



Tennessee Ancestry Certificate Program

Presented by Lisa Junkins

DAR Volunteer Genealogist

Tennessee Genealogical Society's Purpose

- The acquiring, preserving, and making available genealogical history and records
- To educate family history researchers
- To publish materials relevant to Tennessee's history and genealogy

TENNESSEE SETTLERS
AND THEIR
DESCENDANTS
VOLUME I

*Genealogical Data on Some of the
Men and Women Who Helped
Shape the Volunteer State*



Published by
The Tennessee Genealogical Society
Located at historic Germantown, Tennessee

We recognize 5 settlement periods

- Colonial – prior to 1 June 1796
- Territorial – prior to 15 June 1836
- Antebellum – prior to 6 May 1861
- Civil War – 1861 to 1865 or applied for TN Confederate War Pension
- Nineteenth Century – prior to 31 Dec 1900

What do I get?

- You will receive a certificate suitable for framing
- You will be included in our next book when we publish Tennessee Settlers
- You will be able to share with your family your Tennessee story

Where do I start?

- Like any other genealogy project, start with yourself
- Obtain a copy of your Birth Certificate, and if applicable Marriage Certificate
- Then get a copy of your parent's Birth Certificate, Marriage Certificate, and if applicable Death Certificate

Direct Evidence

- Birth, Death, and Marriage Certificates are Direct Evidence
- It depends who the informant was, as to how accurate the Direct Evidence is

Indirect Evidence

- Indirect Evidence needs to be combined with another piece of evidence, to provide the answer
- Siblings can be helpful in making a connection to parents or grandparents

Cautions

- Analyze each document.
- More than names should match. Dates, locations or some other identifying factor.
- Read the full document to ensure you have the correct person.
- Any conflicts in evidence must be explained.
- Relationships should NEVER be assumed.

Do I need a Birth Record for Grandparents?

- If there is a reasonable expectation it exists, you should make an exhaustive search for the record.
- Tennessee required Birth Certificates and Death Certificates in 1908.
- Marriage Certificates were not required in Tennessee until 1945.

Other Documentation

- When missing Direct Evidence, we use a combination of Indirect Evidence to prove our familial connections.
- What kind of documents will do that?

Wills, Federal and State Census Records, Tax Lists, Court Cases, Land Deeds, Military Records, Pension Records, Postmaster Appointments, Bible Records, etc.

