

# THE BULLETIN

of the  
**Genealogical Forum of Oregon, Inc.**  
**Portland, Oregon**



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# GENEALOGICAL FORUM OF OREGON

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## THE BULLETIN

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Genealogical Forum of Oregon

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## Letter From The Editor

A few years ago, while visiting Antietam Battlefield, the ranger said someone posed this question (really), “Why did they always have their battles in National Parks?” My question is, Why did my ancestors always live in burned counties? A large percentage of my personal genealogy research and the location of all but one of my brick walls is in Virginia. The gold mine for me is land records, a resource sometimes overlooked as unimportant. For several colonial generations I have found one will, a mention of a will (burned) in an order book, and a handful of marriage records. But I have over fifty land records for those same families. The information gleaned from those patents, grants and deeds is amazing.

This issue is devoted to my favorite record group, land records. We have a variety of articles explaining land records and illustrating their value to genealogists. There is information to help you locate the original records as well as a glossary of land terms. Guest author Michael Hait writes about locating the land where your ancestor lived, Carol Surrency explains Homestead Acts, and Peggy Baldwin’s article is the where, when, and why of Oregon Donation Land Claims.

Our long list of articles in this issue includes the third place winner of the GFO writing contest, submitted by Cynthia Drayer. Cynthia writes about her father, Jesse Drayer. In her “Educate” column Sue LeBlanc explores the cabinets lining the back wall of the Forum, which contain some valuable and underused microfilm and fiche. Harvey Steele tells us about a relatively unknown resource called the BAJC. I’ll let you figure it out.

I hope you find this issue helpful. For the most part, land records are fairly easy to find. Many are becoming readily available on the internet so you can put this information to use right away. Happy Hunting!

Judi Scott

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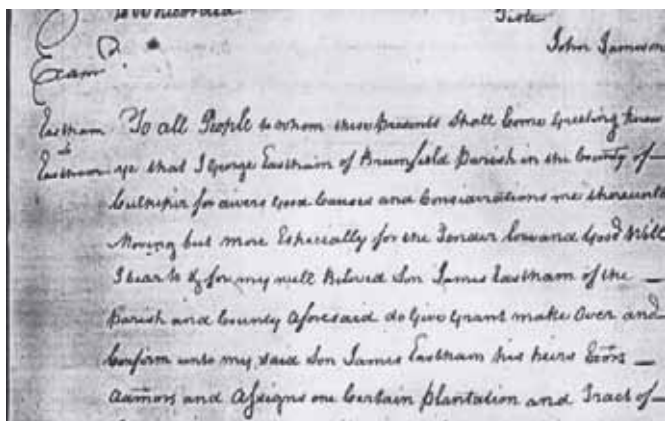
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## Feature Articles

### Land Records A Genealogical Treasure Chest

Judith Beaman Scott

According to William Dollarhide in “Retracing the Trails of Your Ancestors Using Deed Records,” 90% of adult males in this county before 1850 were landowners.<sup>1</sup> Not many early records include such a large portion of the population, which makes them an invaluable resource for genealogists. In many places land records provide the longest time period of records, apply to more people than most available records, and frequently have the smallest percentage of loss. And yet, land records are often underutilized. Although you won’t necessarily find all the information you want in one record, they can provide information about family relationships, vital events, and family migration patterns. For example, in the deed below,



George Eastham of Culpeper County, Virginia, transferred property to his son for the “love and Good Will I bear to & for my well Beloved Son James Eastham ...”<sup>2</sup>

There are two distinct categories of land records: the original transaction which conveys land from a government entity to a person, often called a patent or grant, and the subsequent records that transfer land between individuals, deeds. The colonial patents and grants do not generally contain a large amount of genealogical information. Expect to find the grantee, a land description, adjoining land owners, and for those that involve headrights, a list of the names used to claim the land.<sup>3</sup>

Deeds can be much more enlightening. They often refer to the wives of the parties involved by name, and on occasion children and other relatives are named.

Sometimes the location of the parties is mentioned; the place they came from or the place they moved to. When the transaction occurred due to the death of the property owner you might find the heirs and their spouses named, and perhaps their place of residence. There are times when you can look at the progression of land transfers over the years and determine heirs, even if they were not originally named.

This 10 May 1707 Virginia deed provides not only Edward Eastham’s wife’s name, but her maiden name, the name of her father and the fact that he is deceased.

Edward Eastham and Anne his now wife of St Stephens Parish King and Queen Co., ... 225 acres in Essex County being part of 740 acres granted James Taylor deceased and by his last will left his daughter Ann Taylor now the wife of said Edw. Eastham ...<sup>4</sup>

King and Queen is one of the “burned counties” of Virginia, categorized as hopeless due to the tremendous loss of early records. It’s easy to see why any record like this deed is invaluable to genealogists.

Keep in mind that other countries had control over much of what was to become the United States. Britain, and later the United States, often agreed to honor the claims of those grants and there might be records reflecting that, but some of the original records may be in foreign records and repositories. Documents for land granted by other governments, Spain and France for example, can be found in any number of places including foreign repositories, state archives and museums, NARA, and the Library of Congress. It is important to understand the history of the area so you can determine where to look.

Before you begin researching early land records in the United States you also need to determine whether you are researching in a state land state or a public land state. Original records vary a great deal between the two.

#### State Land States

State Land States are the original thirteen colonies and the five states created from them: Kentucky, Maine, Tennessee, Vermont, and West Virginia, as well as Hawaii and Texas. Parcels of land in these states were surveyed

after a warrant was issued, by the metes and bounds system. The patents and deeds will have a description of the property that includes measurements using poles, rods, and degrees and includes neighbors, watercourses, and landmarks like trees. For example, a deed from Halifax County, Virginia, dated 19 November 1793 has this description:

... situate lying and being in the County of Halifax on Difficult Creek and bounded as follows to wit Beginning at a white oak on the said creek near the old Road leaning towards [ ] old store thence North eighty five degrees East One Hundred and ten poles to a Small Hickory thence North Twenty five degrees East eighty poles to a post Oak bush thence North ten degrees West passing Joseph Ligons corner on the aforesaid old Road and Running along his line One hundred and Sixteen poles from the aforesaid post Oak bush to a corner [ ] gum on Michael Roberts line on the creek branch then on said Roberts line South Sixty five degrees West two hundred poles to a poplar on the aforesaid creek thence down the same as it Meanders to the Beginning ...<sup>5</sup>

Original records for state land states can be found at individual state repositories, often the State Archives. Many have been placed online in digital archives. Check the FamilySearch.org website and individual state archives for information.

### Public Land States

The remaining thirty states, those formed by the federal government from federal land, were surveyed using a much different system. After the Revolution some lands claimed by states were ceded to the new federal government. This land, and land in subsequent acquisitions, was the basis of the public land system for the United States. The Northwest Ordinance of 1785 established the rectangular survey system. The first patent was issued to John Martin on March 4th, 1788, for 640 acres in what is now Belmont County, Ohio.

In this system land is surveyed before warrants are issued into 36-square mile townships, each containing 36 sections of 640 acres apiece, which in turn are divided into half, quarter, and lesser sections, called aliquot parts. In 1812 the General Land Office was created to take care of and sell public lands and to place all the land records in one place. Over time a variety of acquisitions led to large tracts of new public land:

- 1783: Treaty of Paris gave the United States over 270 million acres of lands east of the Mississippi.
- 1803: The Louisiana Purchase from France

doubled the size of the country.

- 1818: The Red River Valley of the North was added to the U. S. by the Convention of 1818, which declared the 49th parallel, between Lake Superior and the Rocky Mountains, as the border between the U.S. and Canada.

- 1819: Florida was acquired by treaty with Spain.
- 1845: Texas became a State but did not turn over unoccupied lands to the federal government. There is no federal public land in Texas.

- 1846: The Oregon Compromise with Great Britain divided the Oregon Country along the 49th Parallel which ended the joint occupation of the region.

- 1848: Mexico gave up its territory in the Southwest; 338 million acres of public lands in the current states of California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, and parts of New Mexico, Colorado, and Wyoming were acquired.

- 1850: The U.S. purchased 75 million acres from Texas, which included parts of what is now Arizona and New Mexico.

- 1853: The Gadsden Purchase of 19 million acres of land from Mexico, which became part of New Mexico and Arizona.

- 1867: Alaska was purchased from Russia; 365 million acres of public lands were added to the U.S.

- 1898: The Hawaiian Islands were annexed by the U.S.; no public lands available.

### Bureau of Land Management

Access to the records of the public land states is through the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the National Archives. A good place to start is the BLM General Land Office Records Automation web site, <http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/>, where you will have access to federal patents, survey plats, and field notes. You can search for documents in multiple ways: by type of patent or by using “identifiers,” a number unique to a particular document. Some patent images from 1820, and survey plats and field note images from 1810 are also available. On the results screen, click on the accession number to bring up the detail screen, which will provide more information including the land office and the authority by which the land was patented. If there are scanned images, tabs will provide access to the patent and any related documents.

The GLO has an ongoing project to make digital copies of the records available. If the records you look for have been digitized you can print them from the website; if not, you can order them from the BLM. Before searching for records you might check the Reference Center page on the website; it contains a wealth of information about



Image	Accession	Names	Date	Doc #	State	Meridian	Twp - Rng	Acreage
	AL0380-206	BEAMAN, ABRAHAM	12/1/1831	7998	AL	St Stephens	011N - 020E	E1/2SW1/4 2
	AL0380-207	BEAMAN, ABRAHAM	9/12/1835	13287	AL	St Stephens	011N - 020E	SW1/4SW1/4 2

Abraham Beaman patent, Pike County, Alabama.

public land records and has a list of related sites for each state including links to BLM offices and various repositories for local land records.

### Bounty Land

Another type of land record valuable to genealogists is bounty land, awarded by the federal government for service in the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the Mexican War, and some Indian wars and actions up to 1850.

In addition to federal bounty land, nine states, (Georgia, Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia) allotted land for state military service. Connecticut awarded land for homes and businesses destroyed by the British and Georgia awarded land to those citizens who remained loyal to the new government when the British resumed control of the area.

Bounty land has a complex history. Who was entitled to land, what types of service was allowed, where the land was located and the process to obtain the lands varies for each state. Laws were passed during the war, changes were made, and new laws added well into the 19th century. Except for Massachusetts, state governments allowed veterans to get both federal and state bounty land. Many of the warrants were not used by the soldiers who earned them but were sold. Both the BLM and NARA websites have more detailed information about bounty land records and how to obtain the associated files. Consult the individual state archives for information about state bounty land warrants.

### Land Entry Case Files

These files contain a selection of documents associated with individual land transactions in one of three categories: military bounty land warrants, pre-1908 general land entry files, or post-1908 land entry files, all in the possession of the National Archives. Each category requires different information to get a copy of the case file. The specific information needed to locate the files is available on the BLM website.

Once you have the necessary information the files can be ordered online from the National Archives (<http://www.archives.gov/contact/inquire-form.html>) or by using NATF Form 84.

Many of the earliest case files contain little information but the later files can be extremely useful to the genealogist. You might find applications, proof of citizenship or proof of military service, for example. Understanding the requirements of the individual act used to acquire land will help you determine what might be available.

Don't overlook land records, one of the most useful and rewarding record groups available for genealogy research. Gather the patents and deeds for your family and you might fill some of the holes in your family story and overcome some of your most difficult research problems.

### (Endnotes)

1. William Dollarhide, "Retracing the Trails of Your Ancestors Using Deed Records" *Genealogy Bulletin* (Jan.-Feb. 1995); <http://www.directlinesoftware.com/deeds.htm>.
2. Culpeper County, Virginia, Deed Book G:103, George Eastham to James Eastham; FHL microfilm 0030945.
3. The headright system was used primarily in Virginia in the 17th century whereby any person who settled in Virginia or paid the passage for anyone who settled in Virginia was entitled to 50 acres of land per person, per "head". Also used to some extent by Florida (before 1783), Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina and Texas (1836-1842).
4. Beverly Fleet, *Virginia Colonial Abstracts Volume 1*, (Baltimore : Genealogical Publishing Company, 1988), 462.
5. Halifax County, Virginia, Deed Book 16:60-61, Thomas Roberts to Thomas Thweatt, 19 November 1793; FHL microfilm 31887.

### Suggested Reading:

- Greenwood, Val D. *The Researcher's Guide to American Genealogy*. Genealogical Publishing Co. 2000
- Hone, E. Wade. *Land & Property Research In The United States*. Salt Lake City: Ancestry Inc., 1997.
- Rose, Christine. *Military Bounty Land 1776-1855*. San Jose: CR Publications, 2011.

## Where Are *Your* Ancestors? Using Land Records to Find Land

Michael Hait, CG

No genealogist can effectively research their ancestors without using land records. Whether they owned it or not, every single one of our ancestors lived on land (unless they lived on a boat). In order to learn everything you can about your ancestors, you have to learn about the land on which they lived.

Broadly defined, land records consist of any records pertaining to land—not just those records that appear in deed books. You can find direct references to land in deed books, of course, but also tax lists, probate records, and contemporary and modern maps. Indirect references to land parcels can be found in census records and city directories, court records and probate records, among many others. Piecing together all of these records when considering your ancestor's land will help you learn more about their lives and their communities.

### What's in a deed book? Types of land records

Despite the generic name, there are many different kinds of instruments that might be recorded in deed books. There are of course **deeds of sale**, that is, recorded instruments by which real property (land) is sold (transferred for money) from one party to another. But there are actually several different kinds of deeds:

- A *deed of gift* records a transfer of property where no money changes hands. These usually occur between family members, using the terminology “in consideration of the love and affection I have for . . .,” but not always.
- A *deed of trust* records the granting of rights to a property from one party to another under certain specified terms.
- A *deed of mortgage* records a private lien against the property, when one person uses land as collateral for a debt.
- A *deed of release* records the termination of a deed of mortgage, usually through the repayment of the debt. These may be recorded separately at the time of the release, or may be appended to the original recorded deed of mortgage in an earlier record, possibly in the margin of the page.
- A *quitclaim deed* records the release or transfer of the rights in a piece of land from one party to another. For example one brother might record a quitclaim deed releasing his rights in his father's estate to another brother who lives on the land;
- A *dower release* records the release of a wife

in property owned by her husband. Though these are usually recorded simultaneously with a deed of sale, it is also possible to record them separately if the release was not previously recorded.

- A *right of way* or *easement* records the granting of rights of access from one party to another. For example, you will often see rights of way granted to power companies, to allow power lines to run across the grantor's property.

These are the most common deed types, though you see others as well. These are not the only kinds of records that you will find in deed books, however. Depending on state laws, as well as the specific policies of the individual clerk at the time of the record, you may find other kinds of records—almost all of them involving land—tucked away inside a deed book. These may include the following types of records, among many others:

- A *bill of sale* (or *chattel bill of sale*) records the transfer of personal property from one party to another. The most commonly recorded kinds of personal property are livestock, crops, slaves, and vessels (e.g. boats, etc.).
- *Powers of attorney*. A power of attorney granted one person the ability to act on the behalf of another, either in general or for a specific purpose. For example, a son living in one state might grant a trusted local resident a power of attorney to sell inherited land in another distant state. This would generally be less expensive in both time and money than travelling to the state himself for the sole purpose of recording a single transaction.
- *Land commissions*. In some states, a land commission of several uninterested men would be called to determine a boundary in dispute due to neglect of corner markers, faulty surveys, or other reasons. The recorded land commission may contain depositions from several previous and current neighbors who would have knowledge of the correct boundaries, as well as the final decision of the commission and possibly new surveys.
- *Family meetings*. In Louisiana, a “family meeting” may be called to determine the disposition of land inherited by minor children. These records are very interesting, as a significant number of adult family members are identified, usually by both name and relationship. The adult family members also often involve members of both the paternal and maternal families of the children, a fact that increases the value of these records. These are only a few of the different



records you might find in deed books. You can see the wide variety of records that exist—all of which may be extremely useful in your family history research.

#### Searching deed books and finding the records.

Deed books are among the most published records in the nation. Many deed books from counties in nearly every state have been abstracted and published as books or as serialized articles in genealogical society journals. If you have access to a large genealogical library, it is usually relatively easy to locate these published abstracts either locally or through inter-library loan. One of the benefits of using these published abstracts is that they often index the witnesses and neighbors mentioned in the deed books in addition to the parties involved in the instruments.

You will generally find two kinds of original indexes to the deed books themselves: *volume indexes* and *consolidated indexes*. Volume indexes are the internal indexes that appear at the beginning of many deed books. These are generally created at the same time as the deed books themselves. They may be alphabetized by grantee, grantor, or both. Consolidated indexes are indexes for multiple deed books created separately years after the creation of the original deed books. These indexes may have been created by consulting the deed books themselves, or by copying the original internal indexes to a new volume.

Of course, in the worst-case scenario, no published or unpublished finding aid may provide access to the deed books containing information about your ancestors. If this is the case, you may have to search the book page-by-page. Though this process is far more time-consuming, the benefit of finding relevant records makes the process worthwhile.

#### What does it mean? Reading land descriptions

Once you find a record pertaining to the land on which your ancestors lived, you can start looking for the land. The land descriptions that you find in deeds will tell you more or less exactly where this land was located.

Generally speaking, there are two kinds of land descriptions, based on the two kinds of surveying systems in use in the land that is now the United States. In most parts of the country that were settled by Europeans prior to the American Revolution (e.g. the thirteen original colonies, Louisiana, western Florida, and Texas) or the lands previously owned by those colonies (e.g. Maine, Kentucky, or the Virginia Military District in what is now Ohio), land was surveyed using the system of *metes and bounds*. This system provided directions and distances with boundary markers—usually trees, stones, or other geographic features—to describe the land. For example, the following *courses* (the metes and bounds) are found

in the seventeenth-century colonial Maryland survey of a land tract called *Boyd's Chance*:

Lying in [Anne Arundel] County in the woode begining at a bounded red Oak of the land of Matthew Howard & and runing North north west one hundred and Twenty five perches to a bounded white oak of the land Called Howard and Porters Range and of the land of Richard Wairfield then bounding on the Said Warefields land runing North East nine degrees Eastward One hundred and thirty perches to a bounded Oak at the edge of the Indian branch the said oak being a bounded tree of the sd Warefields Land and the land formerly laid out for John Huttson Called Lane Afterplaine then South South East Fivity perches to the line of the land of Guy Meek then South South West with the Said land Seventy perches to the Said Meeks bounded [oak Mill?] with the Said Meeks Land East and by South fifty seven perches to a bounded Oak in the North East line of the Said Howards Land then with the Said Land by a straight line to the first tree Cont: and now laid out for Sixty Acres of Land more or less.<sup>1</sup>

This particular deed uses *nautical directions*, such as “north north west” and “east and by south,” to describe some of the angles. Nautical directions generally fell out of use by this time, replaced with better angle descriptions as surveying equipment grew more sophisticated. The distances in this deed are measured by *perches*, an old unit of measurement that could vary from about sixteen to twenty-four feet, eventually standardized to about sixteen-and-a-half feet. Other units of measurement common in older deeds in various locations and time periods include *poles*, *rods*, and *arpents*. Drawing the land tract based on the descriptions is called *plattin*. The courses of *Boyd's Chance* are relatively simple and straightforward.

This land description also makes note of specific neighbors. Just who were Matthew Howard, Richard Wairfield (or Warefield), John Huttson, and Guy Meeks? The survey reports that their land lay adjoining the surveyed tract. What were their relationships with each other and with John Boyd(e), the patentee of this land? Finding the answers to these questions could potentially reveal more about John Boyd's life. Furthermore, because this survey does not name any watercourses or other geographic features, it may be necessary to also plat these neighboring tracts, and fit them together, like puzzle pieces, in order to locate the land on a map.

