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**Family Maps of Jackson County, Alabama: Homesteads Edition.**

by Gregory A. Boyd, J.D.

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First Edition

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Editor: Vicki Boyd

PAYNE Dennis C 1850	PARKER Simon W 1847	
PHILLIPS Jessie 1802	7	FLEWELLEN (86) Thomas 1840
GREENE Daniel 1841		

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PAYNE Dennis C 1890	PARKER Simon W 1847	
PHILLIPS Jessie 1902	7	FEWELLEN (86) Thomas 1840
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# Preface

The quest for the discovery of my ancestors' origins, migrations, beliefs, and life-ways has brought me rewards that I could never have imagined. The *Family Maps* series of books is my first effort to share with historical and genealogical researchers, some of the tools that I have developed to achieve my research goals. I firmly believe that this effort will allow many people to reap the same sorts of treasures that I have.

Our Federal government's General Land Office of the Bureau of Land Management (the "GLO") has given genealogists and historians an incredible gift by virtue of its enormous database housed on its web-site at [gloreCORDS.blm.gov](http://gloreCORDS.blm.gov). Here, you can search for and find millions of parcels of land purchased by our ancestors in about thirty states.

This GLO web-site is one of the best FREE on-line tools available to family researchers. But, it is not for the faint of heart, nor is it for those unwilling or unable to sift through and analyze the thousands of records that exist for most counties.

My goal with this series is to spare you the hundreds of hours of work that it would take you to map the Homesteads and other Land Patents for this county. I have done this for you. Every Jackson County homestead or similar land patent that I have gleaned from public GLO databases, is mapped in these pages.

Thanks to these maps, and the other tools included in this volume, you will be able to answer these sorts of questions in no time:

- Are there any variant spellings for surnames that I have missed in searching GLO records?
- Who received homesteads on properties adjacent to my family's, or elsewhere in the same township, or in the next township?
- Which land law did my ancestors utilize in order to buy their land?

- What people bought land in the County as a group?
- Are there any other people with the same surname who bought land in the county?
- How about cousins and in-laws—did they buy land in the area?

## And these are just for starters!

The rules for using the Homesteads Editions of the *Family Maps* series are simple, but the strategies for success are many. Some techniques are apparent on first use, but many are gained with time and experience.

I hope to learn that many of you have answered age-old research questions within these pages or that you have discovered relationships previously not even considered. When these sorts of things happen to you, will you please let me hear about it? I would like nothing better. My contact information can always be found at [www.arphax.com](http://www.arphax.com).

One more thing: please read the "How To Use This Book" chapter; it starts on the next page. This will give you the very best chance to find the treasures that lie within these pages.

My family and I wish you the very best of luck, both in life, and in your research.

Greg Boyd  
May 2005



PAYNE Dennis C 1890	PARKER Simon W 1841	
PHILLIPS Jessie 1902	7	FLEWELLEN (86) Thomas 1840
GREENE Daniel 1841		

# How to Use This Book

The two “Parts” of this *Family Maps* volume seek to answer two different types of questions. Part I deals with broad questions like: what counties surround Jackson County, are there any COFFEES or DAWSONs in Jackson County, and if so, in which Townships or Maps can I find them? Ultimately, though, Part I will point you to one or more Patent Maps in Part II.

Part II contains one map for each Township contained within or intersecting Jackson County. This map will be a 36-Section grid (in most cases) with representations of land patent-holders found on the map. Just before the map, you will find an all-name index of individuals mapped and more useful information about the patent itself.

The Chart on the opposite page, and the remainder of this chapter attempt to convey to you the particulars of these two “parts”, as well as how best to use them to achieve your research goals.

## Part I “The Big Picture”

Within Part I, you will find three “Big Picture” maps and two county-wide surname tools.

These include:

- Map A - Where Jackson County lies within the state
- Map B - Counties that surround Jackson County
- Map C - Congressional Townships of Jackson County (+ Patent Map Numbers)
- Surnames in Jackson County Patents (with Parcel-counts for each surname)
- Surname/Township Index (with Parcel-counts for each surname by Township)

The three “Big-Picture” Maps are fairly self-explanatory, yet should not be overlooked. This is particularly true of Maps “C”, which shows Jackson County and its Congressional Townships (and their assigned Patent Map Numbers).

