

**Bulletin**

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**THE ITAWAMBA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

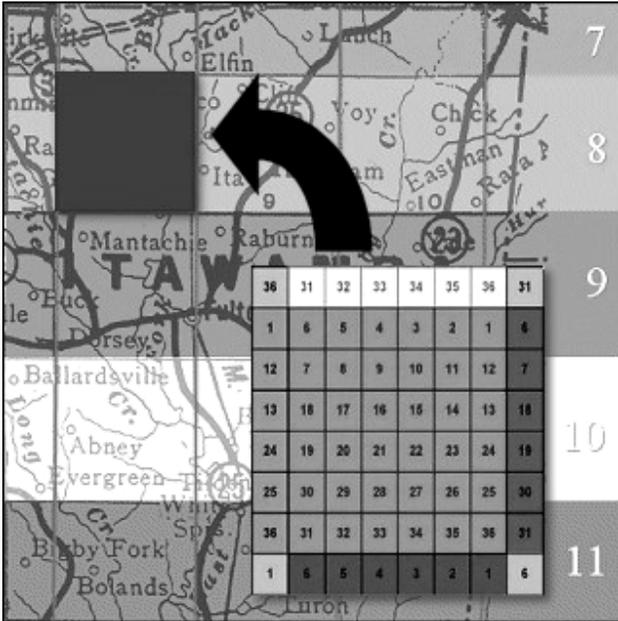
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Technical Bulletin

*Plotting your  
Ancestors' Deeds*



illustrations below along with the township and range map above you can pinpoint your ancestor's land in even more detail.



36	31	32	33	34	35	36	31
1	6	5	4	3	2	1	6
12	7	8	9	10	11	12	7
13	18	17	16	15	14	13	18
24	19	20	21	22	23	24	19
25	30	29	28	27	26	25	30
36	31	32	33	34	35	36	31
1	6	5	4	3	2	1	6

For instance if your ancestor's land was listed as in Section 5 of Township 9, Range 8, by using the above illustration and the county township map, you can learn that your

ancestor lived in the Mantachie community of Itawamba County. First find the Township formed by the intersection of Township 9 and Range 8. Then locate section 5 on the above Township map to find the general location within the Township where the property is located.

Now lets use a real-life example from Deed Book 2 located in the Itawamba County Chancery Court Clerk's office:

*William H. Toomer of Itawamba County sold to Joshua Toomer of Itawamba County the southwest quarter of Section 22 and the northwest quarter of Section 27 in Township 9*

*South, Range 8 East on 21 August 1838 for \$1,000: DB2/005*

First, lets find the township 9 strip of land and then find the Range 8 strip of land by using the county township map. The 6 mile square area where the Township and Range intersect will be the Township area of the property. By doing this we learn that the property was in the 6 mile square area where Mantachie and Dorsey communities are located, west of the Tombigbee River. Now lets look at where the Section is located using the township-section map to the left. Section 27 is located in the lower right area of the Township which will be a few miles east of the Dorsey community. Joshua Toomer bought the southwest quarter of Section 22 and the northwest quarter of section 27.

By looking at the township-section map, we see that all of this land joined (the southwest quarter of Section 22 and the northwest quarter of 27 are adjacent to each other). Section 22 is above and joins Section 27. Since a section of land is 640 acres and he purchased two quarter sections, the total acres purchased was 320 acres.

### *Putting it all together*

One of the best map references to use with plotting old deeds is the US Geological Survey topographic map. These maps are very detailed and show the various section, township and range numbers. These maps also show various features including rivers, creeks, cemeteries, schools, towns and much, much more. These maps may be purchased from various distributors or they may be viewed free of charge on the internet. Topo Zone is an excellent online resource for viewing topographic maps.

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