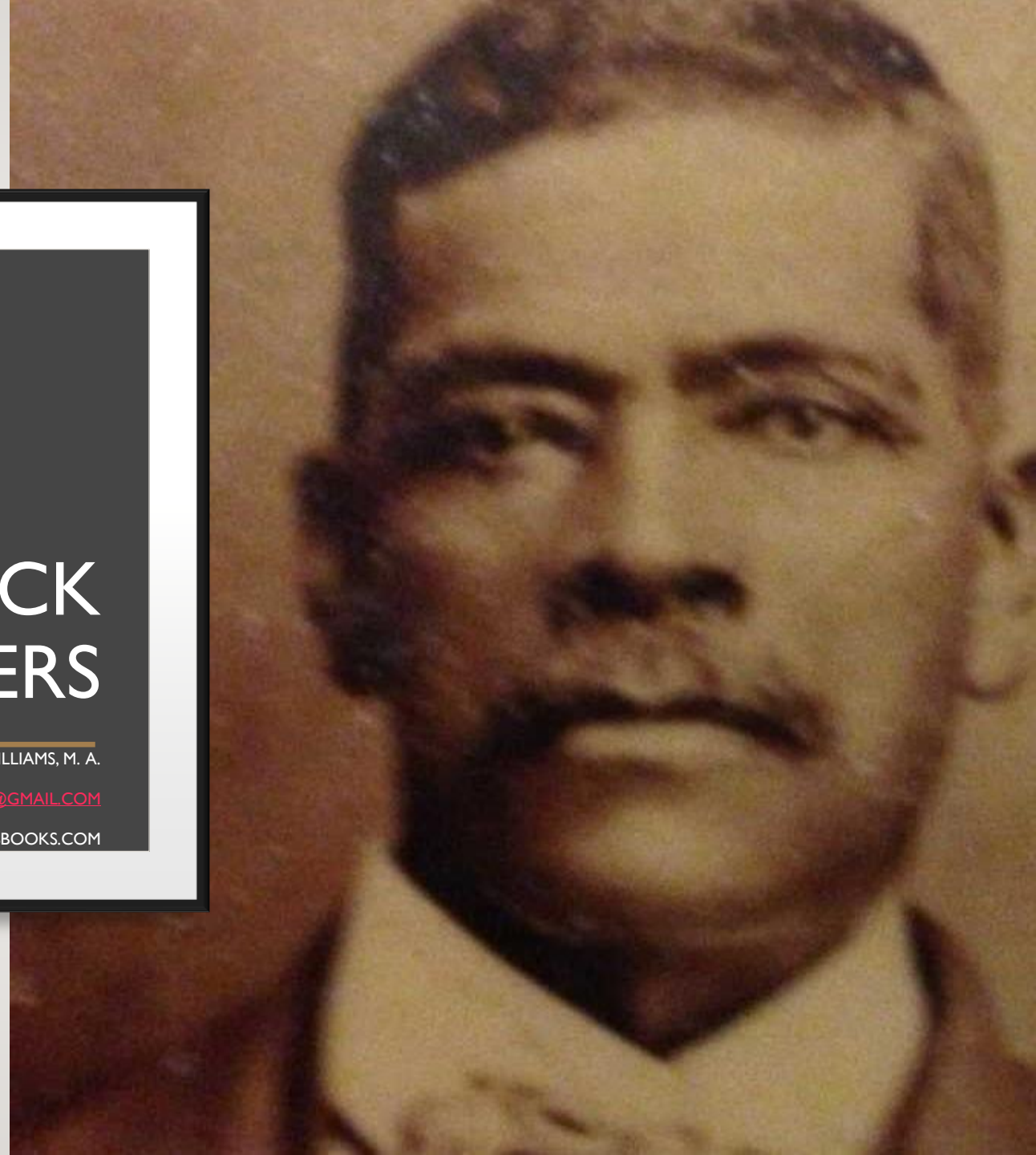


SOUTHERN BLACK HOMESTEADERS

MARGO LEE WILLIAMS, M. A.

