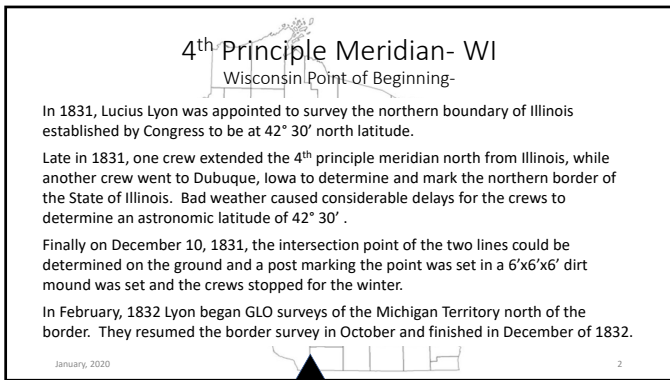
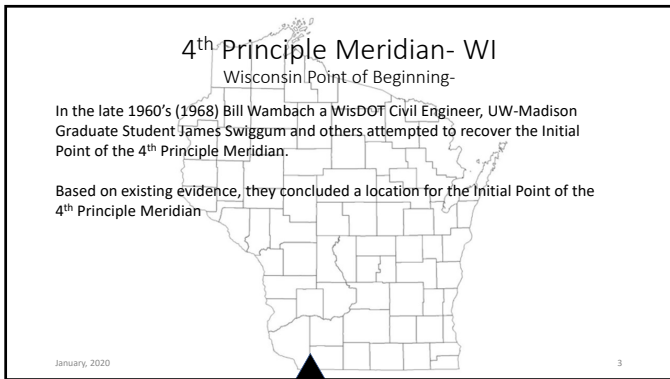


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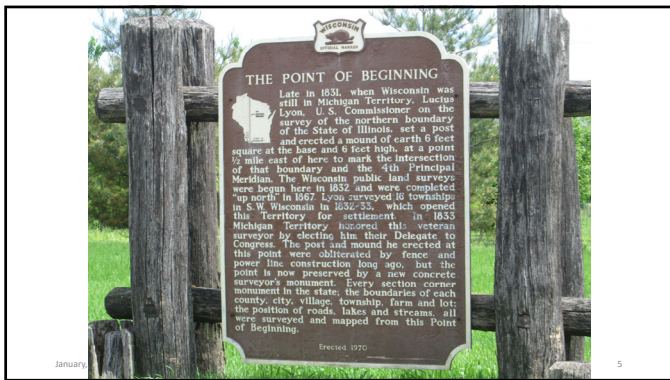
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Facts to Consider

- Wisconsin State boundary is defined in The Congressional Enabling Act and repeated in Article 2 of the WI State Constitution
- Counties boundaries are defined in Chapter 2 of the Wisconsin State Statutes
- Counties can only be created and merged/abolished by the Legislature per article 4 of the constitution.
- Depending on the date, Wisconsin counties were created by the Michigan Territorial Legislature (1818–1836), the Wisconsin Territorial Legislature (1836–1848), or the Wisconsin State Legislature (after 1848).


6

State boundary is defined in The Congressional Enabling Act and repeated in Article 2 of the WI State Constitution

CHAP. LXXXIX. -An Act to enable the People of Wisconsin Territory to form a Constitution and State Government, and for the Admission of such State into the Union.
Session 1 of the 29th Congress August 6, 1846

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the people of the Territory of Wisconsin be, and they are hereby, authorized to form a constitution and State government, for the purpose of being admitted into the Union on an equal footing with the original States in all respects whatsoever, by the name of the State of Wisconsin, with the following boundaries, to wit:

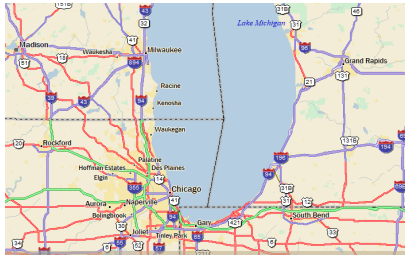
Beginning at the north-east corner of the State of Illinois- that is to say, at a point in the centre of Lake Michigan where the line of forty-two degrees and thirty minutes of north latitude crosses the same; thence running with the boundary line of the State of Michigan, through Lake Michigan, Green Bay, to the mouth of the Menomonic River;



