

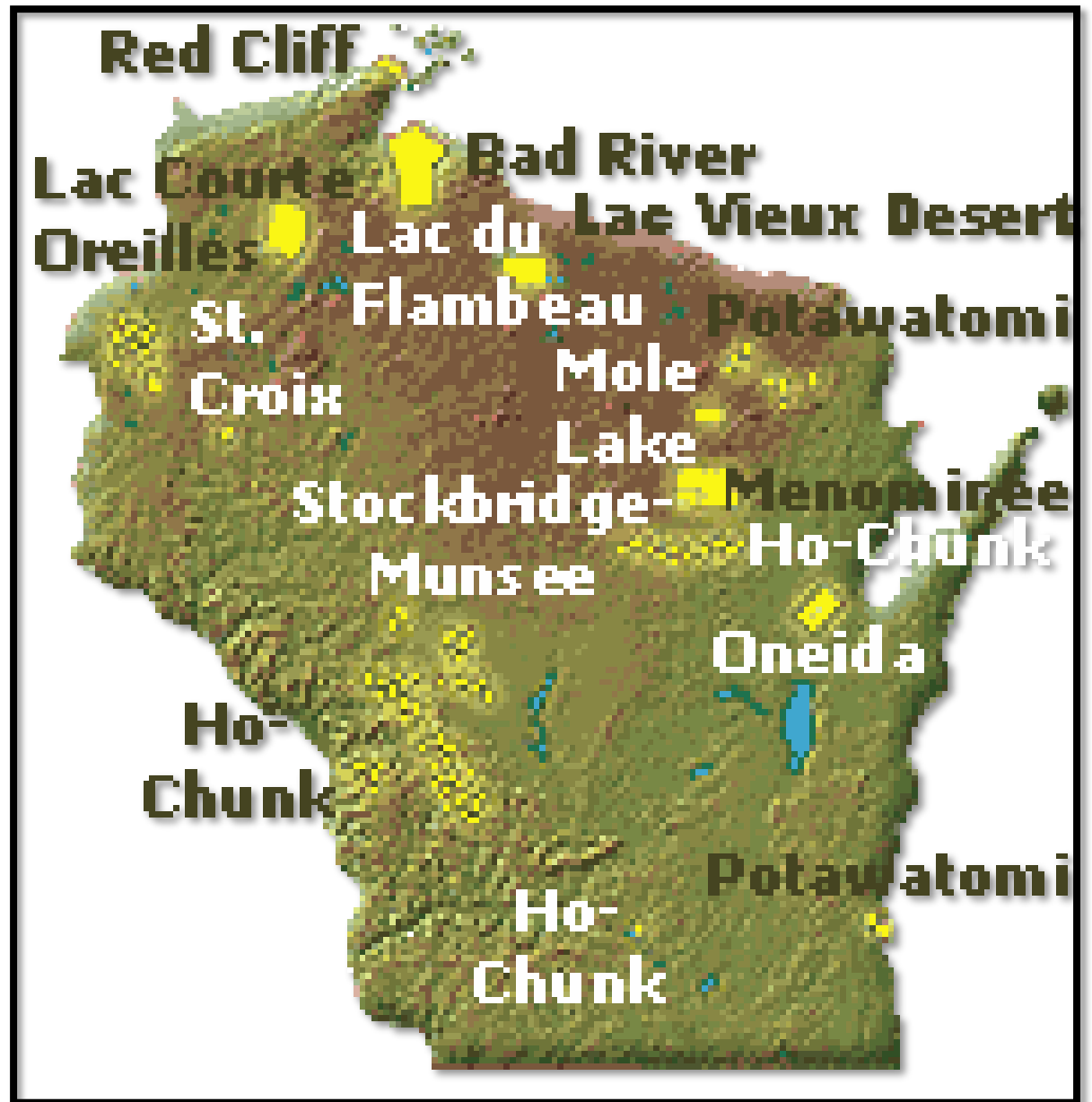
# Black on the Wisconsin Frontier, 1725-1866

