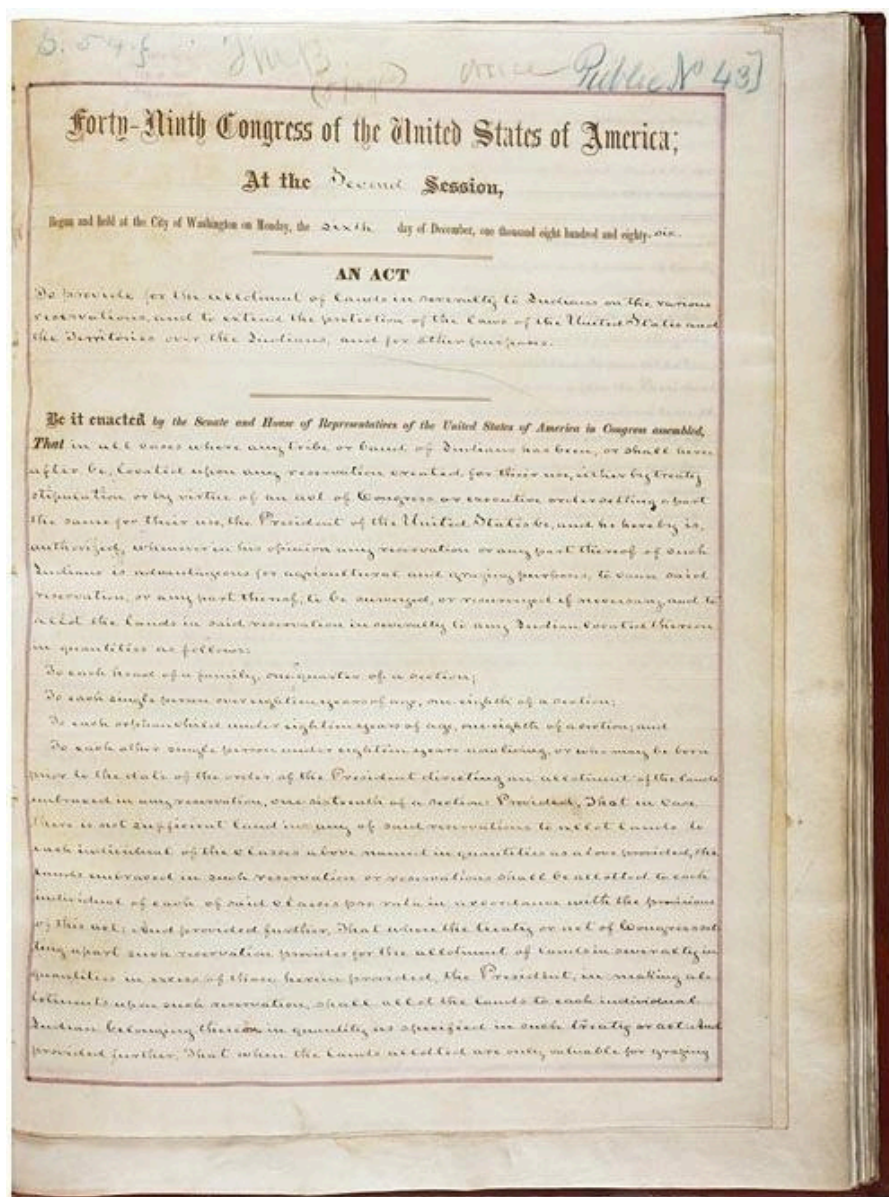


Every Section Matters: How to Fully Search the Dawes Roll



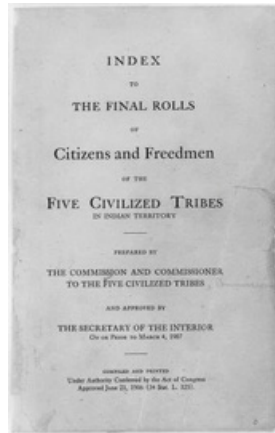
An Act to Provide for the Allotment of Lands in Severalty to Indians on the Various Reservations (General Allotment Act or Dawes Act), Statutes at Large 24, 388-91, NADP Document A1887.

Dawes Roll Handout Section Index

- 1. What are the Dawes Rolls?**
- 2. What to gather before searching**
- 3. Using the Oklahoma Historical Society index**
- 4. Accessing Ancestry Library Edition**
- 5. Dawes census cards**
- 6. Dawes applications**
- 7. Land allotment jackets**
- 8. Land allotment sales**
- 9. Quick reference and next steps**

Use this packet as a sequence: confirm whether the ancestor may appear in the Dawes Rolls, capture the roll/card numbers, then use Ancestry Library Edition to move through the related record groups.

What are the Dawes Rolls?



