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## HEAD-RIGHT AND BOUNTY GRANTS

While the Revolutionary War was still in progress, The General Assembly of Georgia passed two Acts relating to the granting of land but until 1782 the State was overrun and occupied by the British and the government was so disorganized that the necessary official machinery for surveying and granting land was never perfected. As a result both of those Acts became ineffectual, and are referred to here only as a matter of historical interest. The first of these was the Act of June 7, 1777 (as amended by the Act of September 16, 1777) entitled "An Act for opening a land office and for the better settling and strengthening this State"; the second was the Act of January 23, 1780, entitled "An Act for the more speedy and effectual settling and strengthening this State". Actually only a very few surveys were ever made under those Acts and the first grant of land based on any of such surveys was not signed and issued until October 22, 1783. Neither Act provided for a fee-simple grant, but both followed the Colonial requirement for the annual payment of rent of two shillings on each hundred acres in the grant, in addition to settlement and cultivation within nine months. However, both Acts recognized the fact that many Colonial and State records had been lost or destroyed during the War and stipulated that despite their loss those persons who could produce some proof of an application for survey or an agreement to purchase or settlement under any Colonial law or grant would be entitled to confirming grants. One feature of both Acts which was followed in every subsequent Act was that a man would be entitled to 200 acres as his own head-right plus an additional 50 acres for his wife, each child and each slave but that in no event could the total grant exceed 1000 acres.

The first effective land Act was the Act of February 17, 1783 (as amended by the Act of August 1, 1783) entitled "An Act for opening the land office and for other purposes therein mentioned". This Act allowed a man to take up 200 acres upon his own head-right free of any charge except office fees for survey and grant, plus an additional 50 acres upon the head of each member of his family at sales prices ranging from one to four shillings per acre, and it limited any grant to a maximum of 1000 acres. The rights of persons who had previously received warrants of survey were ratified and they were declared to be entitled to grants of land then occupied by them. Those persons who, under legislation passed during the War, had become entitled to bounty lands, such as citizens who had not molested their neighbors' families or property, refugees who had served in militia companies outside of the state, militiamen of the State and men who had served in the minute battalions were declared entitled to grants without charge except for office fees. The machinery for granting land, as set up by this Act, was as follows. The applicant for land would appear before the land court of the county in which he desired land, composed of at

five Justices and after making oath as to the size of his family including slaves, would obtain a warrant of survey. The county surveyor would then lay out his land, keep a copy of the plat of survey in his office and forward a copy to the Surveyor-General. After living on the land a year and cultivating at least three per cent of the acreage, the settler would then apply to the Governor's office for his grant and pay all purchase price due and all office fees. The grant would then be issued and recorded.

The Act of February 25, 1784 which was passed primarily to create and open up Franklin and Washington Counties, made some revisions in the grant laws theretofore enacted. The sales price of land in those two counties was fixed at three shillings per acre and the maximum grant was again limited to 1000 acres. Bounty grants could be located in the new counties and all bounty grants in all counties were no longer to be tax free for ten years but were to be increased by fifteen per cent in acreage. A large section in what later became Greene County was reserved exclusively for bounty grants to men who had served refugees or militiamen. For the first year members of the Executive Council were to act as the land courts for the new counties, prior to their organization.

Under the Act of February 22, 1785 the provisions for payment of a purchase price or consideration for granted land, other than office fees, were removed and thereafter all land was granted free. Cultivation was no longer a requisite. However, the restrictions as to the amount of land to which a man was entitled upon his own and his family's head-rights and the restriction as to the 1000 acre maximum grant remained unchanged. No surveys for bounty grants were to be made after February 22, 1786 but as to bounty land surveyed prior to that date a grant could be made upon the warrant at any time thereafter.

No information whatsoever as to the State or County of a man's former residence, or as to names of his wife or members of his family appear upon either the warrant for survey, the recorded plat of survey or the recorded grant. Only the grantee's name is shown on those records in the Surveyor-General's office.

