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saving in that Department, and thereby rendered services to the United States, and thereupon submit the following Resolution.¹

FRIDAY, MAY 20, 1785.

Congress assembled. Present as yesterday.

Congress proceeded in the third reading of the Ordinance for ascertaining the mode of disposing of lands in the western territory, and the same being gone through, was passed as follows:

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 crossing these at right angles, as near as may be, unless where the boundaries of the late Indian purchases may render the same impracticable, and then they shall depart from this rule no farther than such particular circum-

¹ This report, in the writing of John Lawrance, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 19, III, folio 623. It was read this day, according to the indorsement, and the resolve, as recommended, passed verbatim June 13. Ludwick's memorial is in No. 41, V, folio 411.

stances may require; and each surveyor shall be allowed and paid at the rate of two dollars for every mile, in length, he shall run, including the wages of chain carriers, markers, and every other expense attending the same.

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 western termination of a line, which has been run as the southern 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. Provided, that nothing herein shall be construed, as fixing the western boundary of the state of Pennsylvania. The geographer shall designate the townships, or fractional parts of townships, by numbers progressively from south to north; always beginning each range with number one; and the ranges shall be distinguished by their progressive numbers to the westward. The first range, extending from the Ohio to the lake Erie, being marked number one. The Geographer shall personally attend to the running of the first east and west line; and shall take the latitude of the extremes 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 chaps on the trees, and exactly described on a plat; whereon shall be noted by the surveyor, at their proper distances, all mines, salt springs, salt licks and mill seats, that shall come to his knowledge, and all water courses, mountains and other remarkable and permanent things, over and near which such lines shall pass, and also the quality 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 causes before mentioned, only a fractional part of a township shall be surveyed, the lots, protracted thereon, shall bear the same numbers as if the township 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 designating 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 seven ranges of townships, and fractional parts of townships, in the direction from south to north, shall have been surveyed, 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 returns, from time to time, of every seven ranges as they may be surveyed. The Secretary at War shall have recourse thereto, and shall take by lot therefrom, a number of townships, and fractional parts of townships, as well from those to be sold entire as from those to be sold in lots, as will be equal to one seventh part of the whole of such seven ranges, as nearly as may be, for the use of the late continental army; and he shall make a similar draught, from time to time, until a sufficient quantity is drawn to satisfy the same, to be applied in manner hereinafter directed. The board of treasury shall, from time to time, cause the remaining numbers, as well those to be sold entire, as those to be sold in lots, to be drawn for, in the name of the thirteen states respectively, according to the quotas in the last preceding requisition on all the states; provided, that in case more land than its proportion is allotted for sale, in any state, at any distribution, a deduction be made therefor at the next.

The board of treasury shall transmit a copy of the original plats, previously noting thereon, 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 court 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 of townships, at public vendue, in the following manner, viz: The township, or fractional part of a township, N 1, in the first range, shall be sold entire; and N 2, in the same range, by lots; and thus in alternate order through the whole of the first range. The township, or fractional part of a township, N 1, in the second range, shall be sold by lots; and N 2, in the same range, entire; and so in alternate order through the whole of the second range; and the third range shall be sold in the same manner as the first, and the fourth in the same manner as the second, and thus alternately throughout all the ranges; pro-

vided, that none of the lands, within the said territory, be sold under the price of one dollar the acre, to be paid in specie, or loan office certificates, reduced to specie value, by the scale of depreciation, or certificates of liquidated debts of the United States, including interest, besides the expense of the survey and other charges thereon, which are hereby rated at thirty six dollars the township, in specie, or certificates as aforesaid, and so in the same proportion for a fractional part of a township, or of a lot, to be paid at the time of sales; on failure of which payment, the said lands shall again be offered for sale.

There shall be reserved for the United States out of every township, the four lots, being numbered 8, 11, 26, 29, and out of every fractional part of a township, so many lots of the same numbers as shall be found thereon, for future sale. There shall be reserved the lot N 16, of every township, for the maintenance of public schools, within the said township; also one third part of all gold, silver, lead and copper mines, to be sold, or otherwise disposed of as Congress shall hereafter direct.

