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**Survey of lands in Illinois and Missouri. Letter from the Secretary of the Treasury, to the chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means, accompanied by a report from the Surveyor General of Illinois and Missouri, in reference to surveys in those states**

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SURVEY OF LANDS IN ILLINOIS AND MISSOURI.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,

To the Chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means, accompanied  
by a report from the Surveyor General of Illinois and Missouri, in  
reference to surveys in those States.

FEBRUARY 28, 1837.

Laid before the House by the Chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means, and ordered  
to be printed.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,  
February 27, 1837.

SIR: I have the honor to submit a letter from the Commissioner of the  
General Land Office, accompanied by a report and certain documents from  
the Surveyor General of Illinois and Missouri, in reference to surveys in  
those States. I would also respectfully call your attention to the sugges-  
tion of the Commissioner, that these documents be printed.

I have the honor to be,

Respectfully, sir,

Your obedient servant,

LEVI WOODBURY,

Secretary of the Treasury.

Hon. C. C. CAMBRELENG,

Chairman Committee of Ways and Means,  
House of Representatives.

GENERAL LAND OFFICE,  
February 25, 1837.

SIR: The expected report from the Surveyor General of Illinois and  
Missouri, referred to in my communication of the 7th instant as not having  
reached this office, was received a few days since; as also a separate report,  
explanatory of the items contained in the documents from the same officer,  
which accompanied the general report of the acting Commissioner, submit-  
ted in December last. I now have the honor to transmit, herewith, copies  
of these reports in duplicate, marked A and B, and of the diagrams therein  
referred to, to which I beg leave to call your attention, and respectfully  
request that they may be laid before the honorable Committee of Ways and  
Means, of the House of Representatives, and the Committee of Finance, of  
Blair & Rives, printers.

the Senate. The report marked A, contains the estimates of the Survey General for the present year, which, with the exception of the \$36, therein estimated for new surveys, have all, I believe, been provided for the amounts of the appropriations heretofore submitted from the department, and which, if taken in connexion with the report marked B, will show the present state of the surveys in Illinois and Missouri, which information it was promised in the report of the acting Commissioner, above referred to, should be furnished when received. Before concluding, I would also respectfully recommend the printing of these documents and diagrams as being necessary to complete the former reports from this office, highly important in a public point of view, on account of the detailed information which they contain relative to this surveying district.

I am, sir, with great respect,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES WHITCOMB,

*Commissioner*

To the Hon. LEVI WOODBURY,  
*Secretary of the Treasury.*

A.

SURVEYOR'S OFFICE,  
*St. Louis, January 27, 1837.*

SIR: You were informed in a postscript to my report of the 21st of last November, that the intended accompanying diagrams were not completed, and that no time would be lost in sending them on as soon as they should be finished. The diagrams were not necessary for the main purpose of the report; the delay, therefore, can be of no essential injury. The report stated the aggregate amount of surveying that ought to be executed in this district during the present year, which was all sufficient to enable Congress to make the required appropriation. The diagrams being more particularly intended to show the extent and condition of the surveys already executed, and to show the localities of the several tracts of country intended to be surveyed under the recommended appropriation.

It was, therefore, thought most advisable to perfect them as near as practicable in these respects, even if they should thereby be delayed beyond the time they would probably be expected at the General Land Office. These two objects have now been attained sufficiently accurate for all practical purposes, and the diagrams are accordingly enclosed herewith. By them you will see that the 12,000 miles included in my estimate, are apportioned as below specified:

660	miles in the Palmyra	district, Missouri,	diagram B.
2,160	do. do. Howard	do. do.	diagram C.
1,600	do. do. Western	do. do.	diagram B.
1,460	do. do. Southwestern	do. do.	diagram E.
1,062	do. do. Jackson	do. do.	diagram F.
3,780	do. do. Northeast	do. Illinois,	diagram G.
1,278	do. do. Northwest	do. do.	diagram H.

Aggregate 12,000

There is also enclosed a diagram (marked I,) of the Danville district, showing the condition of the surveys therein.

As there was much irregularity in the mails about the time my report left here, and as you have not acknowledged the receipt thereof, I have thought that it may have been delayed on the way so as to arrive at Washington on the night of the conflagration of the post office. I therefore enclose, herewith, a copy of the said report, and a copy of the estimate therein referred to.

I am, very respectfully,

Sir, your obedient servant,

DANL. DUNKLIN.

To the COMMISSIONER of the General Land Office,  
Washington City.

As soon as the contracts for this year's field operations shall be completely arranged, and the bonds of the surveyors executed and approved, copies thereof will be sent to the General Land Office.

SURVEYOR'S OFFICE,

St. Louis, November 21, 1836.

SIR: In compliance with your letter of the 8th of October, of the present year, I enclose herewith a copy (marked A) of my estimate for the year 1837, furnished the Register of the Treasury; and submit for your consideration the following remarks relating thereto:

The estimate for surveying 12,000 miles of public land included the unexpended balance of all former appropriations, after deducting the amount asked for in my letter of the 3d instant; and is intended to be applied in the manner particularly specified on the accompanying diagrams, marked B, C, D, E, F, G, H, and I.

