

LEQ: What states were formed from the Northwest Territory?



The land that comprised the Northwest Territory is shown in black. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

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Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin



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The Confederation Era



Houses fronting New Milford, Connecticut's Town Green in 1796. This image was created by Ralph Earl. This image is courtesy of the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

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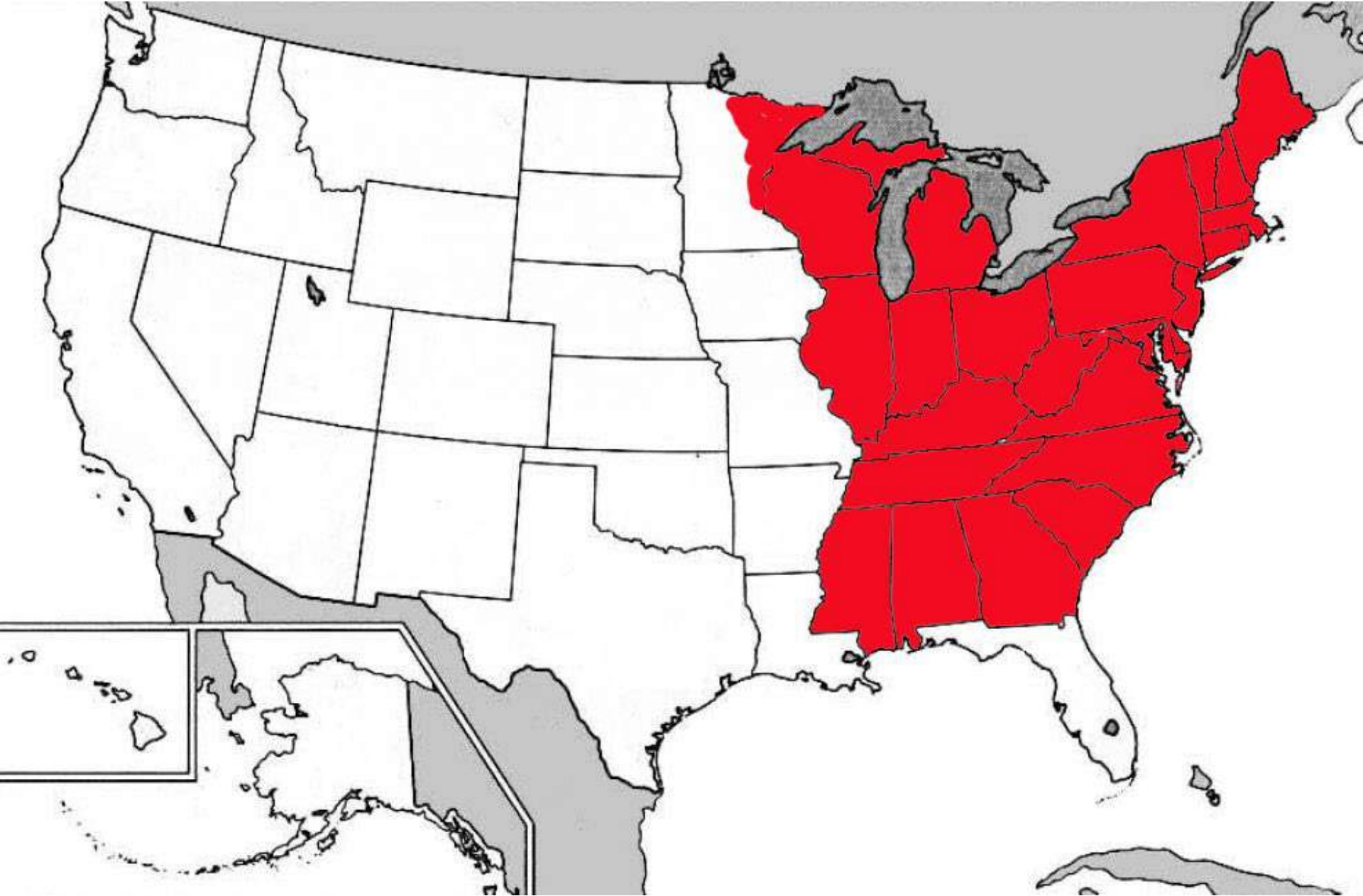
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Under the Articles of Confederation, the United States was an unstable nation.



As America expanded westward, it had problems with other nations including the British, and various Native American groups. This image is courtesy of the University of Texas.

Constant bickering among the states disrupted the government, and many groups within American society were not happy.



This image shows a fight during Shays' Rebellion in Massachusetts in 1786. Americans had significant reasons to doubt if their new nation would survive. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Until the end of the 1800s, “the West” was not a specific geographic region of the United States.



Instead, the west described the next area of settlement. This image titled *Boone's First View of Kentucky* was created by William Ranney in 1849. It is courtesy of California State University at Bakersfield.

During the Confederation period, the West lay just beyond the Appalachian Mountains.



The Appalachian Mountains are shaded in brown. Between 1780 and 1790 the western population grew from about 2000 to about 10,000. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Congress proved powerless to meet the needs of the westerners.



The British still occupied many forts in the land that they gave to the United States in the Treaty of Paris in 1783. This image shows British troops at Fort Michilimac, Michigan. It could not dislodge the British from their forts in the North. This image is courtesy of flickr.com.

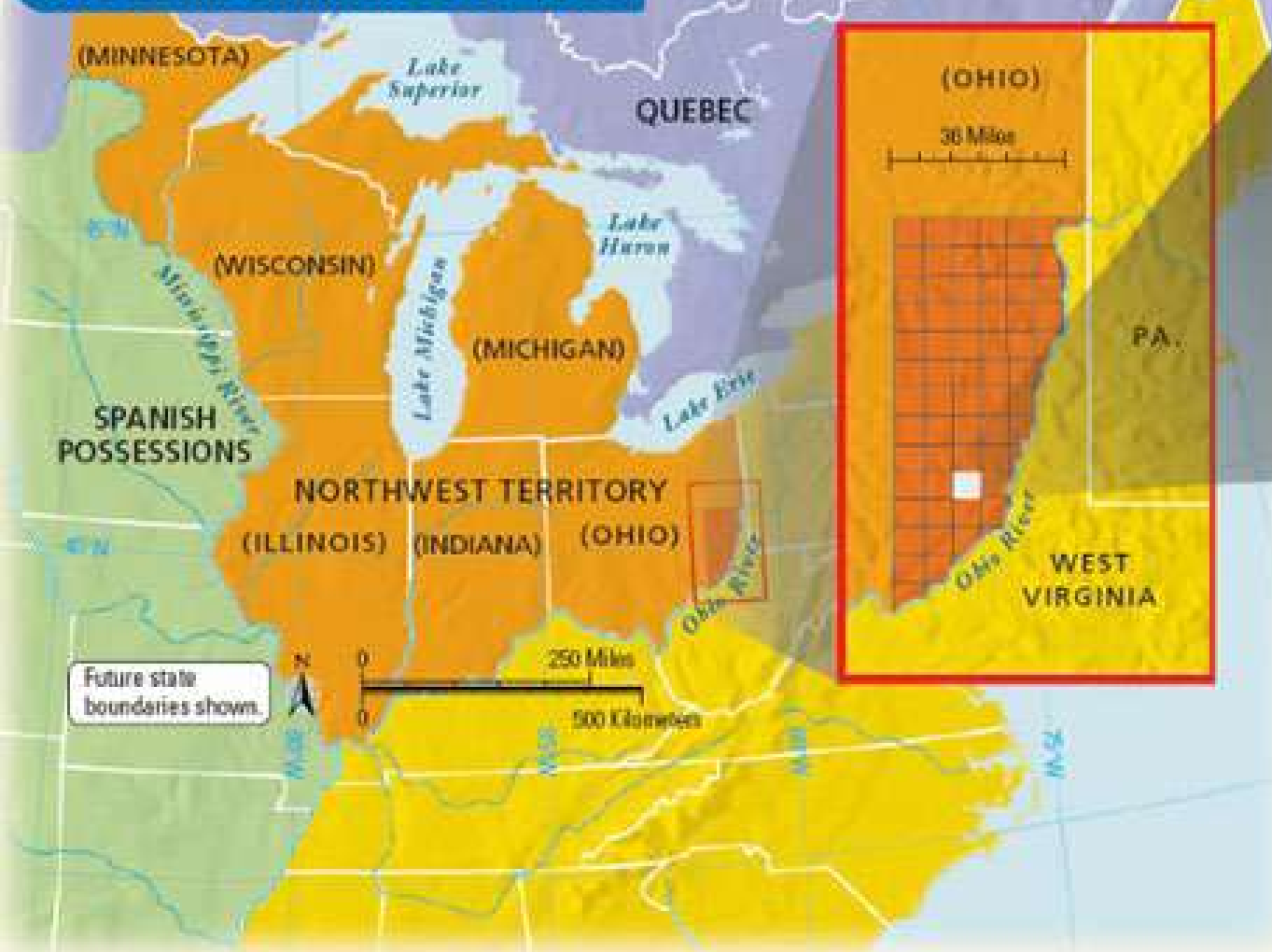
Without money, Congress could not purchase Native American land nor provide troops to protect the settlers.



