

THE ESTABLISHMENT AND ORGANIZATION OF TOWNSHIPS IN JOHNSON COUNTY

By an act of the Legislative Assembly of the original Territory of Wisconsin, approved December 21, 1837, Johnson County was established;¹ but provision for the organization of the government of this county was not made until 1838. In the meantime it was temporarily "attached to and considered in all respects a part of Cedar County."² By the act of the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Iowa, approved June 22, 1838, provision was made for the organization of the county "from and after the fourth day of July". This act also provided for the holding of two terms of the district court annually; and the town of Napoleon was designated as the first seat of justice.³

According to the provisions of the act of December 21, 1837, Johnson County included twenty congressional townships. This, however, was but a temporary arrangement, since by the act (of January 25, 1839) of the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Iowa, locating the boundaries of the County of Washington, three townships were taken from the southern tier of Johnson County and added to Washington County. (See Map I.)⁴ Again, in 1845 the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Iowa detached that portion of township seventy-seven, north, range six west, which lies east of the Iowa River, from Washington

¹ *Laws of the Territory of Wisconsin*, 1837, p. 135.

² *Laws of the Territory of Wisconsin*, 1837, p. 136.

³ *Laws of the Territory of Wisconsin*, 1838, p. 543. The town of Napoleon has long been extinct.

⁴ *Laws of the Territory of Iowa*, 1838, p. 100.

County and added it to Johnson County, thus making the Iowa River the western boundary of that portion of the county. (See Map II.)⁵

Previous to the formation of civil townships the county was divided into precincts for election purposes. Although few in number these precincts may be regarded as the historical precursors of the civil townships. At first it appears that the entire county was divided into two electoral precincts — a division that was authorized by the County Commissioners on March 6, 1840. The southern part of the county was designated as precinct number one and the northern part as precinct number two. The line separating these two precincts was not defined at this meeting of the Board, although the places of election are named as Iowa City and the house of Warren Stiles respectively.⁶ That no division line was named at the March session appears to have been an oversight on the part of the Commissioners, for it appears that they established the line at the regular session in the following July. As defined on July 8, 1840, the line of division commenced at the northeast corner of section twenty-four, township eighty north, range five west, and followed the line between sections thirteen and twenty-four westward to the Iowa River, and from this point up the river to the county line.⁷ (See Map III.)

On April 8, 1841, that part of the county lying west of the Iowa River was declared to constitute "an electoral precinct and to be known as precinct number three"; and the elections in this precinct were to be held at the house of John Hawkins.⁸ (See Map IV.) At this same session,

⁵ *Laws of the Territory of Iowa*, 1845, p. 66.

⁶ *Records of the County Commissioners*, Book I, p. 15.

⁷ *Records of the County Commissioners*, Book I, pp. 24, 25.

⁸ *Records of the County Commissioners*, Book I, p. 77.

the place of elections in the second precinct was changed from the house of Warren Stiles to that of Abner Arrowsmith.

A further division of the county was made in 1842, at the January session of the Commissioners, by dividing the third precinct by a line beginning on the Iowa River and running due west between sections twenty-two and twenty-seven, township seventy-nine north. All the territory south of this line was designated precinct number four, and the place of holding elections was located at the house of Jacob Fry. At the same session of the Board precinct number five was created by dividing the second precinct by a line running north and south one mile east of the township line dividing ranges six and seven. The house of M. P. McAllister was named by the Commissioners as the polling place.⁹ (See Map V.) One finds on the records for this session a change in the place of election in the second precinct from the house of Hamilton H. Kerr to the town of Solon; but no mention is made of the time when the house of Abner Arrowsmith was abandoned, as the place for elections, for the house of Kerr.

Proper names were assigned to some of these precincts in 1843, since election judges are named by the Commissioners for Iowa City precinct, for Big Grove precinct, and for Monroe precinct. The other two were known by numbers until July 3, 1844, when according to the records all of the five are referred to by names instead of numbers. Thus precinct number one was called Iowa City; precinct number two, Big Grove; precinct number three, Clear Creek; precinct number four, Old Man's Creek; and precinct number five, Monroe.¹⁰

No provision was made for the establishment of civil

⁹ *Records of the County Commissioners*, Book I, p. 153.

¹⁰ *Records of the County Commissioners*, Book II, pp. 24, 25, 85, 111.

townships in Johnson County until petitions came before the Board of County Commissioners at the January session in the year 1844. On this occasion three separate petitions for the establishment of townships west of the Iowa River were presented for their consideration. Owing to the confusion of overlapping boundaries, as requested in the petitions, no action was taken on the subject by the Commissioners at this session.¹¹ In April of the same year (1844) another petition came up "from sundry citizens" of Clear Creek voting precinct, requesting the establishment of a civil township in that vicinity. The record breaks off suddenly, which seems to indicate a want of information or a postponement of consideration for the session. The words "commencing at the southeast corner of township eighty", being all that is found in this connection, suggests that the civil township under consideration was number eighty north, range seven west.¹²

It was not until April, 1845, that any civil township was established in Johnson County. Then the Commissioners took the initiative, so far as can be learned, and decided upon the name of "Big Grove" for township eighty-one north, range six west. The first election for the local officers of the township was held at the Big Grove school house on the first Monday in April, 1846 — which was the regular election day for township officers throughout the

¹¹ *Records of the County Commissioners*, Book II, p. 70.

"On the 1st and 2nd days of this session three Petitions were presented to this Board for the Organization of Townships of a portion of this County west of the Iowa River, and the Board having duly considered sd Petitions, find that the bounds as proposed, interfere with each other, and therefore — It is considered that no action shall be had on either of said petitions at this Term".

¹² *Records of the County Commissioners*, Book II, p. 81.

On the petition of sundry citizens of Clear Creek Precinct for the organization of a township with the following bounds: "Commencing at the South-East Corner of Township 80".

Territory.¹³ (See Map VI.) Moreover, early in the year 1846 there appears to have been a general demand for the establishment of civil townships throughout the county, which, with but a single exception, resulted in the preliminary definition of boundaries for all the territory of the county in the form of civil townships.

The first petition in 1846 came from the settlers in township eighty-one north, range five west; and it will be noticed that this territory lies just east of Big Grove township which was established in the fall of 1845. The petition was heard and favorably considered by the Commissioners. The name "Cedar" was given to the new township; and the first election was called at the house of Philo Haynes. (See Map VII.) No date being mentioned, one must conclude that the election was held on the same day as that of the other townships, namely, the first Monday in April, 1846.¹⁴

Moreover, it appears that the first townships established coincided with the congressional lines according to the petitions of the citizens who occupied the territory. This was also true of Iowa City township, for the establishment of which no petition was presented from the inhabitants. In this instance the record of the Commissioners reads that "township seventy-nine north, range six west, shall be known as Iowa City township, and the first election shall be held at the court house in Iowa City".¹⁵ (See Map VII.)

At an extra session of the Board of Commissioners which was held in February, 1846, the chief business was that of

¹³ *Records of the County Commissioners*, Book II, p. 159; *Laws of the Territory of Iowa*, 1845, p. 27.

¹⁴ *Records of the County Commissioners*, Book II, p. 207.

¹⁵ *Records of the County Commissioners*, Book II, pp. 207, 217.

The court house in which this election was held stood on the southeast corner at the intersection of Clinton and Harrison streets.

establishing and naming civil townships. At this time it was customary for the people of a certain neighborhood to fix upon the boundaries, which were then usually specified in the petition asking for the establishment of the township. The Commissioners as a rule followed the lines as described in the petition. This method as a matter of fact frequently resulted in the division of congressional townships in the formation of civil townships, which led to many readjustments in township boundaries in the subsequent history of the county. All of the first elections in the townships established at this extra session of the Board took place on the first Monday in April, 1846.

According to the records Scott township was to include all the territory of congressional township seventy-nine north, range five west. This is definite and simple, the thirty-six square miles needing no other description. (See Map VII.) The first election was to be held at the school house near the home of Matthew Tenicke,

Pleasant Valley township was to be composed of all that part of Johnson County south of township seventy-nine north, ranges five and six west, lying east of the Iowa River. It included congressional townships seventy-seven and seventy-eight north, range five west, and the fractions of the same townships in range six, lying east of the Iowa River. (See Map VII.) The first election was to be held at the house of Robert Walker.¹⁶

Monroe township is described as formed from the part of Johnson County which lies in congressional townships numbered eighty-one north in ranges seven and eight west, and north of the Iowa River. (See Map VII.) Here the first election was to be held at the home of William Dupont.¹⁷

¹⁶ *Records of the County Commissioners*, Book II, p. 217.

¹⁷ *Records of the County Commissioners*, Book II, p. 218.

Penn township requires a more detailed description which, as found in the records, reads: "Commencing at the middle of the main Channel of the Iowa River, where the north line of township number seventy-nine range six crosses the same, then west along this township line to the northwest corner of the same township, then north on the range line two miles, then west one mile, then north one mile, then west to the west line of township eighty north, range seven west, then on the range line to the Iowa River, and then with the river to the place of beginning." (See Map VII.) The first election in this township was to be held at the school house near Chapman's.¹⁸

In the description of Penn township no mention is made of the change in the boundaries of Big Grove township as established in 1845. As a matter of fact the portion of township eighty-one north, range six west, lying south of the Iowa River now became a part of Penn township. (Compare Maps VI and VII.) This change made little difference, however, in the affairs of the township of Big Grove, since elections had not yet been held in any of the townships.

One of the larger divisions of the county made at this time for civil purposes was the township of Clear Creek, which was composed of fractions of several congressional townships. Commencing at the northwest corner of congressional township seventy-nine north, range six west, the boundary line of this civil township follows the southern and western boundary of Penn township until it reaches the north-west corner of township eighty north, range seven west; then it runs west on the township line until the west line of the county is reached; then down the county line until it reaches the middle of township seventy-nine, range eight west; then east along this line to the west line of

¹⁸ *Records of the County Commissioners*, Book II, p. 218.

township seventy-nine, range six west; then north to the place of beginning. (See Map VII.) The first election was called at the house of Bryan Dennis, who was a citizen of the district described.

It is noticeable that the boundaries of Clear Creek township leave the fractional part of township eighty-one, range eight west, lying south of the Iowa River, without any organization, since it was left out of Monroe at the time of its organization and is not now included in Clear Creek.¹⁹ (See Map VII.)

Newport township in its original form included all of congressional township eighty north, range five west, and all of the same township in range six, lying east of the Iowa River. (See Map VII.) It will be remembered that Penn township was, in part, composed of the remainder of congressional township eighty north, range six west, which lay west of the river. The first election was called at the house of Cornelius Lancaster.

Liberty township was at first composed of a part of that portion of the county which lies along the southern boundary of the county and may be best described in the language of the order by which it was established. It includes all that part of Johnson County "Commencing at the south line of the County on the west bank of the Iowa River, then up the river to the south line of township seventy-nine, range six west, then west to the south west corner of said township, then north on the range line to the center of the west line of the same township, then west to the center of township seventy-nine, range seven west, then south to the county line; then east to the place of beginning". (See Map VII.) In this township the first election was ordered to be held at the house of John Smith.²⁰

¹⁹ *Records of the County Commissioners*, Book II, p. 219.

²⁰ *Records of the County Commissioners*, Book II, p. 219.

The last of the orders of the Commissioners in fixing the preliminary boundary lines for civil townships in the year of 1846 relates to the township of Washington, which lies in the southwest corner of the county. In the beginning this township included more than twice its present area. The lines limiting it were the western boundary of the township of Liberty, commencing in the middle of the south line of township seventy-eight, range seven west, then running north to the middle of township seventy-nine, range seven west, then west to the county line, then south to the corner of the county, and finally east to the place of beginning. (See Map VII.) The first election was to occur at the home of William Fry.²¹

This completes the original division of the territory of Johnson County into civil townships — with the exception of the small fraction of township eighty-one north, range eight west, lying south of the Iowa River. This first districting of the county into civil districts was accomplished by the Board in 1845 and 1846 and is fully illustrated by Maps VI and VII.

