



# Black Homesteaders of the South

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# Arkansas Black Homesteaders agenda

INTRODUCTION  
Brief Overview

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Arkansas Homestead Stories

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# Introduction

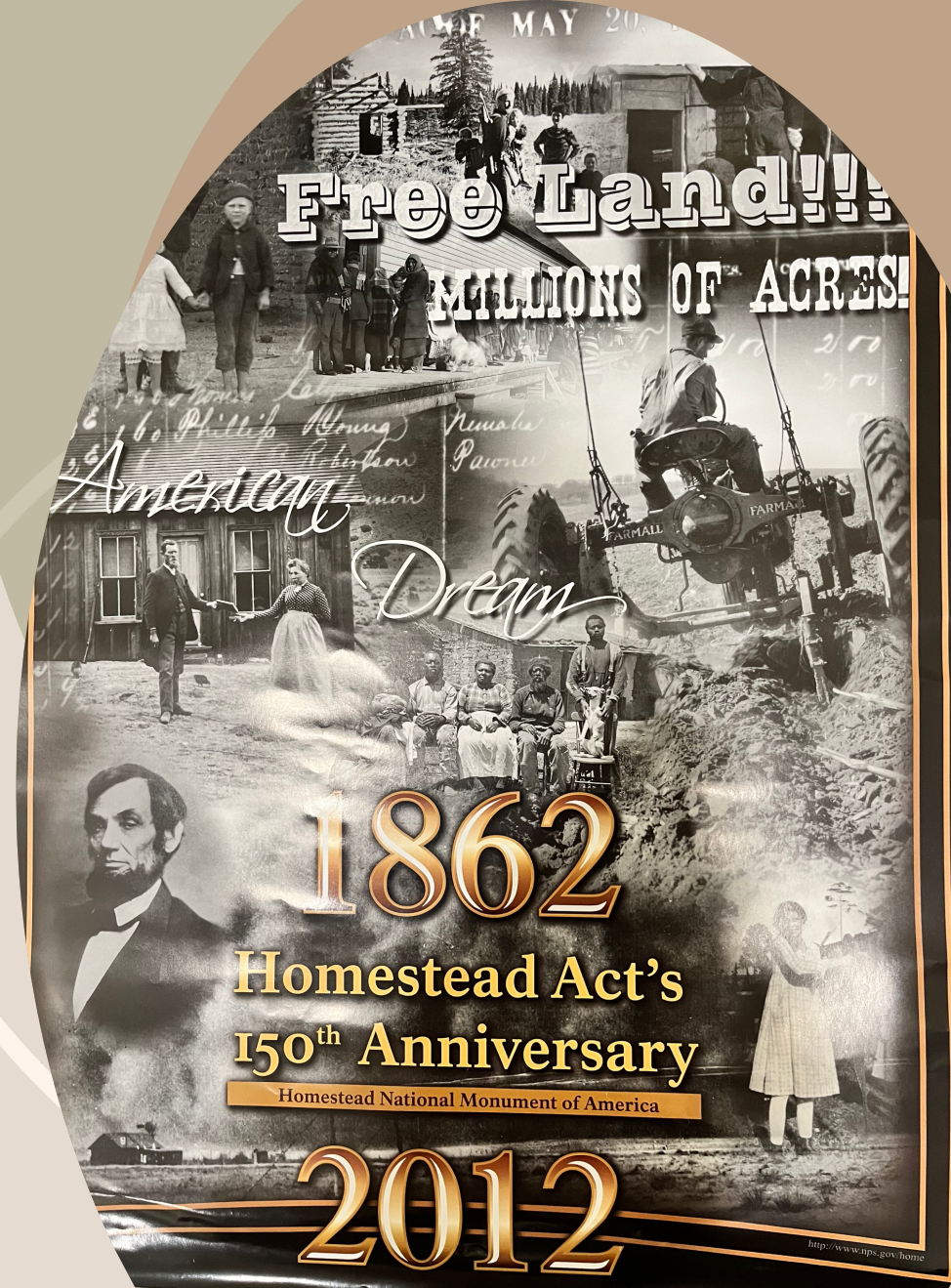
What is the Homestead Act of 1862?

