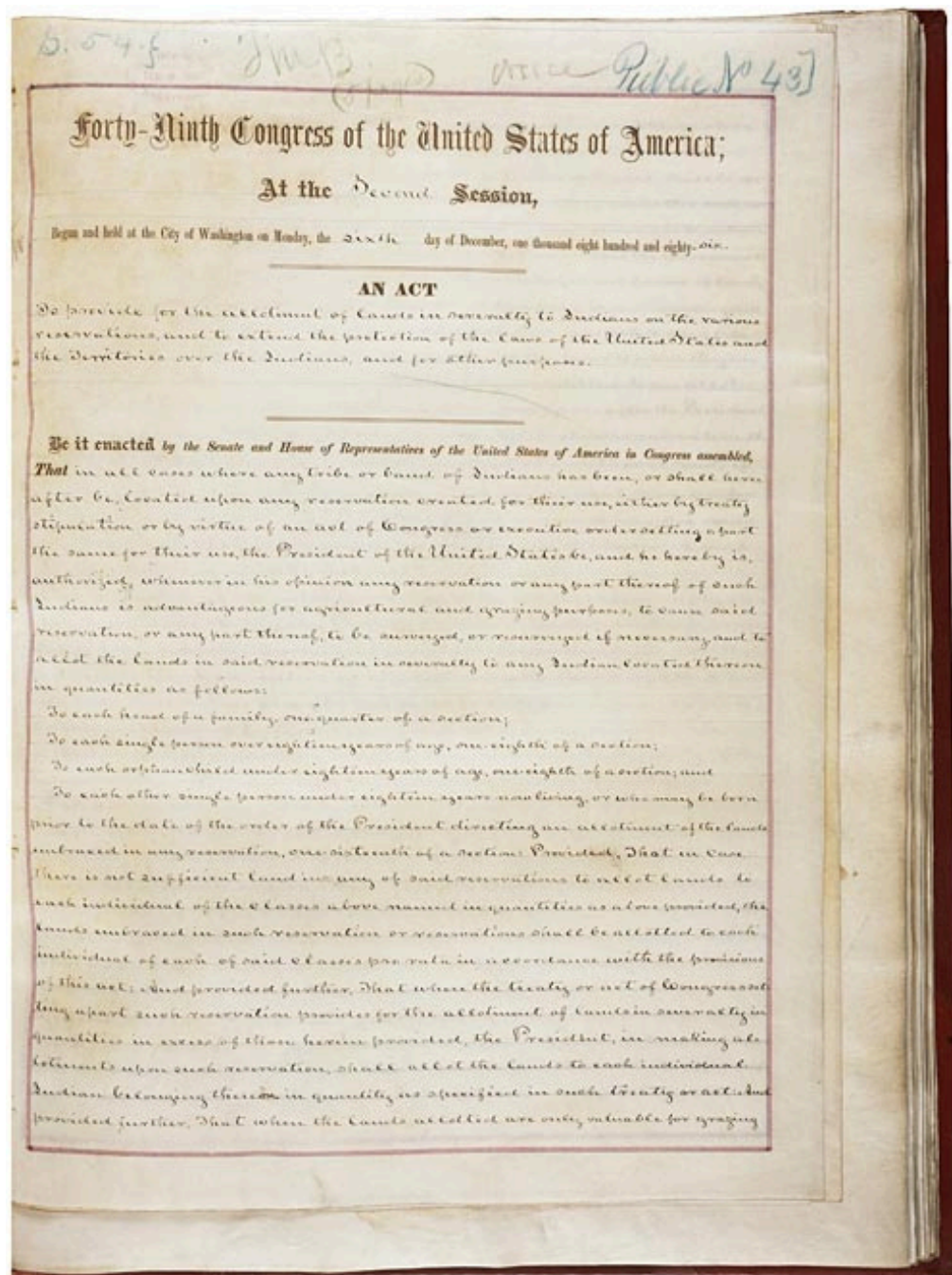


# Every Section Matters: How to Fully Search the Dawes Roll

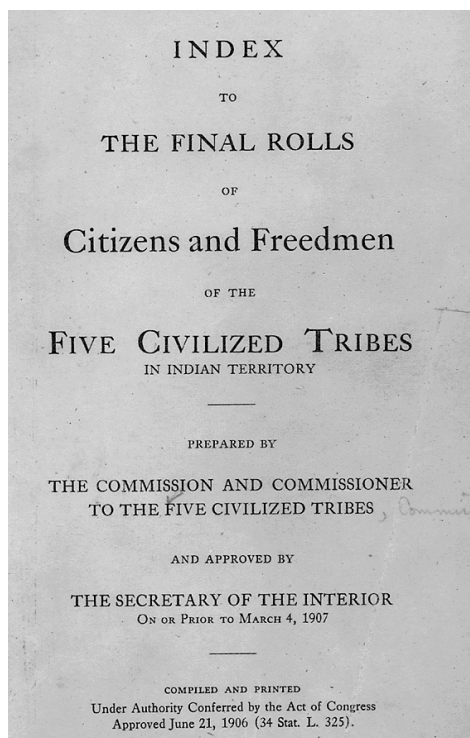


An Act to Provide for the Allotment of Lands in Severalty to Indians on the Various Reservations (General Allotment Act or Dawes Act), Statutes at Large 24, 388-91, NADP Document A1887.

# **Dawes Roll Handout**

## **Section Index:**

- 1. What Are the Dawes Rolls?**
- 2. Using the Oklahoma Historical Society Index**
- 3. Accessing Ancestry Library Edition**
- 4. Dawes Census Cards**
- 5. Dawes Applications**
- 6. Land Allotment Jackets**
- 7. Land Allotment Sales**



# What are the Dawes Rolls?

The Dawes Rolls—formally titled “The Final Rolls of Citizens and Freedmen of the Five Civilized Tribes in Indian Territory”— were created by the Dawes Commission between 1898 and 1914. These records determined eligibility for tribal membership in the:

- Cherokee Nation
- Chickasaw Nation
- Choctaw Nation
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation
- Seminole Nation

# Important Information to know about the Dawes Rolls:

- **Purpose:**

- The Dawes Rolls were part of a federal policy (under the 1887 Dawes Act) to divide tribal lands and allot parcels to individual tribal members—effectively ending communal landholding.

- **Applicants**

- Over 250,000 people applied.
- About 101,000 were approved.
- Many were rejected for lack of documentation or because they applied too late.

- **Roll categories**

**Applicants were classified into these main groups:**

- By blood: Individuals with documented tribal ancestry
- Freedmen: Descendants of formerly enslaved people held by tribal members
- Intermarried Whites: Non-Native individuals married to tribal members
- Minors/newborns: Children added during or after the process

- **Geographic focus**

- Applies only to individuals living in Indian Territory (now Eastern Oklahoma) between 1898 and 1914.

