

Using Georgia's Land Lotteries to Prove Family Relationships

A. History of Land Lottery process

Definitions:

Grant or patent: first transfer of land from government to individual

Deed: transfer of land between private individuals

Land Lot: smallest unit in the lottery process

District: several hundred land lots

Original county: several land districts

Participants: persons who registered for lotteries but did not win

Fortunate drawers: Persons who won land in land lottery

Purchasers: Persons who bought land from the state after a lottery

Land Lottery Process (6 steps)

Steps	Notes
Treaty	
Law	
Surveys	
Registration	
Drawing	
Grants	

Please note:

The 1805 lottery is the only one for which the names of all registrants are known. Paul K. Graham has published two books on this lottery: *1805 Georgia Land Lottery: Persons entitled to Draws* and *1805 Georgia Land Lottery: Fortunate Drawers and Grantees*. Some counties do have a list of registrants for various other lotteries, but these are not complete.

Case Studies:

Using Deeds to Identify Grantees:

Orphans of William Mills won **lot 8, district 14, Irwin County** in 1820 lottery

Heirs of William Mills sold **lot 8, district 14, Irwin County** in 1830. The orphans, or their representatives, signed the deed. Children of William Mills over the age of 21 when registering for the lottery will not be included as an orphan.

1821 Land Lottery Sale Example:

Henry County, Georgia, Deed Book A, page 11: **John P. Turner** of Appling Co. appoints General John Coffee of Telfair Co., Atty., to sell...202 1/2 acres of land, District 11, lot #151, drawn in land lottery by Pheriby **Carver, wife of John Turner**

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1805 Land Lottery Examples:

Number 2231-Hubbord, Bidsey, orphan of William Hubbord, Wilkes Co., blank (p. 272)

(Orphan's name and a clue to look for estate records)

Number 119-Jones, Samuel, Carpenter, Burke, 2 blanks, (p. 300)

(Provides occupation as identifier)

Number 698-Jones, James, son of David, Warren Co., 2 blanks, (p. 298) (father and son relationship)

Number 134-Jones, James, Junr, son of Thomas, Columbia Co., blank (p. 298)

Number 708-Jones, William, Junr., son of James, Warren Co., 2 blanks (p. 302)

(Don't assume that Jr. is a son of a Sr. of the same first name)

Number 158-Jones, James, Quaker, Columbia County, blank (p. 297)

(provides religion and another source for records)

Number 1547-Saunders, Elizabeth, James, Johnathan, Polly & Britton, Oglethorpe Co., Blank (p. 486) (Think these people might be siblings and orphans?)

1820 Land Lottery Case study:

Luke Pridgen died in 1817. No estate record, will, or deed of gift was found to document his heirs. In the 1820 lottery Amelia Pridgen (widow) of Edward's Militia District, Bulloch Co., drew lot 460, section 6, Irwin County, GA. Susannah Pridgen (orphan) of Edward's Militia District, Bulloch Co., drew lot 164, Section 7, in Appling County, GA. Amelia's lot reverted back to the state and was granted to Zachariah Grey on 4 November 1847. However, a grant for the lot in Appling County was made out to "Susannah Pridgen (orphan of Luke) of Edward's District Bulloch County." It is clear from the land lottery information that Susanna Pridgen is the daughter of Luke Pridgen and that Amelia is his widow.

1827 Land Lottery Case Study:

Now let's take a look at a case where there are a few more pieces to the puzzle.

It involves the 1827 Lottery and a family of orphans who won two lots in the lottery.

Piece one:

1. Rebecca R., Jas. S., Eliz. K., & Eph. B. Daniel, Orphans, Dorsey's District, Hall County, Georgia drew Land Lot 50, district 15, Section 1. Section 1 fell in Lee County, GA.
2. Rebecca R., Jas. S., Eliz. K., & Eph. B. Daniel, Orphans, Dorsey's District, Hall County, Georgia drew Land Lot 155, district 18, Section 2. Section 2 fell in Muscogee County, GA.

We know the names of these orphans, but who were their parents?

Piece 2:

In Faye Poss' book *Clark County Newspaper Abstracts, 1826-1829*, we find in the newspaper *The Athenian*, dated 6 October 1829, a list of letters remaining at the Post Office in Gainesville. Among them is one addressed to "The Orphans of Ephraim Daniel." Now we think we have their father's name.

Piece 3: 1830 census, Hall County, GA

The 1830 Hall County, GA census has an Elizabeth Daniel, head of household, with two males, age 10-20, and three females (1 age 15-20, 2 age 20-30).

Is Elizabeth the mother of the Daniel orphans? Perhaps.

From the research it looks like Rebecca, James, Elizabeth and Ephraim were the orphans of Ephraim Daniel, whose wife's name was Elizabeth. More research is needed to confirm that Elizabeth was the mother of all four children, but most certainly Ephraim Daniel was their father.