

Burke County Land Grants
A Report to the BCGS Executive Board
by Betsy Dodd Pittman, 8 January 2004

[NOTE: The corrections to the [land grant page](#) will be made to conform to this report.
This webmaster wishes to thank the many people involved in this amazing project
--Derick S. Hartshorn, III]

As a project of the 1977 observance of the bicentennial of the formation of Burke County, Dr. Emmett R. White oversaw the making of copies of all of the extant Old Burke County land grants, in the Office of the Secretary of State, Raleigh. These papers were placed in individual grant envelopes in the files in the North Carolina Room of the Burke County Public Library, Morganton, and an alphabetical card file index was created to provide access to these land grants by name of grantee. At the same time, a series of microfiche, containing the images of the various documents, was created for potential backup copies.

Through the years, these Burke County land grants have been abstracted by several different members of the Burke County Genealogical Society and published in the *Burke County Genealogical Society Journal*. The last land grant abstracted and published was #2205, which appeared in the issue of November 2002.

Because it became apparent that several land grants for one family were recently removed from the files by researchers of that family, additional security measures are being put into place in the North Carolina Room.

First, an overall assessment of the contents of each of the 6,400 issued land grant envelopes was done by Shirley Helms, who made notes of documents missing from each envelope. This was followed by your writer's making copies, from the microforms, of missing documents, which she stamped and placed in the appropriate envelopes. She will follow up by obtaining copies, in the NC State Archives, of the three grants, 1016, 1302, and 1303, missing from the microforms and will see if better copies may be had of the plats of grants number 3554, 3577, 4412, and 4449.

In the process, it was noted that many land grant numbers are missing from the master list, which had been compiled by Derick Hartshorn, using the cards of the card file index. Numbers missing from his list should indicate cards missing from the card file index. His printed resource resides in the North Carolina Room, in the form of two lists, one alphabetically, by surname of grantee, and one numerically, by grant number, each in protective sleeves in a loose-leaf binder. Until Derick created the master listing on computer, we had no ready way to know if grants, or index cards, were missing.

Your writer made the following compilation of the 162 numbers found to be missing from the printed lists, then examined each envelope to obtain the name of the grantee.

The next step was to re-alphabetize the card index drawers, which had become fairly well jumbled (cards in wrong drawers, many out of alphabetical order, etc.) and check for the above missing numbers. All cards were found to be in the drawers, with the exception of those marked with an asterisk (*) on the following list. These cards are loose in the drawers, and some means must be devised for their permanent placement in order (such as a rod through the holes at the bottoms of the cards).

Because an inventory of the index cards for the land grants had never been done before, it is unknown how long some of these cards may have been missing. As a result,

some researchers may be unaware of the existence of land grants for surnames of interest to them. New cards have been made for the 44 missing cards and placed in the drawers.

Errors were also discovered in numbers on existing cards (the land grant file number did not get one to the grant for that person); the ones found have been corrected – there may be more.

The next step should be to correct the master list made by Derick. When this is done, the "0"s preceding grant numbers must be deleted for issued grants 1 through 999. The "0" prefix is reserved for non-issued grants. There is also a list of deletions and corrections to be made by Derick.

An alphabetical list of the non-issued grants has also been created and placed in the binder with the lists of the issued grants. These non-issued grants are seldom used by the researcher; even so, two cards were missing from the card file for these..

Final comment: several years ago, just prior to the renovation of the library, Katie Snyder and I went through the contents of the downstairs closets, where NC Room, Historical Society, and Genealogical Society materials had been stored over the years. At that time, we found several bulky envelopes of large land grants that had been stored there for an unknown reason (a space-saving move?) and not in the files in the NC Room; we placed these in the file drawers in the NC Room.

While not absolutely perfect, the latest inventory leaves the land grant files in probably the best condition they have been in, in several years. There will likely be found additional changes that can be made in the future.

<u>No.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>
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* No card was located in card file, but a new card has been made and inserted in file drawer. Persons researching these names may, or may not, know of the existence of these grants.

43	Dobson, Joseph, Sr	1779
57	Downs, Zachariah	1779
64	Dobson, Joseph, Jr.	1779
65	Doty, John	1779
*144	Brown, Samuel	1780
*160	Case, Thomas	1780
*168	Roberts, Moses	1780
181	Downs, Zachariah	1780
*207	Burchfield, Robert	1780
*285	Denton, Abraham	1780
349	M ^c Keney, James	1782
371	Downs, Zachariah	1782
389	Downs, Zachariah	1782
483	Douglas, James	1782
501	Downs, Zachariah	1782
548	Douglass, David	1783
*562	Hodges, Francis, Jr.	1783
583	Dysart, John	1783
609	Gabriel, Jacob	1783
615	Dysart, John	1783

