded on the state level are often the only records that survive for some counties, and thus are critical for success in navigating such "burned" counties.

2. Land Grants and Patents

- ☐ Land grants and patents issued by the various colonial, state and federal governments are also an important resource.
- ☐ Some states had land lotteries to lure settlers to newly available land.

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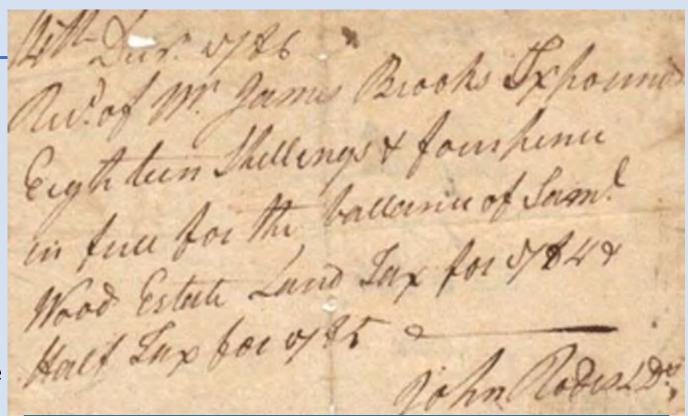
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3. Mortgages

Ш	Mortgages might prove essential in solving genealogy puzzles.
	In some states like New Jersey, mortgages were recorded locally earlier than deeds and sometimes survive from earlier years than do deeds.
	A mortgage is a promise by a borrower to repay a loan (real estate as collateral), in effect deeding title to the real estate to the creditor if the loan is not repaid.
	A trust deed performs the same function with the exception that a third-party trustee takes title if the loan is not paid back in full.
	Sometimes early mortgages and trust deeds were recorded in the same books as deeds, so keep an eye out for them.
	Old mortgages and trust deeds are some of the most underused land records in existence, yet they can sometimes be the key that unlocks the door to that next ancestor.

4. Tax Records

- ☐ Land tax records could solve a mystery in your family tree.
- ☐ Everyone who owned land had to pay taxes on it.
- ☐ Sometimes, land tax books include notations about one person inheriting land from another.
- ☐ More commonly, the change in owner's name from one year to the next can indicate inheritance of the land.
- ☐ The absence of a deed or will showing the transfer might be explained by checking the land tax books.



"14th Dec. 1786 Received of Mr. James Brooks Six pounds, Eighteen Shillings and four pence in full for the balance of Samuel Wood Estate Land Tax for 1784 & Half tax for 85." John Rodes L. Ds. Image from MyHeritage.

5. Probate Records

☐ Inheritance and real estate laws of the time might allow you to decide parentage even without a will or deed stating the suspected relationship. ☐ The legal concept of primogeniture, or inheritance of land by the first-born son, was in force in many parts of the Thirteen Colonies until soon after independence, especially in the southern and middle colonies. ☐ Thus, when a landowner died, his first-born son would often inherit all or most of his land if he died intestate, or without a will. ☐ The emergence of one man as the owner of a given piece of land in place of the previous owner, either as the seller, or "grantor," in a deed or in the land tax records, could indicate that the previous owner died, and the land was inherited by his first-born son. ☐ There might not be any record of this transfer, so knowing the "law of the land" can

prove to be instrumental in solving the mystery.

Where to Find Land Records

☐ We don't always live where our ancestors owned land. ☐ How can we access these records if we don't have the time or budget to travel to the areas in question? ☐ The internet has made researching land records much easier, but still time consuming. ☐ Land records held at the state level for "state land" states are usually indexed. ☐ They can often be accessed digitally at the website for the state archives, commercial genealogy sites such as Ancestry.com, FamilySearch, or can be ordered from the archive. ☐ In Public Land States, grants from the federal government to the first recorded owner of that land can be found at the Government Land Office (GLO) website.

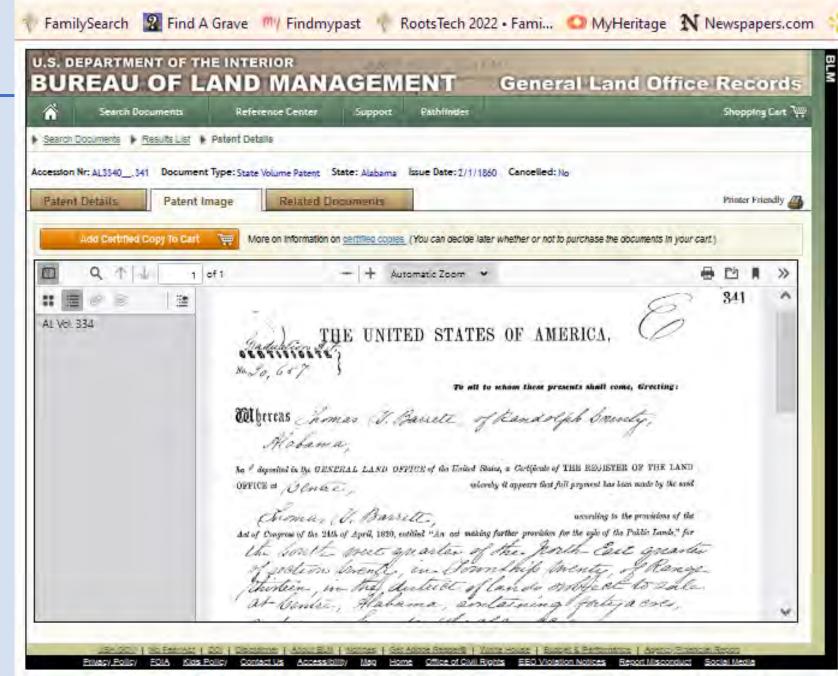
https://glorecords.blm.gov/default.aspx



Land Patents

- ☐ Learn more about land records at the National Archives here.
- ☐ The Homestead Act of 1862 was not the first **Federal Land grant** legislation.
- ☐ There were also Military **Bounty Land Warrants** and land lotteries
- **☐** The applications for these programs show more family information than the legal document

https://glorecords.blm.gov/details/patent/default.aspx ?accession=AL3340 .341&docClass=STA&sid=tvgnlob c.ngv#patentDetailsTabIndex=1



v/details/patent/default.aspx?accession=AL3340 67% 🗘

Land Records at FamilySearch

Į	☐ FamilySearch has undertaken a massive digitization project for land records.
[☐ Millions of land records from across the United States are available - free
[☐ Almost completely unindexed; so not searchable using the "Records" search page.
[☐ Instead, use the "Catalog" search page.
[☐ Learn how to search unindexed records at FamilySearch: <u>Browse-Only Databases at FamilySearch are Easy to Use</u> .) (Handout 2)
	☐ The digitized microfilms usually have indexes in separate volumes or at the beginnings or ends of the digitized deed books.
[☐ Most of the digitized land records made available by FamilySearch date from 1900 or before, so a trip to the courthouse might still be warranted for most twentieth-
	century deeds and more recent land records research.
	https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/U.SLand_Records_Class_Handout_

Land Records at FamilySearch con't

	, don't forget to ask the recorder or clerk for help if you have a limited such as one deed copy—you just might be surprised how eager and re to help.
	cords you need are unavailable online or are held in a remote location, ag a professional genealogist to go to the courthouse for you.
	hip was more widespread in the Thirteen Colonies and the United ost any other nation on earth.
☐ There's a goo	d chance that some of your ancestors were landowners.
	are critical for success in genealogy and should be thoroughly enever possible.

