



2014 VIRTUAL GENEALOGY FAIR



Wagons West: Land Records at the National Archives

Rick Martinez

This presentation is an introductory level discussion of federal land records available at the National Archives. While some examples of records used will be from the National Archives at Denver, they will be applicable to the rest of the National Archives. Tract books, township survey plats and land entry case files will be the main types of records examined as well as some online resources.



2014 VIRTUAL GENEALOGY FAIR



Rick Martinez
Archives Specialist
National Archives
at Denver

Rick has worked with the archival unit of the National Archives at Denver for 15 years. Prior to this, he worked at the Federal records center. He became a Denver area resident after his father retired from the military in 1977. Land questions are among the favorite types of questions he answers for researchers.

Wagons West: Land Records at the National Archives



Rick Martinez
Archives Specialist
National Archives at Denver

Course Objectives

- Learn about the differences between Federal land records and those maintained at the state and county levels,
- Understand the legal descriptions of land claims,
- Understand the genealogical research value of Federal land records,
- Discover the types of land records held by the National Archives—both in Washington, DC and at regional archival locations,
- Learn how to order Federal land records from NARA.

Land Transfer or Homestead?

- Most land transfers were by **deed** between two individuals and are recorded in **deed books**. The National Archives **does not** have this type of record.
- Land records other than deeds, such as quitclaims, mortgages, leases, assignments, and divisions are also routinely found in deed books. The National Archives **does not** have this type of record.
- Some actions involving land were recorded originally in the records of the probate or civil courts and then re-recorded in deed books. The National Archives **does not** have probate court records. However, we do have some federal court records that may note issues involving land, land disputes, and land ownership.

Where to Find Deeds, Probate, and County Court Records

- County courthouses (“County Courthouse Book” by Elizabeth Petty Bentley) or online searches
- State and local archives/historical societies:
<http://www.archives.gov/research/alic/reference/state-archives.html>
- Many records have been microfilmed and/or digitized and can be found online

My Ancestor Was the Original Homesteader of the Land

- The first transfer of a piece of property was from the federal government into the hands of an individual.
- There are different types of records (and locations of records) depending upon which state your ancestor lived in.

Federal Land Records

- The Federal government created and maintained records of the first transfer of public domain lands.
- A variety of records were created and they were often created in duplicate and triplicate.
- Records include: survey field notes, **tract books**, depositions, **survey plats**, correspondence, **land entry case files**, and **patents**.

Types of Land Claims on the Public Domain

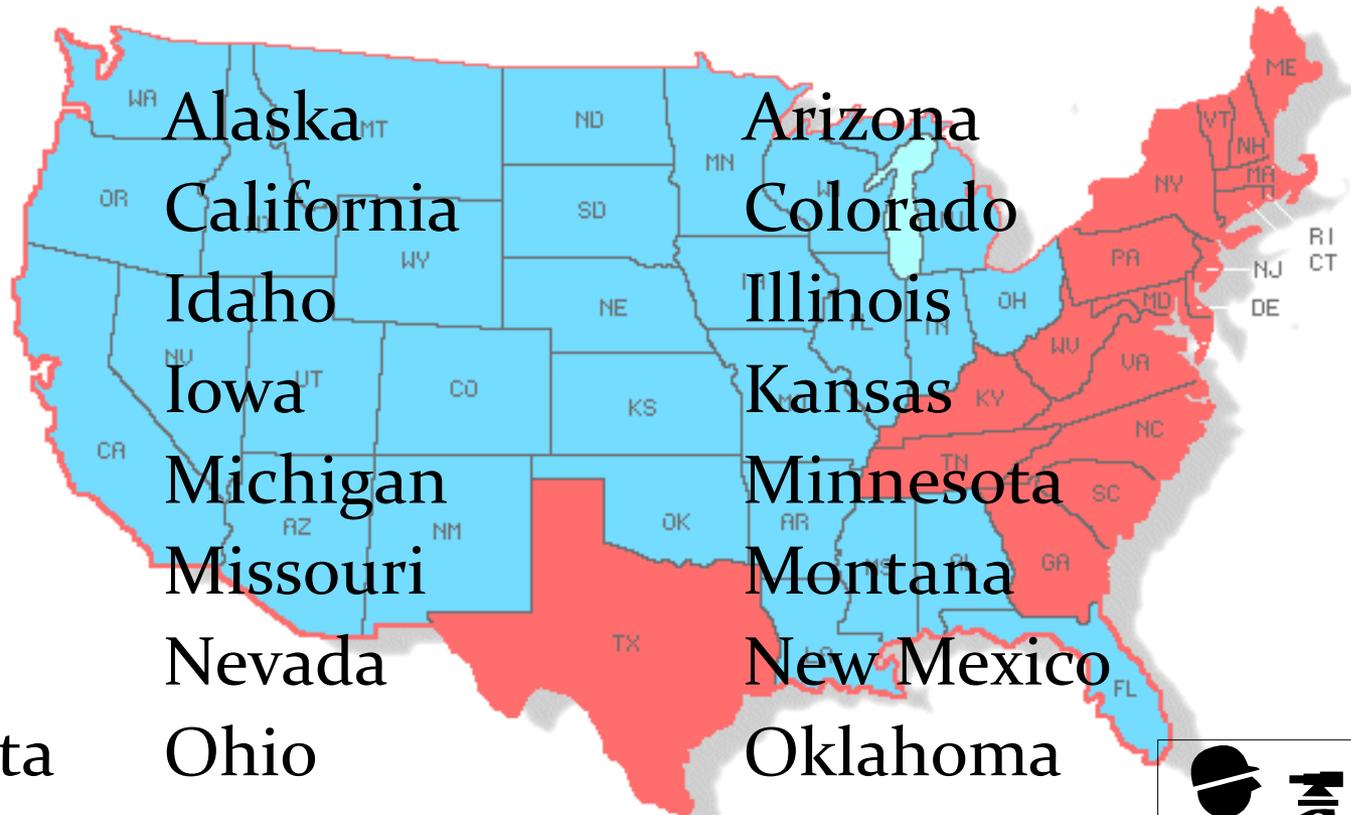
- Homestead Entries- free lands in the public domain
- Timber Culture Entries- to cultivate stands of trees
- Desert Land Entries- to irrigate semi-arid areas
- Preemption Entries- “squatters”
- Timber and Stone Entries- areas “unfit for farming”
- Mineral Entries- mines of various types
- Military Bounty Land Warrants- rewarded service
- Private Land Claims- adjudicated claims granted by other governments



The 30 Public Land States

- - Public Lands
- - Non-public Lands

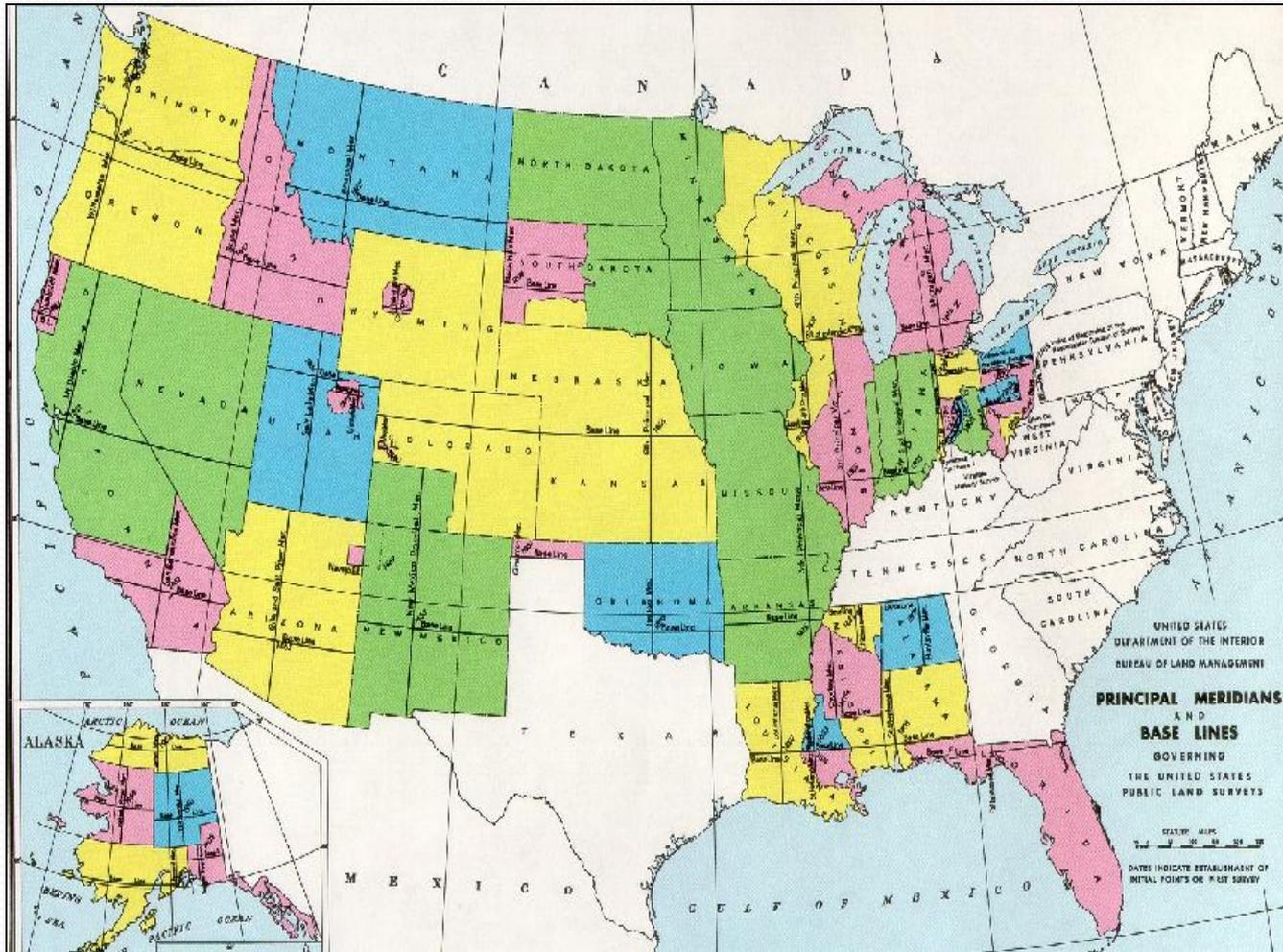
- Alabama
- Arkansas
- Florida
- Indiana
- Louisiana
- Mississippi
- Nebraska
- North Dakota
- Oregon
- Washington



