



The Cornerpost

Journal of the Vermont Society of Land Surveyors

Volume 46, Number 3 | Fall 2015



Inside...

» Snapshots from the
Fall Conference
page 6

» More on the Underhill-
Jericho Town Line
page 10

» Register for the
Round Tables!
page 27

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The Cornerpost

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Contents



Feature Articles

President's Message.....	4
Snapshots from the Fall Conference.....	6
Avoiding Common Research Mistakes, Part 3.....	8
Random Notes	9
The 1925–1931 Underhill-Jericho Town Line Dispute, part 2.....	10
The Hardships of Early Explorers and Settlers, part 2.....	16
In Memoriam.....	23
2016 Proposed Budget and Slate of Officers.....	24
Meeting Minutes.....	24
Johnson's Jottings.....	26
Registration for December Round Tables.....	27

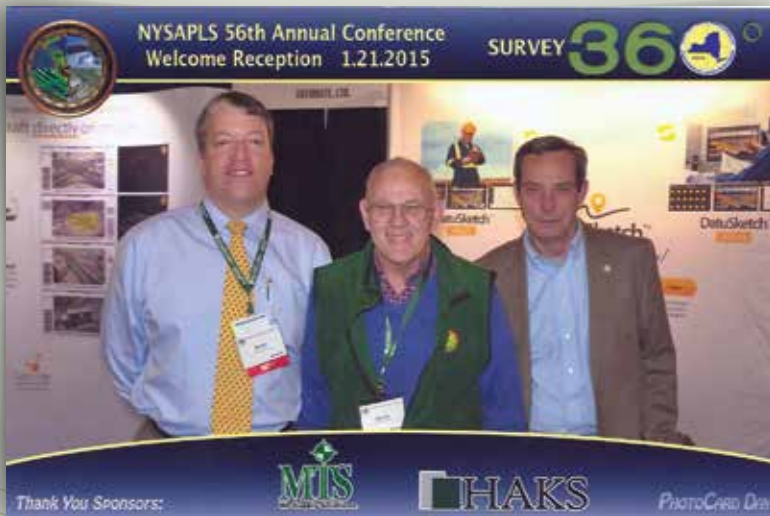
Our Advertisers

Maine Technology Source	2
Keystone Precision Instruments.....	5
EGR Boundary Law.....	22
Eastern Topographics.....	22
Berntsen International.....	23
Surveying Business for Sale.....	25

On the Cover

The McIntosh survey (discussed in the article on page 10) indicates an “old iron sled shoe” marking the towns of Jericho, Essex, Westford and Underhill. This area on Cilley Hill Road was washed out and rebuilt after Tropical Storm Irene in 2011. In October 2015, Joe Flynn, L.S., and Harris Abbott, L.S., dug up this section of the road, where they had received a strong signal of a metal object beneath the road surface. You can read about the results of their dig on page 11.

President's Corner



FALL IS HERE once again. Seems like the seasons have been on a different schedule than we're used to seeing in years past. Fall is later, and winter comes in and hangs around for a while longer.

Surveying has also been changing, like the seasons. Back in Y2K, the year Vaughn persuaded me to get more involved in VSLs, we were introduced to the awesome power of survey grade GPS. Now, fifteen years later, we've seen huge advances in computers; drones are flying and robotic instruments are commonplace, leading the way to the birth of the one-person survey party. Makes me wonder what's next?

Has all this new technology enabled us to provide a better product? I'd have to say yes and no. This advanced technology comes with limitations, and those limits are being pushed to the maximum. Gone, for the most part, are the days of handwritten field notes. Instruments and computer software can grind your data six ways from Sunday. Even the most experienced users admit things happen that they can't explain.

We should never lose sight of the fundamentals and should always fall back on them. Technology

From left, Brad Holden with Harris Abbott and Stuart Morrow at the NYSAPLS conference earlier this year.

has made us lazy – myself included. I've witnessed people tirelessly trying to use the wrong tool for the job. Set it down, break out your cutting tools, and do what you know works best. However, that may be challenging if you're sent out in the field to work alone.

Going forward I'm very concerned for the new people entering our profession. Are they being trained properly? We're all so "busy" that I fear that these folks aren't getting the training and mentoring that they need. Our membership is aging, and once all the mentors are retired or gone, where does that leave us? Good mentors – I was fortunate to work and continue to work with many – are what our profession is based upon. I could go on, but I hope you understand my point.

On a brighter note, there seems to be much more attention put into record research than in years past, and the quality of survey plats and the information on them has greatly improved, which for the most part are all positive things.

We are fortunate to have a vast range of knowledge in our society, and I encourage us all to take advantage of that resource to better ourselves and our profession. Don't lose track of the fun-

damentals; continue to teach and practice them.

I appreciate you listening to me rant for the last six plus years, but it's time to pass the gavel on to someone else. We continue to welcome new members to the Executive Committee; change is healthy. Besides, with the wonderful gift of my two new hips, I'll be spending a lot more time in the backcountry – my church. See you at the Round Tables in December. 🇺🇸

Brad

Brad Holden, L.S.
VSLs President

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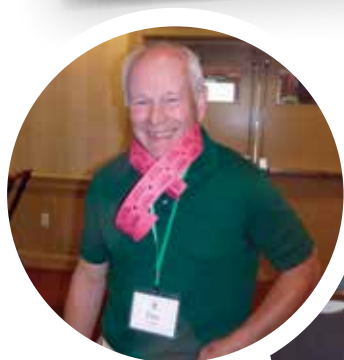
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Snapshots

VSLS 51st Annual Conference
September 18, 2015
Killington Grand Resort Hotel





Thanks to everyone who came out for the conference in September, especially speakers Dan Martin and Liam Murphy, and our guests from other states.



RESEARCHING THE Road Records

BY KNUD E. HERMANSEN, P.L.S., P.E., PH.D., ESQ.

In previous articles I have explained two of the five common mistakes made by surveyors in researching the records. In the first article I discussed mistakes made in determining senior title. In the second article I explained the deficiency existing when a forward search is omitted. The third of five common mistakes often made by surveyors is the failure to research the road records.

Surveyors often omit searching for road records even though their property is bounded by a public road. Even if a search of road records is conducted, a surveyor will often fail to find the appropriate road records. Road records are particularly difficult records to research for three reasons.

First, road records are not always found where other property records are recorded. Road records are often found in municipal offices, department of transportation offices, court records, county commissioner records, and even state archives or other historical archives. The location of road records often depend on the manner the roads were created (e.g., dedication, condemnation), the type of road (e.g., municipal, county, state) and age of the road.

The second difficulty arises because there is seldom an index to help locate the appropriate road record among the plethora of government documents that exist.

The third difficulty is the trouble in



identifying a particular road from the ancient description often used when describing roads found in the records. In other words, when a road record is discovered and read, the reader often finds it difficult if not impossible to identify what road is described and where the road exists on the face of the earth using the ancient description (see the example in the green box).


Researching road records is not so much a matter of following a particular procedure as employing dogged determination and fortitude.

Consider how difficult it would be to locate the following road if knowledge of the area has been lost with the passage of time.

"Beginning 2 rods from Samuel Widman's pasture fence at the turnpike road, thence through Ezekiel King's land, N20°E 25 rods to a stake; thence N36°E, 120 rods to a stake; thence N48°E 90 rods to Jacob Denton's sawmill lane... To be opened at four rods. 12 June 1834."

The failure to search for and locate the appropriate road record often results in the surveyor failing to properly fix the width of the road and thereby causing the client or other landowners to mistakenly build in the public right of way.

Describing typical weaknesses in the surveyor's record search will not necessarily convince surveyors to undertake the tedious and time consuming research necessary to overcome the limitations that were explained.

Knowledge of the deficiencies should allow the surveyor to inform the client that these deficiencies in the research exist at the completion of services. Should the client want to compensate the surveyor for the time to perform a thorough search, these limitations can be overcome. 

Knud is a professor in the surveying engineering technology program at the University of Maine. He offers consulting services in the area of boundary litigation, title, easements, land development, and alternate dispute resolution.

Random Notes



Tim Cowan, L.S., sent in this historic photo of John Perham, a 19th century Vermont surveyor and civil engineer.



GETTING THE WORD OUT – VSLs staffed a booth on Sept. 24 at the Lamoille County Career and Job Fair, held at the Green Mountain Technology Center in Hyde Park. High school students came in throngs early on, and then a trickle of job seekers finished up the afternoon. Above, the local public television station interviews Gayle Burchard, L.S.

AROUND THE WORLD – Harris Abbott, L.S., sent in the photos below from his recent travels. Clockwise from top left: part of a barbed wire display in Tombstone, Arizona; a manhole cover in Dresden, Germany; River gauging stations on the Elbe River, situated outside the entrance to Pillnitz Castle in Dresden; and a control station along the Elbe River.