When any township, or fractional part of a township, shall have been sold as aforesaid, and the money or certificates received therefor, the loan officer shall deliver a deed in the following terms:

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 a township, as the case may be) numbered in the range excepting therefrom, and reserving one third part of all gold, silver, lead and copper mines within the same; and the lots Ns 8, 11, 26, and 29, for future sale or disposition, and the lot N 16, for the maintenance of public schools. To have to the said his heirs and assigns for ever; (or if more than one purchaser, to the said their heirs and assigns forever as tenants in Common.) In witness whereof, (A. B.) Commissioner of the loan office, in the State of hath, in conformity to the Ordinance passed by the United States in Congress assembled, the twentieth day of May, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty five, hereunto set his hand, and affixed his seal, this day of in the year of our Lord and of the independence of the United States of America

And when any township, or fractional part of a township, shall be sold by lots as aforesaid, the Commissioner of the loan office shall deliver a deed therefor in the following form:

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 lot (or lots, as the case may be, in the township or fractional part of the township, as the case may be) numbered in the range excepting and reserving one third part of all gold, silver, lead and copper mines within the same, for future sale or disposition. To have to the said his heirs and assigns for ever; (or if more than one purchaser, to the said their heirs and assigns for ever as tenants in common.) In witness whereof, (A. B.) Commissioner of the continental loan office in the state of hath, in conformity to the Ordinance passed by the United States in Congress assembled, the twentieth day of May, in the year of our Lord 1785, hereunto set his hand, and affixed his seal, this day of in the year of our Lord and of the independence of the United States of America

Which deeds shall be recorded in proper books, by the commissioner of the loan office, and shall be certified to have been recorded, previous to their being delivered to the purchaser, and shall be good and valid to convey the lands in the same described.

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 lots committed to their charge; specifying therein the names of the persons to whom sold, and the sums of money or certificates received for the same; and shall cause all certificates by them received, to be struck through with a circular punch; and they shall be duly charged in the books of the treasury, with the amount of the moneys or certificates, distinguishing the same, by them received as aforesaid.

If any township, or fractional part of a township or lot, remains unsold for eighteen months after the plat shall have been received, by the commissioners of the loan office, the same shall be returned to the board of treasury, and shall be sold in such manner as Congress may hereafter direct.

And whereas Congress, by their resolutions of September 16 and 18 in the year 1776, and the 12th of August, 1780, stipulated grants of land to certain officers and soldiers of the late continental army, and by the resolution of the 22d September, 1780, stipulated grants of land to certain officers in the hospital department of the late

continental army; for complying therefore with such engagements, Be it ordained, That the secretary at war, from the returns in his office, or such other sufficient evidence as the nature of the case may admit, determine who are the objects of the above resolutions and engagements, and the quantity of land to which such persons or their representatives are respectively entitled, and cause the townships, or fractional parts of townships, hereinbefore reserved for the use of the late continental army, to be drawn for in such manner as he shall deem expedient, to answer the purpose of an impartial distribution. He shall, from time to time, transmit certificates to the commissioners of the loan offices of the different states, to the lines of which the military claimants have respectively belonged, specifying the name and rank of the party, the terms of his engagement and time of his service, and the division, brigade, regiment or company to which he belonged, the quantity of land he is entitled to, and the township, or fractional part of a township, and range out of which his portion is to 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.

Where any military claimants of bounty in lands shall not have belonged to the line of any particular state, similar certificates shall be sent to the board of treasury, who shall execute deeds to the parties for the same.

The Secretary at War, from the proper returns, shall transmit to the board of treasury, a certificate, specifying the name and rank of the several claimants of the hospital department of the late continental army, together with the quantity of land each claimant is entitled to, and the township, or fractional part of a township, and range out of which his portion is to be taken; and thereupon the board of treasury shall proceed to execute deeds to such claimants.