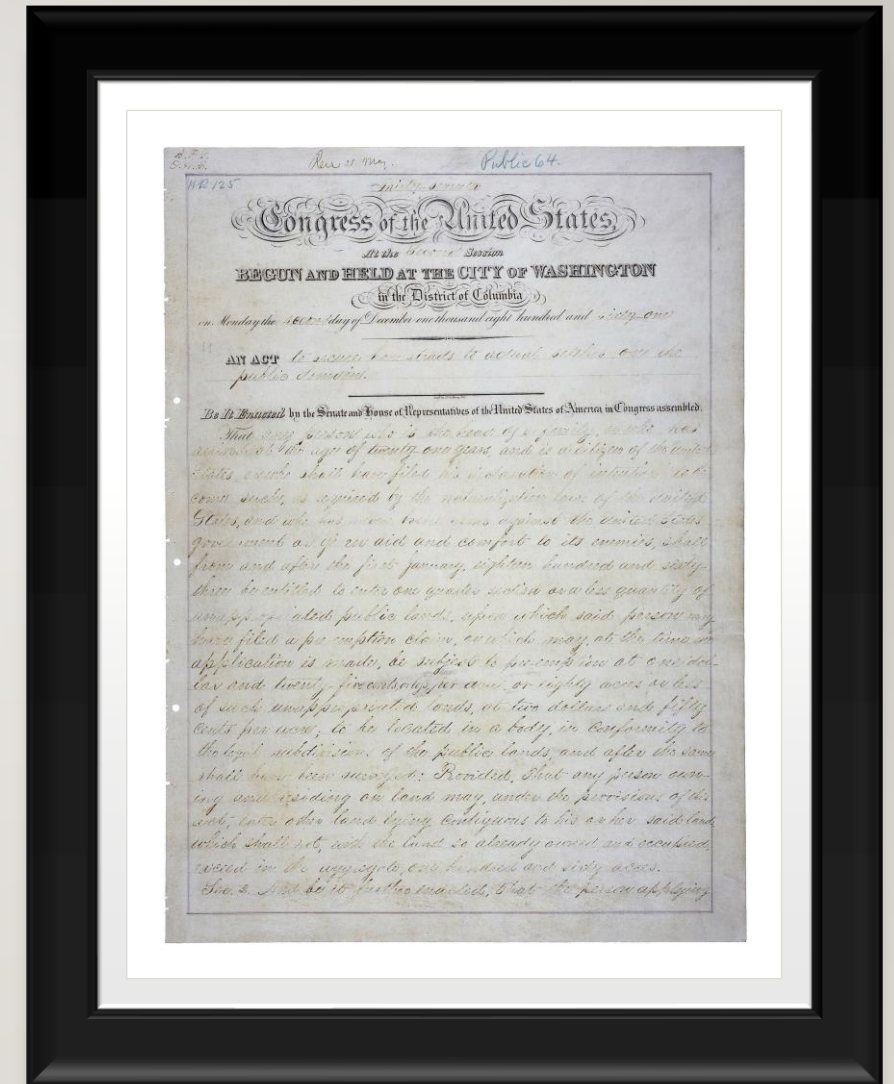
MARGOLW@GMAIL.COM

MARGOLEEWILLIAMSBOOKS.COM



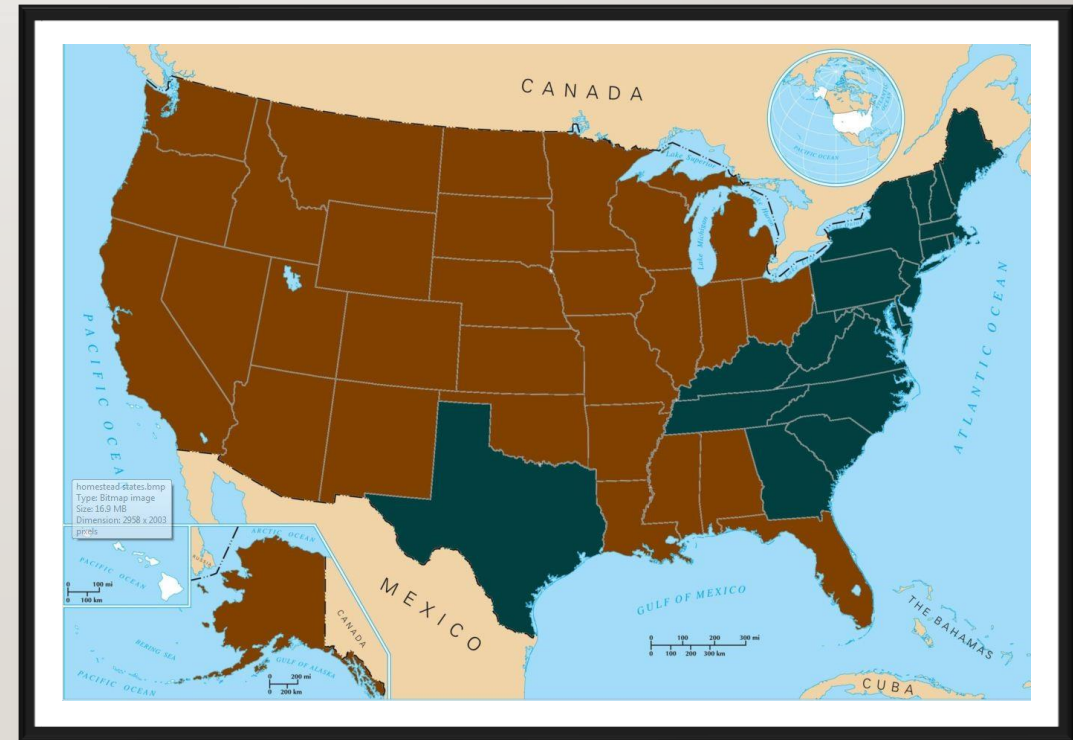
WHAT WAS THE HOMESTEAD ACT OF 1862?

- Passed on May 20, 1862, the Homestead Act accelerated the settlement of the western territory by granting adult heads of families up to 160 acres of surveyed public land for a minimal filing fee and five years of continuous residence on that land.
- The Homestead Act, enacted during the Civil War in 1862, provided that any adult citizen, or intended citizen, who had never borne arms against the U.S. government could claim 160 acres of surveyed government land. Claimants were required to live on and “improve” their plot by cultivating the land. After five years on the land, the original filer was entitled to the property, free and clear, except for a small registration fee. Title could also be acquired after only a six-month residency and trivial improvements, provided the claimant paid the government \$1.25 per acre. After the Civil War, Union soldiers could deduct the time they had served from the residency requirements.
- Although this act was included in the Republican party platform of 1860, support for the idea began decades earlier. Even under the Articles of Confederation, before 1787, the distribution of government lands generated much interest and discussion.



WHAT STATES ARE HOMESTEAD, I. E., PUBLIC LAND, STATES?

- All the Brown states are Homestead States equaling 30 states
- States not included are the original 13 states which includes their derivatives: West Virginia (from Virginia); Kentucky (also from Virginia); and Tennessee (from North Carolina).
- Texas is not included as well, because it had been part of the Confederacy.
- Hawaii also is not included. Because much of the land is considered lease land from the Bishop Estate.

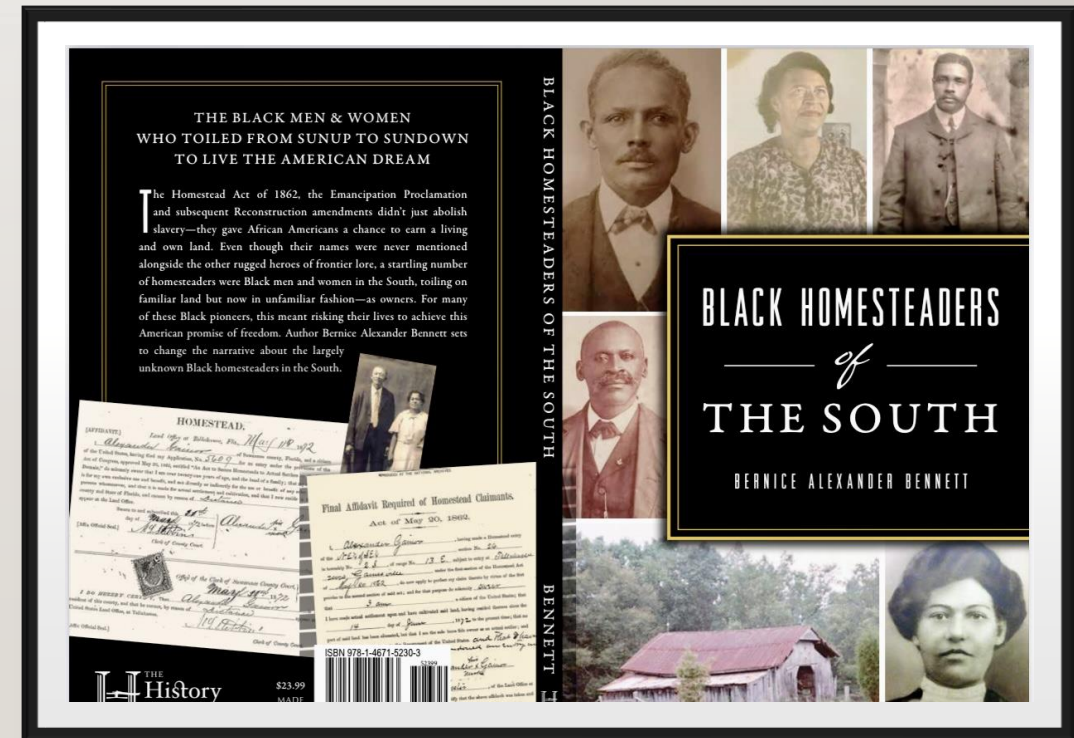


WHO COULD APPLY FOR HOMESTEAD LAND?