**Christy Clark-Pujara, PhD**

**Professor of History**

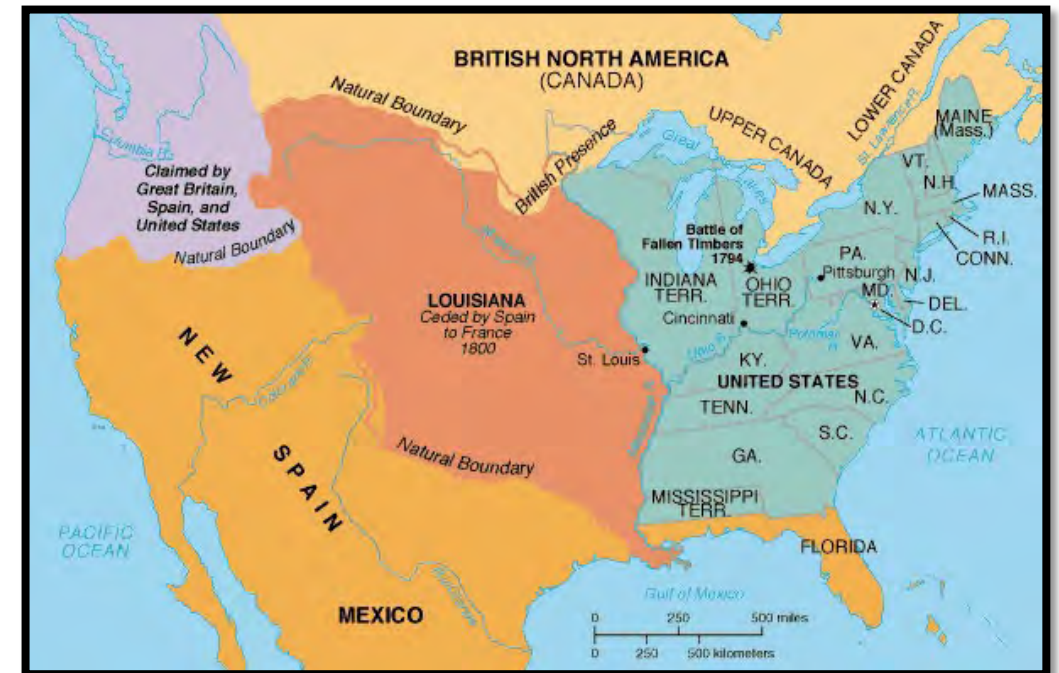
**Department of African American Studies**

