



Journal of the Vermont Society of Land Surveyors
Volume 55, Number 1 | Spring 2024

The Cornerpost

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The Cornerpost

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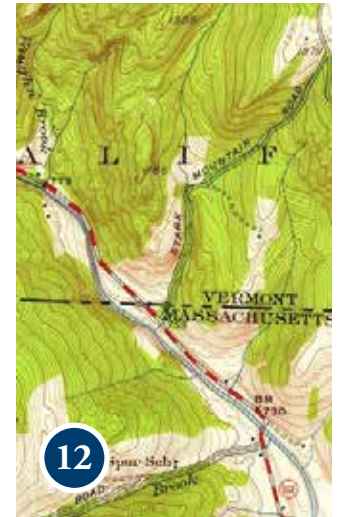
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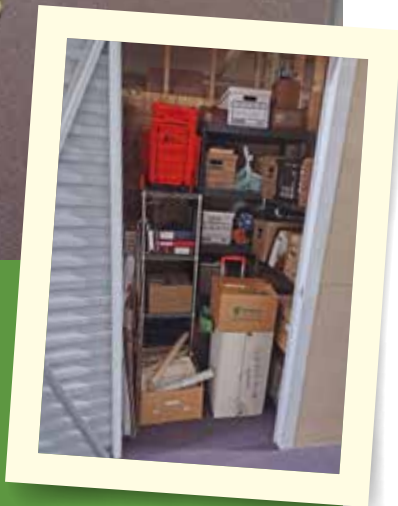


ON THE COVER

Becky Gilson, L.S., recently went on a winter adventure with a team from the Vermont River Conservancy. Just a stone's throw from Canada, the group performed some of the work it takes to get a river corridor easement on the map. Armed with bags full of rebar stakes, caps, and GPS equipment, they crossed an icy river to begin surveying the landscape for this project.

If you have an interesting photo for the cover of an upcoming issue, please send it to birgit@vsls.org.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Saving \$\$\$ by Downsizing the VSLs Storage Unit

Thanks to the Executive Committee for spending several Saturday mornings over the holiday season sorting through the society's storage unit and moving us to our new, much smaller and less expensive space! Randy, Paul, Lisa and Birgit led the charge, with others stopping by to help out as they could. The new space is definitely snuggier (and darker), but it's well worth the savings!

Collaboration and professionalism for a profession many have never heard of – that is my push for the month. I have often heard it argued with much passion and emotion among our colleagues as to whether we are a blue-collar trade or a white-collar profession. My opinion may not be popular, but I feel we are one of the few jobs that can honestly say they are both a blue-collar trade and a once respected so-called white-collar profession. While it may be a subject for debate, what is not up for debate

For one thing, the frontier surveyor found the job to be both dangerous and lucrative. Which leads me to why I fell into the profession of surveying and why I have loved it.

Back in the late 1990s, I was managing a convenience store and trying to decide between a job offer to manage a chain of convenience stores (for what would turn out to be more money than land surveying – but I didn't know that at the time), or going to college. I was in high school, and I had made up my mind to take

"As I am sure you are all aware, our profession has always been a prestigious profession, held in high enough regard that three of the Mount Rushmore presidents could say they practiced the art of surveying."

is that, like the trades, we have a shortage of new high school graduates choosing the survey profession.

I got to thinking about all of this when I was recently a guest at a neighboring state's seminars and had the pleasure of sitting in on David Prince, PLS, presentation entitled "Bringing Awareness to the Survey Profession." This got me thinking about my own career.

I would not presume to speak for David, but it was clear in his presentation that he is passionate about the continuation of the surveying profession. His presentation is almost open source where, with David's permission, we can modify it to be our own to present at high schools or trade schools to encourage kids to go into the profession. As I am sure you are all aware, this profession has always been a prestigious profession, held in high enough regard that three of the Mount Rushmore presidents could say they practiced the art of surveying. So why did former presidents become surveyors, and why don't people become surveyors today?

this job offer, which paid \$46K a year. But the rhetoric at the time was that you had to go to college, and my father – who regretted not completing his college degree – pushed me to go college to be a surveyor. The school sold my parents on a 98% job placement rate, almost a guarantee to get a job. Indeed I got a job, which paid \$12/hour for my \$40K dollar degree.

No one told me all the adventures I would go on as a land surveyor. I often looked back on that \$46K offer and wondered if I'd made the right choice, but if I had taken it, I never would have been paid to fly in a plane or seen a nuclear power plant in person.

My point is, we need to make sure the surveying profession is lucrative enough to entice the kids, but also tell the kids of the prestigious adventures they can have in the field of land surveying. It's not ALL about the money. 🌱

Randy Otis, L.S.
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Easement Surveying Adventure



ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Addie Hedges currently serves as Vermont River Conservancy's Community Engagement Coordinator through VHCB AmeriCorps. Learn more about Vermont River Conservancy's work to protect land along rivers for people and wildlife at vermontriverconservancy.org.

Top photo: Becky Gilson (left) and Addie Hedges cross the icy Missisquoi River with surveying equipment. At left: bobcat tracks in the ice; an old beaver-sawed tree with shelf mushrooms growing on it. Opposite page: Becky pounding stakes for property markers; turkey tracks in the ice.

BY ADDIE HEDGES,
VERMONT RIVER
CONSERVANCY

January 31, 2024
Reprinted with Permission



How do you get an ecologist, a conservationist, an AmeriCorps member, and a surveyor across a not-totally-frozen river in January? Maybe try the Dodge Ram? Nope. Not quite big enough. F250? Nope, it's too fancy and new. Big tractor? Eh, it could definitely get across, but if it can, why don't we just walk?

That was the morning brain workout before we laced up our boots, crossed our fingers, and tiptoed across the one patch of ice that looked like it might hold. Remy volunteered to be the guinea pig, crossed the iced first, and safely made it to the other side of the Missisquoi.

Our crew met up in the farthest northern reaches of Vermont, just a stone's throw from Canada, where we planned to do some of the work it takes to get a river corridor easement on the map. Armed with bags full of rebar stakes, caps, and GPS equipment, we crossed the river, ready to begin surveying the landscape for this future easement.

We discovered signs of multiple animals along the river's edge. First were wild turkey tracks left in an icy patch. Then we found delicate bobcat tracks leading down towards the river, perhaps to take a drink. Further into the forested area, some coyote tracks had expanded with the recent thaw. And we saw many more small wildlife tracks across the river to a small island where the channel had split. The makings of beaver wetlands were already there, including tracks and cut trees along a small tributary.

These clues showed us how the site will look once protected in perpetuity. By leaving this land to evolve on its own, we are allowing more wildlife to call it home and providing value to humans in the area by giving the river

room to move and spread out in flood events.

Becky Gilson, a longtime land surveyor, is one of the many people it takes to protect Vermont's riverlands, along with a landowner, scientist, lawyer, and local partners. Becky is one of the key players behind nearly all of our conservation success stories, and she was in for an adventure with our crew that day. An expert at scrambling through boulder fields and scaling steep hillsides, we struggled to keep up as she quickly got survey points using her GPS device while we discussed the exact places we wanted the boundaries and observed signs of wildlife. In the time it took us to drive six rebar stakes into the ground, she walked the length of the river surveying points and walked back to where we had placed the stakes.