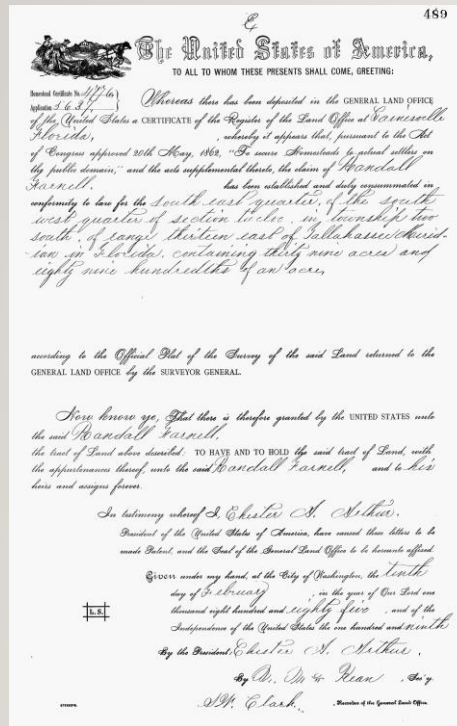
- A homesteader had to be
 - the head of a household or
 - at least 21 years of age to claim up to 160 acres of land.
- Applicants included
 - immigrants,
 - farmers without land of their own,
 - single women, and
 - formerly enslaved people.
- An Act to secure Homesteads to actual Settlers on the Public Domain. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, **That any person who is the head of a family, or who has arrived at the age of twenty-one years, and is a citizen of the United States, or who shall have filed his declaration of intention to become such, as required by the naturalization laws of the United States, and who has never borne arms against the United States Government or given aid and comfort to its enemies, shall, from and after the first January, eighteen hundred and sixty-three, be entitled** to enter one quarter section or a less quantity of unappropriated public lands, upon which said person may have filed a preemption claim, or which may, at the time the application is made, be subject to preemption at one dollar and twenty-five cents, or less, per acre; or eighty acres or less of such unappropriated lands, at two dollars and fifty cents per acre, to be located in a body, in conformity to the legal subdivisions of the public lands, and after the same shall have been surveyed: Provided, That any person owning and residing on land may, under the provisions of this act, enter other land lying contiguous to his or her said land, which shall not, with the land so already owned and occupied, exceed in the aggregate one hundred and sixty acres.

THE SOUTHERN HOMESTEAD ACT OF 1866 AND BLACK HOMESTEADERS

- What did the Southern Homestead Act of 1866 hope to resolve?
- The Southern Homestead Act was initiated to help former slaves gain their own land. It opened up about 46 million acres (18.6 million hectares) of land in **Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Louisiana, and Mississippi**



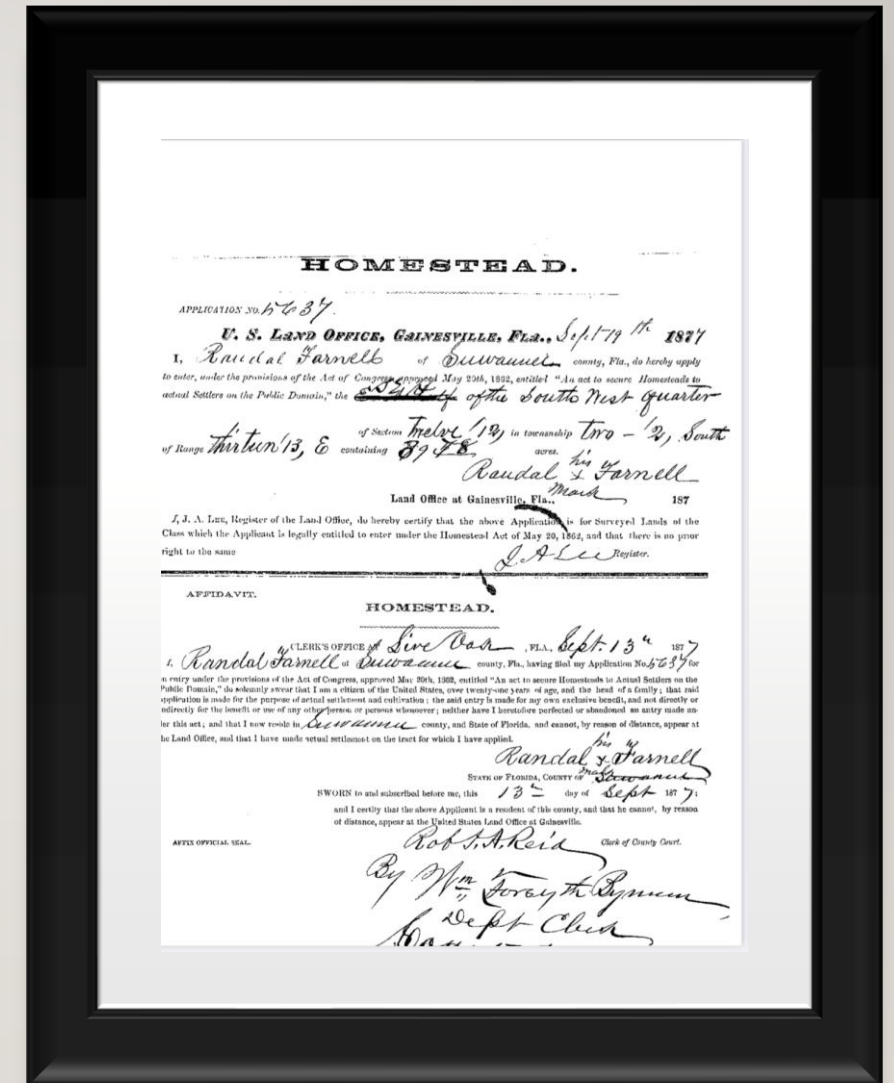
SO, YOU FOUND AN ANCESTOR'S HOMESTEAD LAND PATENT ON ANCESTRY; WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?