1925
TO
1931

21st Century Prelibation of the Underhill-Jericho Town Line

Part 2 of the 1925–1931 Underhill-Jericho Town Line Dispute

BY HARRIS G. ABBOTT, L.S.

Being a retired land surveyor, I don't get into the field as often as I would like. On my way to skiing at Smugglers' Notch, I drive Route 15 and pass by two pair inter-visible of VTrans GPS stations along the east side of Route 15 in Riverside and Underhill Flats. I had often wondered if my field techniques for traversing between the GPS stations would be of sufficient quality that I could tie into these stations and feel confident that my values derived could be applied to other surveys that I might undertake in the future. So in late March 2006, I set up a traverse to take advantage of the existing VTrans GPS stations. I ran a control traverse between the GPS station set along the easterly side of Route 15 between Browns Trace road in Jericho and Homestead Acres development in Underhill. The VTrans stations used were established in 1993 and tied to NAD83-92 values. Two pair of inter-visible monuments were Shamrock-Irish and Underhill-Homestead.

Brad Holden asked me if I would like to go for a “walk in the woods” for the retracement of the 1928–1931 Jericho-Underhill Town Line survey...

I started at Shamrock, backsighted Irish and ran north to the north side of River Road, east to Park Street and north along Park Street to Underhill and closing on Homestead. As part of the traverse, I also located the 1928–1931 monuments set along the Jericho-Underhill town line by H. M. McIntosh, Civil Engineer that I recovered at stations 114+65 and 119+42. For the survey notes and field references, I have kept the stationing numbers for the monuments recovered and shown on



the McIntosh plat for the Jericho-Underhill town line survey, even though the field distance between the monuments recovered from the plat may vary from the recovered field position of the monuments.

About the same time as I was doing this, Brad Holden, L.S., of Underhill was starting to take over the Town of Underhill tax mapping from Ed Moore. Brad lived in the northwest corner of the Town of Underhill and owned property that abutted the Underhill-Cambridge town line, which he had been retracing. As part of the Underhill tax mapping project, Brad wanted to get the town lines into the tax mapping base layer as accurately as possible. Brad asked me if I would like to go for a “walk in the woods” for the retracement of the 1928–1931 Jericho-Underhill Town Line survey by McIntosh, for the Vermont Supreme Court, Chittenden County, June 15, 1931 based on the Report of Commissioners. It is always fun to be involved in a survey project involving preservation of town lines. These projects do not happen as often as they should.

All of the current town lines of Underhill had been resurveyed and monumented since the town was chartered in 1763.

In April 2009, Brad Holden and Jack Milbank work at the 1930 McIntosh Cor Sta 230+11.7 on South Hill

The various surveys of the Underhill-Jericho town line include:

1862 SURVEY of the east line of the west portion of the old Town of Mansfield that had been annexed to Underhill and abutted the west line of the Town of Stowe in 1853. I had been working for the University of Vermont, which owns property on the top of Mt Mansfield, and had retraced the 1853 survey and recovered iron rods set in ledge along the crest of Mt Mansfield in the late 1980s and 1990s to which I had tied the survey points recovered into the NAD83-96 GPS values. The 1862 survey is recorded in the 1847-1866 Underhill Town Meeting Records, Pages 261-261, the last three pages of the book, and in Stowe Vol. 15, Pages 402-403. September 1907 survey of the Champlain Realty Company land in Underhill, recorded in Underhill Volume 31, Page 260 and Volume 29, Pages 493-494 is a partial retracement of the 1862 survey.

1928-1931 RESURVEY of the Jericho-Underhill town line by H.M. McIntosh Civil Engineer as submitted to and approved by the VT Supreme Court, Chittenden County, 15 June 1931 based on the Report of Commissioners. Underhill Land Records hanging file 265 A and B. Jericho Land Records report and plat with the Town of Underhill vs. Town of Jericho filed in the vault along with a reference to Volume 25, Pages 414 to 416.

1976 RESURVEY of the Underhill-Westford town line by John Marsh, L.S. Underhill Land Records hanging file 39 A.

1978-1979 RESURVEY of the Cambridge-Underhill town line by JPR Associates of Stowe, Job 76-33. I had also tied a portion of their town line survey in the area of Mt Mansfield into the NAD83-96 GPS values. Underhill Land Records hanging file 38B, 134 A and B and 135 A.

In 2004, the O'Leary-Burke engineering and surveying firm had a joint project with the Towns of Jericho and Underhill to design and construct a recreation path along the north side of River Road in the town of Jericho and the west side of Park Street in the Town of Underhill.

The Jericho-Underhill town line runs in a northwesterly – southeasterly direction westerly of and is somewhat parallel to Park Street in the Town of Underhill. During the construction process, the granite monument set by the McIntosh survey at the intersection Park Street and River Road (station 133+86.7) was disturbed and the O'Leary-Burke surveyor, Joseph Flynn, L.S., took the monument home for safekeeping until it could be reset. Brad Holden wanted to have the monument replaced and asked if I would like to be involved in the project. We started by doing reconnaissance in April 2008 to see if other monuments called for by the McIntosh survey still existed.

Physical evidence found during the perambulation of the town line.

The following monuments marking the line were recovered and are referenced to the McIntosh stationing:

- 1 Station 0+00 yields a strong signal for a metal object beneath the surface of Cilley Hill Road. The McIntosh survey indicates an "old iron sled shoe" marking the towns of Jericho, Essex, Westford and Underhill in April 2006. The road was washed out and rebuilt after Tropical Storm Irene in 2011. I suspect that any evidence of the old iron sled shoe was destroyed when the road was rebuilt. In October 2015, Joe Flynn, L.S., from DuBois & King, Inc., and I decided to dig up the dirt road where we had received a strong signal of a metal object beneath the road surface. We did not find the old iron sled shoe. However, we did find a 4"x4" concrete monument with an orange top 2.3 feet below the road surface. The location of the concrete monument bears S 54° 27' E 1.6 feet from the theoretical corner of the old iron sled shoe found by McIntosh.²⁰ If anybody reading this article has any information about the setting of the concrete monument, please contact the writer.
- 2 Station 52+04.3 - recovered a 3/4" split pin in ledge on station CAP-HILL. Located by a single angle and distance traversed in from two GPS points set in field, April 2009. This is near the point that McIntosh indicated that he found a point set by Dewart.²¹



- 3 Station 114+65 - recovered in 2006 a granite monument east of Route 15 on the green in Underhill Flats.
- 4 Station 119+42 - recovered in 2006 a granite monument west of Park Street, south of G.A.R. Drive and north of a buried propane gas tank.
- 5 Station 123+04 - recovered a finial atop a turret of a house f.k.a. the J.E. Foster house ca.1930.²²
- 6 Station 133+87 - the monument not found. It had been disturbed during a construction project.
- 7 Station 230+11.7 - recovered a 3/4" split pin in ledge on station SOUTH-HILL. GPS observation April 2009.
- 8 Station 239+16.4 - recovered a 2" iron pipe marker of the 1928 Fort Ethan Allen Artillery Range. GPS observation April 2009.
- 9 Station 246+68.7 - recovered a 2" Iron pipe marker of the 1928 Fort Ethan Allen Artillery Range.

Offsets along a straight line between CAP-HILL-GPS to SOUTH-HILL-GPS based on NAD83-96 VT grid bearing of S 36°11'33" E and also extend along the same bearing from SOUTH-HILL-GPS towards TL-239+16.4-GPS are as follows:

- 10 TL-114+65-granite monument = 0.41 ft. northeast of Town Line towards Park Street.
- 11 TL-119+42-granite monument = 0.44 ft. northeast of Town Line towards Park Street.
- 12 TL-123+07-Finial on top of turret on house = 0.21 ft. northeast of Town Line towards Park Street.
- 13 TL-133+87-granite monument = 2.05 ft. northeast of Town Line towards Park Street – This is the location of the disturbed monument that Palmer Company, Ltd. found in 1984 and Trudell Consulting Engineers recovered in 2001. The monument has been kidnapped by Joe Flynn, L.S., for safe keeping until it can be reset.

The 1930 McIntosh plat shows two iron pipes that were located southeasterly of SOUTH-HILL along the new boundary of the Fort Ethan Allen Artillery Range. The iron pipes were indicated as being on the town line, according to the government surveys:

- 14 TL-239+16.4-IPF is a 2" iron pipe 2.26 ft. west of the town line and at the north corner of the 1928 Tract J-21. GPS observation, April 2009 places the iron pipe 2.40 ft. southwest of Town Line vs. McIntosh offset of 2.26 ft., $\Delta = 0.14$ ft.
- 15 TL-246+68.7-IPF is a 2" iron pipe 1.75 ft. west of the town line and in the northeasterly line of the 1928 Tract J-21 and at the northwest corner of the 1943 Tract U-300.
- 16 TL-364++64 is a stone bound found, inscribed "TL" at the intersection of stone walls that marks the corner of the towns of Bolton, Jericho and Underhill.