- Alaska
- Arizona
- California
- Colorado
- Idaho
- Illinois
- Iowa
- Kansas
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- Montana
- New Mexico
- Nevada
- Nebraska
- North Dakota
- Ohio
- Oklahoma
- Oregon
- Utah
- Wisconsin
- Wyoming

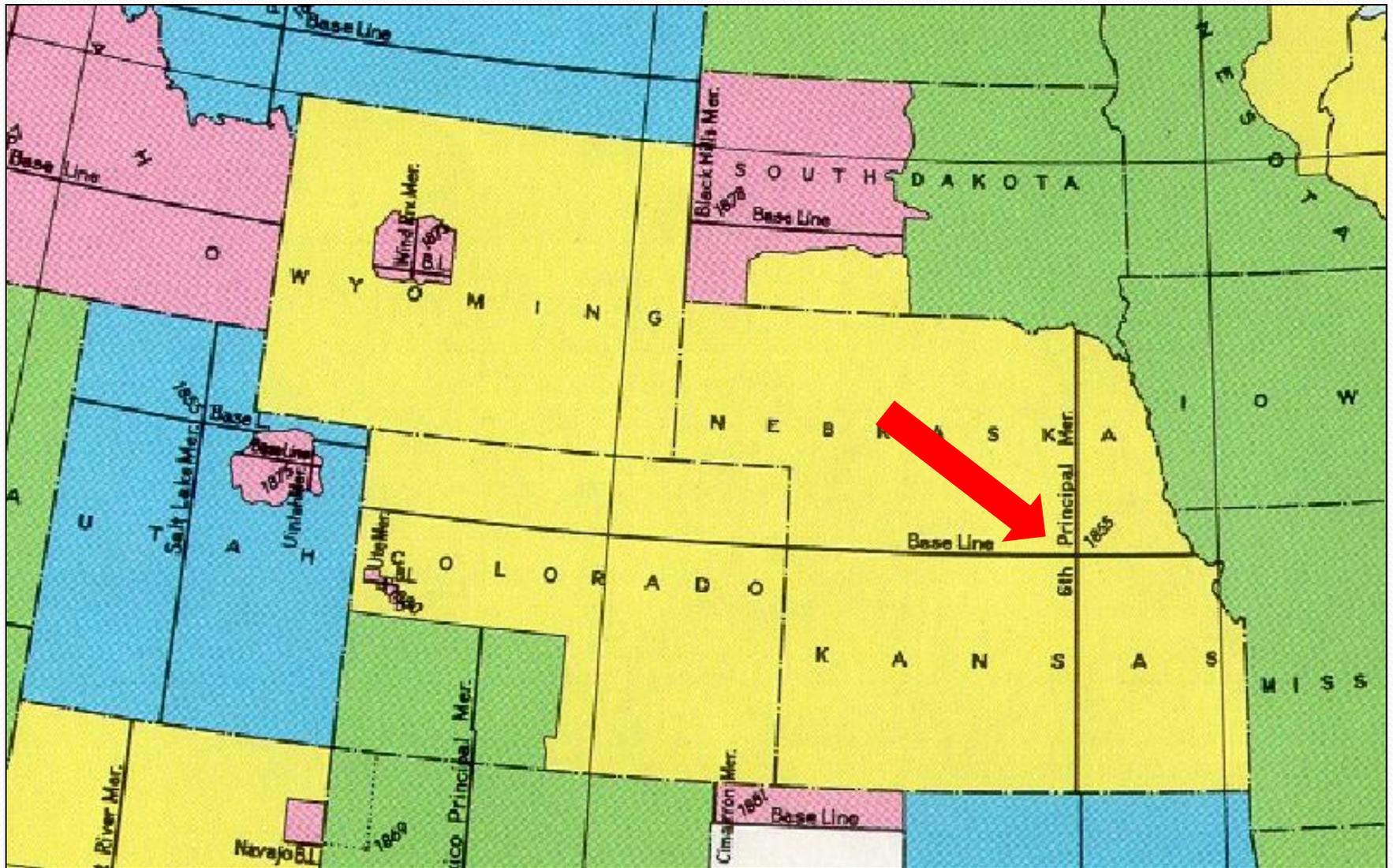


Numerous Surveys were Done

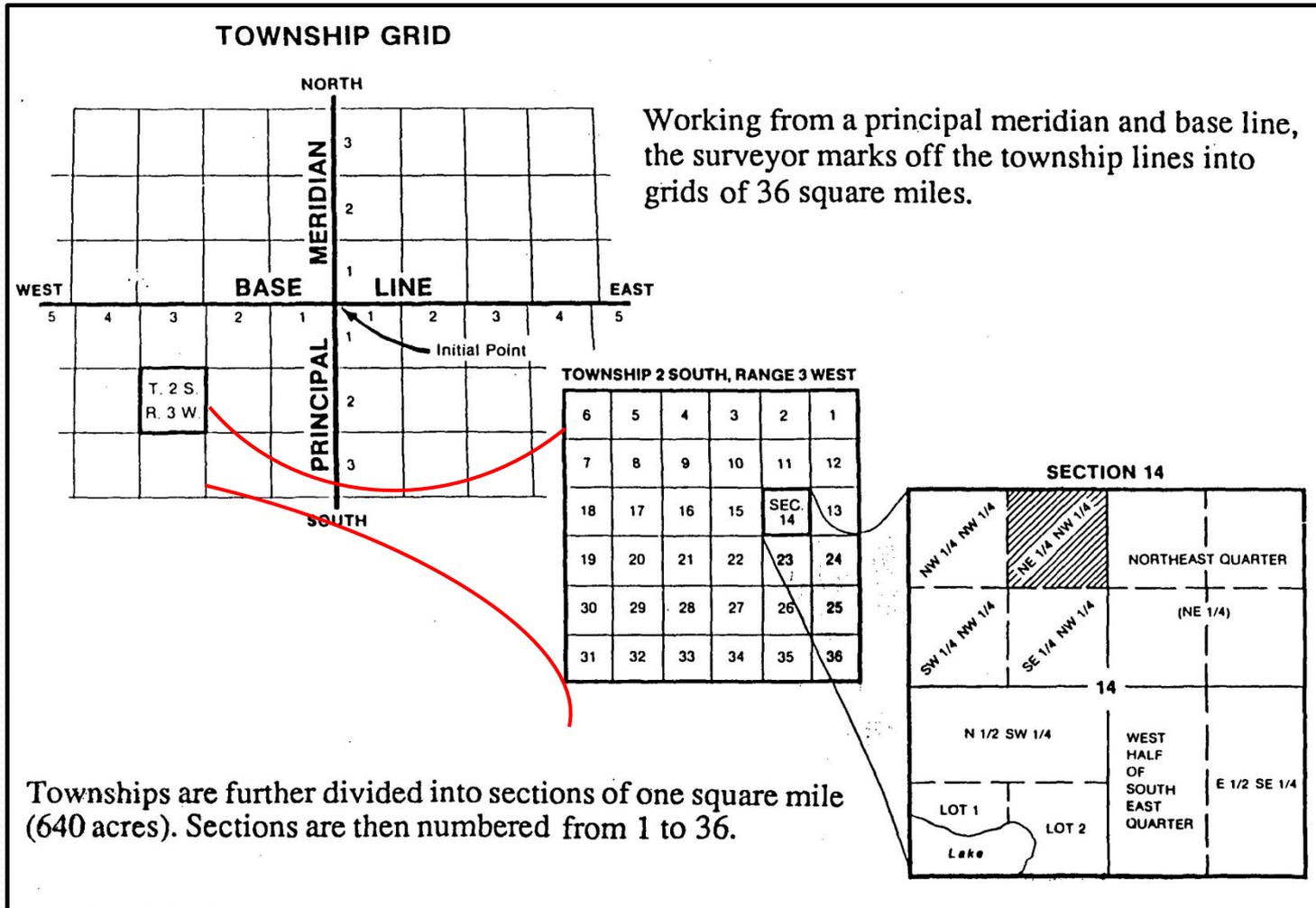


The Rectangular Survey System was proposed by Jefferson. The Land Ordinance of 1785 marked the start of the Public Land Survey System.

