DESCRIPTION OF THE DIFFERENT LAND GRANTS OF THE STATE OF OHIO.

(SEE MAP OF SAME ON PAGE 14.)

CONGRESS LANDS.

Congress lands are so called because they were sold to purchasers by the immediate agents of the government, conformably to laws enacted by Congress. They are all regularly surveyed into townships of six miles square each, under the authority and at the expense of the national government. In the eastern half of the State, that is, east of the Scioto River, and on a meridian line drawn three miles within the eastern limits of Marion and Crawford Counties, the ranges are counted from east to west, and the numbers of the townships from south to north, beginning on the Ohio as a base. But, in the west half of the State, the ranges begin on the State line of Indiana, and are counted eastwardly, until they reach the other ranges, which are numbered westwardly, as above mentioned, excepting between the two Miami Rivers, where the ranges run from south to north, and the numbers of the townships from west to east, that is, from the Great Miami as a base. In the purchase made in 1818, north of the Greenville treaty line, however, a "base line" is made in about the middle of the tract, on the parallel of the 41st degree north latitude, from which the townships are numbered both north and south.

UNITED STATES MILITARY LANDS.

So called from the circumstance of their having been appropriated by an Act of Congress, of the 1st of June, 1796, to satisfy certain claims of the officers and soldiers of the Revolutionary War. The tract of country embracing these lands is bounded as follows: Beginning at the northwest corner of the original seven ranges, thence south fifty miles, thence west to the Scioto River, thence up said river to the Greenville treaty line, thence northeasterly with said line, to old Fort Lawrence on the Tuscarawas River, thence due east to the place of beginning, including a tract of about 4,000 square miles, or 2,560,000 acres of land. It is, of course, bounded north by the Greenville treaty line, east by the seven ranges of townships, south by the Congress and Refugee lands and west by the Scioto River.

These lands are surveyed into townships five miles square. The townships were then again originally surveyed into quarter townships, of two and a half miles square, containing 4,000 acres each. Subsequently, some of these quarter townships were subdivided into forty lots of 100 acres each, for the accommodation of those soldiers who held warrants for 100 acres only. And, again, after the time originally assigned for the location of these warrants had expired, certain quarter townships, which had not been located, were divided into sections of one mile square each, and sold by the general government like the main body of Congress lands.

WESTERN RESERVE.

This land, as before stated, was originally granted to Connecticut, by Charles II. in 1662. This territory is situated in the northeast portion of the State, between Lake Erie on the north, Pennsylvania on the east, the parallel of the 41st degree of latitude on the south, and Sandusky and Seneca Counties on the west. It extends 120 miles from east to west, and will average about fifty miles north and south, though upon the Pennsylvania line it is sixty-eight miles from north to south. The area is about 3,366,900 acres. It is surveyed into townships of five miles square.

After the United States became a nation, the interfering claims of the different states in regard to the original grants made by the kings of England, as before stated, were likely to become a source of trouble that might terminate in disastrous results. When Congress undertook to obtain the title from the states of their rights to these territories, it was with difficulty that the consent of Connecticut to the cession of her rights could be obtained. A compromise was finally effected, by which Connecticut retained her right to the soil of these 3,366,900 acres, while Congress obtained the right to the jurisdiction over it. They then united this tract to the territory that now forms the State of Ohio.

FIRE LANDS.

This is a tract 781 square miles, or 500,000 acres, in the western part of the Reserve. The name originated from the circumstances of the State of Connecticut having granted these lands, in 1792, as a donation to certain sufferers by fire, occasioned by the burning of the property of her citizens by the English during the Revolutionary War, particularly at New London, Fairfield and Norwalk. These lands include the five western-most ranges of the Western Reserve townships. Lake Erie and Sandusky Bay project so far south as to leave but the space of six tiers and some fractions of townships between them and the 41st parallel, or a tract of about thirty by twenty-seven miles in extent.

This tract is surveyed into townships of about five miles square each, and these townships are divided into four quarters.

OHIO COMPANY'S LAND.

This is a body of land containing about 1,500,000 acres, including, however, the donation tract, school lands, etc., lying along the Ohio River, and including Meigs, nearly all of Athens, and a considerable part of Washington and Gallia Counties. This tract was purchased by the government, October 27, 1787, by Manasseh Cutler and Winthrop Sargeant, from the neighborhood of Salem, Massachusetts, as agents for the "Ohio Company," so called, which had been formed in Massachusetts for the purpose of a settlement in the Ohio country. Only 964,285 acres were ultimately paid for, and, of course, patented. This body of land was then apportioned out in 817 shares of 1,173 acres each, and a town lot of one-third of an acre to each share. These shares were made up to each proprietor, in tracts, one of 640 acres, one of 262, one of 160, one of 100, one of eight, one of three acres, besides the before-mentioned town lot.

Unfortunately for the Ohio Company, owing to their want of topographical knowledge of the country, the body of land selected by them, with some partial exceptions, is the most hilly and sterile of any tract of land of similar extent in the State.

A great portion of its first settlers were revolutionary officers and soldiers, with their families. They made their first settlement on the Ohio River, at the mouth of the Muskingum, where they founded the town of Marietta, which was the first important settlement in the State.