The estimate for surveying the private confirmed claims, and that for connecting them with the lines of the public surveys, is at the usual rate of three dollars per mile: but as the claims are scattered over a vast extent of country, which will occasion much loss of time in travelling from one to the other, and as there will be much difficulty in hunting up and properly identifying the lines and corners of the adjoining public and private surveys, in order to make connexions therewith, it is certain that suitable surveyors cannot generally be had for the price now allowed by law; and that, therefore, many of these claims must either remain unsurveyed, or additional compensation be paid by the claimants, who may not in all cases feel so disposed; for where their tracts are unencumbered with conflicting claims, it will be considered a matter of indifference with many whether their lines are connected with the public surveys or not, as they will enjoy in perfect security the same advantages of the confirmation without as with a resurvey. The United States will therefore be prevented from bringing the adjoining fractions into market for want of the ascertainment of quantities.

To remedy the evils that may result from this condition of affairs, I would recommend that the Surveyor General be vested with a discretionary power of allowing extra compensation, so as not to exceed, with the present rates, five dollars per mile; which will increase the estimate under the second and third heads to \$17,500.

I will here observe, that the law of the 4th of July, of the present year, (pages 245 and 246 of the acts of the 1st session of the 24th Congress,) confirming these claims, is silent on the subject of the expense of executing the surveys thereof; and in your letter of the 10th ultimo, directing the surveys to be made, you say nothing in relation *thereto*: nor do I find any general law which I can rely on without your authority.

In the orders of survey already issued, I have not, therefore, ventured to give assurance that any part of the expense will be paid by the Government, but have required the surveyors to look to the claimants for their compensation, with whom there is an understanding, that whatever the Government may allow will be paid so soon as I am instructed on the subject.

No attempt seems to have been made at surveying the lots and out-lots of any of the towns and villages referred to in the 4th item of the estimate, except St. Louis and Mine à Burton: St. Louis, under a contract with Joseph C. Brown, of six dollars per day, for his personal services and expenses, and all other necessary expenses; to be completed within six months from the date thereof, (10th of September, 1835;) Mine à Burton, under instructions of which (as I am told) no copy was retained in the office; I am, therefore, unable to state the terms upon which the work was undertaken. The contract with Mr. Brown, for surveying the lots in and adjoining St. Louis, is certainly without authority of law, as regards the compensation to be paid; but it is probably on as good terms as a competent surveyor can be obtained. My estimate is based upon the conditions of this contract; and if it is the intention of the Government to survey these claims, I know of no better plan than to make the appropriation, and authorize the Surveyor General to contract therefor, upon such terms as will best promote the public interest and the interest of the individuals and towns interested therein.

It may be proper to state that considerable progress has been made in the survey of each of the towns of Mine à Burton and St. Louis; but that unless an appropriation is made by Congress, it is quite uncertain whether they will be completed under the present arrangement. The estimate (No. 6) for clerks' salaries under the first section of the act of the 3d of April, 1818, (pages 724 and 725 of Land Laws,) and under the act of the 9th of May, 1836, (page 44 of the acts of the 1st session of the 24th Congress,) is intended to be applied in the employment of eight clerks to perform, generally, the duties below specified:

One principal clerk, whose duties are various, and cannot well be enumerated: One clerk to examine the field-notes, and compare the copies thereof, of the surveys as they are returned; to enter them on the general index, and make a particular index of the contents of each book, with proper references to resurveys and re-establishment of corners, and to state the accounts of the surveyors; also to compare the copies of the field-notes that have been and will be made for this office and for the General Land Office, and the descriptive lists for the district land offices.

Two draughtsmen to construct the plats of the townships, and make the copies thereof specified in the enclosed paper marked K, and of those that may be returned in the course of the year, and to calculate the areas of the fractional sections in said townships; also to make the plats of surveys executed under the direction of the late Col. McRee, as required in the Commissioner's letter of the 23d of May, of the present year.

One clerk to subdivide the fractional sections of the old surveys, and prepare plats thereof for the General Land Office, and for the district land offices.

Three clerks to be employed in copying the field notes of the new surveys to be transmitted to the General Land Office, and in making descriptive lists for the district land offices; and when not thus engaged, to be employed in copying the field-notes of the old surveys as a record thereof for this office, and to be transmitted to Washington: this latter is a business which will require much labor and time; but until the original books are bound and properly indexed, the number of clerks estimated for are as many as can be advantageously employed. A statement showing the extent of this job, and how far it has progressed, and, also, as near as may be, what work has been done under the last year's appropriation, will be prepared and transmitted at an early day.