#### FOREWORD

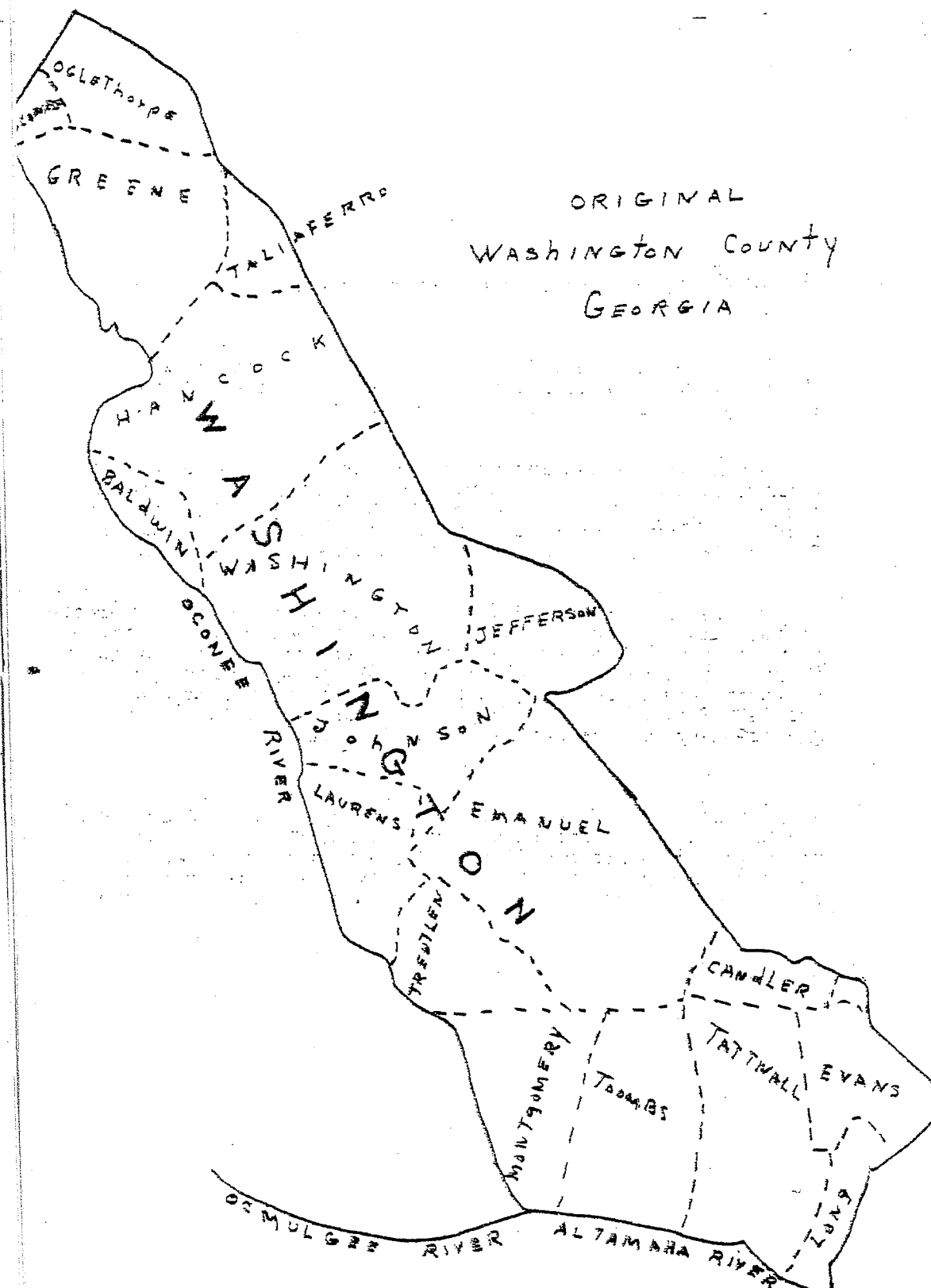
Washington County was established Feb. 25, 1784, from the Creek Indian Cession of Nov. 1, 1783.

The county originally included all the territory "from the Cherokee Corner, north extending from the Ogeechee River to the Oconee River, south to Liberty County."

