

OHIO LANDS



- *A Short History* -



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The makers of Ohio's Constitution recognized the position of the Auditor of State in the executive branch of government as a functional necessity. They ascribed great importance to the Auditor because of the weighty duties of being the "Watchdog of the Treasury"

As Auditor of the State of Ohio today, one of my responsibilities is to maintain the inventory and deed records of state-owned real property. This booklet provides a short history of the original land subdivisions and federal land grants in Ohio.

The history of the Office of Auditor of State began on April 15, 1803, when the responsibility, along with all duties held by the Territorial Auditor, were bestowed upon the Office of Auditor of State. Another one of those duties required the Auditor to keep a list of taxable lands, which are the early tax duplicates found in the State Archives at the Ohio Historical Center.

Through the years, Ohio's legislature added land-related duties to the Auditor of State, authorizing him to prepare: tax deeds in 1824; school land deeds in 1827; canal land deeds in 1834; and to prepare and deliver all state deeds in 1877. This office still prepares and delivers these deeds with the exception of tax deeds, which are handled by county auditors.

In 1877, the Auditor of State also became the Custodian of Public Land records. All the federal land surveys, field notes, and tract and entry books concerning Ohio were placed in the Auditor's care. In that same year, all the instruments which show any right, title or interest in state-owned land, except highways, were required to be filed with the Auditor.

All of these records are available either at the Auditor of State's Land Office or at the State Archives. Our office is proud to be the repository for land titles of all state agencies, for Governor's deeds, and for files of any land sold by the state.

"Ohio Lands - A Short History" was written to assist researchers and students, but can provide valuable information to any Ohioan.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature of Jim Petro in dark ink.

Jim Petro
Auditor of State

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Ohio Lands - A Short History

Ohio has nine major land surveys and 46 subsurveys. The key to understanding and using Ohio land records is the original land surveys. Ohio is unique. It was the test state for the Federal Rectangular Survey System, yet it has the Virginia Military District, composed entirely of metes and bounds surveys. This short history of Ohio lands begins with the territory's earliest inhabitants.

Prehistoric Man and the Indians

Evidence of the existence of man in Ohio prior to the glacial period is abundant. Earthworks built by the "Mound Building Indians" are found in many parts of Ohio. These earthworks are remnants of three early mound building groups: the Fort Ancients, the Adenas and the Hopewells; Serpent Mound, Adams County; Fort Ancient, Warren County; Fort Hill, Highland County; and the Newark Earthworks, Licking County are major examples of these mound builder's existence. The largest mound in the State, at Miamisburg, is 68 feet in height and 800 feet in circumference.

The mound builders had vanished long before European traders entered the territory. The Indians claiming the land had no knowledge of the mound builders or their culture.

The principal Ohio Indian Tribes were: the Miami, the Shawnee, the Delaware, the Wyandot (Huron), the Ottawa of the Algonquin tribe, and the Mingo (Seneca) of the Iroquois Nation. The Miami tribe was the first of these tribes to reside in Ohio, coming in the late 1660's.

The Indians' claim to Ohio lands rested upon conquest and possession. They did not claim ownership of the land, as the white men did, rather they claimed the right to use the land for various purposes. Therefore, different boundaries existed for hunting, fishing, farming and villages. These overlaps of claims often led to wars among the various tribes.

Title to land claimed by the various Indian tribes was extinguished or conveyed by treaty. The Treaty of Fort McIntosh, January 21, 1785, between the Sachems and warriors of the Wyandot, Delaware, Chippewa and Ott-

awa nations and the United States, gave the United States title to Ohio lands except the northern quarter. This treaty was not kept by the Indians, but was reaffirmed by the Treaty of Greenville in 1795. National title to all Ohio lands, except for reservations in Northwest Ohio, was fixed by the following major treaties:

MAIN TREATIES CEDING INDIAN LANDS IN OHIO

No.	Concluded	Place of Treaty	Acres Ceded	Tribes Concerned
1.	1795, Aug. 3	Greenville, Ohio	16,930,417	Eleven northwestern tribes.
2.	1805, July 4	Fort Industry, Ohio	2,726,812	Ottawas, Wyandots, Chippewas, Pottawatamies, Shawnees, Delawares.
3.	1807, Nov. 17	Detroit, Michigan	345,600	Chippewas, Ottawas, Wyandots, Pottawatamies.
4.	1808, Nov. 25	Brownstown, Michigan	Two Roads	Same tribes as at Detroit.
5.	1817, Sep. 29	Fort Meigs, Ohio	4,554,459	Same as at Fort Industry, and Senecas in addition.
6.	1818, Sep. 17	St. Marys, Ohio		Ottawas, Shawnees, Wyandots and Senecas.
7.	1818, Oct. 2	St. Marys, Ohio		Weas.
8.	1818, Oct. 6	St. Marys, Ohio	297,600	Miamis.

European Explorations

The first exploration by Europeans, in what is now Ohio, was made by the French. Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle, explored the lake area in late 1669 or early 1670, thus claiming all of Ohio for France. The territory was in dispute between the French and English until the Treaty of Paris, February 10, 1763, when the French assigned the "Great West" to the English. This was the result of the French losing the French and Indian War, 1755-1763.

During the Revolutionary War, George Rogers Clark, operating under the authority of Patrick Henry, Virginia governor, sought to capture the British Forts in the Illinois country. On February 24, 1779, Clark and his men defeated Lt. Col. Henry Hamilton, the Lt. Gov. of Canada, and his troops at Vincennes. Thus, the Americans took control of what was to become the Northwest Territory. Great Britain formally relinquished its right and interest in the Northwest Territory by the Treaty of Paris, September 3, 1783.

Claims to the Northwest Territory and State Reserves

As early as 1778, a Congressional Committee proposed that states cede its Western lands to the New Central Government. The states of Virginia, New York, Connecticut and Massachusetts all claimed portions of the territory northwest of the Ohio River, based upon charters granted by the kings of England. After much controversy and compromise, these states relinquished their claims. The dates of these cessions were: New York, 1781; Virginia, 1784; Massachusetts, 1785; and Connecticut, 1786 and 1800.

Some of the provisions contained in the cessions, and accepted by the Continental Congress, were the basis of the Northwest Ordinance. Virginia and Connecticut both reserved lands in Ohio as part of the cession compromise.

Virginia Military District. Virginia Military District (VMD) lands are found in 23 Ohio counties from the Ohio River northward, between the Scioto and Little Miami Rivers, as far as 141 miles inland. The irregularly shaped land district was reserved by the state of Virginia to satisfy its military bounty warrants. It is one of the original nine major subdivisions of Ohio lands, and the only one not using a rectangular survey system. The VMD covers 6,570 square miles and contains approximately 4,204,800 acres of land.

More than 16,125 metes and bounds (indiscriminate) original surveys are found in the VMD, thus creating a patchwork of surveys which, from the air, resemble a giant jigsaw puzzle. Because of the number of surveys and the difficulty of finding the physical objects they relied upon, this is probably the most litigated land area in Ohio.

The land bounties given by Virginia to her Revolutionary soldiers were very generous. Due to various Virginia laws, the bounties ranged from 100 acres to 15,000 acres depending upon rank. Length of service over six years also increased the bounty. The heirs of a soldier or officer killed in the war were entitled to the bounty. Virginia issued bounty land warrants for 6,146,950 acres for Revolutionary War service. These were used to claim land in Kentucky and Ohio. Virginia also issued land warrants for French and Indian War services. Virginia Military Warrants could be assigned and transferred and often were. Nearly 25% of the VMD (1,035,408 acres) was patented to 25 individuals.

Claiming Ohio land by a Virginia Military Warrant involved sending the warrant to the principal surveyor of the Virginia District of Ohio. He would give the warrant to a deputy surveyor who would give a general description of the claim (entry) and then run a survey. Virginia permitted a 5% error factor for VMD surveys, but this was often exceeded. Following the acceptance of the survey, the warrant was sent to the federal government and a U.S. Patent issued. For their services, the Deputy Surveyors often received 20% to 50% of the acres called for in the warrant or cash. In Ohio, the entry number and survey number are the same. The first VMD survey was run by John O'Bannon, November 13, 1787, in what is now Clermont County. The first U.S. patent issued for VMD land was on February 20, 1796.

General George Washington never exercised his rights to the 23,333-acre Virginia Military bounty to which he was entitled. Instead, he purchased two warrants totalling 3,100 acres and had three surveys ran in 1787. Two surveys were in Clermont County and one in Hamilton County, totalling 3,051 acres. The Virginia patents issued for these surveys were nullified by an Act of Congress, July 17, 1788, and Washington never filed for a U.S. patent under the Congressional Acts of August 10, 1790, and June 9, 1794. He died believing he owned these surveys. In 1806, these surveys were re-entered and allegedly resurveyed, with the proper certificate and warrants being sent to the Secretary of War. U.S. Patents were issued to the "claim jumpers" and Washington's heirs lost a valuable part of the estate for which they never received compensation.

By Acts of Congress dated May 30, 1830, and August 31, 1852, Virginia Military Warrants could be exchanged for land scrip. Land scrip could be used to acquire any U.S. public lands open for entry at private sale. The federal government issued land scrip for 1,041,976 acres in exchange for Virginia Military Warrants.

Virginia relinquished and ceded to the federal government its claim to any unlocated land in the VMD on December 9, 1852. In 1871, Congress ceded this land to the state. Ohio set this land aside in 1872 as an endowment for The Ohio State University. At the time, 76,735 acres were believed available for sale by the university. The Ohio State University sold or quit-claimed these lands to individuals until the 1940's. Copies of the deeds are in the OSU Archives, Columbus, Ohio, 43210.

The State of Ohio Archives has original VMD Entry and Survey records, a card index of entrymen, W.P.A. Plats of 16 of the 23 counties involved, and a list of the entries which were withdrawn. Inquires can be researched by surname, warrant number or survey number (See page 65). Additional VMD records can be found at the University of Illinois library at Urbana, Ill. 61801, and the Western Reserve Historical Society, Cleveland. Soldiers applications are filed at the Virginia State Library, Richmond.

VIRGINIA MILITARY DISTRICT

District Line thus
 County Lines thus
 Civil Township Lines thus
 Present County Seats...@

Scale of Miles
 0 10 20

BETWEEN THE U.S. MILITARY LANDS

OHIO

SCIO TO

U.S. MILITARY LANDS

CONGRESS

PIG CREEK

Washingt. C.H.

Chillicothe

Scioto

Portsmouth

Waverly

Adams

West Union

Manchester

Brown

Georgetown

Clermont

Batavia

Hamilton

Cincinnati

Warren

Clinton

Wilmington

Fayette

Greene

Xenia

Clark

Springfield

Madison

London

Franklin

Columbus

Delaware

DELAWARE

Marion

Hardin

Logan

Champaign

Urbana

Bellefontaine

Greenville

Marion River

Scioto River

Ohio River

Miami River

Indian Lake

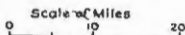
Auglaize

Kenton

Treaty Line

Roberts

District Line thus —————
County Lines thus —————
Civil Township Lines thus —————
Present County Seals....(6)



A map of the Scioto River watershed area in Ohio, showing county boundaries and names. The map includes labels for counties: Hamilton, Clermont, Brown, Adams, Highland, Warren, Clinton, Fayette, Greene, Ross, Scioto, and Pickaway. It also shows major cities like Cincinnati, Batavia, Georgetown, West Union, Manchester, Hillsboro, Washington C.H., Chillicothe, Waverly, and Portsmouth. The Scioto River is shown flowing through the center, with tributaries like the Little Miami River, Mingo River, and Pickaway Creek. The map is titled "BETWEEN THE GREENE" and "CONGRESS LANDS".

Connecticut Western Reserve. The Connecticut Western Reserve Lands (Western Reserve, the Reserve, New Connecticut) are found in 14 northeastern Ohio counties. The Western Reserve started at the Pennsylvania-Ohio line and extended 120 miles westward to the present Seneca and Sandusky County lines. It is bordered on the north by Lake Erie, and on the south by the parallel of the 41st degree North Latitude.

Connecticut claimed this land under an English Charter issued in 1662 by King Charles II. Reserved by Connecticut in its September 13, 1786 Deed of Cession, the Western Reserve contains approximately 3,366,921 acres (5260 + square miles) including the Fire Lands. Connecticut released its jurisdictional claim to this land by a Deed of Cession to the United States of America on May 30, 1800.

The Western Reserve, with the exception of the Fire Lands, was sold by the state of Connecticut for \$1,200,000 to the Connecticut Land Company by 35 quitclaim deeds dated September 2, 1795. The Connecticut Land Company consisted of 48 persons who, individually or in groups, pledged money to acquire the land. Each individual or group being the grantee (buyer) of as many as 1,200 thousandths, in common and undivided, of that part of the Connecticut Western Reserve as each had subscribed dollars to the purchase price. For example, the quitclaim deed to Moses Cleaveland was for 32,600 twelve hundred thousandths.

Starting in 1798, the Connecticut Land Company divided the land into shares called "drafts" which were drawn for by its members at the company's office in Hartford. The value of the shares varied depending upon the year of the drawing. For example, in 1807, 46 shares (drafts) of land west of the Cuyahoga River were drawn. The value of each share was \$26,087.

On March 2, 1801, President John Adams issued a U.S. patent for the Connecticut Western Reserve lands. This U.S. patent was conveyed to Jonathan Trumbull, Governor of the State of Connecticut, and his successors, as well as for the use of the persons holding and claiming the Western Reserve Lands through deeds given by the state.

Indian title to the Western Reserve lands lying east of the Cuyahoga River, was extinguished by the Treaty of Fort McIntosh, January 21, 1785, and confirmed by the Treaty of Greenville, August 3, 1795. The lands west of the Cuyahoga River were given up by the Treaty of Fort Industry, July 4, 1805.