In April, 1847, a petition was presented from seventeen citizens of Scott township asking to have that township attached to Iowa City township for civil purposes. The Commissioners took the petition under consideration and finally agreed to place it on file until their next session, which would occur in July.²² Careful examination of the records of the July meeting reveals no record of any further action on the subject. Not, indeed, until the October session of the Board was any change made in the boundaries of this township. Then the boundaries were altered so that sections thirty-four, thirty-five, and thirty-six and the south half of sections twenty-seven, twenty-six, and

²¹ *Records of the County Commissioners*, Book II, p. 220.

²² *Records of the County Commissioners*, Book II, p. 280.

twenty-five of township eighty north, range five west, were attached to Scott township "for all civil and judicial purposes". It will be observed that these sections and fractions of sections were taken from Newport township, thus altering the boundaries of that township as described in 1846. (See Map VIII.)

During this same October, 1847, session of the Commissioners, and without petition or suggestion so far as the records show, the lines of other civil townships were changed, indicating the uncertainty of what was thought best to be done with the scattered settlements of the time. Washington township was enlarged by taking the north half of congressional township seventy-nine, range eight west, from Clear Creek and giving it to Washington. This left Clear Creek in a very unsatisfactory shape for a civil township, as will be observed by a study of Map VIII.²³ Moreover, it is interesting to notice the next move of the citizens of township seventy-nine north, range seven west, which, however, did not occur until five years had passed, or until 1852.

At the August, 1852, session the County Court was petitioned to make a new township out of congressional township seventy-nine north, range seven west. County Commissioners were no longer sitting in judgment on these petitions, since by this time they had been succeeded in authority by the County Judge. The petition in question came from citizens of three civil townships as then established, namely, Clear Creek, Washington, and Liberty. They declared in their petition that they were put to great inconvenience in attending elections and public meetings in the townships as then established, pointing out that the new arrangement would be much better for all concerned. Judge Lee heard the request, which was signed by John

²³ *Records of the County Commissioners*, Book II, p. 297.

D. Abel, Edward Tudor, and thirty-three other citizens. After due consideration it was ordered by the Judge that the boundaries of the new township, called Union, be fixed as "prayed for", which meant that it would include the whole of congressional township seventy-nine north, range seven west. Thus Union township was made up of territory taken from three civil townships previously organized. (See Map IX.) The first election was to be held at the house of James Seahorn on the first Monday in April, 1853.²⁴

In March, 1854, Ebenezer Bivins, P. P. Cardwell, William A. Howard, and thirty-seven others petitioned the County Judge to divide Monroe township on the range line between ranges seven and eight so that it would retain all of township eighty-one north, range eight west, lying north of the Iowa River; while a new township, to be called Jefferson, was to be established including the remainder of Monroe as first established and organized, or all of township eighty-one north, range seven west, lying north of the Iowa River. (See Map X.) The request was granted; and the first election was ordered to be held as usual on the regular day for the election of officers of civil townships, at the house of Walter F. Lloyd.²⁵

Union township was also modified at this time, although one might suppose its boundaries were as near perfect as they could be made. A German citizen, Gotleb Rossler (probably Gottlieb Rössler), presented his individual petition for a change that is rather peculiar. He wished to have sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12 of township seventy-eight north, range seven west, *except the south-west one-fourth of section seven*, added to Union township. The Judge appears to have taken a favorable

²⁴ *Records of the County Judge*, Book III, p. 163.

²⁵ *Records of the County Judge*, Book III, p. 349.

view of this request—although one can not see why the exception should be made in the case of section seven. Accordingly, the changes were ordered as requested and the boundaries re-formed by giving detailed outlines. No systematic order of beginning is observed in the description, but the aim seems to have been to find a point that could be located without error. In this case the description of the boundary line begins at the northeast corner of township seventy-nine north, range seven west, runs south on the range line to the southeast corner of section twelve, township seventy-eight north, range seven west, then west on the section line to the southwest corner of the southeast quarter of section seven of the last-mentioned township, then north to the center of section seven, then west to the west line of the congressional township, then north on the range line to the northwest corner of township seventy-nine north, range seven west, and then east to the place of beginning.²⁶ (See Map X.)

The large territory included in Clear Creek township as originally established was gradually reduced by the formation of other townships. Union had been taken largely from it; and now in 1856 a petition comes for a second township to be formed from congressional township eighty north, range eight west, and the fractional part of township eighty-one, range eight, *lying south of the Iowa River*. (See Map XI.) The petition was signed by W. H. Cotter, Luther Doty, Hiram B. McMicken, and forty-one others. The township name selected by the petitioners was "Oxford".²⁷ This was ten years after the establishment of Monroe township, the fractional part of the congressional township of which Monroe was a part not having been provided for until this time. (See Map VII.) The first elec-

²⁶ *Records of the County Judge*, Book III, p. 350.

²⁷ *Records of the County Judge*, Book III, pp. 589, 590.

tion for Oxford township was ordered to be held at the house of John L. Hartwell.

Graham township dates its establishment from 1857 when Judge Lee described the boundaries in these words: "Commencing at the southeast corner of township eighty north, range five west, north on the county line to the northeast corner of the same township, west to the northwest corner of section five, south on the section line to the southwest corner of section thirty-two, then east to the place of beginning." (See Map XII.) This was in fact a division of Newport township as established in 1846. The first election was ordered to be held at the house of Miles K. Lewis.²⁸

The first official mention of Fremont township is in the returns of an election on the question of issuing bonds for the construction of a railroad. This occurred in April, 1857. For services at this election in Fremont township Daniel S. Ball was allowed one dollar and fifty cents.²⁹ As organized in 1846 Pleasant Valley included the territory now in Fremont. In 1870, the township of Lincoln did not embrace that portion of the county which is today included in Fremont township. The conclusion follows then, from other data mentioned above, that the township was organized in the early part of 1857. (See Map XII.) The county records, however, throw no light on this subject beyond the item mentioned, and inquiry fails to produce any further information.

The establishment of Oxford township left Clear Creek township with a small territory. This seems to have led several citizens to petition for a change in boundaries by which some of the territory of Union would be added to Clear Creek. According to the changes ordered by Judge Lee in July, 1857, the boundaries of Clear Creek were

²⁸ *Records of the County Judge*, Book IV, p. 71.

²⁹ *Records of the County Judge*, Book IV, p. 117.

brought to their present description on the south. The northern line was not changed. The south boundary began at the southeast corner of section one, township seventy-nine north, range seven west, and followed the section line west to the range line. This change took six sections from Union township.³⁰ (See Map XII.)

Hardin township was very simple in its establishment and organization. It appears that William Hardin and others presented a petition to Judge McCleary early in 1858 for a change in the boundaries of the township called Washington by giving a separate organization to congressional township seventy-nine north, range eight west, which was to be called "Hardin".³¹ (See Map XIII.) But the civil township thus erected on the basis of congressional township seventy-nine did not remain long with these boundaries as will be seen in another petition. The first election in Hardin township was held at the school house in the village of Windham, which was located on section thirty-four.

On the petition of George T. Davis and others Judge McCleary ordered another civil township to be formed out of congressional township seventy-eight north, range seven west. This was done in the year 1858. Before this time congressional township seventy-eight was included in the civil townships of Liberty and Washington—the west half being in Washington and the east half in Liberty. This, indeed, had been its situation from 1846 to 1858. (See Map VII.)

The change made in the lines of Union township in 1852, by which the two tiers of sections on the northern boundary of township seventy-eight north, range seven west, excepting one quarter section, were added to Union (See Map X.),

³⁰ *Records of the County Judge*, Book IV, p. 147.

³¹ *Records of the County Judge*, Book IV, p. 244.

was now (in 1858) restored, making the new township of Sharon a full congressional township as it remains at the present time.³² (See Map XIII.)

A slight modification of the boundaries of three townships was made by Judge McCleary in 1858 on petition of citizens of the different communities. A. H. Humphreys presented the request as one of the number. The change asked for as given in the records reads: "Commencing at the south-east corner of township seventy-nine, range eight, then west three-fourths of one mile, then north three miles, east three-fourths of one mile, then south to the place of beginning". The territory thus described was to be added to Union township. Again, the north half of the north half of section one, township seventy-eight north, range eight west, was also to be added to Union. This petition, moreover, came from citizens of three different civil townships. Against this proposed change A. D. Packard and others filed a remonstrance protesting against the inclusion of the territory taken from Hardin township. The matter was continued from the session of the County Court in which it was presented until the January session in 1859 by agreement of the parties in the case.³³ At the meeting of the Court in January no mention is made of the matter, and it is probable that the remonstrance was withdrawn. At any rate the petition was granted and the additional territory given to Union township. It will be noticed that this took a fourth of one section from Washington township, a condition which, if records are complete, is found to exist at the present day. (See Map XIII.)

In the meantime, that is between the offering of the petition last above mentioned and its determination, a change

³² *Records of the County Judge*, Book IV, p. 256.

³³ *Records of the County Judge*, Book IV, pp. 403, 420. See Plat Book and Tax List of Union Township for 1910, Tax List, pp. 16, 3, 12, 22.

was made in the boundaries of Iowa City and Newport townships by the taking that part of sections thirty-three and thirty-four in township eighty north, range six west, which lies east of the Iowa River from Newport and placing it under the jurisdiction of Iowa City township. This came about through the petition of Sylvanus Johnson and other citizens of these sections.³⁴ (See Map XIII.)

The official act of the County Judge in reference to the establishment of Madison township can not be found, since the county records for 1860 are wanting. There is a record furnished by the clerk of that township, William Shrimp, who filled that office some years ago, probably about 1880. He gives the date of establishment as 1860. George McCleary was judge at that time and it is for the last year of his term that the record is not available. But it is not difficult, however, to surmise the description of the portion of Penn township (See Map VII.) which was to be included in the new township. It will be remembered that in 1846 the Iowa River formed the boundary of Penn township for many miles on its northern border. The new plan reduced the size of the latter materially, as will be seen by comparing the two Maps VII and XIV. Details of the lines which describe Madison are as follows: Commencing at the southeast corner of section fourteen, township eighty north, range seven west, the boundary line follows the section line north until it intersects the Iowa River. From this point it follows the river until the range line between ranges seven and eight west is crossed; then it follows this range line until the southwest corner of section eighteen, township eighty north, range seven west, is reached; and from this point it proceeds eastward to the place of beginning. Thus, Madison township includes the fractional parts of two congressional townships. If a petition was presented

³⁴ *Records of the County Judge*, Book IV, p. 419.

at the time, which can not now be determined, it contained probably the suggestion of the boundaries described if not the exact wording thereof. Furthermore, the township may have been named by the citizens in their petition.³⁵ (See Map XIV.) The first election of officers was to be held at the log school house near Swan Lake.

After 1860 the changes in township boundaries become less frequent and are of a minor nature. The large divisions had been practically agreed upon. Moreover, it is noticeable that in all the modifications that have thus far occurred no objection was raised on the part of the county authorities to the arrangements proposed by the petitioners. At least the records indicate no such opposition. Only one remonstrance is recorded in any case and that came from a body of citizens.

The Board of Supervisors came into office and began their duties in January, 1861. Their first official act with reference to township organization was to divide Pleasant Valley township by a line commencing at the northern boundary of township seventy-eight north, range five west, on the half section line of section five and following this half section line to the south line of the township named, dividing sections five, eight, seventeen, twenty, twenty-nine, and thirty-two. The territory west of this line retained the name of Pleasant Valley while that east of the line was called Lincoln township. The question of election this time was referred to the committee of the Board on township organization. It appears from the minutes that the movement resulting in this division was begun by Supervisor Dilatush, and the date of the order was June 8, 1870.

Later in the same month it was ordered by the Board that the officers of Pleasant Valley should exercise the same

³⁵ *Johnson County History*, 1883, p. 732.

authority over Lincoln township that they did over their own township until an election should be held, the same as if no division had occurred.³⁶ The cause of the delay in holding the election in Lincoln township was the opposition of certain citizens to the change. They presented petitions of protest, and the question was not finally determined until April, 1871, when the parties appeared before the Board of Supervisors to argue the case. After the arguments were heard the Supervisors took some time for consideration.³⁷ Later at the same session it was decided, by a vote of two to one in committee, to change the line of division as described on the half section line to the section line between sections four and five and then to the south boundary. This, it will be seen, moved the line of division one half mile to the east. (See Map XV.) The first committee on this matter were S. H. Hemsted, Christopher Fuhrmeister, and Wm. T. Buck. The second committee included Supervisors Samuel Spurrier, M. J. Morsman, and L. R. Wolf.

