



The Cornerpost

Journal of the Vermont Society of Land Surveyors

Volume 47, Number 2 | Summer 2016

NAMED
"BEST STATE
MAGAZINE" IN
THE NSPS 2015
JOURNALISM
COMPETITION

Scott Taylor Calls it Quits After 40 Years

page 6

Star Ruffles Feathers in Woodstock

page 8

Traversing the Connecticut River

page 14

Plus... Register for the Fall Conference

page 30



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The Cornerpost

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On the Cover

Gayle Burchard captured this June 2013 image of Tricia Kules working in Stowe.
AWARD: We were thrilled to learn that *The Cornerpost* won first place for "Best State Society Magazine" in NSPS's annual excellence in journalism competition. The winning entry was our fall 2015 issue. Thanks to all who contribute to the magazine with photos, articles, and stories from the past!



8



14



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President's Corner



We need you!

Please consider serving on the Nominating Committee or the Preservation Committee. It's a great way to network and become more involved in VSLs.

What's involved?

The Nominating Committee identifies VSLs members who would be good candidates to serve as officers and committee members. The Preservation Committee works on preserving historical documents and making them available for broader use.

Send me a note

If you have a little extra time and can be more involved, please send me a note today: gayle@littleriversurveyvt.com

I hope this issue of *The Cornerpost* finds you all as busy as you want to be. What a great summer we've had so far, weatherwise.

In June, Brad Holden, Stuart Morrow and Harris Abbott manned the VSLs booth at the Vermont History Expo at the Tunbridge World Fairgrounds. Thanks to all three of you for your time and effort in promoting the history of surveying in Vermont.

The next big event will be our annual meeting at Killington, September 15–16. I hope that everyone can make this event as the Program Committee and Kelly have worked hard to provide a different program for your enjoyment and education. Don't forget that we have to renew our licenses this September, so check your credits to make sure you have enough PDHs.

I would also like to have volunteers sign up now for the Nominating Committee and the Preservation Committee, so that these committees can have their first meeting at the conference. Don't be shy—we can use a lot of people on these committees. It is a lot like going out and surveying by yourself with a robot compared to having the extra person to site the robot when you lose lock, or the extra person to pound in the stake while you move ahead to the next point. It is so much more efficient and fun for all involved.

See you in September!

Gayle

Gayle Burchard
VSLs President

Brad Holden and Stuart Morrow at the Vermont History Expo in June.



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TCE Veteran Heads Toward Retirement

Scott Taylor Calls it Quits After 40 Years
at Trudell Consulting Engineers BY BRAD HOLDEN, L.S.

It's official—I heard it right from the horse's mouth—Scott Taylor, L.S., is retiring from Trudell Consulting Engineers (TCE) this December. I caught up with Scott just after he and his wife, Laurie, returned from a trip to Alaska, where they were visiting their daughter. Scott has worked for TCE for 40 years.

When I started my surveying career in the Chittenden County area, Scott Taylor was one of the first surveyors I met. There was a very friendly relationship between all the surveyors who worked in that area, for the most part, during those days. We shared information freely, mostly plans because copies were not always easy to obtain at the Town Clerk's

moved on to start their own business, Green Mountain Surveys, Scott went to work for the City of Burlington Street Department with Bill Rowley. Scott was licensed in 1975 and the following year took a position with Dick Trudell at the newly-formed Trudell Consulting Engineers, which had purchased Willis Engineering, the place where Scott first started. Scott has been with TCE ever since.

Scott's roots go just as deep with the VSLs. After joining the society in 1974, he ambitiously hopped on the Program and Education committees; in 1978, Scott became the third *Cornerpost* editor, taking over from Bob Frey, and he spent nine years in that role. He became a

Director from 1987–1992, Secretary from 1992–1999, Vice President from 1999–2001, President from 2002–2004 and finally back to Director from 2005–2008. We all know to serve that long and in all those capacities is a very large commitment. Thank you, Scott!

I asked Scott to share a memorable surveying experience. He said he's had many, but one that came to mind was the joint

Scott's roots with VSLs go just as deep as his career at TCE. He has served the society on the Program and Education committees, as editor of *The Cornerpost*, as a Director, Secretary, Vice President and, finally, President.

Office. Scott reminisced about the days before copiers; tracing paper, pad and pen were the tools of choice. As we all know, surveying has changed exponentially since then.

Scott was born in Burlington and raised in South Burlington where he graduated from high school. He then moved on to Vermont Technical College in Randolph, where he enrolled in the Civil Engineering Program but soon switched his major after learning about a new program that had just formed called Surveying Technology. Scott graduated with the Class of 1972 and went directly to work for Willis Engineering in South Burlington, where he met Vaughn Button and Marcel Meilleur.

Scott worked for Willis until the economy tanked in 1974. While Vaughn and Marcel

canoe trips that he helped coordinate with Brian Burford (*see article on page 18*). VSLs and NHLA members and their families paddled down the Connecticut River each summer from 1982–1995, stopping along the way to find monuments that mark the NH-VT boundary ... good memories and lots of fun with the folks from our neighboring State of New Hampshire.

Scott says he has no regrets and feels truly blessed to have had the opportunity to work in the surveying profession. He still enjoys being outdoors and looks forward to spending more time on the golf course during his retirement. His wife will also be retiring, and he looks forward to traveling with her.

He is not worried in the least about being able to keep busy. 🍷





◀ Scott Taylor at work in his office at TCE.

▲ **TOP PHOTO:** Scott (in cut-offs) and Malcolm Moore (in hat) take part in a joint VSLS/NHLSA canoe trip in 1983; **MIDDLE PHOTO, FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:** Scott, Bruce Aiken, and Marcel Meilleur at Willis Engineering; **BOTTOM PHOTO,** Nate Yager, Brad Perry, and Scott.

Whose Star *Is It?*

A Community Divided

BY BOB HOLT, L.S.

Over the past few years, a controversy of sorts has been brewing in the usually tranquil community of Woodstock. For nearly 70 years, since the end of the second world war, from the top of Mt. Tom, an illuminated star has shone down over the village, welcoming all during the Christmas holiday season. Then, come spring, it is a cross shining over the valley of the Ottauquechee for the few days of Easter.



As it turns out, not all of Woodstock's visitors and residents find this sight to be so welcoming. The Woodstock Selectboard has heard concerns expressed on several occasions to the effect that it is not appropriate for such symbols, with their religious connotations, to be displayed so prominently over the village, particularly on public property.

When news of these concerns reached the public, the editor's mailbox at *The Vermont Standard* was flooded with letters overwhelmingly expressing a similar sentiment: (some more crudely than others), "Leave our star and cross alone!"

This presented the Selectboard with a dilemma. If challenged, it seemed almost certain that the concept of separation of church and state would prevail, forcing the removal of the structure, or at least the cross, from town property. Yet, it was abundantly clear that the vast majority of community members opposed this very action. The board chose to take a wait-and-see approach to further gauge the level of concern surrounding the issue

When neighbors disagree over the display of potentially religious symbols atop Woodstock village, property boundaries have the final say.





RICK RUSSELL

and to explore some of the history of how the symbolic structure came into being.

While details are sparse and supporting documents practically non-existent, one popular notion seems to be that the structure – some sources say it began as a cross – was erected shortly after the end of World War II by employees of the Woodstock Electric Company to welcome home returning veterans. It was certainly well established when, in 1953, the Billings family made a gift to the town of the land to be known as Billings Park. That deed expressly prohibited the erection of “...buildings, monuments, television aerials or structures of any kind except the existing electric cross and electric star...”

For more than 60 years, from the time of the Billings family gift until just recently, it has been the unanimous perception and belief that the star and cross resided within the limits of Billings Park, owned by the Town of Woodstock.

Billings Park or Faulkner Park?

Here is where the water becomes murky. Beginning around 2010, elements of the Upper Valley Trails Alliance began restoration efforts of the popular Faulkner Trail, rising from Mountain Avenue to the summit of Mt. Tom’s South Peak at the star and cross. It was part of a project aimed at improving the “gateways” to the National Park.

A report on the History of Faulkner Park and Trail was prepared by a UVM graduate student studying historic preservation. The report provided background information for a grant application to help fund the trail restoration project. It became necessary to determine the location of the boundary between Faulkner Park, a privately-owned and managed public park, and the town-owned Billings Park. The author, a local land surveyor, was contacted by the Park Service, provided copies of the relevant deeds for Faulkner and Billings Park, and asked to mark the line between the two, particularly where it intersected the Faulkner Trail.

An examination of the deeds revealed survey descriptions of the properties containing the bearing and distance of each course, allowing one to plot the shapes of the parcels and orient them onto a base map of the surrounding area. Billings Park was described in 1953 as a 155-acre parcel surveyed at

that time by Edward Williams III, a local surveyor and descendant of the prominent Woodstock family for whom the Norman Williams Public Library is named. Faulkner Park was described as consisting of two parcels of land acquired by separate deeds at separate times. The first parcel was the land conveyed to Marianne G. Faulkner by Samuel Kilner in 1908, which, when plotted onto the map, included nearly all of the land ascribed to Faulkner Park on a variety of current maps!

What then, and where, was the second parcel? It is described in a 1936 conveyance from Mary Billings French and Elizabeth Billings, heirs of Frederick Billings, to Marianne G. Dieter, a name assumed by Mrs. Faulkner during her brief marriage to F.J. Dieter, a man of apparently questionable character. This description, again plotted onto the map, adjoined the 1908 Kilner parcel, but was entirely within the bounds of the 1953 survey and deed of Billings Park, encompassing the summit of South Peak with its star and cross!

The immediate reaction to this revelation is, “How can this be possible?” Everyone knows that Billings Park includes the summit of South Peak. There must be some explanation in the title histories of the two parks. Well, an exhaustive search was made, not only of the Woodstock Land Records but also of the archives of the Billings family, housed at the Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park. Nothing was found to refute the fact that the Billings family, in 1953, included in their conveyance of Billings Park to the Town of Woodstock the land that their predecessors in title had already conveyed to Marianne (Dieter) Faulkner. Based on the premise that “you can’t sell what you don’t own,” this meant that title to the overlap area – about 14 acres – resides with the Faulkner Trust.

After learning of this extraordinary discovery, the Faulkner Trustees at J.P. Morgan Chase Bank in New York City commissioned the author to perform a survey of all of Faulkner Park, something that probably should have occurred long before. In the conduct of that survey, the Faulkner Trail itself was mapped using a combination of hand-held GPS and conventional survey measurements. The resulting map shows that the trail, constructed between the years 1934–1937, with its long, gradual switchbacks turning back just before

the boundary on either side, was located entirely within the surveyed bounds of Faulkner Park, providing further evidence to confirm these results.

So, once the truth is revealed, we are left to wonder: How could this have happened? How could this false perception of ownership of such a prominent landmark persist for so long?

