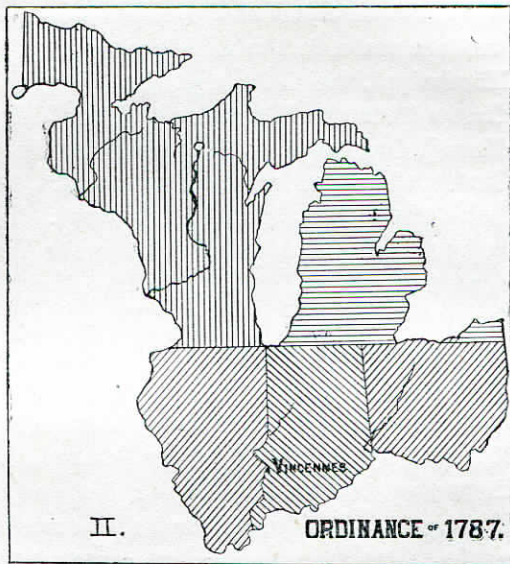


amendment. The original draft¹ has come down to us in history, famous, among other features, for Jefferson's fantastic proposition to divide the Northwest, on parallels of latitude, into ten states with severely classical names: Sylvania, Michigania, Assenisipia, Illinoia, Polypotamia, Chersonesus, Metropotamia, Saratoga, Pelisipia and Washington. While congress practically accepted his system of territorial division, his proposed names were rejected, and each section was left to choose its own title when it should enter the lists of the union.²

These resolutions of April 23, 1784, were in force until July 13, 1787, when the congress of the confederation, in session at Philadelphia, adopted "an ordinance for the government of the territory of the United States northwest of the river Ohio." What now became familiarly known as the Northwest Territory lay



west of Pennsylvania and north and west of the Ohio river; its western limit was the Mississippi river, which had been established by the treaty of Paris, February 10, 1763, as the boundary between the British possessions and the French province of Louisiana, and confirmed as the western boundary of the United States by our treaty with Great Britain, September 3, 1783; the northern limit was the line between British America and the United States. The land

¹ The draught of the committee's report, in the handwriting of Jefferson, may still be seen at Washington, in the archives of the department of state.

² See *ante*, p. 61, for full text of the resolutions, as adopted.