The board of treasury, and the commissioners of the loan offices in the states, shall, within 18 months, return receipts to the secretary at war, for all deeds which have been delivered, as also all the original deeds which remain in their hands for want of applicants, having been first recorded; which deeds so returned, shall be preserved in the office, until the parties or their representatives require the same.

And be it further Ordained, That three townships adjacent to lake Erie be reserved, to be hereafter disposed of by Congress, for the use

of the officers, men, and others, refugees from Canada, and the refugees from Nova Scotia, who are or may be entitled to grants of land under resolutions of Congress now existing, or which may hereafter be made respecting them, and for such other purposes as Congress may hereafter direct.

And be it further Ordained, That the towns of Gnadenhutten, Schoenbrun and Salem, on the Muskingum, and so much of the lands adjoining to the said towns, with the buildings and improvements thereon, shall be reserved for the sole use of the Christian Indians, who were formerly settled there, or the remains of that society,¹ as may, in the judgment of the Geographer, be sufficient for them to cultivate.

Saving and reserving always, to all officers and soldiers entitled to lands on the northwest side of the Ohio, by donation or bounty from the commonwealth of Virginia, and to all persons claiming under them, all rights to which they are so entitled, under the deed of cession executed by the delegates for the state of Virginia, on the first day of March, 1784, and the act of Congress accepting the same: and to the end, that the said rights may be fully and effectually secured, according to the true intent and meaning of the said deed of cession and act aforesaid, Be it Ordained, that no part of the land included between the rivers called little Miami and Sciota, on the northwest side of the river Ohio, be sold, or in any manner alienated, until there shall first have been laid off and appropriated for the said Officers and Soldiers, and persons claiming under them, the lands they are entitled to, agreeably to the said deed of cession and act of Congress accepting the same.

Done by the United States in Congress assembled, the 20th day of May, in the year of our Lord 1785, and of our sovereignty and independence the ninth.

CHARLES THOMSON, *Secretary*. RICHARD H. LEE, *President*.²

The committee, consisting of Mr. [Rufus] King, Mr. [William Samuel] Johnson, Mr. [William] Grayson, Mr.

¹ Moravian. The report of Mr. [Hugh] Williamson, Mr. [Richard Henry] Lee and Mr. [Samuel] Osgood on a memorial of J. Ettwein, A. Hübner and H. C. de Schweiniz on this matter was delivered March 31, 1784, and is indorsed by Thomson: "May 18 [1785] taken into the Ordinance for disposing of Western lands." The report, and two miscellaneous papers connected therewith, are in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, Miscellaneous, in the Library of Congress.

² See Bibliographic Notes, 1785, for the various modifications of this Ordinance before its final adoption. Identification of the printed forms there given presents difficulties.

[William] Ellery, and Mr. [James] McHenry, appointed to examine the acts of the state of North Carolina, touching a cession of Western territory, having reported their Opinion,

That the act of cession of the State of North Carolina, of the second day of June, 1784, gives a right to the United States in Congress assembled, at any time within one year from the passing of the same, to accept the cession of western territory therein described, subject to the conditions and reservations in the said act contained, and that no subsequent act or law of the state of North Carolina could so repeal or make void the said act of cession, as to annul the right of the United States in Congress assembled, to accept the territory thereby ceded within the period, and subject to the conditions and reservations aforesaid.

That consistently with the objects of the resolutions of Congress of the 6th of September and the 10th of October, 1780, and with the duty Congress owe to the federal Union, they cannot decline an acceptance of the cession aforesaid; and thereupon recommend,

That the United States in Congress assembled, do accept the cession of western territory made by the state of North Carolina, in their act of the second day of June, in the year 1784, subject to the conditions and reservations in the said act contained.

The committee submit it to Congress, that as the commonwealth of Massachusetts have made a cession of western territory to the United States, and since Congress are ever disposed to attend to the reasonable expectations of each of the states in the Union, touching their public services and expenses, it be recommended to the state of North Carolina, to consider the principles of magnanimity and justice that induced the passing of their act of the 2d of June, 1784, and evince the operation of the same good sentiments by repealing their act of the 20th of November, 1784, and directing their delegates in Congress to furnish a new proof of their liberality, in the execution of a deed to the United

States, of the territory ceded by the act of the 2d of June aforesaid.¹

A motion was made by Mr. [Charles] Pinckney, seconded by Mr. [William] Grayson, to postpone the consideration of the report, in order to take up the following resolve:

That it is inexpedient for Congress, at this time, to interfere respecting the cession of North Carolina of their western territory for the use of the United States.

