

## FOR THE RECORDS

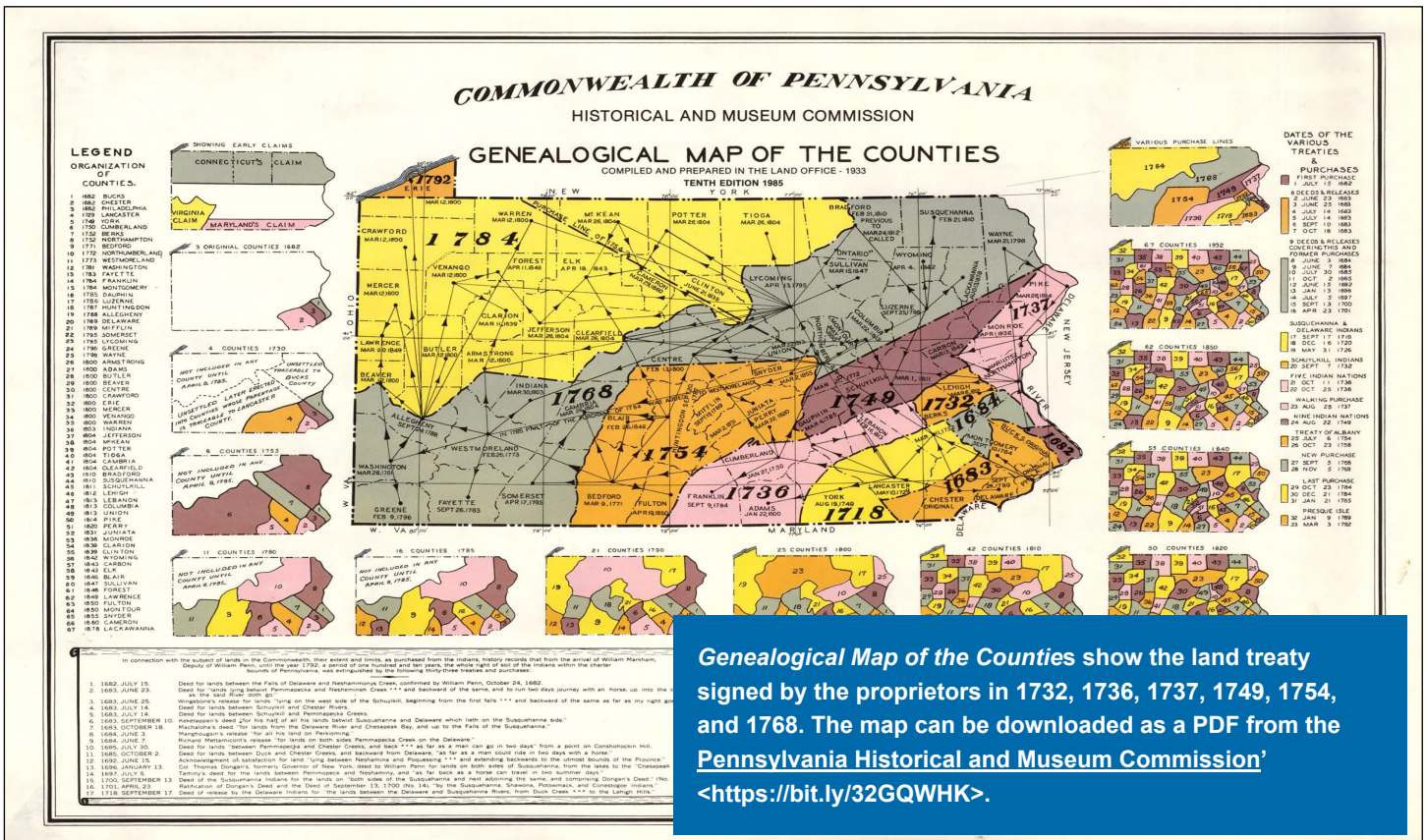
### Researching early Pennsylvania New Warrants

“Old Rights: Researching Early Pennsylvania,” published in the July 2020 issue of *PastPorts* dealt with the complex history of land ownership and development that researchers often face. This month’s article continues to explore this subject in the period up to 1776.

### The beginning of New Warrants

No official land office existed in early Pennsylvania. Charles

II granted sole right of titling lands to the Proprietors (William Penn and his heirs). William Penn installed a Board of Property with three to five members assigned to handle the majority of property transactions in his absence. When Penn died in 1718, his will transferred proprietorship to his children by his second wife. His estate remained open until 1732, when proprietorship transferred to his heirs. In 1732, Penn’s heirs disbanded the board of property and handed over direction to Thomas Penn, who operated out of his home in Philadelphia. Thomas appointed a proprietary secretary, a surveyor general, and a receiver general. In 1741, Thomas returned to England and signed over responsibility for warrants and patents to the Governor, who continued to use the three positions created by Penn. The proprietary secretary moved his office into a room in Provincial Hall. This was as close to an

