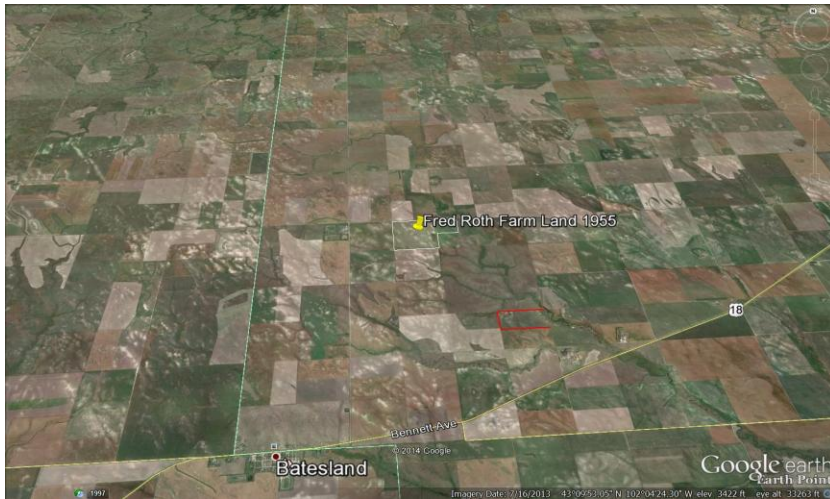


Finding our Ancestors Land



**The history and story
that it reveals**

Some Background



Colonial States

English System of Metes and Bounds

Western States

Land Act of 1785 and Township Grids

Background

Colonial States English System of Metes and Bounds

Metes. The term "metes" refers to a boundary defined by the measurement of each straight run, specified by a distance between the terminal points, and an orientation or direction. A direction may be a simple compass bearing, or a precise orientation determined by accurate survey methods.

Bounds. The term "bounds" refers to a more general boundary description, such as along a certain watercourse, a stone wall, an adjoining public [road](#) way, or an existing building.

Surveying Tools



*Surveying compass by John Bleuler, brass and steel, 1810-20.
A simpler instrument than the theodolite, the compass is also mounted
on a tripod for use. The surveyor calculates horizontal distances using
the upright sights attached to its arms. An inset bubble level ensures
it remains flat. The wooden case is original.*

*Surveying chain, iron and brass. Surveyors used chains, like this one,
to calculate distance along a straight line and surveying compasses
to calculate the area within the lines. Due to the hilly terrain
at Monticello, Jefferson used chains that were 50 links or two poles
(33 feet) long. The 10th, 20th, 30th, and 40th links are marked.*

*On platform: Theodolite by W. and T. Gilbert, brass, 1810-20.
A theodolite measures both horizontal and vertical angles
by means of a movable upper telescope and a fixed lower one.
In addition to surveying, Jefferson used a theodolite to calculate
the positions of landscape features, and determine the height
of mountains.
Lent by the University of Virginia.*