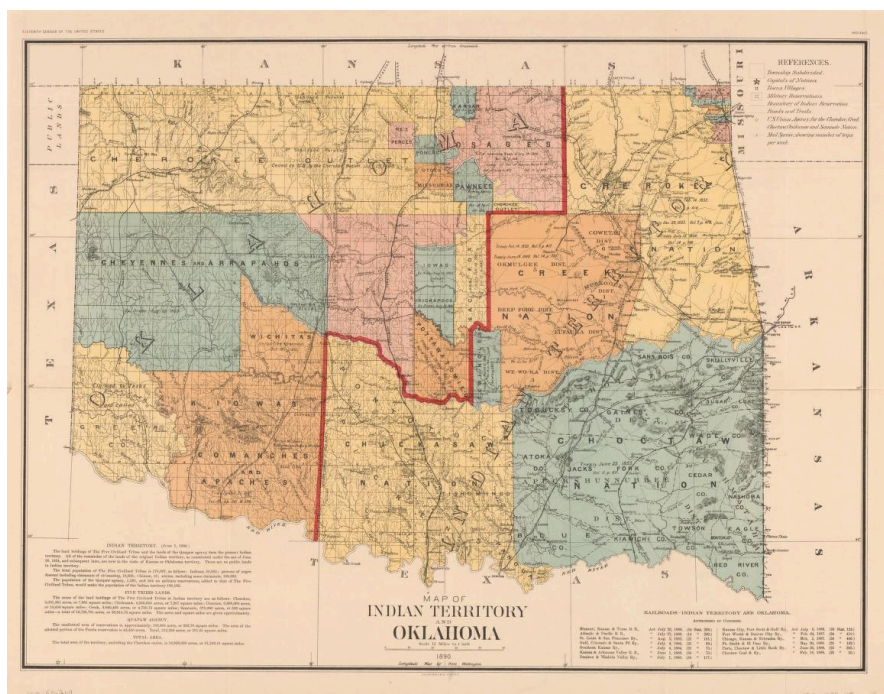
- **Why it matters**

- Dawes Roll records contain key genealogical data such as:
  - Names, ages, birthplaces.
  - Tribal affiliation and blood quantum.
  - Parents' names and residence.
  - Roll and census card numbers.

**⚠ Important: These records do not include all American Indians. Only members of the Five Tribes living in Indian Territory during the enrollment period are covered.**



# Finding an Ancestor in the Dawes Roll Index



Credit: Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division.

To search effectively, try to gather the following:

- The ancestor's full legal name (and any alternate spellings).
- Married and pre-marital surnames for women.
- Approximate birth year.
- Tribal affiliation (if known).
- Can you confirm if they were residing in Indian Territory at the time of the Dawes Roll (1898-1914)?

✓ Tip: Focus on a direct ancestor, such as a grandparent or great-grandparent.



# Oklahoma Historical Society

Logo used with strict permission from the Oklahoma Historical Society

## Step 1: Using the Oklahoma Historical Society (OHS) Website

Before diving into Ancestry Library Edition, the best place to begin is the Dawes Roll Index at the Oklahoma Historical Society. This tool helps confirm if your ancestor is listed and provides the Roll Number and Census Card Number needed to access full records. You can access this website from your own home!



## Accessing the OHS Dawes Roll Index

Option 1: Use this direct link:

👉 <https://www.okhistory.org/research/dawes>

Option 2: Search manually:

1. Go to <https://www.okhistory.org>.
2. Click on the “American Indian Records” section.
3. Select “Dawes Final Rolls of the Five Civilized Tribes.”

## Step 2: Searching the Index

1. Use the search bar to enter the ancestor's first and last name.
2. Try alternate spellings or nicknames if no match is found.
3. For married women, search both maiden and married names.
4. Review the search results:
  - Look for matching relatives (siblings, parents).
  - Confirm location and tribe when available.

To see other relatives listed on the card, click the “Search Card (Number)” option on the right side of your screen. This will display everyone associated with that specific card.

If the names include relatives such as siblings or parents of your ancestor, it's likely a match.

If you find a match, write down:

- Roll Number
- Census Card Number

 If no match appears:

- Double-check spellings.
- Look at the 1900 or 1910 U.S. Census to see where the person lived.
- Remember, if they weren't in Indian Territory between 1898–1914, they won't be on the Dawes Rolls.

## **Step 3:** Understanding the Results

Each entry typically includes:

- Name
- Enrollment Number
- Tribal Affiliation
- Census Card Number
- Roll Number
- Additional Notes

Make note of these details—they are essential for accessing further records.

## **Step 4:** Accessing Dawes Roll Records

### **Using Ancestry Library Edition at TCCL**

Once you've found a matching Roll Number and Census Card Number using the Oklahoma Historical Society index, you can access the full set of Dawes records through Ancestry Library Edition—available for free at all 24 TCCL locations.

