Cluster B — The Weirs Creek Network

Research Summary: Twenty-Eight Kentucky Land Grants on Weirs Creek, Clear Creek and the Crab Orchard Fork, Christian, Henderson and Hopkins Counties, 1798–1827

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Summary

Twenty-eight Kentucky land grants south of Green River, surveyed between 1798 and 1808, make up the Weirs Creek network: the land of the Weir and McBee families on Weirs Creek, Rose Creek and the north fork of Clear Creek, with their neighbors. The earliest four were surveyed by Will Ward on 6 and 7 November 1798 for Silas McBee, his mother Hannah McBee, Bezaleel Weir and James Tompkins. Most of the rest were surveyed by Asel Wier between December 1806 and October 1808, after Bezaleel's death, with Silas McBee and the Weir brothers carrying the chain and marking the trees. Seven of the grants rest on certificates first held by members of the Cates family or by James Dean, four of which passed through Joshua Cates.

Each grant has been checked against the original certificate, survey, receipt and patent images, and has its own page with the images, an abstract and a downloadable report. Twenty-three of the surveys have been fitted together from their recorded courses, in four groups whose positions relative to one another are not yet fixed; five are not yet placed. This summary brings the twenty-eight together: what they record, how they fit, who appears in them, and what remains open. The story of the families is told in Part 2 of Neighbors on Owens Creek.

The Twenty-Eight Grants

Listed by survey date. Chain carriers are given as written, with the marker, where named, in parentheses. Jillson refers to Willard Rouse Jillson, The Kentucky Land Grants (1925), "South of Green River"; the name is under the patentee unless a different spelling is shown.

KLG	Patentee	Acres	Surveyed	Patented	Chain carriers (marker)	Jillson
1244	Silas McBee	200	6 Nov 1798	3 Feb 1809	Payton Brown, Martin Saunders	p. 370
1245	James Tompkins	200	6 Nov 1798	30 Oct 1807	Martin Saunders, Payton Brown	p. 423
1241	Hannah McBee	200	7 Nov 1798	30 Jun 1806	Payton Brown, Martin Saunders	p. 370 ("McBee, Hanah")
1243	Bezaleel Weir	200	7 Nov 1798	13 Feb 1809	Payton Brown, Martin Saunders	p. 431 ("Weir, Razabel")
8528	Silas McBee (assignee of Bezaleel Weir; claimant William R. Weir)	200	4 Dec 1798	13 Feb 1809	Silas McBee, Maslin [?] Sanders	p. 370
8535	Bezaleel Weir (assignee of Silas McBee, of John and Jehu Sutton, of Norrid Fransway)	200	25 Feb 1801	13 Feb 1809	Bezaleel Wier, Elijah Clark	p. 431 ("Weir, Bazalove")
5678	William Henry (assignee of Caleb Hall)	144	12 Aug 1805	2 Nov 1809	William Whitesides, Alexander Henry (William Henry)	p. 332
5677	William Henry (assignee of Caleb Hall)	56	4 Mar 1806	2 Nov 1809	Willie Suggs, William Henry	p. 332
8541	William Wier, heir of Bezaleel Wier	200	14 Dec 1806	13 Feb 1809	Turner Wier, R. Wier (Silas McBee)	p. 431
8545	William Wier (assignee of Sarah Branson)	400	20 Dec 1806	13 Feb 1809	Asael Wear, Ellis Clark (Silas McBee)	p. 431
8540	William R. Wier (assignee of Russell Wier)	400	15 Jan 1807	13 Feb 1809	Silas McBee, Turner Wier	p. 431 ("Weir, Russell")
8536	Silas McBee (assignee of Bathsheba Cates)	200	20 Feb 1807	10 Nov 1813	Turner Wier, W. R. Wier (Silas McBee)	p. 370
8544	Russell Wier (assignee of Sally Cates)	178	11 Mar 1807	13 Feb 1809	Silas McBee, Clark Landers	p. 431

