Plat Maps

Montgomery County, IN

What Is a Plat Map?

A **plat** map is a map drawn to scale, showing the divisions of a piece of land.

Note: some other type of maps can be found in newer plat books
- *General Highway Map*
- *Drainage Map*
- *Soils Association Map*
- *Street maps of: Crawfordsville, Darlington, Ladoga, Linden, New Richmond, New Ross, Waveland, Waynetown, Wingate*

For original land owners, consult these works in Local History Ready Reference:

Crawfordsville Indiana Land Entries, 1820-1830. Compiled by Janet C. Cowen. -- Indianapolis: J.C. Cowen, c 1985, includes index taken from the Crawfordsville Land Office records in state archivesRL 929.3 Co

Montgomery County, Indiana, original entry record book, dates 1821 and later -- Evansville, IN: Unigraphic, 1979, includes indexRL 929.3 Mo

Family Maps of Montgomery County, Indiana. Gregory A. Boyd. -- Arphax Publishing Co
RL 929.377248 Boy

Original Land Owners

In 1979, in different issues of the now-defunct *Montgomery County Magazine*, Stephen Thompson published a line drawing showing the boundaries of original land owners of all the county's townships. Unless you want to pore over each map with a magnifying glass, simply use the *Montgomery County Magazine* database at history.cdpl.lib.in.us/mcm.html and enter into the keyword field the person you want by **lastname, firstname** (if you are not certain of the first name, leave it off).

For example, to find Asa Brown you would enter: **brown, asa** in the keyword field. To ensure that your returns are going to be entries from plat maps, you can add an ampersand and the word "plat" like this: **brown, asa &**

A search for Asa Brown shows a listing for South Union Township published in the *Montgomery County Magazine* for November 1979, page 16. Turning to that page in the bound volume of the magazine (we have a copy in Local History as well a circulating copy), you can then find Asa Brown on the map.

Local History Ready Reference contains numerous annuals of Plat Map Coverage:

- 1926
- 1958
- 1962
- 1963
- 1967
- 1968
- 1969
- 1970
- 1972
- 1974
- 1979
- 1983
- 1985
- 1988
- 1990
- 1993-1994
- 1995-1997
- 1998
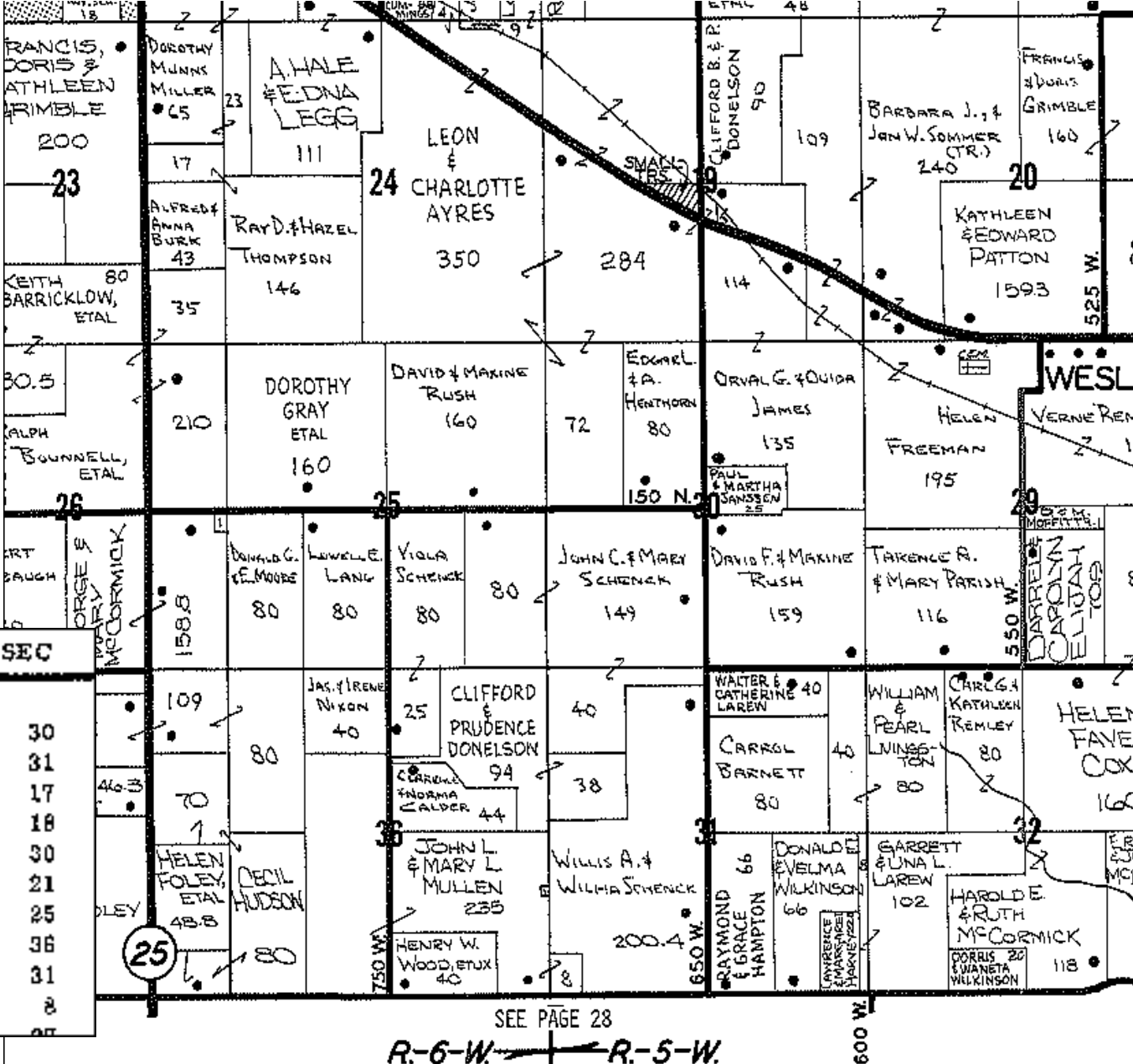- 1999
- 2001
- 2002
- 2006
- 2008