The other system of surveying in use in the United States is known as the Public Land Surveying System (PLSS). This system, developed by the federal government, is used in the states that were first settled after the creation of the United States; generally speaking, the states in the Midwest and the West. The system established *Meridians* (north–south lines) and *Base lines* (east–west lines) that served as the main referents for land surveys. Land was then divided into six-square-mile *townships*. These townships were further divided into thirty-six *sections* of one square mile each.

The PLSS land descriptions are far more uniform, and therefore generally easier to understand, than “metes and bounds.” A typical description consists of designations for the state, the meridian, the township, the range, and the section, as in “South Dakota, 5th Prime Meridian, Township 103 North, Range 47 West, Section 34” or even shortened to “T103N R47W S34.” The sections themselves may be subdivided further into aliquot parts, such as “northern half” (N ½) or “southeast quarter” (SE ¼).

#### Where is that? Finding land parcels on a map

As noted above, land surveyed under the PLSS can be found relatively easily. Finding “metes and bounds” surveys is a much more difficult task. Consider the following example.

A tract of land in Calvert County called *Ample Grange*, containing 350 acres, was originally patented by James Neal in 1670.<sup>2</sup> Any transactions recorded in the Calvert County Court were destroyed by a courthouse fire in 1882.<sup>3</sup> In 1694, however, the part of Calvert County where *Ample Grange* lay was taken to form Prince George’s County.<sup>4</sup>

On 13 December 1694 Roger Brooke Jr. assigned the land and warrant for “*Amptle*” *Grange* to John Boyd:

Know all men by these Presents that I Roger Brooke Junior of Prince Georges County have as by these Presents I do assigne over unto John Boyde of the same County both the land and warrant [of resurvey] for eight hundred and eighty acres of land lying in the same County called Amptle grange granted me the thirteenth day of December one thousand six hundred ninety & four as wittness my hand the day and year first above written.<sup>5</sup>

Note the disparity in acreage between the original patent for 350 acres and the assignment of 880 acres. “*Amptle*” *Grange* was resurveyed for Roger Brooke

Jr. to incorporate vacant land adjacent to the tract, for a total of 880 acres, on 30 June 1698. The certificate of survey notes that “whereas [Brooke] hath sould and assigned over both the land and warrant to John Boyde. . .” The certificate provides the following description of this tract:

Beginning at a bounded white oake standing in the line of a parcell of land called Essington, formerly Surveyed for one Demetrius Cartwright lying in the freshes of Petuxent River at the wading Place of the said River & runing thence North West five hundred Ps. [perches] to a bound hictory standing on a plaine, thence North by West three hundred and seventy [perches] to a bound hictory by a small branch, thence South East eight hundred and ten [perches] to a bound hictory standing by the side of Petuxent River then down the said River West five deg: South one hundred and twelve [perches] thence South South West thirty four [perches] then South South East one hundred and forty eight [perches] then South East and by East eighty [perches] then South East twenty [perches] then South East and by South eighty six [perches] then South eight deg: East forty eight [perches] to a bounded white oake, standing by the said River side where the line of the said land called Issington intersect the River and then with the said land to the first bound Tree, Containing and now resurveyed for eight hundred and eighty acres of land more or less to be holden of the mannor of Calverton by me this 30th day of June 1698.<sup>6</sup>

The survey as quoted above notes the following detail in regard to the location of land: “the line of a parcell of land called Essington, formerly Surveyed for one Demetrius Cartwright lying in the freshes of Petuxent River at the wading Place of the said River.” This will assist in determining the exact location of *Ample Grange*.

The patent for this resurveyed *Ample Grange* was granted to John Boyd on 20 July 1704, under the condition that John pay the rent in arrears on the land. The patent reiterates the assignment and resurvey for Roger Brooke, Jr. It also lays out the procedure for paying the annual rent due on the property.<sup>7</sup> Rents paid on land during colonial Maryland were a form of taxes, under the “common soccage” system in the Proprietary colony.<sup>8</sup>

On 24 November 1697 Roger Brooke Jr. executed a deed to John Boyd for the 350-acre tract “*Amptill*”

*Grange*. The description in this deed reflects the original survey prior to the 1698 resurvey of the tract:

All that parcell of Land Called Amptill Grange Lying & being in the County of Calvert on the west Side of the North forke of Pattuxent River And Beginning att a bounded white oake Standing by the Side of Pattuxent River aforesaid it being the Northermost bounded tree of a parcell of Land laid out for Demetrius Cartwright Called Essonton bounded by the Said Land & Runin Northwest for five hundred perches to a bounded Poplar and from the Poplar Runin north & by west three hundred & Seventy perches to a bounded white Oake And from the Said white Oake South East to the Side of Petuxent River aforesaid bounded by the Said River and Runin as the Said River Runeth to the first bounded white Oake Containing and Laid out for three hundred and fifty acres more or Less.<sup>9</sup>

Some further detail about *Ample Grange* appears in a deed dated 25 September 1697—prior to the final patent being issued—whereby John Boyde sold a portion of the tract to John Mobberly. The description of this parcel from the deed reads,

all that part or parcell of Land Called Ample Grainge Lying in Prince Georges County by Pattuxant River And Beginning att a bounded white Oake Standing on a hill by a deep branch in the Line of a parcell of Land Called Essington and Runing there with the Said Branch by the Runn of the branch unto Petuxent River Side and with the Said River unto a bounded white Oake on the River Side and from the Said Oake with the Said Land Called Essington to the first tree Containing and now Laid out for one hundred [twenty] and Seaven acres more or Less.<sup>10</sup>

More information about the location of *Ample Grange* can be gathered from a survey dated 16 September 1703 for a tract named *Contention*. This tract, containing 118 acres, was patented by John Boyd(e) on 20 July 1704, the same day he patented *Ample Grange*. The description reveals that *Contention* adjoined *Ample Grange*, as follows:

all that Tract of land lying the said County and called Contention adjacent to the land of the said Boydes called Ample Grange and Beginning at a bound small red oake on the West side of the North branch of Petuxent near a hole in the ground where formerly stood a bound hicory then

West one hundred [perches] to a bound red oake then South twenty six [perches] a bound red oake in the line of [the] land called Ample Grange, whereon the said Boydes lives then with Ample Grange Shouth East one hundred ninety and seven [perches] to the North branch of Petuxent then up and with the branch these following Courses, Viz North East and by East forty eight Perches North fifteen deg: Easterly fifty two [perches] North North West twenty [perches] North twenty deg Easterly thirty two [perches] West five deg Northerly forty six [perches] North West & by West forty four [perches] thence with a Streight line to the first Tree Containing and now laid out for one hundred and eighteen acres more or less.<sup>11</sup>

John Boyd, of Prince George's County, wrote his will on 5 October 1704. In it John names his wife, Mary, and children: Charles, John, Abraham, Isaac, Mary (wife of Ishmael Bateman), and Martha. He devised to his wife, "all that plantacon whereon I now Dwell together with the Land belonging to the Same being Called Amphill Grange Suituate In prince Georges County." He further bequeathed parts of this same land to his children: to Charles, 150 acres; to John, 100 acres; to Abraham, 100 acres; to Isaac, 100 acres; to Mary, 100 acres; and to Martha, 100 acres. These bequests to his children amount to a total of 650 acres. The will was proved after his death, on 9 May 1705.<sup>12</sup>

Mary Boyd, John's widow, wrote her own will on 16 September 1721. The will was proved after her death, on 4 December 1722. The will confirms the bequests made to their children by John's will eighteen years earlier ("after my other children have had their part or dividend left them by their father Jon: Boyd deced"), and further grants each of their surviving children five shillings. The will identified children Charles Boyd, John Boyd, Abraham Boyd, Isaac Boyd, and Martha Wells (wife of Thomas Wells). John Bateman, son of Mary (Boyd) Bateman, was bequeathed "all tht my plantation whereon I now dwell and the land belonging to the same."<sup>13</sup> An account passed in June 1725 reported the distribution of legacies to her heirs: Mary Bateman, Martha Wells, Isaac Boyd, Abraham Boyd, and John Boyd himself.<sup>14</sup> The children not named in this account may have previously died or removed from Maryland.

Several other sources provide not only descriptions but also plats of *Ample Grange*. In 1762, the then-living heirs of John and Mary Boyd desired a division of *Ample Grange* be made, due to a dispute over the Land. Due to errors in the original survey and the resurvey,

parts of *Ample Grange* actually lay within other tracts, particularly *Eglington* and *Enfield Chase*. This resulted in a loss of the total acreage of the tract. John Bateman, who inherited Mary Boyd's unspecified portion of the tract, desired that the portions of the other heirs also be proportionately decreased.

The heirs—John Bateman, John Wells, William Goe, John Hinton, Abraham Woodward, Thomas Boyd, Francis Boyd, and Martha Grove—signed several bonds on 20 March 1762, appointing Jeremiah Magruder, Thomas Pindall, and Abraham Jones as arbitrators, and agreeing to abide by their decision. The arbitrators decided that, “they Ought everyone to have Their full Quantity without any Regard being had to such taking away as aforesaid.”

The corrected survey of *Ample Grange* provided the following courses:

Beginning at a Wild Plumb Tree the Beginning of the Whole Tract and Running North forty Eight Degrees fifteen minutes Westerly five hundred & Twenty two perches to a Bounded poplar a Bounded Tree of the said Land then North thirteen Degrees fifteen minutes Westerly three hundred & sixty seven perches to a Bounded White Oak Sapling being also a boundary of the said Land thence south forty Eight Degrees fifteen minutes Easterly Eight Hundred & Eight Perches to the stump of a Hickory near Patuxent River Side being the Remains of a Boundary Made for the said Land when it was Resurveyed for a Certain Roger Brooke which by the patent of Confirmation bearing date the 20th day of July 1704 appears thence Bounding down and with the said River to the mouth of a Branch Commonly Called [Grace Butts String?] Branch which said Branch Divides Part of [the said] *Ample Grange* formerly sold out of the said Tract and is now the property of a Certain Henry Hall of Annarundell County thence Bounding up and with [the] said Branch untill it Intersects the first Line Run from the Beginning plumb Tree

aforesaid Containing Eight Hundred & Six acres & a Quarter of an acre.<sup>15</sup>

The deed book also contained a plat of this land, drawn by the surveyor, which appears in **Figure 1**. The plat not only reflects the corrected survey of the whole tract, but also shows the partition lines for each of the heirs' portions of the tract. It also shows the location of *Eglington* to the north of *Ample Grange*. This plat is the most accurate description of *Ample Grange* located in any record to date.

Plats and courses for small parts of *Ample Grange* appear in two later unrelated cases heard before the state's Chancery Court.<sup>16</sup> These do not provide any further insight into the location of the tract. However, the later of the two cases, dated 22 November 1850, identifies relatively late owners of the land. This case concerns land owned by Col. William T. Wootten, deceased, and partitions off the dower for his wife Margaret Wootten.<sup>17</sup>

The collected evidence provides several clues as to the exact location of *Ample Grange*. The attached maps (**Figures 2 & 3**) demonstrate full analysis of these clues in order to approximate the location of *Ample Grange* on a modern aerial map (*GoogleEarth*).

The first map dates from 1861, and provides the names of the landowners of Election District 7, Queen Anne District, at that time. Several landmarks allow a nearly precise placement of this map on the modern map.

- First of note is the placement of “Governor's Bridge.” Though seemingly significant in 1861, as a bridge across the Patuxent River, this now relatively small bridge has been marked on with a pushpin icon on the second map.

- More significant is the town of Queen Anne. Originally established as a port town on the Patuxent River, this town has all but disappeared in modern Prince George's County. Far more important today in this district is the town of Bowie to the west, which did not even exist as a town in 1861. The modern maps show the development of Bowie, while the original location of Queen Anne has been marked with a pushpin.

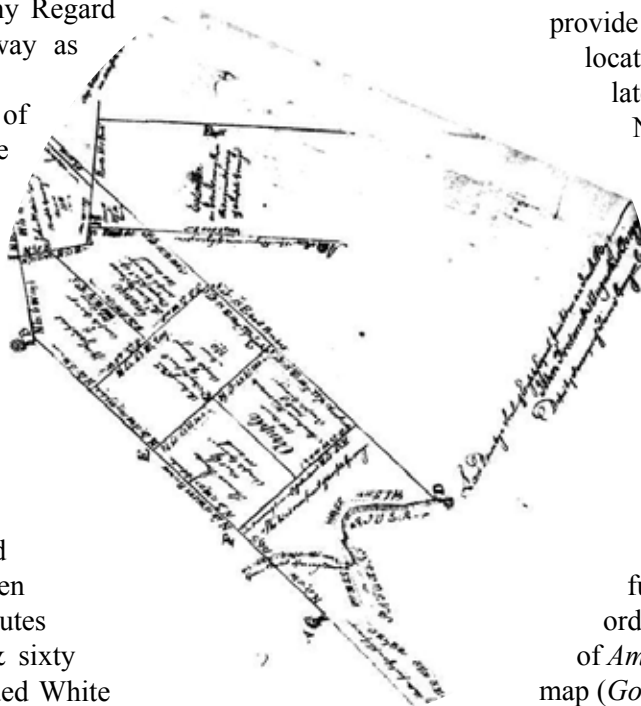


Figure 1

- The additional landmarks noted on the first and second maps are roads existing in 1861 that still stand today, in more or less the same paths. These roads are highlighted by yellow lines on both maps for comparison.

The 1861 map notes two names that help to locate the property: “J. M. Boyd” and “Mrs. M. Wootton.” J. M. Boyd, though he has not been fully identified, is almost certainly a descendant of John and Mary Boyd. It is probable that he may have still lived on a part of *Ample Grange*. Mrs. M. Wootton is probably Mrs. *Margaret*

Wootton, the widow of Col. William T. Wootton, a party to the 1850 chancery case. This case concerns the ownership by Col. William T. Wootton’s heirs of parts of *Ample Grange* and the adjoining tract *Essington*.

The last map, attached as **Figure 4**, shows the approximate location of the plat of *Ample Grange*, from the 1762 corrected survey, and the plat of *Ample Grange* and *Essington* from the 1850 chancery case, on the *GoogleEarth* map. The flow of the Patuxent River almost precisely matches the southeast boundary of *Ample Grange*.

**What does it mean? The value of finding our ancestors**

As the case of *Ample Grange* demonstrates, it can sometimes be quite difficult to find the land on which your ancestors lived. Clues from numerous records, even those created before or after your ancestors lived there or those not traditionally considered “land records,” have to be evaluated in order to produce the most accurate results.

Finding ancestors on

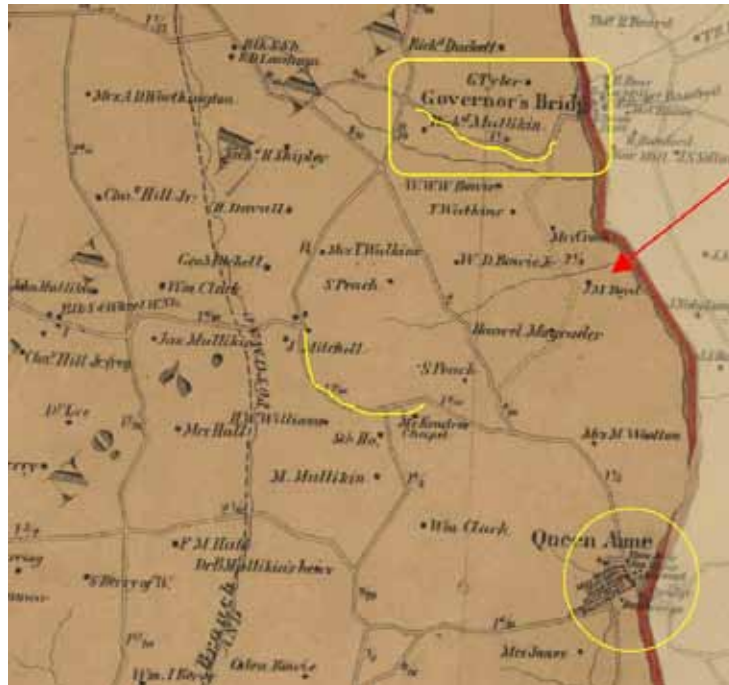


Figure 2

a map allows us to reconstruct neighborhoods. In this example, further information could be gathered by platting all of the neighboring tracts—those identified like *Essington*, *Eglington*, and *Enfield Chase*, as well as those identified only by the names of owners or by watercourses or other geographic features. One can generally fit numerous adjoining tracts together like pieces of a jigsaw puzzle to recreate the full landscape. Your ancestors’ neighbors would have been his closest associates likely attending the same

churches, conducting trade with each other, witnessing various events in each others’ lives, and even inter-marrying across generations.

Finding the land also allows us to consider the additional evidence provided by the geography itself. Might an ancestor who lived on land abutting a river have used that river for transportation? If so, where might it have led him? Might he have used the river in his trade, as a fisherman or even a merchant? On the contrary,

might an ancestor living in a particularly hilly region or a rocky region have been forced to raise a certain kind of crop? How might the soil have affected his farming? How else might the environment have affected your ancestors’ lives? The answers to these questions may not be found in any single record. They may only result from a full examination of topographic and historic maps, through the use of land records.



Figure 3





Figure 4

Culling this evidence from “in between the lines” gives us far more information about our ancestors than just those names and dates that you put onto a family group sheet or into your genealogy software program. *Where* our ancestors lived gives us true insight into just *how* they may have lived.

## (Endnotes)

1. Maryland Land Office Patent Record, Liber 22, f. 94; Maryland State Archives microfilm no. SR 7363.
2. “Calvert County Circuit Court, Land Surveys and Condominium Plats,” online database, Maryland State Archives, *Plats.net* (<http://plats.net> : accessed Jan 2011), entry for “Amp-till Grange”; citing Patent Record 16, p. 3.
3. Michael Hait, CG, “MARYLAND’S BURNED COUNTIES: OVERCOMING THE RECORD LOSS,” *MARYLAND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY JOURNAL*, VOLUME 53 (2012): 203–219.
4. *Archives of Maryland*, Volume 19, Proceedings and Acts of the General Assembly of Maryland, September 1693–June 1697, pp. 212–215 (Baltimore: Maryland Historical Society, 1899); digital images, Maryland State Archives, *Archives of Maryland Online* (<http://aomol.net/megafile/msa/speccol/sc2900/sc2908/000001/000019/html/index.html> : accessed October 2012); citing Maryland General Assembly Law Record, Liber LL 2, pp. 92–96, “An Act for the Division and Regulating Severall Countys within this Province and Constituting

a County by the name of Prince Georges County within the same Province.”

5. Maryland Land Office Patent Record, Liber CD, f. 135; Maryland State Archives microfilm no. SR 7376.
6. Maryland Land Office Patent Record, Liber CD, f. 135.
7. Maryland Land Office Patent Record, Liber CD, ff. 135–136.
8. For information on the early land systems of Maryland, see Elisabeth Hartsook and Gust Skordas, *Land Office and Prerogative Court Records of Colonial Maryland* (Annapolis: Hall of Records Commission, 1946).
9. Prince George’s County Land Records, Liber A, ff. 78–80, Brooke to Boyd.
10. Prince George’s County Land Records, Liber A, ff. 62A–63A, Boyde to Mobberly; digital images, Maryland State Archives, *MDLandRec.NET* (<http://www.mdlandrec.net> : accessed Jan 2011).
11. Maryland Land Office Patent Record, Liber CD, f. 157–158.
12. Maryland Prerogative Court Wills, Liber 3, ff. 635–636, John Boyd (1705); Maryland State Archives microfilm no.

SR 4399-2. The original handwritten will has sustained significant damage, making an accurate reading of the original impossible: Prince George’s County Original Wills, Box 1, folder 21, John Boyd (1705); MSA C1327-1, MdHR 8924-1-21; Maryland State Archives, Annapolis, Maryland.

