ORIGINAL HAMILTON COUNTY LAND GRANTS

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The Northwest Ordinance of 1785 provided for the survey of the lands then known as the Northwest Territories. This area, and subsequently the remainder of the country, was divided into townships six miles square. Each township was further divided into 36 sections, one square mile each, or 640 acres.

Land Districts were created to expedite the sale of these lands to new settlers. The Brookville Land Office in Franklin County, handled the sale of land to early settlers of Hamilton County. Land was offered to settlers in parcels as small as a quarter -quarter section, or 40 acres.

Section 16 of each Congressional Township was reserved as school land and was subject to sale by a special School Commissioner or the County Auditor. The proceeds from the sale of this land went towards establishing schools in that township.

The lands in Section 20, in Townships 18N-R4E and 19N-R4E and the east half of Section 2, T20N-R4E, were subject to sale by a School Commissioner or the Auditor of Clark County, Indiana. Proceeds from the sale were used for schools in the George Rogers Clark Grant in Clark County.

This is a record of the original land transfers from the Federal government to the first settlers in Hamilton County. The source of this information is a tract book located in the Hamilton County Recorder's Office. It was transcribed from the original in 1841 by the State Auditor, M. Morris, and checked in 1869 by the Hamilton County Recorder, M. Essington.

To look up names, or a specific property, go to the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), General Land Office (GLO) Records Automation web site: http://www.glorecords.blm.gov/

1/8 mile 1/4 mile 1/2 mile 1 mile