Local History Archival Storage contains other annuals of Plat Map Coverage (ask library staff for permission to consult these items):

- 1907
- 1911
- 1915
- 1919
- 1922
- 1925
- 1928
- 1932

example from 1976 plat map:
Wayne Twp

A typical page in one of the newer plat map booklets may look like this, with a landowner indicated by section for a township.

We know to look for Viola Schenck in section25 of this plat map:

NAME	TWP	SEC
Schenck, John C.	Wayne	30
Schenck, John C.	Wayne	31
Schenck, Keith	Wayne	17
Schenck, Keith	Wayne	18
Schenck, Lester	Union N	30
Schenck, Olive	Wayne	21
Schenck, Viola	Wayne	25
Schenck, Viola	Wayne	36
Schenck, Willis A.	Wayne	31
Schlotterer, Emily	Sugar Cr	8

example from plat map 1915: Franklin Twp

An older plat map entry may give more information in its index, such as the range.

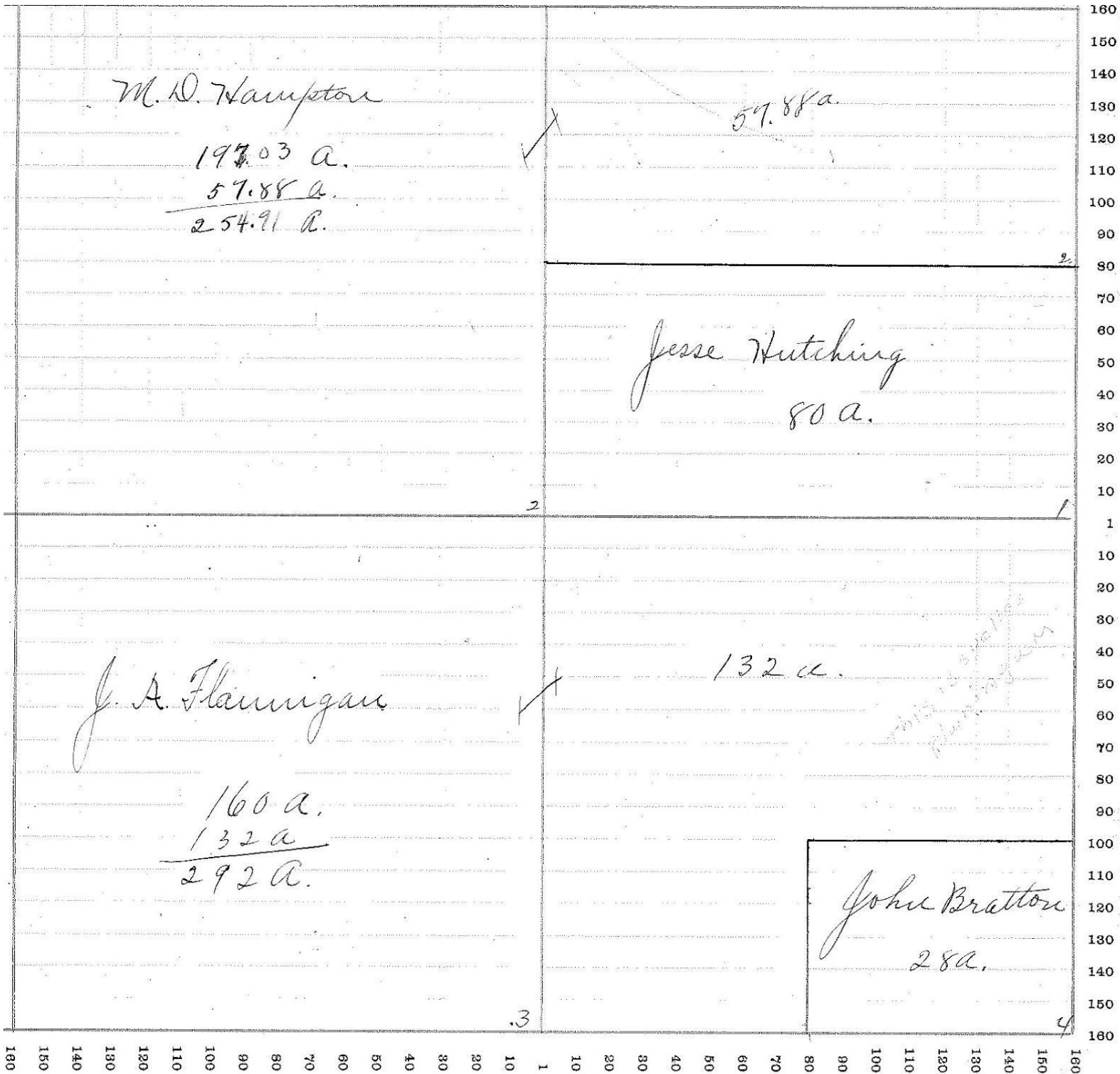J.A. Flanigan is listed as Section 1, Township 19, Range 3.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, INDIANA, 1915.

