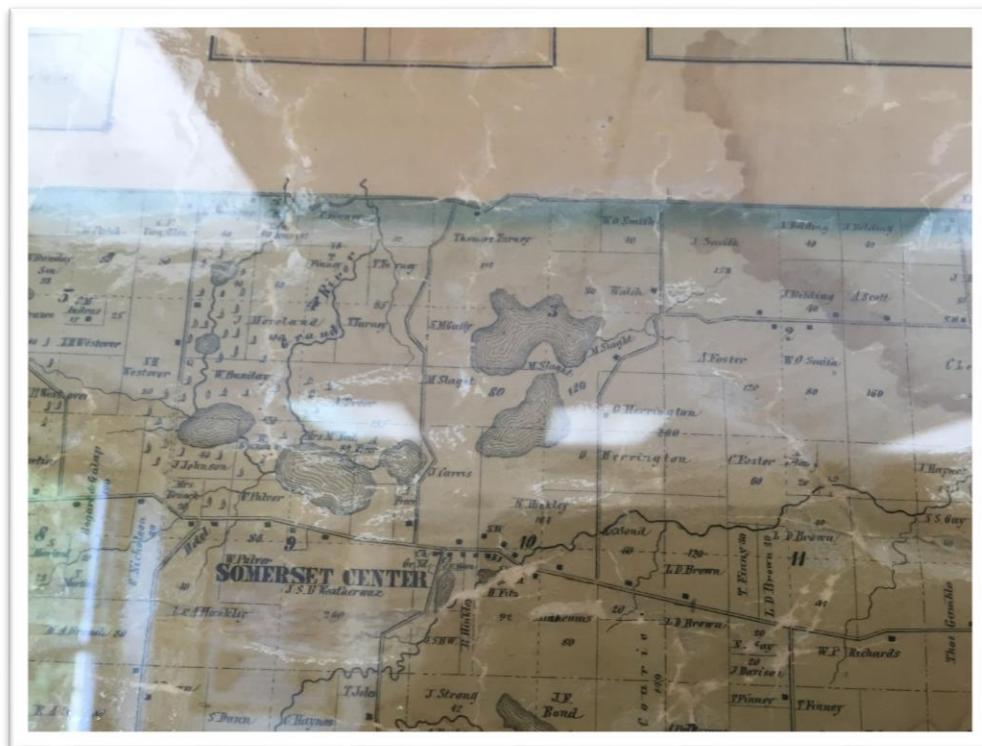


## The Territory

The first surveys conducted in the late 1700's was published in the early 1800's. The earliest survey showed the present-day lake area north of the Great Sauk Trail (current day US Highway 12), as marshy and boggy. Several subsequent surveys into the 1870's show Goose Creek as it was when the white settlers came to the area. The survey posted in the Hillsdale County Courthouse below is an early visual description of our corner of the county.



The trail was the primary Native American route to the interior of Michigan on the way to Chicago. It was a major trade and transit route prior to the existence of highways, the railroad or the Erie Canal which came later to the area of Southern Michigan. It was used in the 1700's by the tribe warrior to travel to Detroit for the Revolutionary War battles.<sup>1</sup>