In 1796, the Connecticut Land Company decided to subdivide their purchase into five-mile-square surveying townships. Surveying townships bordering Lake Erie do not contain the full 16,000 acres because of the irregular coastline. The interior subdivisions of the surveying townships were irregularly subdivided by the purchaser into tracts and lots of various sizes and land quantity. For example, the civil township of Brooklyn, in Cuyahoga County, contains 90 lots, while Madison Township, Geauga County, contains tracts subdivided into lots of various shapes and sizes.

The State of Ohio Archives does not have original records relating to the Connecticut Western Reserve lands. However, researchers can contact the Connecticut State Library, 231 Capitol Street, Hartford, Conn. 06115. The library has records relating to the Connecticut Land Company, Western Reserve Deeds, 1800-1807; Registrar of Certificates, Mortgages 1796-1800; Register of Deed Transfer, 1795-1807; Proceedings and Votes and Stock Ledgers. The Litchfield Historical Society, Litchfield, Conn. 06759, has the original Connecticut Land Company proceedings. The Trumbull County Recorder, Warren, Ohio 44481, has deeds recorded in "Western Reserve Draft Book," pages five to 73, inclusive.

Other sources of information include county records and the extensive collection of the Western Reserve Historical Society, Cleveland, Ohio 44106.

Fire Lands or Sufferers Lands. In September, 1781, the British and Tories invaded Connecticut. They destroyed by fire the towns of New London, Greenville, Fairfield, Danbury, Ridgefield, Norwalk, New and East Haven, and Groton. Benedict Arnold, then a British General, personally oversaw the destruction of New London.

More than 1,800 supporters of the American Revolution suffered because of the destruction of the nine towns. On May 10, 1792, the Connecticut Legislature set aside 500,000 acres at the west end of the Reserve to compensate these persons.

The Sufferers, as they became known, their heirs or legal representatives formed an Ohio Corporation on April 15, 1803, to manage their Ohio lands. By November 1808, their Board of Directors devised a plan to partition the "sufferers lands" among the sufferers or their assignees. They divided their land into five-mile-square surveying townships, and further subdivided the surveying townships into four-quarter townships, containing 4,000 acres each. The whole amount of the sufferers loss was, therefore, divided into 120 equal parts, for which they held a drawing which determined the location of the land the individual sufferers would receive.

The Fire Lands are located in Erie and Huron counties, Ruggles Township, Ashland County, and Danbury Township, Ottawa County.

Congressional Control of the Western Territory

The Continental Congress' title to the lands north of the Ohio River was derived from the Treaty of Paris, the Treaty of Fort McIntosh, and the cessions of four states.

In 1784, the first Congressional Committee was appointed to prepare a plan for the disposal of these western lands. Thomas Jefferson was its chairman.

The committee, and later the Continental Congress, was faced with the following problems: Revolutionary War Veterans demanding the land bounties promised them; squatters crossing the Ohio River and staking claims; the need for revenue to pay the national debt (Congress did not have the power to tax at the time); and what procedures to adopt for the survey and sale of the western lands. The Land Ordinance of May 20, 1785 resolved these issues.

Northwest Ordinance

The Northwest Ordinance, enacted July 13, 1787, established not only the manner in which the Northwest Territory was to be governed, but the procedures under which new territory could obtain full statehood. It also was the first general legislation by the Continental Congress on the subject of real property.

The ordinance further provided for civil and religious freedom, the use of writs of habeas corpus; trial by jury; bail, except for capital offenses; no cruel or unusual punishments; the encouragement of schools and education; and forbade slavery or involuntary servitude forever within the territory.

The rules and guarantees stated in the Northwest Ordinance have provided the legal framework by which most new states entered the Union since its enactment.

This historic document, which predates the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights, is reproduced in the appendix to this booklet.

Statehood and the State Capitals

On March 1, 1803, Ohio became the 17th state to enter the Union. Its entry was based upon the Northwest Ordinance, the Enabling Act of April 30, 1802, and the Ohio Constitution, adopted November 29, 1802. Formal Congressional admittance of Ohio into the Union was by a Joint Resolution of Congress (H.J. Res. 121), on August 7, 1953, to take effect March 1, 1803 (Public Law 204, Chapter 337). This 150-year lapse in formal admittance did not affect Ohio's legal status as a state.

Edward Tiffin was elected the first Governor of Ohio on January 11, 1803, and took the oath of office March 3, 1803. The first legislature met on March 1, 1803.

The state capital was at Chillicothe, 1803-1810; Zanesville, 1810-1812; Chillicothe, 1812 to October 1816, when the state offices moved to Columbus. Columbus was a wilderness when it was designated the permanent State Capital on February 14, 1812. The General Assembly named the new capital Columbus on February 21, 1812. The original deed to the 10-acre capitol grounds is kept in the State of Ohio Archives in the Ohio Historical Center, Columbus, Ohio 43211-2497. Map Source: Biographical Directory-General Assembly of Ohio 1929-1930: Columbus, 1931.



OHIO MAP IN 1803 WHEN THE STATE WAS ADMITTED TO THE UNION

Federal Rectangular Survey System

The Land Ordinance of May 20, 1785, became the foundation of the American Land System which led to the orderly surveying, sale and settlement of public lands in the United States.

The ordinance established the rectangular survey as the primary means to originally subdivide public lands. It provided that the western territory be divided into surveying townships of six-mile-square containing 36 sections, each one-mile-square (640 acres). Sections were numbered one to 36, commencing with number one in the south-east corner of the township, and running from south to north in each tier to number 36 in the northwest corner of the township. Townships were numbered from a base south to north in rows called ranges. Ranges were numbered east to west.

This ordinance also set aside lands for Continental Army Land bounties (although this was changed in June, 1796); established the minimum price per acre; minimum land quantity which could be bought; reserved Section 16 out of every township for the maintenance of schools; and reserved Sections 8, 11, 26 and 29 for future sale or disposition by Congress. It further established that legal sale and settlement of the public lands could not occur until the land had been surveyed, and the survey accepted by the federal government.

The first public lands to be surveyed in the United States were the "Seven Ranges" located in eastern Ohio. It also was the only land surveyed by government surveyors under the Continental Congress.

On September 30, 1785, Thomas Hutchins, Geographer of the United States, began to survey the geographer's line. The "Point of Beginning" was the intersection of the Pennsylvania stateline and the Ohio River. The line eventually ran 42 miles, "Seven Ranges," due west from that point which is now in East Liverpool. Townships in the "Seven Ranges" are numbered from the Ohio River. Sections are numbered as prescribed in the Land Ordinance of May 20, 1785. The only other surveys in the United States which used this same section arrangement are the: Between the Miami Rivers (M.R.s.) Survey and Symmes (Miami) Purchase Survey.

By an Act of Congress, passed May 18, 1796, the numbering of sections within a six-mile-square township was changed. The act provided that "the sections shall be numbered, respectively, beginning with the number one in the northeast section, and proceeding west and east alternately through the township, with progressive numbers, till the thirty-sixth be completed" in the southeast corner of the township. This became the standard section numbering found in all original Federal Surveys in the United States thereafter.

The numbering of townships from the Ohio River, and the numbering of sections according to the Act of May 18, 1796, can be found in the following surveys: East of the Scioto River and West of the Ohio Company Purchase; North of the Seven Ranges between the United States Military District and Connecticut Western Reserve; East of the 1st Meridian-West of the Great Miami River and East of the 1st Principal Meridian.

The problem of keeping townships six-mile-square, when the earth is curved, was solved in 1804 by Jared Mansfield, Surveyor General of the Northwest Territory. Mansfield established an arbitrary meridian and an intersecting east-west base line to survey the 2nd Principal Meridian in southern Indiana. Ranges of townships were progressively numbered eastward and westward from the meridian, while townships within each range were numbered northward and southward from the base line. This use of a principal meridian, and a base line, can be found in Northwest Ohio where the Ohio-Indiana line constitutes the 1st Principal Meridian and the parallel of the 41st degree latitude is the base line. There are 34 meridians in the United States, some designated by number, but most by names.

Range, Township, Section, Part of Section, and the original land survey name have become the basic legal property description for most of the land originally surveyed by the United States government in the 29 public land states. The original subdivision of the United States Military District will be discussed later. The original field notes and plats of the United States government land surveys in Ohio have been deposited by the Auditor of State into the State of Ohio Archives at the Ohio Historical Center in Columbus.

SECTIONS
NUMBERED



BEFORE
LAW OF
1796

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

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



AFTER LAW
OF 1796

2	1
3	4



DIVISIONS OF
TOWNSHIPS IN
U.S. MIL. DIST.

3	2
4	1



DIVISION OF
TOWNSHIPS IN
FIRE LANDS
AND RESERVE

Sketch of the Ohio Townships as surveyed under the Rectangular System.

Land Sales under the Confederation

After four ranges of townships had been surveyed, the government began selling land in the "Seven Ranges." From September 21, to October 9, 1787, a public sale of these lands was held in New York City, with 108,431 acres being sold. However, because buyers were permitted to make partial first payments, but failed to pay the balance due, 35,457 acres were forfeited to the government. U.S. Patents were issued for 72,974 acres for which the buyers paid \$87,325. No entire townships were sold.

The next federal land sales, in 1796, showed a rather dismal market for Ohio land, mainly due to a minimum price of \$2 per acre, with the minimum purchase being 640 acres. Sales were held in Pittsburgh, where 43,446 acres were sold, and in Philadelphia, where 5,120 acres were sold.

The first United States Patent (deed) was issued March 4, 1788, to John Martin for 640 acres in Range 4, Township 7, Section 20. This is now located in Richland Township, Belmont County.

Under the Confederation of States, (1781-1789), 1,487,986 acres of public lands had been sold, and donations (grants) of more than 206,240 acres were made. Also, the Continental Congress established reserves for education, religion, the Christian Indians in the Moravian Tract in Ohio, and three sections (1,920 acres) in each surveying township for future use.

The Ohio Company Purchase. This was the first large land sale made directly by the Continental Congress. It is located in southeastern Ohio.

Formed March 4, 1786, the Ohio Company of Associates primarily consisted of former Revolutionary War military officers and soldiers from Massachusetts and surrounding states. Its main purpose was to acquire land in the Western Territory for settlement purposes. Its first directors were General Rufus Putnam, Reverend Manasseh Cutler, Major Winthrop Sargent, Captain Thomas Cushing, and Colonel John Brooks.

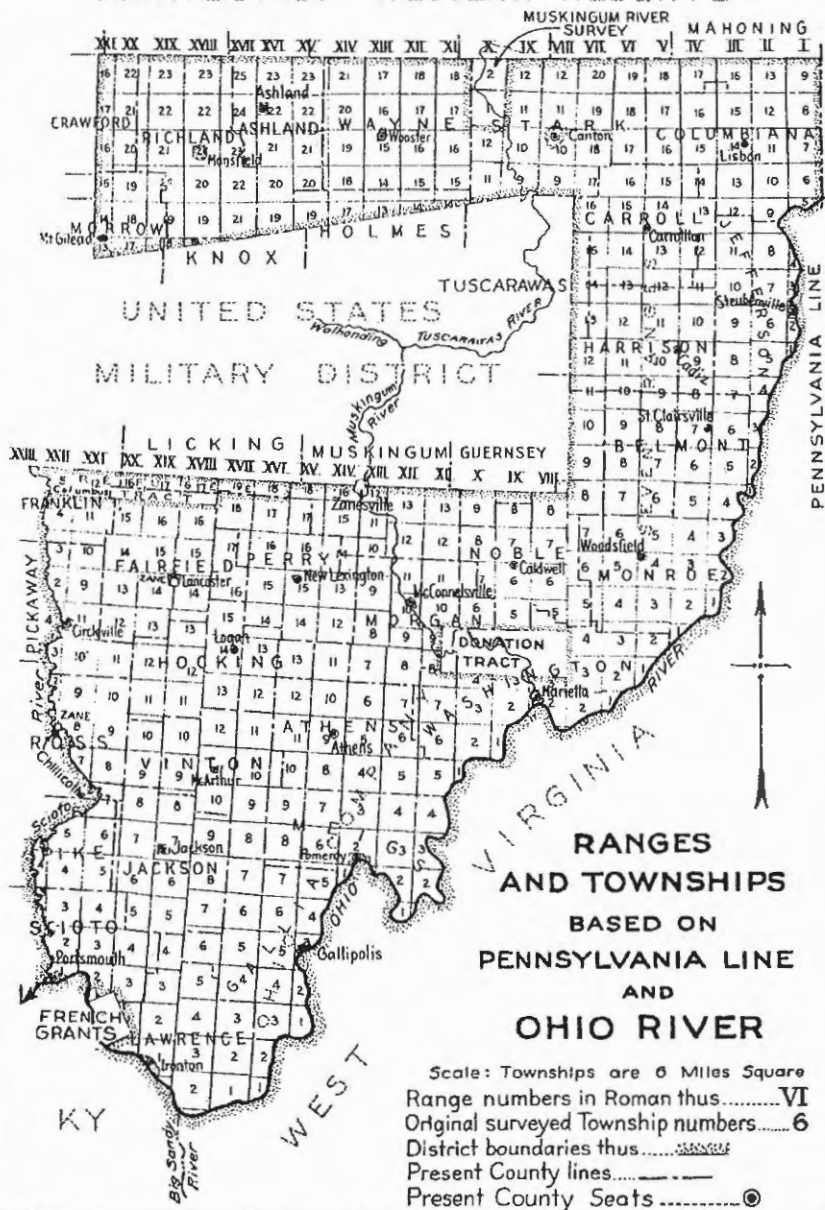
On October 27, 1787, Winthrop Sargent and Manasseh Cutler, contracted with the Board of Treasury to acquire 1,500,000 acres for which the company would pay \$500,000 down in Continental Securities, with the remainder to be paid upon completion of the surveys. These securities were then worth about twelve and a half cents to the dollar. The contract reserved Section 16 for school purposes, as stated in the Land Ordinance of May 20, 1785; Section 29 for religious purposes; Sections 8, 11, 26 for disposition by Congress; and two complete surveying townships (46,080 acres), which were given perpetually for the purposes of a university. An allowance of one-third of a dollar per acre was made for bad land.

