

ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL BOUNDARIES.

THESIS.

BY D.A.LOGAN.

1905.

OUTLINE.

ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL BOUNDARIES.

Introduction,-

- 1. The boundary and what it means.
- 2. Meaning of the National boundary.
- 3. Difficulties of establishing National boundaries.
- 4. Some land marks that form boundary lines.

Discussion,-

- 1. Dawn of our National existance and a few facts incident to the establishing of this "our country".
- 2. Boundaries at dawn of existance and how they became what they were.
- 3. The Lousiana Purchase.
- 4. Florida.
- 5. Texas abandoned.
- 6. Treaty of 1818.
- 7. Annexation of Texas and its boundaries.
- 8. Oregon.
- 9. Gadsden purchase.

INTRODUCTION.

ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL BOUNDARY.

The boundary line of a country is a matter of small significance when it happens to be land bordering on the water, but on such places on the land it is often the cause of constant irritation and disputes between the two adjacent countries. The boundary line decides wether or not a person must obey one or another code of laws and fight for one or another country. It is a very difficult matter to run a boundary line over a country or continent. The first difficulty lies in the fact that the people on each side of the boundary line are about the same. They live the same, have the same habits and customs, yet they are governed by a different set of officials and must obey a different code of laws. Another difficulty lies in the fact that the line is more or less

#2

imaginary and inaccurate, due to the inaccuracy of our surveying instruments and to our natural aptitude of being greedy. Oceans, lakes and rivers form the best boundary lines. Other land marks such as chain of highlands or a watershed also form natural boundaries.

DISCUSSION.

The boundaries of our new country were first determined in 1783 when Great Britain concluded a treaty of peace with representatives from our country. The boundaries decided upon were at some points indefinite as has frequently been the case. The western boundary was fixed as the Mississippi River to the 31st parallel. The southern boundary was the one that caused the most trouble because the terms used in the treaty by which Spain secured the Florida's were very indefinite. Map 1.

The English colonies were divided for governmental purposes by the Kings Proclamation of 1763. The boundaries of the United States were intended to be the same as given the thirteen colonies in 1763.

The southern boundary extended from the Mississippi River to the Chattahooche River along the 31st parallel, down the Chattahooche River to the mouth of the Flint River. From here the line extended in a straight line to the source of the St. Mary's River, whence it extended down the middle of that stream to the ocean. It happened that a passage in the preliminary treaty read that the boundary line would be the parallel $32^{\circ} 30'$ between the Mississippi and Chattahooche rivers if Great Britain succeeded in retaining the Florida's. Great Britain had also ceded the Florida's to Spain without any definite stipulation of the boundary. This was open for dispute for a number of years. In the year 1795, matters came to a crisis and Thomas Pinckney was authorized to neg-

#3

otiate a treaty with Spain.

The United States had a right to the navigation of the Mississippi, but had always wanted a place on Spanish soil south of the Yazoo River to deposit goods for trans-shipment to ocean vessels. In this treaty Spain granted a place for deposit and agreed to the northern boundary of Florida, or the southern boundary of the United States in 1783, that is, the 31st parallel from the Mississippi to Chattahooche River. The northern boundary was the 45th parallel to the Great Lakes. From here the boundary was the channel of the lakes and connecting waters to the northwest corner of the Lake of the Woods. Map 2.

From the northwest corner of the Lake of the Woods, the line run due west to the Mississippi River.

The boundary east of the St. Lawrence River was from the source of the St. Croix River due north to the highlands that separate the waters flowing into the St. Lawrence River, from those flowing into the Atlantic ocean, and along the highland to the northwest branch of the Connecticut River, down to the 45th parallel, thence west to the St. Lawrence River. Disputes arose with Great Britain over the location of Highlands and of the St. Croix River.

England based her contention on the substitution of the word Atlantic ocean for the sea in the treaty of 1783. The King of Netherlands was asked to arbitrate the difficulty. He proposed a compromise line which he should not have done. Ultimately in 1842, a compromise line was decided upon by Webster and Ashburton.

The line, according to the claim of Great Britain extended around to the source of the Penobscot and southwest on the Highlands south of the St. Johns River.

#4

The boundary as decided upon by Webster And Ashburton is the present boundary of Maine. It extends from the source of the St. Croix river due north to the St. Johns river, along the St. John river to the source of the St. Francis River, and along the Highland to the Connecticut river. From here it extended down the Connecticut River to the 45th parallel thence due west to the St. Lawrence.