**The next four sections will require the use of Ancestry Library Edition.**

**Right after this note, you'll find step-by-step instructions on how to access Ancestry Library Edition and from there you can access all four parts of the Dawes Roll.**

**Once the Ancestry instructions are complete, each remaining section will simply describe the type of record to look for and what information is needed to search that specific record group.**





## Step 1: Accessing Ancestry Library Edition

You have two options:

Option 1: Use a Library Computer

- Go to the [TCCL homepage](#)
- Click on the “Research” tab
- Select “Databases”, then choose Ancestry Library Edition

Option 2: Use Your Own Device (on TCCL Wi-Fi)

- Connect to TCCL Free Public Wi-Fi
- Accept the pop-up terms of service
- Open [Body](#), go to Research > Databases, and open Ancestry Library Edition

## Step 2: Navigating to the Dawes Roll Collections

Once you're in Ancestry Library Edition:

1. Click “Search” in the top menu
2. Select “Card Catalog” from the dropdown
3. In the search box, type: Dawes

You'll see several collections appear. Focus on the following:

- *Oklahoma and Indian Territory, U.S. Dawes Census Cards for Five Civilized Tribes, 1895-1914 (For the Groups: By Blood or Freedmen)*
- *U.S. Oklahoma and Indian Territory, Dawes Census Freedmen Rolls, 1898 - 1914 (For Freedmen Only!)*
- *U.S. Native American Applications for Enrollment in Five Civilized Tribes, 1898-1914*
- *Oklahoma and Indian Territory, U.S. Land Allotment Jackets for Five Civilized Tribes, 1884-1934*
- *Oklahoma, U.S. Indian Land Allotment Sales, 1908-1927*

### Next Steps

From here, each of the next four sections will explain:

- What each record type is
- What kind of information it contains

# What are the Dawes Roll Cards?

Dawes Census Cards (also known as Enrollment Cards or Roll Cards)

These were created between 1898 and 1914 to document individuals applying for tribal membership and land allotment. Each card lists family members and serves as a snapshot of a household at the time of enrollment.

## What You'll Find on a Dawes Census Card

Each card may include:

- Full names of the applicant and household members
- Roll Number and Census Card Number
- Tribal affiliation
- Age, sex, and degree of Native ancestry
- Relationship to head of household
- Application and Enrollment numbers
- Approval or rejection status

 These cards often include family groupings—parents, siblings, children—making them invaluable for genealogy.

# Finding Your Dawes Roll Card Using Ancestry Library Edition!

RESIDENCE: *Plum* DISTRICT: *Plum*  
 POST OFFICE: *Cherokee* **Cherokee Nation. Cherokee Roll.**  
 (List including Dawes, Shakers, 12 Freedmen.)

Dawes Roll No.	NAME	Relationship to Person first Named	AGE	SEX	BLOOD	TRIBAL ENROLLMENT			TRIBAL ENROLLMENT OF PARENTS					
						Year	District	No.	Name of Father	Year	District	Name of Mother	Year	District
18947	<i>Ross Martha</i>		21	F	<i>Ind</i>	1896	<i>Plum</i>	1350	<i>Oliver Hog</i>		<i>Manvick</i>	<i>Salie</i>	<i>Plum</i>	
18948	<i>Josiah</i>	<i>son</i>	4	M	"				<i>Will Ross</i>			<i>1891</i>	<i>Plum</i>	
18949	<i>John</i>	"	1	"	"				"			<i>1891</i>	"	
18950	<i>Will</i>	<i>husband</i>	33	"	"	1880	<i>Plum</i>	1086	<i>John</i>	<i>Dead</i>	<i>Plum</i>	<i>Lucinda Ross</i>	<i>Plum</i>	
CITIZENSHIP CERTIFICATE ISSUED FOR NO. <i>4-1</i> APR 10 1905														
JUN 14 1905														
<i>OK Joe</i> <i>See N B # 2578</i> #4 <i>Ben</i> 1880/1888 as <i>William Ross</i> #1 " 1886 " <i>Martina Pappay</i> #4 " " " <i>1891 #1396 William Ross Plum Dist -</i>														
										Date of Application for Enrollment <i>5/3/05</i>				

