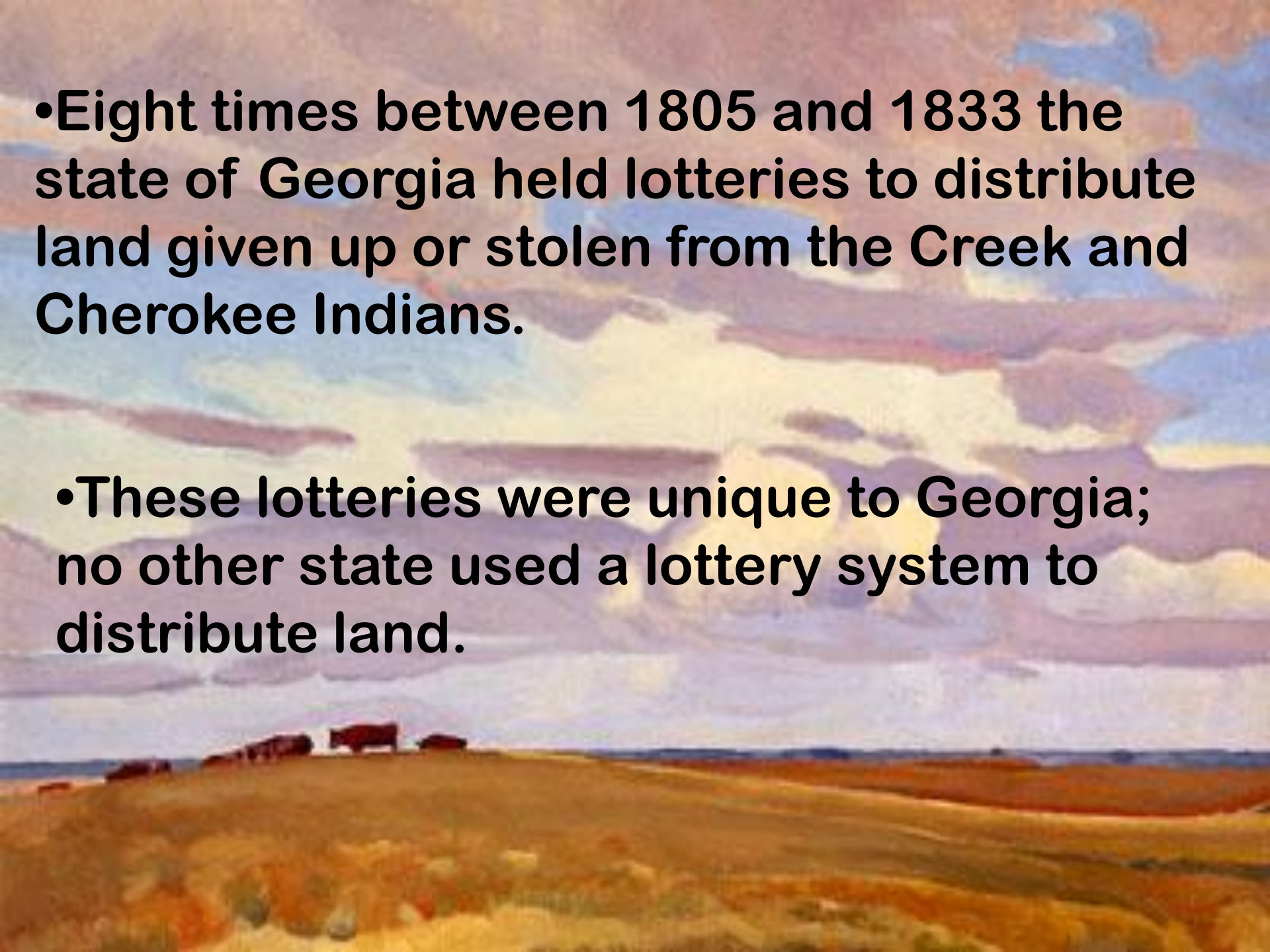


# Georgia Land Lottery



**•Eight times between 1805 and 1833 the state of Georgia held lotteries to distribute land given up or stolen from the Creek and Cherokee Indians.**

**•These lotteries were unique to Georgia; no other state used a lottery system to distribute land.**



- Lot size varied widely, even in the individual lotteries.
- The largest lots distributed were 490 acres in the 1805 and 1820 land lottery.
- The smallest lots were the 40-acre gold lots distributed during the Gold Lottery of 1832.



