

Reclame.

I, Jaques Porlier, hereby enter my claim to two tracts of land, Nos. 21 and 22, on the east side of the river at Green Bay, containing each ten chains, fifty links, and eight chains in front, and in depth three hundred and sixty chains, bounded by J. B. Laborde on the north, and ———.

J. PORLIER.

Witness: ROBERT IRWIN, Jr.

Moi, J. B. Lemoine, certifie que le clame de Jaques Porlier, No. 21 et 22, sur le côte este de la rivière de la Baye Verte a été acheté par moi à lui, qui en avait fait l'improvement, et cultivé par moi depuis dix-huit cent cinq jusqu'à ce jour.

J. B. ^{his} + LEMOINE.
mark.

Sworn and subscribed to before me, at Green Bay, this 15th day of September, A. D. 1823.

ROBERT IRWIN, JR., J. P.

Je, J. B. Broder, certifie que le clame de Jaques Porlier, No. 21 et 22, sur le côte este de la rivière de la Baye Verte a été acheté par J. B. Lemoine de ce lui qui en avait fait le improvement et cultivé soit par lui que par ses successeurs depuis dix-huit cent cinq jusqu'à ce jour.

J. B. ^{his} + BRODER.
mark.

Sworn and subscribed to before me, at Green Bay, this 15th day of September, 1823.

ROBERT IRWIN, JR., J. P.

DETROIT, *November 1, 1823.*

On consideration of the preceding claim, the commissioners decide that the same be confirmed, the lot No. 22, subject to any claim which Louis Bourdon or others may have upon it; and provided that said lots do not extend more than eighty arpents from front to rear.

The commissioners appointed under the act of Congress approved February 21, 1823, entitled "An act to revive and continue in force certain acts for the adjustment of land claims in the Territory of Michigan," do certify that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript from their original journal of proceedings on claims to lands at Green Bay, within this Territory. In testimony whereof, we have subscribed our signatures.

WILLIAM WOODBRIDGE.
J. KEARSLEY.
JOHN BIDDLE.

BOOK NO. 2.

Report concerning the second concessions under the act of May 11, 1820.

The undersigned have the honor to transmit an abstract of their decisions upon claims for back concessions upon the straits of Detroit.

A reference to the map which the board have caused to be made, and upon which the claims for second concessions have been protracted, will exhibit sufficiently, perhaps, the nature, location, and extent of the tracts confirmed. These will appear in many instances to be of very irregular shape, and in some to be even in detached parts. Some explanation of this circumstance may be deemed requisite.

The shore of the river Detroit, like that of most rivers, presents an extremely irregular front—in some places jutting in advancing points, in others marked by varied indents more or less deep. The fronts of the old farms appear to have been immemorially defined with sufficient precision, while the lateral lines have, from times equally ancient perhaps, been occasionally subjects of uncertainty and dispute. The rear lines have seldom been marked by any established boundary.

The decisions of land boards, constituted prior to 1820, confirming these old farms, described them, necessarily, perhaps, as bounding *one* upon the *other*, without prescribing either course or distance; and thus indefinite they were put into the hands of the appointed surveyor.

To have run the lateral lines of these farms at right angles with a line which should have corresponded with the general course of the river would doubtless have rendered more general satisfaction, and more universally have insured justice; yet even upon *such* plan difficulties would have been found, but *no fixed* rule seems to have been pursued. Mr. Greely, the surveyor appointed, was a man of general talents, and of much skill in his profession; but his surveys caused, in many instances, bitter dissatisfaction, and there can be no doubt that frequent injustice was done. It often occurred that without any cause founded in the particular justice of the case, or in the ascertainment of *fixed lateral* boundaries, the oblique lateral lines of one man's farm (giving him the whole quantity in which he may have been confirmed) were so run as to diminish perhaps one-half the contents of a half a dozen equally meritorious and confirmed claims in the neighborhood: nevertheless, these surveys, as made by Mr. Greely, were afterwards qualifiedly established by Congress, (see vol. 4, p. 412, U. S. L.) The soundest principles of policy may, perhaps, have required it; and perhaps, too, it might have been because the interests of this Territory were not, in anywise at the time, represented in Congress, and cases of individual hardship, resulting from the manner of the surveys, unknown and unthought of at Washington.

Notwithstanding the establishment of these surveys, it is not denied but that considerations alluded to had weight with the commissioners. Further confirmations were made, and second concessions were allowed of larger extent in some cases than if such injustice had not been done. It was next considered