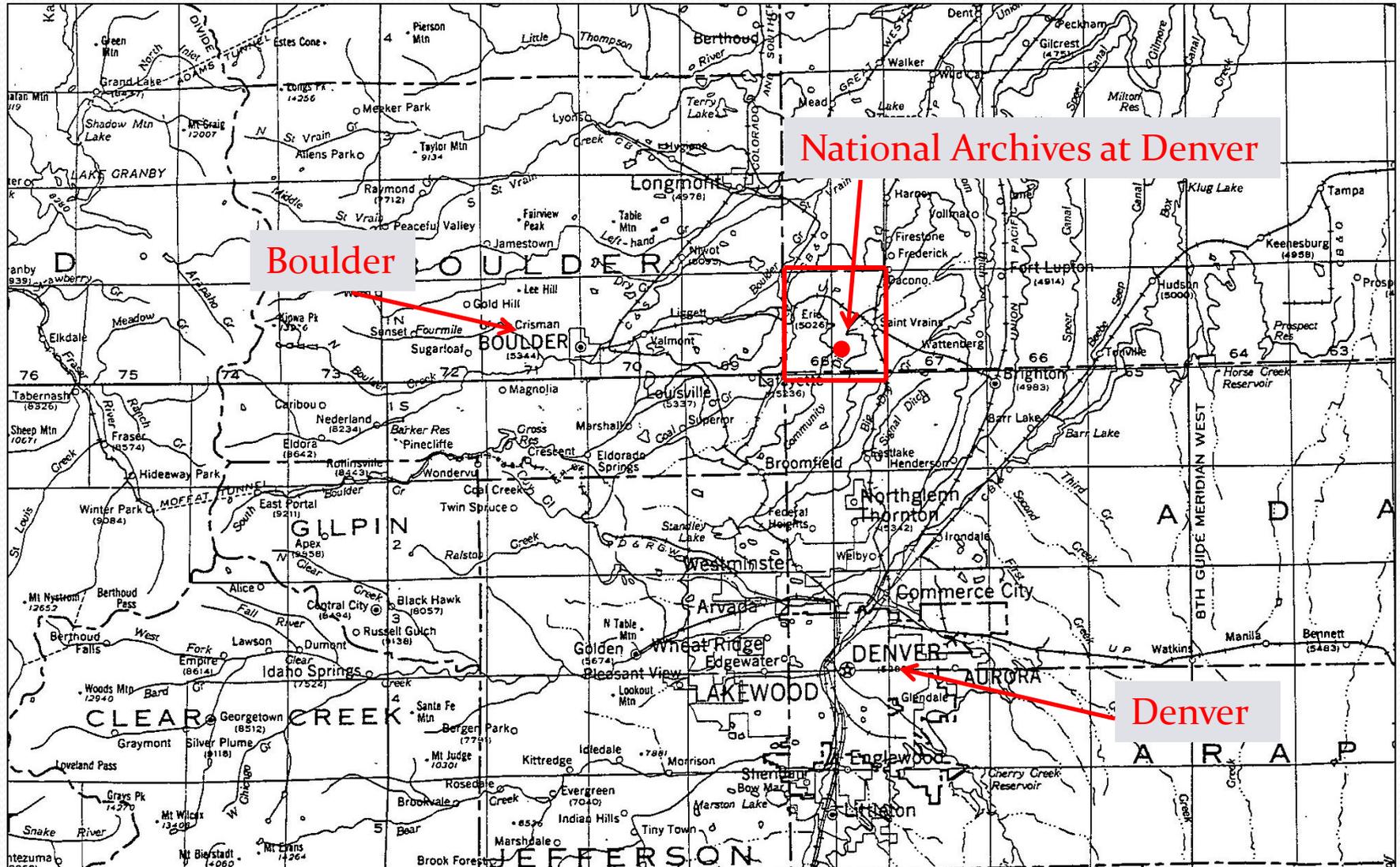
6th Principal Meridian



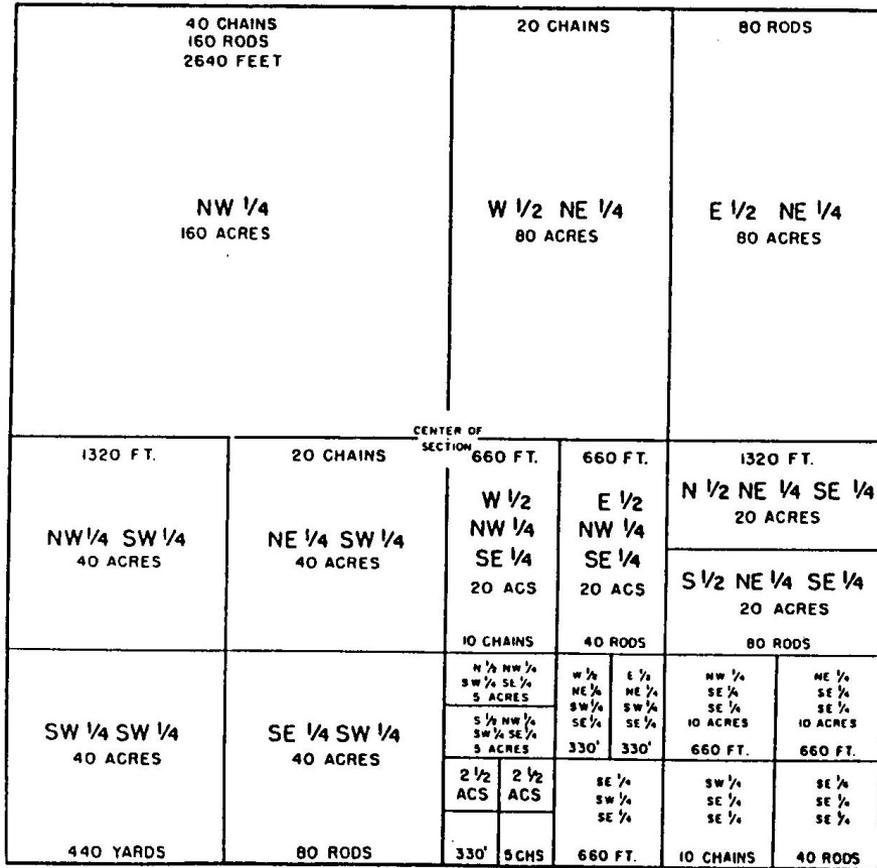
Township, Range, Section



The National Archives at Denver sits at Township 1 N, Range 68 W, Section 34

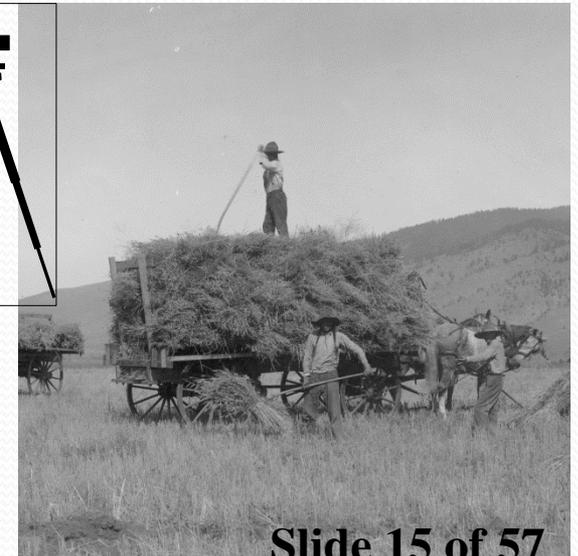
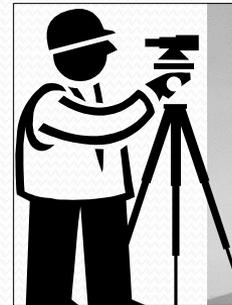


Aliquot Parts



In a perfect world, each claim would sit exactly within one of the quadrants of a section, such as NW₁/₄ (the northwest quarter)...