This image shows the 1795 Treaty of Greenville in Ohio. Indians occupying this area included the Delaware, Shawnee, and the Wyandot. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Prior to 1783, settlers claimed land in the West just by settling on it.

The Land Ordinance of 1785



TOWNSHIP, 1785

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

Each township contained 36 sections. Each section was one square mile.

Disputes among settlers became common and sometimes grew violent. This image is courtesy of freewebs.com.

To prevent violence, and to raise money, Congress passed the Land Ordinance of 1785.



This law provided a more orderly method for settling land north of the Ohio River. The Ohio River is highlighted in blue. This image is courtesy of imageck.com.

The ordinance stated that land would be surveyed and divided into townships 6 miles square.

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

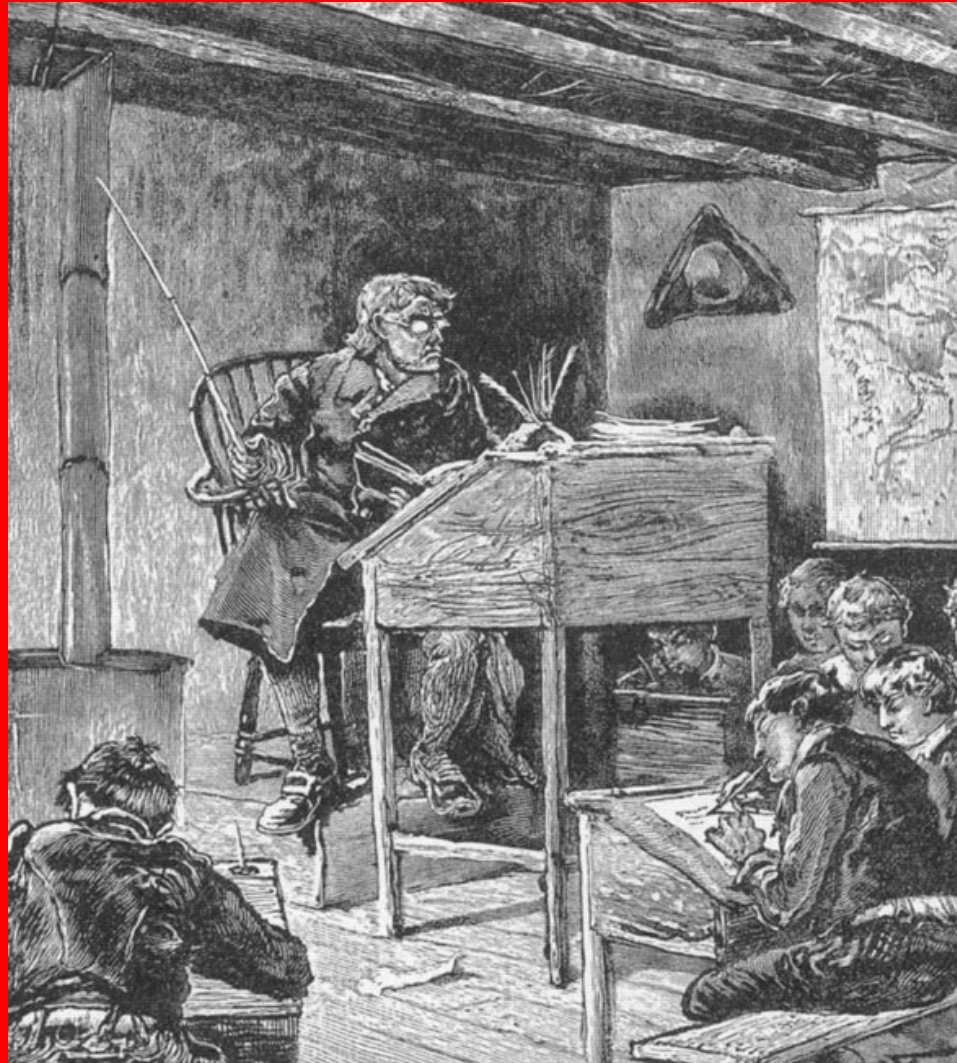
Each township would contain 36 sections. A section consisted of 1 square mile and contained 640 acres. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Congress planned to sell the land at auctions for no less than \$1 per acre.



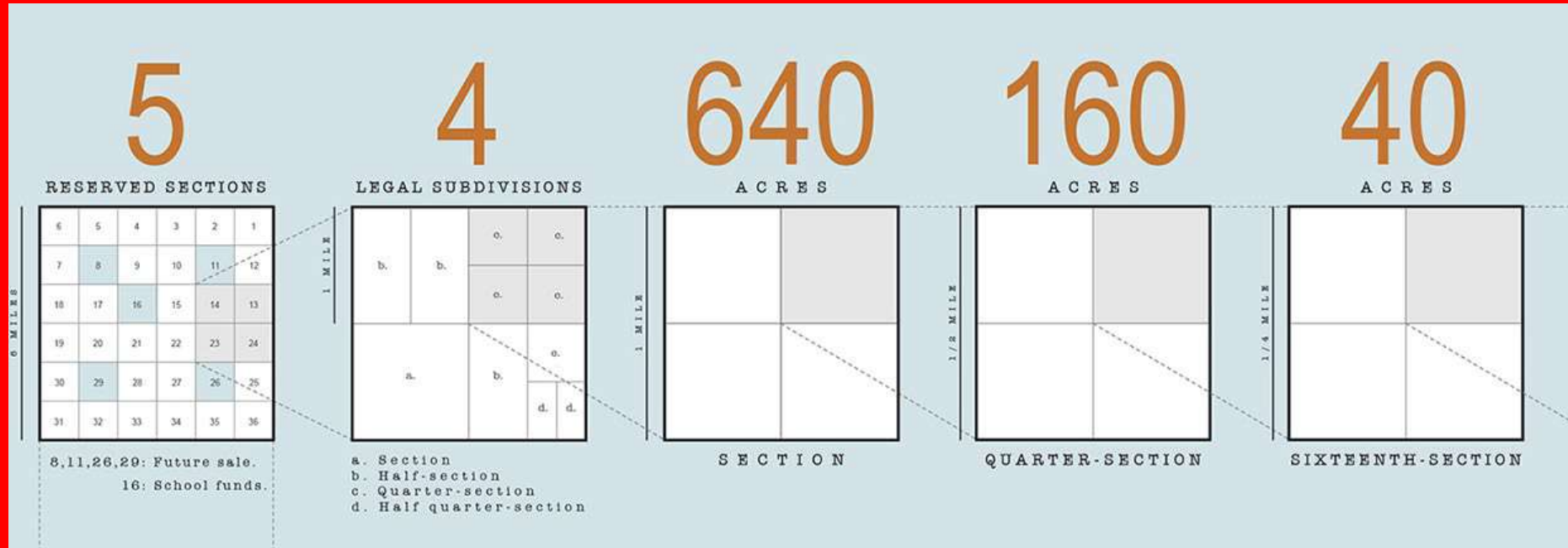
An auction is a publicly held sale at which property or goods are sold to the highest bidder. This image is courtesy of fineartamerica.com.

Revenue from the sale of one section in every township supported the creation of a public school.



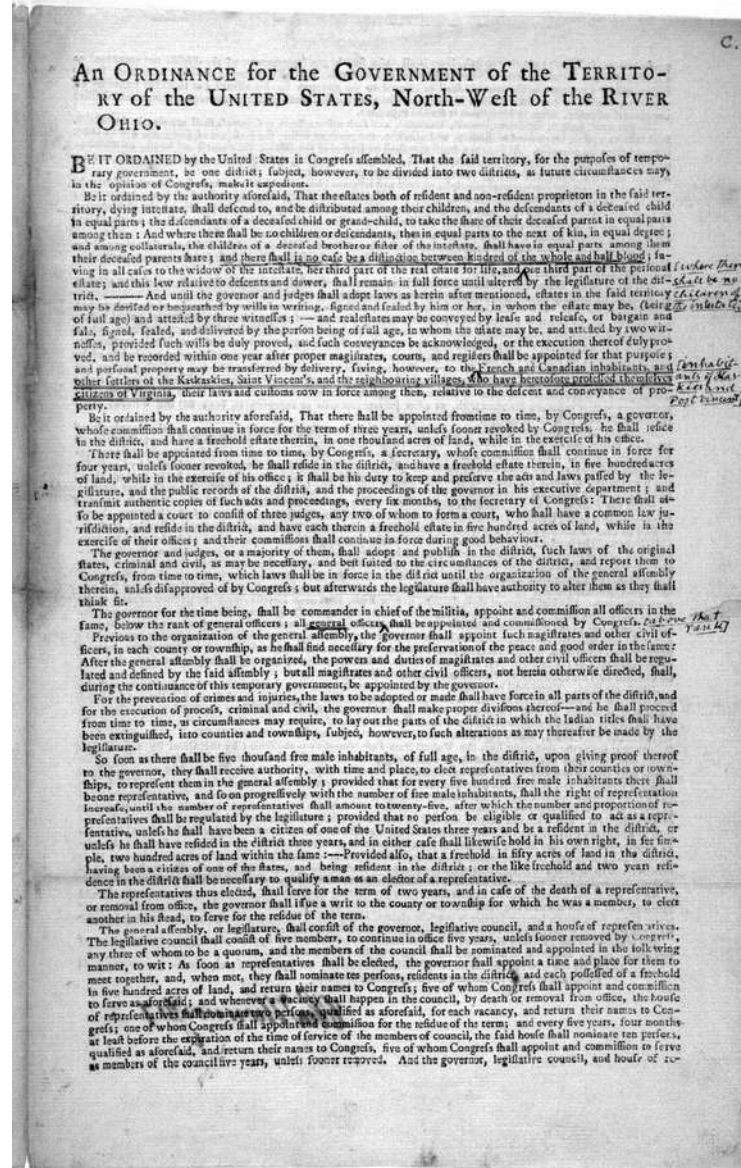
This is the first example of federal aid to education. In a colonial school room, the books were few and of a not very good quality. The benches on which one sat were hard, and the rooms were badly heated and not air conditioned. This image shows a schoolmaster at his desk. The schoolmaster could beat you with his switch or “gad” as it was sometimes called. This image is courtesy of earlyamerica.com.

