



MISSOURI SURVEYOR

A Quarterly Publication of the
Missouri Society of Professional Surveyors

Jefferson City, Missouri

December 2021

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2022

February 16, 2022

Board Meeting
MSPS Office, Jefferson City, MO

April 28, 2022

Board Meeting
Lodge of Four Seasons,
Lake Ozark, MO

April 29-30, 2022

44th Annual Spring Workshop
Lodge of Four Seasons,
Lake Ozark, MO

July 16, 2022

Board Meeting
MSPS Office, Jefferson City, MO

August 17-19, 2022

Review Course
Jefferson City, MO

October 6-8, 2022

65th Annual Meeting and Convention
Sheraton Westport Hotel, St. Louis, MO

December 3, 2022

Board Meeting
MSPS Office, Jefferson City, MO

Additional Dates for Spring Workshop

May 3-May 7, 2023

May 1-May 5, 2024

Cover: The things surveyors are asked to do! Phil Henehan from Anderson Surveying of Lee's Summit is setup on the shore of Lakewood, Missouri taking measurements needed by members of the Lakewood Sail & Paddle Club as they set the Guinness record for: "The most people riding a stand-up paddle board" (73).

Donald R. Martin, Editor



Notes from the Editor's Desk

Donald R. Martin

Welcome to the December 2021 edition of Missouri Surveyor. Released on the heels of the MSPS Annual Meeting, there is a lot of news from that event to reflect upon. First, our new slate of leaders!

Brad McCloud, President
Ray Riggs, President Elect
Robert (Bob) Anderson, Vice President

Chuck Quinby, Secretary/Treasurer
Scott Faenger, Board of Directors
Matt Thomas, Board of Directors



Congratulations on your new roles, and good luck in leading for the coming year. Readers may look to Pages 21 through 34 for more on the Annual Meeting. It was a fine event, accomplishing a great deal. Best of all, it was a celebration of the resilience found within our members and this organization. Well-attended with about 350 participants, it demonstrated that passion and dedication were not lost during the lock-down era of the pandemic. MSPS members have remained supportive of fellowship, continuing education, and banding-together – traits of this wonderful association.

I wish to share something which came out of my preparation for drafting this edition. To address upcoming legislative issues regarding the surveying statutes in Missouri, I spoke with Representative Don Mayhew of the 121st District encompassing most of Phelps and Pulaski counties. A land surveyor himself, he is particularly qualified to work on legislation related to our practices. It is quite refreshing to listen to an elected official speak so knowledgeably on a subject which doesn't often enter the political arena. Imagine, someone in our state's congress knows how to break-down a section! But maybe the most important thing Mr. Mayhew said as we closed our conversation wasn't about surveying "rules and reg's", it was about a fuller view, a broader extent of participation in our democracy.

"I welcome the opportunity to work with MSPS and Missouri surveyors on their concerns." He went on, "But I want to encourage them to be civically engaged with all kinds of issues which may affect them, their families, their businesses."

Using the issue of gas taxes addressed in the last session of the legislature, he pointed out that as they drive so many miles each year in the work of surveying, surveyors are uniquely qualified to speak on the impact a fuel tax has on business. From this he noted surveyors should have been actively informing representatives of their concerns on this issue as well as surveying specific matters. It's a good point he's making! Our interests do not end (or begin) in Chapters 60 and 327 of Missouri's Revised Statutes. They are wide ranging, and our concerns are valid and of consequence.

Heed the Representative's advice. Be a good surveyor and stand-up for your profession, your business, your expertise...but most importantly, be a good citizen and stand-up for yourself, your concerns, your values. And when it comes to surveying matters, a good place to get started is our own Legislative Committee. Help them out, and you will be helping yourself.

As is usually the case for the December editions, I close this message a few days before Thanksgiving. Among the "thanks" I will be giving is appreciation for the opportunity to work on this Newsletter. It is my pleasure and my honor. Enjoy this issue. With that, I best break-it-down and bunch-it-up so I can start getting ready for the next edition...I'll be back with ya' then. 🇺🇸

Donald

THE MISSOURI SURVEYOR

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President's Message

Brad McCloud, PLS



What an honor to be selected by my peers to represent our Land Surveying Society. I would like to thank a few people that have helped me along my way. Wayne Neece and the Stewart & Neece Surveying family for believing in me and giving me my first surveying job. As I reflect on that role, I would have never thought it would become my life's work and passion. Joe Clayton for pushing me to achieve my potential with my surveying career (although that may have been just to get me off his crew). We will all miss him and never forget the many lessons he taught us. Loran Chick for mentoring and guiding me through the inner workings of state government. And last, but not least, this Society. I have had the pleasure to meet and brainstorm with you all over the years. The conversations and meetings we've shared have helped me be diverse in my learning and thinking.

I was excited to see such a great turn out for the Annual Meeting this year. We have been separated and meetings have been fragmented over the last year and a half. Friday's business meeting went well. Ron Heimbuaugh and Jess Moss gave an update on the new Missouri State Plane Coordinate System of 2022. We will watch for this new system and how it will affect our daily survey operations. I look forward to a MoDOT presentation on how and when this will affect their RTK Network. On Saturday, we had a strong presentation on How to Fix a Boundary Line (and How NOT to) by Kristopher Kline that was received very well.

A statement during a presentation that personally got me thinking was, "How we have lost the character in our plats and monuments." I know we all are passionate about certain segments in the surveying industry, now you know where some of my passion lies. I will be working on something in the next few months to try to give back in this area. Stay tuned.

Let's now move on to leadership and some congratulatory remarks. I would like to congratulate Charles Quinby on his assent to Secretary-Treasurer. Let's welcome Scott Faenger and Matt Thomas as new Board Members. Let's not forget our committee leaders - this sometimes is a thankless role, but we would not be a successful Board without the committee chairs leading the way.

We are leaders that the entire Missouri land surveying profession looks up to for guidance. Our responsibility as leaders in this group is to be the primary spokespersons in this profession for Missouri. We must rise to this opportunity to ensure the success of the profession and individuals that have proudly chosen the profession. I look forward to working with the board members, committee members, and local chapters throughout the year. 🇺🇸

Brad

Remembering a Past President

by Donald Martin

On August 22nd I got the news that MSPS past President Joe Clayton of Joplin passed away. It was not the passing of a particularly elderly person, nor had he been “sick” as they say. He was 58 years-old and it really was unexpected. His death came only days after Joe affirmed in a conversation, “I’ve got more surveying I want to do!”

Raised in Joplin, Joe was the son of Bruce and Minnie Clayton. A self-proclaimed “momma’s boy,” Joe adored Minnie. Bruce was Joe’s idol with the younger Clayton being forever proud his dad drove a truck and was a union member. A high school drafting class introduced Joe to land surveying; it became his life’s pursuit. High school graduation was followed by military enlistment into the U.S. Army. One of the lucky ones assigned to his chosen field, Joe became an Artillery Surveyor and was posted to West Germany. There, Joe conducted geodetic-caliber surveys for the targeting of nuclear missile systems. Also there, he fell in love with the history, people, food and countryside of Germany. But there was no place like home...

After his tour of duty, Clayton returned to Joplin and found a match for his skills and interests by joining what was then the Missouri Highway and Transportation Department in 1985. Quickly rising through the ranks Joe became that agency’s youngest Survey Part Chief in 1993. He also became the Chair of then MoDOT’s statewide Surveying Task Force. Joe was to be a transformational figure in highway surveying by training others in the use of new technologies and instruments. Accepting the ranking surveyor’s role of Survey Liaison Coordinator at headquarters in Jefferson City, Joe worked with representatives from MARLS to begin the long journey of upgrading surveying practices for highway rights-of-way. Well suited to roles for technologies and instrumentation, the inner workings of the large bureaucracy with its associated politics did not align with Joe. Besides, there was something much more important in Joplin. For Joe, there was no place like home...

Clayton requested a return to working on a survey party in Joplin. You see, he had become a father with the birth of his eldest, Zeb. Before it was fashionable and fodder for movies and television, Joe was a single-father. In Joplin, he could still ply his preferred trade with the help of his parents assisting in his most important role of “dad.” Soon, his second son Kai joined the clan, and the busy father and surveyor added to his “load” by enrolling in school!



Desiring to advance in his surveying career to being a Land Surveyor, this single-dad would drive from Joplin to Springfield weekly to attain the course-work necessary to become a PLS. He succeeded and was licensed in 2001. With his new credential, there were many new opportunities, but as always for Joe, there was no place like home...

As a PLS, Joe took charge of the Joplin-based surveys for what was then Missouri’s newest interstate highway, I-49. It was the Joplin to state line (Arkansas) segment which included new right-of-way and new road surfaces where that earlier effort by MARLS (by then, MSPS) came to roost for Joe. It is said Clayton “crossed every creek and hill” along the future interstate, but where he once would have made highway plans along its route, he was then drafting plats. The highway surveying transformation began in the early 1990’s had come to pass in the 2000’s. But the old “haunt” of highway bureaucracy had become more of a burden Clayton did not wish to bear, so in 2006 he left the DOT for the Department of Conservation in Jefferson City. In charge of land surveying services for that department’s Wildlife Division, he and his partner Rich Howard (in a similar role for the Forestry Division) were acclaimed as the “best” of the engineering and construction

branch by Conservation's resource divisions. His successes led to promotion to the rank of Survey Superintendent before his retirement in 2014. It was time to move back to Joplin because there was no place like home...

It was during his Conservation tenure that Joe Clayton became a very active member of MSPS. Chairing the GIS Committee, it was the history-side of surveying which then engaged him most. He also ventured into personal history as an amateur genealogist. He researched his lineage and traced his family tree, revealing their long presence in his home state of Missouri. Of this he was particularly proud. Becoming a fine, self-taught historian set the stage for Joe's most significant contributions to surveying and MSPS. He was to one day chair the History Committee, and he was "a" (and sometimes "the") driving force in the Society's historical recognition undertakings to honor Missouri's early surveyors and significant surveys. In 2016, he became MSPS's President and was recognized as Surveyor-of-the-Year in 2017. In 2018, he was honored to receive the Robert E. Myers Service Award. During this time, he was part of the team at the Joplin office of Anderson Engineering. This is when he undertook the hallmark work of his surveying career, the retracement of the Osage Treaty Line. In this past year, he recovered monuments along the old treaty line's course in his southwest Missouri homeland adjacent to his Joplin. It seemed fitting, because for Joe, there was no place like home...

