

Using Google Earth, the Newberry Atlas of Historical County Boundaries, the General Land Office Records and other programs to visualize the exact location of ancestral property

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The idea behind this particular presentation is the fact that new online tools allow you to identify a parcel of property from historical records and then, using the legal description of the property, apply the boundaries to a map or satellite image of the actual location. I also explore other programs that provide online maps of property boundaries.

This particular presentation deals with the United States Public Land Survey System aka the PLSS or Rectangular Survey System used in the states other than the original colonies and Texas.

Here are the Links to the main websites referenced:

- Google Earth -- <https://www.google.com/earth/>
- Newberry Atlas of Historical County Boundaries -- <http://publications.newberry.org/ahcbp/>
- Bureau of Land Management, General Land Office Records – <https://www.glorecords.blm.gov/default.aspx>
- EarthPoint.us -- <http://earthpoint.us/>

I also suggest looking at the following websites:

- Tutorial on the Public Land Survey System Descriptions -- <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/forestmanagement/documents/plsstutorial.pdf>
- Montana Cadastral Mapping -- <http://svc.mt.gov/msl/mtcadastral/>
- Cadastral Maps -- <http://www.fao.org/docrep/006/v4860e/v4860e03.htm>
- Iowa Counties Historic Atlases -- <http://digital.lib.uiowa.edu/atlasses/>
- Michigan County Histories and Atlases -- <http://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/micounty/>
- U. S. Indexed County Land Ownership Maps, 1860 – 1918 on Ancestry.com

If you want to get into more complex mapping, you can use the Plat Plotter -- <http://platplotter.appspot.com/> to plot metes and bounds maps.