In addition, the town line runs through the front of buildings that are located on the west side of Park Street in the Town of Underhill, southeast of the green between Stations 116+52.4 and 124+12.7. The building corners and the finial atop the turret located at station 123+04 were located on 14 July 2008 with the help of Joe Flynn, L.S.

Examination of the land records indicated that there had recent surveys of the property at the intersection of the west of Park Street and the north side of River Road in 1984 and 2001. Both surveys had previously located the disturbed monument at station 133+87. The control survey was extended to locate property corners of the 1984 and 2001 surveys, in order to determine the location of the missing monument at station 133+87.

Interpreting the McIntosh field notes indicates that he ran a trial straight line very close to the suspected final location of the town line. He was probably following the 1925 town line survey that Jericho rejected in 1926. He only needed to set over 5.5 ft. at the 3/4" split pin he set in ledge at station 52+04.323 on CAP-HILL and 2.75 ft. at the 3/4" split pin he set in ledge at station 230+11.7²⁴ on SOUTH-HILL to make a straight line between the "old iron sled shoe"²⁵ that McIntosh found marking the corner of the towns of Essex, Jericho, Westford and Underhill. The sled shoe is located at the end of a stone wall located east of Cilley Hill Road at the northwesterly corner of the Town of Underhill and the "old Stone Corner"²⁶ found at the town corner of Bolton, Jericho and Underhill in the Fort Ethan Allen Artillery Range. The "old Stone Corner" has been further referenced as the "Ancient Monument of Stone" for protection in the final 1928 taking deed of the United States of America.²⁷ The deed said in part:

"... And it is further ordered that the Ancient Monument of Stone that marks the dividing lines between the towns of Jericho, Underhill and Bolton be preserved by the plaintiff (U.S. Government), and said towns shall have the right to keep and maintain said Ancient Monument intact and to enter upon the premises at reasonable times and in reasonable manner for that purpose, said towns first to give written notice thereof ..."²⁸

In the spring of 2012, Brad Holden, L.S., received permission to visit the "old Stone Corner" (TL-364+64) in the range for the purpose of obtaining GPS values for the corner monument. Unfortunately, a reliable signal could not be obtained. As of this writing, he has not gone back to try again.

When McIntosh was doing the field work for the Jericho-Underhill town line survey, the U.S. Government was in the process of surveying property for the creation of the Fort Ethan Allen Artillery Range. In 1927, McIntosh and Crandall, (the company name was changed to H.M. McIntosh after Crandall's death in the late 1920s), had a contract from the U.S. District Attorney to conduct record research on property being acquired for the creation of the 1928 Fort Ethan Allen Artillery Range located in the towns of Bolton, Jericho and Underhill. Statement submitted, 20 September 1927, for 33 abstracts at \$45.00 each for a total of \$1485.00. Since the

U.S. Government was acquiring property to create the range, the survey notes (Pages 7303 to the back of Page 7303 and the back of Page 7327 to the back of Page 7328),²⁹ indicate McIntosh had the opportunity to survey the town line as it ran through the newly created range. However, one cannot tell from reviewing the McIntosh files whether he was involved with the surveying of the individual range tracts to be acquired.³⁰ On 2 June 1932, McIntosh writes a letter to Captain C.A. Bennett who was in charge of the Artillery Range asking for:

“.... permission to fish in the trout streams on the artillery range. My brother-in-law, Mr. Harry Derby, and my helper here in the office, Mr. Frank Shedd, would also be very pleased to try their luck with me. The firm of McIntosh and Crandall search the titles for the artillery range, for the war department, hence I have a pretty good general idea of where the land lies.”³¹

It is unclear if McIntosh received permission to fish on the Artillery range.

1929 Polaris Observations vs. GPS Observations and Distance Variations

McIntosh observed Polaris on 28 May 1929.³² He used the town line True Bearing of S36°29' 54"E versus a mean geodetic bearing from GPS observations between the corners recovered at CAP-HILL and SOUTH-HILL of S36°30' 02"E for a difference of 0°00'08".

The difference between the 1930 McIntosh stationing between CAP-HILL-1930 (station 52+04.4) to SOUTH-HILL-1930 (station 230+11.7) of 17806 ft. vs. the distance between the same points recovered and the distance derived by GPS observation of 17726.2 ft., is + 80 ft., which leads to the conclusion that there is creep in the McIntosh stationing values along the town line. This creep is further confirmed when the grid bearing between CAP-HILL-GPS to SOUTH-HILL-GPS of S36°11'33" E is extended to the southeast along the bearing towards TL-239+16.4-GPS in order to verify the offset distance shown on the McIntosh plat for that corner. The difference in stationing from the McIntosh plat is 904.7 ft. vs. the GPS distance of 899.21 ft. yielding a difference of 5.5 ft. in a 905 ft. line. The offset distance computes at 2.41' vs. the McIntosh plat offset distance of 2.26 ft., $\Delta = 0.15$ ft.

The Next Step

The instruction given to the commission in the Public Acts, Number 116, Sections 1 through 12 as approved January 28, 1911, spelled out how the monuments were to be installed at all road crossings. Public Act 116 was renumbered as Chapter 175, Sections 4066 through 4075. Exceptions were made by the Commission for the placing of monuments where the town line crossed roads that were located in the recently acquired Fort Ethan Allen Artillery Range. The monument disturbed at station 133+87 is in the area of a revised intersection of the west side of Park Street with the north side of River Road. A better location for the

monument to be replaced would be on the south side of River Road. Section 5 of the Public Act 116 stated in part that:

“....the posts shall be centered in the center of the hole three feet deep and not less than three feet in diameter filled around with small stones or concrete, leaving the post one foot above the ground: ...”

So, on the south side of River Road, do we leave the reset monument one foot above the ground so that the winged winter snow plow can relocate the monument again? Or, do we set a second, poured in place monument set flush with the ground, further over the bank, with a brass tablet marking the town line, using the reset stone monument as a witness post for the poured in place concrete monument?

The retracement of the town line has been a volunteer effort, going for a walk in the woods in the early spring, to see what remained from the McIntosh 1928–1930 town line corners set. With the possible exception of Brad Holden when he was on the Underhill selectboard, neither Jericho nor Underhill has been concerned about resetting the missing monument. The missing monument only lasted 70-plus years before being disturbed. I think of this as a volunteer effort to perpetuate the town line.

Stay tuned for the decision of what, if anything, gets reset at the missing corner. 🍷



In addition to Brad Holden, L.S., who offered me a chance to go for a walk in the woods, I would like to thank the other surveyors and individuals who volunteered their time and energy for perambulation and preservation of the Jericho–Underhill town line: Jack Milbank of Civil Engineering Associates, for providing GPS observations and computations; both Scott Taylor, L.S., of Trudell Consulting Engineers, and the late Mark Ward, L.S., of Parmer Company, for sharing their raw survey data on property surveys that included observation on the now missing town line monument; Joe Flynn, L.S., for his strong back and the use of DuBois & King's gas powered jack hammer to dig up the road surface in Cilley Hill Road to look for the “old iron sled shoe,” and the storage of the monument found until it can be reset; Underhill Town Clerk Sherri Morin for providing a PDF file of the 1929–1931 McIntosh survey of the town line and allowing me to make copies of pertinent town records at no cost; and Jericho Town Clerk Jessica Alexander for digging up the old town meeting records for me to review.

{footnotes}

²⁰ HGALS field book “Mt Dora”, Page 86.

²¹ Survey notes, back of Page 7329, found in Box 5197, H to Z of the McIntosh files stored at the University of Vermont Special Collections Dept.

²² Survey notes, page 7932.

²³ Survey notes, back side of page 573.

²⁴ Survey notes, back side of page 573.

²⁵ Survey notes, Page 6254, back side of pages 7111 and 7328.

²⁶ Survey notes, back side of page 7328.

²⁷ Recorded in Volume 31, Pages 360 to 408, Town of Underhill

and Volume 25, Pages 308 to 376, Town of Jericho.

²⁸ Volume 31, Page 407, Underhill Land Records.

