

George W. Jones, Surveyor General for Wisconsin and Iowa, 1840 - 1849



George W. Jones approved and signed the township plats (maps) that now make up Washington County, Minnesota. In 1847-48, the subject land was all part of Wisconsin Territory in the Fourth Principal Meridian Survey. Jones worked with his staff at the Surveyor General's Office in Dubuque, Iowa to produce township plats to be used for the sale and distribution of land.

Township plats were produced from field surveys made by Deputy Surveyors working with a solar compass and a 66 foot Gunter's chain. They laid out 6-mile by 6-mile square townships, which were further divided into one-mile square sections of land. Known today as the United States Public Land Survey, this system is the foundation of land ownership.