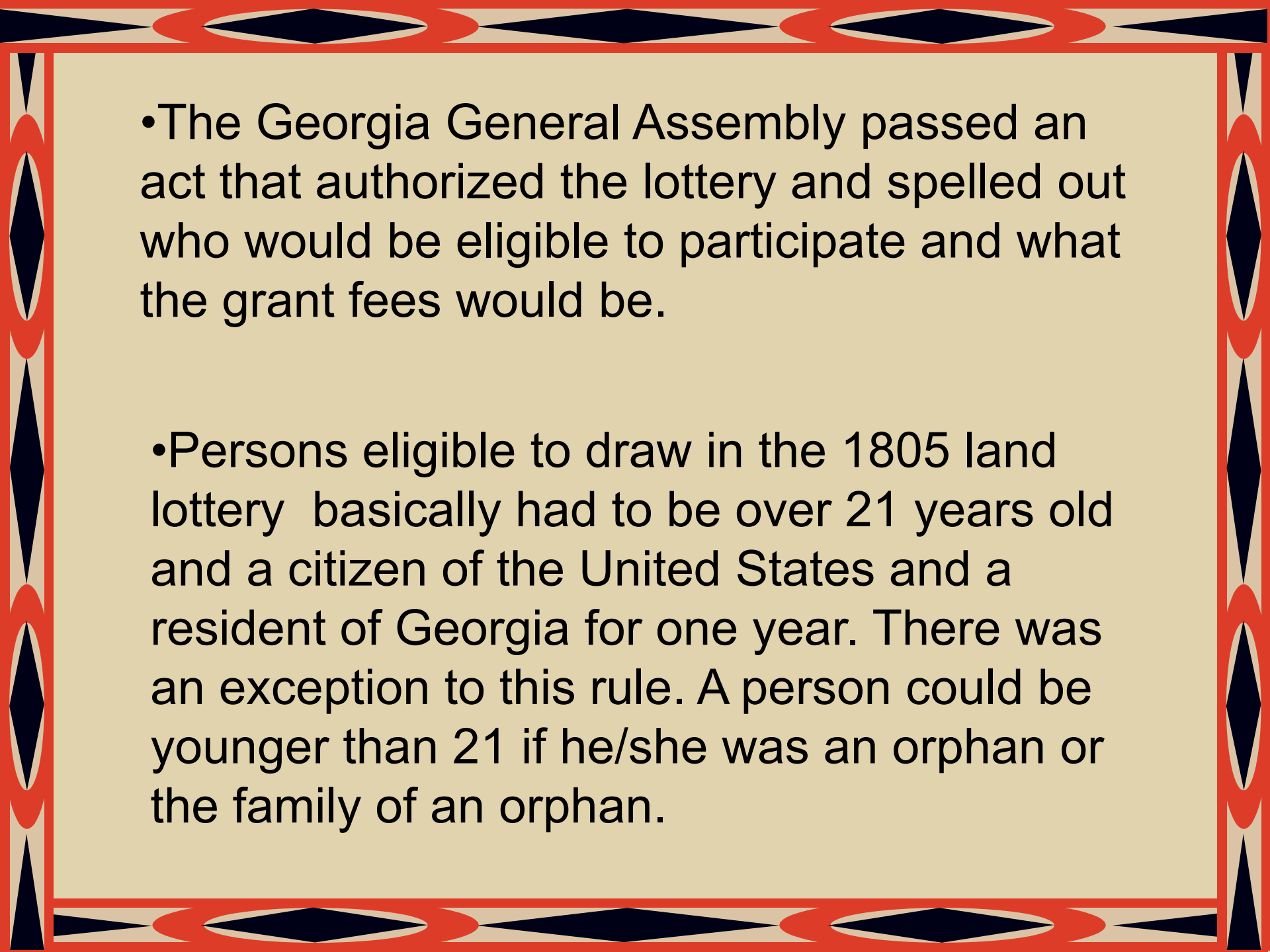
•Before 1803 Georgia distributed land based on the “Headright System” where each head of a family had the right to 200 acres of land for himself and 50 acres of land for each member of his family, up to 1000 acres.

•The “Headright System” was designed to prohibit corruption, but in fact it actually encouraged it.



- During early administrations the government abused the “Headright System” and this led to the adoption of the lottery system in May, 1803 under governor John Milledge.
- Almost 3/4 of the land in present-day Georgia was distributed under this lottery system.
- The first lottery under the new system occurred in 1805.





- The Georgia General Assembly passed an act that authorized the lottery and spelled out who would be eligible to participate and what the grant fees would be.

- Persons eligible to draw in the 1805 land lottery basically had to be over 21 years old and a citizen of the United States and a resident of Georgia for one year. There was an exception to this rule. A person could be younger than 21 if he/she was an orphan or the family of an orphan.

- The eligibility was different with each lottery and the fees were different for each lottery.



- The land to be distributed was surveyed and laid out in districts and lots. Then the surveyors sent the district and lot numbers to the governor's office.

- Eligible citizens registered their names in their county of residence and paid a small fee.

- The names were also sent to the governor's office at the state capital.

