

canal" (the Miami Canal), so far as it passes through the public lands, north of the old Greenville treaty line, and this is estimated at 106 miles, thereby making the quantity of land thus granted 340,000 acres—or 840,000 acres in all, provided that all troops and property of the United States transported thereon shall pass free of toll, as in the case of the before-mentioned turnpike lands.

For both the canal and turnpike lands, the Governor made deeds to the individual purchasers.

SCHOOL LANDS.

By compact between the United States and the State of Ohio, when the latter was admitted, it was stipulated, for and in consideration that the State should never tax the Congress lands, until after they had been sold five years, and in consideration that the public lands would thereby more readily sell, that the one thirty-sixth part of all the territory included within the limits of the State should be set apart for the support of common schools therein. And, for the purpose of getting at lands which should, in point of quality of soil, be on an average with the whole of the land in the country, they decreed that it should be selected by lot, in small tracts; that, to effect this fairly, it should consist of section number 16, let that section be good or bad, in every township of Congress land, and also in the Ohio Company's land, and in Symmes' purchases, all of which townships are composed of thirty-six sections each, and, for the United States Military Lands and Western Reserve, a number of quarter townships, two and a half miles square, each (being the smallest survey then made), should be selected by the Secretary of the Treasury, in different places throughout the United States Military Tract, equivalent in quality to the one thirty-sixth part of those two tracts, respectively. And for the Virginia Military Tract, Congress enacted that a quantity of land equal to the one thirty-sixth part of the estimated quantity of land contained therein should be selected by lot, in what is called the "New Purchase," now comprising Wayne, Richland and part of Holmes and Marion Counties, in quarter township tracts of three miles square each. Most of these selections were accordingly made, but, in some instances by the carelessness of the officers conducting the sales, or from some other cause, a few sections 16 had been sold, in which case Con-

gress, when applied to, generally granted other lands in lieu thereof, as, for instance, no section 16 was reserved in Montgomery Township in which Columbus is situated, and Congress afterwards granted therefor section 21, in the township cornering thereon to the southeast. Furthermore, as the Virginia Military Tract was found to be much larger than was at first supposed, there was not really school lands enough set off for this district. It lacked two quarter townships, or eighteen sections.

All these lands were vested in the legislature, in trust for the people, for school purposes.

COLLEGE TOWNSHIPS.

These lands are embraced in three townships, six miles square each, granted by Congress—two of them to the Ohio Company, for the use of a college to be established within their purchase, and one for the use of the inhabitants of Symmes' purchase.

The two in the Ohio Company's purchase are situated near the center of Athens County, and constitute a considerable part of the permanent funds of the Ohio University at Athens. That one belonging to Symmes' purchase, composes the northwestern township in Butler County. Its income is appropriated to the Miami University, which is erected thereon. This University was chartered in 1809, and located in the town of Oxford, which is situated in the foregoing township of land, granted by Congress for its support.

These lands were really no donation, but were a part of the considerations inducing the Ohio Company and J. C. Symmes to make their purchases.

MINISTERIAL LANDS.

In both the Ohio Company's and Symmes' purchase, every section 29—equal to one thirty-sixth part of every township—was reserved as a permanent fund for the support of a settled minister. As the purchasers of these two tracts came from parts of the Union where it was customary, and deemed necessary, to have a regular settled clergyman in every town, they, therefore, stipulated in their original purchase that a permanent fund, in land, should thus be set apart for this purpose. In no other part of the State than in these two purchases are any land set apart for this purpose.

SALT SECTIONS.

Near the center of Jackson County Congress originally reserved from sale thirty-six sections, or one six-mile square township around and including what was called the Scioto Salt Licks, also one-quarter of a five-mile square township in what is now Delaware County, in all forty-two and a quarter sections, or 27,040 acres. By an Act of Congress, of the 28th of December, 1824, the legislature of Ohio was authorized to sell these lands and apply the proceeds thereof to such literary purposes as the legislature may think proper, but to no other purpose whatever.

VIRGINIA MILITARY LANDS.

This is one of the largest and most important reservations of lands made by the states which ceded territory to the general government.

This tract of land is situated between the Little Miami and Scioto Rivers. It embraces within its limits Adams, Brown, Clermont, Clinton, Fayette, Highland, Madison and Union Counties entirely, and portions of Marion, Delaware, Franklin, Pickaway, Ross, Pike, Scioto, Warren, Greene, Clark, Champaign, Logan and Hardin. It embraces a body of 6,570 square miles, or 4,204,800 acres of land.

As stated elsewhere, Virginia had, during the progress of the Revolutionary War, promised her officers and soldiers serving in the Continental line, large bounties in land. When she ceded her territory northwest of the Ohio to the general government, she reserved enough of the land to fulfill her engagements with her troops who had served in the Continental Army. Hence the name "Virginia Military Lands."