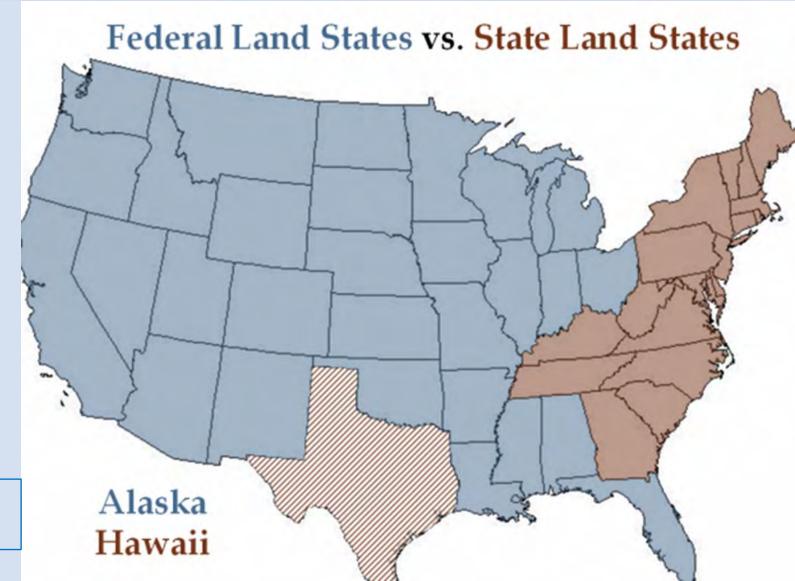
Technical Details

- ☐ State Land States versus Public Land States
- **☐** Metes and Bounds Surveys
- ☐ Rectangular Surveys
- **☐** Homestead Land Patents
- ☐ Military Bounty Land Warrants

State Land States vs Public Land States

- ☐ State Land States: Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont,
 Massachusetts, Rhode Island,
 Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware,
 Virginia, West Virginia,
 Kentucky, Tennessee, North
 Carolina, South Carolina,
 Georgia, Hawaii, Texas
- ☐ Federal or Public Land States: the 30 other states

https://familylocket.com/back-to-schoolthose-valuable-homestead-records/



Metes and Bounds Surveys

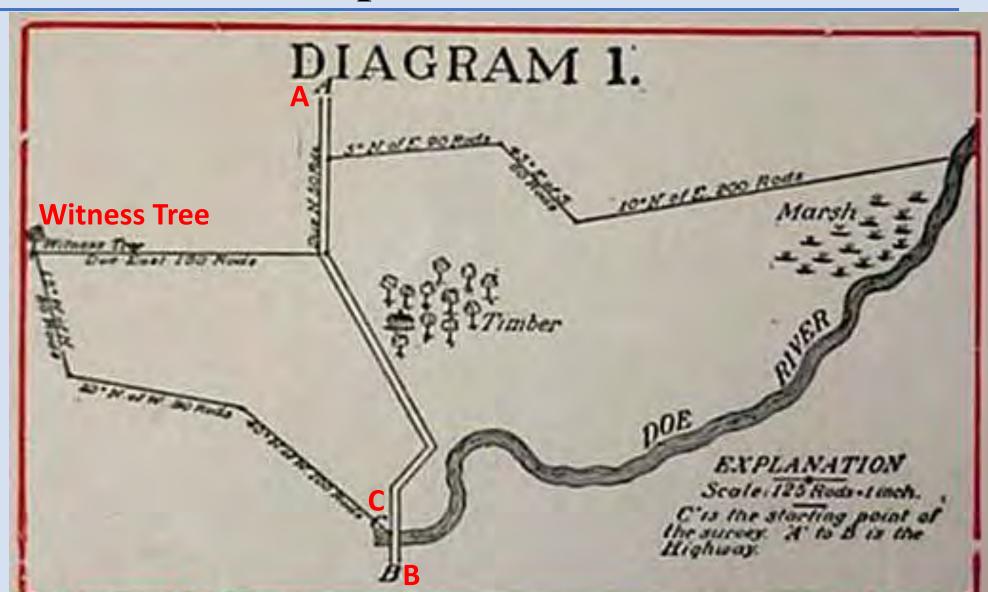
	the Revolutionary War, land was surveyed using the "metes and bounds" o define boundaries.
	thich used this form of surveying were the thirteen original colonies, the erived from them, plus Hawaii, Texas and parts of Ohio.
☐ "Metes" property	the direction and distance of a line, which forms the boundary of the
	the direction, a compass was used indicating north, south, east, west and as ee of direction between 0 and 90 degrees
□ "Bounds	s": the naming of physical features in defining the boundaries of the land.
☐ Therefore	re, when land is surveyed in this manner, the results can be quite interesting
	on terms might be the name of a tree, creek, owners of land bordering the y, and even piles of rocks.

Metes and Bounds Example

1 rod = 16.5 feet

320 rods = **1** mile

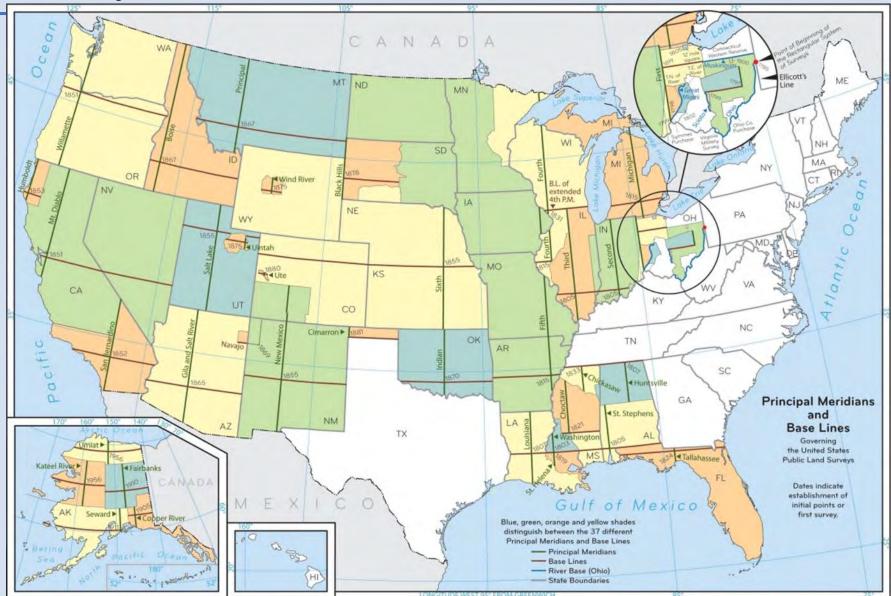
http://www.survey history.org/metes & bounds vs pub lic_lands.htm



Rectangular Surveys

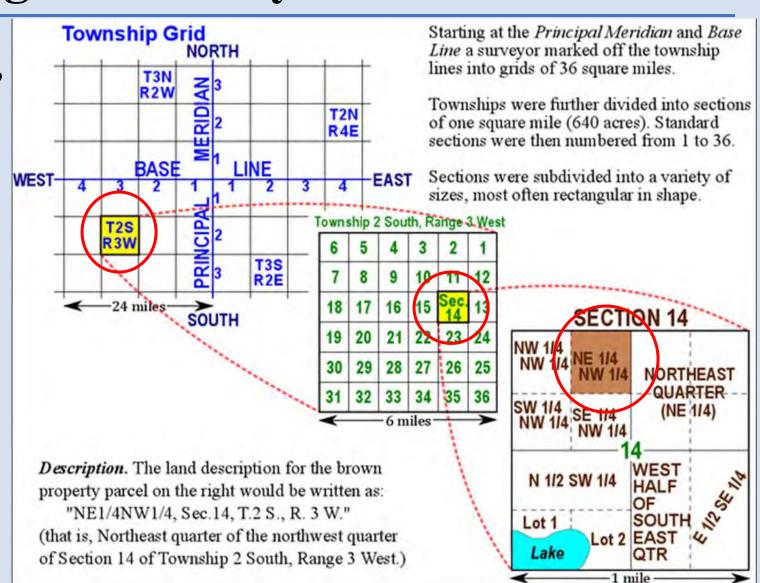
https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Rectangular_Surveys

- ☐ Principal Meridians and Base Lines
- ☐ Adopted by Congress in 1785
- ☐ In use ever since
- ☐ Called "Rectangular Survey"
- ☐ All distances and bearings measured from two lines at right angles
- ☐ Principal Meridians run North-South
- **☐** Base Lines run East-West
- ☐ Foundation for surveys within territory they control



Rectangular Survey Grid

- ☐ Range lines run North and South parallel to the Meridian, six miles apart
 - **❖Numbered East and West of the Meridian.**
- ☐ Township lines run East and West parallel to the Baseline, six miles apart.
 - **❖Numbered North and South of the Baseline**
- ☐ Township and Range lines crossing each other, forming squares called Townships.
 - **❖** contains 36 Sections
 - **❖** 1-mile square
 - **❖** 640-acre