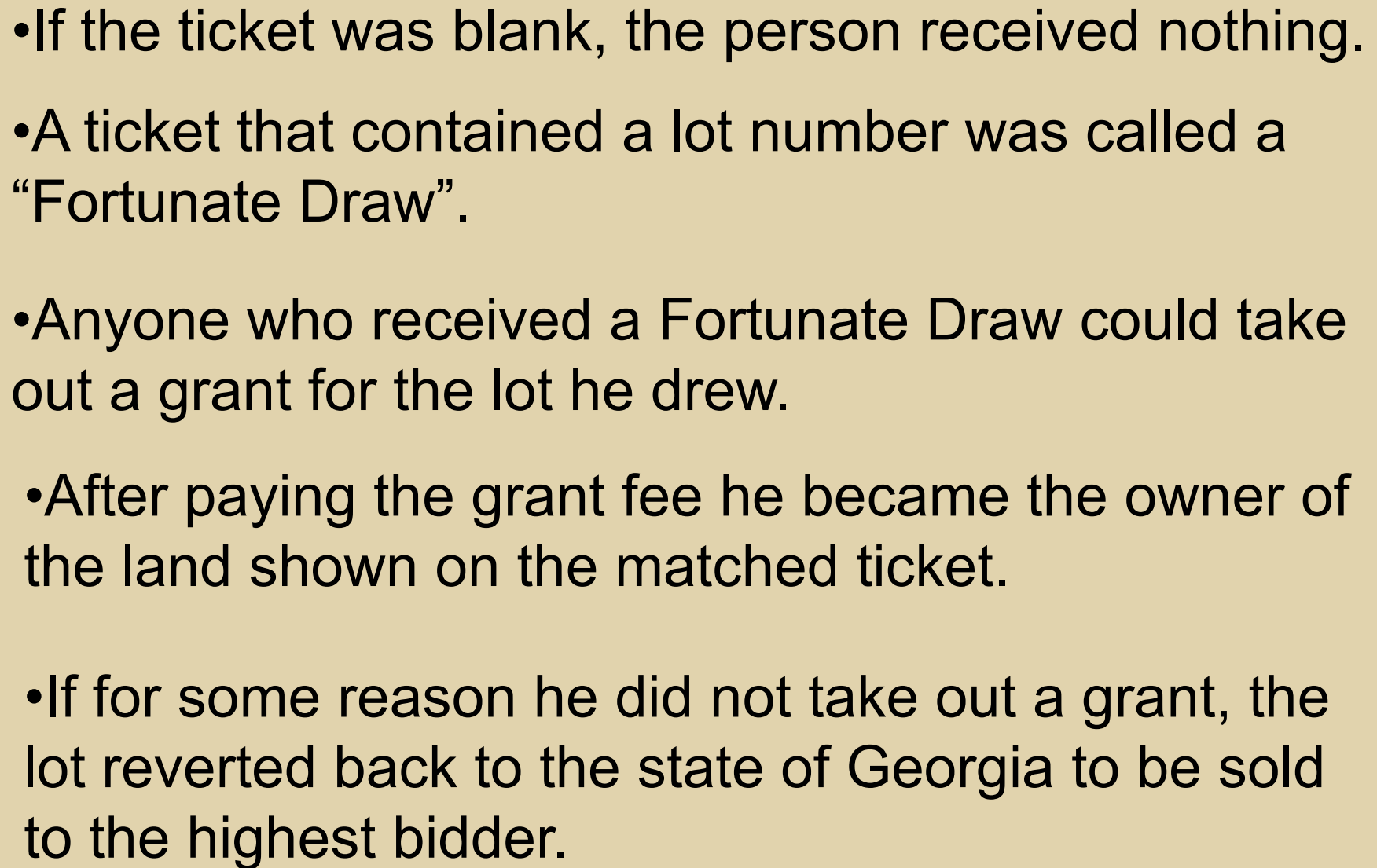
- The names were then copied onto slips of paper called “tickets” and placed in a large rotating drum called a “Wheel”.

- Tickets with land-lot numbers written on them were then deposited in a second drum.

- Both drums were spun simultaneously.

- An appointed Commissioner drew one ticket from each drum, and matched the two tickets together.



- 
- If the ticket was blank, the person received nothing.
  - A ticket that contained a lot number was called a “Fortunate Draw”.
  - Anyone who received a Fortunate Draw could take out a grant for the lot he drew.
  - After paying the grant fee he became the owner of the land shown on the matched ticket.
  - If for some reason he did not take out a grant, the lot reverted back to the state of Georgia to be sold to the highest bidder.



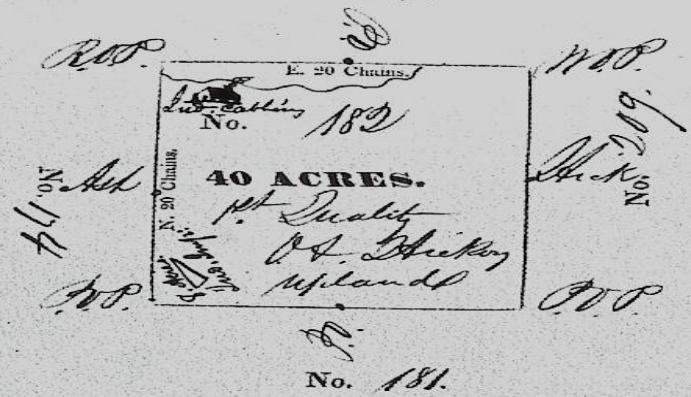
George I Parrish Jr

This lot won by Oran Davis, included a cabin and 8 acres of cleared land.

*Oran Davis Corp,  
J. D. Williams*

MAGNETIC VARIATION *S. 2* EAST

No. 180.



SCALE OF 10 CHAINS TO AN INCH.

**STATE OF GEORGIA.**

THE above plat is a representation of the tract or lot of land situate in the *first* District in the *first* Section, containing Forty Acres, and is known and distinguished in the plan of said District by the number *One Hundred and* No. Surveyed on the *25th* day of *May* 1882.

By *Ruben J. Crow* Dist. Surveyor.  
*Julius Smith*  
*George Smith* } C. C.

No 2858

\$ 150.00

# SAN LUIS VALLEY LAND CO.

## CLEARANCE RECEIPT

This is to Certify, That *Whitlock & Parsons*  
has made application for one of the 6,752 Farms or Ranches on our San Luis Valley, Colorado,  
land, and one of the 6,752 Lots in the Town to be opened on said Land, and that said party has  
made Full and Final Payment of ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY DOLLARS  
for same, and is thereby entitled to a Warranty Deed to ONE FARM or RANCH  
with PERPETUAL WATER RIGHT and a Warranty Deed to ONE LOT,  
on day of opening, as per terms and conditions in said application.

Dated at Kansas City, Mo., *MAY 23 1908*

Attest:

SAN LUIS VALLEY LAND COMPANY.

