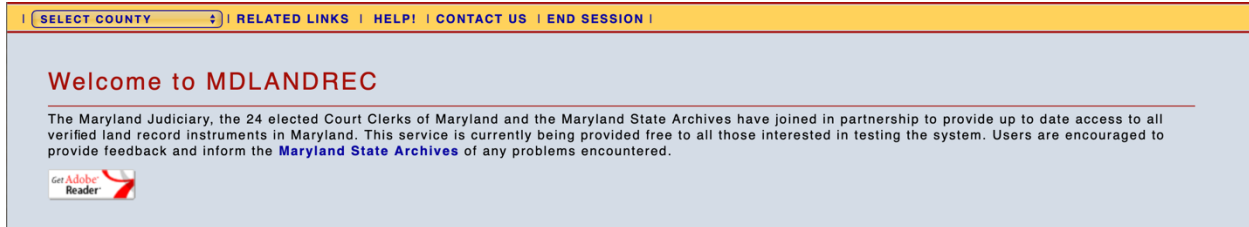


Maryland Land Records Online

One advantage of researching Maryland ancestors is the wealth of data available online. For example, <https://mdlandrec.net/main/> contains deed records from the beginning of the colony. For first time users, here is a step-by-step guide to find what you are seeking.

First, go to the site at the above link and set up a free account. After log in, you will see a nondescript page that looks like this:



Select a county from the pull-down menu in the toolbar at the upper left. For demonstration purposes, select Talbot County and the following will appear:



If you already have a book and page number from another index source, insert them in the “Jump to new volume” section, click the “Go!” button, and the selected page will pop up. If you do not have that information, you can search for it in an index. To do that, select “Active indices” from the vertical list at the left side of the page, and you will get this:

HOME | SELECT NEW COUNTY | RELATED LINKS | HELP! | CONTACT US | END SESSION |

Search Talbot County Land Record Indices

- › Instruments
- › Individual Search
- › Corporation Search
- › Corporation Soundex
- › Individual Soundex
- › SDAT
- › Active Indices
- › Retired Indices
- › Plats.net

Jump to new volume

Clerk Book * Page *

NOTE: Search returns single page.

Active Indices

Series

What is the difference between "active" and "retired" index series?
 MDLANDREC.NET provides access to all land record indexing created by the county circuit court. Some indices were "retired" from active use at the courthouse and sent to the Maryland State Archives, either on microfilm or in its original paper format. In some cases, the court sent one set of indices to the Archives, kept another set at the court, and continued to create index entries in the set of indices at the court. In order to provide complete access to all land records and indexing, MDLANDREC.NET provides access to both "retired" and "active" indices. Users should make sure to search all available indexing when searching title.

Toggle the box showing the "Series" of active indices to see the choices, shown below. Click on one of those choices.

Jump to new volume

Clerk Book * Page *

NOTE: Search returns single page.

Active Indices

Series

- ✓ Land Records, Index, 1662-1850, MSA CE 92
- Land Records, Index, 1849-1951, MSA CE 93
- Land Records, Index, Original, 1662-1958, MSA CE 211
- Land Records, Grantee Index, Original, 1959-1992, MSA CE 212
- Land Records, Grantor Index, Original, 1959-1992, MSA CE 213

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I selected the first index to find the earliest transactions. Then click the "Search!" button on the right side of the "Series" box. The following page appears showing four records to choose from ... an early period for surnames beginning with the letter A through K, an early period for L through Z, and later periods for both.

HOME | SELECT NEW COUNTY | SEARCH | RELATED LINKS | HELP! | CONTACT US | END SESSION |

TALBOT COUNTY COURT (Land Records, Index) 1662-1850 [\[New Search\]](#)

Displaying 1-4 of 4 records.

Dates ▲	Description ▲	Source ▲	Accession No. ▲
1662-1832	A-K	C 1882-1	MSA_CE92_1
1662-1832	L-Z	C 1882-2	MSA_CE92_2
1833-1850	A-Z	C 1882-3	MSA_CE92_3
1833-1850	A-Z	C 1882-4	MSA_CE92_4

Displaying 1-4 of 4 records.

