

Sevier County, Tennessee

State of Tennessee Land Grants

1806 - 1900

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Preface

Introduction

This book is an invaluable resource for genealogists working on residents of Sevier County. It contains abstracts of all Sevier County land grants from the State of Tennessee. The grants date from 1806 through 1902. The names of over 3,500 Sevier Countians are included. The land grants have been abstracted from 34 rolls of microfilm of original land grant books. Each abstract contains the person for whom the grant was made, number of acres, location of grant, neighbors, date of entry and date of grant.

Background

On 26 March 1856 the Sevier County courthouse fire destroyed all the land deed record books, over 50 years of land deed and court records. The State of Tennessee Land Grants help fill in some of this missing information. As part of the grant process the State of Tennessee land grants were recorded in the state capitol and therefore not destroyed by the Sevierville courthouse fire.

In 1806 the State of Tennessee began issuing land grants. Tennessee began selling some of its vacant land as a source of revenue by issuing land grants for so much money per acre.

The initial set of land grants issued in 1806-1807 are referred to as the occupancy grants, since many of the people were already occupants. They had been living on their land for several years waiting for the State of Tennessee land office to open so they could purchase the land they had claimed.

Prior to 1806 land grants were issued by North Carolina, Tennessee's parent state, even though Tennessee became a state in 1796. Since all the land records were in North Carolina, and many grants were in progress, North Carolina retained control over the land grant process even after Tennessee became a state in 1796. It took an act of the United States Congress in 1806 to stop North Carolina from issuing land grants and allow Tennessee to begin issuing land grants. The land grants issued by the State of North Carolina prior to 1806 were recognized by the State of Tennessee.

There were three steps to obtaining a land grant:

- Obtain an entry from the land entry office. This required a description of the land and paying a fee.

- Having a survey done of the land, requiring another fee.

- Finally, payment for the purchase of the land and then the grant is issued.

To complete all 3 steps could take anywhere from a few days to several years, - some took over 30 years. Evidently there were no time limits on completing the purchase. It was at the purchaser's discretion. Sometimes the original owners of the entries would sell, or assign, their rights to their land before they purchased it.

Many existing landowners used the land office to buy vacant land adjoining their existing land from the state through State of Tennessee land grants.

Since the State of Tennessee land grants only cover the purchase of vacant land owned by the state they tell only part of the story. All records of the resale of land that had been purchased through grants were recorded in deed and court records that were lost in the 26 March 1856 Sevier County courthouse fire.

This book is in two sections. The first section is the Sevier County entries contained in the surveyor/entry book titled *Territory South of French Broad – Land Grants*. The second section is the Sevier County entries contained in the 34 rolls of microfilm titled *East District Land Grants*.

If you have ancestors who are included in this book you could potentially identify approximately where in Sevier County they lived, when they were living there, who their neighbors were, and how many acres they bought.

The adjacent map can be used as an aid to approximate the location of a grant.

Name changes

Several names were different in 1807 than they are today:

- Big Pigeon River is now Pigeon River
- Dennys Mountian is now Green Mountain
- Englishes Creek is now English Creek
- Goloher's Creek is now Gallaghers Creek
- Islejoy Creek is now Ellejoy Creek
- Lackies Creek is now Lackey Creek
- Tuqualeetsee Cove is now Tuckaleechee Cove
- Tennessee River is now Little Tennessee River
- Holston River between the junction of French Broad and Holston Rivers and the present day Little Tennessee River was changed to Tennessee River
- First Knob Creek is now Knob Creek
- Second Knob Creek is now Happy Creek
- Gest's or Guesses or Guests Creek is now Gists Creek
- West Fork Little Pigeon is now West Prong Little Pigeon
- Little East Fork Little Pigeon is now East Fork Little Pigeon
- East Fork Little Pigeon is now Little Pigeon
- Loans Branch is now Lone Branch
- Waldens Creek is now Cove Creek