13. Prince George’s County Original Wills, Box 3, folder 3, Mary Boyd (1722); MSA C1327-3, MdHR 8924-3-3; Maryland State Archives, Annapolis, Maryland.
14. Maryland Prerogative Court Accounts, Liber 7, ff. 28–29, Mary Boyd estate (1725); Maryland State Archives microfilm Roll 47-1.
15. Prince George’s County Land Records, Liber RR, ff. 202–206
16. Maryland Chancery Court, Chancery Papers, case no. 1533, Duckett et al vs. Hall et al (1793); MSA S512-2-1607, MdHR 17898-1533; Maryland State Archives, Annapolis, Maryland. Maryland Chancery Court, Chancery Papers, case no. 8078, Glenn vs. Wootten et al (1850); MSA S512-10-8064, MdHR 17898-8078
17. Maryland Chancery Court, Chancery Papers, case no. 8078, Glenn vs. Wootten et al (1850); MSA S512-10-8064, MdHR 17898-8078.

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## Federal Land Acts of the 1800s

Carol Ralston Surrency

When faced with the daunting task of seeking elusive ancestors and discovering family history, genealogists are often told to look for land records. The kinds of records to be found depend on the geographic location and the time period of the search. Researchers may find themselves looking for records with names like warrant, patent, bounty lands and homesteads. In the west, homestead is a familiar and frequently used term when referring to land obtained by early settlers of the area. But what, exactly, is a homestead and how did one get the rights to a piece of land?

### Public Land and Homestead Acts

Homesteads and other land acts were available only in public land states. These are states containing federally owned land that became available for private ownership under the various acts created by the government. Public land states are as follows: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. The original thirteen states plus Hawaii, Kentucky, Maine, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, and West Virginia have never been public land states. Land offices in public land states were under the supervision of the General Land Office (GLO) in Washington D.C. Although, over the years, Congress has passed a number of land acts and amendments to modify them, most claims have been filed under one of five: the Cash Sale Act of 1820, the Pre-emption Act of 1841, the Homestead Act of 1862, the Timber Culture Act of 1873, and the Desert Land Act of 1877.

### How did one obtain land?

Whenever an individual, usually called the entryman, filed a claim for land under a federal land act, a record was created. If federal land became available and was purchased outright, title passed immediately from the federal government to the buyer. Under other acts, the entryman was required to fulfill certain requirements over a period of time before becoming legal owner. Those seeking land filled out the necessary forms and paid required fees to the land office.

What information can be found in the records?

Information helpful to genealogists in the records varies according to the act under which the entry was made. For government land offered at a cash sale or available for auction at a public sale, the file would likely hold the receipt for payment and little else. Information in the Pre-emption Act file will contain a little more detail, while the most biographical data can be found in the Homestead Act of 1862 files but, by the dates of the Timber Culture Act and the Desert Land Act, entries once again have limited information about individuals making the claim.<sup>1</sup>

### Cash Sale Act of 1820

Eliminating the purchase of public land on credit, this act authorized surveys after which the land was made available at auction in 160 acre parcels for a minimum bid of \$1.25 per acre. Following the auction, remaining lands were sold to anyone at \$1.25 an acre upon application at a local land office.

Information in this type of file usually includes the name of the purchaser, the legal description of the land and the date of the sale. The receipt for payment should also be present. Sometimes entrymen converted a homestead, timber culture or desert land entry to a cash purchase to avoid having to meet the requirements of the original filing. All records made for the original claim prior to the time it was converted should be found in the file. The Cash Sale Act was repealed March 3, 1891

### Pre-emption Act of 1841

Frequently, a settler moved onto land before it was surveyed and offered for sale. The pre-emption act gave him the first right to apply to purchase up to 160 acres that he had cultivated and improved on for more than a year's time. This generally meant building a house and outbuildings as well as planting crops. If the land remained idle for six months or more, the government could reclaim it. Anyone who was head of a family, a widow, or a single person 21 years old or older could apply. It was also necessary to show proof of citizenship or a declaration of intent to become a citizen. An entryman could not own more than 320 acres in a state or territory and was required to swear that he had not previously obtained land under the act. This was an attempt to discourage speculators who would bid for land that had already been improved.



In addition to the entryman's name, the legal description of the land, and the date of sale, these files should contain statements of the entryman and witnesses testifying that the entryman had established residence upon the land prior to making application for the purchase of the property. Usually, it will also include a description of any structures standing on the land and provide information about what the land has been used for by the entryman. This Act was repealed on March 3, 1891.

### **The Homestead Act of 1862**

Signed into law by Abraham Lincoln after the secession of the southern states, this Act was instrumental in settling vast areas of the country. 270 million acres or 10% of the United States was claimed under the law.<sup>2</sup> The Act did not have much impact in the Midwest because most of the land had been bought and paid for during the land booms of the 1830s and the 1850s.<sup>3</sup> However, bringing more settlers into the west advanced the cause of Manifest Destiny for the nation.

To obtain land, a settler needed to be head of a household, 21 years of age, native-born or naturalized, or have declared intent to become naturalized. In most cases, an individual could homestead up to 160 acres, although, in some instances, there was a maximum of 80 or 320 acres. This Act attracted all kinds of people including newly arrived immigrants, farmers without land of their own in the East, single women and former slaves.<sup>4</sup> To qualify, a person had to file their intentions at the closest land office. After a check, using the survey coordinates, to see that the land had not already been claimed, the prospective homesteader paid a filing fee of \$10 and a \$2 commission to the land agent. "Proving up" on the land required the homesteader to live on the land for five continuous years, "improve it" by building a home and other buildings and by farming the land. At the end of five years, the homesteader got two neighbors to vouch for his improvements by signing the proof document. He then paid a \$6 fee, a final certificate was signed by the registrar of the land office and, eventually, he received a patent (a document legally transferring title from the federal government to the applicant) signed by the current president of the United States.<sup>5</sup> Honorably discharged veterans were given credit toward the five year residency requirement depending on length of service.

Among the records in a patented homestead file, a researcher may find the following: an application for a homestead, notice of the entryman's intent to make proof, an affidavit stating the entryman's marital status and number of children, affidavits of the homesteader and witnesses testifying to his compliance with the conditions of the Homestead Act and how he had used the

land. Additionally, there should be receipts for any fees paid and a copy of the final certificate. If the homesteader had immigrated to the United States, he had to present proof that he was naturalized or intended to become a citizen and documentation relating to this may be found in the file. Sometimes marriage certificates will also be found. Union veterans, their widows, and orphans had special benefits in which case a copy of the veteran's discharge papers may be in the file.

Many of the same documents, as well as correspondence between the homesteader and the land office, may appear in a cancelled claim and contested claims will have additional documents relating to action taken by the General Land Office. The Homestead Act was repealed in 1976 with provisions for homesteading in Alaska remaining in effect until 1986.

### **The Timber Culture Act of 1873**

The Timber culture Act was an attempt to encourage settlement of the prairie ecosystem where rainfall is at a minimum and decreases rapidly as one moves westward. In addition to the 160 acres allowed by the Homestead Act, a homesteader could claim an additional 160 acres of naturally treeless land if he agreed to plant 40 acres of trees and maintain them in a healthy condition for a period of eight to ten years, depending on when the claim was filed. In 1878, the amount of acreage to be planted in trees was reduced from 40 to 10. The entryman did not have to live on the land. Most of the Timber Culture applications were made on the subhumid and semiarid grasslands of the Great Plains from North Dakota south through Kansas. The purpose of this land grant was to provide wood for fires and building, to modify the climate and to provide a windbreak for the strong winds on the plains.<sup>6</sup> Some settlers were successful, but many failed to grow trees despite their best efforts. Those who were able to keep their trees healthy and could provide proof were able to obtain a certificate of ownership for \$30 and a patent would be issued, but many applications were cancelled or relinquished.

Information in a patented file would usually include the name of the entryman, the date of the entry, the date and number of the final certificate and a legal description of the land.

With the sale of relinquishments speculators dominated and abused the Timber Culture law until it was repealed in 1891, although a commutation clause in the repeal allowed some treeless claims to be patented.<sup>7</sup>

### **The Desert Land Act of 1877**

Congress passed the Desert Land Act to encourage the development of arid western lands. The Act offered 640 acres to a couple at a cost of \$.25 an acre upon ap-

plication and, in return, the settler promised to irrigate and cultivate 40 acres within three years. Concerns soon arose about the wisdom of this act and in 1877, the Commissioner of Public Lands recommended its repeal. A report issued in 1879 suggested the law was primarily being used to gain control of water as many entries were long narrow tracts along the banks of streams that would give the entryman a great advantage in meeting his irrigation requirement.<sup>8</sup> The entryman had to prove that he had the legal right to the water he used as water rights do not necessarily come with rights to the land.

Today one can apply for one or more tracts of land

totaling no more than 320 acres of land suitable for agricultural purposes. The applicant must be a citizen of the United States or have declared intent, be 21 years old and be a resident of Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, or Wyoming. Nevada does not have a residency requirement. He must also show a permit from the State Department of Water Administration. With competition among users of public lands, difficulty finding suitable land, limited water for irrigation and the high cost of development, it is very difficult to acquire a desert land entry today.<sup>9</sup>

In older desert land files, proof of ownership of water for irrigation often appears as a document showing an interest in a ditch company. Other information will be the name of the entryman, date of entry, date that a final certificate was issued, the certificate number and a legal description of the land. Like the Timber Culture Act, many desert land entries were cancelled or relinquished.<sup>10</sup> The Desert Land Act has never been repealed.

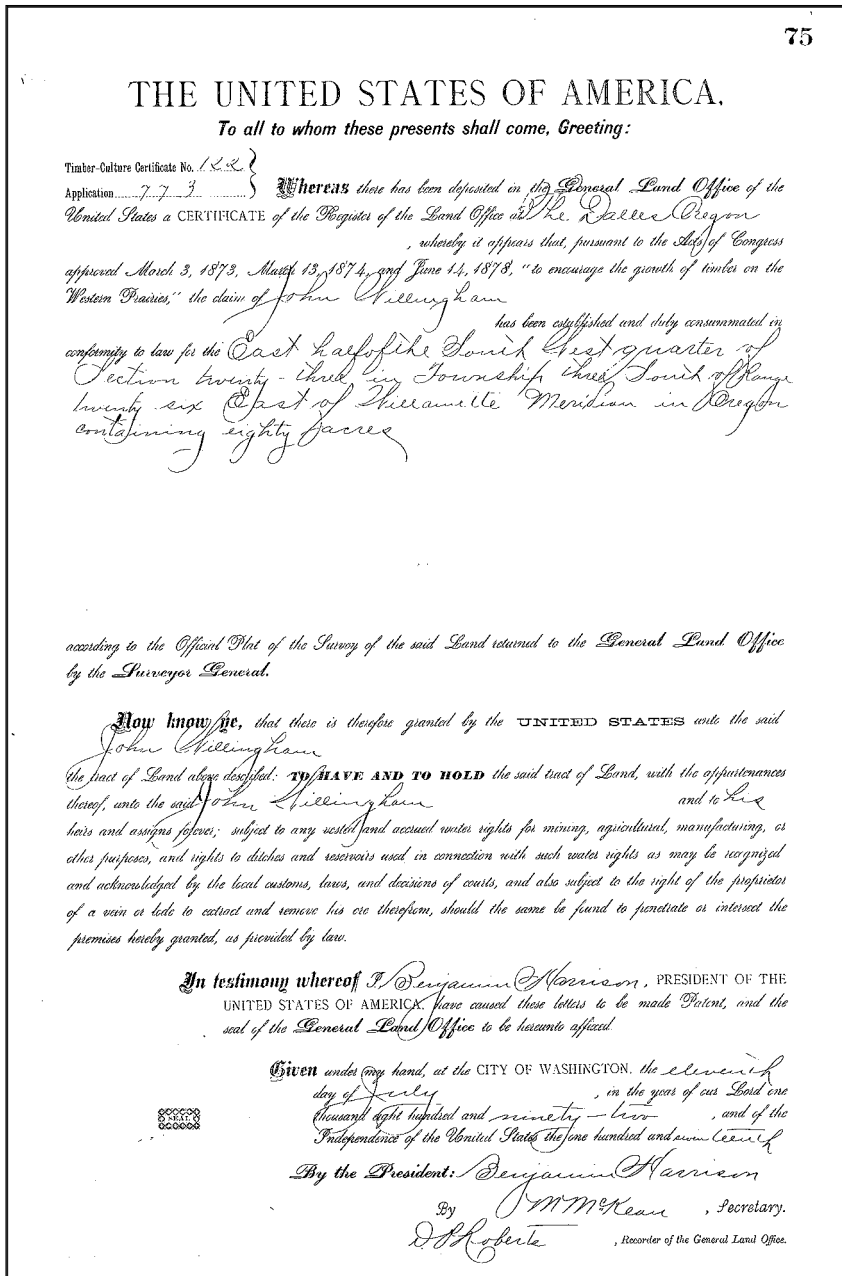
**Oregon Land Claims**

Public Land Offices in Oregon existed in the following towns: Oregon City, pre-1855 to 1905; Winchester, 1855-1859; Roseburg, 1860 - unknown closing date; Burns, 1889-1925; La Grande, 1867-1925; Linkville (Klamath Falls), 1873-1877; Lakeview, 1877 – unknown closing date; The Dalles, 1875 – unknown closing date; and Portland, 1905-1925.

Records generated through these offices include cash entries, homestead final certificates, canceled homestead entries, timber-culture final certificates, canceled timber-culture entries...town lots, Indian allotments and notifications to the surveyor general of Oregon of settlers on unsurveyed lands.”<sup>11</sup>

**Finding the documents**

The first step for most researchers is to check the Bureau of Land Management website for General Land Office patents <www.glorerecords.blm.gov>. Under “Search Documents” enter the name of the person plus other details, if known, and any available information relating to the patent will come up. Those who are



Patent: John Willingham

lucky will also find an image of the patent. Information found on the website about the patent includes: the date the patent was issued, name of the land act used, issuing land office, number of acres, and the document number which enables one to order the case file from the National Archives (NARA) in Washington D.C. <[www.archives.gov/research/land/index.html](http://www.archives.gov/research/land/index.html)>.

Don't neglect to click on the reference tab on the BLM site, also. There you will find a list of all the neighbors in addition to the person you are researching. Genealogists know that this can create further research leads. Cancelled or relinquished files, possibly containing useful information, will not be found in the previous database. To find this information, the researcher will need to check tract books. For the western states, tract books can be found at NARA. For eastern states, the tract books and patents are held at the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) office in Springfield, Virginia where land records are maintained for the 13 public land states under its jurisdiction: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Mississippi, Ohio and Wisconsin. Patents for both the Eastern and Western States are available on the GLO website, but, if one is not found for an Eastern State ancestor, contact <[www.blm.gov/es/st/enhtml](http://www.blm.gov/es/st/enhtml)>. Once on the site, you will find a short form to fill out requesting the data necessary for their search and giving the prices charged. The Homestead National Monument of America, Fold3.com, FamilySearch, and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln are working together to digitize all Homestead Land Entry Case Files housed at the National Archives. The project plans to digitize over 800,000 records from almost 200 land offices in all thirty homesteading states.

In Oregon and several other western and Midwestern states, legal descriptions can often be found in the deed books of the county where the land is located. A copy of the patent also appears in some county's books. The states, in addition to Oregon, recording those transactions locally are: California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, New Mexico North and South Dakota, Wyoming Nebraska, Oklahoma, Washington and Wisconsin.

A look at patents issued in Oregon shows that early settlers availed themselves of more than one land act to obtain property. In Grant County, Oregon, James Monroe Shields was granted a patent in 1890 for 160 acres under the Cash Sale Act of 1820. James died in 1903. In April of 1918, his wife, Sarah A. Shields obtained a patent for 160 acres under the Homestead Act of 1862. She was 79 years old at the time. John Willingham, of Morrow County, received a patent in 1886 for a homestead of 160 acres, while his son, John W., obtained a patent for land

in 1888 by paying cash. In 1892, John Sr. added an additional 80 acres to his land by using the Timber Culture Act. This act was repealed in 1891, but it was sometimes several years between the time the applicant received his final certificate and the arrival of the patent.

By 1900, the west saw 600,000 claims for public land.<sup>12</sup> One of the main purposes of this land distribution was to encourage people to leave the eastern seaboard and move west so that the United States would have title to the entire country. For genealogists, the records created by this migration can answer many questions about an ancestor's life.

#### (Endnotes)

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3. "Settlement of the New Frontier: The Homestead Act of 1862". ([www.geo.msu.edu/geomich/homestead\\_act](http://www.geo.msu.edu/geomich/homestead_act)) Accessed 10/16/2012.
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9. Desert Land Entries. Bureau of Land Management. ([www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/res/utah\\_public\\_room/desert\\_land\\_entries.print](http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/res/utah_public_room/desert_land_entries.print).) Accessed 10/16/2012.
10. Ibid
11. *Ancestry's Red Book*. Ed. Alice Eichholz. Ph.D., C.G. (Ancestry, 1992) 609.
12. "The Homestead Act". The History Channel Website, ([www.history.com/this-day-in-history/the\\_homestead\\_act](http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/the_homestead_act).) Accessed 10/16/2012.

## Oregon Donation Land Claims

Peggy Baldwin

### Free Land

James Southworth and his family, including his slave Louis Southworth, traveled the Oregon Trail in 1853. What would make a person walk 2000 miles to Oregon, from a relatively comfortable life in Missouri? James would have heard about the fertile Willamette Valley and other, sometimes exaggerated, qualities of the Oregon Territory. He might have been escaping the diseases; yellow fever and malaria were prevalent in much of the Missouri and Mississippi River drainage. He may also have been leaving behind a bad economic situation after the national panic of 1837 and the depression of 1842. But, even more powerful was the pull of FREE LAND.

A progression of events led to the settlement of the Oregon Territory. Lands west of the Mississippi River were acquired with the Louisiana Purchase in 1803. Lewis and Clark followed rivers west to the Oregon Territory, ending at the current site of Seaside, Oregon, in 1805. As their story was told in the east, and it became real to people, public officials began to work toward legislation to encourage settlement. As early as 1824, legislation was introduced to offer land grants to people willing to make the trip. This legislation was not enacted.

The first mass migration to the Oregon Country was in 1843. In the years before, others had made the trip by wagon, and the first woman made the trip in 1836. It was now apparent to the average person that it was possible to get a family through with essential equipment for survival in the new territory.

### Land Grants

A provisional government was formed in 1843 and in 1845 Provisional Land Claims came into being. They were never sanctioned by the federal government, but the Oregon Territory needed some way to provide land for early Oregon Trail travelers. Each individual could claim 640 acres.

On 3 March 1849, almost three years after becoming a possession of the United State, Oregon became a territory, including current Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and pieces of Wyoming and Montana. The federal government enacted the Donation Land Act, which went into effect on 24 September 1850, finally confirming the right of settlers to free land. People already settled on land provided by the Provisional Land Claims had to reapply under the Donation Land Act. Some claimed the

land they were already living on; some chose to claim land elsewhere.

White citizens of the United States, including half breed Indians, could claim 320 acres for themselves, and an additional 320 acres for their wives, if they arrived by 1 December 1850. They were required to reside on and cultivate the land for four years. The acreage claimed in the wife's name was owned in her own right. If a settler arrived later, between 1 December 1850 and 1 December 1853, he could claim 160 acres for himself, and an additional 160 acres for his wife.

James Southworth arrived in September 1853, so he qualified for 320 acres altogether. Louis Southworth, his black slave, did not meet the requirements for an Oregon Donation Land Claim (ODLC) because of his race. A man who knew Louis in Missouri allowed him to squat on his son's abandoned ODLC land. It wasn't until the Homestead Act of 1862, which did not have racial exclusion, that he was able to own land.

### What do these records tell us?

Looking at the requirements for Oregon Donation Land Claims will tell you what information you will find in a file. The birth place and year of the applicant would show that they are citizens of the United States. Information about naturalization would be included, if they were naturalized or in the process of becoming naturalized. If the applicant was also applying for land in his wife's name, the marriage date and place and his wife's name would be included. The date he arrived in the Oregon Territory would be given, in order to prove how much acreage he could claim. The date he settled on the land was also given, to show when the four year required residence started. A land description of the claim would be given. And, at the end of the four year settlement requirement, there would be affidavits from neighbors and people who had known the settler for the period of time or before, confirming that he had continuously lived on his land.