Unable to raise the money for the second payment, because of expenses and the rise in the price of securities, the company settled for the 750,000 acres they had already paid for. This is called the Ohio Company first purchase. The U.S. Patent for the Ohio Company first purchase was issued May 10, 1792, by President George Washington. The first purchase contained 913,883 acres, including the reserved sections and townships.

The Congressional Resolution of July 23, 1787, permitted military bounty land warrants to be used to acquire land. The Ohio Company used bounty land warrants totalling 142,900 acres to acquire its second purchase; a 214,285 acre tract. The U.S. Patent for this second purchase was also issued May 10, 1792.

The Ohio Company divided the 964,285 acres it acquired into 822 shares of 1,173.37 acres each. On February 1, 1796, a deed of partition, or allotment, was made to 817 shareholders, the residue being held in trust for the company. All lands not previously conveyed or disposed of were sold in 1849.

CONNECTICUT WESTERN RESERVE



The allotment deeds show seven separate tracts, grouped in six divisions, were conveyed for each share as follows:

Division	Tract	Acres
First	One eight acre lot	8.00
Second	One three acre lot	3.00
Third	One house lot of (about)	.37
Fourth	One one hundred and sixty acre lot	160.00
Fifth	One one hundred acre lot	100.00
	One six hundred and forty acre lot or section	640.00
Sixth	One two hundred and sixty two acre lot or fraction	262.00
Total		1,173.37 Acres

Rufus Putnam and Manasseh Cutler led the first surveyors and settlers to the Ohio Company Purchase. They landed on April 7, 1788 at what is now Marietta. This date is observed as the anniversary of the first permanent white settlement in Ohio. See page 32 concerning the Moravian Settlements.

Privately surveyed under the direction of Rufus Putnam, the Range, Township and Section numbers follow the Land Ordinance of May 20, 1785. Exceptions occur when smaller tracts were needed to meet the allotment plan, therefore, some sections were subdivided differently. Records of the Ohio Company are at the Marietta College Library, Marietta, Ohio 45750. Copies of the plats, showing the allotments and original proprietors are also in the State of Ohio Archives.

Donation Tract. The Donation Tract lands are found in Adams, Fearing, Salem, Muskingum, Palmer, Waterford, Watertown Townships in Washington County, and in Windsor Township, Morgan County. This 100,000 acre tract was first surveyed into 100 acre lots, and allotted by agents of the Ohio Company under an Act of Congress passed in April 21, 1792.

This tract was established to act as a buffer between the settlers in the Ohio Company Purchase and the Indians. A 100-acre lot was given to any male, 18 years or older, on the condition they actually settle on the land at the time of the conveyance by deed. The U.S. Patent was issued May 10, 1792, to the Ohio Company, which issued the deeds to the actual settlers. In 1818, lands not conveyed in this tract reverted to the federal government and were sold at the Marietta Land Office.

This gift of land to actual settlers is similar to the Homestead Act of 1862.

Symmes Purchase. The Symmes Purchase, often called the Miami Purchase, is located in the southwestern corner of the state. It begins at the Ohio River, and runs approximately 24 miles northward, between the Great Miami and Little Miami Rivers. The total land area is 311,682 acres including reserves.

John Cleves Symmes and his associates originally contracted for one million acres from the Board of Treasury in 1788. However, in 1792, Congress modified this contract, with Symmes' consent, because Congress did not want Symmes' tract to interfere with the boundary line established by the Treaty of Fort Harmar.

On September 30, 1794, President George Washington signed the U.S. Patent (deed) conveying to Symmes 248,250 acres plus a surveying township (23,040 acres), in trust, for an academy. The Patent reserved Fort Washington (15 acres); one square mile near the mouth of the Great Miami; and in each township the following sections: Section 16 (for schools); Section 29 (for religion); Sections 8, 11, and 26 (for Congress' future use). Symmes paid \$70,455 in public securities for 105,683 acres and used military bounty land warrants, totalling 95,250 acres, to acquire the remaining 142,857 acres. Because Congress allowed one-third of a dollar off for bad lands and incidental charges, Symmes actually paid two-thirds of a dollar per acre.

John Cleves Symmes conveyed the entire 3rd Range of Townships, in trust, to Jonathan Dayton. Symmes did this because Dayton had acquired military bounty warrants from soldiers who desired to settle in the western country, but could not afford a cash payment. This entire 3rd Range is often called the Military Range in the records of Butler and Warren counties.

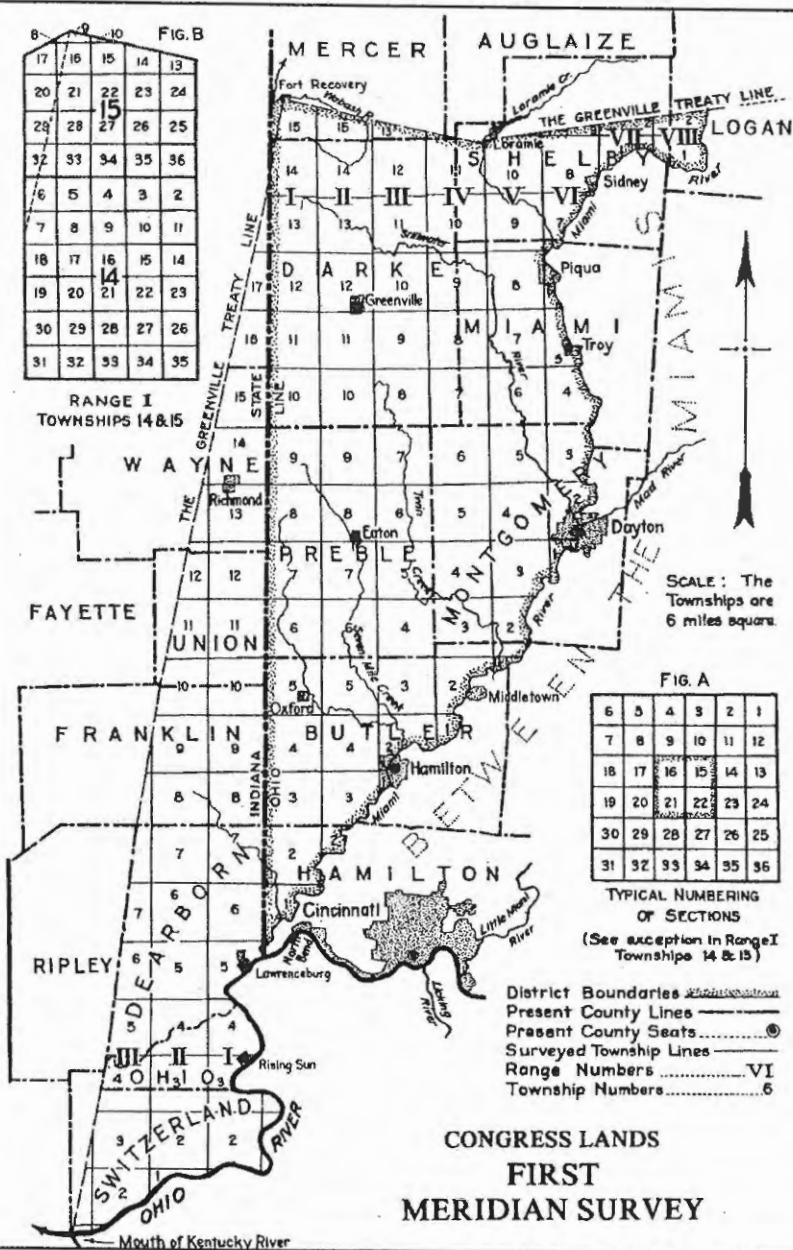
Symmes sold land beyond the lands eventually covered by his U.S. Patent. Technically, these settlers were squatters on unsurveyed federal land. To correct this situation, Congress passed relief acts on March 2, 1799, and March 3, 1801, which gave these settlers the first right to buy this land from the federal government. This was the first time the right of pre-emption was granted by Congress. Later, in 1841, Congress passed a general pre-emption act, which lead to fraud and settlement before land could be surveyed.

Symmes Purchase was privately surveyed. It is the only original land survey in the United States that has ranges running south to north, fractional ranges, and townships running west to east. Section numbering is according to the Land Ordinance of May 20, 1785. The federal surveys, above the Symmes Purchase, continued Symmes' unique and unorthodox numbering of ranges and townships so the "Between the Miami Rivers (M.Rs.) Survey" would be consistent.

FIG. B

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

RANGE I
TOWNSHIPS 14 & 15



Federal Land Offices and Sales in Ohio. William Henry Harrison, the Northwest Territory's first delegate to Congress, introduced the legislation that became the act of May 10, 1800. This Act opened the frontier to a "land office business."

The Act of May 10, 1800 established federal land offices in Steubenville, Cincinnati, Chillicothe, and Marietta; permitted land to be purchased on credit; made the public auction of land the prime sales method, but did permit private entry if the land had not been sold at auction; made 320 acres the minimum which could be purchased; created the positions of receiver of public monies and register to run each land office; permitted the Surveyor General to lease reserved sections for up to seven years on condition that the lessee make improvements; and provided the right of pre-emption for anyone erecting a grist mill. The first Federal Land Office opened in Steubenville in July 1800.

The credit provisions were one of the most important aspects of the Act of May 10, 1800. It provided that the entryman (buyer), would make a deposit of five percent of the purchase price, including surveying fees, on the day of the sale. Within 40 days the entryman had to pay an additional twenty percent of the purchase money. Additional payments of twenty-five percent of the purchase price were to be made within two, three, and four years after the day of sale. Interest of six percent a year was charged for the last three payments.

Any tract not completely paid for within one year after the date of the last payment would be advertised for sale by the register of the land office. He would then sell it at public vendue for not less than the whole arrears due. If not sold, or the arrears paid, then the land would revert to the United States. A discount of eight percent per year was allowed for prepayment of any of the last three payments. An entryman (purchaser), who fully paid for his tract on the day of sale, thus could buy \$2 an acre land for \$1.64 an acre.

Federal land sales were brisk under the Act May 10, 1800. The 1800-1801 combined sales of the four Ohio land offices was 398,647 acres, purchased for \$834,888. By June 30, 1820, Ohio land offices had sold 8,848,152 acres of land for \$17,226,186. These figures may be misleading because the Panic of 1819 strangled the western economy. Defaults under the credit system were common in the barter society of the frontier. Of the total number of acres sold by the federal government, July 1800-July 30, 1820, over twenty-nine percent of the acres were resold due to defaults.

The Act of April 24, 1820 abolished the credit system effective July 1, 1820, fixed the price of public lands at \$1.25 per acre, and set the minimum purchase at 80 acres. Under the cash system established by this Act, 94,182 entries for land were made in Ohio from July 1, 1820, to the closing of the Chillicothe Land Office in 1876.

Once the entryman (purchaser) paid for his land, a final certificate (or certificate of location, if land scrip was used), was issued by the registrar of the land office. This final certificate (or certificate of location), was sent to Washington D.C., for a U.S. Patent to be issued. Delays in issuing the U.S. Patent often occurred because the accounts and records had to be verified, a time-consuming task, and the president had to sign each U.S. Patent prior to March 3, 1833.

U.S. Patents were returned to the originating land office for delivery to the patentee (owner). Some patentees did not record their U.S. Patents, while others failed to pick them up at all. When the Chillicothe Land Office was preparing to close in 1876, thousands of U.S. Patents were found and returned to the General Land Office in Washington.

The State of Ohio Archives has a card index of about 175,000 cards, some are duplicates, arranged by the surname, then given name of the entryman, who acquired federal public lands in Ohio. It also has the Federal Tract and Entry Books, which are arranged by surveying range, township, section, and part of section. These give the name of the entryman (purchaser), quantity of acres entered, and date of entry. Sometimes additional information is given such as purchase price, state or county of residence at the time of entry, the final certificate number and federal land office where the land was sold. The current county and civil township are not given in the tract and entry books, but can be determined by using the range, township, section, part of section, and original survey name, with a map showing Ohio's original land subdivisions.

The State Auditor's office has more than 300 cu. ft. of land records in the State of Ohio Archives. Most are not indexed. Card indexes exist for the Federal Tract and Entry books. Inquiries should be sent to the State of Ohio Archives, Ohio Historical Center, 1982 Velma Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43211-2497.

