

Proclamation

Establishing Wayne County, Northwest Territory

TO all persons to whom these Presents shall come—Greeting.

Whereas by an ordinance of Congress of the thirteenth of July one thousand seven hundred and Eighty-seven for the settlement of the Territory of the United States Northwest of the river Ohio, it is directed that for the due Execution of process civil and criminal the Governour shall make proper Divisions of the said Territory and proceed from time to time as circumstances may require to lay out the same into Counties and Townships—and whereas it appearing to me expedient that a new County should immediately be erected, to include the settlements at Detroit &c I do hereby ordain and order that all and singular the lands lying and being within the following Boundaries Viz, —beginning

At the mouth of the Cayahoga river upon Lake Erie, and with the said river to the portage between it and the Tuscarawa branch of the Muskingum—thence down the said branch to the Forks at the carrying place above Fort Lawrence—thence by a west Line to the eastern Boundary of Hamilton County (which is a due north line from the lower Shawonese Town upon the Sciota river) thence by a line west notherly to the southern part of the portage between the Miamis of the Ohio and the St. Mary's river—thence by a line also west notherly to the Southwestern part of the portage between the Wabash and the Miamis of Lake Erie, where Fort Wayne now stands—thence by a line west notherly to the most southern part of Lake Michigan—thence along the western shores of the same to the Northwest part thereof (including the Lands upon the streams emptying into the said Lake) thence by a due north line to the territorial Boundary in Lake Superior and, with the said Boundary through Lakes Huron, St. Clair and Erie to the mouth of Cayahoga river, the place of Beginning—Shall be a County, Named, and henceforth to be styled the County of Wayne—which said County shall have and enjoy all and singular the Jurisdiction, rights, Liberties, Privileges and Immunities whatsoever to a County appertaining and which any other County that now is, or hereafter may be erected and laid out shall or ought to enjoy conformably to the ordinance of Congress before mentioned.

In Testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the Territory this fifteenth day of August and the Twenty-first year of the Independence of the United States A. D. one thousand seven hundred and ninety-six.

(Signed) WINTHROP SARGENT

THE NORTHWEST ORDINANCE, WHICH IS REFERRED TO IN THE ABOVE PROCLAMATION, IS ALSO OF HISTORICAL INTEREST BECAUSE IT SET UP THE FIRST AREA IN THE UNITED STATES IN WHICH SLAVERY WAS PROHIBITED.