James Southworth's (ODLC no. 866) file supplied the following information:

**Arrived in Oregon** - 22 Aug 1853

**Settled on land** - 9 September 1853

**Born** - 1806, Buckingham County, Virginia

**Married** - 3 June 1850, Catherine Lemons. Missouri

**Land Description:** T16S, R5W, Sections 16, 17, 20, 21, Willamette Meridian

**Lived** continuously on land from 9 September 1853 to 9 September 1857

**Land Office:** Oregon City

**Affidavits** of neighbors and friends – C C Smith,

and select the state from the drop down menu. Just entering the last name Southworth worked quite well. For common names you might want to enter a first name and even a county, if you have that information. Notice the “Related Documents” tab on the BLM results page for other settlers whose claims encompassed part

The screenshot shows the BLM website interface. At the top, it says "U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT General Land Office Records". Below that are navigation tabs: "Search Documents", "Reference Center", "Support", and "Shopping Cart". The main content area shows search results for a document with Accession No. OROCAA 015692, Document Type: Serial Patent, State: Oregon, Issue Date: 1/4/1866, and Cancelled: No. A note states: "This record has not been checked against the legal land patent. We do not have an electronic image for this document." There are three tabs: "Patent Details", "Patent Image", and "Related Documents". The "Patent Details" tab is active, showing "Names On Document" (SOUTHWORTH, CATHARINE, SOUTHWORTH, JAMES B), "Miscellaneous Information" (Land Office: Oregon City, US Reservations: No, Mineral Reservations: No, etc.), "Document Numbers" (Document No: 866, BLM Serial No: OROCAA 015692), "Survey Information" (Total Acres: 319.92, Survey Date: --, Geographic Name: --), and "Land Descriptions" (a table with columns for State, Meridian, Twp - Rng, Aliquots, Section, Survey #, and County).

State	Meridian	Twp - Rng	Aliquots	Section	Survey #	County
OR	Willamette	016S - 005W		16	50	Lane
OR	Willamette	016S - 005W		17	50	Lane
OR	Willamette	016S - 005W		20	50	Lane

of the same sections as James Southworth. These land owners were James' neighbors!

See the results for James Southworth on the left.

Once you know that your ancestor has an ODLC, what the application number is, and the land office where they applied, you are ready to get the microfilmed record. A number of repositories have these microfilmed files, including the Oregon State Archives, the Oregon Historical Society, and the Genealogical Forum of Oregon. If you are unable to get to any of these repositories in person, contact the Genealogical Forum by sending an email to gforesearch @ yahoo.com or calling

BLM Results: James Southworth

(503) 963-1932.

William Wilson, Enos Ellmaker, A B Gibin  
The land description is based on the township and range system, with T = township and R = range. For information about this method of land measurement and location consult the following web page -- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Public\\_Land\\_Survey\\_System](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Public_Land_Survey_System). James Southworth's ODLC was the usual 20 pages or so. Files can be much larger, more than 100 pages long, if there is a land dispute.

**Finding ODLC Records**

To find out whether your ancestor had an ODLC, start with the Bureau of Land Management Document Search -- <http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/search/default.aspx>. Enter the name of the person you are looking for

You can see abstracts of ODLCs by consulting the five volumes of the *Genealogical Material in Oregon Donation Land Claims*, published by the Genealogical Forum of Oregon, available in various repositories. These volumes are also available on *Ancestry.com*. You might even be able to surmise who traveled with your ancestor by looking for other ODLC applicants who arrived in Oregon on or around the same date.

**Maps of ODLC Land**

All land that was claimed needed to be surveyed, and cadastral maps were the result of these surveys. The Oregon/Washington BLM web site has copies of those cadastral maps and also field notes. The direct link to the page where you can enter your information is <http://www.blm.gov/or/landrecords/survey/ySrvy1.php>. On this page, you can enter the land description, which will





The cadastral map of James Southworth's claim.

**Conclusion**

Oregon Donation Land Claims are among the richest source of information about early residents of Oregon. In fact, they give even more information about your ancestor than the homestead records that came later and cover more states than Oregon and Washington. The Pacific Northwest is lucky to have this unique source of historical information. There are excellent resources to help you find out if your ancestor had an ODLC and the records are readily available on microfilm at repositories, especially in the Pacific Northwest.

*Peggy Baldwin, [peggy.baldwin@family-passages.com](mailto:peggy.baldwin@family-passages.com)*

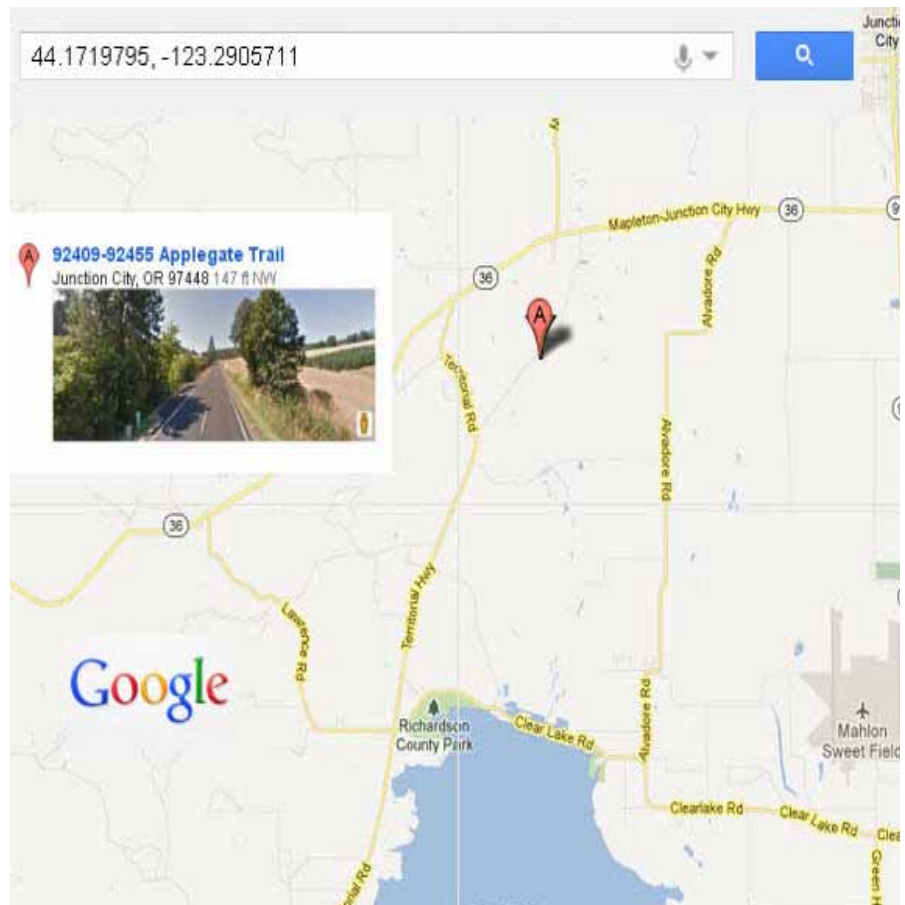
produce a page with links to maps and field notes and land history.

**Finding that Land Today**

We can certainly see who James Southworth's neighbors were from the cadastral map above. We found some of these neighbors signing affidavits in James' ODLC file.

We have a general idea of where this land was and what was on the land at the time of James' residence there. Today that land might look quite different and be put to different use than it was in 1853. But, how do we figure out exactly where that land is and what landmarks we would find there today? The Earth Point website allows you to enter a land description to get GPS locations for your ancestor's land (<http://www.earthpoint.us/TownshipsSearchByDescription.aspx>). You can then enter the GPS location into Google Maps or Google Earth.

Using a handheld GPS device you could zero in precisely to the location of your ancestor's land.



## Often Overlooked Land Records at Familysearch.org

Susan Olsen LeBlanc, AG

When teaching family history it is always amazing how few people use the **Browse by Location** section or the **Catalog** at familysearch.org to look for available land records for their families. These overlooked records contain a vast collection of digitized images in the Browse by Location section; or books, microfilm and microfiche records in the Catalog. These two resources provide access to a wide range of family history documents. The access is free, though some may require registration for viewing. Images available may be downloaded or printed. Some records may only have been indexed, which leads one to search for the original documents in various venues.

After doing a census search for possible locations for a family the real search for land records begins. Doing a search at the U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management General Land Office Records (GLO) at: <http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/> is the next step. There you will be able to determine if your ancestors received land from the government on what would be the first ownership of land after it was acquired by the United States. The index for these records include the person's name, the date, document record, state, meridian where located, township and range, aliquots, section number and county. For the particular record there will be an accession number, document type, state, issue date, and if it was canceled. The record can be viewed as patent details, patent image, and related documents. The types of records include cash entry, credits, homestead, Indian patents, military warrants, mineral certificates, private land claims, railroad, state selection, swamp, town sites, and town lots. The image viewed will be limited, but there is a file that can be ordered from the National Archives and Records Administration from the website at: <http://www.archives.gov/research/land/>

Now you are ready to move on to familysearch.org. Once on the website my first choice for doing research is the Historical Records Collection found under the Browse by Location section in the middle of the page, clicking on the United States. These are records that are newly digitized from a repository, or were preserved in microfilm or microfiche and have been converted to digital images. On the next page you can select a particular state. At this point there is limited access to

county records, but if they are found here you will not need to order the microfilm or microfiche. These were found by doing a search for land records. Remember this collection is growing on a daily basis.

In this search the ones listed as available under U.S. Land Records are:

Georgia, Headright and Bounty Land Records, 1783-1909 Browse Images

Illinois, DeKalb County Land Records, 1838-1927 Browse Images

Maryland, Civil War Service Records of Confederate Soldiers, 1861-1865, 43,508

Maryland, Civil War Service Records of Union Soldiers, 1861-1865, 642,857

Minnesota, Clay County Land and Property Records, 1872-1947 Browse Images

Texas, Eastland County Records, 1868-1949 Browse Images

Vermont, Land Records, Early to 1900, Browse Images

Washington, County Land Records, 1850-1954 Browse Images

Notice that the state of Oregon is not included in the above list. Searching under the state of Oregon, we find the following collections included in the records available:

**Baker County** - 66,538 images, including Naturalizations (1868-1946), Military records (1891-1950), Land and property records (1862-1933), Homestead records (1889-1913), Mining claims (1900-1906) and Mortgages (1862-1933).

**Benton County** - 75,599 images, Land and property records (1856-1984), Old age pensions (1934-1936), Naturalization records (1864-1962), Military records (1919-1948) and Probate records (1853-1856).

**Columbia County** - 91,079 images, Land and Property (1854-1920), Civil Registration - Marriages (1854-1958), Naturalization / Citizenship 1891-1945) and Tax (1898-1908).

**Douglas County** - 140,557 images, including Deed records and indexes (1852-1920) and Marriage records and indexes (1913-1950).

**Polk County** - 34,823 images, including Land (1857-1945), Probate-Wills (1925-1945) and Other records



(1934-1936).

**Wasco County**-129,959 images, including Land records (1854-1960) and Marriage records (1856-1920).

**Yamhill County**-83,300 images, including Deeds and mortgages (1857-1963), Military service records (1919-1951) and Licensing and other miscellaneous records (1899-1957).

For more information on each collection go to the Quick Facts on the description page. Browsing the images without an index can be challenging, but the helpful hints will assist you in this process.

Next turn to the Catalog, located as the second search option on the home web page, under the heading: FamilySearch Catalog is in BETA. You can still use the previous version, where there are some search features not found in the BETA version.. The same materials are found in both search options and both are updated daily. For our purposes we want to search under place names. Choosing to look under Oregon State records, we find a long list of topics, including land and property. The following records are listed under the two categories of land records:

**Oregon - Land and property - Indexes (3)**

1. Index to Oregon donation land claims
2. Index [to] Oregon donation land claims, 2nd edition, 1987
3. Geographic index for volumes I & II Genealogical material in Oregon Donation Land Claims filed with the Oregon City Office: abstracted from applications, author: Genealogical Forum of Oregon (Portland, Oregon)

**Oregon - Land and property (15)**

1. Oregon county boundary change maps, 1843-1916, author: Brown, Erma Skyles
2. Oregon and Washington donation land files, 1851-1903, author: United States. General Land Office
3. Land records, 1844-1942, author: United States. Land Office (Oregon)
4. Donation land claims by orphans in Oregon and Washington, 1867-1873, author: United States. Land Office
5. Territorial papers of the United States for the Territory of Oregon, 1848-1859: NARA, M1049, author: United States. Congress
6. Acts of Congress relating to public lands in Oregon, author: Deady, M. P.
7. Genealogical material in Oregon provisional land claims, abstracted vols. I-VIII, 1845-1849, author: Gurley, Lottie LeGett
8. Genealogical material in Oregon donation land claims, availability: Online
9. Land records, 1881-1952, author: United States.

Bureau of Indian Affairs. Umatilla Agency

10. Land laws and early settlers of Oregon: map and genealogical data of pioneer families of township 3 south, range 1 east, Willamette Meridian, Oregon, author: Canby Historical Society (Oregon)

11. Land laws and early settlers of Oregon: map and genealogical data of pioneer families of township 4 south, range 1 east, Willamette Meridian, Oregon

12. Land laws and early settlers of Oregon: map and genealogical data of pioneer families of Township 5 South, Range 1 East, Willamette Meridian, Oregon

13. Oregon and Washington donation land files, 1851-1903: National Archives microfilm publications, pamphlet describing M815, author: United States. National Archives and Records Service. General Services Administration

14. Abstracts of Oregon donation land claims, 1852-1903: National Archives microfilm publications, pamphlet accompanying microcopy no. 145, author: United States. National Archives and Records Service. General Services Administration

15. Arthur's in Oregon, availability: Online

Notice that the records found here vary from the records found in the digital collection. Those available as a digital record are noted with the word "Online". As you go through the various records, there will be some that will fit the specific type of research being conducted for that place.

Under Land and Property – Indexes, there is the index for the Oregon and Washington donation land claims, which is found in a book, microfiche or microfilm; listed by numbers needed to order those items. An index is key to knowing which items to order from the next section. Books may not be ordered, but can be utilized when working in the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Under Land and Property, numbers 2 and 3 will provide the largest collections.

Number 2, Oregon and Washington donation land files, 1851-1903, 108 microfilm reels. Number 3, Land records, 1844-1942, Land Office, 96 microfilm reels listed by locations. The other items found under these two topics in the state collection, as well as the other topics, should be reviewed in conducting research. This long list of topics may seem overwhelming, but they represent the wealth of information available in the catalog.

Now we move on to the individual county collections, and access Clackamas County. Since most land records are held on the county level, this is an important place to search.

**Oregon, Clackamas - Land and property - Indexes (1)**

Clackamas County, index to land abstracts: in the library of the Clackamas Co. Family History Soc., author: Clackamas County Family History Society (Oregon)

**Oregon, Clackamas - Land and property (11)**

1. Land laws and early settlers of Oregon: map and genealogical data of pioneer families of township 3 south, range 1 east, Willamette Meridian, Oregon, author: Canby Historical Society (Oregon)

2. Land laws and early settlers of Oregon: map and genealogical data of pioneer families of township 4 south, range 1 east, Willamette Meridian, Oregon

3. Land laws and early settlers of Oregon: map and genealogical data of pioneer families of Township 5 South, Range 1 East, Willamette Meridian, Oregon

4. Mortgages, 1855-1889; indexes, 1850-1910, Clackamas County, Oregon, author: Clackamas County (Oregon). County Recorder

5. Record of chattel mortgages, Clackamas County, Oregon, 1886-1901, author: Clackamas County (Oregon). County Recorder

6. Miscellaneous chattel mortgages of Clackamas County, Oregon, 1864-1961, author: Clackamas County (Oregon). County Recorder

7. Chattel mortgages, 1893-1901; indexes, 1893-1923, Clackamas County, Oregon, author: Clackamas County (Oregon). County Recorder

8. Deeds, 1855-1917; indexes, 1850-1911, Clackamas County, Oregon, author: Clackamas County (Oregon). County Recorder

9. Mining claims, 1875-1927, Clackamas County, Oregon, author: Clackamas County (Oregon). County Clerk

10. Land records, Clackamas County, Oregon, 1850, author: Clackamas County (Oregon). County Clerk

11. Old age pension mortgages, Clackamas County, Oregon, 1934-1939, author: Clackamas County (Oregon). County Clerk

Under Land and Property, numbers 4 and 8 will provide the largest collections.

Number 4, Mortgages, 1855-1889; indexes, 1850-1910, Clackamas County, Oregon, 5 microfilm reels. These include both direct and indirect indexes.

Number 8, Deeds, 1855-1917; indexes, 1850-1911, Clackamas County, Oregon, 59 microfilm reels. At the beginning are 13 microfilms of indexes for this collection, which may repeat the above collection or they may be for different types of records. Comparing the microfilm or microfiche numbers should clarify this.

Finally we examine the records for a city or town, focusing on Oregon City.

**Oregon, Clackamas, Oregon City-Land and property (3)**

1. Docket and abstracts of Oregon City lots, 1850, author: United States. Land Office (Oregon)

2. Abstracts of Oregon donation land claims, 1852-1903, author: United States. General Land Office (Oregon)

3. Oregon donation land claims of Ingalls, availability: Online

Number 2 has the largest collection, 7 microfilm reels. These may be different from the collection found under the county listings; comparing the microfilm or microfiche numbers should clarify this. Occasionally in the catalog there will be the following note for a listing in red letters: To view a digital version of this article click here. That is a wonderful sign, as there is instant access to this item.

When ordering microfilm or microfiche the costs can add up quickly. If you are able to research at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, it is important to plan the agenda before going there, making a list of the records to be reviewed. It can help to focus on a type of record in a particular location. On one visit I was able to utilize 200 microfilms, researching in deed indexes and actual documents, for one surname. I located fifty deeds in Middlesex County, Massachusetts, three in Maine, and six in Iowa. At the cost of ordering the microfilms for use in our local Family History Center (FHC), not unreasonable in some cases, I more than covered the cost of my trip.

If you need assistance in utilizing familysearch.org there is wonderful help at the local FHC, through the help section, online chat, or calling a service missionary at 1-866-406-1830 available 24/7. Be aware that the online viewer you use may affect the functionality of the website. AOL does not work as well as Internet Explorer. Some online images may only be viewed at the local FHC. Check out familysearch.org and have some fun. These land records, as well as other types of records, may be the key to removing the brick walls in your family history research.

## Glossary of Land Terms

Judith Beaman Scott

It is quite common to find deeds and patents with confusing terminology. Passages like

“do bargain, grant, sell, alien and enfeoff to \_ his heirs and assigns forever ...”

The following definitions are to help you to understand the documents you read.

**Alien:** To convey or transfer property from one person to another.

**Aliquot Parts:** A notation used by the rectangular survey system to represent the exact subdivision of a section of land. Aliquot parts are described as a half or quarter of the largest subdivision of the section.

**Appurtenance:** A right, privilege, or improvement belonging to and passing with a piece of property when it is conveyed. Something attached to the land, for example, buildings or orchards.

**Assign:** Someone to whom a right or property is legally assigned (sold or transferred).

**Arpent:** An old French unit of area equal to about one acre.

**Bargain:** A contract or agreement between two parties, the one to sell goods or lands, and the other to buy them.

**Bargain and sale deed:** Conveys real property but offers no warranties of title to the grantee.

**Baseline:** The true east-west line (on a parallel of latitude) extending from an initial point in both directions. From this line are initiated other lines for the Cadastral Survey of the public lands.