Louisiana was founded and claimed by France by right of exploration and settlement. LaSalle, Joliet and Marquette perhaps doing the most in the line of exploring. At the culmination of the seven years war France ceded this fertile territory west of the Mississippi river to Spain. This territory remained in the hands of the Spanish till 1800 when it again became a French possession. As mentioned heretofore Thomas Pinckney had negotiated a treaty with Spain in 1795 in which the United States was granted a place of deposit on the Mississippi. This right was withdrawn when Louisiana was ceded to France in 1800. Spain was a weak nation and Louisiana in her hand did not cause any great fear in the United States.

These two things, Right of Deposit withdrawn and Louisiana in the hands of a strong nation, caused Jefferson to appoint Monroe to aid Livingston as Ministers plenipotentiary to purchase a small strip of land where goods might be deposited south of Yazoo River. They exceeded their instructions and the consequence was that the United States became the owner of all Louisiana. Map 3. The cost of this large tract of land was \$15,000,000.

This province, according to the words of the treaty, included the same amount of territory that it did in the hands of Spain and of France.

#5

The United States insisted that it included West Florida, to which Spain did not agree. It did however, comprise New Orleans.

There was a long dispute as to whom was the owner of west Florida. The United States in purchasing Louisiana intended to get west Florida and in 1810 and 1812 we took part of it. East Florida served as a refuge for fugitives, criminals, slaves, Indians and others. It also served as a place where smuggling expeditions were organized.

Spain at about this time was having trouble with all her colonies in the Western Hemisphere. Some of the colonies had tasted the sweets of freedom of trade with other countries, under the rule of Napoleons brother. This spoiled them and they rebelled when the old colonial system was reimposed. This spirit of unrest pervaded all the colonies of Europe and was one cause of the formation of the Holy Alliance. This and domestic troubles caused Spain to sign a treaty in 1819 in which the United States upon abandoning all claim to the land south and west of an established line became the owner of Florida. Map 4. The following is the line that was decided upon. From the mouth of the Sabine River, following the west bank to the 32nd parallel north to the Red River and along the south bank of this stream to the 100th meridian, then north to the Arkansas river, and along its south bank to its source. From here the line run north or south to the 42nd parallel, thence west to the Pacific ocean.

In the preceding year the United States and Great Britain concluded what is called the treaty of 1818 in which the 49th parallel was decided upon as the northern boundary of the United States from the Lake of the Woods to the Rocky Mountains. The United States thereby gave a small part of Louisiana lying north of the

#6

present states of Montana and North Dakota and acquired a small piece of territory in the present states of North Dakota and Minnesota . The territory west of the Rockies was to be occupied jointly for ten years.

The slave states up to the year 1840 slowly gained in population and wealth. The number of Slave states admitted to the Union up to this time kept the representatives of the southern states in the U.S. Senate about equal to those of the northern. After this time the greater gain in population in the northern states began to tell in the representatives in Congress. The southerners knew that the time was coming when the slave advocates in Congress would be in a minority. There were but two ways to get more representatives and they were either to divide some of the states, or annex or acquire more slave territory.

A large number of southerners had migrated to Texas in the past ten years. They had so influenced the government that Texas seceded from Mexico , overthrew its constitution and received recognition as an independent state by many of the nations. This independent state wanted to be admitted to the Union as a slave state. The southerners were anxious to get this slave territory in the Union. A treaty of annexation was presented to the Senate , but failed to receive the requisite two thirds vote in 1844. Annexation however, became one of the leading issues in the coming campaign, and Polk being elected insured its annexation. Texas became a state in 1845 being annexed and admitted to the Union by the same joint resolution of Congress.

The next thing after the annexation was the settlement of the boundaries. The United States and Texas claimed that it extended to the Rio Grande.

