

# Unlocking the Past with HistoryGeo.com's Map Projects and New Tools

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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.

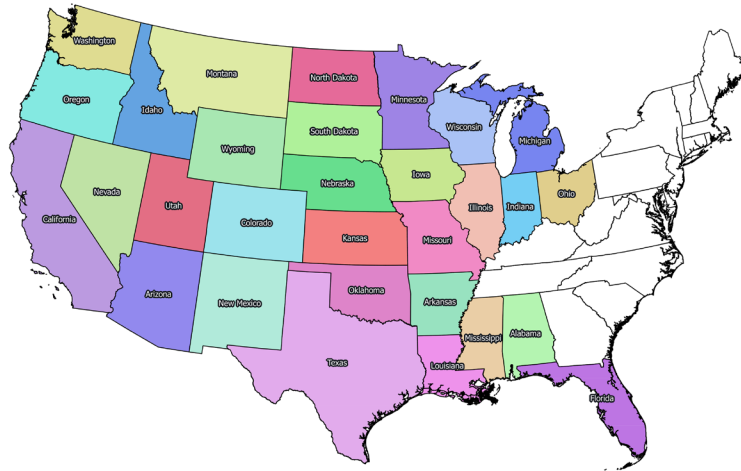
## Landowner maps facilitate the FAN club research method: Friends, Associates, & Neighbors

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

<https://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 3<sup>rd</sup>-party maps like Google, Bing, etc.
- Create Markers for important locations and to show Migrations

## Great Training Videos and "Cheat Sheets"

If you are logged-in through your library account, go to home-page and click "Map Viewer Helps"), or:

<https://www.historygeo.com/forlibraries/learn.php>

If NOT logged-in to your library account, go to home-page, click "Support", then click "Map Viewer Helps", or:

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

## Some Recent Improvements to the First Landowner Map Viewer

1. Better reporting of information on "lot" parcels plus links to source information at the General Land Office.
2. While panning around, you will be alerted to new counties you are viewing (and can easily update the index)
3. You can keep your work open, yet open a second window in the Place-Finder tool (viewing the same spot)

## **The Place-Finder + Topos Tool**

(just released with version 3)

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 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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## **IN CASE YOU MISSED IT!**

**HistoryGeo.com is available at the Tulsa City-County Library and remotely to library cardholders!**

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### **Coming Down the Road . . .**

- Metes & Bounds Mapper – you will be able to map original grants and deeds in colonial states.
- Subsequent Landowners – you will be able to plot later-landowners
- and, a couple of other projects we'll save for later . . .

### **Interested in a Personal Subscription to HistoryGeo.com?**

Anyone who chooses a 12 month subscription in the next week, can email us that you viewed/attended this event and we'll give you an additional 3 months for FREE. Please email us just before or after creating your HistoryGeo.com subscription at [info@historygeo.com](mailto:info@historygeo.com) and we'll add your free 3 months!

### **Questions?**

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