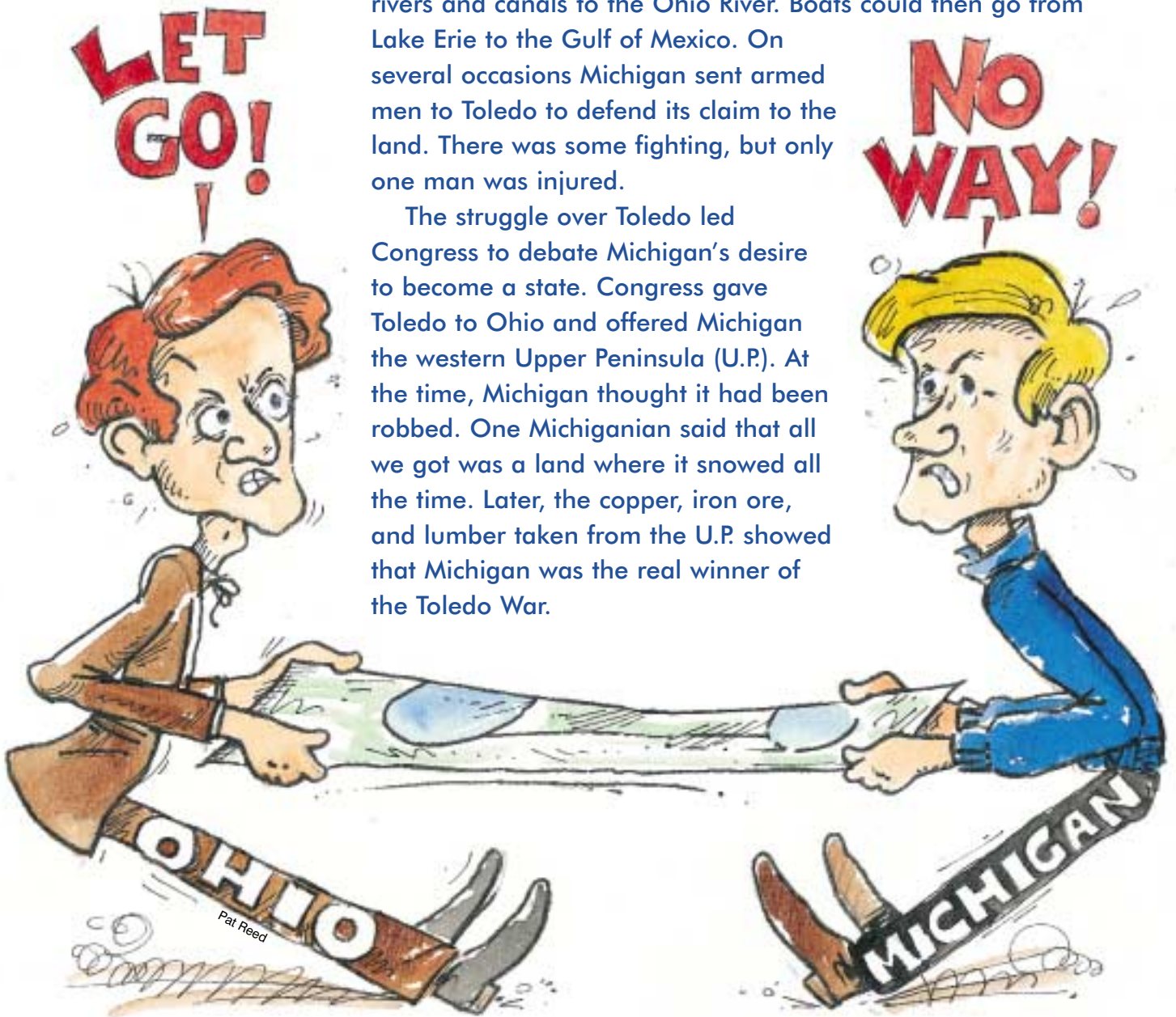


Toledo, MICHIGAN?

The disagreement between Michigan and Ohio over Toledo led to what was called the Toledo War. Toledo was on the Maumee River. Both Michigan and Ohio wanted the area because it was hoped that Toledo would be connected by rivers and canals to the Ohio River. Boats could then go from Lake Erie to the Gulf of Mexico. On several occasions Michigan sent armed men to Toledo to defend its claim to the land. There was some fighting, but only one man was injured.

The struggle over Toledo led Congress to debate Michigan's desire to become a state. Congress gave Toledo to Ohio and offered Michigan the western Upper Peninsula (U.P.). At the time, Michigan thought it had been robbed. One Michiganian said that all we got was a land where it snowed all the time. Later, the copper, iron ore, and lumber taken from the U.P. showed that Michigan was the real winner of the Toledo War.







MARY LEWIS was four years old when she and her family moved to Michigan from New York. Her father bought land in Barry County, halfway between the present cities of Grand Rapids and Battle Creek.

The first thing Mary's father did was to cut down trees to build a log cabin. Neighbors helped him notch the logs so they could be fitted together at the corners of the house. A door and window were sawed out after the walls were in place. Then the men added a roof made from wooden shingles. The cracks between the logs were chinked, or filled, with chips of wood and mud to keep out the cold winter wind. There was no glass for windows, so a sheet of oiled paper was put in the hole to let in light.