A part of Washington County was set off to Greene County, 1786; a part to Hancock County, 1793; a part to Montgomery County, 1793; a part to Laurens County, 1811; a part to Baldwin County, 1807, 1812, and 1826; and a part to Johnson County, 1858. The county seat is Sandersville, Georgia.

Washington County and Franklin County, which was erected the same year as Washington County, were the two counties where bounty grants were made to soldiers of the Revolutionary War. These soldiers were eligible for bounty grants upon proof of their service no matter from what state they served, and soldiers from every state applied for and received bounty grants—many of them settled on their land.

There was a fire in the Washington County courthouse in 1855 which destroyed many of the early records of the county, and the courthouse was burned by Gen. Sherman on his march to the sea. A few records of the 1840's survived, but generally, the records begin after the Civil War. Therefore, the majority of the records here are from sources other than the courthouse.



## HEADRIGHT AND BOUNTY GRANTS

Some of those listed below received more than one grant; others bought the bounty grants given Revolutionary Soldiers. The date shown is that of the first grant in the instances where more than one grant was recorded.

Abbott, John	1787	Ashmore, John	1785
Abercrombie, Charles	1791	Aubry, Alexander	1784
Acord, John	1786	Jacob	1874
Adams, John	1786	Autry, Absalom	1793
Mathias	1788	Alexander	1786
Robert	1785	John	1786
Adamson, James	1796	Autrey, Alexander	1785
Charles	1795	Avent, Joseph	1784
Adcock, James	1785	Avery, Alexander	1787
Adkins, John	1794	Sarah	1821
Ainsworth, James	1837	Samuel	1820
Akridge, William	1805	Averett, John	1784
Albert, John	1785	Aycock, Benjamin	1801
Albritton, Zaca (?)	1818	Elius	1794
Alexander, Asa	1785	Richard	1785
Arpa	1785	Ayers, Abraham	1785
Washington	1785	Daniel	1784
James	1785	James	1785
John L.	1785	Thomas	1784
Robert	1785	William	1784
Samuel	1785		
Vincent	1787	Bacon, John	1784
Alford, James	1786	Nicholas	1790
Alison, Henry	1785	Reuben	1787
Allen, Charles	1794	Bagby, George	1785
Edmond	1797	Baggs, John	1784
James	1784	Joseph	1789
Robert	1785	Bailey, Azariah	1785
Thomas	1784	David	1853
Allenthrope, Vincent	1788	William	1717
Allison, Henry	1784	Baker, Francis	1804
Amosson, Uriah	1798	Joseph	1801
Anderson, Alexander	1784	Joshua	1789
Barclay	1784	Thomas H.	1848
Elijah	1785	Baldwin, David	1785
Henry	1829	John	1785
John	1794	Mordecai	1802
John	1788	Robert	1785
Reuben	1798	William	1785
William	1784	Ballard, Christopher	1793
Andrew, Samuel	1788	Joshua	1785
Andrews, John	1785	Banks, Elisha Fowler	1794
Angelly, Alexander	1787	Gerard	1791
Anglin, David	1785	Reuben	1785
Archord, John	1785	Bankston, James	1787
Arline, John	1792	Laurence	1793
Armstrong, Alexander	1789	Barber, Joseph	1791
James	1824	Richard	1806
John	1794	Thomas	1838
Asbury, Jonathan	1795	Barbre, Isaac	1795