Of the four, I wanted the first one to find early purchases by the Blake family. Click on "MSA_CE92_1" in the far right column titled "Accession No." on the

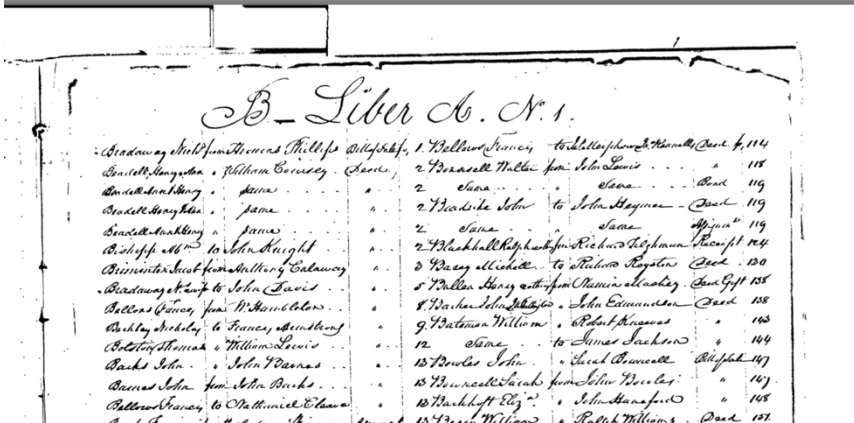
same row as the desired index. The first page of the index document appears as below, with a “command” panel to the right of the image.

The screenshot displays a digital archive interface. At the top, a navigation bar includes links for HOME, SELECT NEW COUNTY, SEARCH, JUMP TO NEW VOLUME, RELATED LINKS, HELP!, CONTACT US, and END SESSION. The main content area shows a scanned page of a handwritten index titled "A Liber No. 1." The index lists names and page numbers, such as "A. Adams to John Edwards" on page 8 and "A. Adams to John Edwards" on page 9. The right-hand panel contains a "View document in separate tab" link, the text "TALBOT COUNTY COURT (Land Records, Index) 1662-1832 A-K, p. 0001 MSA CE 92-1", a "Return to inventory" button, a "Next" button, a "Jump to new page" section with a "Page:" input field and a "Go!" button, a "Display range of pages" section with "Start:" and "End:" input fields and a "Go!" button, and a "NOTE: Limit 10 pages" warning. At the bottom of the panel is a "[+]Send Image Feedback" link.

Here is where you must do a little guesswork. The index groups all the names beginning with “A” into a chronological list beginning with Liber 1, page 1 through the end of that book. It then moves on to Liber 2, page 1 and so on through Liber 50 (in this particular document). After that, the listing repeats the process with names beginning with “B” at Liber 1, page 1, and so on through the alphabet. Finding the list with the surname you want is where the guesswork comes in. I was looking for “Blake,” so I needed to find where the “B” list begins.

One alternative is to click on “Next” in the right-hand panel to page through the index one page at a time. A faster approach is to guess a page number, insert it in the “Jump to new page” in the box and click “Go!” You can then adjust from that result to find the beginning of the list you need.

I found the first page of the “B” list at page 15 of the index document, which looks like this:



View document in separate tab

TALBOT COUNTY COURT
(Land Records, Index)
1662-1832
A-K, p. 0015
MSA CE 92-1

[Return to inventory](#)

« Previous Next »

Jump to new page

Page: Go!