- Whereas there has been deposited in the General Land Office of the United States a Certificate of the Register of the Land Office at Gainesville Florida, whereby it appears that, pursuant to the Act of Congress approved 20th May 1862, "To secure Homelands to actual settlers on the public domain," and the acts supplemental thereto, the claim of Randall Farnell has been established and duly consummated in conformity to law for the southeast quarter of the southwest quarter of section twelve in township two south of range thirteen east of Tallahassee Meridian in Florida, containing thirty nine acres and eighty nine hundredths of an acre, according to the official plat of the survey of the said land returned to the General Land Office by the Surveyor General. Now know ye, that there is therefore granted by the United States unto the said Randall Farnell, the tract of land above described to have and to hold the said tract of land with the appurtenances thereof, unto the said Randall Farnell, and to his heirs and assigns forever, In testimony whereof I, Chester A. Arthur, President of the United States of America, have caused these letters to be made PATENT, and the Seal of the General Land Office to be hereunto affixed. Given under my hand, at the City of Washington the tenth day of February, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty five, and of the Independence of the United States the one hundred and ninth.

WHAT WAS THE PROCESS FOR APPLYING FOR HOMESTEAD LAND?

- Application
 - A filing fee was the only money required.
- The applicant must then live on the land, build a home, make appropriate improvements, and farm the land for a minimum of 5 years.



PROVING UP: THE IMPORTANCE OF WITNESS TESTIMONY

- When your five years are completed, you must return to the Land Office to testify that you have indeed settled and farmed the land.
- You must also bring at least two witnesses, who must testify to the same.
- Who might those witnesses be?
 - Your “FAN” Club!
 - Friends, Acquaintances, and Neighbors

[4-369.]

HOMESTEAD PROOF.—TESTIMONY OF WITNESS.

Henry McGhee being called as witness in support of the Homestead entry of *Randall Powell* for the *South East quarter of the S. 12 T. 2 R. 13 S. 4 E.* testifies as follows:

Ques. 1.—What is your occupation and where is your residence?
Ans. *Farmer, Sumner County, Kansas.*

Ques. 2.—Have you been well acquainted with *Randall Powell*, the claimant, in this case ever since he made his homestead entry No. *5637*?

Ans. *Yes.*

Ques. 3.—Was claimant qualified to make said entry? (State whether the settler was a citizen of the United States, over the age of twenty-one years, or the head of a family, and whether he ever made a former homestead entry.)

Ans. *Yes. Citizen of the United States over the age of 21 years & the head of a family, never made any former homestead entry.*

Ques. 4.—When did claimant settle upon the homestead and at what date did he establish actual residence thereon?
(Describe the dwelling and other improvements, giving total value thereof.)

Ans. *About 14 September 1877. Log dwelling, splindled smoke house, crib, stables. 35 acres fenced & cultivated value \$2000.*

Ques. 5.—Have claimant and family resided continuously on the homestead since first establishing residence thereon? (If settler is unmarried, state the fact.)

Ans. *Yes.*

Ques. 6.—For what period or periods has the settler been absent from the land since making settlement, and for what purpose; and if temporarily absent, did claimant's family reside upon and cultivate the land during such absence?

Ans. *None absent except to leave at other places daily at times. Family resided on same & they themselves cultivated.*

Ques. 7.—How much of the homestead has the settler cultivated and for how many seasons did he raise crops thereon?

Ans. *35 acres. 7 seasons.*

Ques. 8.—Are there any indications of coal, salines, or minerals of any kinds on the homestead? (If so, describe what they are, and state whether the land is more valuable for agricultural than for mineral purposes.)

Ans. *No.*

Ques. 9.—Has the claimant mortgaged, sold, or contracted to sell, any portion of said homestead?

Ans. *No.*

PUBLICATION IN THE NEWSPAPER

- Before the claim is finalized, the Land Office will publish a notice in the newspaper that the individual is making a claim for public land.

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION
1887

Land Office at Gainesville Fla. Aug. 1887.

Notice is hereby given that the following person has filed notice of his intention to make final proof in support of his claim and that said proof will be made before the Clerk of the Circuit Court in Gainesville, Fla. on the 27th day of September 1887.

No. 4776
(39.79 acres)

**State of Florida,
Suwannee County.**

D. M. McALEIN,
being duly sworn, deposes and says that he is the Publisher of the FLORIDA BULLETIN a newspaper published at Live Oak in Suwannee county in the State of Florida; that the notice of the intention of

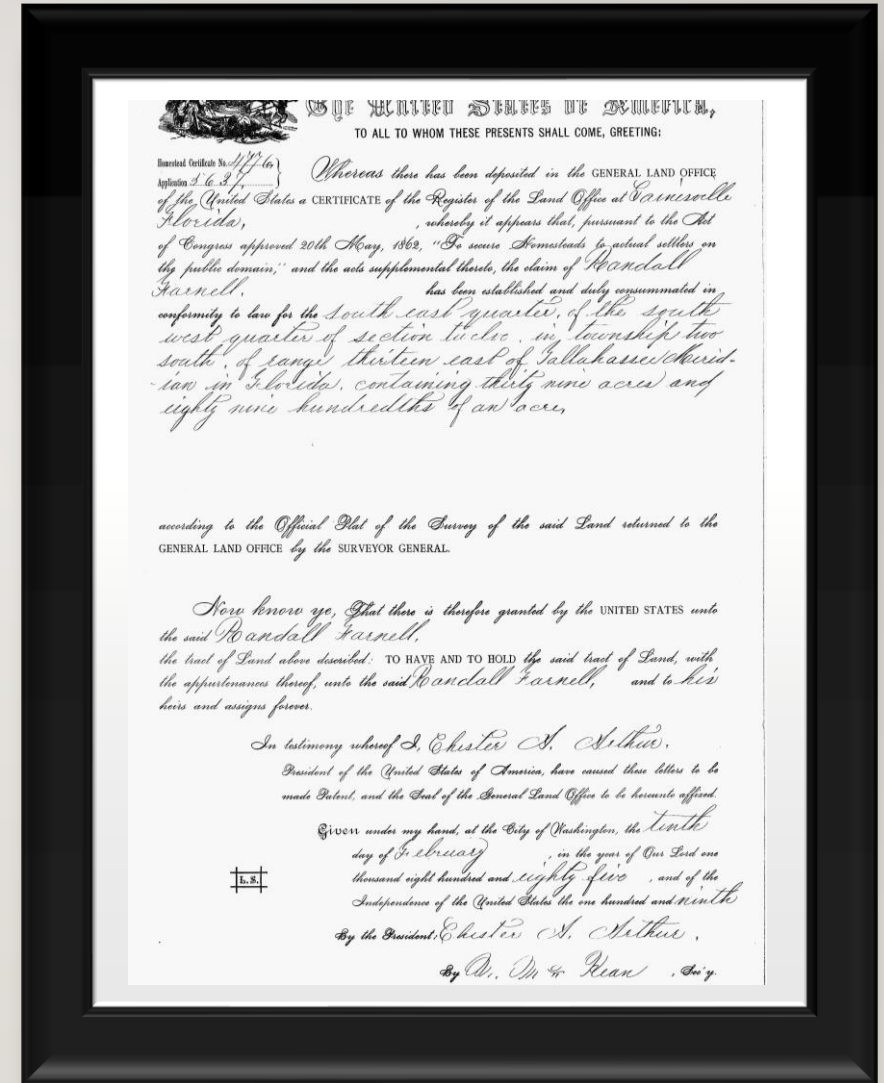
Randall Jamell
to make final homestead proof, a copy of which is hereto attached, was first published in said newspaper in its issue dated the 23 of Aug. 1887 and was published in each weekly issue of said newspaper thereafter for the full period of thirty days, the last publication thereof being in the issue dated the 27 of Sept 1887.