Name	Date Issued	Adjoining
Kendall, Wm.	Apr. 3, 1787	vacant & Sturgis
	May 2, 1791	Wm. Kendall
	May 2, 1791	Curry & Cook
Kettle, Mary	Apr. 4, 1791	Blunt & surveyed
Kimbrough	Apr. 6, 1789	Few & Upton
Kindrick, Barrie	May 7, 1792	Sheppard, Jno. & Wm.
Kindrick, Jonas	Aug. 6, 1792	Irwin & Graybill
Kirk, John	Aug. 6, 1787	Thos. Hill & Brantley
Kitchens, Benj.	Aug. 6, 1792	Kitchen & Jackson
	Aug. 6, 1792	Kitchen & vacant
	Aug. 6, 1792	Kitchen & Jackson
	Aug. 6, 1792	Kitchen & Jackson
	Aug. 6, 1792	Kitchen & vacant
	Aug. 6, 1792	Kitchen & vacant
	Aug. 6, 1792	Kitchen & vacant
	Aug. 6, 1792	Kitchen & vacant
	Aug. 6, 1792	James Bewie
	Aug. 6, 1792	James Bewie
	Jan. 7, 1793	surveys
	Jan. 7, 1793	Benj. Kitchen
	Jan. 7, 1793	surveys
	Jan. 7, 1793	surveys
	Jan. 7, 1793	Benj. Kitchens
	Apr. 1, 1793	Commons
	Apr. 1, 1793	Kitchens & vacant
	Apr. 1, 1793	Jos. Ryan & Kitchen
	Apr. 1, 1793	Jno. Black & Jos. Ryan
	Apr. 1, 1793	vacant
	Apr. 1, 1793	Dawson & Jones
	Apr. 1, 1793	Ryan
	Apr. 1, 1793	Dawson
	May 3, 1790	Duett Dees & Elis Nals
Lamb, Jesse		
Lancaster, Wm.		
and		
Jas. Dawson		
Jno. Lawson		
Leapham, Aaron		
Ledbetter, Isaac		
Levin, Richard		
Lightfoot, John		
Lingo, Moses		
Linsey, John		
Long, Nicholas		
Long, Nicholas Jr.		
Longstreet, Saml.		
Lord, Laudwick		

Name	Date Issued	Adjoining
Lott, --	Apr. 4, 1791	vacant
Lott, Jno.	Aug. 3, 1789	vacant & Lott
Lott, Mark	May 3, 1790	vacant
Lowry, Simeon	June 4, 1787	
Lucas, Moses	Apr. 6, 1789	Grantham & vacant
Lucas, William	May 17, 1784	Wm. Candlar & Ben Catch
Lumpkin, Charles	Dec. 19, 1785	Gerard Banks & vacant
	Dec. 19, 1785	Charles Lumpkin
Madox, William	Aug. 6, 1792	Heard & Rob Day
Marshall, Danl.	May 17, 1784	vacant
	Apr. 2, 1787	Jno. Fenn & Gambol
Marshall, John	May 17, 1784	Jackson & Houston
Marshall, Solomon	Apr. 2, 1787	Irwin & Celmants
	Apr. 2, 1787	vacant & unknown
	Oct. 5, 1789	vacant
Martin, William	May 17, 1784	Gideon Patterson
Mason, Thomas	Aug. 6, 1787	Retherford & unknown
May, Jonas	Dec. 1, 1788	Solomon Wood & Hab. Horn
Mayo, Mark	May 3, 1790	Colemans & vacant
	Apr. 1	Coleman
McCeymore, Emily	July 4, 1791	Renfro & vacant
McCall, Thos. and Shelman	Feb. 7, 1791	vacant
McClendon, Joel	Jan. 7, 1788	Burney & vacant
	July 7, 1788	McCormack & Baker
McClendon, Lewis	July 5, 1790	Dickson & Jnoes
McCorcle, James	Aug. 2, 1790	Hutson & McCorcle
McCullars, Bryant	Oct. 6, 1789	Richard Call & vacant
	Oct. 6, 1789	vacant & unknown
	Jan. 4, 1791	Duhart & Asa Emanuel
	Nov. 1, 1790	vacant
McDowell, Thos.	May 3, 1790	Solomon Beckum
McGee, Shadrack	July 5, 1790	Jonas Chambers
	July 5, 1790	Isaac Perry & unknown
McLane, Daniel	Apr. 6, 1789	McLane
	Apr. 6, 1789	McLane
	Apr. 6, 1789	McLane
	Apr. 6, 1789	McLane
	Apr. 6, 1789	McLane
	Apr. 6, 1789	McLane
	Apr. 6, 1789	McLane
	Apr. 6, 1789	McLane
	Apr. 6, 1789	McLane
	Apr. 6, 1789	McLane
McMillion, Matthew	Aug. 6, 1792	Samuel Beckcom
McMurry, William	Jan. 4, 1791	Burney, Harris, & Denis
Mercer, Peter	Jan. 4, 1791	vacant
	May 7, 1792	vacant
Middleton, Robt.	June 7, 1790	vacant & Middleton
	June 7, 1790	vacant



Capt. William's Dist.