The National Archives At Fort Worth; Fort Worth, Texas; Enrollment Cards, 1898-1914; NAI Number: 251747; Record Group Title: Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs; Record Group Number: 75

After you have searched the keyword “Dawes” in the card catalog, choose one of the following collections to view the census cards:

- U.S. Oklahoma and Indian Territory, U.S., Dawes Census Cards for Five Civilized Tribes, 1895-1914 (For By Blood and Freedmen groups)
- U.S., Oklahoma and Indian Territory Dawes Census Freedmen Rolls, 1898-1914 (for Freedmen only)

# Searching the Dawes Roll Cards Collection

Use the search fields to input:

- First and Last Name
- Birth Year

If you have a card number and a roll number already you can input one of those, instead of the above information, into either of the below fields:

- Census Card Number
- Dawes Enrollment number

If one search method doesn't return results, don't give up! You may just need to try a different approach.

Consider the following strategies:

- Try alternate spellings of the name.
- Enter one of the numbers listed above, press Enter, and scan the results for the name.
- Keep in mind that individuals are sometimes listed under the head of household, which may be a different person. For example, if you're searching for Martha Smith, but she was living in the household of Gary Waters, her name may be listed under his.

Once results appear, click on a record to view both the "Indexed Information" and the "Original Image" of the enrollment card.



# What are the Dawes Roll Applications?

Department of the Interior,  
Commission to the Five Civilized Tribes,  
Stillwell, I. T., May 3, 1902.

In the matter of the application of Martha Ross et al for enrollment as citizens of the Cherokee Nation; she being sworn and examined by the Commission, testified as follows through interpreter Richard L. Taylor:

Q What is your name? A Martha Ross.  
Q How old are you? A 31.  
Q What is your postoffice address? A Evansville, Arkansas.  
Q In what district do you live? A Flint District.  
Q Are you a Cherokee full blood? A Yes.  
Q What is your father's name? A Oliver Hog.  
Q Is he living or dead? A He is living.  
Q He is a Cherokee is he? A Yes sir.  
Q What district does he belong to? A He lived in Illinois now; he used to live in Sequoyah.  
Q Is Sally Puppy the mother of this girl? A Yes.  
Q Now do you want to enroll anyone besides yourself, have you any children? A Two children.  
Q What are their names? A John Ross.  
Q How old is he? A Four years old.  
Q What is the name of the next child? A Tom Ross.  
Q How old is Tom? A One year old.  
Q Who is the father of these children? A Will Ross.  
Q Are you living with Will Ross? A Yes.  
Q Then you are married to Will Ross? A Yes.  
Q How long have you been married to Will Ross? A Seven years.  
Q You want to enroll your husband too, do you? A Yes.  
Q How old is he? A 23.  
Q Is he a Cherokee full blood? A Yes sir.  
Q Who is his father? A John Ross.  
Q Is he living? A No sir, he is dead.  
Q What district did his father belong to? A Flint District.  
Q Who is Will's mother? A Lucinda Ross.  
Q She living, or dead? A She is living.  
Q What district does she live in? A Flint.

The 1880 authenticated roll of the Cherokee Nation examined and the name of the applicant is found on page 387, No. 1086, William Ross, Flint Dist. The applicant's mother is found on the 1880 roll at page 369, No. 565, Sallie Hog, Flint Dist.

Q Now have you and your husband ever lived in any other country except the Cherokee Nation? A No sir.  
Q You have been living together about seven years have you? A Yes sir.  
Q Are you sure it is that long? A Yes.  
Q You are sometimes known as Martha Puppy are you? A Yes.