There is no place like home...he has gone on there, his eternal home. He leaves his wife Sheila to cherish his memory. His sons Zeb and Kai are grown now, they have families of their own. they miss him dearly, and as Joe felt about his father and his career, Zeb and Kai now feel proud their father was a surveyor. They know it meant much to him, and it means much now to them. There are four step-children grieving as well. Minnie and Bruce – they're still there in Joplin, reliably in Joe's hometown as they always had been. Hurting through their loss, they too are proud of their son being a surveyor, they know it meant much to him. And there are his treasures, his grandchildren; Violette, Fauna, Mariah and Ezra. For them, he has left a mark.

Leaving a mark. It is what surveyors literally do. By pin and stone, by cap and post, by blaze and cross, surveyors leave their marks. More than monuments recovered and set, Joe's marks have been the impressions, the leadership, the teaching he imparted to many who have reflected and attested to his impact. In football, they speak of "coaching trees," the professional lineage shared by those who share ties to one another and having descended in their work from a great master of their trade. Clayton left a surveying



On behalf of friends and colleagues in the Missouri surveying community, I have presented this Final Point monument to Joe Clayton's family, from all who had the pleasure of working with and alongside of this fine surveyor. – Robert Ubben

tree which includes so many PLS's who once worked as a technician under Joe's tutelage. Others still were inspired by his passion and enthusiasm for the history of surveying and his devotion to MSPS. Respected and remembered by his peers, his legacy within MSPS would make Joe proud ... it would mean much to him. 🇺🇸



Tee off at 1:00 pm

by Larry L. Bollinger, PLS #1671, August 4, 2021

As some of you know, I was a cadastral surveyor, “i.e.,” one who deals with land boundaries. In order to perform cadastral surveys in Missouri, one must be licensed as a Professional Land Surveyor. Those who practice construction, topographical surveys, etc. do not have this requirement. I had a long and interesting career and I was often involved with boundary line disputes. If you have the time, read on and I will share one of them with you today.

There are three main players in today’s story. The first player, we will call and refer to him as Judge Golf Tee. The next two players are neighbors that are not getting along very well with each other. The neighbor to the east, we will call him Kubota Deere and his neighbor to the west is Appleseed John.

One day Appleseed decided that his orchard was not large enough to meet the demands of his customers. Therefore, he purchased and planted more fruit trees to the east of his existing orchard. Kubota did not like this orchard expansion as he thought that Appleseed had planted about 50 trees on his property. Kubota was a farmer and he approaches Appleseed that he wanted to be compensated, in some manner, for the fruit tree encroachment planted on his property. Furthermore, if he does not receive ample compensation, he would get out his Davis Harley tractor and attach his Chase IH brush hog to it and mow those fruit trees down.

Well, needless to say, things were getting a little heated between Kubota and Appleseed. Appleseed thinks that the trees were planted on his property and he decides the best thing for him to do would be to have his east property line surveyed. You guessed it; Appleseed calls me up and orders a survey. The establishment of the common property line between Kubota and Appleseed went well and would be considered by most cadastral surveyors as being a relative easy survey. No conflicts with deeds, etc. and sufficient corner monuments were found in the field to justify the placement of the east property line.

Actually, the hardest part of this survey was dealing with Kubota. Kubota saw the survey truck pull up and he immediately crawls out of his Ferguson Massey Gleaner combine and comes running over to talk to me. “What are you doing on my property?” Kubota informed me that there was no need for a survey, that I should get off his property and that he had a shotgun in the house! Well, it wasn’t the first time that I had been threatened with a fire arm. When threatened in this manner, I would normally leave the site in a timely manner! However, this time the shotgun was still in the house. So I ask Kubota “What make and model of shotgun do you have?” This seemed to catch Kubota off guard and reluctantly, he told me. I then told him, “I like my Browning and sometimes I use it for squirrel hunting.” I then asked him, “Are you a deer hunter? Did you know that the firearms season opens up in a few weeks?” When I brought up deer season, Kubota said, “I have my 30/30 sighted-in and my deer stand is up.” After some more small talk about hunting, fishing, and how he liked his Gleaner, etc., Kubota seemed to calm down somewhat. “If my knuckle head neighbor ordered a survey, go ahead and do your work. I guess you are just trying to earn a living like the rest of us. You will find that those fruit trees are on my property!” Kubota starts walking back to his Gleaner and I can visualize in my mind what he was thinking in his, “That dumb surveyor doesn’t even have enough common horse sense to realize when he is being threatened with a firearm!”

The results of the survey indicated that about 35 fruit trees had been planted on Kubota’s property. Not the results that Appleseed wanted but he knew he would now have to deal with Kubota and the compensation issue. Appleseed did contact Kubota but negotiations did not go well. Both hired attorneys and back and forth negotiations took place for over a year without the dispute being resolved. From Appleseed’s perspective, it seemed that nothing reasonable would please Kubota. The trees were getting pretty tall now with a year’s growth. Kubota just wanted to mow those trees down.

I received a telephone call from Judge Golf. I did know the Judge from a prior case. The Judge asked me if I could come up to his chambers, about 9:00 am tomorrow morning, prior to him hearing a case on his docket regarding the fruit tree dispute between Kubota and Appleseed. He had a copy of my survey. Judge Golf said “Larry, I just want to make sure I understand your survey prior to court time which is scheduled for 10:00 am. I can’t spend a lot of court time on this dispute as I have a golf date. My foursome is scheduled to Tee off time at 1:00 pm and I don’t want to be late.” I told the Judge that I would see him in the morning and that I would review my survey notes etc. prior to meeting with him.

(continued on page 38)



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New Member of the Professional Land Surveying Division of the Registration Board: Franklin “Shane” Terhune, PLS

From Dimensions Newsletter, Fall/Winter 2021



Franklin “Shane” Terhune, PLS, was appointed on September 24, 2021 by Governor Mike Parson to serve on the Professional Land Surveying Division of the Board. He replaces Daniel “Dan” Govero whose term had expired.

Shane was born in St. Joseph, Missouri. He was raised and still resides on part of the family farm near Savannah, Missouri with his wife, Shelley. They have six children (one deceased) and five grandchildren between them. Growing up, Shane was always interested in archeology and spent countless hours searching for artifacts, rocks, bones, or any other interesting objects he could find in the countryside.

Shane’s passion for land surveying began in 1978 when he went to work for the former Williamson Engineering in St. Joseph, Missouri as a rod and chain person. In 1987, Shane relocated to Independence, Missouri to work for Crowley, Wade & Milstead. During that time, he completed surveying courses at Longview Community College and Johnson County Community College. He was licensed as a Professional Land Surveyor in 1991 and returned to Savannah to build a house on the family farm and raise his children. Since then, he has advanced his professional skills as a land surveyor, project manager, and location survey manager, completing many expansive and diverse projects. Shane was elected as the Andrew County

Surveyor in 1996 and still holds the office. In 2010, he founded Terhune Surveying and Mapping LLC.

Serving on the Kansas City Community College Land Survey Advisory Board and as a part-time instructor for surveying courses at Missouri Western State College, Shane has enjoyed witnessing many young land surveyors through the years as they followed their passion and received their professional license. He is a staunch advocate for encouraging young people to engage in the profession.

Shane has served on the Board of Directors for the Missouri Society of Professional Surveyors and is a past president of the organization. He received the organization’s Surveyor of the Year Award in 2008. He is also a member of the Missouri Association of Professional County Surveyors and the National Society of Professional Surveyors.

Shane serves on the Savannah Rural Fire Protection Association Board of Directors. He has also served as a board member and youth group leader for his local parish, St. Rose of Lima. He spent many years coaching girl’s fastpitch softball, advancing teams to several national tournaments. When not digging for corners, he can be found fishing, hunting, camping, or working around the farm.

Shane is honored to be appointed to this Board to serve his profession and the people of Missouri. 🇲🇴

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Thoughts on Professional Practice and Education

Article 1: Faculty Licensure

by Knud E. Hermansen †, P.L.S., P.E., Ph.D., Esq.

This will be the first of several articles giving thought to the topic of professional practice and education. I have reached the age where I have a great many opinions and have no fear of sharing them. I have no employers that would take umbrage of my opinion. Perhaps some current or past clients might object but they are free to seek others to perform their services should they wish.

If this is the first of several articles I plan to write, I can introduce myself thoroughly in this article and be reticent about an introduction in later articles.

I am retired after 30 years of teaching though I still do contract teaching for surveying and engineering programs. I have also retired from the military where I was a surveyor and engineer for over twenty years. I have been licensed in several states as a surveyor, engineer, and attorney. I still have an active license for each profession in at least one state. I have consulted in a wide variety of roles offering surveying, engineering, and legal services. I have surveyed many miles of boundaries. I was a member of a licensing board at one time. On numerous occasions I have served as an expert witness, trial attorney, appeals attorney, arbitrator, mediator, boundary commissioner, and, of course, a professor and instructor. Old age, experience, and my varied and unique practice I hope gives me a perspective that will generate some thought, no doubt some controversy, and perhaps some changes.

In this missive I will focus on surveying faculty qualifications. I will not and never claim to be among the best faculty. I am sure there are some former students that will claim I am not even a satisfactory faculty for I had hard standards and high expectations that left some students disgruntled and unhappy that I chose to apply these standards to them. As I said, I am too old to change or even give much care to what a young student, lacking experience, may believe. To put it simply, their opinion is seldom my reality. After the graduate has practiced in the surveying profession for fifty years and still wishes to maintain a low opinion of my instruction, I will welcome their thoughts and give them worthy consideration.