What are the eligibility requirements?

What is the application process?

What you can learn from the land entry papers?

What is a land patent?



# The Homestead Act of 1862

Went into effect January 1, 1863

Original Act signed on May 20, 1862

- Over the age of 21
- Never take up arms against the U.S.
- Former slaves, women and immigrants could file
- Show evidence of improvements for a period of 5 years

Application process

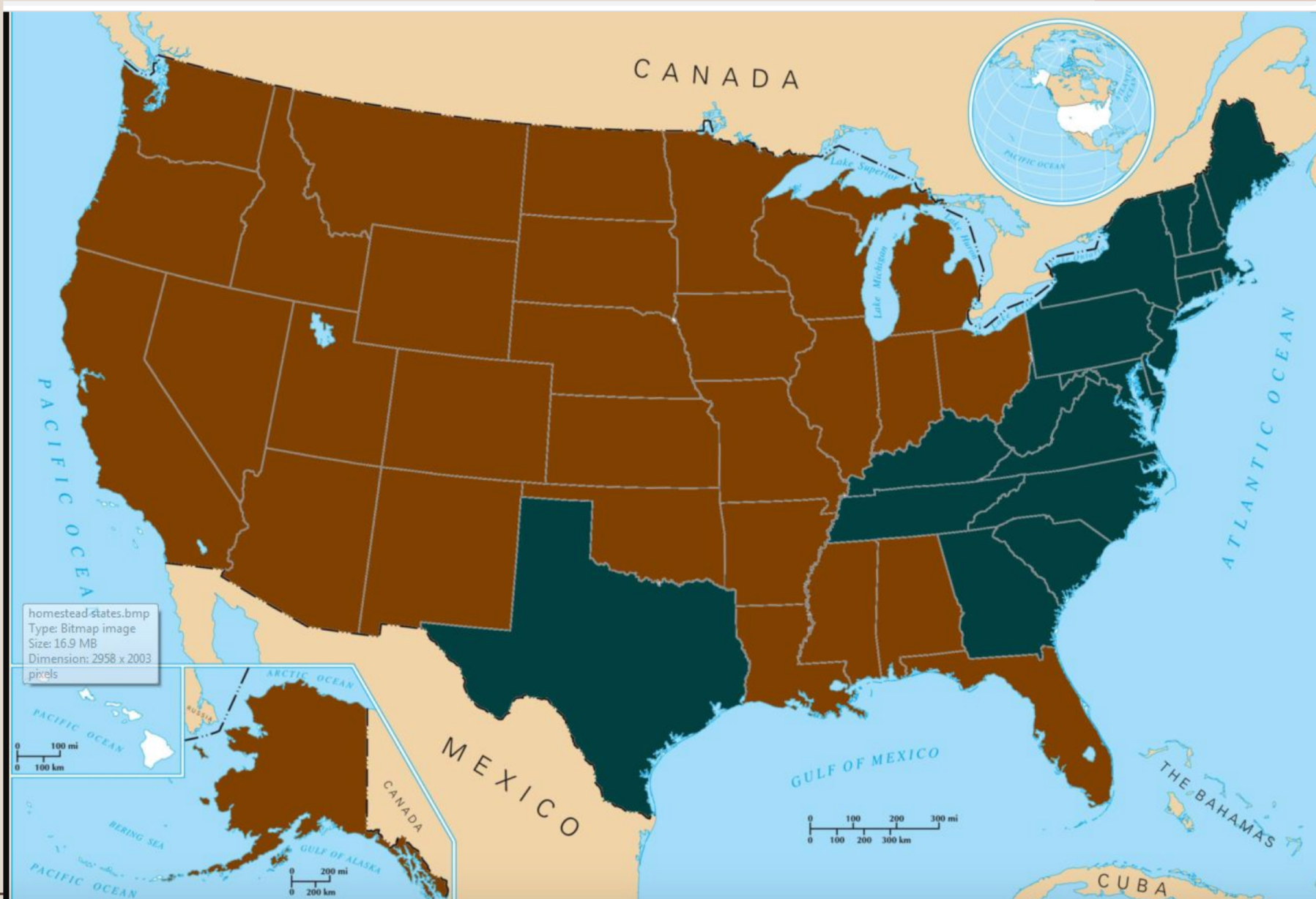
- Settle on the land
- File an application
- Improve the land
- File for Deed of title