All this, and an interesting trek up the hill following buried barbed wire fencing, made for a good day in the field and just a glimpse into Becky's work surveying land throughout the state. After a long day of tromping through snow, our team is one step closer to conserving another piece of land along Vermont's rivers. 🌲



2023 WORLD RECORD

1776-ft. Diameter Ice
Carousel Set on Long Lake
in St. Agatha, Maine

ONE COOL RIDE

The ice carousel is a cold-climate community cultural phenomenon with Finnish origins, possibly dating from the 19th century.¹ Smaller-sized ice carousels were sporadically spotted in Finland during the 20th century, but it wasn't until January 6, 2017, when Janne Kämpylehto, of Helsinki, and the Executive Director of the World Ice Carousel Association, first began making a giant spinning ice disk on Kirmusjärvi Lake in Lohja, Finland² that these disks began to grow. Since then and over the past six years, he's inspired many folks worldwide to try their hand at spinning an ice carousel with friends and family. Some ice disks

have been small, intended for the grandkids, and some not so small, but they've all been immense fun for everybody. Janne has also inspired some friendly international competition and through it many new friends have been found.

The northern communities in and near the Town of Madawaska, Maine have once again wrestled for and won the title of World Record Ice Carousel for the largest ice carousel in the world making one revolution. This year it was on Saturday, April 1, 2023 at Long Lake in the Town of St. Agatha, Aroostook County, Maine. Collectively identifying themselves as the Northern Maine Ice Busters,

BY V. KELLY BELLIS, P.S.

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Mike Cyr (left) stakes out an 888' radial point with Doug Lerman at the ice auger. The procedure used for laying out and cutting the 5,580' circumference involved first staking out a point that was precisely 888' from the center, which was then immediately followed by the 10" diameter auger being placed tangent to the point and on the outside of the arc. After the auger had started cutting through the 1.8' to 2.0' thick ice, Mike moved about 3' to 4' along the arc and then zeroed in on the position for the next hole. After the holes were augured, chainsaws cut 2 parallel passes, 10" apart connecting the dots. The resulting free floating strip of ice was then submerged and pushed out of the channel and beneath the outside (stationary) ice.

The Stats

thickness ft.....	1.85
radius ft	888
lbs/cu ft.....	53.2
area sq ft.....	2477284.04
area acres	56.87
vol cu ft	4582975.5
mass lbs.....	243814295.0
mass tons	121907.1
mass Titanics	2.3

they describe themselves as, “Multi-Community Volunteers teaming up to build rotating World Record Ice Carousels on Frozen Lakes throughout the world in the spirit of friendly, International Competition, Cooperation and Comradery.”³ This year was the third year in five years that the NMIB secured the title of World Record Ice Carousel.^{4,5}

As the disks have increased in size, so too has the need increased for precisely measuring the giant circles. Over the years, several Maine land surveyors have assisted the Northern Maine Ice Busters as they set the world records on Long Lake by doing RTK layout. Additional surveyors have been called to document and certify as to the exact as-built dimensions using old-school total station methods. This year included, surveyors Kevin Sargent, Kevin Holmes and Steve Hardy, all from Sackett & Brake Survey, Inc. of Dover-Foxcroft;⁶ Spencer Caron of Northern ME Enterprises from Fort Kent; and Mike Cyr of Northern Maine Surveyors from Madawaska. All of them helped in the planning and layout of the giant disk including the locations for the motors that propelled the world record disk to complete the requisite full revolution. Surveyors from Plisga & Day Land Surveyors, Jon Stewart (Bangor office) and Tim Cady (Houlton office) independently verified the dimensions of the disk.

One of the things that Plisga & Day measured was the thickness of the ice. Tim and Jon drilled and measured a dozen samples across the entire 56.87-acre area using a hand auger and a level rod with an adaptive foot. The rod was inserted through the hole in the ice and then pulled tight against the underside of the ice. The average ice thickness was determined to be 22.25" (1.85'). Tim also reported that due to the amount of white ice (frozen wet snow) on the lake, the ice samples they took and weighed figured out to be about 52.5 pounds per cubic foot. These measurements translated into an ice mass of about 120,303 tons, or 2.3 Titans! Getting this thing to spin would require even greater *sisu*!⁷

Saturday's weather was inclement with on and off snow showers, 10 to 15 mph winds out of the southeast and below freezing temperatures, none of which seemed to dampen the Northern Maine Ice Busters' resolve. The day began early with cutting the holes in the ice for the 9 outboard motors that were spaced at about 40°



intervals within 20' of the outside edge of the disk, plus the bigger hole was cut for the inline 6-cylinder 165 hp Ford motor along with its through-the-ice clever anchoring system.

The repurposed potato harvester motor, by NMIB team leader, Roger Morneau, had connected to its fabricated shaft a 45-pound 24" brass prop that had been found at an exceptional price. All motors were started and set running at a steady idle, and eventually, the mammoth disk began to spin very slowly, for about 3' before completely stopping. Many broke for lunch, and at about the same time, somebody posted on Facebook that the attempted big spin had been scrubbed for the day, and that it would resume Sunday when the weather was expected to be a little better. That Facebook post was taken down shortly after lunch when the fueled group returned to the ice, and once again started their engines.

The motors were each generally oriented pushing along a tangential vector and collectively in a clockwise direction. The disk was still not moving when Mike Cyr began sledding around the cut channel until he arrived at the northwest side of the carousel. With the sustained 10-15 mph winds out of the southeast and gusts up to about 20 mph, the 57-acre disc was driven northwesterly into contact with the stationary ice. Thanks to the quick thinking of Mike, he made a counter move. In his own words: "It was at 2:10 pm on the west/northwest side of the Carousel and the channel was closed shut due to the brisk wind from the southeast. The idea came to me to turn the motor basically 90 degrees to "push" the iceberg to the southeast towards the radius point. That, in combination with the outboard motors, potato digger propeller contraption, the Raptor and THE SHERP-LIKE FAT TRUCK thus simultaneously initiated rotation at 2:56 pm in the most ROBUST FASHION!!"

Mike ran the motor that was mounted at the northwest for about 10 minutes, long enough to push the floating ice disk away from it contacting with the stationary ice before he returned it facing normal to the radial and back to a steady idle. The Raptor, referred to by Mike, is Roger



From left, V. Kelly Bellis, Jon Stewart, and Tim Cady. Day 2, the day of the spin, Jon and Tim finished up their pre-spin work in inclement weather, including drilling several more test holes in order to get an accurate reading of ice thickness.



1: Roger Morneault, NMIB Team Leader, has repurposed this Ford 6-cylinder inline 165 HP potato harvester by adding a long drive shaft with a 45-lb 24" diameter brass prop.

2: Outboard motor running at idle speed located near the clock start location on the carousel. It was one of several outboard motors located around the ice disk that help to maintain the clockwise rotation in order to complete the requisite single full revolution.

3: This was the first pair of tethered vehicles located on the ice disk, anchored to the stationary ice, which literally kick started the carousel spinning at 14:56.

4: Four surveyors after the big spin, just minutes after the completion of the disk's requisite revolution; from left and beginning with the bright green hat, Mike Cyr, Steve Hardy, Kevin Sargent seen here holding the trophy for the World Record Ice Carousel, and Kevin Holmes.

Morneault's hefty Ford, and the FAT Truck⁸ is Canada's only locally developed and built amphibious vehicle.

More Yankee ingenuity—Roger's Raptor, located on the carousel, was tethered and anchored to the stationary ice with the FAT Truck located in front of and tethered to Roger's truck. The vehicles then began applying a constant forward force with their vehicles' apparent direction counterclockwise on the ice disk. In the photo, I've referred to this as hamster wheel #1. About 10 minutes after the disk showed the very first signs of rotation (2:56 PM), hamster

wheel #2, located about about 50° around and toward the north from the Raptor-FAT Truck duo, was another pair of trucks that were hitched together and anchored in similar fashion. The extra-vehicular pull continued for several minutes until the spinning inertia had been developed and maintained by the various outboard motors. The requisite single full revolution was completed at 5:12 PM, and at an average rate of 360° in 136 minutes, or 2.64706°/minute.

