

The government land patents looked like the example image below:

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CERTIFICATE
No. 8803

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

To all to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting:

WHEREAS *Hughes Smith of Madison County Alabama*

has deposited in the **GENERAL LAND OFFICE** of the United States, a Certificate of the REGISTER OF THE LAND OFFICE of *Monteville Hughes Smith* whereby it appears that full payment has been made by the said *Hughes Smith* according to the provisions of the Act of Congress of the 24th of April, 1820, entitled "in Act making further provision for the sale of the Public Lands," for the South East quarter of the South west quarter of fractional Section One, in Township Five, of Range One west, in the District of Lands subject to Sale at *Monteville Alabama*, containing *Four* acres, and *Nine* tenths and *Eight* hundredths of an acre.

according to the official plat of the survey of the said Lands, returned to the General Land Office by the SURVEYOR GENERAL, which said tract has been purchased by the said *Hughes Smith*

NOW KNOW YE, That the United States of America, in consideration of the Premises, and in conformity with the several acts of Congress, in such case made and provided, HAVE GIVEN AND GRANTED, and by these presents DO GIVE AND GRANT, unto the said *Hughes Smith* and to his heirs, the said tract above described: ~~TO HAVE AND TO HOLD~~ the same, together with all the rights, privileges, immunities, and appurtenances of whatsoever nature, thereunto belonging, unto the said *Hughes Smith* and to his heirs and assigns forever.

In Testimony Whereof, *Martin Van Buren* PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, have caused these Letters to be made PATENT, and the SEAL of the GENERAL LAND OFFICE to be hereunto affixed.

WITNESSE under my hand, at the CITY OF WASHINGTON, the *twelfth* day of *September* in the Year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and *thirty eight* and of the INDEPENDENCE OF THE UNITED STATES the Sixty *third*.

BY THE PRESIDENT: *Martin Van Buren*
By *A. Van Buren* Sec'y.
Geo. J. Wilson Acting Recorder of the General L. Office
a. d. [illegible]