Although the principals to the various land transactions remain mute, having long ago departed for their just rewards, it would appear that a perfect storm of confounding events occurred to throw confusion over the ownership of what has been called the crown jewel of Woodstock's trail network. Whether approached by carriage road from the National Park, or by either the Precipice or Faulkner trails, the view that awaits one's arrival at the star and cross is simply stunning, and well worth the effort to get there. The events alluded to above began in 1898 with the arrival in Woodstock of a person who would become one of her greatest benefactors: Marianne Gaillard Faulkner.

The Faulkners come to Woodstock

Much has been written about Mrs. Faulkner, (there is a State of Vermont Historical Marker erected in her honor on Mountain Avenue), but the short version is that she came to Woodstock in 1898 in order to purchase a summer home for herself and her husband, Edward Daniels Faulkner, who had made his fortune in the upholstery business in New York City. She ended up buying not just any house, but the Solomon Woodward mansion on Mountain Avenue. Woodward was the owner of the former woolen mill that now houses the Woodstock Recreation Center. As an indication of Mrs. Faulkner's personal interest in their Woodstock properties, it should be noted that all of the real estate transactions are in her name alone. Edward's name does not appear in any of their Woodstock land dealings.

After ten years of ownership of the mansion on its rather small lot, (smaller than the current walled-in yard), Faulkner acquired about ten acres of adjacent vacant land from Woodward's successor, Samuel Kilner. Further expansion came in another ten years with the purchase of the "Pratt Lot", just to the west. She had also bought several properties on the south side of Mountain Avenue and on River Street. By 1926, the year



of Edward's death, she owned about 820 feet of frontage on the north side of Mountain Avenue, extending straight up the side of Mt. Tom to a line just above where the stone arch footbridge stands today. With the exception of two out-conveyances: the mansion sold to Marguerite Hawley and a house lot sold to Robert & Gertrude Mertens by her estate, this comprises the land presumed for many years to be Faulkner Park, as depicted on the "Walk Woodstock" map above.

The trouble is, this is what it looked like in 1926.

Above, Marianne Gaillard Faulkner and her husband, Edward Daniels Faulkner. In 1926, Marianne's property extended straight up the side of Mt. Tom to a line just above where the stone arch footbridge stands today.



There was still more to happen before Marianne Faulkner was done. Edward's death seems to have been a catalyst, launching Marianne into a philanthropic frenzy of giving – in New York, in Hanover, N.H., and particularly in Woodstock. Among her many projects, she envisioned a tribute to her late husband in the form of a park, featuring a hiking trail up Mt. Tom. Inspired by the cardiac rehabilitation trails she and Edward had experienced on their many trips to the German spa town of Baden-Baden, in 1934 she hired the Pittsfield, Mass., firm of Pollock and Halvorson to bring her vision to fruition. Aided by the masonry work of A.B Lane Construction, of Barre, Vt., crews labored over two years blasting rock, clearing downed trees, and constructing the wonderful pathway that so many enjoy to this day.

It must have been abundantly clear to Mrs. Faulkner (by this time Mrs. Dieter), that the greatest value in a trail ascending Mt. Tom would be to provide a path to the summit, which Frederick Billings had already reached with his network of carriage roads, and where the grandest views could be had of the surrounding community. Negotiations had more than likely been ongoing from the start of the trail project, but in 1936 Mrs. Faulkner was able to purchase from the Billings family the land necessary to complete the trail, including the summit itself, no doubt with the understanding that it would be forever open to the public.

While it is not known why the trail building

was ended before reaching the summit, it can be assumed that the challenges presented by the terrain above that point appeared incompatible with the type of trail being constructed. It would be nearly impossible to continue the gently graded switchbacks over the remaining two hundred yards of exposed bedrock, and the lower plateau afforded its own nicely framed view into the village below. This plateau became the original terminus of the Faulkner Trail.

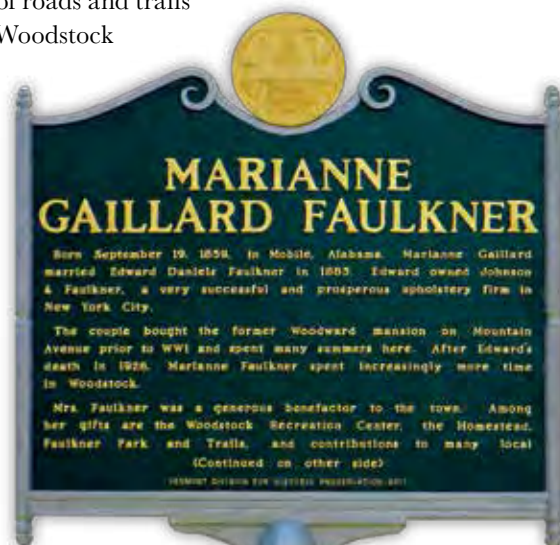
The trail and park were open to the public from the beginning – and for the next twenty years, watched over by Mrs. Faulkner from her adjoining home – and cared for by what is now three generations of the Worth family in Woodstock.

A Faulkner by any other name...

The year 1953 is pivotal in the confluence of events leading to the perfect storm of confusion. Marianne Faulkner was in her nineties, and after nearly 20 years of presiding over the use and enjoyment of her gift to the community, the Faulkner Trail, she no doubt felt assured of its existence in perpetuity. Her will reflects her “strong desire” for the continuity of her works, and she provided an endowment for the Trust that would sustain it indefinitely. Meanwhile, a new generation of Billings heirs have inherited Frederick's estate with their own plans for a tribute to their progenitor. They would like to give to the town of Woodstock “Billings Park,” a magnificent gift of land linking the network of roads and trails on their estate to the Village of Woodstock via both the Faulkner Trail and Park, and the “Cemetery Road” off River Street.

The Billings family hires Edward Williams III to survey the portion of their property intended for the gift. His first task, working with the family, who maintain their own archive of estate records, is to research the reams of transactions, examine the extensive estate maps modified by various users over the years, and comb the Woodstock Land Records to find all of the documents which may have a bearing on the location of the Billings boundaries. With an estate that grew to over 2000 acres, Billings-related transactions fill literally volumes of the Woodstock Land Records. Over several generations of Billings

A State of Vermont Historical Marker in honor of Marianne Gaillard Faulkner (below) is erected on Mountain Avenue in Woodstock.



heirs, there is a litany of names associated with these transactions. Williams would have to search each name under both buyer and seller, reading each document to determine its relevance to the portion of the property involved, and comparing it to the maps maintained by the estate. Given that these maps, produced in the 1880s, did not reflect the 1936 conveyance by the Billings family to Mrs. (Dieter) Faulkner, compounded by the name change by which Mrs. Faulkner took title as well as the lack of any mapping of Faulkner Park, it is no wonder that Williams failed to find the one deed that subtracted from the holdings of the estate in the area that he was surveying.

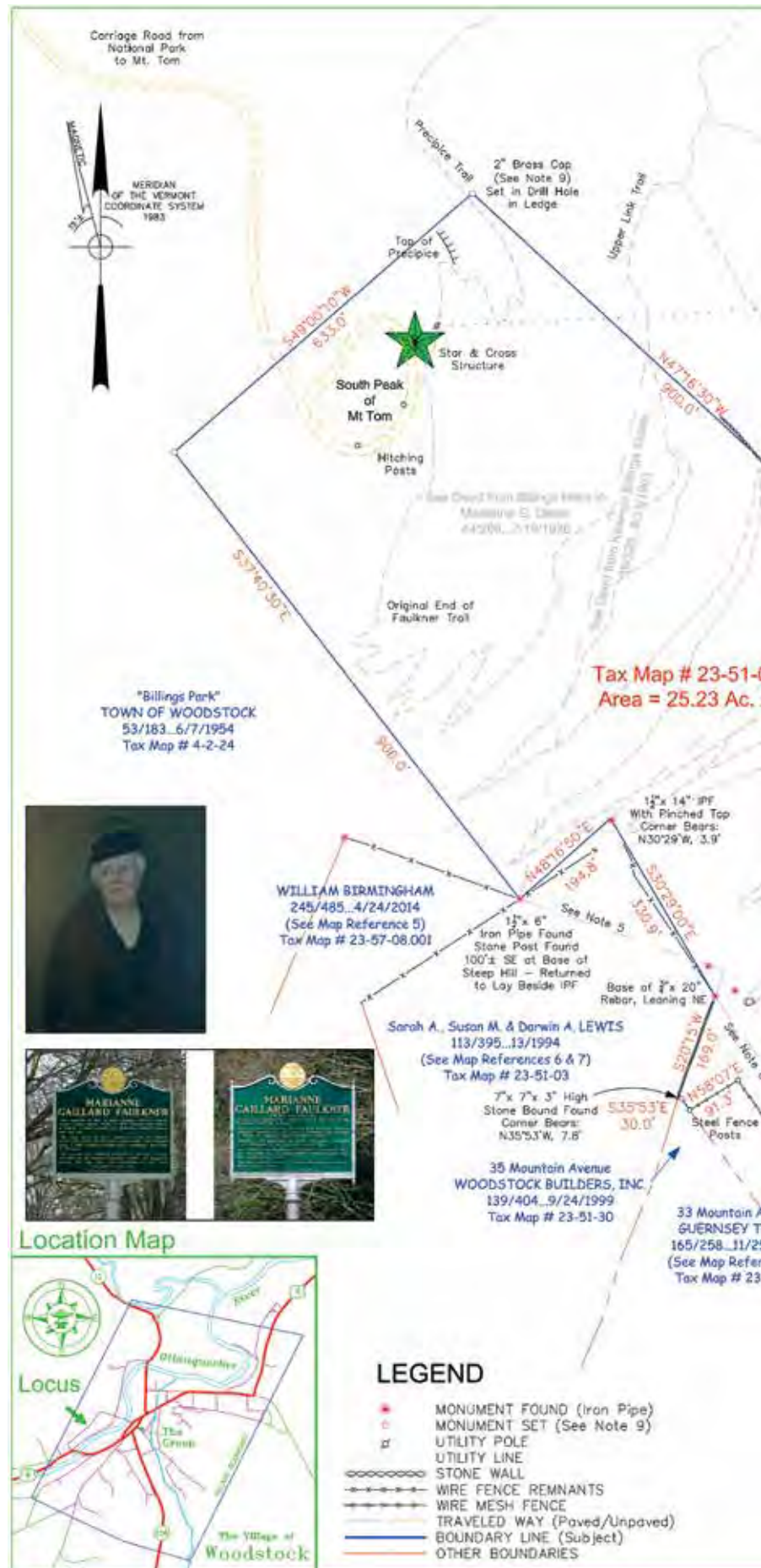
So, with the sale from the Billings family to the town based on the Williams survey, and absent any protest from Mrs. Faulkner, who was probably unaware of the details of the transaction (her time on earth being nearly over), the community came to believe that the summit of South Peak was part of the gift of Billings Park. This was reinforced by the fact that the Faulkner Trail had stopped short of the summit, a shortcoming remedied by the Billings Park Commission in its earliest actions. And so the perception took root and has remained unshaken until the circumstances related above.