**University of Wisconsin—Madison**

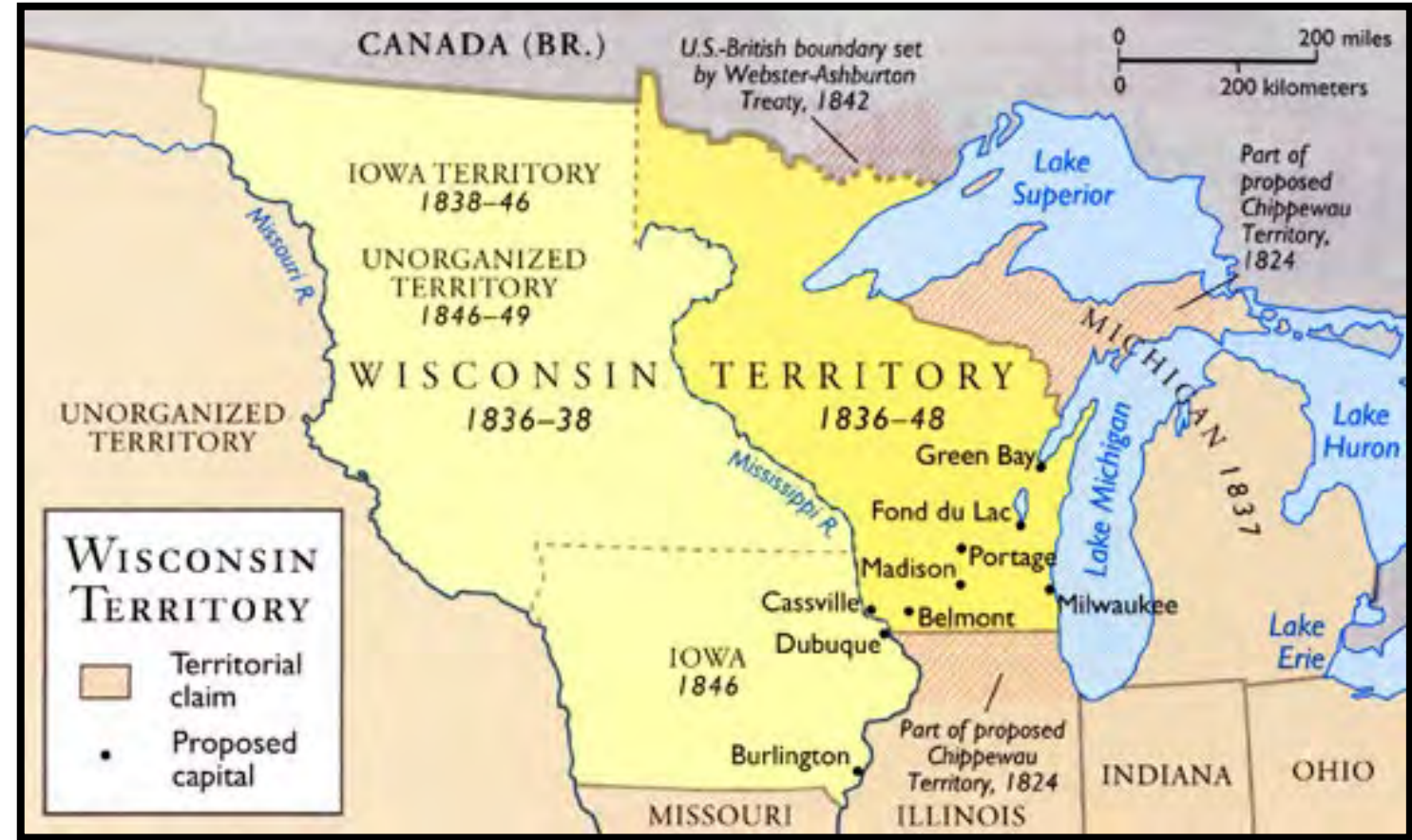




North American, Spanish, French and British Territories circa 1700