Among the States and Territories Arkansas ranks fifth in the number of original homesteads entered from the passage of the homestead act May 20, 1862, to June 30, 1883. The grand total for Arkansas was 47,945. The number of homesteads entered in Arkansas for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1883, was 3,035,

Arkansas Weekly Mansion

Little Rock, Arkansas · Saturday, September 22, 1883

# Public Land States



<https://nps.gov/home/historyculture/images/Homestead-States.JPG>

# What is a land patent?

**Patents are the legal documents that transferred land ownership from the U.S. Government to individuals.**

**IN TOTAL 74,620 HOMESTEADERS WERE PROVED UP IN ARKANSAS. THE TOTAL ACREAGE OF HOMESTEADED LAND WAS 33,328,000 WHICH IS 24% OF THE LAND IN THE STATE.**

<https://www.nps.gov/home/learn/historyculture/homesteading-in-arkansas.htm>



# BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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General Land Office Records

BLM

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**Location**  
State: ARKANSAS  
County: Sevier

**Names**  
Last Name: bass  
First Name:  
Middle Name:  
 search patentees  search warrantees

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

**Miscellaneous**  
Land Office: Any Land Office Issue Date: to  
Document #: Militia:  
Indian Allot. #: Tribe: Any Tribe  
Survey #: 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.
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*Note: This site does not cover every state, but we do have [resource links](#) for most*

# BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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Accession Nr: [AR2760\\_\\_348](#)    Document Type: [State Volume Patent](#)    State: [Arkansas](#)    Issue Date: [1/23/1899](#)    Cancelled: [No](#)

Patent Details
Patent Image
Related Documents

[Printer Friendly](#)

**Names On Document**

[BASS, IRVING M](#)

**Military Rank:** ---

**Miscellaneous Information**

**Land Office:** [Camden](#)

**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:** [7536](#)

**Misc. Doc. Nr:** [15000](#)

**BLM Serial Nr:** [AR NO S/N](#)

**Indian Allot. Nr:** ---

**Coal Entry. Nr:** ---

**Survey Information**

**Total Acres:** [123.36](#)

**Survey Date:** ---

**Geographic Name:** ---

**Metes/Bounds:** [No](#)

**Land Descriptions**

Map	State	Meridian	Twp - Rng	Aliquots	Section	Survey #	County
<input type="checkbox"/>	AR	5th PM	010S - 031W	W½NW¼	7		Sevier
<input type="checkbox"/>	AR	5th PM	010S - 031W	SE¼NW¼	7		Sevier



# The United States of America,

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, GREETING:

Homestead Certificate No. *1036*  
Application *18000*

Whereas there has been deposited in the GENERAL LAND OFFICE of the United States a CERTIFICATE of the Register of the Land Office at *Camden Arkansas*, whereby it appears that, pursuant to the Act of Congress approved 20th May, 1862, "To secure Homesteads to actual settlers on the public domain," and the acts supplemental thereto, the claim of *Irving M. Bass* has been established and duly consummated in conformity to law for the *West half of the North West quarter and the South East quarter of the North West quarter of Section seven in Township ten South of Range thirty-one West of the Fifth Principal Meridian in Arkansas containing one hundred and twenty-three acres and thirty-six 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 *Irving M. Bass* the tract of Land above described: TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said tract of Land, with the appurtenances thereof, unto the said *Irving M. Bass* and to his heirs and assigns forever.