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State boundary is defined in The Congressional Enabling Act and repeated in Article 2 of the WI State Constitution




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State boundary is defined in The Congressional Enabling Act and repeated in Article 2 of the WI State Constitution

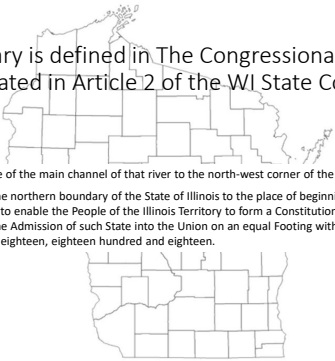
thence up the channel of said river to the Brule River;
 thence up said last mentioned river to Lake Brule;
 thence along the southern shore of Lake Brule in a direct line to the centre of the channel between Middle and South Islands, in the Lake of the Desert; thence in a direct line to the head-waters of the Montreal River, as marked upon the survey made by Captain Cramm;
 thence down the main channel of the Montreal River to the middle of Lake Superior;
 thence through the centre of Lake Superior to the mouth of the St. Louis River;
 thence up the main channel of said river to the first rapids in the same, above the Indian village, according to Nicollet's map;
 thence due south to the main branch of the River St. Croix; thence down the main channel of said river to the Mississippi;



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State boundary is defined in The Congressional Enabling Act and repeated in Article 2 of the WI State Constitution



thence down the centre of the main channel of that river to the north-west corner of the State of Illinois; thence due east with the northern boundary of the State of Illinois to the place of beginning, as established by "An Act to enable the People of the Illinois Territory to form a Constitution and State Government, and for the Admission of such State into the Union on an equal Footing with the original States," approved April eighteen, eighteen hundred and eighteen.

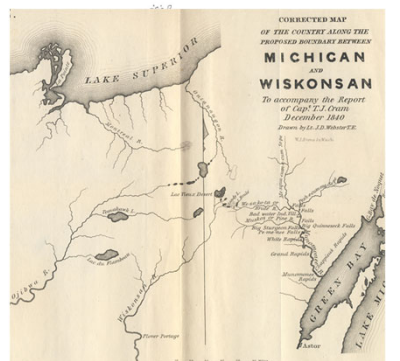
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CORRECTED MAP
OF THE QUARTER ALONG THE
PROPOSED BOUNDARY BETWEEN
MICHIGAN
AND
WISCONSIN
To accompany the Report
of Sept. 25 from
December 1840
GIVEN BY SEN. BRADDOCK

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From Polk County Government History Website

What Could Have Been

Wisconsin was admitted in 1848 as the fifth and last state of the old Northwest Territory, set up by the Ordinance of 1787.

When Illinois achieved statehood in 1818, Wisconsin lost 61 miles off the southern border, a band that extends West from the shore of Lake Michigan to the Mississippi River and includes Chicago, Freeport, Rockford and Galena.

In 1848, when Michigan was admitted to statehood, the whole Upper Peninsula was included with Michigan against their will. It had been pledged to Wisconsin by an artificial boundary.

In 1848, when the St. Croix River was fixed as our Western State line, as well as the Western border of St. Croix County, we lost to Minnesota the large triangular tract between the St. Croix and Mississippi rivers, an area that today includes most of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

From Polk County website, retrieved 1/28/2020

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What Could Have Been

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Counties are defined in Chapter 2 of the Wisconsin State Statues

CHAPTER 2


DIVISION OF THE STATE INTO COUNTIES, AND THEIR BOUNDARIES

201 County boundaries. The state is divided into the counties hereinafter named, and they are respectively bounded as follows, to-wit:

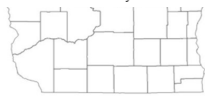
- ADAMS: Beginning at the southeast corner of township 14, of range 7 east of the 4th principal meridian, and running thence north on the range line to the northeast corner of township 20, range 7 east, thence west on the township line to the center of the main channel of the Wisconsin River, thence easterly along the main channel of said river to the township line between townships 13 and 14, thence east on the township line to the place of beginning.
- ASHLAND: Beginning at the southwest corner of township 41 north, of range 4 west of the 4th principal meridian, and running thence north on the range line between ranges 4 and 5 west to the south end of Long Island Bay, on Lake Superior, thence northerly along the center of said bay to the center of the channel known as the Bay of La Pointe, thence northerly, following the center of the watercourse between the main land and the Apostle Islands, and passing east of Raspberry Island, to the state line, thence easterly and northerly along the state line, to the center of Lake Superior, thence southwesterly to the northwest corner of township 47 north, of range one west, thence south on the range line between ranges one and 2 west, to the southwest corner of township 48 north of range one west, thence east along the township line to the southeast corner of said township 48 north, of range one west, thence south on the range line to the southeast corner of township 41 north, of range one east, thence east along the township line to the southeast corner of said township 41 north, of range one east, thence south along the range line to the southeast corner of township 41 north, of range one east, thence west on the township line to the place of beginning.
- BAYVIEW: Beginning at the southwest corner of township 12, of range 14 west of the meridian aforesaid, running thence east on the township line to the southeast corner of township 12, of range 10 west, thence north on the range line to the northeast corner of township 16, of range 10 west, thence west on the township line to the northwest corner of township 16, of range 14 west, thence south on the range line to the place of beginning.
- BAYFIELD: Beginning at the southeast corner of township 41, of range 9 west of the meridian aforesaid, and running thence east on the township line to the range line between ranges 4 and 5 west, thence north on said range line to the south end of Long Island Bay on Lake Superior, thence northerly along the center of said bay to the center of the channel known as the Bay of LaPointe, thence southerly, following the center of the watercourse between the main land and the Apostle Islands, passing east of Raspberry Island to the state line, thence southerly along the state line to a point where the range line between ranges 9 and 10 west, when extended, intersects the state line to said last named range line to the place of beginning.
- BROWN: Beginning at the southeast corner of township 22, of range 22 east of the meridian aforesaid, and running thence north on the range line to the point where said range line intersects the east shore of Green Bay, thence northerly along the east shore of said bay to a point where the township line between townships 22 and 26 intersect the shore of said bay, thence west on said township line to the southeast corner of fractional section 31, in township 26, of range 19 east, thence north on the section line to the quarter post between fractional sections 31 and section 32 in township 26, of range 19 east, thence west on the quarter section line to the center post of section 36, in township 26, of range 19 east, thence south on quarter section line to the southwest corner of the southwest one-sixteenth in the southeast one-quarter of section one, in township 25, of range 18 east, thence east on sixteenth section line to a point 825 feet west of the range line between sections one, in township 25, of range 18 east, and section 6, in township 25, of range 19 east, thence north 264 feet, thence east 825 feet to the range line, thence south on the range line

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Counties are defined in Chapter 2 of the
Wisconsin State Statutes



- 2.01 County boundaries.
- 2.02 Construction of boundary descriptions.
- 2.03 Jurisdiction of counties on boundary streams.
- 2.04 Jurisdiction of counties on boundary lakes and state boundary waters.
- 2.05 Brown County records.
- 2.06 Records of Iron and Forest counties.
- 2.07 Transcribed records of Rusk County.
- 2.08 Transcribed records of Menominee County.




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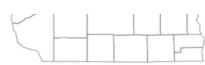
16

Counties are defined in Chapter 2 of the
Wisconsin State Statutes

2.02 Construction of boundary descriptions.
Whenever the boundary line of any county is described as running north or south on any range line, or east or west on any township line, the said boundary line shall be deemed to run on such lines as are established by the United States survey, making such offsets, where said range lines and township lines are not continuous straight lines, as are made by such United States surveys.



2.03 Jurisdiction of counties on boundary streams.
Whenever 2 counties are separated from each other by a river or a creek, the middle of the main channel of such river or creek shall be the division line between them, unless otherwise provided in the description of the boundaries of such counties. The counties so separated shall have common jurisdiction of all offenses committed on the waters between them, and all writs and process issued in any such county may be executed at any place on the waters of such river or creek opposite the county from which it was issued.