THE DONATION TRACT

Is a body of 100,000 acres set off in the northern limits of the Ohio Company's tract, and granted to them by Congress, provided they should obtain one actual settler upon each 100 acres thereof, within five years from the date of the grant, and that so much of the 100,000 acres aforesaid, as should not be taken up, shall revert to the general government.

This tract may, in some respects, be considered a part of the Ohio Company's purchase. It is situated in the northern limits of Washington County. It lies in an oblong shape, extending nearly seventeen miles from east to west, and about seven and a half miles from north to south.

SYMMES' PURCHASE.

This was a tract of 311,682 acres of land in the southwestern quarter of the State, between the Great and Little Miami Rivers. It borders on the Ohio River a distance of twenty-seven miles, and extends so far back from the latter, between the two Miamis, as to include the quantity of land just mentioned. It was patented to John Cleves Symmes, in 1794, for sixty-seven cents per acre. Every section 16, or mile square, in each township, was reserved by Congress for the use of schools; and section 29 for the support of religious institutions, besides fifteen acres around Fort Washington in Cincinnati. This tract of country is now one of the most valuable in the State.

REFUGEE TRACT.

This is a body of 100,000 acres of land, granted by Congress, February 18, 1801, to certain individuals who left the British provinces during the Revolutionary War and espoused the cause of freedom. It is a narrow strip of country, four and a half miles broad from north to south, and extending eastward from the Scioto River forty-eight miles, at Columbus, into Muskingum County. It includes portions of the Counties of Franklin, Fairfield, Perry, Licking and Muskingum.

FRENCH GRANT.

This is a tract of 24,000 acres of land bordering on the Ohio River, in the southeastern portion of Scioto County. It was granted by Congress, in March, 1795, to a number of French families, who lost their lands at Gallipolis by invalid titles. It extends from a point on the Ohio River, one and one-half miles above, but opposite the mouth of Little Sandy Creek, in Kentucky, and extending eight miles in a direct line down the river, and from the two extremities of that line, extending back at right angles sufficiently far to include the quantity of land required, which exceeded four and a half miles back.

Twelve hundred acres additional were afterwards granted, adjoining the above-mentioned tract, at its lower end, toward the mouth of Little Scioto River. Although the land in question was originally granted exclusively to Frenchmen, not more than eight or ten French families permanently settled on it, the other portion of the population being composed of emigrants from Vermont, New Hampshire and other states. This tract is composed of the Township of Greene, in Scioto County.

DOHRMAN'S GRANT.

This is a six-mile square township of land, containing 23,040 acres, situated in the southeast portion of Tuscarawas County. It was given to Arnold Henry Dohrman, a Portuguese merchant of Lisbon, by Act of Congress of February 27, 1801, "In consideration of his having, during the Revolutionary War, given shelter and aid to the American cruisers and vessels of war."

MORAVIAN LANDS.

These are three tracts of 4,000 acres each, originally granted by the old Continental Congress, in July, 1787, and confirmed by the Act of Congress, of June 1, 1796, to the Moravian brethren, at Bethlehem, in Pennsylvania, in trust and for the use of the Christianized Indians living thereon. They are laid out in nearly square forms on the Muskingum River, in what is now Tuscarawas County. They are called by the names of Schœnbrun, Gnadenhutten and Salem tracts. The Indians have long since left them.

ZANE'S TRACTS.

These are three tracts of one mile square each—one on the Muskingum River, which includes the city of Zanesville—one at the crossing of the Hocking River, on which the town of Lancaster is laid cut—and the third on the left bank of the Scioto River, opposite Chillicothe. They were granted by Congress, in May, 1796, to Ebenezer Zane, on condition that he should open a road through them from Wheeling, Virginia, to Maysville, Kentucky.

There were also three other tracts, one mile square each, granted to Isaac Zane, in 1802, in consequence of his having been taken prisoner by the Indians when a boy, during the Revolutionary War, and living with them most of his life, and having, during that time, performed many acts of kindness and beneficence towards the American people. These tracts are situated in Champion County, on King's Creek, from three to five miles northwest of Urbana.

THE MAUMEE ROAD LANDS.

These are a body of lands, averaging two miles wide, lying along one mile on each side of the road from the Maumee River at Perrysburg, to the western limits of the Western Reserve, a distance of about forty-six miles, and comprising nearly 60,000 acres. They were originally granted by the Indian owners, at the treaty of Brownsville, in 1808, to enable the United States to make a road on the line just mentioned. The general government never moved in the business until February, 1823, when Congress passed an Act, making over the aforesaid lands to the State of Ohio, provided she would, within four years thereafter, make and keep in repair, a good road througout the aforesaid route of forty-six miles. This road the State government opened out, obtained the land and sold it.

TURNPIKE LANDS.

These are forty-nine sections, amounting to 31,360 acres, situated along the western side of the Columbus and Sandusky Turnpike, in the eastern part of Seneca, Crawford and Marion Counties. They were originally granted by an Act of Congress, on the 3d of March, 1827, and more especially by a supplementary Act the next year. The considerations, for which these lands were granted, were that the mail stages, and all troops and property of the United States, which should ever be moved and transferred along this road, should pass free of toll.

OHIO CANAL LANDS.

Congress, by an Act passed on the 24th of May, 1828, granted to the State of Ohio 500,000 acres of land to aid the State in completing her canals, and also a quantity "equal to one half of five sections in width on each side of said