*J. J. Anderson*  
Secretary

*R. L. Martin* President

As the contracts for the land lottery were paid, a certificate was given. This receipt shows that Whitlock Parsons had fully paid his contract for one farm or ranch and one lot in the new town.



## 1805 Land Lottery

- This encompassed Creek Indian lands just west of the Oconee River given to the state in 1802. The Indians also gave a small strip of land in the southeast section of the state.

## The Second Land Lottery was in 1807

- Georgia's first land lottery proved so successful that a second land lottery was enacted to be held in 1807.
- This included additional Creek lands.





## The Third Land Lottery Held in 1820

- After the Creek War (1814), Andrew Jackson demanded that additional lands be given up from both the Creek and Cherokee Nations.

- This was land that included what is now the southern third of the state of Georgia, taken from the Creek Nation, and a section of land in northeast Georgia, taken from the Cherokee Nation.



## The Fourth 1821 Land Lottery

- This lottery was for additional lands surrendered by the Creek Nation in a treaty on June 9, 1821 called “Act of the Georgia General Assembly”.
- The fortunate drawers to this lottery could get a grant to their lot by paying a \$19.00 fee but not all could afford it.
- Some sold their claims to lots and some did nothing. Ungranted lots reverted back to the state of Georgia.

**•In 1802 Cherokee land had been promised by the federal government to the state of Georgia which afterwards refused to recognize either the Cherokee Nation or its land claims.**

**•By 1822 Georgia was pressing Congress to end Cherokee title within its boundaries. \$30,000 was eventually appropriated as payment but refused by the Indians.**

**•Then bribery was attempted but exposed, and the Cherokee responded with a law prescribing death to any Indian selling land to the whites without permission from the tribe.**

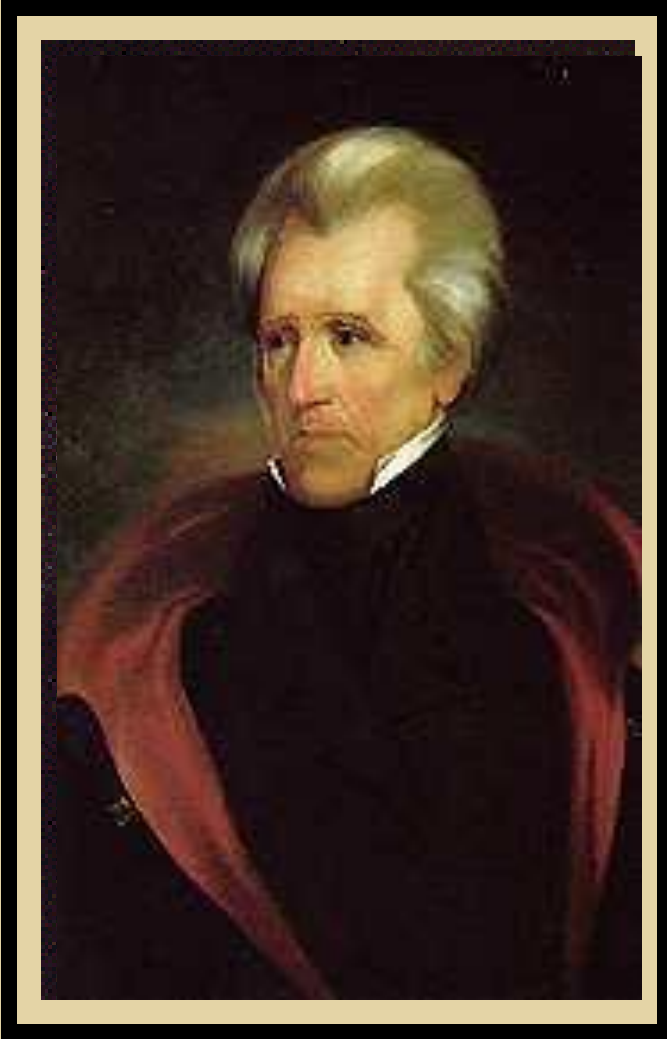


## The Fifth Georgia Land Lottery 1827



- In 1828 the Cherokees were not nomadic savages. In fact, they had assimilated many European-style customs, including the wearing of gowns by Cherokee women.
- They built roads, schools and churches, had a system of representational government, and were farmers and cattle ranchers.
- A Cherokee alphabet, the “Talking Leaves” was perfected.

# Georgia / Cherokee



- With the election of Andrew Jackson as president in 1828, the Cherokee were in serious trouble.
- Gold was discovered in 1829 on Cherokee land in northern Georgia, and miners swarmed in.
- Georgia, confident in presidential support, passed laws that Cherokees could not dig gold even on their own land.
- The Indian Removal Act was introduced in Congress in 1829.



- The Cherokee fought for their land rights in the United States courts and won their case before the Supreme Court, but the legal victories were useless.

- By June of 1830 all Cherokee laws and customs were declared null and void.
- Georgia law was established as the supreme law of the land.
- Whites had to take an oath of loyalty to Georgia.
- Cherokee land was unlawfully usurped by Georgia and sold by lottery where no Cherokee could participate.

# The Sixth Georgia Land Lottery Held in 1832



- It is sometimes called the “Cherokee Georgia Lottery” and was authorized by the United States General Assembly.

- The major difference between this lottery and the preceding five lotteries is that Georgia did not have a claim to the land it was giving away.

- The Cherokee had never given it up to the state of Georgia.