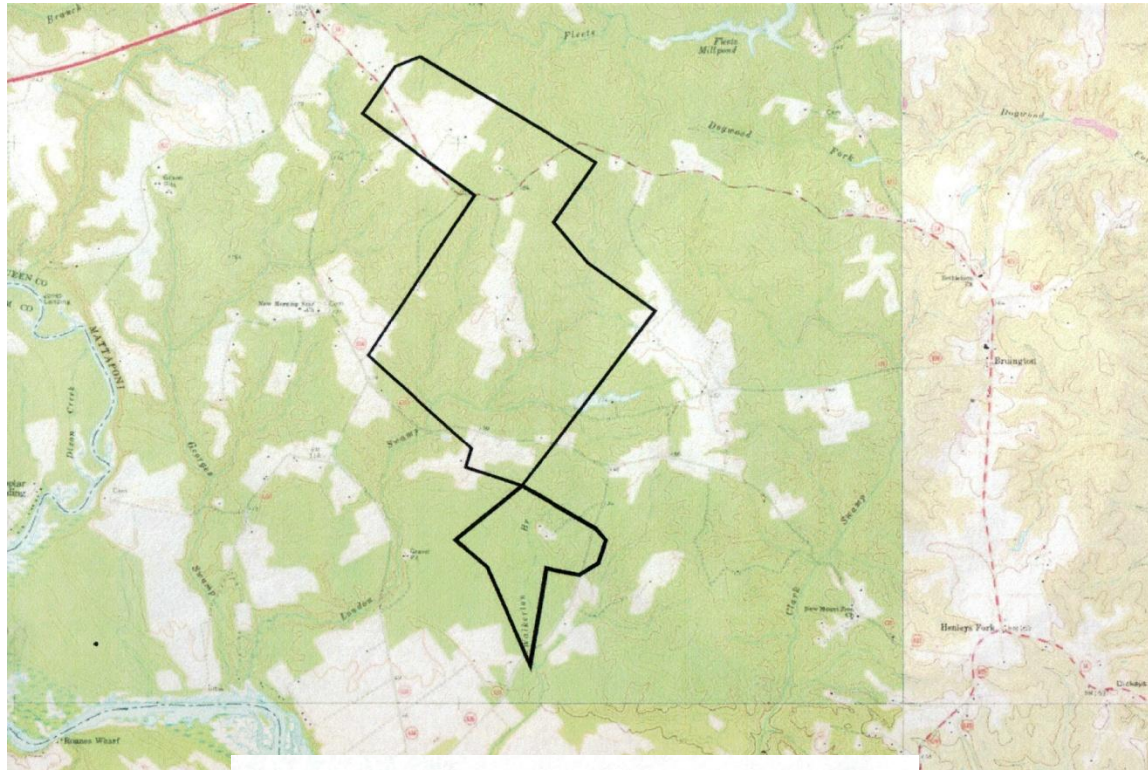
Surveying chain, iron and brass. Surveyors used chains, like this one, to calculate distance along a straight line and surveying compasses to calculate the area within the lines. Due to the hilly terrain at Monticello, Jefferson used chains that were 50 links or two poles (33 feet) long. The 10th, 20th, 30th, and 40th links are marked.

Surveying the Country



James Taylor's Land Patent

13 October 1686



TAYLOR PATENTS

1. JAMES TAYLOR, 950 ACRES, 13 OCTOBER 1686, PATENT BOOK 7, PAGE 520.
2. JAMES TAYLOR & JOHN NEAL, 209 ACRES, 20 OCTOBER, 1689, PATENT BOOK 8, PAGE 16.