The point I wish to make in this missive is to give my opinion on faculty licensing. I do not believe a quality surveying program must require every faculty to be licensed to practice the profession of surveying. However, I do believe a majority of faculty should be licensed to practice the profession. I will offer three reasons for my opinion.

First and most importantly, I am of the firm opinion that no amount of education and research in surveying or 'geomatics' (as some programs prefer to use), allows a faculty to provide the impactful presentation experience allows. Of course, any person wishing to become faculty and claim they have experience outside of academics should have enough experience to be able to qualify and sit for professional exams in at least one state.

I am mindful that some faculty may have experience in areas of surveying practice that their state of residency will not accept toward licensure. Yet, that person will not be prevented from applying and being licensed in some other state that does accept their experience for licensure. (There is no state, by law, that can demand residency in the state before being licensed.) By way of example, I would refer the reader to some states that require a license for and therefore must accept experience in areas of remote sensing and GIS when applying for professional licensing. Second, I believe it important that faculty set an example that will encourage students to seek professional licensing in the surveying field. This is done most effectively by the faculty themselves being licensed to practice the profession of surveying. I have seen numerous articles in professional magazines that lament the aging of the licensed surveyor population and how few young persons are entering the profession. Many employers lament the difficulty of finding young persons interested in filling employment openings. Young adults are not given a good example by allowing surveying instructors to be unlicensed.

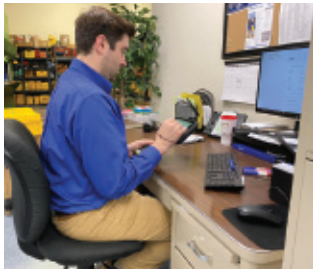
Third, I believe faculty are much more inclined to have been or become active in their state and national professional societies when licensed. I am of the very firm belief that a successful college surveying program must enjoy the

(continued on page 12)



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Thoughts on Professional Practice and Education

Article 1: Faculty Licensure *(continued)*

support of state surveying societies. To enjoy that support, there must be continuous interaction and familiarity between the academic program and the professional society. The interaction and familiarity are often absent or tenuous at best when faculty are not licensed. Lacking a license, the faculty can't be a full member of the professional society.

I have such a firm opinion on the importance of requiring licensed faculty, that I would demand licensing as a prerequisite for a faculty member even at the sake of academic qualifications. If the only choice to fill a faculty position was between a licensed individual and one with a Ph.D. of similar temperament, I would opt to always take the licensed individual.

Many universities that host surveying programs require a Ph.D. These same surveying programs do not require professional licensing of faculty. For some reason which I cannot comprehend, even after 30 years in college teaching, university administrators think it much more important to hire a Ph.D., without practical experience, often without experience as a resident, to teach surveying topics. The administrator will not accept someone without the Ph.D. that would have many years of relevant experience, relevant license, and familiarity with the residency where a graduate is likely to seek employment.

Having given my opinion, I now offer advice by suggesting ABET and professional societies make strenuous and consistent requests of administrators of surveying programs to demand current faculty become licensed and new faculty to be licensed prior to employment. The line is very clear. If a person wishes to teach in a surveying or geomatics program, they should have a professional license. 🇺🇸

† Other books and articles by Knud can be found at <https://umaine.edu/svt/faculty/hermansen-articles/>



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Claims to Land and the Second Board of Commissioners

by Steven E. Weible, PLS, October 2021

The courts as a means for the final settlement of the as yet unconfirmed private land claims in Missouri had not proven to be satisfactory for the claimants. In January 1831 the General Assembly of Missouri had sent a memorial to Congress, recommending the creation of a board of land commissioners endowed with sufficient powers to achieve full and final justice between the government and these claimants. They believed that such a tribunal should “adopt as its rule of action, to confirm every claim which the government of either Spain or France would have confirmed had no transfer of the territory been made ” (ASP:PL Vol. 6, pg 300).

Since the General Assembly of Missouri kept demanding it and the Committee on Private Land Claims in the U. S. Senate had recommended it in 1828, Congress passed the Act of July 9, 1832, chapter 180, An Act for the final adjustment of private land claims in Missouri (U. S. Statutes at Large, Vol. 4, pg 565). The President of the United States was to appoint two commissioners to join the recorder of land titles in Missouri in examining all the unconfirmed private claims that had already been filed in the recorder’s office. The examination was limited to those claims founded upon any incomplete grant, concession, warrant or order of survey that had been issued by the authority of France or Spain prior to March 10, 1804. They were permitted to receive additional testimony, but it had to be taken within twelve months of the passage of the act.

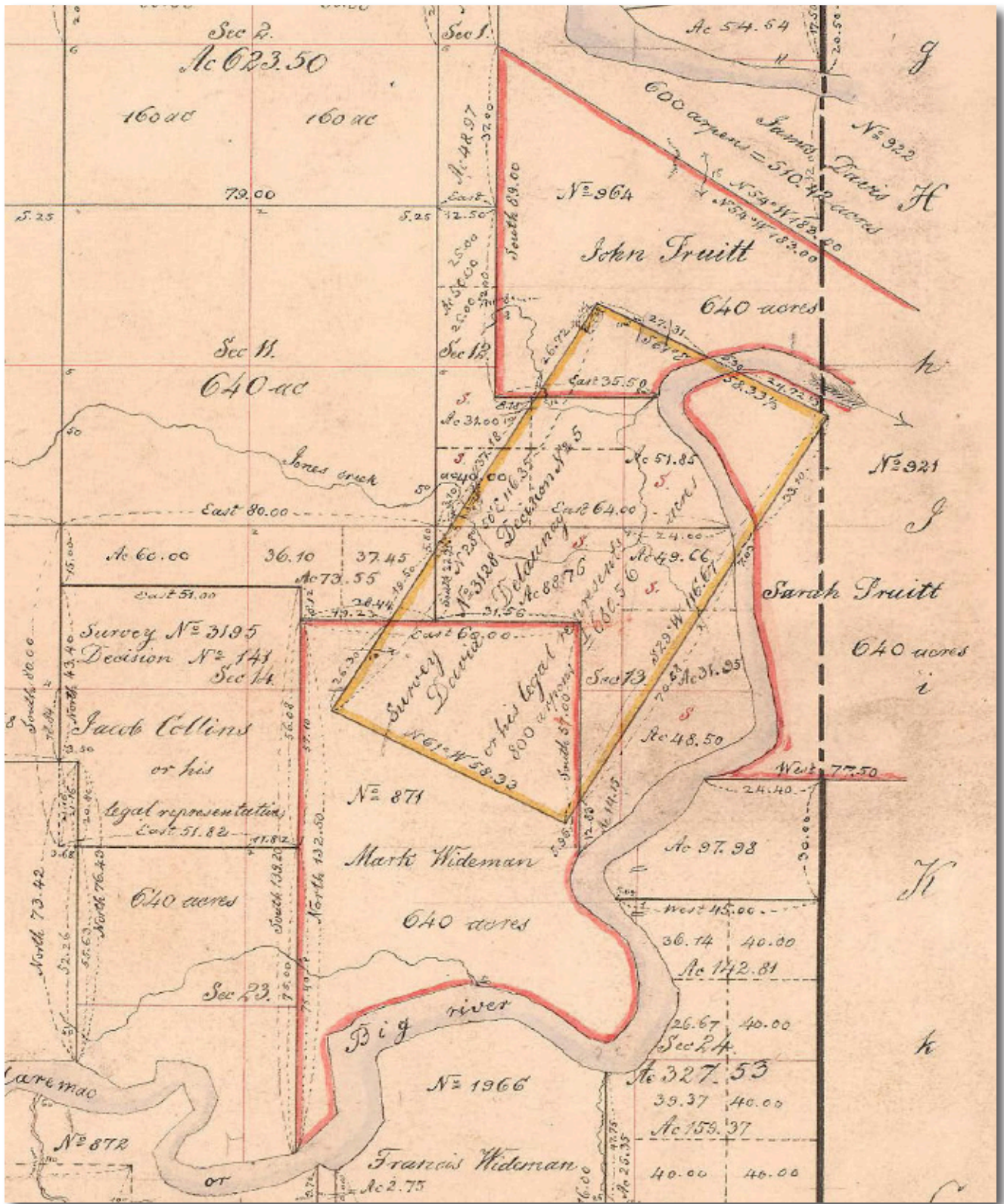
The recorder and commissioners were to segregate the claims examined into two classes. The first class was to include those claims that they believed would have been confirmed according to the laws, usages and customs of the Spanish government and the practice of the Spanish authorities at New Orleans, if the government under which those claims originated had continued in Missouri. The second class was to include those claims that they believed were destitute of merit, in law or equity, under the same laws, usages, customs and practice of the Spanish authorities. They were also to provide an explanation of their reasoning in each case.

Once this second board of commissioners had organized, the office of the recorder was to be open for the purposes of the examination for two years and no longer. They were to proceed in a summary manner, with or without any new application from the claimants. During the term of their examination and at the commencement of each session of Congress, they were to send a report to the Commissioner of the General Land Office, detailing their opinions on the claims so far examined. The report would be forwarded to Congress for the final decision upon the claims of the first class.

After the final report was submitted by the recorder and commissioners, those claims falling into the second class, being destitute of merit, were to be subject to sale along with the other public lands. Those claims falling into the first class were to be further reserved from sale until Congress rendered a final decision. Any claim that was ultimately rejected by Congress was subject to sale along with the other public lands. An actual settler whose claim was ultimately rejected or any claimant who chose to waive his claim was granted the right of pre-emption to the land encompassing the improvements up to the quantity of their claim, but not exceeding 640 acres.