In 1873 citizens of Iowa City township asked to have an organization separate from that of the city so far as township government was concerned, and they offered a petition in support of this request. After investigation a special committee of the Board of Supervisors reported on the matter in January, 1873. According to their report the census of 1869 gave the population of Iowa City as exceeding four thousand, or 6,548. The signers of the petition living outside of the city, according to the poll books which were examined, constituted the required number, of a majority. The committee reported that all the conditions of the law had been complied with. The official act establishing the township of Lucas followed this report. All the

³⁶ *Minutes of the County Supervisors*, Book II, pp. 485, 501, 523, 524.

³⁷ *Minutes of the County Supervisors*, Book III, p. 35.

territory outside of the corporate limits of Iowa City was to form one township to be called Lucas, while the city area was to retain the name of Iowa City township. (See Map XV.) Polling places for the coming general election were fixed at the court house for the people of Iowa City township and the fair grounds for the people of Lucas township.³⁸ (See Map XV.)

The first change in the boundaries of Iowa City township, after the formation of Lucas from the territory outside of the corporation, was due to the changes in school districts. Some discussion arose between the independent district of Iowa City and the school township of Lucas, and as a result it became desirable to rearrange the lines of Iowa City township. The changes then (April 7, 1879) included the small portion of territory added to the independent district. It began on the left bank of the Iowa River at the southwest corner of lot three as surveyed by the United States government, in section fifteen. From this point the boundary extended eastward to the southeast corner of the northwest quarter of the southwest quarter of section fourteen; then north to the northeast corner of the west one-half of the southwest quarter of section two; then west to the northwest corner of the east half of the southeast quarter of section three; and then south to the north line of section ten. This, together with the original territory of Iowa City township, became the new township of Iowa City.³⁹ (See Map XV.)

³⁸ *Minutes of the County Supervisors*, Book III, pp. 158, 159. Also Section three, Chapter Fifty-two, *Acts of the Fourteenth General Assembly*, 1872, p. 60.

Returns of assessor for the year 1872 showed that there were 472 legal voters outside the city corporation. Of these 284 signed the petition, that is, a majority as required by the law. Samuel Spurrier was the special committee appointed by the Board of Supervisors to investigate and report.

³⁹ *Minutes of the County Supervisors*, Book IV, p. 31. See Lucas township School Board Minutes, August 26, 1876, and April 13, 1878. See township plats as compared with original surveys by F. H. Lee.

Originally the boundaries of Lucas township corresponded to the congressional township of Iowa City as established in 1846 — if the change in the line of West Lucas can be accounted for. Somewhere between the years 1858 and 1870 the west three-fourths of sections nineteen, thirty, and thirty-one of what was Iowa City township, or congressional township seventy-nine north, range six west, was added to Union township; but no record can be found to show when or how this change was made. It happens that the portion of the township mentioned is the exact counterpart of that on the west line of Union which was added by petition in 1858. It may have been added then as a matter of accommodation; but this is merely an inference, there being no specific authority in the records for such a conclusion. The natural division of Lucas township into two parts by the river led to the establishment of two election precincts on June 2, 1874; and in the returns of elections the divisions came to be called West Lucas and East Lucas without the term "precinct" thereto attached. Hence it was quite natural to speak or write of West Lucas township; and as a matter of fact in the minutes of the County Board of Supervisors this term does appear before its use is warranted by any authority other than custom.⁴⁰ The same term is again used in the minutes for 1891 — probably after a petition was offered but before any authority was given for such use.⁴¹ The actual division into East Lucas and West Lucas was ordered on April 8, 1891. Since a change in the boundaries of these townships is given below in full it is not necessary to repeat here the outside boundaries of the townships. The only change that took place since the establishment of the first boundaries of Iowa City town-

⁴⁰ *Minutes of the County Supervisors*, Book IV, p. 323.

⁴¹ *Minutes of the County Supervisors*, Book V, pp. 476, 481.

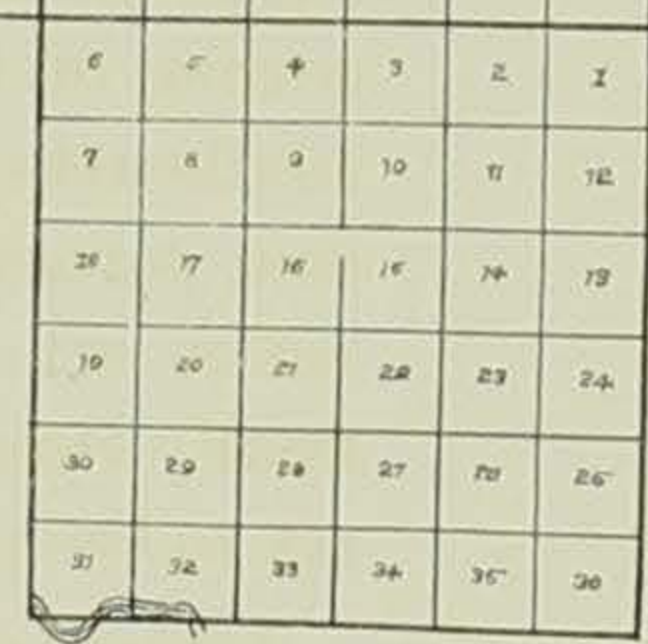
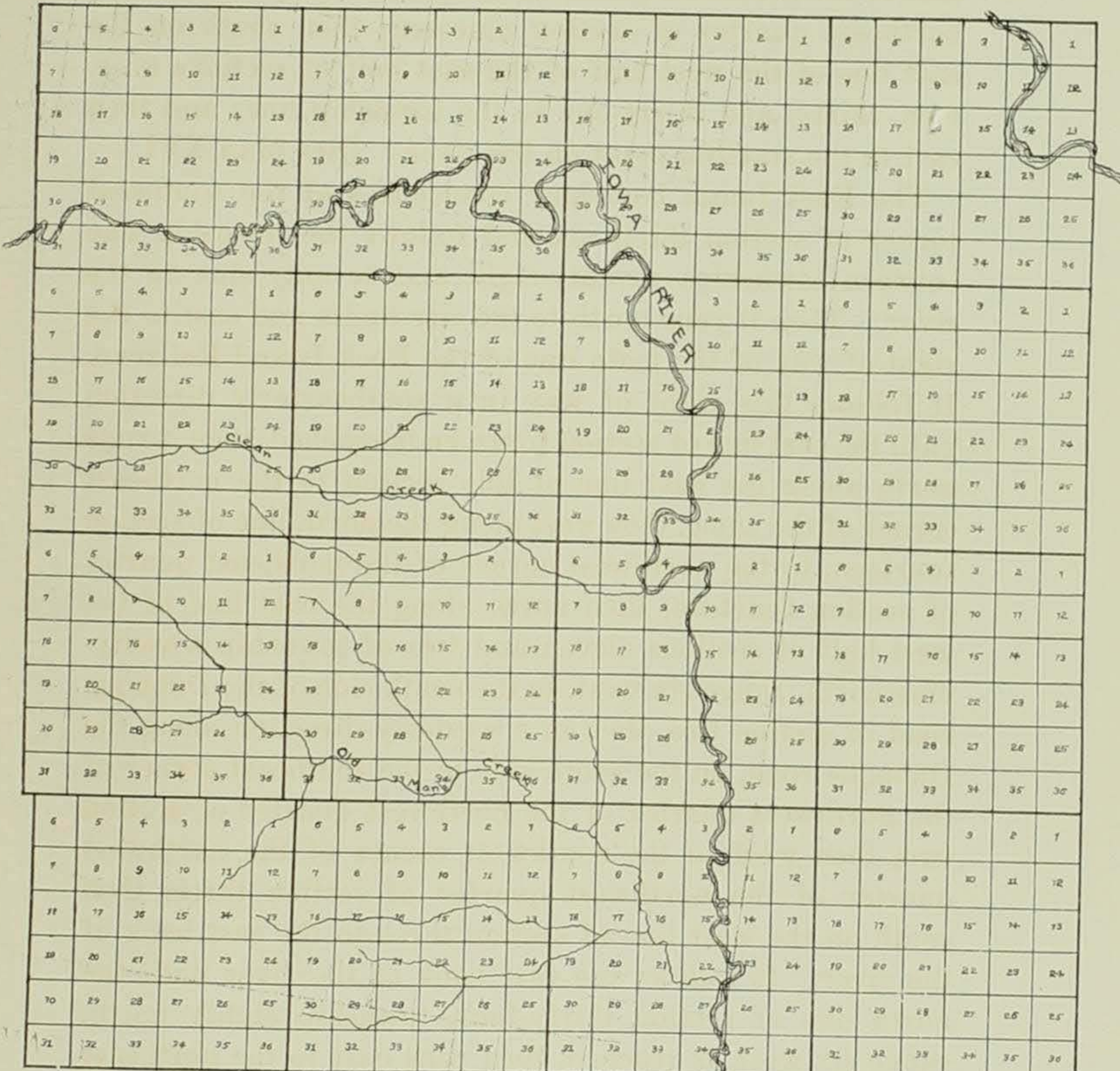
ship has been mentioned above in connection with the Union township boundary.

The last change in boundaries, the description of which contains the outlines of East Lucas and West Lucas and the boundaries of Iowa City townships, was as recent as September, 1910. The minutes of the Board of Supervisors relative to these boundaries are exact and, indeed, were drafted to correspond with the drawing prepared by the city officers. To describe West Lucas it is necessary to follow the lines very closely to make the change clear either in language or on the map. Commencing at the township line between congressional townships seventy-eight and seventy-nine north, range six west, on the west bank of the Iowa River, the boundary follows this side of the river to the limits of Iowa City; then it runs west to the southwest corner of the northwest quarter of the southeast quarter of section sixteen, township seventy-nine; then it proceeds north along the east line of the west half of sections sixteen and nine to the north side of the State Road to Newton and follows the north side of this road to the west line of section nine; thence it runs north to the west bank of the river; then follows the river to the northeast until the north line of section nine is reached; then runs east to the northwest corner of section ten; and thence north to the west bank of the river. At this point there is a confusing problem that compels one to retrace his steps, following the west bank of the river in a southwesterly and finally northerly direction around the bend until the north line of section four, township seventy-nine north, range six west, is reached. The description from this point is the same as for West Lucas township in 1891, namely; west from the river on the township line between townships seventy-nine and eighty to the range line between ranges six and seven; then south to the southwest corner of section eighteen; then