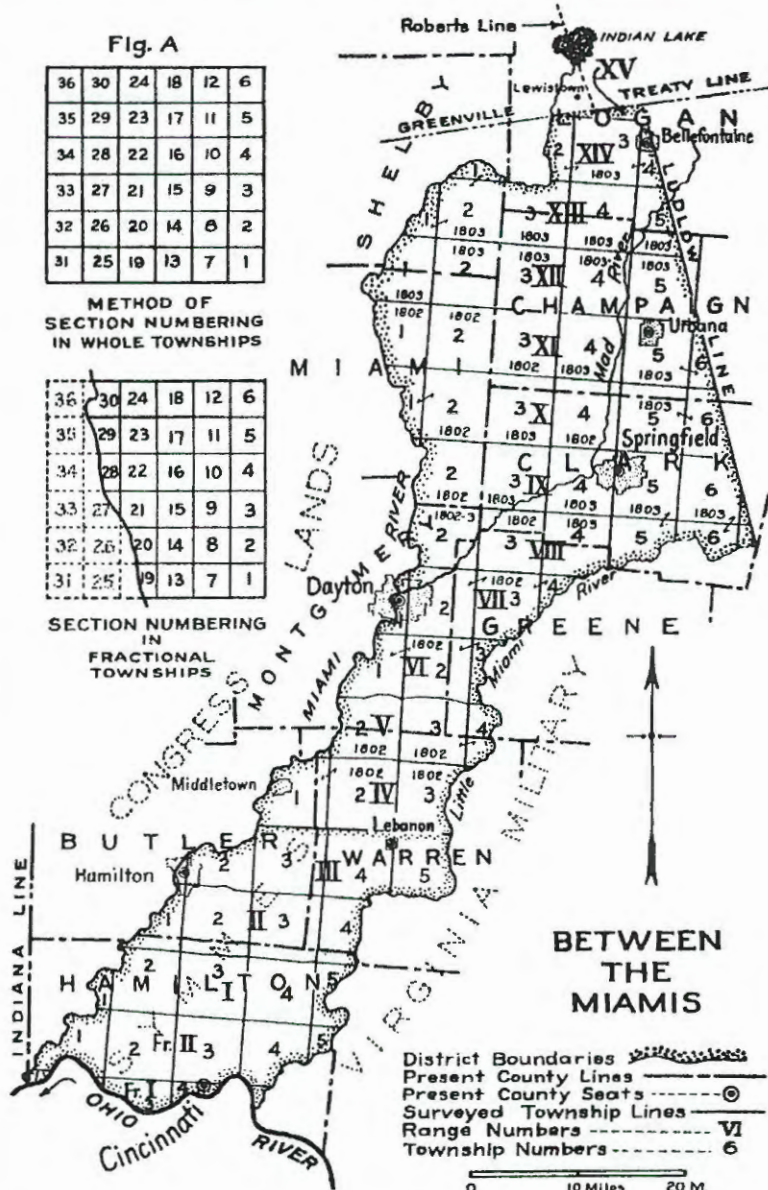
Fig. A

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

METHOD OF
SECTION NUMBERING
IN WHOLE TOWNSHIPS

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

SECTION NUMBERING
IN
FRACTIONAL
TOWNSHIPS



**TERMS OF SALE UNDER VARIOUS U.S. LAND ACTS
1785-1862***

YEAR	PRICE	TERMS	MINIMUM PURCHASE
1785	\$1.00 per acre	Specie, loan-office or debt certificates.	640 Acres
1795	\$2.00 per acre	One half down, one half due in one year.	640 Acres
1800	\$2.00 per acre	One quarter cash, remainder to be paid in three annual installments.	320 Acres
1804	\$2.00 per acre	One quarter cash; remainder to be paid in three annual installments.	160 Acres
1820	\$1.25 per acre	Cash.	80 Acres
1830	Land Scrip	Acceptable in lieu of cash.	
1832	\$1.25 per acre	Cash, Land Scrip.	40 Acres
1841	\$1.25 per acre	Squatters who built homes and improved land could purchase one-quarter section before it was offered for public sale.	160 Acres
1855 12 1/2 cents per acre	\$1.00 per acre-	Land not sold for 10 years to be offered at \$1.00 per acre; if not sold for 30 years, land could be	

		disposed of at 12 1/2 cents per acre.	40-320 Acres
1862	\$10 (filing fee)	Title could be obtained after 5 years residence under Homestead Act.	160 Acres
*1800-1862		Initial Sale by Public Auction	

United States Military District. The United States Military District, Lands or Survey (USMD) was established by a Congressional Act on June 1, 1796, to satisfy the September 16, 1776, and August 12, 1780, resolutions of Congress, which granted bounty land to Continental Army officers and soldiers. These resolutions offered the following land bounties: noncommissioned officer or soldier, 100 acres; Ensign, 150 acres; Lieutenant, 200 acres; Captain, 300 acres; Major, 400 acres; Lieutenant Colonel, 450 acres; Colonel, 500 acres; Brigadier General, 850 acres; and Major General, 1,100 acres.

The USMD contains about 2,560,000 acres. It is bounded on the north by the Greenville Treaty Line, on the east by the Seven Ranges, on the south by the Refugee Tract and Congress Lands, and on the west by the Scioto River. These lands are found in Franklin, Delaware, Knox, Licking, Morrow, Noble, Marion, Holmes, Coshocton, Muskingum, Tuscarawas and Guernsey counties.

The survey of the USMD began in March, 1797, according to the provisions of the Act of June 1, 1796. This called for dividing the land into surveying townships five miles square (16,000 acres), and then subdividing the townships into quarter-townships containing 4,000 acres each. The ranges are numbered east to west with the 1st range starting at the west line of Range 7 in the Old Seven Ranges. Townships are numbered northward from the base line, which is the south line of the tract. Quarter-townships are numbered 1 to 4 counterclockwise. The quarter-townships were subdivided by their original proprietors in whatever manner they wanted.

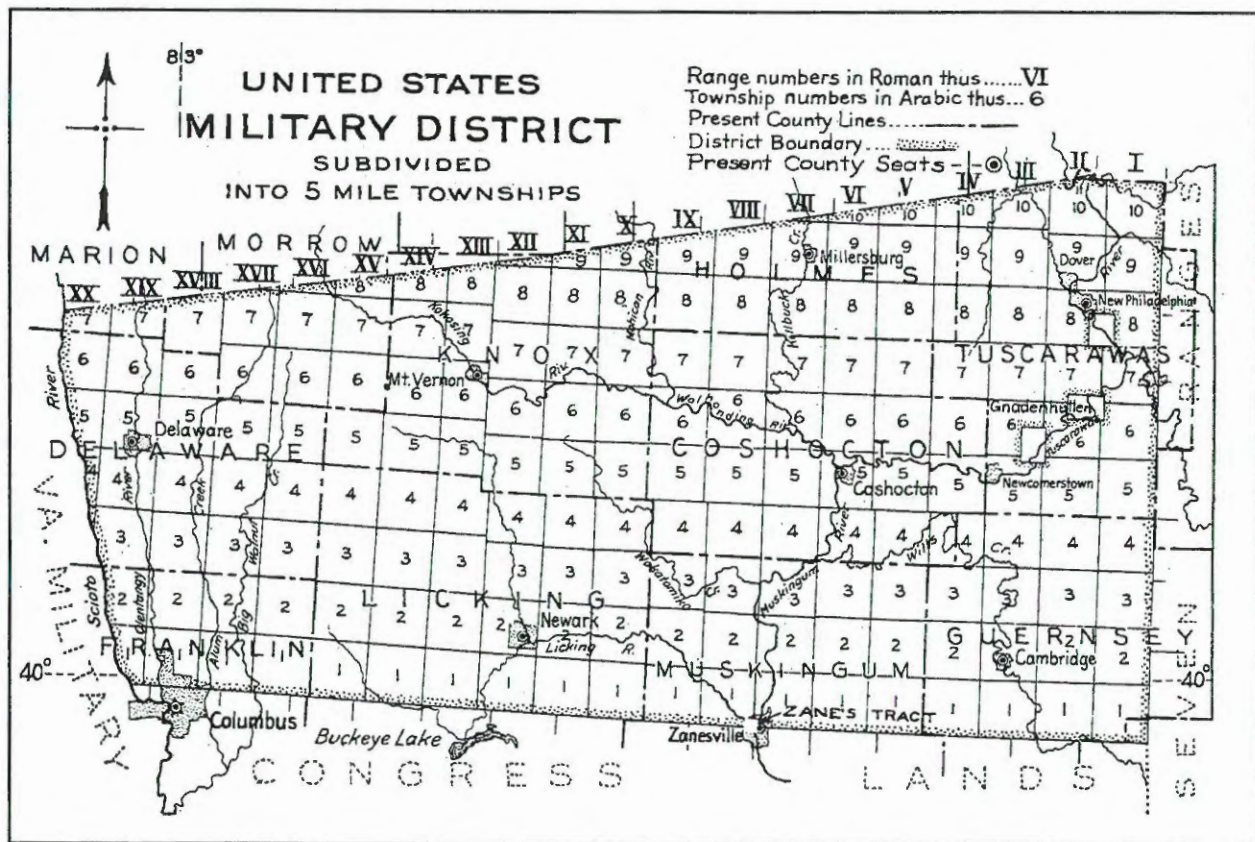
In 1800, 50 quarter-townships, and all the fractional quarter-townships not already taken, were to be divided into 100 acre lots. On April 26, 1802, Congress authorized some fractional townships to be divided into 50-acre lots. The Act of March 3, 1803, provided that all remaining lands not covered by warrants, or previously subdivided, should be surveyed into sections, one mile square, and sold on the same terms as any other public lands.

This confusing original land survey was Congress' attempt to honor the military land bounty warrants issued under the Act of July 9, 1788. No one person had a 4,000 acre warrant, so warrants had to be pooled.

The pooling of warrants lead to warrants being bought up in the East. Out of the 1,043,460 acres claimed by land warrant, 569,542 acres were patented by 22 persons. A drawing determined the actual location of the 262 quarter-townships claimed by military warrants. Absentee patentees (owners) often sold their land without ever having seen it, and without regard to any attachment or sale by Ohio officials for delinquent taxes.

The final division of the unclaimed 4,000 acres quarter-townships into 640-acre sections, only four years after the final township surveys were run, shows the general lack of interest the Revolutionary War veterans had in this free land.

By 1823, the United States government had issued 10,958 warrants, totalling 1,549,350 acres for Revolutionary War service and more were issued under various laws thereafter. These warrants could only be used in the USMD, with an exception being made for by the Ohio Company and John Cleves Symmes. The warrant holders, who held onto their warrants, finally received relief by the Act of May 30, 1830. By this act, they could exchange their warrants for land scrip issued in 80-acre amounts, good for \$1.25 an acre land anywhere on the public domain, available for private entry. This act, and the seven other warrant exchange acts, caused over 12,138,840 acres of land scrip to be issued. Researchers will find that land scrip could be bought cheaply, depending on market conditions. Its use in a land transaction does not infer the holder was entitled to it by military-service. Veterans often sold their land scrip to land jobbers, thus producing a dead-end situation for family researchers.



Michigan Survey. This original land survey is located in Northwest Ohio in Williams, Fulton, and Lucas counties. It is a continuation of the federal rectangular surveys starting from the Michigan Meridian and its base line, which is located north of Detroit.

The land was claimed by both the state of Ohio and the territory of Michigan. This dispute nearly caused a war between the two in 1835. Ohio militia actually waited at the disputed state boundary line to invade Michigan. Some skirmishes occurred, and minor injuries inflicted before more peaceful means prevailed.

The cause of this controversy had its origin in the Ordinance of 1787, when it was provided that, "if Congress shall hereafter find it expedient, they shall have authority to form one or two states in that part of said territory which lies north of an east and west line drawn through the southerly bend or extreme of Lake Michigan."

The Act of April 30, 1802, that enabled Ohio to become a state, defined its north boundary to be "an east and west line drawn through the southerly extreme of Lake Michigan, running east until it shall intersect Lake Erie."

Ohio was admitted to the Union without Congress clearly defining its northern boundary. Congress tried to clear up the problem in 1817, when William Harris surveyed the boundary as set forth in the Ohio Constitution. Michigan objected to the Harris Line. John A. Fulton ran another survey in 1818 based upon the language in the Northwest Ordinance. Ohio objected to the Fulton Line because it was several miles south of the Harris Line and Ohio would lose the harbor at what is now Toledo.

Finally, on June 15, 1836, the controversy ended when the President of the United States approved "An Act to establish the northern boundary of Ohio, and to provide for the admission of the State of Michigan into the Union upon the conditions therein expressed." The boundaries prescribed for Michigan took away all the land south of the Harris Line, 400 square miles. Michigan received 9,000 square miles (which now is its Upper Peninsula) for its loss. Also, it was admitted to the Union on January 26, 1837 as part of the compromise.

Moravian Indian Grants. The Moravian Indian Grants were the Moravian (United Brethren) Missionaries Indian Villages of Schoenbrun (May, 1772); Gnadenhutten (October, 1772); Salem (1780) and the adjoining lands. These three separate tracts, 4,000 acres each, are located in Tuscarawas County, with the Tuscarawas River flowing through each.

The Land Ordinance of May 20, 1785 reserved these tracts "for the sole use of the Christian Indians who formerly settled there, or the remains of that society." The Continental Congress reserved these tracts because 100 white men, acting as a corps of volunteer militia, slaughtered 96 innocent Christian Indians, including women and children, at Gnadenhutten on March 8, 1782. These murders were in retaliation for hostile Indians raids on the settlers of Western Pennsylvania and Virginia.

The three tracts were donated in trust to the "Society of the United Brethren for propagating the Gospel among the Heathen" (Moravian Brethren) under the Ordinance of September 3, 1788. This was to encourage the Moravian missionaries in the work of civilizing the Indians, and encourage the surviving Christian Indians to return to these villages.

A U.S. Patent was issued February 24, 1798, to the United Brethren as trustees for the Indians, based upon the Act of June 1, 1796. By agreements signed between a U.S. Commissioner and the United Brethren (August 4, 1823) and the Christian Indians (November 8, 1823), the trust was revoked and the three tracts transferred to the United States government. The United Brethren Deed of Retrocession was executed April 24, 1824, and accepted by Congress on May 26, 1824.

The three tracts were subdivided into farm lots in 1825. These farm lots were later sold at public auction by government appointed agents at the courthouse in New Philadelphia. Unsold farm lots were sold at the Zanesville Land Office. From the sale proceeds, the Christian Indians received a \$400 annuity and the United Brethren Society received enough money to pay the debt remaining from its improvement of the tracts.

French Grants. These land grants are located in Scioto County along the Ohio River. They were given to 101 Frenchmen who had been swindled by the Scioto Company. This speculative land company was led by William Duer of New York and in reality owned no land anywhere.

Induced to come to America by the extravagant claims and gross misrepresentations of the Scioto Company's agent in France, these French immigrants arrived in Ohio in December 1791. They settled on land they eventually bought from the Ohio Company for \$1.25 an acre and named their town Gallipolis.

By an act passed May 31, 1795, Congress gave 24,000 acres "to the French inhabitants of Gallipolis." John Gabriel Gervais received 4,000 acres for his services in obtaining the grant. The remainder was surveyed in 92 lots of 217.4 acres each. This is commonly called the First Grant.

Somehow eight Gallipolis inhabitants did not receive their portion of the First Grant. Therefore, Congress passed the Act of June 25, 1798, giving an additional 1,200 acres which were surveyed into 150 acre lots. This became known as the Second Grant.