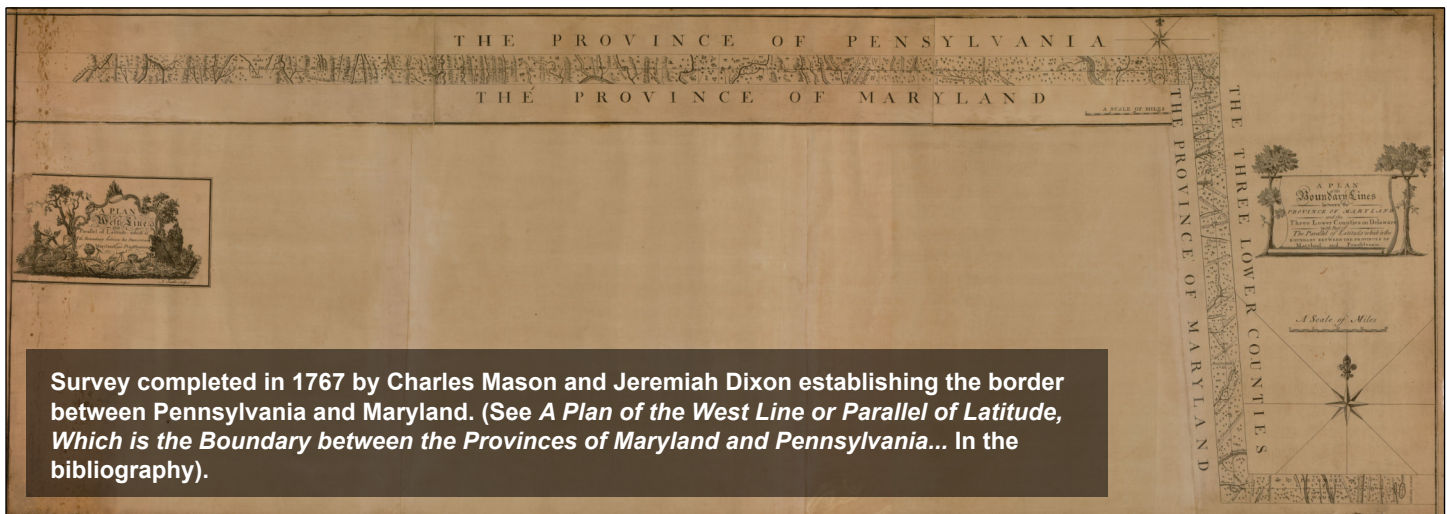


**COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA**  
HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION  
**GENEALOGICAL MAP OF THE COUNTIES**  
COMPILED AND PREPARED IN THE LAND OFFICE—1933  
TENTH EDITION 1985  
YORK

**LEGEND**  
ORGANIZATION OF COUNTIES:  
1 1682 BUCKS  
2 1682 CHESTER  
3 1682 PHILADELPHIA  
4 1682 LANCASTER  
5 1750 CAMBERLAND  
6 1752 BERKS  
7 1732 NORTHAMPTON  
8 1732 NORTHUMBERLAND  
9 1773 WESTMORELAND  
10 1784 FAYETTE  
11 1784 FRANKLIN  
12 1784 MONTGOMERY  
13 1784 WASHINGTON  
14 1784 HUNTINGDON  
15 1784 ALLEGANY  
16 1784 DELAWARE  
17 1784 MEFLEN  
18 1785 SOMERSET  
19 1784 LYCOMING  
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21 1784 WAYNE  
22 1800 ANNE ARUNDEL  
23 1800 ADAMS  
24 1800 BUTLER  
25 1800 BEAVER  
26 1800 CENTRE  
27 1800 CRAWFORD  
28 1800 LEHIGH  
29 1800 WENANGO  
30 1800 WARREN  
31 1800 INDIANA  
32 1800 LEBANON  
33 1804 POTTER  
34 1804 TIEB  
35 1804 CAMBRIA  
36 1810 BRADFORD  
37 1810 SUSQUEHANNA  
38 1810 SCHUYLK  
39 1812 LEHIGH  
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43 1821 ALLEGANY  
44 1836 MONROE  
45 1836 CLAYTON  
46 1842 WYOMING  
47 1842 CLAY  
48 1842 ELK  
49 1848 BLAIR  
50 1848 FOREST  
51 1848 MERCER  
52 1850 FULTON  
53 1850 JAMES  
54 1850 CAMERON  
55 1878 LACASIANA

**DATES OF THE VARIOUS TREATIES**  
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**Genealogical Map of the Counties show the land treaty signed by the proprietors in 1732, 1736, 1737, 1749, 1754, and 1768. The map can be downloaded as a PDF from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission' <<https://bit.ly/32GQWHK>>.**



official “land office” as existed under the proprietors.

William Penn used a number of schemes to sell and lease property<sup>1</sup>. First Purchasers, Late Purchasers, Under Purchasers, Original Purchasers, etc. – it was all very complex. With no land office to handle the documentation process, the land titles grew out of control. 7 July 1759, the Pennsylvania assembly presented to the governor “An Act for Recording all Warrants and Surveys, and for rendering the Real Estate and Property within this Province more Secure.” This Act included a provision put forth by the governor that established an “Office for Recording Warrants and Surveys.” This office removed the responsibility for land title from the Proprietors. John Hughes was assigned to the Warrants and Survey’s Office, where he set to inventory and copy the land records.

The proprietors objected to the act and sought a hearing with the King. George II vetoed the act in September 1760 and restored land title to the proprietors. In 1763, John Penn, son of Proprietor Richard Penn, became Governor, and any notion of a land office was laid to rest. In 1763, the Proprietors re-instituted a Board of Property and continued to use three appointed assistants: the proprietary secretary, surveyor general, and receiver general.

Despite the short time frame of the Warrants and Survey’s Office, Hughes was able to inventory and copy all of the records and compile them into two periods: the Old Rights (1608–1732) and the New Warrants (1733–1776)<sup>2</sup>. Hughes’ inventory appears in Appendix A of Donna Munger’s book,

Pennsylvania Land Records: A History and Guide for Research (see bibliography).

Beginning in 1733, the new proprietors began issuing the first new warrants for land in over 15 years. These warrants were the first issued without ties to the “old rights.” New warrants created beginning in 1733 were issued via an Application to Warrant, available in digital format on FamilySearch as “Applications for Warrant, 1734–1865.” These applications would result in a Warrant to Survey, Survey, Return to Survey, and a Patent, which are digitized at FamilySearch as “Original Surveys, 1682–1920” and “Patent Books, 1676–1960”<sup>2</sup>.

