

# Homestead Records: Partnerships in Digitization



Some **822,000** homesteader records exist in the National Archives

**75,787** for Nebraska alone

Also records elsewhere:

BLM/Government Land Office  
county land offices, regional NARA offices, etc.

How will digitizing these records be useful – how will they be used?

# The United States of America,

To all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting:

Homestead Certificate No. 5143. }  
Application 21689. }

WHEREAS, There has been deposited in the GENERAL LAND OFFICE of the United States a Certificate of the Register of the Land Office at Minot, North Dakota, whereby it appears that, pursuant to the Act of Congress approved 20th May, 1862, "To secure Homesteads to Actual Settlers on the Public Domain," and the acts supplemental thereto, the claim of

**WILLIAM C. BURLINGAME** has been established and duly consummated, in conformity to law, for the northeast quarter of Section thirteen in Township one hundred fifty-four north of Range ninety-two west of the Fifth Principal Meridian, North Dakota, containing one hundred sixty acres,

according to the Official Plat of the Survey of the said Land, returned to the GENERAL LAND OFFICE by the Surveyor General:

NOW KNOW YE, That there is, therefore, granted by the UNITED STATES unto the said **William C. Burlingame** the tract of Land above described; TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said tract of Land, with the appurtenances thereof, unto the said **William C. Burlingame**

and to his heirs and assigns forever; subject to any vested and accrued water rights for mining, agricultural, manufacturing, or other purposes, and rights to ditches and reservoirs used in connection with such water rights, as may be recognized and acknowledged by the local customs, laws, and decisions of courts, and also subject to the right of the proprietor of a vein or lode to extract and remove his ore therefrom, should the same be found to penetrate or intersect the premises hereby granted, as provided by law. And there is reserved from the lands hereby granted, a right of way thereon for ditches or canals constructed by the authority of the United States.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I, **Theodore Roosevelt**, 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.

(SEAL) GIVEN under my hand, at the City of Washington, the first day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and eight, and of the Independence of the United States the one hundred and thirty-third.

By the President: *Theodore Roosevelt*  
By *M. W. Young*, Secretary.  
*J. H. Langford*,  
Recorder of the General Land Office.

genealogies

[Home](#) | 
 [Search Documents](#) | 
 [Reference Center](#) | 
 [Support](#) | 
 [Shopping Cart](#)

[Search Documents](#) | 
 [Results List](#)

Printer Friendly 

**Patents**

**Note:** An *Italic* entry denotes data that has not been indexed against the land patent document, and has no image.

Image	Accession	Names 	Date	Doc #	State	Meridian	Twp - Rng	Aliquots	Sec. #	County
---	<i>NDMTAA 063445</i>	 <i>EDWARDS, WEBSTER</i>	<i>9/26/1905</i>	<i>8929</i>	<i>ND</i>	<i>5th PM</i>	<i>155N - 090W</i>	<i>E½SW¼</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>Mountrail</i>
							<i>155N - 090W</i>	<i>Lot/Trct 3</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>Mountrail</i>
							<i>155N - 090W</i>	<i>Lot/Trct 4</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>Mountrail</i>

Homestead Records will also be used by scholars for re-writing the history of homesteading

**counting vs. story-telling”**

# SOD AND STUBBLE



## JOHN

Woodcuts by Howard Chandler Christy

WILLA CATHER

# My Ántonia

HISTORICAL ESSAY BY JAMES WOODRESS

## Old Jules

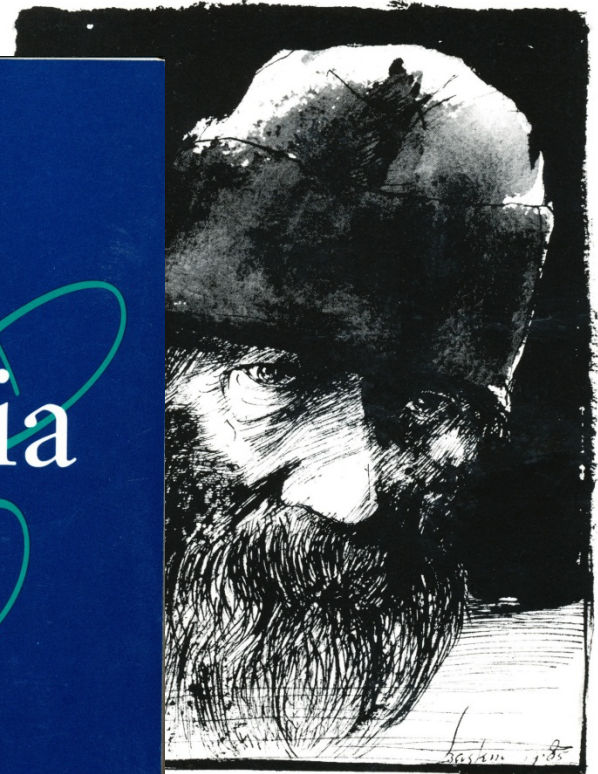
 By Mari Sandoz

Illustration by Helen Winter Stauffer

Quantitative studies have been very limited in scope.