Refugee Tract. The Refugee Tract (Lands) is located in parts of Franklin, Fairfield, Licking and Perry counties in Central Ohio. This tract extends 42 miles eastward from the Scioto River, along the south line of the United States Military District. The first 30 miles are four and one half miles wide but narrows to three miles wide for the last twelve miles. This tract contains 103,527 acres.

The Continental Congress resolved to grant land to Canadian refugees (April 23, 1783) and to Refugees of Nova Scotia (April 13, 1785), whenever Congress could legally make such grants of land. These refugees had abandoned their settlements and fled to the United States to aid the colonial cause during the Revolutionary War.

The Act of April 7, 1798 provided that the refugees had to have fled prior to July 4, 1776; continued aiding the United States; and did not return to reside in the dominions of the King of Great Britain prior to November 25, 1783. It also provided that the bounty land could be claimed by widows and heirs of all such persons, if they died within the United States or in colonial service during the Revolutionary War.

The Act of February 18, 1801, established the boundaries of the Refugee Tract and named the claimants and the quantity of land which they were entitled. Additional claimants were named in the acts of April 23, 1812. By these Acts, 67 claimants received 58,080 acres, most of which were in 320, 640, 960, 1,280, and 2,240 acre grants.

The Refugee Lands were not set aside until after the regular Federal surveys had progressed to the United States Military District. Therefore, the range, township and section lines and numbers were already established. The townships, being fractional (partial) townships, were subdivided into 320-acre lots by halving each full section with a north and south line. A drawing, by lot, determined the location, or locations, of the claimant's grant.

The Act of April 29, 1816 authorized the remaining 45,447 acres to be sold by the Chillicothe Land Office.

In Columbus, the Refugee Tract is between approximately Fifth Avenue on the north, and Refugee Road on the south. Therefore, the State House and most state offices are located within the tract.

Zane's Tract. Ebenezer Zane received three tracts of land, 640 acres each, for laying out a road (Zane's Trace) from Wheeling, Virginia (W.Va.), through Ohio, to Limestone (now called Maysville), Kentucky. Zane's Trace opened in 1797.

Congress authorized Ebenezer Zane on May 17, 1796, to locate the three tracts provided he paid for the surveys and did not interfere with existing government surveys. Also, he acquired the right to operate the ferries at these locations. Zane located one tract on the Muskingum River (now in Zanesville), one on the Hocking River (now in Lancaster), and one on the east bank of the Scioto River, opposite Chillicothe.

He chose these locations because they were important river crossings on the road he laid out, and were a financially sound investment.

Isaac Zane, one of Ebenezer Zane's brothers received three surveying sections, 640 acres each, for various services to the U.S. government, by the Act of April 3, 1802. Two of these sections were for the use and benefit of Zane's children, living at the time of his death, or their heirs. A U.S. Patent was issued to Isaac Zane on August 28, 1806, for these tracts which are located in the civil townships of Salem and Concord, Champaign County.

Dohrman Grant. Arnold Henry Dohrman was agent for the United States at the court of Lisbon (Portugal) during the Revolutionary War. He fed, clothed and nursed American sailors who had been captured by British cruisers.

After submitting his expenditures to the Treasury Department, a substantial amount was disallowed because of lack of documentation. Therefore Congress, on October 1, 1787, granted him an entire township (23,040 acres) to compensate him for the disallowed expenditures and for his humanitarian efforts.

The Act of February 27, 1801 directed the president to issue a U.S. Patent to Dohrman for Township 13, Range 7, in the Old Seven Ranges. This land is located half in Harrison County, and half in Tuscarawas County.

On March 3, 1817, Congress granted Rachel Dohrman, widow of Arnold Henry Dohrman, \$300 annually for life, and to each of Dohrman's minor children, \$100 a year until they became 21 years old.

Other Grants to Individuals. The United States government gave small land grants to various Indians as the result of Indian Treaties; to white men who had been captured and lived with the Indians; and some early settlers in Northwest Ohio who traded with the Indians. Pre-emption rights (the right to buy land first, without bidding on it) were also given by Congress to various individuals throughout Ohio. Unfortunately, space does not permit the listing of all these grants and pre-emptions.



YEAR COUNTY ESTABLISHED

Originally, the responsibility of creating and naming counties rested with the Territorial Governor until the creation of the state. After November 30, 1802, the creation of counties and their boundaries were the responsibility of the Ohio Legislature. Until a county was formally organized it remained attached to its parent county or surrounding counties. This could occur several years after the county's creation depending on the Legislative Acts creating it. County Commissioners created and named civil townships.



YEAR COUNTY ORGANIZED

Although a county may have been established earlier, it did not function as a county until it was organized. The year shown on this map represents the year of organization and the records of the county recorder should begin in that year. Since many counties were formed from existing counties, earlier records may exist in the parent county or surrounding counties. It is possible for a land-owner never to have moved, yet various records may show four different counties of residence.

Federal Military Reservations (Forts)

Forts, garrisons, stockades and blockhouses were all used by frontier settlers and soldiers for defense against hostile Indians. Many of these fortifications, described in Ohio county histories were already within original land subdivisions, or included in later ones. The following are separate original surveys:

Fort Washington. Built in 1789 to protect settlers in the Symmes (Miami) Purchase, this fort was reserved to the federal government in Symmes' U.S. Patent. In 1806, Congress ordered the old fort's 15 acres to be subdivided into town-lots and streets which would conform to the original town-plat of Cincinnati. The survey, certified on July 8, 1807, shows the boundaries of the old fort were: Fourth Street, on the north; Ludlow Street, on the east; the Ohio River, on the south; and Broadway, on the west. Riverfront Coliseum is built on part of the old Fort Washington grounds.

Twelve Mile Square Reservation. Located in Lucas and Wood counties, this original survey contains 144 square miles and is divided, nearly in half, by the Maumee River.

Twelve Mile Square surrounds the former site of Fort Miami; originally built by the French in 1680 and later abandoned. The British occupied the old fort from 1785 until the confirmation of the Jay Treaty (November 19, 1794) in 1795. The United States held the fort until the War of 1812 when the British captured it. The Americans recaptured the fort and abandoned it in 1813 when Fort Meigs was built nearby on the south side of the Maumee.

French and English white settlers who had settled around Fort Miami were given land in 1807, based upon their claims of living on the land prior to July 1, 1796.

Twelve Mile Square was surveyed into four six-mile-square townships numbered clockwise, beginning with one, from the southwest township. The private claims, near the center of the square, were laid out perpendicular to the claimants river frontage. Under the Act of April 27, 1816, 93 lots, containing 160 acres each, were surveyed out of the sections fronting the river. These were called "River Tracts."

The town of Perrysburg was laid out by federal surveyors under the Act of April 27, 1816.

The Battle of Fallen Timbers, (August 20, 1794), took place within the Twelve Mile Square. Major General Anthony Wayne's defeat of the Indians at this battle ended the Indian War which had been raging on the frontier since 1790. The Indians ceded, in addition to other lands, Twelve Mile Square and Two Mile Square by the Treaty of Greenville (August 3, 1795).

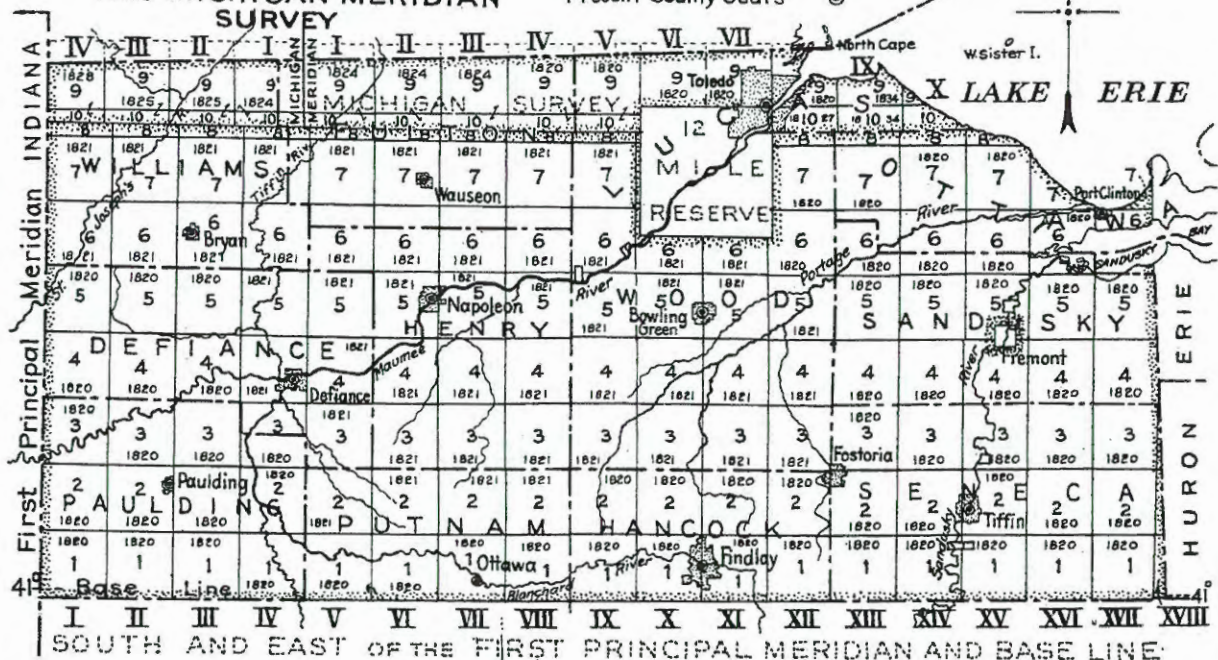
Two Mile Square Reservation. Two Mile Square (2,560 acres) is now covered by the city of Fremont, Sandusky County. The Sandusky River nearly cuts the reserve in half. The land was ceded by the Indians in 1795.

At the beginning of the War of 1812, Fort Stephenson (Sandusky) was built on the west bank of the river. The fort enclosed about an acre of ground. Major George Croghan, with 250 soldiers, successfully defended this fort (August 3, 1813), against a British and Indian force of over 1,300. This victory earned Croghan, who was Gen. George Rogers Clark's nephew, the brevet rank of Lt. Colonel.

Two Mile Square was first surveyed into four (640 acre) sections in 1807. Following the Act of April 26, 1816, section one, which was east of the river, was subdivided into 310 inlots and 63 outlots to create a town. The town was named Croghanville, in honor of George Croghan. In 1829, the town was incorporated under the name Lower Sandusky, and in 1848 named Fremont. The Wooster Federal Land Office handled the early sales of the sections and lots within Two Mile Square.

NORTH AND EAST OF THE
FIRST PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN
ALSO
THE MICHIGAN SURVEY

District boundaries thus
Range numbers in Roman thus VI
Township numbers in Arabic thus..6
Present County boundaries thus ---
Present County Seats ⊙



Grants to the State of Ohio

The state of Ohio received land grants from Congress for specific purposes. The state disposed of these land grants through Acts of the Legislature. The following is a description of these land grants, with a brief history of their disposition.

School Lands - Section 16. The federal government's gift of land for educational purposes traces its origin to the Land Ordinance of May 20, 1785. Within the ordinance, the following language can be found. "There shall be reserved the Lot No. 16, of every township, for the maintenance of public schools within said township." Thus began Congress' intent to encourage public schools by land grants. By 1920, 73,155,075 acres of the public domain had been given as school lands to the public land states.

The township referred to in the ordinance is a surveying unit. Used in public land surveys, a township describes a square containing 36 sections, each one-mile-square (640 acres). Sections are numbered one to 36 within the township. Civil townships are political subdivisions (units of local government) within a county. In states using the federal rectangular survey system, civil townships and surveying townships often have the same boundaries but exceptions exist.

The Northwest Ordinance (July 13, 1787) is a document for the establishment of government in the Northwest Territory and not for land surveys. Specific language is not found in it for the reservation of School Lands. However, in the Enabling Act of 1802, (Act of April 30, 1802) Section 7, Congress offered three propositions which, if accepted by the Ohio's constitutional convention, "shall be obligatory upon the United States." The first proposition stated "That the section number sixteen, in every township, and where such section has been sold, granted, or disposed of, other lands equivalent thereto, and most contiguous to the same, shall be granted to the inhabitants of such township for the use of schools."

In answer to the proposition, the Ohio Constitutional Convention passed an ordinance-resolution, November 29, 1802, which was a counterproposal. The ordinance-resolution, when accepted by Congress, would greatly affect the state from 1803 to the present day. The November 29, 1802 ordinance-resolution required the United States to donate one thirty-sixth (2.77%) of the land area of Ohio for the support of schools; give the state not less than three

percent of the net proceeds derived from the sale of public lands in Ohio; donate one township (23,040 acres) for an institution of higher education (now Miami University); and give the Ohio Legislature control of the donated lands, in trust, for the purposes Congress intended when making the grant. Congress accepted these counterproposals March 3, 1803. By this Act, Congress appropriated public land to honor the commitments it had made to the state.

Each township received Section 16 for its school land whenever possible or one in lieu of it as stated in the first proposition above. These "in lieu of sections" are not uncommon in Ohio because of early grants. Downtown Columbus, for example, is situated in Range 22, Township 5, Section 16 (Matthew's Survey), which should have been reserved for schools. However, the Refugee Tract grant overlapped this Section 16. Therefore, it was unavailable except to claimants of the grant. Township 5's schools were given Section 15 in Township 11, Range 21 (Matthew's Survey), which is located right next to Township 11's school section now in Madison Township, Franklin County, near Groveport.

The Virginia Military District (VMD), Connecticut Western Reserve (CWR) and United States Military District (USMD) all received school lands to use for the support of their schools. These federal grants were not located within the VMD or CWR because neither tract was under federal jurisdiction.

The Virginia Military District school lands (105,600 acres) are found in Wayne, Holmes, Ashland, Richland, Crawford and Morrow Counties.

