

Muscogee Co Land Grants 1827-1852

Keys to Understanding

Background

The 1827 Land Grants distributed Lee, Muscogee, Troup, Coweta, and Carroll Counties, bounded by the Chattahoochee. Before the counties were named, they were referred to as the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th section. The land to be drawn was roughly survey, then divided into 5 numbered sections, which were then referred to as “original” counties, and named:

Sec. #1-Lee Co #2-Muscogee #3-Troup #4-Coweta #5-Carroll

A list of fortunate drawers in the lottery was published daily beginning March 6 1827 and ending May 25 1827. Listed under an alphabetical listing of the County of residence, then as per the fortunate drawer’s name, the Captain’s District in which they then lived, and the results of their draw; the Lot #, District, the section #.

Example partial listing:

Land Lottery Register-No 20 43rd Day’s Drawing-continued

Jefferson

Duncan Carmichael’s orps. Waldens—113—1--2

JONES

Joshua Weeks, soldier,---Popes-----8—3--1

James Gordon,-----Mullins--184-12--2

John M. Hammack-----Hammacks--93--8--5

After the Lottery, that information was then divided into 31 various groupings, and printed and bound into two volumes by the Georgia State Printers, Grantland & Orme. There were only a small number of books published and the price of each book was \$3.00.

Martha Houston republished the first volume in 1929 under the title “Official Register of Land Lottery of 1827.” At that time, she had access to the second volume and used the information contained therein as basis for her publication in 1932, “600 Revolutionary Soldiers Living in Georgia in 1827-1828.”

Rev. Silas Emmett Lucas, Jr. reprinted Houston’s (Vol 1) Official Register in 1976, with a completely revised and much improved index.

The original second volume was never been reprinted, and the three copies of which Houston was aware in 1932, have long since completely disappeared.

It has been estimated that the entire listing of the Fortunate Drawers in this Lottery furnished a virtual census of the entire state. We are hopeful this Index to the Original Muscogee County Land Grants will prove useful in helping to fill in the gaps in your personal research in this Georgia region.

You will find the listings here presented in a totally different format from the previously published accounts:

1. Original Muscogee Co District (1-24)
2. Land Lot #
3. Drawer's Name, sometimes with additional notes either included at this point, or at the end, as an addendum in Notes for that District,
4. Captain's District in which they then lived, &
5. County of Residence.
6. Date the drawer paid his or her fee & received the final papers with the plat of the property, and the final certification of title was made.

Please note, their record keeping did not tend to move smoothly along. There were mistakes made in the initial land surveys for District #1, as well as misspelled names and omission. There were a few double awards of the same Land Lot; grants drawn of the correct land lot but attributed to the wrong land district; or, grants of the correct land lot in the correct land district, but granted in the incorrect section = original county. There were numerous errors in the grants, and those are reflected in the notes after each District herein contained.

Clues provided

You will also see scattered through the Index, a series of abbreviations, as rather an explanation entered as to why the grantee was allowed to draw.

Abbreviations Used

F.	Father	F.A.	Father Absent
H.A.	Husband Absent	illegt	Illegitimate
M.	Mother	orph	Orphan
R.S.	Revolutionary Soldier	S.L.W	Soldier in Late War
Sol	Soldier	wid	Widow
W.R.S.	Widow of Rev. Sol.		

You will also see entries giving clues to personal information, such as "as a citizen", possibly indicating that person was naturalized at some point or place before the lottery; "married before June 9 1825", "deaf", "insane" or "idiot", etc., indicating the reasoning for their being allowed to draw.

In this Lottery, there were no blanks entered into the wheel (actually barrels), meaning that only those names drawn were allotted land.

Fractional Lots

Throughout these 24 Districts you will see Land Lot numbers listed but information omitted. These lots were fractional lots and in most cases the numbers were withdrawn previous to the lottery, then sold or allotted at a later date. There are several exceptions to this rule. Dist 1 appears to have had a overabundance of fractional lots and you will find additional notes pertaining to fractional or non-existent lots especially in the 6th & 20th Districts.

Throughout the Notes following each District you will see evidence of errors or contradictions, omissions and clues toward further information to be found in Superior Court records, Executive Orders, naturalization papers, etc.