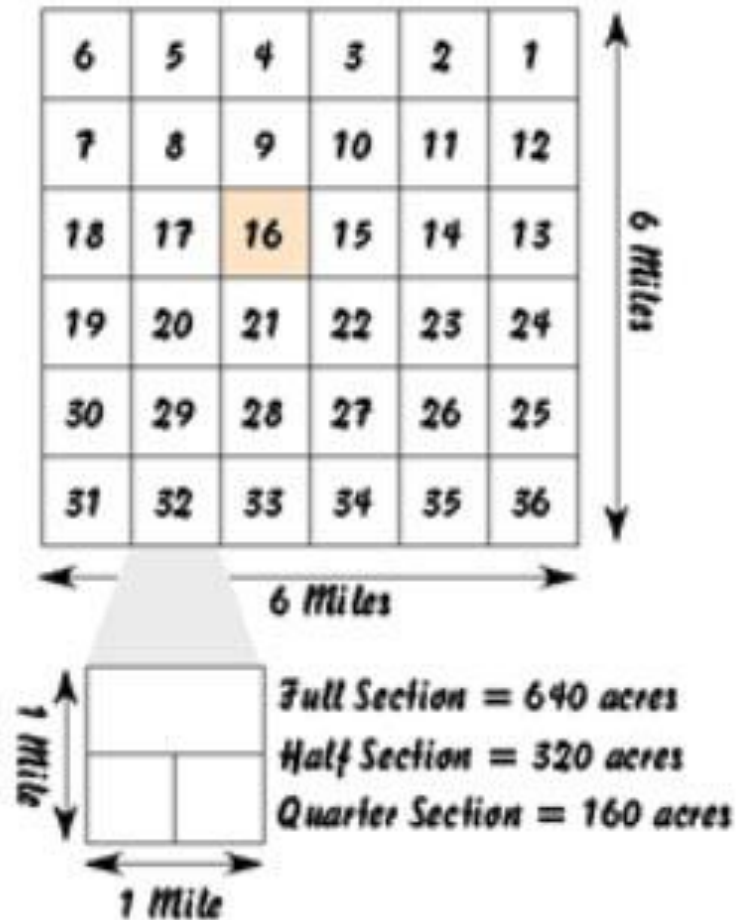
James Taylor's Land Description

James Taylor Patent 950 acres in the freshes of the Mattaponi River being the dividant the said Taylor liveth on 13 Oct 1686 Patent Book 7 page 520

- A Begin at 3 pines in meadow
- A-B 104 poles by line of George Weston
- B-C 30 poles course N 30deg W
- C-D N 40deg W
- E John Joy's corner red oak standing by a branch 235 poles N 45deg W
- F Spanish Oak 94 poles N 45deg E
- G White Oak 40 poles N 78deg E
- H Pine by ridge path 320 poles along course of ridge path
- I Two red oaks
- I-J 128 poles SW
- J-K 93 poles S 30deg
- K-L Red Oak 146 poles SE line crosses over Torropin Swamp
- L Red Oak
- L-A 370 poles S 46deg W an ancient line dividing this land from the land of Thomas White

1785 Land Act Township System

The Township System



Numbering within a township

Every township is divided into 36 sections, each usually one-mile square. Sections are numbered **boustrophedonically** within townships^[3] as follows (north at top):

6	5	4	3	2	1
7	8	9	10	11	12
18	17	16	15	14	13
19	20	21	22	23	24
30	29	28	27	26	25
31	32	33	34	35	36

Subdivision of a section

Sections are (often) broken up into 40 acre blocks, or quarter quarter sections. These are labeled as follows: ^[4]

NWNW	NENW	NWNE	NENE
SWNW	SENW	SWNE	SENE
NWSW	NESW	NWSE	NESE
SWSW	SESW	SWSE	SESE

Homestead Act of May 1862






- Signed by President Lincoln during Civil War
- Requirements for homesteading
 - Never taken arms against US
 - 11 states had left the union
 - Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, Texas, Arkansas, North Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia
 - Head of family or 21 years old and a citizen
 - 160 acres of if land was improved and lived on continuously for five years
 - Build a house 10 x 12 with one window

Government Land Records

www.glorerecords.blm.gov


U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR


BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT



PRIVATE CLAIMS

	Claimants Names	Acres	Amount
30	City Commons		16.15
31	Thos & David Urquhart	0.8	0.30
32	John M. Vail		0.50
33	General Land Office		0.45




 Search Documents

Reference Center

Support


The Official Federal Land Records Site

Welcome to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), General Land Office (GLO) Records Automation web site. We provide live access to Federal land conveyance records for the Public Land States, including image access to more than five million Federal land title records issued between 1820 and the present. We also have images related to survey plats and field notes, dating back to 1810. Due to organization of documents in the GLO collection, this site **does not** currently contain every Federal title record issued for the Public Land States.




Land Patents

Federal Land Patents offer researchers a source of information on the initial transfer of land titles from the Federal government to individuals. In addition to verifying title transfer, this information will allow the researcher to associate an individual (Patentee, Assignee, Warrantee, Widow, or Heir) with a specific location (Legal Land Description) and time (Issue Date). We have a variety of Land Patents on our site, including Cash Entry, Homestead and Military Warrant patents.