There are numerous applications of individuals for official copies of papers relative to their titles and surveys, and unofficial information and papers, &c. They are generally assigned to the clerk who at the time can most conveniently be spared from his regular duties to attend thereto. A large portion of this business the law seems to contemplate shall be performed by the registers of the land offices: I mean furnishing the purchasers of the public lands with a plat and description of the corners of the tract purchased, which is made their particular duty by the 7th section of the act of the 10th of May, 1800, (page 460 Land Laws.) Indeed, it would be unreasonable to suppose that the descriptive lists which the Surveyors General are required to furnish the registers shall be looked up and only used when it may suit their convenience, which seems to be the case in some offices: for the purchasers who apply here for descriptions of their entries, when told that it is the duty of the register under the law, generally reply that the register had informed them that he could not do it, or had not time, and that he must go to the surveyor's office.

What is to be done? Here is a man who has bought a piece of land from the Government, and wishes a plat and proper description to enable him to find and identify the lines and corners already surveyed and established, and to have the open lines run according to law. The officer, whose duty it is, has refused the papers: and as this office is then the only esort the plat and description are furnished, very much to the hinderance of the regular and legitimate business thereof. Your attention is therefore respectfully called to the subject.

The estimate (No. 9) for book-binding, is made with the view of substantially binding the field-books and copies thereof of the new surveys, as they may be returned; and, likewise, to bind all the field-books of the old surveys in volumes of suitable dimensions, which is highly important for their due preservation, and ought to be done, and the volumes properly indexed preparatory to furnishing the copies to be preserved at the seat of Government.

The estimate (No. 12) for office rent, is at the rate now paid for that object.

The estimates (Nos. 8, 10, 11, and 13) for stationery, postage, office furniture, and fuel, are as near the amounts that will be wanted for those purposes as can be come at from the information I can obtain.

I have not sufficient information upon which to base an estimate of the

surveys that cannot be executed at the maximum price allowed by law ; such cases shall be promptly reported when they occur.

With regard to that part of the Commissioner's circular requiring a statement exhibiting the manner in which the appropriation of 1836 for *extra* clerk hire has thus far been applied, I am unable to report thereon, as neither of the sums appropriated for this office are designated as extra appropriations ; see pages 37 and 44 of the acts of the 1st session of the 24th Congress.

With high consideration,

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

DANIEL DUNKLIN.

To the COMMISSIONER

*Of the General Land Office, Washington City.*

P. S.—The diagrams intended to accompany this report are not yet completed ; whenever they are finished, no time will be lost in sending them on.

A.

SURVEYOR'S OFFICE,

*St. Louis, November 21, 1836.*

SIR : The following is an estimate of the expenses of this office, during the year 1837 :

No. 1.	Surveying 12,000 miles of public lands, at \$3 per mile	-	\$36,000
2.	Surveying 2,500 miles of private claims, confirmed by the act of Congress approved July 4, 1836, at \$3 per mile	-	7,500
3.	Connecting the surveys of the private confirmed claims with the adjoining public survey, one thousand miles, at \$3 per mile	-	3,000
4.	Surveying the town and village lots, out-lots, and common field-lots, of the several towns and villages in the State of Missouri, designated in the first section of the act of Congress of the 13th of June, 1812, and the first and fourth sections of the act of the 26th of May, 1824, (see pages 620 and 884, of Land Laws,) in order to set apart, for the support of schools in said towns and villages, the lots not rightfully owned or claimed by private individuals, as required by the second section of the aforesaid act of 1824	-	6,000
5.	Salary of principal surveyor, as per act of Congress of the 3d of April, 1818, (see pages 724 and 725, of Land Laws)	-	2,000
6.	Salaries of clerks, under existing laws : 1st. Under the first section of the act of Congress of the 3d of April, 1818, (pages 724 and 725, of Land Laws)	-	\$2,000
2d.	Under the act of Congress of the 9th of May, 1836, (see page 44, of the acts of the 1st session of the 24th Congress)	-	3,820
			5,820

7. Salaries of two additional clerks, to be employed as follows: One at \$800 per annum, to renew the township plats for the district land offices; for which service, \$2,000 was allotted to this office by the Commissioner of the General Land Office, under the appropriation of \$5,000 by the act of the 27th of June, 1834, (see page 56, of the acts of the 1st session of the 23d Congress;) which sum of \$2,000, the Commissioner states, in his letter to my predecessor, of the 13th of last month, has been merged on the Treasury books in the appropriation for different objects of clerk hire; and as but \$733 33 will have been applied to this service at the end of the present year, a reappropriation of the amount of the salary paid to the clerk engaged will be required, in order to continue the work, which is essentially necessary, to enable the registers, particularly in the credit system districts, to conduct the operations of their offices. The other additional clerk, at a salary of \$800 per annum, is intended to be employed in preparing the papers for the orders of survey for the claims confirmed by the act of the 4th of July, 1836, (see pages 245 and 246, of the acts of the 24th Congress,) and to make out and record the necessary plats and descriptions of the surveys of said claims for this, and for the general and district land offices

	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$1,600
8. Stationery	-	-	-	-	-	-	400
9. Book-binding	-	-	-	-	-	-	600
10. Postage, and tin cases for preserving plats sent by mail to the general and the district land offices	-	-	-	-	-	-	300
11. Office furniture	-	-	-	-	-	-	100
12. Office rent	-	-	-	-	-	-	400
13. Fuel	-	-	-	-	-	-	150
							<u>63,870</u>

DANL. DUNKLIN.