Homestead Land Patents

- ☐ Homestead Requirements and Results: 1862 US homestead law:
 - > Originally up to 160 acres of undeveloped land in federal [public] land state
 - > Settler had to:
 - ***** file application papers
 - * pay filing fees
 - * improve the land over the next five years
 - **\$** file for a deed of title.
 - ➤ Between 1862 and 1986 about 10 percent of all land in the United States were transferred from federal to private control through 1.6 million granted homesteads
 - > Only about 40 percent of the applicants completed the process and obtained title to their land.
- ☐ Value of records: application papers are good sources of family history information.
 - > Application can mention family members or neighbors, previous residences, land application forms, citizenship applications, family Bible pages, marriage or death certificates, newspaper clippings, and affidavits.
 - A researcher can obtain applications and related papers from the National Archives if he can provide a legal description of the land

 www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Government Land Grants

https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Homestead_Records

https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Grants_from_the_Federal_Government_(Public_Domain)

United States Military Bounty Land Warrants

The federal government provided bounty land for those who served in the Revolutionary War , the
War of 1812, the Mexican War, and Indian wars between 1775 and 1855.
It was first offered as an incentive to serve in the military and later as a reward for service.
Bounty land could be claimed by veterans or their heirs.
The federal government reserved tracts of land in the public domain for this purpose.
New York, Pennsylvania, and Virginia set aside tracts of bounty land for their Revolutionary War veterans.
A veteran requested bounty land by filing an application at a local courthouse.
The application papers and other supporting documents contain information similar to the pension files and include the veteran's age and place of residence at the time of the application.
If the application was approved, the individual was given either a warrant to receive land or scrip which could be exchanged for a warrant.
Later laws allowed for the sale or exchange of warrants.
Only a few soldiers received title to the bounty land or settled on it; most veterans sold or exchanged their warrants.

Examples

- ☐ I have searched for land records only in Alabama and Arizona
- ☐ I have experience only with Public Land Records and the Rectangular Survey system
- ☐ However, in my wife's family (Ellis her material grandmother), there is a Military Land Bounty story in Ohio from Revolutionary War

Alabama: 1860 - Present

My Great-Grandparents were Thomas Valentine Barrett and America Jane Weathers.
He bought 2 tracts of land in 1860 from the Government Land Office (GLO)
His property was in Randolph County, Alabama near the Georgia border
Searching the Government Land Office website, I found the records of land purchases that gave me the land descriptions.
Using Google maps, I was able to pinpoint his farm on a Randolph County road.
In 2018, I was able to visit his farm and walk where my people walked 160 years ago.

Last Contact with Alabama Family

- ☐ The last known contact with our Alabama family was in 1908 when my Grandmother visited her mother-in-law, America Jane, with Uncle Henry and my father.
- ☐ My grandfather's younger sister moved to Springerville and married James T.
 Campbell, a former Texas Ranger, in 1903.



Finding Thomas Valentine's Farm

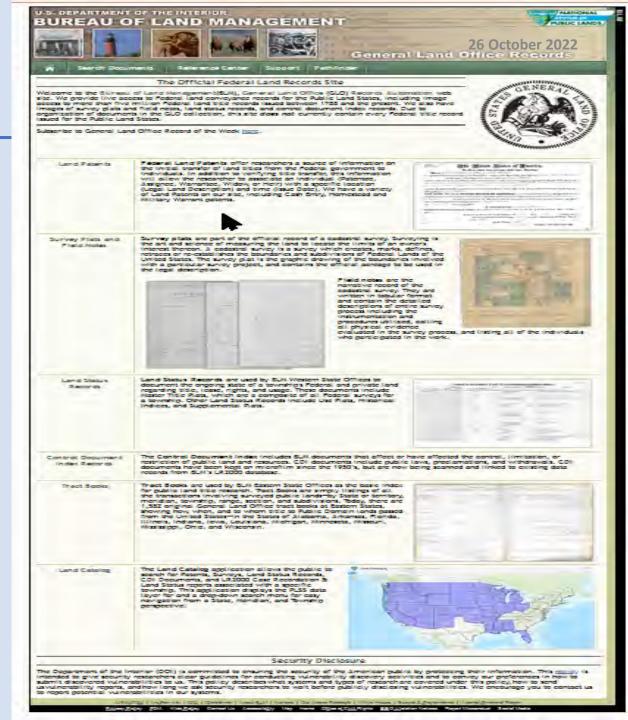
☐ Searched https://glorecords.blm.gov/default.aspx ☐ He bought 2 parcels in 1857 and 1858 from Government Land Office (GLO) ***40-acre parcel and 80-acre parcel Received Patents in 1860 ❖**First white owner **☐** Downloaded copies of Land Patents ☐ Got Township, Range, Section, and Aliquots (parcel description) ☐ Went to Land Catalog; searched with descriptions

GLO Home Page

- **□** Land Patents
- ☐ Survey and Field Notes

- ☐ Land Status Records
- ☐ Control Document Index Records
- ☐ Tract Books
- ☐ Land Catalog

