

What is a Land Grant?

- Land sold by the state to an individual
- It's the same as a deed transfer, but the seller is the government.

Not free!*

*Only a few exceptions in Wilkes County

- Establish iron works on Iredell line in 1805
- Experiment with an orchard on Brushy Mountains in 1827

What is a Land Grant?

- Multi-step process
 - Someone “enters”, or requests, vacant land with a general description
 - County issues a warrant to have the land surveyed
 - Survey is conducted to define boundaries of tract
 - Patent is issued by the state for the grant
 - Recorded in county deed book
- Process usually took 6 months to 2 years
 - Some grants were issued as much as 20 years after the entry!

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Granville Grants

1727 - 1763

- Land in the northern half of North Carolina was owned by John Carteret, 2nd Earl Granville, 7th Seigneur of Sark.
- Lord Granville sold tracts from his office.
- Interested buyers were responsible for acquiring a survey of their prospective land.



Axe Entries

1764 - 1777

- No land office.
- Permanent settlers arrived in the area of Mulberry Fields beginning in 1762.
- Continued to arrive in increasing numbers.
- “Axe Entries” were made to denote boundaries of a farm.
- Axe marks were cut into boundary trees to mark property lines. Also refers to the land cleared by axes to construct a farm.



NC State Grants

1778 - 1957

- 1776 NC declared a sovereign state.
- November 1777 NC General Assembly passed a law allowing for the purchase of land at a standard cost of £2.10.0 per 100 acres, and created a land office in every county.
- December 1777 Wilkes County was created.
- Wilkes County court first met in March 1778.
- Early 1778, first land was entered/requested in Wilkes. First land grants were issued March 1779.

NC Governors 1776-1782: Caswell, Nash, and Burke