Whose star is it? Apparently not the Town of Woodstock's. 🌟



**do you
have a
story
to share?**

Please send it for the next issue of
The Cornerpost 📧 kelly@vsls.org



MAP REFERENCES

1. "The Faulkner Mansion, For: Nanki Paradise Trust, 25 Mountain Avenue", dated June 20, 2013, by Holt Survey Associates, Robert A. Holt, LS 630, recorded in the Woodstock Land Records (WLR) on Map Cabinet Slide 194.
2. "Boundary Survey for Charles V. V. Hardman in Woodstock, Windsor County, Vermont", dated Feb. 6, 1989, by Bruno Associates Inc. P.C., John M. Bruno, LS 485, not recorded.
3. "Portion of Land of Marjorie Jones at 21 Mountain Avenue", dated March 21, 1978, drawing no. 78-8.1, by Michael Engineering Company, Ralph J. Michael, LS 130, not recorded, but cited in deed at WLR Book 69, Page 202.
4. "Lands of Delamer R. Jones, Woodstock VT., Containing 3.6 Acres", dated Aug. 1973, by Paul C. Roeber, LS 208, recorded on WLR Slide 11.
5. "Subdivision of Land for Louise Birmingham, Eaton Place, Woodstock, Windsor County, Vermont", dated 6/8/90, by Bruno Associates, John M. Bruno, LS 485, recorded on WLR Slide 81.
6. "Plan of Land Owned by Robert C. Gistad located in Woodstock, Vermont", dated 26 Sept. 1970, by Donald B. Burchard, LS 173, recorded on WLR Slide 3.
7. A survey purportedly made by Edward H. Williams, Jr. dated May 14, 1931, of a portion of the so-called "Marble Meadow", not recorded, but cited in deed at WLR Book 44, Page 114, and on Map Reference 6.
8. A survey of property on Mountain Avenue, dated May 5, 1964, by Gratiot Engineering Company, not recorded, but cited in deed from the Faulkner Trust to Mertens at WLR Book 57, Page 258.

NOTES

1. Method of Survey: Random traverse with Leica TS12 Robotic Total Station #270520. Bearings are oriented to the meridian of the Vermont Coordinate System of 1983 as derived from identifiable points on Vermont Orthophoto 148124 and serve only to define angular relationships between courses.
2. This plat depicts a retracement survey of the perimeter boundaries of property known as Edward Daniels Faulkner Park at 27-31 Mountain Avenue.
Current Owner: J.P. Morgan Chase Bank, NA, Trustees under the Will of Marianne G. Faulkner
Current Deed: 55/119...7/10/1999
Source Deeds: 44/266...1936, 40/562...1918, 37/594...1908, 34/348...1898
Tax Map Parcel: 23-51-01 Currently Listed under Town of Woodstock
3. The Partial Decree of Distribution in the Estate of Marianne G. Faulkner, vesting title to the subject property in The Hanover Bank, as Trustee (55/119), fails to cite all four sources of title for this property.
4. The 1936 conveyance by Billings heirs to Marianne G. Dieter (Faulkner) is not reflected in the later quit-claim deeds from Billings successors to the Town of Woodstock, establishing Billings Park, (53/16...5/6/1953 & 53/183...6/7/1954), creating the perception of an overlap in title which has persisted for 60 years. No other recorded documents were found regarding the existence/maintenance of the Illuminated Star & Cross structure nor was any easement found for the electric line servicing the same.
5. The boundary common to Lewis is depicted hereinafter in accordance with Map References 6 & 7. It is not consistent with the 1908 survey description in 37/594, nor with prior conveyances in the adjoining chains of title. No recorded conveyances were found to explain this discrepancy.
6. The small area adjoining lands of Woodstock Builders, Inc. & Guernsey Trust is the remainder of the so-called Pratt Lot (40/562), after the conveyance to Mertens (57/258).
7. The boundary common to the Faulkner Mansion was created by the conveyance from the Marianne Gollard Faulkner Estate to Marguerite K. Hawley (54/370...11/13/1958), based on a survey by Gratiot. The 1898 source deed for the mansion parcel is not consistent with the 1908 description of the surrounding land. See Map Reference 1 for details of this boundary. Dimensional differences on two of these courses are the result of drafting errors on Map Reference 1.
8. Title to this property may extend to the centerline of Mountain Avenue, subject to the public right-of-way. Parcel area was computed to the right-of-way limit only.
9. Unless otherwise noted, monuments set are 600mm FENO spikes in 3"x3" granite block with 2" brass cap stamped: Survey Marker, Do Not Disturb, Robert A. Holt, LS 630.

GRAPHIC SCALE



SURVEY PLAT

LAND KNOWN AS EDWARD DANIELS FAULKNER PARK MOUNTAIN AVENUE

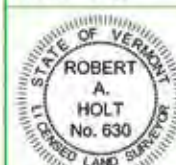
WOODSTOCK

WINDSOR COUNTY, VERMONT

SCALE: 1" = 150'

SHEET 1 OF 1

PREP. NO.



DATE: Dec. 15, 2015

ROBERT A. HOLT - L.S. 630
HOLT SURVEY ASSOCIATES
PO Box 101 - Woodstock, VT



(802) 457-4849

"Billings Park"
TOWN OF WOODSTOCK
53/183...6/7/1954
Tax Map # 4-2-24

Carriage Road from
National Park
to River Street
Cemetery



21 Mountain Avenue
ELIZABETH P. NICKERSON
241/483...4/9/2013
(See Map References 3 & 4)
Tax Map # 23-51-04



2" Brass Cap
(See Note 9)
Set in Drill Hole
in Large Stone at
End of Stonewall

23 Mountain Avenue
PRISCILLA L. HARDIMAN, Trustee
125/557...12/4/1996
(See Map Reference 2)
Tax Map # 23-51-03

25 Mountain Avenue
"The Faulkner Mansion"
NANKI PARADISE TRUST
241/648...6/27/2013
(See Map Reference 1)
Tax Map # 23-51-02

MOUNTAIN AVENUE
Road Surveys Vol. 1 - Pg. 46
1852 - 2.5 Rods Wide

Town of Woodstock

Received for record on _____
and filed in Map Cabinet Slide _____

Attest: _____
Town Clerk

Traversing

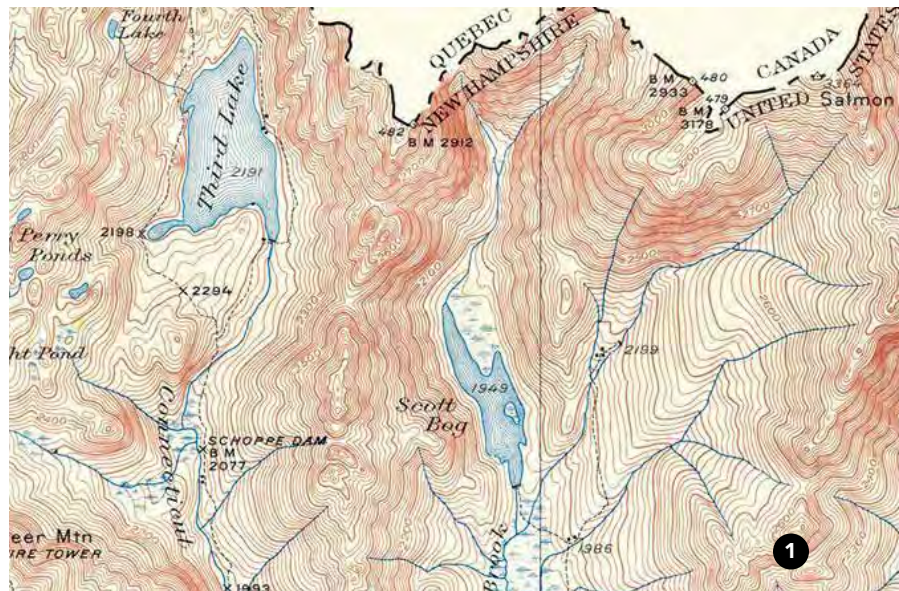
the Connecticut River

The Connecticut River defines the eastern limit of the current State of Vermont. It has been the subject of many disputes with respect to the location of Provincial and State boundaries and was once termed the “the most beautiful cesspool” in the United States.¹

It was the primary route for exploration and commerce utilized by the Europeans as they made their way into what was perceived and termed the wilderness. The flow of English explorers and settlers ran from south to north, either following a bridle path marked by spotted trees which ran along the river or on the river itself.² However, the local native American tribes did not see it as a wilderness; it was their home, their hunting grounds, and their way of life. I am not that knowledgeable about New England native peoples, but I will try to give a very brief description of the native tribes in the vicinity of the northern Connecticut River Valley.

The Western Abenaki Indians inhabited the area in the vicinity of the river just prior to the influx of European settlement. The Abenaki are described in some sources as being the “people of the dawn.” Their territory covered most of what is now Vermont and New Hampshire. The Abenaki tribes which inhabited Vermont and the area along the river were the Sokoki, “the breakaway people” or “people who separated.” Along with the Pennacook, they were prominent in the southern part of the state; the Cowasuck “people of the white pines,” were in the middle of the state; and the Missisquoi “people of the flint place,” or in other translations “place where there are large rocks,” in the northerly part of the state and up into Canada.

The influx of Europeans into the Connecticut River Valley resulted in many of the tribes



being displaced; the organization of the Abenaki tribes was dynamic, and they were under pressure from all sides. One source referred to it as the great blending. “The Western Abenaki tribe lived in the Green Mountains region of Vermont, but wintered as far south as the Northfield, Mass., area. They later merged with members of other Algonquin tribes displaced by the wars and famines that accompanied the European settling of the Connecticut River Valley.”

The early documents furnish us with one authority for the early location of the Sokokis. This is Father Gabriel Druilletes, who

visited New England in 1650 and 1651 on missions for the government of New France. In his report he wrote that the Connecticut was the river of the Sokokis.³

A more complete understanding of the pre-Columbian condition and the impacts of European contact on the native Americans can be obtained, if interested, at vermonthistory.org. My primary interest here is the people. The human aspect of an individual sitting alongside a river bank transcends race and time. The beauty of a place can capture a person's senses and render all peoples kindred spirits. The beauty we see in a place today is different than that experienced by the native people of the area. We are not dependent on the beauty around us for our daily meal or our sustenance. The local grocery store has stolen the thought (worry) of the hunter gatherer from our mind. The point here is not to debate these issues; it is just to take a quiet moment to watch the river flow by and see the sun glisten on the moving water and think about all those who have done the same throughout history. The river has always been a boundary between land masses, whether it divided political entities or not—whether they are aboriginal or European is of no consequence. A hundred years from now, hopefully, someone will sit by the Connecticut River and daydream and watch life go by, fishing pole or not. The river flows one way, a twig dropped into the water may make its way to the sound of waves above the long island. It may bump into Adrien Block's exploration party as it flows by.