To attract land speculators, the law required that buyers take at least one whole section.



Speculators could then divide their sections into smaller rectangular tracts and sell the tracts to settlers at a profit. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

While the Land Ordinance of 1785 dealt with the sale of land in the Northwest Territory, the Northwest Ordinance, passed in 1787, made provisions for governing the new territory.



The Northwest Ordinance passed the Confederation Congress on July 13, 1787. This image is courtesy of the Library of Congress.

It stated that no less than three and no more than five territories could be carved out of the Northwest Territory.



Congress would appoint a governor and three judges for each territory until it became populous enough to form its own government and become a state. This image is courtesy of thefederalistpapers.org.

When the population reached 60,000, the people of the territory could write a constitution and apply for statehood.



If Congress approved the constitution, the territory became a state with the same rights as the existing states. This image shows delegates arguing over the possibility of statehood for Ohio. This image is courtesy of ohiohistory.org.

First, their new government had to be a republic.



A republic is a type of government in which representatives are elected to govern on behalf of the people. This image is courtesy of foundersonline.org.

Second, the ordinance required territories to ensure freedom of religion and to guarantee trial by jury for those accused of crimes.



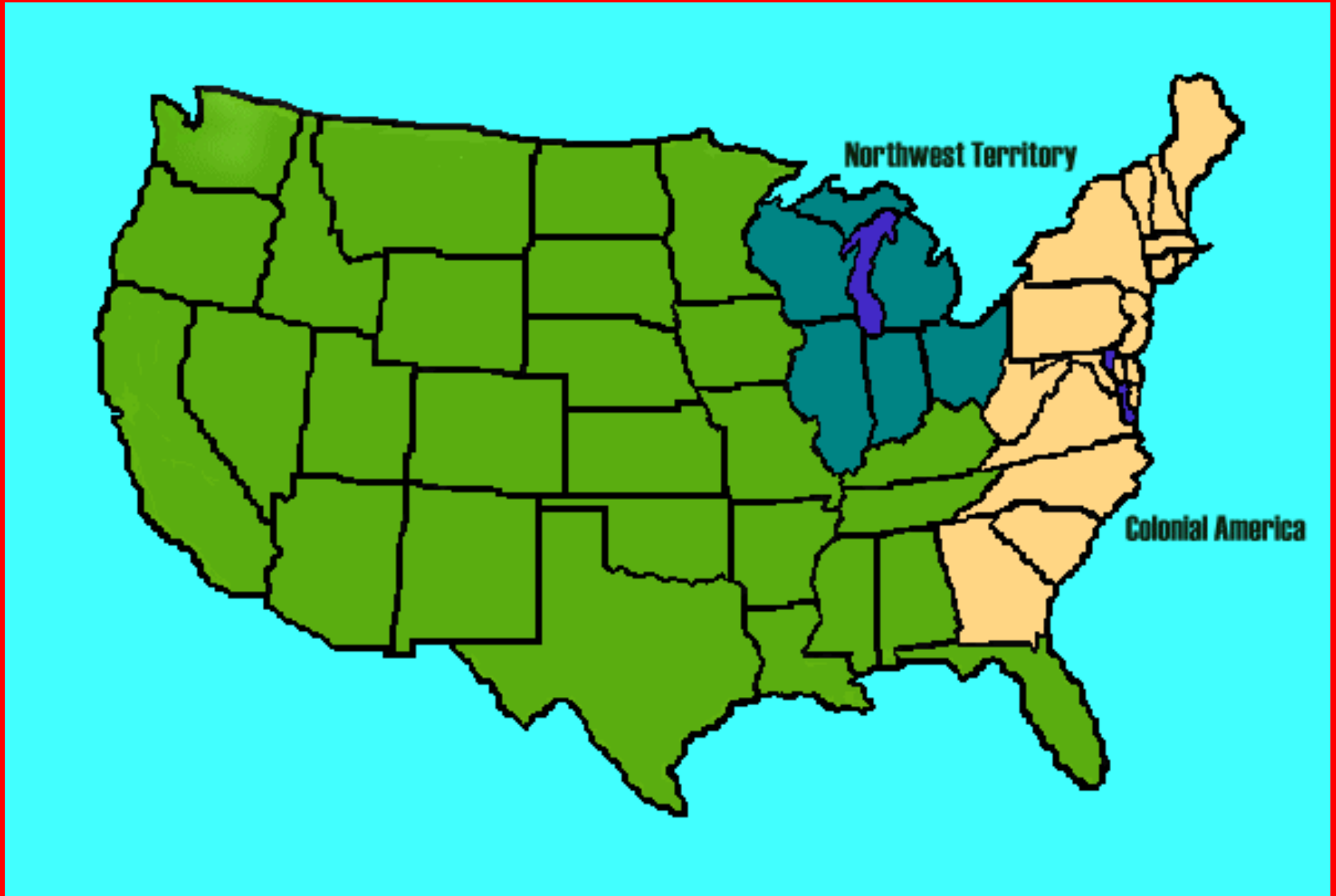
This image shows Bruton Parish Church, in Williamsburg, Virginia in 1902. Before the American Revolution, this was an Anglican Church. It is now an Episcopal Church. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Third, the ordinance prohibited slaveholding in the territory.



The Northwest Ordinance became the first law passed by the United States government to restrict the practice of slaveholding. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

For the first time, a nation had provided an orderly way for its territories to become political equals.



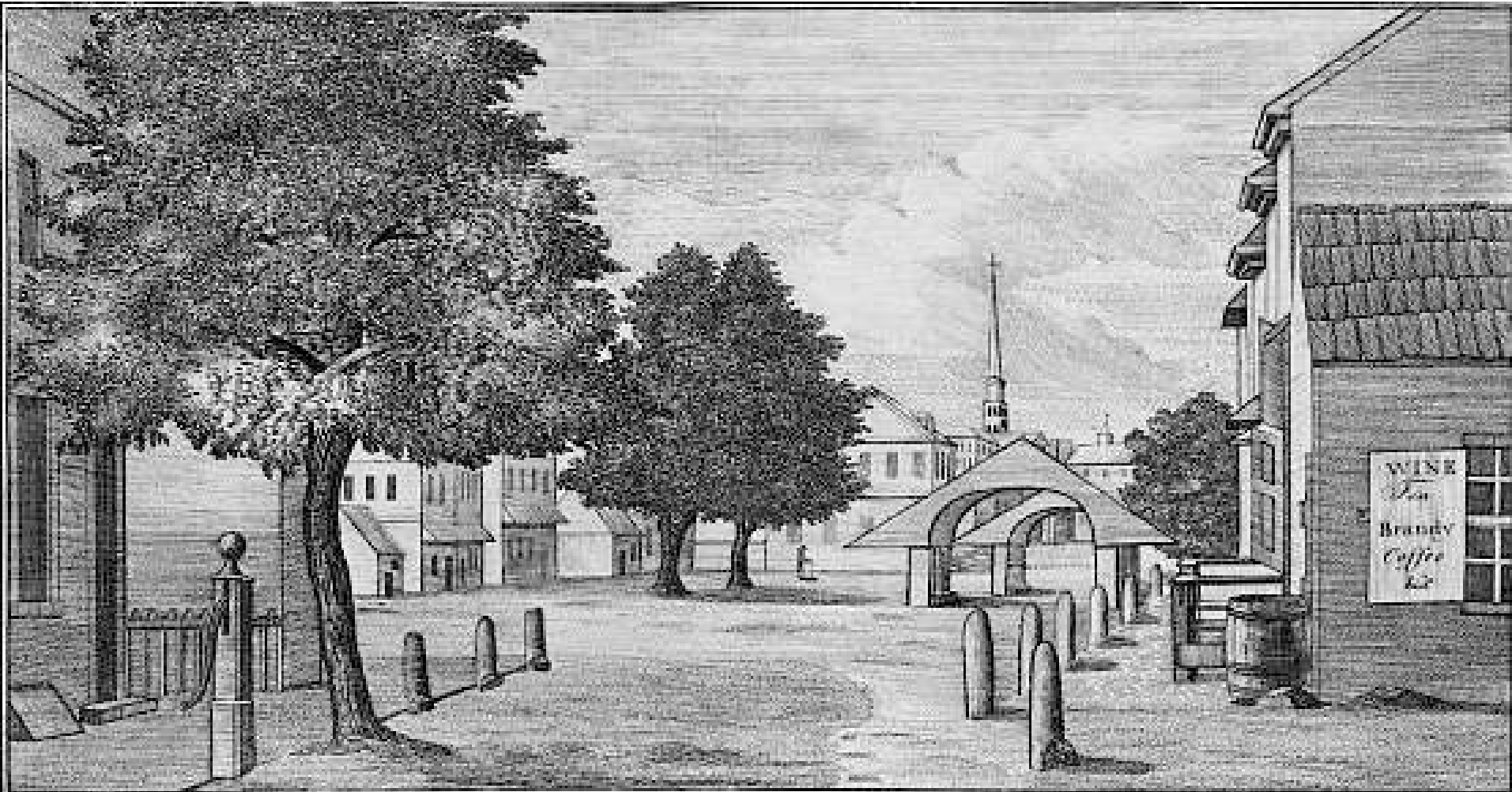
These laws became models for developing other lands into new states. The Northwest Territory is in blue. This image is courtesy of wfu.edu.