The 1896 census roll examined and the name of the applicants found as follows: Page 689, No. 1350, Martha Puppy, Flint Dist. Page 691, No. 1396, William Ross, Flint Dist.

The undersigned, being duly sworn, states that as stenographer to the Commission to the Five Civilized Tribes he correctly recorded the testimony and proceedings in this case, and that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of his stenographic notes thereof.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 10th day of May, 1902, at Muskogee, I. T.

*[Signature]*  
Notary Public.

The National Archives at Washington, D.C.; Washington, D.C.;  
Applications for Enrollment of the Commission to the Five Civilized  
Tribes, 1898-1914; Record Group Title: Records of the Bureau of Indian  
Affairs; Record Group Number: 75; Publication Number: M1301; Roll  
Number: 231

# What are the Dawes Roll Applications?

When Individuals and Families applied to the Dawes Roll Commission for Enrollment into one of the Five Tribes of Oklahoma, they were interviewed by the commission to establish their eligibility to enroll.

Applicants had to:

- Prove their tribal ancestry or affiliation.
- Provide testimony, documentation, and sometimes witnesses for the application.

These types of documents are valuable for genealogical researchers because they offer a glimpse into an ancestor's life. They may also reveal new details about your family that you didn't previously know. In addition, they can point you toward other individuals—such as friends, relatives, or co-workers—who may be connected to your family. Researching these people can sometimes lead to additional records and insights that enrich your family history.

# What information is in the Dawes Roll Applications?

Applications often include:

- Full names of applicants and family members.
- Ages, birthplaces, and residences.
- Family relationships and tribal affiliations.
- Testimony from applicants and witnesses.
- Correspondence, decisions, and sometimes photographs.
- Final decisions or rulings by the Commission.
- Occasionally, Photographs.

These records are incredibly rich for genealogical and historical research, especially for descendants of the Five Tribes. These documents often contain firsthand statements and multi-generational details, making them highly valuable for genealogical research.

## Where to find the collection:


After you have searched the Keyword “Dawes” in the card catalog, choose the following option for the Dawes Applications:

*U.S. Native American Applications for Enrollment in Five Civilized Tribes, 1898-1914*

Click on the collection name to enter that particular collection

## Searching Within the Dawes Application Collection

- Use the search fields to enter details such as:
  - First & Last Name
  - Tribe Affiliation
  - Location
  - Birth Year

 Tip: Be Sure to check the original document images. They often contain more information than the indexed summary pages.

# What are the Dawes Allotment Jackets?

FORM NO. 202.  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
COMMISSION TO THE FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES.

*In the Matter of the Allotment of the lands of the Cherokees.*  
**CHEROKEE NATION.**

To the Cherokee Land Office,  
Tahlequah, Indian Territory:

The following plat shows the location of the improvements belonging to  
Will Ross, a Cher. b. blood,  
Wassville Ark Roll \_\_\_\_\_

**CHEROKEE NATION.**

Township No. 15 N Range No. 26 E  
Sec. 23 Sec. 24

Sec. \_\_\_\_\_ Sec. 25

Ancestry.com. Oklahoma and Indian Territory, U.S., Land Allotment Jackets for Five Civilized Tribes, 1884-1934 [database on-line]. Lehi, UT: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2014.



When a member was enrolled in one of the Five Tribes of Oklahoma through the Dawes Commission, they were assigned a parcel of land that was theirs to build their new homes and to create farms on. The Allotment records describes that land that was given to the tribal member and where it was located.



Interesting Side Note: The Jacket part of the Allotment records refers to the folders that the records are kept in.

## **What do the Allotment Records contain?**

- Land Allotment Applications
- Maps (Plat Forms) showing exact land location
- Testimonies (sometimes with Genealogical Details)
- Correspondence, Protests or Objections
- Affidavits
- Guardianship or probate documentation (for minors or deceased allottees)
- Decisions by the Dawes Commission
- Notices of Approval or Rejection

These files are distinct from the Dawes Census Cards (also called enrollment cards or packets), which were more like index cards summarizing basic information.

