Cluster A — The Owens Creek / Whiteside Creek Network

Research Summary: Ten Kentucky Land Grants on the Tradewater River, Henderson (later Hopkins) County, 1799–1821

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Summary

Ten Kentucky land grants south of Green River, surveyed between 1799 and 1807 on Owens Creek, Whiteside Creek and nearby branches of the Tradewater River, fit together on the ground as one block. Their surveys share corners, run along each other's lines, and name each other as adjoining owners. Three of them name Willis Ralls (written "Willis Rolls") as chain carrier in 1806 — his earliest known appearances in Kentucky — and every record of his first two years there places him on William Owen's land or at Owen's side.

Each grant has been checked against the original certificate, survey, receipt and patent images, and has its own page with the images, a full abstract, a DeedMapper entry and a downloadable report. This summary brings the ten together: what they record, how they fit, who appears in them, and what remains open.

The Ten Grants

Listed by survey date. Jillson refers to Willard Rouse Jillson, *The Kentucky Land Grants* (1925), "South of Green River."

KLG	Patentee	Acres	Surveyed	Patented	Chain carriers	Jillson
3395	James Wilson (assignee of Simon Kuykendall; claimant Edmund Jones)	200	2 Oct 1799	31 Jan 1809	William Stuart, William Owen	p. 433
2890	William Stuart	200	21 Jun 1800	7 Jul 1806	Will Owen, Simon Kuykendall	p. 403 ("Stewart")
8147	Samuel Whitesides	400	22 Mar 1805	8 Dec 1812	Joseph Henderson, William Whitesides	p. 438
8148	William Whitesides	254	22 Mar 1805	29 Nov 1821	Moses French, Joseph Henderson	p. 438
4998	William Owen	200	24 Mar 1805	15 Aug 1807	William Whitesides, Joseph Henderson	p. 380
4999	William Owen (assignee of John Robertson)	200	24 Mar 1805	15 Aug 1807	Joseph Henderson, William Whitesides	p. 380
5352	Jesse Walker (assignee of William French; claimant Charles Kelley)	200	25 Jul 1806	22 Jan 1812	William Owen, Willis Ralls	p. 427
5341	William Owen (assignee of Justinian Cartwright; claimant Jeremiah Holcomb)	150	11 Nov 1806	6 Mar 1810	Willis Ralls, John McCormack	p. 380 ("Owings")
5342	John McCormack (assignee of William Owen; claimant Jeremiah Holcomb)	50	11 Nov 1806	18 Oct 1814	Willis Ralls, John McCormack	p. 372
8126	William Owen (assignee of Joseph Henderson)	270	14 Feb 1807	7 Dec 1808	Samuel Whitesides, Moses French	p. 380

Record pages: https://rallsdna.com/kentucky-land-grants/ (each grant at …/klg-NNNN/, for example …/klg-2890/).