Eventually five states arose from the Northwest Territory: **Ohio (1803)**, **Indiana (1816)**, **Illinois (1818)**, **Michigan (1837)**, and **Wisconsin (1848)**.



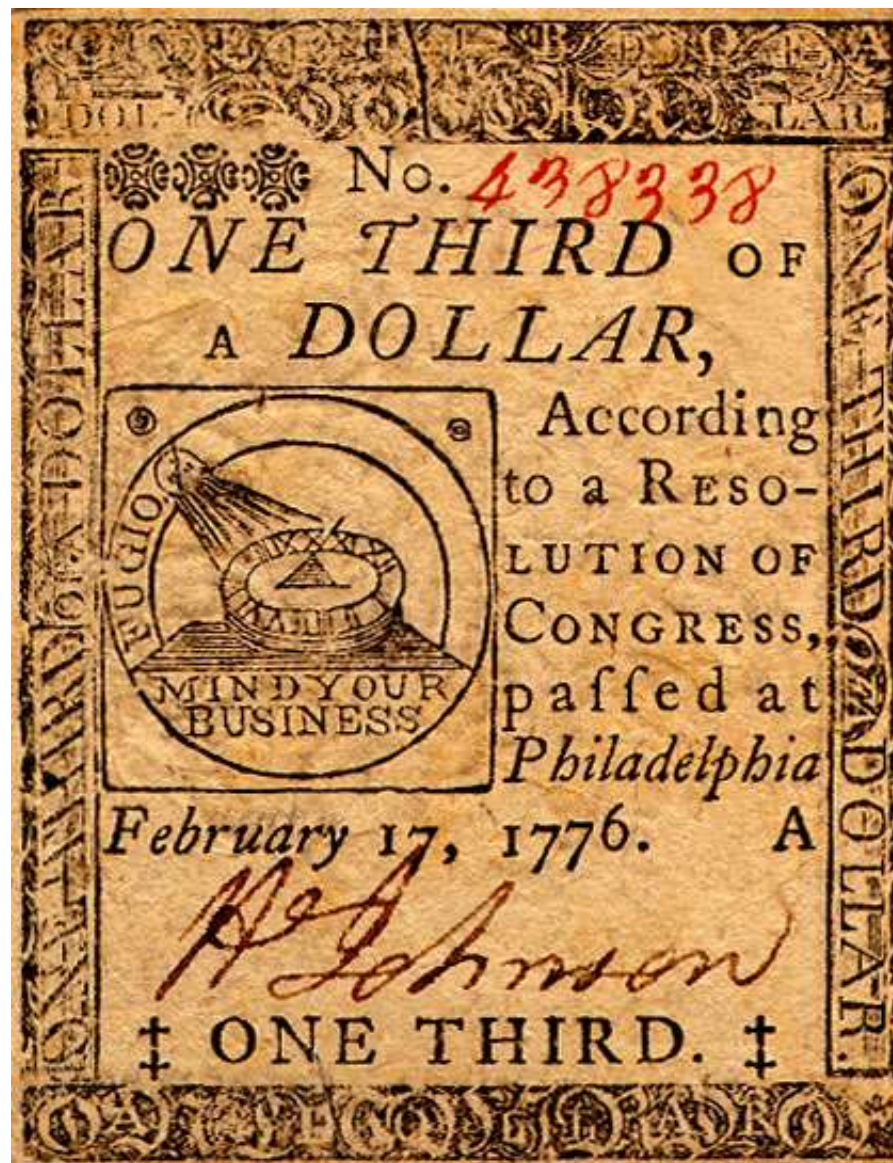
Minnesota had once been part of the Michigan Territory, and later of the Wisconsin Territory. This image is courtesy of mikilac.com.

America in the 1770s and 1780s was a divided and often troubled nation.



Just four years after the war, the new nation moved dangerously close to bankruptcy. This image shows a “newly established market” at the corner of Shippen and Second Streets in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1787. This image is courtesy of the Library of Congress.

The new nation's financial situation looked bleak.



After the Revolution, the United States owed millions of dollars— money borrowed from foreign governments, states, and private citizens to pay for the war. Now the United States had to pay that money back. This image shows one third of a dollar in Continental Currency. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

The national government could not collect taxes.



This image shows “Uncle Sam” the image of the United States, with an empty treasury. This image was created by James Montgomery Flagg (1877-1960). This image is courtesy of wjmc.blogspot.com.

Because the national government did not have the power to collect taxes, it had to rely on the individual states to give it money.



Between 1781 and 1789 the states gave Congress only about one-sixth of the money it requested. This image is courtesy of studiesweekly.com.

During the Revolution, the Congress had printed continental dollars.



Without gold or silver to back it up, this paper money had very little value. Americans soon began to describe any worthless item as "not worth a Continental." This image shows a \$55 Continental bill. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

To make matters worse, each state printed money of its own, too.



This system caused much confusion. How much money was a Virginia dollar worth? Was a dollar in Rhode Island equal to a dollar in Maryland? This image shows a Maryland \$16 bill in 1775. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Some states refused to accept money from other states, while some claimed that their money was more valuable than anyone else's.



This image shows the front of the Maryland State House in Annapolis, Maryland. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

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Because of the unsettling financial situation, trade among the states became difficult.



Arguments arose among states that refused to trade with one another. This image is courtesy of history.org.

Some people resorted to a system of barter, exchanging goods for other goods instead of money.



This image a man paying his newspaper subscription with a chicken. This image was shown in *Harpers Weekly* on January 17, 1874.

In North Carolina, for example, whiskey became a type of currency.



This image shows a Colonial Living History person filling a barrel from a still. Virginians used tobacco to repay debts. This image is courtesy of history.org.

Some states taxed goods that came from other states.

This image shows a Living History person in Colonial Williamsburg braiding rope to make it stronger to carry a bucket. This image is courtesy of history.org.

This encouraged people to buy their own state's products and discouraged them from buying goods from other states.



New York placed taxes on firewood from Connecticut and cabbage from New Jersey. Naturally, this policy enraged farmers and merchants who produced and sold the goods. This image is courtesy of history.org.

American merchants saw their businesses decline.



