

Timbuctoo: African American Settlement

Education Material

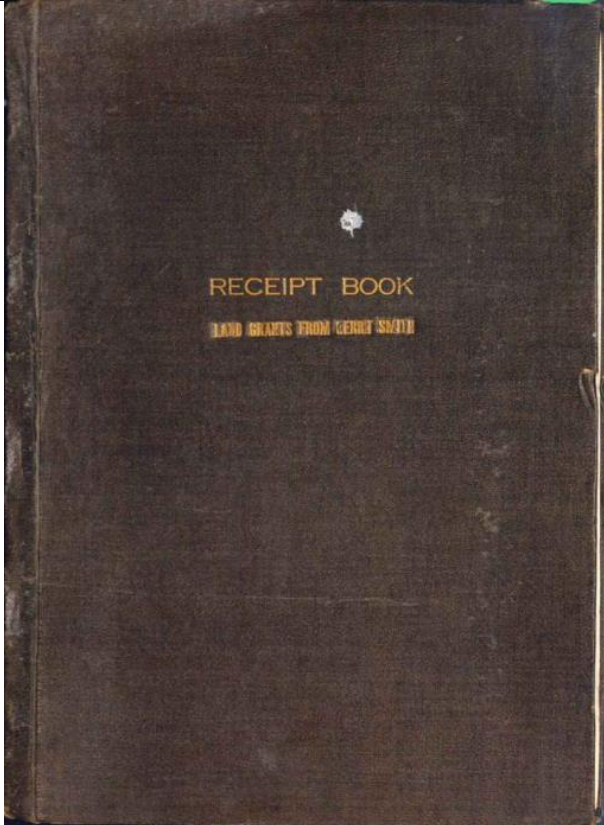
Background: In the 1840s, Gerrit Smith gave away thousands of acres of land to African Americans. Review the source below and answer the following questions.

NYS Social Studies Standards:

- 7.7b Enslaved African Americans resisted slavery in various ways in the 19th century. The abolitionist movement also worked to raise awareness of and generate resistance to the institution of slavery.
- 11.3b Different perspectives concerning constitutional, political, economic, and social issues contributed to the growth of sectionalism.

Questions:

- How much land did each person receive?
- Where did the land recipients live when they received their deed to the land?
- Why would African Americans want to move to unimproved land in the Adirondack Mountains?



The image shows the cover of a dark brown, worn receipt book. The title 'RECEIPT BOOK' is printed in large, gold-colored letters, with 'LAND GRANTS FROM GERRIT SMITH' in smaller gold letters below it.

To the right of the cover is a page from the book, which is a receipt and a table of land grants. The receipt text reads: 'We the undersigned, residing in the City and County of New York do hereby acknowledge the receipt by the hands of Theo. S. Wright, Charles E. May and James McCune Smith, of the deed dated 1st Sept. 1846, granted to each of us, by Gerrit Smith Esquire, of Petersboro, for the piece of land, described in the same line & which we have written our names, said described land being in the State of New York.'

County	(Thomas Survey) Township	Tract	Lot	Quarter of Lot	Acres	Receipts
Essex	Old Military Tn. 11		97	SE	41	Samuel VanTyne, 478 Newry
"	11	Old Military	97	SW	41	A. Lyons, 14 Centre his
"	"	"	97	NE	41	Joseph I Senclair, 104 Chrysler mark
"	"	"	97	SE	41	Arnold Dix, 1288 John Lane.
"	"	"	98	SW	40	Peter P. DeGman, 36 Chokun his
"	"	"	98	SE	40	Ferry J. Hopkins mark
"	"	"	98	NE	40	Stephen B. Rogers, 73 Clinton, Albany
"	"	"	98	NE	40	Jordan Morris, 144 Water
"	"	"	99	SE	40	Freeman Brown, 219 Central
"	"	"	99	NE	40	John W. Brown, 79 Sherriff his
"	"	"	99	SW	40	John I Froelan mark 63 Sherriff his
"	"	"	99	SW	40	Jacob I Shornhorn mark 50 Hall
"	"	"	114	SE	40	Samuel F. Hall, his
"	"	"	114	SW	40	John W. I. Swelan mark 140 Orange
"	"	"	114	SE	40	William M. Clarksons
"	"	"	115	NE	40	John F. Allen S Thomas
"	"	"	115	SE	40	Charles Anderson SE Clark

In the 1840s, Gerrit Smith gave away thousands of acres of land to African Americans. This copy of his receipt book lists the land transactions during 1846.

Source: <https://digitalcollections.archives.nysed.gov/index.php/Detail/objects/72601>
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