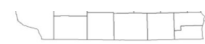


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Counties are defined in Chapter 2 of the
Wisconsin State Statutes


2.04 Jurisdiction of counties on boundary lakes and state boundary waters.
The counties now or hereafter organized upon the westerly shore of Lake Michigan shall have jurisdiction in common of all offenses committed on the lake.
The counties now or hereafter organized on the shores of Green Bay shall have jurisdiction in common of all offenses committed on Green Bay.
The counties now or hereafter organized on the southerly shore of Lake Superior shall have jurisdiction in common of all offenses committed on the lake.
The counties now or hereafter organized on the easterly shore of the Mississippi River shall have jurisdiction in common of all offenses committed on the river.
The counties now or hereafter organized on the shores of Lake Winnebago shall have jurisdiction in common of all offenses committed on any part of the lake.
The counties now or hereafter organized on the easterly shore of the St. Croix River or lake shall have jurisdiction in common of all offenses committed on any part of the river or lake


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Counties are defined in Chapter 2 of the Wisconsin State Statutes




2.05 Brown County records.
The record in Brown County, made prior to January 1, 1840, of any such conveyance or instrument mentioned in s. 889.17, affecting lands situated in any other county at the time such record was made and duly certified copies thereof, shall be received in evidence with the same effect as if the same had been duly recorded in the county where the land was situated...



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Counties are defined in Chapter 2 of the Wisconsin State Statutes



2.06 Records of Iron and Forest counties. The records of Iron and Forest counties, which have been or may be transcribed from the original records of other counties, ... shall be received in all courts as prima facie evidence of the matters therein contained in the same manner as now provided by law for the reception of record evidence...

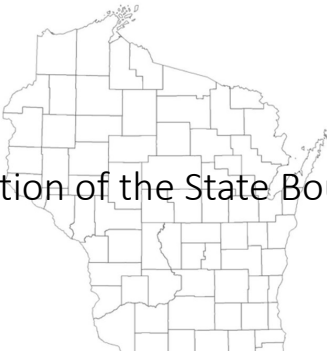
2.07 Transcribed records of Rusk County. The transcribed records of Rusk County, which have been or may be transcribed from the original records of other counties, ... shall be received in all courts in this state, as prima facie evidence of the matters therein contained, in the same manner as now provided by law for the reception of record evidence.

2.08 Transcribed records of Menominee County. The records of Menominee County, which have been or may be transcribed from the original records of other counties, ... shall be received in all courts as prima facie evidence of the matters therein contained in the same manner as now provided by law for the reception of record evidence. Title in grantees of the United States to lands situated in Menominee County shall become valid as of the effective date of the patent to such grantees, and no action or proceeding shall be commenced in any court in this state to question the validity of title passed by the patent when the patent has been duly recorded with the register of deeds of Menominee County. This section shall not affect any rights of this state.

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Evolution of the State Boundary



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Northwest Territory 1787-1800

The region was ceded to the United States in the Treaty of Paris of 1783.

The Congress of the Confederation enacted the Northwest Ordinance in 1787 to provide for the administration of the territories and set rules for admission of jurisdictions as states.

On August 7, 1789, the new U.S. Congress affirmed the Ordinance with slight modifications under the Constitution.

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Northwest Territory 1787-1800

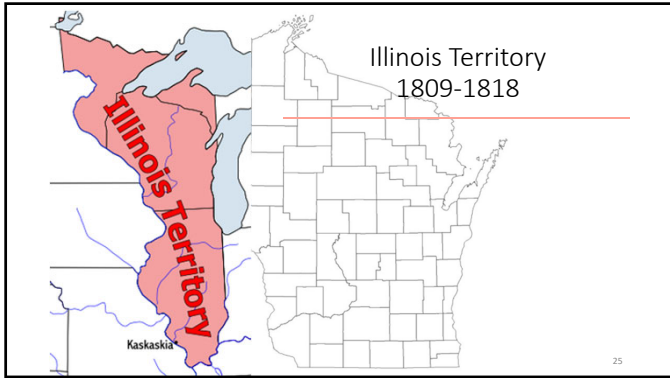
Jefferson's Idea on creation of states west of the Appalachian Mountains