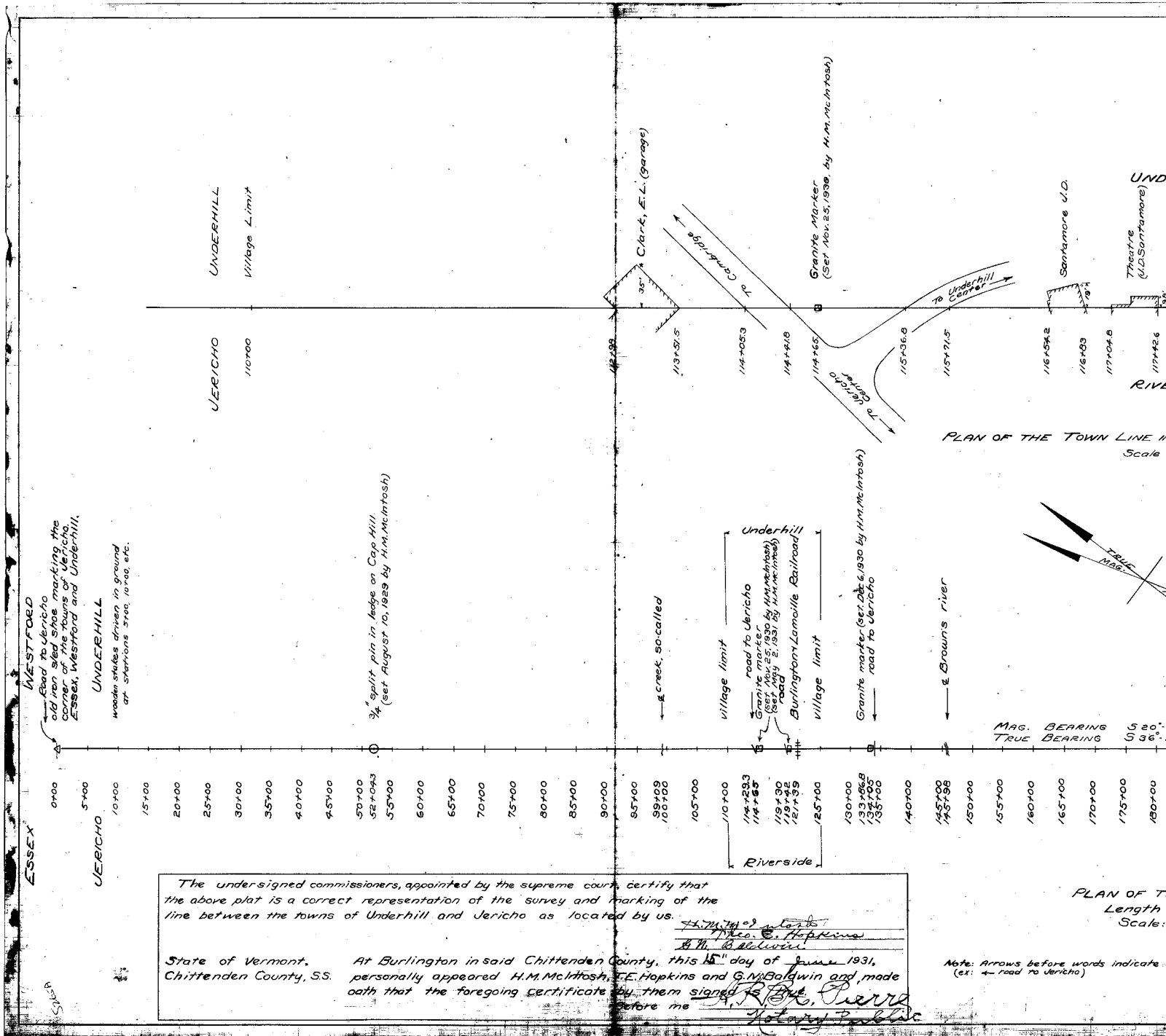
²⁹ Survey notes.

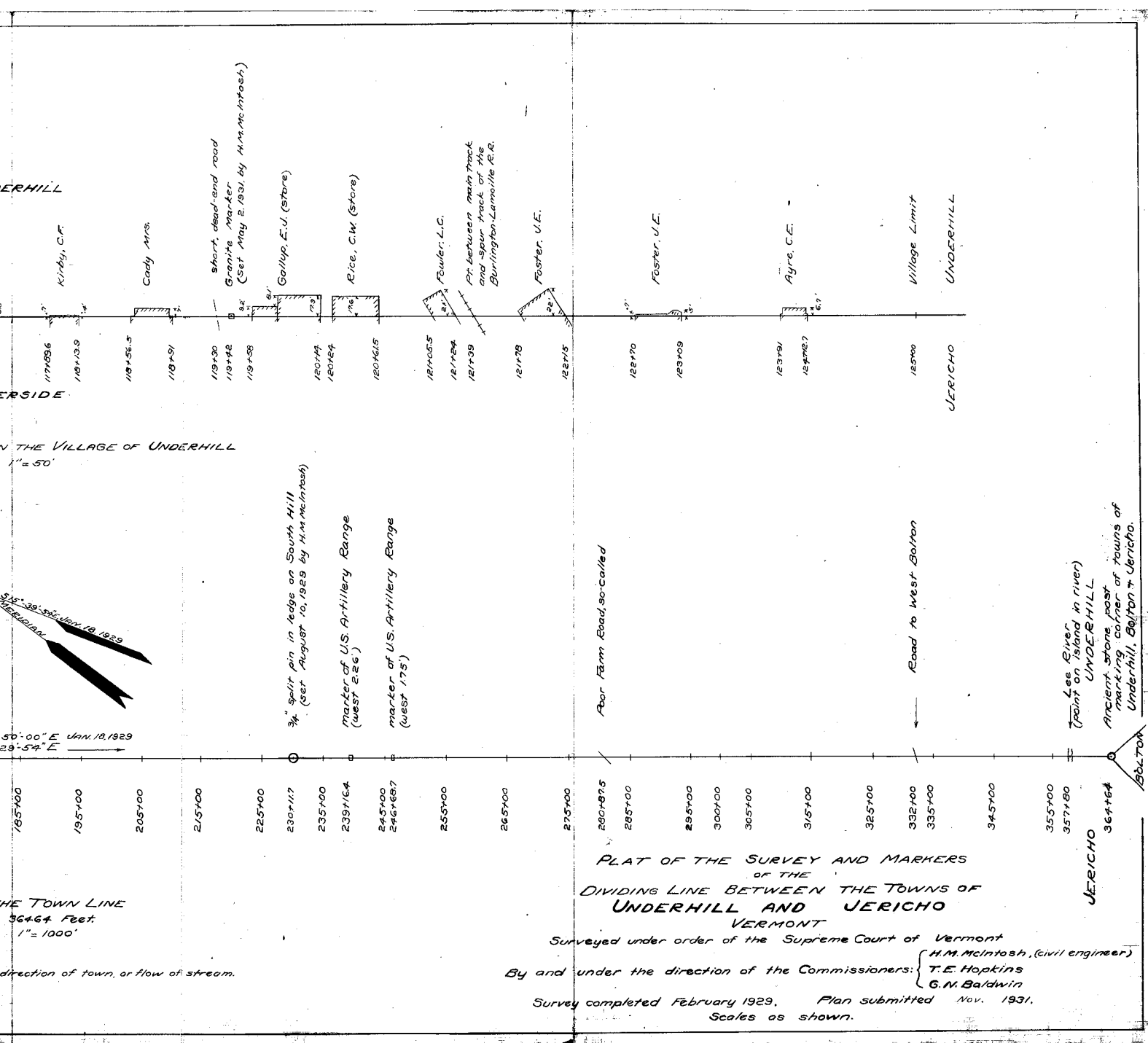
³⁰ McIntosh Carton 1, Folder 14. Also in the HGALS files – notebook Mansfield / Underhill Town Line and the Underhill Firing Range Tract Surveys. Tab 1928 Fort Ethan Allen Artillery Range Survey Tracts, Underhill land records.

³¹ McIntosh Carton 2, Folder 3, page 77.

³² Survey Notes, Page 573 and to the back of page 575.

1929–1931 McIntosh Underhill-







THE HARDSHIPS OF

Early Explorers & Settlers

IN THE VERMONT
WILDERNESS *(part 2)*

BY DAVID MANN, L.L.S., EDITOR

In 1740-41, while Richard Hazzen and his company made their way along the northerly bound of Massachusetts Bay, they could hardly realize our perspective looking back in time, trying to get a feeling of their hardships as they spent the 37 days on the survey. It is hard to visualize, just as it will be hard for people 250 years from now to look back and understand our existence. »

I don't remember ever sleeping out on the ground when I was surveying. I always sought out a local motel or inn. I think the one time I did camp out with a friend and slept on the bare ground, it resulted in a bad chest cold which my mother called the "grip," and I was laid up for a week. Perhaps I should have put some Hemlock boughs on the ground. These guys must have been tough as nails.

The settling of the Provincial boundary by the King did not resolve all the issues with the boundary – the dispute continued into the late 1800s – but that is a story for another time. I found quite a bit of information on Richard Hazzen in the historic record, as is easily available; however, I found very little on the other members of the company.

I will add a few more notations from Mr. Hazzen's journal that provide a view of the hardships these men suffered. Near the end of the journal, the following notation caught my eye. "The weather prov'd so favourable that we never stopt in the woods for any foul weather nor did we make a camp any One Night & stretch'd our Blankets but three times all the journey but lodged without any covering save the heavens and our Blankets." I'm not exactly sure what he means by "stretch'd our Blankets," but I'm pretty sure he's referring to tying them off to provide shelter rather than just pulling them over yourself.

On Thursday March 26 he makes this entry:

"We set Out Early and with great difficulty pass'd Nashua River in a Canoe, which Could carry but Two men At One time & leak't half full every time she cross'd the River, for which ferridge I paid Ten shillings tho the River was not more then Twenty Rods Over."