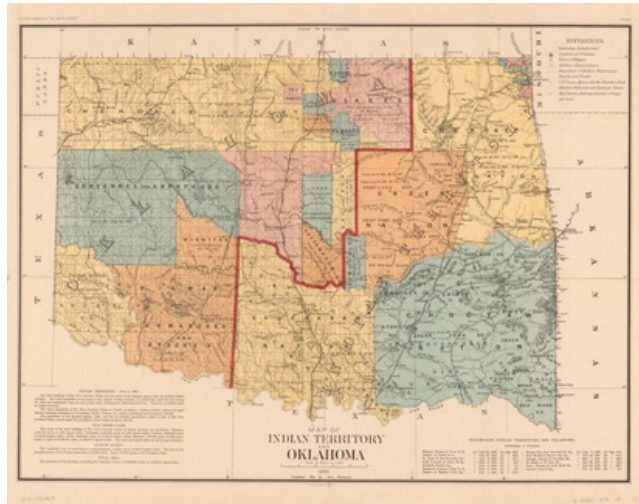
The Dawes Rolls - formally titled The Final Rolls of Citizens and Freedmen of the Five Civilized Tribes in Indian Territory - were created by the Dawes Commission between 1898 and 1914.

These records determined eligibility for tribal membership in:

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

Important: These records do not include all American Indians. They focus on members of the Five Tribes living in Indian Territory, now eastern Oklahoma, during the enrollment period.

Before You Search



Credit: Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division.

Try to gather:

- Ancestor's full legal name and alternate spellings
- Married and pre-marital surnames for women
- Approximate birth year
- Tribal affiliation, if known
- Residence in Indian Territory between 1898 and 1914
- Names of parents, siblings, spouses, or children

Tip: Focus on one direct ancestor at a time, such as a grandparent or great-grandparent. Then use relatives on the same card or in the same household to confirm whether the record is the right match.

Step 1: Use the OHS Dawes Index



Oklahoma Historical Society

Oklahoma Historical Society logo used with permission.

Begin with the Dawes Roll Index at the Oklahoma Historical Society. It helps confirm whether the ancestor is listed and gives you the Roll Number and Census Card Number needed for fuller records.

Access the index:

Direct link: <https://www.okhistory.org/research/dawes>

Manual path: [okhistory.org](https://www.okhistory.org) > American Indian Records > Dawes Final Rolls of the Five Civilized Tribes

Search process:

1. Search first and last name.
2. Try alternate spellings and nicknames.
3. For married women, search maiden and married names.
4. Review relatives, location, and tribe.
5. Click Search Card (Number) to see everyone associated with the card.
6. Write down the Roll Number and Census Card Number.

No match? Recheck spellings and use the 1900 or 1910 U.S. Census to confirm residence. If the person was not in Indian Territory during 1898-1914, they will not be on the Dawes Rolls.

Step 2: Access Ancestry Library Edition



Use a library computer:

- Go to the TCCL homepage
- Click Research
- Select Databases
- Open Ancestry Library Edition

Use your own device at TCCL:

- Connect to TCCL Free Public Wi-Fi
- Accept the pop-up terms of service
- Open a browser
- Go to Research > Databases > Ancestry Library Edition

Navigate to Dawes collections:

Once in Ancestry Library Edition: click Search in the top menu, choose Card Catalog, and type Dawes in the search box.

Ancestry Library Edition is available for free at all TCCL locations. The next sections explain which Dawes record groups to use and what each one can show.

The Dawes Collections to Use

After searching Dawes in the Card Catalog, focus on these collections:

Census cards / roll cards

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

Applications

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

Land allotment jackets

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

Land allotment sales

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

Research habit: always open the original image. Index summaries are useful, but the original pages often include richer details, spelling clues, family groupings, testimony, notes, or land descriptions.

Dawes Census Cards

National Archives at Fort Worth; Enrollment Cards, 1898-1914; Record Group 75.

Dawes census cards, also called enrollment cards or roll cards, were created to document people applying for tribal membership and land allotment. A card often serves as a household snapshot.

What they may include:

- Applicant and household names
- Roll Number and Census Card Number
- Tribe, age, sex, and degree of Native ancestry
- Relationship to head of household
- Application and enrollment numbers
- Approval or rejection status

Search tips:

Use first and last name plus birth year. If you already have a Census Card Number or Dawes Enrollment Number, search by one of those. If no result appears, try alternate spellings or scan results because someone may be indexed under the head of household.

Dawes Applications

When individuals and families applied for enrollment, they were interviewed by the Dawes Commission to establish eligibility. Applicants had to prove tribal ancestry or affiliation and might provide testimony, documentation, and witnesses.

Why they matter:

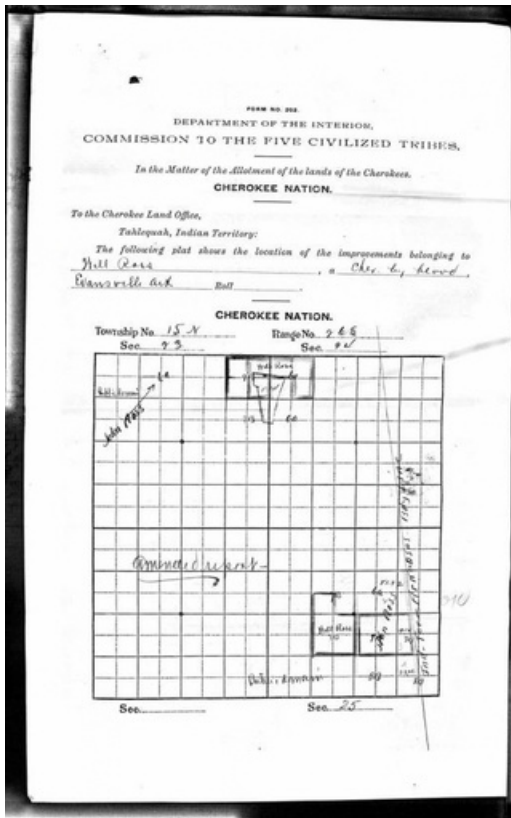
Applications can provide a glimpse into an ancestor's life and may point to friends, relatives, neighbors, coworkers, or witnesses who connect to the family story.

What they may 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 occasional photographs
- Final decisions or rulings by the Commission

Where to find it: U.S., Native American Applications for Enrollment in Five Civilized Tribes, 1898-1914. Search by name, tribe, location, and birth year; then check the original images.

Land Allotment Jackets



When a member was enrolled through the Dawes Commission, land allotment records described the parcel assigned to that person and where it was located. "Jacket" refers to the folder that held the allotment papers.

These files may contain:

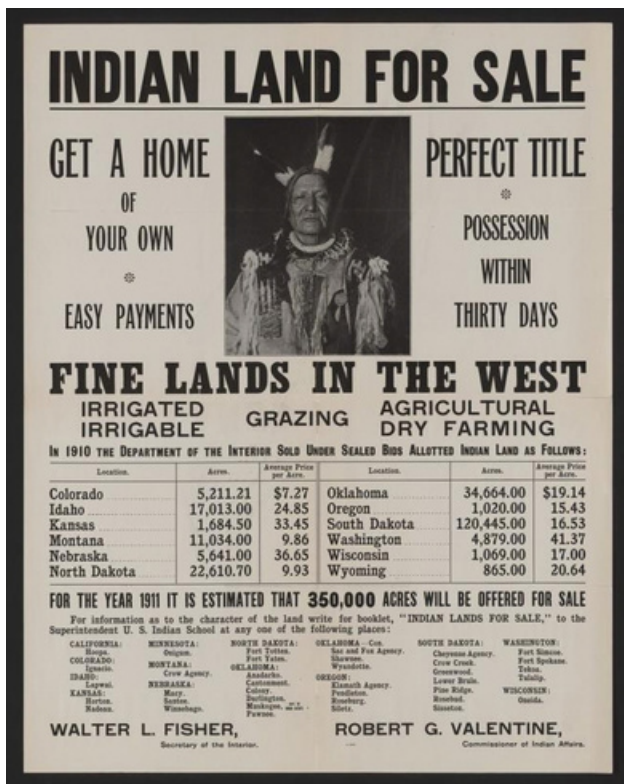
- Land allotment applications
- Maps or plats showing exact land location
- Testimonies with possible genealogical details
- Correspondence, protests, or objections
- Affidavits
- Guardianship or probate documentation
- Decisions and notices of approval or rejection

These files are distinct from the Dawes census cards. The cards summarize basic information; the allotment jackets may reveal land location, disputes, guardianship, probate, and other context around the allotment.

Search tips:

In Ancestry, select Oklahoma and Indian Territory, U.S., Land Allotment Jackets for Five Civilized Tribes, 1884-1934. Search with first and last name plus Roll Number when possible. Try name variations and always review original images.

Dawes Allotment Sale Records



Originally, allotted land had federal restrictions on sale. In May 1908, legislation lifted many restrictions and gave the Secretary of the Interior authority to remove others, allowing some Indigenous allottees to sell or lease allotted land and non-Indigenous buyers to purchase land offered for sale.

What these records may show:

- Applicant or seller name
- Enrollment number
- Tribal affiliation and degree of Indian blood
- Current residential address
- Legal land description
- Petition, approval, and sale dates
- Buyer name

Additional possibilities:

- Correspondence between the BIA, allottees, heirs, and other parties
- Maps or plats of the allotment
- Probate records if the allottee died
- Heirship documents

Search the Oklahoma, U.S., Indian Land Allotment Sales, 1908-1927 collection by land owner and property location, such as county or township/state. If no result appears, use wildcards: Mc* or Sm?th. These records are not comprehensive for every allottee or land sale.

Quick Reference Summary

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

Research Tips:

- Always check original images - they often contain more information than the index.
- Use wildcards and spelling variations.
- Focus on one direct ancestor at a time.
- Use relatives on cards and applications to confirm identity.
- No results? Check the 1900/1910 census to confirm Indian Territory residence.
- Keep Roll Number and Census Card Number in your notes as you move between collections.

Suggested workflow: OHS index -> Census card -> Application -> Allotment jacket ->

Land sale records -> broader census, probate, land, and local history research.



Located at Hardesty Regional Library

**(second floor)
8316 E. 93rd St.
Tulsa, OK 74133**

For questions:

**918-549-7691
genaskus@tulsalibrary.org**