## How does someone access the Dawes Allotment Jackets?

All parts of the Dawes Roll Packets, The Land Allotment Jackets and The Allotment Sales can be found on the Ancestry Library Edition Website.

### Find the Dawes Allotment Jackets Collection

After you have searched the Keyword “Dawes” in the card catalog, choose the following collection to view the Allotment Jackets:

*Oklahoma and Indian Territory, U.S. Land Allotment Jackets for Five Civilized Tribes, 1884-1934*

Click on the collection name to enter that particular collection

## Searching in the Dawes Land Allotment Records Collection

When searching in this collection it is easier to use the “First & Last Name” & the individuals “Roll Number” to find the particular Land Allotment you are looking for.

Once you enter the above information just hit the enter button. You can then go through the list of names that pulls up. Look to the right and there is a column for Roll Number, Look for your ancestors roll numbers.

## Tips For Searching in this Collection

If you don't get results right away here are some things you can try:

- Try variations on spelling of the names.  
Sometimes names were not spelled correctly!
- Use broad search terms and details to narrow down your search.
- Look at the original document Images. They often contain more detail than the index.

# What are the Dawes Allotment Sale Records?

## INDIAN LAND FOR SALE

GET A HOME  
OF  
YOUR OWN  
\*  
EASY PAYMENTS



PERFECT TITLE  
\*  
POSSESSION  
WITHIN  
THIRTY DAYS

## FINE LANDS IN THE WEST

IRRIGATED      GRAZING      AGRICULTURAL  
IRRIGABLE      DRY FARMING

IN 1910 THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR SOLD UNDER SEALED BIDS ALLOTTED INDIAN LAND AS FOLLOWS:

Location.	Acres.	Average Price per Acre.	Location.	Acres.	Average Price per Acre.
Colorado .....	5,211.21	\$7.27	Oklahoma .....	34,664.00	\$19.14
Idaho .....	17,013.00	24.85	Oregon .....	1,020.00	15.43
Kansas .....	1,684.50	33.45	South Dakota .....	120,445.00	16.53
Montana .....	11,034.00	9.86	Washington .....	4,879.00	41.37
Nebraska .....	5,641.00	36.65	Wisconsin .....	1,069.00	17.00
North Dakota .....	22,610.70	9.93	Wyoming .....	865.00	20.64

FOR THE YEAR 1911 IT IS ESTIMATED THAT **350,000 ACRES** WILL BE OFFERED FOR SALE

For information as to the character of the land write for booklet, "INDIAN LANDS FOR SALE," to the Superintendent U. S. Indian School at any one of the following places:

<b>CALIFORNIA:</b> Hoopa. <b>COLORADO:</b> Ignacio. <b>IDAHO:</b> Lapwai. <b>KANSAS:</b> Horton. Nadeau.	<b>MINNESOTA:</b> Onigum. <b>MONTANA:</b> Crow Agency. <b>NEBRASKA:</b> Macy. Santee. Winnebago.	<b>NORTH DAKOTA:</b> Fort Totten. Fort Yates. <b>OKLAHOMA:</b> Anadarko. Cantonment. Colony. Darlington. Muskogee. Pawnee.	<b>OKLAHOMA—Con.</b> Sac and Fox Agency. Shawnee. Wyandotte. <b>OREGON:</b> Klamath Agency. Pendleton. Roseburg. Siletz.	<b>SOUTH DAKOTA:</b> Cheyenne Agency. Crow Creek. Greenwood. Lower Brule. Pine Ridge. Rosebud. Sisseton.	<b>WASHINGTON:</b> Fort Simcoe. Fort Spokane. Tekoa. Tulalip. <b>WISCONSIN:</b> Oneida.
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**WALTER L. FISHER,**  
Secretary of the Interior.

