

Using Georgia's Land Lotteries to Prove Family Relationships

Susan B. Sloan, M.Ed., Fayetteville, GA, jandssloan@mindspring.com

Land Lottery Overview

Each land lottery had its own criteria set by law as to size of lots, who was eligible to register, etc. What follows is a survey of each lottery.

1805 Georgia Land Lottery

Treaty: 16 June 1802, Fort Wilkinson; **Law:** 11 May 1803; **Lot Size:** 202.5 acres in Baldwin and Wilkinson Counties and 490 acres in Wayne County; **Registration:** 11 May 1803-1 March 1804; **Drawing:** 22 July 1805-31 August 1805; **Fractions Sale:** 27 August 1806-31 October 1806; **Reverted lots:** sold beginning 10 January 1816; **First Counties:** Baldwin, Wilkinson, Wayne
Eligible drawers: All participants had to be a US citizen and resident of Georgia for one year prior to the land lottery law in 1803. Those eligible for one draw included bachelors of 21 years of age and orphan families, where both parents were deceased or the father was deceased and the mother had remarried. Those eligible for two draws were married men with wives or children and widows with child under 21 years of age.

1807 Georgia Land Lottery

Treaty: 14 November 1805, Washington City; **Law:** 26 June 1806; **Lot Size:** 202.5 acres; **Registration:** 26 June 1806-26 September 1806; **Drawing:** 10 August 1807-23 September 1807; **Fractions Sale:** 1 December 1807-26 February 1808; **Reverted lots:** sold beginning 10 January 1816; **First Counties:** Baldwin and Wilkinson addition; **Eligible drawers:** All classes of drawers were required to have lived in GA for three years; Those eligible for one draw were: bachelor, 21 years or over, citizen of US; widow; spinster, 21 years old, minor orphan, father and mother dead; minor orphan or family of orphans, father dead, mother living, three-year residence in GA. Those entitled to two draws were married men, with wife and/or minor children, citizen of US and family of orphans, both parents deceased. Winners in the 1805 lottery were ineligible.

1820 Georgia Land Lottery

Treaty: 9 August 1814, Fort Jackson; 8 July 1817, Cherokee Agency; 22 January 1818, Creek Agency, Flint River; **Law:** 15 December 1818 and 16 December 1819; **Lot Size:** 490 acres in Irwin and Appling; 250 acres in all other counties; **Registration:** 15 December 1818-15 March 1819 and 13 December 1819-31 May 1820; **Drawing:** 1 September 1820-2 December 1820; **Fractions Sale:** 6 August 1821-31 August 1821; **Reverted lots:** sold beginning 1 September 1841; **First Counties:** Early, Irwin, Appling, Rabun, Habersham, Hall, Gwinnett, Walton; **Eligible drawers:** All classes of drawers were required to have lived in GA for three years. Those eligible for one draw were: bachelor, 18 years or over, citizen of US; soldier of Indian War, residence in GA during or since service; widow; family of one or two minor orphans, father and mother dead; family of minor orphans, father dead, mother living; invalid or indigent veteran of Revolutionary War or War of 1812 who had been a fortunate drawer in 1805 or 1807 lottery. Those entitled to two draws were: married men, with wife and/or minor son under 18 and/or unmarried daughter; invalid or indigent officer or soldier in Revolutionary War or War of 1812 who had not been a fortunate drawer in 1805 or 1807 lottery; widow, husband killed in Revolutionary War or War or 1812 or Indian Wars; family of three or more orphans, both parents deceased; and minor orphans, father killed in Revolutionary War or War or 1812 or Indian Wars. **Persons excluded:** winners in any previous lottery (except for families of orphans and Revolutionary veterans indicated above); citizens drafted in War of 1812 or Indians Wars who refused to serve in person or by substitute; and person who resided on the lottery territory previous to the extinguishment of Indian title to the land.

1821 Georgia Land Lottery

Treaty: 8 January 1821, Indian Springs; **Law:** 16 May 1821; **Lot Size:** 202.5 acres; **Registration:** within two months after 16 May 1821 **Drawing:** 7 November 1821-12 December 1821; **Fractions Sale:** 3 November 1823-2 February 1824; **Reverted lots:** sold beginning 1 March 1846; **First Counties:** Henry, Fayette, Monroe, Houston, Dooly; **Eligible drawers:** Three-year residence required; one draw: bachelor, 18 years or older; widow; family of minor orphans, father dead; family (one or two) of orphans under 21, both parents dead; two draws: married man with wife or son under 18 or unmarried daughter; widow or orphan, husband/father killed or died in Revolutionary War or War of 1812 or Indian War; family (three or more) of orphans, both

Using Georgia's Land Lotteries to Prove Family Relationships

Susan B. Sloan, M.Ed., Fayetteville, GA, jandssloan@mindspring.com

parents dead; child or children of a convict; **Persons excluded:** fortunate drawer in previous lotteries; any convict in the penitentiary; citizens drafted in War of 1812 or Indian Wars who refused to serve in person or by substitute; tax defaulter or absconder for debt.