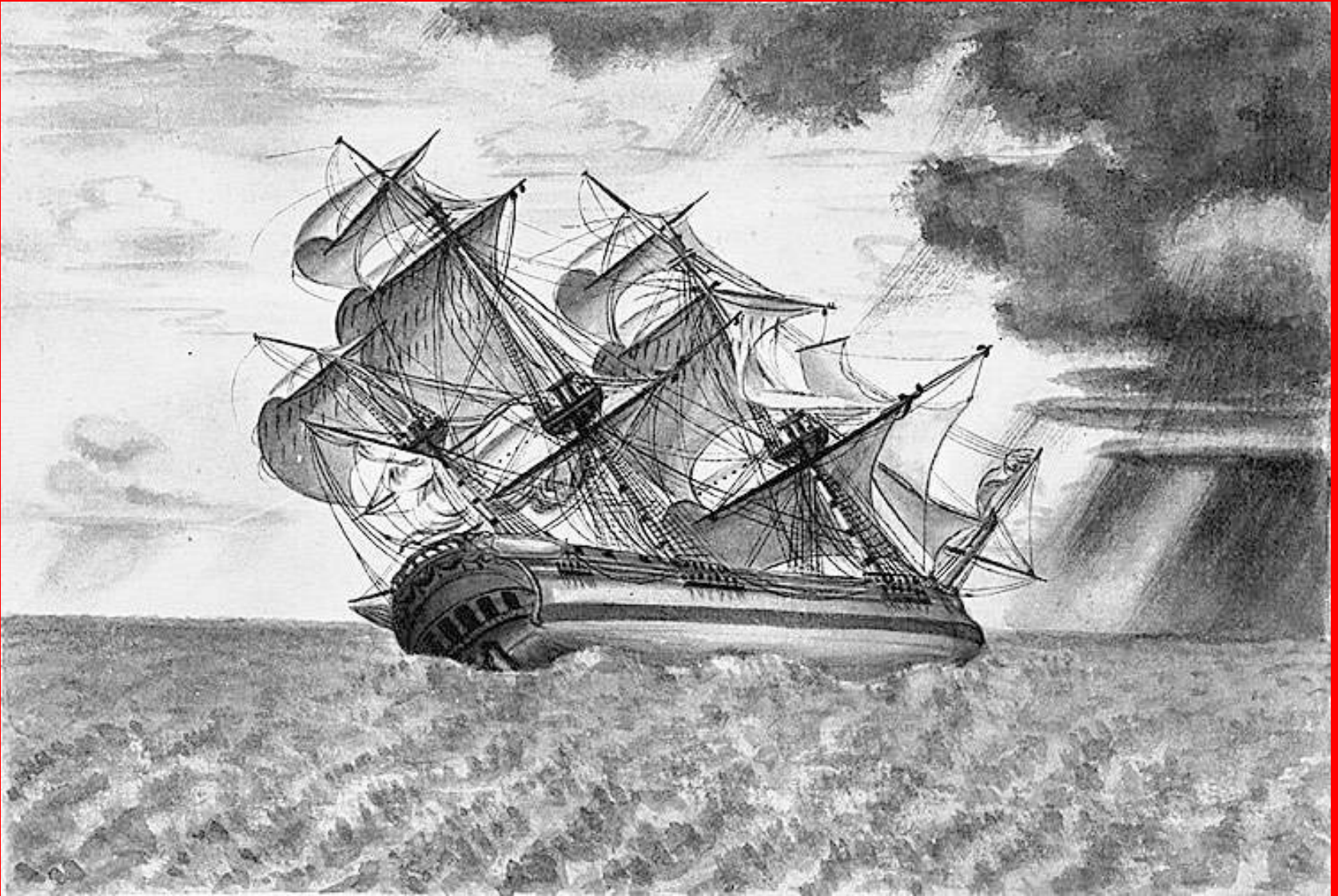
After the war, they still stocked many British goods that they could not sell. The nation had entered an economic depression. This image shows the not very busy docks in Salem, Massachusetts in the 1770s. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

In an economic depression, business activity slows down and unemployment increases.



This image shows a woman working a loom as she weaves thread into cloth. This image is courtesy of history.org.

To add to the problem, Great Britain had passed laws making it difficult for American merchant ships to enter its ports.



This image shows the American merchant ship the *Columbia Redviva* in a squall. The *Columbia Redviva* was built in 1787. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Great Britain also made the British West Indies off limits to any American traders.



The British possessions in the Caribbean are shown in red. The United States had imported sugar from many of these colonies. This image is courtesy of atlasofbriempire.com.

As a result, many American merchants went into debt.



Without the ability to trade, this colonial merchant's shipping business would become much less busy. This image is courtesy of history.org.

Farmers experienced extreme hardships during this time.



Throughout the war, demand for food had increased. To keep up, many farmers borrowed money from banks to buy more land and equipment. This image is courtesy of history.org.

After the war, though, demand for farm products decreased.



Farmers grew more food than they could sell and then could not repay the money they had borrowed. This panorama shows Colonial Williamsburg's Great Hopes Plantation. This image is courtesy of history.org.

The banks had been taking the farmers' lands away to pay their debts.



This image shows hay stacks in Steuben County, New York. The original image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

When Spain closed its port of New Orleans at the mouth of the Mississippi River, farmers could no longer ship their goods south to the Gulf of Mexico for export.

The Louisiana Territory



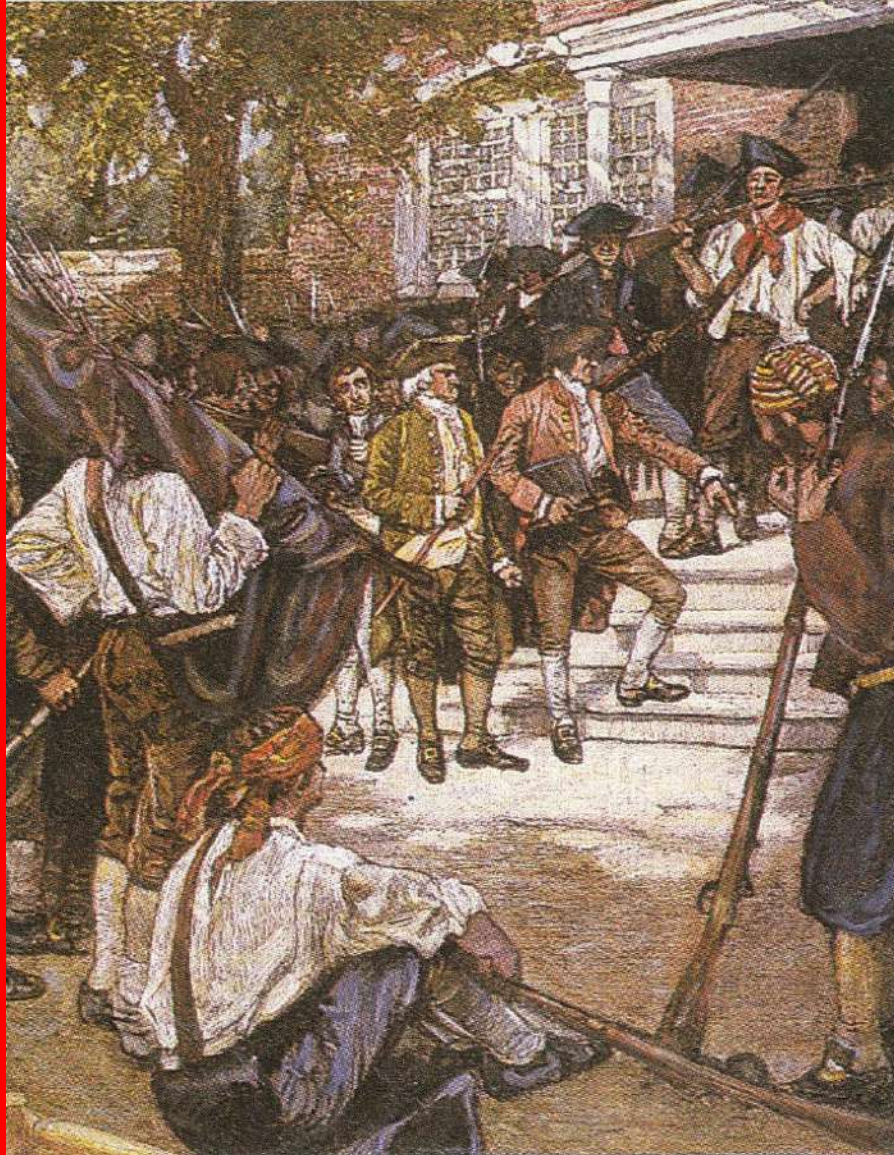
The farmers goods were floated down the Ohio and the Mississippi rivers to be exported to Europe and to areas along the Atlantic Coast of the United States. The original image is courtesy of mhschool.com.

In Massachusetts the economic situation became explosive.