Let me briefly explain this concept of Patent Map Numbers. These are a device completely of our own invention. They were created to help you quickly locate maps without having to remember the full legal name of the various Congressional Townships. It is simply easier to remember “Patent Map 1” than a legal name like: “Township 9-North Range 6-West, 5<sup>th</sup> Principal Meridian.” But the fact is that the TRUE legal name for these Townships IS terribly important. These are the designations that others will be familiar with and you will need to accurately record them in your notes. This is why both Patent Map numbers AND legal descriptions of Townships are almost always displayed together.

Map “C” will be your first introduction to “Patent Map Numbers”, and that is all it contains: legal Township descriptions and their assigned Patent Map Numbers. Once you get further into your research, and more immersed in the details, you will likely want to refer back to Map “C” from time to time, in order to regain your bearings on just where in the county you are researching.

Remember, township boundaries are a completely artificial device, created to standardize land descriptions. But do not let them become a boundary in your mind when choosing which townships to research. Your relative’s in-laws, children, cousins, siblings, and mamas and papas, might just as easily have lived in the township next to the one your grandfather lived in—rather than in the one where he actually lived. So Map “C” can be your guide to which other Townships/ Patent Map you likewise ought to analyze.

Of course, the same holds true for County lines; this is the purpose behind Map “B”. It shows you surrounding counties that you may want to consider for further research.

Once you are familiar with these *Family Maps* volumes and the county you are researching, the “Surnames In Jackson County” chapter (or its sister chapter in other volumes) is where you’ll likely start your future research sessions. Here, you can quickly scan its few pages and see if anyone in the county possesses the surnames you are researching. The “Surnames in Jackson County” list shows only two things: surnames and the number of parcels of land we have located for that surname in Jackson County. But whether or not you immediately locate the surnames you are researching, please do not go any further without taking a few moments to scan ALL the surnames in these very few pages.

You cannot imagine how many lost ancestors are waiting to be found by someone willing to take just a little longer to scan the “Surnames In Jackson County” list. Misspellings and typographical errors abound in most any index of this sort. Don’t miss out on finding your Kinard that was written Rynard or Cox that was written Lox. If it looks funny or wrong, it very often is. And one of those little errors may well be your relative.

Now, armed with a surname and the knowledge that it has one or more entries in this book, you are ready for the “Surname/Township Index.” Unlike the “Surnames In Jackson County”, which has only one line per Surname, the “Surname/Township Index” contains one line-item for each Township in which each surname is found. In other words, each line represents a different Patent Map that you will need to review.

Specifically, each line of the Surname/Township Index contains the following four columns of information:

1. Surname
2. Patent Map Number (used in Part II)
3. Parcels of Land (number of them with the given Surname within the Township)

4. Meridian/Township/Range (the legal description for this Township)

The key column here is that of the Patent Map Number. While you should definitely record the Meridian, Township, and Range, you can do that later. Right now, you need to dig a little deeper. That Map Number tells you where in Part II that you need to start digging.

But before you leave the “Surname/Township Index”, do the same thing that you did with the “Surnames in Jackson County” list: take a moment to scan the pages of the Index and see if there are similarly spelled or misspelled surnames that deserve your attention. Here again, is an easy opportunity to discover grossly misspelled family names with very little effort. Now you are ready to turn to . . .

## Part II “Patent Maps”

You will normally arrive here in Part II after being directed to do so by one or more references to a Patent Map Number in Part I’s Surname/Township Index.

Each Patent Map deals with a single Congressional Township that is either wholly or partially within the county. Before viewing the map, most will first want to survey the preceding . . .

### Land Patent Index

Each Patent Map Index begins with a title declaring both its Map Number and the legal description of the underlying Township; something like this:

**PATENT MAP 1: Index  
Township 16-North Range 5-West (2<sup>nd</sup> PM)**

The Index contains seven (7) columns. They are:

1. ID (a unique ID number for this Individual and a corresponding Parcel of land in this Township)
2. Individual in Patent (name)

3. Sec. (Section), and
4. Sec. Part (Section Part, or Aliquot Part)
5. Date Issued (Patent)
6. Other Counties (mentioned in GLO records, often because the patent contained parcels in more than one County)
7. For More Info . . . (points to other places within this index or elsewhere in the book where you can find more information)

While most of the seven columns are self-explanatory, I will take a few moments to explain the “Sec. Part.” and “For More Info” columns.