In testimony whereof *William McKinley* 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 *twenty third* day of *January*, in the year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and *ninety-nine*, and of the Independence of the United States the one hundred and *twenty* ~~third~~ <sup>fourth</sup> year.  
By the President: *William McKinley*

By *F. M. McKean* Sec'y.

*C. H. Brush*, Recorder of the General Land Office.

110214

L.S.

## LAND PATENT

Original data: United States. Bureau of Land Management, General Land Office Records. Automated Records Project; Federal Land Patents, State Volumes. <http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/>. Springfield, Virginia: Bureau of Land Management, Eastern States, 2007.



## LAND ENTRY CASE FILES

**All land entry case files are held by the National Archives in downtown Washington, D.C.  
[[www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov)].**

<https://www.nps.gov/home/learn/historyculture/requesting-homestead-records.htm>

## WHAT'S IN THE LAND ENTRY CASE FILES?

- Application
- Filing Fees
- Location of the land
- Date the claimant settled on the land
- Improvements
- Individuals in the household
- Legal Notices in local Newspaper
- Witnesses and Testimonies
- Name of Register
- Challenges
- Date the land patent certificate was issued

### **Homestead Notices.**

LAND OFFICE, CAMDEN, ARK., }  
December 14, 1883. }

**N**OTICE is hereby given that the following-named settler, has filed notice of his intention to make final proof in support of his claim, and that said proof will be made before the Register and Receiver, at Camden, Ark., on the 24th January, 1884, viz: Peter Wilson, Clark county, homestead 7108, for the w hf s w qr, sec 12, t 10 s, r 20 w. He names the following witnesses to prove his continuous residence upon, and cultivation of, said land, viz:

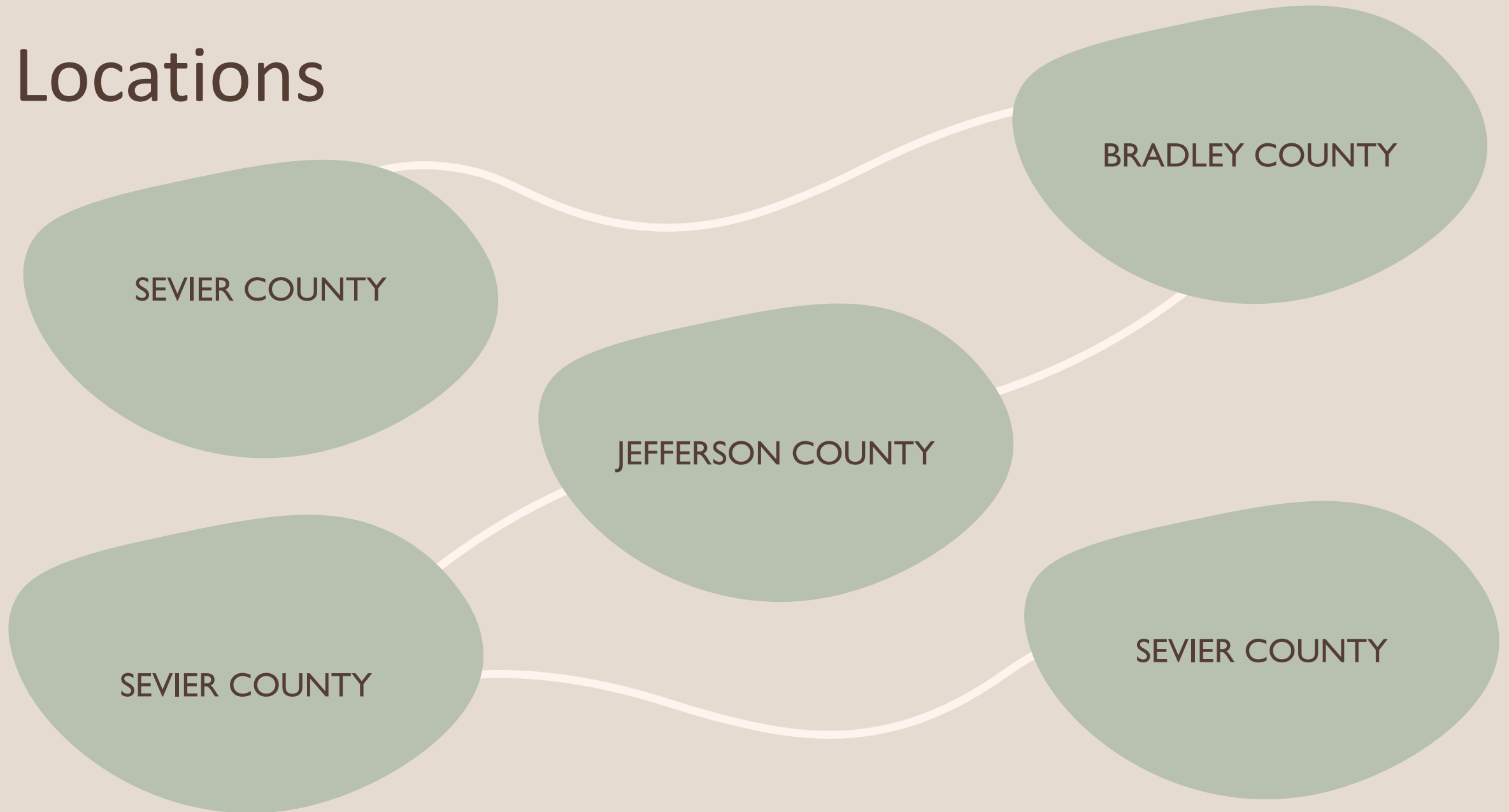
Henry Thompson, Dock Thompson, North T. Smith and John Tate, all of Gurdon, Clark county, Ark.

S. W. MALLORY, Register.  
Dec. 22-5t

[The Southern Standard](#)

Arkadelphia, Arkansas · Saturday, January 26, 1884

# Locations



# Meet the descendants of Black Homesteaders



**LYLE GIBSON**  
Descendant



**SUSAN LASLEY**  
Descendant



**JESSICA TROTTER**  
Descendant



**ANGELA WALTON-RAJI**  
Descendant

# What will you learn?

## WHEN?

When did they settle on the land?

## WHERE?

Where was the land located?

How many acres did they receive?

## WHAT?

- What did they do?
- Challenges
- What role did the witnesses play in the application process?



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## Black Homesteaders



### [Cultivating Connections](#) ›

Descendants of black homesteaders tell their stories for the National Park



### [Study Focuses on Black Homesteading](#) ›

Discover the stories of six Midwest Black homesteader colonies.

# Summary

Join the Descendants of African American Homesteaders Facebook page.

(<https://www.facebook.com/groups/184297396831007>)

Find your land on the Bureau of Land Management.

(<https://gloreports.blm.gov/search/default.aspx>)