**Bounty land:** Grants of land offered by a government as an incentive or a reward for military service.

**Cadastral Survey:** A survey to define the boundaries and subdivisions of the U.S. public lands.

**Chattel:** Personal property - livestock and furniture, for example.

**Consideration:** The money (or other property) used to purchase land.

**Convey:** To transfer property or the title to property from one person to another.

**Conveyance:** The instrument, such as a deed, by which

title to real property is transferred.

**Corner:** A point, on a boundary of land, at which two or more boundary lines meet.

**Covenant:** Restrictions imposed on the grantee as to the use of the land conveyed.

**Deed:** A document which transfers title to real property.

**Deed of trust:** A transfer of property to someone to be held in trust for another. Deeds of trust are used in a number of states instead of a mortgage to secure a loan. The deed of trust names the trustees in whom title is placed as security against failure to meet the terms of the loan.

**Demesne:** Possession of land as one's own.

**Demise:** Generally a transfer of an estate, especially by lease.

**Devise:** A transfer of real property by will.

**Dower:** A wife's interest in her husband's estate during her lifetime.

**Encumbrance:** Any right to or interest in land which makes it subject to a charge or liability. (Mortgages, liens, attachments, leases, inchoate rights of dower, etc.)

**Enfeoff:** To invest with an estate held in fee. A transfer of property that gives the grantee the right to sell the land and pass it on to his heirs.

**Enfeoffment (Feoffment):** A deed or legal document giving ownership in fee.

**Entail:** To create a fee tail, an estate of inheritance in real property which cannot be sold, devised by will, or otherwise alienated by the owner, but which passes by law to the owner's heirs upon his death.

**Escheat:** Reversion of property to the state when there is no one available to inherit.

**Escrow:** A writing, deed, money, stock, or other property delivered by the grantor, into the hands of a third person to be held by the latter until the happening of a contingency or performance of a condition and then delivered to the grantee.

**Fee:** An estate of inheritance clear of any condition or restriction to particular heirs, but descendible to the heirs in general, male or female, lineal or collateral. In

American law, the terms “fee,” “fee simple” and “fee simple absolute” are equivalent.

**Fee simple:** Ownership of land that can be inherited by any heirs.

**Fee tail:** Ownership of land restricted to a specified class of heirs, generally direct descendants.

**Field notes:** The official written record of the survey, which is certified by the field surveyor and approved by proper authority.

**Freeholder:** Usually a land owner; however, in Virginia it was also applied to persons who did not own land but had large personal assets. Usually only freeholders could vote, hold office or serve on a jury.

**French Long Lot:** An elongated lot that occurs outside the Public Land System on lands that were occupied prior to survey and established by the French explorers and traders. These lots are generally elongated and run perpendicular to a body of water, such as a river.

**General Land Office:** Established in 1812, the agency which was responsible for the execution of the public land laws. It was abolished in 1946 when it merged the United States Grazing Service and became the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

**Grant:** Royal, colonial, federal, state land grants; a grant consisted of a warrant which authorized the lands to be laid out and surveyed and a patent or title to the property issued.

**Grantee:** The person receiving a grant, or buying property.

**Grantor:** The person issuing the grant, or selling the property.

**Heir at law:** Person legally entitled to inherit real estate when there is no will or any land not specifically bequeathed, often the eldest son in the colonial era.

**Homestead Entry:** An entry under the United States land laws for the purpose of acquiring title to a portion of the public domain under the homestead laws.

**Homestead Entry Survey:** A metes and bounds survey entered under the Act of June 11, 1906 as amended.

**Headright:** A colonial system of land patents, in which immigrants were entitled to 50 acres of land apiece. Frequently the person paying passage claimed the headright, which could be sold or assigned to others. Most common in 17th century Virginia, with limited use in other colonies.

**Inchoate:** Imperfect, partial, unfinished; as in a contract

not executed by all the parties.

**Hereditament:** Anything that can be inherited.

**Indefeasible Estate:** An estate that cannot be changed under any circumstances.

**Indenture:** A written agreement to convey interest in real property.

**Infant:** Person under legal age, generally 21.

**Issue:** Direct descendants.

**Joint Tenancy:** Ownership by two or more people, with rights of survivorship.

**Lease and Release:** A practice equivalent to a sale accomplished by a two step process of leasing the property in question to the buyer, then releasing the buyer of the lease obligation. A lease of land from owner to leasee who then has possession and use of the property and the owner is “seized”, unable to sell the land. Then leasee can get a “release” of the land, which under can only be made to the person in possession, often immediately the leasee is granted release (for an addition sum ) for “livery in seisin”, full title to the land.

**Lien:** A claim, encumbrance, or charge on property for payment of some debt, obligation or duty.

**Life Estate:** An estate whose duration is limited to the life of the party holding it or the life of some other person. Upon the death of the life tenant the property will go to the holder of the remainder interest or to the grantor by reversion.

**Livery:** Delivery of ownership.

**Livery of Seisen:** Often meaning possession has taken place.

**Metes and Bounds:** A perimeter description of a parcel of land by citing the owners of adjoining lands, survey lines consisting of a direction and a distance (S20E 100 poles), and descriptions of natural features such as trees and creeks along the boundaries with particular attention to markers at the corners.

**Mesne Conveyance:** Pronounced “mean”. A conveyance occupying an intermediate position in a chain of title between the first grantee and the present holder.

**Military Warrant:** An authorization to obtain public lands as a reward for military service.

**Orphan:** An infant whose father died.

**Parcel:** A contiguous area of land described in a single description in a deed or as one of a number of lots on a plat; separately owned, and capable of being separately conveyed.

**Patent:** Transfer of title from the government to the first titleholder of a piece of property.

**Plat:** A map, drawn to scale, showing the divisions of a piece of land.

**Primogeniture:** The right, by law or custom, of the eldest son to inherit the entire estate.

**Range:** A row or tier of townships lying east or west of the principal meridian and numbered successively to the east and to the west from the principal meridian.

**Quit Claim Deed:** A form of conveyance whereby whatever interest the grantor possesses in the property described in the deed is conveyed to the grantee without warranty of title.

**Rectangular Survey System:** A system inaugurated by the Continental Congress on May 20, 1785, for the survey of the public lands of the United States. The big 24-mile rectangles are called tracts. Tracts are each divided into 16 townships. Townships are divided into sections which are divided into half-sections and quarter-sections. Half-sections and quarter-sections are divided and further subdivided into halves and quarters.

**Release:** To relinquish a right to an interest in real property.

**Relect:** Widow.

**Serial Patent:** Beginning in July 1908 with Serial Patent Number 1, serial patents were assigned numbers consecutively, regardless of State, and filed numerically.

**Seised/Seized:** Legally owning and possessing real property.

**Seisin/Seizin:** Having title and possession of real property-ownership in fee simple.

**Survey:** The process of recording observations, making measurements, and marking the boundaries of tracts of lands.

**Tenancy in Common:** A specific type of concurrent, or simultaneous, ownership of real property by two or more parties.

**Tenement:** Any structure on real property; everything of a permanent nature on real property.

**Township:** A major subdivision of public lands under the rectangular system of surveys. Most townships are 4-sided, measuring approximately 6 miles on each side and containing approximately 36 square miles, or 23,040 acres.

**Tract:** A piece of land. A parcel.

**Trust Deed:** A way to structure real estate purchases, where the title to a property is held in trust until the loan for the property is paid.

**Warrant:** A governmental order authorizing some action. An arrest warrant instructs a sheriff to arrest someone. A land warrant instructs a state to issue land to someone.

**Warranty deed:** A type of deed where the grantor (seller) guarantees that he or she holds clear title to a piece of real estate and has a right to sell it to the grantee (buyer).

(Sources)

1. "Basic American Land Terminology", rootsweb.com. <http://rwguide.rootsweb.ancestry.com/lesson29a.htm>
2. Black's Law dictionary First Edition. <http://www.blacks.worldfreemansociety.org/1/index.htm>
3. Bureau of Land Management; General Land Office Records Glossary. [http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/reference/default.aspx?id=05\\_Appendices|01\\_Glossary](http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/reference/default.aspx?id=05_Appendices|01_Glossary)
4. Legal Term Dictionary. LegalAdvice.com, [http://www.legaladvice.com/law\\_dictionary](http://www.legaladvice.com/law_dictionary)
5. "Legal Terms in Land Records" <http://www.directlinesoftware.com/legal.htm>
6. The Free Dictionary. <http://www.thefreedictionary.com/>

## Third Place Winner 2012 GFO Writing Contest

### My Father, The Dove

Cynthia M.B. Drayer

My father was born 4/13/1912 in Los Angeles, CA, two days before the "Titanic" sank.<sup>1,2</sup> It was a home birth on Pepper St., and he originally was put into the bible records as Jesse Linden Drayer.<sup>1</sup> But when he applied for his social security number in 1941, his name became Jesse Lyndon Drayer<sup>3</sup>, "Lyn" for short. His mom, Estella Alberta (Markwith) Drayer had 6 children, but her last one died as an infant of Whooping Cough.<sup>1</sup> She never recovered, and in the 1920's she was admitted to a mental institution. When my father visited her at the institution when he was 8, she did not recognize him. It would forever fill him with sadness and change his life. She would live there for the next 40 years, until her death in 1962.<sup>4</sup> My dad's father was also named Jesse, and he worked as a Cable Car Conductor in Los Angeles.

Jesse could not raise the 5 boys on his own, so family members from Ohio tried to come out and help. He had three sisters, Mary (Drayer) Kurtz, and twins Arabell Drayer and Minnie (Drayer) Albright,<sup>5</sup> and they all wanted to take care of the boys, but this did not work



Jesse Drayer, Estella (Markwith) Drayer, Robert Emerson Drayer, Herman Sylvester Drayer, Paul James Drayer, William (Laddie) Drayer and Jesse Lyndon Drayer

out. The older boys, Paul and Robert ("Bob") left home, although minor teens, and obtained work. My father, his older brother Herman, and his younger brother William ("Laddie") were placed into the McKinley Industrial Home for Boys in Gardena, CA, for a few years. The close bond that these three boys created while there would last a life time. Herman was always taking care of his two younger brothers, and later their descendants.<sup>6</sup>

The Depression was hard. You found work where ever you could. Dad worked in the WPA for the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, which brought water in from Lake Havasu on the California/Arizona border to Southern Los Angeles. A lot of the work was in the Colorado and Mojave Deserts<sup>7</sup> and he would sweat so much that he poured water out of his boots at the end of the day. He had to take salt tablets to keep from dying and he always said that this was why his hairline was so far up in his forehead.

He grew up into a very handsome young man. He loved to play golf, and even much later in life he continued to participate in this sport. Another job of his was to distribute flyers for the Palomar Ballroom in Los Angeles, CA. He was arrested only one time in his life for distributing these flyers, and was a witness to the brutal treatment of another cell mate by the police. The Palomar had the famous big bands of the era, Glen Miller, Tommy Dorsey, Benny Goodman, and many dance contests.<sup>8</sup> While he was watching one of the contestants, the gentleman dropped his young lady on the floor, and he noticed her. Three weeks later he married Aline Helen (Causkey) Harrington in Ventura Mission, Ventura, CA, on 7/24/1937.<sup>9</sup>

Uncle Herman allowed them to live in a back apartment at his residence. My dad and mom both got work at the Southern Telephone and Telegraph Company in Los Angeles, CA. Aline was an operator and Lyn was a lineman. He helped a lot of famous people get telephone service. He would brag that he had been in Elizabeth Taylor's bedroom. Of course it was to set up a



telephone line. In the elevator he was often mistaken for Johnny Carson and Clark Gable. It was because of this job that the next segment of his life began.

WWII began for the USA in 1941, and many of the brothers became active members. Uncle Bob had already been in the Merchant Marines and began service right away as a Warrent Officer in the Army.<sup>10</sup> Uncle Laddie became an accountant in an Army Barracks.<sup>11</sup> My dad Lyn was drafted into the 999th Signal Corps because of his work in the telephone company. Because everyone else in the company were much younger than Lyn (he was 32), he was called the “Old Man”. Most of the men in the 999th had dealings in their previous personal lives with telephones, radio, T.V., and movie companies. Dad use to chuckle that there was even a young man who worked for NBC, but it happened to be an Army mistake for he had worked for the Nabisco Biscuit Company, not the National Broadcasting Company. Lyn had training in Georgia and then he was shipped overseas to England. In all of the years of his service, he only got to visit with his wife one time. His company went from England to France on D-6, 5 days after D-Day. He saw the devastation, death and destruction from the conflict. They set up the first direct phone line from France to Washington D.C. instead of having to go through England or a ship at sea. He had some fond memories of the Eiffel Tower and getting wine and cheese from a French cellar. But then there were also the memories of the rain and mud as you camped outside, and of a friend dying from a land mine. They traveled from France to Germany, where he witnessed from the top of a building he was guarding the “Battle of the Bulge”. Eventually he traveled from Germany, to Belgium, back to England, and then to the US.<sup>12</sup> His experience on the battlefield made a deep impression on his perception of War.

On June 3, 1948, a miracle happened. Aline gave birth to a daughter, Donna Aline Drayer.<sup>13</sup> Although she had been told that she could not have children (and after 12 years of marriage they both thought this was true), Donna came into their lives. As a family man, and now part of the “baby boomer” age, he began to struggle to find a job that would financially help him. Herman had already been working for years with S.W. Farber, selling Farberware (stainless steel pots and pans) and was now the Vice President. His territory was west of the Mississippi. He needed men to help him sell Farberware to new stores that were starting up so Lyn went to work for his brother as a NW Representative for S.W. Faber. He had the states of Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Alaska and part of Montana. Living in California was no longer possible; they would have to move, but to which state?



While they were waiting to determine how Lyn would fulfill his new job, the family decided that they wanted to have another child join them through adoption. Lyn and Aline were already in their 40's, and no adoption agency in the 1950's would take their application. However, the Doctor that delivered Donna, and the Doctor that delivered me, knew of the young teen mom who had given birth and needed to give up her baby. I was born April 6, 1953 in Los Angeles, to my then 14 year old mother,



Jesse Lyndon Drayer in the Army, 1942

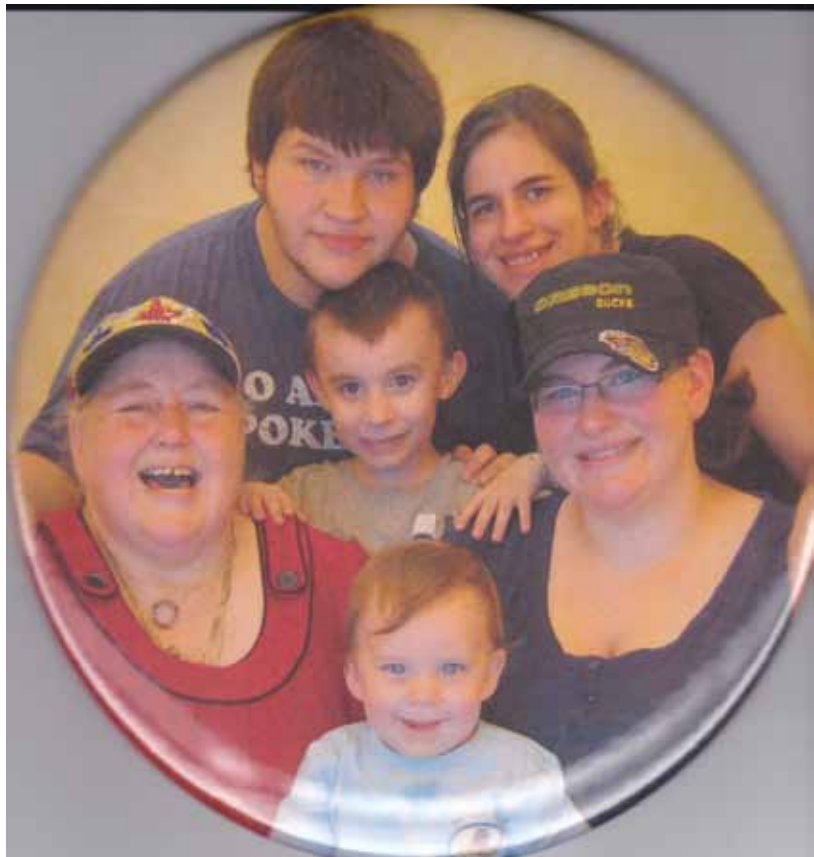


Jorene (Schuckman) Martain.<sup>14</sup> At the age of almost 2 years we soon moved to Portland, Oregon, and I was adopted by the Drayer's.<sup>15,16</sup>

The years went by quickly, and my dad became a successful salesman. Farberware was a good quality brand and had good sales. As I grew up I helped my dad with brochures and inventory. It was fun. He even had his office in my bedroom for a while, until we added a den onto our home. As I became more familiar with elections and whether someone was a Democrat or a Republican, I realized that my father and mother were considered Democrats and they were voting for people like John F. Kennedy to be President. My mother's side was Irish and my family was Roman Catholic, so Kennedy represented an important breakthrough. In attending the celebration for Martin Luther King Day, I have come to realize that he was also important to the black population because of his stand on civil rights. When he was killed in 1963, it was horrible for the nation, and it was horrible for our family, and it was horrible for me. It was the first time I saw my father cry.

I often wondered why my dad never took us camping. My friend Sandy across the street went camping and fishing with her dad, and I would go with them. But my dad never went camping. So I asked him one day why and he said "I had enough of camping in the war". It was the first time I had really thought about how hard it must have been for him, and the miserable conditions he must have suffered for weeks on end. I began to realize that war had impacted my dad in a lot of ways, including his belief about war itself.

My dad was a prominent business man, who was a Democrat (when most were Republicans), and who did not believe in War as an answer to the World's problems. During the time of Eugene McCarthy and Robert F. Kennedy there was quite a movement for PEACE. The Peace sign was all over. The Republicans called it "Chicken Tracks" and the Democrats called it the "Dove". It meant something to everyone, either negative or positive. Certainly it seemed to be a symbol that was worn mostly by young people called "hippies".<sup>17</sup> In 1969 my father went to a convention of fellow sales people



From top, clockwise: Michael Moreci, Rachel Pierce, Marie (Schneider) Pierce, Jacob Pierce, Cynthia Drayer and in the center, Joshua Pierce. 2011, Oregon State Fair, Salem, OR

with his company. He was 57. In attendance were the upper rich and owners of the company with the salesmen who made the company great. It was one of the biggest events that had ever been thrown, and everyone was in their best attire. My father was there, with his suit, and his tie, and his shiny shoes and his hat ... and his PEACE SIGN, hanging from his neck. He knew from his own experiences how difficult, and how deadly, war really was, and he did not believe that it was the answer to any problems. For him this was his "war medal".

I truly admired my father for taking a stand when it was not a popular one with his fellow coworkers. I like to think that I have followed in his foot steps by being an advocate for peace through diplomacy rather than by War.

(Footnotes)

1. Drayer Bible Records, page: Family Record, hand written

record of the children born to Jesse and Estella Alberta (Markwith) Drayer - Originally from Uncle Herman Drayer, Whittier, CA. to Niece, Cynthia Marie Drayer in 1985 and in her possession in Portland, Oregon. The bible itself was destroyed. Lists Jesse Linden Drayer, born 4/13/1912. Also lists the last born son and death date, 1916 of Henderson/David Drayer

2. Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia - RMS Titanic - sank 4/15/1912

3. California Vital Records, Notorized and sworn statement by Jesse Drayer of the births of his 5 living children, including Jesse Lyndon Drayer, born 4/13/1912 - submitted 1/6/1941

4. State of California, Department of Health Services - Death Certificate #62-076452 - Estelle A. Drayer, Modesto State Hospital, Modesto, CA, 7/21/1962

5. Ancestry.com: 1880 Federal Census, ED167, 6/23/1880, Jackson Twp., Montgomery Co., OH, pg. 84, line11-17 - listing all children of Daniel Sylvester and Joanna (Templin) Drayer.