Andrew Jackson, President of the United States, nominated Doctor Lewis F. Linn of Sainte Genevieve, Missouri and Wilkins Updyke of Rhode Island to serve as commissioners with recorder of land titles Frederick R. Conway. The U.S. Senate confirmed the appointments of Linn and Updyke on July 14, 1832 (Senate Executive Journal, Vol. 4, pg 277). The second board of commissioners was organized on October 1, 1832 (ASP:PL Vol. 8, pg 923), but Updyke resigned shortly thereafter, leaving Conway and Linn to continue taking testimony until a replacement could be confirmed. To further hinder the board’s progress, the Asiatic cholera swept into Missouri, so that many claimants and witnesses were unable to appear before the board to present their testimony. Thus, no report could be made the first year (ASP:PL Vol. 8, pg 22).

On November 19, 1832 recorder Conway and commissioner Linn wrote to the Commissioner of the General Land Office, recommending that the Act of July 9, 1832, chapter 180, be amended in two ways so as to accomplish a truly final settlement of all the claims that could possibly be brought forward. First, they believed that the act should be extended to include claims founded on written grants, concessions, warrants or orders of survey that had not previously been filed in the office of the recorder of land titles, but which might have been submitted to the district court of the United States for Missouri. Second, they believed the act should be extended to include claims based on settlement and cultivation that had previously been submitted and rejected under other acts of Congress (ASP:PL Vol. 6, pg 516).



David Delaunay's claim to 800 arpents was recommended for confirmation by the second board of commissioners as Decision No. 5 of the first class. When surveyed as General Series Survey No. 3128 in Township 41 North, Range 3 East, it was found to interfere with settlement claims previously confirmed by the board of revision. Parts of it had also already been sold by the United States government as indicated by the red letter "S". (courtesy of the Missouri State Land Survey)

(continued on next page)

Claims to Land and the Second Board of Commissioners

(continued)

Congress responded by passing the Act of March 2, 1833, chapter 84, An Act supplemental to the act entitled “An act for the final adjustment of land claims in Missouri” (U. S. Statutes at Large, Vol. 4, pg 661), extending the provisions and restrictions of the previous act to every claim based on settlement and cultivation. Additional testimony for these claims was allowed to be taken for two years from the date of the original act.

President Jackson nominated Albert G. Harrison of Missouri on December 31, 1832 to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Wilkins Updyke. The U.S. Senate confirmed the appointment of Harrison on January 8, 1833 (Senate Executive Journal, Vol. 4, pg 291, 296).

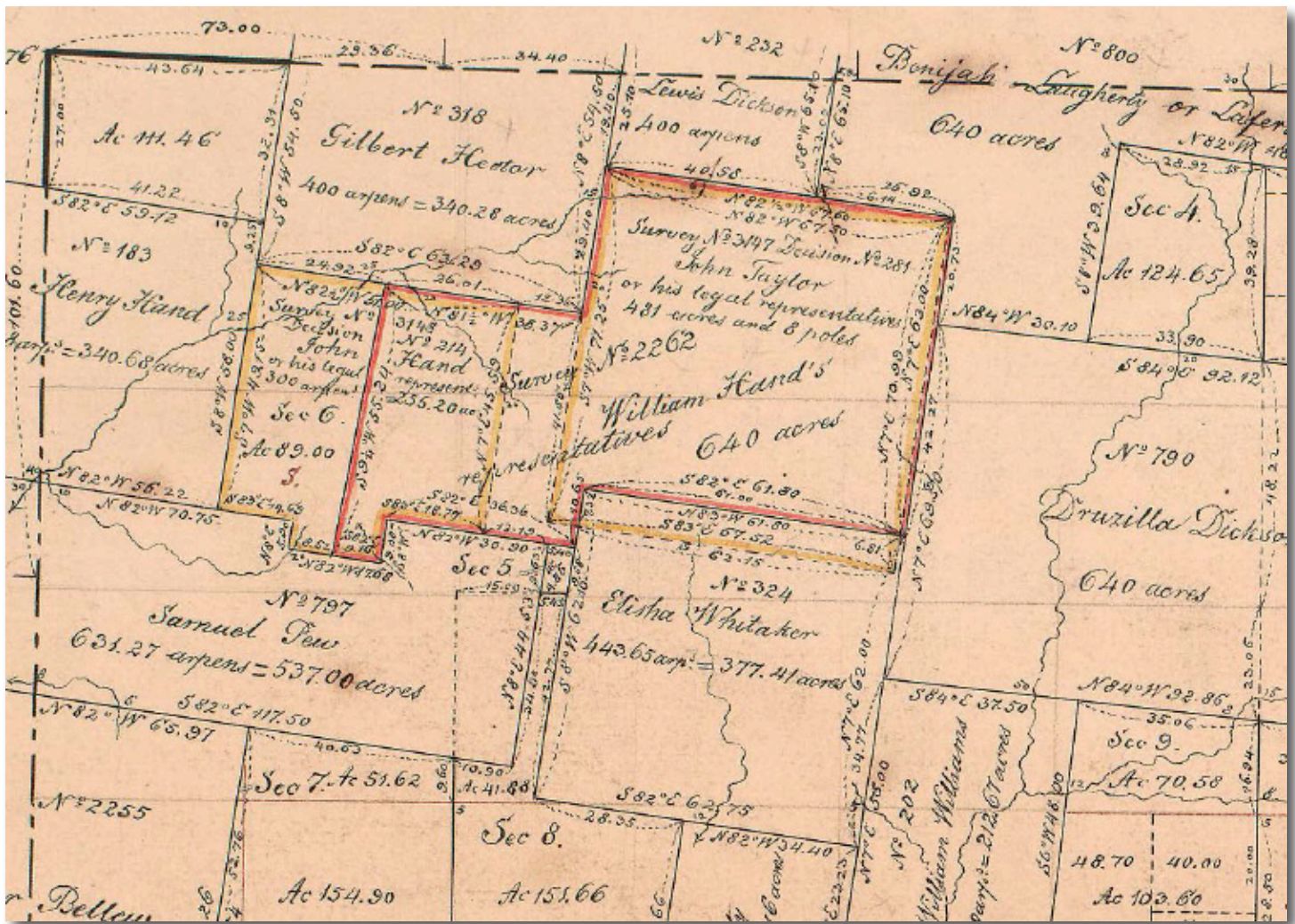
Before commencing examination of the claims before them, Conway, Linn and Harrison resolved to settle the general principles that would serve as a guide for the decisions they were to make. They reviewed all of the pertinent Acts of Congress, consulted the available compilations of French and Spanish laws and considered the decisions of the United States Supreme Court that had been made up to that time (ASP:PL Vol. 6, pg 703).

On October 30, 1833 they passed a resolution adopting the following guiding principles (ASP:PL Vol. 6, pg 710):

- 1st.** That it was the custom of both France and Spain, and formed a part of the policy of those nations in the settling of new countries, to appoint officers, whose business it was, by express regulations, to grant lands to all such of their subjects as might wish to settle in those countries, for the avowed purposes of improving and populating said countries.
- 2d.** That all acts in relation to grants, concessions, warrants, and orders of survey, done and performed by the French and Spanish officers during the time those governments had possession of and exercised the sovereignty over the province of Upper Louisiana, ought to be considered as prima facie evidence of their right to do those acts and perform those duties, and ought to be held and considered binding on the government of the United States, inasmuch as the acts of the officers in said province were not only tolerated but approved by their superiors in power.
- 3d.** That all grants, concessions, warrants, or orders of survey, made and issued by the French or Spanish officers in the late province of Upper Louisiana on or before the 10th day of March, 1804, where the same are not proved to be fraudulent, ought to be confirmed, provided the conditions annexed to the grant have been complied with, or a satisfactory reason given for not fulfilling the same.
- 4th.** That O'Reily's instructions or regulations of 18th February, 1770, those of Gayoso of 9th September, 1797, and those of Morales of 17th July, 1799, were not in force in Upper Louisiana, except, perhaps, the provisions contained in those of Gayoso, which related to new settlers.
- 5th.** That sub-delegates, in making grants, &c., were not limited by any known law or custom as to the quantity of arpents they should grant, except, perhaps, as to new settlers, and that such grants passed title, and that a survey was merely an incidental matter after the title had passed by the grant, so as to identify the land, that the grantee might take possession of it.
- 6th.** That what are called incomplete grants by the custom and practice of the country were recognized as property capable of passing by devise, transferable from one to another, and were liable to be sold for debt.
- 7th.** That those grants which are general in their terms pass as good a title as those which are more special, the difference being in the description of the land, and not in the title.
- 8th.** That those officers of the French and Spanish governments whose names are signed to concessions must be presumed to have acted agreeably to powers vested in them by their sovereign, and that their acts are accordingly legal until the contrary is shown.

- 9th. That fraud is an affirmative charge, and, as relates to the French and Spanish claims, as well as in all other cases, must be proved, and not presumed.
- 10th. That in all cases where there are conditions to a grant, &c., if the grantee shows satisfactorily that he has been prevented from a fulfillment of the conditions by the act of God, by the act of law, by the enemies of the country, or by the act of the party making the grant, or any other sufficient cause, the grantee will be considered as absolved from the performance of the same, and the grant regarded as absolute.

The second board of commissioners submitted their first report of claims of the first class, dated November 27, 1833, to the Commissioner of the General Land Office, who then forwarded the report to the U.S. Senate on January 18, 1834 (ASP:PL Vol. 6, pg 703). The report contained decisions numbered 1 through 142 that the recorder and commissioners recommended for confirmation.



John Hand's claim to 300 arpents and John Taylor's claim to 481 acres 8 poles were recommended for confirmation by the second board of commissioners as Decision Nos. 214 and 281, respectively, of the first class. When surveyed as General Series Survey Nos. 3148 and 3147 in Township 31 North, Range 13 East, they were found to interfere with the settlement claim of William Hand, which had been previously confirmed by the Act of April 29, 1816. Part of Survey No. 3148 had already been sold by the United States government as indicated by the red letter "S". (courtesy of the Missouri State Land Survey)

In June 1833 Alexander Buckner, U. S. Senator for Missouri, along with his wife succumbed to the cholera and died. Missouri Governor Daniel Dunklin appointed Dr. Linn to fill the vacancy (Linn and Sargent, pg 78, 129). By the time the

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Claims to Land and the Second Board of Commissioners

(continued)

first report of the second board of commissioners was submitted to Congress, Dr. Linn had already joined the U. S. Senate. Dr. Linn would eventually end up on the Committee for Private Land Claims.