https://glorecords.blm.gov/



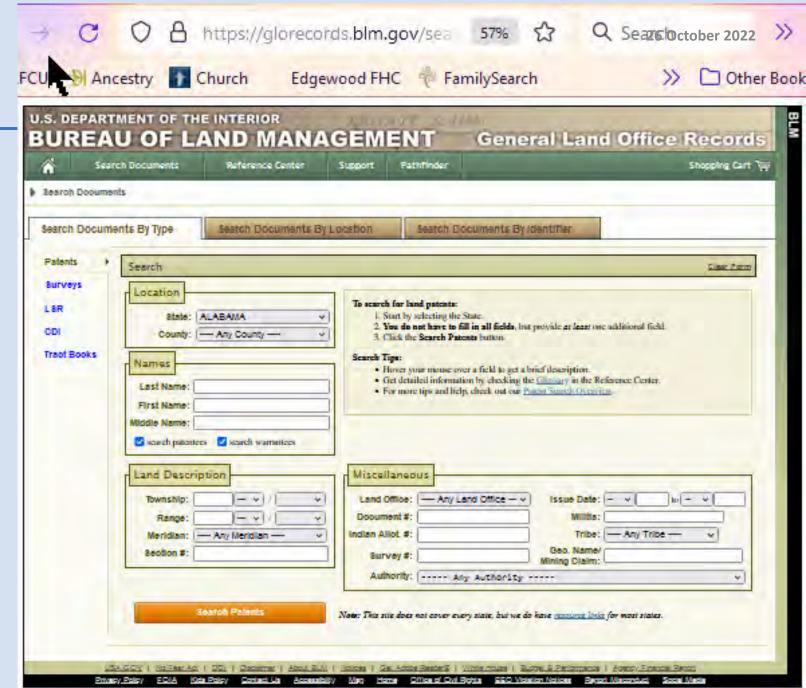
GLO Search Page

☐ Search Documents By Type

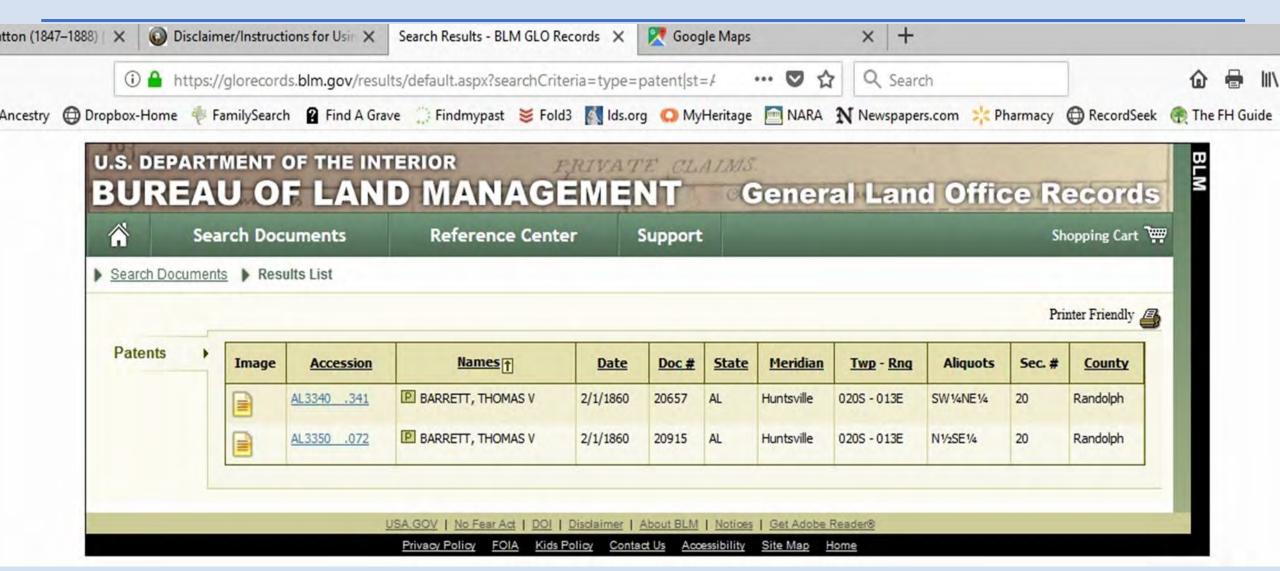
□ Type State

☐ Type Name

☐ Search Patents

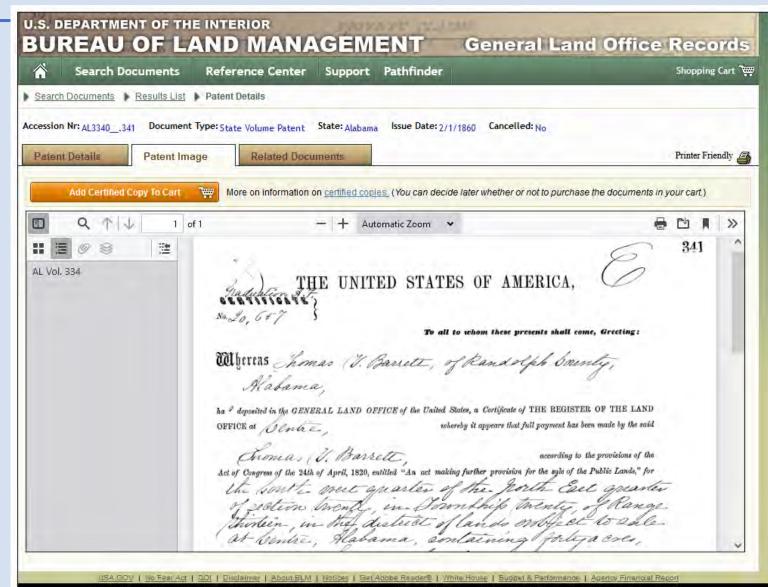


GLO Records for Thomas Valentine Barrett



GLO – Thomas V. Barrett

- ☐ This is the image
- ☐ You can print or download the image
- ☐ Click on "Related "Documents"



LSR

CDI

Tract Books

Reference Center Support Pathfinder

☐ Table lists all the other landowners in the same Section 20

☐ Extended families at this time tended to live close to each other

☐ A Heard and a Kirk man married TVB's daughters

☐ Jesse Weathers is TVB's father-in-law

☐ Isham is Jesse's brother

Accession Nr: AL3340_,341 Document Type: State Volume Patent State: Alabama Issue Date: 2/1/1860 Cancelled: No

Patent Details Patent Image Related Documents

Printer Friendly

Below are documents matching the following land description from the current document: AL Huntsville Township 20.05 Range 13.0E Section 20

Patents Image Accession Names Township Date Doc# State Meridian Twp - Rng Aliquots Sec. # County

Surveys AL3340_341 PRABBETT THOMAS V 2/1/1860_20657 AL Huntsville 0205 - 0.13E SW/ANE/46_20_Randolph

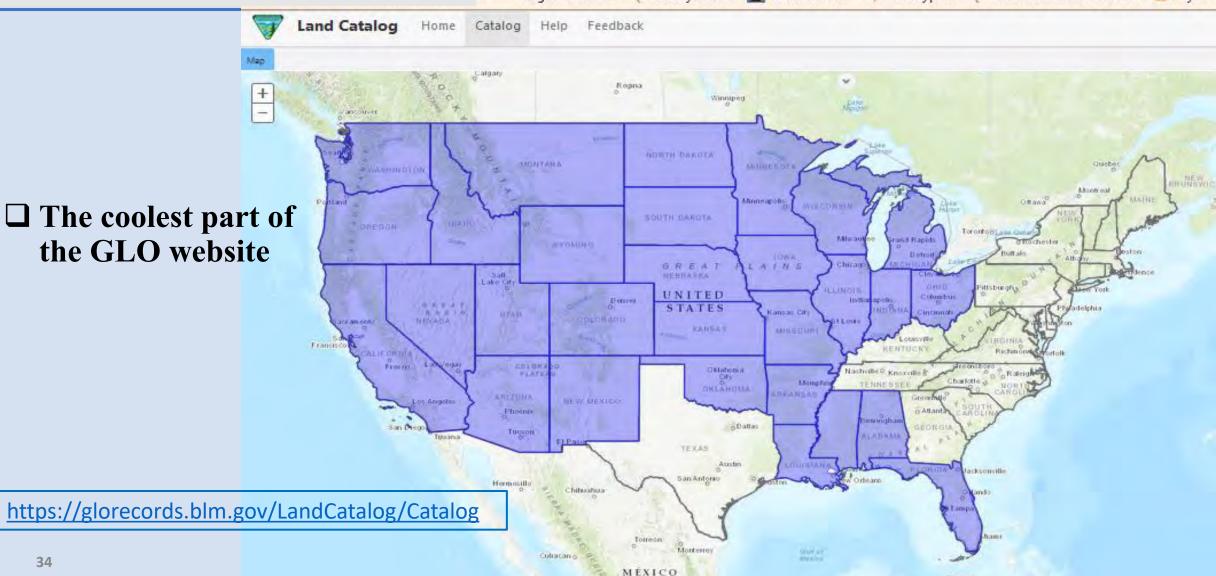
Image	Accession	Names 1	<u>Date</u>	Doc#	<u>State</u>	Meridian	Twp - Rng	Aliquots	Sec. #	County
	AL3340,341	P BARRETT, THOMAS V	2/1/1860	20657	AL	Huntsville	020S - 013E	SW1/4NE1/4	20	Randolph
	AL3350 ,072	P BARRETT, THOMAS V	2/1/1860	20915	AL	Huntsville	020S - 013E	N1/2SE1/4	20	Randolph
	AL3350_,054	D BURSON, DAVID J	2/1/1860	20893	AL	Huntsville	020S - 013E	SW1/4SE1/4	20	Randolph
	AL3330 ,474	P BURSON, JONATHAN	1/1/1859	20370	AL	Huntsville	020S - 013E	NE1/4SW1/4	20	Randolph
	AL3310 ,112	P COPLIEN, WILLIAM	1/1/1859	18781	AL	Huntsville	020S - 013E	SW1/4NW1/4	20	Randolph
	AL3350 . 178	P GORE, ENOS H	2/1/1860	21029	AL	Huntsville	020S - 013E	NE1/4NW1/4	20	Randolph
	AL4890_,064	P HARLAN, ROBERT Z	8/30/1897	15777	AL	Huntsville	020S - 013E	SE1/4NE1/4	20	Randolph
	AL3310 ,408	P HEARD, JOHN D	1/1/1859	19097	AL	Huntsville	020S - 013E	NW 1/4NW 1/4	20	Randolph
	AL3350_,365	E KIRK, GIDEON	2/1/1860	21234	AL	Huntsville	020S - 013E	E1/2NE1/4	19	Randolph
							020S - 013E	SE1/4NW1/4	20	Randolph
	AL3350 .165	R KITE, JOHN	2/1/1860	21012	AL	Huntsville	020S - 013E	SE1/4SW1/4	20	Randolph
	MW-0665-375	WEATHERS, ISHAM, WEATHERS, ISHAM	4/15/1853	36690	AL	Huntsville	020S - 013E	W1/2SW1/4	20	Randolph
	MW-0801-455	MEATHERS, JESSE, MILLS, WILLIAM C	8/1/1854	42202	AL	Huntsville	020S - 013E	N1/2NE1/4	20	Randolph
	AL3350 .335	P YOUNG, ROBERT	2/1/1860	21200	AL	Huntsville	020S - 013E	SE1/4SE1/4	20	Randolph