The Connecticut Western Reserve (CWR) school lands are located in two different geographic areas of the state because two appropriations were made. Holmes and Tuscarawas counties have 56,000 acres of CWR school lands, while Williams, Defiance, Paulding, Putnam, Henry and Van Wert counties have 37,724.16 acres. The total land granted was 93,724.16 acres.

The United States Military District school land grants totalled 72,000 acres located in Guernsey, Coshocton, Muskingum, Licking, Morrow and Delaware counties.

The Donation Tract, the Two Mile Square Reserve, the Moravian Tracts and French Grants were granted school lands either within the tracts or adjoining them.

The United States government granted 704,204 acres for public school purposes in Ohio.

The Acts of the Ohio Legislature relating to school lands and school funds, as well as the history of the school lands, would make a fascinating book. Unfortunately, only the highlights can be mentioned in this booklet.

The Ohio Legislature passed its first act concerning school lands on April 15, 1803. The act provided for the leasing and administration of these lands.

At first, school lands were leased for seven to 15 years with requirements that the lessee improve the property by clearing and fencing it, planting 100 apple trees, as well as other duties. In 1817 school lands were permitted to be leased for 99 years, renewable forever.

By the Act of February 1, 1826, Congress consented to the state's request that it be permitted to sell school sections. However, the act required that the township's inhabitants would have to consent to the sale of the school section prior to any land being sold.

The Ohio Legislature, on January 29, 1827, passed an act establishing the voting, appraisal, sale, and conveyance procedures to follow in the sale of section 16 school lands. School land sale proceeds were deposited into the "Common School Fund," and interest on the principal paid to the schools within the original surveyed township, as required by the 1826 Congressional Act.

Article VI, Section 1, Ohio Constitution 1851, protected the principal of all funds received for the sale, or other disposition of lands granted or entrusted to the state for educational or religious purposes. Ohio voters approved an amendment to this Article in 1968. The trust monies were then dispersed for educational purposes.

School lands were administered by the trustees of the original surveyed townships until 1914. Unfortunately, their administration dissipated an asset that Congress had intended as a continuing endowment for education.

The Auditor of State became responsible for the leasing of mineral rights in 1914. The Garver Act of 1917, made the Auditor of State the Supervisor of School and Ministerial Lands, in addition to his other duties. He maintained administrative control until August 1, 1985, when House Bill 201 (116th G.A.) transferred most of the duties of the Supervisor to the State's Director of Administrative Services.

At the time of transfer, four school land farms totalling 1,232 acres were under two year leases, while several small lots in Columbiana County were under lease for 99 years renewable forever. The four school land farms were located in Hardin County, Marion Township (R9E, T4S, S16 640-acres); Ross County, Green Township (R21, T9, S15 -312 acres); Marion County, Big Island Township (R14E, T5S, S15 -160 acres); and Franklin County, Madison Township (R21, T11, S16 - 120 acres).

On June 29, 1988, Amended House Bill 497 and Amended Substitute House Bill 549 (117th G.A.) became effective. These acts transferred the general charge, supervision, management and all remaining monies from the State's Director of Administrative Services, acting as supervisor, to the Board of Education of each school district that had been allocated these lands. Title to these lands are held in trust by the State of Ohio, through the General Assembly, because of a March 3, 1803 Congressional Act.

The Auditor of State maintains the record copy of School and Ministerial Land deeds issued by the state of Ohio. Final certificates for these types of lands as well as lease records have been placed in the State of Ohio Archives.

Ministerial Lands - Section 29. On July 23, 1787, the Continental Congress adopted a resolution authorizing the Board of Treasurer and the Ohio Company of Associates. These ministerial sections, as they became known, can be found in the Ohio Company's First Purchase in Washington, Meigs, Gallia, Lawrence and Athens Counties. Marietta was found to be within a reserve ministerial section after the tract was surveyed. Although the Ohio Company had planned for such a problem, the federal government would not permit the sale of Section 29 land in Marietta.

No ministerial land was set aside by Congress in the Ohio Company's Second Purchase, located in parts of Morgan, Hocking, Vinton and Athens counties. However, on January 7, 1796, the Ohio Company did set aside Section 29 for religious purposes in each of the ten surveying townships found in this tract.

Congress also reserved Section 29 for religious purposes in John Cleves Symmes' Miami Purchase. Symmes' October 15, 1788, contract was similar to the Ohio Company's contract with the Board of Treasury. These ministerial lands are found in parts of Hamilton, Butler and Warren counties.

Ohio's 43,525 acres of ministerial land were, at first, leased to settlers by the trustees of the original surveying townships. After statehood, the General Assembly became the trustee and passed laws permitting 99 year leases renewable forever. Some of the leases are still in effect in Marietta, as well as in Delhi and Green townships in Hamilton County. This has created title problems for persons in those areas because they really don't own the land. To clear up this title problem, persons often pay the back rent and receive a deed from the state of Ohio. The back rent for some parcels has been as low as five cents a year because the original 19th Century (1805) formula for rent is still in effect.

The state of Ohio was authorized by Congress in 1833 to sell the ministerial land in Ohio. The money was invested, and the churches within the original surveying township received the interest and rent money until 1968. At that time, the constitutionality of such church-state relationships were questioned. Congress then authorized the remaining ministerial funds to be dispersed for schools. In May 1968, Ohio voters approved a constitutional amendment that resulted in any future ministerial income being used only for educational purposes.

Ohio is the only state in the Union where Congress gave land for the support of religion, except for a few small mission sites in the West. To what extent these land grants actually encouraged or benefited religion, will be up to future historians to answer.

Canal Lands. Two types of canal lands are found in Ohio. One is the 1,100,361 acres donated to Ohio by Congress to aid in the construction of the canals. The other is land actually used for the canals and canal reservoirs.

Begun on July 4, 1825, the Ohio Canal System ultimately consisted of over 795 miles of canals and feeders, five reservoirs (32,903 acres); 29 stream dams, 294 lift locks, and 44 aqueducts, which cost the state \$15,967,652. Cost of maintenance and operations to November 15, 1901, was \$12,464,130. Gross receipts from 1827 to 1901 were \$17,556,722. Although these figures may not be impressive in today's economy, the canal system could be compared to Ohio's 1,550 miles of Interstate highways, including the 241 miles of the Ohio Turnpike.

Ohio's major canals and their length in miles were: Ohio Canal (309); Walhonding Canal (25); Hocking Canal (56); Sandy and Beaver Canal (6); Muskingum Improvement (91); Miami and Erie Canal (248); Wabash and Erie Canal (18), and eight feeders (42 miles).

The land donated by Congress was sold by the state for \$2,257,487. These are located along the Miami and Erie Canal, primarily in Northwest Ohio. The Auditor of State's Land Office has the record copies of the deeds for both types of canal lands sold by the state.

Wagon Road or Turnpike Lands. Starting June 30, 1802, Ohio received three percent of the net proceeds from the sale of federal land in the state. This money could only be used for building roads. It was the seed money for many of the early roads in Ohio. By June 30, 1880, Ohio had received \$596,634 from this fund.

Congress gave the state more than 60,000 acres along the 46 miles of the Maumee Road on February 23, 1823. This road ran east from Maumee to the Connecticut Western Reserve. The state also received 31,596 acres for the Columbus and Sandusky Turnpike in 1827. Both land grants were made to defray the costs of construction.

Salt Reservations. Salt was a necessity of life which the early pioneers found quite expensive. Before salt was found in abundance in Ohio, it had to be brought over the mountain by pack animal. In 1796, Congress reserved all salt springs because of this mineral's value.

In Ohio, salt reservations were found in the present day counties of Jackson (23,040 acres), Delaware (4,000 acres), and Muskingum (1,280 acres).

The Scioto Salt Springs were the most noted and valuable. Their existence were known to the English as early as 1755. Visited regularly by Indians and settlers, a thriving settlement sprang up around the salt springs. The growing village caused the General Assembly to create the new County of Jackson, with the county seat at the salt works. Congress authorized the sale of 640 acres of this salt reservation in 1816. The proceeds of this sale, \$7,196, were used to construct the county buildings.

In 1824, Congress authorized the state to sell all of the remaining Salt Lands. The proceeds were to be used for "literary purposes."

Swamp Lands. This land was given to the state by an Act of Congress on September 28, 1850. These 25,640 acres are located in the northwestern part of the state, in part of an area of the "Black Swamp." It was land unfit for cultivation unless it was drained. Once it was drained, it was found to be some of the best farm land in Ohio.

Ohio University. Two entire surveying townships, (46,080 acres) in the Ohio Company's First Purchase, were reserved by Congress "perpetually for the purpose of a university." These lands are located in the civil townships of Athens and Alexander, Athens County.

Ohio University, established February 18, 1804, became the recipient of this land grant. Unfortunately, in 1805, the legislature permitted the University Trustees to lease these lands to settlers for 99 years, renewable forever. The leases specify a fixed annual rent of six percent of the appraised value.

In 1826, Congress authorized the state to sell the land in these surveying townships. Yet even today, many persons still pay only the rent established in the 1805 law.

The university was opened in 1809. The first class, consisting of John Hunter and Thomas Ewing, graduated in 1815. These were the first academic degrees conferred in the states created out of the Northwest Territory.

Miami University. One of the provisions of the Congressional Act of March 3, 1803, authorized the state legislature to select one surveying township within the Cincinnati Land District for "academy, other public schools and seminaries of learning."

This land grant was necessary because John Cleves Symmes had failed to reserve one surveying township for this purpose within his Miami Purchase. Congress expected Mr. Symmes either to give the government land equivalent to one surveying township, or pay \$15,360, with interest, from the date of his patent in 1794. If he failed, Congress authorized the U.S. Attorney General to take action against Mr. Symmes.

In September, 1803, 23,321 acres were selected in Butler County, outside of the Symmes' Purchase, to fulfill this grant.

Miami University was established on February 17, 1809. The legislature named the town Oxford in 1810, and directed that it be platted. The academy opened in 1818, became a college in 1824, and graduated the first class in 1826.

The university lands were leased to settlers for 99 years, renewable forever. These leases are valid today and provide very little income to the university.

Ohio State University. On July 2, 1862, Congress passed the Morrill Act. This act offered land grants to each state or territory which would establish at least one college "related to agriculture and mechanic arts..."

Ohio accepted the provisions of this Act on February 9, 1864.

The Morrill Act gave 30,000 acres of land for each senator or representative a state had in Congress. Ohio had 21, therefore, it received 630,000 acres. Because no federal public lands were available in Ohio to satisfy the grant, the state accepted land scrip.

Land scrip was issued by the federal government. It could be used to acquire land anywhere on the public domain open for private entry. Ohio sold its land scrip for \$342,450.80 or about 54 cents per acre. This became the university's endowment. Ohio State University was also the beneficiary of the unlocated lands in the Virginia Military District as discussed on pages 4-6.

The Ohio Agricultural and Mechanical College opened for students in 1873. The first class graduated in 1878, the year the university changed its name to Ohio State University.



Seal of the Northwest Territory
used from July 26, 1788
to Ohio Statehood.



Present Seal of the State of
Ohio, as modified in 1967.



Canal scene used in the State
of Ohio Seal from early
1840's to 1866.

APPENDIX
ORDINANCE OF JULY 13, 1787

*An ordinance for the government of the territory of the
United States northwest of the river Ohio*

Be it ordained by the United States in congress assembled, That the said territory, for the purposes of temporary government, be one district; subject, however, to be divided into two districts, as future circumstances may, in the opinion of congress, make it expedient.

Be it ordained by the authority aforesaid, That the estates both resident and nonresident proprietors in the said territory, dying intestate, shall descend to, and be distributed among their children, and the descendants of a deceased child, in equal parts; the descendants of a deceased child or grand child to take the share of their deceased parent in equal parts among them: and where there shall be no children or descendants then in equal parts to the next of kin, in equal degree; and among collaterals, the children of a deceased brother or sister of the intestate shall have, in equal parts among them, their deceased parents' share; and there shall, in no case, be a distinction between kindred of the whole and half blood; saving in all cases to the widow of the intestate, her third part of the real estate for life, and one third part of the personal estate; and this law relative to descents and dower, shall remain in full force until altered by the legislature of the district. And until the governor and judges shall adopt laws as hereinafter mentioned, estate in the said territory may be devised or bequeathed by wills in writing, signed and sealed by him or her, in whom the estate may be, (being of full age,) and attested by three witnesses; and real estates may be conveyed by lease and release, or bargain and sale, signed, sealed, and delivered, by the person, being of full age, in whom the estate may be and attested by two witnesses, provided such wills be duly proved, and such conveyances be acknowledged, or the execution thereof duly proved, and be recorded within one year after proper magistrates, courts, and registers, shall be appointed for that purpose; and personal property may be transferred by delivery; saving, however, to the French and Canadian inhabitants, and other settlers of the Kaskaskies, Saint Vincents, and the neighboring villages, who have heretofore professed themselves citizens of Virginia, their laws and customs now in force among them, relative to the descent and conveyance of property.

Be it ordained by the authority aforesaid, That there shall be appointed, from time to time, by congress, a governor, whose commission shall continue in force for the term of three years, unless sooner revoked by congress: he

shall reside in the district, and have a freehold estate therein, in one thousand acres of land, while in the exercise of this office.

There shall be appointed, from time to time, by congress, a secretary, whose commission shall continue in force for four years, unless sooner revoked; he shall reside in the district, and have a freehold estate therein, in five hundred acres of land, while in the exercise of his office; it shall be his duty to keep and preserve the acts and laws passed by the legislature, and the public records of the district, and the proceedings of the governor in his executive department; and transmit authentic copies of such acts and proceedings, every six months, to the secretary of congress: There shall also be appointed a court, to consist of three judges, any two of whom to form a court, who shall have a common law jurisdiction, and reside in the district, and have each therein a freehold estate, in five hundred acres of land, while in the exercise of their offices; and their commissions shall continue in force during good behavior.