Albert Harrison resigned as commissioner to the second board and was elected to the U. S. House of Representatives. The second board then having two vacancies could not proceed with its business until those vacancies were filled.

President Jackson nominated James S. Mayfield on February 3, 1834 to replace Dr. Linn (Senate Executive Journal, Vol. 4, pg 347) and he nominated Dr. James H. Relfe on April 8, 1834 to replace Harrison (Senate Executive Journal, Vol. 4, pg 390). The nomination of Mayfield was referred to the Committee on Public Lands in the U. S. Senate and was not approved until April 24, 1834 (Senate Executive Journal, Vol. 4, pg 392). Relfe was approved by the Senate on May 1, 1834 (Senate Executive Journal, Vol. 4, pg 398).

The next iteration of the second board of commissioners with Conway, Mayfield and Relfe resumed the examination of land claims in June 1834. They submitted the second report of claims of the first class, dated December 5, 1834, to the Commissioner of the General Land Office, who then forwarded the report to the U.S. Senate on January 7, 1835 (ASP:PL Vol. 7, pg 773). The report contained decisions numbered 143 through 255 (113 claims) that the recorder and commissioners recommended for confirmation.

At some point early in 1835 James Mayfield was removed from the second board of commissioners. President Jackson nominated Falkland H. Martin on March 3, 1835 to replace him and the U. S. Senate approved the appointment the same day (Senate Executive Journal, Vol. 4, pg 483, 484).

The board was approaching a deadline set by the Act of July 9, 1832, chapter 180, so recorder Conway and commissioner Relfe continued the examination of claims until Martin joined them sometime around August 1835. The final reports of the second board of commissioners, dated September 30, 1835, were sent to the Commissioner of the General Land Office, who then forwarded the reports to the U.S. Senate on December 10, 1835 (ASP:PL Vol. 8, pg 20). The third report of claims of the first class contained decisions numbered 256 through 345 (90 claims) that the recorder and commissioners recommended for confirmation. The report of claims of the second class, being claims considered destitute of merit, contained decisions numbered 1 through 152.

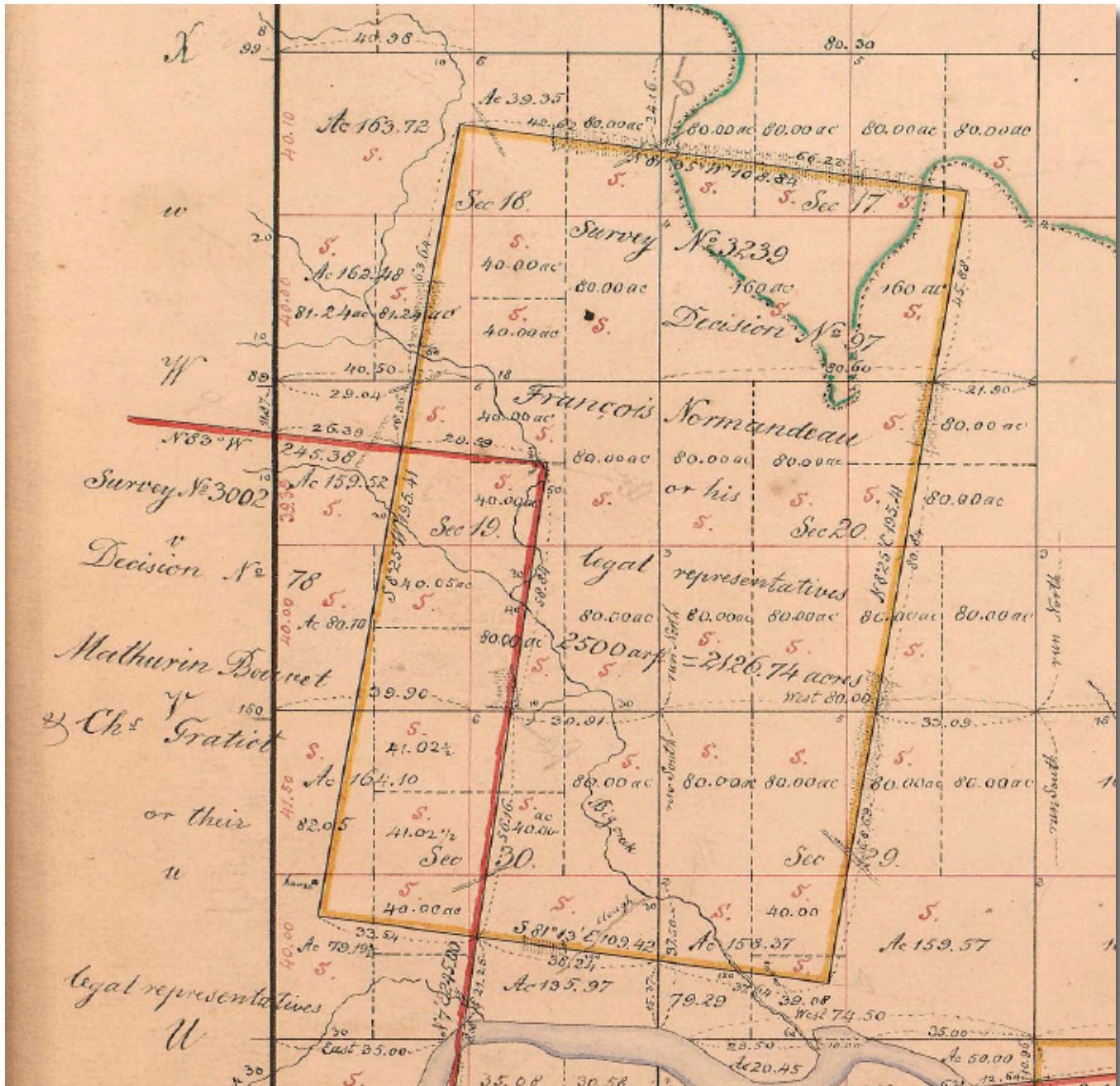
The board further reported that they were not able to complete the investigation of all the claims that they were authorized to examine. There were about seven hundred (700) claims in the State of Missouri that remained unexamined. The board earnestly recommended to Congress that the investigations should continue until the business was finally completed. If Congress should pass an act for that purpose, the board estimated that the work could be completed in another two years (ASP:PL Vol. 8, pg 22).

Congress scrutinized the reports of the recorder and commissioners, particularly questioning the validity of the principles used by them in making their determinations. Congress requested opinions and arguments from the Secretary of the Treasury and the Commissioner of the General Land Office, who further called upon the Attorney General of the United States, who deferred to the legal counsel for the United States that had been arguing the similar cases from Florida in the United States Supreme Court (ASP:PL Vol. 7, pg 581, Vol. 8, pg 789). A thorough examination of the facts was pursued.

When Congress was finally satisfied, they passed the Act of July 4, 1836, chapter 361, An Act confirming claims to land in the State of Missouri, and for other purposes (U. S. Statutes at Large, Vol. 5, pg 126). This act confirmed all of the claims recommended for approval by the recorder and commissioners. However, twenty-nine (29) claims were explicitly excluded from confirmation. Any adverse claimants were reserved the right to assert the validity of their claims in a court or courts of justice.

By that time it was entirely possible that all or part of the lands confirmed by this act had already been sold or claimed by someone else under some other law of the United States. If that was the case, no title was conferred by this act to those lands.

An equivalent amount of land was permitted to be located on any unappropriated land of the United States within the same state or territory. The new locations were to conform to legal divisions and subdivisions.



Francois Normandeau's claim to 2500 arpents was recommended for confirmation by the second board of commissioners as Decision No. 97 of the first class. When surveyed as General Series Survey No. 3239 in Township 56 North, Range 5 west, it was found to interfere with the claim of Mathurin Bouvet and Charles Gratiot. Nearly all of it had already been sold by the United States government as indicated by the red letter "S". (courtesy of the Missouri State Land Survey)

Sources

- American State Papers: Public Lands (ASP:PL)
- Linn, E. A. and Sargent, N., The Life and Public Services of Dr. Lewis F. Linn, for Ten Years a Senator of the United States from the State of Missouri, 1857
- Senate Executive Journal
- U. S. Statutes at Large

Thank You to the Exhibitors & Speakers

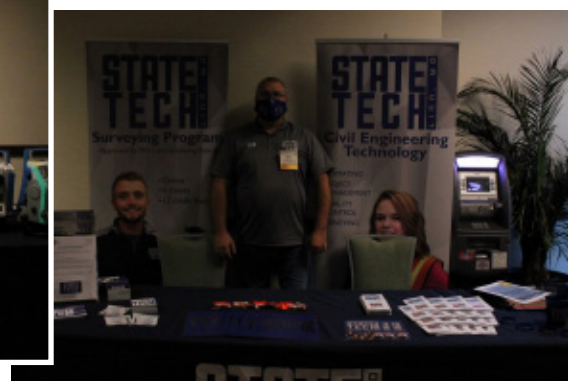
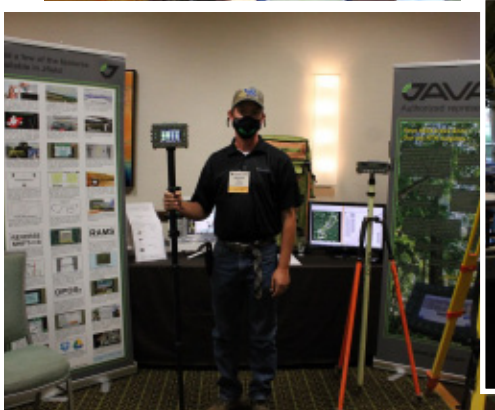
at the 64th Annual Meeting of MSPS hosted at Margaritaville Lake Resort in Osage Beach on October 14-16, 2021.