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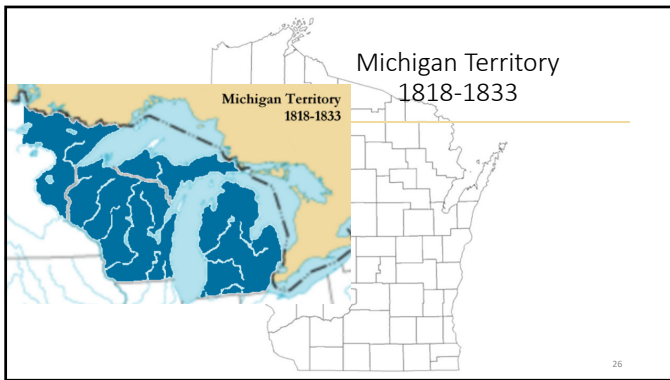
Indiana Territory 1800-1809

Disputed between Indiana Territory and Rupert's Land (UK)

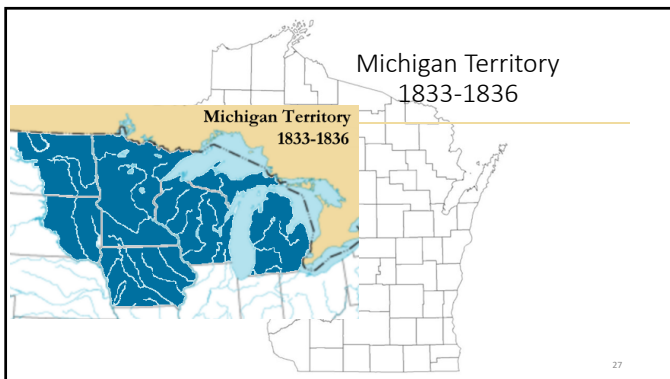
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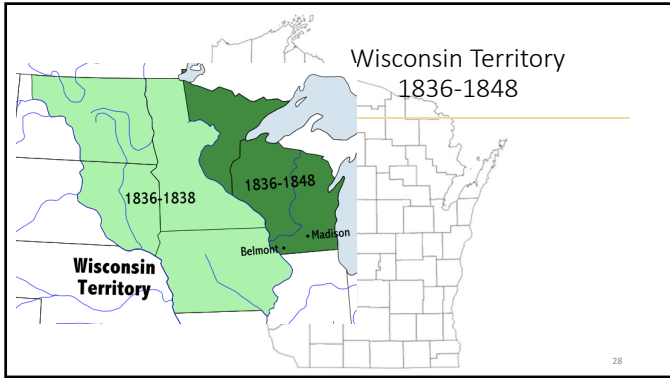
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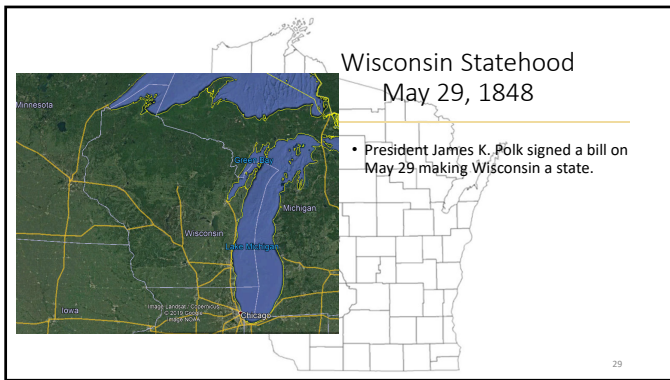
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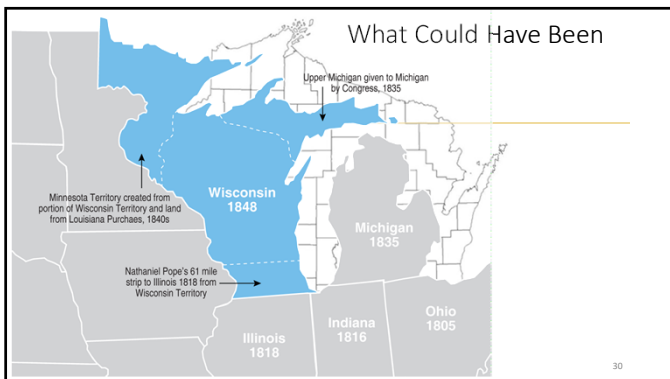
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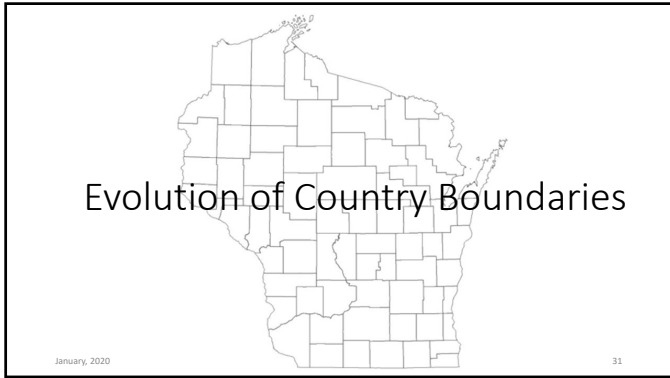
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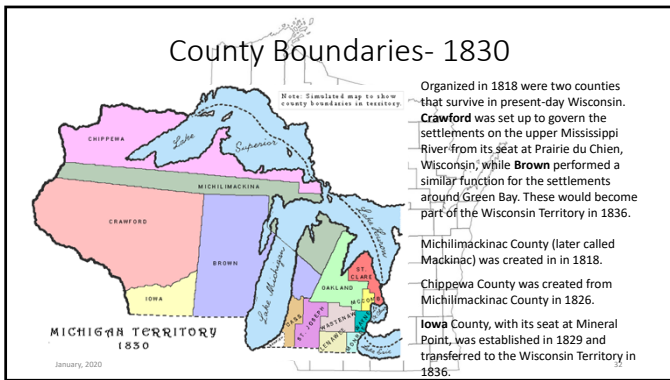