# STATE OF GEORGIA.

By His Excellency *Wilson Lumpkin* Governor and Commander  
in Chief of the Army and Navy of this State, and of the Militia thereof.

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, **GREETING:**

**Know Ye,** That in pursuance of the Act of  
the General Assembly of this State, entitled "an Act to lay out the Gold Region in the  
lands, at present in the occupancy of the Cherokee Indians, into small lots, and dispose of  
the same by separate Lottery," passed on the 24th day of December, 1831, I HAVE GIV-  
EN AND GRANTED, and by these presents DO GIVE AND GRANT, unto *Matthias*

*Manning*  
of *Agden's* District *Lander* County his  
heirs and assigns forever, all that tract or lot of land, containing forty acres, lying and being  
in the First district, of the Second section, in the county of Cherokee in said State, which  
said tract, or lot of land, is known and distinguished in the plan of said district, by the Number

*thou hundred and nine*

having such shape, form, and marks, as appear by a plat of the same hereunto annexed:

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said Tract or Lot of Land, together with all and  
singular the rights, members and appurtenances thereof, whatsoever, unto the said

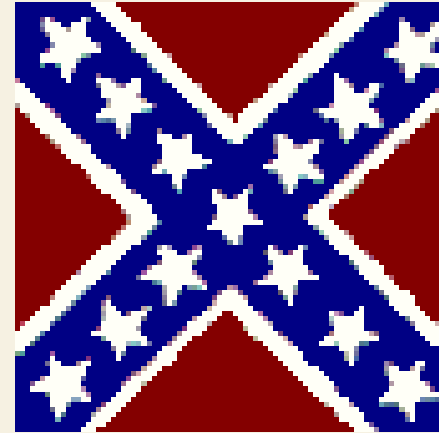
*Matthias Manning* his  
heirs and assigns; to *his* and their own proper

use, benefit and behoof forever in fee-simple.

GIVEN under my hand, and the Great Seal of the said State, this *eleventh*  
day of *December* in the year eighteen hundred and *thirty two*  
and of the Independence of the United States of America, the *fifty seventh*

SIGNED by His Excellency the Governor, this } *Wilson Lumpkin*  
*11<sup>th</sup>* day of *Dec* 18*32* } *J. H. Wallborn*  
S. E. D.

REGISTERED the *11<sup>th</sup>* day of *Dec* 18*32*



## 1832 Land Lottery

A copy of the  
"Act of the General Assembly of  
Georgia"