Way to go Northern Maine Ice Busters! Congratulations on setting the new world ice carousel record! 🥇

References

- 1 Email from Janne K  pylehto and the World Ice Carousel Association; icecarousel.wordpress.com/the-association
- 2 More on Janne K  pylehto's first ice carousels in his own words at icecarousel.wordpress.com/about
- 3 This is the best place to go and read and see more on this crowd sourced event: facebook.com/NMIB21
- 4 News Center Maine, news stories:
 - 1) youtube.com/watch?v=_QbHgJ0VmG0
 - 2) youtube.com/watch?v=ID6eeQC5XR8
- 5 2018 WRIC, 427 ft. diameter.; 2021 WRIC, 1234 ft. diameter; 2023 WRIC, 1776 ft. diameter.
- 6 Sackett & Brake's FB page is another good place to see more from this event: facebook.com/SBSurveyDF
- 7 Sisu is a Finnish word that we're told is transcendental and untranslatable, but tenacity may begin to approach an understanding the term in English.
- 8 This thing is impressive! fattruck.com

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Accessing Historic USGS Maps *Online*

BY DIANA TODD

U.S. Geological Survey Offers Trove for Those Interested in Utilizing Old Vermont Maps for Today's Survey Research.

The US Geological Survey (USGS) started creating topographic maps of the entire country in 1884. The earliest maps in the series used scales of 1:250,000 and 1:125,000. By the time the project got around to mapping Vermont beginning in the early 1890s, the maps were primarily being created at 1:62,500. It took more than a decade for maps to be issued for the entire state. Maps for Brattleboro, for example, were issued in 1891, while maps for the Burlington area weren't issued until 1906.

Images of these maps and their subsequent reprints, overprints and new editions can be accessed for free at the USGS "topoView" website. The modern digital maps of the 2000s can be accessed at the same site. To find them, follow the instructions in the sidebar on page 10.

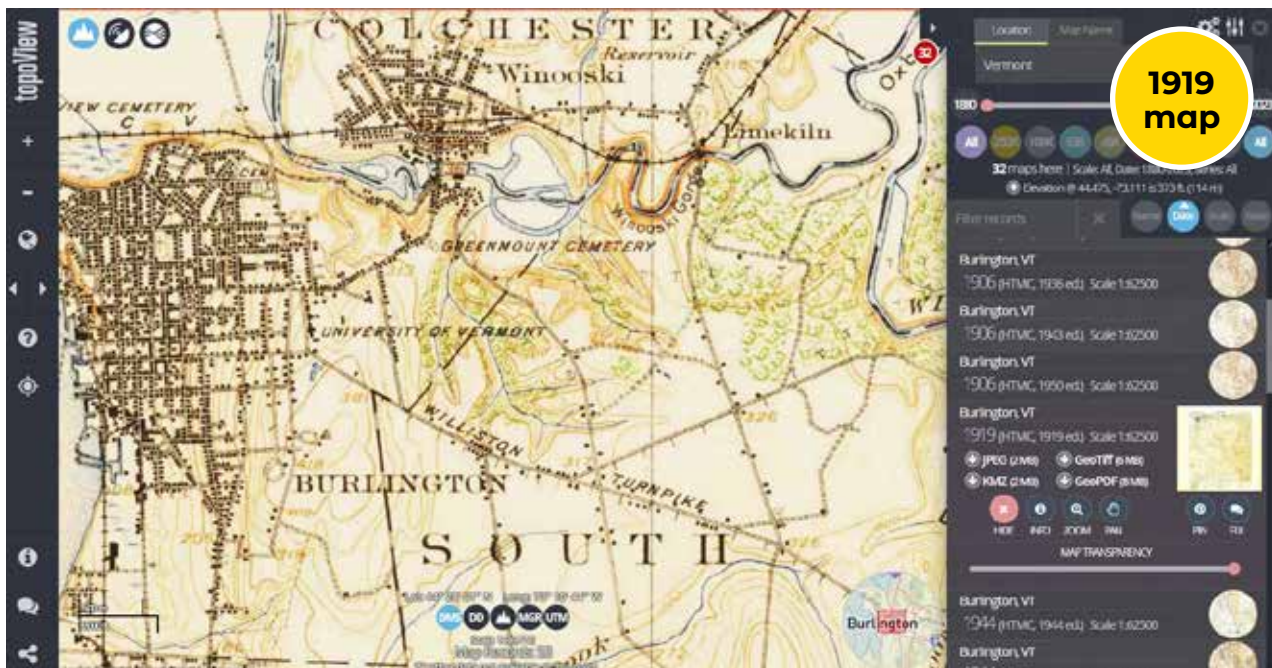
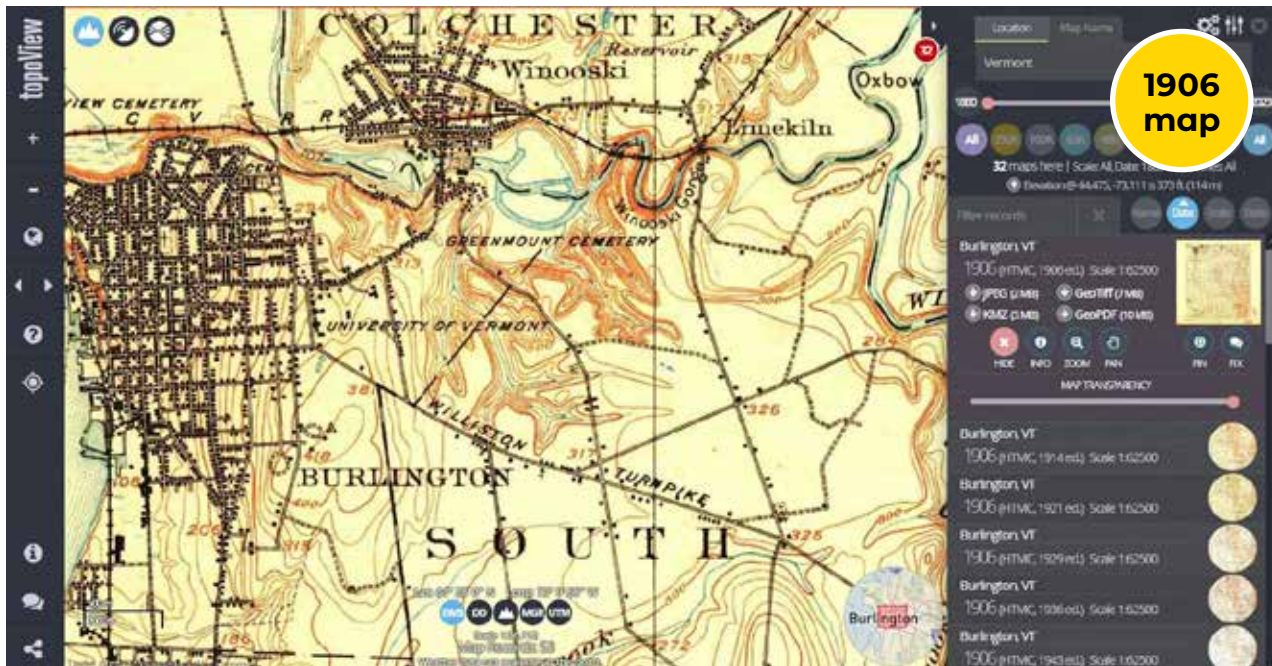
What information might you glean from these maps? The maps from the 1890s–1900s do not differentiate between forested and agricultural land, but they do show buildings. In rural areas, each farm or homestead is shown as a small black square. The maps did not show additional squares for barns or outbuildings. Heavily settled areas are shown with the roads lined with solid black rectangles. All roads are shown using the same symbol, so there's not much information about how heavily traveled or how well maintained specific roads were.