On Saturday April 18, while on their way home, Mr. Hazzen writes:

"We set away from Mr. Slakes Early in the Morning and the Same day came to Capt. Spurrs at Upper Houseatonnack and Lodged there by his fire side. Some time before we Arrived at Spurrs, it Thunder'd & lightned verry hard, and hail'd great Stones like pieces of ice and Many of them near as bigg as Hens Eggs."

That must make traveling pretty interesting.

Some early history of the settlements along the Connecticut River might be in order to provide an understanding of the situation that existed prior to the time of Hazzen's survey. In 1687 the Town of Northfield received a deed, from Chief Nawelet, for a large tract of land which would probably include a large portion of the Town of Vernon in Vermont and the Town of Hinsdale in New Hampshire. Subsequently the Equivalent Lands (see 1753 Douglass map above) were granted by Massachusetts Bay in order to settle previous boundary disputes between that province and that of Connecticut.



In the year 1713, it was determined that the settlements of Massachusetts Bay encroached on Connecticut by 107,793 acres. Massachusetts, not wishing to relinquish the lands already settled, provided equivalent lands to compensate Connecticut. "The surveys laying out the new tracts were concluded on November 10, 1715."

One of the four areas designated as equivalent lands was an area of 43,943 acres, which was situated above Northfield on the west side of the Connecticut River. This parcel now lies wholly or in part in the towns of Brattleboro, Dummerston, and Putney, Vt. The Town of Northfield was incorporated by the General Court of Massachusetts Bay in 1723. Following years of skirmishes and deprivations caused by attacks by the French and native peoples, since the 1672 settlement of Northfield and many pleas to the government for relief:

Finally the general court on December 27, 1723 voted:

"That it will be great service to all the western frontiers both in this and in the neighboring government of Connecticut, to build a Block-house, above Northfield, in the Equivalent Lands, and to post 40 able men, English and Western Indians, to be employed in scouting at agood distance up Connecticut river, West river, Otter Creek, and sometimes eastwardly above Great Monadnock, for the discovery of the enemy coming towards any of the frontier towns; and that so much of the said Equivalent Lands as shall be necessary for a Block-house be taken up, with the consent of the owners of the said lands, together with 5 or 6 acres of their interval land, to be broke up or plowed for the present use of the Western Indians, in case any of them shall think fit to bring their families thither."

Lt. Col. John Stoddard of Northampton was put in charge of selecting the site and superintending the erection of the fort. Fort Dummer was the name selected in honor of the Governor of Massachusetts Bay. Col. Stoddard's communiqué regarding construction of the fort as follows.

On February 3, 1724 Col Stoddard writes

I have engaged divers persons to make snow-shoes. Some of the moginsons are already made and sent to Northfield. I have committed the work about the Block-house to Lieut. Timothy Dwight. Mr. Dwight will go this day to the place with 4 carpenters, 12 soldiers with narrow axes and 2 teams. I suppose they will hew all the timber for the fort and housing before they return. I hope the fort and houses will be framed and set up this month.

And in a subsequent report he provides the following:

"We agreed with carpenters from Northfield (Stephen Crowfoot, Daniel Wright and 2 others) for 5 shillings per day, except Crowfoot, to whom I promised 6 shillings, and they all allow that he earned his money by doing so much more work than the others. The soldiers had a very hard service, lying in the woods, and were obliged to work early and late; it is thought they deserve 2 shillings per day besides the stated pay, and the carpenters something more. The horses were worked very hard, and commonly had nothing to eat but oats, and I believe 2 shilling a day will not be thought an excess for such service."

This is probably enough about Fort Dummer. However, these settlers and the soldiers at the fort experienced many hardships and much anguish over raids by Grey Lock and his band, who were instigated and supported by the French. The dynamics of what is transpiring are hard for us to comprehend from our perch in the twenty-first century. It is all a matter of perspective, and ours is mostly influenced by our roots.

THE NEXT PHASE: 1726 - 1764

The years pass somewhat more peacefully from 1726 to 1744. Within this time period, the provincial boundary dispute is settled and Richard Hazzen and his company are sent out to survey the line. It is only eight years until Benning Wentworth grants the Town of Bennington and sets the stage for another dispute. I have often said that Vermont is the biggest boundary dispute that I know of, but there are probably many others.

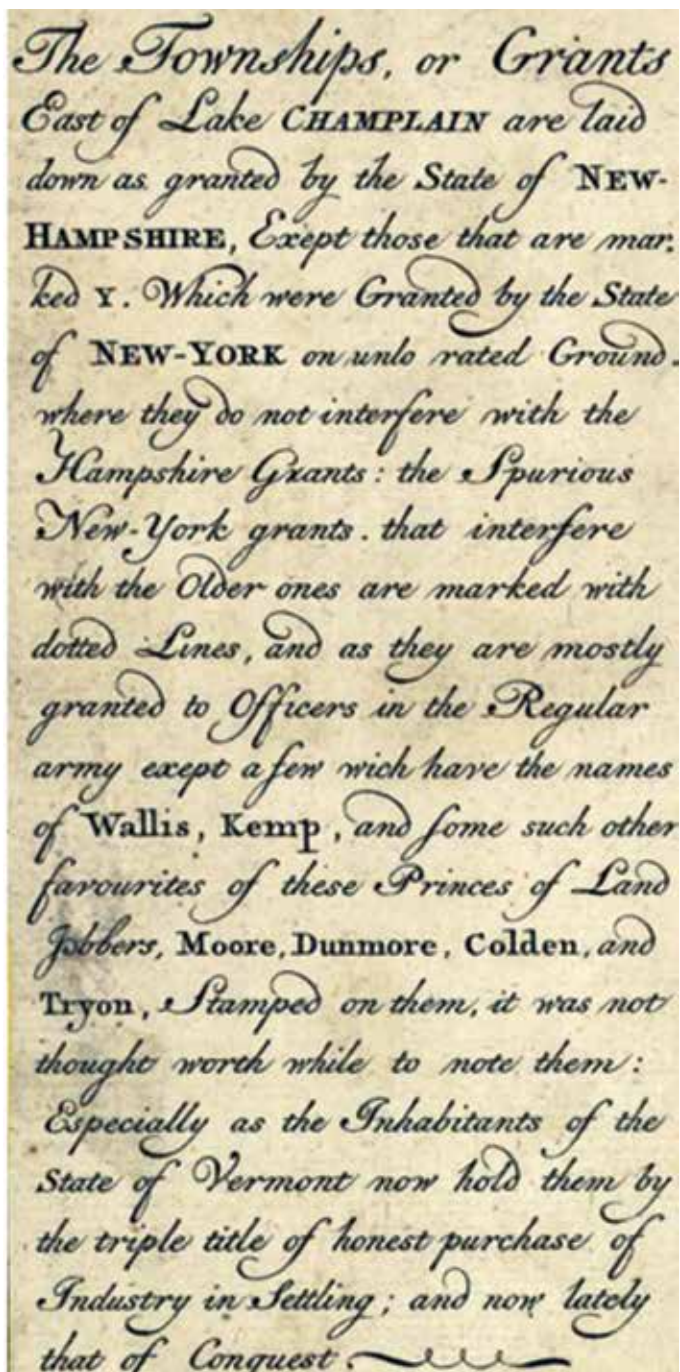
We make our way through a couple more French and Indian conflicts, and in 1759 the Crown Point Road is constructed to support the British war effort. By this time the front lines of the conflict have moved away from Eastern Vermont. The troops moving across Vermont are enamored with the beauty of the Green Mountains and the possibilities of acquiring grants to the fertile lands. The New Hampshire Grants offer them the chance for a better life.

However, the bubble bursts, for:

"In September 1762, New York caught New Hampshire surveyors working on the east side of Lake Champlain, provoking the former colony's government to reiterate its claim to the area, citing both its own patent and the New Hampshire letters patent of 1741. In March 1764, Wentworth released a statement to the effect that the resolution of jurisdictional dispute required a royal verdict, which he was certain would be made in his favor. Meanwhile, he encouraged his grantees to settle in the land and to cultivate and develop it. New York appealed to the Board of Trade, requesting a confirmation of their original grant,

which finally resolved the border dispute between New York and New Hampshire in favor of New York. The royal order of July 26, 1764 affirmed that 'the Western bank of the Connecticut, from where it enters the province of Massachusetts Bay as far north as the 45th degree of northern latitude, to be the boundary line between the said two provinces of New Hampshire and New York.' Wentworth issued his final two grants on October 17 of that year: Walker and Waltham."

The Revolutionary war interrupts the battle between the inhabitants of what is to become the State of Vermont, who hold their land "by the triple title of honest purchase of industry in settling and now lately that of conquest" and the "Harpy Land Jobbers" of New York.