KLG	Patentee	Acres	Surveyed	Patented	Chain carriers (marker)	Jillson
8534	Turner Wier (assignee of Joshua Cates, of James Dean)	400	20 Mar 1807	13 Feb 1809	Silas McBee, W. R. Wier (Turner Wier)	p. 431
8542	William Wier (assignee of Fayette Posey)	400	20 Mar 1807	13 Feb 1809	Wm. R. Wier, Turner Wier (S. McBee)	p. 431
8549	Thomas Cooper (assignee of Silas McBee, of Joshua Cates, of James Cates)	200	12 Apr 1807; corrected 15 Sep 1820	16 Dec 1814 (void); 18 Aug 1824	Silas McBee, Wm. R. Wier (Thomas Cooper); 1820: John B. Ruby, A. Harrelson	p. 291 ("Cooper, Thos.")
8537	Silas McBee (assignee of Laurence Roleson Jr.)	200	16 Apr 1807	13 Feb 1809	Turner Wier, W. R. Wier (Silas McBee)	p. 370
8538	Silas McBee (assignee of John Landers)	200	16 Apr 1807	4 Dec 1816	T. Wier, A. [?] Wier (S. McBee)	p. 370
8546	William Wier (assignee of Laurence Roleson Sr.)	200	18 Apr 1807	25 Nov 1811	T. Wier, W. R. Wier (S. McBee)	p. 431
10098	Joseph Henry (assignee of Winney Mitchell)	100	30 Apr 1807	11 Dec 1812	William Henry, Joseph Henry	p. 332
8539	Turner Wier	330	18 Jul 1807	13 Feb 1809	R. Byas [?], R. Wier (T. Wier)	p. 431
8550	Turner Wier (assignee of George Brown)	400	1 Oct 1807	13 Feb 1809	Russel Wier, Clark Landers (Turner Wier)	p. 431
8533	James Kuykendall (assignee of Simon Kuykendall)	200	3 Nov 1807	16 Dec 1814	James M. Kuykendall, William Stewart (Asel Wier)	p. 348 ("Kykendall")
8551	Asel Wier (assignee of Joshua Cates, of Aaron Cates)	400	18 Nov 1807	1 Nov 1825 (cancelled 1827)	Russel Wier, Turner Wier (Silas McBee)	p. 431
8558	Russell Wier (assignee of Sally Cates)	222	18 Nov 1807	13 Feb 1809	Silas McBee, Clark Landers (Russel Wier)	p. 431
8552	William Wier (assignee of Arthur Slaton)	282	18 Nov 1807	13 Feb 1809	Silas McBee, Turner Wier (Russel Wier)	p. 431
9644	Silas McBee (assignee of Joshua Cates, of Charles Cates)	400	3 Sep 1808	23 Jan 1827	S. McBee, Henry Coufman	p. 370
9645	William R. Wier	200	16 Oct 1808	1 Aug 1809	S. McBee, Thomas Cooper (William R. Wier)	p. 431 ("Weir, Wm. R.")

Record pages: https://rallsdna.com/kentucky-land-grants/ (each grant at .../klg-NNNN/, for example .../klg-8535/).