Persons Entitled to Draw

- Bachelor, 18 years or over, 3 year residence in Georgia, citizen of United States - 1 draw
- Married man with wife and/or minor son under 18 and/or unmarried daughter, 3 year residence in Georgia, citizen of United States – 2 drawings
- Widow, 3 year residence in Georgia – 1 draw
- Wife and/or child, 3 year residence in Georgia, of husband and/or father absent from state for 3 years – 1 draw
- Family (one or more) of minor orphans, residence in state since birth – 2 draws
- Widow, husband killed in War of 1812, or Revolutionary War or Indian Wars, 3 year residence in Georgia – 2 draws
- Orphan, father killed in Revolutionary War, War of 1812 or Indian Wars - 2 draws
- Wounded or disabled veteran of War of 1812, or Indian Wars, unable to work - 2 draws
- Veteran of Revolutionary War – 2 draws
- Veteran of Revolutionary War, who had been a fortunate drawer in any previous Lottery – 1 draw
- Child or children of convict, 3 year residence in Georgia – 1 draw
- Male idiots, lunatics, or insane, deaf and dumb or blind, over 10 years and under 18 years, 3 year residence in Georgia – 1 draw
- Female idiots, insane or lunatics or deaf and dumb or blind, over 10 years, 3 year residence in Georgia – 1 draw
- Family (one or two) of minor illegitimates, residence since birth in Georgia – 1 draw
- Family (three or more) of minor illegitimates, residence since birth in Georgia – 2 draws

Persons Excluded

- Any fortunate drawer in any previous Land Lottery.

Deadlines for Claiming

The fortunate drawers were not required to live on, or send someone to settle the land they won. They might well have paid their registration fee, received their grant and then bided their time until someone came along who wanted to purchase the land. It appears that while some lots were sold within just a few days after drawn, most claims were not finalized until after 1830. Records do appear in some of the various County's deed books that indicate some drawers were actively seeking would be buyers or Agents as well as numerous individuals buying up large numbers of lots.

In 1842 the Georgia Legislature passed an Act, setting a deadline of July 1, 1843 for taking out the grants on lots won in the 1827 Lottery. If the entry belonged to an orphan, they were allowed until their 21st birthday to take out their grant.

For years after the Lottery there are numerous cases brought to trial where the State of Ga, with the help of an informant, sued the fortunate drawer for fraud. If the case was proven and the jury found for the State and the informant, the drawer lost the land, and it was then divided between the State and the informant, with the State having first choice. If on the other hand, the jury found for the defendant, the informant had to pay all court costs. These cases would be found in that County's Superior Court Records.

Be aware that your ancestor might have received more than one draw in the lottery. In fact, conceivably, the way the law reads, a married veteran might have gotten as many as 8 draws; for his service in the Revolution, the Indian Wars and the War of 1812.

Just a cursory inspection of these records shows Benjamin Hamrick, Sr., R.S. living in Wilder's District of Jasper Co. was a fortunate drawer of #160, Dist 14 and also #42 in Dist 22. He might conceivably have also been allowed other draws which resulted in his receiving land in any of the other 4 Sections.

Example of a Grant

STATE OF GEORGIA

By His Excellency George M. Troup, Governor and Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy of this State, and of the Militia thereof:

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, GREETING.

KNOW YE, That in pursuance of the several acts of the General Assembly of this State, passed the 9th of June and 24th December 1825, and the 14th and 27 of December, 1826. To make distribution of the land acquired of the Creek Nation of Indians, by a Treaty concluded at the Indian Springs, on the 12th day of February, 1825, and forming the Counties of Lee, Muscogee, Troup, Coweta and Carroll, in this State I HAVE GIVEN AND GRANTED, and by these presents, DO GIVE AND GRANT unto Benjamin Portwood, Sr., of Parker's District, Jasper County, his heirs and assigns forever, all that tract or lot of land containing 202.5 acres, situate, lying and being in the 16th District of the Second Section, in the County of Muscogee in said State, which said tract or lot of land is known and distinguished in the plan of said District by the number 133 having such shape, form and marks as appear by a plat of the same hereunto annexed: To have and to hold the said tract or lot of land, together with all and singular the rights, members and appurtenances thereof whatsoever, except all valuable ores, mines and minerals, which have been reserved to the State by an act, passed the 24th of December, 1825,

unto the said Benjamin Portwood, Sr., his heirs and assigns, to his and their proper use, benefit and behoof forever in fee simple.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the said State this Thirteenth day of September, in the year one thousand eight hundred and twenty seven and of the Independence of the United States of America, the fifty first.

Signed by his Excellency the Governor,
13th day of September, 1827.

G.M. Troup,

Fr. Jeter S.E.D.

Registered the thirteenth day of September 1827.

According to Robert S. Davis, Jr. and Rev. Silas Emmett Lucas, Jr. in their book "The Georgia Land Lottery Papers 1805-1914", the Georgia Surveyor General Department has thousands of loose miscellaneous papers pertaining to the various Land Lotteries, such as petitions or oaths of the fortunate drawers, corrections of surname misspellings, proofs of death, names of heirs, proofs of Military Service, even lengthy family histories, and further information concerning those lots in Counties whose records had been destroyed by courthouse fires. When the book was published, in 1979, the Georgia Surveyor General Dept. had plans to xerox copies of the original miscellaneous papers and place them in the Ladson Memorial Library of the Vidalia-Toombs County Library. We are unable to furnish any information on the progress of this project.