Survey Plats and Field Notes

Survey plats are part of the official record of a cadastral survey. Surveying is the art and science of measuring the land to locate the limits of an owner's interest thereon. A cadastral survey is a survey which creates, marks, defines, retraces or re-establishes the boundaries and subdivisions of Federal Lands of the United States. The survey plat is the graphic drawing of the boundaries involved with a



Government Land Records

www.glorerecords.blm.gov

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT										
PRIVATE CLAIMS General Land Office Records										
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Printer Friendly										
Patents 1 ... 2 3 4 5 6 ... 100 Next										
Note: Your list may be incomplete due to an administrative limit of 2000 results. For suggestions on refining your search, click here .										
Image	Accession	Names ↑	Date	Doc #	State	Meridian	Twp - Rng	Aliquots	Sec. #	County
	TC-0218-138	 ABBOTT, JAMES V	10/21/1895	877	NE	6th PM	029N - 038W	S½SW¼	13	Cherry
							029N - 038W	S½SE¼	13	Cherry
	207681	 ABBOTT, WILLIAM J	6/19/1911	05483	NE	6th PM	025N - 037W	SE¼	25	Cherry
	1086677	 ADAM, BERNARD	11/2/1936	021417	NE	6th PM	026N - 037W	NW¼NW¼	15	Cherry
							026N - 037W	SE¼NE¼	22	Cherry
							027N - 037W	NE¼SE¼	19	Cherry
							027N - 037W	SW¼SW¼	25	Cherry
							026N - 039W	NW¼SW¼	34	Cherry
	MV-0639-244	 ADAMS, ALBERT	8/24/1907	4026	NE	6th PM	033N - 029W	NW¼SW¼	10	Cherry
							033N - 029W	S½SE¼	10	Cherry
							033N - 029W	S½SW¼	10	Cherry
							033N - 029W	NW¼	15	Cherry
							033N - 029W	NE¼	15	Cherry
							033N - 029W	N½SE¼	15	Cherry
							033N - 029W	SE¼SE¼	15	Cherry
							033N - 039W	SW¼SW¼	3	Cherry
	173194	 ADAMS, FREMONT E	1/26/1911	01899	NE	6th PM	033N - 039W	S½SE¼	4	Cherry
							033N - 039W	N½NE¼	9	Cherry
							033N - 039W	SW¼NE¼	9	Cherry
							033N - 039W	NW¼SE¼	9	Cherry