To the REGISTER

*Of the United States Treasury, Washington City.*

B.

SURVEYOR'S OFFICE,

*St. Louis, January 25, 1837.*

SIR: In answer to the first inquiry in your letter of the 25th of November, 1836, I have to inform you that, according to the best information I could obtain from the files of this office, and otherwise, I understood, at the time of making the estimate to which you refer, that the field-work had generally been executed of all the surveying let out by Mr. Langham, except of the three deputies named in my letter of the 3d of November, 1836, as being then engaged in active operations.



The condition of the several contracts and instructions embraced in the estimate will be here given, as briefly as practicable, in the order they are arranged in the accompanying classes; A, B, and C, and will be referred to by their respective numbers.

#### No. 1—CLASS A.

Mr. Hamilton, in a letter to my predecessor, dated 11th of November, 1835, (a copy of which, numbered 3, appears to have been sent to the General Land Office with Mr. Langham's report of the 30th of January, 1836,) intimates that his returns were ready for the office; he must, therefore, at that time (if the returns were ready) have been through with the field operations. In answer to this report of Mr. Langham, the Commissioner, in his letter dated the 30th of March, 1836, directed the work to be put in other hands, and Mr. Hamilton to be proceeded against under his bond of contract.

Mr. Langham did not (so far as I can ascertain from the files of this office, and learn by inquiry of those connected therewith) enter into a new contract with another surveyor; nor has he proceeded against Mr. Hamilton, as instructed.

The contract of Mr. Hamilton being still in force, it was entered in my estimate with the surveys contracted for, and not examined, sanctioned, and paid for by the Surveyor General; but, as there could be no just expectation of his returns being received in a reasonable time, because of the unusual delay which had already characterized the execution of the work, and the consequent doubtfulness in which it was still involved, I did not carry it over to the column of accounts which would probably be presented in the last quarter of 1836, or early in the first quarter of 1837.

On the 17th of November, 1836, I addressed Mr. Hamilton on the subject of this contract, and enclose herewith a copy of my letter, marked A. No answer to this letter has yet been received; but I have good reason to believe that he will be here, with his returns, in the course of the present month.

#### No. 2—CLASS A.

In answer to Mr. Langham's letter of the 29th of January, 1836, to Mr. Stephenson, (a copy of which, numbered 5, was sent to the General Land Office with the report of the 30th January, 1836,) he expected to make his returns in the April following, as you will see by the enclosed copy, marked B, of his letter of the 12th of March, 1836. Mr. Stephenson failed in this expectation; and as so much time had already elapsed, I put him down as a contractor whose surveys had not been sanctioned by the Surveyor General, but did not carry the estimated amount to the column of funds that would probably be wanted in the time there specified; nor could I say whether his field-work was completed or not—having no further information on the subject than is afforded by his aforesaid letter.

#### No. 3—CLASS A.

Under this contract Bennet and Bowen were to survey about 700 miles. Their work returned to the office, and paid for, falls short of this quantity 47 miles; and the unsurveyed exterior lines, designated in their contract,

will amount to something like 60 miles, which was put down as the estimate of the surveying yet to be sanctioned by the Surveyor General; but as they were prohibited, for the present, from surveying the lines which closed to the work of Hamilton and Stephenson, (see the enclosed copy, marked C, of a letter from my predecessor, dated 20th of June, 1835,) and as I had no information in relation to the other lines, which would justify a demand for funds at present to pay therefor, no part was entered in the column set apart for that purpose.

#### No. 4—CLASS A.

Mr. Barcroft was paid by Mr. Langham on the 8th of November, 1834, (as appears by his accounts,) for all the surveying specified in this contract, except the east boundaries of townships 35, 36, 37, 38, and 39 north, range 19 west, and the south boundaries of townships 36, 37, 38, and 39 north, ranges 18 and 19 west.

These township boundaries for which he was not paid, appear, from the field-notes, to have been surveyed in due season; but, owing to a discrepancy between Shields and Barcroft, in closing the above designated south boundaries in range 19, with the line of Shields between ranges 19 and 20 west, an examination thereof was had by Shields and Barcroft conjointly, which resulted in favor of Shields, and showed that Barcroft's measure, though regular, was not according to the standard in use; the said south boundaries in range 19, and the other lines of Barcroft, above specified, were not, therefore, sanctioned and paid for by the Surveyor General.

Mr. Barcroft was still considered as bound, under his contract, for the execution of a proper survey of these lines; their amount was, therefore, estimated and put down with the surveys contracted for, and not examined and sanctioned by the Surveyor General; but as it was unknown to me that the required corrections had been made, or that there was a probability that they would shortly be returned to the office, I did not feel warranted in entering the estimate in the column of moneys now wanted.

Nos. 5, 6, 7, 10, 12, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, and 27, CLASS A,  
and Nos. 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, and 7, CLASS C.