EXHIBITORS

Carlson Software
Geo-Tronics of Kentucky
HubTack, Inc.
Javad GNSS
Laser Specialists, Inc.
MO Dept. of Agriculture-Land Survey Program
Ozark Laser
Seiler Instrument
State Technical College of Missouri
Surdex Corporation
Surveyors Materials
Topcon Solutions Store
Transit & Level Clinic
Young Surveyors Committee
Zahner & Associates

SPEAKERS

Tom Bryant
Kevin Closson
Matt Davis
Ron Heimbaugh
Scott Howe
Kristopher Kline
Jess Moss
Mark Schnesk
David Sherrill
Pat Stack
Jason Taylor
Jan Van Sickle
and our Panel of Experts



Capitol View

A Look at Surveying Legislative Matters



The MSPS Annual Meeting and Convention in October included reports on proposed legislation regarding laws associated to surveying. The coming session of the Missouri Legislature could shape-up to be an active one with plenty to compel MSPS members to stay attuned. Let's look at some of these matters:

RSMo 327.312 - Land surveyor-in-training applicant for enrollment, qualifications...

In an attempt to balance the challenges of bringing new surveyors into the profession while assuring high standards, the Legislative Committee is taking this on with an effort to revise the qualifications to start the path to licensure. This is a response to concerns within the MSPS membership that the current rules, particularly the amount of time required under immediate supervision of a PLS after one has attained their LSIT have placed undue burdens on prospective surveyors. The result has been to dissuade potential applicants from undertaking this long and sometimes unclear process.

The Committee drafted proposed revisions to RSMo 327 and presented them to the MSPS Board of Directors. The proposals have adopted an approach to tabulate an applicants experience in such a manner that all qualifying work experience supervised by a PLS can be applied to the licensing process without there being a “reset” to the time accumulation post LSIT.

The Committee also sought to simplify the part of the law addressing the amount of “surveying specific” credit-hours applicants are required to attain through approved college curricula. Currently, within the three possible pathways to licensure, there are differing amounts of credit-hours in such courses depending on which manner the prospective surveyor is seeking a license. The three manners one may take are:

- baccalaureate degree in an approved curriculum + 12 credit hours of approved surveying courses
- 60 hours of college credit + 20 hours of approved surveying courses
- 2 years of qualifying experience in land surveying + 12 hours of approved surveying courses

The proposal seeks uniformity in the approved curricula while assuring quality by enhancing the requirements for specific study in the “legal aspects” of land surveying. Thusly, all three manners of application will require 15 credit hours of approved surveying courses of which 6 hours must be specifically in the study of legal aspects.

The MSPS Board has authorized the Committee to move forward. Our lobbyist Lynne Schlosser will keep MSPS members apprised.

Lost corners reestablishment — rules

After the Legislative Committee report, Representative Don Mayhew (District 121; in Phelps and Pulaski Counties), himself a PLS, reported that he will be reintroducing legislation dealing with RSMo's 60.301, 60.315 and 60.345.

This legislative effort benefits from Representative Mayhew's expertise as a practicing surveyor. It is an attempt to correct an inconsistency in the current law in which there are multiple, allowable interpretations regarding the reestablishment of blank $\frac{1}{4}$ corners. As stated in a previous attempt to enact this legislation, this proposal in part was summarized as, “Certain options that can be used to reestablish lost standard corners and lost section and quarter-section corners are repealed and replaced with the single proportionate method.” Or, as Mayhew more directly describes it, “This is proportioning the intent of the GLO.”



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Rep. Don Mayhew

Capitol View (continued)

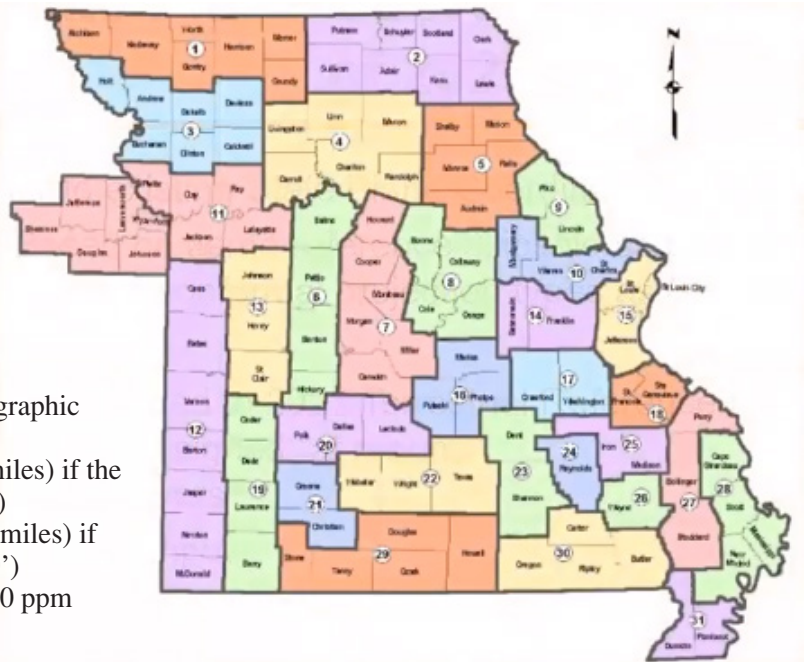
RSMo 60.401 – 60.496 - Missouri state coordinate system


The MSPS Board has voted in favor of draft legislation being sought by the State Land Surveyor (Missouri Department of Agriculture). This legislation represents necessary changes to Chapter 60 of the Missouri Revised Statutes governing the “Missouri state coordinate system.” These needs are a direct result of the Modernized National Spatial Reference System by the NGS.

A critical component of the NGS’s NSRS plan is stakeholder participation. As the State Land Surveyor’s office has undertaken the work of designing a revised coordinate system (see the December 2019 edition of Missouri Surveyor for details), they have sought review, input and commentary from Missouri’s vital stakeholders of the coordinate system. This has entailed the welcome involvement of MSPS and its members, the MSPS Standards Committee, our local Chapters, the Missouri State Office of Geospatial Information and the Missouri GIS Advisory Council. The State Surveyor’s Office has also utilized this publication and direct reports to the MSPS Board as means of direct contact to critical parties.

A notable portion of the proposed legislation is the elimination of language specifying the three coordinate “zones” of the Missouri system. Done in allowance for a new model based on somewhat locally defined “low distortion projections” (LDP). Criteria for LDP’s includes:

- Linear distortion being evaluated at the topographic surface
- Zone width to be a minimum of 50 km (31 miles) if the topographic height range is \leq to 250 m (820’)
- Zone width shall be a minimum of 10 km (6 miles) if the topographic height range is $>$ 250 m (820’)
- Linear distortion design shall be less than ± 50 ppm (1:20,000)



For more information on the NSRS Modernization and the impact to Missouri and our coordinate system, please visit the MSPS Facebook site and view the video presentation Missouri State Plane Coordinate System of 2022. 

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/Missouri-Society-of-Professional-Surveyors-167283653286889/>

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Earl Graham Surveyor of the Year

News from the MSPS Annual Meeting

by Donald Martin

Surveyor of the Year; the oldest award granted by MSPS to a member that gives freely of their time and efforts to our association and toward the betterment of the surveying profession. Criteria for this honor calls for knowledge, integrity and competency as qualifications. As has been the case since it was first awarded in 1987, we have a member who has met the measure of the criteria.

Hailing from the Missouri Lead Belt, our Surveyor of the Year found his path to surveying in the late 1970's while working with plats and descriptions as a draftsman. Into the 1980's he was a survey party member for a large mining interest and the desire to be a RLS began. Moving to an engineering firm, he met a great mentor, Glenn Roberts, LS. The two started their own business in 1986, Mid-West Land Survey of Desloge. This was also when he first joined MARLS.

The 1990's found this surveyor joining with another great mentor, Dan Govero. A seasoned LS by then, our Surveyor of the Year followed Dan's example of service to the profession and became an active participant in the affairs of this society. During this time, he led a significant effort by MARLS to guide MoDOT to compliant practices for the surveys of highway rights-of-way. The 2000's finds our recipient serving as the Director of Surveying for Grimes Consulting of St. Louis County.

This member of more than three decades has answered our call to step-up and serve on the Board of Directors three different times. He was always ready when we needed him. He took up challenges on this association's behalf with sincerity and devotion, both of which are hallmark traits of his character. Then, after offering so much for so long, the presidency of this society was his role fulfill. Again, he was ready. Coinciding with the COVID pandemic, it became another of those great challenges undertaken for MSPS. Leading our affairs and business while herding the committees is never easy, but this surveyor did it during a tough time for us all, most times remotely. He has been "there" for us during this trying term. And today, we are here for him, to honor his contributions.

To announce our recipient, we close with a tribute from the one who knows him best and loves him most. Described solemnly by his wife as "a good Christian man, a good family man," he is the proud father of Samuel, and the devoted husband of Donna. From Park Hills, our 2021 Surveyor of the Year is Missouri LS# 2262, Earl Graham. 🇺🇸



Chris Wickern Honored with the Myers Service Award

News from the MSPS Annual Meeting

by Donald Martin

The Robert E. Myers Service Award. A recognition so significant, we named it after one of our Missouri surveying immortals. It honors a whole career, and is reserved for those with "...more than 10 years of exemplary service and dedication to the surveying profession and in particular to the Society." This year's designee has met those marks with distinction.

"82 Charley!" The Military Occupation Specialty code for a Field Artillery Surveyor in the United States Army. That was the start of our recipient's survey career. Enlisting a mere two weeks after graduating from Cole Camp High School, this surveyor was first a combat engineer and military recruiter before Uncle Sam decided that both he and the Army would be better served by him being a surveyor. Progressing through the ranks, he also made the traditional surveying progression – chainman, instrument operator, recorder. With these came an assent specific to soldier-surveyors; Party Chief, Regimental Chief Surveyor and Brigade Chief Surveyor. So accomplished was our recipient he was selected to be an Instructor for the Surveyor's Basic Course at Ft. Sill.