County Deed Book

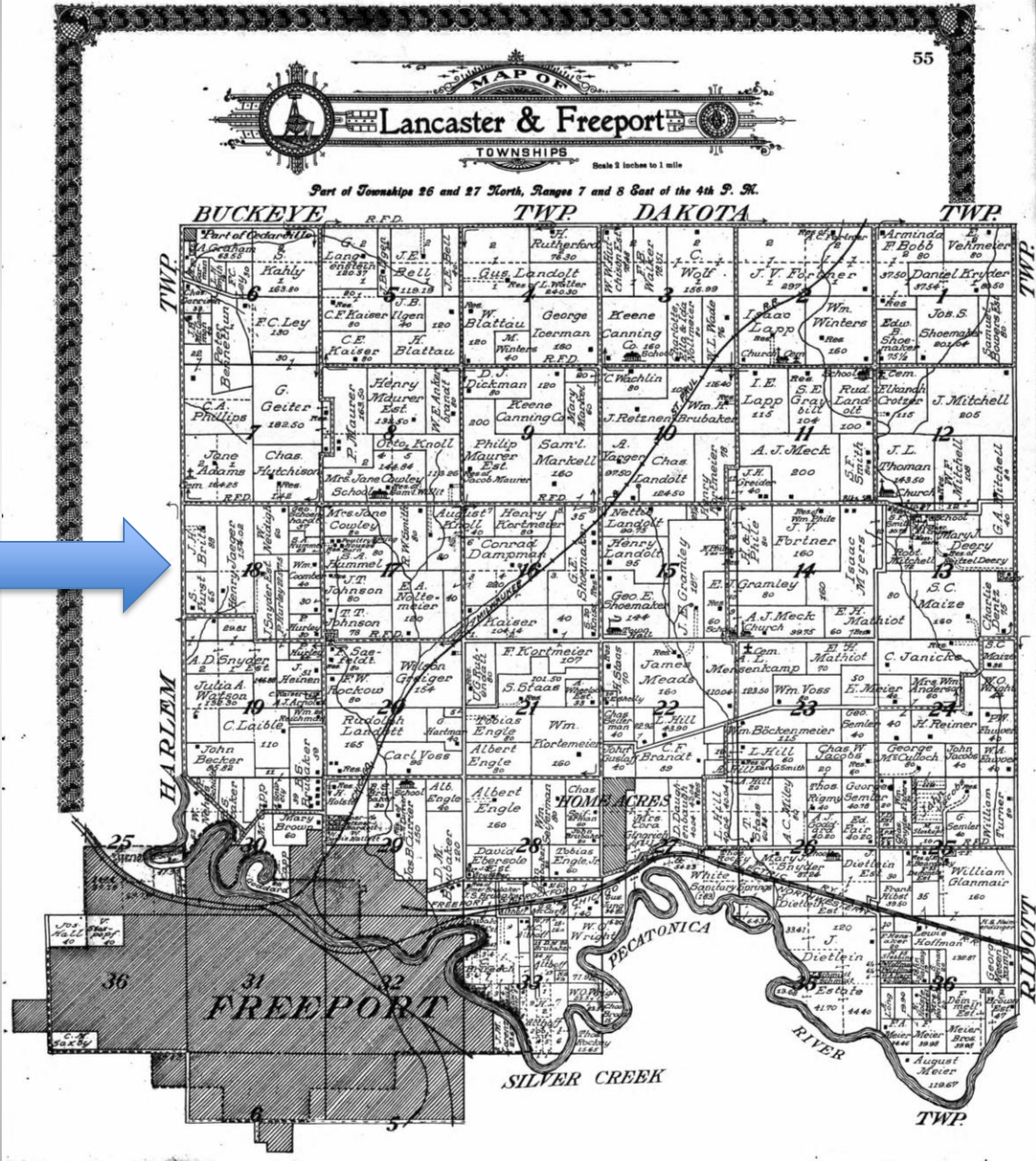


C. M. Bicknell
To: Deed
A. L. Bicknell

This Deed made this 13th day of February 1889 By and between
Collistia M. Bicknell Party of the first part and Amanda
L Bicknell Party of the second part all of the County of
Mercer State of West Va. Witnesseth that for and in con-
sideration of a good and decent support to be furnished by
the said Amanda L Bicknell to the said Collistia M.
Bicknell during the term of her natural life the said
Collistia M. Bicknell doth sell grant and by this deed
convey unto the said Amanda L Bicknell all her right
& title to the following described tract or parcel of land
supposed to contain 200 acres more or less lying in the County
of Mercer West V^a and in Rock district on the waters of Rich
Creek adjoining the lands of Matison Karnes dec^d Alpherd
Foley Samantha E Bicknell and others and a part of the
land conveyed by William Maxwell to the said Collistia

Del. to Wm B. G. Mannan
Jan'y 25/90
Wm B. G. Mannan

Plat Map



Guardianship Record

6

W. R. Osburn Guardian Settlement

A Settlement of the accounts of W. R. Osburn Guardian for Harvey B. & Maggie B. Osburn infant heirs of Edmund Osburn deceased Filed this 3rd day of March 1886

W. R. Osburn Guardian vs
 To 1/2 of \$179.99 in hands of Guardian at last settlement being Harvey B. Osburns share of same
 No interest on same
 " 1/2 of \$15.00 rent for 1884 being Harvey B. Osburns share of same

\$90 00

2 39

7 50

\$99 79

Contra

- 1 By Harvey B. Osburns Receipt
- 2 " " " " Tax for 1884
- 3 " 1/2 of H. B. & Maggie Osburns " " "
- " 1/2 of Cost of renting & selling
- " Cash \$7.50 at 5%
- 4 " 1/2 of Clerks fee for Recording this settlement
- 5 " " Com. Act's " " making " "
- 6 " " Pubs fee for notice of " "
- 7 " Harvey B. Osburns Receipt

\$91 03

2 36

1 28

75

37

50

75

25

2 50

\$99 79

\$99 79

To 1/2 of \$179.99 in hands of Guardian at last settlement being Maggie B. Osburns share of same
 No interest on same to date

\$90 00

8 10

Direct Line of Ancestry

- You must connect each generation to the parents.
- While aunts and uncles may provide useful information, to qualify the line must go through one of the grandparents
- Previous Settlers' lineages may be helpful if you share ancestors.

Where Can I Find Evidence?

- Ancestry.com (paid service, library version available here)
- FamilySearch.com (free service, similar to Ancestry but not identical)
- Fold3.com (paid service, available here)
Military Records and Pensions
- Newspapers.com & Genealogybank.com (paid services) have online newspapers

Local Resources

- County Courthouse
- Local Genealogy Society
- Local Library

Less than 20% of genealogical records have been
put online.

ASK

- Before traveling, contact family who might be holding any documents. Ask them to share a photocopy with you.
- Is there a relative who is considered a “family historian?”

Census Records 1790-1810

- 1790 is the first available census.
- 1800 Some of the records for Georgia, Indiana Territory, Kentucky, Mississippi Territory, New Jersey, Northwest Territory, Virginia, Tennessee, and Alexandria County, District of Columbia are missing
- 1810 There was district-wide loss for District of Columbia, Indiana Territory, Mississippi Territory, Louisiana Territory, New Jersey, and Tennessee

Census Records 1820-1840

- 1820 suffered losses in Arkansas Territory, Missouri Territory, New Jersey, Alabama, Tennessee.
- 1830 Countywide losses in Massachusetts, Maryland, and Mississippi
- 1840 last census with only head of household

Census Records 1850-1890

- 1850 For the first time every person in the household was enumerated; no relationships shown
- 1860 Enumerators were presented with printed instructions which increased accuracy
- 1870
- 1880 Relationships are given
- 1890 Mostly destroyed in a fire; Veterans Census Taken

Census Records 1900-1920

- 1900 Census Records offer most details including birth month and year and years of marriage
- 1910
- 1920 Because of European boundary changes after WWI, some people had problems identifying their Country of origin. Service members were reported as part of their duty post.

Census 1930-1950

- 1930 First census to ask about value of home or amount of rent
- 1940 Wrote AB for people who were part of household but absent when enumerator was there
- 1950 Census records are released 72 years after they were taken. Will be released in April 2022.

Tennessee State Library & Archives



Benjamin Hooks Library

- Memphis' Benjamin Hooks/Central Library at 3030 Poplar has a Genealogy Collection
- The collection is strongest in Memphis & Shelby County records
- Instructional workshops are held in May and October



TN State Research



SATURDAY, October 26th 10:30 am

HERE with Nancy Walczyk

Register on the Tennessee Genealogy Society website.

www.tngs.org