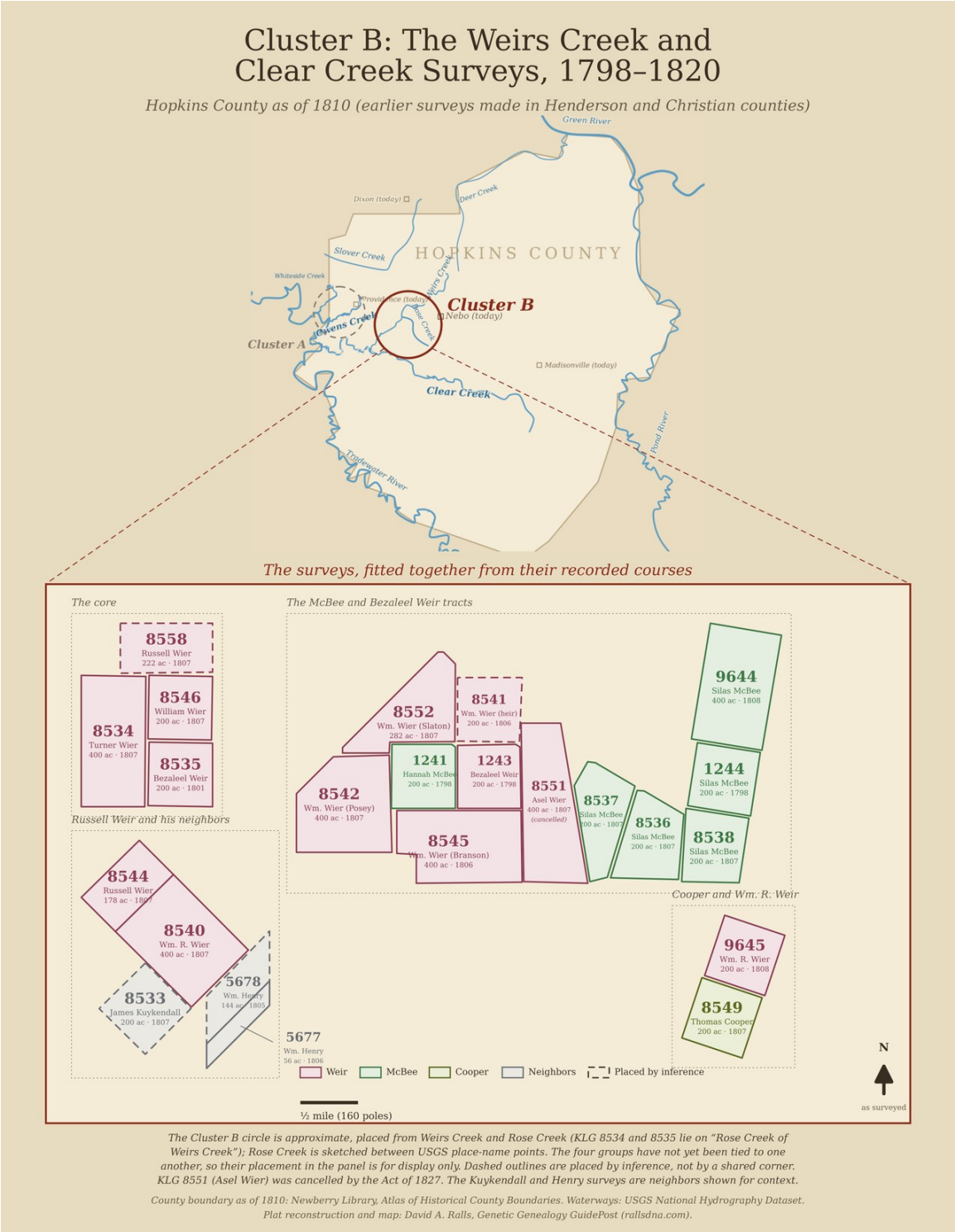

Figure 1. Cluster B in Hopkins County as of 1810, with the twenty-three placed surveys in four groups. The circle is approximate, placed from Weirs Creek and Rose Creek; the surveys have not yet been fixed to modern ground.

How the Surveys Fit Together

The surveys were placed only by the corners and lines their own calls name. They fall into four groups. Within each group the tracts are fitted corner to corner; between groups, no shared corner has yet been found, so the spacing in Figures 1 and 2 is for display only.

The core (Rose Creek). Bezaleel Weir's 8535 (1801), a 179-pole square on both sides of Rose Creek, is the anchor. William Wier's 8546 begins at its north-west corner and shares its north line; Turner Wier's 8534 "begins at a corner of B. Wier's survey" and runs 358 poles north along the west side of both, passing Bezaleel's corner at 179 poles. Russell Wier's 8558 is placed by inference north of 8546, between John Clark's survey and the military line: its south-east corner is taken as 8546's north-east corner.