The original 1890s–1900s maps were frequently reissued. It is worth it to click through all the reprints, overprints and updates to see what additional information can be gleaned for the area of interest. There doesn't seem to have been a consistent standard for what was included in

these updates. For example, in 1919 a "new" edition of the 1:62,500 map for the Burlington area was issued that was essentially identical to the original 1906 map, but included a green overprint showing forested areas. In Windham County, on the other hand, "new" 1:62,500 maps were published in 1935 that seemed to be unchanged from the 1891 original, but a 1939 reprint included a red overlay showing the location of the newly completed paved state highway which runs from Bennington to Brattleboro (Route 9).

The USGS began experimenting with using aerial photographs as a basis for topographic maps as early as the 1920s, but they didn't transition to the new technology for published maps until the late 1930s. The entire country was eventually remapped with this far more accurate methodology, including in a new series of maps published at 1:24,000. These maps covered one-quarter of the area shown in the earlier 1:62,500 maps, and became commonly known as quadrangles. Vermont's maps in this series were issued in the late 1940s and early 1950s. Unfortunately, the USGS online historic archive does not currently contain copies of all of Vermont's quadrangles.

The mid-20th century series of maps was the first to consistently show forested versus open land, using a green overlay for forest. Urban areas were shown with a transparent pink overlay. Roads were no longer shown using just one symbol, but instead depicted with a wide range of symbols, from highways to trails. State, county, and town boundaries are depicted, as well as boundaries for state and national parks and forests. 🌲



“In 1919 a ‘new’ edition of the 1:62,500 map for the Burlington area was issued that was essentially identical to the original 1906 map, but included a green overprint showing forested areas.”

Two Ways to Find the USGS Maps

Google

Google “USGS Historical Topo Maps” and select the first option on the list of findings

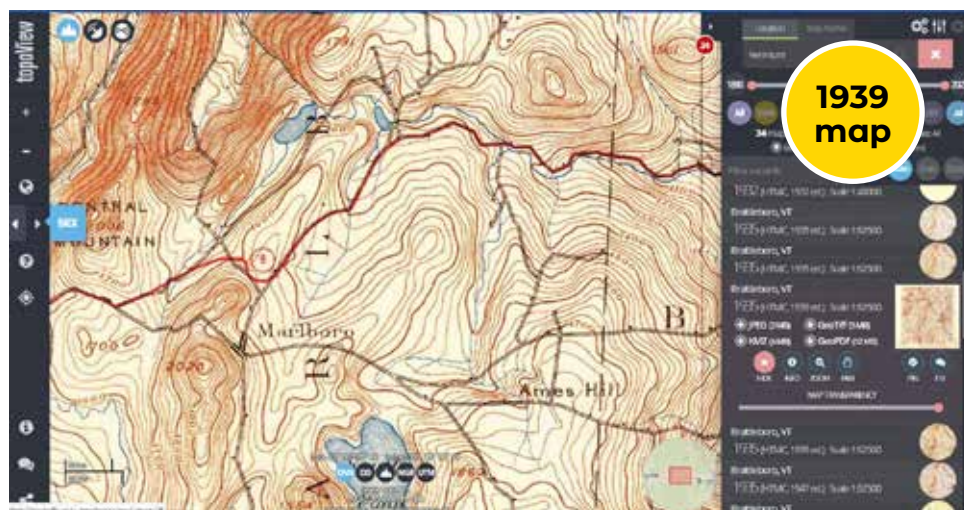


Use your phone to scan the QR Code

The page that opens will feature a large graphic saying “Explore Historical USGS Topographic Maps”

- Click on the button that says “Download Now”
- This brings you to new page opens with a map of entire US.
- The side bar on the right for is for navigating and for selecting maps.
- You can type in a location, or type in a quadrangle name in the search box at the top of the side bar and the map will auto-zoom to that location.
- Or scroll and zoom in to your area of interest and click to mark that spot.
- The sidebar will refresh and list all the maps that are available for the area, oldest first.
- In the list, click on the historic map you are interested in. From here you can view the map or download it in different formats: jpeg, kmz, GeoTiff, or GeoPDF.

“In Windham County, ‘new’ 1:62,500 maps were published in 1935 that seemed to be unchanged from the 1891 original. But a 1939 reprint included a red overlay showing the location of the newly completed paved state highway running from Bennington to Brattleboro (Route 9).”



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Diana Todd is a retired structural engineer trained in cartography with an interest in the extremely local Vermont history that can be gleaned from reading handwritten deeds in town offices. She is a resident of Halifax, Vermont.



NSPS News: Hot off the Presses!

Resolution Reinforces the Importance of Licensure for Design Professionals

I'm pleased to report that on March 7, Rep. John Joyce (R-PA) introduced House Concurrent Resolution (H.Con.Res.) 96. This "sense of the Congress" resolution expresses the view that design professional licensure (architects, engineers, surveyors) is critical to public health, safety, and welfare, recognizes the role these professions play in our economy, and sends a signal to states that they should not affect these professions in occupational licensing reform. Although non-binding, its introduction makes a powerful statement.

While the case for reform of licensing in some occupations is desirable, bills introduced in some state legislatures are too broadly drafted and fail to exempt or recognize the importance of licensing of design professionals. The introduction of this resolution sends a strong signal from Congress to the states that care should be taken to preserve the necessary and legitimate licensing of architects, engineers, and surveyors.

This resolution will be one of the topics that we will be bringing to Capitol Hill on April 23.

The NSPS Spring Business Meeting will be April 24-26 in Arlington, Va. One of the topics that we will be voting on is the proposal to modify the NCEES model law and rules, which was covered in the Fall 2023 issue of *The Cornerpost*. The ad hoc committee formed by NSPS last fall was charged with studying the URISA proposal and formulating a motion to be considered by the NSPS Board of Directors this coming April. After receiving comments from the states and reviewing the proposal, the ad hoc committee will recommend that the Board of Directors not endorse the URISA proposal.

The Student Competition will also be in Arlington, April 21-24. This event has gained a lot of popularity with schools all across the nation and is now limited to 24 teams.

As always, anyone is welcome to attend the NSPS Business Meeting – just let me know so that I can introduce you. Happy Spring!! 🌱

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION (H.CON.RES.) 96

Expressing the sense of Congress regarding the public health, safety, and welfare implications of licensure of design professionals.

Whereas the several States have traditionally licensed individuals in the practice of certain design occupations, with California having passed the first surveying licensure law in 1891, Illinois having passed the first architecture licensing law in 1897, and Wyoming having passed the first engineering licensure law in 1907;

Whereas all 50 States, as well as territories and possessions, license individuals in the design profession disciplines;

Whereas the National Transportation Safety Board has recognized the importance of professional licensing among certain design professions, most recently in NTSB/PSR- 18/02, an incident safety report regarding a natural gas distribution system in the northeast region of the Merrimack Valley, Massachusetts;

Whereas, more than 30 years ago, Congress recognized the importance of professional licensing in design disciplines in its report titled "Structural Failures in Public Facilities" (H. Rept. 98-61), which recommended "all necessary architectural and engineering design and on-site services in public construction projects are furnished by licensed professionals who are qualified and experienced to assure the construction of safe structures;" and

Whereas many States are reducing requirements for, or eliminating the licensing of, certain occupations due to concerns over competition, market entry, and overregulation that do not serve the public interest, but in many cases the aforementioned State actions do not distinguish those professional design occupations in which licensing has a significant benefit to public health, safety, and welfare:

Now, therefore, be it 1 Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate 2 concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that— occupations in design professions, including but not limited to architecture, engineering, surveying, and mapping, are essential to the integrity of the built and natural environment and critical to the successful research, planning, design, construction, development, alteration, repair, operation, and maintenance of real property, the Nation's physical infrastructure, and resource planning activities, including the assessment, location, and development of critical materials, that contribute to maintaining the country's economic prosperity, national security, and environmental protection; and continuation of licensure of such occupations and professions by the several States is in the best interest of public health, safety, and welfare.