During the mobilization for Operation Desert Storm in the early 1990's, many Guardsmen and Reservists were being pushed through the Basic Course. One in particular was highly impressed with the caliber of knowledge and skill possessed by this Instructor. The Guardsman was a licensed surveyor from Texas, and he told our award designee, "you should become licensed." An ambition began.

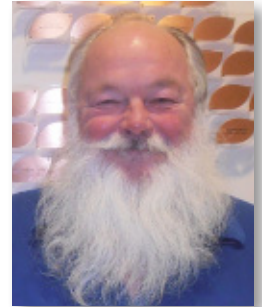
The journey from soldier to surveyor started with meeting a member of the Missouri licensing board. He too echoed the challenge of "you should become licensed." Returning to Missouri upon his military retirement, he began the civilian transition by joining a private firm and enrolling at SMSU. Working under LS supervision and studying culminated in 2000 when he "...became licensed." He has since worked throughout west-central Missouri as a surveyor for Engineering Surveys & Services of Sedalia.

This surveyor then became an active MSPS member, being the leading force in our society's participation for many years with the Missouri State Fair. He also became a noted advocate for preservation of the cadaster. Recent years found him serving as a director and officer of our

association, then becoming our President in 2019.

Considering himself "blessed" to be a surveyor and to be at home in Missouri, a calling to serve his universal home came for this gentleman. He became an ordained deacon of the Catholic Church. This member has noted before the high regard for surveyors found in the Bible, Ezekiel Chapter 40; "He brought me there, and there standing in the gateway was a man whose appearance was like bronze! He held in his hand a linen cord and a measuring rod." Now, he is recognized with our high regard.

This honoree makes his home in Sedalia with his wife Patsy; his high school sweetheart. They are the parents of Eric, Elizabeth and Kyle and have 8 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. The 2021 Myers Service Award is hereby given to Missouri LS# 2000161240 Chris Wickern.



(continued on page 26)

As this edition had gone to press, we got the news that MSPS past President Chris Wickern passed away...

On Sunday morning, November 21st, in the loving presence of his wife and children, Chris Wickern passed away. Described by his wife Patsy as "...a very peaceful passing...", Chris had been blessed in his final days to host many guests who came to see him, express their love, and share hugs with Chris. Mr. Wickern, of Sedalia, was the President of MSPS in 2019. A previous recipient of the MSPS Surveyor-of-the-Year Award, he was awarded the Robert E. Myers Service Award from MSPS a mere month before his passing.

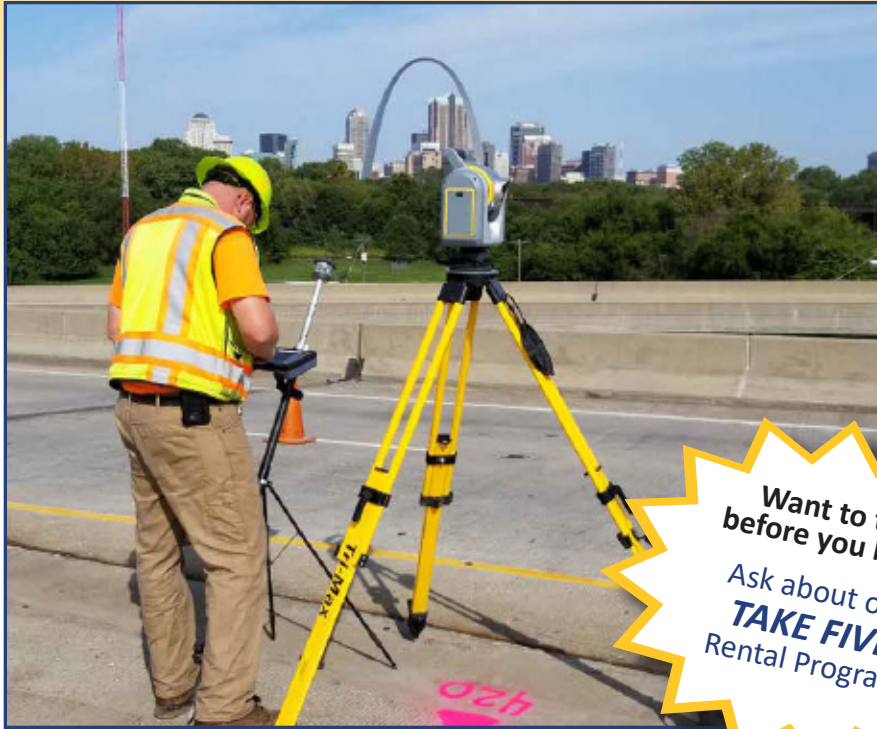


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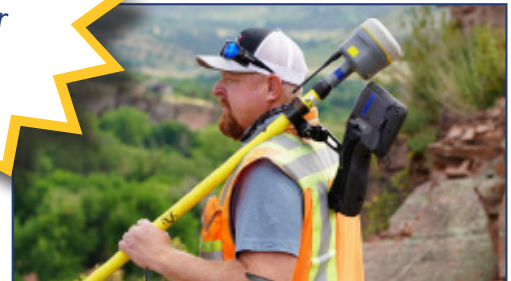
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Upon Receipt of the Myers Memorial Service Award

from Chris Wickern

The importance of the Surveyors role is probably best expressed as written by A.C. Mulford in 1912: “Curiously enough the Surveyor is isolated in his calling... I maintain that in the hands of the Surveyor, to an exceptional degree, lie the honor of the generations past and the welfare of the generations to come; in his keeping is the Doomsday Book of his community, and who shall know if he is false to his trust? Therefore, I believe that to every Surveyor who values his honor and has a full sense of his duty the fear of error is a perpetual shadow that darkens the sunlight.”

This isolation along with a new requirement for licensure brought a need for Missouri Surveyors to speak with one voice and the Missouri Association of Registered Surveyors was born.

Mr. Robert E. Myers distinguished himself in many ways. He worked tirelessly to build his office and the State Land Survey Program. An undertaking that required great skill, statesmanship. An exceptional level of professionalism that could only be achieved with a passion to provide the highest possible service to the public and his fellow professionals. He was a tremendous advocate for us and worked diligently with the Missouri Association of Registered Surveyors and our Society today. I am humbled to have received this award at the 64th annual convention for our Professional Society.

I think back to the many Professional Surveyors who helped mentor me, who helped to form me in my professional service. I was an Artillery Surveyor in the US Army. Before my last overseas tour, I spoke with Gerry Harms PE, PLS seeking advice on entering the profession as a civilian. Mr. Harms was a member of the State Licensing Board at the time. He provided some great guidance I would pursue after my return from my last tour.

I think of many surveyors I worked for as I think of all those who influenced me. Gary Bockman, Rick Wilson, Jerry Day, Mike Johnson, Mike Gray, Marlyn Schuler, John R.M. Nelson, Jim Reed, Mort Ratliff all were ready to discuss issues. Discussions showing there may be many solutions but the key to being a professional is to find the best possible solution, even though it may be less advantageous to our client. Each one a member of this society who served in committees. Several past presidents on that list.

I met many other professionals working in our committees. Jim Anderson, Rich Barr, Stan Emerick, Mark Wiley, Don Martin, Joe Clayton, Rich Howard, Dan Govero, Sharon Herman, Darrell Pratte, Ron Heimbaugh... These are but a few of the professionals who come to my mind today. There are so many others, too many to count. In fact, each member has helps to form us and to be the best professional we can be.

Mr. Myers and many others, most isolated in their practice and separate from others, came together in our common cause. Our Society was formed with the purpose to: “represent the interests of and be a primary spokesman for the surveying profession in Missouri; to elevate the standards of the surveying profession in Missouri, thereby benefiting the general public; to insure that the general public and offices of records receive superior land surveying that brings about an upgrading of land records; to sponsor legislation and educational programs beneficial to the public and Surveyors; and to improve the professional recognition of the surveying profession by the public and by other related professions.”

We have an excellent professional society with professionals giving their time and talents to further our ancient and honored profession. We continue the work of those who came before us. We pray we bring the same dedication and diligence to our Society today. There is no finer place for our field personnel looking to progress than participating in this Society. They are exposed to new technologies and applications. Opportunity to train and experience practices they may never have seen before. At the same time, we are training and handing down to those who are at the beginning of their journey.

There is much work to be done. It really is up to us. Our older surveyors really are our elder statesmen. Highly qualified and well-respected Professionals from the public and private sectors fill our ranks. The simple fact is, there are fewer and fewer licensed surveyors each year. We have not failed to identify the problem, we have yet to reach a consensus.

We need the voices and thoughts of you as members. We need to hear the voices of the field personnel struggling to become licensed and those who are newly licensed.

It is our Society. It is where our thoughts, ideas, and struggles are given voice and consideration. Our professional society is where we take our isolated calling and meet with the unified purpose in our charge to protect the public. There is no one else qualified to voice these concerns. Get involved.

Rich Barr – Lifetime Achievement Award

News from the MSPS Annual Meeting

as presented by Troy Hayes

It is an honor for me to be asked to help present this award. I can't remember for sure when I first met Rich, but I do know when I first was elected to the MARLS board in 1992, that Rich was also elected and being the lifetime achiever that he is, that was his second term on the board. Rich went on the board the first time in the 1960s and ended that term as the President in 1971. It was from that point where I got to know Rich better and he become a mentor to me in my professional career. He also taught me a lot about fine scotch in countless hotel lounges, not to mention a few tips on the game of golf and tracking down wild turkeys during some of the golf outings and hunting trips I had the privilege of joining him on. He is not only a great mentor to me and many others here professionally, he is someone many of us are proud to call a great friend.