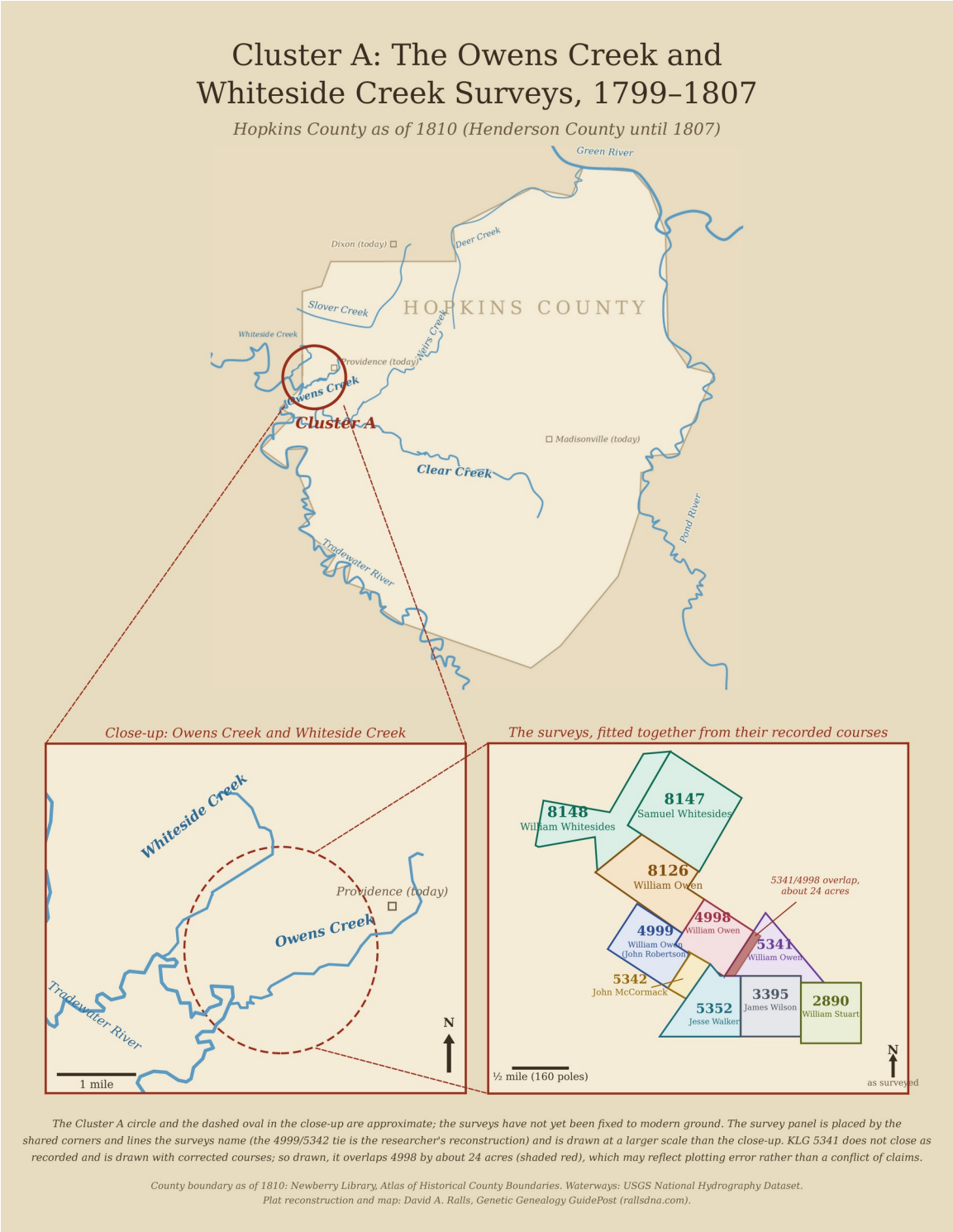

Figure 1. Cluster A in Hopkins County as of 1810, with a close-up of Owens Creek and Whiteside Creek and the ten surveys fitted together. The circle and oval are approximate; the surveys have not yet been fixed to modern ground.

How the Surveys Fit Together

The ten surveys were placed using only the corners and lines their own calls name:

- 8147 (Samuel Whitesides) and 8148 (William Whitesides) share a 252.9-pole line, with the same corner trees recorded at both ends.

- 8126 begins “on a Hickory & White Oak in Samuel Whitesides line, also corner to William Whitesides,” a corner of 8148 one-fifth of the way along 8147’s line, and ends at “John Robertson’s corner,” the beginning of 4999.
- 4999 runs “along William Owen’s line” around a corner of 4998. As an independent check, 8126’s “William Owen’s Corner, hickory and dogwood” and 4998’s “hickory and dogwood in Calvin Merry’s line” fall at the same point.
- 5342 shares two corners with 4999, and its fourth corner is the beginning of Jesse Walker’s 5352 (“Walker’s 200-acre survey”). An 1815 deed sold 4999 and 5342 together as one 150-acre parcel.
- 5352 begins “in a line of William Owen’s 200-acre survey” (4998 in the reconstruction; the record does not say which of Owen’s two 200-acre surveys) and runs to “two ashes, corner of James Wilson’s 200-acre survey,” the corner of 3395; the two surveys share the next line north.
- 2890 (William Stuart) begins 20 poles south of 3395’s beginning corner, on its east line. 5341, drawn with corrected courses, closes on 3395’s beginning corner and passes through 2890’s, calling for “Stuart’s line” and “Wilson’s line.”