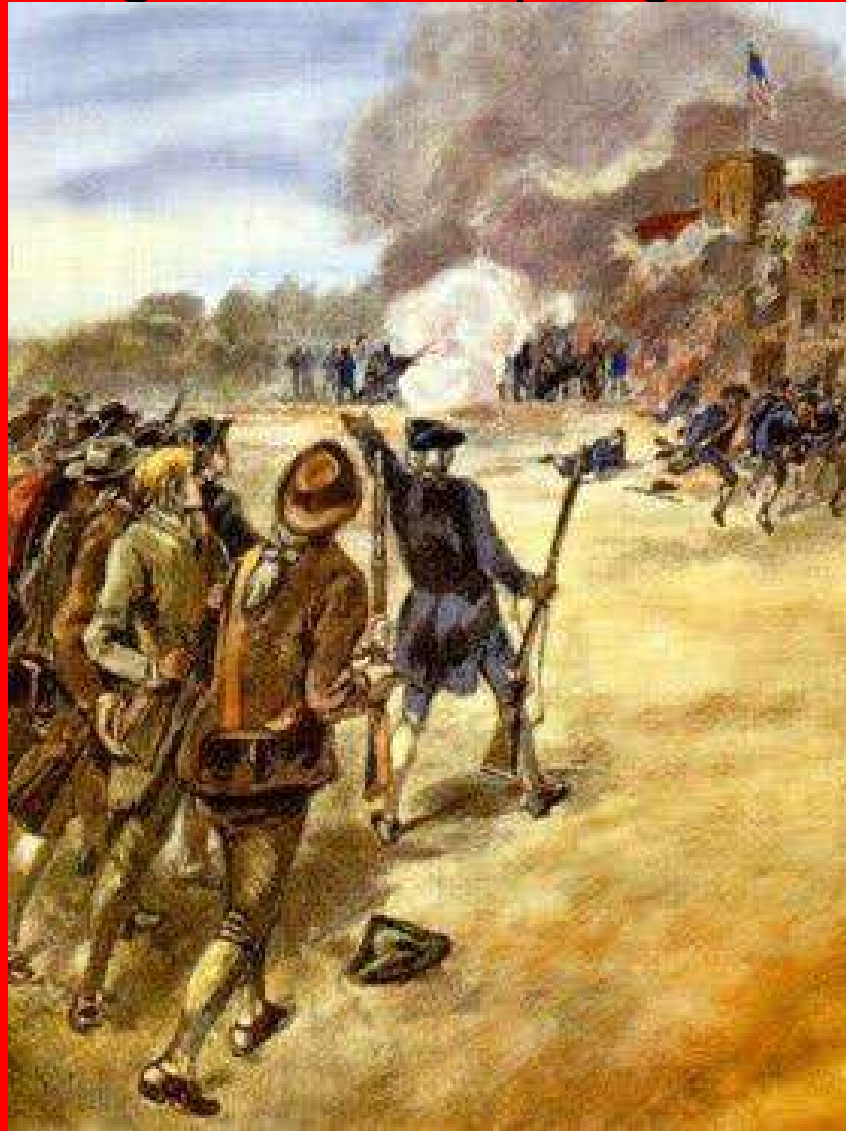
Because some farmers could not repay their debts, government authorities jailed them or seized their property. These farmers viewed the new government as just another variety of tyranny. In September 1786, the farmers' discontent ignited a rebellion. This image of Daniel Shays on the left and Job Shattuck, the two most important leads of the rebellion, first appeared in *Bickerstaff's Boston Almanack* in 1787. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Led by former Continental Army captain Daniel Shays, the farmers attacked and closed the courts in two Massachusetts counties, stopping land confiscations.



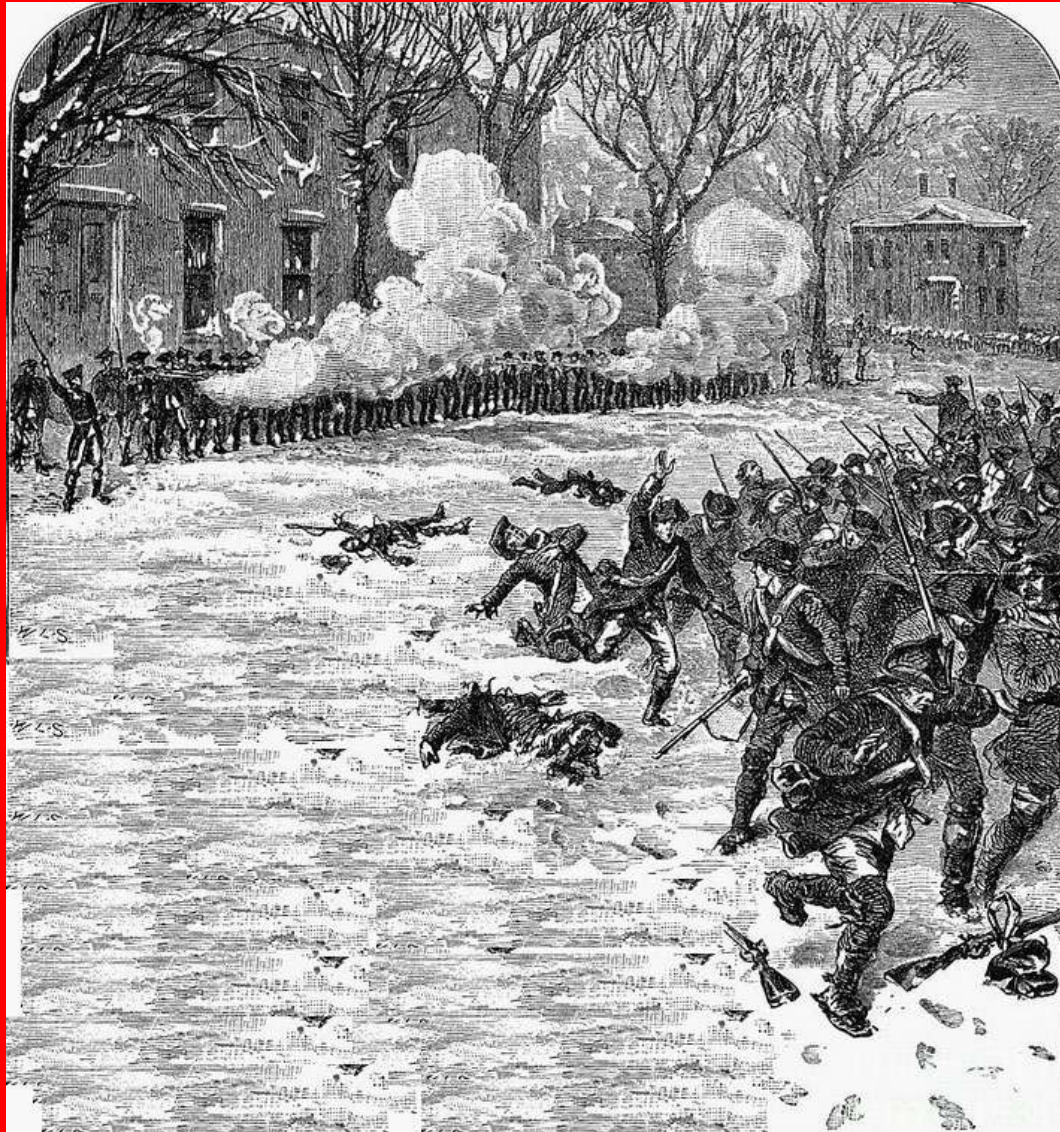
On August 29, 1786 a well-organized force of protestors formed in Northampton, Massachusetts and successfully prevented the county court from sitting. The court in Worcester, Massachusetts was shut down on September 5, 1786 by similar methods. This image is courtesy of the Bettmann Archive.

In early 1787 Shays led more than 1000 disgruntled farmers against the Springfield Arsenal.



This image shows Daniel Shays and his men attacking the armory at Springfield, Massachusetts. The arsenal was a place that held weapons for the state troops. This image is courtesy of marxist.com.

Through donations from wealthy merchants, Massachusetts raised a militia force strong enough to meet Shays at Springfield.



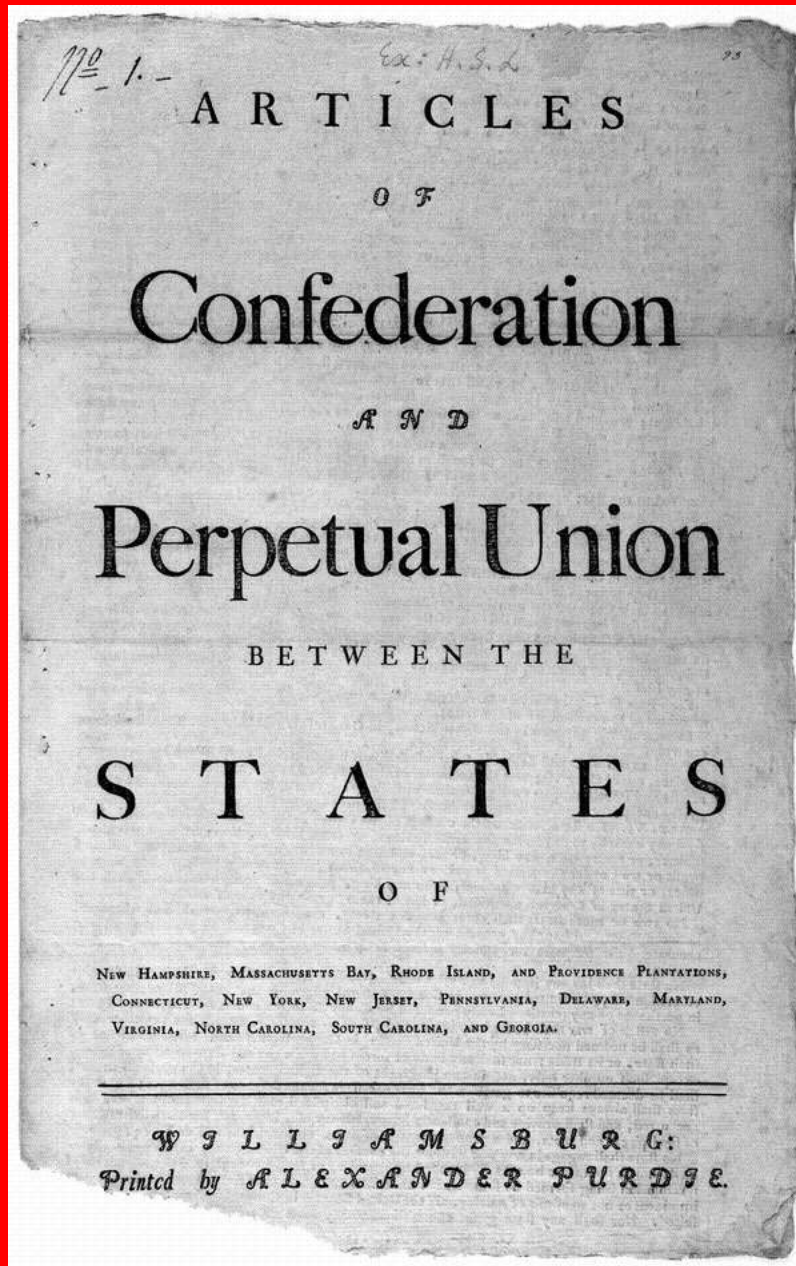
At first militia commander William Shepard ordered his men to fire over the heads of Shays' men. When Shays' men kept coming, grapeshot from two cannon killed four men and wounded 20 others. This image is courtesy of americanhistoryusa.com.