### Land treaties

The new proprietors signed their first land treaty in 1732, followed by others in 1736, 1737, 1749, 1754, and 1768. Consult the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission’s [Genealogical Map of the Counties \(1985\)](https://bit.ly/32GQWHK) <<https://bit.ly/32GQWHK>> to see the outline of these treaties. This will give you an idea of when warrants “could” be applied for within a particular region. Presumptive settlers (i.e, squatters) and settlers with licenses did not immediately warrant their lands just because their lands were included in a treaty. In many cases, the original settlers never applied for warrants, but their children, grandchildren, and settlers to whom they sold their property did. Delaying patents indefinitely had advantages. By doing so, one could avoid paying the full charge of the value of the land or the quitrents for its ownership.

The proprietors set aside from their treaties ten percent of all the lands they obtained for their own ownership. The intention of these proprietary manors was to lease them for long-term income. The reality was that they were rarely free of presumptive settlers, who had no intention of leasing land they had already improved. The heirs expanded on their father's plans by creating the proprietary towns of York, Reading, Carlisle, Easton, Bedford, and Sunbury. Each town was laid out within a manor, which the proprietors warranted in their own names. Records for proprietary towns are available digitally on FamilySearch as "Proprietary Towns, 1751–1829"<sup>3</sup>.

### The Mason-Dixon Survey

The border between Maryland, Virginia, and Pennsylvania created significant controversy for the proprietors. Conflicting charters between Maryland and Pennsylvania placed their border somewhere at or between 39 and 40 degrees north latitude, with the southeastern border beginning along a 12 mile half circle outside New Castle. The Pennsylvania charter was not clear as to where the center point of this circle was, and these conflicting charters could locate Philadelphia in Maryland and Baltimore in Pennsylvania. The western border of Pennsylvania was to mirror the eastern border, and depending on the location of the New Castle circle, portions of present day Pennsylvania were within the boundaries of Virginia's 1612 charter. To make matters more complex, the French also laid claim to much of the territory west of the Allegheny Mountains, lands that were also claimed by Maryland, Virginia, and Pennsylvania.

In the years following William Penn's death and before his heirs assumed proprietorship, available country land within the boundaries of Pennsylvania treaties began to dry up. In 1718, Land Agent James Logan issued licenses to Scotch-Irish immigrants to settle the east bank of the Susquehanna to create a barrier against Indians and Marylanders. Few if any of these settlers ever filed a warrant. In 1722, Gov. William Keith ordered—without treaty—the surveying of over 22,000 acres of manor land west of the Susquehanna in what is today York Co. By the late 1720s, German settlers began to claim this land on the Manor of Spingettsbury<sup>4</sup>. In October 1736, Thomas Penn signed licenses of occupancy to these settlers.

In 1727, Charles Calvert, 5<sup>th</sup> Baron Baltimore, granted to

John Digges, a Roman Catholic, a 10,000-acre warrant of his "choice" to be surveyed out of the wilderness. By 1735, a 6822-acre tract named Digges' Choice was surveyed in what are today York and Adams counties. To populate this tract, Digges brought with him many Maryland Catholics who purchased lands directly from him. Digges attempted to draw in Scotch-Irish settlers to his tract from Pennsylvania, but not wishing to be indebted to Digges, most settled outside of its borders. Why the original survey was for 6822 acres is unknown but appears to be a surveyor's error, because Digges attempted to resurvey his land in 1745. Pennsylvania deemed the second survey illegal in 1752 and did not honor Digges's full claim<sup>5</sup>.

In 1730, Governor Keith authorized Samuel Blunston, to issue "licenses" for warrant to Pennsylvanians willing to cross the Susquehanna into modern day York, Adams, and Cumberland Counties<sup>6</sup>. In March, Calvert issued Thomas Cresap a warrant to acreage and a ferry in the Conestoga Valley on the west side of the Susquehanna (near Wrightsville). Calvert appointed Cresap as the local land surveyor and justice of the peace for Baltimore Co. Cresap built a small block fort at his ferry crossing and began the work of luring Marylanders into what is today York Co. Cresap and his gang of Marylanders attacked the natives and forcibly evicted Pennsylvanians who would not obtain Maryland warrants. Blunston, unable to grant warrants without a signed treaty with the natives, encouraged Marylanders to obtain licenses for their properties. Blunston issued 282 licenses during this period without warrants, mostly in Cumberland County.

On 11 Oct. 1736, the proprietors purchased from the Onondaga, Seneca, Tuscarora, and Cayuga Indians all lands on the east and west bank of the Susquehanna. Thomas Penn, acting as local proprietor, issued land warrants for 13,000 acres between York and Wrightsville. Six weeks later, the Lancaster Sheriff acting on his own accord with a posse of 24 men went to apprehend Cresap. They set fire to Cresap's home (Cresap was inside with his wife and children) and captured him and several compatriots as they fled for the river.

In August 1737, George II ordered the ceasing of any "tumults, riots, or other disorders" along the borders, as well as the stoppage of any issuance of license, warrant, and the presumptive settlement of lands in-question between the two

provinces and within the three lower counties<sup>7</sup>. Riots continued on the frontier, however. In April 1738, settlers filled the Schuylkill River with obstructions to prevent navigation by constables attempting to execute warrants. They attacked the constables with clubs, staves, and other weapons<sup>8</sup>. King George ordered the drawing of a temporary line, and on 5 Dec. 1738, the provinces agreed on a group of officials to conduct the survey<sup>9</sup>. The appointees surveyed a temporary border, approximately one mile north of the current border. The Maryland appointees, not wanting to cede more lands to Pennsylvania, abandoned the survey at the Susquehanna. The Pennsylvanian surveyors continued to the base of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

In 1741, the Proprietors set out to warrant 30,000 acres in what would become Adams County for a proprietary property they dubbed “the Manor of Maske”<sup>10</sup>. When the surveyor, Zachary Butcher came to conduct the manor survey, he encountered 74 improved tracts settled by Scotch-Irish, many of whom obstructed and threatened his life if he attempted to survey a manor on their lands.