The field-notes of the surveys here estimated for were mostly in the office, and had, in part, been examined. It was understood that the entire field-work authorized by these contracts and instructions had been executed; and that unless, upon examination, some corrections or resurveys should be ordered, no other operations would be required upon the ground; the entire amount of each (except the sums Mr. Langham claimed to have paid) was, therefore, carried to the column of funds now wanted.

#### No. 8—CLASS A.

The amount here estimated on account of Mr. Porter's contract, is all that he had executed at the time of his death; and as Mr. Langham had put all the surveying left unexecuted by said Porter into the hands of Lisbon Applegate, nothing more is to be expected under the contract of Porter. Supposing that the persons entitled to pay for what Mr. Porter had done would present their claim, which would probably be allowed, the amount was put in the column of funds now wanted.

## No. 9—CLASS A.

Under this contract Mr. Robinson was paid by Mr. Langham on the 20th of January, 1836, for surveying the east boundaries of township 58 north, ranges 22 and 23 west; and of townships 59 and 60 north, ranges 22, 23, 24, and 25 west, except of section 12 on the east boundary of township 60 north, range 23; the south boundaries of townships 59 north, ranges 22, 23, and 24 west, and of township 60 north, ranges 22 and 23 west; also, the subdivision lines of townships 59 and 60 north, ranges 22 and 23 west, and of 58, 59, and 60 north, range 24 west. His field-notes of all the other surveying designated in the contract were in the office, but had not been acted upon; it was expected, however, they would be approved: the estimated amount was, therefore, carried to the column of funds now required.

## No. 11—CLASS A.

On the 24th of March, 1836, Lisbon Applegate was paid by Mr. Langham for all the surveys which he contracted for on the 10th of April, 1835, except what he was to do in township 58 north, range 25 west, which had been commenced by Mr. Porter.

It was not expected that Mr. Applegate's returns for this township (58 north, range 25 west) would be made at an early day; his unfinished work was, therefore, put down in the statement, but not carried to the column of funds at present asked for.

## No. 13—CLASS A.

On the 29th of January, 1836, Mr. Langham released Mr. Stansberry from two of the ten townships which he was to survey under this contract; or, rather, left it optional with him to survey but eight, if he thought proper. When my estimate was made, it was not known whether Mr. Stansberry had abandoned two of his townships, under this privilege, or had surveyed to the extent of the contract; the whole amount was, therefore, estimated; and after deducting what had been paid by Mr. Langham, was put in the column of accounts that would probably be presented for payment before the end of the first quarter of 1837. It turns out, however, that Mr. Stansberry has subdivided but eight townships, which reduces the estimate for him \$360, and will bring the whole estimated amount of his surveys to \$2,013, and the estimated amount yet due him to \$1,713.

Mr. Stansberry's surveys are now undergoing examination; and, unless some corrections or resurveys shall be found necessary, no further field operations can be required of him under this contract.

## No. 14—CLASS A.

A part of the field-notes of Mr. Applegate were in the office at the time of my report, and it was thought probable that he had completed the whole of the surveys authorized by his instructions of June, 1835, which, so far as relates to the number of the townships to be subdivided, is contingent upon the quality of the land, and the demand of the settlers in the limits there designated. Although there was some uncertainty as to the number of miles he would survey, the estimate went to the extent of his instructions, in order that no delay might occur for want of funds to pay the accounts when the returns should be handed in, which was expected at an early day. Nothing further

has been heard from him; and it is somewhat uncertain whether he has yet finished all the surveys in question, although he has a subsequent contract, dated the 25th of May, 1836, which it was supposed he was then executing, and you were so informed in my aforesaid report of the 3d day of last November.

#### No. 15—CLASS A.

Mr. Christy had not returned the notes of all his work at the date of my report, but it was understood that he had got through with the field operations. The full estimated amount of what he was authorized to survey, under instructions of the 10th of April, 1835, was therefore put down with the funds now wanted. It turns out, however, from information derived from himself, that he has only completed the surveys which he contracted to execute on the 11th of December, 1834, (No. 4, class C,) and that he has done nothing under the aforesaid instructions of April, 1835; and as there is no obligation, on his part, to execute that work, it is not likely he will now attend thereto, so much time having already elapsed since the returns were to have been made. This sum may, therefore, be deducted from the general aggregate of funds asked for in the estimate.

#### No. 16—CLASS A.

There was every reason, at the date of my estimate, and is now, to expect Mr. Spalding's returns in the course of the present quarter; Mr. Langham had paid or advanced him, under this contract, \$300. [See the accompanying copy of his statement, marked D.] The estimate accords therewith.

#### NOS. 1 AND 2—CLASS B.

It was understood that the field operations, under these contracts, had been completed, except some few corrections which would be required, and which would probably be attended to at an early day; they were, therefore, put with the accounts which would probably be presented during the 4th quarter of 1836, or 1st quarter of 1837.