*621	Kelton, William	1783	
*678	Dudley, John	1783	
682	Ferriss, William	1783	
*690	Hays, Henry	1783	
705	Caler, Peter	1783	
*706	Swearingin, Samuel	1783	
*707	Montgomery, Michael	1783	
*745	Avery, Waightstill	1783	
787	Dunn, Charles	1784	
*798	Coffee, John, Jr.	1784	
826	Drum, Philip	1784	
*836	M ^c Dowell, Joseph & Samuel Greenlee	1784	1784
862	Douglass, Alexander	1784	
892	Dobson, Joseph, Sr.	1787	
893	Dobson, Joseph, Sr.	1787	
*904	Burd, Benjamin	1787	
910	Dobson, Joseph, Jr.	1787	
*911	Dobson, Joseph, Jr.	1787	
912	[out of order on numerical list; found between 943 & 944]		
*932	Dobson, Joseph, Sr.	1787	
*933	Dobson, Joseph, Sr.	1787	
942	Downs, Zachariah	1787	
*981	Dickey, John	1787	
995	Downs, Zachariah	1787	
*1100	Jones, William	1788	
*1101	Jones, William	1788	
1112	Downs, Zachariah	1788	
1256	M ^c Dowell, John	1789	
*1271	Davidson, William, Jr.	1788	
1390	Baley, John	1790	
1432	Dunsmore, Samuel	1790	
1469	Dobson, Joseph, Jr.	1790	
1489	Bogle, Robert	1790	
1534	Dobson, Joseph, Jr.	1792	
1556	Dobson, Joseph, Jr.	1792	
*1629	Hinds, John	1792	
1634	Doty, John	1792	
1937	Williams, Henry	1791	
2181	Alexander, Elizabeth	1795	
*2284	Dever, William	1795	
2296	M ^c Dowell, John	1795	
2369	Antoney, Paul	1796	
*2451	Powell, George	1798	
*2553	Spradling, David	1797	
2684	Farney, Jacob	1799	
2750	Plumley, Abraham	1799	
2790	Dysard, James	1799	
2873	Beard, Lewis	1799	

2892	Dyson, William	1799	
*2970	Sullivan, Daniel	1799	
2973	Duckworth, William	1799	
2988	Rust, Enoch	1799	
3007	Dobson, Joseph	1799	
*3008	M ^c Intire, Thomas & Gov. Benjamin Williams	1800	1800
3087	Dowell, George	1802	
3118	Dobson, Joseph	1802	
3119	Dobson, Joseph	1802	
3120	Dobson, Joseph	1802	
3137	Estes, Reuben	1802	
3162	Dobson, Joseph	1802	
*3205	M ^c Gimpsey, John	1800	
*3228	Clarke, John	1800	
3244	Durham, John	1800	
*3301	Linn, David	1800	
3402	M ^c Fee, John	1801	
3453	Black, Matthew	1803	
3463	Gray, Ephraim	1803	
*3474	M ^c Gimsey, John	1803	
3573	Jeans, James	1804	[card found in empty envelope]
3643	Watts, James	1806	
3666	Dowdel, John	1807	
3689	Bird, Richard	1808	
3702	Allison, Benjamin, Jr.	1808	
3748	Gilliland, Jacob	1809	
3822	Duncan, Charles	1812	
*3835	Mashburn, William	1813	
3917	Carson, Jason	1815	
*3945	Noblett, William	1815	
4005	Duncan, John	1816	
4099	Duckworth, John	1817	
4128	M ^c Dowell, John	1818	
4135	Ellis, Jeremiah	1818	
4172	Avery, Waightstill	1818	
4197	Duckworth, Jonathan	1819	
4207	Dowell, George	1819	
4259	Duncan, Charles	1820	
4266	Duncan, James	1820	
*4300	Sudderth, John & William A. Erwin	1820	1820
4379	Downs, Aaron	1821	
4418	Dyson, William	1822	
4527	Downs, Zachariah	1826	
4530	Dorsey, Elisha	1826	
4534	Dorsey, Dimeon	1826	
4558	Duncan, James	1827	
4581	Helterbrand, Conrad	1827	
4611	Dowell, George	1827	

4681	Dyson, Jane	1828
4719	Askew, James	1829
4758	Holsclaw, Houston	1829
4797	Dysert, James	1830
4819	[(Cont'd) is out of order on numerical list]	
4853	Downs, Zachariah	1831
4867	Burleson, Aaron	1831
*4936	Burlison, Simeon	1835
*4956	M ^c Kinney, Wilson	1832
4972	Neel, John	1833
4973	Neel, John	1833
*5090	Harshaw, Jacob	1836
*5130	Humphries, William	1836
5178	Abernathy, Miles	1837
5180	Holsclaw, Houston	1837
5187	M ^c Hone, Kimble	1837
*5293	Higgins, Mills, Alberto Higgins, George Walton, Jesse T. Walton, & James C. Smith	1840
*5295	Duncan, Roland	1840
5301	M ^c Dowell, Joseph	1840
5377	Duncan, Roland	1841
*5401	Starnes, Gardner	1842
5477	Duncan, James	1844
5482	Duncan, James H.	1844
5483	Duncan, James H.	1844
5514	Duncan, John	1844
5520	Duncan, Roland	1845
*5649	Adkins, William	1855
5656	Vance, Fleming	1855
5767	Dorsey, Thomas	1859
5788	Berry, Bartlett R.	1860
*5813	Loving, G. A.	1862
5867	Smith, Jeremiah	1870
5868	Smith, J. M.	1870
5869	Smith, J. M.	1870
5870	Smith, James	1870
5965	Warlick, Philip	1876
6059	Butler, Alexander	1883
6126	Wallace, Thomas	1886
6136	Kincaid, J. Murphy	1887
6253	Drury, Frank S.	1899
6254	Drury, Frank S.	1899
6269	Drury, Frank S.	1899
6272	Drury, Frank S.	1900
6279	Drury, Frank S.	1901
6280	Drury, Frank S.	1901
6307	Drury, Frank S.	1903
6323	Drury, Frank S.	1904

6344	Drury, Frank S.	1905
6351	Crawley, George	1908