

## **Land Grants for Madison County, Georgia.**

This started out on a very personal level. About 40 years ago, I had abstracted all of the deeds for my families in Madison Co. I noticed that they lived and had lots of deeds along the S.W. side of the N. Broad River from its split with the S. Broad R. all the way up to Skull Shoal Creek. This was long before DeedMapper was available. All the work had to be done in pencil on velum paper, with a lot of erasing. As the work progressed, it became evident that I would need to track deeds of a few neighbors to place everything correctly.

By the time my family's deeds were placed, I was forever hooked. Eventually, the entire Collins District, which is the next district northwest going up the N. Broad R. from the Fork District (the far eastern tip of Madison Co.). (At one time the Collins District was part of the Brookline District, which is the next district west going up the S. Broad R. from the Fork District.) The Collins District was published as *Original Land Grants, 1783-1853, and Some Deeds, 1785-1890, in the Collins District, G.m. 1616, Madison Co., Georgia : Formerly a Part of Elbert County and Wilkes County, Georgia*. Then the Fork District was published as *Original Land Grants, Deeds and Early History of Fork District, Madison County, Georgia : Formerly a Part of Elbert County and Wilkes County, Georgia*.

Both of these booklets were well received, but did not make it into a lot of libraries. To remedy that situation, I recently released [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) to publish both booklets. They can be found by logging onto Family Search, then Search, Catalog, enter Madison and scroll down to Madison Co., GA, click on Land and Property and you will find both booklets.

Fast forward many years. DeedMapper made this work incredibly easier. Also, in 2005 Mary Abbe published *Index of Colonial Headright and Plats in the Georgia Archives* on CD. I managed to snag one of the last copies before it went out of print. In order to review my work or do some research on your own, you will have to visit the Georgia Archives.

Here is the best method I have found to do this work for Georgia:

### **One Person or Tract.**

If you are just trying to track one person, start by abstracting every deed to or from that person. Plat the deeds. Then, repeat the process for each person that shows up as an adjacent land owner to your target person. (Sometimes you will need to plat people adjacent to those adjacent land owners.)

### **Larger Projects**

Tax Digests are incredibly helpful at finding properties and their owners as a group. But you will need to know a good bit about the origins of the county you are researching. At one time or another portions of Madison Co. were a part of Wilkes, Elbert, Oglethorpe, Franklin, Jackson, and/or Clarke Counties! You have to know where you are in the County to track down properties prior to 1813. Fortunately, all of these counties have great tax digests.

Early Georgia tax digests list the owner of the property, along with the *original grantee* and the

adjacent owner. Early Georgia deeds often list the *original grantee*, and sometimes all or some of the previous owners. Using county deeds, county tax digests, and state plats, you can assemble and plat areas of your choosing.

Please contact me if I can help. David Robertson, [davidhr@hushmail.com](mailto:davidhr@hushmail.com)