The “Sec. Part” column refers to what surveyors and other land professionals refer to as an Aliquot Part. The origins and use of such a term mean little to a non-surveyor, and I have chosen to simply call these sub-sections of land what they are: a “Section Part”. No matter what we call them, what we are referring to are things like a quarter-section or half-section or quarter-quarter-section.

The “For More Info” column of the Index may seem like a small appendage to each line, but please recognize quickly that this is not so. And to understand the various items you might find here, you need to become familiar with the Legend that appears at the top of each Land Patent Index.

Here is a sample of the Legend . . .

#### LEGEND

##### “For More Info . . .” column

**A** = Authority (Legislative Act, See Appendix “A”)  
**B** = Block or Lot (location in Section unknown)  
**C** = Cancelled Patent  
**F** = Fractional Section  
**G** = Group (Multi-Patentee Patent, see Appendix “B”)  
**V** = Overlaps another Parcel  
**R** = Re-Issued (Parcel patented more than once)

Most parcels of land will have only one or two of these items in their “For More Info” columns, but when that is not the case, there is often some valuable information to be gained from further investigation. Below, I will explain what each of these items means to you as a researcher.

**A = Authority**

(Legislative Act, See Appendix “A”)

All Federal Land Patents were issued because some branch of our government (usually the U.S. Congress ) passed a law making such a transfer of title possible. And therefore every patent within these pages will have an “A” item next to it in the index. The number after the “A” indicates which item in Appendix “A” holds the citation to the particular law which authorized the transfer of land to the public. As it stands, most of the Public Land data compiled and released by our government, and which serves as the basis for the patents mapped here, concerns itself with “Cash Sale” homesteads. So in some Counties, the law which authorized cash sales will be the primary, if not the only, entry in the Appendix.

**B = Block or Lot (location in Section unknown)**

A “B” designation in the Index is a tip-off that the EXACT location of the patent within the map is not apparent from the legal description. This Patent will nonetheless be noted within the proper Section along with any other Lots purchased in the Section. Given the scope of this project (many states and many Counties are being mapped), trying to locate all relevant plats for Lots (if they even exist) and accurately mapping them would have taken one person several lifetimes. But since our primary goal from the onset has been to establish relationships between neighbors and families, very little is lost to this goal since we can still observe who all lived in which Section.

**C = Cancelled Patent**

A Cancelled Patent is just that: cancelled. Whether the original Patentee forfeited his or her patent due to fraud, a technicality, non-payment, or whatever, the fact remains that it is significant to know who received patents for what parcels and when. A cancellation may be evidence that the Patentee never physically re-located to the land, but does not in itself prove that point. Further evidence would be required to prove that. *See also*, Re-issued Patents, *below*.

F = Fractional Section

A Fractional Section is one that contains less than 640 acres, almost always because of a body of water. The exact size and shape of land-parcels contained in such sections may not be ascertainable, but we map them nonetheless. Just keep in mind that we are not mapping an actual parcel to scale in such instances. Another point to consider is that we have located some fractional sections that are not so designated by the Bureau of Land Management in their data. This means that not all fractional sections have been so identified in our indexes.

G = Group

(Multi-Patentee Patent, see Appendix "B")

A "G" designation means that the Patent was issued to a GROUP of people (Multi-patentees). The "G" will always be followed by a number. Some such groups were quite large and it was impractical if not impossible to display each individual in our maps without unduly affecting readability. EACH person in the group is named in the Index, but they won't all be found on the Map. You will find the name of the first person in such a Group on the map with the Group number next to it, enclosed in [square brackets].

To find all the members of the Group you can either scan the Index for all people with the same Group Number or you can simply refer to Appendix "B" where all members of the Group are listed next to their number.

O = Overlaps another Parcel

An Overlap is one where PART of a parcel of land gets issued on more than one patent. For genealogical purposes, both transfers of title are important and both Patentees are mapped. If the ENTIRE parcel of land is re-issued, that is what we call it, a Re-Issued Patent (*see below*). The number after the "O" indicates the ID for the overlapping Patent(s) contained within the same Index. Like Re-Issued and Cancelled Patents, Overlaps may cause a map-reader to be confused at first, but for genealogical purposes, all of these parties' relationships to the underlying land is important, and therefore, we map them.