Instead, you may see something like this:
SW₁/₄ SW₁/₄ 3 S₁/₂
SE₁/₄ NW₁/₄ SE₁/₄....
HELP!



Aliquot: “constituting or comprising a part or fraction of a possible whole or entirety”

Obtaining the Legal Description

- A patent was passed down
- County Clerk and Recorder
- BLM's GLO Patent Search website
- Online websites and indexes-
 - Denver Land Office index
 - Name Index to Cancelled, Rejected, and Relinquished Land Entry Files, Dodge City, Kansas and Topeka, Kansas Land Offices, ca. 1905-1937
- The law firm of "Hunt and Peck"

Description of the Tract

Name of the Purchaser

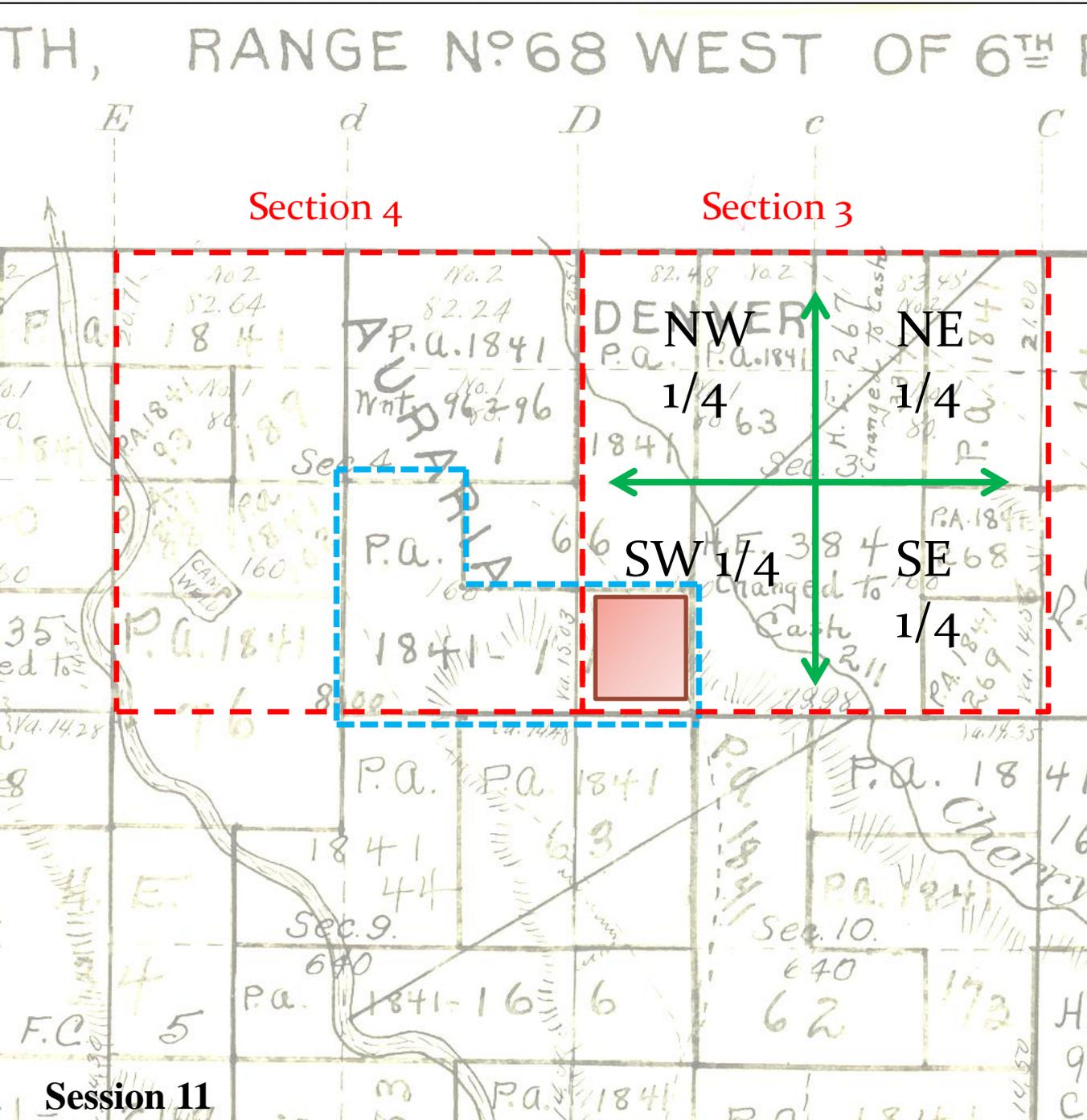
Date of Sale

By Whom Patented

DESCRIPTION OF THE TRACT.				CONTENTS.		RATE PER ACRE.		PURCHASE MONEY.		NAME OF THE PURCHASER.	Range No.	DATE OF SALE.	NUMBER OF RECEIPT AND CERTIFICATE OF PURCHASE.	BY WHOM PATENTED.	DATE OF PATENT.	
Section.	Township.	Range.	Acres.	100ths.	Dollars.	Cents.	Dollars.	Cents.								
14	S. 8. E. 8. N.		162.54							Located by Abraham [#] _{for} W. No. 76 96276		Oct 55	P.A. 1541. Encls paid per Recd 7162.			
			40.00		1.25			50.00		William Richardson		September 19 1864	93 P.A. 1541.			
			160.00							Located by Langdon Clark per W. No. 94509		Oct 55	P.A. 1541.			
			160.00							Located by Geo. Austin per W. No. 102018		115	October 19 1864	Oct 55	P.A. 1541.	
			40.00		1.25			50.00		Clisha Millison		October 29 1864	98 P.A. 1541.			
			40.00		1.25			50.00		Wilmington O Ashley		November 29 1864	102 P.A. 1541.			
										Sec 7						
			165.15							Located by Addison Barber per W. No. 103679		187	April 27 1865	Oct 55	P.A. 1541. Encls paid per Recd 7162.	
			160.00							Located by James H. Gifford per W. No. 60 522		116	January 25 1864	Oct 55	P.A. 1541.	
										Sec 32, 33, 68.						
			160.00							Located by David A. Johnson per W. No. 102574		107	October 22 1864	Oct 55	P.A. 1541.	
										Sec 6.						
										Cancelled Sec 20 of 8/14 (35797)						