D.M. McAlpin

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 15 day of Oct. A. D. 1887.

Robt. A. Reid Clerk
By B. Small Del.

THE PATENT



HOW TO FIND OUT IF YOUR ANCESTOR FILED FOR HOMESTEAD LAND AND OBTAIN THE RECORDS?

- First go to the Bureau of Land Management's page where there is a link to the General Land Office database.
- <https://glorerecords.blm.gov/search/default.aspx>

The screenshot shows the 'U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT' website. The page is titled 'General Land Office Records' and features a navigation bar with links: Home, Search Documents, Reference Center, Support, Pathfinder, and a Shopping Cart icon. Below the navigation bar, there are three tabs: 'Search Documents By Type', 'Search Documents By Location', and 'Search Documents By Identifier'. The 'Search Documents By Type' tab is selected, and the 'Patents' section is active. The search form includes fields for 'Location' (State: FLORIDA, County: Suwannee), 'Names' (Last Name: Farnell, First Name: Randal, Middle Name:), and 'Land Description' (Township: Range: Meridian: Section:). There are checkboxes for 'search patentees' and 'search warrantees'. A 'Search Patents' button is at the bottom. To the right of the form, there are instructions for searching for land patents and search tips. The footer contains various links including USA.GOV, No Fear Act, DOI, Disclaimer, About BLM, Notices, Get Adobe Reader, White House, Budget & Performance, Agency Financial Report, Privacy Policy, FOIA, Kids Policy, Contact Us, Accessibility, Map, Home, Office of Civil Rights, EEO Violation Notices, Report Misconduct, and Social Media.

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Search Documents

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Patents
Surveys
LSR
CDI
Tract Books

Search

Location
State: FLORIDA
County: Suwannee

Names
Last Name: Farnell
First Name: Randal
Middle Name:
☒ search patentees ☒ search warrantees

Land Description
Township: /
Range: /
Meridian: Any Meridian
Section #:

Miscellaneous
Land Office: Any Land Office
Document #:
Indian Allot. #:
Survey #:
Authority: Any Authority

Issue Date: to
Militia:
Tribe: Any Tribe
Geo. Name/ Mining Claim:
Authority: Any Authority

To search for land patents:
1. Start by selecting the State.
2. You do not have to fill in all fields, but provide at least one additional field.
3. Click the Search Patents button.

Search Tips:
• Hover your mouse over a field to get a brief description.
• Get detailed information by checking the Glossary in the Reference Center.
• For more tips and help, check out our Patent Search Overview.

Search Patents

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IF YOU CLICK ON PATENT DETAILS...

YOU WILL BE SHOWN THE QUADRANT AND
SECTION WHERE YOUR ANCESTORS LAND
WAS/IS LOCATED.

Search Documents Reference Center Support Pathfinder

Documents Results List Patent Details

Nr: FL0750__489 Document Type: State Volume Patent State: Florida Issue Date: 2/10/1885 Cancelled: No

Details Patent Image Related Documents

On Document
ELL, RANDALL

Miscellaneous Information
Land Office: Gainesville
US Reservations: No
Mineral Reservations: No
Tribe: ---
Militia: ---
State In Favor Of: ---
Authority: May 20, 1862: Homestead EntryOriginal (12 Stat. 392)
General Remarks: ---

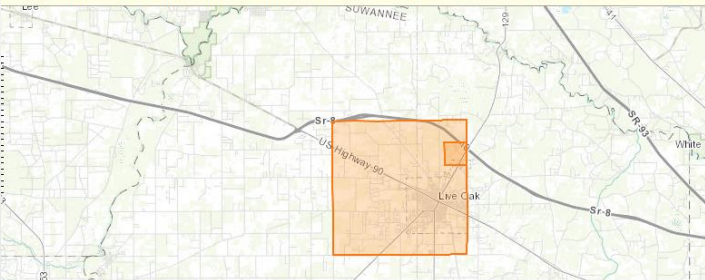
Document Numbers
Document Nr: 4776
Doc. Nr: 5637
Serial Nr: FL NO S/N
Lot. Nr: ---
Try. Nr: ---

Survey Information
Total Acres: 39.89
Survey Date: ---
Geographic Name: ---
Metes/Bounds: No

Descriptions

State	Meridian	Twp - Rng	Aliquots	Section	Survey #
FL	Tallahassee	0025 - 013E	SE 1/4 SW 1/4	12	Su

Due to data limitations, we could not map the aliquots or lots of this land description. The township and section are shown.



HISTORYGEO.COM MAPS

- From the original maps.
- Randel Farnell and Henry McGehee were in Section 12. Alex Gainor was in Section 26.

IF YOU CLICK ON “RELATED DOCUMENTS...”

- You can see everyone who received a claim in the same quadrant as your family.
- This can lead to information about family members and friends.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT *PRIVATE CLAIMS* General Land Office Records

Search Documents Reference Center Support Pathfinder Shopping Cart

Results ► Results List ► Patent Details

50__489 Document Type: State Volume Patent State: Florida Issue Date: 2/10/1885 Cancelled: No

Patent Image Related Documents Printer Friendly

Documents matching the following *land description* from the current document: FL Tallahassee Township 2.0S Range 13.0E Section 12

Image	Accession	Names	Date	Doc #	State	Meridian	Twp - Rng	Aliquots	Sec. #	County
	FL0400 .354	BLACKBURN, DUKE	4/1/1859	3134	FL	Tallahassee	002S - 013E	NW¼NW¼	12	Suwannee
	FL0850 .185	BYNUM, JOHN H	3/26/1892	9442	FL	Tallahassee	002S - 013E	W½SW¼	12	Suwannee
	FL0750 .489	FARNELL, RANDALL	2/10/1885	4776	FL	Tallahassee	002S - 013E	SE¼SW¼	12	Suwannee
	FL0530 .251	JONES, EMPEROR	2/25/1885	4460	FL	Tallahassee	002S - 013E	NE¼NW¼	12	Suwannee
	FL0690 .224	MCGEHEE, HENRY	11/30/1878	1225	FL	Tallahassee	002S - 013E	NW¼NE¼	12	Suwannee
	FL0630 .293	TAYLOR, SHADRACK	6/26/1889	11102	FL	Tallahassee	002S - 013E	NE¼SW¼	12	Suwannee
	FL0680 .395	WILSON, EDWARD	6/15/1877	1058	FL	Tallahassee	002S - 013E	SE¼SE¼	12	Suwannee