In 1749 and 1752, the Lords of Trade in London granted a total of 500,000 acres to the Virginia-based Ohio Company to survey and settle the territory within the watershed between the Forks of the Ohio River. Christopher Gist was sent in 1750 to evaluate the lands. Gist established a field office at Wills Creek (Fort Cumberland, Maryland). The French, concerned with the westward expansion of the English colonies, began establishing forts along the Ohio River. In autumn 1753, Virginia Governor Dinwiddie sent George Washington to negotiate with the French at Fort LeBouf, where he was promptly rebuffed. In January 1754, Dinwiddie sent Virginians to construct Fort Prince George at the Forks. Work began on 17 Feb., but by 18 April, they were repelled by French forces. Colonel Joshua Fry responded by taking a small force to build a road to and protect the Fort. Fry died falling off his horse and Colonel Washington assumed command. On 27 May, Washington’s force encountered a band of French Canadians at Jumonville Glen. The Virginians killed 21 soldiers and retreated to Great Meadows, constructing Fort Necessity. Washington’s troops were defeated, triggering the North American front of the Seven Years War (also known as the French and Indian War). In 1755, General Edward Braddock led forces from Fort Cumberland to Fort Duquesne where he

was defeated on his approach. His route would become the primary route of travel from Ft. Cumberland to Ft. Duquesne. In 1758, General John Forbes took possession of Ft. Duquesne, which the French had destroyed and abandoned. Here English forces began construction of Fort Pitt.

After years of lawsuits between the colonies and a seven-year war with the French, a decision was reached by the English courts in 1762. The English astronomers Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon were sent to Pennsylvania to draw a line dividing the colonies of Pennsylvania and Maryland. The final line, based on a 12-mile circle drawn around Newcastle Courthouse, was under a mile south of the Temporary line of 1732. The survey was completed in 1767, establishing an official border between Maryland and Pennsylvania. Many Marylanders found themselves on the wrong side of the new survey line, and some ended up with properties on both sides of the line.

While Mason and Dixon conducted their survey, the standoff between the proprietors and the settlers of the Manor of Maske continued. In 1765, Governor John Penn wrote a letter to settlers John Agnew and Robert McPherson asking them to compile a list of the settlers of the manor. The Agnew-McPherson list documents 157 individual settlers and three Presbyterian congregations that existed on the manor in 1765. Many were original settlers prior to 1741 or their descendants. When the manor was finally surveyed in 1768, not every property on the Agnew-McPherson list was in the manor, and some straddled the boundary. The Manor of Maske titles would not be resolved until 1798, and in many cases, the original Scotch-Irish settlers had sold their properties to German Immigrants.

Marylanders living outside of the Manor of Maske on properties originally sold to them by wealthy Maryland speculators had to provide proof of their land ownership. Thousands of caveats were filed with the proprietary secretary, arguing against the rightful ownership of parcels by individuals<sup>11</sup>. Many Marylanders applied for Warrants in Maryland between 1762 and 1775 to ensure an official record of their properties<sup>12</sup>.

Despite the final establishment of the Mason-Dixon Line, the debate over the western border of Pennsylvania continued

into the 1770s. In 1774, Virginia established the District of West Augusta which included parts of the present-day Pennsylvania counties of Greene, Washington, Fayette, Allegheny, and Beaver. In 1776, Virginia divided this administrative district into three counties: Ohio, Monongalia, and Yohogania. Following the American Revolution, the continental congress determined Pennsylvania's western boundary based on the original charter and the survey of Mason and Dixon. Both Pennsylvania and Virginia had been issuing warrants for lands

in the contested areas. Those who obtained Virginia warrants or certificates had to transfer them to Pennsylvania. An account book from 1780 held by the Pennsylvania State Archives documents transfers of individual land tracts from Virginia to Pennsylvania. These transfers can be found in Early Landowners of Pennsylvania: Land Tracts Transferred from Virginia to Pennsylvania Jurisdiction 1779–1780, Virginia Claims to Land in Western Pennsylvania, or in Pennsylvania Archives, Series III, Vol. 3, pp. 483–771 (see bibliography).

## Being social

The COVID-19 pandemic has driven a lot of activities to online, and genealogy is no exception. Even before the pandemic, people were finding ways to share their love of genealogy on social networks. Such tools provide a great way to share your family's history, connect with others, and find research tips. The following websites offer suggestions to get you started with genealogy in the virtual universe.



### Social network overviews

#### “Popular Social Networks for Genealogy” (FamilySearch)

[https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Popular\\_Social\\_Networks\\_for\\_Genealogy](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Popular_Social_Networks_for_Genealogy)

#### The Best Social Media for Genealogy (Family Tree)

<https://www.familytreemagazine.com/resources/online/best-social-media-for-genealogy/>

### Facebook

#### “Genealogy on Facebook (Katherine R. Willson)

<https://socialmediagenealogy.com/genealogy-on-facebook-list/>

#### “Social Networking for Genealogy–Facebook” (Cyndi's List)

<https://www.cyndislist.com/social-networking/facebook/>

### YouTube

#### St. Louis County Library History & Genealogy YouTube Playlist

View brief tutorials and full-length classes on beginning and advanced topics.