Assessor's Plat-Book for _Franklin_ .... Township, No. _19_.

F. R. WOODBURN PRINTING CO., TERRE HAUTE, IND.

NAMES OF OWNERS	No. on Plat	DESCRIPTION	Section	Township	Range	Acres	Hundredths	Value of Lands	Value of Improvements	Value of Lands and Improvements
Jesse Hutchings	1	S² nє4	1	19	3	80		32 00	2 00	34 00
M.D. Hampton	2	n² nє4 nⁿᵏ nw4	1	19	3	254	91	16,660	14 00	11 4 00
J.A. Flanigan	3	S w² nⁿᵏ pt Sє4	1	19	3	292		10 500	9 00	11 4 00
John Bratton	4	pt Sє4	1	19	3	28	654 91	850		850

M. D. Hampton

197.03 a.
57.88 a.
254.91 a.

57.88 a.

Jesse Hutching
80 a.

J. A. Flannigan

160 a.
132 a.
292 a.

132 a.

John Bratton

28 a.

How to Read a Typical Plat Map

Most states, including Indiana, use the Public Land Survey System developed in the late 18th century. Two lines were surveyed in each state: the principal meridian was a north-south line; the baseline was an east-west line. From the baseline and principal meridian township-and-range squares were laid out. These squares were 6 miles on a side and contained 36 square **sections**. Sections are numbered from the northeast corner and run back and forth from left --> right --> left, etc.

Townships differ from one another in shape but sections are consistent. Sections are further divided into halves, quarters, eighths, etc. Each section number is often marked on a plat map in the center of each section.

6	5	4	3	2	1
7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36

These squares are located on a plat map by **township** (or tier) and **range**.

- Township represents the number of squares north or south of the baseline
- Range represents the number of squares east or west of the principal meridian

Knowing the township and range numbers can help you more easily find something on a plat map when you are looking at a map on the state level or even at the county level.

