

Resource Sheet #06

Source: An Ordinance for the Government of the Territory of the United States Northwest of the River Ohio. Drafted by Thomas Jefferson, July 13, 1787. Courtesy, The Library of Congress.

“...Article. 6. There shall be neither slavery nor involuntary servitude in the said territory, otherwise than in the punishment of crimes whereof the party shall have been duly convicted: Provided, always, That any person escaping into the same, from whom labor or service is lawfully claimed in any one of the original States, such fugitive may be lawfully reclaimed and conveyed to the person claiming his or her labor or service as aforesaid.

Be it ordained by the authority aforesaid, That the resolutions of the 23rd of April, 1784, relative to the subject of this ordinance, be, and the same are hereby repealed and declared null and void.

Done by the United States, in Congress assembled, the 13th day of July, in the year of our Lord 1787, and of their sovereignty and independence the twelfth.

Document Analysis:

1. What does Article 6 state about slavery in the territory?
2. How does Article 6 of the Northwest Ordinance change what was said in 1784?
3. How old is the United States of America, according to Article 6?
4. How does Article 6 address the issue of fugitive slaves?
5. How does this document help to answer the question, “Where Did Thomas Jefferson stand on the Issue of Slavery?”