Sevier County, Tennessee – State of Tennessee Land Grants

Bk. 21, p. 741, No. 21816 **Webb, Thomas** 23 Nov 1826 22 Jun 1838
50 acres on the waters of Flat Creek. Adj: Black, W.; Fox, Adam. (Sev. Co. Entry No. 391 dated 12 Feb 1826)

East District Land Grants - Book 22

Bk. 22, p. 185, No. 22238 **Routh, Edward** 13 Feb 1838 6 Dec 1838
110 acres on the head waters of the Limestone Fork of Tuckahoe Creek. Assignee of Mason, James. Adj: Frank, J. (Sev. Co. Entry No. 1134 dated 19 Apr 1836)

Bk. 22, p. 185, No. 22250 **Robinson, Clyson** 2 Mar 1838 7 Nov 1838
5 $\frac{3}{4}$ acres. Adj: Roberts, Phillip; near the big road; Black, Phillip; Robinson. (Sev. Co. Entry No. 952 dated 18 Feb 1833)

Bk. 22, p. 186, No. 22245 **Rainwater, Moses Sr.** 15 Apr 1835 6 Dec 1838
100 acres above the flats of Hadley Branch. Assignee of Rogers, M.C. Adj: Rainwater. (Sev. Co. Entry No. 1060 dated 4 Mar 1835)

Bk. 22, p. 187, No. 22239 **Trotter, William Jr.** 11 Oct 1838 6 Dec 1838
100 acres on the west side of Middle Creek. Adj: Marshall, I. Sr.; Emmit, E. (Sev. Co. Entry No. 1350 dated 30 Dec 1837)

Bk. 22, p. 187, No. 22246 **Pearce, Albert** 25 Oct 1837 7 Dec 1838
150 acres on Guists Creek. Assignee of Rogers, M.C. Adj: Varnell, James; Nichols, E. (Sev. Co. Entry No. 1336 dated 24 Oct 1837)

Bk. 22, p. 188, No. 22240 **Owsley, Amos** 16 Feb 1838 6 Nov 1838
50 acres in Green Bryer Cove. Assignee of Davis, Sarah. Adj: his own land. (Sev. Co. Entry No. 635 dated 8 Nov 1827)

Bk. 22, p. 189, No. 22251 **Ogle, William Sr.** 13 Mar 1838 7 Dec 1838
50 acres on the waters of Mill Creek in the White Oak Flats. (Sev. Co. Entry No. 1353 dated 8 Jan 1838)

Bk. 22, p. 189, No. 22248 **Smelser, John** 5 Oct 1837 7 Dec 1838
100 acres on the waters of the Little East Fork of the Little Pigeon River. Adj: his own land; Lafaett, George; Houk, A. (Sev. Co. Entry No. 1328 dated 5 Oct 1837)

Bk. 22, p. 190, No. 22249 **Smelser, John** 5 Oct 1837 7 Dec 1838
19 acres on the waters of the Little East Fork of the Pigeon River. Adj: Layman, Jacob; his own land; his old survey. (Sev. Co. Entry No. 1329 dated 5 Oct 1837)

Bk. 22, p. 191, No. 22242 **Evans, Richard** 15 Feb 1838 6 Dec 1838
50 acres in the Green Brier Cove. Adj: Owsley, John. (Sev. Co. Entry No. 627 dated 13 Oct 1827)

Bk. 22, p. 191, No. 22241 **Evans, Richard** 15 Feb 1838 6 Dec 1838
200 acres in Emmetts Cove. Adj: his own land; Emmett, D. (Sev. Co. Entry No. 1183 dated 17 Oct 1836)

Bk. 22, p. 192, No. 22233 **Evans, Richard** 14 Feb 1838 6 Dec 1838
50 acres in the Glades. Adj: Emmitt, F. Sr. (Sev. Co. Entry No. 1152 dated 22 Aug 1836)

Bk. 22, p. 193, No. 22237 **Henderson, William Sr.** 18 Mar 1829 6 Nov 1838