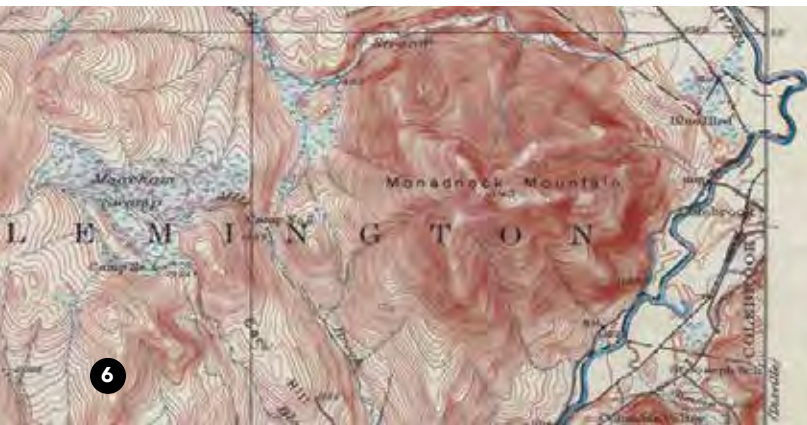
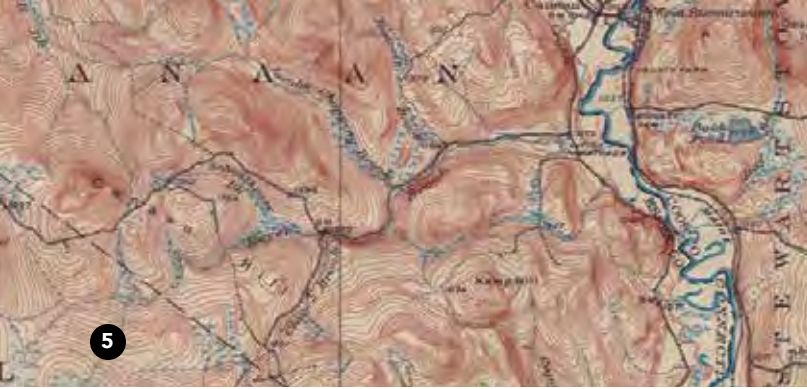
The river begins its journey in northern New Hampshire only a few hundred yards from the Canadian border as it runs out of the Fourth Connecticut Lake at an elevation of about 2610 feet (elevations based on historic USGS maps) it cascades southeasterly to the Third Connecticut Lake at an elevation of 2191. While I was putting this together, I remembered a book I read as a kid, or perhaps someone read it to me. It was about a little red tugboat that was left in a stream, when the little boy that was playing with it called to it as it sailed away. The facts of this telling of the story may be tainted by the years. The little tugboat, seeking adventure, made its way from the little stream to a bigger stream to a river to a bigger river and finally to the sea. This is the same story which I will try to tell here, probably not as eloquently as *The Little Red Tugboat*, but here it is nonetheless.

① One more story before I get back on track. Many years ago I purchased a new computer program where you could place a drop of water let it run across the contours of your site to confirm your drainage design. There is something similar to this on the USGS website related to the Water-Cycle (water.usgs.gov/edu/followadrip.html).
 ② The little red tugboat leaves the Third Connecticut Lake over what appears to be a small dam and travels southerly through the Schoppe Dam site, then over Moose



Falls, shortly thereafter connects with Scott Brook and then empties into the Second Connecticut Lake at an elevation of 1871 feet. ③ From here the river runs southwesterly, picking up several small streams and empties into the First Connecticut Lake at an elevation of 1631 feet. ④ From the outlet of First Connecticut Lake, the river runs southerly to a sharp bend to the west which runs towards the Town of Pittsburg. From the aforementioned westerly bend of the river, it runs through a lowlands area that consists of many meanders and oxbows. The origin of the term meander “derives from a river located in present-day Turkey and known to the Greeks as maiandros or meander, characterized by a very convoluted path along the

³ vermonthistory.org/journal/misc/IndianOccupationInVermont.pdf



lower reach.” Of this river, Strabo said, “... its course is so exceedingly winding that everything winding is called meandering.” The meanders through this section of the river would make an interesting canoe trip; unfortunately today they are under the waters of Lake Francis.

After navigating the spillway of Murphy Dam at the outlet of Francis Lake and passing through the Town of Pittsburg, the river turns to the southwest and subsequently intersects the 45th parallel at an elevation of 1101 feet. You are now halfway between the north pole and the equator.

5 The river flows westerly, picking up the flow from Hall’s Stream and cascading over the falls between two prominent ridges, and breaks out into a wide fertile intervalle between the mountains looming over the river valley—the Grand Monadnock Mountain being the most majestic. 6 The river taking on a sinuous meander as it runs through the lowlands. Several horseshoe ponds are evident where ancient meanders were cut off by the movement of the river bed.

7 It continues southerly through the plains near Groveton at an elevation of about 860 feet.

8 The Bald Eagle flew southerly over Fifteenmile Falls, taking advantage of the thermals rising off the water.

9 The river flows on southwesterly to Nine Isles at the mouth of the Passumpsuc River.

A main thoroughfare for the indigenous population. Handmade canoes of all sorts plied their oars through the glistening water. Bark covered wigwam, teepee, and longhouse structures stood near the shore at the plentiful fishing sites. The following is from the History of the Town of Barnet: “When Barnet was chartered, it was an unbroken wilderness covered with dense woods, the undisturbed growth of centuries, and the only open places into which the sun shone were the streams and ponds. Through these forests the Indians wandered in pursuit of game or fished in the brooks. There was never, as far as we know, any permanent habitation of Indians in Barnet. Very few Indian relics have been found in the town. But on the great meadows of Newbury and Haverhill, there were large tracts which had been cleared and cultivated from time immemorial in rude fashion, to which the Indians resorted in great numbers, and where the plow still brings to light spearheads, arrowheads and other relics.

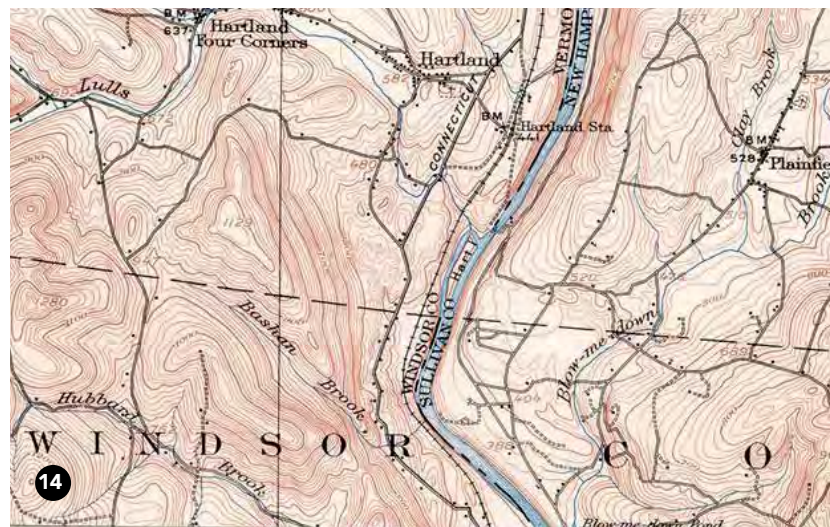
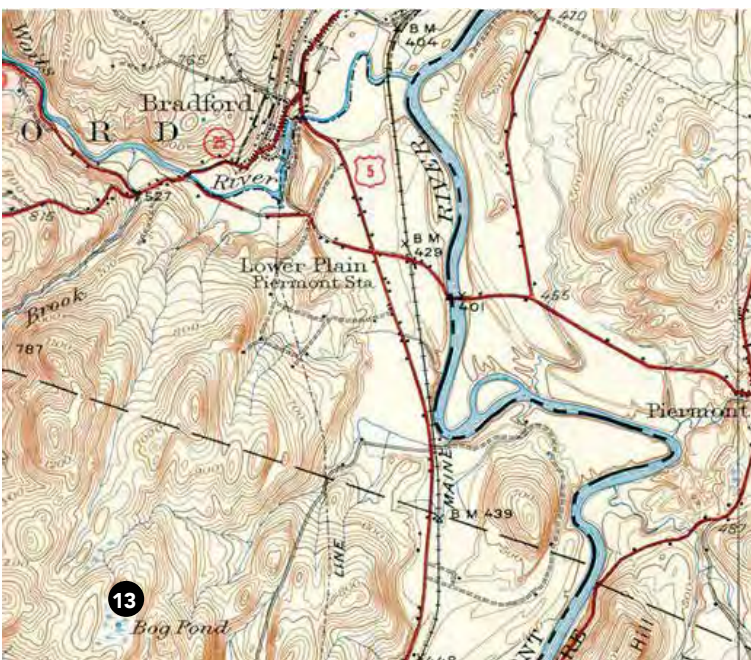
“This part of the valley was called the Lower Coos and extended from the mouth of the Ammonoosuc to the lower end of the meadows at Orford. A similar tract near Lancaster was called the Upper Coos. From these cultivated tracts, trails lead through the wilderness to the

French settlements along the St. Lawrence. One of these trails went up the Passumpsic and over the heights to Lake Memphremagog. Another followed the Nelhegan and Clyde Rivers to the same lake. Still another came up through the center of Ryegate and took a course toward the Mississquoi, which was afterwards generally followed by the celebrated Hazen Road. Most of our information concerning these trails comes through the old men of sixty years ago who had learned their location from Indian Joe.”

10 Young Indian braves were building a Birch Bark Canoe along the shoreline. Their stone tools glistening in the bright sun light as they went about their work. Trails wandered off into the woodland interior, heading toward home.

11 The river then turns southwesterly and again southerly running past Steven’s Isle and over McIndoe Falls to intersect with the Ammonoqsuc and Wells Rivers **12** and slows as it approaches the Horse Meadow and Oxbow intervals.

13 The meanders of the river snake through the low fertile lands and continue on southerly reaching



the mouth of Waits River and on to the junction with White River, the Mascoma, and the Ottauquechee River to Blow-Me-Down Brook. **14** I just liked the name Blow-Me-Down Brook; there has got to be a story there somewhere. The great Ascutney on the right and the Sugar River adds its flow to the Great River. Jarvis Island splits the flow as it weathers the bow.

The VSLS/NHLSA 1983

The VSLS/NHLSA Canoe Trip down the Connecticut River commenced, as best as my feeble mind can remember, somewhere below Beecher Falls, Vt.

I believe we put in on the New Hampshire side. Our intrepid party of land survey enthusiasts and apparently canoe enthusiasts as well met at the prescribed spot and must have made plans for getting back to our vehicles at day's end—on this part of the trip I have only very vague recollections. I've included some pictures that Toni took of our trip. I am hoping that this snippet about the trip will instigate those who were in attendance at this event and the subsequent years of the event will share some photos and stories of their experiences.

