An ORDINANCE for ascertaining the Mode of disposing of LANDS
in the WESTERN TERRITORY.

BE IT ORDAINED by the UNITED STATES in CONGRESS ASSEMBLED,

THAT the territory ceded by individual states to the United States, which has been purchased of the Indian inhabitants, shall be disposed of in the following manner.

A surveyor from each state shall be appointed by Congress or a Committee of the States, who shall take an oath for the faithful discharge of his duty, before the geographer of the United States, who is hereby empowered and directed to administer the same; and the like oath shall be administered to each chain carrier, by the surveyor under whom he acts.

The geographer, (under whose direction the surveyors shall act,) shall occasionally form such regulations for their conduct, as he shall deem necessary; and shall have authority to suspend them for misconduct in office, and shall make report of the same to Congress or to the Committee of the States; and he shall make report in case of sickness, death, or resignation of any surveyor.

The surveyors as they are respectively qualified shall proceed to divide the said territory into townships of six miles square, by lines running due north and south, and others croffing these at right angles, unless where the boundaries of the land of Indian purchase may render the same impracticable, and then they may deviate from this rule no further than such particular circumstances may require.

There shall be allowed to a surveyor for the surveying of a township at the rate of two dollars per mile, including the wages of chain carriers, markers, and every other expense, and so in proportion for every fractional part of a township.

The first line running north and south as aforesaid, shall begin on the river Ohio, at a point that shall be found to be due north from the termination of a line which has been run as the northern boundary of the state of Pennsylvania, and the first line running east and west shall begin at the same point, and shall extend throughout the whole territory. The geographer shall delineate the townships of fractional parts of townships, by numbers progressively from south to north, always beginning each range with No. 1 and the townships shall be distinguished by their progressive numbers to the northward. The first range extending from the Ohio to the lake Erie, being marked No. 1. The geographer shall personally attend to the running of the first east and west line, and shall take the latitude of the extreme point of the first north and south line, and of the mouths of the principal rivers.

The lines shall be measured with a chain, shall be plainly marked by chains on the trees, and exactly described on a plat, wherein shall be noted by the surveyor, at their proper distances all mines, falls, springs, falls roads and mill feasts, that shall come to his knowledge, and all water courses, mountains, and other remarkable and permanent things, over or near which such lines fall, and also the quantity of the lands.

The plats of the townships respectively, shall be marked by subdivisions into lots of one mile square, or 640 acres, in the same direction as the external lines, and numbered from 1 to 36. Always beginning the succeeding range of the lots with the number next to that with which the preceding one concluded. And where from the states before mentioned, only a fractional part of a township shall be surveyed, the lots protracted thereon, shall bear the same numbers as if the townships had been entire. And the surveyors in running the external lines of the townships, shall at the interval of every mile, mark corners for the lots which are adjacent, always delimiting the same in a different manner from those of the townships.

The geographer and surveyors, shall pay the utmost attention to the variation of the magnetic needle, and shall run and note all lines by the true meridian, certifying with every plat what was the variation at the times of running the lines thereon noted.

As soon as the boundaries of townships and fractional parts of townships, in the direction from south to north, shall have been surveyed from the Ohio to the lake Erie, the geographer shall transmit plats thereof to the board of treasury, who shall record the same with the report, in well bound books to be kept for that purpose. And the geographer shall make similar reports and transmit the same to the board of treasury as often as they may be surveyed. The secretaries of the states shall cause thence to be taken, and shall take in like manner a number of townships and fractional parts of townships, as well chose to be held entire, as chose to be held in lots, as will be equal to one tenth part of the whole of such ranges, as nearly as may be, for the use of the late coming settler army; and he shall make a similar draught from time to time, until a sufficient quantity is drawn from the returns to supply the military claims, to be applied in manner hereinafter directed. The board of treasury shall then cause the remaining numbers, as well chose to be held entire, as chose to be held in lots, to be drawn for in the name of the thirteen states respectively, according to the quotas in the last preceding regulation on the states; provided that in each more land than its proportion allotted for late in any state at any time be allotted, a deduction be made therefor at the next.

The board of treasury shall transmit a copy of the original plats, previously noting therein, the townships and fractional parts of townships, which shall have fallen to the several states by the distribution aforesaid, to the commissioners of the loan office of the several states, who, after giving notice of not less than two nor more than six months by causing advertisements to be posted up at the courts houses, or other noted places in every county and to be inserted in one newspaper published in the states of their residence respectively, shall proceed to sell the townships or fractional parts, at public vendue, in the following manner, viz. The township or fractional part of a township being No. 1 in the first range, shall be held entire; and No. 2 in the same range by lots and corners, and No. 1 and No. 2 in the same range by lots, and corners; and No. 2 the next range, and so on.
The United States of America, to all to whom these presents shall come greeting.

Know ye, That for the consideration of dollars, we have granted and hereby do grant and confirm unto the township or fractional part of the township or the said office....

The United States of America, to all to whom these presents shall come greeting.

Know ye, that for the consideration of dollars, we have granted and hereby do grant and confirm unto the house or office as the case may be,...

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The commissioners of the loan-offices respectively, shall transmit to the board of treasury every three months, an account of the townships, fractional parts of townships and less described in the state or county, the names of the persons to whom sold; and the sums of money or certificates received for the same.

And whereas Congress by their resolutions of September 26th and 28th, in the year 1776, and the 13th of August 1783, respectively granted lands to the officers and soldiers who had engaged or should engage in the service of the United States during the war, and continue therein to the close of the same, or until discharged by Congress, and to the representatives of such officers and soldiers as shall be slain by the enemy, in the following proportions, viz.

To a major general 100 acres, to a brigadier 75, to a colonel 50, all before the close of the war, to a major 200, to 100, to an captain 50, to a lieutenant 30, and to a non-commissioned officer and soldier 10. For complying therefore with such engagements, he is entitled, That the secretary at war, from the returns in his office, or other such sufficient evidence as may exist, having determined who are the objects of the above provisions and engagements, and the quantity of lands to which such persons or their representatives are respectively entitled, and having disposed the fractional parts of townships herein before recited, he shall be informed the name and the township out of which this his portion shall be taken.

The commissioners of the loan-offices shall execute deeds for such undivided proportions in manner and form herein before mentioned, varying only in such a degree as to make the same conformable to the certificate from the secretary at war.

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