1827 Georgia Land Lottery

Treaty: 12 February 1825, Indian Springs (voided), 24 January 1826, Washington City, 15 November 1827, Creek Agency; **Law:** 9 June 1825 and 14 and 27 December 1826; **Lot Size:** 202.5 acres; **Registration:** 7 December 1824-15 February 1827; **Drawing:** 6 March 1827-25 May 1827; **Fractions Sale:** 3 November 1828-11 March 1829; **Reverted lots:** sold beginning 1 March 1846; **First Counties:** Carroll, Coweta, Troup, Muscogee, Lee; **Eligible drawers:** US citizenship and three-year resident of Georgia required. One draw: bachelor, 18 years or over; widow; wife or child of husband or father absent from state for three years; family (one or two) of orphans under 18 years of age, residence since birth in GA; Revolutionary War veteran who was a fortunate drawer in a previous lottery; child or children of a convict; Male or female idiots, lunatics or insane, deaf and dumb, or blind, over 10 and under 18 year of age; family (one or two) of illegitimate children under 18 years, residence since birth in GA; two draws: married man with wife or son under 18 or unmarried daughter; family (three or more) orphans under 18 year of age; residence since birth in GA; widow, husband killed or died in Revolutionary War, War of 1812, or Indian War; orphan, father killed in Revolutionary War, War of 1812, or Indian War; Wounded or disabled veteran of War of 1812 or Indian Wars, unable to work; Revolutionary War veteran (not a fortunate drawer in a previous lottery); family (three or more) of illegitimate children under 18 years, residence since birth in GA; **Persons excluded:** fortunate drawers in previous lottery; citizens who volunteered or were legally drafted in the War of 1812 or the Indian War and who refused to serve in person or by substitute: any convict in the penitentiary; tax defaulter or absconder for debt; deserters from military service.

1832 Georgia Land Lottery

Treaty: 14 March 1835, Washington City (not ratified), 29 December 1835, New Echota; **Law:** 21 December 1830 and 24 December 1831; **Lot Size:** 160 acres; **Registration:** within four months after 20 February 1832; **Drawing:** 22 October 1832-April 1833; **Fractions Sale:** none; **Reverted lots:** sold beginning 1 March 1846; **First County:** Cherokee; **Eligible drawers:** same as 1827; **Persons excluded:** fortunate drawer in previous lottery who has taken up grant; persons who mined in Cherokee Territory since 1 June 1830; persons who have taken up residence in Cherokee Territory; persons convicted of a felony in GA; members or associates of "a horde of Thieves know as the Pony Club"

1832 Georgia Gold Lottery

Treaty: 14 March 1835, Washington City (not ratified); 29 December 1835, New Echota; **Law:** 24 December 1831; **Lot Size:** 40 acres; **Registration:** within four months after 20 February 1832; **Drawing:** 22 October 1832-1 May 1833; **Fractions Sale:** none; **Reverted lots:** sold beginning 1 March 1846; **First County:** Cherokee; **Eligible drawers:** US citizenship and three-year residence in GA required; one draw: bachelor, 18 years or over, widow; two draws: family of orphans; married man, head of family (officers of US Army or Navy, three-year residence not required); **Persons excluded:** same as 1832 Cherokee Lottery

1833 Georgia Fractions Lottery

Treaty: 14 March 1835, Washington City (not ratified), 29 December 1835, New Echota; **Law:** 24 December 1832; **Lot Size:** fractions, size varies; **Registration:** within four months after 20 February 1832; **Drawing:** (Land) 6-7 December 1833, (gold) 9-13 December 1833; **Fractions Sale:** none; **Reverted lots:** sold beginning 1 March 1846; **First County:** Cherokee; **Eligible and excluded drawers:** Same as 1832 Cherokee and Gold Lotteries

Using Georgia's Land Lotteries to Prove Family Relationships

Susan B. Sloan, M.Ed., Fayetteville, GA, jandssloan@mindspring.com