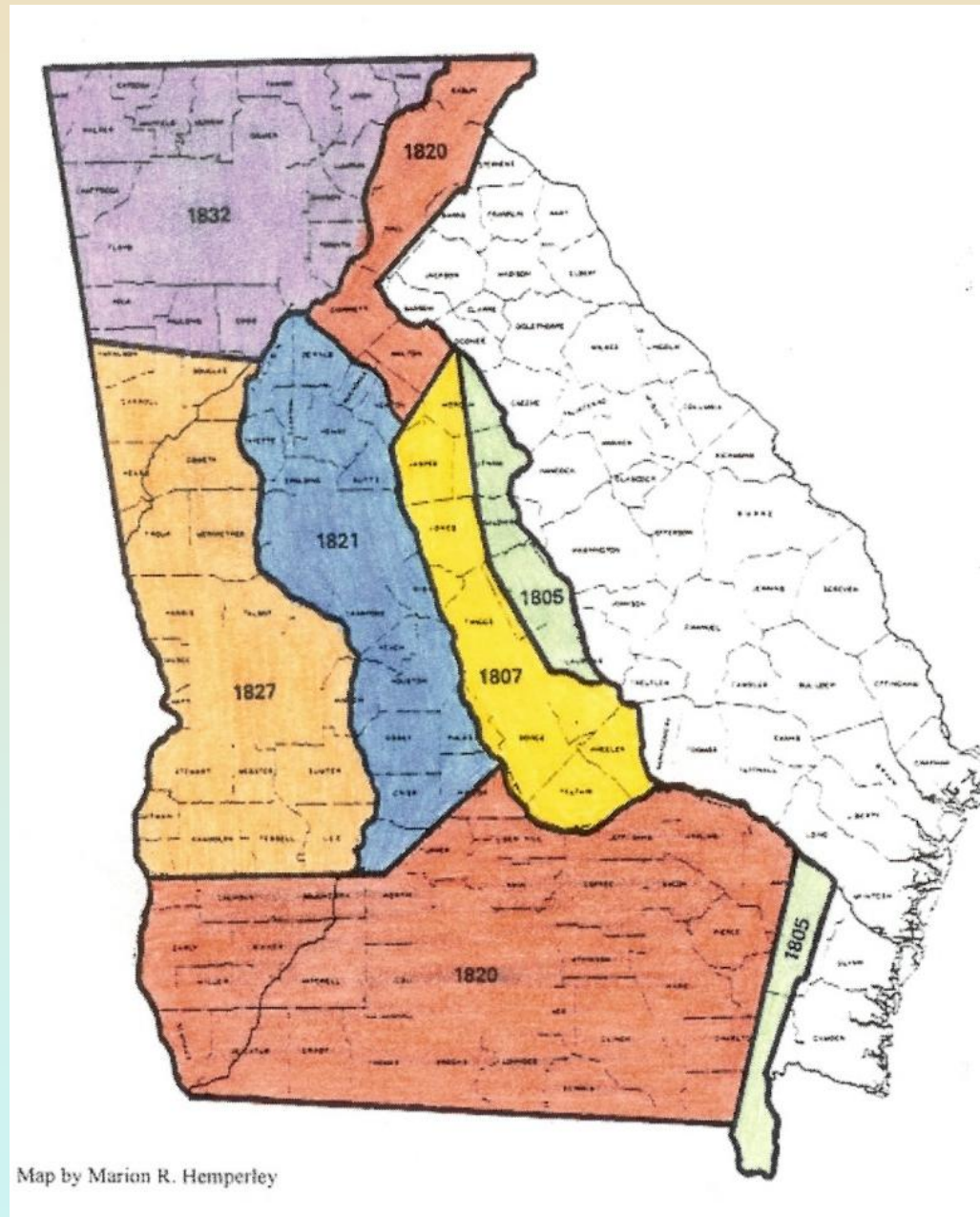
# Georgia's Seventh Gold Lottery

- December 24, 1831 is when the Georgia Gold Lottery was authorized.
- This lottery whose drawing dates were different than the Sixth Georgia Land Lottery is, for some reason, frequently combined with the earlier lottery.
- It is, in fact, totally separate.
- The date of Drawing of the Gold Lots was October 22, 1832 - May 1, 1833.



# Georgia's Eighth and Final 1833 Land Lottery

- Date of Drawing of Land Lots: December 6-7, 1833.
- Tickets representing the lots and fractional lots of fewer than 100 acres from the 1832 Land Lottery were placed in the land wheel.
- It is likely that the whole lots from earlier lotteries also were placed in the land wheel.
- Those lots from the 1832 Gold Lottery were placed in the gold wheel and in separate drawings.



Map by Marion R. Hemperley

•Lottery winners and mining companies became struck with gold fever and were absorbed by the prospect of instant riches to such an extent that the native Cherokees were regarded as less than human and their land was gambled away!



- Without federal interference, Georgia and Tennessee began a reign of terror using arrest, murder, and arson against the Cherokee.
- The effort to force Cherokees from their lands in Georgia produced the Treaty of New Echota, signed by a small fraction of the Cherokee Nation on December 29, 1835.
- The majority of the Cherokees refused to leave their homes in Georgia and sued the state of Georgia in the U.S. Supreme Court in order to prevent their removal.
- Despite protests by the Cherokee National Council and John Ross, the principal chief, the U.S. Senate ratified the Treaty of New Echota in May 1836.

- In April 1838, Ross submitted a petition containing 15,665 signatures to Congress, requesting that the United States void the Cherokee removal treaty.



- In May the War Department sent General Winfield Scott to Georgia to round up the resisting tribesmen and begin their removal.

- This began the migration known as the Trail of Tears, during which the tribe moved west, losing one quarter of its number in the process.



**•In one of the saddest episodes of our history, men, women, and children were taken from their land, herded into makeshift forts with minimal facilities and food, then forced to march a thousand (Some made part of the trip by boat in equally horrible conditions).**



**•Under the generally indifferent army commanders, human losses for the first groups of Cherokee removed were extremely high.**

**•John Ross, a champion for Indian rights and 1/8 Cherokee Indian himself, made an urgent appeal to General Scott, requesting that the general let his people lead the tribe west.**

**•General Scott agreed. Ross organized the Cherokee into smaller groups and let them move separately through the wilderness so they could forage for food.**

**•Although the parties under Ross left in early fall and arrived in Oklahoma during the brutal winter of 1838-39, he significantly reduced the loss of life among his people.**

**•About 4000 Cherokee died as a result of the removal.**

**•The route they traveled and the journey itself became known as "The Trail of Tears" or, as a direct translation from Cherokee, "The Trail Where They Cried" (*"Nunna daul Tsuny"*).**

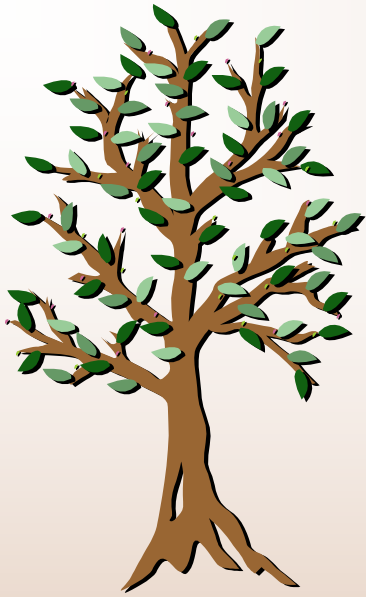


- The records of these land lotteries often can be a source of genealogy information.
- These records are a database that contain a listing of persons allotted land in 1832 from what was considered “Cherokee Land.” located in the northeastern part of the state and are especially valuable because there are not many records for that part of Georgia in the early 1800’s.
- Over 18,500 parcels of land were distributed by lottery in that year.



- Each record of this collection contains the individual's name, residence, and county.
- This record also provides the district and section number of the parcel of land.
- For researchers of early Georgian ancestors, this can be an enlightening database.





# Your Family Tree

- Land records are a valuable source for proving an ancestor's location at a specific time and often reveal parentage and other family relationships.
- Sometimes a single record will name members of several generations in a single family.
- A deed is a document that transfers land ownership interests. It may include written agreements, patents, grants, and mortgages. This is valuable information to those seeking their ancestors.

