

Excerpts from "Map Compiled of Original Land Grants in Davie"
Davie Enterprise, 23 June 1977

When Andrew Lagle of Mocksville decided to compile a map of all the original land grants in Davie County, he expected to spend two to three months doing it. The months became years and now, almost five years later, Lagle has the map complete.

Miss Flossie Martin was responsible for Lagle undertaking such a task from the beginning, but he thought it would be fairly simple.

"Miss Flossie wanted to know the original land grants here in Mocksville," said Lagle. This job was quite easy and Lagle thought tracing land grants for the county would be just as easy – only more of them. Miss Flossie and Miss Pink Tatum of Salisbury offered their help and Lagle agreed to piece all the original land grants together, completing a map of Davie County.

Noted for being one of Davie's greatest History buffs, Miss Flossie was forever getting requests from individuals wishing to trace their heritage back to the original land grants. And when her good friend, Pink Tatum, offered to do the transcribing from Rowan County (Davie was once a part of Rowan), the task seemed time-consuming... but easy enough.

However, the job not only involved Davie and Rowan, but grants were traced to Anson and Bladen Counties...all the way to the beginning of Davie's first settlers.

Aerial photos were used as a guide. Lagle says that even after 200 years, the old original land grant boundaries are still visible. The reason for this he says is because trees were never cut on each side of the old original boundaries and over the years they grew too big to cut.

"I used to wonder when I was flying what caused those distinct lines," Lagle added.

Indirectly, Lagle says that all land grants came from the King of England. "In 1743 King Charles gave 13 Lord Proprietors land to sell, one of which was Lord Granville and he would not sell his grants back to the King. Lord Granville sold it off in individual grants."

Then in 1780, Lagle says the state took over and honored all original land grants.

He says that before the Revolution, land grants were never surveyed. The oldest grants were along the Yadkin River, the central and Northeast side of the county.

In order to compile the map, Lagle says he started at the present day and went back to the original owner. "We started at the River and platted off to the Yadkin County line. To scale, the map is one inch to 4,000 feet.

Although there were a lot of people here, he says they didn't take grants until the 1780s and 1790s. "In fact there was a lot of vacant land."

"During the 1789s the legislature passed a law that you had to file deeds in the county they were in," he said. Therefore, he found some land grants filed in Raleigh that had not been filed in Davie County.

"There were land grants filed here in Mocksville as late as 1905," he says. This was land where people had lived and later died and no one owned it.

There is one little piece of land, Lagle pointed out on his map, which Ebenezer Frost had a grant for. "Part of it is still Frost land and goes back seven or eight generations."

Most original grants were 80 square chains, which is equivalent to one square mile, Lagle says, but some of it was odd shaped.

The old Dutchman Creek Baptist Church Roll (which later became Eaton's Baptist) was a big help to Lagle, Miss Flossie, and Miss Pink. He says people from all over the county and many others were on that roll.

Lagle says he has probably put several thousand hours into this project. "Sometimes I'd work maybe eight hours on Saturday...I would just lose myself in it."