

Why Deeds are Important to the Genealogist

It is essential for the genealogist to search the deed records in the county where his ancestors resided. The reason is to learn what State and County he came from beforehand and other pertinent details. The following 1769 deed in Nansemond County reveals a great deal about Thomas Gregorie.

"11 Dec 1769 Thomas Gregory and his wife sold to Edward Wright 150 acres bounded by Nansemond River on one side, by a creek between him (Gregorie) and David Osheal on the other, thence by natural bounds up a branch dividing it from the lands of Gresham Coffield, orphan of Daniel Coffield, deceased, according to the meanders of said branch, then by two marked trees to the end which is an oak standing near house of Joseph Jones and upon the main road, thence from the said oak upon a line of marked trees, various courses between the said land and the land of Captain Miles King to a marsh; thence through that marsh to the said river, being the first station."

It is possible to trace ancestors from the very moment they entered the country using deed records and tax digests of every place that they resided.