Capitol Hill Day
April 23, Washington, D.C.



Student Competition
April 21-24, Arlington VA



Spring Business Meeting
April 24-26, Arlington VA

THE BREAKFAST CLUB VERMONT-STYLE

The 2018 spring issue of *The Cornerpost* included a piece about the surveyors, engineers and technicians in the St. Johnsbury area, and beyond, who have met for breakfast monthly since June of 1989.

Thirty five years later and the gatherings are still going strong. Of course, the group has lost some of its senior members, but they've "recruited" new attendees along the way. "Two of our older members have gone on to their heavenly reward," says Andy Dussault. "Another has some health issues, and one has moved out-of-state to live near one of his children." Across the decades, Andy says the group has hailed from: Peacham, Barnet, Danville, Lyndon, Barton, Waterford, St. Johnsbury and Woodsville, N.H.



The group met in January 2024 at Tim's Deli in St. Johnsbury. Starting at the left front corner and going clockwise: Shane Clark, LS; Charlie Boisvert, CE; Andy Dussault, LS; Nate Sicard, PE; Tim Ruggles, PE; Bill Evans, technician; Ken Stowe, PE; Carson Biggie, technician (Andy's grandson); Keith Johnson, PE; and Craig Weston, technician (Ken Weston's son).



STATE PAPERS OF VERMONT, VOLUME 1: INDEX TO THE PAPERS OF THE SURVEYOR GENERAL 1918

VSLS has copies of this invaluable reference book, available for members to purchase. The book is hardcover, 170 pages long, with a fold-out map.

When registering for an upcoming VSLS event, you'll be able to add this book to your registration fee for an extra \$7.50; then you can pick it up at the event. You may also have it shipped directly to your home for \$13.00 (cost of the book + media mail shipping) by using the QR code at right or going to: www.vsls.org/state-papers-vt-book.



Use the QR code
to order the
state papers for
home delivery.



HELP US PRESERVE THE SURVEYS OF RETIRED AND DECEASED SURVEYORS

In your membership renewal form this year you may have noticed that we have a new donation category (announced at our Winter Webinar Business Meeting). Funds donated for this purpose will be used to scan surveys to make them available to membership. All scanning must be coordinated by the Preservation Committee. With prior approval from the Preservation Committee, individuals may be compensated for scanning surveys for the membership. Let the Preservation Committee know if you have the ability and willingness to scan surveys.



IF YOU HAVEN'T RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP, PLEASE RENEW IT TODAY!

The membership voted at the Winter Webinar to move our membership renewals to an email based system. We will no longer be sending out paper membership reminders if you have an email on file with us. Need a renewal form mailed to you? Let Birgit know (birgit@vsls.org / 802-777-6507)



VSLs HAS A NEW MAILING ADDRESS

The Montpelier Post Office remains closed from the flooding in July. After picking up mail at locations including the National Life Building, a van in the parking lot at the Vermont College of Fine Arts Campus, a van in the parking lot of an auto parts store, and the Barre Post Office, we decided it was best to change our mailing address to a post office box in East Montpelier. Please send all paper correspondence to: PO Box 99, East Montpelier VT 05651



JUNE 1ST IS THE DEADLINE FOR THE VSLs EDUCATION FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

Please help spread the word about the VSLs Scholarship Program! The scholarship is designed primarily for Vermont residents who are in their final year and about to graduate from an educational institution offering an ABET accredited land or geodetic surveying program (online or in person) granting a degree or certificate as required for licensure in Vermont. Out-of-state residents who have recently graduated and accepted a position in Vermont with a Vermont firm are also invited to apply. Awards are up to \$3,000.

If you know somebody who meets those criteria, please encourage them to download the application on our website at: vsls.org/scholarship

Five years

The last time VSLs received an application for the Education Foundation scholarship

\$3,000

Amount that a recipient could receive through the scholarship

A Look at State Specific Exams

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

This is the eighth article I have prepared in the series offering thoughts on professional practice and education. In this article, I wish to discuss state specific exams. Most states require the applicant for licensure in the state pass an exam on surveying topics the state board of licensure believes is important for surveying practice in the state. Even surveyors applying by reciprocity or comity that have already passed NCEES exams must take and pass the state specific exam to be licensed.

I have had or hold surveying licenses in six different states. In all but one state, I had to take a state specific exam. I have also aided in the preparation and grading of state specific exams. Based on my experiences, I have opinions on state specific exams that I will share with the reader. Without question, I am going to stir up some controversy. Take heart for those that disagree with me. I have absolutely no influence other than these words to change any policies. Furthermore, to date, my words have had no influence in modifying a licensing board's policy. I will also add that I have never shown a proficiency to predict the future. If a reader does not agree with me, fear not. My arguments will likely not persuade members of licensing boards. Go to bed believing you will prevail,

despite my arguments, and sleep in peace.

We will start with the premise that I believe to be true, that there is law in one state affecting surveyors or surveying practice that is unique to that state. It follows that a surveyor should know that law before practicing or offering services in that state. The relevant question I ask is whether a state specific exam is the method to assure the surveyor knows state specific law.

There are seven deficiencies I have observed with state specific exams.

1ST

Contents of some state specific exams are not state specific. Some licensing boards test knowledge that is common to all or many states. In one state specific exam, I was tasked with calculating coordinates and calculating the area of a parcel. Testing for this knowledge is done on the national exams.

2ND

Many exams ask questions that are state specific but are not required for competent practice within the state. For example, one state specific exam question I had to answer asked for the penalties imposed for certain infractions by a surveyor. I would suggest that a surveyor could perform services required in the state competently for their entire professional career in that state without knowing what the penalties are for certain infractions in surveying practice. Such knowledge, when necessary, can be addressed and found if and when the surveyor faces discipline. This is akin to asking drivers on their driving exam what the dollar fine is for speeding.

3RD

It is not reasonable to test on topics that ordinarily require the surveyor investigate the law as a matter of course during practice. For an example of this deficiency, I saw a question requiring a surveyor to know, on a state specific test, what are the number of hours of continuing education allowed for writing an article. The surveyor can find this information when and if they decide to write an article. What is appropriate is to ensure the surveyor knows continuing education is required for renewing a license.



“If the knowledge is not necessary for current surveyors to competently practice, why is the knowledge necessary for new surveyors? These are ‘gotcha’ questions that have no place on a state specific exam.”

4TH

Testing should only focus on common and widespread knowledge to practice in that state. A state should not test on knowledge that most competent surveyors in the state do not know or need to know. I have seen a state specific exam composed of questions that the vast majority of competent surveyors currently practicing in the state would not be able to answer. If the knowledge is not necessary for current surveyors to competently practice, why is the knowledge necessary for new surveyors? These are ‘gotcha’ questions that have no place on a state specific exam. I would go so far as to claim the exam would not survive legal scrutiny if challenged by a test taker.

5TH

Testing should only test on knowledge necessary for practice, not knowledge useful for practice. Let me give an example of what I mean by necessary versus useful knowledge. An example of useful knowledge would be the time period comprising the statute of limitation for the state. This is not necessary knowledge to practice surveying. The surveyor should not and cannot offer legal advice. Therefore, the surveyor cannot tell a landowner if adverse possession or prescription has occurred or not. It follows, while the surveyor may find the statute of limitations useful knowledge to know, knowing what the statute of limitation is for the state is not necessary knowledge for surveying practice.