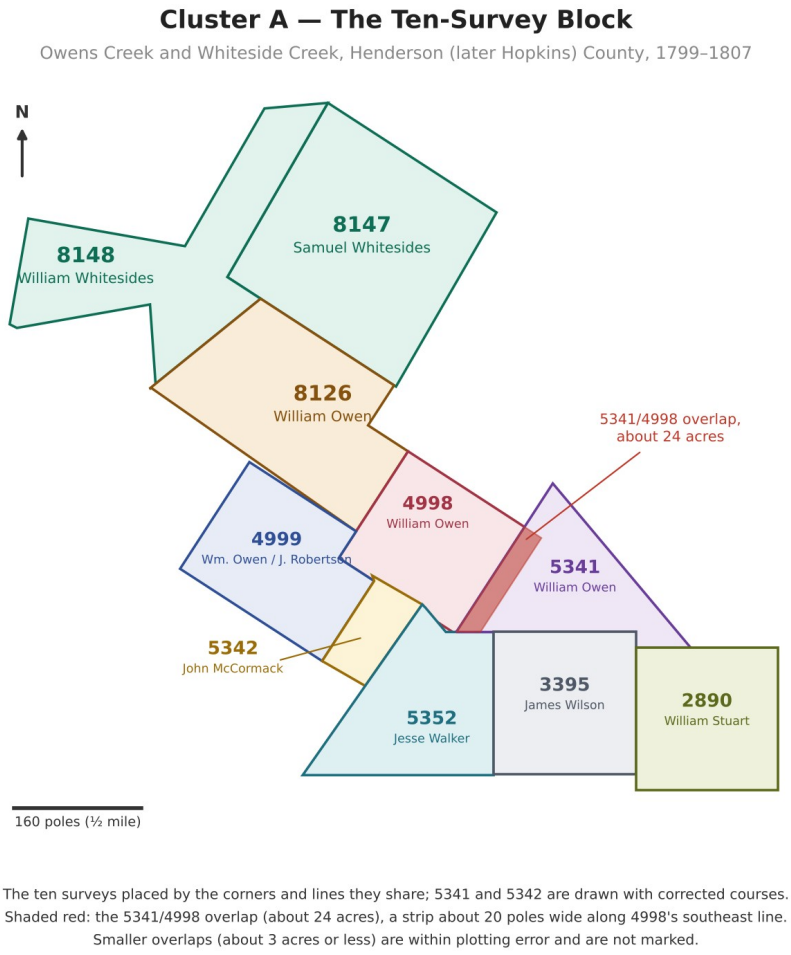

Figure 2. The ten surveys of Cluster A fitted together from their recorded courses. Shaded red: the 5341/4998 overlap discussed below.

The fit is close. Overlaps of about 2.8 acres (5342/4998), 2.5 acres (5352/4998) and 0.5 acre (5341 with 5352 and 3395) are within ordinary plotting error. One is larger: 5341 overlaps 4998 by about 24 acres, in a strip about 20 poles wide. 5341 begins “in a line of said Owen’s former survey” and runs “with Calvin Merry’s line,” which points to 4998 as that former survey, although the record does not say so. The overlap is best

read as error accumulated through the chain of surveys, or in 5341's corrected courses, rather than as conflicting claims.

Willis Ralls in the Records

Willis Ralls first appears on 25 July 1806 as a chain carrier, with William Owen, on Jesse Walker's survey (5352). On 11 November 1806 he carried the chain again, with John McCormack, on Owen's two surveys on Owens Branch (5341 and 5342), with Owen marking the trees. In 1807 and 1808 he was taxed on 100 acres of third-rate land on the Tradewater "entered and surveyed by William Owen," and in June 1808 he witnessed Owen's deed to John McCormack. These are direct textual facts. Why Willis came to Owen's land, and how the two men were connected, is not stated in any record found so far.

People in the Records

Everyone below appears in at least one of the ten grant files. Roles are as the records state them; no family relationships are implied.

Name	Appears as
William Owen	4998 claimant, marker and patentee; 4999 assignee and patentee; 8126 assignee and patentee; 5341 assignee, marker and patentee; 5342 marker and assignor; chain carrier on 3395 (1799), 2890 (1800, "Will Owen") and 5352 (1806); witness to the French–Walker assignment
Willis Ralls	Chain carrier (written "Willis Rolls") on 5352 (25 Jul 1806), 5341 and 5342 (both 11 Nov 1806)
Samuel Whitesides	8147 claimant, marker and patentee; chain carrier on 8126; witness to the Henderson–Owen assignment; adjoiner of 8148 and 8126
William Whitesides	8148 claimant, marker and patentee; chain carrier on 8147, 4998 and 4999; marker on 8126
Joseph Henderson	8126 original claimant, assigned to Owen 1807; chain carrier on 8147, 8148, 4998 and 4999
Moses French	Chain carrier on 8148 and 8126
William French	Assignor of 5352 to Jesse Walker; adjoiner of 8148
Jesse Walker	5352 patentee; adjoiner of 5342 ("Walker's 200-acre survey")
John McCormack	5342 patentee (assignee of Owen, 3 Aug 1807); chain carrier on 5341 and 5342
Justinian Cartwright	Assignor of the certificates behind 5341, 5342 and 5352
John Robertson	4999 original claimant, assigned to Owen; adjoiner of 8126
Calvin Merry	Adjoiner of 4998, 5341 and 8126 (written "Marry")
William Stuart	2890 claimant and patentee; assignee and assignor of the 3395 certificate and chain carrier on it; adjoiner of 5341
Simon Kuykendall	3395 surveyed for him (assignee of Stuart); chain carrier on 2890
James Wilson	3395 patentee (assignee of Kuykendall, 1807); adjoiner of 5352 and 5341
Edmund Jones; James Jones	Original claimants of 3395 (Edmund) and of Stuart's other tract, 2568 (James)
Charles Kelley; Jeremiah Holcomb	Original claimants of 5352 (Kelley) and of 5341/5342 (Holcomb), Livingston County certificates
Samuel Hopkins	Witness to the Owen–McCormack assignment (5342); "Gen. Hopkins" received the patents for 4998, 4999 and 5352
Will Ward; Wilie Sugg; John Gordon	Deputy surveyors: Ward (3395, 2890), Sugg (8147, 8148, 4998, 4999, 8126), Gordon (5352, 5341, 5342); all for Edmund Talbot, Surveyor of Henderson County