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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
	FL0800_277	ABBOTT, JAMES P	4/29/1890	7240	FL	Tallahassee	0055 - 014E	NE1/4	33	Suwannee
	FL1030_128	ABRAMS, ROBERT	8/29/1901	15647	FL	Tallahassee	0015 - 013E	E1/2NW1/4	14	Suwannee
	FL0860_476	ADAMS, AMANDA, BRYANT, AMANDA	8/9/1894	11085	FL	Tallahassee	0025 - 013E	SE1/4SE1/4	2	Suwannee
	FL1050_316	ADAMS, EDWARD	8/17/1903	16839	FL	Tallahassee	0045 - 012E	E1/2SE1/4	32	Lafayette, Suwannee
	MY-0688-023	ADAMS, MORGAN H	11/18/1907	18508	FL	Tallahassee	0045 - 012E	SW1/4SE1/4	32	Lafayette, Suwannee
	FL1030_075	AGEE, ANDREW J	8/24/1901	15588	FL	Tallahassee	0065 - 014E	51/2, Lot/Trct 4	18	Lafayette, Suwannee
	FL0990_203	ALBRITTON, MATHEW	6/13/1899	14272	FL	Tallahassee	0055 - 014E	N1/2SW1/4	36	Suwannee
	FL0830_303	ALDERMAN, MARY C, ALDERMAN, W H	6/17/1891	8510	FL	Tallahassee	0055 - 014E	S1/2NW1/4	36	Suwannee
	FL0830_214	ALEXANDER, FRANK	5/4/1891	8714	FL	Tallahassee	0035 - 011E	E1/2SW1/4	26	Suwannee
	FL0810_262	ALEXANDER, JAMES	9/24/1890	7561	FL	Tallahassee	0035 - 011E	S1/2SE1/4	26	Suwannee
	FL0690_343	ALLEN, COASTER	7/21/1879	1179	FL	Tallahassee	0015 - 013E	E1/2SE1/4	30	Suwannee
	FL0830_476	ALLEN, DANIEL C	6/17/1891	9011	FL	Tallahassee	0025 - 014E	NE1/4SW1/4	4	Suwannee
	FL0910_081	ALLEN, ELBERT	7/27/1896	12182	FL	Tallahassee	0025 - 014E	NW1/4SE1/4	4	Suwannee
	FL0420_306	ALLEN, GEORGE W	8/1/1860	5147	FL	Tallahassee	0055 - 014E	N1/2NE1/4	32	Suwannee
	FL0650_239	ALLEN, JAMES H	11/16/1891	14533	FL	Tallahassee	0015 - 012E	W1/2NW1/4	20	Suwannee
	FL1020_057	ALLEN, JOHN N	4/9/1901	15110	FL	Tallahassee	0045 - 012E	SW1/4SE1/4	14	Suwannee
						Tallahassee	0045 - 012E	S1/2NW1/4	20	Suwannee
						Tallahassee	0045 - 012E	N1/2SW1/4	20	Suwannee

- Leave the name spaces blank. Just fill in the county information.
- You will see an alphabetical list of everyone who successfully claimed in the county.
- NONE OF THESE RECORDS ANYONE'S RACE.
 - RACE MUST BE CONFIRMED USING OTHER RECORDS, SUCH AS CENSUS RECORDS.
 - I did this for my county and identified 44 claimants who were African American.

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- Go to the National Archives page:
- <https://www.archives.gov/files/forms/pdf/natf-84.pdf>

NATIONAL ARCHIVES TRUST FUND BOARD NATF Form 84 (rev. 08-2020)										OMB Control No. 3095-0027 Expires 07-31-2023									
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1. Reference Number: E <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>										Reference Number: Enter the date you fill out the form (example - MMDDYY = 012319). Enter the number of the request being submitted in the last two boxes. If you are submitting four forms and this is your second, you would enter 02. A completed reference number example is: 01231902.									
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2. FILE TO BE SEARCHED <input type="checkbox"/> GENERAL LAND ENTRY FILES <input type="checkbox"/> BOUNTY-LAND WARRANT FILES <small>Please refer to Instructions for descriptions of these types of land entry files.</small>																			
REQUIRED MINIMUM IDENTIFICATION OF LAND FILE - MUST BE COMPLETED OR YOUR ORDER CANNOT BE SERVICED																			
3. NAME OF ENTRY MAN (Give last, first, and middle names)										4. LAND LOCATED IN STATE OF					5. APPROXIMATE DATE OF ENTRY (Exact date, if known)				
PLEASE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR GENERAL LAND ENTRY FILES																			
PRE-1908 GENERAL LAND ENTRY FILES										POST-1908 GENERAL LAND ENTRY FILES									
6. LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF LAND SECTION NUMBER <input type="text"/> TOWNSHIP NUMBER <input type="text"/> RANGE NUMBER <input type="text"/>										10. SERIAL PATENT NUMBER <input type="text"/>									
7. TYPE OF GENERAL LAND ENTRY (Check one) <input type="checkbox"/> CREDIT <input type="checkbox"/> CASH <input type="checkbox"/> HOMESTEAD ACT <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER <input type="text"/>										8. PATENT FINAL CERTIFICATE OR DOCUMENT NUMBER <input type="text"/>									
9. NAME OF LAND OFFICE <input type="text"/>																			
REQUIRED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR BOUNTY LAND WARRANT FILES, 1847-1855																			
11. YEAR OF AUTHORIZING WARRANT <input type="text"/>										12. WARRANT NUMBER <input type="text"/>					13. NUMBER OF ACRES <input type="text"/>				
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<input type="checkbox"/> REQUIRED MINIMUM IDENTIFICATION OF LAND FILE WAS NOT PROVIDED. Please complete blocks 2, 3 (give full name), 4, and 5 and resubmit your order. For Bounty Land Warrant files, 1847-1855, you must also provide the year of the authorizing act, the warrant number, and the acreage (blocks 11-13).																			
<input type="checkbox"/> See attached forms, leaflets, or information sheets.																			
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<small>(see Instructions for credit cards we can accept)</small>																			
Signature: <input type="text"/>										Exp. Date: <input type="text"/>					Card Validation Code (See Instructions): <input type="text"/>				
Day Time Phone (Required): <input type="text"/>										e-mail Address (Required if available): <input type="text"/>									
Last Name <input type="text"/> First Name, MI <input type="text"/>										Last Name <input type="text"/> First Name, MI <input type="text"/>									
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Country (if not USA) <input type="text"/>										Country (if not USA) <input type="text"/>									