We were trying to recover all the state line reference monuments as described in the *Report of the Special Commissioner*, Samuel S. Gannett, dated Nov. 16, 1936. I have an older version of the report which I think it came from Forest F. Hall's records—though it may have been given to me by Roger Monsell while I was at CT Male Associates. There are reproductions of the report available from the NHLSA Book Store.

Toni and I were not very savvy with the whole canoe thing. I had gone out with some friends a few times and went fishing with Forest up in Maine, but I had never been at the helm (if that's what it's called) of a canoe before, and Toni had even less experience. Suffice it to say that we were a little tentative about the whole thing. We had bought the canoe earlier in the



15 The river surrounds Walcott Isle, then Lockes Isle and Glidden Isle with Skitchewaig Mountain as an outlook in the western sky. Our trek down the river takes us on to the mouth of the Black River **16** and on past the Great Meadow intervals to the Williams River. **17** The Great Falls roar ahead and the canoes are portaged around and on to the Saxton River and as we continue cold waters enter from the northeast adding to the flow of the River as it passes boggy meadow and the Great Putney Meadow and the Canoe Meadows.

18 The River flows on southerly and southwesterly picking up the Catsbane Brook and the West River, and again southerly with the waves lapping Wantastiquet Mountain along the eastern shore. After passing the Islands at the mouths of the Whetstone and Broad Brooks the River flows on through the horseshoe and picks up the Ashuelot River and carries all the flow of its tributaries to the Mud Turtle (and perhaps the man with the polka dot tie) at the province line of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. 🍄

Canoe Trip Down the Connecticut River

year and were still building a relationship with it. Malcolm Moore seemed a seasoned oarsman, and I kind of placed the canoe near him in case we had any troubles. After a few hours and a few rippling rapids, we became more comfortable with the activity. Malcolm had a great sense for interpreting where we were with respect to the limited mapping we had and in finding the state line reference monuments.

I think Jerry Kittle and Scott were partners in an old wood skeleton, canvas covered canoe which was taking on a little water, and they had to bail it out from time to time. At one point, as we went along, an orange and other items came floating by. I don't remember the specifics, but someone had lost some of their provisions overboard and we all tried to collect what items we could. We would paddle along for a ways and then land on shore and go in search of the reference monuments. I am not certain but I think we made one or two errant stops. Luckily most of the time the monuments were out of the ground over two feet, which made them a bit easier to find.

We stopped for lunch somewhere near Colebrook, I think? I wish I had kept a journal regarding the trip. That would have made this writing a whole lot easier! I don't know the area that well but I'm sure someone out there can tell us exactly where this is!

The second half of the trip is even sketchier than the first for me, but I have one more little story to tell. We were all coming ashore at a less than desirable landing spot. The bank was steep and muddy and the water was deep at that point. Several of us were on shore and Brian Burford

came in so as to disembark his canoe. He got one foot on shore and the hands that stayed the canoe lost their grip and Brian was left in a *Funniest Home Videos* moment. The canoe pushed out further from the shore. Brian's hold on the muddy river bank became more and more tenuous and his legs finally reached their limit and he did a belly flop into the water. His Go Go Gadget legs couldn't rescue him that day. I believe he had a movie camera in his hand, and unfortunately it fell from his grip. Several dives were made by the company in an attempt to recover the device. I don't remember the outcome of these exertions, but I'm sure Brian may remember it well.

The organization of how we got our canoes to where we started and our vehicles to where we ended escapes me; perhaps someone out there remembers the details. The canoe trip continued for a few more years until the group reached the Mud Turtle Monument in Vernon. Toni and I did not attend the next legs of the trip, as our lives were complicated by our son being born the following year. Those of you who were present for the following legs of the canoe trip will need to bring forward the details of the following years.

I know most of the folks in the group picture, but there are a few who I do not remember and will need some help with. Please send in your list and we can compare notes. Also send along any stories you might have regarding your trip down the "quinetucket."

Ah! Those were the days my friends, we thought they'd never end!!! 🐢

— BY DAVID A. MANN



At right, the author masters the art of canoeing. Can you identify everyone in the group photo below? Send the names to David Mann at mannlls@ne.rr.com



In some states, partition maps dividing up a decedent's property are filed in the probate records and are found nowhere else.

Researching Probate Records

In previous articles, I have explained four of the five common mistakes surveyors make in researching the records.

In the first article, I discussed mistakes made in determining senior title often required when assessing the boundaries resulting from an overlap. In the second, I explained the deficiency existing when a forward search is omitted. In the third, I explained the necessity for researching the road records. In the fourth, I discussed the deficiency in researching and identifying easements. In the final article, I will discuss probate records.

Some surveyors have gone their entire career without ever researching property records that may be found in the office of the probate court, also known as “family,” “surrogate” or “orphans” court.

Probate records will often contain maps of the decedent's property and descriptions of the property that are not found in the deeds. In some states, partition maps dividing up a decedent's property among the heirs or devisees are filed in the probate records and are found nowhere else.

Also, it is not uncommon for boundary surveys of the decedent's property to be among the decedent's estate documents, which can then be found in the probate records. As a consequence, many surveyors have overlooked valuable boundary information that is only available in the probate office.

In defense of those surveyors that have avoided performing research in the probate office, pertinent records



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

are often extremely difficult to identify from the indices in the probate office.

For example, if the deed recites: “Being the same property Christina Small inherited from her father,” the researcher faces a difficult time finding the appropriate probate records for Christina's father (assuming the father's property passed through probate).

Probate records are typically indexed by the decedent's name. Consequently, if Christina Small is her married name, the researcher wouldn't know the decedent's last name needed to enter the probate index.

Another problem that often arises with probate records is the difficulty in looking at the decedent's documents. While most registry of deeds attempt to make all records available for viewing, the probate office lacks that same goal. The chances are that the probate records will never be examined once they are filed

and the estate closed. Accordingly, why attempt to store the records as if these records were to be examined frequently.

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. At the very least, the surveyor should inform the client of the deficiency in the research so the client can pay to have the deficiency eliminated or understand the potential deficiency in the research. 📌

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.



LAKE DUNMORE RD RT 53

SALISBURY / LEICESTER

“Had I discovered the proverbial ‘pin cushion’ effect of monumentation, or was there a gore along the town line?”

Town Line Double Monumentation?

BY HARRIS ABBOTT, L.S.

WHILE ON MY BIKE RIDES around the state, I am always looking for unusual property monumentation along the road.

Recently, on Route 53 on the east side of Lake Dunmore, I discovered a pair of monuments at the base of the sign marking the Salisbury/Leicester town line. These monuments marked property owned by the U.S. government and managed by the Green Mountain National Forest.

Had I discovered the proverbial “pin cushion” effect of monumentation, or was there a gore along the town line? To answer my question, I contacted retired Green Mountain National Forest surveyor Nancy Iwanicki, L.S., and sent her pictures of what I had observed, asking her to help me understand the monumentation.

Nancy lives in the town of Leicester, not far from the two monuments in question.

The pictures piqued her curiosity, so she checked out the corners. This is her explanation of what I had observed:

“It looks like one corner is a true corner (corner 40 of U.S. Tract 603) and the other is a witness corner to corner 40A of tract 603 which likely falls in the road. I would have to look at the FS records to see if my theory is correct.”

Later, Nancy said she did stop and look at the records in Rutland, and it was as she had thought. “Corner 40 is on the east side of the road and monumented by one of those pipes,” she said. “Corner 40A is 0.53 chains away and on the ‘west shoulder’ of Route 53, and the other pipe is a witness to that location.

“The interesting thing is that the corner record says that the witness corner was set ‘at Corner 40,’ when it really was set next to it.”

My question answered, thanks to Nancy. 🌲





January 26, 2016 • 6 p.m. • Conference Call

Present: Gayle Burchard, Kelly Collar, Lisa Ginett, Ian Jewkes, Mark Day, Keith Van Iderstine, Nathan Yager
Absent: Brad Holden

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The committee accepted the treasurer's report dated January 25, 2016. Total income: \$12,212.00; total expense: \$5,112.18; leaving a net income of \$7,099.82. There were 130 dues renewals out of the 202 last year: Full membership 54, Life membership 31, Out of State membership of 21 and Associate membership of 12.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

The VSLs CD matures Jan. 27, and we need to decide whether to roll it over for another 5 year period at an interest rate of 1.7%. Kelly will check and email the committee members with rates of interest for shorter term CDs and we will decide what to do by email. **Cornerpost:** Kelly requests that we send in appropriate photos for the cover. National Surveyors Week is March 21 - 26, and Kelly contacted the Governor's office; they are willing to make a proclamation about the event. Kelly included the Washington State Proclamation to see if we could paraphrase the proclamation to better reflect our state. Gayle is going to get a copy of the New Hampshire Proclamation as it may be closer to what we might want to use. We are also able to put up a manned exhibit for one day during that week at the Statehouse. It was agreed that one day for 4 hours would be useful if we can find someone to man the exhibit and we discussed having surveying instruments ranging from a compass and tape up to a GPS unit.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Gayle would like us all to review the VSLs bylaws to see what needs to be updated: it was suggested we think about board member time limits. It is noted that we have a fair

amount of inactive committees and was suggested that we review the committees and also to see if we could get each committee chair to come to several meetings a year. We discussed the merits of having fewer meetings per year. We will discuss the bylaws at our next meeting. **Scanned Documents:** we need to find a way to organize and store our scanned documents so that Brad does not need to deal with each request. We discussed the option of storing them on a secure cloud site and how it might work to give VSLs members a user name and password to access them as a membership benefit. We discussed asking Ryan how the AOT stores, organizes and accesses their maps as well as possibly hiring someone (from the UVM Library? ask Harris Abbott) to organize, index and help us to deal with these 4,000 to 5,000 current files. The collection is currently indexed by surveyor.

OTHER BUSINESS

The group welcomed Nate Yager to the VSLs Executive Board. We briefly discussed the new plat laws that we had revised in mid 2015. Bobbi Brimblecomb, the Town of Marshfield Town Clerk is chairing the committee for the VT Town Clerks regarding the reinstatement of the plat laws. I told Bobbi that I would get a copy of our most recently revised proposal from Brad and email it to her. She wants to use that proposed revised copy to review with her committee. The VT Town Clerks would like to work with VSLs to get this proposed revised plat law in front of the Legislature and hopefully passed next year.

NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting is Feb. 18 at 6:00 p.m. at the AIV building in Montpelier.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
 Lisa Ginett, Secretary

February 18, 2016 • 6 p.m.

Present: Gayle Burchard, Mark Day, Keith VanInderstine, Lisa Ginett, Ian Jewkes, Brad Holden, Kelly Collar and Nate Yager. Also in attendance was Dwight Baker. No one was absent.

The meeting came to order at 6:05 PM.