Earth Point and Google Earth to Locate Land by Township

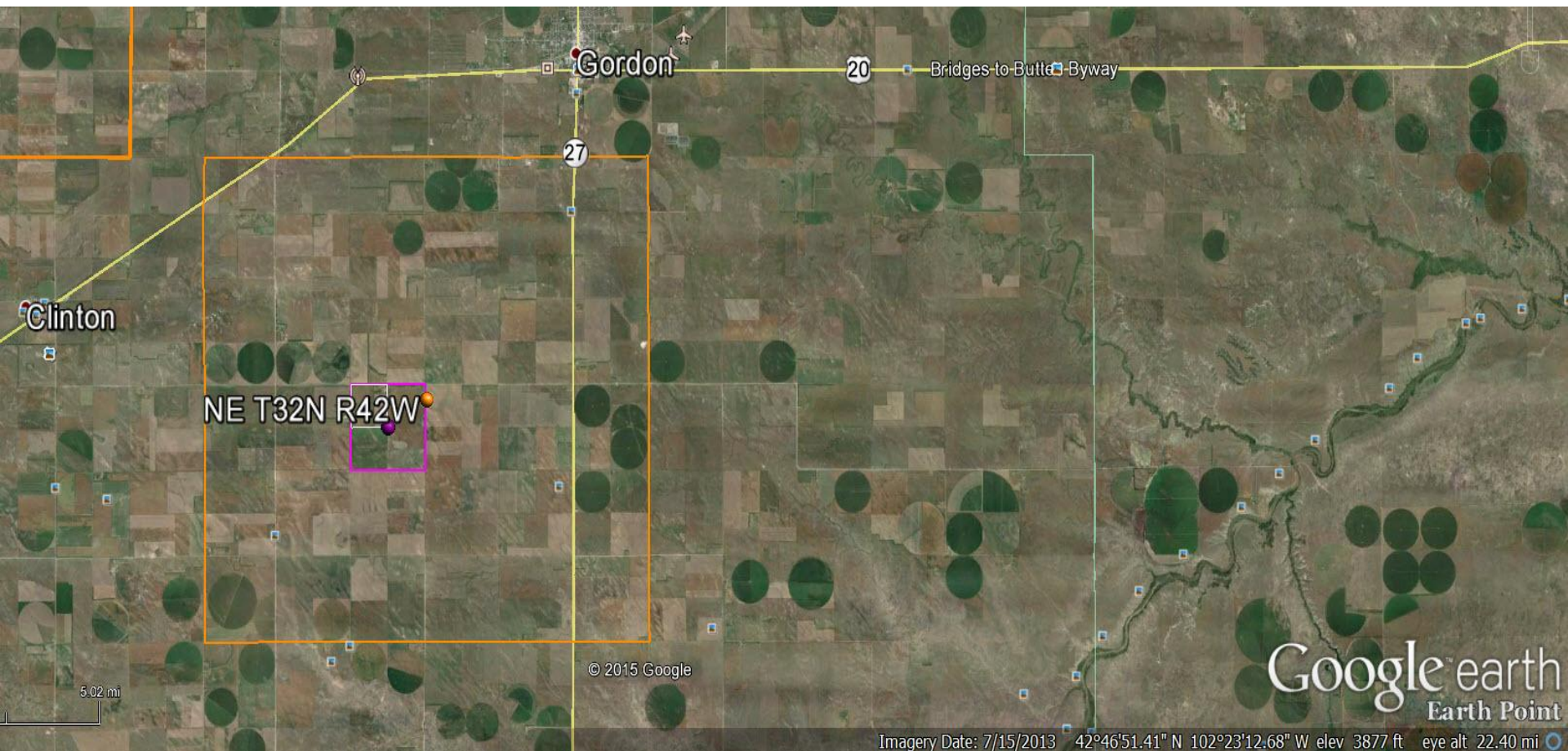
- <http://www.earthpoint.us/TownshipsSearchByDescription.aspx>

Earth Point

Tools for Google Earth

[Sign In / Buy Subscription](#) [Contact](#)

Earth Point	Township and Range - Search By Description.	
Home	A user account is not needed for the features on this web page.	
Sign In / Buy Subscription	Enter Township and Range. Optionally enter Section. Google Earth flies you there using BLM data. Hint: pause for a moment after choosing each of the criteria. This allows the data to be loaded into the drop-down boxes.	
Worldwide Utilities	State	(any) ▼
Excel To Google Earth	Principal Meridian	First ▼
Coordinate Grids	Township	001 N ▼
Polygon Area	Range	001 E ▼
Convert Coordinates	Section	▼
Batch Convert		
USA Utilities		
Township & Range		
BLM Grid		
Search By Description	<input type="button" value="View"/>	Free. User account is not needed.
Search By Lat Long	<input type="button" value="Fly To On Google Earth"/>	If you want to see the surrounding townships, then once you have clicked the "Fly To" button, come back and click the BLM or National Atlas "View on Google Earth" button. Free. User account is not needed.



NE T32N R42W

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Google earth
Earth Point

Imagery Date: 7/15/2013 42°46'51.41" N 102°23'12.68" W elev 3877 ft eye alt 22.40 mi

FOLD3.com website for Selected Homestead Files

- Paid Subscription website
- Available at Family History Centers