



Journal of the Vermont Society of Land Surveyors
Volume 52, Number 1 | Spring 2021

The Cornerpost

FIRE IN PASSUMPSIC!

PAGE 22

REGISTER FOR THE SPRING SEMINAR

PAGE 23

THE SEARCH FOR A 19TH CENTURY BOTTLE

PAGE 12



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The Cornerpost

Volume 52, No. 1 • Spring 2021

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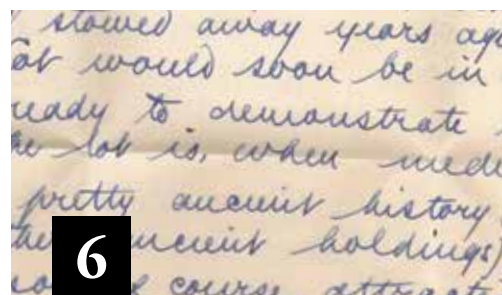
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Send it to kelly@vsls.org

CONTENTS



FEATURE ARTICLES

President's Corner	4
Century-Old Letter Found	6
News from NSPS	9
Education Foundation Scholarship	11
From the Archives.....	12
December Seminar Pics	14
Random Notes.....	16
In Memoriam	17
Meeting Minutes.....	18
Survey Markers: Fire in Passumpsic ...	22
Spring Seminar Registration	23

OUR ADVERTISERS

CADNET Services.....	2
Maine Technical Source	5
LidarUSA	8
Keystone Precision Instruments.....	10
Tarrant Gillies Richardson Shems.....	15
Murphy Sullivan Kronk.....	21
John Grady, L.S.	21

SEND IN YOUR NEWS

The success of *The Cornerpost* depends on all of our members. Please consider making a contribution to an upcoming issue. Send your articles, news and photos to kelly@vsls.org.



ON THE COVER

No doubt our cover photo is a familiar one to most land surveyors in the winter. This one came from VSLS Treasurer Keith Van Iderstine, who took it while working in Moretown in January, just off the Moretown Mountain Road headed toward Northfield. Note the VSLS logo on the backpack.

If you see any interesting scenes in your travels, or even everyday scenes that show the life of a surveyor, please snap a shot and send it to kelly@vsls.org.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



View of Mt. Mansfield



Plattsburgh, NY



North Ferrisburgh, VT

Better days ahead: A few seasonal shots to remind us that friendlier weather is coming.

PHOTOS: TRICIA KULES AND SEAMUS COLLAR

As the days grow warmer and the pandemic slowly recedes, I know we're all looking forward to regaining some semblance of our normal lives. I hope our Life Members, at least, are well represented among the newly vaccinated.

One issue that recently cropped up as a result of COVID is a snafu in the way candidates have been tested for the Vermont Land Surveyors' exam. Since last April, the Office of Professional Regulation has been administering the test as a take-home exam with no time limit or restrictions on resource materials. In their effort to continue the exam during the pandemic, OPR neglected to consult with the Board of Land Surveyors about whether this was in the best interest of future surveyors or the general public.

After some discussion and a virtual meeting with the Board and a handful of VSLS members, OPR and the Board are planning to adopt an online, timed exam in the near future. Until then, anyone doing the take-home exam will have to sign an attestation stating that they'll follow the proper procedures and won't share the exam questions with others.

Joe Flynn, who is now the Board Chair, asked us to thank everyone

who took the time to give feedback to OPR. As he says, we're all responsible for protecting the health, welfare and safety of Vermont residents.

On another note, VSLS is planning its third virtual event for the Spring Seminar, which will take place over GoToWebinar on Friday, April 16. We have two excellent webinars planned for you, so please register online or on page 23 of *The Cornerpost*. Fingers crossed that we will be back in person for our Fall Conference, now scheduled for September 17 at Okemo Mountain Resort. Plans are well under way for that, so stay tuned for more news.

And until I lay eyes on you in the flesh, stay healthy and well, and shoot me a note if your society can do anything for you. 🍷



Sincerely,

Mark Day

VSLS PRESIDENT

RESOURCES FOR MEMBERS

PDFs of Old Survey Records Available

A reminder that we've indexed thousands of surveys that were donated to the society, and these are available for your use. To see the index:

- Go to vsls.org
- Click "member login"
- Enter password "vslsmember"
- Search the index by town, location, surveyor, etc.
- Request a PDF: kelly@vsls.org

Vermont Survey Law Manual Gets an Update

Originally written in the 1990s, the Vermont Survey Law Manual is finally getting an update. VSLS Honorary Member Paul Gillies, Esq., has shouldered this Herculean task. Paul is updating the language, laws and format, and the final product will be available for digital download on our website.

How Can We Help?

Are there other resources you'd like to request? Please let us know. Email me or Kelly Collar and share your ideas:

- mark.day@tcevt.com
- kelly@vsls.org

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Century-Old Letter Found in BFA Files

I VOLUNTEERED TO REVIEW the 1930 construction files of Bellows Free Academy in St. Albans. In the collection was this letter from Frank Dewart, a local surveyor in the early 1900s. Mr. Dewart was quite involved with the layout of the classrooms for BFA.

I personally ran into his deeds, etc., in my time surveying, and I know Harvey Chaffee did as well. The letterhead reads "Loomis Street, Burlington," but he also lived at 23 Rugg Street in St. Albans.

When Frank Dewart passed, his brother Eugene married his widow. Eugene, who I know, was working for Central Vermont Railway when I worked there. In the early sixties, a classmate and close friend of mine bought the house from the Dewart family.

The story I was told at the time when Frank Dewart passed was that his widow put his survey records etc., in the backyard and had a bonfire. A sad day for all surveyors who spent many hours researching.

Unlike the plumber who has leaky pipes, 23 Rugg Street had 4-inch square marble monuments on all corners. His work is still referenced in the item from *The County Courier* newspaper, dated August 2020.

— BY WILLIAM FRED ANDERSON, L.S.