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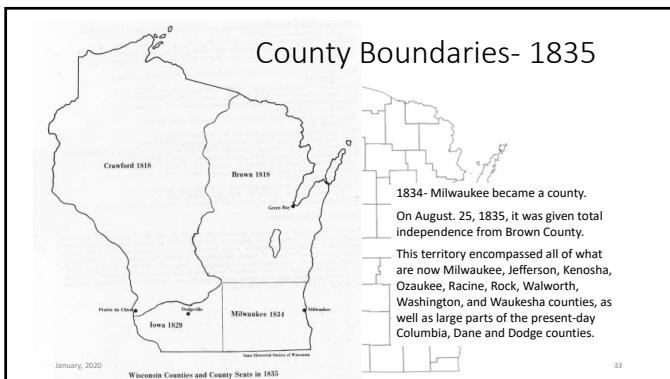
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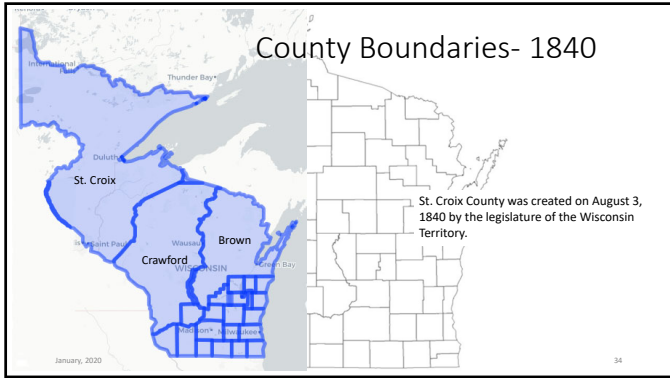
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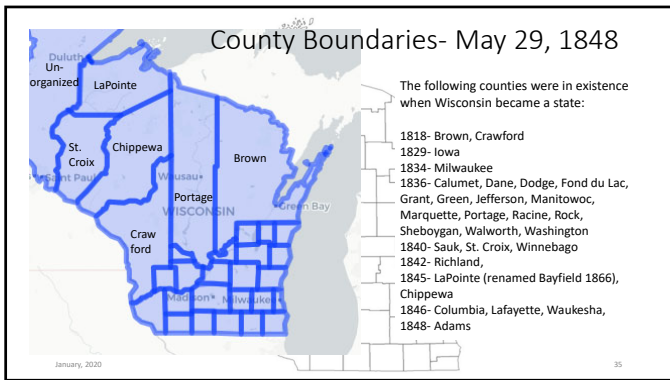
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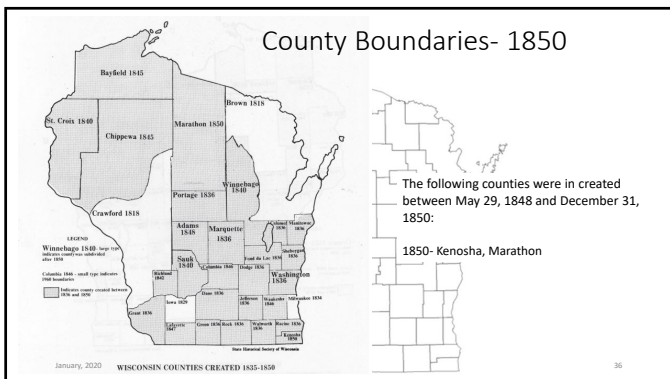
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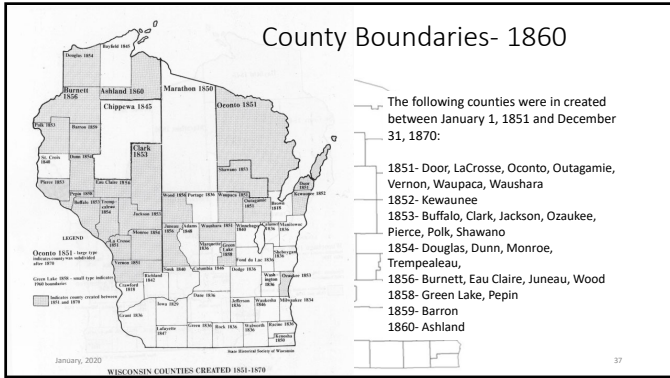
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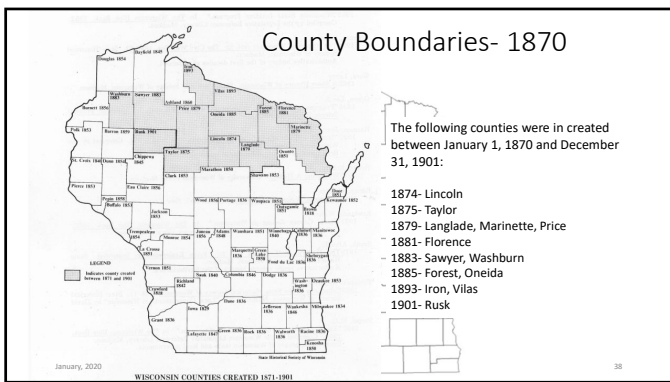
