

## The Early Surveys and the Pontiac Company

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The Michigan Territory was surveyed several times, leading to the creation of Oakland County and the settling of Pontiac.

**1815:** Edward Tiffin's survey: Veterans are being awarded land in return for service. Bad weather leads to a damning report. Veterans get land in Indiana instead.

**1815/  
1816:** A volcano in Java erupts, leading to "the year without a summer" on the east coast. Pressure increases to settle new territories.

**1817:** Lewis Cass' survey: Made to refute the Tiffin report. Results are much better, Michigan is open for settlement.

Joseph Wampler and other surveyors lay out Oakland County.

**1818:** Two expeditions into Oakland County are undertaken, one by Oliver Williams, who settles in Waterford.

The second by Detroit businessmen to locate a good town site for the future county seat.

The Detroit businessmen choose Pontiac's location, and create a "company" to buy 1240 acres of land, and sell the town lots.

**1819:** Oakland County is created by proclamation. In return for money and land, Pontiac is chosen as the county seat.

**1820:** Oakland County's government is organized and starts doing business.