Parcel #7 (HO0002): A lot of land with buildings thereon situated on the westerly side of Center Street Extension (n/k/a #2 Home Street) designated as Lot #7 on Blue Print prepared by F. H. Dewart, Civil Engineer, for Richford Homebuilding Association dated July 12, 1919. Being and meaning all and the same lands and premises set forth in Quit Claim Deed from Chris J. Longe to Christopher Longe and Sherry A. Longe dated March 22, 2006 at Book 105, Page 61 of the Richford Land Records.

Parcel #8 (SC0043): A lot of land with buildings thereon located at 43 School Street and being and meaning all and the same lands and premises conveyed to Robert N. McAllister and Carolyn G. McAllister by Warranty Deed of Howard D. McCarty and Gertrude W. McCarty dated May 29, 1968 and recorded

at Book 49, Page 49 of the Richford Land Records.

Parcel #10 (FS0025): Being a parcel of land with buildings thereon situated on the northerly side of Farrar Street known as 25 Farrar Street and being and meaning all and the same lands and premises conveyed to Dennise M. Paradis by Warranty Deed of Lee J. Noyes and Holly L. Noyes dated September 29, 2011 and recorded at Book 122, Page 294 of the Richford Land Records.



Frank Dewart was very involved with the layout of classrooms for Bellows Free Academy in St. Albans.

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Feb. 20, 1928.

Mr. S. E. Royce,
Chmn., St. Albans.

Dear Mr. Royce:

Well, I did remark to someone, not long since, that I suspect a note I stowed away years ago as to the Belloc's lot would soon be in demand.

I am ready to demonstrate what and where the lot is, when needed.

This is pretty ancient history (and tangled with other ancient holdings) but for that reason, of course, attracted my attention and interest.

Shall be pleased to be of service to your Com. if I am able.

Sincerely,

Franklin H. Dewart.

After 5 days, return to
FRANKLIN H. DEWART,
159 Loomis St.,
BURLINGTON, VT.



S. E. Royce, Esq.,

St. Albans,

Vt.

Chairman of
Trustees B. & A. Fund,



Franklin Dewart
1861-1928



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News from

NSPS

Annual Awards: Call for Entries

It's time to recognize the good work being done by our state societies. NSPS hosts this competition every year to recognize excellence in map/plat design and in journalism.

2021 Map/Plat Design Competition

- Freehand and machine or computer drafted maps and plats completed after 6/30/2019 are eligible for entry. Previously entered maps or plats will be disqualified, and no more than two entries per category will be considered.
- The maps or plats submitted can be black and white (halftone/shaded), blueline or color prints.
- Entrants need not be members of NSPS; however, entries must be sponsored by a state association affiliate of NSPS or a member of NSPS. NSPS members may self sponsor.

To learn how to submit an entry:

Go to nsps.us.com and search for "map/plat"

**ENTRY
DEADLINE:
JUNE 30**

2021 Journalism Competition

The purpose of this contest is to encourage high-quality publications and content by NSPS affiliates. The contest is judged by a committee established by the Chair of the NSPS Board of Directors, and it is open to newsletters, magazines, and content published between January and December of the previous year. The affiliate's executive director, publication's editor, or their designee may submit entries for consideration. Entries must have been published between January and December 2020.

ENTRY CATEGORIES

- Newsletter
- Magazine
- Original Feature Article—published in either a newsletter or a magazine
- Editorial—published in either a newsletter or a magazine

VLSL will submit an entry for the society, but to learn more:
Go to nsps.us.com and search for "2021 journalism"

National Surveyors Week March 21-27, 2021

MAKE IT SURVEYORS WEEK THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

While we've all been immersed in other news for the past year, we're pausing once again to promote National Surveyors Week and, on our state level, Vermont Surveyors Week. Every year we use this opportunity to stake our claim as the experts in mapping points on the Earth, and to educate others about our important role.

The Vermont Society of Land Surveyors has once again reached out to the Governor's Office and asked him to proclaim that March 21-27 is Vermont Land Surveyors Week.

We can each make a proclamation throughout the year by reaching out to all those organizations who are using mapping tools in their work. This means government agencies, universities and technical schools, construction companies, GIS purveyors, drone operators and others who may possess the tools but not the understanding of accuracy and precision. It could be an educational effort to use our knowledge as doorway to attract new members and perhaps even new customers.

This is a call to arms for 2021. Remember that we're following in the footsteps of Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln and so many others. Rise to the challenge and make a difference.

HOW CAN YOU SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT SURVEYING?



Talk at school career days and meetings of civic clubs and professional groups



Sponsor a Trig-Star Test



Host a Boy Scouts merit badge event in your community



Organize geocaching or benchmark hunting:
→ geocaching.com/mark



Plan GPS on Benchmarks:
→ [geodesy.noaa.gov/ GPSonBM](https://geodesy.noaa.gov/GPSonBM)

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VSLs Education Foundation Now Accepting Scholarship Applications

[Do you know someone who qualifies?]

The VSLs Education Foundation offers a scholarship each year to a student nearing graduation from an accredited land surveying program. The goal is to support the development of talented new surveyors as they enter the profession.



Who is eligible to apply?

Vermont residents who have resided in Vermont for a minimum of two years during completion of a high school education or equivalent, and, who are in their final year and about to graduate from an educational institution offering an ABET accredited land or geodetic surveying program.



How much is the award?

\$2,000 maximum



When is the deadline?

June 1, 2021



How can a student apply?

Go to vsls.org/scholarship to learn more and to download the application form.

