

## THE SOURCE

*Western New York* (reprint, Bowie, Md.: Heritage Books, 1991). William Wyckoff, *The Developer's Frontier: The Making of the Western New York Landscape* (New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press, 1988) looks at the Holland Land Company as a developer. Karen E. Livsey, *Western New York Land Transactions, 1804-1824* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1991) and *Western Land Transactions, 1825-1835* (Baltimore: Clearfield Co., 1996), help to locate settlers and their land and index the microfilmed records of the Holland Land Company.

The private papers of the large Hudson River manors may be necessary to complete a genealogy, since tenants who leased but did not buy land may never appear in the county conveyance records. See Berthold Fernow, *Documents Relating to the History and Settlement of the Towns Along the Hudson and Mohawk Rivers (With the Exception of Albany) from 1630 to 1682* (Albany, N.Y.: Weed, Parsons, 1881). The background history is excellently summarized in Sung Bok Kim, *Landlord and Tenant in Colonial New York: Manorial Society, 1664-1775* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1978) and Henry B. Hoff, "Manors in New York," *The New York Genealogical and Biographical Newsletter* 10 (1999): 55-58, 11 (2000): 13-17. In 1650, the Dutch government of New Netherlands recognized Connecticut's title to Long Island east of Oyster Bay, though Long Island was soon reunited with New York under the Duke of York's proprietary (1664-89). See Berthold Fernow, *Documents Relating to the History of the Early Colonial Settlements Principally on Long Island* (Albany, N.Y.: Weed, Parsons, 1883). Deeds in these early New England towns were recorded in the town, not the county, prior to the successful extension of Suffolk County jurisdiction. This is also sometimes true of the debatable land east of the Hudson adjoining Connecticut and Massachusetts, where New Englanders settled on lands claimed by New York. (See the Vermont entry for lands granted in what is now that state by New York.)

The major land records—patents, deeds, and land grant applications—of the colonial and state government are in the state archives at <[www.archives.nysed.gov](http://www.archives.nysed.gov)>. They are listed in New York State Archives, *Public Records Relating to Land in New York State* (Albany: New York State Archives, 1979). They are on microfilm. Land grant applications, abstracted and indexed, are partly available in New York Secretary of State, *Calendar of N.Y. Colonial Manuscripts, Indorsed Land Papers, in the Office of the Secretary of State of New York, 1643-1803* (Albany, N.Y.: Weed, Parsons, 1864; reprint, Harrison, New York: Harbor Hill Books, 1987). In 1784, the Board of Commissioners of the Land Office was established to dispose of the state's remaining public lands.

New York allotted its Revolutionary War soldiers bounty land, giving privates five hundred acres (see Bockstruck, xvii). The military reserve in the Finger Lakes region was surveyed into six hundred-acre lots so that veterans could take their one hundred-acre federal bounty alongside their state bounty in lieu

of one hundred acres in Ohio. Most veterans sold their claims and never settled in the military tract. The surveyed land in this reserve was distributed by lottery drawing; hence, the title of the state's published list of recipients: New York Legislature, *The Balloting Book, and Other Documents Relating to Military Bounty Lands in the State of New York, New York Legislature* (Albany, N.Y.: Packard & Van Benthuyssen, 1825). See Robert S. Rose, "The Military Tract of Central N.Y." (M.A. thesis, Syracuse University, 1935). An earlier military tract was established northeast of the Adirondacks, but very few accepted this poor land. For background on New York's varied land tenure and law, see Robert L. Fowler, *History of the Law of Real Property in New York* (New York: Baker, Voorhis, 1895); S. G. Nissinson, "The Development of a Land Registration System in New York," *New York History* 20 (1939): 16-21; Armand LaPotin, "The Minisink Grant: Partnerships, Patents, and Processing Fees in Eighteenth Century New York," *ibid.* 56 (1976): 28-50; Charles W. Spencer, "The Land System of Colonial New York," *New York State Historical Association Proceedings* 16 (1917): 150-64; Arthur E. Sutherland, "The Tenancy on the New York Manor," *Cornell Law Quarterly* 41 (1956): 620-39; and H. Gresham Toole, "The Dutch Land System of New Netherlands," *Marshall Review* 2 (1938): 31-39.

## North Carolina

State-land state surveyed in indiscriminate metes and bounds. By charter in 1663 (amended 1665), eight proprietors received a grant of all lands between 29 degrees and 36 degrees 30 minutes, the latter being the present North Carolina-Virginia line. In 1729, George II bought seven of the eight shares and made the Carolina proprietary a royal colony (actually three colonies—the two Carolinas and, in 1732, Georgia). The eighth share belonged to Lord Carteret, later Earl Granville, whose one-eighth part was laid off using the already surveyed Virginia line. Thus the northern half of present-day North Carolina composed the Granville District, where Earl Granville had the right to grant lands and collect quitrents, though not to govern. The boundary of the Granville District was the present southern line of the counties of Rowan-Davidson-Randolph projected east to the ocean. This Granville line was not even partially surveyed until the 1740s, when a land office was opened, only to be closed permanently about 1763. See Margaret M. Hofmann's five-volume *The Granville District of North Carolina 1748-1763 Abstracts of Land Grants* (Weldon, N.C.: 1988-1995). George Stevenson's introduction in vol. 1 provides important information relating to the Granville District.

