



West Bloomfield Township Map of the 1817 Samuel Carpenter Survey (Oakland County) Drawn & annotated by Robert Muller 2018

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. On 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 Gunter'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 = Fricky 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