

HistoryGeo.com Map-Tools: Finding your Ancestors, their Neighbors, and their Homeplaces

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Why early landowner maps? How are they used by genealogists?

Landowner maps help you fill in the blanks. They often show people in places not found in censuses; people who came and went in-between census years. And they reveal relationships. For most of our history, people have found spouses among neighboring families. Finding surname combinations next to one another in different locations, often reveals long-spanning family relationships and migrations.

Landowner maps facilitate the FAN club research method: Friends, Associates, & Neighbors

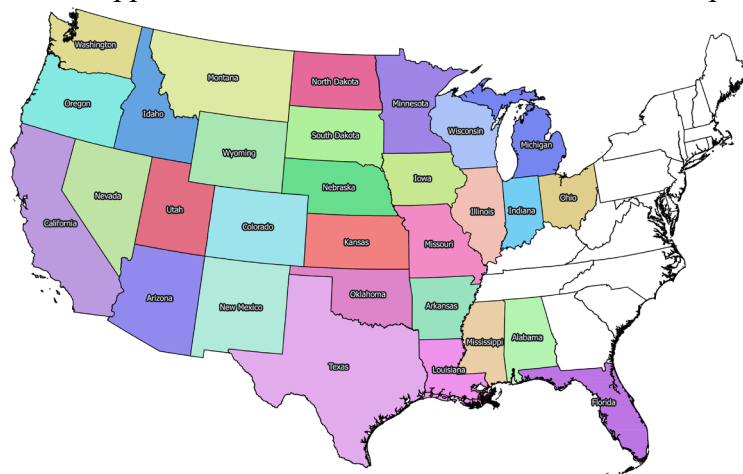
Leading genealogist, Elizabeth Shown Mills, perfected this method years ago. You can read more at:

<https://bit.ly/fan-principle>

aka: <https://www.evidenceexplained.com/content/quicklesson-11-identity-problems-fan-principle>

The First Landowners Project has already compiled some of your FAN club

We've mapped 12.5 million people in 30 states, all of whom were original landowners. The shaded states below show you where we've mapped so far. These are the "Public land states" plus the state of Texas.



What Else Can I Use the First Landowners Viewer for?

- County-boundary history
- Direct links to source documents (U.S. Bureau of Land Mgmt/GLO, and Texas GLO)
- Direct links to 3rd-party maps like Google, Bing, etc.
- Create Markers for important locations and to show Migrations

Great Training Videos and “Cheat Sheets”

<https://bit.ly/historygeo-help>

aka: <https://www.historygeo.com/v3/support/help.php>

Some Recent Improvements to the First Landowner Map Viewer

1. County Browser indexing: your choice to switch counties changes as you pan around the map browser
2. You can jump between the First Landowner tool and new Place-Finder tool, to analyze the same spot in two windows at the same time.
3. Better reporting of information on “lot” parcels plus links to source information at the General Land Office.

The Place-Finder + Topos Tool

The Geographic Names Information Service (GNIS) is our federal government's attempt to standardize place-names. Every creek, river-bend, township, town, hill-top, valley, cemetery, or any other geographic feature that has a name attached to it should be in the GNIS database.

Why Care?

Do you realize how many of these geographic features are named after people? The answer has got to be in the 10s, if not 100s of thousands. If you have deep U.S. roots, odds are good one of your frontier families has a valley or creek or some geographic feature named after it. If not, odds are good that a deed, tax record, church name, journal entry, or other record will bear some mention of such-and-such creek, branch, fork, mountain, stream, etc. If so, you are only a simple search away from locating such places.

Specific Features

Here are just a few of the many features found in the Place-Finder tool:

- Find nationwide instances of a place-name, then drill down by state, by county, etc. (QUICKLY).
- Find topo maps instantly, no matter what area you are viewing within the continental U.S. (our topo library will continue to grow to include historical versions as they become available). These often identify unnamed cemeteries and other features that may help your research.
- Make markers that keep specific spots on record for your later retrieval.

Advanced Features

- Toggle between First Landowners and Place-Finder tools in the same spot being viewed
 - Save a Map with the layers of your choice (counties, topos, etc.). Used in concert with your Markers, this is a powerful way to quickly retrieve and view areas you frequently research.
 - Allows you to turn your personal markers into text labels (from standard icons)
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What We Are Working On (and coming to you down the road)

- Cemetery/Grave-Mapping tools
- Metes & Bounds Mapper – you will be able to map original grants and deeds in colonial states (plus Kentucky, Tennessee, and Texas).
- Subsequent Landowners – you will be able to plot later-landowners
- and, a couple of other projects we'll save for later . . .

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