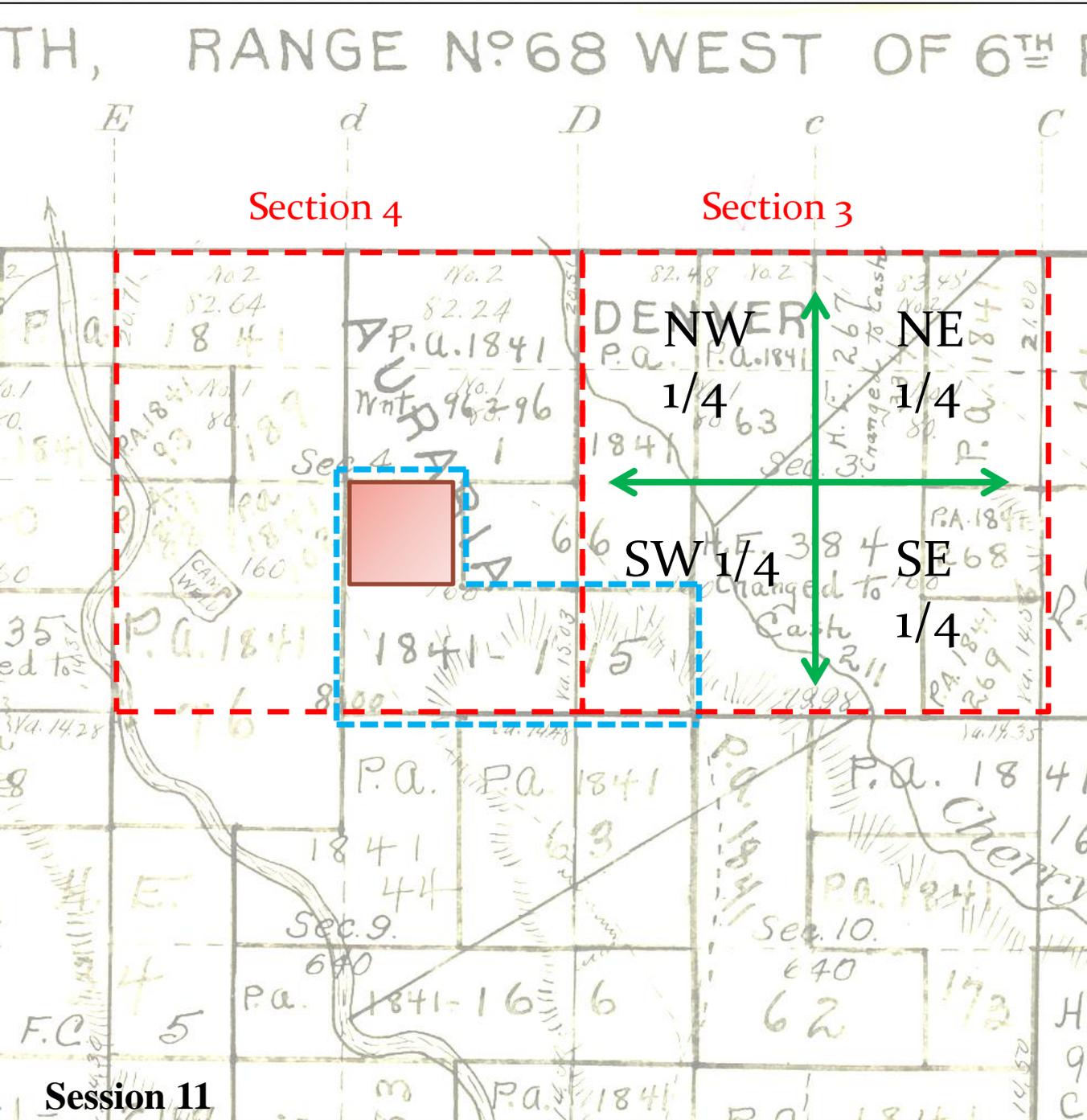
Number of Receipt and Certificate of Purchase

Land Office



George O. Austin
 Twp 4 South, Rng 68
 West, Sec. 4, SW₁/₄
 SW₁/₄ 3 S₁/₂ SE₁/₄
 NW₁/₄ SE₁/₄

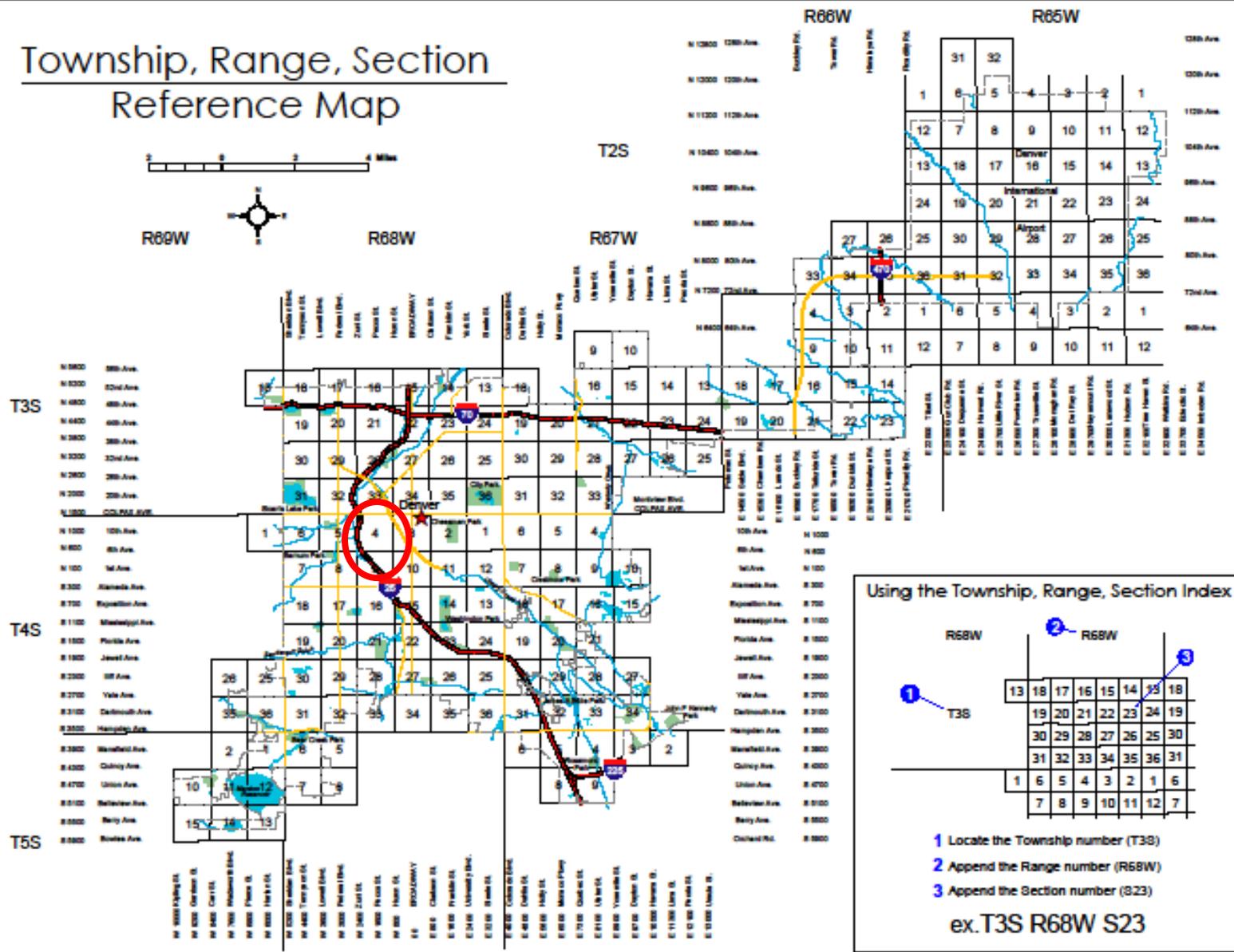
“SW₁/₄
 SW₁/₄ 3”
 indicates the
 southwest
 quarter of the
 southwest
 quarter of
 section 3.



George O. Austin
 Twp 4 South, Rng 68
 West, Sec. 4, SW_{1/4}
 SW_{1/4} 3 S_{1/2} SE_{1/4}
 NW_{1/4} SE_{1/4}

“NW_{1/4}
 SE_{1/4}”
 indicates the
 northwest
 quarter of the
 southeast
 quarter (of
 section 4).

Township, Range, Section Reference Map



Using the Township, Range, Section Index

- 1 Locate the Township number (T3S)
- 2 Append the Range number (R68W)
- 3 Append the Section number (S23)

ex. T3S R68W S23

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Tract Books in Washington, DC

- The National Archives in Washington, DC has tractbooks for the states of: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

Tract Books Held by the BLM

- For the **Eastern States**, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has the tract books and patents. This includes the states of: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin.

For these Eastern State tract books, contact:

- [Eastern States Office, Bureau of Land Management](#),
Department of the Interior (BLM-ESO)
7450 Boston Boulevard
Springfield, VA 22153

Tract Books in Denver

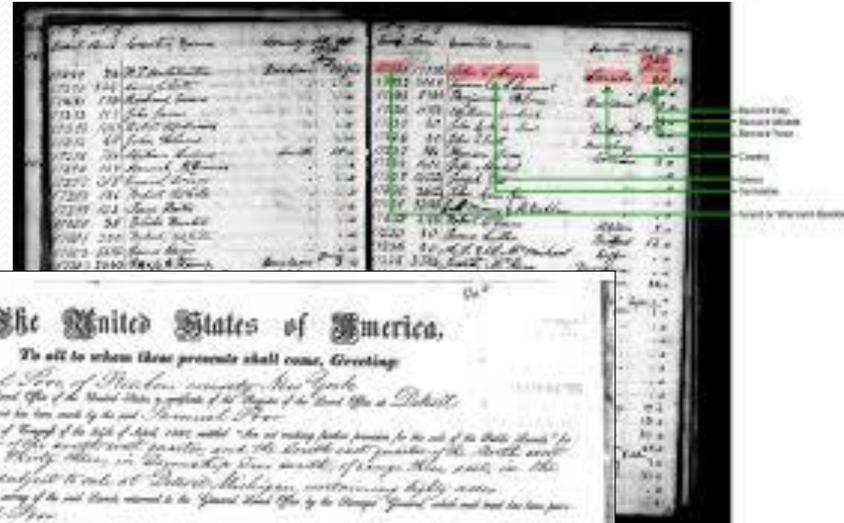
- We have tract books for:
- Colorado
- Utah
- New Mexico
- Wyoming
- Montana
- North Dakota
- South Dakota

Records of the Dakotas actually belong in our Kansas City facility. They are held in Denver because the Dakotas were administered under the Bureau of Land Management in Montana.