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLduBwMJCBFoAb1xA0qDb2o3hkh4ydyTi3>

#### “10 Best Genealogy and History YouTube Channels” (Family Tree Magazine)

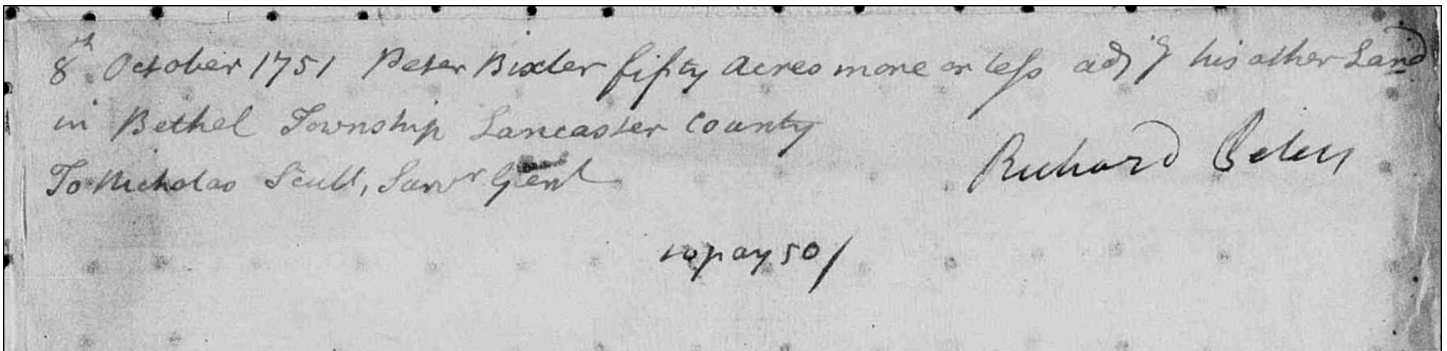
<https://www.familytreemagazine.com/premium/best-genealogy-youtube-videos/>

#### “25 Genealogy YouTube Channels to Follow in 2020” (Feedspot)

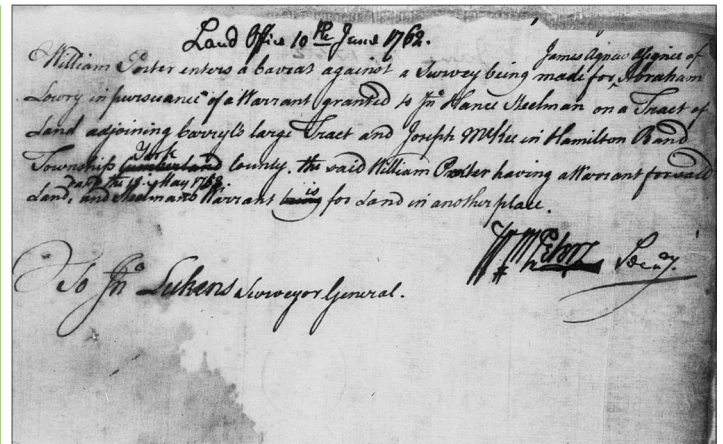
[https://blog.feedspot.com/genealogy\\_youtube\\_channels/](https://blog.feedspot.com/genealogy_youtube_channels/)

#### “8 YouTube Channels to Improve Your Genealogy Skills” (The Armchair Genealogist)

<https://www.thearmchairgenealogist.com/2017/07/8-youtube-channels-to-improve-your.html>



Above: Peter Bixler's application for Warrant dated 8 Oct. 1751 ("Applications for Warrant, 1734–1865"). Right: Caveat filed by William Porter for Carroll's Tract on 10 June 1762 ("Caveats, 1699–1890"—see bibliography).



**The land lottery**

In 1735, to hasten the patent process, the proprietors devised a lottery scheme to encourage settlers in Bucks, Chester, Philadelphia, and Lancaster Counties to warrant and patent their settled properties. The land office was closed during the lottery period so no new warrants to survey could be issued while the lottery was offered. Proprietors offered 7,750 tickets to settlers for purchase. The Proprietors offered to grant 1,293 tickets between twenty-five and three-thousand acres each while the remaining 6,457 tickets would be worthless. The settlers did not buy into the lottery. Ticket holders bought 16,681 acres directly, and tickets were used to claim land as late as 1770. Land obtained through the lottery scheme is identifiable by a statement included on the original warrant or survey.

**The Application System**

The proprietors needed another way to convert squatters into patent holders. This led to the development of a process of legalization of ownership by settlement and improvement known as the application system. The application system allowed any squatter who settled unwarranted land acquired through treaties of 1754 or earlier to apply for land title by survey. This system was designed to accelerate the process by bypassing the warrant to survey. To curb speculation, each applicant was limited to 300 hundred acres. The applications process began with those properties east of the Susque-

hanna<sup>13</sup>, followed by West Side Applications. Both records are available at FamilySearch. East Side Applications applied to all unwarranted lands east of the Susquehanna. Many surveys returned significantly more land than the application requested. Regulations were created to limit it to ten percent over and above the survey, but the regulations were often dispensed with when adjoining owners were not affected.