# More Information?

- To see information on persons entitled to draw and those persons that were not eligible to draw in the lottery, go to this web site:

[http://www.sos.state.ga.us/archives/what\\_do\\_we\\_have/land\\_lottery\\_1833.htm](http://www.sos.state.ga.us/archives/what_do_we_have/land_lottery_1833.htm)

- To find the names of the winners of the Georgia Land Lottery, go to “google” and type in “Georgia Land Lottery”
- Then click on the link, “Georgia USGenweb Archives-Land”, this takes you to the Georgia Archives Project.”
- Now you can click on each of the Land Lottery sites for a list of names.

# Date of First Drawing 1805

**Authority:** Act of May 11, 1803

**Grant Fee:** \$8.10 per 202 ½ acre lot & \$19.60 per 490 acre lot.

## Size of Land Lots & Counties

Baldwin County: 202 ½ acres

Wayne County: 490 acres

Wilkinson County: 202 ½ acres

## How do I find the names of the winners?

• *1805 Card File*, in records of the Georgia Surveyor General (microfilm).  
All cards are filed alphabetically. Information includes the name of each participant, county of residence, notation as to blank or prize draw, lot number, district number, and county in which the land was located.

## How do I find the names of winners (cont'd)

- 1805 Georgia Land Lottery, by Virginia S. and Ralph V. Wood. (Cambridge, Mass.: Greenwood Press, 1964.)

This book gives the names of the participants and whether they drew a blank or a prize. If the person drew two blanks, then he or she did not win any land in this lottery. This is the only lottery that lists the unfortunate drawers.

- 1805 Georgia Land Lottery: Fortunate Drawers and Grantees, by Paul K. Graham. (Decatur, Ga: The Genealogy Co., 2004.)

Includes names of fortunate drawers and grantees of reverted lots.

## Where will I find more information on the lottery?

*Georgia Land Surveying History and Law*, by Farris Cadle. (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1991.)

*The Georgia Surveyor General Department*, by Marion Hemperley. (Atlanta: Georgia Secretary of State, 1982.)

# Date of Second Drawing

## August 10, 1807- September 23, 1807

**Authority:** Act of June 26, 1806

**Grant Fee:** \$12.15 per 202 ½ acre lot

**Size of Lots:** Both Counties were 202 ½ acres lots.

Baldwin County: 15 Districts (6-20)

Wilkinson County: 23 Districts (6-28)

### How do I find the names of the winners?

The Second or 1870 Land Lottery of Georgia, comp. by Silas Emmett Lucas Jr., (Easley, S.C.: Southern Historical Press, 1986.)

### How do I find more information on the lottery?

- Georgia Land surveying History and Law, by Farris Cadle. ( Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1991.)
- The Georgia Surveyor General department, by Marion Hemperley. (Atlanta: Georgia Secretary of State, 1982.)

# Date of Third Drawing

**September 1, 1820 - December 2, 1920**

**Authority:** Act December 15, 1818; Act of December 16, 1819

**Grant Fee:** \$18.00 per land lot either size

## **Size of Land Lots & Counties**

- Appling County: 490 acres
- Early County: 250 acres
- Gwinnett County: 250 acres
- Habersham County: [Districts 1-4; 10-13] 250 acres; [Districts 5-6] 490 acres
- Hal County: 250 acres
- Irwin County: 490 acres
- Rabun County: [Districts 1; 3-5] 490 acres; [District 2] 250 acres
- Walton County: 250 acres

## How do I find the names of the winners?

*The Third and Fourth or 1820 and 1821 Land Lotteries of Georgia*, [comp. by Silas Emmett Lucas Jr.]. (Easley, S.C.: Georgia Genealogical Reprints/Southern Historical Press, 1973.)

*The Third or 1820 Land Lottery of Georgia*, comp. by Silas Emmett Lucas Jr.. (Easley, S.C.: Southern Historical Press, 1986.)

## Where will I find more information on the 1820 lottery?

*Georgia Land Surveying History and Law*, by Farris Cadle. (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1991.)

*The Georgia Surveyor General Department*, by Marion Hemperley. (Atlanta: Georgia Secretary of State, 1982.)

# Date of Fourth Drawing

## November 7, 1821 - December 12, 1821

**Authority:** Act of May 16, 1821

**Size of Land Lots:** All new (1821) counties: 202 ½ acres

**Grant Fee:** \$19.00 per Land Lot

Dooly County: 16 districts (1-16)

Fayette County: 4 districts (6,7,9,14)

Henry County: 18 districts (1-18)

Houston County: 16 districts (1-16)

Monroe County: 15 districts (1-15)

37 undrawn lots remaining from the 1820 lottery

## How do I find the names of the winners?

*The Third and Fourth or 1820 and 1821 Land Lotteries of Georgia*, [comp. by Silas Emmett Lucas Jr.]. (Easley, S.C.: Georgia Genealogical Reprints/Southern Historical Press, 1973.)

*The Fourth or 1821 Land Lottery of Georgia*, comp by Silas Emmett Lucas Jr.. (Easley, S.C.: Southern Historical Press, 1986.)

## Where will I find more information on the 1821 lottery?

*Georgia Land Surveying History and Law*, by Farris Cadle. (Athens: University of Georgia Press.)

*The Georgia Surveyor General Department*, by Marion Hemperley. (Atlanta: Georgia Secretary of State 1982)

# Date of Fifth Drawing 1827

**Authority:** Act of June 9, 1825

**Grant Fee:** \$18.00 per Land Lot

**Size of Land Lots:** All counties: 202 ½ acres

Carroll County: 16 districts (1-16)

Coweta County: 9 districts (1-9)

Lee County: 13 districts (1-13)

Muscogee County: 24 districts (1-24)

Troup County: 12 districts (1-12)

## **How do I find the names of the winners?**

*Reprint of Official Register of Land Lottery of Georgia 1827*, comp. by Martha Lou Houston; index prepared by Silas Emmett Lucas Jr.. (Easley, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1986.)