**ROBERT G. VALENTINE,**  
Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

Fisher, Walter L, Robert G Valentine, Issuing Body United States Department Of The Interior, and Printed Ephemera Collection. Indian land for sale: get a home of your own, easy payments. Perfect title. Possession within thirty days. Fine lands in the West. [United States Publisher not identified, 1911] Image. <https://www.loc.gov/item/2015657622/>. ; no known copyright restrictions.

# What are the Dawes Allotment Sale Records?

Originally, Allotted Land from the U.S. Government had many regulations and restrictions that came from the government on Indigenous Peoples selling their land after it was allotted to them from the government.

However, in May 1908, a significant change occurred with the passage of an act that lifted many of the existing restrictions on Indigenous lands. This legislation also granted the Secretary of the Interior the authority to remove other restrictions. As a result, Indigenous individuals were permitted to sell or lease their allotted lands, and non-Indigenous individuals were allowed to purchase land that was made available for sale.

This is why some non-Indigenous individuals came to own land that was previously held by Indigenous peoples. It is possible that a person's ancestors were not originally Indigenous but came to acquire and reside on land that had been allotted to Indigenous individuals.



# What information does the Dawes Land Allotment Sales Records contain?

This record collection could include:

- The Applicant's Name
- The Enrollment Number
- The Tribal Affiliation
- The Degree of Indian Blood
- Current Residential Address
- Legal Description of the Land to be sold
- Date of when petition was filed
- Approval Date
- Date when land was sold

Some Additional Information that could be included in the record:

- Correspondence between the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), allottees, and other parties
- Maps or Plats of the allotment
- Probate Records if the allottee died and land was passed on
- Heirship documents

## Things to note:

- These records are not comprehensive for all sales or allottees but include a substantial sample.
- The collection can help trace land ownership changes, family relationships, and tribal affiliations.
- The collection can also tie into broader topics like Federal Indian Policy, assimilation efforts and allotment history.

## Find the Dawes Land Allotment Sales Records

After you have searched the Keyword “Dawes” in the card catalog, choose the following collection to view the Allotment Sale Records:

*Oklahoma, U.S. Indian Land Allotment Sales, 1908-1927*

# Searching Within the Land Sales Collection

The main thing you will need when researching in this collection is:

- The name of the land owner
- The location of the property (e.g. county or township and state)

Searching Tip: One suggestion while searching is if no results show after you search, use wild cards to replace multiple letters or a single letter: e.g. Mc\* or Sm?th

Sometimes this can help you find ancestors who are harder to find.

Click a result to view the record details

Images typically are available, if they are they will typically be located to the left of the indexed record.

Note Such Details As:

- Seller's name (Allottee or Heir)
- Buyer's name
- Tribal affiliation
- Land description (section/township/range)
- Approval dates

## Quick reference summary for the Dawes Roll

Record Type	Collection Title in Ancestry	What It Shows
<b>Census Cards</b>	<i>Dawes Census Cards or Freedmen Rolls</i>	Names, relationships, age, tribe, blood quantum
<b>Applications</b>	<i>Applications for Enrollment</i>	Testimony, documents, family history
<b>Land Allotment Jackets</b>	<i>Land Allotment Jackets</i>	Land assignments, maps, protests
<b>Land Sales Records</b>	<i>Land Allotment Sales</i>	Sales history, buyers, land transfer data

### Research Tips:

Always check original images—they often contain more info than the index

.

Use wildcards for name variations.

Focus on one direct ancestor at a time.

No results? Check census records (1900/1910) to confirm residence in Indian Territory.



**Located at Hardesty Regional Library  
(second floor)  
8316 E. 93<sup>rd</sup> St.  
Tulsa, OK 74133**

**For questions:  
918-549-7691  
[genaskus@tulsalibrary.org](mailto:genaskus@tulsalibrary.org)**