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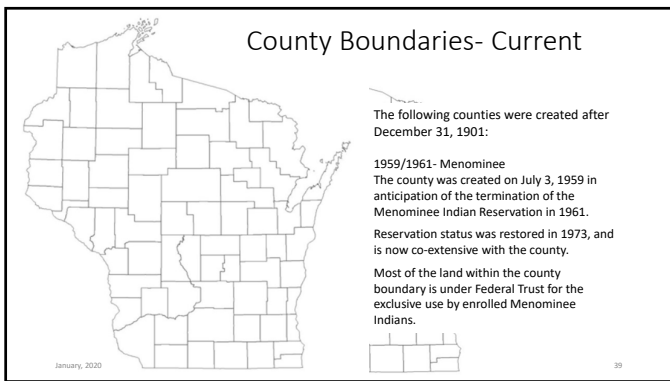
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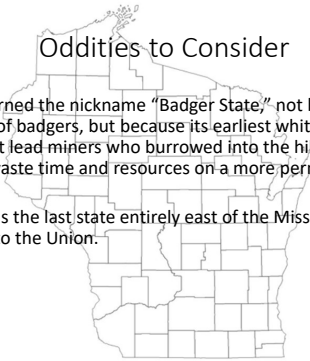
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Oddities to Consider

- Wisconsin earned the nickname "Badger State," not because of its proliferation of badgers, but because its earliest white inhabitants were itinerant lead miners who burrowed into the hills for shelter rather than waste time and resources on a more permanent structure.
- Wisconsin was the last state entirely east of the Mississippi River to be admitted to the Union.




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