

Western Land Claims 1781

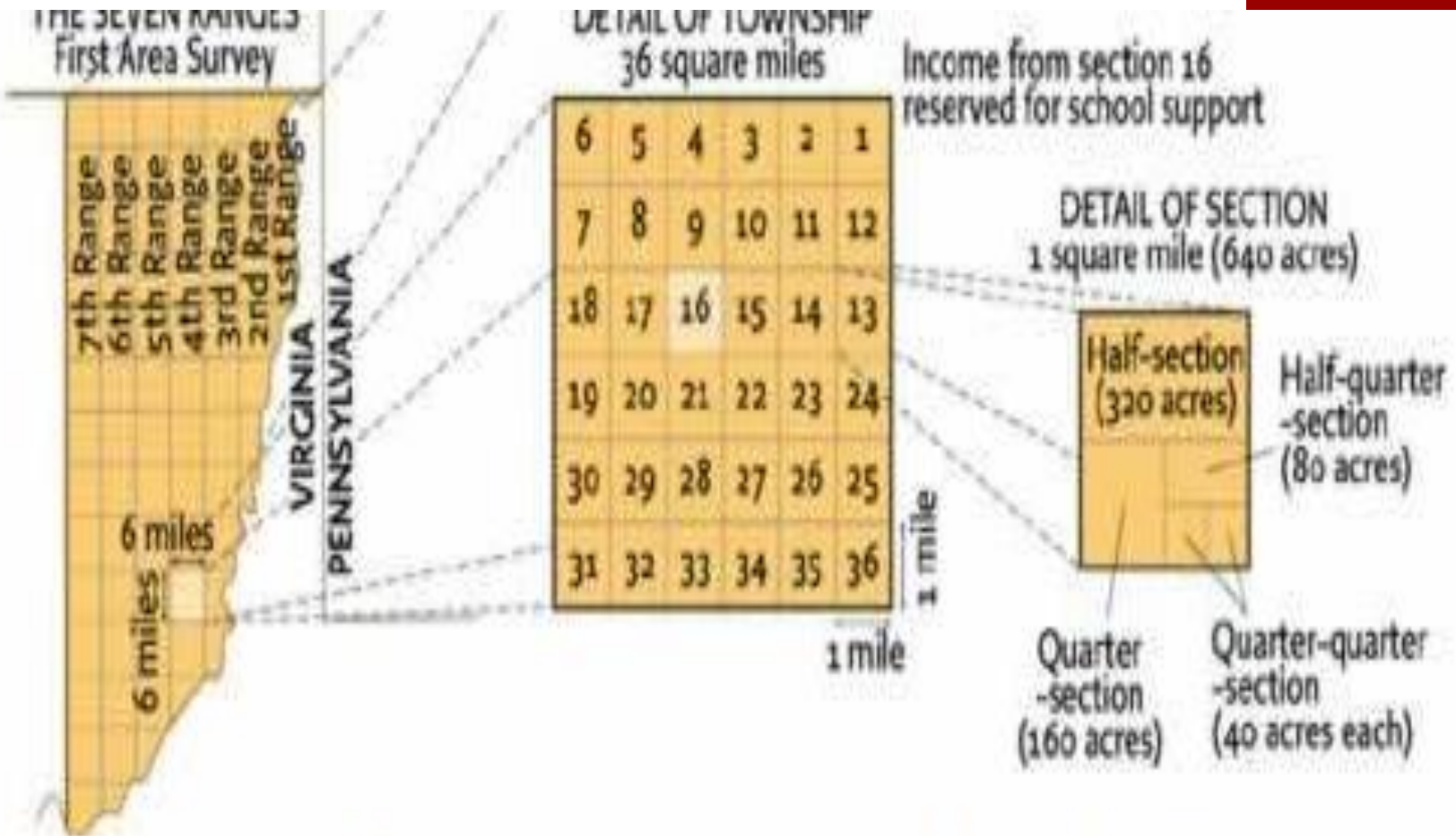


Settling Western Lands - **Compromise**

- Articles had to be approved by all 13 states
 - Some states would not approve until other states dropped claims to lands west to the Appalachian Mountains (Delaware-79, New Jersey-78 & Maryland)
 - Took years – Maryland last to finally agree in 1781 (Virginia & New York agreed to give up Western claims on land)
- All western land was turned over to the national government
 - It was valuable – in demand
 - It was sold piece by piece to private companies.

Land Ordinance of 1785

- System for land sales and settlement
 - Divide land into 6 square mile townships
 - Each township a grid of 36 one mile squares called sections
 - Each section cost approximately \$1.00
- One section in each township set aside for educational purposes
 - “If a state expects to be ignorant and free, it expects what never was and never will be” – Thomas Jefferson



Map of the Northwest Territory, including a depiction of the Township system

Northwest Ordinance

- Explained how new land had to be governed
 - Guarantee basic rights – Religion, speech, trial by jury, habeas corpus
 - Banned slavery
- Three-stage process
 1. Called a territory (governor, a secretary, three judges)
 2. At 5,000 free people (adult males) could create a legislature (representative government)
 3. At 60,000 free people (male/female/children) could apply for statehood
- Five states were created this way –
Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin



Problems with Articles

■ **Economic Issues**

- Each state had its own trade policy
- Tried to regulate items brought into state by taxing good from other states
- Each state printed its own money
- Problems with taxes and money discouraged states from trading

■ **Central National Government cannot tax**

- Little money to run government
- Gets worse each year

■ **No Military** – Appear weak to other countries

Shays' Rebellion

- 1780s – Depression
 - Business activity slow, drop in wages, unemployment is high
 - Wide spread anger, hopelessness (despair)
- Farmers in Massachusetts
 - Unable to pay taxes / no cash (many were soldiers)
 - State government starts taking farms to sell for tax money
 - Farmers are angry (Go to government to help them)
 - Ask for help
 - Write to officials
 - Demand this stops



Shays' Rebellion



- 1786 – Revolutionary War hero Daniel Shays leads uprising
 - 1,000 farmers
 - Try to seize the Massachusetts armory
 - State militia arrests Shays and others
- Rebellion dies out
- Similar rebellions begin to break out
- Begin to realize we may need for strong central government to prevent this from happening again.

Annapolis Convention

- September 11 to September 14, 1786
 - Annapolis, Maryland
 - Purpose - How to “fix” the articles of confederation
 - Alexander Hamilton (New York) – MUST resolve issues with the articles.
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- 12 delegates attended from 5 states (New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Virginia)
 - New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and North Carolina did not arrive in time.
 - Connecticut, **Maryland**, South Carolina and Georgia did NOT send anyone.
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- Not enough in attendance (9/13) so suggested all the states send representatives to Philadelphia in May to discuss the issues further.
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- Rebellions, Shays’ Rebellion, plus (August – February)
 - Delegates realize it is urgent that they met



