

Mesa Family Search Library Family History Conference Land & Probate Records in the United States - Part 1

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Use them to Answer Specific Genealogical Questions

Deeds at the Local (County) Level

Important Elements in a Deed

- Names of Grantors (Sellers)
- Names of Grantees (Buyers)
- Consideration (what is paid)
- Legal Land Description
- Date the deed is created
- Names of Witnesses
- Dower Release
- Date of Recording

Federal Land Case or Land Entry Files

- Example of Letters in One File
- Signature of Entryman (Person Applying for a Grant)

Locating Hints of Oregon Donation Land

Comparing Other Types of Records

- i.e. Marriage Records, etc.
- Abandonment of Claim
- Diaries and Local Histories (an example)
- Probation Records
- Guardianship (example)

What is a Land Entry Case File?

How Do You Find It?

- <http://glorerecords.blm.gov/search/default.aspx>
- <http://www.archives.gov/>

Information Required to Order a Land Entry Case File

- Name of Entryman (Person Applying of the Grant)
- Type of File (Cash)
- State
- Land Office
- Certificate Number (Document Number)

Benefits of Platting the Land From Legal Land Description

- Helps Identify Neighbors (They May Be Relatives)
- Guides You to Walking the Land

Ancestry.com Card Catalog

- Aid to Locating Land and Probate Records
- Example: Genealogical Material in Oregon Land Claims
- U.S., Indexed Early Land Ownership and Township Plats, 1785-1898

Federal Land Survey at Bureau of Land Management

- Surveys
- Control Document Index (CDI)

United States Tract Books Can Be Used as An Index

- May Assist in Locating Information on Your Ancestor Who Applied for a Grant, But Never Received the Land
- Includes Name of All Land Grant Applicants
- Allows Access to Land-Entry Case Files
- Browse All Published Collections
- Filter by Collection Name: "Tract"
- See Digitized Tract Books at Family Search Historical Records

Learn to Use Tract Books in the E. Wade Hone's book, *Land & Property Research in the United States*, 113-114.

Locate Digitized (Some) Land and Probate Records at FamilySearch.org Historical Records

- Steps shown in presentation

Learn More, Attend: "Land & Probate Records in the United States - Part 2"