vould be made and ordered Fitz to prepare instruc- the deputies. Nearly the same letter was sent as a on September 23, 1831, to the other Surveyors William McRee, St. Louis; John Coffee, Florence, ; Micajah T. Williams, Cincinnati; Robert Butler, and H. Browse Triste, Louisiana. The circular was to James S. Conway on July 6, 1832, after he was d Surveyor General at Little Rock, Arkansas.

Fitz was the first to respond to Hayward's order. In r 1831, Fitz issued his *Instructions for Surveying in of Mississippi*. Fitz directed that the townships be ed in a manner which resulted in the half-mile posts, ly quarter-section corners. By the method of run- lines, many of the half-mile posts were not quarter- orners because they were not established according v. Fitz also introduced bark scribing of bearing trees nerous other changes in methods. His instructions oduced in the Appendix.

urveyor General of Arkansas Territory, James S. prepared his *Instructions to Deputy Surveyors*, in ose instructions followed the pattern of the instruc- ued by Tiffin in 1815. Over the next 20 years, sur- nstructions were issued by nearly all the Surveyors in one form or another; some used the same instruc- ued by a fellow Surveyor General. Instructions were or Ohio, Indiana, and Michigan, 1833; Illinois and , 1834; Arkansas, 1837, Florida, 1842; Arkansas, isconsin and Iowa, 1846; Ohio, Indiana, and Michi- 50; Florida, 1850; Wisconsin and Iowa, 1851; and and Missouri, 1856. Hayward's order to issue written ons to the deputy surveyors started the whole series ctions which evolved into a standard *Manual of g Instructions*, applicable to all, in 1855. But during d, each Surveyor General had his individual concept e surveys should be performed in his area of author- t stayed within the letter of the law, as they inter- hat law.

numentation, platting, distance between correction eld notes, tree markings, and similar items there ferences. Each set of these instructions should be d for the differences (see Appendix).

ter dated August 18, 1831, Hayward instructed T. Williams at Cincinatti and McRee at St. Louis to he Fourth Principal Meridian north to the north y of Illinois and on the same direction into what is consin. The north boundary of Illinois was surveyed s Lyon in 1831-32. The meridian was extended to the boundary in 1831, and an initial point was estab- he baseline for the new surveys in Wisconsin was the ondary of Illinois. In 1832, Lucius Lyon, Deputy r, ran the extended Fourth Principal Meridian into in and surveyed T. 1 N., R. 1 W., in what is now that ll of the townships in Wisconsin are numbered north south boundary and east or west of the Fourth Prin- ridian, which was not, however, extended as a sepa- . Rather, it was surveyed as township boundaries as eys progressed. An unusual fact about the Wisconsin is the spacing of the correction lines. On August 12, ommissioner James A. Williamson wrote the follow- r in part to Rose C. Smart, at Oshkosh, Wisconsin:

Madam,

"Your communication of the 4th instant, making inquiry about the 5th Correction line in Wisconsin has been received.

In the early period of surveying operations, and while the same were still in the hands, and under the control of the Surveyor General, correction lines were made at every ten townships in certain surveying districts, of which Wisconsin was one, as approximating an even number of townships, to the length of a degree of latitude. They were run in such a manner that a true length of eighty chains was to be found midway between any two correction lines, — which necessitated the marking of a reduced length for a township on the south side and an increased length on the north side of the correction line, to accomodate the convergence.

The fifth correction in Wisconsin was placed at (6) six townships, because if laid at ten (10) townships, it would have shortened the possible actual measurement to much—by reason of its running into Lake Superior and thus have defeated the very object for which it was intended . . .".

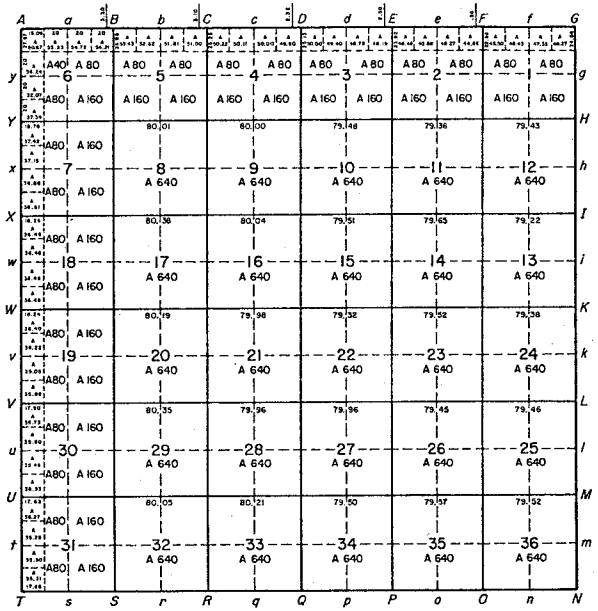
From the letter it appears that the township boundaries in Wisconsin may have been surveyed increasing or decreasing the six-mile length, depending upon where the boundary was in relation to the correction line or standard parallel. Only an examination of the field notes would reveal the true situation; if so, this was another early method of trying to deal with convergency.

On *April 5, 1832*, 4 Stat. 503, Congress passed the last major act affecting the system of rectangular surveys which provides for the sale of public lands in units down to quarter-quarter sections, the one-sixteen section of 40 acres or a lot. The entire act follows:

CHAP. LXV.—An Act supplementary to the several laws for the sale of public lands. (a)

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That from and after the first day May next, all the public lands of the United States, when offered at private sale, may be purchased at the option of the purchaser, either in entire sections, half sections, quarter sections, half-quarter sections, or quarter-quarter sections; and in every case of a division of a half-quarter section, the line for division thereof shall run east and west, and the corners and contents of quarter-quarter sections, which may thereafter be sold, shall be ascertained as nearly as may be, in the manner, and on the principles, directed and prescribed by the second section of an act, entitled "An act concerning the mode of surveying the public lands of the United States," Passed on the eleventh day of February, eighteen hundred and five; and fractional sections, containing fewer or more than one hundred and sixty acres, shall in a like manner, as nearly as may be practicable, be subdivided into quarter-quarter sections, under such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury: Provided, That this act shall not be construed to

MICHIGAN MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP 9 NORTH RANGE 12 EAST



SUBDIVIDED BY HIRAM BURNHAM IN 1834 UNDER CONTRACT DATED 25 NOV. 1833.

1833 INSTRUCTIONS OF THE SURVEYOR GENERAL FOR THE STATES OF OHIO AND INDIANA AND THE TERRITORY OF MICHIGAN.

SENATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT
EXHIBIT NO. 8
DATE 2.20.09
BILL NO. SB482