# The Northwest Ordinance—slaveholding despite the Law

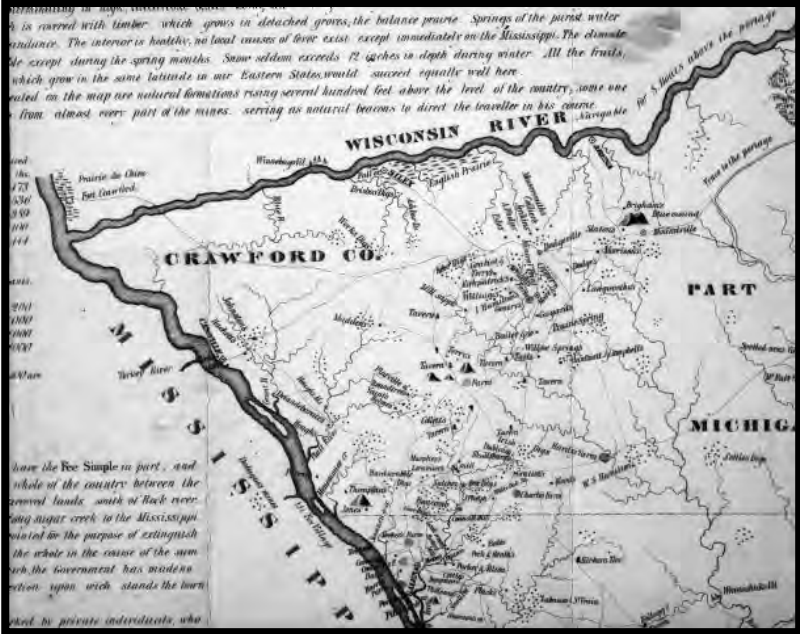
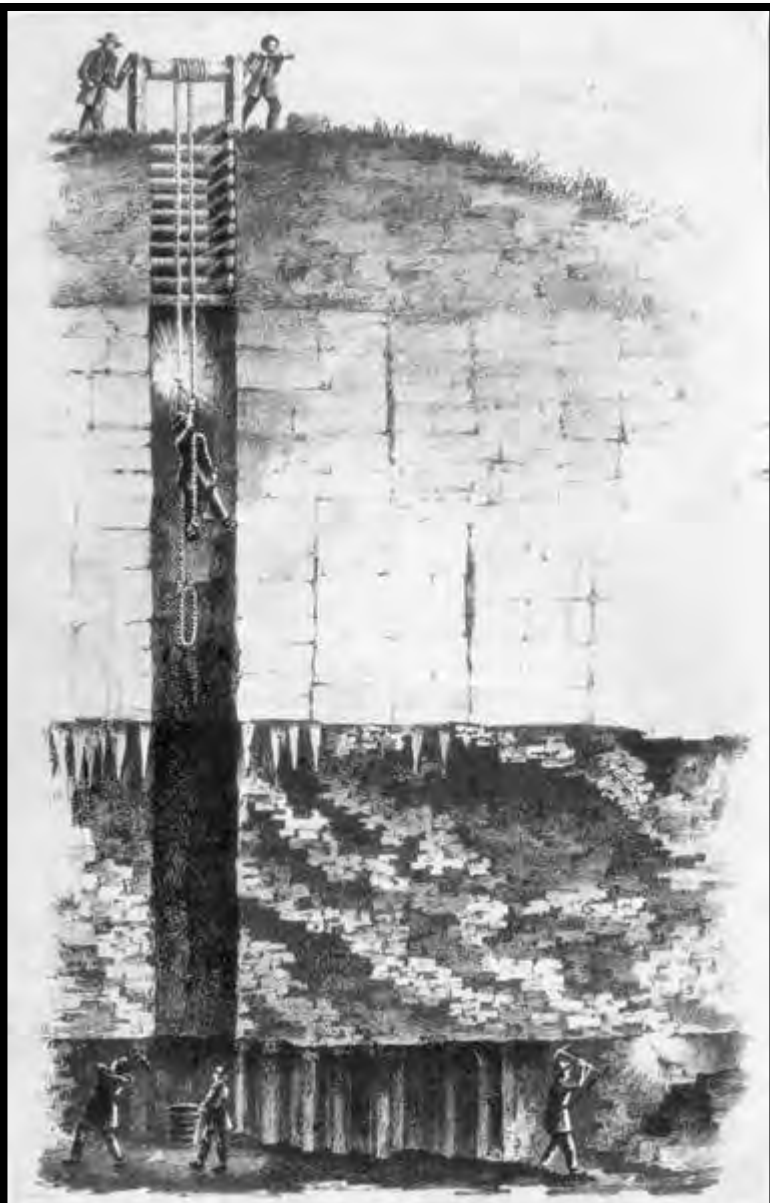