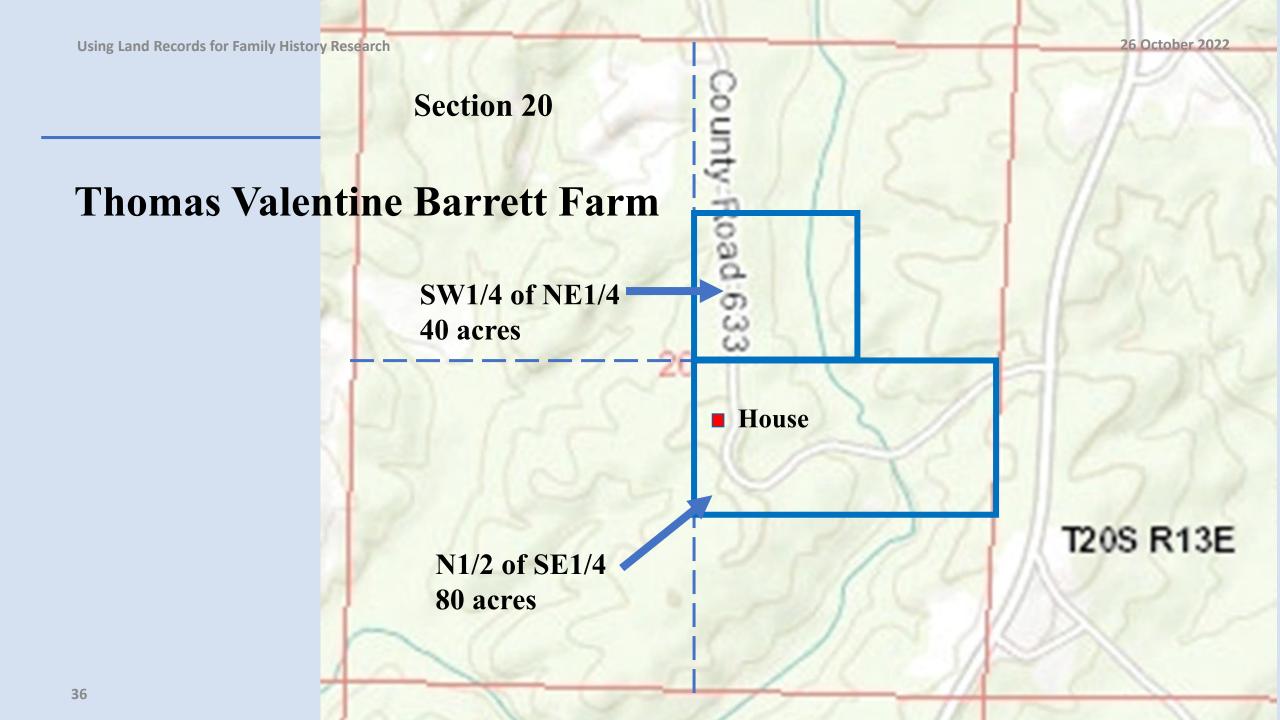
GLO Land Catalog

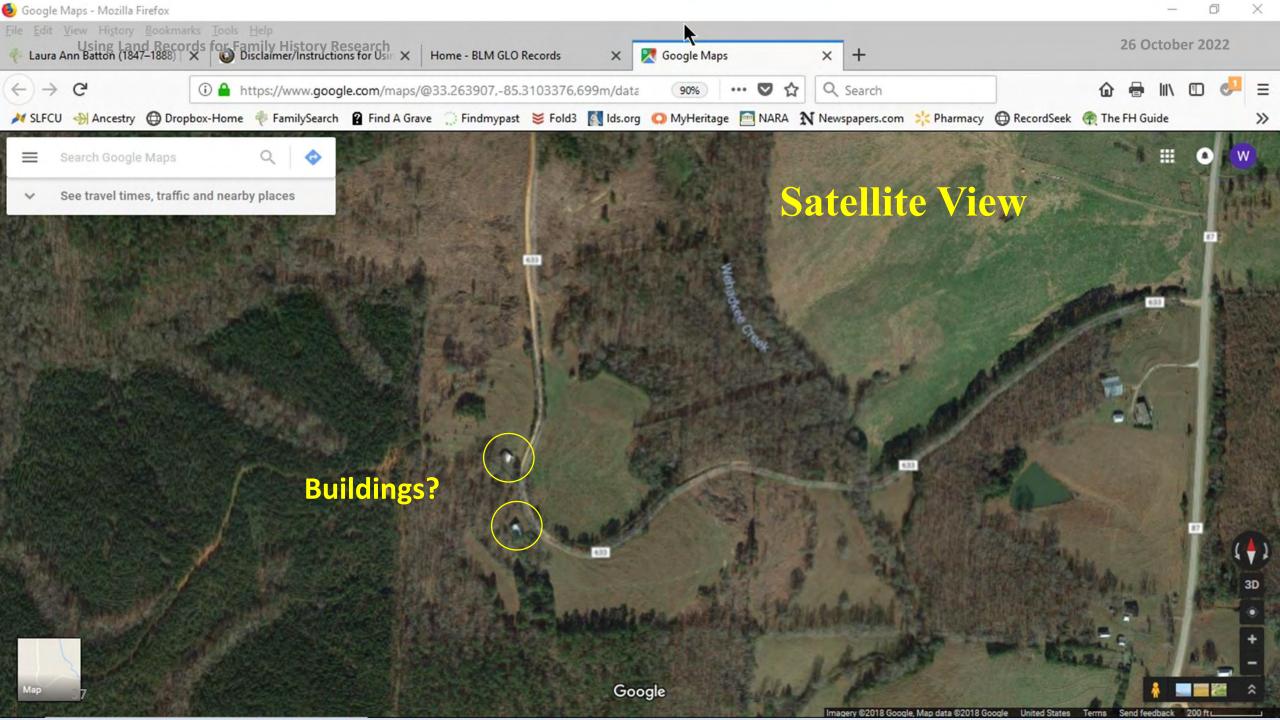
s://glorecords.blm.gov/LandCatalog/Catalog

57% 🗘 Q Search

th Edgewood FHC 🕆 FamilySearch 🛂 Find A Grave My Findmypast 💠 RootsTech 2022 • Fami... 🔘 MyHer

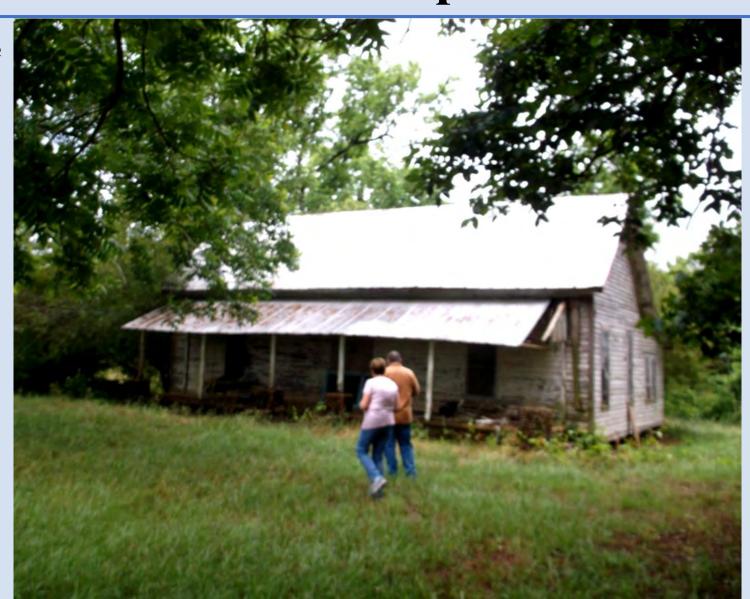






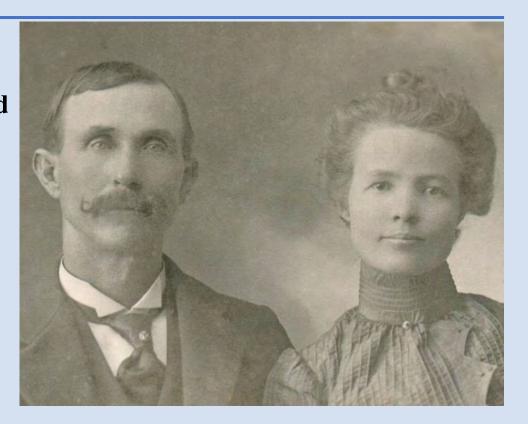
The Old House – 2018 Trip

- ☐ By the GLO patents, Google maps, and Alan's local knowledge, we found the farm
- ☐ The new owners were living next door in a new place
 - **❖**No courthouse research needed
 - **❖Bought land in 2017**
 - **❖**Moved in January 2018
- ☐ I have walked where my ancestors walked



Arizona: 1880 - 1929

☐ My Grandfather Henry Barrett (1857-1903) and **Grandmother Maud Ruth Sherwood (1876-1962)** He arrived in Apache County, Arizona in time to be listed on the 1880 census. They married in 1900 and had 2 sons, Uncle Henry (1901) and my father (1903). He was killed in a gunfight over grazing rights on the White Mountain Apache Indian reservation on 16 June 1903. Grandmother married and divorced two men who did not have Grandfather's abilities and left the ranch in deep debt. My father and uncle inherited the ranch in 1924 and operated it until 1929. In November of 1929, the bank got the last piece of the ranch.