And on the question to postpone for the purpose above-mentioned, the yeas and nays being required by Mr. [Charles] Pinckney,

<i>New Hampshire,</i>			<i>Pennsylvania,</i>		
Mr. Foster,	no	}no	Mr. W. Henry,	no	}div.
Long,	no		Jackson,	ay	
<i>Massachusetts,</i>			<i>Maryland,</i>		
Mr. Holten,	no	}no	Mr. McHenry,	ay	}ay
King,	no		J. Henry,	ay	
<i>Rhode Island,</i>			Hindman,	no	
Mr. Ellery,	no	*	<i>Virginia,</i>		
<i>Connecticut,</i>			Mr. Monroe,	ay	}ay
Mr. Cook,	no	}no	Lee,	ay	
Johnson,	no		Grayson,	ay	
<i>New York,</i>			<i>South Carolina,</i>		
Mr. Lawrance,	no	}no	Mr. Pinckney,	ay	}div.
Smith,	no		Ramsay,	no	
<i>New Jersey,</i>			<i>Georgia,</i>		
Mr. Beatty,	no	}no	Mr. Houstoun,	no	*
Dick,	no				

So the question was lost.

On the question to agree to the first paragraph of the report of the committee, the yeas and nays being required by Mr. [Rufus] King,

¹ This report, in the writing of Rufus King, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 30, folio 613.

On this day, according to Committee Book No. 190, the petition of Capt. James Gilliland, praying for commutation of pay and a land grant, was read and referred to Mr. [John] Lawrance, Mr. [John] Beatty and Mr. [Pierse] Long. On August 19 this committee was discharged and the petition referred to the Commissioner for settling Army Accounts to report. The petition is in No. 41, III, folio 542, and is indorsed as "Acted on Feby. 3d 1786."

<i>New Hampshire,</i>		<i>Pennsylvania,</i>	
Mr. Foster,	ay	Mr. W. Henry,	ay
Long,	ay	Jackson,	ay
<i>Massachusetts,</i>		<i>Maryland,</i>	
Mr. Holten,	ay	Mr. McHenry,	no
King,	ay	J. Henry,	no
<i>Rhode Island,</i>		Hindman,	ay
Mr. Ellery,	ay	<i>Virginia,</i>	
<i>Connecticut,</i>		Mr. Monroe,	no
Mr. Cook,	ay	Lee,	no
Johnson,	ay	<i>South Carolina,</i>	
<i>New York,</i>		Mr. Pinckney,	no
Mr. Lawrance,	ay	Ramsay,	ay
Smith,	ay	<i>Georgia,</i>	
<i>New Jersey,</i>		Mr. Houstoun,	ay
Mr. Beatty,	ay		*
Dick,	ay		

So the question was lost.

On the question to agree to the second paragraph of the report, viz. That consistently with the objects, &c. the yeas and nays being required by Mr. [Rufus] King,

<i>New Hampshire,</i>		<i>Pennsylvania,</i>	
Mr. Foster,	ay	Mr. W. Henry,	ay
Long,	ay	Jackson,	no
<i>Massachusetts,</i>		<i>Maryland,</i>	
Mr. Holten,	no	Mr. McHenry,	no
King,	ay	J. Henry,	no
<i>Rhode Island,</i>		Hindman,	ay
Mr. Ellery,	ay	<i>Virginia,</i>	
<i>Connecticut,</i>		Mr. Monroe,	no
Mr. Cook,	ay	Lee,	no
Johnson,	ay	<i>South Carolina,</i>	
<i>New York,</i>		Mr. Pinckney,	no
Mr. Lawrance,	ay	Ramsay,	ay
Smith,	ay	<i>Georgia,</i>	
<i>New Jersey,</i>		Mr. Houstoun,	ay
Mr. Beatty,	no		*
Dick,	no		

So the question was lost.