6TH

Testing should be confined to fingertip knowledge versus lookup knowledge. Fingertip knowledge is knowledge that the surveyor must know without reminder when offering services. For example, fingertip knowledge would be the knowledge that a written contract is required for surveying services or there are mandatory standards that the surveyor must adhere to when providing typical surveying services. Lookup knowledge is what procedure is required to comply with a right of entry law. Using a non-survey related example, fingertip knowledge is the knowledge that a person must periodically renew car registration. Lookup knowledge is what procedure or paperwork is required to renew car registration.

7TH

Testing should focus on critical knowledge for common services, not unusual services that few surveyors provide. For example, if a state has survey standards for laying out solar envelopes and less than one percent of the surveyors in the state will ever attempt to lay

out a solar envelope, questions on solar envelope standards are not appropriate. Knowledge of unusual services would be akin to a person seeking a driver’s license in order to drive their Ford 150 pickup being asked on their driver’s exam how many hours a commercial truck driver is allowed to drive before resting.

I would offer the opinion that if a licensing board eliminated from their state specific exams the deficiencies I have noted, the licensing board would substantially reduce the contents of the exam or even eliminate the state specific exam altogether - perhaps go with an on-line study course and test.

I will focus the remainder of this article discussing the future of state specific exams by suggesting three options. One option is to eliminate state specific exams. The second option is to offer alternatives to examination. The third option is to modify the testing procedures of a state specific exam to be more flexible and in line with NCEES testing.

Eliminating a state specific exam may be appropriate where there are few topics left after filtering them as previously noted or for licensing in cases of comity. In cases of comity, if a surveyor has practiced in one state for a long period of time without fault or discipline, experience and logic suggest the surveyor will practice competently in another state when licensed.

Alternatives to testing for state specific knowledge would require surveyors watch a video explaining state specific law or be sent a fact sheet on state specific law a surveyor should be aware of. Another option is to require attendance at a seminar or viewing videos where speakers explain state specific law.

The final option is to modify the state specific testing procedure. Provide references for the test questions that an applicant can study and allow on-line testing at test centers that can be taken by applicants anywhere and during any reasonable day and time. 🌐



Scan the QR code to find other books and articles by Knud Hermansen.

November 7, 2023 • 6 p.m. • Zoom Video Call

Our regularly-scheduled meeting was to be held Nov. 16, but due to some decisions that needed to be made before *The Cornerpost* printed, we re-scheduled it to this earlier date. The meeting was called to order at 6:03 P.M. In attendance were Randy Otis, Nate Yager, Paul Hannan, Keith Van Iderstine, Lisa Ginett, Becky Gilson and our Administrator, Birgit McCall. Absent: Mark Day.

Secretary's Minutes

Minutes for the Executive Committee meeting for September 21, 2023 were reviewed. It was noted that one change was necessary: the addition of Mark Day's name as being in attendance. The motion to approve the minutes with that one revision was duly made and seconded and the vote was unanimously: to approve the minutes of the September 21, 2023 Executive Committee meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's report for the period of January 1 to November 3, 2023: total income for period was \$54,129.27, total expenses were \$56,442.36, leaving a net income of -\$2,293.09. This amount includes the December 2022 Round Table Expense of \$5,292.40. There has been no final bill from Killington for our Fall Seminar expense. However, Birgit has paid most of the cost of the Fall Seminar. Membership dues collected this year have been \$ 21,600.00 which is close to the budgeted amount. We still have the cost of "The Cornerpost," which runs about \$2,000.00 for printing and mailing.

Administrator's Report

Birgit suggests that we add some money into the budget for putting the VSLs collection of scanned surveyors' plans on Google Drive. We would provide a link to the data in the members-only part of our website.

Birgit did a first run on the budget and found that it was pretty much the same as last year. She and Keith felt that the line item for travel expense should remain the same as the 2023 figure. We discussed possible ways to gain income so that we do not have to raise membership dues this year. We might raise the advertising fees for "The Cornerpost." They were last raised several years ago. The rates are currently full page \$450.00, half page \$250.00, and quarter page \$150.00. Keith recommended a nominal increase of perhaps 10%. Last year advertising brought in about \$1,750.00 with four to six companies advertising. We also discussed getting copies of *The Cornerpost* out to potential advertisers. We asked if the vendors that attend the Fall Conference are sustaining members. Birgit will send out a rate page. We voted to raise the advertising fees by 10%. It was noted that we need to vote on the budget at the December Webinar. Birgit will do a poll during the webinar session and we will have a short business meeting during lunch.

Birgit and Keith noted that the advertising budget could go down by the \$300.00 needed to pay for putting the VSLs scanned plans onto Google Drive. The cost for Google Drive cloud storage is \$12.00 per month plus \$ 150.00 per year to restrict access to members only. Perhaps make the files view only and have the person contact Birgit when they know what they want to have printed or maybe be able to print them out from there. Either way, we should advertise the availability of the scanned plans in *The Cornerpost*. It was noted that we have multiple copies of the scanned data backed up in case of problems.

For the past several years we have not met our membership income, so Keith wonders if that line on the income side should come down. Right now we have more dues coming in than the last few years. Ways to save money were discussed: possibly go to digital only for "The Cornerpost." If we lower the mailing count under the current 200, we would no longer qualify for bulk rate. Birgit prints only 10-15 copies over the 200 to have some on hand. We have 165 members getting that mailing right now. We discussed putting renewals onto the first page of *The Cornerpost* so as to avoid the mailing fee for the renewals with the note that we are trying to go more digital. If we do that then there would be no personal data on the renewals but it could be a significant savings. Then bolster that renewal notice by emailing the membership list to remind them. Other ways to raise money or spend less might be to reduce to a smaller storage unit. The current unit is 10' by 10' and costs us \$120.00 per month. We need to sort out the unit, get rid of what we don't need, and see if we can reduce to a smaller unit as well as see how many of the archived items need to be in a heated space. We should have a meeting there soon to do the sorting. The smaller space would cost \$75.00 per month.

Birgit is concerned that the 2024 two-day Fall Conference will be quite expensive and would need to be billed at a rate of \$390.00 for both days for full members. Randy says that in comparison with NH rates and other local states that should be fine. She also mentions that it cost 4% plus \$0.50 for every PayPal (includes credit card) transaction and after discussion it was voted that we would add that amount to any payments made for dues or seminar fees by PayPal or credit card.

Other Business

Birgit requested that we move our mailing address to East Montpelier as it is easier for her to pick up mail there. The group voted to move the post office box to East Montpelier.

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned at 6:39 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Ginett, VSLs Secretary

January 11, 2024 • 4:30 p.m. • Zoom Video Call

Our January meeting was held on 11th. The date was revised in order to attend a joint meeting with NHLA in order to discuss the possibility of having a joint meeting with that organization, possibly as our Fall Seminar. The meeting was attended via zoom. The meeting was called to order at 4:31 P.M. In attendance from VSLs were Randy Otis, Paul Hannan, Lisa Ginett, Becky Gilson and our Administrator: Birgit McCall. Absent: Mark Day, Nate Yager and Keith VanInderstine. For whatever reason we are not on the Agenda for the NHLA meeting and we also did not have the break out room originally requested so that we could have our business meeting instead of attending theirs.