# Fort Crawford, Prairie du Chien



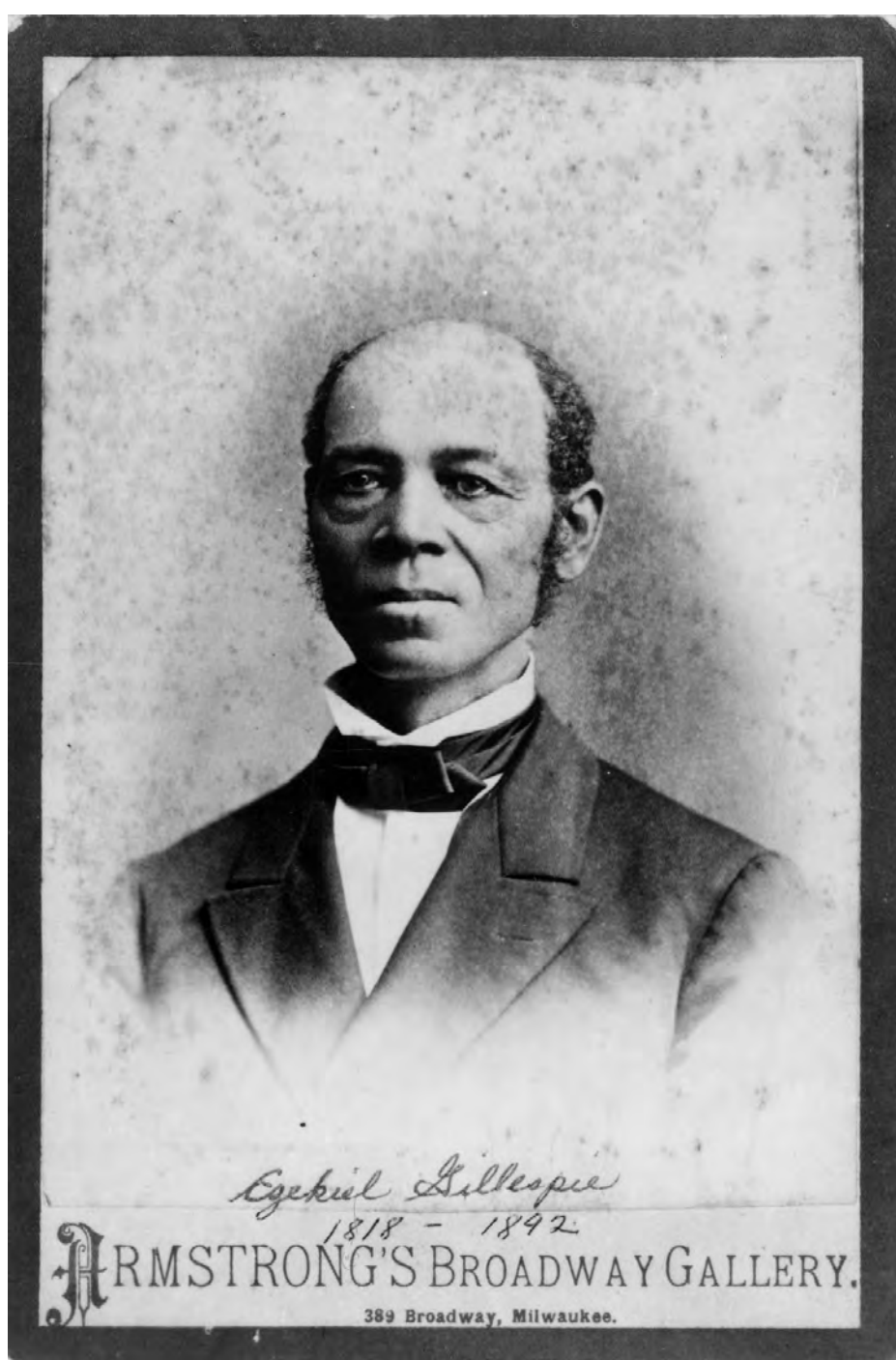
# Lead Mining in Wisconsin







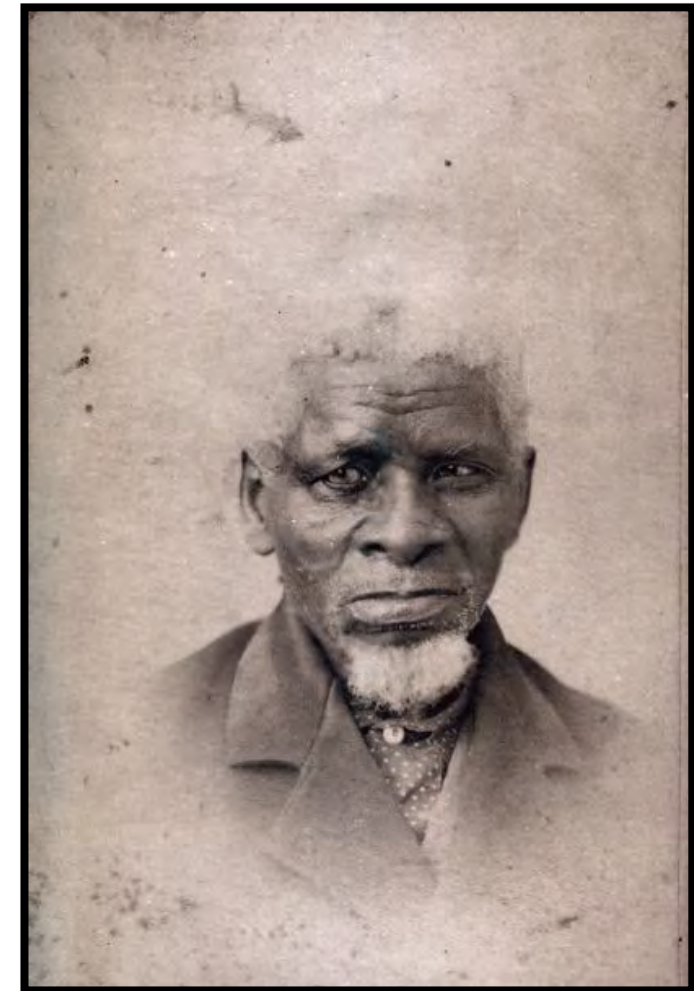
# Black Milwaukeeans





# Pleasant Ridge, A Free Black Homestead Community (Near Lancaster)

John Greene, Original Settler



Sheppard Family 1860, Founding Family of Pleasant Ridge (1848)