SECRETARY'S MINUTES

Members reviewed minutes from the January 26, 2016 Executive Committee meeting. Upon motion duly made and seconded it was unanimously RESOLVED: to approve the minutes of the January 26, 2016 Executive Committee meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The committee accepted the treasurer's report dated Feb. 14, 2016. Total income: \$15,360.00; membership dues: \$14,463.00; net worth: \$65,176.43. Membership renewal is at 76%. Kelly will send a reminder in the next few weeks to those who have not paid their dues.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Kelly received some photos and articles for "The Cornerpost" from Richard Bohlen, who is retired but worked for many years in the Northeast Kingdom. Pennsylvania has undertaken a Photo Contest for Surveyor's Week. Might be a way to generate more photos for "The Cornerpost."

Next week, Kelly will open registration for the Spring Conference on April 8 at the Three Stallion Inn in Randolph. There will be three programs presented: Shoreline Protection, Vermont Railroad Issues and a case Study along with a VSLs business meeting. The conference has received approval for 5 PDH hours.

The CD was turned over to another CD of 18 month length with the interest at 1.7%. Kelly will be attending several days of the NSPS conference.

NATIONAL SURVEYOR'S WEEK

Kelly was able to re-word a copy of the New Hampshire Governor's Proclamation about the event to suit Vermont and the Governor signed the Proclamation and posted it on the State of Vermont website. Kelly will put a copy up on the VSLs web site as well. VSLs hopes to have an exhibit one morning of the "week" with several people manning the exhibit which will consist of surveying instruments from antique to current.

Meetings are held at 6 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month at the AIV building in Montpelier, or via conference call. Members are welcome.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Gayle discussed the commemorative plaque to be issued for outstanding service to the profession. The idea seems to have disappeared and perhaps should be considered again. The group reviewed the bylaws, deciding that there should be some revision to the Standing Committees. Term limits were discussed. It was noted that many of the Standing Committees have become defunct over time; the only active standing committee is the Program Committee. Gayle would like to get several other standing committees up and running, including the Legislative, Nominating and Preservation Committees, and the group agreed. It was also suggested to have the committee Chair do a report on their work at the December business meeting. Kelly will put a notice in "The Cornerpost," asking for help with re-starting these committees and have some discussion at the Spring conference. Hopefully we can get them up and running at the Fall Conference and have their first reports at the December meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

Dwight Baker attended the meeting to discuss alternate ways for VSLs to gain income. Dwight noted that most organizations found other means than membership dues to cover their costs. He suggested and the group discussed various possibilities. We discussed creating seminars that Town Officials, attorneys, real estate people or GIS people might attend as a way of gaining more people per seminar and thus more income.

There was a brief follow up discussion as to what had caused the plat law or the portion relating to media requirements to sunset and where the issue now stood. Lisa sent the latest draft of the plat law to Bobbi Brimblecomb, Marshfield Town Clerk and committee chair for the Organization of Town Clerks who are looking at this issue. Perhaps with their support and lobbyist we might get the law before the Legislature next year.

We canceled next month's meeting as we will have a business at the April conference. The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Ginett, Secretary

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

This meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m.

SECRETARY'S MINUTES

Members reviewed minutes from the February 18, 2016 Executive Committee meeting. Upon motion duly made and seconded it was unanimously **RESOLVED:** to approve the minutes of the February 18, 2016 Executive Committee meeting.

The committee accepted the treasurer's report dated April 20, 2016. Total income: \$29,913.44, including membership dues of \$17,125.00; total expense: \$24,510.86; net income: \$5,402.58. Membership renewal is at 90%. The spring seminar netted \$6,201.93. Net worth: \$64,756.44.

BILL H.862; PLAT LAWS

Keith reported on the information sent to him by Susan Senning regarding State of Vermont Bill H.562 that had been passed by the House and was currently being reviewed by the Senate Committee. The bill is in reference to the Plat Laws, "27 VSA Section 1403." It is clear that whoever sponsored the bill did not submit the revised VSLs language for the bill. The group decided that it was better to let the bill go through being less than perfect rather than stall the entire bill until next year. However, we found that the bill contains the old wording for "fixed line mylar." Keith says that there is no where in Vermont to get a fixed line mylar made and our discussion revolved around asking the Senate Committee to revise just those words to something more consistent with the terminology already in place in the VSLs proposed revision of the this portion of the statute. Keith said that after he asked Brad for the correct terminology, he would write a letter requesting this revision to the language and to find the correct person to send it to.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Kelly discussed the Young Surveyor's Network (YSN), which is a nation-

al network for licensed surveyors under the age of 35. Kelly says three young VSLs members are interested in starting up a chapter in Vermont, and asked if we could pay for one representative's attendance at a YSN annual meeting. This would be a good investment, as the larger YSN is developing strategies to attract and retain young surveyors into the field. The group agreed to pay for our representative's travel.

Kelly also discussed the fact that we might want to simplify the online application form for VSLs membership. We currently ask for three references for new members but never take action to check any of the references. The general consensus in the group was to take the entire reference request out of the form. Kelly would also like to prepare a short blurb about the process of becoming a licensed land surveyor for the web site and give a link to the NSPS video on the subject.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Gayle had asked Douglas Henson to review the VSLs 2012 Bylaws and make some recommendations. The group reviewed the suggestions made and found them pertinent, but no action was taken at this meeting.

Gayle wants to get a Preservation Committee and a Nominating Committee going as soon as possible. Another discussion about dealing with retired or deceased surveyors' records ensued. Gayle asked Kelly to put a notice on the website for surveyors to let VSLs know if they have any of these old surveyor's records in their office so that we can inform our members of where these records now reside.

Any bylaw changes, including the possible three-year term limit for officers, need to be published in the Autumn "Cornerpost" to warn for a vote at the December business meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Ginett, Secretary



May 19, 2016 • 6 p.m. • AIV Building, Montpelier, VT

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

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

SECRETARY'S MINUTES

The minutes of the April Executive Committee meeting were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The committee accepted the treasurer's report prepared for the date ending May 16, 2016. Gross Net Worth equals \$63,898.37, and Net Income equals \$4,240.37, with 93% of membership income paid to date.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Fall Conference: Sept. 15-16, 2016, Killington Grand: Kelly gave an update on our plans for the fall conference. Karol Grove will speak about FEMA and Flood Plain issues, Dan Martin will speak about the use of OPUS, and we will have a 4-hour session for hands-on exhibitor demonstrations. Brad suggested adding Repro to our list of exhibitors.

Kelly also would like to create some short videos to post on the website, directed at people who may be interested in a career in surveying. Brad mentioned that Bear Pond Productions might be able to produce the videos for us. He will ask them and report back to the group.

BYLAWS

The group reviewed the bylaws. Gayle asked the group to think about possible members for Historic Preservation and Nominating committees. Ideally, it would be good if these committees had their first meetings at the fall conference. We discussed terms for our officers and the process for generating nominations. Kelly said that, in one of her upcoming e-newsletters, she could include a note asking those who would like to serve on a committee to contact us.

AAGS AFFILIATION

Gayle explained that the American Association for Geodetic Surveying would like us to affiliate with them. The Executive Committee would like to look into this before making a decision. Gayle will ask Tricia and Dan Martin about this and see what NSPS's relationship is with them, and she'll tell us via email. Ian thinks as long as it's trying to make people better at their profession and not a moneymaking scheme, it sounds like a good idea.

NSPS WHITE PAPER

Gayle read NSPS email about developing a generic white paper for states to use with the legislature to advocate for licensing. Gayle will ask Paul Hannan, Dwight Baker and George Butts to pull up any paperwork regarding the licensing sunset that happened in the 80s.

COMMUNICATING ABOUT MONUMENTS

The group reviewed the note from Richard Hosking (which came through Stephen Fraser) about surveyors reporting to the VTrans districts any time they dig for a monument. Members discussed the circumstances under which they contact Digsafe. Brad will speak with Richard Hosking to find out what exactly he is suggesting. Then Brad will contact Stephen Fraser and let the committee know the upshot of the conversation.

DECEASED OR OUT OF BUSINESS SURVEYOR RECORDS

Gayle spoke with Leslie Pelch about a process for maintaining old records; Leslie's office has a temporary technician this summer who might be able to scan old records. If we make them public record, we might be able to access grant money to complete the job. Brad gave a history of the records scanning and the purpose of the database. Brad suggested having the local surveyors volunteer to take control of the process; he could parse it up into towns.

Geodatabasing seems to be way to go, where eventually you could have a parcel map with hyperlinks that allow you to pull up surveys in those areas. Mark suggested that we take it one piece at a time. Knowing where to find the surveys, first and foremost, is important. Also there's the issue of releasing them only to our members, and having members sign a waiver for the society saying that they assume the liability if they hand out the records.

After much discussion, the group decided that we should simply direct people making inquiries to the current holders of the surveys. If a family member contacts us about taking ownership of a late surveyor's surveys, we need to ask them what they would like us to do with them. We will take it on a case-by-case basis. Family members will need to sign a waiver giving us full ownership of the surveys.

A catalog by town would be very helpful; Brad thinks he can do the cataloguing. Kelly will send out release forms to anyone who donates files.

OTHER BUSINESS

Plat Law: Keith mentioned that the fixed line process for preserving plats no longer exists, so it shouldn't be included in the law. The Senate committee decided to leave the language as is, for now, because there's an alternative listed, and next year we'll fix it. The law doesn't go into effect until July 2017. Keith has a friend, Patty Lewis, who is a representative and will sponsor it.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, June 16 at 6 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kelly Collar, Secretary pro tem



April 8, 2016 • Three Stallion Inn • Randolph, VT

Executive Committee Members

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

Absent: Ian Jewkes and Nate Yager.

The meeting was called to order at 1:11 p.m.

SECRETARY'S MINUTES:

Members reviewed minutes from the February 18, 2016 Executive Committee meeting. Upon motion duly made and seconded it was unanimously **RESOLVED:** to approve the minutes of the February 18, 2016 Executive Committee meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Keith Van Iderstine presented the financial report for the first quarter of 2016. Gross income: \$ 28,254.00; total expense: \$17,334.30.00; net income: \$10,909.70; total assets are \$71,801.88. The treasurer's report was approved.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Gayle presented the concept of term limits for both Executive Committee members and standing committee members. Various options were discussed. We will consider changing the bylaws, with the changes to be published in "The Cornerpost," along with a slate of officers. Standing committees will be pared down from the current (mostly inactive) committees to better reflect current-day needs. Keith noted that if there is a sudden need for another standing committee, the bylaws allow the Executive Committee to put one in place.

NSPS BUSINESS

Tricia Kules, the VSLs representative for NSPS, gave a short report after attending the spring meeting of NSPS. Highlights were attempts to get surveying to become a part of the STEM programs now being highlighted in schools, work force development and the hope that some NSPS members will be able to attend the National Guidance Counselor

Week to acquaint high school guidance counselors with the surveying profession.

OTHER BUSINESS

Gayle brought up the topic of what to do with requests to take in records of deceased surveyors. A lively discussion ensued as to how the society can afford to scan and index the records.