Scholarship Recipients Over the Years

1973-74..... Michael Raboin, VTC
1974-75..... Paul Harrington, VTC
1975-76..... No award
1976-77..... William Giel, VTC
1977-78..... Patrick Kirby, VTC
1978-79..... Frank Lamson, VTC
1979-80..... Alec Hastings, VTC
1980-81..... Blake Thomsen, VTC
1981-82..... Robert Snively, VTC
1982-89..... No award
1989-90..... Carl Beattie, Paul Smith's
 Jason Hatch, Paul Smith's
1990-91..... Timothy Patch, UMaine at Orono
1991-92..... Arjay West, Paul Smith's
1992-93..... Darren Smith, N.H. Vo-Tec
1993-94..... Stephen Burnham, SUNY-Alfred
1994-95..... Chris Peck, Ferris State University
1995-98..... No award
1999-2000..... Joseph DiBernardo, Ranger School

2001-02..... Michael Gervais, Paul Smith's
2002-03..... No award
2004-05..... Jason Leach, N.H. Technical College
2005-06..... No award
2006-07..... Jason Riley, Paul Smith's
 Andrew Paradee, UMaine at Orono
2007-08..... Asa White, Paul Smith's
2008-09..... No award
2009-10..... Jacob Bartlett, UMaine at Orono
2010-11..... No award
2011-12..... Jared Serpico, UMaine at Orono
2012-13..... No award
2013-14..... Michael Huyler, Paul Smith's
2014-15..... Lance Elithorpe, Alfred State
2015-18..... No award
2018-19..... Connor Hill, UMaine at Orono
 Nathan Warren, Paul Smith's
2019-20..... No award



MICHAEL HUYLER



LANCE ELITHORPE



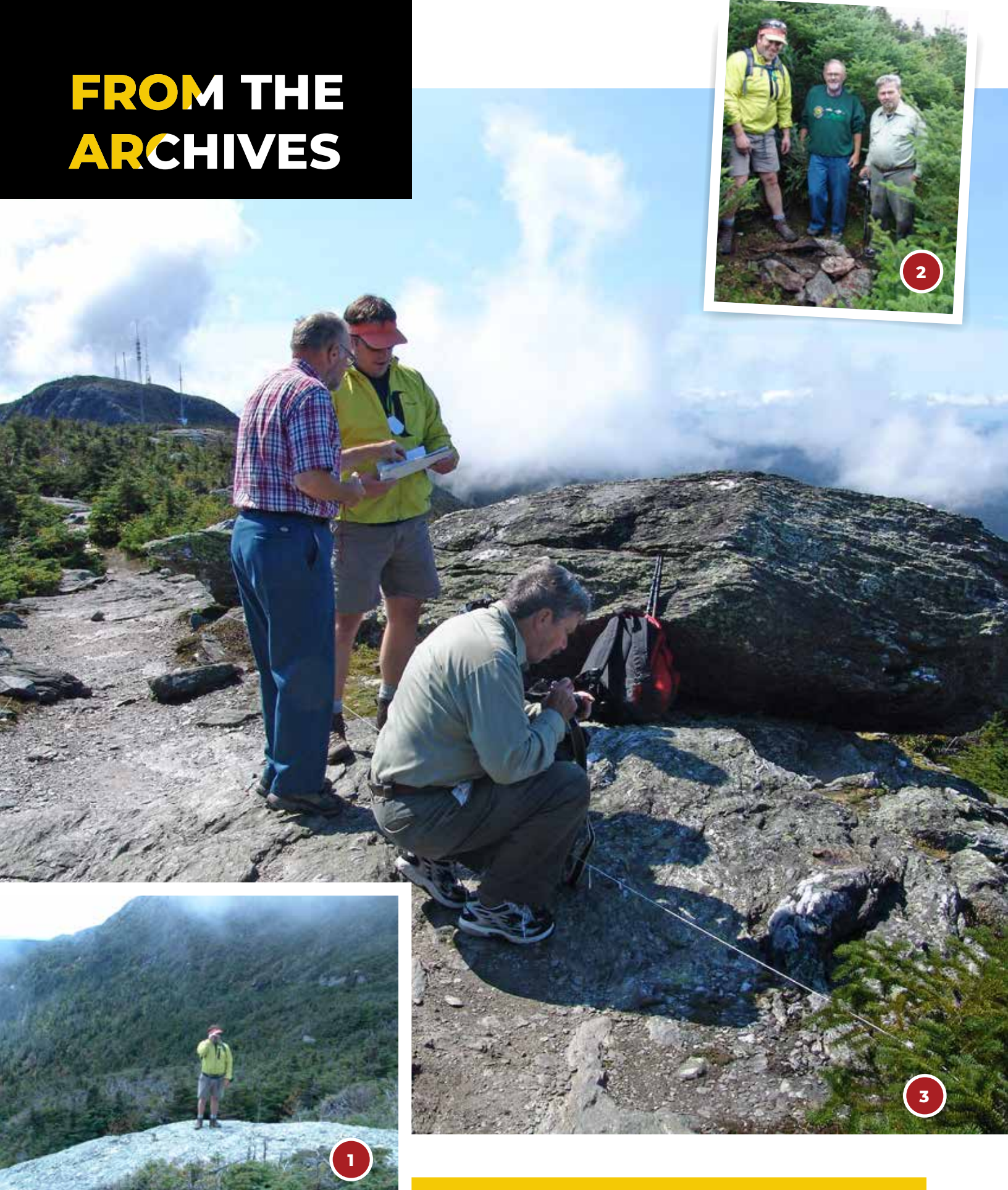
CONNOR HILL



NATHAN WARREN

RECENT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

FROM THE ARCHIVES



21st-Century Surveyors Search for 19th-Century Bottle

This article first appeared in the November 2006 issue of *The Cornerpost* and told of an excursion taken earlier that year. The photos were taken by John Collins, Esq.

BY HARRIS ABBOTT, L.S.

What happened to the Adams Apple Bottle? A group of your colleagues didn't succeed in finding it, but they had a great day on the mountain!

The Report of Committee to Establish Boundary Line between Stowe and Underhill was issued Sept. 6, 1862. This town line is also the Lamoille-Chittenden County line. In 1907, the Champlain Realty Company surveyed their property, which was located on the west side of Mt. Mansfield, abutting the county/town line on the east. The survey notes mention that:

“...we could get no timber large enough for a post and marked a piece of paper ‘Corner of Underhill and Stowe on Cambridge line Sept. 13, 1907’ and placed the same in a half-pint bottle, which we placed among the stones at the foot of stake...”

On August 31, 2006, intrepid land surveyors George Butts, Brad Holden, and Harris Abbott, and Burlington attorney John Collins, took a trip across the top of Mt. Mansfield to look for two of the iron rods set in 1862 on the line denoting the west boundary of the Town of Stowe and the east boundary of the Town of Underhill. Another goal was to go down into the brush on the east side of the Adams Apple to locate the stone corner and bottle referenced in the Champlain Realty Company survey notes.

