

# Local Colonial Land Records

The acquisition of unclaimed land in this area occurred in three phases.

1. Land grants in the northern half of North Carolina were sold by the British as Granville Grants from 1727 until 1763.
2. When Lord Granville died, no more grants were sold. From 1763 until 1778, there was no process for settlers to officially purchase unclaimed land. However, many families were arriving into what is now Wilkes County. They informally claimed land by making “axe entries” and squatting on a section of land that they improved with crops and livestock.
3. In 1778, North Carolina opened the State Land Office and an entry taker was assigned in every county to facilitate the selling of unclaimed land. While land was relatively cheap at that time, it wasn’t free. Not all settlers could afford it.

View all of my Wilkes Land Grant information online with a searchable table and an interactive map.

<http://webjmd.com/wilkeslandgrants>

Access notes and more information from this presentation.

<http://webjmd.com/programs>

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