

And whereas the country upon the Wabash and Mississippi Rivers, was, by the Treaty of Paris, 1763, ceded to the Crown of Great-Britain, and grants of land may have been made to individuals inhabiting there, by the officers of that Crown: RESOLVED, That the Governor of the Western Territory shall cause due enquiries to be made, as in the case of the ancient French inhabitants, and order the lands to be surveyed and laid out for them respectively, within the bounds of the before described tract of land; and, under the same limitations and restrictions, issue letters patent confirming the same to them and their heirs and assigns respectively for ever.

And whereas from the conquest of the country upon the Wabash and Mississippi Rivers, until the cession made by the State of Virginia to the United States, the same was under the dominion of that State, and many persons may have removed during that period into the said country, and have acquired by the laws of that State, or under the laws or customs of Virginia: RESOLVED, That the Governor of the Western Territory shall cause due enquiry to be made into the same, and, upon the same being ascertained, to order the lands to be surveyed and laid out for the persons claiming the same, their heirs or legal representatives, within either of the before described tracts of land, and issue letters patent confirming them to them, and their heirs and assigns for ever, under and subject to the same regulations, limitations and restrictions, as are prescribed in the case of the French and English inhabitants.

And whereas it may be that within the boundaries of the before described tracts of land upon the Wabash and Mississippi Rivers, after all the claims of the inhabitants, whether legal or equitable, to any quantity of land not exceeding four hundred acres for each shall have been satisfied, there may yet remain an overplus: RESOLVED, That the Governor of the Western Territory may, and he is hereby empowered and directed, upon application, to order the same to be surveyed and laid out for any person or persons, in quantities not exceeding four hundred acres for each applicant: and to issue letters patent, granting and confirming the same to the said applicants respectively, and to their heirs and assigns for ever, they paying for the same at the rate of _____ per acre, any thing in the powers to the Board of Treasury to dispose of Western Territory notwithstanding; out of which powers the before described tract of land upon the Wabash and Mississippi River are hereby expressly excepted.

RESOLVED, That where the claims to lands of the inhabitants of the country upon the Wabash and Mississippi river, whether legal or equitable, do not amount to four hundred acres for each; the Governor of the Western Territory may, and he is hereby empowered, at the request of the parties, to grant to the parties a quantity in addition, that shall make up for four hundred acres for each inhabitant; and provided, that in all cases where the claim exceeds that quantity he shall report the same with all the circumstances attending it, to Congress, for their decision: And to the end that the business may be conducted with safety and propriety, as well for the United States as for the individuals interested, RESOLVED, That the Governor shall erect an office, where all persons claiming lands under grants from the crown of France, the government of Great-Britain, or the State of Virginia, shall present the same, or authentic copies of the records, where the same may have been preserved, and from which warrants of survey shall issue to the surveyors to be appointed to lay out the same, which surveyors, before they enter upon the execution of their office, shall take an oath or affirmation of fidelity to the United States, and for the due and faithful execution of their offices respectively, before they enter on the same, which warrants, together with plots of the tracts of land, shall be returned to and filed in the said office, before any patent shall issue; and in all cases where equitable titles shall have been ascertained, the Governor shall certify the same, under his hand and seal, to the party, which certificate shall be recorded in the said office, and warrants of survey issued thereupon, and return of the warrants, together with the plots of the land, be returned and filed before any patent for the same shall issue: And the Secretary of the Government shall make return once in every three months to the Secretary of Congress of all warrants issued by the Governor in pursuance of the foregoing resolutions.