

Detecting U.S. Land Records

Here is a simple checklist of ideas that might help you determine *if* your ancestors owned land.

- U.S. Census Records - 1850, 1860, 1870, 1910, 1920, and 1930 had clues about property.
- Agricultural Schedules (US Census)
- Wills & Probate
- Property Tax Records
- Newspapers Legal Notifications
- Land Grants
- Deeds, Plats & Surveys
- Guardianship (orphaned children who inherited land)
- City Directories (sometimes) or business ads.
- Homestead Records
- Banking or Mortgage Records
- Military Bounty Land Grants
- Widows Pension Records/Grants
- Headrights
- Personal Artifacts (Journals, Letters with addresses).

If your ancestor appears in any of these types of records, go find the deeds. They are likely in the county records, on FamilySearch, MyHeritage, or Ancestry.