6. Six letters written by Herman Sylvester Drayer to his father Jesse Drayer from the McKinley Industrial Home for Boys in Gardena, CA. Covering a period from 1/2/1923 through 6/1/1924. Transcribed by Cynthia M.B. Drayer on 7/21/2003

7. Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia - Colorado River Aqueduct - it was the largest public works project in southern California during the Great Depression - The aqueduct impounds water from the Colorado River at Lake Havasu on the California - Arizona border west across the Mojave and Colorado deserts to the east side of the Santa Anna Mountains. It is one of the primary sources of drinking water for Southern California.

8. Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia - Palomar Ballroom - The Palomar Ballroom, built in 1925, was a famous ballroom in Los Angeles, California - On August 21, 1935, Benny Goodman began his first Palomar engagement that marked the start of the swing era. - The ballroom hosted popular bands including those led by Tommy Dorsey, Glenn Miller, Artie Shaw, Glen Gray, Jimmy Dorsey and Kay Kyser, among others

9. Ventura County Marriage Records, 1929-1940 - transcribed and indexed by Ventura County Genealogical Society, Grooms 1920-1940 D, Drayer, Jesse Lyndon; Harrington, Aline Helen 24 Jul 1937, Bk 40:140

10. Ancestry.com: US World War II Army Enlistment Records, 1938-1946; Robert E. Drayer

11. Ancestry.com: US World War II Army Enlistment Records; 1938-1946; Laddie W. Drayer

12. National Personnel Records Center, St. Louis, MO - Enlisted Record and Report of Separation, Honorable Discharge, Jesse L. Drayer Serial #39-272-152, Tec 4, Sig. C., 999th Sig. Serv. Co.; 12/21/1942-22/29/1945; w/ Report of Physical Examination and Induction and Enlistment Record Booklet

13. Family Tree Legends, California Births, 1905-1995; Drayer, Donna Aline, 6/3/1948, Los Angeles, CA

14. Original Birth Certificate - State of California, Department of Health Services - Certificate of Live Birth, #53-054038, Cynthia Marie Martain, 4/6/1953, Queen of Angels Hospital, Los Angeles, CA. Father = Frank Martain; Mother = Jorene

Mary Schuckman

15. Adoption Birth Certificate - State of California, Department of Health Services - Certificate of Live Birth - #53-054038, Cynthia Marie Drayer, 4/6/1953, Los Angeles, CA. Father = Jesse Lyndon Drayer; Mother = Aline Helen Harrington

16. In the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for the County of Multnomah, Department of Domestic Relations #A9314, Degree of Adoption, dated 11/29/1955; Cynthia Marie Martain to Cynthia Marie Drayer

17. Sign of the Times; 2/15/2008, discussion of the Peace Symbol and Washington Peace Center, Peace Symbol says Hope: Icon Turns 50 by Kevin Brooker

Stories from the GFO writing contest are presented as written, with no editing.

### “Echoes from an Album” The 2013 GFO Writing Contest

**Why enter?** You may never get around to writing down your family stories!

**The GFO Writing Contest encourages you to:**

- Write an engaging story that future generations will enjoy

- Base your story on good, sound research.

**Requirements:**

Piece must be written to the theme: “Echoes from an Album” – a factual story based on photographs capturing your family’s past.

Length — 2000 to 5000 words.

Documentation in the form of endnotes or footnotes is required.

Submitted between November 1, 2012 and February 1, 2013.

Attend GFO’s Writers’ Forum or other writing group, for feedback on your writing.

Read Sharon Carmack’s *You Can Write Your Family History* (Cincinnati, Ohio: Betterway Books, 2003).

For citing sources: Elizabeth Shown Mills, *Evidence Explained* (Baltimore, Maryland: Genealogical Publishing Company, 2007).

Both books available at the GFO.

See the GFO website for more information. <http://www.gfo.org/writingcontest/index.htm> or contact Peggy Baldwin at [peggy@familypassages.com](mailto:peggy@familypassages.com)

## Educate Yourself

### Underused Microfilm and Microfiche at the GFO

Jennie Barnitz, Gerry Lenzen and Susan Olsen LeBlanc, AG

Some of the most underused resources at the Genealogical Forum of Oregon are the microfilm and microfiche collections. Do you know where to find them? Have you searched for them in the catalog? Recently, after completing a search of a microfilm, I decided to inventory the microfilm and microfiche collections for Oregon. The films are located in cabinets in two areas of the GFO, both towards the back of the facility. There are two microfilm readers and one for microfiche, with scanners that can either save the image to a flash drive or print copies. Five sets of these collections have an online index searchable at the GFO website and are indicated below.

Here is what you will find in the cabinets in the far back left corner of the GFO for the state of Oregon:

#### Drawer #1 Oregon

1850-1870 Census  
1850-1880 Mortality and Special Schedules  
1880-1900 Soundex and Census  
1890 Civil War Veterans Schedule, 6,467 Oregon records indexed.

1910 Soundex A-H200

#### Drawer #2 Oregon

1910 Soundex H200-end  
1910 Census

#### Drawer #3 Oregon

1920 Soundex and Census, 1930 Census  
Territorial Papers  
Oregon News (clippings by WPA)  
Naturalization

#### Drawer #4 Oregon

WWI Draft Registrations, 179,758 Oregon records indexed.  
Marriage Index 1906-1925, 1946, 1960, 1966-1970  
Divorce Index 1946-1970  
Death Index 1903-1970

#### Drawer #5 Oregon

Oregon & California Railroad Plat Books  
Oregon Plat Books  
Oregon Tract Books 1-75

#### Drawer #6 Oregon

Oregon Tract Books 76-79  
Oregon Donation Land Files, 7,373 claims indexed.  
Coos and Curry County Cemetery Records  
Linn County Marriage Records

Marion County Death Index

Drawer #7 Oregon, Multnomah County

Assessment and Taxation Records

Casualties (Shipwreck)

Coroner, Dental, Power of Attorney Records

Foreign Voter Registration

Marriage Licenses

Military Records

Department Records and Elections 1855-1929

1895 State Census for Multnomah County

Portland Vital Records, Death Certificates 12,522 records indexed.

Drawer #8 Oregon, Multnomah County

Land Plats

Direct and Indirect Deed Indexes

Deed Records 1849-1889

Drawer #9 Oregon, Multnomah County

Deed Records 1889-1928

P.S. Deeds 1929-1930

Drawer #10 Oregon, Multnomah County

P.S. Deeds 1930-1937

Drawer #11 Oregon, Multnomah County

P.S. Deeds 1937-1943

Drawer #12 Oregon, Multnomah County

P.S. Deeds 1943-1946

These microfilms are continued in the cabinets on the wall on the right side of GFO, towards the middle of the library.

Drawer #13 Oregon, Multnomah County

P.S. Deeds 1946-1950

Drawer #14 Oregon, Multnomah County

P.S. Deeds 1950-1955

Drawer #15 Oregon, Multnomah County and Misc.

P.S. Deeds 1955-1959

Lien Dockets

Portland Oregonian (Newspaper) 11 Jan. 1943 – 15 Jan. 1943

Union County Deaths and Burials 1868-1974

Washington County Deeds

Washington County Honorable Discharge Index

Washington County Marriage Index 1842-1987

In an undetermined drawer: Register of Veterans at the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers in Roseburg, 1,556 entries indexed. This is found in book format on the shelf at the GFO.

A note about the P.S. Deeds: these appear to be a continuation of the Multnomah County, Deeds dated from 1849 to 1928, with the P.S. Deeds dated from 1929 to 1959. This collection contains 869 microfilms according to the Oregon State Archives information page, but the contents may vary. This page lists many other Oregon state land records resources and is found at: <http://www.sos.state.or.us/archives/pages/records/local/county/multnomah/inv/deed.html>

Gerry Lenzen is in the process of updating the research guide for the Oregon Donation Land Claims, which will be available on the website upon completion.

In the microfiche cabinet next to the reader in the back area of the GFO include:

Drawer #1

Family Histories, 929.2  
 Census of 1790/1850 for Park/e/s, Park/e/s Society Newsletter, 929.4  
 British Isles Genealogical Register 1994, 941.0016  
 Towns and Townlands of Ireland, 941.05  
 Cornwall Family History Directory of Members Interest, 942  
 Devon Family History Society Members and Interest Group 1997, 942 D499  
 Register of One-Name Studies 1996, 942 G955  
 Wharfedale Family History Group Members Interest Directory 1997, 942 W552  
 Family History News and Digest, 942.005, F 293F  
 Cornwell Family History Society 1993 Directory of Members Interests, 942.37 006 C821  
 U.S. Publisher Catalog 01/1996, 973 A538  
 Out of Print Books and Author Guide, 973.016  
 Genealogical Helper Vol. 1, No. 1 to Vol. 37, No., 6, 973.05  
 Genealogical Helper Vol. 37, No. 2 – Vol. 40, No., 6, 973.05  
 Results of Researchers Among the British Archives for Information Relative to Founders of New England and Made In Years 1858-1860, 974.0016  
**Maine** - 1890 Maine Census of Civil War Veterans or Their Widows, 974.1  
**Vermont** – Springfield, Vermont City Directory 1930; Birthplace of Vermont and a History of Windsor to 1781; Vermont Land Grants 1749-1803: Vermont Charter and New Hampshire Land Grants; 974.3  
**Massachusetts**- Bourne and Falmouth, Mass. Directory 1903; Crosby's Andover and North Andover, Mass. Director 1930-1931; Beverly, Mass. City Directory 1930; Holyoke, Mass. City Directory 1930; Lothrop's Arlington, Mass. Directory 1930; Brockton, Mass. Directory 1884; Union Concord, Mass. City Directory 1913, 1917; Bridgewater, Mass. Directory 1930;

Brockton, Mass. Directory 1882; Brockton-Bridgewater, Mass. Directory 1878-1879; Concord, Mass. City Directory 1880; Brockton, Mass. Directory 1930; Boston, Mass. Directory 1923; Clinton, Mass. Directory 1874, 1879-1880; Fitchburg, Mass. Suburban Directory 1906-1907, 1938, 1940, 1942-1943; Boston, Mass. 1855; Bibliographic Mass. Vital Records; Mass. Death Index 1841-1895; Mass. Vital Records to 1850; 974.4

**Connecticut**- Genealogical Questions and Answer Page, Hartford Times, 1940-1956, 974.63

**New York**- Index to Courts and Lawyers of New York, 1609 –1925; Calendar of Wills,, New York, 1626-1836; 1890 New York Census Index of Civil War Veterans or Their Widows, 974.7

**Pennsylvania**- Penn. East 1870 Census Index, 874.8

**Delaware**- 1860 Delaware Census Index, 975.1

**Maryland**- Tidewater, Maryland History; Land Office and Prerogative Court Records of Colonial Maryland, 975.2

Washington, D.C., 1860 D.C. Census Index, 975.3

**Virginia**- History and Genealogy Records, 975.5

Drawer #2

**South Carolina**- Census Index 1869, History, 975.7

**Georgia**- 1870 Census; Pension List of All Wars From Revolution to 1883, 975.8

**Florida**- 1860 Florida Census Index; 1870 Florida Census Index, 975.9

**Louisiana**- Tombstone Inscriptions; 1890 Census Index of Civil War Veterans or Their Widows, 976.3

**Texas**- 1890 Texas Census Index of Civil War Veterans or Their Widows, 976.4

**Arkansas**- Territory of Arkansas 1830 Census Index, 976.7

**Tennessee** Records- 976.8

**Kentucky**- 1890 Census Index of Civil War Veterans or Their Widows, 976.9

**Michigan** Southern and Northern Indiana Railroad Business Gazetteer; The Western Gazetteer or Emigrants Directory, 977

**Indiana** Records- 977.2

**Illinois**- Census Returns 1810, 977.3

**Michigan**- Census Index of Civil War Veterans or Their Widows, 977.4

**Minnesota**- 1890 Census Index of Civil War Veterans or Their Widows, 977.6

**Iowa**- Warren County Iowa Records, 977.7

**Missouri**- Stone County, Early Marriages 1851-1990; Missouri State Archives Records, 977.8

**Kansas**- Centennial 1860-1960 Cottonwood Monthly Meeting & Early Meeting of Friends, 978.1

**Utah**- 1856 Census Index, 979.2

**Nevada**- 1910 Nevada Census Index, 979.3

Boston Transcripts, 929.024  
 Drawer #3  
 Library Association of Portland Newspaper Index 979.5-996.9  
**California-** Records 979.4  
**Oregon-** Death, Divorce, Marriage Index 979.5  
 Misc. Church Indices  
 Genealogical Forum of Oregon Bulletins  
**Washington-** Skamania Co. Records of Wills to 1892 979.7  
**Alaska,** Divorce Index 2001-2005 979.8  
 Drawer #4 BLM Field Notes TIS RIE – T41S R224E

Drawer #5 BLM Field Notes TIS RIE – T25S R50E  
 Drawer #6 BLM Surveyor Notes T3S RIW – T32S R16W; BLM or OLC Township Claims  
 Drawer #7 BLM SW Washington Surveyor Field Notes Range 1-223

You will save yourself a lot of time and money by taking advantage of these resources. There are also drawers with films from almost every state and then some. The research assistants are extremely helpful in teaching how to use the films, fiche and equipment. Make yourself a list of the ones that you need to check out and visit the GFO.

### A Selection of Online Sources for State Land States

**Georgia:** Georgia's Virtual Vault: <http://cdm.sos.state.ga.us:8888/>. Includes Colonial and Headright Plat Index, etc. FamilySearch images of "Georgia, Headright and Bounty Land Records, 1783-1909." [https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Georgia\\_Headright\\_and\\_Bounty\\_Land\\_Records\\_](https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Georgia_Headright_and_Bounty_Land_Records_)

**Kentucky:** All patents issued in Kentucky, including those issued by Virginia are in the Kentucky Land Office. <http://sos.ky.gov/land>

**Maine:** Images of "Collections from the Maine State Archives", including land and other record sets available on the FamilySearch website, <https://familysearch.org>.

**Maryland:** MDLandRec.Net A Digital Image Retrieval System for Land Records in Maryland. <http://mdlandrec.net/msa/stagser/s1700/s1741/cfm/index.cfm>

**New Hampshire:** Various colonial records online. See the familysearch wiki for location.

[https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/New\\_Hampshire\\_Land\\_and\\_Property](https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/New_Hampshire_Land_and_Property)

**New Jersey:** Proprietary Warrants and Surveys, 1670-1727 <https://www.net1.state.nj.us/DOS/Admin/ArchivesDB-Portal/NJProprietors.aspx>

**New York:** *Calendar of N. Y. colonial manuscripts*, O'Callaghan, Edmund Bailey, comp.

<http://archive.org/details/calendarofnycolo00alba>  
*Register of the Provincial Secretary 1638-1642* Translated by E.B. O'Callaghan <http://www.nnp.org/nncr/Documents/Register%20of%20the%20Provincial%20Secretary/files/vanlaersansx.pdf>

**North Carolina:** Basic North Carolina records search: <http://mars.archives.ncdcr.gov/BasicSearch.aspx>MARS

**Pennsylvania:** [http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/land\\_records/3184](http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/land_records/3184)

**South Carolina:** *Propriety Grants: Records of the Secretary of the Province 1671-1675*: <http://books.google.com/>

[books?id=k0TAAAAYAAJ&printsec=frontcover&dq=e Warrants For Lands In South Carolina, 1672-1711: http://books.google.com/books/about/Warrants\\_for\\_Lands\\_in\\_South\\_Carolina\\_1672-1711.html?id=7RoWAAAAYAAJ](http://books.google.com/books/about/Warrants_for_Lands_in_South_Carolina_1672-1711.html?id=7RoWAAAAYAAJ)

*South Carolina deed abstracts, 1719-1772, Volume 4.* Clara A. Langley search the book at: [http://books.google.com/books?id=Pcp4AAAAMAAJ&dq=David+Saussy&ie=ISO-8859-1&source=gbs\\_gdata](http://books.google.com/books?id=Pcp4AAAAMAAJ&dq=David+Saussy&ie=ISO-8859-1&source=gbs_gdata)

*South Carolina as a royal province, 1719-1776* William Roy Smith – 1903 free online at [http://books.google.com/ebooksop=add&id=5\\_II2mbG90C&uid=114584440181414684107&as\\_coll=7&prev=post&sig=ACfU3U3OU7JeJe9XbftFBBNMK5rXFq96qA&hl=enPlats](http://books.google.com/ebooksop=add&id=5_II2mbG90C&uid=114584440181414684107&as_coll=7&prev=post&sig=ACfU3U3OU7JeJe9XbftFBBNMK5rXFq96qA&hl=enPlats)

For State Land Grants 1784-1868: <http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/onlinearchives/Search.aspx?br=1>

**Tennessee:** North Carolina, the United States Territory South of the River Ohio, and Tennessee, all governed Tennessee. Information about Tennessee land issues: <http://www.tngenweb.org/tnland/index.html>.

Tennessee State Library and Archives has a index of individuals who received land grants. Email TSLA with the name of the individuals, and they will check the index for a listing. State of Tennessee, Comptroller of the Treasury search: <http://www.assessment.state.tn.us/SelectCounty.asp> Also see MARS search, North Carolina.

**Texas:** Over two million documents found online at <http://www.glo.texas.gov/cf/land-grant-search/index.cfm?surname>

**Vermont:** "Vermont, Land Records, Early to 1900." <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/show#uri=http://hr-search-api:8080/searchapi/search/collection/1409123>

**Virginia:** Patents and grants online at the Library of Virginia: [http://lva1.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/F/?func=file&file\\_name=findclas30&local\\_base=CLAS30](http://lva1.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/F/?func=file&file_name=findclas30&local_base=CLAS30)

**West Virginia:** At the Library of Virginia. See above.

## Written in Stone

### Mandana Major Thorp Civil War Nurse

Randol B. Fletcher

In her day, Mandana Thorp was an accomplished and nationally prominent woman. She recruited soldiers for the Union Army and when they marched off to war, she went with them. She was a wife and mother with a pioneer spirit as she pushed west to Michigan, Arizona Territory, and finally Oregon. She died in Portland nearly a hundred years ago and is buried in an unmarked grave at River View Cemetery.

Mandana Coleman Major was born in Almond, New York into a patriotic family on January 25, 1843. Her father was Col. John W. Major, the son of an Irish immigrant and one of the wealthiest landowners in the Karr Valley. The 1850 census valued the Majors' farm at nearly \$10,000. Col. Major earned his title serving in the New York Militia. Mandana's mother, the former Cyrene Rathbone, was from an old line Knickerbocker family and was a descendant of Revolutionary War soldier Moses Van Campen.

Photographs of a youthful Mandana show a lovely girl with dark hair parted down the middle and curled in long ringlets. She is clothed in a voluminous dress complete with cloak and bonnet, wearing gloves and holding an umbrella. The finery of her wardrobe was illustrative of the family's wealth as was the extravagance of sitting for a photographer. Mandana, the second of seven children, received an opportunity rarely provided to young women of her day – a college education. She was taught liberal arts at Alfred University which is located in Allegany County just 10 miles south of the Major farm. Alfred University had the double distinction of being one of the few coed colleges of its day; it was also racially integrated having admitted its first African American and Native American students in the 1850's.

In the second year of the Civil War, Gov. Edwin Morgan issued a call for two thousand men to be enlisted from the counties of western New York. The Union League held rallies throughout the region featuring marshal speeches from local orators and brass bands playing from platforms decorated in red white and blue. Miss Mandana Major sang at nearly every one of these events, her melodic voice and patriotic songs urging young men to volunteer. It was at these occasions that

Mandana became acquainted with Capt. Thomas Thorp, a dashing Union officer six years her senior.

Thorp was from nearby Granger, New York and had served with distinction in the 85th New York Infantry until wounded at the Battle of Fair Oaks. Dispatched home to recover from his wounds, Thorp was appointed recruiting officer and enlisted the volunteers inspired by the rallies. The sons of yeoman farmers from Allegany, Livingston, and Wyoming counties were mustered in to form the 130th and 136th New York infantry regiments.