#### No. 3—CLASS B.

Mr. Smith's contract, of 27th September, 1833, was completed and had been paid for by Mr. Langham, except a few lines in townships 29 and 30 north, range 13 west of the 2d principal meridian, and except, also, the subdivision of fractional townships 28, 29, and 30 north, range 10 west of the 2d principal meridian, which were left unsurveyed because the Surveyor General was unable to furnish him with a copy of the field-notes of the line between Illinois and Indiana adjoining thereto. This failure to furnish the notes in question released Mr. Smith (according to the conditions of his contract) from all obligations to subdivide said three fractional townships; and the notes of the lines in the two first above named townships were in the office; the said lines in townships 29 and 30 north, range 13 west, were, therefore, estimated and carried to the column of funds now wanted; but the subdivision of the three townships, from which he was released, was not taken into consideration.

## No. 4—CLASS B.

The same cause which prevented Mr. Smith (No. 3, class B) from subdividing townships 28, 29, and 30 north, range 10 west of the 2d principal meridian, prevented the survey of townships 31 and 32 north, range 15 east of the 3d principal meridian, by Mr. Beckwith. There is also unfinished, of Mr. Beckwith's contract, the line between sections 13 and 24 south of the Kankakee, township 31 north, range 14 east of the 3d principal meridian; and the meanders of the south bank of the Kankakee through said sections 13 and 24. The balance of this contract of Mr. Beckwith had been paid for by Mr. Langham. The full estimate for the unfinished work was entered in the table; but, as Mr. Beckwith died without having completed the contract, the amount was not carried to the column of funds now wanted.

## No. 3—CLASS C.

Mr. Montgomery, it was expected at the time of my report, was out completing his contract; subsequent information, however, gives no reason to expect his entire returns before some time next summer, he having been prevented, by high waters and other unavoidable circumstances, from carrying on his field operations during the greater part of the last surveying season.

Of the surveying that he has already completed, he will only be paid at present for his township boundary lines, which come to about one-fourth of the amount asked for on his account; the estimate may therefore be reduced accordingly.

I have here given you a full account of the condition of the several contracts for surveying the public lands embraced in my report, and which are believed to be all that Mr. Langham had entered into that had not been completed and fully paid for by himself.

It is my understanding that the sums placed in the fifth columns of the lists A, B, and C, accompanying that report, include all the sums that Mr. Langham claims to have paid on the surveys there estimated for. The information which leads to this understanding is derived from a comparison of the vouchers of Mr. Langham, on file in this office, with the contracts and surveys, and from the enclosed copy of Mr. Langham's statement marked D, and which is the same I said in my letter of the 2d of November had been received by the principal clerk from Mr. Langham, in my absence.

You next call my attention to an important omission in my letter asking a remittance, &c., and say that I have omitted to assign the reasons why the application is made, when, at the same time, my predecessor *has* in his hands the means which were intended to meet those demands, remitted, according to his request, for that purpose. If no better reason could be given, I might only state that I had not been apprized that he had any such means in his hands; but there is a very obvious reason, which is paramount to all others, namely: The surveyors have executed their work according to contract, and are therefore entitled to their pay from the Government, regardless of any funds which Mr. Langham may withhold.

I will further remark, that my receipt to Mr. Langham of the 26th of September, 1836, which he transmitted to the General Land Office on that day, will show that no funds were transferred or turned over to me.

Mr. Langham has vouchers on file here for a large amount for surveying public lands; but whether they, together with his salary accounts, and accounts for other expenses, will come up to the balance which the Treasury books exhibit against him, is more than I can say. Be that as it may, however, the deputy surveyors have just claims on the Government, which ought at once to be discharged.

This communication has been delayed until now, under the expectation that Mr. Langham would forward his final account with the Government, and thereby satisfy the department as to the extent of his indebtedness, and of the manner in which he has expended the money appropriated for special purposes, which appear to be the principal difficulties in the way of transmitting funds to meet the present demands against this office.

Much uncertainty as to when Mr. Langham may attend to this business still continuing, I concluded to wait his movements no longer.

In addition to the information before given on the subject of the surveying contracts, it is proper to state that the office is considerably in arrears for stationery, rent, postage, fuel, and other contingencies necessary to keep it in operation; all, except for fuel, going further back than my administration of its affairs; the rent due before I took possession, and which was not included in my estimate, being for one quarter, (the 3d of 1836,) as per the account marked E, and enclosed herewith.

I am, sir, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

DANIEL DUNKLIN.

To the COMMISSIONER

Of the General Land Office, Washington City.

A.

SURVEYOR'S OFFICE,

St. Louis, November 11, 1836.

SIR: An act of Congress approved 3d of March, 1835, appropriates \$500 for surveying the lots in the town of Peoria, in the State of Illinois, as authorized by the act of the 3d of March, 1823; and I find on file in this office, the field-notes of an imperfect survey, by you, of the lots confirmed in said town by the aforesaid act of Congress of 1823.

It is now necessary that the survey be closed; I have therefore to request that you let me know, without delay, whether you wish to go on with the work; and if you do, whether you can attend thereto forthwith. You will also please to inform me what is the condition of the surveys you engaged to execute on the 19th day of July, 1833, and when your returns may be expected.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

DANIEL DUNKLIN.