## **Where do I find more information on the lottery?**

*Georgia Land Surveying History and Law*, by Farris Cadle. (Athens: University of Georgia Press.)

*The Georgia Surveyor General Department*, by Marion Hemperley. (Atlanta: Georgia Secretary of State 1982)

# Date of Sixth Land Drawing 1832

**Authority:** Act of December 21, 1830  
Act of December 24, 1831

**Size of Land Lots:** 160 acres

**Grant Fee:** \$18.00 per Land Lot

**Counties:** The original Cherokee Indian territory became Cherokee County by an Act of December 26, 1831. A law passed on December 3, 1832, divided original Cherokee County into ten counties: Cass (renamed Bartow), Cherokee, Cobb, Floyd, Forsyth, Gilmer, Lumpkin, Murray, Paulding, and Union. In the drawing of tickets and in the granting of the land, the area was treated only as Cherokee territory. It was divided between land lots distributed by the sixth land lottery and “gold” lots that were distributed by the seventh land lottery.

**Sections and Land Districts:** The territory was so expansive that Cherokee County was divided into four sections, and each section was divided into districts. There were a total of 60 land districts, and each was divided into land lots. Fractional lots of 100 acres and more were counted as whole lots.

## **How do I find the names of the winners?**

The Cherokee Land Lottery containing a Numerical List of the Names of the Fortunate Drawers in Said Lottery with an Engraved Map of Each District, by James F. Smith; new material by Silas Emmett Lucas Jr., (New York; Harper and Bros., 1838; repr. Greenville, S.C.: Southern Historical Press, 1991.)

## **Where will I find more information on the lottery?**

Georgia Land Surveying History and Law, by Farris Cadle. (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1976).

The Georgia Surveyor General Department, by Marion Hemperley. (Atlanta: Georgia Secretary of State, 1982.)

# Date of Seventh Gold Lottery Drawing October 22, 1832-May 1, 1833

**Authority:** Act of December 24, 1831

**Size of Gold:** Lots: 40 Acres

**Grant Fee:** \$10.00 per lot

This act mandated that approximately a third of the 160-acre land districts to be laid out under the act of December 21, 1830, be designated as gold districts of 40 acres each and to be distributed in a separate lottery.

## Counties

The original Cherokee Indian territory became Cherokee County by an Act of December 26, 1831. A law passed on December 3, 1832, divided original Cherokee County into ten counties: Cass (renamed Bartow), Cherokee, Cobb, Floyd, Forsyth, Gilmer, Lumpkin, Murray, Paulding, and Union. In the drawing of tickets and in the granting of the land, the area was treated only as Cherokee territory. It was divided between land lots distributed by the sixth land lottery and “gold” lots that were distributed by the seventh land lottery.

## Sections and Land Districts

The territory was so expansive that Cherokee County was divided into four sections, and each section was divided into districts. There were 33 gold districts, and each was divided into gold lots.

### First Section

Districts 1-5, 11-15

### Second Section

Districts 1-3, 15-19, 21

### Second Section

Districts 1-3, 15-19, 21

### Third Section

Districts 1-4, 17-21

### Fourth Section

Districts 1-3, 16-17

## How do I find the names of the winners?

*Alphabetical Index to Georgia's 1832 Gold Lottery*, by Mary Bondurant Warren. (Danielsville, Ga.: Heritage Papers, 1981.)

## Where will I find more information on the lottery?

*Georgia Land Surveying History and Law*, by Farris Cadle. (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1991).

*The Georgia Surveyor General Department*, by Marion Hemperley. (Atlanta: Georgia Secretary of State, 1982.)

**Date of Eighth Drawing of Land Lots and Gold Lots**  
**Land Lots—December 6 and December 7, 1833**  
**Gold Lots—December 9-13, 1833**

**Authority:** Act of December 24, 1832

**Grant Fee:** \$18.00 per lot

**Counties:** Original Cherokee territory and a handful of land lots not placed in the prize wheels during earlier lotteries.

**Size of Land Lots and Gold Lots:** Lots varied in size, but the fractional lots from the 1832 Land Lottery were fewer than the 100 acres specified in the laws authorizing that lottery. Fractions result from irregular boundaries that prevent measurements in square lots.

## **Sections and Districts:**

- Fractional lots of fewer than 100 acres from the 60 land districts and 33 gold districts.
- Twenty-two undrawn lots from the previous Cherokee lotteries.

Tickets representing lots and fractions from the 1832 Land Lottery were placed in the land wheel and those from the 1832 Gold Lottery in the gold wheel. They were distributed in separate drawings. It is likely that the whole lots from earlier lotteries also were placed in the land wheel.

## **How do I find the names of the winners?**

*The 1833 Land Lottery of Georgia and Other Missing Names of Winners in the Georgia Land Lotteries*, by Robert S. Davis Jr.. (Greenville, S.C.: Southern Historical Press, 1991.)

*Milledgeville, Georgia, Newspaper Clippings (Southern Recorder), Vol. 3, 1833-1835*, by Tad Evans. (Savannah: the Author, 1996.)

## **Where will I find more information on the lottery?**

*Georgia Land Surveying History and Law*, by Farris Cadle. (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1991.)