**The New Purchase**

The treaty of 1768, known as “the New Purchase,” opened significant portions of Southwestern and Northeastern Pennsylvania for settlement. The treaty pressed west into areas believed to be held by Virginia and Connecticut. As was the case with Marylanders, concerns were high that Connecticut Colonists of the Susquehanna Company would spread westward into the New Purchase. In order to create a barrier (not unlike they had done in 1720s to Maryland), the proprietors encouraged a group of 26 French and Indian War officers to apply for a special allocation of land. This resulted in 24,000 acre grants in three 8,000-acre settlements, which are recorded as number one in the New Purchase Register of 1768<sup>14</sup>. This occurred before the Land Office accepted set-

EAST SIDE APPLICATIONS							3
DATE	NO.	APPLICANT	ACRES	COPIED SURVEY WHERE COPIED	DESCRIPTION	SURVEY CALLS FOR	
	2216	Best William Heirs			746 Biddle Charles		
	2241	Bork George			768 Brinack Mark		
	2321	Benner Jacob			771 Biddle Charles		
	2373	Breighler Simon George			807 Bridain John		
	2421	Beck Stephen			1126 Biel Jacob		
	2517	Breitenbach Philip			1165 Bright Michael		
	2355	Bender Christian			1166 Bright Michael		
	2560	Beilman David			1167 Bright Michael		
	2578	Breckbill Henry			1244 Billig Arnold		
	2606	Bear John			1315 Beidleman Valentine		
	2616	Bretzius Michael			1333 Biddle Edward		
	2808	Becker John			1391 Bishop Peter		
	2809	Becker Michael			1399 Bishop Michael		
	2823	Bettle Josiah			1712 Bible Feltes		
	2875	Bretz Ludwig			1940 Bickley Michael		
	3049	Brendle Philip			1983 Briner George		
	3099	Bretz Ludwig			1993 Bickley John		
	3100	Bretz Ludwig			1994 Bickley Henry		
	3103	Bredling Philip			2123 Besecker Conrad		
	3119	Beck, Jacob			2131 Brinker Jacob		
	3163	Beer John			2132 Brinker Henry		
	2703	Brechor Buck Peter			2146 Bigler Jacob		
	3301	Bernard Adam			2234 Billman Jacob		
	3332	Beck Thebold Jr.			2235 Billman Jacob		
	3589	Beshor Jacob			953 Bickel John		
	3590	Beshor George			2287 Bishop Michael Francis		
	3729	Beer Thomas			2298 Bixler Peter Jr.		
	3480	Brady Robert			2299 Bicksler Joseph		
	3481	Brady Robert			2347 Bishop John		
	3537	Beissell Peter			2491 Billing John		
	3763	Brendle John			2583 Bishop William		
	3873	Bear Henry			2635 Bretz George		
	3945	Bredlich Henry			2657 Brinker Joseph		
	3946	Bredlich Henry			2830 Birk Henry		
	3978	Beary Philip			2861 Bickley Abraham		
	3992	Beer Enoch			2991 Brittain Nathaniel		
	4017	Beidleman Valentine			2992 Brittain Nathaniel		
	4041	Beer Joseph			3162 Biegler George		
	3977	Brener George			3268 Billich Arnold		
	227	Braehler Peter					

EAST SIDE APPLICATIONS							385
DATE	NO.	APPLICANT	ACRES	COPIED SURVEY WHERE COPIED	DESCRIPTION	SURVEY CALLS FOR	
1767							
Jan <sup>y</sup>	27 <sup>th</sup>	2298 Peter Bixler, Jr.	20	C-8	101 adjoining his other land in the hole in a	Bethel Beris	
		Ret'd 4 <sup>th</sup> 9 <sup>th</sup> Nov <sup>r</sup> 1767			Bethel To <sup>p</sup> Beris C <sup>d</sup>		

649 Bitner Michael  
 736 Bishop Michael  
 737 Bishop Michael  
 738 Bishop Michael  
 739 Bishop Michael

A page from the East Side Application Index and (above) details for Application #2298 for Peter Bixler, Jr. dated 27 Jan. 1767 (FHL Film No. 986894—see bibliography).

tlers' applications. The tracts were in Cumberland, Berks, and Northumberland Counties and the original survey is in Book BB-1-2. The tracts were divided up and sold in 300-acre parcels. A second group of 45 officers also received a special consideration, and in 1769, these "Gentlemen" received permission to survey 80,000 acres (Applications 2-46)<sup>15</sup>. Other Gentlemen, including James Tilghman, Secretary of the Land Office, and Andrew Byerly, a peacekeeper along Braddock's Road, were granted applications<sup>16</sup>.

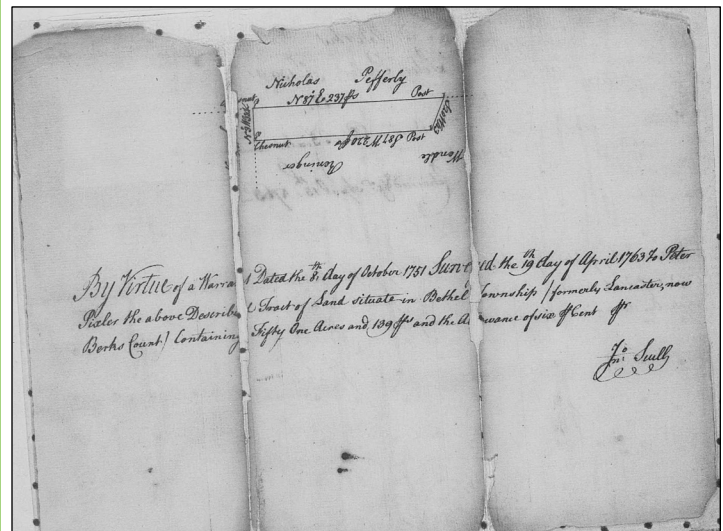
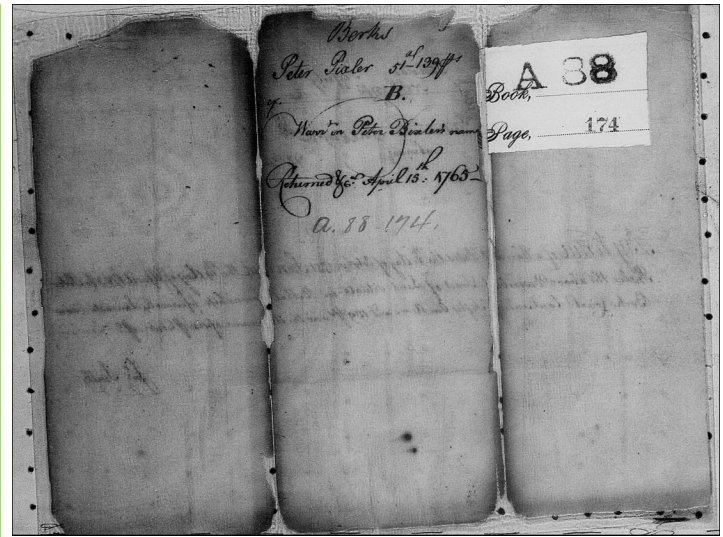
Both the Officers Tracts and the Gentlemen's Tracts were to be surveyed before the new land was open to application by settlers. This did not sit well with many presumptive settlers who had already improved lands within the new purchase. Some presumptive settlers filed caveats against the officers and Gentlemen who surveyed lands overlapping their improvements. Others were Virginians living in what would become the District of West Augusta in 1770, and they were resistant to Pennsylvania land claims.

