Land Records – Part Two

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Book: *Land & Property Research* in the United States by E. Wade Hone

Texas Land Records: https://www.glo.texas.gov/

• General Land Office
Created in 1836
One of the oldest state agencies
Determine what was granted to colonists
Early grants dating back to 1700’s for land grants by Republic and State of Texas
• Texas in 1845 offered 175 million acres of public land to federal government – refused the offer
• Texas instead preceded to issue the land grants
• First Class Headrights – issued those who arrived before 2 March 1836; heads were eligible for 4428 acres; single 1/3rd of that amount.
• Second Class Headrights – issued who arrived between 2 March 1836 and 1 October 1837; heads of families eligible for 1280 acres; single 640 acres
• Third Class headrights – issued between 1 October 1837 and 1 January 1840; heads of families eligible for 640 acres; single men 320 acres
• Fourth Class Headrights – issued between 1 January 1840 and 1 January 1842

Federal Land States
• Federal government not the state would dispose of land
• Occurred during westward expansion
• Surveyed rectangular townships in six-mile squares
• Land offices in the area would dispose of the land
• Legally registered land claims and military bounty land could be sold before patent
• Land was surveyed

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) General Land Office (GLO)
• https://glorecords.blm.gov/
• Broke land into Townships, Sections, Ranges
• A tract is 24 miles square
• Each tract divided into a 16 townships (6 miles square)
• Each township into 32 sections (1 mile square or 640 miles)
  ○ Could purchase part of a section (1/4 of the NW section 12)

HistoryGeo (www.historygeo.com)
• Early Landowners Project
• Antique Maps
• Good support
  ○ www.historygeo.com/v2/support/help/php

Genealogical Purposes
• Addition to Vital Records
• “Recitals” in the deeds
• Records mentioning maiden name
• Records mentioning relationships of ancestors or siblings
• Miscellaneous information in the packet or record
• Land descriptions = FAN (friends, associates, neighbors)