The McBee and Bezaleel Weir tracts. Hannah McBee's 1241 and Bezaleel Weir's 1243, surveyed the same day in 1798, lie side by side and share a black oak corner. William Wier's 8542 (bought from Fayette Posey) lies west of 1241 along John Clark's and Hannah McBee's lines, and his 8552 (from Arthur Slaton) begins at 8542's north-east corner and runs along 1241's north line. William Wier's 8541, surveyed for him as Bezaleel's heir, best fits directly north of 1243 (a best fit: its "two dogwoods" are not a recorded 1243 corner). His 8545 (from Sarah Branson) begins at 1243's post oak and runs along the south side of 1243 and 1241. Asel Wier's 8551 begins at 8545's dogwood in the military line and runs north "with William Weir's line." Silas McBee's Musgroves Creek tracts continue east: 8537 shares 8551's black-gum corner and the lower 264 poles of its east line; 8536 shares 8537's 260-pole line; 8538 begins at 8536's elm and runs north 5 east along 8536's east line to a black oak in "McBee's line," the south line of Silas McBee's own 1244 (1798). 8538's "two crab trees" are 1244's crab-apple corner. McBee's 9644 begins at 1244's hickory and white oak, "east corner to said McBee's original claim," and its 200-pole south line runs with 1244's 178.8-pole north line.

Russell Weir and his neighbors. Russell Wier's 8544 and William R. Wier's 8540 share a 220-pole line from a black gum in the military line to a dogwood; both run along a military line on a 45-degree bearing. James Kuykendall's 8533 runs "with" William R. Wier's line and is fitted to 8540's south-west side, but where along that side is not fixed. William Henry's 5678 (1805) runs south 45 west with a military line, passing "the military corner" at 74 poles, then "with Russel Wires line," and is drawn along 8540's south-east side, a best fit. His 5677 (1806) begins at 5678's hickory and dogwood and closes at its two dogwoods in Herron's line, so it lies along 5678's south line.

Thomas Cooper and William R. Weir. William R. Wier's 9645 (1808) begins "in Thomas Cooper's line" and runs south 70 east to "a post oak and hickory, corner of said Cooper's survey," so its south line runs along the north line of Cooper's 8549. 8549 is drawn with the corrected courses of Asel Wier's 1819 certificate and the 1820 survey.

Not yet placed. James Tompkins's 1245 (no call ties it to a neighbor); Silas McBee's 8528 (its "Silas McBee's line," as written, matches no side of 1244); Joseph Henry's 10098 (its neighbors, James Herron and a McBee survey with the named corner, are not yet published); and Turner Wier's 8539 and 8550 on the Caney Fork of the Crab Orchard Fork (no published survey names their corners). If the Crab Orchard Fork is today's Craborchard Creek, 8539, 8550 and the Cooper pair may prove to belong with Cluster D on Slovers Creek.