The foursome recovered the remains of the iron rod set where the county/town line “... crosses the top of the mountain...” (pictures 3 and 4) and the “...designated starting point in 1862 is marked by an iron rod set firmly set in rock...” (pictures 1 and 5) per the September 1862 report. The starting point for the September 1862 description was located in open ledge on the south flank of the “Adams Apple” feature of Mt. Mansfield.

The 1907 Champlain Realty Company survey and notes placed the town/county line an additional 27 rods northeast of the starting point of September 1862 description, so the group then headed in that direction, hoping to find the bottle with note in the mound of stones. On the east side of the “Adams Apple,” in a spruce thicket, the group located evidence of a painted rock near the Realty Company location for the town corner; however, they were disappointed not to recover either the bottle or the mound of stones (picture 2).

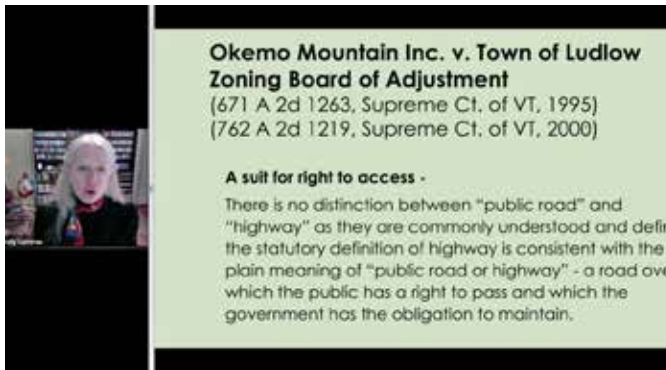
PHOTOS:

- 1) Brad Holden at the iron rod (at heel of L foot) set in 1862 on the Stowe/Underhill town line, on the S side of the Adams Apple.
- 2) Brad Holden, Harris Abbott, George Butts near Stowe NW corner and Underhill NE corner and in the S line of Cambridge, per 1907 survey.
- 3) Harris Abbott, Brad Holden, George Butts at Station “ROD” (George Butts is looking at Station “ROD”).
- 4) Station “ROD” on town line set in 1862 in ledge on ridge line of Mt. Mansfield just S of trail junction leading W to Canyon North and Canyon North Extension Trail.
- 5) Iron rod set in 1862 on the Stowe/Underhill town line on S side of the Adams Apple.



[Dec. 11, 2020 | GotoWebinar]

- Two webinars with Wendy Lathrop, L.S.
- 90 attendees in all
- Business meeting with VSLs ExCom



Send In Your Photos



✉ kelly@vsls.org

PHOTO BY DANIEL "BOONE" MEEDEN



Surveyors are part of Vermont's landscape. Snap a quick photo on your next job to show where you fit in, and send it to Kelly Collar, kelly@vsls.org.



Survey technician Seamus Collar sent his Mom this shot from a job in Winooski.

Tarrant | Gillies
Richardson | Shems **LLP**

Attorneys at Law

New Partners Named

Gerald Tarrant, Paul Gillies, and Daniel Richardson are pleased to announce that Ronald A. Shems became a named partner on January 1, 2020, and that Stephen F. Coteus and Michael J. Tarrant II became partners on February 1, 2020. The firm is now known as Tarrant, Gillies, Richardson & Shems, LLP.



Ron joined the firm on January 1, 2019. He is a former Chair of the Vermont Natural Resources Board, founding partner of a Burlington law firm, and Vermont Assistant Attorney General.

Ron's practice includes civil and appellate litigation, utility, energy, Act 250, land use, environmental, municipal, government transparency and accountability, civil rights, non-profit, cooperative, and governance law.



Mike first joined the firm in 2015. His practice builds on three separate judicial clerkships at the Vermont Superior Courts, with Justice Harold E. Eaton, Jr. at the Vermont Supreme Court, and with Chief Judge Christina C. Reiss of the Federal District Court for the District of Vermont.

Mike represents a wide array of municipalities, individuals, and businesses. Mike's practice involves most areas of general practice, but focuses on: municipal, zoning and land use, landlord and tenant, probate, real estate, and general civil litigation.



Steve joined the firm in 2016 after two judicial clerkships, first with Justice Marilyn S. Skoglund of the Vermont Supreme Court and then with Judge Peter W. Hall of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

Steve represents towns, school districts, businesses, and individuals. He has a particular interest in First Amendment and public records law. His practice encompasses transactional and civil litigation matters, including land use, contract, real estate, municipal, probate, general civil litigation, and appeals.

Founded in 1991, Tarrant, Gillies, Richardson & Shems is a full-service law firm conveniently located in the heart of Vermont's Capital City, Montpelier.

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Where's the Water Line?

Stephen Fraser, L.S., sent in a group of photos taken way back in Jan. 19, 2009, when his survey crew was working in the Brandon Swamp. "I recall that they said it was bitter cold – below 0°." The photos document how the swamp must have flooded, then froze, and then the water dropped, leaving rings of ice around the trees that didn't melt. "I have always thought that these photos might be used in *The Cornerpost* one day to showcase the weather extremes we survey in," Stephen said.



A Tricky Shot

Terry Wilson, L.S., sent in this photo last fall from a site in Groton, Vt. Terry says he shot it reflectorless from on top of a beaver dam.

Terry Harris ❖ Vermont L.S. #584 ❖ Nov. 4, 1950 - Feb. 12, 2021



Albert "Terry" W. Harris, 70, of Hinesburg, died at home, on February 12, 2021 with his family by his side. Terry was born on November 4, 1950 in Wilmington,

Delaware to Charles and Dorothy (Ziegler) Harris. In 1978 he married the love of his life, and partner in adventure, Mary Beth Sylvester, on Mt. Philo in Charlotte, Vt., and together they had two children.

Albert attended Phillips-Andover Academy, in Andover, Massachusetts, George Washington University in Washington, D.C., and Vermont Technical College. He later became licensed as a Vermont land surveyor. He worked as a surveyor for the University of Vermont, Knight Consulting Engineers, and the US Forest Service, but most people knew him for his own practice of surveying, focusing especially on land dispute evaluation.