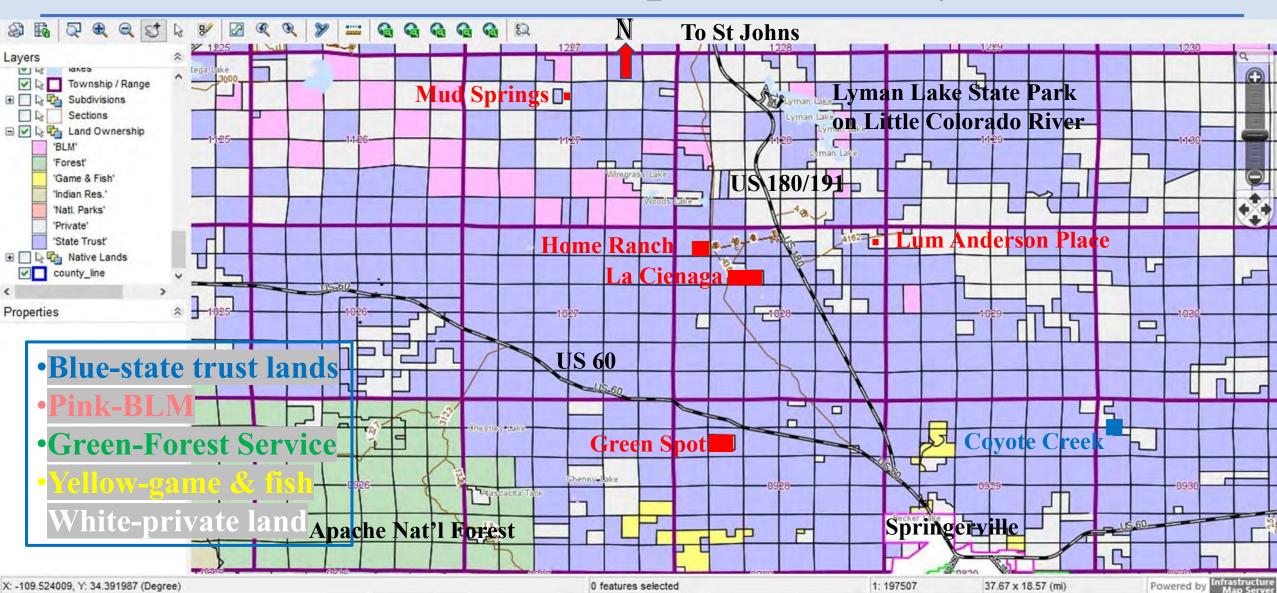


24 Ranch Log Cabins in 2016

- ☐ I saw the ranch for the first time in 1962 when I was in St Johns for my grandmother's funeral.
- ☐ There was a big white clapboard house in 1962 about where the white minivan is on the upper left.



The 24 Ranch (1903), Apache County, Arizona



Searching Into Deed Books – My Journey

- **□** www.familysearch.org
 - **❖Search Tab**
 - > Catalog
 - ✓ Place –type "United States, Arizona, Apache"
 - ***** 22 Results
 - ➤ Biography (1)
 - ➤ Business records (1)
 - > Church history (3)
 - > Church records (1)
 - ➤ Court Records Indexes (1)
 - ➤ Divorce Records (1)
 - ➤ Guardianship (1)
 - ➤ History (4)
 - **❖** Land and property (10)

What I report here is what I found in FamilySearch and Apache County Arizona. Another website or county may work a little differently.

Search using "United States, your state, your county"

Print List

Add

Add

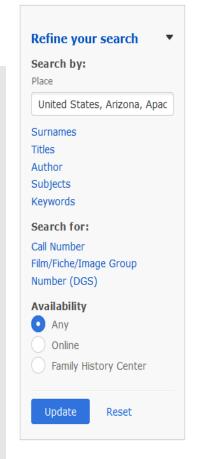
Add

bbA

Add

Catalog Search

- □TIP: check the indexes first
- ☐ Found all of known land parcels he owned from paper records the family kept
- **□** Answered some questions from these deed books about buy and sell dates, amount, and the other party.
- □ Also found 2 unknown parcels he bought and sold the Springerville lots



Search Results for FamilySearch Catalog

PRINT Catalog Print List (0)

County was formed in 1879 from Yavapai County

Part of United States, Arizona

Places within United States, Arizona, Apache

- United States, Arizona, Apache Biography (1)
- ▶ United States, Arizona, Apache Business records and commerce (1)
- ▶ United States, Arizona, Apache Church history (3)
- ▶ United States, Arizona, Apache Church records (1)
- ▶ United States, Arizona, Apache Court records (5)
- United States, Arizona, Apache Court records Indexes (1)
- ▶ United States, Arizona, Apache Divorce records (1)
- ▶ United States, Arizona, Apache Guardianship (1)
- ▶ United States, Arizona, Apache History (4)
- United States, Arizona, Apache Land and property (10)

County Recorder's record of property sold for delinquent taxes, 1894-1903 (Apache County, Arizona)

Author: Apache County (Arizona). County Recorder

Deeds, 1880-1921; indexes, 1880-1918 (Apache County, Arizona)

Author: Apache County (Arizona). County Recorder

Deeds, 1893-1921; indexes, 1885-1923 (Navajo County, Arizona)

Author: Navajo County (Arizona). County Recorder

Homestead records, 1884-1951; index, 1880-1985 (Apache County, Arizona)

Author: Apache County (Arizona). County Recorder; United States.

General Land Office. Recorder

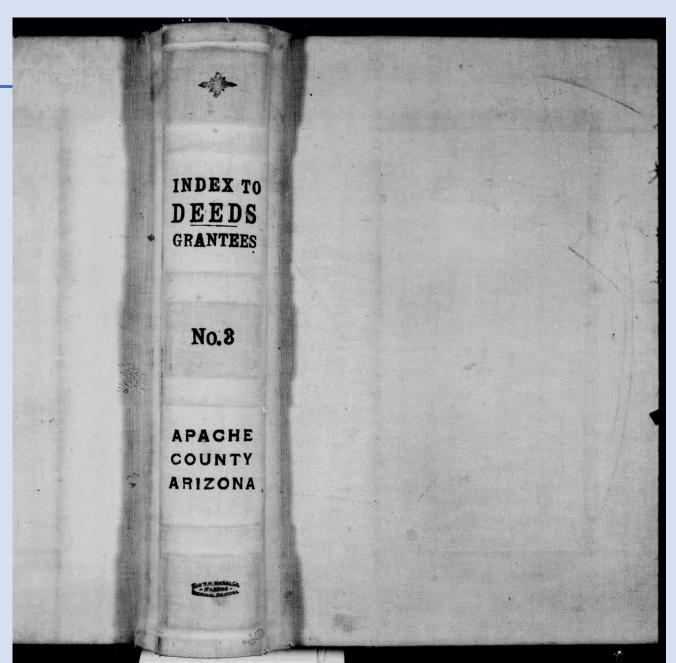
Marks and brands, 1879-1897 (Apache County, Arizona)

Author: Apache County (Arizona). County Recorder

Miscellaneous records 1883-1924 indeves 1879-1964 (Anache County Arizona)

Deed Index

- ☐ Index To Deeds No. 3, Apache County, Arizona
- ☐ Path:
 - ***** FamilySearch
 - **Search**
 - ***** Catalog
 - **United States, Arizona, Apache**
 - **A** Land and Property



Index Page

- ☐ On this page there are 3 records for Henry Barrett
- **❖** 8 October 1898; bought home ranch, La Cienaga east and west
- **❖** 19 June 1900; bought Mud Springs
- * 13 Jan 1903; bought Lum Anderson Place
- ☐ The seller is named and the Deed Book number and page are listed
- ☐Go to the noted book & page

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Deed Book 10

DEED RECORD.

DEED RECORD.

