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Land Records for Genealogy

Property disputes have existed for all of history

Know changing borders of counties, states, countries; may affect how you understand ancestor's immigration or living conditions

Inheritance can be equal, matrilineal, patrilineal or even primogeniture. Primogeniture was common in Europe, and in early Colonial America. Those that did not inherit land in Europe had motivation to come to America.

Land records often lead to other records.

Two land survey systems in USA; metes & bounds and public land survey system with baselines and principal meridians.

Finding a land record includes a legal description of the land, with a little research you can find your ancestor's land yourself. In colonial times may find other currency in records.

US Census may indicate if ancestor rented or owned land. For all questions on census records, see [https://www.census.gov/history/www/through the decades/index of questions/](https://www.census.gov/history/www/through_the_decades/index_of_questions/)

Recommended Reading

- “BLM GLO Records.” The Official Federal Land Records Site for USA. Accessed January 27, 2024. <https://glorerecords.blm.gov/>.
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- Morris, Marc. *The Norman Conquest: The Battle of Hastings and the Fall of Anglo-Saxon England*. First edition. New York; London: Pegasus Books, 2013.
- Secrets of the Manor House*. Documentary. Pioneer Productions, 2012. Availability varies streaming services, check Netflix, PBS, Amazon Prime.
- Sperry, Kip. *Reading Early American Handwriting*. Baltimore, Maryland: Genealogical Publishing Company, 2008.
- Szucs, Loretto Dennis, and Sandra Hargreaves Luebking, eds. *The Source: A Guidebook Of American Genealogy*. Third Edition. Provo, Utah: Ancestry Publishing, 2006.
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