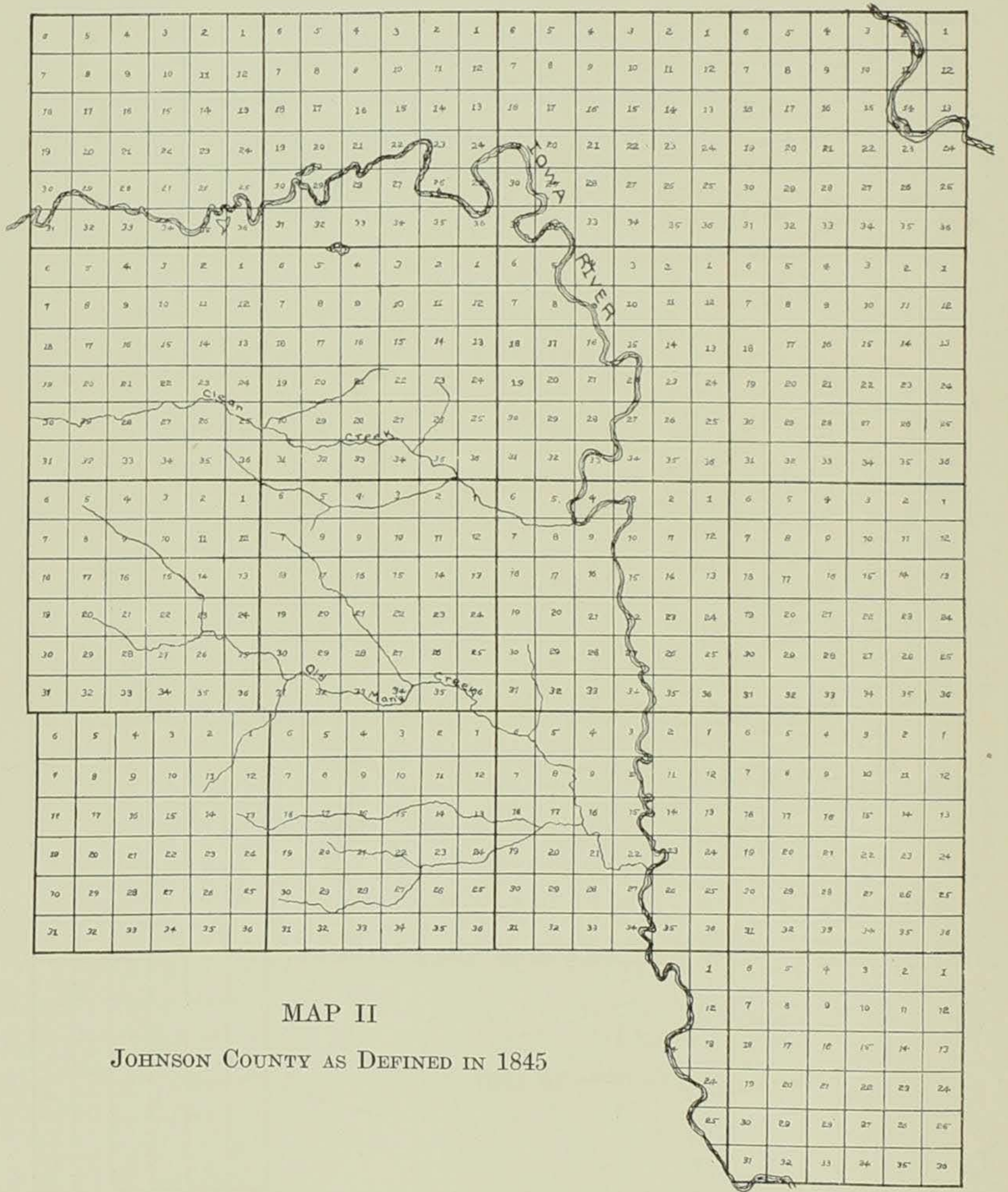
east to the northeast corner of the northwest quarter of the northeast quarter of section nineteen; then south on the east line of the west half of the east half of sections nineteen, thirty, and thirty-one to the township line; and then east to the starting point on the river. (See Map XVI.)

The East Lucas boundary commences at the southeast corner of section thirty-six and follows the township line between townships seventy-eight and seventy-nine to the river. Then it runs north to the city limits and east to the right of way of the main line of the Rock Island Railroad. It follows this right of way in a southeasterly direction until the east line of section fourteen is reached, then it runs north along the east line of this section to the northeast corner of the same, then west along the north line of section fourteen, to the northwest corner of the northeast quarter of section fourteen, then north along the east line of the west half of sections eleven and two of township seventy-nine north, range six west, to the south side of the Dubuque road in section two, then in a westerly direction along the Dubuque road, on the south side to the southeast corner of the northwest quarter of the northwest quarter of section two, then west to the southwest corner of the northwest quarter of the northwest quarter of section three, then south on the west line of section three to the east bank of the river. It follows the east bank of the river until the north line of section thirty-four, township eighty north, range six west, is reached, then runs east to the northeast corner of the same section thirty-four, then south to the southeast corner of the same section, then east to the northeast corner of section one in township seventy-nine north, range six west (the original Iowa City township), and finally runs south on the range line between ranges five and six to the place of beginning.⁴² (See Map XVI.)

⁴² *Minutes of the County Supervisors*, Book VIII, p. 38.