*The Townships, or Grants
East of Lake CHAMPLAIN are laid
down as granted by the State of NEW-
HAMPSHIRE, Except those that are mar-
ked X. Which were Granted by the State
of NEW-YORK on unlocated Ground.
where they do not interfere with the
Hampshire Grants: the Spurious
New-York grants. that interfere
with the Older ones are marked with
dotted Lines, and as they are mostly
granted to Officers in the Regular
army except a few wick have the names
of Wallis, Kemp, and some such other
favourites of these Princes of Land
Jobbers, Moore, Dunmore, Colden, and
Tryon, I Stamped on them, it was not
thought worth while to note them:
Especially as the Inhabitants of the
State of Vermont now hold them by
the triple title of honest purchase of
Industry in Settling; and now lately
that of Conquest.*

The following are passages from the History of Eastern Vermont which show a few specific instances of these rugged Vermont folk moving into their future home.

GUILFORD

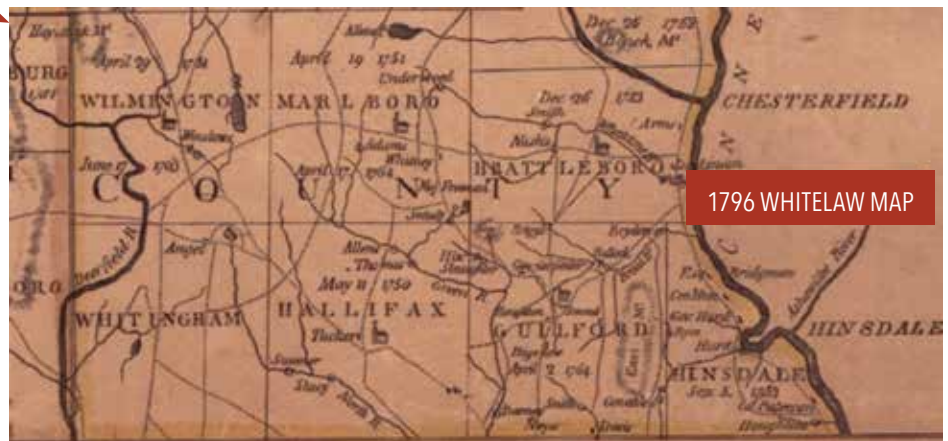
"They came into town by the way of Broad Brook. Beginning at the mouth of that stream on Connecticut river in Vernon, and passing up on its banks, they found their way into Guilford. This road, although the only one by which the town could then be reached, was impassable with teams, and the settlers, for some time, were compelled either 'to boil or pound their corn, or go fifteen miles to mill with a grist upon their backs.' Such are some of the circumstances pertaining to the early settlement of Guilford."

I am sure they endured greater hardships than having to eat boiled corn.

GRAFTON

"The town of Grafton was granted, on the 8th of April, 1754, to Jonathan Whitney, William Holt, Nathaniel Harris, and sixty-one associates, by the name of Thomlinson, and was the last town chartered by New Hampshire previous to the breaking out of the French war. On the 9th of July, 1761, the time for fulfilling some of the conditions of the charter was extended. A new charter was granted on the 1st of September, 1763, to the same persons who had held the former one, and the old name was retained. In the year 1768, a Mr. Hinkley and his family, with two other families, removed to the township, and began a settlement on what was afterwards called Hinkley Brook. They soon abandoned their undertaking, and from that time there was no permanent settlement within the borders of the town until the year 1780. The name Grafton was substituted for that of Thomlinson on the 31st of October, 1791."

On the 1761 Blanchard Langdon Map, the Crown Point Road is shown and the many New Hampshire Grant towns names have been penciled in. Later versions of this map have the town names neatly drafted.



HARTFORD

"Hartford, the first township granted by New Hampshire east of the Green Mountains after the close of the French war, was chartered on the 4th of July, 1761. The original grantees, sixty-four in number, were principally from Lebanon, Connecticut. Prince Tracy, James Pinneo Jr., and Jonathan Marsh constituted the proprietors' committee. Within a few months after the charter was obtained, sixty-four fifty acre lots were laid out, one of which was given to each proprietor to hold in severalty. In 1763, the township was surveyed, and proper marks were placed at the corners, and between the corners at the end of every mile. At the same time allowance was made for highways, and some of them were partially prepared for use. These improvements occupied a part of the summer, and

were made by ten of the grantees. In the summer of 1764, the same persons renewed their exertions, and in that year, Elijah, Solomon, and Benajah Strong emigrated with their families from Lebanon, Connecticut, and made the first permanent settlement.

"They were followed during the next year by twelve other families, and on the 8th of March, 1768, the town was regularly organized. The first child born in town was Roger, son of Ebenezer Gillett. This event occurred on the 6th of August, 1767. From the time the town was chartered until its organization, the proprietors displayed much energy in effecting a settlement, and by their strenuous efforts the requisitions of the charter, under which they held, were faithfully fulfilled."

NORWICH

"On the 4th of July, 1761, under a patent from New Hampshire, the township of Norwich was granted by the name of Norwhich, to Eleazer Wales and his associates, and was organized in Connecticut on the 26th of August following. In 1762, the township was apportioned by lot. Although at that time the neighboring country was for miles around covered with untrodden wildernesses, yet this did not deter the advance of civilization. A few years later, cottages and cabins had sprung up in Norwich; and at Lebanon and Hanover, in New Hampshire, patches of cleared ground bore witness to the presence of the sturdy pioneer. The first settlers in Norwich were Jacob Fenton, Ebenezer Smith, and John Slafter from Mansfield, Connecticut, Jacob Burton and Asa, his son, from Stonington, in the same province, and the Messenger and Hutchinson families. In 1766, a saw mill was built by the Burtons, a little west of Norwich plain, and from that period the growth of the town was constant and certain."

HARTLAND

"The township of Hartland was originally granted by New Hampshire to Samuel Hunt and his associates, by the name of Hertford, on the 10th of July, 1761. Its settlement was commenced in May, 1763, by Timothy Lull, who had been previously living at Dummerston. Having concluded to remove to Hertford, he purchased a log canoe, and taking with him his family, which consisted of a wife and four children, and such furniture as they needed, paddled up Connecticut river. Arriving at the mouth of a certain stream in Hertford, he anchored his boat and landed his family. Taking then a junk bottle, he broke it in the presence of his wife and children, and named the stream Lull's Brook — the name by which it has ever since been known. Proceeding up the brook about a mile, he came to a deserted log-hut, situated near the place now called Sumner's village. Here he commenced a settlement. For many years he suffered privations and hardships, "but possessing a strong constitution and a vigorous mind, he overcame all obstacles, accumulated a handsome property, lived respected, and died generally lamented." His son Timothy was the first child born in the town.* The settlers who followed Mr. Lull were mostly emigrants from Massachusetts and Connecticut. In 1765, thirty was the number of the inhabitants in the town. On the 23d of July, 1766, the charter of the town was confirmed by New York to Oliver Willard, and the grantees associated with him. The first town meeting was held on the 11th of March, 1767. Much inconvenience having arisen from the similarity between the name of Hertford and that of Hartford the adjoining town, Hertford was, by an act of the Legislature of Vermont passed June 15th, 1782, altered to Hartland, which name is still retained."

THETFORD

"The charter of the town of Thetford was signed by Governor Benning Wentworth of New Hampshire, on the 12th of August, 1761. The first settlement within its borders was made by John Chamberlain, familiarly known as 'Old Quail John,' who removed hither from Hebron, Connecticut, in 1764. On the 13th of December

in the same year, his daughter Susannah was born. This was the first birth in the town. During the year 1765, the Baldwin and Hosford families removed to Thetford. The town was organized on the 10th of May, 1768."

SPRINGFIELD

"In the year 1753, before the commencement of the French war, and eight years previous to the date of the charter of the town of Springfield, Daniel Sawtell, Jacob Sawtell, Oliver Sawtell, Combs House, Samuel Douglass, Oliver Farnsworth, Joseph Douglass, Noah Porter, Nathaniel Powers, Simeon Powers and Simeon Powers Jr., 'being poor and indigent, and unable to purchase lands in any of the inhabited towns of his Majesty's provinces' — while the lands in said Springfield 'lay in the open wilderness, waste and until'd, without yielding any revenue to his Majesty, or profits to his subjects' — 'did, for his Majesty's profit,' as well as for the support of themselves, their wives, and their children, 'enter upon, till and improve part of the lands in said Springfield.' During the war they defended their possessions 'at the peril' of their own lives, and by the loss of the lives of some of their 'friends and neighbours,' and 'were as a guard to those places,' located further down the river, which 'were exposed to the rage of an heathen and savage foe.' After the reduction of Canada, and the defeat of their 'Popish enemies,' they renewed their labors with greater energy, and succeeded in establishing a prosperous and attractive settlement.