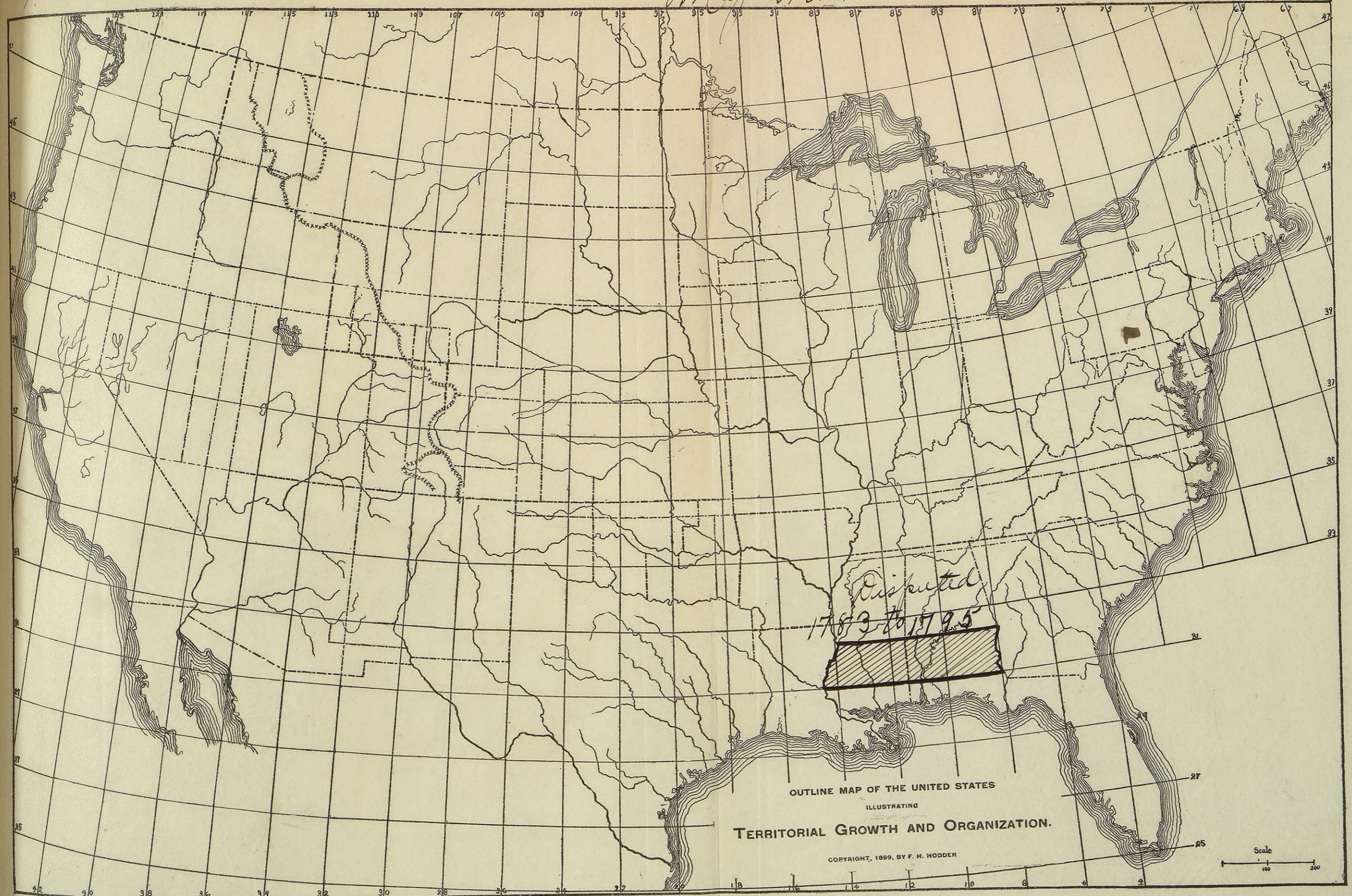
#7

Mexico based her claims on the fact that when this province was a Mexican state, the Nuzces River was the southern boundary. Under such circumstances war was precipitated by the U. S. The Mexicans started hostilities by defeating part of General Taylors army when they advanced to the Rio Grande River. The Mexicans were defeated in nearly every battle that followed.

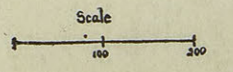
In the treaty of Guadalupe, Hidalgo, signed in 1848 Mexico released all her claim to territory north of the Rio Grande, and Gila Rivers ~~and~~ in consideration of a payment of \$18,000,000, \$3,000,000 of which was to be paid American citizens who had outstanding claims against the Mexican government. With this acquisition the United States obtained a clear title to a strip of sea coast on the Pacific ocean. They had occupied the Oregon territory in conjunction with Great Britain since 1818. The United States by the treaty of 1824 with Russia had given up hopes of acquiring territory north of the parallel 54° 40'. The territory between these parallels 49° and 54° 40' was owned jointly by Great Britain and the United States. In the year 1846 the matter was settled definitely by arbitration. The parallel 48' to Vancouver sound and from here the boundary followed the channel to the ocean, was decided upon. Map 5.