100

☐ Apache County, AZ Deed Record No. 10, page 151

- *****Warrant Deed
- **❖**Seller: Henry Smith
- **❖ Buyer: Henry Barrett**
- **❖ Date: 5 October 1898**
- **Residences of parties**
- **Price:** \$1000.00 for 480 acres
- **❖** Legal descriptions of the 3 parcels
- **Seller signature**
- *****Witnesses
- **&** Buyer signature
- **❖** Notary record for seller* and buyer
- **❖ Recording date: 18 February 1899**

* Seller had moved to Canada

apacks County of the Silve and 11 Junks 4 eads. Marting ry and year first above written February 10 100 To Patters on Couly More

Henry Garrett of Springerville County of WARRANTY DEED. pated 5th October 1808 South to quality of Section Mine (9) In Township Humber toge (10) North of Range Romber Livery Eight (28) East of Dila and Salt River Meridian Containing From he and Eighty (480) acres more or Less And the said part of of the first part do and his heirs and sedgen shall and will, WARRANT, and, by these pres lon of the said part x of the second part, his herrs and assigns, against the said part x of the Pf Jephon Collying . W. J. leanada

What Next?

Ц	Census records show where your relatives lived at each census.
	Search the GLO website for your relatives if they lived in a Public Land State.
	Search for military bounty land warrants if you know or suspect that your ancestor served in the military prior to 1857.
	Check out the county websites of interest and discover how it deals with land records
	You can request "Public Records Reproduction" of real estate records from the county recorder or clerk
	Ancestry and others also have extensive land records data bases
	The Family History Guide www.thefhg.com has very useful training videos and articles.
	FamilySearch Wiki has many articles on land records
	Check out the websites I have listed throughout this presentation

Conclusions

- ☐ We have seen how land and land related documents can:
 - **Show times and places of residence**
 - **We** can walk where our ancestors walked
 - **Relationship information about:**
 - > previously unknown relatives
 - > our relative's Friends, Associates, and Neighbors (FAN)
 - **Find multiple vital facts not available from other sources**
 - **❖** Inheritance information
- **☐** We know where to find these records
- ☐ All of these can help us to:
 - understand our ancestors more completely,
 - **turn our hearts to them more fully, and**
 - * know or maybe write a more complete life story

More Detailed Information I Could Not Fit into 1-Hour

5 Types of Old Land Records You Should Look For

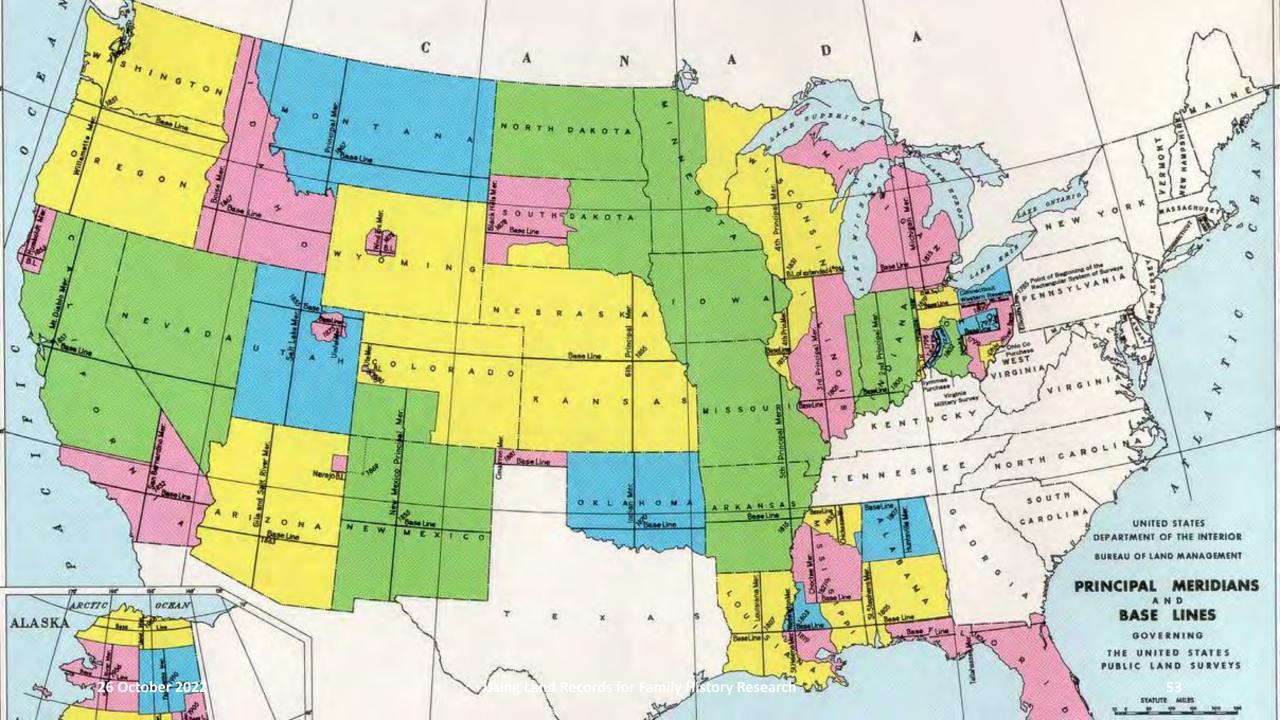
- ☐ <u>Headrights</u>: During the Colonial period, 1619 to 1705, the British government offered 50 acres of land for every "head" (person) transported to the Colonies.
- **■** Bounty Land Warrants: In 1776, the Continental Congress incentivized men to serve in the Revolutionary War (and later in other conflicts until 1856) with promises of 50 to 1,000 acres of land, depending on their rank.
- ☐ <u>Homestead Patents</u>:
 - **US** and state governments encouraged settlement with various offers of free land.
 - **❖** The <u>Homestead Act of 1862</u> granted 160 acres of federal government land to those who'd settle and improve it for five years.
- **Deeds:** property deeds record the transfer of land between private parties.
- **☐ Dower Claims**:
 - **❖** Although men generally owned property, you can find your female relatives by their dower rights.
 - *This right, intended to prevent women from becoming dependent on the county or state, entitled a widow to one-third interest in her husband's property.

Researching Homestead Land Patents

- ☐ The first step is to obtain the legal description of the land the homesteader applied for
- ☐ The BLM-GLO Land Patent Search index only lists people who got a Land Patent.
- ☐ For the 60 percent of homesteaders who never obtained a Land Patent: get copies of unfinished applications from the National Archives.
 - **❖**To see the applications, you must figure out another way to obtain the legal description of the land
 - **❖** If you know the approximate location, at least the county, you can check the GLO tract books at several places (see note pages below)
 - **❖** These federal tract books are arranged by state, land office, and legal land description.
 - **States often have their own version of these tract books.**
 - ❖ You may be able to obtain a legal description of the land from the county recorder of deeds
 - **For further details see note page below.**
 - **❖**Obtaining Homestead Papers from the National Archives: For detailed instructions online explaining how to obtain homestead papers for (a) homesteads granted, and (b) unfinished homestead applications see "Ordering a Land-Entry Case File from the National Archives" at the end of "Homestead National Monument of America − Genealogy."

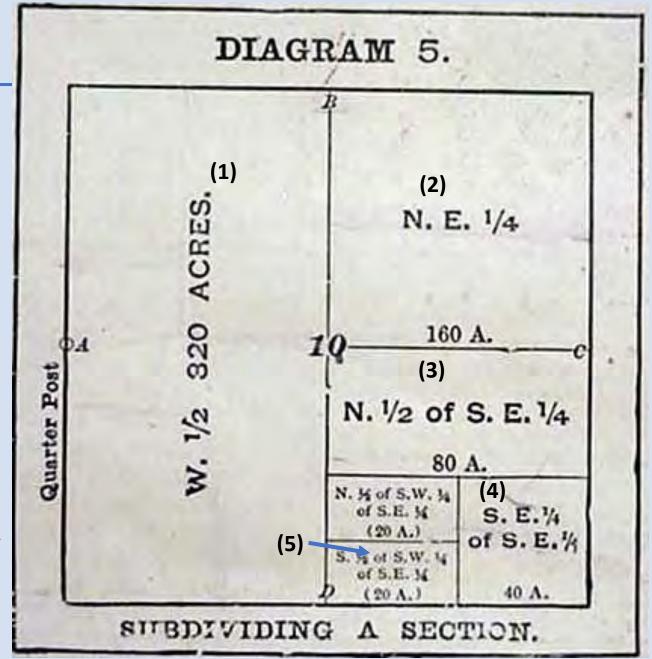
Bounty Land Warrant Application Files

- □ Copies of Bounty Land Warrant Applications for Federal military service before 1856 can now be <u>ordered online</u>, as well as through <u>NATF Form 85</u>.
- ☐ Categories of pension/bounty land files available using NATF Form 85:
 - **❖** A complete Federal pre-Civil War military pension application based on Federal military service before 1861 (includes the Pension Documents Packet.)
 - **A pension document packet that contains reproductions of eight documents containing genealogical information about the pension applicant, if present in the file.**
 - **❖** A complete military bounty land application file based on service 1775 1855 (includes only rejected Revolutionary War applications).