CRM Control No. 3039-027 Expires 08-31-2023

<h2 style="margin: 0;">NATIONAL ARCHIVES (NARA) ORDER FOR COPIES OF LAND ENTRY FILES</h2> <h3 style="margin: 0;">Expedite your order; submit it online at eservices.archives.gov/orderonline</h3> <p style="margin: 0;"><i>We receive orders more quickly when you submit them online.</i> We will send you an e-mail confirming that we have your request and you will be able to track the order online at no additional cost.</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Order reproduction service using this form is available ONLY from <i>Archival Operations Washington D.C., Form #4 – Land, National Archives and Records Administration, 700 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20408-0001.</i></p> <p style="margin: 0;">IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR ORDER: You may use this form to order copies of land entry files (such as credit, cash, homestead, and mineral) or surrendered military bounty land warrants files (Acts of 1788, 1812, 1847, 1850, 1852, 1855). You may request only one land entry file per form. The National Archives has custody of the land entry files for all Federal public domain states. There are Federal land records for all states except the thirteen original states, VT, KY, NY, ME, WV, TX, and HI. Some of the original colonies and eastern states also sold land and awarded military bounty land warrants on their own. Researchers interested in such records should contact the appropriate state archives or historical society. Please note: Federal land records document only the FIRST transfer of title to land, from the United States to another party. Records of later transfers should be found in county land records. The success of our search depends on the completeness and accuracy of the information you provide in blocks 1-13 on this form. NARA has custody of more than ten million individual land entry files. Depending on the time period and state for the land entry file you request, we may need different information from you to find it.</p> <p style="margin: 0;">INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THIS FORM: Use a separate NATF Form 84 for each file that you request. You must complete blocks 1 – 5 or we cannot search for the file. Print your name (last, first, MI) and address in the box provided at the bottom of the form. This serves as your mailing label. We destroy requests without return addresses. Please enter the Card Validation Code, found on your card, in the space provided on the form (three or four digits). We will make reproductions of records that relate to your request. We accept Master Card, VISA, American Express, and Discover credit cards. Do NOT send cash or check. Forms with incomplete credit card information will be destroyed. Make a copy of the completed form for your records. Mail it to: <i>Archival Operations Washington D.C., Form #4 – Land, National Archives and Records Administration, 700 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20408-0001.</i> Please allow up to 90 days for processing your order. If you provide your email address, we will send you an email with your order number. You can track the status of your order at our website, eservices.archives.gov/orderonline. Do not use this form to request certified copies of records. To request certified copies contact us at www.archives.gov/contact or write to the above address.</p> <p style="margin: 0;">RETURN POLICY: Due to various factors, it is occasionally difficult for NARA to make a legible reproduction. NARA will notify customers and ask for approval to proceed if we anticipate a reproduction of questionable legibility. As a result, NARA does not provide refunds except in special cases. If a customer requests a refund, we review the order to determine if we properly notified the customer of the questionable nature of the original and if the product is a true representation of the original. If the product is a true representation of the original, we will not issue a refund. If you feel we processed your order incorrectly or it contains errors, please contact us within 30 days of your delivery date to have the issue verified. Once we verify the issue, we will correct the error and resend the documents. If we cannot correct the error, you will receive a refund.</p> <p style="margin: 0;">ELECTRONIC TRANSFER: Electronic transfer allows you to download your files from a site, as opposed to having them mailed to you. You will be sent a link to the download. Click the link and download the file to a location of your choosing. <i>Download speed will vary based upon file size and your internet connection.</i> A paid service is necessary for electronic transfer. Total file transfers can be up to 5 GB. However, files of that size are typically separated into multiple, smaller files. Files will be available for 30 days from date of upload; downloads of the files should take place within that period. To ensure electronic receipt of your order, please add electronic.delivery@nara.gov to your trusted senders list. In some cases, certain email applications will move your reproduction orders to your spam box. Please monitor your spam box while awaiting your order.</p>
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OMB Control No. 3095-0027 Expires 08-31-2023

INFORMATION REQUIRED FOR COPIES OF FEDERAL LAND ENTRY FILES

GENERAL LAND ENTRY FILES

For all **general land entry files**, regardless of year, you must supply the name of the land entryman (settler, patentee, etc.), the state in which the land was located, and the approximate date of the entry (blocks 1-5). Frequently, we can locate individual land entry files through name indexes. However, indexes do not exist for all states and all years. Where there is no index, we require additional information to locate the file.

Pre-1908 Land Entry Files

Pre-1908 land entry files (not bounty land warrant files) date from about 1800 and are arranged by state, land office, type of file (such as credit, cash, homestead, mineral, etc.) and land entry file number.

Name indexes available. Name indexes exist **ONLY** for the states of Alaska, Alaska, Arizona, Florida, Louisiana, Nevada, and Utah before 1908. For these states, we require the entryman's name, the state in which the land was located, and the approximate date of the entry (blocks 1-5). Any additional information you can supply is appreciated.

Western public domain states. Name indexes do NOT exist for the western public domain states of California, Colorado, the Dakotas, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming before 1908. In addition to the required minimum identification of the land file (blocks 1-5), you must provide *EITHER* the legal description of the land (block 6), *OR* the type of file, the name of the land office that issued the file, and the land entry file number (blocks 7-9). You can obtain the legal description of the land (and occasionally other information) from the county recorder of deeds where the land was located.

Eastern public domain states. Name indexes do NOT exist for the eastern public domain states of Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin before 1908. In addition to the required minimum identification of the land file (blocks 1-5), you must provide the type of file number, and the name of the land office that issued the file (blocks 7-9). You can obtain this information from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) by providing the BLM with the legal description of the land (numbered section, township, and range). The BLM has also computerized records of patented land entries for all public domain states except Kansas, Nebraska, and Oklahoma. The BLM's Land Entry File (LEF) and Land Entry File (LEF) records are available at www.glsrecords.blm.gov has the information needed to locate the land entry files at the National Archives, and it is name searchable. Contact the Bureau of Land Management, Eastern States, 7450 Boston Blvd., Springfield, VA 22153.

Name indexes available. Starting July 1, 1908, the files are arranged numerically by patent number, for all public domain states. A name index exists for ALL public domain states for post-1908 land files. For these files, we require the entryman's name, the state in which the land was located, and the approximate date of the entry (blocks 1-5). Any additional information you can provide is appreciated. The BLM has computerized all serial patent files. You may search these records at www.glsrecords.blm.gov.