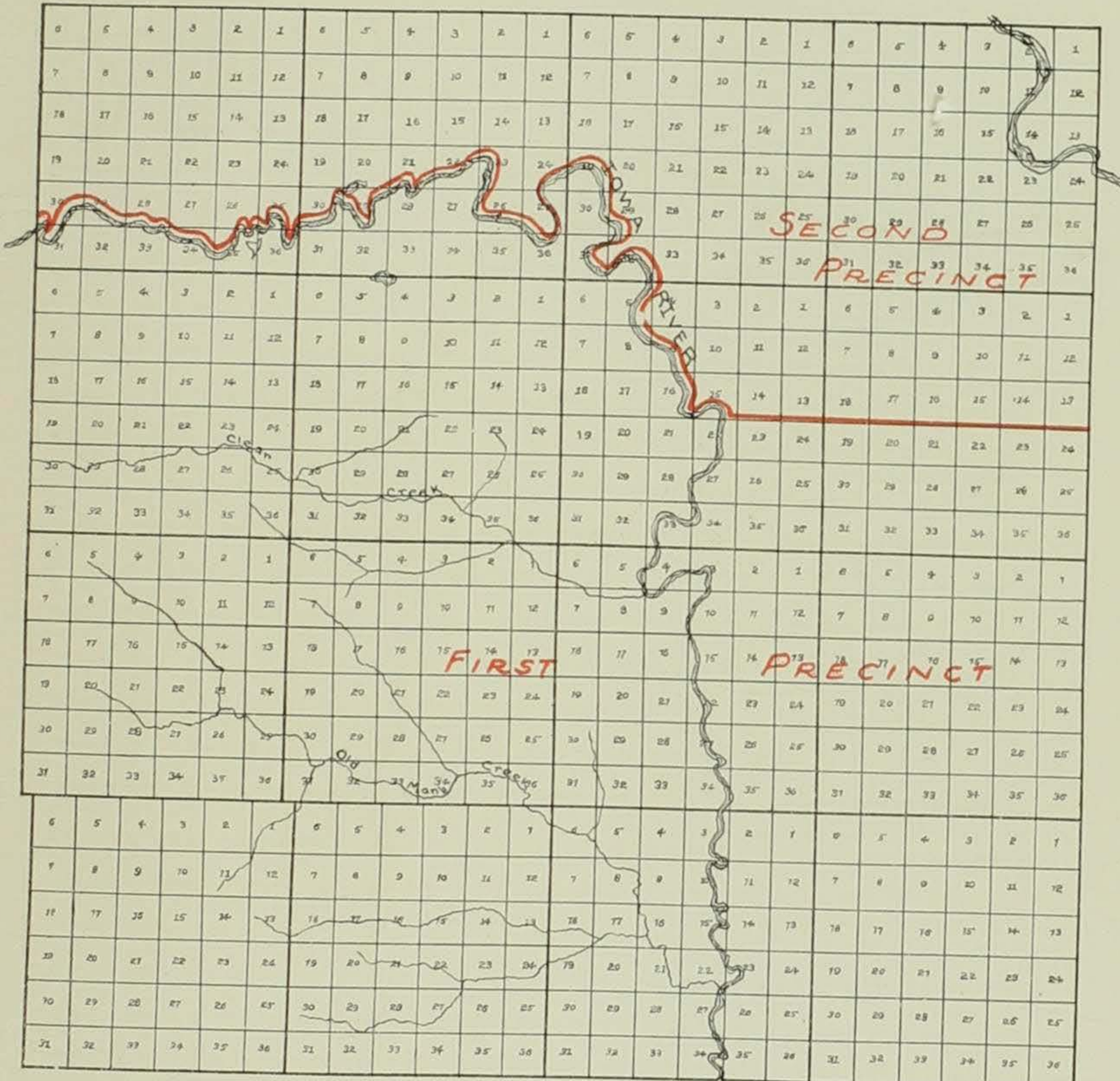


MAP I
JOHNSON COUNTY AS DEFINED IN 1839

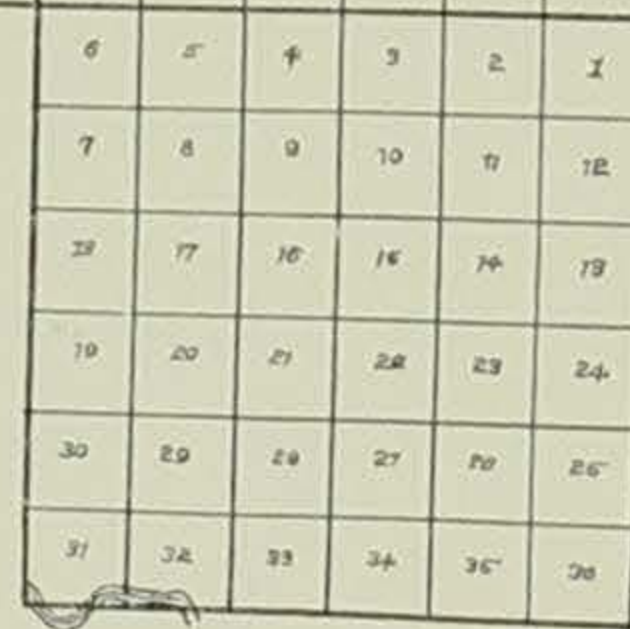


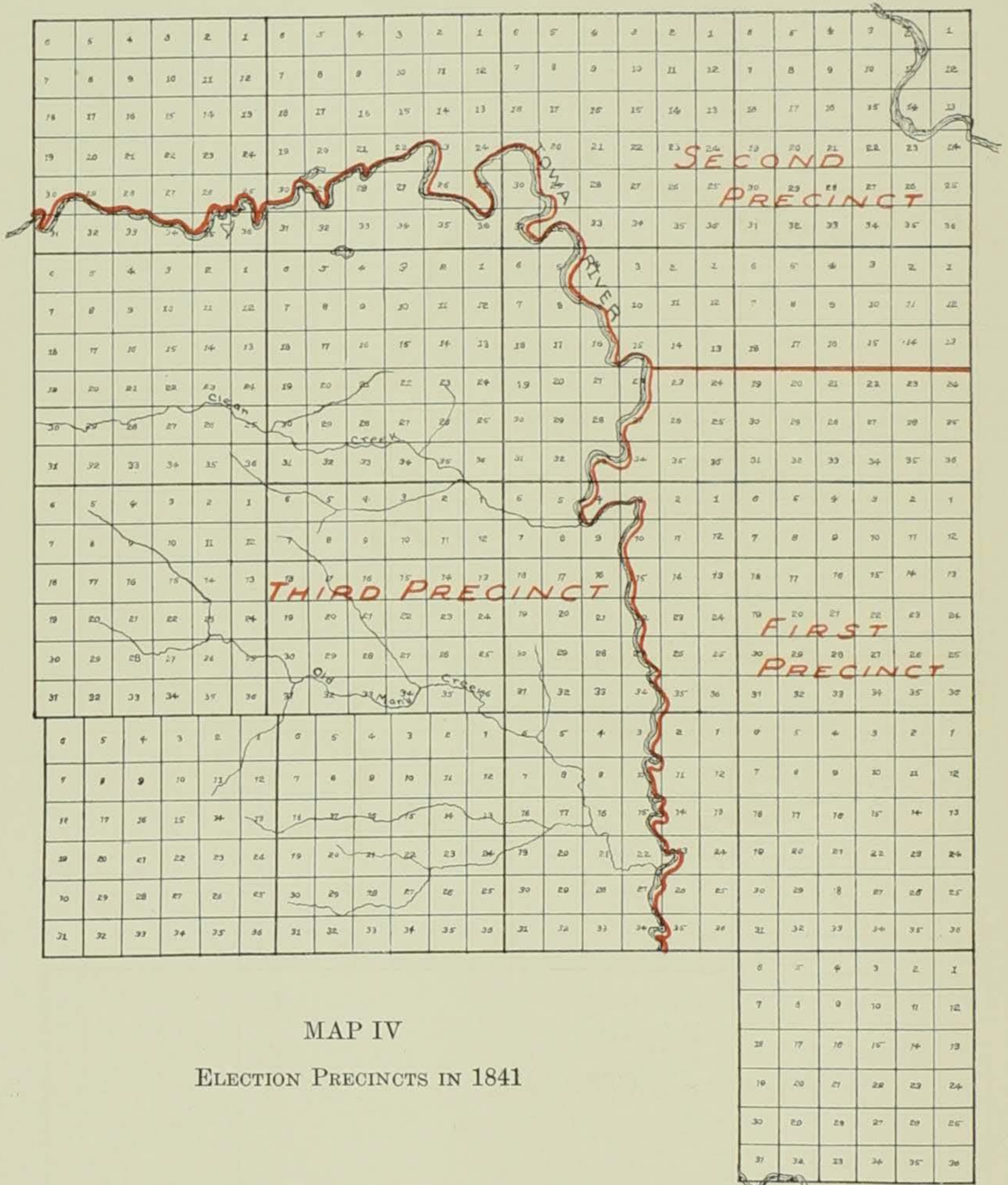
MAP II

JOHNSON COUNTY AS DEFINED IN 1845



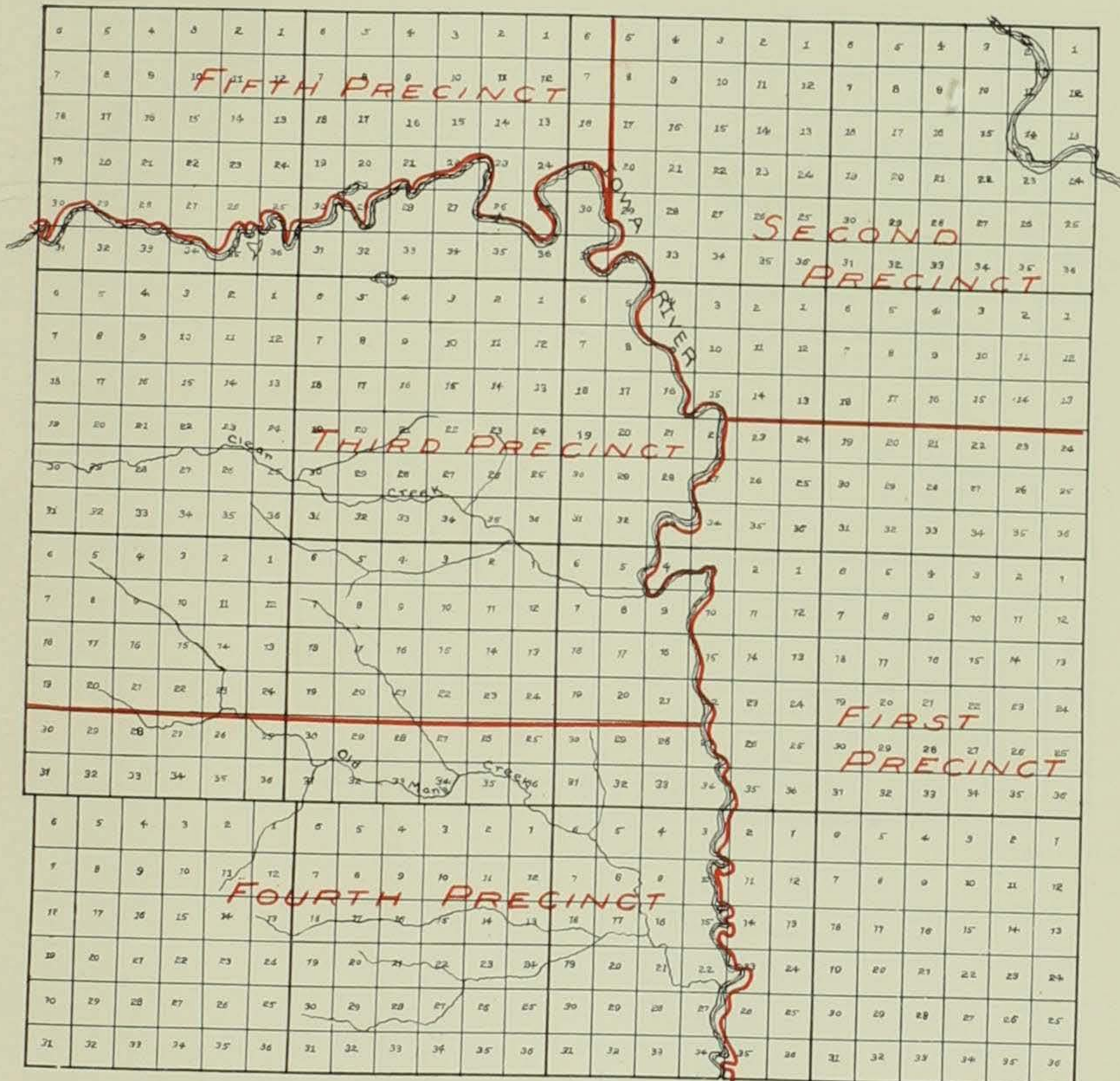
MAP III
ELECTION PRECINCTS IN 1840





MAP IV

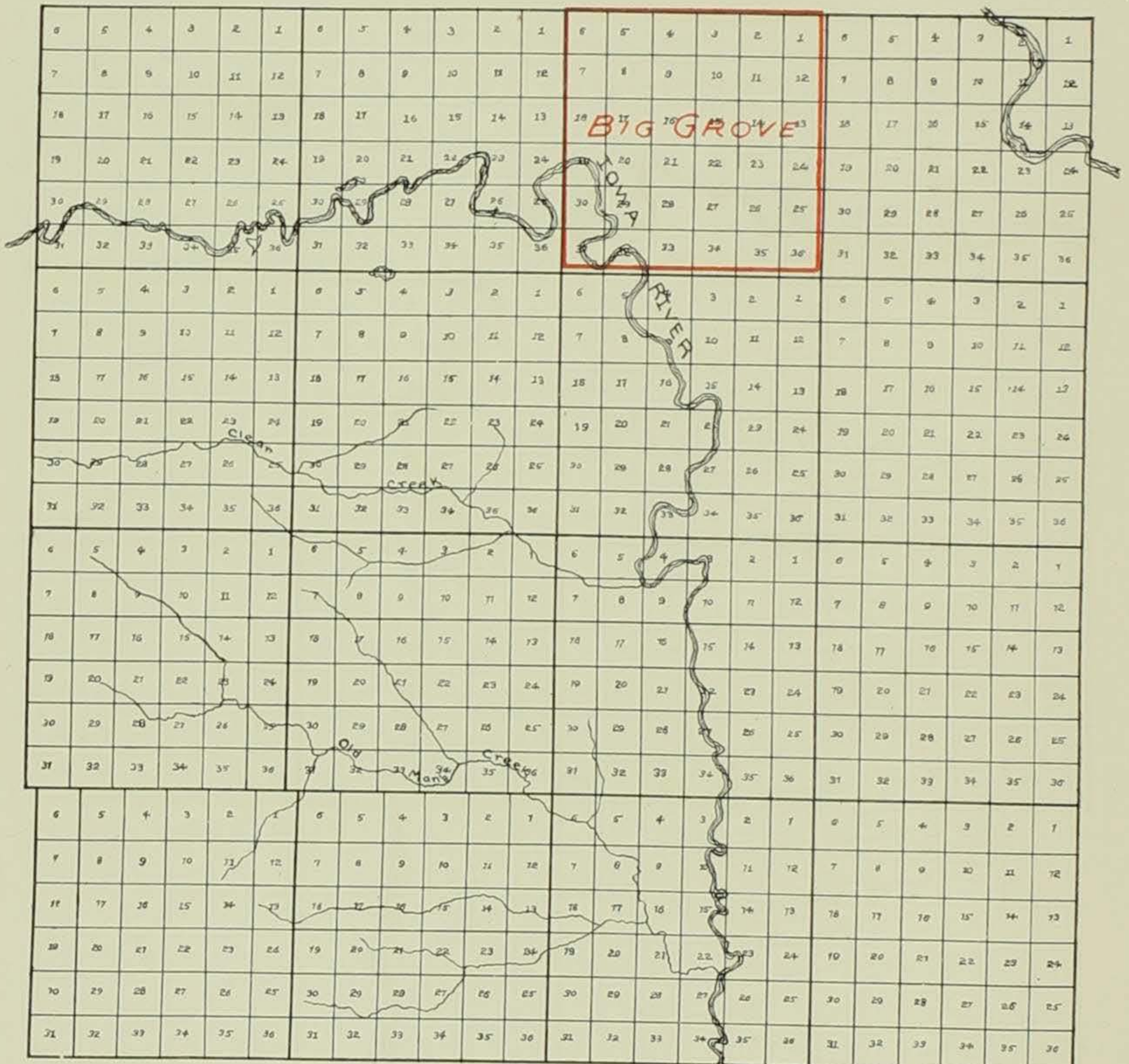
ELECTION PRECINCTS IN 1841



MAP V

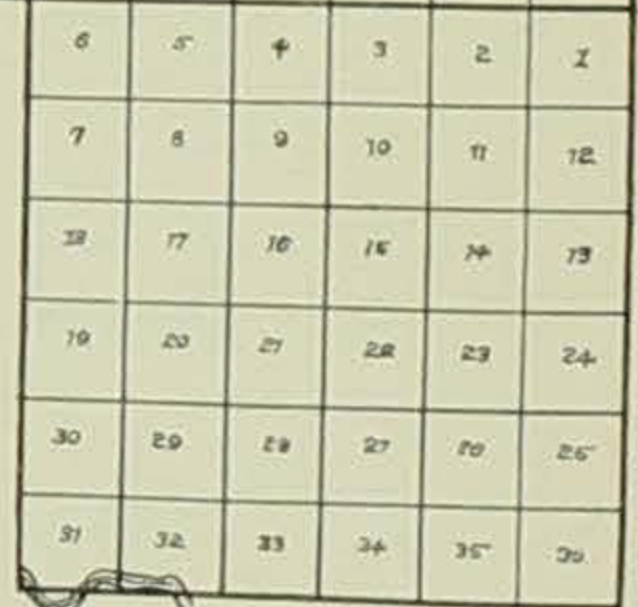
ELECTION PRECINCTS IN 1843

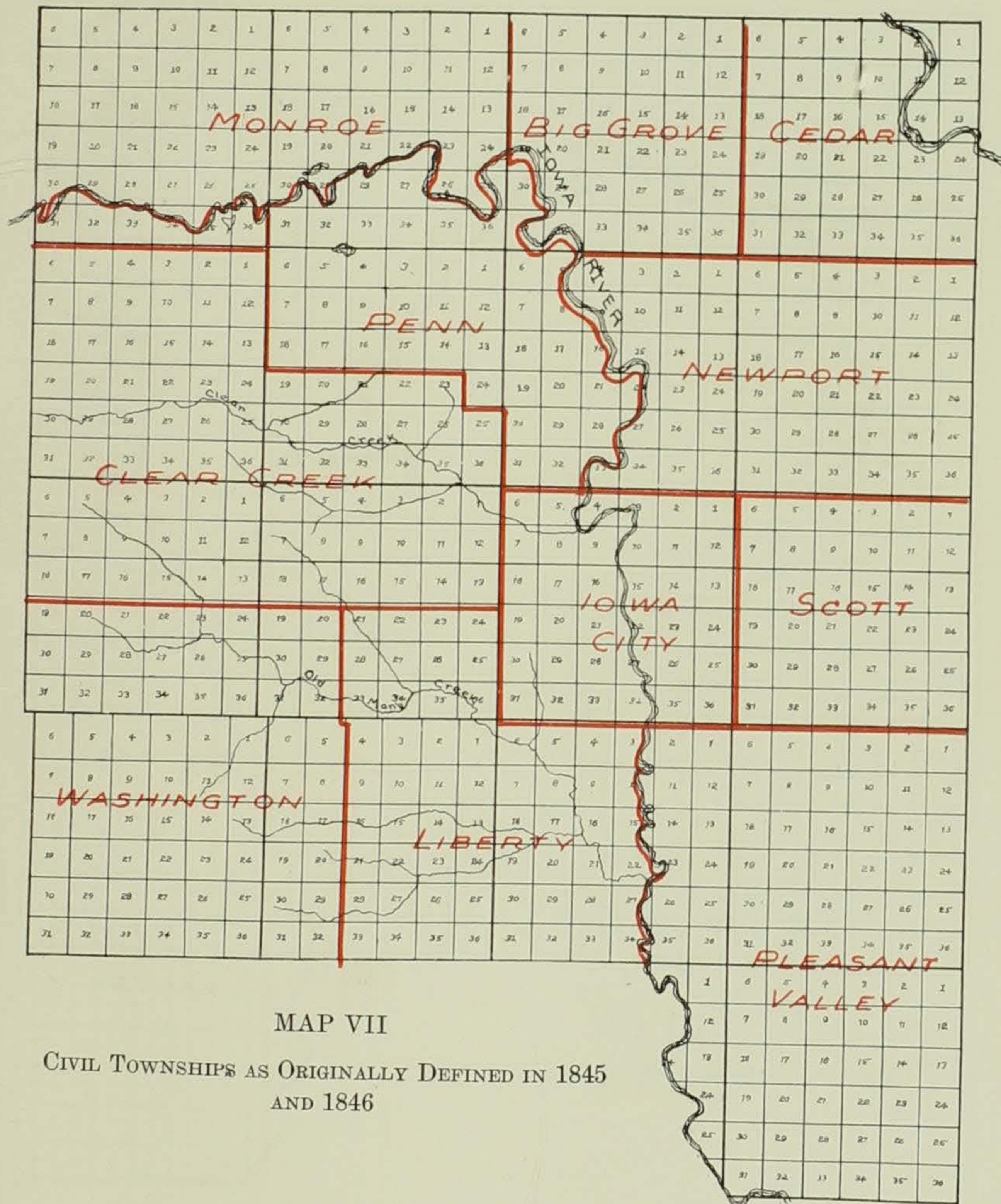
6	5	4	3	2	1
7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36