Documentary Patterns

- William Owen's earliest appearances in these records are as chain carrier for others: on 3395 (2 October 1799, with William Stuart) and 2890 (21 June 1800, with Simon Kuykendall), five years before his own surveys of March 1805.
- The same three commissioners certified William Stuart's own claim (No. 3729) on 19 October 1798 and the claims of James Jones (No. 3763) and Edmund Jones (No. 3815) the next day. Stuart became patentee of the James Jones tract (KLG 2568) and apparently held the Edmund Jones certificate (3395) before assigning it to Kuykendall.
- One surveying trip covered four tracts: Wilie Sugg surveyed 8147 and 8148 on 22 March 1805 and 4998 and 4999 two days later, with Joseph Henderson and William Whitesides as chain carriers.
- Jesse Walker's survey (25 July 1806) already calls a corner "James Wilson's," nearly a year before Kuykendall's written assignment of 3395 to Wilson (6 June 1807).
- Several of the patents waited years after the survey: 8147 until 1812, 5342 until 1814 and 8148 until 1821, when W. R. Wier paid the balance and took delivery.

Corrected Readings

Checking the original images corrected a number of earlier transcriptions. The most significant:

- 8147 was surveyed in 1805, not 1803.
- 8148's chain carriers were Moses French and Joseph Henderson (not Thomas French); its survey is recorded in Book 8, page 496.
- 3395's original claimant was Edmund Jones; the survey was received 16 December 1807 and the patent is in Grant Book 6, page 395; the second chain carrier is William Owen, not "Owens."
- 2890's grant issued 7 July 1806; its survey is recorded in Book 3, page 338. The patent image filed with 2890 belongs to Stuart's other tract, 2568, although the clerk wrote "No. 2890" in its margin.
- 4998's adjoiner, written "Calvin Marry," is Calvin Merry, not an Owen relative.
- 5341 and 5342 do not close as recorded; the reconstruction uses the researcher's adjusted courses, which are given on each record page and are not readings stated in the record.

Open Questions

- Does 5341's first course follow 4998's southeast line? Placing 5341 directly on 4998, rather than through the chain of surveys, would test the 24-acre overlap.
- Who were William Stuart and Simon Kuykendall, and why was William Owen carrying chain for them in 1799 and 1800?
- How were Samuel and William Whitesides related, and who completed William Whitesides' claim in 1821?
- Why did Willis Ralls, newly arrived from South Carolina, go to William Owen's land in 1806?

Sources

Kentucky Secretary of State, Land Office, Kentucky Land Grants (South of Green River), Grants 2890, 3395, 4998, 4999, 5341, 5342, 5352, 8126, 8147 and 8148: certificates, surveys, Auditor's receipts and patents, as cited on each record page. Willard Rouse Jillson, *The Kentucky Land Grants: A Systematic Index to All of the Land Grants Recorded in the State Land Office at Frankfort, Kentucky, 1782–1924*, Filson Club Publications No. 33 (Louisville: Standard Printing Co., 1925; reprint, Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1994), "South of Green River." Hopkins County, Kentucky, tax lists, 1807–1808, and deed records. County

boundary as of 1810: Newberry Library, Atlas of Historical County Boundaries; waterways: USGS National Hydrography Dataset.

How this summary was prepared. Each record was transcribed with AI assistance and checked against the original images. The plat reconstruction is the researcher's, built from the recorded metes and bounds; it is a schematic, not a surveyed plat. Bracketed readings and adjusted courses are marked as such on the record pages.