Land Records in Other NARA Regions

www.archives.gov/locations/

You can expect to find land records at other NARA regional facilities.



<http://www.archives.gov/research/guide-fed-records/groups/049.html>

Guide to Federal Records, Record Group 49, Bureau of Land Management

49.9.6 Records of Colorado land offices

Textual Records (in Denver): Records of the Akron land office (1890-1905), consisting of a register of homestead entries, 1890- 1905. Records of the Central City land office (1868-94), including tract books, 1868-94; and registers of homestead entries, coal land cash entries, mineral entries, and timber culture entries, 1868-94. Records of the Del Norte land office (1875-1925), including tract books, 1875-1925; registers of homestead entries and mineral entries, 1875-1915; abstracts of desert land entries and final certificates, 1891-1908; and canceled serialized land entry case files, 1890-1924. Records of the Denver land office (1864-1949) and its predecessor at Golden City (1863-64), including Commissioner's letters, 1934-47; miscellaneous correspondence, 1942-52; tract books, 1863-1949; serial register books, 1908-49; registers of homestead entries, mineral entries, and timber culture entries, 1863-1908; and canceled serialized land entry case files, 1912-15. Records of the Durango land office (1882-1925), including registers of letters received from the Commissioner, 1889-1908; and rejected, tract books, 1882-1925; serial register books, 1908-25; registers of homestead entries, mineral entries, and timber culture entries, 1882-93; abstracts of desert land entries, 1892-1908; and rejected, cancelled, or relinquished serialized land entry case files, 1908-25. Records of the Glenwood Springs land office (1884-1927), including Commissioner's letters, 1922-48; serial register books, 1908-27; and registers of homestead entries, mineral entries, timber culture entries, and desert land entries, 1884-1908. Records of the Gunnison land office (1883-1907), including registers of cash entries, homestead entries, mineral entries, timber culture entries, and desert land entries, 1883-1907. Records of the Hugo land office (1890-1922), including tract books, 1890-1922; serial register books, 1908-22; and registers of cash entries, homestead entries, timber culture entries, and desert land entries, 1880- 1908. Records of the Lamar land office (1887-

The Fate of Land Claims

- Patented- ownership and title obtained by the homesteader,
- Relinquished- homesteader voluntarily walked away from the claim,
- Cancelled- the General Land Office canceled the claim for various reasons tied to aspects of land laws.

BLM Website

- <http://www.glorecords.blm.gov/>
 - Patented claims only
 - All 30 public land states
 - Can be searched by many criteria
 - Images of patents often available

BLM's GLORECORDS Website

Documents By Type | Search Documents By Location | Search Documents By Identifier

Search [Clear Form](#)

Location

State: COLORADO
County: ----- Any County

Names

Last Name: austin
First Name: george
Middle Name:
 search patentees search warrantees

Land Description

Township: /
Range: /
Meridian: ----- Any Meridian -----
Section #:

Miscellaneous

Land Office: ----- Any Land Office -----
Document #:
Indian Allot. #:
Survey #:
Authority: ----- Any Authority -----

Issue Date: -- to --
Militia:
Tribe: ----- Any Tribe -----
Geo. Name/
Mining Claim:

To search for land patents:

1. Start by selecting the State.
2. **You do not have to fill in all fields**, but provide *at least* one additional field.
3. Click the **Search Patents** button.

Search Tips:

- Hover your mouse over a field to get a brief description.
- Get detailed information by checking the [Glossary](#) in the Reference Center.
- For more tips and help, check out our [Patent Search Overview](#).

Search Patents

Note: This site does not cover every state, but we do have [resource links](#) for most states.

Results

Printer Friendly 

Note: An *Italic* entry denotes data that has not been indexed against the land patent document, and has no image.

Image	Accession	Names ↑	Date	Doc #	State	Meridian	Twp - Rng	Aliquots	Sec. #	County
---	<i>COCOAA 013312</i>	 AUSTIN, GEORGE C,  BURRAGE, GEORGE F	12/26/1890	16908	CO	6th PM	006S - 081W		14	Eagle
	MW-0233-009	 AUSTIN, GEORGE O,  MIRABEL, PEDRO	11/1/1865	102618	CO	6th PM	004S - 068W	S1/2SE1/4	4	Denver
							004S - 068W	NW1/4SE1/4	4	Denver
							004S - 068W	SW1/4SW1/4	3	Denver
---	<i>COCOAA 067912</i>	 AUSTIN, GEORGE O,  MIRABEL, PEDRO	11/1/1865	102618	CO	6th PM	004S - 068W	SW1/4SW1/4	3	Denver
							004S - 068W	W1/2SE1/4	4	Denver
							004S - 068W	SE1/4SE1/4	4	Denver

Digital image is associated with this result- an image of the patent.

Click this link for the full result.

Details

George O. Austin
Twp 4 South, Rng 68
West, Sec. 4, SW₁/₄
SW₁/₄ 3 S₁/₂ SE₁/₄
NW₁/₄ SE₁/₄

Patent number 115,
“Act 55” (ScripWarrant
act of 1855),
P.A. 1841 (Preemption
act of 1841)

“Per Wt 102618”

Filed May 30, 1864

Date of Sale Sept. 19,
1864

Accession Nr: MW-0233-009 Document Type: Military Warrant State: Colorado Issue Date: 11/1/1865 Cancelled: N

Patent Details

Patent Image

Related Documents

Names On Document

 AUSTIN, GEORGE O,
 MIRABEL, PEDRO

Military Rank: ---

Miscellaneous Information

Land Office:	Denver
US Reservations:	No
Mineral Reservations:	No
Tribe:	---
Militia:	Captain Gonsales Company New Mexican Vol
State In Favor Of:	---
Authority:	March 3, 1855: ScripWarrant Act of 1855 (10
General Remarks:	---

Document Numbers

Document Nr:	102618
Misc. Doc. Nr:	---
BLM Serial Nr:	---
Indian Allot. Nr:	---
Coal Entry. Nr:	---

Survey Information

Total Acres:	160.00
Survey Date:	---
Geographic Name:	---
Metes/Bounds:	No

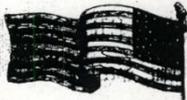
Land Descriptions

Map	State	Meridian	Twp - Rng	Aliquots	Section
<input type="checkbox"/>	CO	6th PM	004S - 068W	S ₁ / ₂ SE ₁ / ₄	4
<input type="checkbox"/>	CO	6th PM	004S - 068W	NW ₁ / ₄ SE ₁ / ₄	4
<input type="checkbox"/>	CO	6th PM	004S - 068W	SW ₁ / ₄ SW ₁ / ₄	3

Land Patents

- Land patents are the legal documents that transferred land ownership from the U.S. Government to individuals. Now you can search for land patent records online, for both Eastern and Western states. See the Bureau of Land Management's [Land Patent Search](#) page.

Please note that this includes only patented or perfected land entries. Those claims that were cancelled or relinquished will not be listed there. The case files for them may contain just as much useful information for the researcher. To locate those claims, researchers may need to access the tract books.



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Whose Letters and Warrants shall have the Force and Effect of a Patent

WHEREAS, In pursuance of the Act of Congress, approved March 3, 1862, entitled "An Act in addition to certain Acts granting Bounty Land to certain Officers and Soldiers who have been engaged in the military service of the United States," there has been deposited in the GENERAL LAND OFFICE, Warrant No. 122618 for 150 acres in favor of Pedro Mirabel, Sergeant Captain Company of Mexican Volunteers, Service Indian War

with evidence that the same has been duly located upon the South half of the South East quarter and the North West quarter of the South East quarter of Section Four and the South West quarter of the South West quarter of Section Three in Township Four South of Range Sixty Eight West in the District of Land subject to sale at Denver City, Colorado Territory containing One hundred and Sixty Acre

according to the Official File of the Survey of said Lands returned to the SURVEYOR GENERAL. The said Warrant having been assigned by the said Pedro Mirabel to George O. Austin in whose favor the said tract has been located

NOW KNOW YE, That there is therefore granted by the UNITED STATES into the said George O. Austin as assignee as aforesaid and to his heirs

the tract of Land above described: TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said tract of Land; with the appurtenances thereof, unto the said George O. Austin as assignee as aforesaid and to his

heirs and assigns forever.