MAP VI

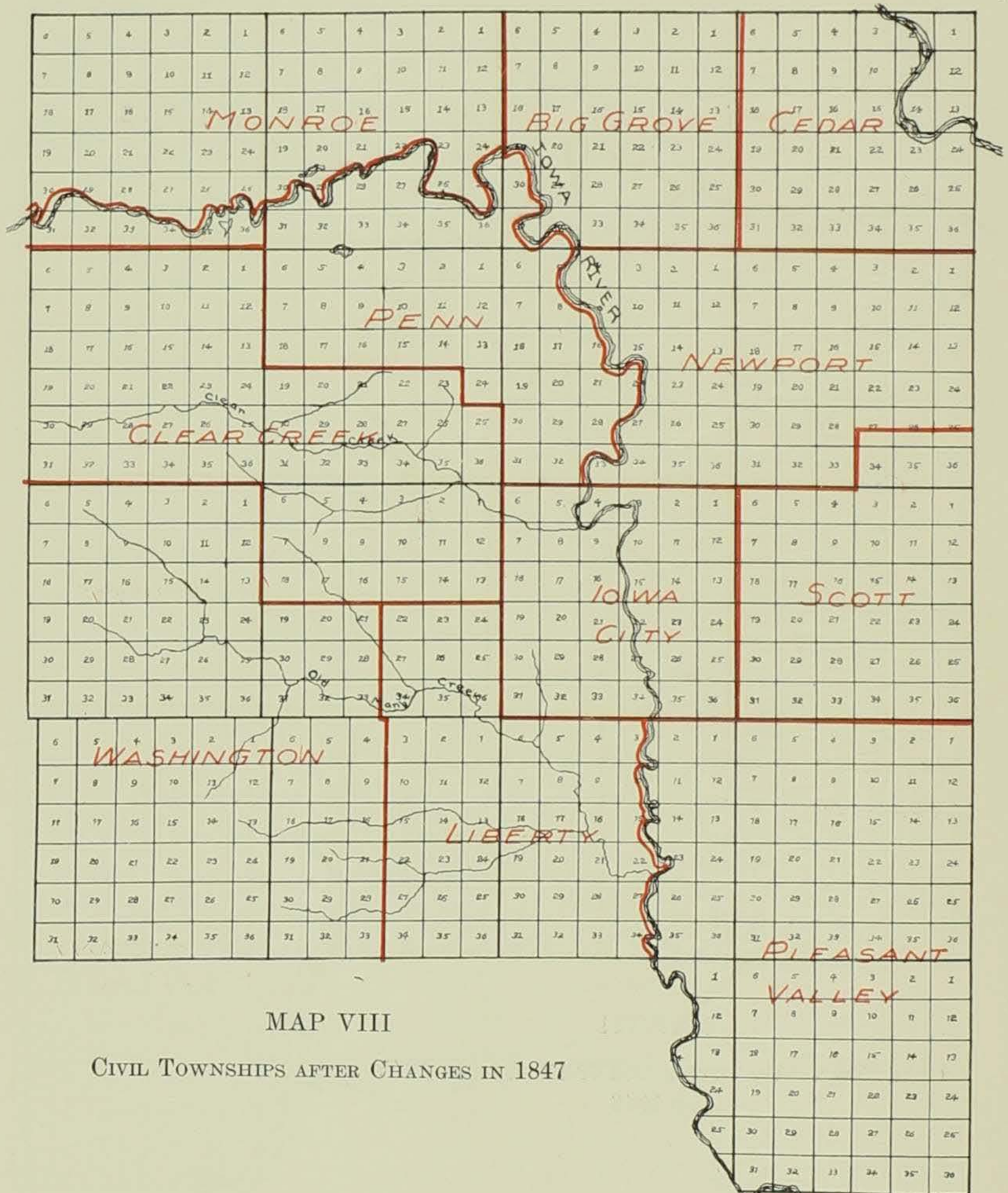
BIG GROVE, THE FIRST CIVIL TOWNSHIP, ESTABLISHED
IN 1845





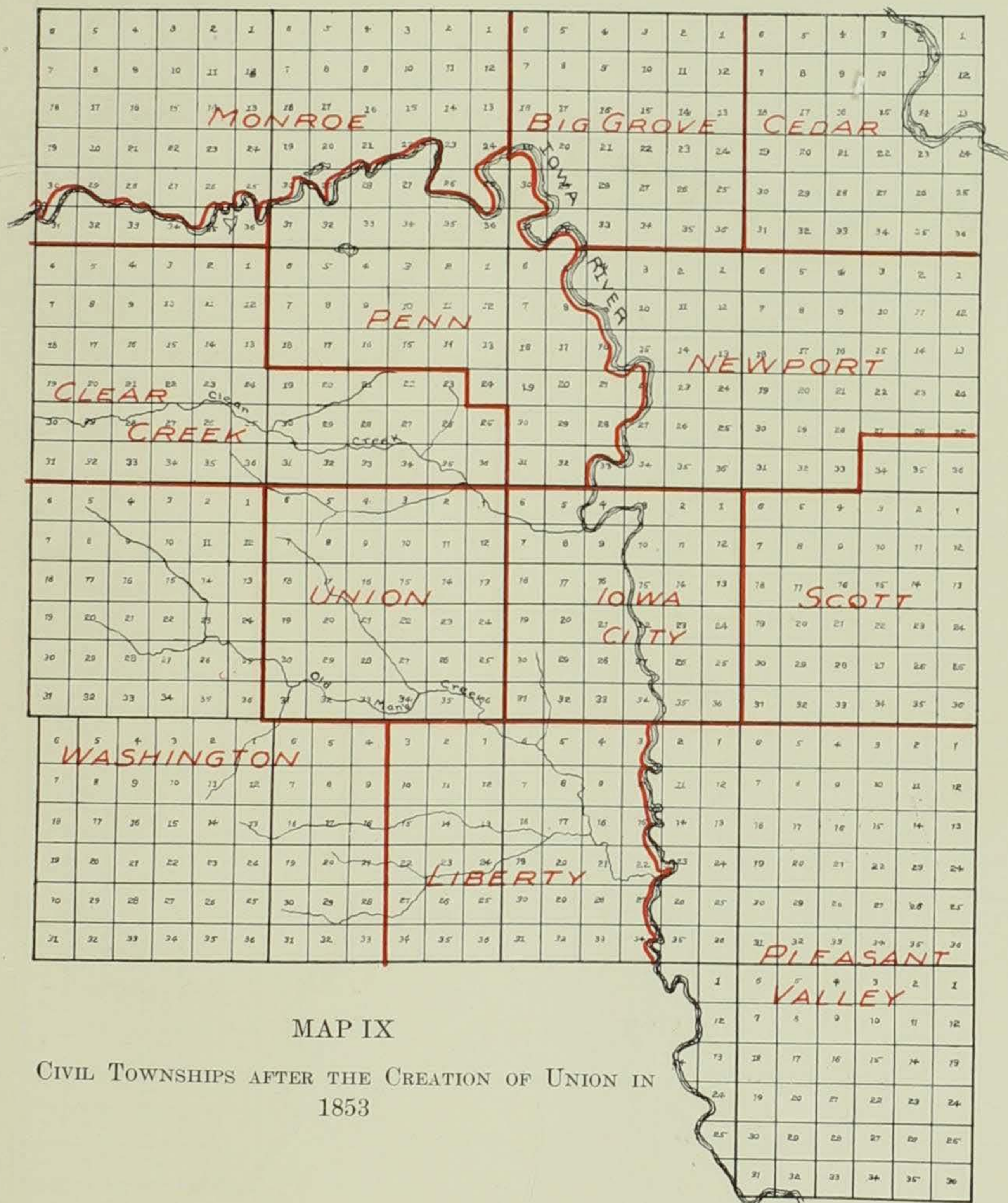
MAP VII

CIVIL TOWNSHIPS AS ORIGINALLY DEFINED IN 1845
AND 1846



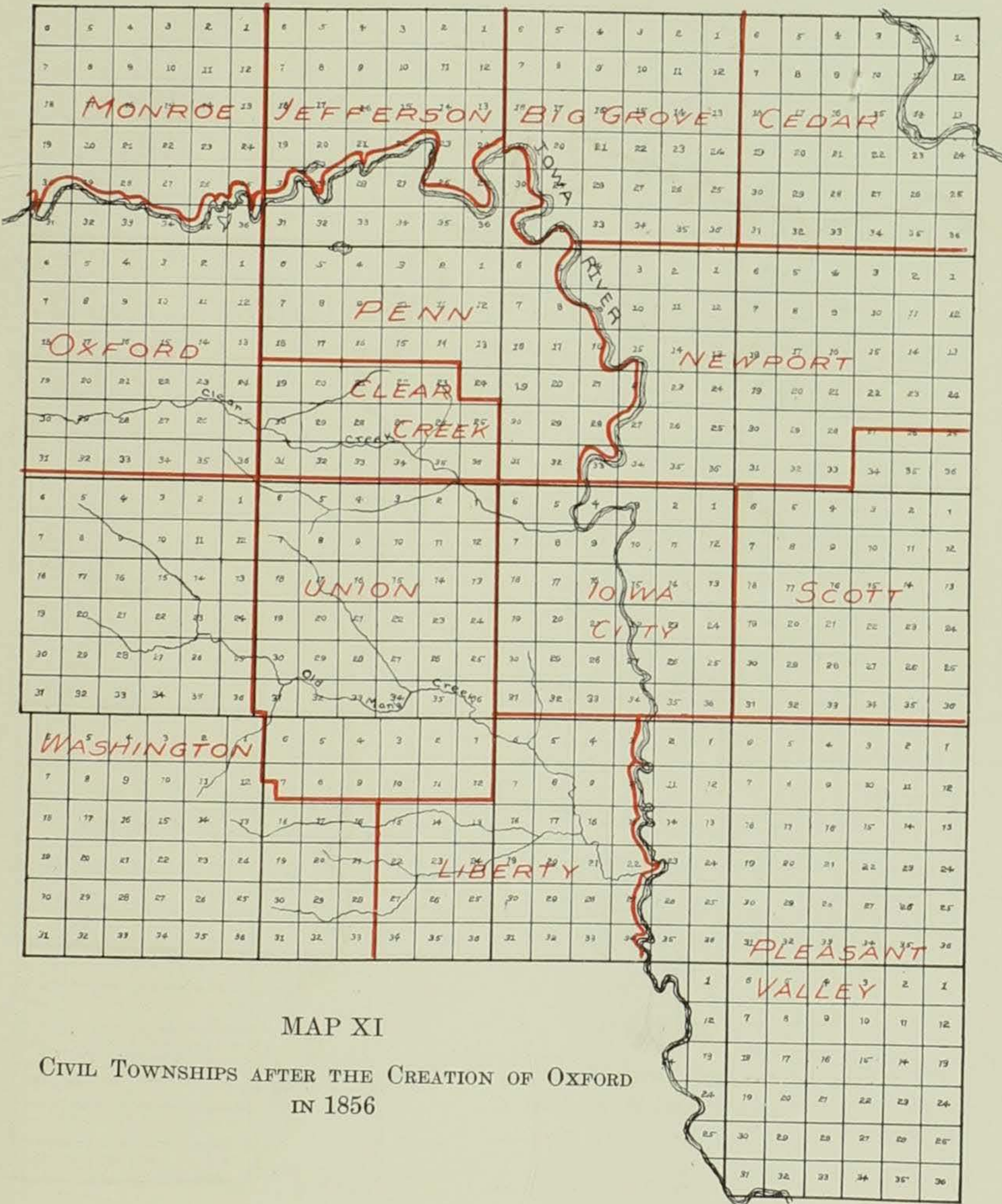
MAP VIII

CIVIL TOWNSHIPS AFTER CHANGES IN 1847



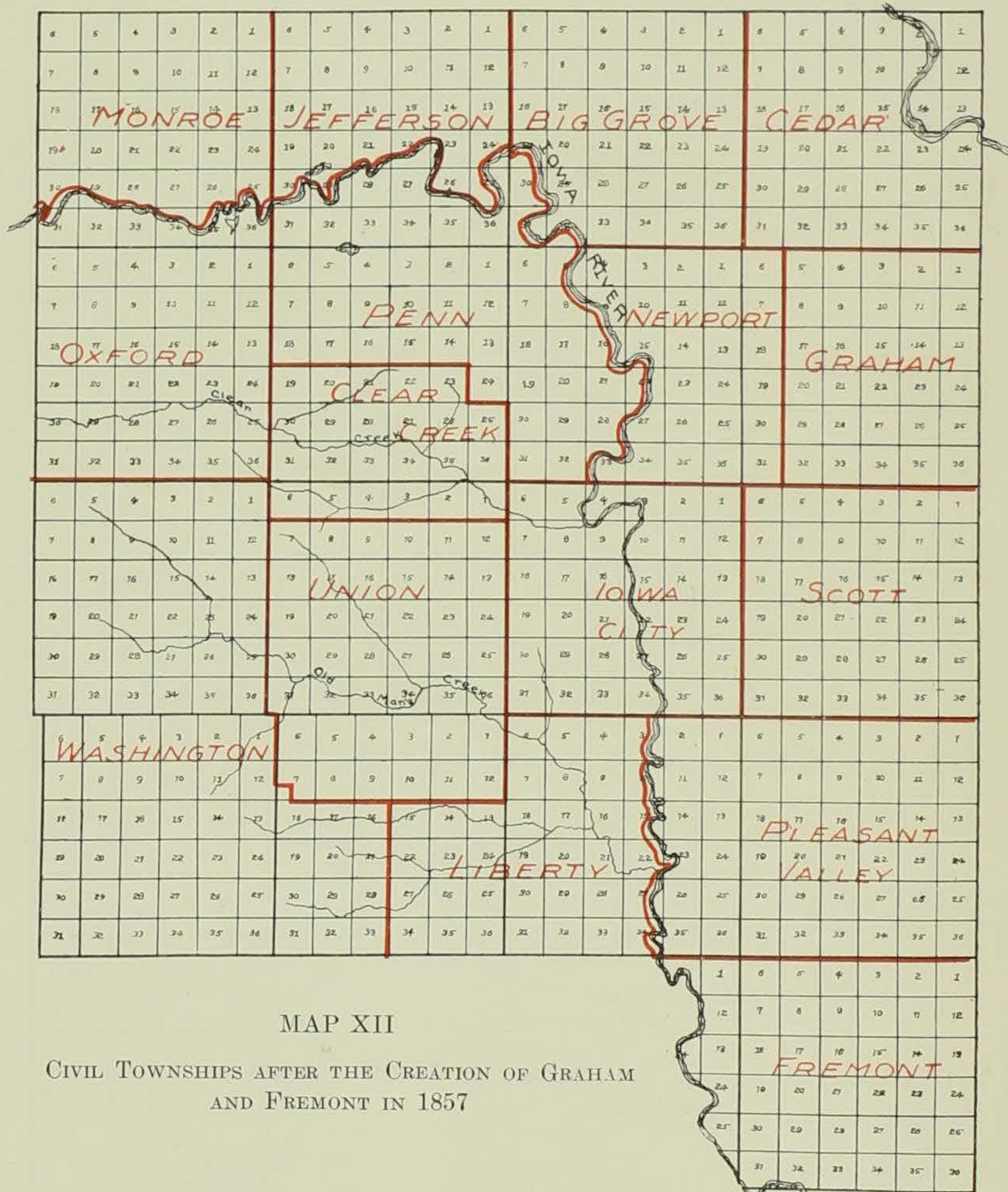
MAP IX

CIVIL TOWNSHIPS AFTER THE CREATION OF UNION IN 1853



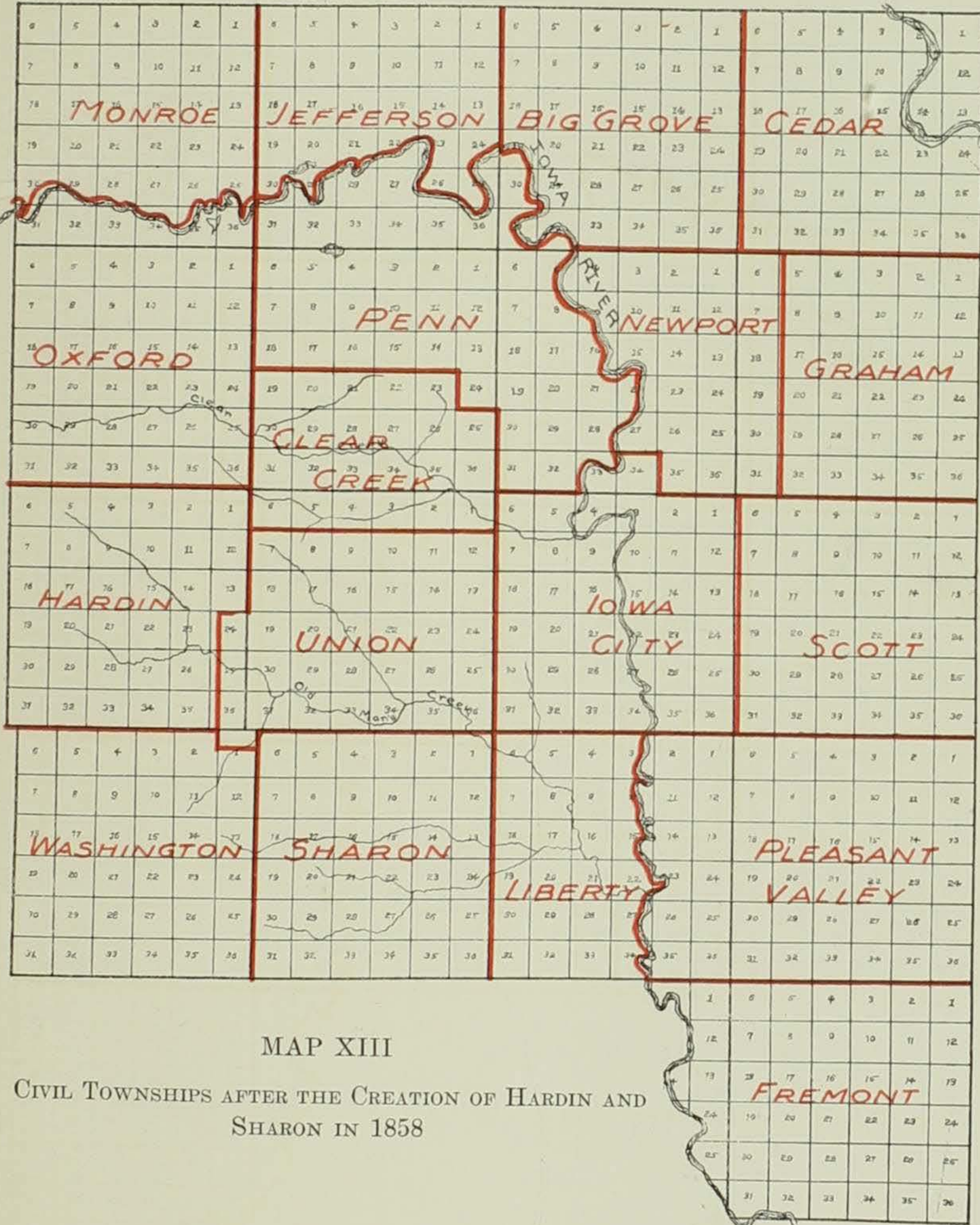
MAP XI

CIVIL TOWNSHIPS AFTER THE CREATION OF OXFORD
IN 1856



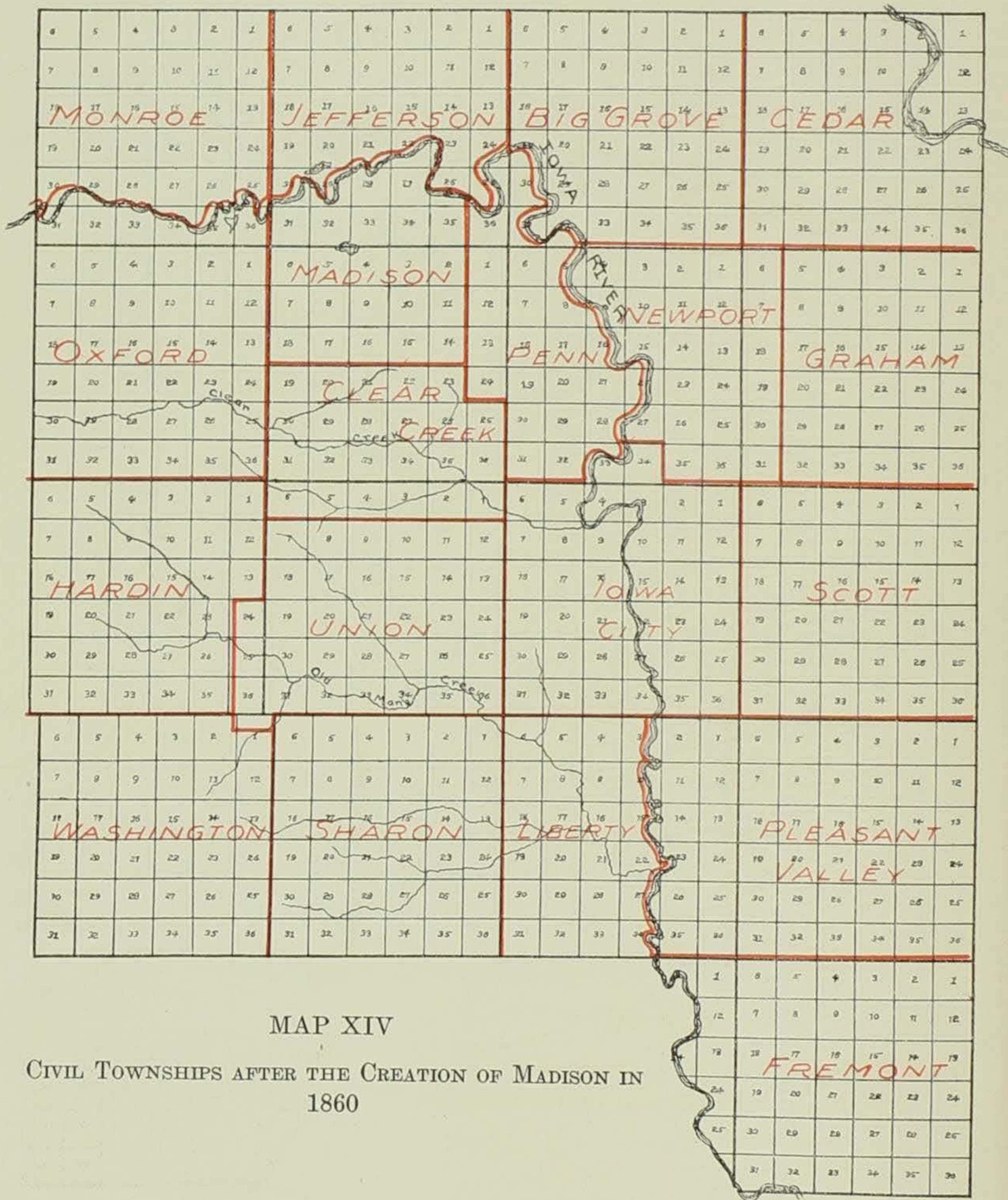
MAP XII

CIVIL TOWNSHIPS AFTER THE CREATION OF GRAHAM
AND FREMONT IN 1857

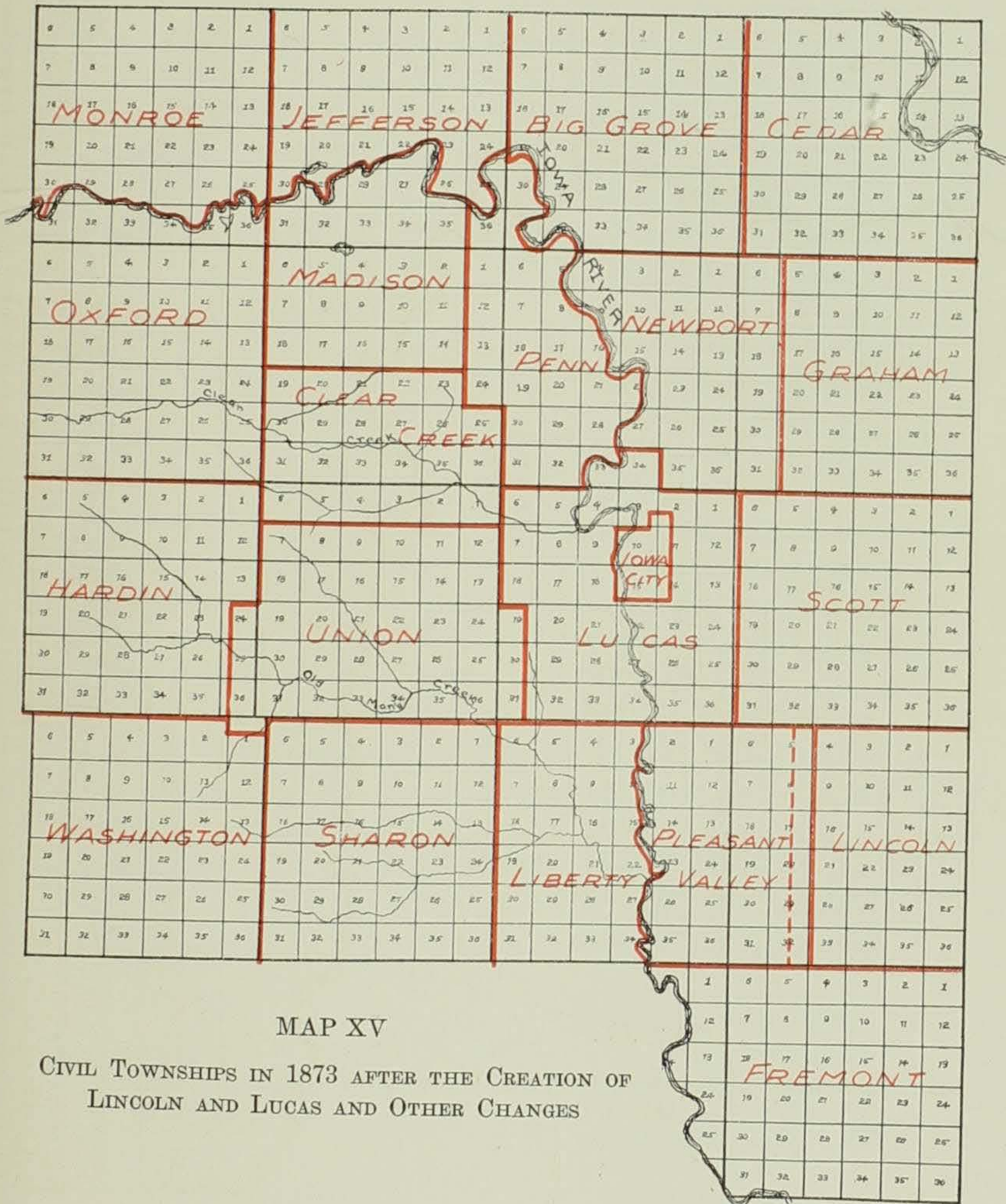


MAP XIII

CIVIL TOWNSHIPS AFTER THE CREATION OF HARDIN AND SHARON IN 1858

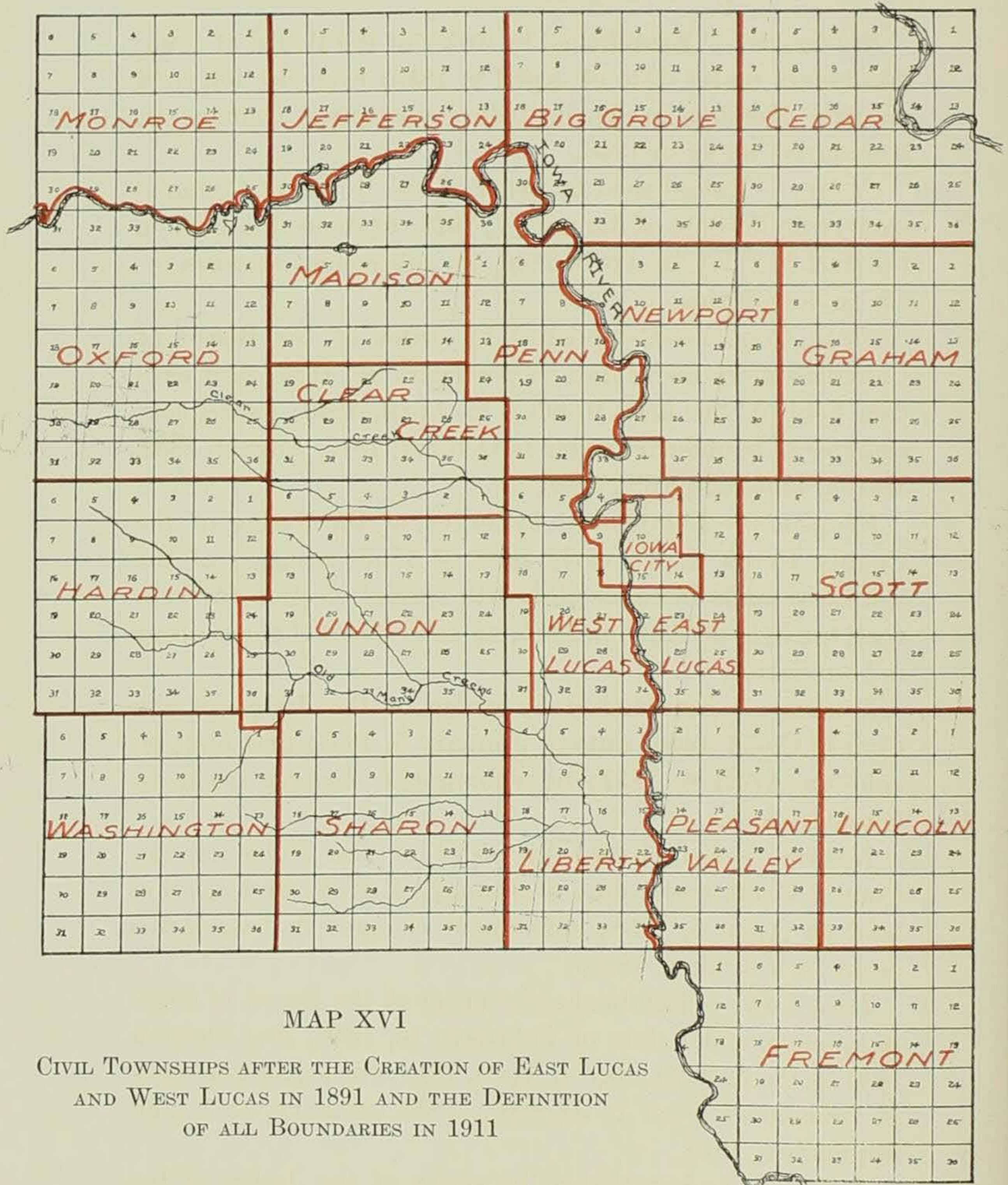


MAP XIV
 CIVIL TOWNSHIPS AFTER THE CREATION OF MADISON IN
 1860



MAP XV

CIVIL TOWNSHIPS IN 1873 AFTER THE CREATION OF LINCOLN AND LUCAS AND OTHER CHANGES



MAP XVI

CIVIL TOWNSHIPS AFTER THE CREATION OF EAST LUCAS
AND WEST LUCAS IN 1891 AND THE DEFINITION
OF ALL BOUNDARIES IN 1911

SUMMARY

Big Grove:— Established by order of the Board of Commissioners under date of April 9, 1845; first election held on first Monday in April, 1846; subsequent changes in boundaries occur in 1846.

Cedar:— Established by order of the Board of Commissioners under date of January 7, 1846; first election held on the first Monday in April, 1846; no subsequent changes occur in boundaries.

Clear Creek:— Established by order of the Board of Commissioners under date of February 10, 1846; first election held on the first Monday in April, 1846; subsequent changes in boundaries occur in October, 1847, August, 1852, March, 1856, and July, 1857.

Fremont:— Established by order of the Judge of the County Court in the early part of 1857; mention of the township made in connection with special election for railroad tax held on April 6, 1857; no subsequent changes occur in boundaries.