Brad Holden reports that he has the almost 10,000 scans completed to date as well as some unreadable CDs of some earlier attempts to store retired or deceased surveyors records. The society should try to find someone who might be able to recover any available data from the CDs. Brad also thinks that before the scanned documents can be offered online, they need to be updated and indexed so that any members looking for older surveys can find them.

Right now, Brad can look through the scanned documents based on surveyor, town, and road, and send a member what he has or let them know that the record has not been scanned or doesn't exist. It was mentioned that perhaps there could be an updated list of which deceased or out of business surveyors' records may be available at a current surveyors' office.

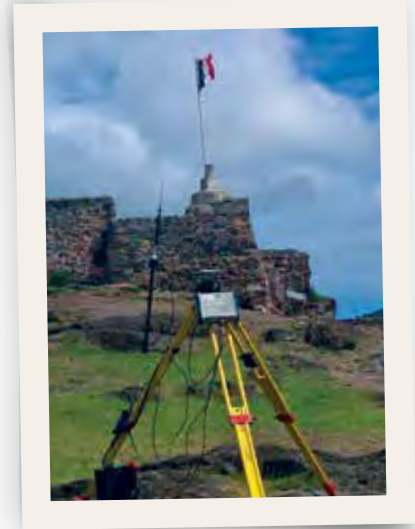
Keith Van Iderstine spoke about the Boy Scout Merit Badge in Surveying. He would like assistance from other surveyors in presenting a program to the Boy Scouts (who are interested in promoting STEM) in surveying this summer.

Tim Rockwood, on behalf of the Program Committee, asked if anyone might be interested in presenting a case study so that we could have a seminar next year made up of our membership presenting case studies.

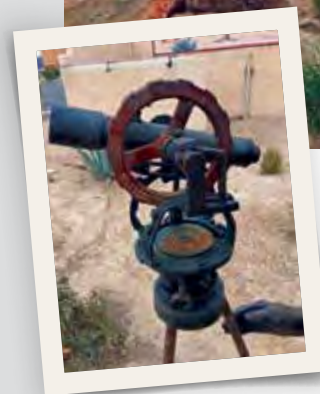
Following a motion from the floor, duly seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 2:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Ginett, Secretary

Random Notes



SITE-SEEING—Gayle Burchard, L.S., sent in this photo of Fort Lewis from a recent vacation in St. Martin. The fort is in the city of Margot, located on the French side of the island.



SATELLITE MEMBER—Former VSLs member Bill Kules recently sent in these photos. "I saw this historic monument in Twentynine Palms,

Calif., and could not resist photographing it and sending it for *The Cornerpost*. It is hard to tell if that is a real instrument or someone did a good job replicating one." Bill is living in Twentynine Palms, volunteering at Joshua Tree National Park and keeping busy with consulting work, golf, and bike riding.

Property Parcel Mapping Program Established

The Transportation Bill recently passed by the Vermont Legislature included the establishment of a new program whose purpose is to: develop a statewide property parcel data layer; ensure regular maintenance and updates of the data layer; and make property parcel data available to state agencies and departments, regional planning commissions, municipalities, and the public.

While the Agency of Transportation introduced this legislation and has been given the authority to create the program, they are working with the Vermont Center for Geographic Information (VCGI) to actually house and staff the program. AOT will partially fund the initial creation and update of statewide data while other state agencies will contribute to the remaining data creation costs and ongoing costs for the program. The Parcel Program Manager will be initiating a campaign to communicate information about the program as it develops. Initial steps will include the formation of an Advisory Board with representation from state agencies, the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, and the Vermont Society of Land Surveyors and the issuance of an RFP to perform digital parcel mapping.

More details about this program will be available in the fall. Contact Leslie at VCGI with any questions: leslie.pelch@vermont.gov or 802-882-3002.

 vcgi.vermont.gov  **802.882.3002**

Training Offered in September

Intro to GIS/GPS (\$100, approved for continuing education credit #CE416-0216) September 10 & 17, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. each day Vermont Tech Randolph Campus

To Register:

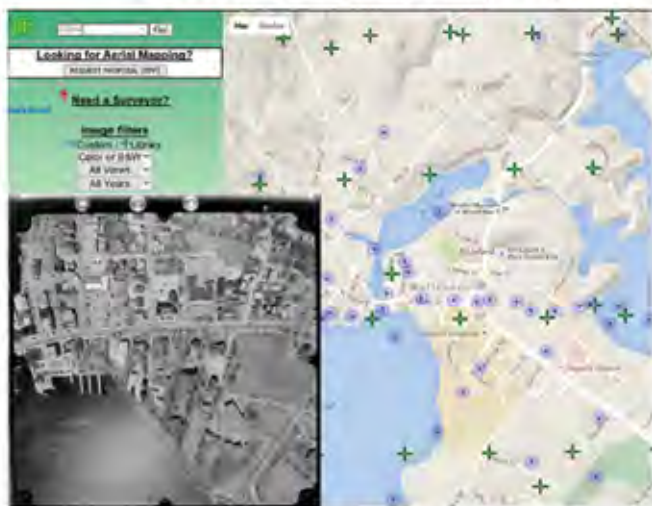
greentrainings.vtc.edu/gis-trainings

Participants will gain an understanding of fundamental geospatial concepts, which they will then apply in learning how to use online mapping applications, consumer-grade GPS receivers, and QGIS open source (free!) GIS software. QGIS will be used to explore and display geospatial data, to create new geospatial data, to perform simple geospatial analysis, and to compose basic maps appropriate for printing or publishing. Participants will develop a mapping question or project that they will explore and build on throughout the course. Training manual chapters from last year's class are posted (vcgi.vermont.gov/education/training) so you can check out what is covered or use them for self-training.

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Sustaining Member





Elwin Leysath

August 25, 1920 – July 2, 2016

Vermont L.S. #175



Elwin Leysath, 95, died on Saturday, July 2, 2016, at his home in Brandon, Vt.

He passed away peacefully and comfortably in his sleep following an extended period of declining health. A sixth-generation Vermonter, Mr. Leysath was born in Springfield, Vt., on August 25,

1920, the son of Winona Burditt and Albert Leysath, and older brother to his sister Esther.

He received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Forestry from North Carolina State University and a Master's Degree in forestry from Duke University.

After taking up residence in Possum Corner, South Carolina, Elwin married Murdale Cameron, a Southern-born and educated woman who later would become one of the most important and influential ministers of the United Church of Christ.

In 1949, their son, Albert, was born, and in 1950 the family moved back to Elwin's home state of Vermont when he accepted a position as Rutland County forester, settling in Rutland. In 1952, a daughter, Dorothy was born, completing the family.

Elwin's responsibilities in his career grew, and by 1968, he was in charge of all forest pest control for

Southern Vermont. In 1976, he took an early retirement and moved to Michigan where his wife's ascending career led to a position of associate conference minister. There he began work as a private forestry consultant. In 1981, they moved to Minnesota, where Murdale became the first female conference minister in the history of the UCC. In 1989, Elwin and Murdale moved back to Vermont to enjoy a life of semi-retirement, although both stayed active in their professions. He was a longtime member of the Vermont Society of Land Surveyors.

Elwin was a man of many interests and simple pleasures. He was a past master Mason of the Rutland Center Lodge, avid gardener, world traveler, coin collector, Eagle Scout, choir singer, violin player, voracious reader, fern expert and Cribbage shark. A true Vermonter, Elwin was a man of few words but could say more with the twinkle in his eye than most people could communicate with paragraphs. He did not know the meaning of pretense or artifice. He found joy in everything he did, and kindness was the gift he offered to everyone who knew him. In his final years, he never complained of his growing limitations, but instead embraced his remaining pleasures even more passionately. He was universally adored by every person who met him, and we were proud to be a part of his family.

Elwin is survived by his son, Albert; daughter, Dorothy; grandchildren Terry, John, and Bertha; and great-granddaughter, June. He will be missed by all.

Reprinted from the Rutland Herald

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BY DICK BOHLEN, L.S. #7, *retired*

*Sometimes getting
the job done requires
a mixture of skill,
ingenuity, and
nerves of steel.*

WINSTON ADAMS, JR., IS A BIG MAN. He makes you think of a big bear, and he's the kind of man you want on your side in any kind of confrontation—you wouldn't want him to be opposite you on the line of scrimmage.

We used to call him "Big Win," and the name fit him for his size, but also for his heart. He's gentle, soft-spoken, kind, and always ready to help.

We were running a survey on Brainard Street in Danville on a Saturday morning many years ago, and my grandson was working with me. Things were going very well when a motorcycle came up and stopped near us. Then this monster of a man got off and started for me...I thought it was all over and my time was up, when he took off his helmet and I realized it was Big Win. He just wanted to chat, and we had a nice talk about old times. I guess he worked for C.V. until he retired, and he is running a motorcycle shop now down Rutland way.

I first met Win when he was going to the Trade School in St. Johnsbury and taking Drafting Shop. I had an agreement with Gordon Woods, the teacher, and he let me have one or two of the students to work with me during their shop weeks. This gave me some good help and gave the boys some hands-on experience in survey and drafting work. The money was also a welcome help for the boys.

Well, Winston worked with me for a year or two and then went on to other things. He showed up again when we got the survey contract for Interstate 91 and were looking for help,

especially men with some experience, like Winston.

We were working our way north, running the northbound lane of the interstate, and Winston was on our crew. We were working on Barnet Mountain in an area that was east of the then location of U.S. Route 5, setting points at 50-foot intervals, and we were approaching a P.I., which is the intersection point of two tangents or straightaways for the highway. This is a very important angle point and establishes the line for several miles ahead.

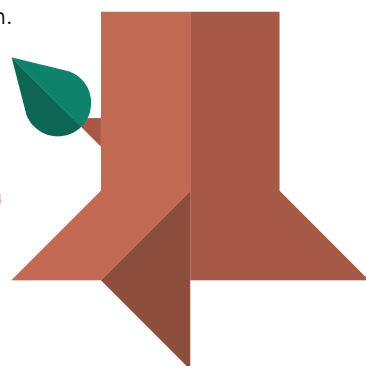
Lo and behold, the actual P.I. came on the edge of a sheer cliff, about a foot from the edge. There was a 12-foot or so drop-off beyond the point, and as we evaluated our situation, we realized that we could set up two legs of the transit tripod, but the third would be over the cliff. What to do?!