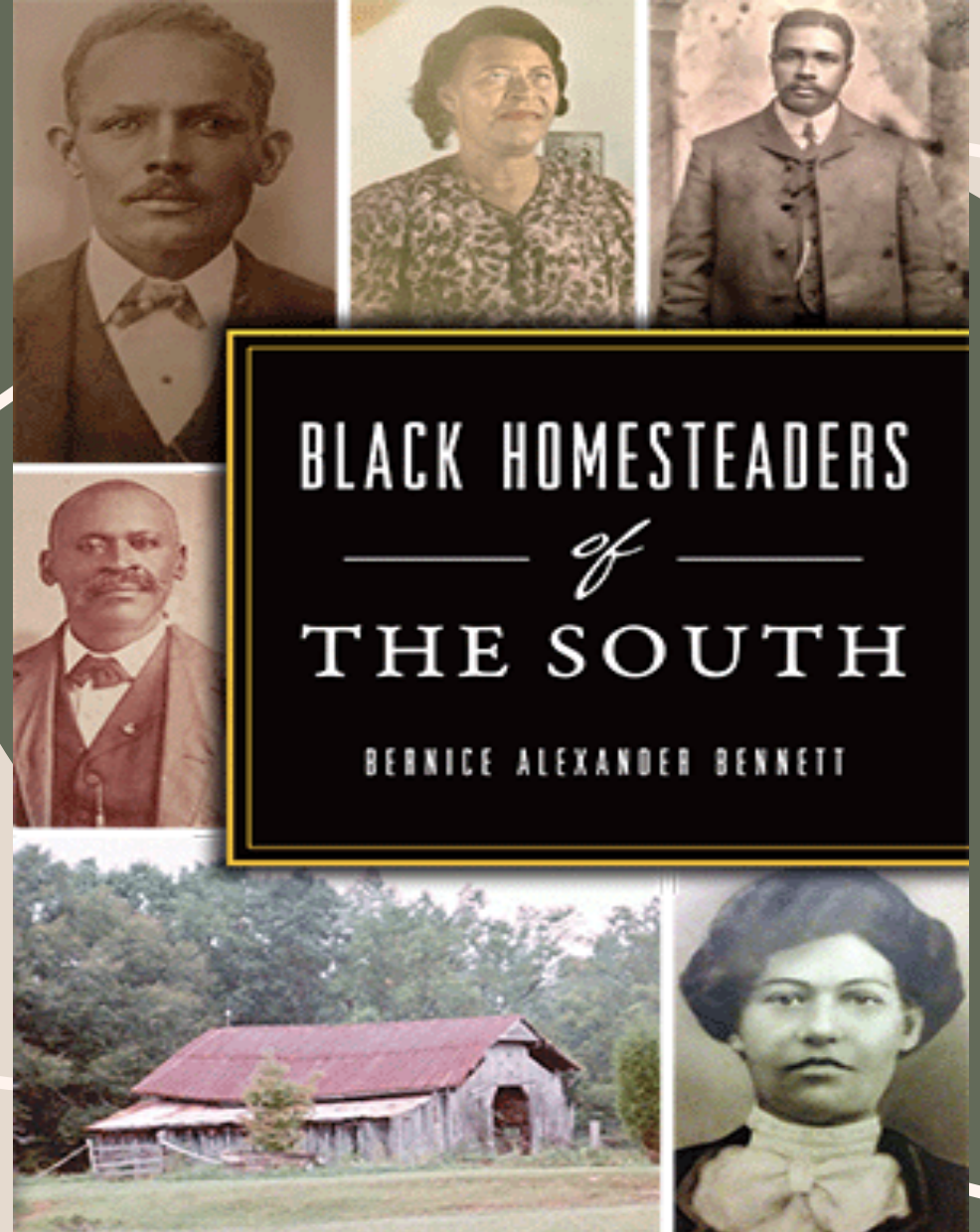
Verify through oral history, census and other documents that this is your ancestor.

Order your land entry case file from the National Archives.

(<https://www.archives.gov/research/land/land-records>)

Write and share your story with the Homestead National Historical Park Services.

(<https://www.nps.gov/home/black-homesteading-in-america.htm>)





**BLACK HOMESTEADERS**  
*of*  
**THE SOUTH**  
BERNICE ALEXANDER BENNETT



<https://www.arcadiapublishing.com/Products/9781467152303>

The background features a light gray base with several organic, abstract shapes. On the left, there is a large, solid reddish-brown shape. On the right, there is a large, solid olive-green shape. A thin, white outline of a leafy branch is visible in the upper left corner. The word "Questions?" is centered in a dark brown, sans-serif font.

Questions?