Graham:— Established by order of the Judge of the County Court under date of January 5, 1857; first election held on April 6, 1857; no subsequent changes occur in boundaries.

Hardin:— Established by order of the Judge of the County Court under date of January 4, 1858; first election held on April 5, 1858; subsequent changes in boundaries occur in February, 1858.

Iowa City:— Established by order of the Board of Commissioners under date of February 10, 1846; first election held on the first Monday in April, 1846; subsequent changes in boundaries occur in January, 1859, January, 1873, and September, 1910.

Jefferson:— Established by order of the Judge of the

County Court under date of March 6, 1854; first election held on April 3, 1854; no subsequent changes occur in boundaries.

Liberty:— Established by order of the Board of Commissioners under date of February 10, 1846; first election held on the first Monday in April, 1846; subsequent changes in boundaries occur in March, 1854, and February, 1858.

Lincoln:— Established by order of the Board of Supervisors under date of June 8, 1870; first election held on second Tuesday in October, 1870; subsequent changes in boundaries occur in April, 1871.

Lucas:— Established by order of the Board of Supervisors under date of January 15, 1873; first election held on second Tuesday in October, 1873; subsequent changes in boundaries occur in April, 1891.

Lucas, East:— Established by order of the Board of Supervisors under date of April 8, 1891; mention of the township made in connection with the general election of 1891; subsequent changes in boundaries occur in September, 1910.

Lucas, West:— Established by order of the Board of Supervisors under date of April 8, 1891; mention of the township in connection with the general election of 1891; subsequent changes in boundaries occur in September, 1910.

Madison:— Established by order of the Board of Supervisors in 1860; first election probably held on the second Tuesday in October, 1860; no subsequent changes occur in boundaries.