Although the militia easily defeated the ragged group of farmers, Shays' Rebellion caused great alarm, and people who believed in orderly government became fearful.



It seemed that the prophecies of those who said the United States could not form an effective system of government were coming true. This image is courtesy of heritagehistory.com.

Many people thought the Articles of Confederation did not work and should be rewritten.



Some thought the Articles should be scrapped altogether. The United States did not seem to be united. This image is courtesy of the Library of Congress.

Leaders called for a convention to discuss ways of revising the Articles of Confederation.



The convention met in Philadelphia in 1787. The Articles were not revised, they were thrown away, and a completely new constitution was written. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

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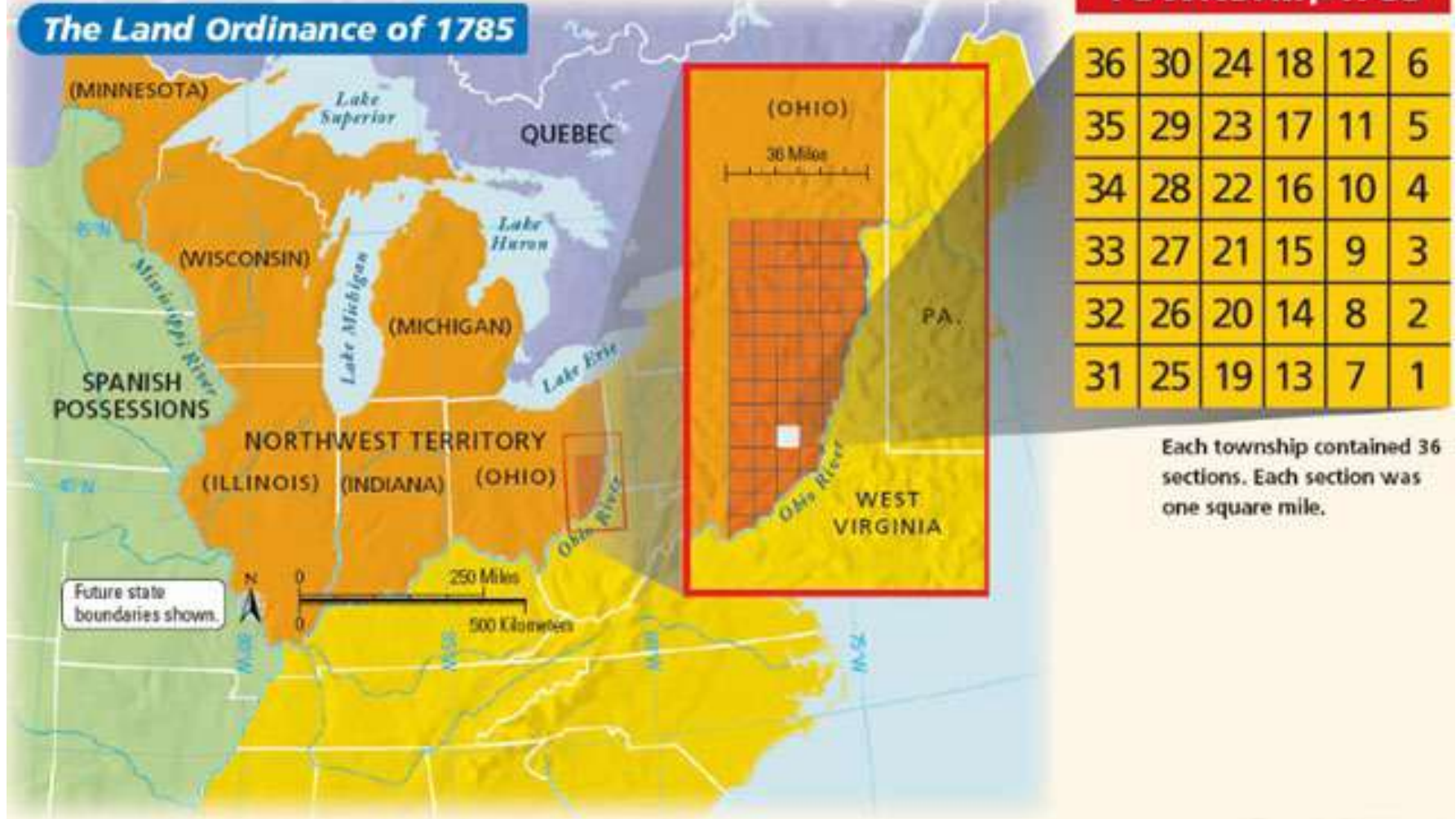
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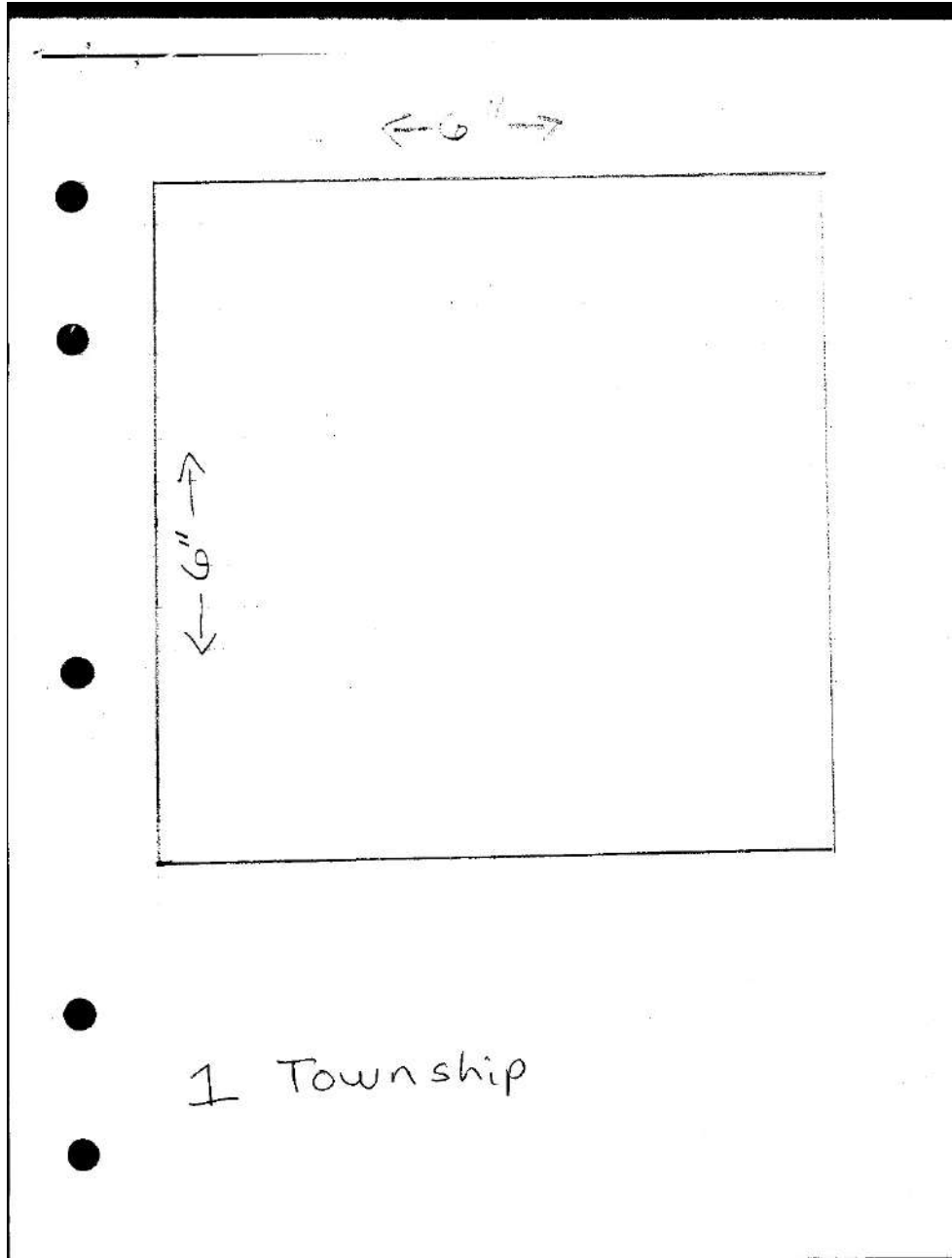
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The Land Ordinance of 1785



