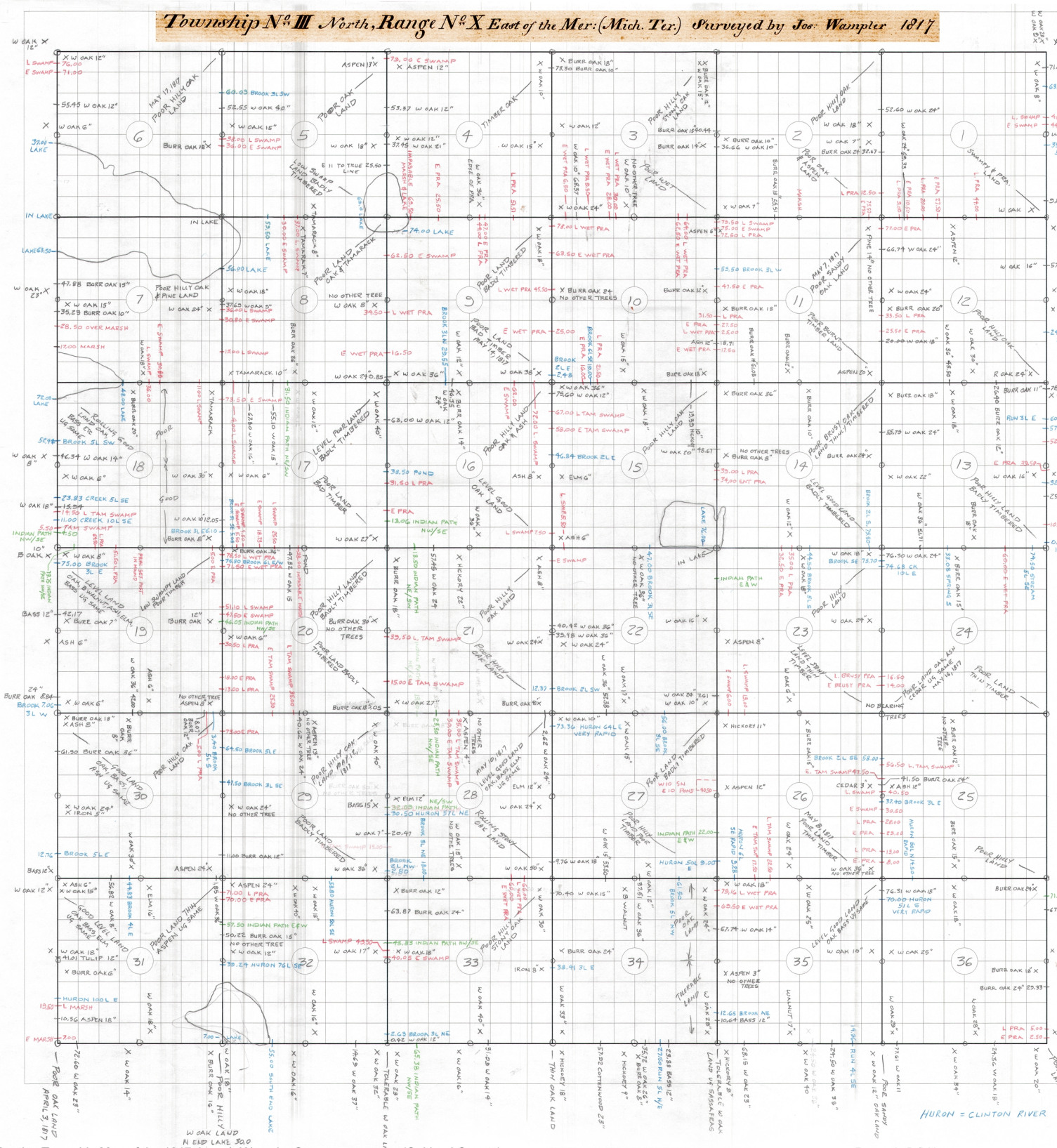


Pontiac Township Map of the 1817 Joseph Wampler Survey (Oakland County)
Drawn & annotated by Robert Muller 2019

This map of a Township is drawn from the 1817 U. S. surveyor notes. These maps were made to make a visual description of the land as they were recorded. A township is a square, six miles on a side, divided into 36 sections of one square mile. The Numbers in the center circles indicate the section number. Sections were numbered top to bottom, east to west, drop down one mile; west to east, drop down; east to west, and so on. All townships are numbered this way. The original surveyor notes are available for primary source research.

Surveyors marked the corners and 1/2 mile points along the section lines by placing a post. Two trees had to be identified with their diameter at each post. These trees were northeast, northwest, southwest or southeast of a post. In this map an X is placed in the area where the trees were recorded at each post. If a tree was on the section line it was identified and its diameter recorded. They also had to make a comment on the land type and type of trees at the end of each survey run along a section line. These are on the map with a line pointing to the corner where it occurred in the survey notes.
Within these descriptions, UG designates undergrowth (The small trees or shrubs found under the forest canopy.)

Numbers along section lines show measurements in the Günter's Chain (and Link) a system.
A *chain* is 66 feet long, and a *link* is 7.92 inches long.
There are 100 links in a chain and 80 chains in one mile.
For example: the survey notes list a measurement as "5.32", or 5 chains and 32 links. 5 chains equals 330 feet, and 32 links equals 21.12 feet, or 351 feet and 2 inches (or thereabouts).

**TREES,** and **LAND DESCRIPTIONS:** Marked in Black
**CHANGING LAND TYPES:** Marked in Red - forests, prairies, swamps etc.
**RIVERS, STREAMS, CREEKS** or **RUNS:** Marked in Blue
Example: STREAM 7L SE = A stream 7 links wide and flowing southeast.
**INDIAN PATHS:** Marked in Green
Example:
INDIAN PATH SE & NW = the trail ran in a southeast and northwest direction.

**ABBREVIATIONS** and changes from survey notes:
BASS = Basswood (Lynn in Survey Notes)
BURR OAK = (B Oak in survey)
BUTTERNUT = (White Walnut in survey)
B ASH = Black Ash
B. WALNUT = Black Walnut
CEDAR = (Cypress in survey)
ENT= enter
HAZEL = Witch-Hazel
IRON = Ironwood, Hop Hornbeam
MAPLE = Soft Maple ( Silver, Red)
PIN OAK = (Spanish Oak in survey)

**Topography Definitions:**
**Prairie:** land without trees, grass lands. A Prairie can be dry or wet (Marsh)
**Brushy Prairies:** no trees but there are brushy shrubs.
**Swamp:** wet forested land. Cedar, Tamarack, Willow swamps etc.
**Plains:** high dry land.
**Barren:** a savannah, a scattering of trees with a prairie beneath them (Oak Openings)

PRA = Prairie
P. ASH = Prickly Ash
R. OAK = Red Oak
SPICE = Spice Bush
SUGAR = Sugar Maple
SW= swamp
SWAMP OAK = Swamp White Oak
TAM = Tamarack
TULIP = Tuliptree (Poplar in survey notes)
W. ASH = White Ash
W. OAK = White Oak

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