Those who knew Terry knew of his passion for the outdoors with his wife. With his wife, he hiked in the Great American West, Alaska, Europe, New Zealand, the Himalayas, and South America, and completed the Adirondack 46ers. As an avid canoeist, he enjoyed the

many trips in New England and throughout Canada. He completed 10 Adirondack Canoe Classic 90-mile races. His greatest passion, however, was Alpine skiing, especially at Mad River Glen ski area. He enjoyed sharing these outdoor adventures with his wife, his children, his beloved grandson Elijah, and his friends. But mostly Terry loved and enjoyed his family, immediate and extended. We will all miss him very much.

In addition to his wife of 43 years, he is survived by his children: Blake Charles Harris of Hinesburg and Julia Harris of Essex Junction; three grandchildren, Elijah Aguiar, Romeo Brown, and Rikko Brown; his siblings Chuck Harris of Idaho, Wendy Silverstein and her husband Allen, of Florida, and Pam Greff and her husband Greg of New Mexico; his nieces and nephews, David Kramer, Jason Kramer and his wife Tessa Raum, Atara Goldshtein and her husband Amir, and their daughter Galit, and Hannah Silverstein. He was predeceased by his parents and his sister Kathleen Harris.

A burial service will take place in the Adirondacks in the summer. Donations in Terry's memory may be made to the Hinesburg Recreation Department, 10632 VT-116, Hinesburg, VT 05461. Those wishing to leave condolences may visit www.minorfh.com.



"What a sad day. **Terry** was one of the best. I really liked him and admired his work."

— KATHLEEN MARTIN, L.S.

"While I'm an outsider (CT resident) but a land surveyor no less, **Terry** always welcomed and greeted me warmly and sincerely. His peaceful way of interacting within a group of professionals was what stood out, as was being a land surveyor who cared about his profession and where it is destined to go for future professional land surveyors. By the questions he asked during the seminars, which I have been attending for nearly 14 years — they were questions that were well thought out and ones that most of us wished we had asked. Terry had a way of putting those questions clearly out there without disrespecting any of the parties involved. I will miss seeing him at our next seminar (in person), and hearing his optimistic views about whatever is at hand."

— MIGUEL BOSSE, L.S.

Ralph Michael ❖ Vermont L.S. #130 ❖ Sept. 13, 1939 - Dec. 28, 2020



Ralph Joseph Michael, 81, died Monday, Dec. 28, 2020, at Rutland Regional Medical Center. Ralph was born Sept. 13, 1939, in Plymouth, the son

of Arnold Joseph and Violette M. (Derby) Michael. He graduated in 1956 from Black River High School in Ludlow and in 1960 from Norwich University with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering and received an officer's commission in the U.S. Army.

Ralph served in the Army Corps of Engineers at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, from 1960-1963, and returning to Vermont, continued service with the Army Reserves until 1968. He married Judith (Balestra) in 1967.

He worked for the Vermont Highway Department for five years as a project engineer

during the construction of the interstate highways. In 1969, he founded Michael Engineering Co. which he operated for over 50 years. During this time, he worked as an engineer and professional land surveyor on projects statewide and was a member of the Vermont Society of Land Surveyors and the American Society of Civil Engineers.

Ralph enjoyed woodworking, gardening, landscaping and stone walls. He is survived by his wife; his children, Michelle and Jeremy; five grandchildren; his siblings, Rudolph, Mary Ann Underhill and Marilyn Seward. He was predeceased by siblings, Marguerita Hutt and Rodney.

A celebration of his life is being planned for a later date. Memorial contributions may be made to the Vermont Society of Land Surveyors Education Fund or the Rutland County Humane Society. Arrangements are by Cabot Funeral Home in Woodstock. For online condolences, visit cabotfh.com.

"We have lost a good man and surveyor. **Ralph** was always helpful when I needed his survey info."

— DAVE COLEMAN, L.S.

"**Ralph** was a well known surveyor and engineer in central and southern Vermont, and his firm has been operating for over 50 years."

— DAVID ROSE, L.S.

"**Ralph's** life made the world a better place in so many ways; he was an asset to his profession and his community, he was kind, generous and humble, he was a friend you were thankful to have."

— FRED GLOVER

October 22, 2020, 6 p.m., Zoom Videoconference

This meeting was held one week later than our regularly-scheduled meeting, due to key people being unable to attend on the scheduled date. The meeting was called to order at 6:04 P.M. In attendance were Mark Day, Paul Hannan, Becky Gilson, Randy Otis, Lisa Ginett, Keith Van Iderstine, and our Administrator: Kelly Cochrane-Collar. Absent: Nate Yager.

Secretary's Minutes

Minutes for the Executive Committee meeting for September 17 were reviewed. The motion was duly made and seconded and the vote was unanimously: to approve the minutes of the September 17, 2020 Executive Committee meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's report for the period of January 1 to October 19, 2020: Total income for the period is \$36,681.67, total expenses are \$39,321.26 for a net income of -\$2,639.59. Bank Account Total = \$ 54,167.62. Keith and Kelly note that the December conference is generally billed in January of the next year, so this report includes last years' December conference expenses.

Administrator's Report

Kelly reports that there were some people who paid to view the Fall Conference webinars after the fact, which earned an additional \$1,000.00 for the Society. VSLs has paid Wendy Lathrop \$500.00 toward her fee for the upcoming December Seminar, which will be held virtually. We can pay her remaining fee out of next year's budget if we want to come close to balancing this year's budget, since we typically pay the December meeting expenses in January.

Kelly looked into the cost of other societies' webinars and reported that in New York State the cost was \$99.00 for three credits, \$79.00 for two credits and \$49.00 for one credit. The program committee has decided that for our December Seminar with Wendy Lathrop, we will charge \$75.00 for half of the day and \$125.00 for the entire day. Life members will pay 25 percent less than full members and there will be no group rates. Each half-day consists of 3 credits. Kelly says that we need an enrollment of at least 65 people to come close to balancing the budget for the year.