Subdividing a Section

- ☐ Distinguished by position within the section (N, S, E, W) and by halves and quarters
- **□** Examples in figure:
 - **♦**(1) W. ½ 320 acres
 - **♦**(2) N.E. ¹/₄ 160 acres
 - **♦**(3) N. ½ of S.E. ¼ 80 acres
 - **♦**(4) S.E ¼ of S.E. ¼ 40 acres
 - **♦**(5) N. ½ of S.W. ¼ of S.E. ¼ 20 acres
- ☐ These divisions are called "aliquots"; the legal description of the land
- ☐ TIP: When plotting an aliquot within a section, start at the last term and work backwards examples later



TVB Land Patent - 341

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, No. 20, 657

To all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting:

Myerens homes V. Barrett, of Randolph boundy,

Alabama,

ha " deposited in the GENERAL LAND OFFICE of the United State a Certificate of THE REGISTER OF THE LAND OFFICE at Ochhe. whereby it appears that full payment has been made by the said

Chroma, V. Barrett act making further provision for the eglo of the provision of the Act of Congress of the 2sth of April, 1820, entitled "An act making further provision for the eglo of the Public Lands," for the Cast greater of pections limently, in Sommally therety, of Range thirteen, in Shift dictivity of lands onthe set to aske at bente, Alabama, containing forly a cree, and never hundredths of an acre,

according to the official plat of the Survey of the said Lands, returned to the General Land Office by the SURVEYOR GENERAL, which said tract had been purchased by the said Theomas V. Baerett.

Built Sinits of America, in consideration of the premises, and in conformity with the several acts of Congress in such case made and provided, HAVE GIVEN AND GRANTED, and by these presents DO GIVE AND GRANT, unto the suid

Thomas V. Barretts

and to heirs, the said tract above described: To have and to hold the same, together with all the rights, privileges, immunities, and appurtenances, of whatsoever nature, thereunto belonging, unto the said

Thomas W. Barrete.

and to fees heirs and ussigns forever.

In Cestimone Ellereof, & Cames Buchanan, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, have caused these Letters to be made PATENT, and the SEAL

of the GENERAL LAND OFFICE to be hereunto affixed.

on the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seight from the search and of the Independence of the United States the Eighty from the services.

BY THE PRESIDENT: James Bucharan Being Secretary.

By A. Bernand, Secretary.

J. J. Graneger, Recorder of the General Land Office.

TVB Land Patent - 72

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, 50. 20. 915 To all to schom these presents shall come, Greeting:

26 October 2022

Whereas Thomasto Barrett of Read toffe County Alebane

has deposited in the GENERAL LAND OFFICE of the United States, a Certificate of the REGISTER OF THE LAND whereby it appears that full payment has been made by the said Thomas 6. Barrett

according to the provisions of the

Act of Congress of the 24th of April, 1820, entitled "An act making further provision for the eals of the Public Lands," for The North Walf of the South Cent-quarte of Fraken Fronty in Donaship money of Townge thereties in the Solvet of Sinner Subject to the he-Cinta, Restaure, continuing lighty own and fin summed the of are were

according to the official plat of the Survey of the said Lande, returned to the General Land Office by the SURVEYOR GENERALwhich said tract has been purchased by the said Thereing & Basell

United States of Zuerita, in consideration of the premises, and in conformity with the several acts of Congress in such case made and provided, HAVE GIVEN AND GRANTED, and by these presents DO GIVE AND GRANT, unto the said

Thomas & Banet

and to he's heire, the said tract above described: To have and to held the same, together with all the rights, privileges, immunities, and appurtenances, of whatsoever nature, thereunto belonging, unto the said

Thomas C. Butt and to his heire and assigne forever.

In testimony Mhereof, J. James Buchenen PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, have caused these l-tiers to be made PATENT, and the SEAL of the GENERAL LAND OFFICE to be hereunto affized.

GIVEN under my hand, at the City of Washington, the First day of February in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and They by INDEPENDENCE OF THE UNITED STATES the Cighty fromth

> BY THE PRESIDENT Survey Auchanan By . 7. 9. B. Leonard

Recorder of the General Land Office.

24 Home Ranch, Satellite View about 2014



24 Home Ranch, Satellite View about 2014



Legal Land Descriptions of the 24 Ranch

u	Green Spot, La Cienaga – West, La Cienaga – East, Home Ranch, Lum Anderson Place, Mud Springs, Coyote Creek
	The legal land descriptions of all these properties are below on the notes page.
	I use the "Lum Anderson Place" as my example for land documents, not because it was the first, or the largest, or the best, but because I have inherited the most complete set of documents for this property.
	Lum Anderson Place: NW1/4 of the SE1/4 of Section 1 Township 10N Range 28E of the Gila-Salt River Meridian, Apache County, Arizona
	The map on the wall shows the land parcels of the 24 Ranch
	The Lum Anderson Place is on the far right in the area called Richville.
	Richville was a long series of farms along the Little Colorado River about halfway between Springerville and St Johns.
	My Great-grandfather, John F. Sherwood, had a farm there.

Geographic Information System (GIS)

- ☐ Where did I get the plat map on the last slide?
- ☐ A geographic information system (GIS) is a system that creates, manages, analyzes, and maps all types of data.
 - **GIS** connects data to a map, integrating location data (where things are) with all types of descriptive information (what things are like there).
 - * This provides a foundation for mapping and analysis that is used in science, industry, and land records.
 - *GIS helps users understand patterns, relationships, and geographic context.
- ☐ Many counties use GIS to create the plat maps and much, much more information about the land parcels.
- ☐ Randolph County, Alabama; Apache County, Arizona; Sante Fe County and Torrance County, New Mexico use GIS to plot all information about the land.

https://www.esri.com/en-us/what-is-gis/overview

Apache County GIS Department

☐ The Geographic Information System (GIS) Department operates under the Apache County Engineering Department to oversee the maintenance, development, and administration of all geographic information within Apache County.	
☐ Thousands of different layers to the GIS maps specified by the county	
\square So, there are more layers than I can calculate without finding my old Statistics and Permutations textbook.	
☐ Many thousands of different combinations of information to map together	
☐ The map I showed has about 7 layers	
☐ Used parcel numbers to located current owners, recent ownership changes (bacto 1983), assessments, and taxes.	e k

https://www.apachecountyaz.gov/County-Maps

24 Home Ranch – GIS Data

☐ Category: Private land
☐ Location: longitude -109.398, latitude 34.284 degrees
□ Current owner: J Albert Brown
☐ Parcel number: 108-05-001 (this is number you click on map to find the rest of the data)
☐ Account number: R0021735 (tax account)
☐ Land Description: Section 6, Township 10N, Range 28E
☐ Treasurer for tax records (\$381.00 for 2022)
☐ Assessor link for assessment records (actual value, assessed value, property codes)

Lum Anderson Place History: Abstract of Title

☐ Homestead - 15 September 1891: patent awarded to Columbus Anderson Warranty Deed – 3 August 1889: Columbus Anderson to John Swinburne, \$550.00 ☐ Tax Deed - 17 April 1897: Apache County sold land to Pratt & Becker Brothers due to unpaid taxes for the year 1896. \$6.35 plus \$9.35 due Warranty Deed – 13 January 1903 from Pratt and Becker to Grandfather Henry **Barrett**, for \$50.00 \square Distribution of Estate – 3 May 1904; ½ to Grandmother, widow of Henry Barrett and ¼ each to Henry S. Barrett, son, and John V. Barrett, son; in trust to Maud R. Barrett ☐ Quit Claim Deed – 9 November 1922 from Maud R. Danley and her husband J. L. Danley to Henry S. Barrett and John V. Barrett. Degree of Final Distribution of Estate – 18 February 1924 for John V. Barrett