In testimony whereof, I, Andrew Johnson, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, have caused these Letters to be made Patent, and the SEAL OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE to be hereunto affixed.

GIVEN under my hand, at the City of WASHINGTON, the 21st day of November in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and 61, and of the Independence of the United States the 35th

BY THE PRESIDENT: Andrew Johnson

By: Geo. S. Shell Sec'y. J. G. Thompson Recorder of the General Land Office

Digital Image

Bounty Land Warrant of Pedro Mirabel was transferred to George O. Austin

Denver 025730.

The United States of America,

Do all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting:

WHEREAS, a Certificate of the Register of the Land Office at **Denver, Colorado,** has been deposited in the General Land Office, whereby it appears that full payment has been made by the claimant **Lydia E. Ferguson** according to the provisions of the Act of Congress of April 24, 1820, entitled "An Act making further provision for the sale of the Public Lands," and the acts supplemental thereto, for the **northeast quarter of the south-east quarter of Section eighteen in Township three south of Range seventy west of the Sixth Principal Meridian, Colorado, containing forty acres,**

according to the Official Plat of the Survey of the said Land, returned to the GENERAL LAND OFFICE by the Surveyor-General:

NOW KNOW YE, That the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, in consideration of the premises, and in conformity with the several Acts of Congress in such case made and provided, HAS GIVEN AND GRANTED, and by these presents DOES GIVE AND GRANT unto the said claimant and to the heirs of the said claimant, the tract above described; TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the same, together with all the rights, privileges, immunities, and appurtenances of whatsoever nature it hereto before existing, unto the said claimant and to the heirs and assigns of the said claimant forever; and to any needed and accepted water rights for mining, agricultural, manufacturing, or other purposes, and rights to ditch and reservoir used in connection with such water rights, as may be recognized and acknowledged by the local customs, laws, and decisions of courts; and there is reserved from the lands hereby granted, a right of way therein for ditches or canals constructed by the authority of the United States.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I, **Woodrow Wilson,** President of the United States of America, have caused these letters to be made Patent, and the Seal of the General Land Office to be hereunto affixed.

GIVEN under my hand, in the District of Columbia, the **TWENTY-SIXTH** day of **SEPTEMBER** In the Year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and **NINETEEN** and of the Independence of the United States the one hundred and **FORTY-FOURTH.**

By the President *Woodrow Wilson*
 By *W. P. L. Roy* Secretary
J. P. Sander
 Recorder of the General Land Office

RECORD OF PATENTS Patent Number **708315**

A Typical Patent

Land Entry Case Files

- The land records that are generally of most interest to genealogists are the **land entry case files**. These are records that document the transfer of public lands from the U.S. Government to private ownership.

There are over ten million such individual land transactions in the custody of the National Archives.

Not All Land Entry Case Files are the Same

- Remember- over **40 separate legislative acts** were used by Americans to make a land entry on the public lands, and each act required different information from the entryman. Thus, the documentation available in the land entry case file depends largely upon the requirements of the act under which the land entry was made.

Some Types of Case Files at NARA

Cash Entries

Homesteads

(including cancelled
and relinquished
claims)

Bounty Land

Cash Entries

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

To all to whom these presents shall come, greeting:

Graduation
U. S.

CERTIFICATE

No. 29785

Whereas, Benjamin Wingo, of Dallas County, Missouri,

has deposited in the GENERAL LAND OFFICE of the UNITED STATES, a CERTIFICATE of the Registrar of the Land Office at Springfield, _____ whereby it appears that FULL PAYMENT has been made by the said Benjamin Wingo, _____ according to the provisions of the act of Congress of the 24th of April, 1820, entitled "An act making further provision for the sale of the public lands," for the West half of the North

East quarter of Section twenty three, in Township thirty two, of Range twenty, in the District of Lands subject to sale at Springfield, Missouri, containing eighty acres, _____

according to the OFFICIAL PLAT of the Survey of the said lands, returned to the GENERAL LAND OFFICE by the Surveyor General, which said tract has been purchased by the said Benjamin Wingo, _____

Now know ye, That the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, in consideration of the premises, and in conformity with the several Acts of Congress in such case made and provided, HAVE GIVEN AND GRANTED, and by these presents DO GIVE AND GRANT, unto the said Benjamin Wingo, _____ and to his heirs, the said Tract above described; TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the same, together with all the rights, privileges, immunities, and appurtenances, of whatsoever nature, thereunto belonging, unto the said Benjamin Wingo, _____ and to his heirs and assigns forever.

In testimony whereof, I, James Buchanan, _____ PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, have caused these letters to be made Patent, and the Seal of the GENERAL LAND OFFICE to be hereunto affixed.

Given under my hand, at the CITY OF WASHINGTON, the first day of June, in the year of OUR LORD one thousand eight hundred and fifty nine, and of the Independence of the United States the eighty third,

BY THE PRESIDENT:

James Buchanan

By _____ Sec'y.

W. Leonard
Recorder of the General Land Office.

RECORDED, Vol. 47 Page 132

Homestead Land Entry Case Files

HOMESTEAD PROOF.--TESTIMONY OF CLAIMANT.

Charles P Ingalls being called as a witness in his own behalf in support of
homestead entry No. *40.91* for *North East 1/4 Sec 3-110-56*
testifies as follows:

Ques. 1.--What is your name--written in full and correctly spelled--your age and postoffice address?

Ans. *Charles P Ingalls 55 years of age*
De Smet Kingsbury Co Dak

Ques. 2.--Are you a native of the United States, or have you been naturalized?

Ans. *Native Born citizen*

~~Ques. 3.--When was your house built on the land, and when did you establish actual residence there--~~
in? (Describe said house and other improvements which you have placed on the land, giving total value thereof.)

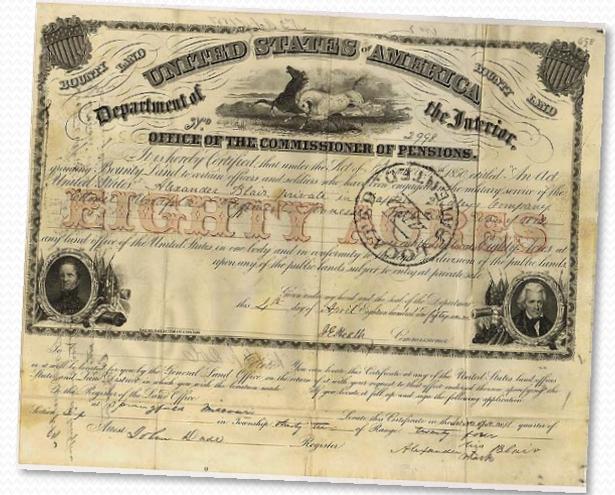
Ans. *In May 1880. In May 1880, Frame House 14 X 20 addition
12 X 16 one story, good well and pump frame burn hay roof 16 X 24,
60 acres bearing apple trees bearing plum trees bearing small fruit
in abundance about 6000 fruit trees worth them 6 years old total value, \$1000.00*

Ques. 4.--Of whom does your family consist; and have you and your family resided continuously on the land since first establishing residence thereon? (If unmarried, state the fact.)

Ans. *Wife and four children. I have exact as answered
in next question*

Ques. 5.--For what period or periods have you been absent from the homestead since making settlement, and for what purpose; and if temporarily absent, did your family reside upon and cultivate the

Bounty Land Warrant Application Files



- From 1788 to 1855, the U.S. government granted military bounty land warrants for military service. Army recruiters used the enticement of free land as an incentive and reward for enlistment.
- Provided a ready force to oppose Indian uprisings.
- Encouraged frontier settlement.
- Provided revenue to help pay off the national debt.

Requesting Land Entry Case Files

- The case files were filed as either
 - pre-1908 land entry files,
 - 1908 and later land entry files,
 - Surrendered bounty land warrants.

The information required to access and order copies of the records will differ depending on which of these 3 categories the transaction falls into.