Coming to MICHIGAN

Mary found pioneer life exciting. In the forest and meadows around her new Michigan home she discovered wildflowers and birds that she had never seen before. One warm fall day she went for a ride on her pony. As she moved through a cluster of trees, she came upon a beautiful lake. The surface was like a mirror, reflecting the trees on the shore.

When Mary was older she wrote about seeing Gun Lake. “As I silently gazed, a feeling of awe



stole over me. The **solemn** stillness of the lake and forest frightened me. I turned and fled. I never drew my rein until my home was reached.”

Early Farming

Mary and her family lived on the **frontier** of settlement where few other



people lived. They had to learn how to farm Michigan’s land. By the time the Lewis family arrived in Michigan in 1837, farms were scattered

all over the state’s southern counties. Every family had to grow or raise their own food. Chickens and cows provided eggs and milk. Deer, turkey, pigs, rabbits, and other game provided meat.

Mary took long trips with her father by wagon or horseback to a distant village. There they bought things they couldn’t get from their land, like sugar and tea.

Settlers like Mary’s father began clearing the land for farming as soon as they arrived in Michigan. That meant cutting down trees, removing stumps and stones and preparing the soil. Farming was hard work. Men, women, and children worked from sunup until sundown. They could plow only about one acre a day.

Some parts of Michigan were difficult to settle. Many areas were swampy and there were lots of mosquitoes. Farmers drained wet areas to prepare the land for crops. Draining the wetlands also reduced



Illustrations Carolyn Damstra

Mary finds Gun Lake while exploring the land around her new home.

Making Butter

YOU'LL NEED:

a pint of heavy whipping cream • marbles (optional) • a jar with a tight-fitting lid

Fill a jar 1/3 full with heavy whipping cream. Add marbles, close lid and shake for a very long time. After a while little lumps and flakes of butter should appear. Drain the liquid and mold the butter into a lump. Under cold running water, knead the lump gently for 5 minutes. Knead in a little salt, if desired. Spread on toast and enjoy!

the many mosquitoes that brought illnesses to the settlers, like malaria.

Home Life

Women also worked hard. Mothers and daughters sewed the family's clothing by hand. Clothes and bedding were washed in a tub with a washboard and hung outside to dry. Water had to be brought up from a well or carried from a nearby stream. Other chores included churning butter and making bread.

But pioneer life was not all hard work; it could also be a lot of fun. On one Thanksgiving, Mary's father invited all the settlers from miles around to the Lewis house. Their Native American neighbors brought wild turkeys and cranberries. Mary's mother

made mince and pumpkin pies. After dinner, it began to snow. The harder it snowed, the livelier the party grew. An old violin was pulled out, and everyone began dancing. They kept it up until morning. Then they ate breakfast and returned home.

By 1844, Mary's father had built a tavern and stagecoach stop at Yankee Springs. It was a popular place for travelers to stop and rest on the long trip between Battle Creek and Grand Rapids.

It took a lot of courage for people to move to the Michigan wilderness. The hard work of early pioneers like the Lewis family cleared the way for future **generations** to settle in Michigan. ■

generation
an average length of time between parents and children



Dances were one way the pioneers had fun.

MAKE A SURVEY MAP OF YOUR YARD



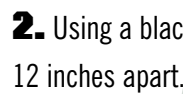
Can you imagine buying land without seeing it first? Most settlers did. They knew which land to buy because the government had sent surveyors into the wilderness earlier. **Surveyors** are people who record what is in an area, such as streams and lakes. They make maps and reports of what they find. In 1837 the United States government sold parcels of land in Michigan for only \$1.25 an acre (about the size of a football field). Sometimes two men raced to the land office because they both wanted the same parcel of land.

What you'll need:

A measuring device like a ruler, yardstick or measuring tape, a very long string or rope (at least 20 feet long), drawing paper, black marker, pencil or colored pencils, and a friend to help you.



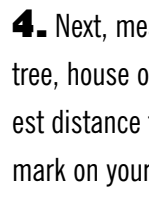
1. Make a grid on your paper. Lines should be 1 inch apart. The number of squares you'll need depends on the size of the area you are measuring. You'll need a square inch for every 10 feet of land.



2. Using a black marker, make lines on the rope 12 inches apart.



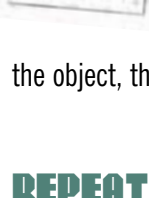
3. Using your rope, measure the outside edges of your area. Have a friend hold one end of the rope. Draw the borders on your grid. Each 10 feet of land should correspond with an inch-long section on your paper.



4. Next, measure from the outside edge of your area to a tree, house or other object inside your area. Start at the shortest distance from the outer boundary to the object. Make a mark on your paper where the object's edge should be.



5. Walk to the outside border that joins at a 45-degree angle with your first border. Measure the distance from that border to the object again and make a mark on your paper.



6. You can use your rope to measure around the object, then draw it in on your paper at its correct location.

REPEAT THIS for all things in your area, including streams or ponds, bushes, sidewalks, playground equipment, or anything else. Color and label the items on your map. You will have a complete survey of your yard!