



AMERICAN GENEALOGY
SPECIAL TOPICS SERIES

**WORKING WITH DEEDS
SYLLABUS**

NGS Special Topics Series
WORKING WITH DEEDS SYLLABUS

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Working with Deeds is available as a downloadable National Genealogical Society course. For more information about the course and registration, see <http://ngsgenealogy.org/Courses> or e-mail courses@ngsgenealogy.org.

Objectives of the Course

Process

Lesson 1. What is a Deed?

What types of deeds are there?

- ✓ Warranty deed
- ✓ Quitclaim deed
- ✓ Deed of trust
- ✓ Deed of gift
- ✓ Sheriff's deed
- ✓ Lease and release

What other types of documents are associated with research in deeds?

- ✓ Dower release
- ✓ Mortgage
- ✓ Lease
- ✓ Bill of sale
- ✓ Plat and plat book
- ✓ Land ownership maps
- ✓ Acknowledgments

Self Test 1. Define the terms

Answers to Self Test 1. Define the terms

Lesson 2. What Information Will You Find in Deeds?

Place of residence

Personal identity

Family relationships

Dates of marriage and death



Self Test 2. Information in deeds

Answers to Self Test 2. Information in deeds

Lesson 3. How Do You Locate Deeds and Other Local Land Records?

Step 1. Using indexes

- ✓ Indexes in courthouses
- ✓ Microfilm
- ✓ Published abstracts and indexes

Step 2. Selecting the deeds you want

Step 3. Obtaining the deeds

- ✓ Original records, going on site
- ✓ Microfilm
- ✓ Mail

Self Test 3. Locating deeds and other local land records

Answers to Self Test 3. Locating deeds and other local land records

Lesson 4. How Do You Transcribe and Abstract a Deed?

How do you transcribe a deed?

How do you abstract a deed?

Self Test 4. Transcribing and abstracting deeds

Answers to Self Test 4. Transcribing and abstracting deeds

Lesson 5. How Do You Evaluate the Evidence in Land Records?

What type of deed is this?

How long after the deed was made was it recorded?

How was the property acquired?



Is there a dower release?

Who else is named in this document?

Can you locate the property on a map?

Analysis example

- ✓ Item 1. Land purchase deed
- ✓ Item 2. Quitclaim deed
- ✓ Item 3. Quitclaim deed
- ✓ Item 4. Mortgage
- ✓ Census
- ✓ Item 5. Land purchase deed
- ✓ Item 6. Land sale deed
- ✓ Item 7. Land sale deed
- ✓ Item 8. Land purchase and quitclaim deed
- ✓ Item 9. Land sale deed

Self Test 5. Evaluating the evidence in deeds

Answers to Self Test 5. Evaluating the evidence in deeds.

Lesson 6. Citing Deeds

Example for note-taking

Citation example (for a full reference note)

Further study and reference

Self Test 6. Citing deeds

Answers to Self Test 6. Citing deeds

Conclusion

Glossary

Reading and Reference List