John Wade  
Reese Harris  
David Castleberry  
William Harris  
A. C. Irwin

Capt. Harrison's Dist.

John Smith

Capt. Kelly's Dist.

Martin Johnson

Capt. Hooker's Dist.

John Kinney  
Thomas Crocker  
John Colton  
Allen Rigbey  
James Patten

Capt. Bryant's Dist.

John Padgett

Southern Centinel &  
Universal Gazette  
Augusta, Georgia

TAX DEFAULTERS  
1794

Capt. Hooker's Dist.

Caleb Hinton  
John Perkins  
~~Thomas McLendon~~  
Mark McLendon  
~~Sewel Holland~~  
John Dunn  
Lewis Bailey  
John Mims Jr.  
John Broughton  
Mathew Spikes  
Hugh Bell  
James Harris  
William Braswell

Lewis Herndon  
Edward Hampton  
James Vessells

Capt. Parrot's Dist.

Allen Haden  
Thomas Harvey  
William Cox  
Joseph Herndon  
William Harris  
Benjamin Parrott Sr.  
Abraham Higgs  
Solomon Hamill

Capt. Curry's Dist.

George Taft  
--- Ward  
Thomas Smith  
John Blake  
James Taylor  
Shachack Taylor  
Matthew Yolden  
Samuel Wars  
Joseph Raney

Capt. Kendrick's Dist.

Jeremiah Russell Sr.  
Benjamin Kitchens  
Samuel Smith

Capt. Sheppard's Dist.

Hugh Gallman  
Malachi Britt  
Jonathan Britt

Capt. Hampton's Dist.

Robert Cummings  
John Nelms Sr.  
Josiah Underwood  
Thomas Safebury  
Jesse Levily  
William Riley  
John Nelms Jr.  
James Welton  
William Hunter  
Amos Wheelon  
Thomas Underwood  
Widow Wiggins

Capt. Williamson's Dist.

William Dennard  
William Carlisle

List signed and by  
John Watts, Receiver  
Tax Returns.

\* \* \*

TAX DEFAULTERS  
1798

Certified by John  
Howard, Receiver  
of Tax Returns.

Capt. Nicholas Curry's Dist.

James English  
Lemuel Evans  
Robert Carpenter  
Thomas Prestwood  
Allen McClayne  
James Neeland  
Richard Horn  
Elias Acock  
Menan Coleman  
Mycajah Bateman  
Ebenezer Fife  
John Duprey  
Dennis Williams  
David Witherspoon  
Samuel Swilley  
George Taff  
Benjamin Robertson  
Elias Wester  
Thomas Duncan  
John May  
Evan Andrews  
Drewry Patterson  
Reubin Tucker  
Jeremiah Conney  
Thomas McLendon  
David Fourman  
Levi Horton  
Isaac Wade  
James Pool  
Gabriel Lennon  
Freeman Williams  
William Bargainer

Nicholas Swilley  
William Spivey  
Jane Smith

Capt. Edward Bryan's Dist.

Joel Lewis  
Jesse Harris  
Simon Johnston  
Isaac Watson  
Isham Carr  
G. Elvington  
Nathaniel Burnett  
James Roland  
Drewry Gulbert  
Elijah Walton  
Jacob Smith  
Richard Braswell  
John Arline  
Elisha Watson  
Silas Watson  
John Smith

Capt. J. Wicker's Dist.

Thomas Crittenton  
John Howell  
Stephen Jackson  
Isham Jackson  
William Ray  
Thomas Glass  
William Beaty  
Samuel Larkin  
Richard Warthen  
William Perritt  
Gabriel Howell  
John Winters  
Jonathan Deason  
James Smith  
James Parneel  
John Coleman  
John Smith

Capt. Burrel  
Kendrick's Dist.

Joshua Howard  
James Howard  
William Joiner  
William Thompson  
James Brantley  
Levi Bennett