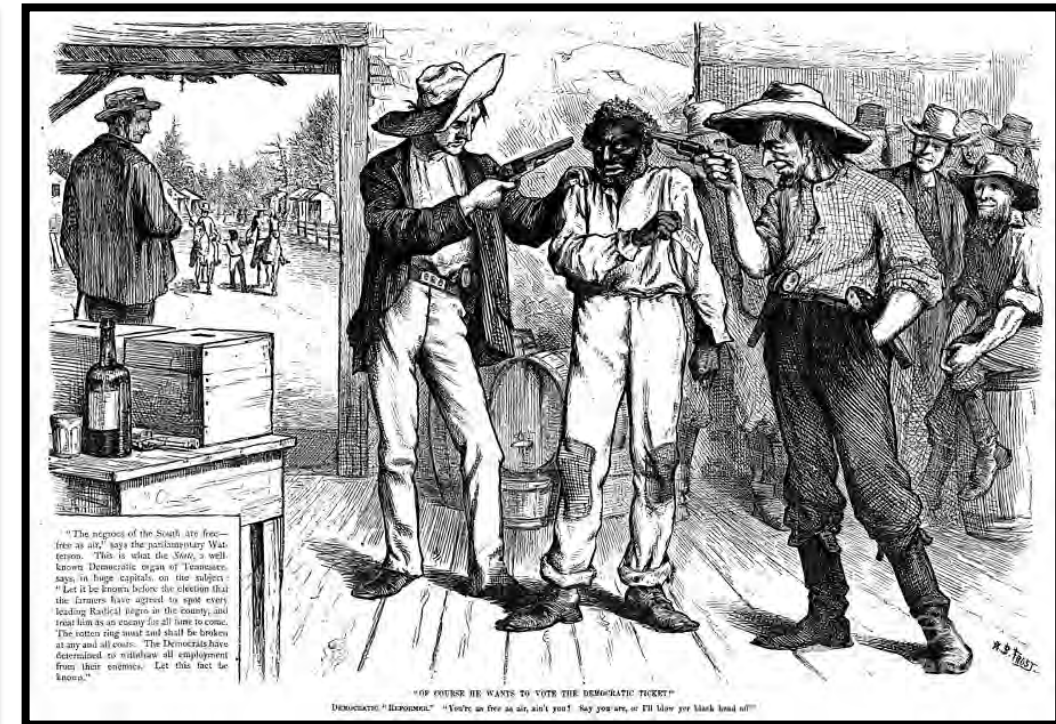
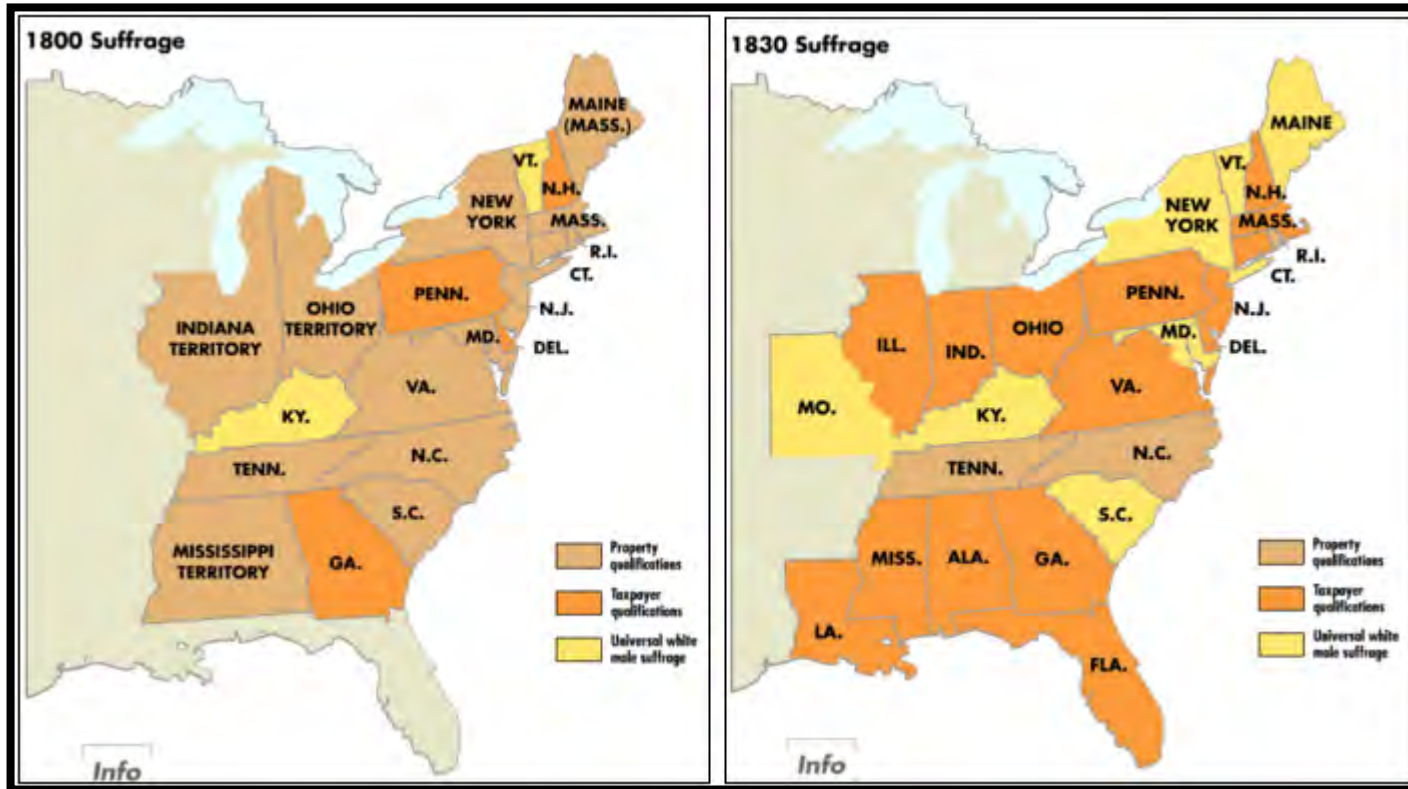


The School House, 1854





# Suffrage was Contested Throughout the Nation: Property and Race



In most northern states African Americans could not vote, testify against a white person in court, sit on juries, or muster in the militia. Social segregation was also the norm—railcars, churches, and public schools.