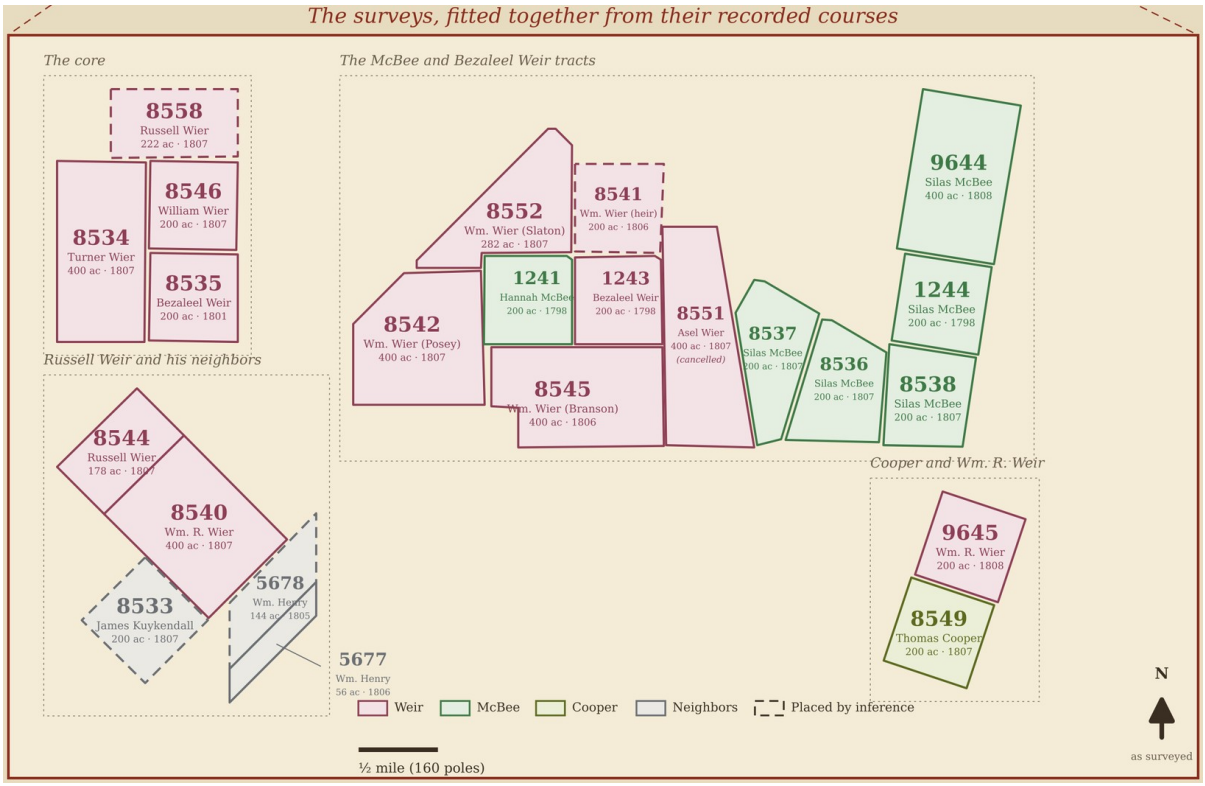

Figure 2. The twenty-three placed surveys, fitted together from their recorded courses. Dashed outlines are placed by inference rather than by a corner named in both records.

The fit is close but not exact. Several surveys do not close as recorded: 8551 misses by about 10 poles, 8537 and 8536 by about 14, 8538 by about 8 and 8552 by about 6. Bearings are drawn as written (magnetic, not corrected); 8542 is drawn with the patent's 152 poles. These misclosures are within the range of ordinary field error and plotting from rounded courses; none amounts to a conflict of claims.

The Cates Certificates

Seven of the twenty-eight grants, and Abraham Landers's 8547 in Cluster D, rest on certificates first issued to members of the Cates family or to James Dean. The four Christian County certificates of 9 December 1805 (Nos. 2864, 2868, 2869 and 2870) were removed at the January Term 1806, when the county court, on Joshua Cates's motion, gave leave to remove fifteen certificates of the Cates and Dean families (Nos. 2858–2872). The records show the certificates passing; they do not say how the holders were related to one another or to Catherine Cates, wife of Silas McBee. That question is being researched separately.

KLG	Original claimant and certificate	Transfers	Patent
8534	James Dean, Christian Co. No. 2864, 9 Dec 1805	To Joshua Cates, 19 Nov 1806; to Turner Wier, 5 Mar 1807 (test. Silas McBee)	Turner Wier, 1809
8549	James Cates, Christian Co. No. 2868, 9 Dec 1805	To Joshua Cates, 7 Nov 1806; to Silas McBee, 6 Mar 1807; to Thomas Cooper, 18 Mar 1807 (both test. Asel Wier)	Thomas Cooper, 1814 (void) and 1824
8551	Aaron Cates, Christian Co. No. 2869, 9 Dec 1805	Through Joshua Cates to Asel Wier	Asel Wier, 1825; cancelled 1827
9644	Charles Cates, Christian Co. No. 2870, 9 Dec 1805	Through Joshua Cates to Silas McBee	Silas McBee, 1827
8558, 8544	Sally Cates, removed certificate No. 1758, Christian Co., Dec 1803	Assigned to "Wm. R. Wier"; both surveys and patents to "Russel Wier"	Russell Wier, 1809
8536	Bathsheba Cates, Henderson Co. No. 180, Nov 1801	To Silas McBee, 24 Oct 1806 (test. Asel Wier)	Silas McBee, 1813; delivered to Joshua Cates