# Long Vistas

*Women and Families on  
Colorado Homesteads*



*Katherine Harris*

1993

229 in sample

# LAND IN HER OWN NAME

Women as Homesteaders in North Dakota



by H. Elaine Lindgren

Foreword by Elizabeth Jameson

1996

297 in sample



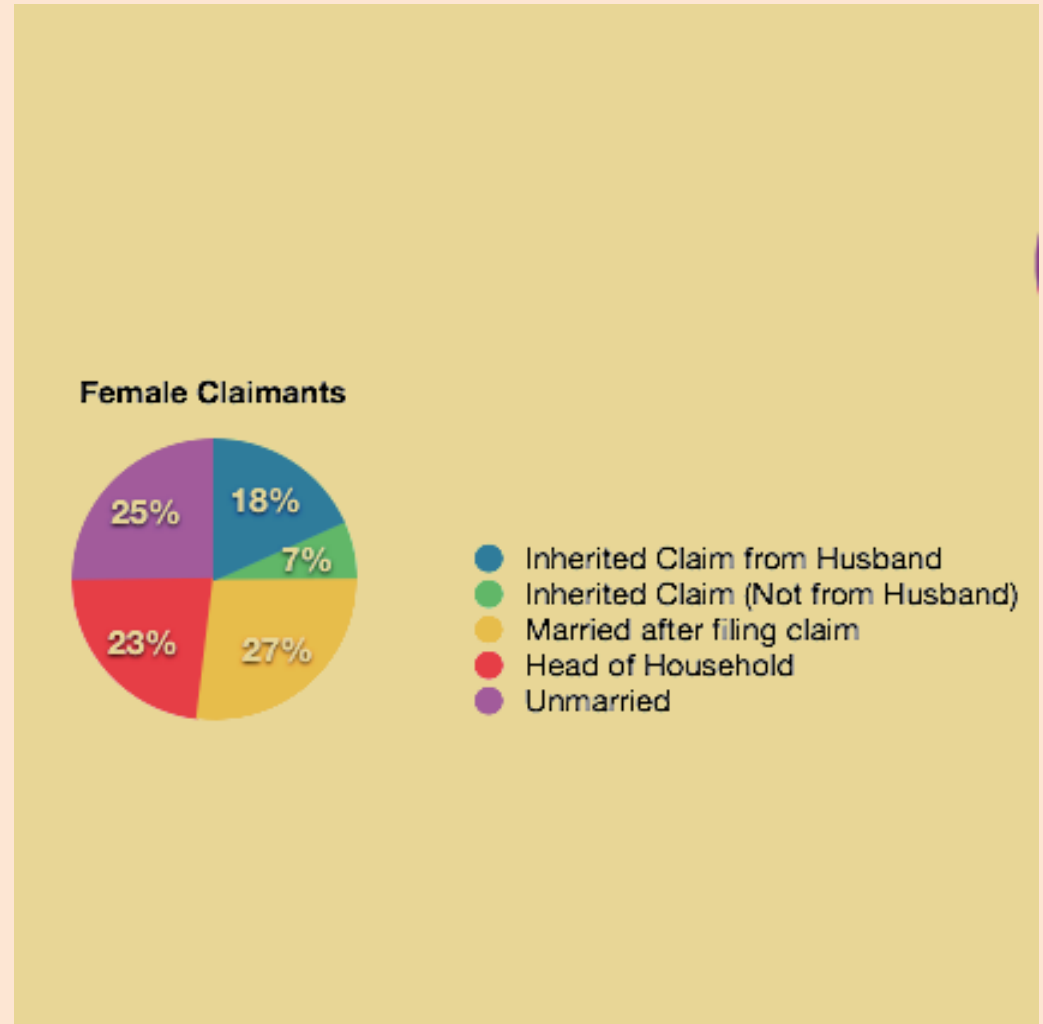
**Andrea Curtis**, then an undergraduate at UNL, was interested in women homesteaders and wondered:

*How did women homesteaders acquire their land?*

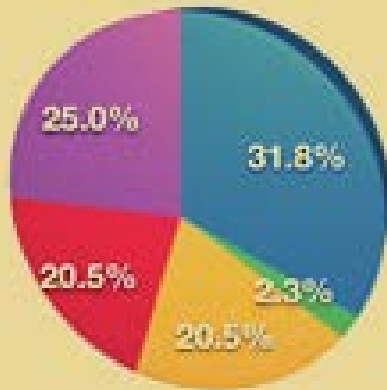
She used the digitized homesteading records for the Broken Bow Land Office [Custer County, Nebraska].

# Andrea's question: How did women homesteaders in Custer County obtain their land?

Her answer:

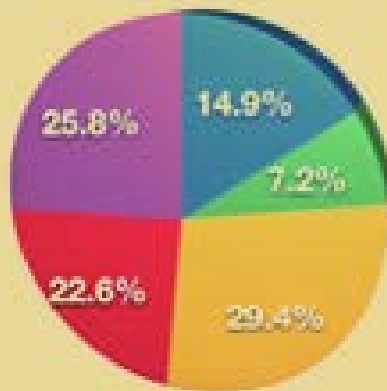


Foreign Born Claimants



- Inherited Claim from Husband
- Inherited Claim (Not from Husband)
- Married after filing claim
- Head of Household
- Unmarried

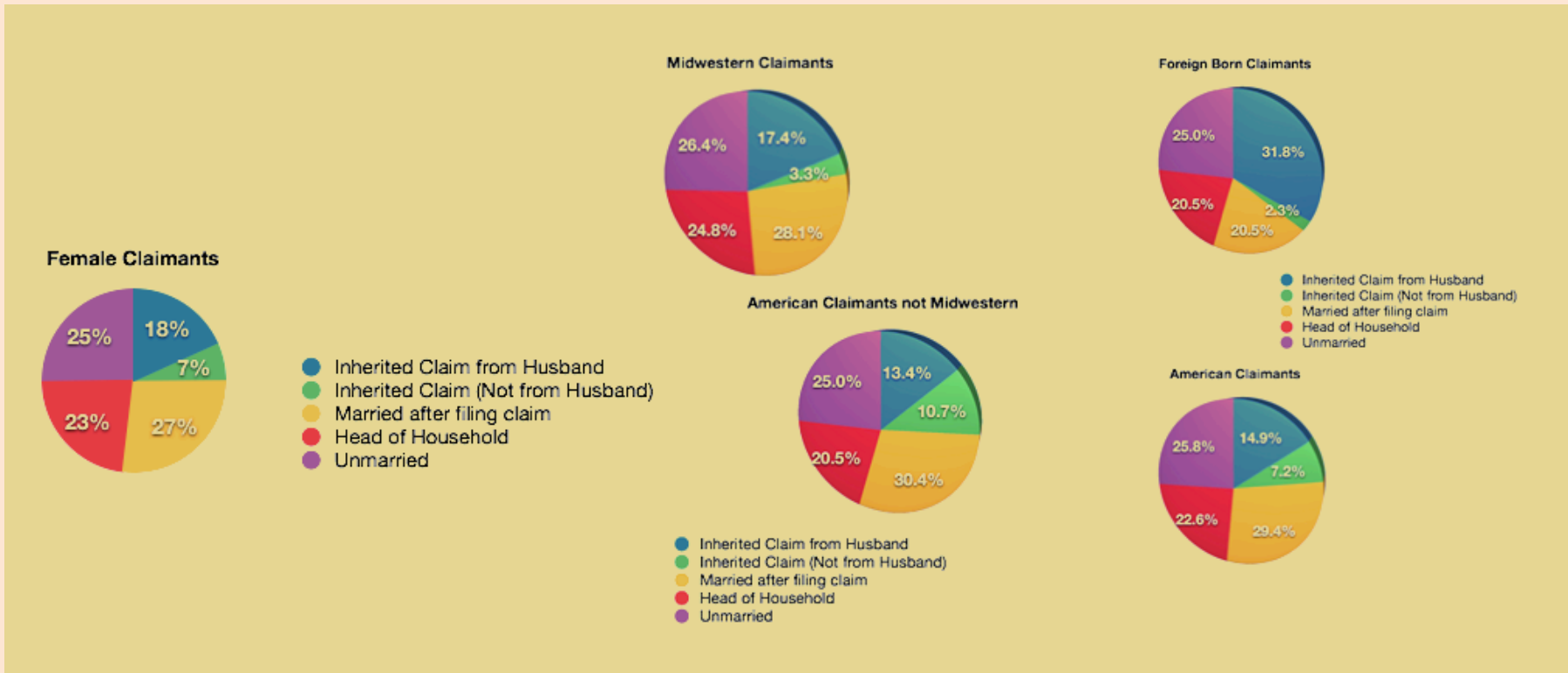
American Claimants



She found marked differences between different groups of females:

Foreign-born female claimants were twice as likely as American female claimants to inherit their claims from their husbands (31% v. 15%).

American females were much more likely to make their claims first and then marry afterwards (29% v. 20%).



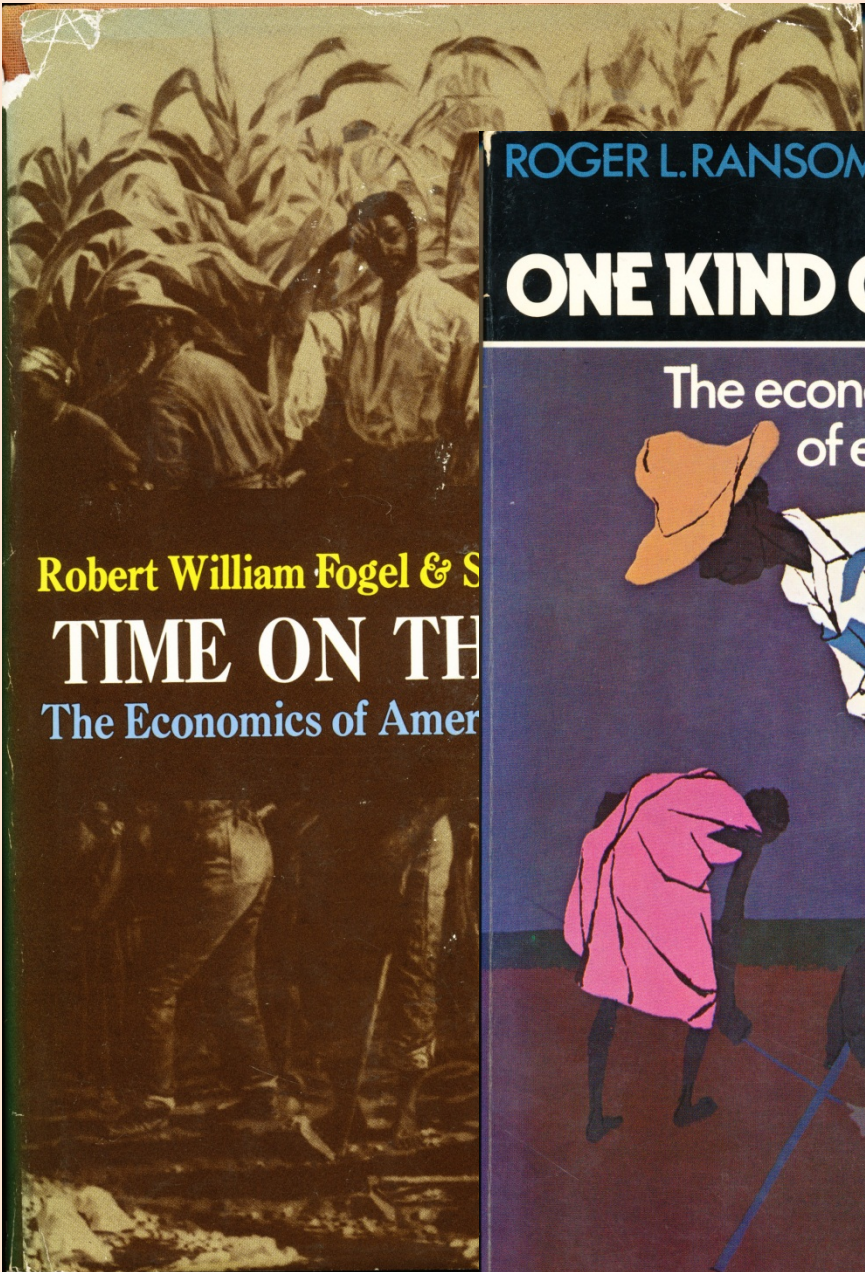
Andrea's research permitted more finely-grained analyses as well.

Her sample included 1720 homesteaders.