On the question to agree to the third paragraph, viz. That the United States in Congress assembled do accept, &c. the yeas and nays being required by Mr. [Rufus] King,

<i>New Hampshire,</i>			<i>Pennsylvania,</i>		
Mr. Foster,	ay	} ay	Mr. W. Henry,	ay	} div.
Long,	ay		Jackson,	no	
<i>Massachusetts,</i>			<i>Maryland,</i>		
Mr. Holten,	no	} div.	Mr. McHenry,	no	} no
King,	ay		J. Henry,	no	
<i>Rhode Island,</i>			Hindman,	ay	
Mr. Ellery,	ay	*	<i>Virginia,</i>		
<i>Connecticut,</i>			Mr. Monroe,	no	} no
Mr. Cook,	ay	} ay	Lee,	no	
Johnson,	ay			<i>South Carolina,</i>	
<i>New York,</i>			Mr. Pinckney,	no	} div.
Mr. Lawrance,	ay	} ay	Ramsay,	ay	
Smith,	ay			<i>Georgia,</i>	
<i>New Jersey,</i>			Mr. Houstoun,	ay	*
Mr. Beatty,	no	} no			
Dick,	no				

So the question was lost.

On the question to agree to the last paragraph, the yeas and nays being required by Mr. J[ohn] Henry,

<i>New Hampshire,</i>			<i>New Jersey,</i>		
Mr. Foster,	ay	} ay	Mr. Beatty,	ay	} ay
Long,	ay		Dick,	ay	
<i>Massachusetts,</i>			<i>Pennsylvania,</i>		
Mr. Holten,	ay	} ay	Mr. W. Henry,	ay	} ay
King,	ay		Jackson,	ay	
<i>Rhode Island,</i>			<i>Maryland,</i>		
Mr. Ellery,	ay	*	Mr. McHenry,	ay	} ay
<i>Connecticut,</i>			J. Henry,	ay	
Mr. Cook,	ay	} ay	Hindman,	ay	
Johnson,	ay			<i>Virginia,</i>	
<i>New York,</i>			Mr. Monroe,	ay	} ay
Mr. Lawrance,	ay	} ay	Lee,	ay	
Smith,	ay				

<i>South Carolina,</i> Mr. Pinckney, Ramsay,	ay } ¹ ay } ay		<i>Georgia,</i> Mr. Houstoun,	ay }*
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So it was resolved as follows:

As the commonwealth of Massachusetts have made a cession of western territory to the United States, and Congress are ever disposed to attend to the reasonable expectations of each of the States in the Union, touching their public services and expences, *Resolved*, That it be, and it is hereby recommended to the state of North Carolina, to consider the principles of the magnanimity and justice that induced the passing of their Act of the 2d June, 1784, and evince the operation of the same good sentiments by repealing their Act of the 20th day of November, 1784, and directing their delegates in Congress to furnish a new proof of their liberality, in the execution of a deed to the United States of the territory ceded by the Act of the 2d of June aforesaid.

The Committee of the week [Mr. David Ramsay, Mr. Samuel Dick and Mr. Joseph Platt Cook] report that the petition of Francis Cazeau praying for money to be advanced to him on account, be ordered to lie on the table till Congress take up the consideration of the report of a Committee on his case of May 6th, 1785.¹

MONDAY, MAY 23, 1785.

Congress assembled. Present, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, and South Carolina; and from the state of Rhode Island, Mr. [William] Ellery; from New York, Mr. [Melancton] Smith; from North Carolina, Mr. [Richard Dobbs] Spaight, and from Georgia, Mr. [William] Houstoun.

¹ This report, in the writing of David Ramsay, is in the *Papers of the Continental Congress*, No. 32, folio 613. The indorsement states that it was agreed to this day.

On this day, as the indorsement states, was read the petition of Thomas Wallcot. It is in No. 42, VIII, folio 316. See *post*, May 23.