People in the Records

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

Name	Appears as
Silas McBee	1244 claimant and patentee; 8528, 8536, 8537, 8538 and 9644 patentee; assignor of 8535 (to Bezaleel Weir) and of 8549 (to Thomas Cooper); chain carrier on 8528, 8534, 8540, 8544, 8549, 8552, 8558, 9644 and 9645; marker on 8536, 8537, 8538, 8541, 8542, 8545, 8546 and 8551; witness to the Cates–Turner Wier assignment (8534)
Hannah McBee	1241 claimant and patentee
Bezaleel Weir	1243 claimant and patentee; 8535 assignee and patentee; chain carrier on 8535; 8541 surveyed for his heir after his death
William Wier	Patentee of 8541 (as heir of Bezaleel), 8542, 8545, 8546 and 8552
William R. (Russell) Wier	8528 claimant; 9645 claimant, marker and patentee; 8540 patentee; as "Russel Wier," 8544 and 8558 patentee, chain carrier on 8550 and 8551 and marker on 8552 and 8558; as "W. R." or "Wm. R. Wier," chain carrier on 8534, 8536, 8537, 8542, 8546 and 8549; received the patents for 8533, 8538 and 8546
Turner Wier	8534, 8539 and 8550 patentee; chain carrier on 8536, 8537, 8538, 8540, 8541, 8542, 8546, 8551 and 8552; marker on 8534, 8539 and 8550; witness to the Roleson–McBee assignment (8537)
Asel Wier	8551 patentee; deputy surveyor on 19 of the 28 surveys; chain carrier on 8545 ("Asael Wear"); marker on 8533; witness to the Cates assignments of 8536 and 8549
Joshua Cates	Assignee and assignor of the Dean and Cates certificates behind 8534, 8549, 8551 and 9644; received the 8536 patent in 1813
Aaron, Charles, James, Sally and Bathsheba Cates; James Dean	Original claimants of 8551, 9644, 8549, 8544/8558, 8536 and 8534
Thomas Cooper	8549 marker and patentee; chain carrier on 9645
Clark Landers	Chain carrier on 8544, 8550 and 8558
Payton Brown; Martin Saunders	Chain carriers on all four Will Ward surveys of 6–7 November 1798 (1241, 1243, 1244, 1245)
William Henry; Joseph Henry; Alexander Henry	5677, 5678 (William) and 10098 (Joseph) patentees; chain carriers on 5677, 5678 and 10098
Caleb Hall; Winney Mitchell; George Brown; Fayette Posey; Sarah Branson; Arthur Slaton; Laurence Roleson Sr. and Jr.; John Landers; Norrid Fransway; John and Jehu Sutton; Simon Kuykendall	Original claimants or intermediate holders of certificates that passed to the patentees
James Tompkins	1245 claimant and patentee
Elijah Clark; Ellis Clark; Henry Coufman; R. Byas [?]; Maslin [?] Sanders; William Whitesides; William Stewart; James M. Kuykendall	Chain carriers on single surveys (8535; 8545; 9644; 8539; 8528; 5678; 8533; 8533)
Will Ward; [?] Love; John Gordon; Willie Suggs; Eli Bishop; Asel Wier; John B. Ruby	Deputy surveyors: Ward (1241, 1243, 1244, 1245), Love (8528), Gordon (8535), Suggs (5677, 5678), Bishop (8533), Asel Wier (19 surveys), Ruby (8549, 1820)
Young Ewing; "Y. Ewing"; "Col. Ewing"	Young Ewing, Surveyor of Christian County, for whom Will Ward made the 1798 surveys; "Y. Ewing" received most of the 1809 patents on 3 January 1810, and "Col. Ewing" the 1244 patent (whether these are one man is not stated)

Documentary Patterns

- One surveying trip began the cluster. Will Ward surveyed 1244 and 1245 on 6 November 1798 and 1241 and 1243 the next day, with Payton Brown and Martin Saunders as chain carriers on all four, the same Will Ward who surveyed the first Owens Creek claims of Cluster A a year later.