Thorp was commissioned lieutenant colonel of the 130th. His men trained in Portage, New York and were to be sent to Virginia to join the VII Corps of the Army of the Potomac. Before the regiment shipped out, the soldiers formed in a hollow square on the banks of the Genesee River to witness the marriage of Lt. Col. Thorp to nineteen year old Mandana Major. The wedding was performed September 6, 1862 by Rev. Joel Wakeman of Almond who was also the captain of Company H. The Thorp's wedding photograph shows a seated bride with a seemingly sad face: Her bridegroom would depart for the war in the morning.

Mrs. Thorp was not content to remain at home and she made plans to join the regiment in the field. She made her way to the front lines and rendered service as a volunteer nurse providing comfort to the sick and tending wounded in camp and hospital the duration of the war.

The Civil War was hard on Mandana and cruel to the Thorp family. Her husband was wounded yet again, captured by the Confederates, and then made a miraculous escape by leaping from a moving train in the dark of night. Her husband's brother, Capt. Stephen Thorp an officer in the regiment, was killed at the Battle of Winchester. Another brother, Simeon Thorp, a Kansas state senator, had been murdered by Quantrill's Raiders at Lawrence. Through all the tragedy and triumph, Mandana Thorp remained at the side of the boys she had helped recruit and who had witnessed her wedding.

In the summer of 1863 the 130th New York was transferred to the cavalry and re-designated as the 1st New York Dragoons. Thomas Thorp was promoted to colonel and placed in command of the Dragoons

which were assigned to Gen. Sheridan's Army of the Shenandoah. Thorp led his horse soldiers in a gallant charge that smashed the enemy line at Cedar Creek and following Lee's surrender at Appomattox he was promoted to Brevet Brigadier General. The Dragoons had participated in 64 battles, capturing four enemy flags, 19 pieces of artillery, 21 caissons, and over 1500 prisoners.

The victorious Union Army was ordered to Washington D.C. where they were to march in a Grand Review before President Johnson and General Grant. The soldiers were issued new uniforms and on the morning of May 23, 1865 a lone cannon blast signaled the start of a parade which would span two days. Gen. George Meade, the victor of Gettysburg, led 80,000 men down Pennsylvania Avenue. The infantry marched 12 men abreast their bayonets glistening in the sun. Following the infantry were the guns and caissons of the artillery. Next came mounted cavalry whose columns stretched for seven miles. Leading the 1st New York Dragoons was Thomas J. Thorp, riding under a banner emblazoned with the single star of a brigadier general. Riding at the general's side under her own banner decorated with a full eagle, was a woman so beloved by the regiment she was granted that place of honor: The Angel of the Battlefield, Mandana Major Thorp.

Tom and Mandana Thorp returned to New York to begin married life and start a family. Restless after years of war, the couple headed west and were pioneers in northern Michigan. Mrs. Thorp was elected deputy clerk and register of deeds, one of the first women to hold public office in Michigan (or anywhere). Seemingly always on the move the Thorps established a sheep ranch in Arizona Territory east of Flagstaff. On the occasions when her husband was absent from home on business, Mrs. Thorp could be found armed with a Winchester rifle, standing guard over her flock. In the 1890's General and Mrs. Thorp made their way to Oregon, settling first in Forest Grove and then in Corvallis.

Mandana Thorp gave birth to five children, two sons and three daughters, one of whom died in infancy. The eldest of the four surviving children, Simeon, later died in Michigan and daughter Anne married and returned to New York. Children Stephen and Bessie accompanied their parents to Oregon where Bessie was educated at Pacific University and became a teacher in Portland. The Thorps engaged in civic affairs, both Mandana and Tom were active in the Presbyterian Church and supported the Republican Party. Gen. Thorp was a leader in the Loyal Legion of the United States and the Grand Army of the Republic. Mandana was a prohibition crusader in

the Woman's Christian Temperance Union and was also active in the Woman's Relief Corps representing Oregon at the 1897 national convention in New York.

Gen. Thorp died in 1915 and was buried in Crystal Lake Cemetery in Corvallis. Following her husband's death, the U.S. Congress, in appreciation for the Thorps Civil War service, passed a bill awarding Mrs. Thorp a pension of \$30 per month. Mandana Thorp moved to Portland to live with her daughter Bessie but outlived her husband by less than a year. She passed away on July 7, 1916 at the age of seventy-three. In 2008, this author learned that Thomas Thorp's grave in Corvallis was unmarked. With the help of volunteers Delina Porter and Judy Juntunen, a military headstone was obtained from the Veterans Administration and placed on Thorp's grave. Thorp's story was featured in Oregon Magazine and in the book *Hidden History of Civil War Oregon*. The book also contained a list of Civil War nurses who had lived in Oregon, including Mandana Thorp. Mrs. Thorp's entry in the book included a notation that her grave location was unknown. A reader, Stan Clarke, searched cemetery records and discovered that Mandana Thorp was buried at Portland's River View Cemetery and that her grave was unmarked. Stan also reported that Thomas Thorp was buried next to his wife and his grave is also unmarked. The General's body had been disinterred from Corvallis following his wife's death and reburied by her side.

Thanks to the Col. Edward D. Baker Camp of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, the Thorp headstone has been removed from Crystal Lake Cemetery and will be reinstalled on the General's grave at River View. Unfortunately, because Mandana Thorp's service as a nurse was as a volunteer and not as a registered member of the U.S. Medical Department, she is ineligible for a VA headstone. Three hundred dollars has been raised to buy a headstone that will be inscribed with her name, dates of birth and death, and the epitaph Civil War Nurse. River View has promised to waive their fees and the SUVCW will set the headstone.

Mandana Coleman Major Thorp was a woman ahead of her time. She deserves the respect of a marked grave.

*Author, Randol B. Scott, is a member of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. His book, Hidden History of Civil War Oregon, was published in 2011. Stan Clarke, researcher mentioned in the article, is a long time GFO member and former president. Thomas Thorpe's story was told in the September, 2011 Bulletin.*



## Relics

### Land and Property Values in Oregon and the Hudson's Bay Company: The Testimony of the British and American Joint Commission

Harvey Steele

Until 1859 the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) maintained nominal jurisdiction over more than one fourth of North America. Rupert's Land on the east and Vancouver Island on the west were controlled by the company by letters patent of 1849. These vast domains required a simple but inexpensive governmental organization while they had been the domain of the Indian and the fur trader but by 1860, when the giant Fort Vancouver operation was moved to Fort Victoria, the old order was challenged by the westward-moving agricultural frontier.

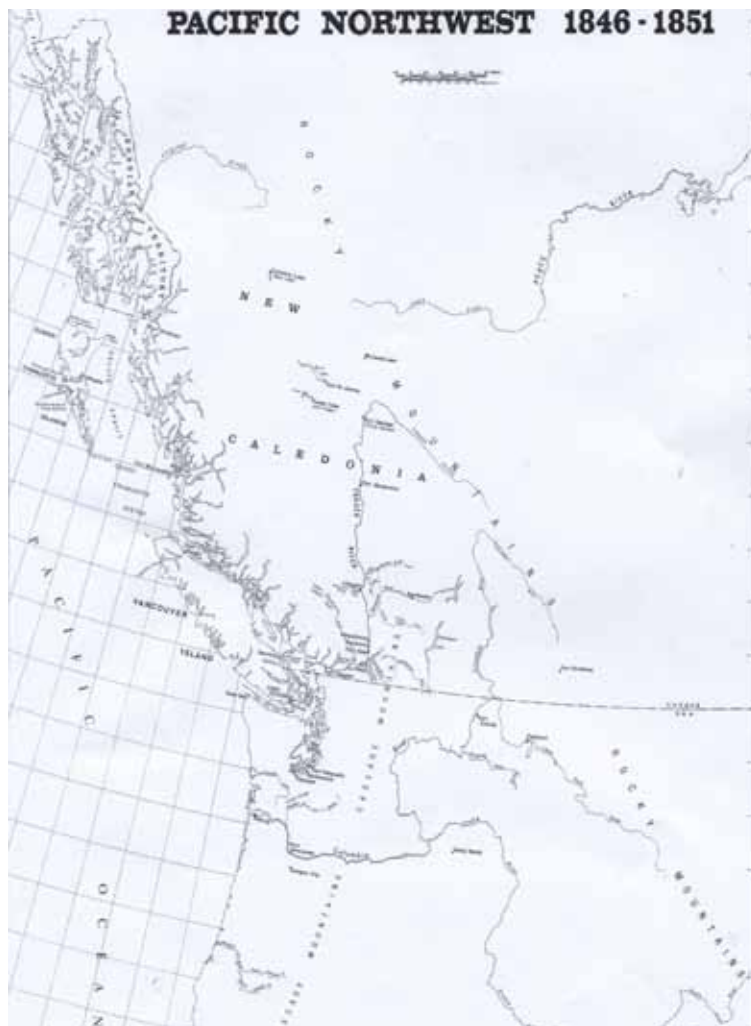
American historians have been slow to decipher the post-1860 conflict in Oregon, as land claims and other local events were adjusted to the departure of the huge fur trade company and its huge retail store at Fort Vancouver. One source has been virtually ignored by researchers, probably because it is an unpublished U.S. government document; in other words, "gray literature" – hidden in only two public archives in the state, unattractive, unillustrated, and, in the format of legal hearings. Even the title is forbidding: Evidence for The United States in the matter of the claim of the Hudson's Bay Company pending before the British and American Joint Commission for the Final Settlement

of the Claims of the Hudson's Bay and Puget's Sound Agricultural Companies (BAJC). Who in their right mind would locate and use such a relic? <sup>1</sup>

In reality, the BAJC is the epic story of a great transformation in our changing country. In this case, it is set in the years before the Civil War. As the fur trade ends and the settlement period begins, a giant company (the HBC) is being forced out of its holdings in the Oregon Territory. Three forces are fueling this departure: the waves of settlers arriving by wagon train from the

middle lands of the U.S., the U.S. Treasury Department (through its agency U.S. Customs) charging Customs duties and seizing HBC ships in disregard of navigational treaties and the U.S. Army, which established a fort adjacent to the HBC headquarters at Fort Vancouver in 1849. After a furious period during the 1840s, when thousands of land-seeking settlers arrived, complicated by the California gold rush, the HBC decides the situation was hopeless south of the Columbia River and moved its Columbia Department headquarters to Fort Victoria in Canada.

The HBC demanded compensation for its vacated lands and buildings and the hearings, held in Washington D.C. unfolded during the



period of the Civil War. Two armies of lawyers, one representing the company and the other the U.S. examine a long list of witnesses to get evidence of the compensatory amount owed to the HBC.

The original treaty by which the U.S. and England closed their negotiations as to the boundary line between Canada and the U.S. was concluded at Washington on June 15, 1846. As travel permitted then, the Hudson's Bay Company requested an immediate inventory (complete with estimated values) of the American holdings. The work, completed in detail, took place during the winter of 1846-7 and was completed in time to be forwarded by the regular express up the Columbia, over the Athabaskan Pass and down the Saskatchewan River in the spring of 1847. This document, taken at a time when the fur trade was still important, became a historical and legal starting point for the land and property valuation analysis that would take place for the next 20 years.<sup>2</sup>

The number of forts and trading posts recorded by the inventory was 15, plus two under the name of the Puget Sound Company. Detailed dimensions and values are considered for 265 separate locations (buildings, agricultural spaces, even outhouses). The Company trading posts and buildings therein had been erected many years previous to the Oregon Treaty, and, from a legal standpoint were a symbol of the monetary claims to come. The total value of all posts and buildings is shown as 466,600 pounds sterling, which, in 1847, amounted to \$2,230,000, more; it is noted, than the price of the Louisiana Purchase.<sup>3</sup>

The Company's control of the Oregon Territory gradually changed as the fur trade yielded to the mercantile trade in the 1850s. The first successful large wagon train to reach Oregon was in 1843. McLoughlin, the Chief Factor at Fort Vancouver, retired to Oregon City and was clearly moved by the number of settlers coming in by then. He welcomed them to the HBC store at Oregon City (and Champoe). Despite the HBC policy to limit settlement to areas far from their headquarters buildings (and productive agricultural land), McLoughlin had ignored the wishes of his London-based HBC managers and opened the largest store in the Oregon Territory, the Fort Vancouver Sale Shop, to purchases on credit by the settlers. The Sale Shop, for many years, was the main source of provisions and supplies, and, in fact, was also the source for various country stores in the Willamette Valley, the most densely settled area of Oregon. McLoughlin understood what was only dimly perceived in London: the fur trade was over but large mercantile trade opportunities remained. Company stores at the

other larger forts in the Pacific Northwest, Nisqually, Langley, and Victoria, provided the goods, marked up from the London prices, throughout the Northwest.

Which, as we will see by the BAJC testimony, was a monumental decision in Oregon history. By that time, various negotiations between the HBC and the U.S. government were floated in Washington by attorneys, and the generally accepted compensation amount was one million U.S. dollars.<sup>4</sup>

Through the period of the early donation land claims, much litigation occurred involving the HBC rights and the property subject to the land donations. When the HBC finally abandoned Fort Vancouver for Fort Victoria, in 1860, the compensation was one of the issues in the Presidential election, and Abraham Lincoln promised to close the bidding and pay off the Company. In 1863, with the Civil War raging, he convened the hearings by the commission, with legal proceedings held at the old Treasury Department building in Washington, continuing through 1867, but not to be officially completed until 1869.<sup>5</sup>

#### **The witnesses**

The men (no women included) called to testify were not ordinary citizens. They are a cross section of the leaders of the Oregon Territory and the U.S. Army officers at Camp Vancouver. They include Ulysses S. Grant, soon to be the President of the U.S., Philip Sheridan, commander of the U.S. Army, and other senior officers, and political and mercantile leaders of the Oregon Territory. Sixty-eight men were called to testify over four years of hearings. From the questions asked by the attorneys it is clear that many unnamed witnesses, furnishing research data from U.S. and HBC archives, also contributed.

The witnesses, all national and local leaders, were not easily bullied by the international team of lawyers and many of them were also lawyers or judges. As they relate their explanation of the transformation, we see a priceless interpretation of the quest for land, the problems of provisioning after the long migration, the technologies of building construction, transportation issues, navigation of the ports and rivers, and the slowly developing sense of U.S. citizenship thousands of miles from the country's political center.

#### **The testimony**

Although many different subjects emerge, the attorneys focus on three basic questions: (1) what is the experience of the witness with the HBC at each location? (2) what is the original and current value of each land location and building? and (3) what compensation is

justified for the loss of that element by the HBC?

Even a bare summary of the answers is impossible in a short article, but three testimony examples are provided here, Ulysses S. Grant, Rufus Ingalls, and George Gibbs.

#### **Grant**

Grant's testimony, taken in 1867, was at the peak of his popularity, less than a year before he would be elected President of the United States.

He was stationed at Fort Vancouver (the army post) for about one year, from September 1852 to 1853. His comment on the land:

The great majority of the bottom land was subject to overflow, in the months of June and July, and for that reason was not susceptible of cultivation but was good grazing land. That not susceptible to overflow was principally densely wooded and my impression of it at the time was it was very poor, if cleared. These plains were comparatively small prairies, in this densely wooded country and were susceptible of cultivation. The woodland was, I think, not worth anything, except the value given to it by settlement. It could not be worth anything to the Hudson Bay Company as a trading post among the Indians. The tillable land and overflowed bottom land could have little value to them in supplying provisions, and for grazing all the stock it was necessary for them to keep. How much per acre it was worth for that purpose I don't feel competent to judge...(but as provisions)...the land was worth to them, as a trading Company, the difference between the cost of the production of these articles and the cost of buying them elsewhere and importing them.<sup>6</sup>

Later in the testimony, a rough price per acre scale is established: up to \$10 per acre for the woodlands up to \$100 per acre for the land near the Vancouver harbor lowlands. Among other things, Grant provides a good analysis of the buildings erected by the HBC:

The buildings are chiefly of wood, some of them, not all, were made of hewn timber, about six inches thick, set down between upright pieces, fitting in a groove made in the uprights, either by nailing on pieces of plank or by an actual groove set in these upright pieces...The buildings looked like they had been in use for many years but were still substantial and would have answered for many years with ordinary repairs.<sup>7</sup>

Under cross-examination, Grant gave even more detailed accounts of the annual flooding of the Columbia River and its effect on land values and the changing condition of the buildings. His testimony did not contradict the HBC claims for value, although it was 20 years since the 1847 survey and very little repairs

or maintenance had occurred since that time. He also comments on the settlers who had claims under the donation laws and notes that their property was low-valued compared with the holdings of the HBC and the U.S. Army. As President, he would have to take all of these factors under consideration although he could not have known that in 1867.

#### **Ingalls**

Rufus Ingalls was a close friend of Grant and then a Brevet Major General of the U.S. Army, soon to be the Quartermaster General for the U.S. Army. He had served at Fort Vancouver from 1849 to 1860. More than any other witness, his detailed knowledge of the pre-Civil War period in the Oregon Territory was continuous and comprehensive.

He had purchased ten acres of Vancouver land in 1860 for one thousand and sold it for the same amount in 1866. He noted the reasons for land price changes in the period:

In 1860 property was held in the town at various prices...Its value would have been very much greater, and the place of much higher importance, had it not been for the opposition to settlement on the part of the Hudson's Bay Company in the early years.

Ingalls then went on to explain that the hostility between the new settlers and the HBC was the reason Vancouver never flourished as the leading supply center in the territory. This was, he noted, because the HBC prevented settlement anywhere near their holdings. In fact, most of the donation land claim property was in the Willamette Valley and other places far from the Vancouver area. Ingalls provided land information from 1849 to 1867:

The prices were much higher in 1849 and 1850 than subsequently. The prices declined from that period. Labor was from two to eight dollars per day, some classes even higher than that. Lumber was from forty to one hundred dollars per thousand in 1849 and 1850...The discovery and the necessity for building materials, and its scarcity, conduced to the high price of labor and material at that time.<sup>8</sup>

Ingalls, who designed and built most of the houses that still stand on Officer's Row in Vancouver, was an expert witness on land prices, building supplies and costs.

#### **Gibbs**

Several hundred pages of the BAJC testimony was in the testimony of George Gibbs, who came to the Oregon Territory with the U.S. Army in 1849 and stayed, serving as a surveyor of the public domain and for several years as Collector and Assistant Collector of U.S. Customs

at Astoria, Oregon. His knowledge as a geologist and surveyor, and the fact that he had visited and examined every HBC fort or farm in the claims area, made him an excellent witness. An entire book could be written on his testimony but here is one excerpt:

According to my observation, Vancouver never would have made an important town site, for the reason that it has no back country for its support on the north side of the river and it is too far above the mouth of the Willamette for the produce of the Willamette valley to have reached it, even if the title had been clear in the Company. It possesses great attraction from the beauty of situation and the natural lay of the land; but it is better suited for a trading or military post than a town.<sup>9</sup>

On the 14th day of September 1867, the Joint Commission finished its work and turned its findings over to the U.S. government. On December 6, 1869, President Grant notified Congress of the award, of the extinguishing of the titles and rights of the company to U.S. territory and of the delivery of the deeds for the HBC property. He asked Congress for an appropriation of \$650,000. Because of technical delays in the House of Representatives, the final payment was not acknowledged until September 2, 1871.<sup>10</sup>

Twenty-two years had passed since the HBC valuation document had estimated \$2,230,000 as the value of its property and lands (in 1847). It could be argued that if a settlement at that time (or perhaps any time up to the HBC departure to Fort Victoria) the award would have been over \$2 million, but that, in the intervening years, the old buildings had deteriorated and the land values radically changed.

The relic gray volumes, four in all, contain 2020 pages of testimony and legal text. Other documents and printed arguments fill 1250 pages more. A historian approaching BAJC might well ask: when does a relic become a monstrosity? After reading a few pages, however, the historian (or genealogist) might well agree with this writer that nothing yet published rivals this relic for understanding the changing Oregon Territory in the 1846-1867 period.