Joint Meeting Discussions

Once the problem was pointed out, the Executive Committee of the NHLA postponed their meeting and allowed us to have a brief discussion about the possibility of a joint meeting in 2024 or 2025. The VSLs Ex Comm members in attendance were told that the Program Committees of both of the organizations had met on Monday to begin planning a joint meeting. Location for the meeting was discussed. One option being White River Jct. and the other being Hanover. That joint committee will report after another meeting scheduled for the first Monday in February. VSLs has already invited Gary Kent to speak at our 2024 Fall Seminar and he has agreed to present about a day and a half of material. If we do a joint meeting the NHLA would want to have an entire day to present their programs so there is uncertainty as to whether the fall 2023 seminar will work for a joint meeting. It was agreed that we can't have both groups sequestered for two days with the same speaker. Maybe one of the chosen locations is able to provide facilities to split the group. It appears that VSLs may have already committed to the dates of September 12th & 13th with Gary Kent and we are not certain of his flexibility. NHLA is hosting the New England

meeting in the fall of 2025 so if this can't be worked out the joint meeting would have to wait until 2026. At this point the VSLs left the joint meeting and had our own business meeting via zoom. Called to order at 5:16PM.

Secretary's Minutes

Minutes for the Executive Committee meeting for November 7, 2023 along with the minutes of the December 15, 2023 Membership Business Meeting were reviewed. The motion to approve both sets of minutes was duly made and seconded and the vote was unanimous: to approve the minutes of the November 7, 2023 Executive Committee meeting as well as the minutes of the December 15, 2023 Membership Business Meeting.

Treasurer's Report

No Treasurer's Report as the Treasurer was not in attendance

Administrator's Report

Birgit received a letter from NSPS asking for the VSLs to sign up as NSPS sustaining members at a cost of \$500.00. Birgit will research to see if we have done this before and we will discuss this at the next meeting.

Birgit also mentioned that the membership renewal notices went out by email as per our vote at the general membership meeting. So far she has received 49 renewals. She also reminds us that Kelly needs some articles and photos for the next "Cornerpost."

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned at 5:23 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Ginett, VSLs Secretary

Members
Welcome

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS
THIRD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH
MORE INFO: [BIRGIT@VSLS.ORG](mailto:birgit@vsls.org)

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emailing birgit@vsls.org today!



December 15, 2023 • 12:00 p.m. • During December Webinar

This meeting was held during the Webinar lunch and was called to order at 12:22 P.M. In attendance were members of the Executive Committee Lisa Ginett, Becky Gilson, Paul Hannan, Keith VanDerstine and VSLs Administrator: Birgit McCall along with the general membership. Absent: Randy Otis and Nate Yager

Treasurer's Report

The budget for 2023 was \$ 65,750.00 and VSLs expenses for the year was \$ 65,584.12. Keith noted that the budget had paid for extra consulting fees for Kelly to train our new Administrator. It was also noted that dues and program revenues for the year were \$54,150.00

2024 Budget

The 2024 Budget was warned in *The Cornerpost* in early December. 66% of the membership attending the webinar voted on the budget and of those who voted 95% voted yes. The 2024 budget was passed.

2024 Slate of Officers

The 2024 slate of officers was also warned in "The Cornerpost." There were no nominations from the floor and no comments. There was a vote from the floor that the Secretary cast one ballot for the entire slate of officers, which was done.

Again 66% of the membership attending the webinar voted, and of those who voted 100% voted yes. The slate of officers for 2024 was approved.

Other Business

The group voted to create a Survey Preservation Donation Category. These funds would be used toward the cost of scanning surveys donated to VSLs.

The new online payment fee was explained in more detail. VSLs has added a service fee of 4% charged by PayPal or any credit card onto any seminar or membership dues fee paid by using one of the above methods. Paying by check will not incur the 4% fee.

The group voted yes to allow email membership renewals. Two renewal notices will be sent out by email and any member not renewing after that will be mailed a renewal reminder. 64% of the members attending the webinar voted, and of those who voted 82% voted "yes" and 18% voted "no."

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned at 12:37 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Ginett, VSLs Secretary




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Peter Franzoni | VERMONT L.S. #20 | JULY 2, 1939 - DEC. 17, 2023

Pete Franzoni closed his traverse and left this earth on Dec. 17, 2023, at the age of 84, after a long and successful life as a son, brother, cousin, uncle, husband, father, grandfather, friend, neighbor and land surveyor.



Pete was born July 2, 1939, in Rutland to Raymond Seward Franzoni, Sr. and Caroline Pratt Franzoni; he was the youngest of four children, and also blessed with a very large and loving extended family. Pete grew up on Edgerton Street, attended Dana Elementary School, Meldon

Junior High, and then Rutland High School with his first and life long friend, Joe Vargas. (The two were often found ditching school for fishing only to be caught by the truant officer who would be waiting for them when they showed up to their after-school jobs!). Pete played a variety of sports throughout his education years, and he made many other friends who would forever remain an important part of his life.

Pete graduated from Rutland High School in 1957 and was drafted into the United States Army Field Artillery School at Fort Sill, OK. It was there that he first learned the skills that would lead him to his profession as a land surveyor. Pete then earned his Bachelor's Degree in Forestry from Paul Smith's College, and began work surveying new highways for the Vermont Highway Department, along with another lifelong friend named Pete Chase. By the mid-sixties, the two (along with a third partner) co-founded A.C.F Precision Surveys, Inc.

It was around this time that Pete met the love of his life, Judith Ann Grassett, and they were married in St. Albans on Oct. 21, 1967. Pete and Judy adopted their first son, Peter, in 1970; three years later their daughter Julie was born. Though they loved their first house together in Mendon, later that same year Pete leaped at the chance to purchase a house back on his beloved Edgerton Street, where his brother "Chub" was living and raising his own family. In 1975, Pete and Judy welcomed the birth of their son Alden, and his family was complete.

Pete had a great love and respect for the outdoors and outdoor sportsmanship; he enjoyed spending some of his free time at the Tozier Club hunting camp in Pittsfield. Pete "grew up" in that camp and around those woods; he inherited part ownership of the Club from his father, and his grandfather was one of the founding members in 1948. The Tozier Club has always been a

family unto itself; the times Pete spent there and the people he shared them with held a very unique and dear place in his heart all his life.

In 1981, Pete started a new business with a former engineer from A.C.F. named Mike Roberts. Mike became not only a steadfast partner, but a good friend. Roberts & Franzoni, Inc. completed hundreds of projects together over the next 23 years, before Pete's retirement in 2004. That same year, Pete and Judy celebrated the arrival of their first grandchild, Elizabeth. Their grandson, David arrived three short years later. Truly, this period was the highlight of their entire lives together and brought Pete and Judy more happiness than they had ever known. Unfortunately for Judy, it was short-lived: Pete lost the love of his life in June of 2008, after more than 40 beautiful, loving years together. Up or down, thin or flush, they had never left each other's side: He kept her in his heart for the rest of his days and never remarried.

Pete was a member of the Vermont Society of Land Surveyors for more than 50 years. Many years after his



Pete Franzoni, center, talks with Pete Chase (right) and Byron Kidder at the 2019 VSL Spring Seminar at Castleton University.

retirement, he would crop up at VSL events with his pal Pete Chase to have lunch and visit with his friends.

Pete lived a very rich and full life for the following fifteen years, due almost entirely to the incredible love and support of the vast amount of family, friends and neighbors he had been blessed with; he was humbled by it, and his last wish was for everyone to know how profoundly grateful he was for them all.

Jarlath O'Neil-Dunne | SEPT. 15, 1975 - JAN. 6, 2024

It is with profound sorrow and much love that we mourn the passing of Jarlath Patrick Macbeth O'Neil-Dunne at 49 years old, who died of a heart attack while



Nordic Skiing with friends in his beloved Vermont. He loved his family, especially his three beautiful children; he loved his friends, his work and his workouts; he loved and loved and loved. Jarlath was a giant among men. For the many of us who knew him, he was a real-life superhero who was stronger, fitter, kinder, and more empathetic than

one would think possible. He was a father, husband, son, brother, award winning mentor, friend, confidant, community builder, creative mind, all-weather bike commuter, pitch master, traveling bard, and a comedy show for any and all.