The governor and judges, or majority of them, shall adopt and publish in the district, such laws of the original states, criminal and civil, as may be necessary, and best suited to the circumstances of the district, and report them to congress, from time to time; which laws shall be in force in the district until the organization of the general assembly therein, unless disapproved of by congress; but afterwards the legislature shall have authority to alter them as they shall think fit.

The governor for the time being, shall be commander in chief of the militia, appoint and commission all officers in the same, below the rank of general officers; all general officers shall be appointed and commissioned by congress.

Previous to the organization of the general assembly, the governor shall appoint such magistrates and other civil officers, in each county or township, as he shall find necessary for the preservation of the peace and good order in the same. After the general assembly shall be organized, the powers and duties of magistrates and other civil officers shall be regulated and defined by the said assembly; but all magistrates and other civil officers, not herein otherwise directed, shall, during the continuance of this temporary government, be appointed by the governor.

For the prevention of crimes and injuries, the laws to be adopted or made shall have force in all parts of the district, and for the execution of process, criminal and civil, the governor shall make proper divisions thereof; and he shall proceed from time to time, as circumstances may require, to lay out the parts of the district in which the Indian titles shall have been extinguished, into counties and townships, subject, however, to such alterations as may thereafter be made by the legislature.

So soon as there shall be five thousand free male inhabitants, of full age, in the district, upon giving proof thereof to the governor, they shall receive authority, with time and place, to elect representatives from their counties or townships, to represent them in the general assembly; provided that, for every five hundred free male inhabitants, there shall be one representative, and so on, progressively, with the number of free male inhabitants, shall the right of representation increase, until the number of representatives shall amount to twenty-five; after which the number and proportion of representatives shall be regulated by the legislature; provided, that no person be eligible or qualified to act as a representative, unless he shall have been a citizen of one of the United States three years, and be a resident in the district, or unless he shall have resided in the district three years; and in either case, shall likewise hold in his own right, in fee simple, two hundred acres of land within the same; provided also, that a freehold in fifty acres of land in the district, having been a citizen of one of the states, and being resident in the district, or the like freehold and two years residence in the district, shall be necessary to qualify a man as an elector of a representative.

The representatives thus elected, shall serve for the term of two years; and in case of the death of a representative, or removal from office, the governor shall issue a writ to the county or township, for which he was a member, to elect another in his stead, to serve for the residue of the term.

The general assembly, or legislature, shall consist of the governor, legislative council, and a house of representatives. The legislative council shall consist of five members, to continue in office five years, unless sooner removed by congress; any three of whom to be a quorum: and the members of the council shall be nominated and appointed in the following manner, to wit: As soon as representatives shall be elected, the governor shall appoint a time and place for them to meet together, and when met, they shall nominate ten persons, residents in the district, and each possessed of a freehold in five hundred acres of land, and return their names to congress; five of whom congress shall appoint and commission to serve as aforesaid: and whenever a vacancy shall happen in the council, by death or removal from office, the house of representatives shall nominate two persons qualified as aforesaid, for each

vacancy, and return their names to congress; one of whom congress shall appoint and commission for the residue of the term: And every five years, four months at least before the expiration of the time of service of the members of council, the said house shall nominate ten persons, qualified as aforesaid, and return their names to congress; five of whom congress shall appoint and commission to serve as members of the council five years, unless sooner removed. And the governor, legislative council, and house of representatives, shall have authority to make laws, in all cases, for the good government of the district, not repugnant to the principles and articles in this ordinance established and declared. And all bills, having passed by a majority in the house, and by a majority in the council, shall be referred to the governor for his assent; but no bill or legislative act whatever, shall be of any force without his assent. The governor shall have power to convene, prorogue, and dissolve, the general assembly, when in his opinion it shall be expedient.

The governor, judges, legislative council, secretary, and such other officers as congress shall appoint in the district, shall take an oath or affirmation of fidelity, and of office; the governor before the president of congress, and all other officers before the governor. As soon as a legislature shall be formed in the district, the council and house assembled, in one room, shall have authority, by joint ballot, to elect a delegate to congress, who shall have a seat in congress, with a right of debating, but not voting during this temporary government.

And for extending the fundamental principles of civil and religious liberty, which form the basis whereon these republics, their laws, and constitutions, are erected; to fix and establish those principles as the basis of all laws, constitutions, and governments, which forever hereafter shall be formed in the said territory; to provide, also, for the establishment of states, and permanent government therein, and for their admission to share in the federal councils on an equal footing with the original states, at as early periods as may be consistent with the general interest:

It is hereby ordained and declared, by the authority, aforesaid, That the following articles shall be considered as articles of compact, between the original states and the people and states in the said territory, and forever remain unalterable, unless by common consent, to wit:

ART. 1. No person, demeaning himself in a peaceable and orderly manner, shall ever be molested on account of his mode of worship or religious sentiments, in the said territory.

ART. 2. The inhabitants of the said territory shall always be entitled to the benefit of the writ of habeas corpus, and of the trial by jury; of a proportionate representation of the people in the legislature, and of judicial proceedings according to the course of the common law. All persons shall be bailable, unless for capital offenses, where the proof shall be evident, or the presumption great. All finds shall be moderate; and no cruel or unusual punishments shall be inflicted. No man shall be deprived of his liberty or property, but by the judgment of his peers, or the law of the land, and should the public exigencies make it necessary, for the common preservation, to take any person's property, or to demand his particular services, full compensation shall be made for the same. And, in the just preservation of rights and property, it is understood and declared, that no law ought ever to be made, or have force in the said territory, that shall, in any manner whatever, interfere with, or affect, private contracts or engagements, bona fide, and without fraud, previously formed.

ART. 3. Religion, morality, and knowledge, being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged. The utmost good faith shall always be observed towards the Indians; their lands and property shall never be taken from them without their consent; and in their property, rights, and liberty, they never shall be invaded or disturbed, unless in just and lawful wars authorized by congress; but laws founded in justice and humanity shall, from time to time, be made, for preventing wrongs being done to them, and for preserving peace and friendship with them.

ART. 4. The said territory, and the states which may be formed therein, shall forever remain a part of this confederacy of the United States of America, subject to the article of confederation, and to such alterations therein as shall be constitutionally made; and to all the acts and ordinances of the United States in congress assembled, conformable thereto. The inhabitants and settlers in the said territory shall be subject to pay a part of the federal debts, contracted or to be contracted, and a proportional part of the expenses of government, to be apportioned on them by congress, according to the same common rule and measure by which apportionments there shall be made on the other states; and the taxes for paying their proportion, shall be laid and levied by the authority and direction of the legislatures of the district or districts, or new states, as in the original states, within the time agreed upon by the United States in congress assembled. The legislatures of those districts, or new states, shall never interfere with the primary disposal of the soil by the United States in congress assembled, nor with any regulations congress may find necessary, for securing the title in such soil, to the bona fide purchasers. No tax shall be imposed on lands the property

of the United States; and in no case shall nonresident proprietors be taxed higher than residents. The navigable waters leading into the Mississippi and St. Lawrence, and the carrying places between the same, shall be common highways, and forever free, as well to inhabitants of the said territory, as to the citizens of the United States, and those of any other states that may be admitted into the confederacy, without any tax, impost or duty therefor.

ART. 5. There shall be formed in the said territory, not less than three, nor more than five states; and the boundaries of the states, as soon as Virginia shall alter her act of cession, and consent to the same, shall become fixed and established as follows, to wit: the western state in the said territory, shall be bounded by the Mississippi, the Ohio, and Wabash rivers; a direct line drawn from the Wabash and Post Vincents, due north, to the territorial line between the United States and Canada; and by the said territorial line to the lake of the Woods and Mississippi. The middle states shall be bounded by the said direct line, the Wabash, from Post Vincents to the Ohio, by the Ohio, by a direct line drawn due north from the mouth of the Great Miami to the said territorial line, and by the said territorial line. The eastern state shall be bounded by the last mentioned direct line, the Ohio, Pennsylvania, and the said territorial line: provided however, and it is further understood and declared, that the boundaries of these three states shall be subject so far to be altered, that, if congress shall hereafter find it expedient, they shall have authority to form one or two states in that part of the said territory which lies north of an east and west line drawn through the southerly bend or extreme of lake Michigan. And whenever any of the said states shall have sixty thousand free inhabitants therein, such state shall be admitted, by its delegates, into the congress of the United States, on an equal footing with the original states, in all respects whatever; and shall be at liberty to form a permanent constitution and state government: provided the constitution and government, so to be formed, shall be republican, and in conformity to the principles contained in these articles; and, so far as it can be consistent with the general interest of confederacy, such admission shall be allowed at an earlier period, and when there may be a less number of free inhabitants in the state than sixty thousand.

ART. 6. There shall neither be slavery nor involuntary servitude in the said territory, otherwise than in the punishment of crimes, where of the party shall have been duly convicted; provided always, that any person escaping into the same, from whom labor or service is lawfully claimed in any one of the original states, such fugitive may be lawfully reclaimed, and conveyed to the person claiming his or her service as aforesaid.

Be it ordained by the authority aforesaid, That the resolutions of the 23rd of April, 1784, relative to the subject of this ordinance, be, and the same are hereby repealed and declared null and void.

Done by the United States, in congress assembled, the 13th day of July, in the year of our Lord 1787, and of their sovereignty and independence the twelfth.

Laws of United States, Volume 1, Page 475.



THE NORTHWEST TERRITORY

The Ordinance of July 13, 1787 provided "...there shall be formed in said territory, not less than three nor more than five states..." The original boundaries were defined as: Eastern State (numbers 1,2,3,4); Middle State (numbers 5,6,7,8,9) and Western State (numbers 10,11,12,13,14,15). These divisions are marked by broken lines on the map.

Congress later decided to divide the Northwest Territory into the states of Ohio (1803), Indiana (1816), Illinois (1818), Michigan (1837), Wisconsin (1848) and Minnesota (1858); as shown by the heavy solid lines on the map.

Map Source: Biographical Directory-General Assembly of Ohio 1929-1930: Columbus, 1931.

The Origin of Ohio's County Names

(Date in parentheses is year county was established, may differ from year actually organized.)

Adams (1797), named for our second president, John Adams, during whose administration the county was organized.

Allen (1820), probably named for either Ethan Allen, a hero of the Revolutionary War or John L. Allen, a hero of the War of 1812. Both men were colonels.

Ashland (1846), named after "Ashland," home of the Whig candidate for President, Henry Clay, outside Lexington, Kentucky.

Ashtabula (1808), named after the Ashtabula River which meant "Fish River" in the local Indian dialect.

Athens (1805), the county is named after Athens, Greece.

Auglaize (1848), named for the Auglaize River. "Auglaize" is a Shawnee Indian word meaning "fallen timbers."

Belmont (1801), comes from the French words "belle monte," meaning "beautiful mountain," describing the hills of the county.

Brown (1818), named for Gen. Jacob Brown, a hero of the War of 1812. Georgetown, the county seat, was the boyhood home of Ulysses Simpson Grant; Civil War General and 18th President of the United States.

Butler (1803), named for Major General Richard Butler, killed during the disastrous defeat of General Arthur St. Clair by the Indians on Nov. 4, 1791.

Carroll (1833), took the name Carroll from Charles Carroll of Carrollton, Maryland, the last surviving signer of the Declaration of Independence, who died in Baltimore on November 14, 1832, at the age of 96.

Champaign (1805), is French and means "a plain," descriptive of the level land in the area.

Clark (1818), named for Brigadier General George Rogers Clark who defeated the Shawnee Indians in a battle near Springfield, on August 8, 1780. Tecumseh, the famous Shawnee Chief, was born in this county.

Clermont (1800), comes from the French word meaning "clear mountain."

Clinton (1810), named in honor of George Clinton, who was vice-president of the United States when the county was formed.

Columbiana (1803), derived from the words Columbus and Anna.

Coshocton (1810), is an anglicized version of the Indian village "Goschachgunk" or "Goschaching" meaning "Black Bear Town" or "where there is a river crossing."

Crawford (1820), named in honor of Col. William Crawford who was burned at the stake in 1782 by Indians.

Cuyahoga (1808), named for the Cuyahoga River. Cuyahoga is an Indian word meaning "crooked," or "winding stream."

Darke (1809), named for Gen. William Darke, Revolutionary War hero.

Defiance (1845), named for Fort Defiance built in 1794 by General Anthony Wayne.

Delaware (1808), named for the Delaware Indians who came from the Delaware River area near Philadelphia.

Erie (1838), named for the Erie Indian tribe. In their Indian dialect the word "erie" meant "cat" or "wildcat."

Fairfield (1800), Arthur St. Clair, Governor of the Northwest Territory, named this county for the beauty of its "fair fields."

Fayette (1810), named for Marie Joseph Paul Yves Roch Gilbert du Motier, the Marquis de Lafayette. He served as an American Major General in the Revolutionary War and was named an honorary U.S. citizen in 1803.

Franklin (1803), named for Benjamin Franklin, printer and diplomat.

Fulton (1850), named for Robert Fulton, inventor of the steamboat.

Gallia (1803), is derived from Gaul, the ancient name of France.

Geauga (1806), the name Geauga or Sheauga was one given by the Indians to the Grand River which flows through the county. It means "raccoon."

Greene (1803), named for Gen. Nathaniel Greene. Revolutionary War hero.

Guernsey (1810), due to the fact that many of the original settlers came from the Isle of Guernsey in the English Channel.

Hamilton (1790), named for Alexander Hamilton, the first Secretary of the Treasury, 1789-1795.

Hancock (1820), named for John Hancock, President of the Continental Congress (1775-1777) and first signer of the Declaration of Independence.

Hardin (1820), named for Colonel John Hardin who was executed by the Indians while on a peace mission in 1792.

Harrison (1813), named for General William Henry Harrison, a hero of the War of 1812. First U.S. President to have lived in Ohio.

Henry (1820), named for Patrick Henry, Governor of Virginia 1776-1779 and 1784-1786; a celebrated orator of the Revolutionary War period.