The 2021 Spring Seminar is planned for April 16, 2021 at Lake Morey, most likely with Dan Martin as a presenter for a three-hour period. The entire seminar will present 6 to 8 hours of credits. We hope that the meeting will be in person, but there will be a plan in place for a virtual meeting if necessary. We will be able to continue to use the NSPS "GotoWebinar" account.

Kelly is working on "The Cornerpost" and plans to use some photos taken with a drone by Kelly Schulze of the UVM Spatial Analysis Lab. There will also be an update by David Fox on the survey library.

Kelly reports that Scott Taylor is almost done indexing the scans. She has occasional requests for copies of various maps. Kelly will put the index on the VSLs website in a password-protected section, and members will have access to the section. They can request individual maps, and Kelly will send them via email. If someone asks for all of the maps,

they will need to supply a hard drive, pay a flat fee for the copying and return mailing of the hard drive and sign a copy of the as-yet-non-existing letter noting that the information cannot be sold.

VSLs 2021 Budget

Luckily we have a cushion in our reserve funds to make up for the loss we incurred this year, after having to cancel the Spring Seminar due to COVID-19 restrictions. We have also experienced a loss of \$1,000, because five full members did not rejoin the Society due to retirement or moving out of state. Kelly reports that the new printer is working well. She is still using the ancient laptop but will wait until January and the new budget year to purchase a replacement. We're lowering the travel budget for 2021, since we don't anticipate much travel in early 2021. Our NSPS director will have one virtual and two in person NSPS meetings, as the plan for 2021 currently stands. The budget carefully planned by Keith and Kelly passed and was adopted as reported.

Slate of Officers for 2021

Mark Day will stay on as President for one more year, Randy Otis as Vice President, myself (Lisa Ginett) as Secretary, and Keith Van Iderstine as Treasurer. Directors: Paul Hannan, Rebecca Gilson and Nate Yager. NSPS director: Gayle Burchard

Unlicensed Practice

The group discussed last month's issue of unlicensed practice. One note in the case of Dave Furquat: Mark discovered that there was already a Bill Hannon survey of the parcel in question on record. It appears that someone added the Boundary Line Adjustment information and put the revised map on record. Mark thought that Dave had not done anything wrong. Mark still needs to get the letter written to the Vermont Board of Land Surveyors in reference to Luke Hart working under Steve Brooks' license.

Other Business

The group wondered if the State Technical Design Committee might be asked if VSLs could do some education for the site techs and designers. Becky stated that although she is very busy, the Survey Law Manual is on the back burner for a winter project.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:49 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Ginett, VSLs Secretary



Executive Committee Meetings
are held on the third Thursday
of every month. All members are
welcome to attend. Email
kelly@vsls.org for more information.

November 19, 2020, 6 p.m., Zoom Videoconference

This meeting was held on November 19, 2020 by Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 6:03 P.M. In attendance were Mark Day, Nate Yager, Paul Hannan, Becky Gilson, Randy Otis, Lisa Ginett, Keith Van Iderstine, and our Administrator: Kelly Cochrane-Collar. We were also joined by Scott Taylor.

Index of Old Scans and Policy for Use

Scott joined the meeting to update us on the now-completed index of all of the maps currently belonging to the Society. Scott put around 400 hours into completing the index, a heroic effort! Scott suggested that VSLs make individual scans available, as opposed to allowing people to have the entire set of scans. He mentioned the policy attached to many of the plans donated to VSLs, that they be offered only to our membership. He also mentioned that if people were asking for the entire set, there would be time involved in making the data available and the possibility of never-ending updates. Right now, Stephen Fraser is the only person who has a full set of the scans, and he has given the Society both of the Harold Marsh and Drown and Marsh plat sets.

Part of the concern is burdening Kelly with too much work. Kelly says that if someone requests a single scan, she can have it done in about 10 minutes. The index will be housed on a members-only part of the VSLs website; members will be encouraged to request scans via email, and Kelly will return the PDFs via email. Right now, Kelly rarely gets any requests for scans, though that might change when the completed index goes online. Paul Hannan has many interesting maps of the North East Kingdom which might be scanned, and John Roth had lots of old maps — his wife might allow VSLs to scan them. Keith said that he will take on this part of the project. Kelly will get Scott a thank-you gift for his many hours of work on behalf of the Society.

Secretary's Minutes

Minutes for the Executive Committee meeting for October 22, 2020, were reviewed. The motion was duly made and seconded and the vote was unanimously: to approve the minutes of the October 22, 2020 Executive Committee meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's report for the period of January 1 to November 17, 2020: Total income for the period is \$39,811.67, total expenses were \$42,078.36, for a net income of -\$2,196.69. Bank Account Total = \$55,117.56. Keith and Kelly noted that there has not been much travel this year, and we're using a more affordable printer for "The Cornerpost," so we should end up pretty close to budget. So far, 30 people have registered for the December Seminar and most of them for both sessions.

Administrator's Report

Kelly reports that we will have our Annual Business Meeting at the December Seminar from 11:15 to 11:45 AM, after the first session. She will send out an agenda, which will include recognizing Scott Taylor's work on the scan index, the budget for the coming year and the new Slate of Officers. Joe Flynn has left his position as chair for the Program Committee and should be recognized for his hard work on that committee. We also need some ideas for

nominations for that committee, which meets three or four times a year plus occasional Zoom meetings. The group tossed around some ideas and thought maybe some of the ANR surveyors might be interested. Scott Taylor, Bob Holt and Ethan Gilmour will stay on the Education Foundation Committee. No one applied for the scholarship in 2020, and the committee discussed how to promote the scholarship. Kelly already sends out a notice about the scholarship to all of the LS programs at the college level in New England. Unfortunately, Paul Smiths has discontinued their surveying program. We discussed putting a reminder in "The Cornerpost" about the scholarship and perhaps revising the rules needed to win the scholarship. They are perhaps too strict. It was pointed out that some people are now getting their degrees online, and this doesn't currently qualify. The Education Foundation will meet this coming January.

Kelly reports that "The Cornerpost" is now in the mail, and there is a new full page advertiser: CADNET Services. Membership dues notices will go out in the first week of December. The spring Seminar, if it can be held in person, is scheduled to take place at Lake Morey where Tim Cowan will give a presentation on locating the Vergennes town lines. Ray Hintz will give a presentation on modern Lidar and photogrammetry comparisons from standard aircraft and UAVs.