To handle the large number of presumptive settlers from Pennsylvania seeking applications, the Proprietors devised a second lottery scheme to determine priority. Drawings took place every day or every other day from 3 April to 5 Sept. 1769. The first 2,802 applications date from 3 April. Most New Purchase applicants did not complete the land title process. Penalties for not patenting the land were not upheld, and so the lottery just increased the improved but unpatented land.<sup>17</sup> Digitized originals of the New Purchase Applications, 1-3683 are available at FamilySearch<sup>18</sup>. Most patents for this land would not be finalized until after the land patenting system transferred to the Commonwealth.

### Warrantee Township Maps

In 1907, Pennsylvania began a project converting the original warrantee surveys into warrantee township maps. Although some counties have never been completed, [digitized copies are available from the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission](https://www.pennsylvaniahistoricalandmuseum.com) <<https://bit.ly/33FM70K>>.

[Early Landowners of Pennsylvania](https://www.pennsylvaniahistoricalandmuseum.com) <<https://bit.ly/3hHHPeQ>> is a series in print covering Dauphin, Lancaster, Washington, Westmoreland, Berks, Fayette, and Greene counties. This valuable resource uses the warrantee township maps as a



Survey for Peter Bixler dated 19 April 1763. Top: cover page. Above: survey. ("Original Surveys, 1682-1920," Book A88, Survey 174—see bibliography.)

guide for providing information related to warrants, patents, applications, and other documents related to each township in the respected counties. It provides indexes for patentees and warrantees (they are not always the same person), dates of warrant, survey, patent and provides direct citations for the individual records. Additional historical information is included related to individual warrants including notes about through which process the property was warranted, be it lottery, east side applications, etc.



Early Pennsylvania research can be a challenge. Understanding the history and familiarity with the available resources will help you create a research plan for discovering more about your Pennsylvania ancestors.

## Notes

1. See “Old Rights: Researching Early Pennsylvania” in PastPorts, Vol. 12, No. 7 (July 2020), pp. 1–7.
2. Ibid
3. Pennsylvania, “Proprietary Towns, 1751-1829,” Bureau of Land Records, Harrisburg. FHL microfilm 1003200. Family History Library. Salt Lake City; digital images, FamilySearch.org (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/433128?availability=Family%20History%20Library>) accessed 27 Aug, 2020.
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6. See Lenore Embick Flower, *Blunston Licenses and Their Background*, Carlisle, Pa.: Hamilton Library and Historical Association of Cumberland County, 1961.
7. *Minutes of the Provincial Council of Pennsylvania from the Organization to the Termination of the Proprietary Government*, Vol. 4, Harrisburg, Pa.: State of Pennsylvania, 1838, pp. 254-256.
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St. Louis Genealogical Society  
Fall Online Speaker Series

## Often Overlooked St. Louis Resources

Saturday, 17 October and Sunday, 18 October, 2020  
1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. Central Time each day

[Visit the StLGS website for program  
and registration information.](#)

[9743?availability=Family%20History%20Library](https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/9743?availability=Family%20History%20Library))  
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## History & Genealogy Classes

Classes are free and open to the public, but registration is required. Register at <https://www.slcl.org/events>. Classes will be conducted by Zoom.

Thursday, Oct 8, 6:30 p.m.

### FamilySearch Basics

FamilySearch.org is a free website offering access to millions of records for genealogical research. This class will provide an overview of the kinds of records available and how to find them. | [Register](#)

Saturday, Oct. 17, 10:00 a.m.

### Finding Ancestors in U.S. Census Records

Census records are a basic and essential source for genealogical research in the U.S. Learn how to search census records effectively using Ancestry Library Edition and other electronic databases. | [Register](#)

Monday, Oct. 19, 6:30 p.m.

### Who Were My Ancestors? Beginning Genealogical Research

If you have little or no research experience, this is the class for you. Learn about the genealogical research process and the many resources available in History & Genealogy at St. Louis County Library. | [Register](#)

Wednesday, Oct 28, 6:30 p.m.