Highland (1805), describes the county's terrain.

Hocking (1818), derived its name from the Indian word "Hoch-Hoch-ing" which meant "a bottle." The Hocking River flows through this county which was once claimed by the Wyandot Indians.

Holmes (1824), named for Major Andrew H. Holmes, who was killed during Major George Croghan's unsuccessful attack on Fort Mackinac (Michigan) on August 4, 1814.

Huron (1809), the name Huron was given by the French to the Wyandot Indian tribe who lived in this area.

Jackson (1816), named for Major General Andrew Jackson, who defeated the British at the Battle of New Orleans, January 8, 1815.

Jefferson (1797), named for Thomas Jefferson, statesman and Vice President of the United States, March 4, 1797 to March 3, 1801, and the 3rd President of the U.S. (1801-09).

Knox (1808), named for General Henry Knox, the first U.S. Secretary of War.

Lake (1840), named because it borders on Lake Erie; Ohio's smallest county in land area.

Lawrence (1815), named for Captain James Lawrence, commander of the U.S. Frigate Chesapeake during the War of 1812.

Licking (1808), derived its name from the principal stream flowing through the county. Pioneers called it the "Licking River," but it was called "Pataskala" by the Indians. The river received its name from salt licks in the area.

Logan (1818), named for Gen. Benjamin Logan, who destroyed the Shawnee Indians Mac-o-chee Villages in the area in 1796.

Lorain (1822), named after the Province of Lorraine, France.

Lucas (1835), named for Robert Lucas, Ohio Governor 1832-1836, who personally commanded Ohio troops in the 1835 boundary dispute with Michigan. First territorial Governor of Iowa 1838-1841.

Madison (1810), named for James Madison, U.S. President from March 4, 1809 to March 3, 1817.

Mahoning (1846), derives its name from the Mahoning River. Mahoning is from the Indian word "Mahoni," meaning a "lick" or "Mahonink," meaning "at the lick."

Marion (1820), named in honor of Gen. Francis Marion of South Carolina, the "Swamp Fox" of Revolutionary War fame.

Medina (1812), named for Medina in Arabia, the town to which Mohammed fled from Mecca.

Meigs (1819), named for Return Jonathan Meigs, Jr., Ohio Governor 1810 to 1814 and Postmaster General 1814 to 1823 who lived in Marietta.

Mercer (1820), named in honor of Gen. Hugh Mercer, who was killed at the Battle of Princeton, New Jersey, on January 3, 1777.

Miami (1807), named for the Miami Indians who claimed Western Ohio and whose principal village, Pickawillany, was located near Piqua.

Monroe (1813), named for James Monroe, U.S. Secretary of State, 1811-1817, and later the fifth President of the United States, 1817-1825.

Montgomery (1803), named for General Richard Montgomery who lost his life in the assault on Quebec during the Revolutionary War.

Morgan (1817), named in honor of Gen. Daniel Morgan, who won a brilliant victory against the British at Cowpens, South Carolina, January 17, 1781.

Morrow (1848), named for Jeremiah Morrow, Congressman 1803-1813; 1840-1843, U.S. Senator 1813-1819, and Ohio Governor 1822-1826.

Muskingum (1804), is an old Delaware Indian word meaning "A town by the River."

Noble (1851), named out of respect for James Noble, a pioneer settler who first bought land in the county in 1814.

Ottawa (1840), named for the Ottawa Indian tribe. The name in their language meant "trader."

Paulding (1820), named for John Paulding, one of three soldiers who captured Major John Andre, British spy in the Revolutionary War.

Perry (1818), named in honor of Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry, who defeated the British in the naval Battle of Lake Erie, September 13, 1813.

Pickaway (1810), named from a mis-spelling of the tribe of Indians, known as Piqua, a branch of the Shawnee Tribe.

Pike (1815), bears the name of Brig. Gen. Zebulon Montgomery Pike, who discovered "Pike's Peak," in Colorado in 1806.

Portage (1808), name comes from the old Indian portage path, about seven miles in length, between the Cuyahoga and Tuscarawas rivers.

Preble (1808), named for Capt. Edward Preble, naval commander in the Revolutionary War and the War with Tripoli.

Putnam (1820), named for Israel Putnam, Revolutionary War Major General, who gained fame at the Battle of Breed's Hill, often mis-named the Battle of Bunker Hill, on June 17, 1775.

Richland (1808), named for the richness of its soil.

Ross (1798), named by Territorial Governor Arthur St. Clair for his friend, James Ross of Pennsylvania; U.S. Senator 1794-1803.

Sandusky (1820), is a derivative of an Indian word meaning "cold water." In Wyandot and Huron languages it is "Sa-un-dos-tee" meaning "water within water pools."

Scioto (1803), takes its name from the Scioto River which flows through the county. Scioto comes from a Indian word "Scionto," meaning "deer."

Seneca (1820), named for the Seneca Indians, who had a 40,000 acre reservation north of Tiffin from 1817-1831.

Shelby (1819), named for Isaac Shelby, Revolutionary War hero and first Governor of Kentucky. Counties in nine states are named for him.

Stark (1808), named for Gen. John Stark of Revolutionary War fame.

Summit (1840), derived its name for having the highest land on the line of the Ohio and Erie Canal, known as "Portage Summit."

Trumbull (1800), in the Connecticut Western Reserve, was named for Jonathan Trumbull, Jr., Governor of Connecticut 1797-1809.

Tuscarawas (1808), named for the Tuscarawas Indian Tribe who lived on the Tuscarawas River.

Union (1820), named because it was formed from parts of Delaware, Franklin, Madison, and Logan counties.

Van Wert (1820), named for Isaac Van Wert, one of the three captors of British spy, Major John Andre. Actual spelling of Van Wert's name was "Van Wart." The spelling was changed due to an illegible entry in Congressional records.

Vinton (1850), named for Samuel Finley Vinton, an Ohio Statesman and U.S. Congressman, known as the "Father of the Department of Interior."

Warren (1803), named for Gen. Joseph Warren, who was killed at the Battle of Breed's (Bunker) Hill, on June 17, 1775.

Washington (1788), Ohio's first county and named in honor of George Washington, who was president of the Constitutional Convention at the time the county was formed.

Wayne (1808), named for Major General Anthony Wayne, Revolutionary War hero later General-in-Chief U.S. Army 1791-1796. Defeated the Indians at the "Battle of Fallen Timbers," August 20, 1794.

Williams (1820), honors David Williams, one of three captors of Major John Andre on September 23, 1780.

Wood (1820), named after Major Eleazer D. Wood, U.S. Army-Engineers, who built Fort Meigs in 1813 while serving on the staff of General William Henry Harrison.

Wyandot (1845), named for the Wyandot Indians, the last Indian tribe in Ohio to cede their reservations March 17, 1842. They moved to lands west of the Mississippi River in July, 1843.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES

The National Archives and Records Administration, Suitland Reference Branch (NNRR), Suitland, Md. 20409 has original land entry records in its Record Group 49-Records of the Bureau of Land Management. Major record series within this group are: Credit and Cash Entry files (Final Certificates), Bounty Land Warrant Records and Warrants exchanged for scrip. These records often contain more information than the U.S. Patent. The cost is reasonable with no research charges. To access the Credit and Cash entry files, send the entry data provided by the State of Ohio Archives, 1982 Velma Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43211-2497 to the BLM, Eastern State's Office. Request BLM to provide you the type of file and the land entry file number listed in their Tract Books for the entry. Send the combined information to the National Archives Suitland Reference Branch.

Federal Bounty Land application files are found in Records Series 15, Records of the Veterans Administration, write National Archives, Military Reference Branch (NNRM), Washington, D.C. 20408, for request forms and current charges.

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

The State of Ohio Archives does not have copies of U.S. Patents or warrants. However, the State Archives will provide the entry information needed to obtain these records. To obtain a copy of the U.S. Patent issued for land in the Virginia Military District, first write to the National Archives, Suitland Reference Branch (NNRR). Provide them the entry/survey number, date of entry/survey, warrant number, warrantee, and name of assignee. Request the patent volume and page number which is on the entry record. With the information National Archives provides, write to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Eastern States Office, 7450 Boston Blvd., Springfield, Virginia 22153-3121. A copy of a U.S. Patent costs \$15.

U.S. Patents for land designed by Range, Township, and Section, should be requested directly from the BLM Eastern States Office. Be sure to provide BLM the entry data and legal description.

DEED RECORDS

The county recorder in each county maintains deed, mortgage and lease records. Ohio's 88 counties evolved over a period of 63 years. Researchers may have to search the land records of several counties for real estate transactions prior to 1851. It is not unusual to find deeds filed 20 years or more after the purchase date.

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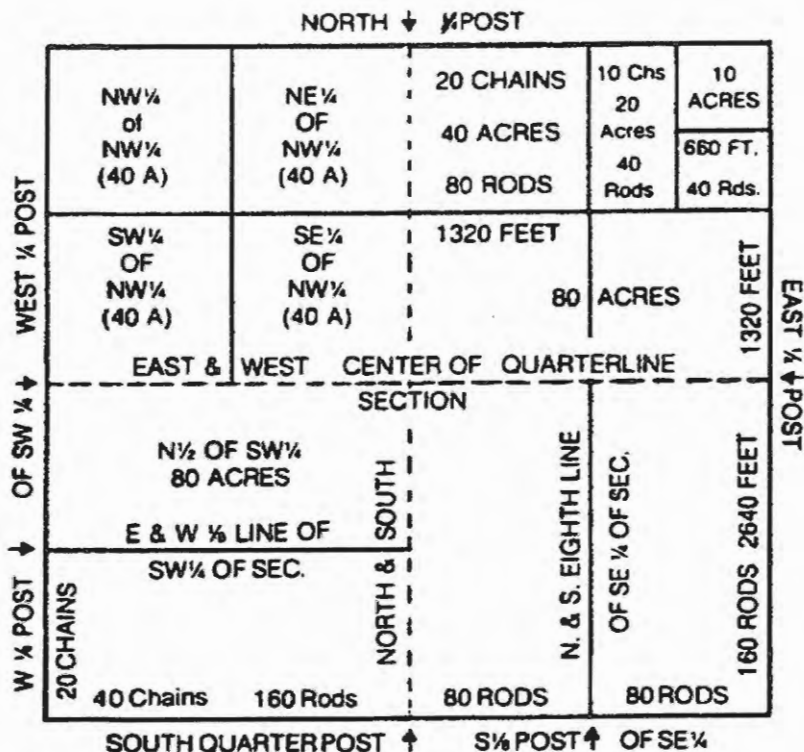
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SECTION OF LAND, 640 ACRES



LINEAR MEASURE

1 Mile	- 80 Chains
	- 320 Rods
	- 1760 Yards
	- 5280 Feet
1 Chain	- 4 Rods
	- 66 Feet
	- 100 Links
	- 100 Links
	- 25 Links
1 Link	- 0.66 Feet
	- 7.92 Inches
1 Pole	- 16 1/2 Feet
1 Perch	- 16 1/2 Feet

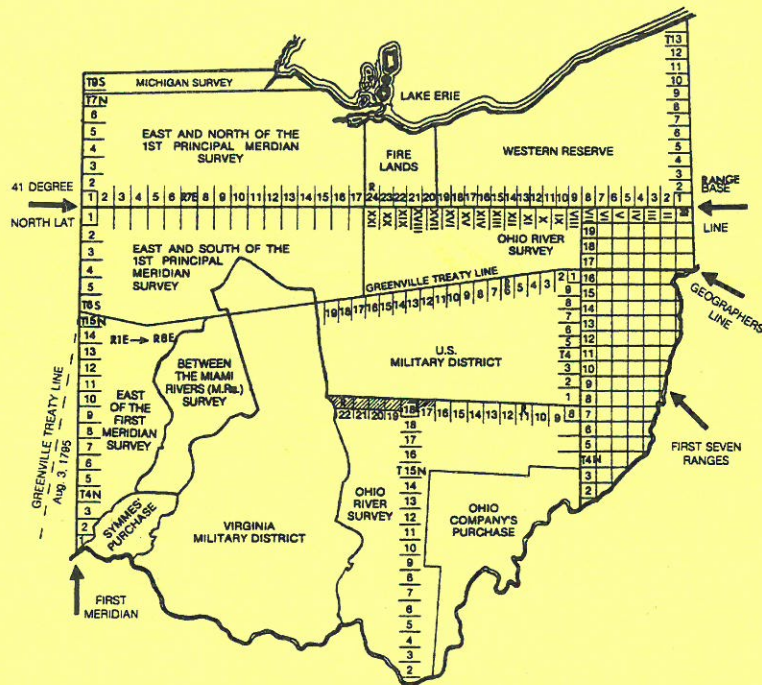
SQUARE MEASURE

1 Sq. Mile	- 1 Section of Land
	- 640 Acres
1 Acre	- 10 Sq. Chains
	- 160 Sq. Rods
	- 4840 Sq. Yards
	- 43,560 Sq. Feet
	- 208.71 Ft. Squared
1 Sq. Rod	- 30 1/4 Sq. Yds
	- 272.25 Sq. Ft.
1 Sq. Ft.	- 144 Sq. Inches
1 Rod	- .25 Acre
	- 40 Square Rods
	- 10,890 Sq. Ft.

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OHIO'S MAJOR LAND SURVEYS

FEDERAL LAND OFFICES IN OHIO YEARS OF OPERATION AND SUCCESSOR OFFICES



Canton 1808-1816;

Wooster 1816-1849

Chillicothe 1801-1876

Cincinnati 1801-1840

Delaware 1820-1828;

Tiffin 1828-1832;

Bucyrus 1832-1842

Piqua 1820-1833;

Wapakoneta 1833-1835;

Lima 1835-1843;

Upper Sandusky 1843-1848;

Defiance 1848-1855

Marietta 1800-1840

Marion 1837-1845

Steubenville 1800-1840

Zanesville 1804-1840