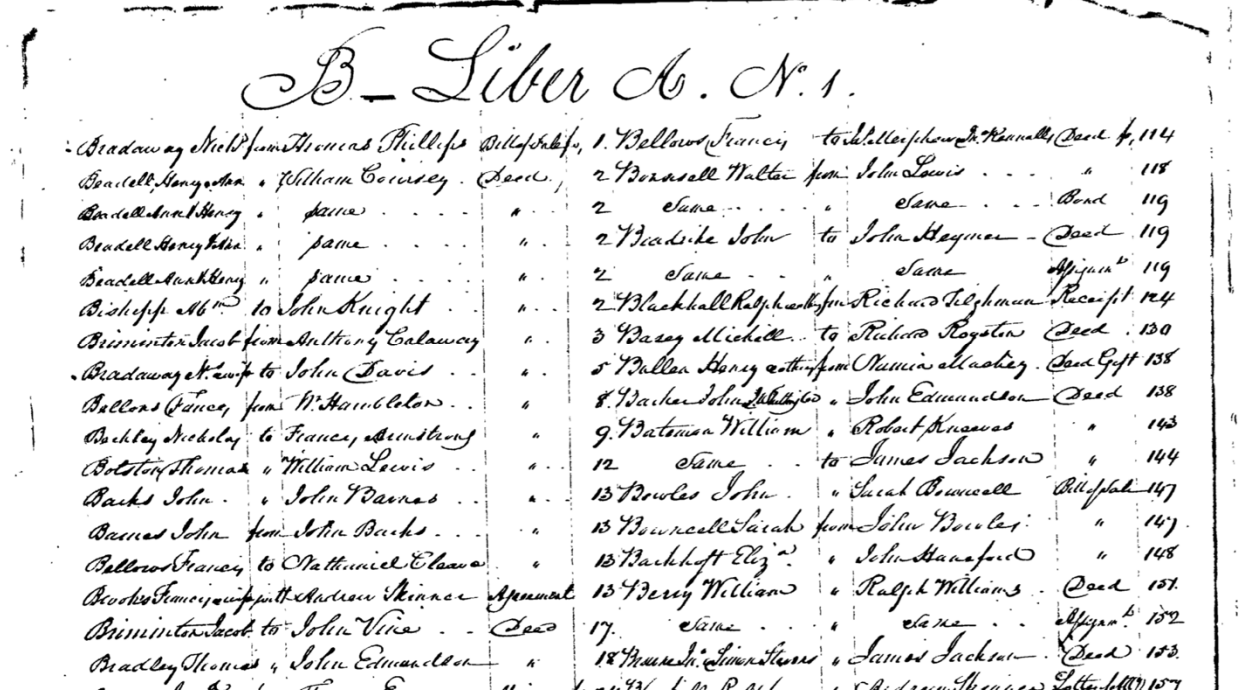
Display range of pages

Start: End: Go!

NOTE: Limit 10 pages

[\[+\]Send Image Feedback](#)

Next, click on "View document in separate tab" at the top of the right-hand panel. Clicking this button will open a new tab in your browser that gives a full page width view, which is much easier to read, as shown below:



When you are finished copying the data you need, close the tab. Your computer will revert to the previous tab showing the selected page with the panel on the right side. Click the "Next" button on the panel to bring up the next page and repeat the process of opening the document in a separate tab.

I scrolled through five index pages before finding the first Blake surname in Liber 7. The entries looked like this:

Betts Rob. Jun from	Robert Betts Jun	"	90.
Bradbury Jacob	John Wooten & wife	Deed	96
Bull Thomas	John Miller & wife	"	97
Blake Chas Jr	Peter Sayer & wife	"	102
Bradberry Roger to	William Dixon	Indenture	107

As you can see from the above screen shot, the information is in five columns. The first column shows the name of the "B" surnamed person who is a party to a recorded transaction; the next column shows "to" or "from," indicating the indexed party was grantor or grantee, respectively; the third shows the name of the other party; the fourth column lists the type of transaction or instrument; and the last column has the page number in the deed book. The Liber/book number is set out at the beginning of the list of entries and is not repeated at each line. The entry I am interested in states: "Blake, Chas, Jr/from/Peter Sayer & wife/Deed/102," and the entries are all under Liber 7. I can now return to the search page for Talbot County and insert 7 and 102 to find the deed from the Sayers to the Blakes.