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Township is 6 miles X 6 miles



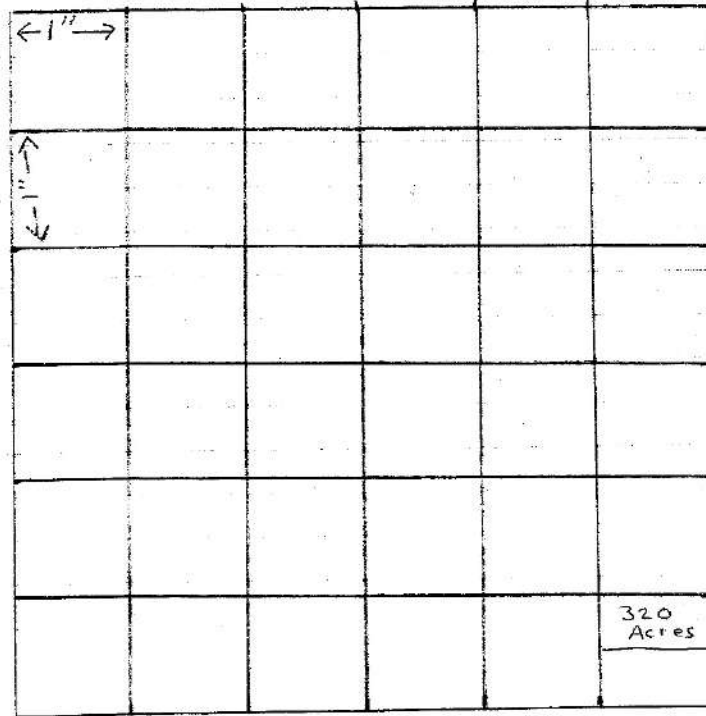
1 Township

36 Sections of 1 mile X 1 mile each (640 acres each)

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

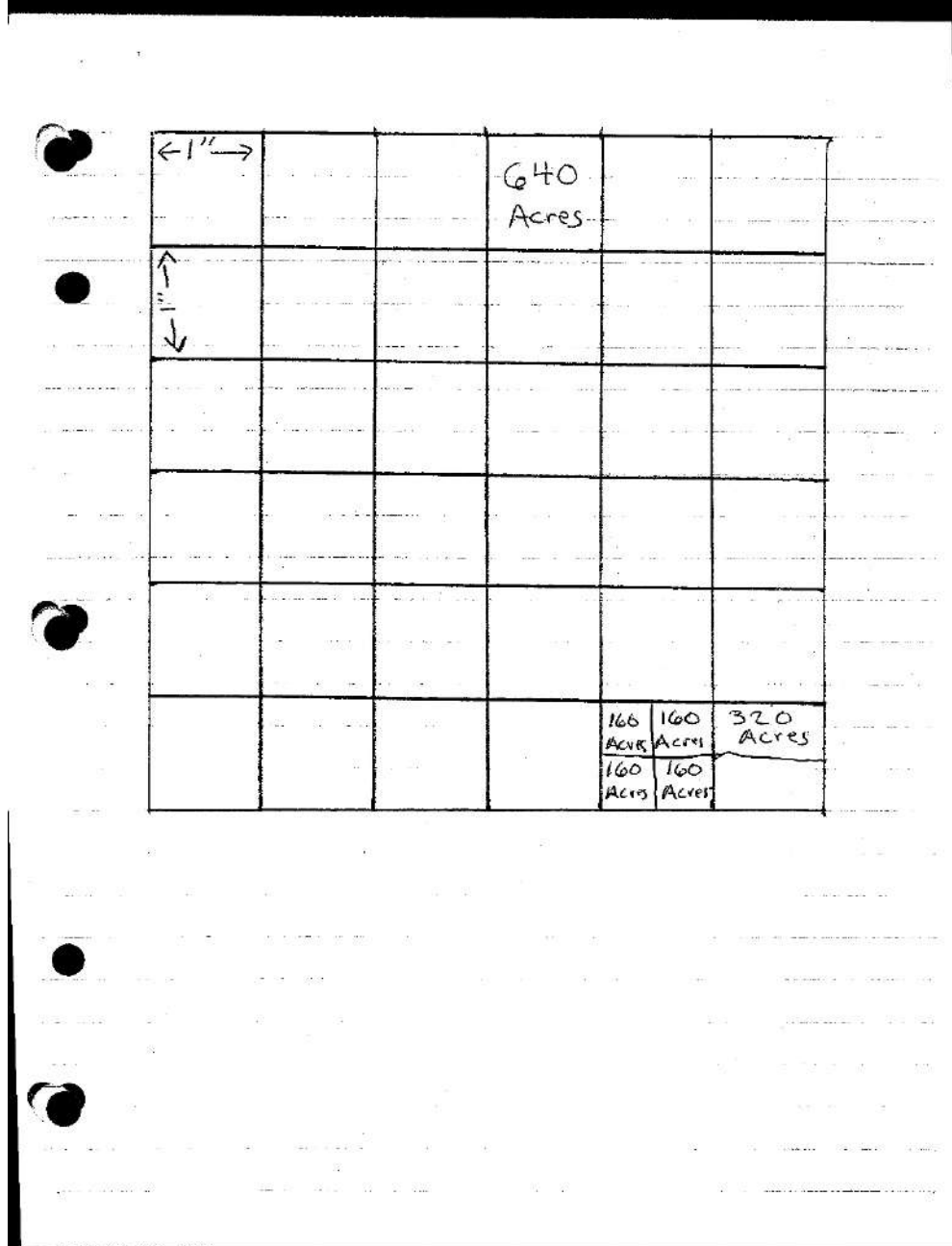
-
- 2 - Divided into 6 X 6 Sections
= 36 sections.
Each section 1 Mile X 1 Mile
#16 For Education

Divide 1 section in half so two 320 acre units

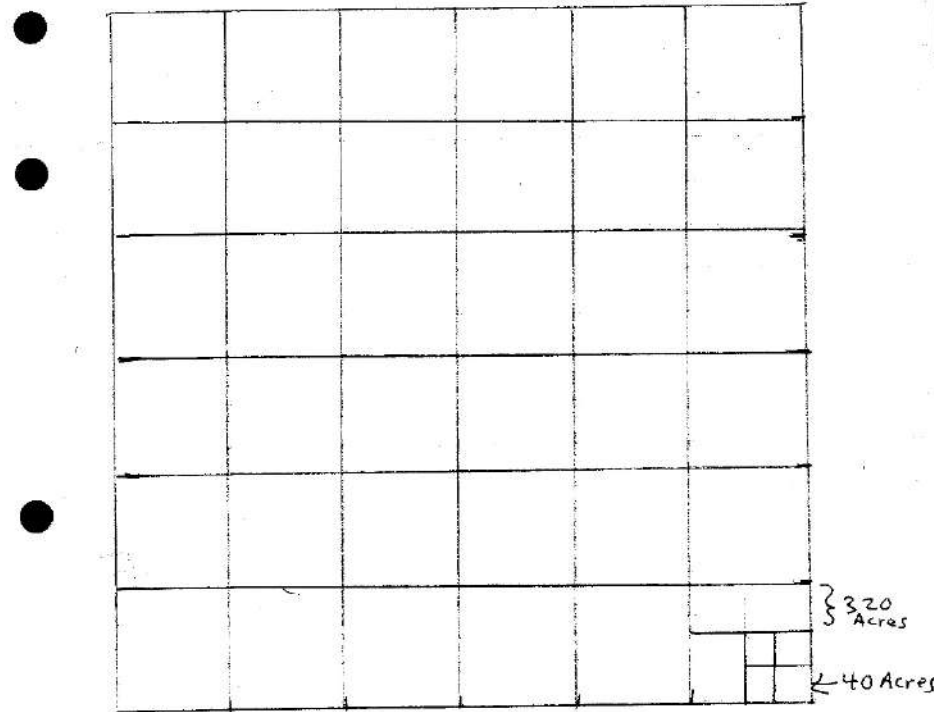


- 4 Divide each 640 Acre segment in half.
Gives 320 Acres
- still Too Large For one Family to farm

Divide 1 section in 1/4s = 4, 160 acre units.



Divide 1 160 acre section in 1/4s = 4, 40 acre units.



- 6 Divide one of those ~~160~~ 160 Acre segments into quarters.
Each Quarter = 40 Acres
- That is the size an average Family could Farm