## RESOLUTION.

### RESOLVED.

That at the same time when the votes of the electors shall be taken for the adoption or rejection of this constitution, an additional section in the following words, that is to say:— "All male citizens of the African blood, possessing the qualifications required by the first section of the article on 'Suffrage and the elective franchise,' shall have the right to vote for all officers, and be eligible to all offices that now are, or hereafter may be elective by the people after the adoption of this constitution," shall be submitted to the electors of this state, for adoption or rejection, in the form following, to wit: A separate ballot may be given by every person having the right to vote for the adoption of this constitution to be deposited in a separate box. Upon the ballots given for the adoption of the said separate amendment, shall be written or printed, or partly written and partly printed, the words "Equal suffrage to colored persons, Yes!" and upon the ballots given against the adoption of the said separate amendment, in like manner, the words "Equal suffrage to colored persons, No!" and on such ballots shall be written or printed, or partly written and partly printed, the words "Constitution suffrage" in such manner that such words shall appear on the outside of such ballot when folded. If, at the said election a majority of all the votes given for and against the said separate amendment, shall contain the words "Equal suffrage to colored persons, Yes!" then the said separate amendment after the adoption of this constitution, shall be a separate section of Article— of this constitution, in full force and effect, any thing contained in the constitution to the contrary notwithstanding.

Done in convention, at Madison, the sixteen day of December, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the seventy first.

*L. J. Kellogg*  
Secretary.

*L. J. Stephens*  
President of the Convention

## ARTICLE III.

### SUFFRAGE.

SECTION 1. Every male person of the age of twenty-one years or upwards, of the following classes, who shall have resided in this State for one year next preceding any election, shall be deemed a qualified elector at such election.

1st. White citizens of the United States.

2d. White persons of foreign birth who shall have declared their intention to become citizens conformably to the laws of the United States on the subject of naturalization.

3d. Persons of Indian blood who shall have once been declared by law of Congress to be citizens of the United States, any subsequent act of Congress to the contrary notwithstanding.

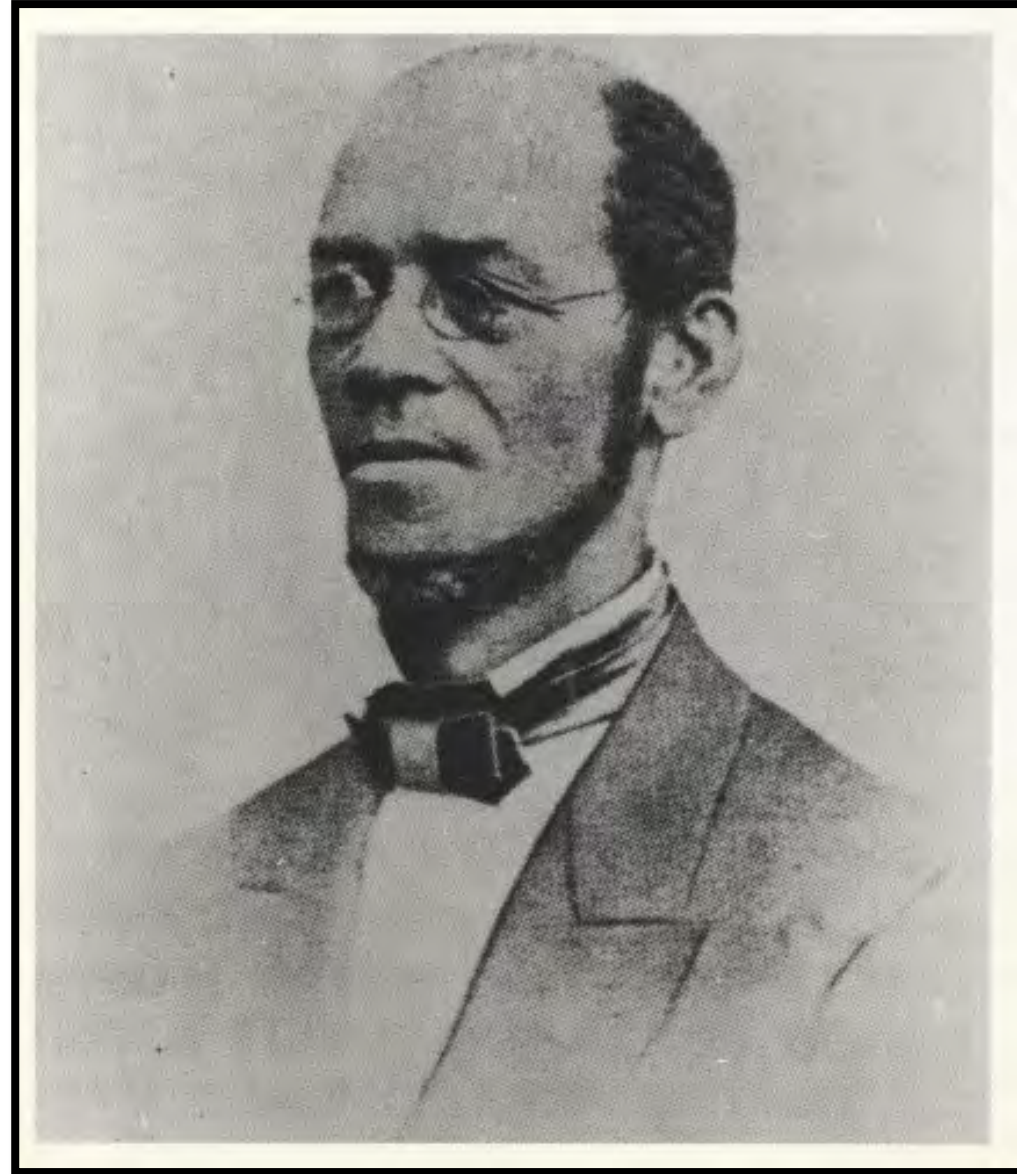
4th. Civilized persons of Indian descent not members of any tribe; Provided, that the legislature may at any time extend by law the right of suffrage to persons not herein enumerated, but no such law shall be in force until the same shall have been submitted to a vote of the people at a general election, and approved by a majority of all the votes cast at such election.