To WILLIAM S. HAMILTON, Esq.

There is enclosed, herewith, for Mr. Hamilton's information, an extract from Mr. Langham's report of January last, and also an extract from the Commissioner's letter of the same month. The Commissioner's instructions

were not carried into effect by Mr. Langham, and it is hoped that Mr. Hamilton will obviate the necessity of any further proceedings in the business contemplated thereby.

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B.

GALENA, *March 12, 1836.*

SIR: I have been denied the pleasure of acknowledging the receipt of yours of the 29th ultimo, because of ill health. The one to which you allude as having been addressed to me on the 3d of November, was duly received, and replied to some time in December. I regret it did not reach you, as it embraced the reason for the delay referred to, as well as stated the time when my returns would probably be presented. The returns of the surveys committed to my charge have been delayed because of some difficulty between Colonel Hamilton and myself, in relation to our closures on the range line between ranges 5 and 6; which line, you will recollect, was made to control the surveys on either side. This difficulty (quite probably) would have resulted in the rejection of a large portion of his or my work. Under this state of fact, we deemed it advisable to renew so much of our work, and correct the errors wherever they might be found. Although we had frequently set the time to make this re-examination, we did not succeed in effecting it until this winter, and then through the agency of a third deputy, chosen by agreement. Indeed, such has been my rheumatic, nervous, and other afflictions ever since the commencement of cold weather, that I have not been able to attend to the daily operations of my office.

I had thought (as was stated in my last) that I would be down in February; now, as there is no present prospect of early navigation, I cannot be down before April, when I expect to make my returns.

Most respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

J. W. STEPHENSON.

HON. ELIAS T. LANGHAM, *Surveyor General.*

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C.

SURVEYOR'S OFFICE,

*St. Louis, June 26, 1835.*

SIR: Mr. Hamilton having delayed the return of his work beyond expectations, and also failed or neglected to account therefor by letter or otherwise, it has become a matter of doubt what are his intentions in relation thereto, and I am undetermined what course it will become my duty to pursue with regard to his and Mr. Stephenson's contracts. I cannot, however, permit any surveys to be based on either of their lines at present, for reasons which existed when you were last at this office, and of which you must have been aware when you applied, in your letter above referred to, for permission to obtain Mr. Hamilton's notes, and to close your surveys to his lines.

I am, very respectfully, sir,

Your obedient servant,

E. T. LANGHAM.

To CHARLES R. BENNET, Esq., *Galena, Illinois.*

D.

*Memorandum of advances to deputy surveyors on work now in the surveyor's office and not paid for :*

E. Barcroft	-	-	-	-	-	\$1,200 00
J. C. Brown	-	-	-	-	-	2,580 00
W. L. D. Ewing	-	-	-	-	-	1,823 38
D. A. Spaulding	-	-	-	-	-	300 00

As I cannot ascertain, until I see Mr. Stansberry, how much money I have advanced to him, it will be proper to include the whole amount of his work in the estimate you are about to forward to Washington.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

E. T. LANGHAM.

Major MILBURN.

E.

ST. LOUIS, *January 14, 1837.*

*The United States, to* SAMUEL WILLI, *Dr.*

To rent of office for surveyor of public lands in Illinois and Missouri, from the 1st day of July to the 30th day of September, (both inclusive,) 1836, three months, at \$400 00 per annum (one hundred dollars) - \$100 00

SAMUEL WILLI.

Signed duplicates.

ST. LOUIS, *January 14, 1837.*

The above account is correct, the office having been kept in the house of Mr. Willi during the period and at the rate there charged.

E. T. LANGHAM.



CLASS A.

STATEMENT of the surveys contracted for and authorized by instructions under the general appropriations for surveying public lands, and which have not been examined, sanctioned, and fully paid for, by the Surveyor General; and showing the estimated amount that will be wanted to adjust the accounts which will probably be presented during the present quarter, and early in the first quarter of 1837.

Names of contracting deputy surveyors, and of persons authorized to execute surveys under instructions.	Dates of contracts and instructions.	Estimated amount of the surveys not examined and sanctioned by the Surveyor General:		Dollars advanced by Mr. Langham.	Estimated amount of dollars unpaid.	Estimated amount of acc'ls which will probably be presented during the present q'r, or early in the 1st quarter of 1837.
		Miles.	Dollars.			
1. William J. Hamilton -	19th July, - 1833	890	2,400	-	2,400	
2. James W. Stephenson -	18th August, - 1833	790	2,100	-	2,100	
3. Charles R. Bennet, and Luther H. Brown -	2d September, - 1833	60	180	-	180	
4. Elias Barcroft -	12th October, - 1833	78	234	-	234	
5. Joseph C. Brown -	10th June, - 1833	1,004	3,012	2,580	432	\$432
6. Joseph C. Brown -	10th February, - 1834	35	105	-	105	105
7. Elias Barcroft -	8th November, - 1834	25 $\frac{43}{100}$	106 31	-	106 31	106 31
8. John R. Porter -	9th October, - 1834	45 $\frac{6}{100}$	135 24	-	135 24	135 24
9. John M. Robinson -	24th October, - 1833	120	360	-	360	360
10. John M. Robinson -	15th October, - 1834	252	756	-	756	756
11. Lisbon Applegate -	10th April, - 1835	16	48	-	48	
12. Edward McDonald -	3d April, - 1835	248 $\frac{44}{100}$	745 34	-	745 34	745 34
13. Erskine Stansberry -	3d April, - 1835	791	2,373	300	2,073	2,073
14. Jesse Applegate -	June, - 1835	528	1,584	-	1,584	1,584
15. E. T. Christy -	10th April, - 1835	300	900	-	900	900
16. D. A. Spaulding -	9th June, - 1835	890	2,400	300	2,100	2,100