R = Re-Issued (Parcel patented more than once)

The label, "Re-issued Patent" describes Patents which were issued more than once for land with the EXACT SAME LEGAL DESCRIPTION. Whether the original patent was cancelled or not, there were a good many parcels which were patented more than once. The number after the "R" indicates the ID for the other Patent contained within the same Index that was for the same land. A quick glance at the map itself within the relevant Section will be the quickest way to find the other Patentee to whom the Parcel was transferred. They should both be mapped in the same general area.

I have gone to some length to describe all sorts of anomalies either in the underlying data or in their representation on the maps and indexes in this book. Most of this will bore the most ardent researcher, but I do this with all due respect to those researchers who will inevitably (and rightfully) ask: "*Why isn't so-and-so's name on the exact spot that the index says it should be?*"

In most cases it will be due to the existence of a Multi-Patentee Patent, a Re-issued Patent, a Cancelled Patent, or Overlapping Parcels named in separate Patents. I don't pretend that this discussion will answer every question along these lines, but I hope it will at least convince you of the complexity of the subject.

Not to despair, this book's companion web-site will offer a way to further explain "odd-ball" or errant data. Each book (County) will have its own web-page or pages to discuss such situations. You can go to [www.arphax.com](http://www.arphax.com) to find the relevant web-page for Jackson County.

**Land Patent Map**

On the first two-page spread following each Township's Index to Land Patents, you'll find the corresponding Land Patent Map. And here lies the real heart of our work. For the first time anywhere, researchers will be able to observe and analyze, on a grand scale, most of the original land-owners for an area AND see them mapped

in proximity to each one another.

We encourage you to make vigorous use of the accompanying Index described above, but then later, to abandon it, and just stare at these maps for a while. This is a great way to catch misspellings or to find collateral kin you'd not known were in the area.

Each Patent Map represents one Congressional Township containing approximately 36-square miles. Each of these square miles is labeled by an accompanying Section Number (1 through 36, in most cases). Keep in mind, that this book concerns itself solely with Jackson County's patents. Townships which creep into one or more other counties will not be shown in their entirety in any one book. You will need to consult other books, as they become available, in order to view other counties' patents.

But getting back to Jackson County: each Land Patent Map contains a Statistical Chart that looks like the following:

### Township Statistics

Parcels Mapped	:	173
Number of Patents	:	163
Number of Individuals	:	152
Patentees Identified	:	151
Number of Surnames	:	137
Multi-Patentee Parcels	:	4
Oldest Patent Date	:	11/27/1820
Most Recent Patent	:	9/28/1917
Block/Lot Parcels	:	0
Parcels Re-Issued	:	3
Parcels that Overlap	:	8

This information may be of more use to a social statistician or historian than a genealogist, but I think all three will find it interesting.

Most of the statistics are self-explanatory, and what is not, was described in the above discussion of the Index's Legend, but I do want to mention a few of them that may affect your understanding of the Land Patent Maps.

First of all, Patents often contain more than one Parcel of land, so it is common for there to be more Parcels than Patents. Also, the Number of Individuals will more often than not, not match the number of Patentees. A Patentee is literally the person or PERSONS named in a patent. So, a Patent may have a multi-person Patentee or a single-person patentee. Nonetheless, we account for all these individuals in our indexes.

On the lower-righthand side of the Patent Map is a Legend which describes various features in the map, including Section Boundaries, Patent (land) Boundaries, Lots (numbered), and Multi-Patentee Group Numbers. You'll also find a "Helpful Hints" Box that will assist you.

*One important note: though the vast majority of Patents mapped in the Homesteads Editions will prove to be reasonably accurate representations of their proximity to other Patents, we cannot claim this for patents lying along state and county lines, or waterways, or that have been platted (lots). Shifting boundaries and sparse legal descriptions in the GLO data make this a reality that we have nonetheless tried to overcome by estimating these patents' locations the best that we can.*

*In Closing . . .*

Many more techniques for using these *Family Maps* volumes will no doubt be discovered. If from time to time, you will navigate to Jackson County's web-page at [www.arphax.com](http://www.arphax.com) (use the "Research" link), you can learn new tricks as they become known (or you can share ones you have employed). But for now, you are ready to get started. So, go, and good luck.