Ordering Land Entry Case Files

NATF
Form
84

\$50

-For pre-1908 case files:
Name of the entryman
State and land office
Legal Description
Type of claim
Date of the entry (approximate)
Patent or certificate number

Ordering Land Entry Case Files

**NATF
Form
84**

-For 1908 and later case files:
Name of the entryman
State
Date of the entry (approximate)
Patent number (ie, 01234)

\$50

Ordering Bounty Land Entry Case Files

NATF
Form
84

\$50

In addition to all the information needed for the pre-1908 files:

- The warrant number.
- The acreage.
- The year of the congressional act authorizing the warrant.
- Submit your order online or print the form and mail it.

Bounty Land Entry Case Files vs. Bounty Land Application Files

NATF
Form
85

\$30

Bounty Land Warrant= a voucher.

(Bounty) Land Entry Case File=
a case file with information about the land
claimant.

Bounty Land Warrant Application File= a
case file with information on a veteran.

Requesting a Copy of the Land Entry Case File

- All of the patented land entry case files are held by the National Archives in Washington, DC.
- Use Form Number **NATF 84** to order land entry case files (such as credit, cash, homestead, and mineral) or surrendered military bounty land warrants.
- <http://www.archives.gov/research/land/>

Cancelled and Relinquished Land Entry Case Files

Homestead affidavit



4-063 a.

HOMESTEAD AFFIDAVIT.—APPLICABLE TO NEBRASKA ONLY.
Act of April 28, 1904 (Public—No. 233).

Department of the Interior,
UNITED STATES LAND OFFICE,

Valentine, Nebraska.

March

I, Richard Coen, of Winfeld, Nebraska

having filed my application No. 7245, for an entry under section 2289, Revised Statutes of the United States, do solemnly swear that I am not the proprietor of more than one hundred acres of land in any State or Territory; that I am a native born citizen of the United States of America; over 21 years of age; and that owing to the distance I am unable to appear at the Land Office to execute the same.

affidavit;

that my said application is honestly and in good faith made for the purpose of actual settlement, cultivation, and not for the benefit of any other person, persons, or corporation, and that I fully and honestly endeavor to comply with all the requirements of law as to settlement, residence, and cultivation necessary to acquire title to the land applied for; that I am not acting as agent, person, corporation, or syndicate in making such entry, nor in collusion with any person, or syndicate to give them the benefit of the land entered, or any part thereof, or the timber thereon; that I do not apply to enter the same for the purpose of speculation, but in good faith to obtain a home for myself, and that I have not directly or indirectly made, and will not make, any agreement or contract in any way or manner, with any person or persons, corporation, or syndicate whatsoever, by which the title which I might acquire from the Government of the United States should inure, in whole or in part, to the benefit of any person except myself, and further, that since August 30, 1890, I have not acquired title to, nor am I now claiming under any of the agricultural public land laws other than the homestead laws, more than one hundred and sixty acres.

157

Q What fruit trees or nursery stock have you sold Mr. Coen in the last two years?

A I sold him a bill of trees a year ago last spring, or this spring rather. 100 apple trees, and \$25.00 worth of small currants, strawberries, fruits such as gooseberries, blackberries, blueberries, a cluster of small fruits that we call a small fruit cluster.

Q What was the amount paid?

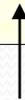
A \$51.50.

Q What was the nature of your contract with Mr. Coen?

A I sold him these trees with the distinct understanding that I was to replace them from year to year till they were the full number of living growing trees.

Q Have you seen the fruit trees since they were planted?

A Yes, sir.



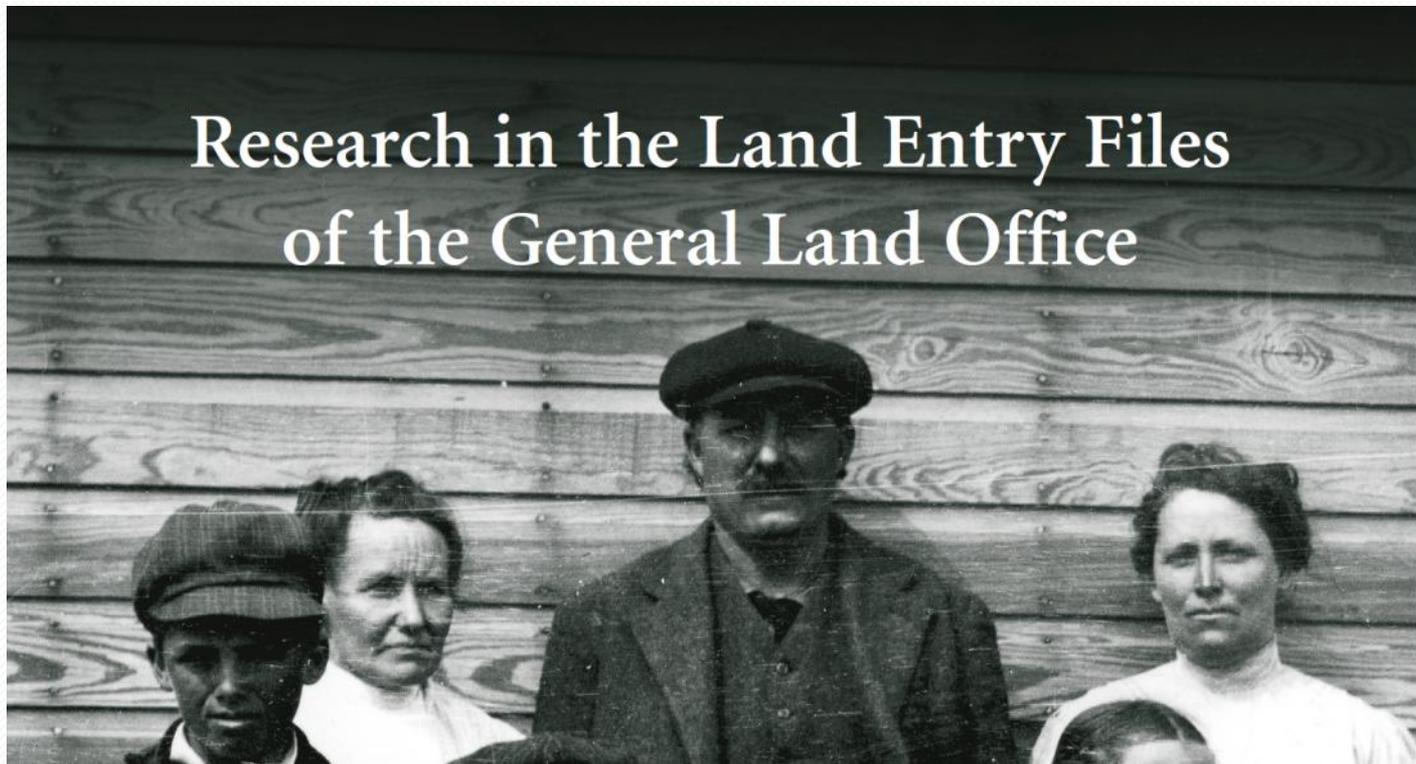
Deposition by witness

Cancelled and Relinquished Land Entry Case Files

All Pre-1908: Washington DC
(NATF-84)

Post-1908: Some are in the regional
facilities (contact directly)

National Archives Publication free on our website at:
<http://www.archives.gov/publications/general-info-leaflets/67-land-entry-files.html>



Land Records on Microfilm

Original Records are in Washington DC

Some microfilms have been digitized,
Includes the complete applications for bounty
land warrants filed under the act of 1855,
Other records pertain to lands in Oregon,
Washington state, California, Idaho and
other states.



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Our digitization partners, Ancestry.com and Fold3.com, have digitized selected NARA microfilm publications and original records and made them available on their web sites for a fee. Each partner allows free searches of some or all index terms for each title. Access to Ancestry.com and Fold3.com is available free of

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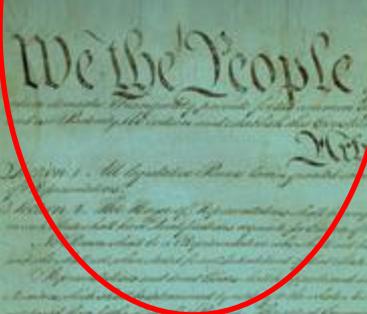
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M829	U.S. Revolutionary War Bounty Land Warrants Used in the U.S. Military District of Ohio and Relating Papers (Acts of 1788, 1803, and 1806), 1788-1806	Ancestry.com	49
M835	Select List of Photographs of Harry S. Truman, 1885-1953	Fold3.com	Multiple Record Groups

<http://www.archives.gov/digitization/digitized-by-partners.html>



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Questions?

rick.martinez@nara.gov





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