

# The Kentucky Land Grant System

(continued)

of which were classified as "military." In the Old Kentucky grouping, the Grant was issued after June 1792. The researcher can find the grant book reference in Jillson's *Index to Kentucky Land Grants*, then obtain the patent number, in most cases, by checking the left margin of the grant. If the number is not entered, study the *Index for Old Kentucky Surveys and Grants*, also published by the Kentucky Historical Society. (NOTE: Thorough researchers will check the latter publication even if the patent number is on the grant; the Historical Society books are indexed by Survey name with a cross-index for Grant name. This gives a second source of names to research and provides "insurance" in the event the name is listed incorrectly in Jillson's book.)

## —*South of Green River Series*

This series was established by a 1795 Act of the General Assembly which opened the former Military District to settlers meeting certain requirements. The purchaser of the Warrant/Certificate had to be 21 years of age or older and a resident on the property in question for one year. An improvement, such as planting a crop or building a cabin was also required. There are over 16,600 patents filed in this series, many of which are located out of the South of Green River area and as far north as Pendleton County. Due to repeated time extensions by the General Assembly for the payment of required patent filing fees, many of these patents span several decades from the time of their inception to finalization. The South of Green River patents are often known as the "Headrights Claims."

## —*Warrants for Headrights*

Research continues on this series of land grant records. To date, it has not been determined why this grouping of 55 patents was not filed under one of the major series.

## —*Tellico Series*

This area of Kentucky was purchased from the Cherokee Indians in 1805. In 1810, the Kentucky General Assembly passed an act appropriating the land under the patent system. Confirmed residents of the area (minimum residence time of six months) were entitled to warrants of 100 to 200 acres of land at \$40.00 per 100 acres. Moneys generated from the sale of the warrants were to be used to procure arms for the state militia. In 1831, the cost was reduced to \$5.00 per 100 acres. There are 590 patents in this series; although the land is primarily located in southeastern Kentucky, there are a few exceptions.

## —*Kentucky Land Warrant Series*

By 1815, the Kentucky Land Office was issuing land patents under three separate series, namely, Old Kentucky, South of Green River, and Tellico. This undoubtedly produced an abundance of confusion as there are numerous patents which appear to be filed under an inappropriate series—land location would warrant a different series than that which was actually used. By 1815, the Kentucky General Assembly addressed the Land Office dilemma by passing an act establishing the Kentucky Land Warrant system which combined all three series. Unappropriated areas of Kentucky, with the exception of the Jackson Purchase, were eligible for land patenting with the purchase of a warrant from the Kentucky Land Office. Under the warrant's authorization, the county surveyor would then complete the survey; the warrant and survey would then be sent to Frankfort where the grant would be issued. Under this series of 26,080 patents, we see various types of warrants used. Not only are there warrants that were simply purchased in Frankfort, but there are also warrants issued to poor widows under the Act of 1820 as well as warrants issued by the General Assembly to trustees and commissioners overseeing educational institutions, building roads, or constructing bridges. Again, read the warrant to determine why it was authorized.

## —*West of Tennessee River Military Claims*

In 1818, land west of the Tennessee River, now known as the Jackson Purchase, was ceded to the United States by the Chickasaw Indians. There were, at that time, numerous Revolutionary War veterans who had settled in the area, undoubtedly to assist George Rogers Clark at Fort Jefferson in the protection of the northwest frontier. In 1820, the Kentucky General Assembly passed legislation directly affecting the newly acquired territory. Veterans were advised to apply for patents on their lands as soon as possible, and 4,000 acres of land were donated by the Commonwealth for the establishment of a town near the Iron Banks for "the benefit of the soldiers." Soldiers' patents in the Jackson Purchase may be researched by studying the "West of Tennessee River Military Claims," a group of 242 patents. If you have been unable to locate your soldier in the Virginia or Old Kentucky Series, we suggest you study this grouping before deciding he did not use his warrant.

## —*West of Tennessee River Series (Non-Military)*

Also in 1820, the Kentucky General Assembly passed legislation mandating the mapping of the Jackson Purchase into townships and sections following federal