A dispute arose for the second time between the United States and Mexico, as to the southern boundary of the United States. The United States claimed that the boundary was far enough south to include the rich Mesilla Valley. The matter was definitely settled in 1853, when this strip of land was purchased for \$10,000,000. This is called the Gadsden purchase as Captain Gadsden, minister to Mexico negotiated the treaty. Map 5.

Map. No. 1.



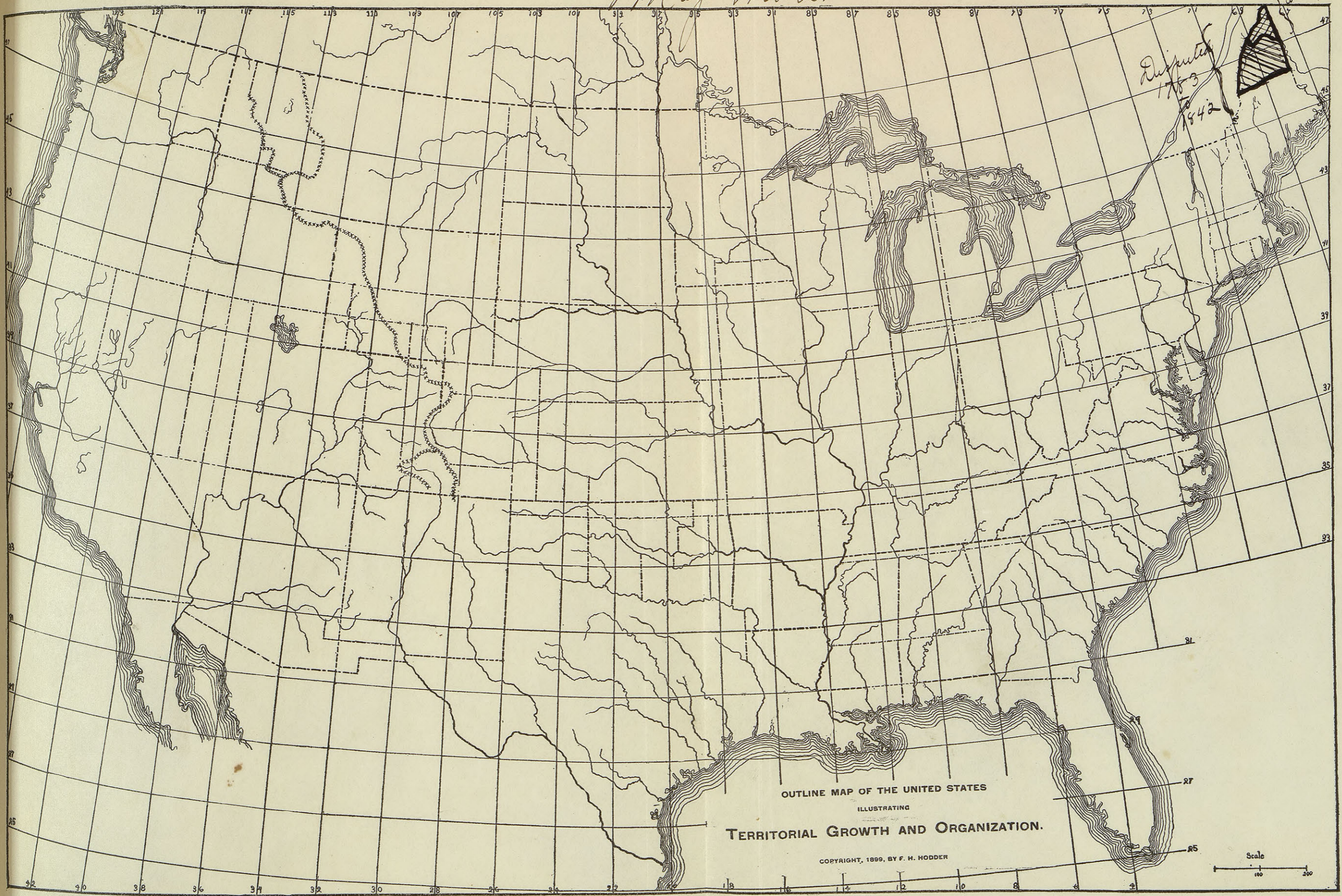
OUTLINE MAP OF THE UNITED STATES
ILLUSTRATING
TERRITORIAL GROWTH AND ORGANIZATION.
COPYRIGHT, 1899, BY F. H. HODDER



Map No. 2.