Monroe:— Established by order of the Board of Commissioners under date of February 10, 1846; first election held on the first Monday in April, 1846; subsequent changes in boundaries occur in March, 1854.

Newport:— Established by order of the Board of Commissioners under date of February 10, 1846; first election

held on the first Monday in April, 1846; subsequent changes in boundaries occur in October, 1847, January, 1857, and January, 1859.

Oxford:— Established by order of the Judge of the County Court under date of March 3, 1856; first election held on April 7, 1856; no subsequent changes occur in boundaries.

Penn:— Established by order of the Board of Commissioners under date of February 10, 1846; first election held on the first Monday in April, 1846; subsequent changes in boundaries occur in October, 1860.

Pleasant Valley:— Established by order of the Board of Commissioners under date of February 10, 1846; first election held on the first Monday in April, 1846; subsequent changes in boundaries occur in June, 1870.

Scott:— Established by order of the Board of Commissioners under date of February 10, 1846; first election held on the first Monday in April, 1846; subsequent changes in boundaries occur in October, 1847.

Sharon:— Established by order of the Judge of the County Court under date of February 1, 1858; first election held on the first Monday in April, 1858; no subsequent changes occur in boundaries.

Union:— Established by order of the Judge of the County Court under date of August 30, 1852; first election held on April 4, 1853; subsequent changes in boundaries occur in March, 1854, July, 1857, February, 1858, and some time between 1858 and 1870.

Washington:— Established by order of the Board of Commissioners under date of February 10, 1846; first election held on the first Monday in April, 1846; subsequent changes in boundaries occur in October, 1847, August, 1852, March, 1854, January, 1858, and February, 1858.

CLARENCE RAY AURNER

IOWA CITY, IOWA