Because Montgomery County is north of the state baseline and west of the principal meridian, its plat maps will always have north and west indicators.
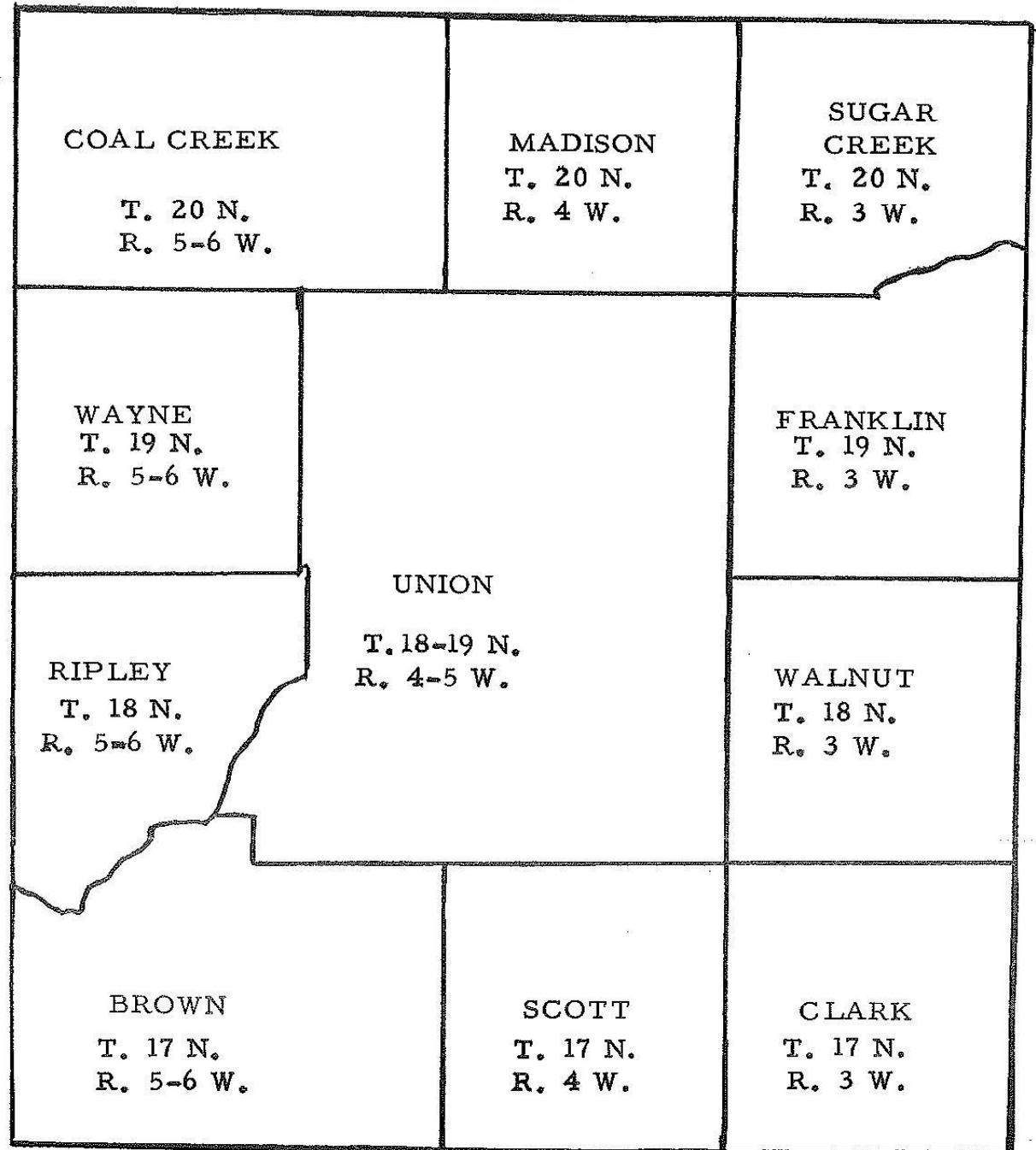
For example: T.4N - R.1W means Tier 4 north, Range 1 west.

Don't confuse the township and range indicators as unique for each township.

Montgomery County has three townships along its north border: Coal Creek, Madison, and Sugar Creek. These three townships are all listed as T.20N (which is 20 squares north of the baseline). However, the ranges are different: Sugar Creek is 3W, Madison is 4W, and Coal Creek covers 5-6W from the prime meridian.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

KEY MAP

COAL CREEK

T. 20 N.
R. 5-6 W.

MADISON
T. 20 N.
R. 4 W.

SUGAR CREEK
T. 20 N.
R. 3 W.

WAYNE
T. 19 N.
R. 5-6 W.

FRANKLIN
T. 19 N.
R. 3 W.

UNION

T. 18-19 N.
R. 4-5 W.

RIPLEY
T. 18 N.
R. 5-6 W.

WALNUT
T. 18 N.
R. 3 W.

BROWN
T. 17 N.
R. 5-6 W.

SCOTT
T. 17 N.
R. 4 W.

CLARK
T. 17 N.
R. 3 W.

Many plat books also indicate the page number that corresponds to where that part can be found in the book.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, INDIANA CRAWFOR

COAL CREEK MADISON SUGAR CREEK

P.2 P.3 P.4 P.5

WAYNE FRANKLIN

P.6 P.7 UNION P.8 P.9

RIPLEY WALNUT

P.12 P.13 P.14 P.15

BROWN SCOTT CLARK

P.16 P.17 P.18 P.19

T. 21 N. T. 20 N. T. 19 N. T. 18 N.

R. 6 W. R. 5 W. R. 4 W. R. 3 W.