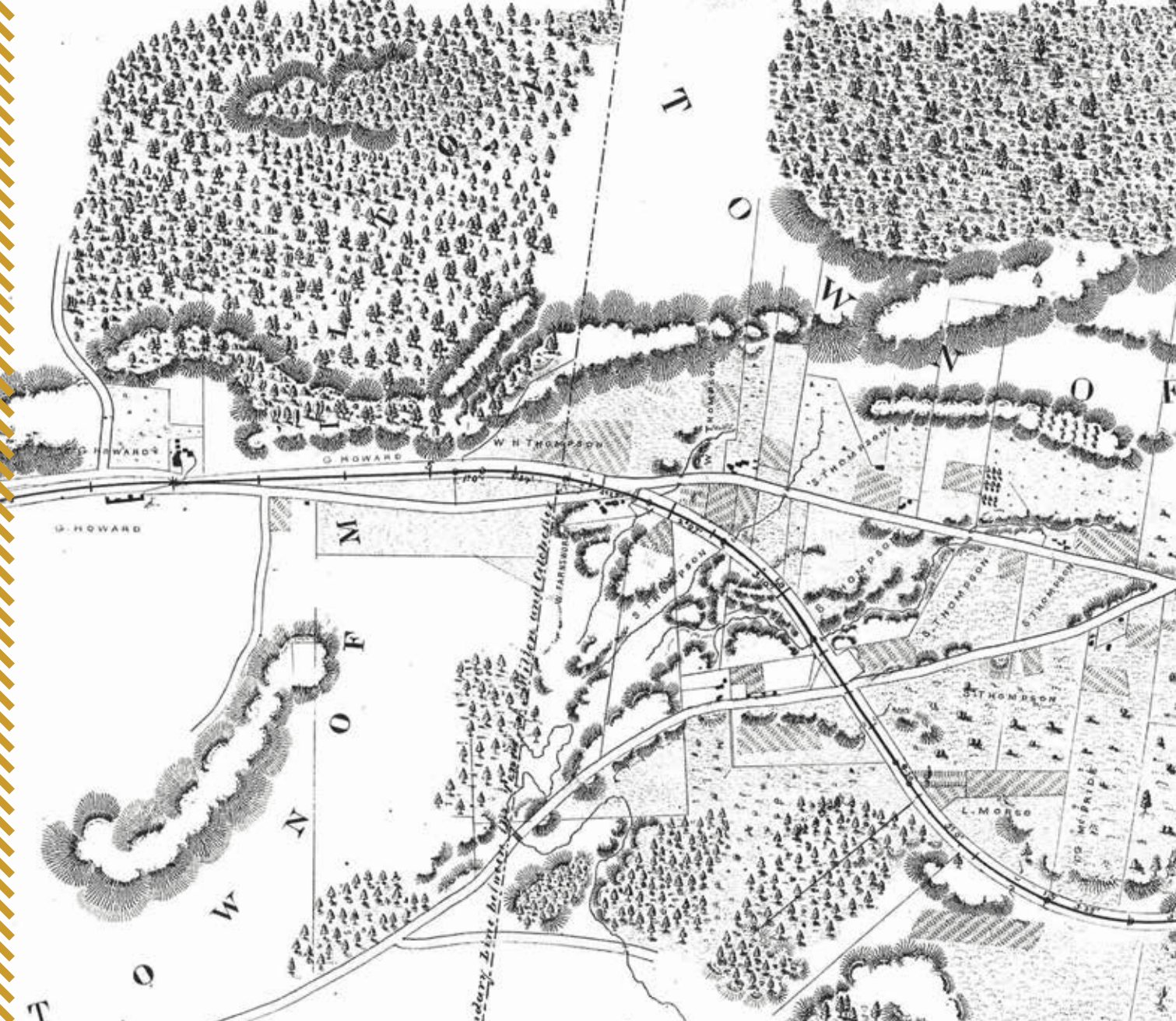
We could establish a point back on the tangent, and go across the angle to set up the forward tangent. Not good procedure, since it involves turning two angles and makes the distance across the angle very critical.

Big Win to the rescue! He said something like, "never fear, Winston's here," picked up the chainsaw, and headed into the woods. After a few minutes of the chainsaw running, Win appeared with a log over his shoulders and gently lowered it onto the ledge below the point.

We then gathered branches, found some boards, and Big Win proceeded to build a platform on the log that looked a lot like a Crow's Nest. We not only had a point for that third tripod leg, but we had a place for the transit man to stand as he established the angle for the forward tangent. Precarious as it might have been, we got the angle turned and proceeded to work our way north, thanks to Big Win.

I shudder to think of what OSHA would say to that Crow's Nest, in today's world! 🌿

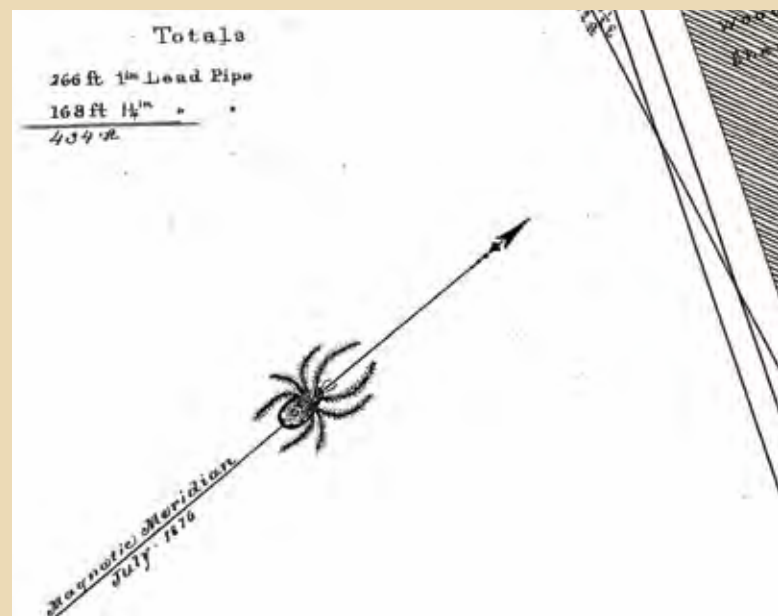




Beauty is in the Details

➔ Scott Taylor, L.S., sent in these intricate hand drawings as a matter of interest. The map is a portion of a drawing of the Central Vermont Railroad. “I think the detail is amazing,” Scott says. “I can’t imagine doing that day after day. Which probably explains the fancy north arrow on the other one. A very bored draftsman.”

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2016 Fall Conference

Thursday and Friday, September 15–16, 2016

Killington Grand Conference Center • Killington, Vermont

Conference Schedule

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

11:00 AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registration opens Meetings for those interested in joining the Nominating Committee, Preservation Committee, or Young Surveyors Network Pacing Competition opens Lunch on your own
12:00–1:00 PM	VSLs Business Meeting , with President Gayle Burchard
1:00–5:00 PM	FEMA and Flood Zones , with Karol Grove, P.S., Principal of Alpine Land Surveying (4 PDH)
2:30–4:45 PM	Exhibitors Set Up in Exhibit Hall
5:00–6:30 PM	Reception in Exhibit Hall
6:30–7:30 PM	Banquet Dinner

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

7:00 AM	Registration opens
7:00–8:00 AM	Breakfast in Exhibit Hall
8:00 AM–12:00 PM	Tech Time: Workshops & Demos with Exhibitors (4 PDH)
12:00–1:00 PM	Luncheon Pacing Competition Closes
1:00–3:00 PM	Using and Understanding OPUS , with Dan Martin, Northeast Regional Geodetic Advisor (2 PDH)
3:00–3:30 PM	Final Business Results of Pacing Competition

» CONTINUING EDUCATION: This event has been approved for 10 PDH by the Vermont Board of Land Surveyors.

? QUESTIONS? Contact Kelly Collar at 802-229-6358 or kelly@vsls.org

Young Surveyors Network to Meet at Fall Conference

All welcome, young or otherwise! The mission of the NSPS Young Surveyors Network is to promote the surveying profession to the public, ensure that surveyors are connected with and well represented at local and national organizations, and to ensure that surveyors are engaged and active professionally and in their communities.

The first meeting of the Vermont chapter will be held at the Fall Conference on Thursday at 11 a.m. (Bring your own lunch!) We will be formulating our own mission, goals, and organization. We value input and membership from surveyors at any point in their career. For more information about the organization:

» Visit: nsps.us.com

New Committees to Meet at Fall Conference

We are working to re-establish the Nominating Committee and the Preservation Committee. The Nominating Committee identifies VSLs members who would be good candidates to serve as officers and committee members. The Preservation Committee works on preserving historical documents and making them available for broader use. Those interested can join us at 11 a.m. on Thursday. (Bring your own lunch!)

Hotel Accommodations

Killington is offering a special overnight rate for those attending the conference: a standard hotel room with 2 queen beds (\$151/night), or a studio with one queen Murphy bed plus a sofa bed (\$140/night). To reserve your room at the discounted rate, please call 1-800-282-9955 and mention the Vermont Society of Land Surveyors. Please make your registration 30 days in advance to guarantee the availability of a discounted room.

Conference Presentations

FEMA and Flood Zones

Karol Grove, P.S., Principal of Alpine Land Surveying; FEMA & Flood Zone Expert



This four-hour seminar will be divided into two parts. Part one will cover the history of flood zones and maps and the federal laws associated with them, along with elevation certificates and common mistakes made. We will also discuss the Letter of Map Amendment (LOMA) process and electronic LOMAs.

In part two, we will cover the details of completing a Letter of Map Amendment. We will also look at the options available to establish a base flood elevation in Zone A areas, and the importance of flood insurance studies. We will finish by discussing compliant buildings vs. non-compliant buildings.

Using and Understanding OPUS

Dan Martin, Northeast Regional Geodetic Advisor



The National Geodetic Survey's (NGS's) Online Positioning User Service (OPUS) provides free, easy access to the National Spatial Reference System, by allowing users to upload their GPS data to the NGS to be processed by NGS computers. To use OPUS successfully, it is critical that users understand both the requirements for data input as well as the processing output. This course will describe the steps involved in processing data with OPUS and will explain the output so that users can interpret and have confidence in the results.

Tech Time: Workshops and Demos with Vendors

On Friday morning, we will divide up and rotate through a series of demos by a select group of exhibitors, tentatively including:

- UVM Spatial Analysis Lab
- Waypoint Technology Group
- CADNET Services
- Maine Technical Source
- Keystone Precision Instruments
- Carlson Software
- Terramatrix, LLC

Conference Fees (through September 1)*

	Full Conference	Thursday Only (dinner not included)	Friday Only
Member in good standing from VSLS or kindred association	\$225.00	\$110.00	\$170.00
Non-member	\$325.00	\$160.00	\$220.00
Life Member	\$168.75	\$82.50	\$127.50
Non-member technical staff attending with member	\$187.50	\$88.00	\$136.00
Three attendees from same firm (one must be member)	\$187.50	—	—

*Add \$50 late fee after September 1

Order additional meals for spouse or friend: Name _____

☐ Thursday Reception, \$10 ☐ Thursday Dinner, \$50 ☐ Friday breakfast, \$20.00 ☐ Friday lunch, \$30.00

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

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



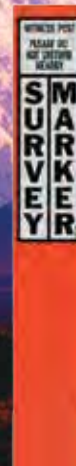
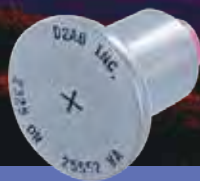
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