The Granville grants, as well as the grants from the early proprietary, the royal colony, and the state government, are in the North Carolina State Archives <[www.ah.dcr.state.nc.us](http://www.ah.dcr.state.nc.us)>. There are both card and online indexes. An excellent description of these records and the early land distribution process is in

## LAND RECORDS

Margaret M. Hofmann, "Land Grants," in *North Carolina Research: Genealogy and Local History*, edited by Helen F.M. Leary (Raleigh: North Carolina Genealogical Society, 1996), 313-28. Hofmann has abstracted grants from the proprietary period in *Province of North Carolina, 1663-1729, Abstracts of Land Patents* (Weldon, N.C.: Roanoke News, 1979); the crown colony era in *Colony of North Carolina 1735-64: Abstracts of Land Patents Volume 1* and *Colony of North Carolina 1765-75: Abstracts of Land Patents Volume 2* (1982-84); and the state period in *North Carolina Abstract of State Grants* (Ann Arbor, Mich.: Print-Tech, 1998).

Headrights were offered throughout the colonial period, though the requirements and acreage varied. For such stipulations, see the introduction to Caroline B. Whitley, *North Carolina Headrights: A List of Names, 1663-1774* (Raleigh: Historical Publications Section, Division of Archives and History, North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, 2001).

Deeds were recorded in the counties, though irregularly in the earliest years. North Carolina's military bounty-land act was the most generous of the states in granting 640 acres (in Tennessee) to a private in the Continental line. Researchers should read George Stevenson's description of the state's bounty-land records as given in Leary's *North Carolina Genealogy* (cited previously), 384-90 and Bockstruck, xvii-xx. Also see Weynette Parks Haun, *Old Albermarle County North Carolina Book of Land Warrants and Surveys, 1681-1706* (Durham, N.C., Haun, 1984) and her titles of abstracts of various county deeds, such as *Chowan County, North Carolina Deed Books* (Durham, N.C.: Haun, 1998). See titles by Albert Bruce Pruitt or Elizabeth "Pat" Shaw Bailey for abstracts or indexes to other land records (county and earlier). See also, George Henry Swathers, *The History of Land Titles in Western North Carolina* (1938; reprint, Arno Press, 1979); Dan Lacy, "Records in the Offices of Registers of Deeds in N.C.," *North Carolina Historical Review* 14 (1937): 213-29; Jacquelyn H. Wolf, "Patents and Tithables in Proprietary North Carolina, 1663-1729," *ibid.* 56 (1979): 263-77; and Marvin L. Michael Kay, "The Payment of Provincial and Local Taxes in North Carolina, 1748-1771," *William and Mary Quarterly*, 3rd series, 26 (1960): 218-40.

### North Dakota

Public-domain state with one principal meridian (established 1815 in Arkansas, North Dakota being surveyed much later). The earliest of North Dakota's seven GLO land districts opened at Pembina in 1870 (see Hone, 440-47). The bulk of their records are in the State Historical Society of North Dakota <[www.state.nd.us/hist](http://www.state.nd.us/hist)>. NARA's Rocky Mountain Region in Denver holds local office registers, tract books, and correspondence, 1864-1950, and rejected, canceled, and relinquished serial application case files, 1908-50, of the Bismark, Creelsburg, Devils Lake, Dickinson, Fargo, Grand Forks, Minot, and Williston district

land offices. Obtain patents from the BLM Montana State Office, P.O. Box 36800, 5001 Southgate, Billings, Montana 59107-6800, <[www.mt.blm.gov](http://www.mt.blm.gov)>, which also has copies of the tract books and township plats for North Dakota. Serial patents are being indexed and scanned for GLO-ARS. NA-DC has the land-entry case files as described in Inventory No. 22 and the GLO headquarters original tract books and township plats. See N. Thomas, "Distribution of the Public Domain in Dakota Territory" (M.A. thesis, University of South Dakota, 1944).

### Ohio

Public-domain state with a complicated surveying history. Aside from the Virginia Military District's indiscriminate metes and bounds, Ohio has a dozen different township-and-range surveys, the major principal meridians being established from 1785 to 1819. A map (2003 issue), "Original Land Subdivisions of Ohio," at <[www.dnr.state.oh.us/geosurvey](http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/geosurvey)>, shows the variety of Ohio surveys, including some that used five-mile square townships. Researchers should be alert to four different boundary jurisdictions in early Ohio:

1. The actual surveys with their meridians and baselines (or lack of same in the Virginia Military District). See C. E. Sherman, *Original Ohio Land Subdivisions*, 4 vols. (1949; reprint, Columbus: Ohio Department of Natural Resources, 1982). Vol. 3 recounts the history of the various surveys and gives detailed maps showing the numbering of townships. This book is a must for early Ohio research.
2. The various tracts as they opened for settlement, such as the Seven Ranges, the U.S. Military District, the Congress Lands east of Scioto River, and the Congress Lands west of Miami River. A map of these tracts is frequently reproduced in Ohio how-to books, such as Kip Sperry, *Genealogical Research in Ohio* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 2003).
3. The land office districts, such as Symmes's private land office at Cincinnati, the GLO's Chillicothe land office (1801-76), and the Virginia Military District's land office, also at Chillicothe. For GLO districts, see Inventory No. 22, 57-59, and Hone, 448-60.
4. The counties with their registries of deeds. See Randolph Chandler Downs, *Evolution of Ohio County Boundaries* (1927; reprint, Columbus: Ohio Historical Society, 1970).

The state auditor of Ohio is in charge of the State Land Office <[www.auditor.state.oh.us](http://www.auditor.state.oh.us)>. The *Official Ohio Lands Book* by Dr. George W. Knepper may be downloaded from <[www.auditor.state.oh.us/StudentResources/OhioLands/ohio\\_lands.pdf](http://www.auditor.state.oh.us/StudentResources/OhioLands/ohio_lands.pdf)>. The office also has an index to all Ohio patentees except the Symmes Purchase and the Connecticut Western Reserve,