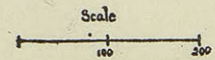
Abstract 1842

Disputed 1843



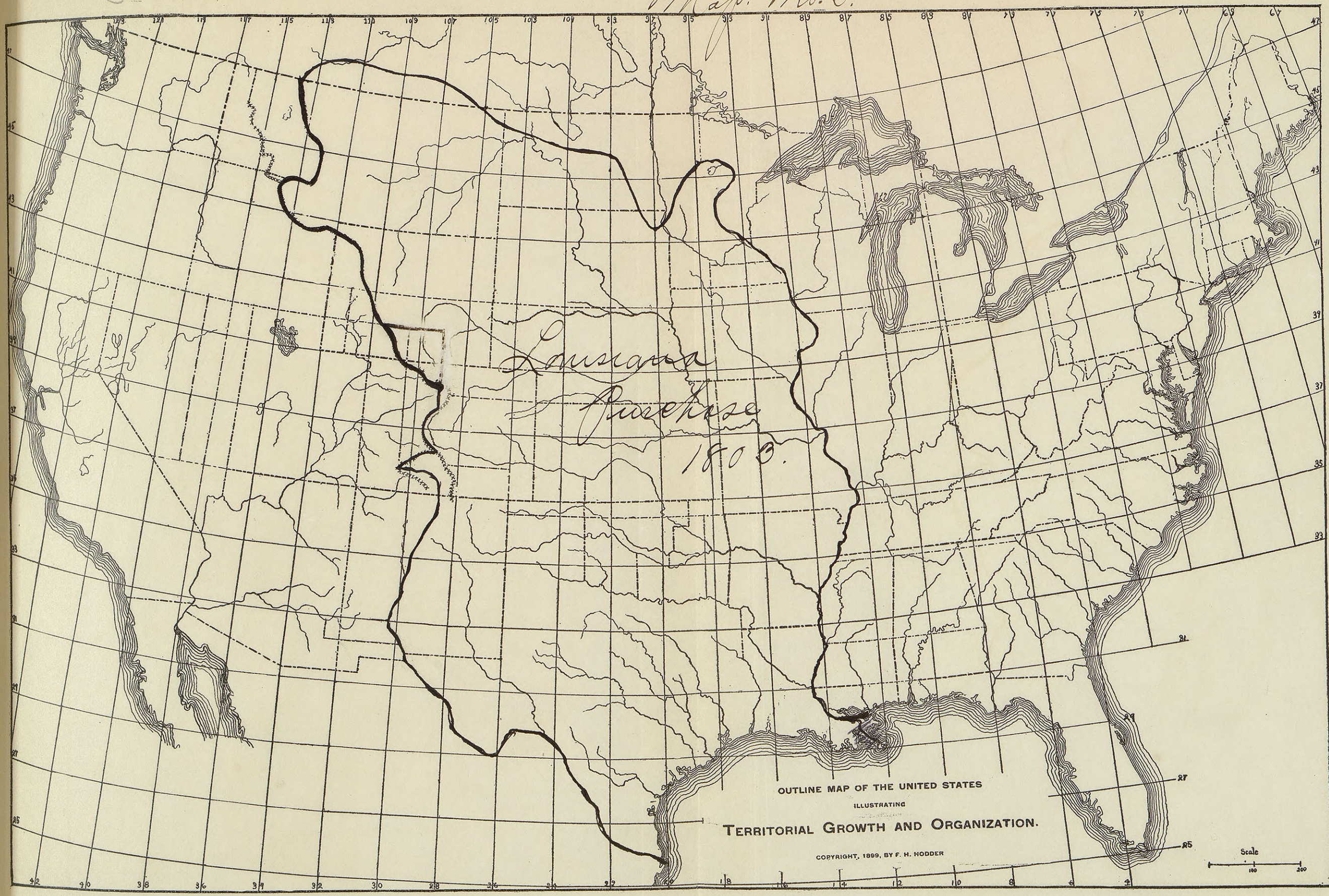
OUTLINE MAP OF THE UNITED STATES
ILLUSTRATING
TERRITORIAL GROWTH AND ORGANIZATION.