"The first charter of the town was issued under the seal of New Hampshire, on the 20th of August, 1761. In the same year John Kilburn purchased of the proprietors one right containing three hundred and sixty acres, and shortly after 'did enter upon, clear, cultivate and till said lands, according to the conditions of the charter under which the lands were then held, and also erected thereon a dwelling-house.' In 1762, Simon Stevens became an inhabitant of the town, and by his example and individual efforts, did much to alleviate the wants, and add to the happiness of the settlers.

"The governors of New Hampshire and New York, in granting lands on the New Hampshire Grants, were not always actuated by the purest principles in the choice of grantees. In the case of the early settlers of Springfield, their conduct was especially worthy of reprobation."

"At the conclusion of the war, Daniel Sawtell and his associates petitioned Governor Wentworth for a patent of the lands which they had improved, or for 'such part thereof as he should think fit.' From some unaccountable reason, the Governor refused to assent to their request, and on the 20th of August, 1761, gave a charter of the whole township to Gideon Lyman and sixty-one associates. Not one of the original settlers was named in this instrument, and thus they were placed entirely at the mercy of men who were at liberty to dictate whatever terms they might deem most subservient to their own interests. 'Without any regard to the great dangers and hard labour' which the

early settlers had undergone in maintaining possession of, and preparing for cultivation the lands which they had so long considered their own, the New Hampshire grantees sued out writs of ejectment, and obtained judgments against them. Executions were then issued, their possessions were taken, they themselves were threatened with imprisonment in default of the payment of the costs and charges of the suits which had been decided against them, and their families were 'thereby brought to distress and want.'

"Meantime the decree of the King in Council, dated July 20th, 1764, had declared the New Hampshire Grants to be within the province of New York. On this information the original settlers, in a petition dated November 13th, 1764, prayed Lieutenant-Governor Cadwallader Colden for a grant of Springfield, or in case this request was too great, that they might 'be permitted still to inhabit those lands, and in some measure reap the benefit' of their past labor. In reply, the governor stated that he should 'always be disposed to favour those who had settled and cultivated the lands, especially such as had been in possession for a considerable time.' At the same time he informed them, that before proceeding further in the matter, he should be obliged to receive his Majesty's orders. Another petition was presented, on the 15th of August, 1765, by Nathaniel Powers and twenty-nine others, of whom a portion were the original settlers, asking a recognition of their rights, but, like the former, it met with a similar reception. A few days subsequent to the presentation of this last petition, Gideon Lyman and his associates informed the Governor of New York that the township of Springfield had been granted to them by New Hampshire.

'In faith of this grant,' said Lyman, 'your petitioner and the other persons interested therein, have already made considerable improvements and settlements' in Springfield, 'and are willing and desirous to compleat the settlement thereof.' These conflicting petitions seemed for a time to puzzle the Governor of New York, but in the event the grant of Springfield was confirmed to Gideon Lyman and his associates on the 16th of March, 1772.

"As to the organization of this town, little is definitely known. There are



1780 COVENS AND MORTIER MAP



1796 WHITELAW MAP

still extant two notifications for town meetings, from which the following information is derived. One is dated, 'Province of New Hampshire,' March 1st, 1764, and is signed by Samuel Scott, Simon Stevens, George Hall, Timothy Spencer, Taylor Spencer, and Abner Bisbee, inhabitants of Springfield. It is directed, 'To Simon Stevens, Constable of Springfield and Province aforesaid,' and requires him 'In his Majesty's name' to 'Notifie and warn ye Freeholders and other Inhabitants of sd Town that are Duely quallified by Law to Vote in Town Meetings, that they assemble and meet at ye House of Joseph Littles in Springfield afores'd on Tuesday ye 13th of this Instant, at 10 of ye Clock in ye forenoon.' The object of the meeting is stated to be, '1st, to Choose a Moderator to govern sd meeting — 2dly, to choose Town Officers agreeable to Charter.' At the foot of this paper is a note by the constable, declaring that he read the warrant in town meeting on 'March ye 13th,' and on the back is

The 1780 Covens and Mortier map shows Vermont from a slightly different perspective than we are used to seeing. I wish I had the time and money to expend on exhaustive searches of all the towns records and histories. There are stories to be told and much to learn.

an endorsement of the same date, showing that George Hall was chosen moderator, and that the meeting was then adjourned to the 26th of the same month. The other notification, similar in form, is dated July 13th, 1764, and is signed by Simon Stevens and Abner Bisbee. It is directed to Jehiel Simmons, and at the meeting to be held on the 22d current, the business to be attended to, is '1st, to Choose a Moderator to Govern said meeting — 2dly, to see whether the Town will accept of the Road, known by ye name of Crownpoint Road, which leads Through sd Town — 3dly, to see whether the Town will Repair said Road." From these statements it may be reasonably concluded that the town was organized before the year 1764."

Each town has a story about its early settlement; some of these stories have survived, in some form, to the current day. Others are lost to history. The previous are a few accounts which I was able to find.

If your town has a story which you would be willing to share, please send it along. There are many more entries which I would like to include but I am not sure that there is adequate space in this issue to accommodate them, but if I receive anything from you I will include them in a future issue. I did not research the validity of any of the statements made in the above vignettes, but I find them compelling regardless and I like the lore and tradition of small or big towns.

Again if your town has a story regarding the early settlers we would all like to hear them. Hope this was of interest! 🌍

Your humble servant!
David A. Mann, L.L.S.

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Robert M. Aronson

November 10, 1928 – October 13, 2015

Bob Aronson was a former member of VSLS and one of the first group of surveyors to be licensed in Vermont. He was a former business partner of Pete Franzoni and Pete Chase, both current members. They started in business in Rutland as ACF Precisions Surveys, Inc. and after several years changed the name to ACF Engineering and Surveying, Corp. After ACF closed operation, Bob partnered with Alan Olson, L.S., deceased, under the name of Aronson & Olson, Inc. Earlier in his career, Bob was a resident engineer with the Vermont State Highway Department.

Reprinted from the Rutland Herald, Oct. 15, 2015

Robert Melcher Aronson, 86, of Rutland, Vt., died October 13, 2015, at Rutland Regional Medical Center. He was born in Proctor, Vt., on November 10, 1928, the son of Melcher and Elsie Aronson.

Mr. Aronson graduated from Proctor High School and from the University of Vermont University with an engineering degree. He was a U.S. Army veteran and served during the Korean conflict. Mr. Aronson

worked for many years as a civil engineer/surveyor for ACF Engineering & Surveying and Aronson & Olson, Incorporated. He was a 44-year member of Grace Congregational United Church of Christ.

Survivors include two sons, Richard Aronson and Robert D. Aronson, both of Rutland; a daughter, Lori Geer and her husband, Lonnie, of Keene, NH; three grandchildren Megan Geer, Heather Geer and Kelsey Geer; a sister, Kelly Pinkard of Tampa, FL; and nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his wife, Phyllis Leach Aronson in 2010 and a sister, Lillian Sheldon in 2012.

The graveside service will be held Friday, October 16, 2015, at 11 a.m. in South Street Cemetery in Proctor, VT, with the Rev. John C. Weatherhogg, senior minister at Grace Congregational UCC, officiating. Memorial contributions may be made to the Grace Congregational UCC Messiah Bequest, 8 Court St., Rutland, VT 05701.

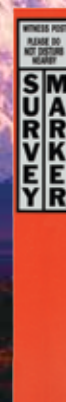
Arrangements are under the direction of Tossing Funeral Home.

Vermont L.S. 9

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TREASURER
Keith Van Iderstine, L.S.

DIRECTORS
Brad Holden, L.S.
Ian Jewkes, L.S.
Nate Yager, L.S.

2016 Proposed Budget

Income

Advertising	\$1,000.00
Donations	\$1,000.00
Interest	\$100.00
Membership Dues	\$19,000.00
Program Revenues	\$34,000.00
Publication Sales	\$350.00
TOTAL	\$55,450.00

Expenses

Association Dues	\$4,300.00
Bank Fees	\$1,000.00
Accountant Fees	\$500.00
Donation Expense	\$750.00
Insurance	\$835.00
Memorial Contributions	\$200.00
News Magazine	\$4,000.00
Office Supplies	\$1,000.00
Payroll Expenses	\$17,500.00
Postage	\$300.00
Program Expenses	\$16,000.00
Public Relations	\$2,250.00
Rent	\$1,600.00
Telephone	\$250.00
Travel	\$4,965.00
TOTAL	\$55,450.00

VSLs Executive Committee Meeting July 16, 2015 • 6 p.m. • Conference Call

Present: Gayle Burchard, Ryan Cloutier, Kelly Collar, Mark Day, Lisa Ginett, Ian Jewkes, and Keith Van Iderstine.

Absent: Brad Holden

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

SECRETARY'S MINUTES

The group reviewed the minutes of the May 21, 2015 Executive Committee meeting. Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously **RESOLVED:** to approve as written the minutes of the May 21, 2015 Executive Committee meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The committee accepted the treasurer's report prepared for the date ending July 14, 2015. Gross Net Worth equals \$55,607.71, and Net Income equals -\$8,699.52 with 96% of membership income paid to date.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Kelly gave an update about the Fall Conference: Sept. 18, 2015 at the Killington Grand

The committee will talk about the silent auction at the August meeting. Kelly noted that we might have a table exhibiting old Cornerpost magazines and any other historic documents. Gayle suggested selling the extra VSLs polo shirt for a small amount at the conference.

