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Memorial of the Legislature of Michigan, relative to certain land grants and surveys in said state

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LAND GRANTS IN MICHIGAN.

MEMORIAL

OF

THE LEGISLATURE OF MICHIGAN,

RELATIVE

To certain land grants and surveys in said State.

Referred to the Committee on Private Land Claims, and ordered to be printed.

To the honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled:

The memorial of the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Michigan respectfully represents, that at an early day Congress passed an act granting certain donations of land to actual residents or inhabitants of the then Territory of Michigan. The population of Michigan at that time was generally comprised of French Canadians, who were unacquainted with our forms of government, and very generally strangers to our language, but, as time has proved, have made most excellent citizens. But at the time referred to, they, by common consent and for mutual safety against the Indian tribes inhabiting the peninsula, located their respective farms with narrow fronts—some three, others four, and some six arpents in front, by forty arpents in depth; and when the government of the United States caused these lands to be surveyed, the survey was made and the patents issued in accordance with the original location, with the exception of a district of country bordering on Lake St. Clair. In this district the United States surveyor, from some cause which has never been explained to those inhabitants who made their location on Lake St. Clair, granted certificates of survey according to the original location, but when patents were issued for the land, it was found that the patent called for about one-third less than the certificate of location; that is to say, when the certificate called for three arpents in front and forty in depth, the patent issued for three arpents in front and twenty-two in depth—making a difference of sixty-six acres. Therefore, your memorialists ask that Congress would cause this matter to be investigated by the surveyor general for the district of Michigan, that justice may be awarded in the premises.

Your memorialists would further represent, that by an act of Congress back concessions, as they are called, were granted to the inhabitants residing on the Detroit river. This was done in consideration of the nar-

row fronts of their farms, which concessions are equal in all cases to the number of acres in the original tract or farm. And inasmuch as no good reason can be assigned why this liberal donation of the government should not be extended to all whose farms are similarly situated, your memorialists respectfully ask that the provisions and benefits of said act may be extended accordingly.

Resolved; That the governor be, and he hereby is, requested to forward a copy of this memorial, under the great seal of the State, to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled.

J. G. HARRIS,

Speaker House of Representatives.

WM. N. FENTON,

President of the Senate.

Approved February 28, 1850.

[SEAL.]

JNO. S. BARRY.

A true copy.

R. R. GIBSON,

Deputy Secretary of State.