COPYRIGHT, 1899, BY F. H. HODDER



3

Map. No. 3.



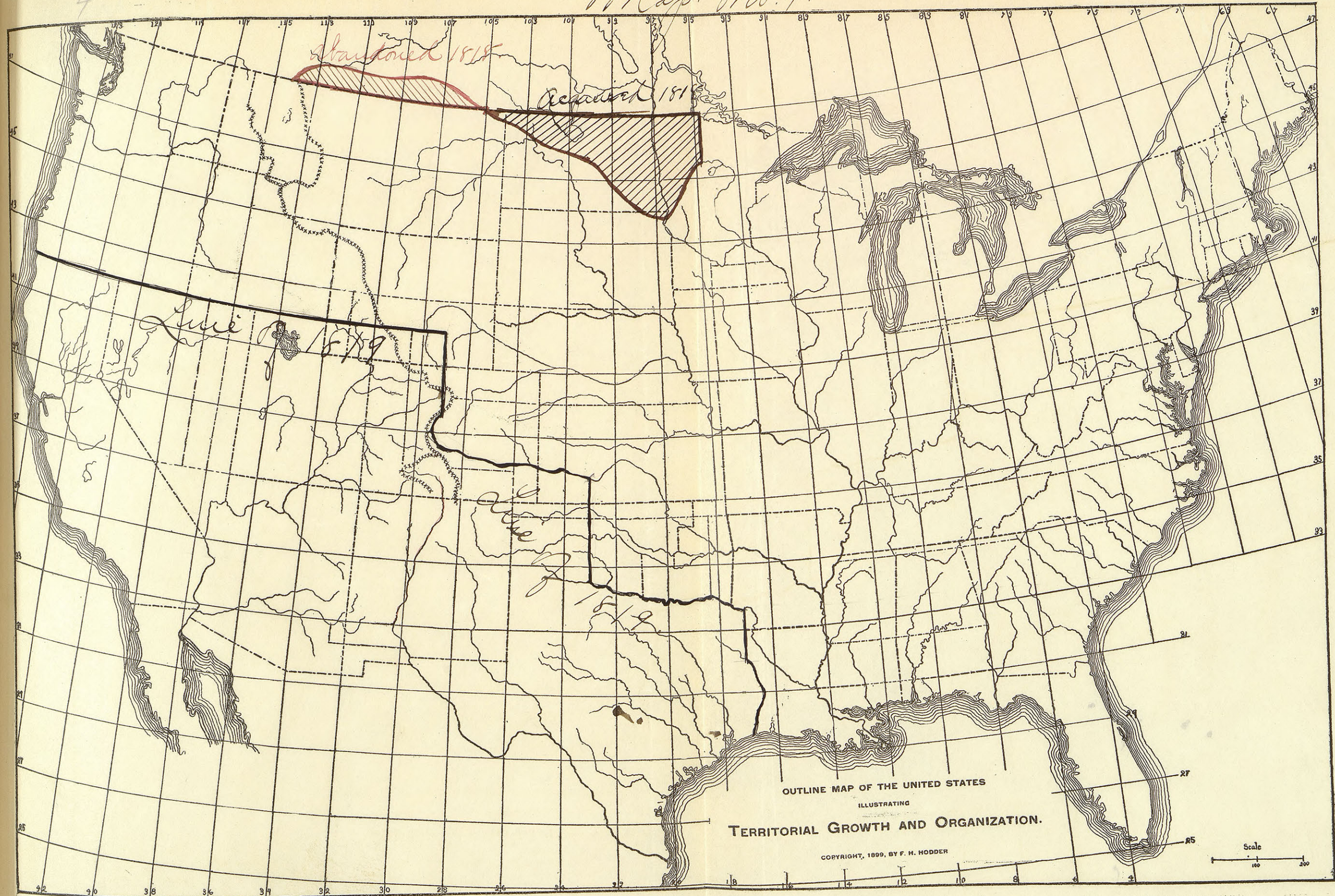
Louisiana Purchase 1803.

OUTLINE MAP OF THE UNITED STATES
ILLUSTRATING
TERRITORIAL GROWTH AND ORGANIZATION.

COPYRIGHT, 1899, BY F. H. HODDER

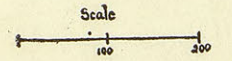
Scale
100 200

Map No. 4.