### Getting More out of FamilySearch

Basic search techniques will miss most records in FamilySearch. Learn to navigate unindexed image collections, search the FamilySearch catalog effectively, and use advanced search features to tap into hard-to-find records. *Prerequisite: FamilySearch Basics or equivalent research experience.* | [Register](#)

Check out the H&G **Virtual Classroom**

View genealogy classes on demand

<https://www.slcl.org/genealogy/virtual-classroom>

## St. Louis Genealogical Society meetings

Meetings are conducted by Zoom. Attendance is free and open to the public.

**Saturday, Oct. 10, 10:00 a.m.**

*St. Louis Genealogical Society Monthly Meeting*

### Ethnic St. Louis

Elizabeth Terry's book, *Ethnic St. Louis*, highlights the many communities that make the city vibrant and multi-ethnic. Ms. Terry will talk about long-established groups of French, German, Irish, and African American immigrants as well as more recent arrivals of Vietnamese and Bosnians. Elizabeth Terry, speaker.

**Registration is required. Email [programs@stlgs.org](mailto:programs@stlgs.org) by Oct. 7 to register.**

**Tuesday, Oct. 27, 7:00 p.m.**

*StLGS Irish Special Interest Group*

### Exploring Ireland's History through Maps

Maps can be an excellent way to convey information, and the History and Genealogy department has recently added a series of historic Irish town maps to their collection. Join us as we discuss the value of this collection in helping you learn more about these towns and the history of Ireland as a whole. Speaker: Mike Bridwell

**Registration is required for anyone not already on the Irish SIG mailing list. Send your request to [IrishSIG@stlgs.org](mailto:IrishSIG@stlgs.org).**

[433128?availability=Family%20History%20Library](https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSK3-3?availability=Family%20History%20Library)  
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The Politics of  
**Holocaust Memory**  
in Postwar Poland

Presented by **St. Louis Polonia**

**VIRTUAL PROGRAM**

**REGISTER**

**Thursday, October 8, 7:00 p.m.**  
Teens and adults. Registration required.

St. Louis County Library

Participants will receive Zoom information via email immediately after registering.

## Of note

### View History & Genealogy classes online any time

Would you like to take a genealogy class but cannot fit it into your schedule? H&G now offers online, on-demand video recordings of its classes that you can view at your convenience. The classes are free; a library card is not required. View classes in the [History & Genealogy Virtual Classroom](https://bit.ly/3hTV5N7) <<https://bit.ly/3hTV5N7>> or the library's [YouTube channel](https://bit.ly/3601zrm) <<https://bit.ly/3601zrm>>.

H&G continues to offer live classes via Zoom. See page 11 for the upcoming schedule or [view class offerings and register online](https://bit.ly/32VVgmV) <<https://bit.ly/32VVgmV>>. [Brief videos featuring genealogy tutorials are also available on the library's website](https://bit.ly/2RPEeAn) <<https://bit.ly/2RPEeAn>>.

### Interlibrary loan services resumes

St. Louis County Library has resumed interlibrary loan (ILL) services to patrons. Because library buildings are currently closed to the public, patrons will not be able to request microfilm or “in library use only” items. Other materials can be requested for pickup using curbside service at any SLCL branch. ILL requests can be made online or by calling customer service at 314-994-3300. [More in information about ILL services is available on the library's website](http://webpac.slcl.org/screens/ill.html) <<http://webpac.slcl.org/screens/ill.html>>.

**PastPorts** is published by History & Genealogy at St. Louis County Library, located on Tier 5 of Library Headquarters.

[Current and past issues can be downloaded from the web](http://www.slcl.org/pastports) <<http://www.slcl.org/pastports>>.

#### Contact us:

History & Genealogy  
St. Louis County Library  
1640 S. Lindbergh Blvd.  
St. Louis, MO 63131

314-994-3300  
[genealogy@slcl.org](mailto:genealogy@slcl.org)  
[www.slcl.org/genealogy](http://www.slcl.org/genealogy)

## History & Genealogy services

St. Louis County Library buildings are currently closed to the public because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The following H&G services are available.:

### Photocopies

H&G can provide photocopies, prints, or digital scans of many library materials, including:

- Books and periodicals—up to 30 pages from one book or one article from a single journal issue. Staff can also photocopy or scan tables of contents and index pages.
- Microfilmed records—A list of microfilm available in the H&G collection can be [viewed online](https://bit.ly/3jrqw3j) <<https://bit.ly/3jrqw3j>>.
- Databases—H&G staff will print out database records if patrons cannot access the database at home.

Please use the [online lookup request form](https://bit.ly/2UQXJKE) <<https://bit.ly/2UQXJKE>> and be as specific as possible when submitting requests.

### Print collection

One-third of the books in H&G's collection—more than 27,000—can be checked out. The entire collection is included in the library's [online catalog](http://webpac.slcl.org) <<http://webpac.slcl.org>>. Books with call numbers that do not begin with “R” are available to check out. Patrons can request books online or by calling 314-994-3300. A limit of two H&G books may be checked out at one time.

### Research guidance

H&G staff members can provide research assistance over the phone or by email. Researchers whose information needs cannot be met in this way may schedule an appointment for a face-to-face meeting with an H&G librarian.

### Book-a-Genealogist

Researchers who would like in-depth assistance can schedule a phone consultation with an H&G staff member. Requests can be made using the online [Book-a-Genealogist form](https://bit.ly/3fQbB0r) <<https://bit.ly/3fQbB0r>>.

### Database access

Most library databases can be used at home by St. Louis County Library card holders living in the metropolitan area. The Ancestry Library Edition database, normally restricted to in-library use, can be accessed remotely on a temporary basis. [View the list of genealogical databases on the library's website](https://bit.ly/37GRBtF) <<https://bit.ly/37GRBtF>>.

For more information, please contact the History & Genealogy Department at 314-994-3300 or [genealogy@slcl.org](mailto:genealogy@slcl.org).