17. Joseph C. Brown	21st September, - 1835 Surveying and connecting private claims with public surveys, in Missouri, under instructions of 1835 and 1836.	4	12	-	12	12
18. James Finley -		130	390	-	390	390
19. Isaac Woods -						
20. George C. Harbison						
21. William Bartlett						
22. John Rodney -	Correcting some surveys in Illinois bounty tract, in 1836.	60	180	-	180	180
23. Allen Pirmeyer						
24. J. W. Brattle -						
25. Hans Patton -						
26. J. D. Manlove						
27. Charles R. Bennet	1836	60	180	-	180	180
		6,086 $\frac{95}{100}$	18,260 89	3,180	15,080 89	10,118 89

Making an estimated aggregate of \$10,118 89, which will be wanted to adjust the accounts that will probably be presented and allowed during the current quarter, and early in the first quarter of 1837.

CLASS B.

*STATEMENT of the surveys contracted for under the appropriation of twenty thousand dollars for surveying the lands in Illinois to which the Indian title was extinguished by the treaty with the Potawattamies of the 20th of October, 1832, and ratified on the 11th of January, 183 ; and which have not been examined, sanctioned, and paid for, by the surveyor general. (See pages 44 and 45 of the acts of the 2d session of the 22d Congress, for the appropriation, and page 1 of the appendix to said acts, for the treaty.)*

Names of contrac'ors.	Date of contracts.	Estimated amounts of the surveys not examined and sanctioned by the surveyor general.		Dollars advanced by Mr. Langham.	Estimated amount of dollars unpaid.	Estimate of what it is supposed will be wanted during the present 4th quarter of 1836, or early in the 1st quarter of 1837.
		Miles.	Amount.			
1. Enoch Moore - - -	12th August, 1833	708	\$2,124 00	-	\$2,124 00	\$2,124 00
2. William J. D. Ewing - - -	15th August, 1833	750	2,250 00	\$1,823 38	426 62	426 62
3. Edward Smith - - -	27th Sept., 1833	9 <sup>5.7</sup> / <sub>100</sub>	28 72	-	28 72	28 72
4. Daniel W. Beckwith - - -	29th Oct., 1833	32	96 00	-	96 00	
		1,499 <sup>5.7</sup> / <sub>100</sub>	4,498 72	1,823 38	2,675 34	2,579 34

Making an estimated aggregate of \$2,579 34, which will be wanted to adjust the accounts that will probably be presented and allowed during the present quarter, and early in the first quarter of 1837.

CLASS C.

*STATEMENT of the surveys contracted for under the appropriation of twenty thousand dollars for surveying a portion of the public lands in the southwestern part of the State of Missouri, to which the Indian title was extinguished in 1832, and which have not been examined, sanctioned, and paid for, by the surveyor general. (See page 59 of the acts of the 1st session of the 23d Congress, for the appropriation.)*

Names of contracting deputy surveyors, and of persons authorized to execute surveys under instructions.	Dates of contracts and instructions.	Estimated amounts of the surveys not examined and sanctioned by the surveyor general.		Dollars advanced by Mr. Langham.	Estimated amo'n'ts of acco'n'ts which will probably be presented during the present qr., or early in the 1st qr. of 1837,
		Miles.	Amount.		
1. Elias Barcroft - - -	6th November, 1834 - - -	792	\$2,376 00	\$1,200 00	\$1,176 00
2. Jesse Applegate - - -	16th November, 1834 - - -	414	1,242 00	-	1,242 00
3. Joseph Montgomery - - -	9th and 27th December, 1834 - - -	762	2,286 00	-	2,286 00
4. E. T. Christy - - -	11th December, 1834 - - -	774	2,322 00	-	2,322 00
5. William Drinker - - -	23d December, 1834 - - -	762	2,286 00	-	2,286 00
6. R. T. Holliday - - -	2d April, 1835 - - -	762	2,286 00	-	2,286 00
7. Edward McDonald - - -	3d April, 1835 - - -	513 $\frac{5.5}{100}$	1,540 66	-	1,540 66
		4,779 $\frac{5.5}{100}$	14,338 66	1,200 00	13,138 66

Making an aggregate of \$13,138 66, which it is estimated will be wanted to pay the accounts that will probably be presented and allowed during the current quarter, and early in the first quarter of 1837.