- After Bezaleel Weir's death in 1806 the family surveyed itself. Asel Wier was deputy surveyor on 19 of the 28 surveys, from 8541 (14 December 1806) to 9645 (16 October 1808); Silas McBee was chain carrier or marker on 16 of those 19, and Turner and William R. Wier on most of the rest.
- Many of the claims were bought from earlier settlers: Fayette Posey, Sarah Branson, Arthur Slaton, Laurence Roleson Sr. and Jr., John Landers, George Brown, Caleb Hall, Winney Mitchell, and Norrid Fransway through John and Jehu Sutton.
- Fourteen of the patents were signed on the same day, 13 February 1809, by Governor Charles Scott, and most of them were delivered to Y. Ewing on 3 January 1810. Others went to family members: 1241 to Russel Wier (1806); 8538 and 8546 to W. R. Wier; 8533 to William R. Weir (1815); 8536 to Joshua Cates (1813).
- Two patents were corrected by the General Assembly. Cooper's 1814 patent (8549) was declared void by an act of 31 October 1820 because its courses had been written on 45-degree bearings, and a new patent issued in 1824 on a corrected survey. Asel Wier's 1825 patent (8551) was cancelled under the act of 23 January 1827, because it had issued on a payment Silas McBee made for Charles Cates's certificate; McBee's patent for 9644 issued the same day.

Discrepancies in the Records

Checking the original images turned up these discrepancies, which are discussed on each record page:

- 8535 is surveyed in Henderson County, but the Auditor's receipt says Christian County; 1241 is surveyed in Christian County, but its 1806 receipt says Henderson County.
- Sally Cates's certificate was assigned to "Wm. R. Wier," but both surveys (8558, 8544) and both patents name "Russel Wier." The two names are the same man, William Russell Weir, as shown in Part 2.
- 8540 was surveyed on 15 January 1807, but Russel Wier's assignment of it to William R. Wier is dated November 1807, after the survey.
- 8551's certificate is dated 9 December 1805; its patent says 1803.
- 1245 is on the Crab Orchard Fork "of Tradewater" in the survey but "of Clear Creek" in the certificate, and the land is first-rate in the certificate but second-rate in the receipt.
- Acreage does not always match the courses: 8539 is stated as 330 acres but its courses hold about 302; 5677 is stated as 56 acres but its courses hold about 68 to 69.
- 8546's survey day reads 15 or 18 April 1807 (the patent says 18); 8538's patent names the original claimant "John Sanders" for John Landers.

Open Questions

- How do the four groups fit together? A single corner named in two groups would tie them, and would also show whether the Musgroves Creek tracts and the Rose Creek core are as close as the creeks suggest.
- Where do 1245, 8528, 10098, 8539 and 8550 lie? 10098 waits on the publication of James Herron's survey; 8539 and 8550 may belong with Cluster D.
- Who were the Cateses, and why did their certificates, and James Dean's, pass to the Weirs and McBees through Joshua Cates?
- Where on modern ground are the surveys? Weirs Creek and Rose Creek give an approximate location; a survey corner tied to a surviving feature would fix it.

Sources

Kentucky Secretary of State, Land Office, Kentucky Land Grants (South of Green River), Grants 1241, 1243, 1244, 1245, 5677, 5678, 8528, 8533–8546, 8549–8552, 8558, 9644, 9645 and 10098: 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.” Christian County, Kentucky, County Court order book 1797–1809, pp. 38–39, January Term 1806. County boundary as of 1810: Newberry Library, Atlas of Historical County Boundaries; waterways: USGS National Hydrography Dataset; Weirs Creek and Rose Creek: USGS Geographic Names Information System.

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. Readings in brackets and placements by inference are marked as such on the record pages and in the figures.