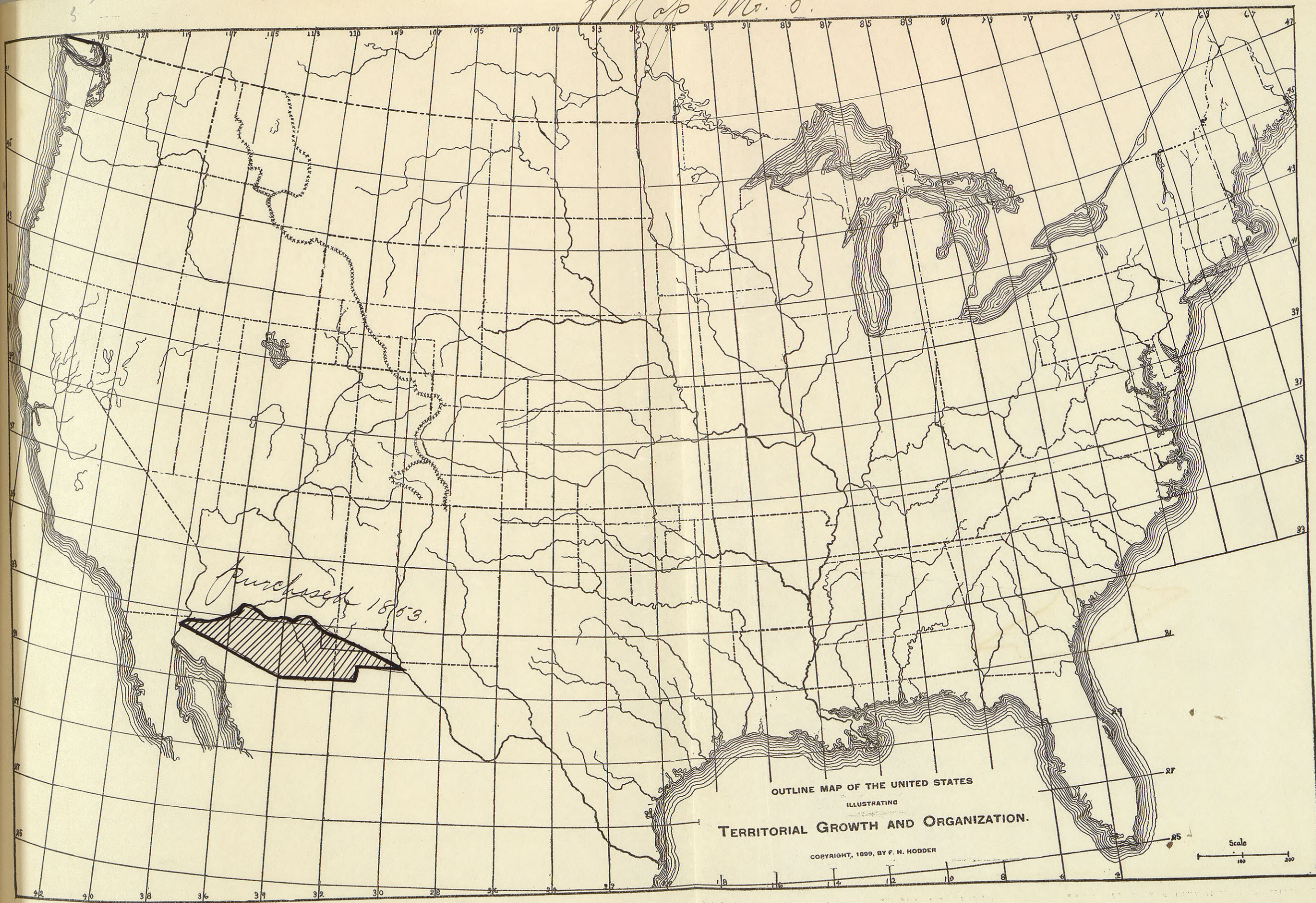


OUTLINE MAP OF THE UNITED STATES
 ILLUSTRATING
 TERRITORIAL GROWTH AND ORGANIZATION.

COPYRIGHT, 1899, BY F. H. HODDER



Map No. 5.



Purchased 1853.

OUTLINE MAP OF THE UNITED STATES
 ILLUSTRATING
 TERRITORIAL GROWTH AND ORGANIZATION.
 COPYRIGHT, 1899, BY F. H. HODDER

Scale
 100 200

1027