She was an **UNDERGRADUATE**.

Are there any precedents for history being revised by “counting” instead of “story-telling”?

Well, yes ....



Robert William Fogel & S

# TIME ON THE

The Economics of Amer

ROGER L. RANSOM and RICHARD SUTCH

# ONE KIND OF FREEDOM

The economic consequences  
of emancipation

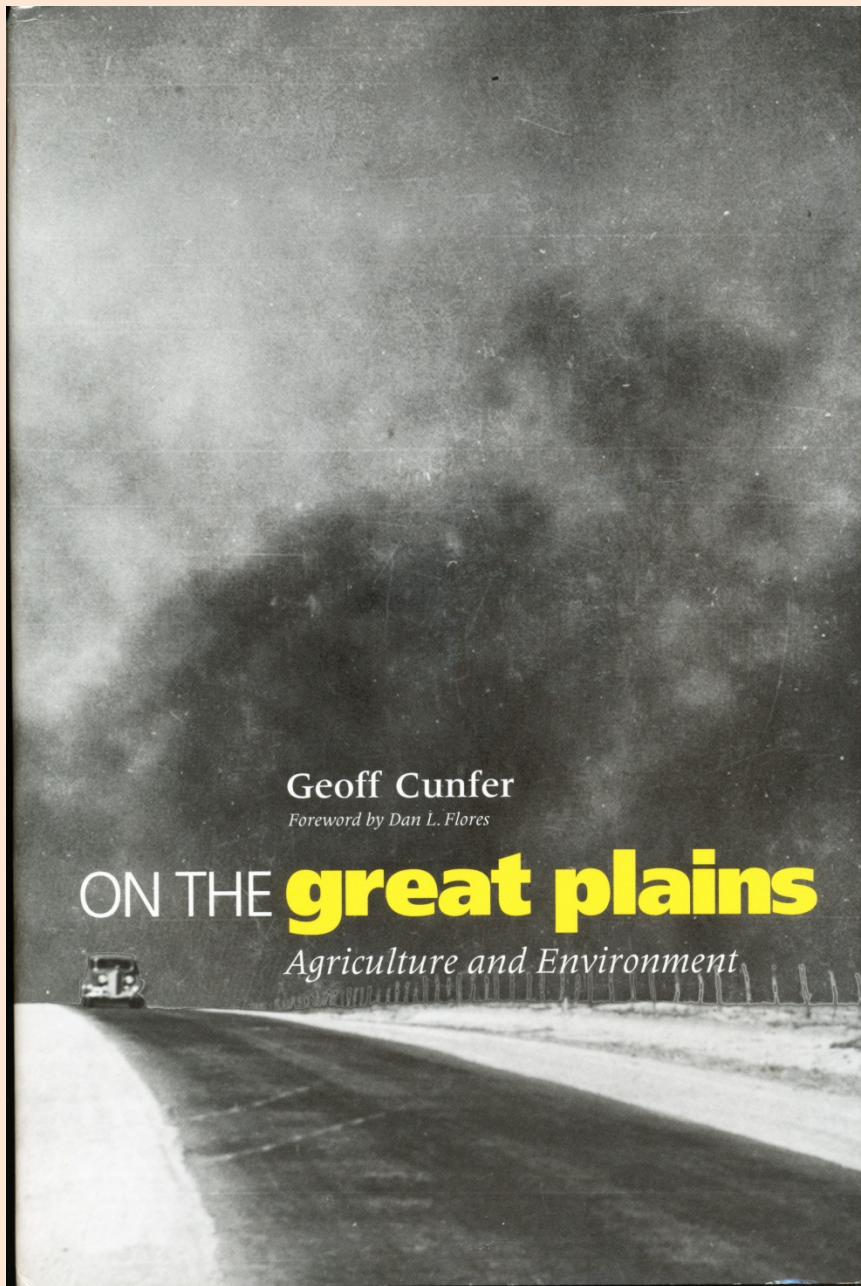


# Dealing with

# VERY

L. A. DAVID  
T. G. GUTMAN  
RICHARD SUTCH  
HERBERT TEMIN  
WILLIAM WRIGHT

Introduction by  
John M. Stampf



another project is re-writing  
the environmental  
history of the Great Plains

does “counting” in history  
end the debates?

To make the digitized records become the basis for a “new history” of homesteading, there are two required phases:

**a) digitize the records**

**b) attract scholars who use them**

We're well on our way to accomplishing (a); we need to achieve (b) as well.