Known for his many talents, Jarlath was a natural and respected leader as the Director of the University of Vermont's Spatial Analysis Laboratory (SAL) specializing in applying geospatial technology to a broad range of applications. In his career, he was sought after with numerous achievements including his rapid response to flooding and his development of Urban Tree Canopy protocols for the USDA Forest Service.

He was a good friend to VSLS and gave an excellent and lively presentation on UAVs during the society's 2015 December Round Tables.

Jarlath was a former major in the United States Marine Corps where he served tours in the Middle East, East Africa, and East Asia. He co-directed the Marine

Corps' imagery intelligence assets during Operation Iraqi Freedom. He had numerous hobbies, all of which he excelled at, notably as a Spartan and triathlon champion, and as a member of the local rowing and Nordic communities. He was taken from us too soon, but he accomplished more in half the time than most of us do with our full life on this Earth. His heart lives on in his children Ailsa, Angus, and Maeve who were his whole world, his partner Julie, his mother Mairi, his siblings, his large and loving extended family, his friends, his colleagues, to name just some of those who adore him.

For Jarlath, in his memory, let us always think about how we can be better for each other.



Jarlath O'Neil-Dunne gives the afternoon presentation at the 2015 VSLS December Round Tables, held at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Montpelier.

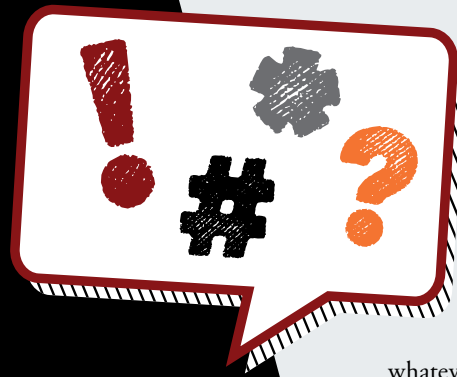
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FAKE NEWS

• A cautionary tale about trusting your sources •



whether by document, or otherwise. Many of these involve, or are based on, original survey work, in

whatever form it may appear. The

rule is that the original survey controls, unless

or until something serves to change it, and the possibilities are many, such as addition of land, subtraction of land, bona fide agreements, and unwritten creation of rights, to name a few.


In the Montana case of *Larsen v. Richardson*,¹ the court noted that “the object of all rules for the establishment of boundaries is to ascertain the actual location of the boundary as made at the time. As to boundary disputes, the primary purpose is to track the footsteps of the original surveyor, to locate the survey as it was intended to be located on the ground by him. Although, in the present case, the deeds to the properties were prepared without the benefit

“Either due to the lack of regulations and standards, or flagrant ignoring of the same, a lot of so-called surveys are turned out with no one the wiser.”

of a proper field survey, we conclude that the foregoing principles nevertheless apply in determining the locations of the boundaries described in those deeds. In other words, the duty is to track the courses laid out by the deed writers in the boundary descriptions.”

The court continued by stating, “When a surveyor is unable to follow the precise ‘footsteps’ of his or her predecessor, then a surveyor must attempt to track the original surveyor’s work using whatever recoverable evidence that exists.”²

Continuing, citing authority, the court stated that one party’s approach is contrary to the law of surveying and without any evidentiary foundation. It went on to say that they found one of the surveyor’s approaches to be “inept.”

What then, if anything, is the effect of a so-called survey that does not follow the footsteps of the original? Probably no effect whatever, since its basic premise is to either violate or ignore a basic rule that is the foundation of the duty of the following surveyor. If it is indeed not a survey, then the standard rules cannot apply, since those rules only apply to correct work. If the work is not correct, then there are no rules that are appropriate. The resulting work can only be termed “fake news.” 

BY DONALD WILSON, LAND BOUNDARY CONSULTANT

While this article is intended for an audience of land surveyors, one has to wonder how many unsuspecting clients have been hoodwinked with faulty surveys that they commissioned and rightly relied on. The average surveyor stumbles on many of these, and is unsuspectingly confronted with an additional burden causing them to spend additional time addressing the problems and thereby incurring additional costs which may or may not be able to be passed on to their client.

Either due to the lack of regulations and standards, or flagrant ignoring of the same, a lot of so-called surveys are turned out with no one the wiser. Do not misconstrue the intent of this writing – most surveyors are professional and conscientious – but there are a few who either don’t know, or don’t care, and like in any profession, the careless and the frauds can give the rest a bad name. This writing is not to emphasize this problem, for the most part it is already being addressed, the article’s intent is to point out to the average surveyor that there may be pitfalls awaiting them to inadvertently fall prey to.

This problem arises from the quick acceptance of a survey for the wrong reasons: just because it is on record, just because the previous surveyor generally does good work, is a friend or former employee, among other equally seemingly valid, but poor, reasons. One of the poor reasons is the view that, “if I rely on this survey, and it is somehow deficient or incorrect, it is that surveyor’s problem, not mine.” A review of these situations within the court system demonstrates that is an invalid argument and a false hope, although reported decisions are few and far between, making the rationale far less than common knowledge.

Any examination of a prior work should consider the following: the purpose of work, methodology, extent of research, extent of retracement, comparison of title documents with discovered field evidence, consideration of the title to the issue involved. Seemingly, most surveyors are frequently involved with boundary location, involving retracements that may, and often are, most demanding of time and expertise. It would appear, at least in the non-rectangular areas of the country, that a very important rule is often sidestepped. Any title entity begins with its creation,

1 361 Mont. 344, 260 P.3d 103, Mont. 2011.

2 Referencing Clark on Surveying & Boundaries, Robillard & Bouman, 2010.

April Round Tables

Friday, April 19 • Canadian Club
414 East Montpelier Rd., Barre

8 PDH



SCHEDULE

7:15 AM	Registration and Breakfast
8:00 AM	Morning Round Table Discussions
12:00 PM	Lunch and Business Meeting
1:00 PM	Afternoon Seminars
5:00 PM	Final Announcements
5:00-6:00 PM	Reception (first drink is FREE)

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION FEES

Member in good standing of VSLS or kindred society	\$175.00
Life Member.....	\$131.25
Associate Member.....	\$140.00
Non-Member Technical Staff (must attend with a member)	\$148.75
Three or more from same firm (one must be a member)	\$148.75
Non-Member	\$250.00

***NOTE:** \$25 late fee after April 10, 2024

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSIONS

We will have four sessions of round table discussions on a variety of topics, and attendees can choose the discussions they would like to join. Each session lasts for 50 minutes, with a 10-minute break in between. Some of the Round Table topics include: young surveyors and career topics, certified survey technician program, GIS for surveyors, wastewater permitting and subdivisions, Vermont Board issues, and more.

AFTERNOON SEMINARS

Surveying over Time - Andy Dussault, L.S., will discuss the changes he has observed in surveying in the past half century in and around Vermont's Northeast Kingdom.

University of Maine Surveying Engineering Technology Online Program - Professor Ray Hintz will demonstrate the principles applied in an online approach to surveying education and explain how practicing land surveyors can contribute as mentors. The presentation will be very question and answer oriented.

Burlington Ravine - Burlington's Director of Cultural Resources, Britta Tonn, will speak about Burlington's development in the 19th century around a deep ravine that cut right through its downtown. Using historic maps and photos, she will trace the ravine's course through the city, and explore vestiges of the ravine still visible today.

Monitor Barn - Historic Preservationist Eliot Lothrop will explore the history of the Whitcomb family as they built up a prosperous dairy farm and commissioned the massive barn to be built by Charles Miller of North Ferrisburgh. We will then look at the future of the barn.

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

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Dietary Restrictions _____

☐ I'd like to purchase the State Papers of Vermont for \$7.50
(see pg. 16 for more info; books will be at the round tables)

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

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

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