SURRENDERED MILITARY BOUNTY LAND WARRANT FILES

These files are arranged by the year of the Act of Congress which authorized the warrants, the warrant number, and by the number of acres granted. There are name indexes for the Revolutionary War and most of the War of 1812 warrants. There are no indexes for the warrants under the acts of 1847-1855. For those files, you must provide the year of the act, the warrant number, and the number of acres (blocks 11-13). You may obtain the file location from the pension and bounty land warrant application files, by using the NATF Form 85, National Archives Order for Copies of Federal Pension or Bounty Land Warrant Applications, available by writing to Archives/Archival Operations Washington D. C., Form 84 - Land, National Archives and Records Administration, 700 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20408-0007 or online at www.archives.gov/contact along with electronic versions of this and other forms.

PRIVACY STATEMENT

Collection of this information is authorized by sections 2108, 2116, and 2207 of Title 44 U.S.C. Disclosure of the information is voluntary; however, we will be unable to process your request if you do not furnish your name and address and the minimum required information about the records. The information is used by NARA employees to search for the record, to respond to you, to maintain control over information requests received and answered, and to facilitate preparation of internal statistical reports. If you provide credit card information, that information is used to bill you for copies.

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT PUBLIC BURDEN STATEMENT

A Federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a current valid OMB control number. The OMB Control No. for this information collection is 3095-0027. Public burden reporting for this collection of information is estimated to be 10 minutes per response. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of the information collection, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to National Archives and Records Administration (SPR), 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park MD 20740. Do not send completed forms TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND COMPLETED FORMS TO THE ADDRESS INDICATED IN THE FORM INSTRUCTIONS.

WHEN YOU GET YOUR FILE, PLEASE WRITE YOUR STORY AND SUBMIT IT...

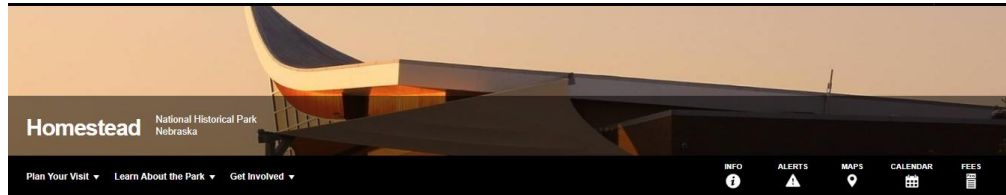
- Bernice Alexander Bennett is working with the Homestead National Historic Park. In Nebraska, located where the very first Homestead claim was made.
 - She is volunteering with the Black Homesteaders Project.
- **Homestead National Historical Park** was created in 1936. The purpose of the park was to be a "memorial emblematical of the hardships and the pioneer life through which the early settlers passed in the settlement, cultivation and civilization of the Great West."

Through exhibits, special events, and interpretive programs, Homestead National Historical Park addresses the scope and the legacy of the Homestead Act of 1862 across the nation from 1863 until today.



BLACK HOMESTEADERS PROJECT

- Bernice Bennett will help you submit your story to the park ranger in charge of the project.
 - bennb2@verizon.net
 - There is also a link on the page where you can submit directly to the Park Ranger.
 - <https://www.nps.gov/home/black-homesteading-in-america.htm>
 - The Ranger will oversee the digitization of your land entry papers and standardization of the presentation of your information.



Black Homesteaders



Cultivating Connections ›

Descendants of black homesteaders tell their stories for the National Park Service website and repository.



Study Focuses on Black Homesteading ›

Discover the stories of six Midwest Black homesteader colonies.

RANDEL FARNELL'S STORY

HOMESTEAD NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

Randel Farnell



Randel Farnell was born in Hawkinsville, Pulaski County, Georgia on March 15, 1840. After his mother died, Farnell moved from Columbia County, Florida to neighboring Suwannee County where his wife's family lived. There, he filed a homestead application on September 13, 1877 at the county clerk's office in Live Oak. Seven years later, on August 18, 1884, Farnell presented final proof to establish his homestead.

CONSIDER JOINING THE FB GROUP: DESCENDANTS OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HOMESTEADERS.

- Again, this is a page organized by Bernice Bennett for Descendants of African American Homesteaders, from ANY of the 30 states.
 - On this page you will
 - meet other descendants,
 - Learn when stories (including yours!) are published on the Homestead Park website, with great FANFARE!!!
 - And learn when there are webinars or other online presentations about Black Homesteaders, especially about the book *Black Homesteaders of the South*.



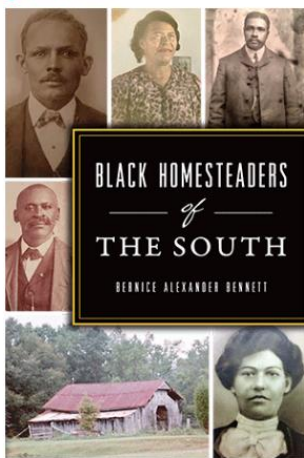
Descendants of African American Homesteaders

HOMESTEAD FACTS

COMPILED BY HOMESTEAD NATIONAL MONUMENT OF AMERICA HISTORIAN TODD ARRINGTON, APRIL 24, 2007

- 10: Percentage of U.S. land given away under the Homestead Act.
- 24: Presidential administrations during which the Homestead Act was in effect (Lincoln to Reagan).
- 30: Number of states in which homestead lands were located.
- 45: Percentage of Nebraska's acres distributed under the Homestead Act [Largest percentage of any state].
- 50: More than 50% of homesteaders successfully proved up on their land
- 123: Years the Homestead Act was in effect (1863-1986).
- 160: Number of acres in a typical homestead claim.
- 4,000,000: Approximate number of claims made under the Homestead Act.
- 11,000,000: Acres claimed in 1913, the peak year of homestead claims.
- 93,000,000: Estimated number of homesteader descendants alive today.
- 270,000,000: Total number of acres distributed by the Homestead Act.

LOOK INSIDE



Black Homesteaders of the South

By Bernice Alexander Bennett

\$23.99

1

ADD TO CART

AND MAKE SURE TO GET
YOUR COPY OF **BLACK
HOMESTEADERS OF THE
SOUTH!**

- Published by the History Press, a division of Arcadia Publishing.
- Available from all major book suppliers.

The background of the slide is a dark, textured surface covered with numerous question marks. Some question marks are in a light, metallic gold color, while others are in a dark, charcoal grey color. They are scattered across the frame, creating a sense of depth and repetition. A large, bright white question mark is positioned on the left side, partially overlapping a dark rectangular box.

QUESTIONS?