Notwithstanding the United States had, after the cession by the several states of their claims to the western territory, made several treaties with the Indians, by which their titles to their lands seemed to have been extinguished, yet the tribes still maintained an attitude of extreme and relentless hostility, which continued until after Wayne's victory in 1794, completely crushed their hopes and humbled their pride.

It was while the Indians were still in this hostile attitude that the first lodgment of the whites was made in Adams County, at Manchester, in 1791.

DESCRIPTION of the UNITED STATES SYSTEM of GOVERNMENT SURVEY of PUBLIC LANDS.

ADOPTED IN 1802.

The public lands consist of those vast tracts of territory that belonged to the U. S. after the Revolution, together with all that was afterward ceded by individual states soon after the formation of the Constitution, with the additions that since been made by treaty with Indians or by conquest. Col. Mansfield, then surveyor of the Northwestern Territory, inaugurated a plan for surveying and recording sections as were offered for sale; which plan, with modification, has continued in use to the present time.

The general features of the plan then adopted, and still in use are as follows: The entire public domain is first divided into parts called land districts, each of which is put in charge of an officer called a surveyor general, who controls all the surveys in his particular district. In each district a meridian line is run, extending through the entire district, and from some point of this meridian an east and west line is run, which also extends through the district.

These lines are determined astronomically, and, when located, serve as axis to which the subdivisions of the district are referred.

Parallel to the axis, and on each side of them, other lines are run six miles apart, dividing the whole territory into squares, each containing 36 square miles. These squares are called townships.

To take into account the obliquity of the meridians, suitable offsets are made in accordance with an established system.

The townships lying between two consecutive meridians part constitute a range, and the ranges are numbered from the principal meridians, both east and west. In each range the townships are numbered both north and south from the principal east and west line.

Thus, if a township lies 12 miles east of the principal meridian and 18 miles north of the principal east and west line, it is called township 3 north, range 2 east. Each township is divided by meridians and east and west lines into 36 sections, and each section contains 360 acres.

The sections of a township are numbered from the N. E. corner, running along the northern tier of sections to No. 6, thence backward to section No. 12, which lies exactly south of No. 1, and so on alternately, running from right to left and from left to right, to the southeasterly corner, which is No. 36. The four middle sections are numbered respectively 15, 16, 21, 22. In some of the western states section No. 16 is set apart for school purposes, and is therefore called the school section.

If the land is very valuable, the sections are divided into half sections by meridians, and sometimes into quarter sections by lines running east and west, and then again are divided into eighths by meridians.

To designate one of these subdivisions, we say, for example, that it is the west half of the S. W. quarter of section No. 16, township No. 7 north, range 3 west; and, if necessary, we add the designation of the land district.

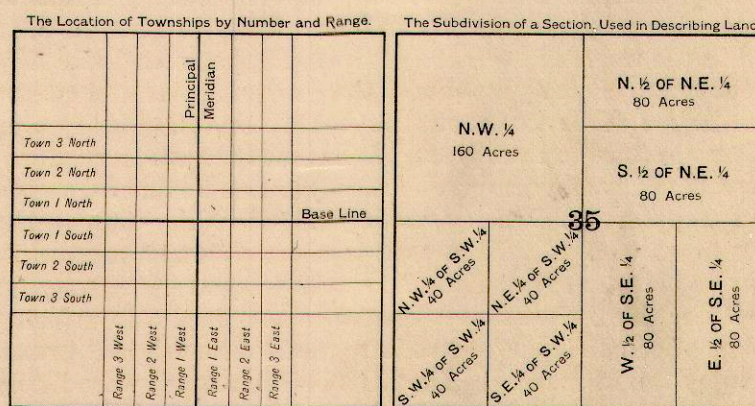
The diagram attached illustrates the location of townships by number and range:

All fractional parts of sections occur on the north and west sides of townships and on these sides no quarter posts are set.

It is the duty of the surveyor to find all lakes and rivers and "meander" them. By "meandering" is meant a correct survey of a lake or river, courses and distances run, and notes taken of the same.

In the subdivisions of a section, lines are run east and west and north and south from the quarter post. The section is thus divided into quarters and these quarters are subdivided as shown by diagram.

Often the "forties" are not of the same size owing to the inaccuracies, and here the words "more or less," become useful in the descriptions in deeds. All the north tiers of north half of sections are divided by east and west lines, and all the west tiers of west half of sections are divided by north and south lines. The excess or deficiency in the original survey is thrown upon these sections, hence they are called "fractional."



NOTE.—It will be observed that the above form of subdivision of Public Lands differ from that used in the survey of the Western Reserve, inasmuch as the Reserve townships were five miles square and in most cases divided into tracts and lots of different dimensions instead of the regular government subdivision of mile sections, etc., etc., as described below. The reason of this will be understood when we call to mind that the survey of the Western Reserve was made in 1796 and '97 or five years previous to the adoption of the present system of survey.