There are a couple of ways to get to that original search page. On the horizontal toolbar at the top of this page, you can use the pull-down menu under "Select New County" to pick Talbot County, or click "Home" and again select Talbot County. Either way returns you to the screen where you can input the liber and page number that you have just discovered. A shorter method is to click on "Jump to New Volume" in the toolbar, and several boxes pop up for you to insert the liber and page numbers.

HOME | SELECT NEW COUNTY | SEARCH | JUMP TO NEW VOLUME | RELATED LINKS | HELP | CONTACT US | END SESSION |

Jump to new volume

Clerk Book Page

NOTE: Search returns single page.

7	James to Wm Bennett & wife	Deed	298	Nixon & Potts wife to	Walter & Madelon	292
8	Bennett John to Thomas Bennett	Deed	299	Nixon & Potts wife to	John & Margaret	294
9	Bennett John to same	Deed	300	Nixon & Potts wife to	John & Margaret	294
10	Bennett John to same	Deed	301	same to same	same	295
11	Bennett John to same	Deed	302	Nixon & Potts wife to	John & Margaret	295
12	Bennett John to same	Deed	303	Nixon & Potts wife to	John & Margaret	297
13	Bennett John to same	Deed	304	Nixon & Potts wife to	John & Margaret	297
14	Bennett John to same	Deed	305	Nixon & Potts wife to	John & Margaret	298
15	Bennett John to same	Deed	306	Nixon & Potts wife to	John & Margaret	298
16	Bennett John to same	Deed	307	Nixon & Potts wife to	John & Margaret	299
17	Bennett John to same	Deed	308	Nixon & Potts wife to	John & Margaret	299
18	Bennett John to same	Deed	309	Nixon & Potts wife to	John & Margaret	300
19	Bennett John to same	Deed	310	Nixon & Potts wife to	John & Margaret	300
20	Bennett John to same	Deed	311	Nixon & Potts wife to	John & Margaret	301
21	Bennett John to same	Deed	312	Nixon & Potts wife to	John & Margaret	301
22	Bennett John to same	Deed	313	Nixon & Potts wife to	John & Margaret	302
23	Bennett John to same	Deed	314	Nixon & Potts wife to	John & Margaret	302
24	Bennett John to same	Deed	315	Nixon & Potts wife to	John & Margaret	303
25	Bennett John to same	Deed	316	Nixon & Potts wife to	John & Margaret	303
26	Bennett John to same	Deed	317	Nixon & Potts wife to	John & Margaret	304
27	Bennett John to same	Deed	318	Nixon & Potts wife to	John & Margaret	304
28	Bennett John to same	Deed	319	Nixon & Potts wife to	John & Margaret	305
29	Bennett John to same	Deed	320	Nixon & Potts wife to	John & Margaret	305
30	Bennett John to same	Deed	321	Nixon & Potts wife to	John & Margaret	306
31	Bennett John to same	Deed	322	Nixon & Potts wife to	John & Margaret	306
32	Bennett John to same	Deed	323	Nixon & Potts wife to	John & Margaret	307

View document in separate tab

TALBOT COUNTY COURT
(Land Records, Index)
1662-1832
A-K, p. 0019
MSA CE 92-1

[Return to inventory](#)

« Previous Next »

Jump to new page

Page:

Display range of pages

Start: End:

NOTE: Limit 10 pages

[\[+\] Send Image Feedback](#)

Whichever way you get there, insert the book and page number, click “Go!”, and, *voilà*, the deed in question pops up. The deed at book 7, page 102 shows that on 20 Nov 1694, the gentleman Peter Sayer and his wife Frances of Talbot County conveyed to Charles Blake, Jr. of Hampshire, England, 300 acres of land in Talbot County on the east side of Eastern Bay for four score (80) pounds.

The process is a slow slog at first, but it is well worth it. So far, I have been through 28 pages of the deed index and found 38 entries involving a person named Blake, including deeds, mortgages, and many manumissions of enslaved people.

When I look for data in other states, I often regret they do not have the same accessible information.