(Endnotes)

1. No author, Evidence for The United States in the matter of the claim of the Hudson's Bay Company pending before the British and American Joint Commission for the Final Settlement of the Claims of the Hudson's Bay and Puget's Sound Agricultural Companies (M'Gill and Witherow Printers and Stereotypers: Washington City) 1867.

2. T.C. Elliott, British Values in Oregon, 1847, Oregon

Historical Quarterly, Vol. 32, No. 1 (March 1931) pp. 27-45.

3. Elliott 1931: 45

4. Ralph Richard Martig, Hudson's Bay Company Claims, 1846-69, Oregon Historical Quarterly, Vol. 36, No. 1 (March 1935) pp. 60-70.

5. Martig 1935: 68-9.

6. BAJC 1867: Vol. 1: 20-21.

7. BAJC 1867: Vol. 1: 20

8. BAJC 1867: Vol. 1:9

9. BAJC 1867: Vol. 1: 411.

10. Mary A. Gray, Settlement of the Claims in Washington of the Hudson's Bay Company and the Puget's Sound Agricultural Company, The Washington Historical Quarterly, Vol. 21, No. 2 (April 1930) pp. 95-102.

*Extracts*

**Multnomah County, Oregon**  
**Marriage Register Index 1911-1912**

Extracted and Proofed by Marie Diers and Eileen Chamberlin

The index is sorted by the bride's surname. A copy of records from this and other Multnomah County Marriage Registers can be obtained in person or by mail. See details on the Genealogical Forum of Oregon website at GFO.org.

<b>Groom Surname</b>	<b>Groom Given</b>	<b>Bride Surname</b>	<b>Bride Given</b>	<b>Marriage Year</b>
Riefhauer	Clyde	Pinn	Laura	1911
Child	Archie Earl	Pixley	Mary A	1912
Lyons	Spencer	Plunkett	Lizzie	1911
Duke	Thomas Porter	Pohl	Gertrude F	1911
Mount	Frank H	Poindexter	Lena D	1912
Wheadon	Frank P	Poli	Lydia C	1912
Romiti	Virginio	Poli	Maria	1911
Sanders	Eugene	Pomeroy	Nellie J	1912
Weber	George	Potter	Abbey	1912
Voegtly	W N	Potter	Ada T	1912
Anderson	R W	Potter	Isabelle M	1911
Sproat	James	Powell	Florence	1911
VanDoozer	Jess G	Powers	Clara G	1911
Ford	E P	Prather	Stella (Mrs)	1912
Chambers	Robert	Price	Bertie	1911
Vickerson	John Irving	Price	Julia	1912
Scholts	F	Price	Lila B	1911
Scofield	Roy G	Price	Mary A	1912
Lingo	Elmer	Priendl	Beatrice E	1912
Schubert	Henry J	Probst	Birdie	1911
Ormsby	Russell	Pugge	Emma	1912
Hakkinen	David	Punmala	Hanna	1911
Sears	Fredrick W	Purdy	Grace E	1912
Hegstrom	Erick J	Quay	Kathleen L	1911
Sing	Seid Yow	Quay	Lee Song	1912
Turpin	George Scott	Quinlin	Lorena Ellen	1911
Kartge	Walter	Rafferty	Minnie	1911
Klopfner	Alexander E	Rainey	Alice Frances	1911
Walters	T W	Ralph	Nina E	1911
Haines	Arthur	Ramsey	Myrtle G	1912
Casey	G M	Randall	Alice M	1912
Nilson	Martin	Rasmussen	Karen Marie	1911
Williams	Fred D	Rathbun	Eva L	1911
Gaibel	John	Rathke	Charlotte	1912
Arnold	W E	Ray	Philys H	1912
Powell	Frank C	Raymond	Lucy V	1911
Simpson	Frank O	Raymond	Ruth L	1911

## Multnomah Marriages Continued:

Groom Surname	Groom Given	Bride Surname	Bride Given	Marriage Year
Verdaglio	Peter	Re	Mary	1912
StKerr	Alex	Redding	Annella	1911
Chick	Glendon Charles	Rees	Margaret Welsh	1912
Jones	Willard C	Reeves	Ivell M	1911
Kohler	Joseph F	Reign	Maggie M D	1912
Herman	Henry	Reihl	Lena	1912
Latham	Henry T	Reilly	Annie	1912
Boyd	David F	Reilly	Rose	1911
Hensley	Frank N	Reinhardt	Florence L	1912
Billington	Frank	Remick	Lucy	1912
Vogt	William	Renter	Elizabeth Mary	1911
Tomlinson	Clarence L	Reynolds	Mary S	1912
Parker	Roy F	Rezner	Florence B	1911
Link	Jacob Phillips	Rhymer	Audra May	1911
McCurdy	Calvin E	Rice	Alza E	1912
Partridge	Archibald H	Richards	Francis H	1912
Campbell	Arthur	Richardson	Anna	1911
Struble	Edward L	Richardson	Hazel	1911
Bauersachs	Charles (Jr)	Richit	Leona A	1911
Rauch	Emmett Tobias	Richmond	Bessie Gertrude	1912
Inman	R D	Rickard	Clara A	1912
Cox	Edward W	Rickman	Dorie	1912
Poor	Joseph	Rickman	Essie S	1911
Heenan	H N	Riese	Jessie	1912
Ervin	Frank	Rimers	Laura	1912
Brookman	G B	Ritchey	Myrtle	1912
Kuhns	Oscar	Ritter	Matilda	1911
Petrone	Rocco	Rizzo	Giovannina	1911
Pursifull	Ransom R	Roach	Katherine	1912
Bowen	Franke J	Robertson	Maude B	1912
Dietz	Leopold H	Robida	Rose	1912
Kindred	E W	Robinson	Ada H (Mrs)	1911
Ross	Olin A	Robinson	Cynthia Nelle	1911
Stone	Peter	Robinson	Dollie	1911
Schauk	Charles	Robinson	Marie	1911
Julian	John W	Robinson	Pearl Ethel	1911
Moore	William C	Rode	Lily	1911
Gordon	Chas A	Rodgers	Lydia	1911
Rogers	Willis E	Roettger	Louise	1912
Jacobs	Chas W	Rogers	Alice F	1911
Levenhagen	W J	Rooney	Augusta A	1912
Borgmann	Gustav	Rose	Chloe	1911
Hodlin	Oscar E	Rosendahl	Ethel M	1911
Schonberger	Edgar	Rosenthal	Ray	1911
Sperry	James E	Ross	Mary E	1911



## Multnomah Marriages Continued:

Groom Surname	Groom Given	Bride Surname	Bride Given	Marriage Year
Moorhead	Charles D	Ross	Nellie E	1911
Parodi	Carnelie	Rossi	Caterina	1935
Huber	Henry	Roth	Sarah Elizabeth	1912
Gaston	George O	Rothrock	Edith C	1911
Taylor	Everett M	Rufner	Alice J	1912
Schmidling	Joseph	Russell	Jennie	1911
Brown	William H	Rust	Minerva Jane	1912
Shinn	Victor E	Ryan	LaVern	1912
Higgins	John C	Sails	Sarah Lorene	1911
Mandell	Emil	Sakkinen	Rikka	1912
Johannes	John G	Salb	V Hortense	1912
Schnal	S	Salowich	B	1912
Kahn	Milton E	Samuel	Germaine U	1912
Schneider	Edward F	Sanders	Pauline	1911
Darge	William Perry	Sanford	Mabel E	1911
Brown	Geo A	Sanger	Elizabeth	1912
Solomon	Raymond H	Sather	Matilda	1911
Martin	Herbert Harrell	Savage	Esther (or Ethel) Louise	1912
Sampson	Nahum Henry	Sawdon	Carrie Viola	1911
Gait	Geo Robert	Sawer	Bessie May	1912
Knofsky	Arthur W	Schantin	Mary	1911
Hanson	Hans C	Schattenbirg	Wilhelmena	1911
Gallino	Philip	Scheibner	Helen	1911
Gralbert	William	Schloreth	Gertrude	1911
Wheeler	C A	Schloth	Frieda	1912
Martin	David J	Schmidt	Lenora W	1911
Duncan	James	Schmied	Lillie	1911
Anderson	Albert L	Schmitt	Frances M	1912
Hanson	William Francis	Schneider	Lucille Mary	1912
Lind	Henry	Schnell	Lisie	1912
Bernstein	Henry E	Schoen	Fanchon R	1911
Kaiser	Jacob	Schuethies	Mari	1912
Lewis	C F	Schulendorf	Anna	1911
Fletcher	Charles A	Schuler	May	1912
Schuyleman	John	Schuyleman	Alida Pearl	1911
Goldberg	David Gardner	Schwab	Grace Pearl	1912
Abernatha	T Fred	Schwartz	Catherine	1912
Boone	Emmett R	Scott	Alice	1912
Buften	Lawrence Earle	Scott	Florence Euphemia	1911
Smith	Percy	Scott	Winnifred	1912
Buchan	Robt John	Scoville	Martha E (Mrs)	1911
Allen	Charles	Scully	Blanche A	1911
Caster	Fred	Seaburg	Amelia L	1912
Smuck	John W	Sears	Bernice M	1911
Ward	Eugene S	Seaver	Eva L (Mrs)	1911
Nash	Wm S	Sechtern	Hilda	1911

## Multnomah Marriages Continued:

Groom Surname	Groom Given	Bride Surname	Bride Given	Marriage Year
Wood	William	Seckatz	Mabel	1912
Christman	John	Secrist	Stella	1911
Bowman	Charles	Seeting	Mary	1912
Schlefar	Morris	Segal	Anna	1911
Haniges	Frank	Seifer	Eva	1912
Berry	Ralph S	Selz	Eunice	1911
Lindley	John W	Sempert	Martha M	1911
VanRooy	Arthur	Setser	Agnes	1911
Barnes	Clyde E	Shadinger	Myrtle E	1912
Krautz	Nels	Shand	Hansine	1911
Taylor	Charles Benjamin	Shane	Claire L	1911
Walker	David Edward	Shannon	Mary Josephine	1912
Sax	Bernard D	Shapiro	Anna	1912
Anderson	Marion Eugene	Sharkey	Nellie May	1912
Lindsay	Winthrop E	Shaw	Etta May	1912
Davis	L C	Sheck	Hazel Blanche	1912
Wallace	Herbert Nelson	Shelton	Sue Fontella	1911
Kennedy	James B	Sheriden	Mary Alice	1911
Felton	Ethan	Sherwood	Loana (Mrs)	1911
Leonard	Edward S	Shiek	Leila M	1912
Snyder	Arthur E	Shinn	Anna C	1911
Hedgpeth	Claud H	Shipp	Lenna	1912
Caldwell	B L	Shorey	Mary Gertrude	1911
Smith	Henry	Showers	Katie	1911
Sulbinder	Earnest A	Shuey	Ollie	1911
Swartz	R C	Shuks	Blanche	1911
Robler	Anton	Shumske	Eva	1911
Morlan	W L	Sidena	Mary	1911
Schmeer	Philip	Silg	Katie	1911
McLeod	Lester C	Simington	Mabel	1912
Dean	James Myron	Simmons	Ida Lucile	1911
Dollarhide	Guy L	Simonson	Violet Pauline	1911
Challman	Robert E	Simple	Elizabeth C	1912
Jones	Asa W	Sinclair	Eve Maud	1911
Jarvis	Amos J	Skofil	Leopoldine	1911
Babish	George	Slavich	Lukvica Luksich	1911
Waterman	D L	Small	Zelma P	1912
Morgan	Harold	Smith	Addie	1911
Heckner	Chr J	Smith	Anna M (Mrs)	1911
Kees	Fred W	Smith	Bertha E	1912
Walker	Louis A	Smith	Cecile V	1911
Cook	James L	Smith	Ella Ethel	1911
Williams	George Delos	Smith	Ethel	1911
Cook	F L	Smith	Isabell (Mrs)	1912
Sharp	John Fredrick	Smith	Jennett	1911
Peck	Harless H	Smith	Katherine	1911
Brown	Robert L	Smith	Louise M	1912

to be continued

## Book Reviews

**Lucille Bigelow, John Murray's Journey from Illinois to Oregon, Emigration to Oregon in 1853 –a typewritten journal transcribed and edited by Lucille Bigelow for the Oregon Genealogical Society, Eugene, Oregon 97440-2306 (2009) 232 pgs. Price \$25 + postage. Ordering Information: Oregon Genealogical Society, P.O.Box 10306, Eugene, OR 97440-2306**

**Audience:** The unique feature of this 1853 journal is its continuation into the following year, 1854. As John and his brothers seek and establish claims in the Willamette Valley, then in Yamhill, Benton and later other counties in Washington State, the extended family stories of the Swaggarts, Jacksons, Harpers, Goerigs, Hinkleys and Murrays will be of great interest to their descendants.

**Purpose:** Murray's Journal is a remarkable overland trail study, filled with intense observation of the land as it was in 1853. Editor Lucille Bigelow has aided the reader's understanding with an introduction, pictures and small location maps. She has added footnotes to explain a name or to reference key bibliography items.

**Author's qualifications:** John Murray, a young and independent man at 25 was intent on getting to Oregon, so most of his observations are about the nature of the trip and the health of their livestock. His real ability rested with numbers, of which the text abounds. Later in life he served as Treasurer of Pierce County, Washington Territory from 1880 to 1889. Few details offer insights into the lives of his extended family, which would have added interest for the general reader of Northwest literature.

Editor Lucille Bigelow was competent, interested and resourceful. She was able to confirm research on her own family connections as well as pursuing further research into the Murray family, finding stories of the the Swaggarts, Jacksons, Harpers, Goerigs and Hinkleys . These stories rounded out the narrative considerably.

**Content:** In addition to the aforementioned surnames, Lucille Bigelow writes that "John Murray... wrote with enthusiasm and detail about geography, trail, conditions, prices and the welfare of his animals. He was bringing valuable stock west and was greatly concerned for their survival. ....excepting the story of death in a fatal storm, the reader usually has to read between the lines to find human interest stories about childbirth, Indian relations and social interaction." Their party consisted of John's widowed father, brother Isaiah, and his sister

Margaret's young family. Occasionally they joined neighbors or friends for companionship or protection.

The Murrays arrived in the Willamette Valley surprised to find most of the good land was claimed and fenced. In the Tualatin Valley in October the weather was 'dismal' and they began to "fall sick of Oregon." There are few details of their first year. Some of the stories tell more. Obituaries from the "Tacoma Ledger" relate that the Murray brothers settled in Victoria B.C. and Washington Territory, where John was Pierce County treasurer in the 1880s.

**Writing Style:** Murray's writing style is dry and full of stock and provisions accounting. His lack of interest in the human condition during the journey seems out of the ordinary for an adventure of this magnitude.

**Organization:** The journal is organized in a narrative, observational style that dwells on the environment and survival necessities.

**Accuracy:** It is normally consistent with observation and personal note taking. In this Murray excelled.

**Conclusion:** The dearth of details about the others in his train leaves the reader unsatisfied.

*-Gretchen Ellis Martin*

**Myra Vanderpool Gormley, CG, Genealogy at a Glance, Cherokee Genealogy Research, Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., Baltimore, Maryland, 2012.**

**Orders may be sent to 3600 Clipper Mill Rd., Suite 260, Baltimore, MD 21211-1953. Website: [www.genealogical.com](http://www.genealogical.com) or phone 1-800-296-6687.**

Price of each Genealogy at a Glance publication is \$8.95 plus shipping & handling

**Audience:** This guide is important to people researching Cherokee ancestors.

**Purpose:** It is an important tool in understanding the process of doing genealogical research in Cherokee and Native American records.

**Author's qualifications:** Myra is a writer, including her blog "Shaking Family Trees". She was born in Oklahoma, grew up there and lived in Kansas. She worked at RootsWeb Review and as a syndicated columnist for Stars & Stripes in Germany and various newspapers in the U.S., including the Seattle Times, Tacoma News Tribune and the Los Angeles Times. Now she is a snowbird who lives in the Pacific Northwest and Arizona.

**Writing Style:** The formatting of the information is easy to follow.

**Organization:** On the first page you will find Contents, Quick Facts, Cherokee History and Migrations

including The Trail of Tears, and eight key references. On page 2 is Unlocking Cherokee Family History with sections for Surnames, Intermarriages and Mixed Bloods, Tribal Roles and Requirements, followed by Basic Genealogy Sources. Pages 3 and 4 have the sections Cherokee Freedmen and Black Indians, and Rolls Pertaining to Cherokees; followed by Other Online Resources and Further Reading.

**Accuracy:** The information appears to be well researched. As with any Internet information some of the material may change over time, but hopefully one can use this resource to locate the websites that are mentioned.

**Conclusion:** Understanding the significant materials available for Cherokee research is important, as it can be very confusing. This Genealogy at a Glance is a wonderful tool, which the author developed from research in these types of records. Knowing when the types of records were kept, the details they include, and by whom they were maintained are key pieces of information. The information on the nineteen different rolls pertaining to Cherokees is very helpful. For any personal research in Cherokee Genealogy this guide is an essential tool.

-SL

**David Hackett Fischer, America a Cultural History: Albion's Seed, Four British Folkways in America, Oxford University Press Inc., New York, New York, 1989, 946 pages, illustrations, maps, index, ISBN O-19-503794-4.**

**Audience:** This book is of importance to family history researchers who wish to understand the impact of early settlers in America by their cultural history in England (Albion).

**Purpose:** The book explains how four distinct English groups provide the cultural basis of the United States.

**Author's qualifications:** David Hackett Fischer is a University Professor and Earl Warren Professor of History at Brandeis University in Waltham, Massachusetts. He won a Pulitzer Prize for History in 2005. He is a well-respected writer and his books are very popular.

**Content:** The book is divided into four sections.

1. East Anglia to Massachusetts: The Exodus of the English Puritans, 1629-1725, pages 13-206.
2. The South of England to Virginia: Distressed Cavaliers and Indentured Servants, 1642-1675, pages 207-409.
3. North Midlands to the Delaware: The Friend's Migration, 1625-1725, pages 410-607.
4. Borderlands to the Backcountry: The Flight from

North Britain, 1717-1775, pages 608-782.

**Conclusion:** Four British Folkways in American History: The Origin and Persistence of Regional Cultures in the United States, pages 783-910.

Index pages 911-946.

**Writing Style:** The style is very formatted, in that the author is trying to cover a lot of detailed information and then compare that detail at the end. Thus, in reading these details in such a large book, with similar information from each of the areas of focus, some details are repeated.

**Organization:** While each section has distinct parts, overall they cover similar topics that are woven together in the conclusion. These include: Migration- Overview, Speech Ways, Building Ways, Family Ways, Marriage Ways, Gender Ways, Sex Ways, Naming Ways, Child-rearing Ways, Age Ways, Death Ways, Religious Ways, Magic Ways, Learning Ways, Food Ways, Dress Ways, Sport Ways, Work Ways, Time Ways, Wealth Ways, Rank Ways, Patterns of Migration, Order Ways, Power Ways, and Freedom Ways.

The conclusion covers: British Origins, American Development, and Cultures.

**Accuracy:** Much of what is discussed in the book is the result of extensive reading by the author over a long period of time. While it appears to be accurate, some of it is the result of personal interpretation of the information studied. There are other historians who do not agree with all of the findings in this book.

**Conclusion:** The book is intriguing and yet it is very difficult to absorb all of the details being presented. Reading just the section of a particular area of interest is a good place to start. For the New England section I took five pages of notes, as this is my area of specialty. Another reader at GFO was able to read the book in four days, but for me it took longer. The more one reads the book, the easier it becomes to understand the author's objectives and the items he is covering.

-SL

Comments and suggestions should be sent to the Column Editor: Susan LeBlanc, dsleblanc@aol.com



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Co-compiled by Stanley R. Clarke  
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