SLATE OF OFFICERS

The committee discussed the 2016 slate of officers. Ryan

would like to give up the role of secretary, Brad said that this is his last year as president, and Mark said he would give up the vice presidency if someone else is interested. Gayle said that if no one else is interested, she would be interested in serving as president. The group discussed including a ballot in the fall Cornerpost, for voting at the December Roundtables.

There was some discussion about offering an incentive to people who serve on the Executive Committee. For example, they might receive a discount off their annual dues or earn PDH. Kelly will ask Joe Flynn if it might be possible to receive credits for serving on the committee.

LAMOILLE VALLEY CAREER & JOB FAIR

The group said it's a good idea to participate in this Sept. 24 event, and Mark, Keith and Gayle said they would work the booth. It's four hours long, so we decided to have two shifts of two people each. It might be good to find a young member to work the booth, since high school students will be there.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, August 20 at 6 p.m. at the AIV building in Montpelier.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kelly Collar, Secretary pro tem

VSLs Executive Committee Meeting • August 20, 2015 • 6 p.m. • AIV Building

Present: Brad Holden, Gayle Burchard, Kelly Collar, Lisa Ginett, Ian Jewkes, Mark Day, and Keith Van Iderstine.

Absent: Ryan Cloutier

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

SECRETARY'S MINUTES

The minutes of the July Executive Committee meeting were unavailable.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The committee accepted the treasurer's report prepared for the date ending August 17, 2015. Gross Net Worth equals \$54,739.33, and Net Income equals -\$8,933.35, with 98% of membership income paid to date. Revenues are down for this time of year, primarily because we didn't have a spring education program. Kelly will send reminder to members who haven't paid, encouraging them to pay before the fall conference.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Kelly gave a recap of the program planned for the annual conference and noted that registration is now open. The group discussed bringing items for the silent auction. Gayle will bring wine, Brad has few historic items, Kelly will bring the Beers atlas and a tote bag with VSLs goodies, and Keith will bring Heddy Topper.

CONFERENCE FEES FOR ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

The committee discussed the fact that associate members are required to pay the regular rate at conferences, while non-member technical staffpeople attending with a member receive a discount. There was much discussion about keeping conferences affordable for groups who attend from the same company.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously **RESOLVED:** to recommend to the Program Committee that we offer a 20% group discount for three members attending a VSLs event from the same company, as long as one is a full member. This can't be combined with other discounts.

BENEFITS OF BEING AN ASSOCIATE MEMBER

The group discussed the benefits of being an associate member of VSLs, including: networking opportunities, a professional association to add to resumes, and the opportunity to participate in our committees. There was discussion about offering courses at fall conferences designed specifically for associate members.

DECEMBER ROUNDTABLES

The committee talked about having a roundtable discussion for up-and-coming potential surveyors. Nate Yager was suggested as a possible moderator for this topic.

JOB FAIR

The group discussed the Lamoille County Career & Job Fair, where VSLs will have a table on Sept. 24. Kelly will ask Tricia Kules about getting a speakers' kit from NSPS.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The slate of officers for 2016 was discussed. The Secretary position needs to be filled, and Lisa Ginett said she would be willing to do this. Brad said that he would be interested in more involvement with NSPS; Gayle said she would be interested in the President position. Keith will stay on as Treasurer. The group discussed making a push for new committee members at the fall conference; we can explain that some of our meetings are conducted via conference call. Ryan Ward's name came up as a new committee member.

OTHER BUSINESS

Scott Taylor could be featured in an upcoming *Cornerpost*, as he's retiring and very interesting. Brad will do the article and photos.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 15.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kelly Collar, Secretary pro tem

FOR SALE

Turn-key surveying operation covering Northern New Hampshire and Vermont. Forty-three years of survey maps, research data and files. All equipment, computers, software, plotters, office furniture, field equipment and etc. Future references and project leads.

CONTACT

Jennifer Stiles
1-336-442-2100
jstiles@triad.rr.com

JOHNSON'S JOTTINGS

*Perusing the Writings of John Johnson (1771-1842)
Vermont's Third Surveyor General*



Continuing with some interesting excerpts from John Johnson's Papers, which repose at UVM's Bailey-Howe Library

Special Collections, here are some short journal entries from 1805. Seems as though hostile neighbors are nothing new in the surveying profession.

—Paul Hannan, L.S.

(Not sure if the Oct. 23rd entry indicates that Bliss, Homes, Torrance and Dunton went back to survey what Allen couldn't, or if this crew accosted Allen and Company again when they went back the next day. Either way it makes for a good story. I wonder how pervasive those names are in Georgia, Vt., today.)

GEORGIA – OCTOBER 22ND, 1805

Then Joseph Hopkins and Russell Wiells, both of said Georgia, met Wm. Allen and Company who were then on the business of surveying under the direction of the Committee for said Georgia and were in the Highway, and forbid the said Allen proceeding on perrill (sic) of his life. They also took away their Chain which they soon returned, and said they might have it if they would desist, but if they proceeded they would break both his tools and their heads.

OCTOBER 23RD

A further attempt was made in a similar way by Frederick Bliss, Benjamin Homes, Thomas Torrance, Stephen Dunton, and several others, -

Paid Amasa Clark towards his services in Chain bearing in cash \$3.





December Round Tables

Friday, December 18, 2015 • Capitol Plaza Hotel & Conference Center • Montpelier, Vt.



PROGRAM SCHEDULE

- 7:15 AM** Registration & Continental Breakfast
8:00 AM Round Table Discussions
12:00 PM Lunch
1:00 PM VSLs Annual Business Meeting
2:00 PM The Use of Drones for Survey-Grade Mapping
4:00 PM Concluding Remarks

REGISTRATION FEE	Through Dec. 8	After Dec. 8
Member	\$115.00	\$140.00
Life Member	\$86.25	\$105.00
Non-member	\$140.00	\$165.00
Non-member technical staff attending with member	\$92.00	\$112.00
Three attendees from same firm (one must be member)	\$92.00	\$112.00

Payment will be refunded in full if cancellation is received at least 72 hours prior to the event. Substitutions are allowed.



This event has been approved for 6 PDH credits by the Vermont Board of Land Surveyors.

MORNING ROUND TABLES

The round table discussions will focus on topics including:

- New state regulations for shoreline protection
- Railroad issues
- Road rights of way issues
- Historical Vermont surveys
- Ethics
- Research strategies and changes
- Marketing your business
- Sole proprietorship
- Use of Lidar
- NSPS News

Each table will have a moderator to guide the discussions and present conclusions reached during the recap. Each "round" will consist of 50-55 minutes of discussion and then each participant should change to a different topic.

AFTERNOON PRESENTATION



Jarlath O'Neil-Dunne, Director of the Spatial Analysis Lab at the University of Vermont
Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS), commonly referred to as drones, have evolved considerably over the past two years, and we are now seeing a new generation of UAS that are small, lightweight, easy to operate, and offer fully integrated mapping capabilities. In this presentation we will dive into these "mapping grade" UAS, discuss how these systems can be used to generate high-quality orthorectified imagery and digital terrain models. Using examples from data collected in Vermont, we will review their capabilities and limitations along with how UAS are not only augmenting traditional surveying, but in some cases almost replacing it entirely.

REGISTRATION (please complete this form and mail it with your payment, or register online at www.vsls.org)

Name _____

Business _____

Address _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Dietary restrictions _____

☐ Check enclosed (payable to VSLs) for \$ _____

☐ Credit card payment: ☐ VISA ☐ MC ☐ AMEX ☐ DISC

Card Number _____

Exp. Date _____ Security Code _____

Signature _____

Please return form with payment to: VSLs, Box 248,
Montpelier, VT 05601-0248. Questions? kelly@vsls.org



The Cornerpost

P.O. Box 248, Montpelier, VT 05601-0248



Sustaining Members

The following is a list of our Sustaining Members. Please be reminded, when you are considering the purchase of services and equipment, that these companies are VSLs members and support the aims and objectives of our Society.

BERNTSEN

PO Box 8670
Madison, WI 53708-8670
800.356.7388
www.berntsen.com

EASTERN TOPOGRAPHICS

PO Box 947
Wolfeboro, NH 03894
603.569.2400
www.e-topo.com

INSURE CARE BROKERS

9 Greenhaven Way
Centerport, NY 11721
631.757.7515
www.insurecarebrokers.com

KEYSTONE PRECISION INSTRUMENTS

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Allentown, PA 18109
800.833.9250
www.keypre.com

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494 U.S. Route 1
Yarmouth, ME 04096
www.mainetechnical.com

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518.438.6293
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