Approving Credit Card

It was noted that we need to approve a business credit card for the society's use from North Country Federal Credit Union. The Executive Committee approved the acquisition of a credit card.

Other Business

Rates for the seminar were discussed; a virtual seminar is less expensive to put on, but we do have a large speaker fee to pay. Joe Flynn is working on changes to the definition of surveying on a National Level with NCEES. The Vermont Legislation to change the definition of surveying has been dropped for the time being. We need to talk about re-writing the survey standards to encompass the new survey foot definition.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Ginett, VSLs Secretary

Thousands of Maps

We have thousands of scanned surveys available exclusively to VSLs members. To search the index of surveys:

- Go to vsls.org
- At the top, select "member login"
- Enter this password: [vslsmember](#)
- Search the index and send a request for a PDF to kelly@vsls.org

Jan. 21, 2021, 6 p.m., Zoom Videoconference

This meeting was held on January 21, 2021 by Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 6:02 P.M. In attendance were Mark Day, Nate Yager, Paul Hannan, Becky Gilson, Lisa Ginett, Keith Van Iderstine, and our Administrator: Kelly Cochrane-Collar. Absent: Randy Otis. We were also joined by Scott Hamshaw, UVM.

Scott Hamshaw on the EPSCoR Project

Scott Hamshaw is a research professor at UVM working with drones and watershed science. He has been working on the Lake Champlain Water Quality project and is now project director for the program. Scott has some ties to TCE and often works in the Spatial Analysis Lab at UVM with Jarlath O'Neil-Dunne's group. He told us about an opportunity put forth by the National Science Foundation (NSF) through EPSCoR, which helps to procure funding for smaller states. Scott believes that Vermont needs workforce development and education in the area of geospatial technologies, and he is putting together a request to the NSF through EPSCoR to invest in Vermont's geospatial community. He was at our meeting to find out what might benefit VSLs members and see if he might gain our support. Scott talked about using funds to set up a technology council, possible fellowships for recruiting new surveyors, helping to develop a science workforce and providing continuing education for surveyors in the field of geospatial technologies. He has a one-month time period to see if he can gather enough interest in the request and, if so, there will be a five-month period to complete the proposal. The group came up with some initial ideas: could the funds be used to help to digitize Land Records and get them online? Could digitizing the UVM special collections and /or the 1942 aerial photographs (a small amount of which are already available online) for online use be part of the project? It was suggested that a VSLs panel could be formed to generate ideas.

Secretary's Minutes

Minutes for the Executive Committee meeting for November 19, 2020 were reviewed. The motion was duly made and seconded and the vote was unanimously: to approve the minutes of the November 19, 2020 Executive Committee meeting.

Treasurer's report for the period of January 1- 20, 2021: Total income for the period is \$14,687.00. Total expenses were \$217.83 for a Net Income of \$14,469.17. Bank Account Total = \$ 71,984.25. Keith notes that this report includes the cost of both the 2019 and 2020 December meetings, though it only shows income from the 2020 meeting. Dues are coming in well and there have been a reasonable amount of donations made, partially due to Ralph Michael's family asking that some donations in his memory be made to VSLs. Most are going to the VSLs Education Foundation. Keith and Kelly report that the webinars have been popular and have done well for our expenses, as they cost so much less to put on.

Administrator's Report

Kelly reports that she is processing renewals, which have been coming in at the usual rate. She asked for clarification

about whether VSLs offers free membership for one year for all new members, but the committee responded that it's only for Full members. Our Spring Seminar is scheduled to be held at Lake Morey on April 16. Tim Cowan will present the morning seminar on locating the Vergennes lines. Ray Hintz will present the afternoon seminar on lidar and photogrammetry, drone versus aircraft platforms. As there is no certainty where will be in reference to COVID 19 by April the group decided that the we would need to decide by our next meeting on Feb. 18th whether to change over once again to a Webinar format. The meeting date and location (or Webinar) will need to be advertised in the next "Cornerpost."

Although Kelly has had the Index for scanned plats up on the website for about one month, she has had no requests for any of the scanned maps to date. Kelly also updated us on the Education Foundation investments. We had a lengthy process a couple years back in deciding how to invest the Education Foundation funds. We decided to take the money out of the savings account and put it in an investment account, and it has done very well: we initially invested \$ 70,000.00, the investment firm took \$ 5,000.00 in fees off the top, and we now have about \$ 86,000.00.

CATIC Law Suit

There was a brief discussion about the recent law suit by a Connecticut Title Company against nine Vermont Town Clerk Offices for closing their land records. The suit mentions that the Municipal Public Records are essential and as the State of Vermont has not closed down the non-essential workforce, the records should be available. Although the group felt that no comment needs to be made by VSLs on this matter, the group seemed to be glad that the suit had been brought and that we did not have to take a position. Mark commented that he knows that the Governor mandated that the public records must be made available to the public.

The Vermont Survey Law Manual has been tabled until our next meeting but Kelly warned that she is almost out of the old copies and has to reprint the outdated version of the Law Manual.

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned at 6:46 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Ginett, VSLs Secretary



**December 11, 2020, 11:30 a.m.,
GoToWebinar Meeting**

This meeting was held during the December Seminar and was called to order at 11:16 A.M. In attendance were Mark Day, Lisa Ginett, Becky Gilson, Nate Yager, Paul Hannan, Randy Otis Keith Vanlderstine and VSLs Administrator: Kelly Cochran-Collar along with the general membership.

Secretary's Minutes

Minutes for the prior General Business meeting dated September 12th, 2019 were reviewed. Upon motion duly made and seconded it was unanimously RESOLVED: to approve the minutes of the September 12, 2019 General Business meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's report for the period of Jan 1st to December 7th 2020: Total expenses for the period were \$ 45,510.14. Income was \$ 47,992.42 for a Net Income of \$ 2482.28. Bank Account Total = \$ 60,303.57.

2021 Budget

The 2021 Budget was warned in "the Cornerpost" in early December and was approved with no comment.