SEC. 2. No person under guardianship, non compos mentis, or insane, shall be qualified to vote at any election: nor shall any person, convicted of treason or felony, be qualified to vote at any election, unless restored to civil rights.

SEC. 3. All votes shall be given by ballot, except for such township officers as may by law be directed or allowed to be otherwise chosen.



# Ezekiel Gillespie



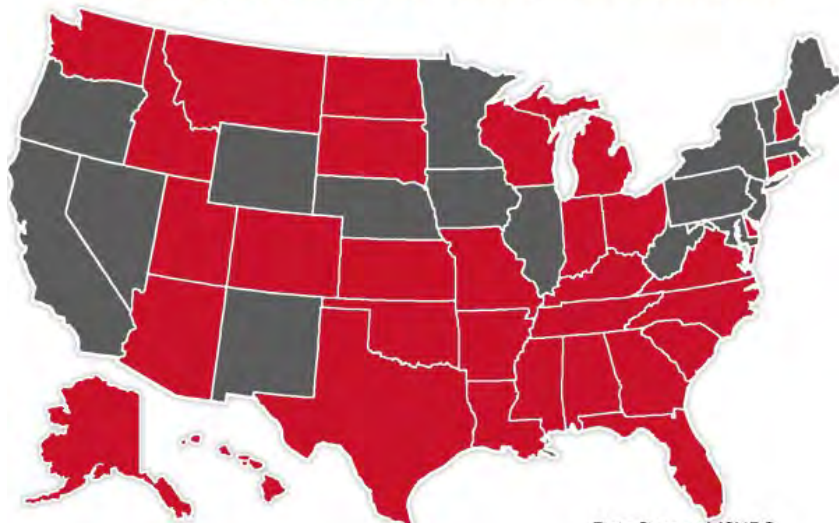




# Voting in Wisconsin Today

- 2016 State Implements Voter ID Law
- “Wisconsin Voter ID Law Proved Insurmountable For Many” WJS
- “Wisconsin Strict ID Law Discouraged Voters, Study Finds” NYT
  - 200,000+ Eligible Voters lacked “proper” ID
    - Racial minorities and poor people were disproportionately affected

States with Voter ID Laws: 2016 Election



Data Source: MSNBC

VOTER PARTICIPATION  
DATA CENTER

DATA.VOTERPARTICIPATION.ORG



**Milwaukee only had 5 voting sites for 2020's election while Madison had 66**



# Women's Suffrage in Wisconsin

- Not enough support to bring a Women's Suffrage Bill to the Floor
- 1855 and 1867 Women's Suffrage Bills Failed
- 1860s Women Rights Groups Form
  - Suffrage, Temperance, Property Rights
- 1869 Wisconsin Women's Suffrage Association
  - 1884 Women gain the right to vote in public school matters
    - Reversed by supreme court decision in 1888
- 1911 Women Suffrage Voted Down 63% to 37%
- June 10, 1919 Wisconsin became the first state to ratify the 19<sup>th</sup> extending suffrage to women