2021 Slate of Officers

The 2021 slate of officers was also warned in "the Cornerpost". There were no nominations from the floor and no comments. We forgot to vote that the Secretary cast one ballot for the entire slate of officers and had to complete that process by emailing all attendees of the business meeting for their vote. The slate of officers for 2021 was approved.

Other Business

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned at 11:29 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Ginett, VSLs Secretary



VOLUNTEER

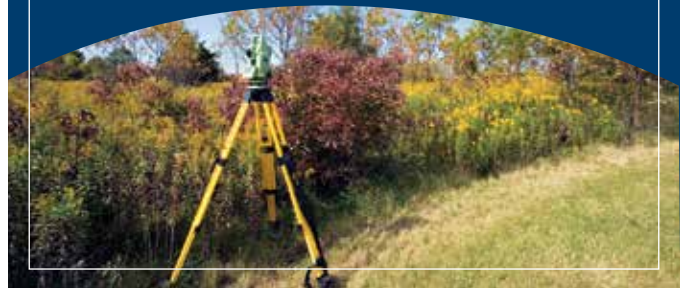
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Email kelly@vsls.org to volunteer.

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Fire in Passumpsic!

by DICK BOHLEN, L.S.#7 (1926-2020)

WE WERE RUNNING THE CENTER LINE of the northbound lane of Interstate #91 in the late 1960s. This survey was the first survey on the ground and established control for all of the surveys for the new highway.

We had just crossed the gravel road that goes East up the hill and out of Passumpsic. It was mid-April, the snow had been gone for a couple of weeks, and things were pretty dry there in the field where we were working. We were in dead grasses, and small pine trees were scattered in what used to be pasture.

We were a four-man party, with Al Roy giving the back-sights and Bob Hovey running the transit about 200 feet north of Al. I was working with Linwood Smith setting stakes every 50 feet to mark the line. We were about 200 feet north of Bob and were about to set a forward point. The procedure was for Bob to take a back-sight on Al, and give me the line for the new forward point. We took at least four back-sights, sometimes eight or even 16 until both Bob and I were satisfied that

we had established a straight line and had taken any error out of the transit.

When Bob took the first back-sight, he noticed that Al was smoking a cigarette. On the second back-sight, Al was stamping out the cigarette on the ground. The third one saw Al with his hat off and beating on the ground, and both Bob and I could see smoke around Al. The forth revealed Al beating on the ground with his shirt, and both Bob and I could see fire!! We all knew that we had a problem, and Bob waved at me to come with him, and he disappeared running toward Al! I called to Linwood, who was brushing out the line ahead of where I was setting the forward point, and we both ran to help Al.

We arrived to see a circle of fire around Al that was some 25 feet in diameter, and Al and Bob with their

shirts off and beating on the fire. We joined with them and proceeded to battle the fire. We used our shirts, cut branches off of the small pines, and beat and beat on the fire and emptied our bladders on the flames. We would seem to get one area out, go elsewhere, and look back to see the fire starting again!

It was really touch and go there for the hour or so that we battled the blaze. More than once, we felt that it was a lost cause and that we should go into town and call the fire department. Cell phones in those days would have been a big help! Well, we finally prevailed, and saw that the flames were out. We stayed there for at least another hour, until we were sure that the fire was truly out. The fire ring was some 50 feet in diameter at the end, and it was some four weary, dirty and sore men that went back to the office. But, hey, we believed that we had saved Passumpsic!! 🌲



“We arrived to see a circle of fire around Al that was some 25 feet in diameter, and Al and Bob with their shirts off and beating on the fire.”





Spring Seminar

Presented Virtually with GoToWebinar
Friday, April 16, 2021



7 PDH

SCHEDULE

8:00 AM - Noon

Modern Lidar and Photogrammetry
Comparisons from Standard Aircraft
and UAVs

12:00 - 1:00 PM

Lunch Break

1:00 - 4:00 PM

Cold Case: The Lost Boundaries
of Vergennes

FEES*	FULL DAY	A.M. ONLY	P.M. ONLY
Member in good standing of VSLS or kindred society	\$100.00	\$70.00	\$50.00
Life Member	\$75.00	\$52.50	\$37.50
Non-member tech staff (must be affiliated with member)	\$85.00	\$59.50	\$42.50
Non-member	\$200.00	\$120.00	\$100.00

* \$25 late fee after April 11, 2021

WEBINARS

Modern Lidar and Photogrammetry Comparisons from Standard Aircraft and UAVs

Presenter: Raymond Hintz, PLS, PhD, UMaine Faculty Member

In the last few years, a variety of overlapping technologies have evolved to create deliverable 3-D survey products. While fixed wing aircraft lidar has existed for a long time, it is only in recent times that a UAV could efficiently collect lidar. In addition, the concept of multi-ray (high overlap) photogrammetry has changed accuracies achievable in the image domain. In this webinar, we will discuss the differences in deliverable between the technologies and post-processed and real-time airborne GPS-IMU (inertial) as an addition or alternative to survey ground control. We'll also cover differences in product from a conventional CAD type ground survey to a dense digital 3-D model (.las/.laz), along with efficient digitization processes for vector information.

Cold Case: The Lost Boundaries of Vergennes

Presenter: Timothy Cowan, L.S., Civil Engineering Associates

In 1788, the City of Vergennes was created by an act of the general assembly of the future state of Vermont. More than 230 years later, the city's boundaries remain unmarked, un-surveyed and universally misunderstood. After researching the problem 25 years ago, the topic is coming to light again due to growing interest in designing a truck route or bypass around the Little City. This will be a graphic-rich presentation featuring dozens of maps and diagrams as well as quotes and anecdotes from historical documents to illustrate the 1788 subdivision of the city from the surrounding three towns. The story of how the exact boundaries are still inconclusive after 230 years allows for a discussion of myriad survey-related issues related to historical research, boundary construction, and historical methods of surveying town lines and the lots within them.

• An email address and stable Internet connection are required • Webinars will be recorded and can be viewed later •

REGISTER:

I will attend: ☐ Both sessions

☐ AM Session Only

☐ PM Session Only

Name _____

Address _____

Email (required) _____

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

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

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



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