I have tried to jot down just a few of the things that I know Rich accomplished during his career that I am aware of and I am sure Jim Anderson has many more that I am not aware of:

- Rich was one of the early leaders, if not founders of MARLS(MSPS).
- Served two terms as director and one term as all officers in MSPS. First term ended in 1972 as immediate past president. Elected to board again in 1992 and most certainly would have been elected an officer then had he not stepped aside to accept an area director position with NSPS. He then nominated me to ascend to officer by acclimation. (So, for those of you that always wondered how I got to be an officer in this group, now you know)
- Rich was our Surveyor-of-the-Year in 1995 and received the Robert E. Meyers Service Award in 1992.
- Rich was also very active in NSPS, our national organization and one of the early proponents for splitting from ACSM. He is a past President of NSPS and held numerous other positions on the NSPS board along with serving for many years as the Missouri Governor to NSPS. It was also Rich that convinced me to become the Missouri Governor and take an active role in NSPS.
- Rich served on the Land Survey Division of the Board of Registration and was active on many

MSPS committees including many years as co-chair with Jim Anderson of our Legislative Committee.

Rich had a long a very successful career as a PLS and PE with Clayton Engineering where he retired as the company President and continued to work as a consultant well into his 80s. Rich proudly served his country in the military and attend UMR on the GI Bill where he earned his engineering degree. Rich was also quite the baseball player in his younger days and played minor league ball in the Indians organization and was elected into the St. Louis Baseball Hall of Fame. It is a great honor for me to be the co-presenter of this award with Jim Anderson who is also a great friend of both Rich and I and has a pretty impressive list of achievements of his own. I will turn the mike over to Jim now for his recollections of Rich. 🇺🇸

Thanks so much for taking the time to send that glorious award and memory book to Rich. He is reading and re-reading it and got sort of emotional; he kept remarking about how so many other people write worse than he does!

*Love,
Barb*

“Thank you” note from Rich’s wife.

2021 MSPS Scholarship Recipients

News from the MSPS Annual Meeting

by Donald Martin

At the 64th Annual Meeting and Convention of MSPS held October 14 – 16, three honored guests were in attendance with a special purpose. They were this year’s recipients of the MSPS Non-Traditional Student Scholarships. They hail from corner-to-corner of Missouri with another filling in the middle. But more importantly, they are the finest examples of the those we need joining our profession. MSPS should be proud to contribute to the studies and success of these three. They are:

J. Logan Dowd of Leopold, Missouri

Mr. Dowd may already seem a bit familiar to MSPS members. He was a contributor to Missouri Surveyor (December, 2020) and the recipient of our Pirrie Memorial Scholarship in 2013. Since then, Logan has garnered six and one-half years of surveying work experience. He has passed his Fundamentals of Surveying examination and is currently a Board certified LSIT.



Dowd found his surveying ambitions early on while still a high school student. Assigned to interview an adult engaged in the type of work the youthful student thought he wanted to pursue, he interviewed an engineer. In a moment of unique candor during the interview, the engineer told our young student that if she had to do it all over again, she would be a surveyor. Logan was intrigued and decided to look into surveying a bit further. He “job shadowed” a working surveyor conducting an ALTA survey on a blustery, snowy day. Not deterred by the wind and cold, Logan was thrilled with the experience. It was then when he set his sights on surveying!

A high school counselor set Mr. Dowd up with information about the MSPS Pirrie scholarship and then he was off to Southeast Missouri State University and their Construction Management program. Learning that the program’s surveying courses were not approved by the Board of Registration, he moved his academic interest to State Technical College

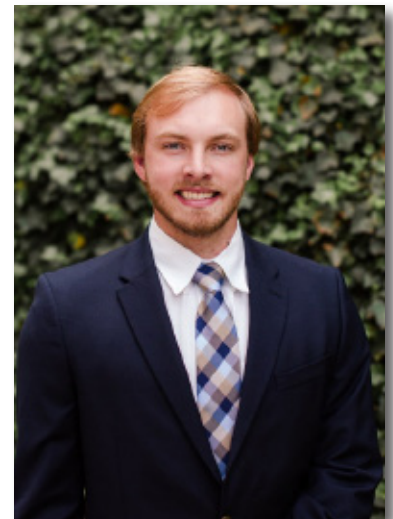
in Linn, Missouri. It was there he attained the necessary requirements to sit for the LSIT exam.

Concerned that too much of his field and office experience was focused on surveying practices for engineering, Logan joined the team of Mathis and Associates in Poplar Bluff specifically intent on gaining boundary surveying experience and learning. He wishes to augment his workplace education with a Surveying Engineering Technology degree from the University of Maine. Since enrolling there in the fall of 2020 he has completed the courses of Adjustment Computations, Photogrammetry, Advanced Surveying and several others.

He will apply this scholarship to the spring of 2022 semester in which he is already enrolled. Good luck Mr. Dowd and congratulations!

Jakob Erdman of Windsor, Missouri

Jakob Erdman is as-busy-of-a-person as you will ever meet. A recent BSCE graduate now working with GRAM Engineering of Sedalia, he is also an officer in the Free Masons, and Adjunct Instructor of drafting, and a city alderman in his hometown of Windsor. And now he wants to add being a student of surveying to the mix! Well, more power to him and the MSPS Non-Traditional Scholarship will help.



A member of the first class of engineering students at William Jewel College in Liberty, Missouri, Erdman was there helping with the move-in and setup of the new program’s classes and laboratories. After graduation he joined GRAM Engineering where he foresaw applying his engineering talents to land development. Indeed, on his first field trips accompanying surveyors, he would mull-over preliminary designs on the very land he was walking on. Along the way, whether he was joined by staff surveyors or contract partners, Jakob started to see and enjoy the work of surveying.

Working throughout the Sedalia/Truman Lake vicinity he has begun his surveying tutelage working along beside mentors such as Chris Wickern and Jack Dill. So interested in what he has learned and so intent on gathering more experience, Erdman has made a literal investment in his future by purchasing the surveying equipment which will be utilized for his firm's field projects. He will pair with supervising PLS's on GRAM projects to attain the experience requirements to qualify for the LSIT examination.

The education portion of Jakob's surveying intentions will come through the program of Oklahoma State University. Having already spent a small fortune on instruments and equipment, Erdman particularly appreciates being awarded the MSPS scholarship.

MSPS applauds your ambition Mr. Erdman and we are proud to stand with you as you embark on the journey to becoming a PLS!

Katie Jones of Rolla, Missouri.

What do you do if you graduate from college and seek to enter the workforce during a pandemic? Just as many people were being sent home and businesses could not "make" payroll, you are supposed throw-off your cap and gown, march around with your new degree in hand, open doors and proclaim, "I am here! Hire me!" to the empty office suites of

a not-hiring world. What would you do? Well, I guess there is always surveying! That is what this scholarship recipient did, and in the process, she has found a calling.

Originally from Sugar Creek, Missouri, Katie Jones was Rolla bound after high school. Enrolling at the Missouri University of Science & Technology, this young lady with a love of nature, the outdoors and wildlife imagined a future as an environmental engineer. A focused, good student, all was going fine for four years when the then senior took an elective in geology and found out – wait for it...it was fun! Reflecting on her studies up until then, she realized that environmental engineering was maybe more engineering than environmental. Quickly, Geology became the major and she soon earned her baccalaureate in Geology and Geophysics.

With geology opportunities suffering from the same scare as the rest of the world, career aspirations were starting to look like they would be delayed until a time we all returned to work. Ms. Jones did find one geological opportunity and of all places it was with the U.S. Forest Service. Applying for the position, she was informed there were actually two openings they were considering her for; geology and surveying. Naturally, since she had a degree in geology, and they are a government agency, they offered her a job as a survey technician! Naturally. Well enough, because in a pandemic, surveying looks pretty good.

More than pretty good, it has come to be a passion and an interesting endeavor for Katie. Working along with her supervisor and mentor Chris Ferguson, she is already a valued member of the USFS survey parties. Jones has completed some of her course-work in surveying through State Tech in Linn, and now seeks to continue her studies through the University of Maine.

MSPS is pleased that Katie Jones has joined the surveying community of Missouri, and it is our honor to award to you this scholarship.

Congratulation's recipients! MSPS now awaits the happy day when you will stand before the rank-and-file at an annual meeting and take the oath as a Professional Land Surveyor. We will be proud to be there with you, and we are proud today of what you are working towards. 🇺🇸



Katie Jones and Chris Ferguson at her first U.S. Survey corner reestablishment. This was on a Fish & Wildlife job up near St. Louis; the corner that was set had been considered lost since 1865.

Curt Sumner Attends MSPS Annual Meeting

News from the MSPS Annual Meeting

by Donald Martin

NSPS Executive Director since 1998 Curt Sumner joined MSPS members at the Annual Meeting on October 15th at Osage Beach. He was accompanied by J.B. Byrd, the lobbyist for NSPS who shared a brief presentation with the audience titled Federal Issues Facing the 117th Congress, Impacting the Surveying Profession.

Sumner is Retiring

After 23 years at the helm as Executive Director for NSPS, Curt Sumner is retiring. Having been the NSPS President in 1997, he took on the day-to-day operations of the national association in 1998. Previously, Curt had been a surveyor in the Virginia commonwealth and owned his own practice.

Sumner's tenure with NSPS has been an acclaimed success. Taking the reins during a time of fiscal adversity for the organization, he has faced numerous issues within the Society effectively. The results have been a legacy of good stewardship and winning leadership. Hallmarks of his service era include NSPS leaving its past partnership in the American Congress of Surveying and Mapping to flourish as an independent entity, substantial increases in the number of members, the establishment of joint-membership between the national and state associations, and a recognizable profile among other professional societies and elected officials.

In recognition of Curt's contributions and accomplishments, the NSPS Board has proclaimed Mr. Sumner to be the NSPS Executive Director Emeritus. While this is a means of honoring this fine man, it comes with some practical worth for the organization by assuring there will be a passing of his institutional knowledge and a steady hand to assist the incoming Executive Director.

Regarding Missouri's surveying community, Mr. Sumner had a simple and sincere message, "[I] really just want thank MSPS for its support through the years."

Federal Issues Impacting the Surveying Profession

As mentioned above, NSPS and our nation's surveying community has a recognized profile with elected officials in our nation's capital. Built over time through partnerships with other professions' associations having similar legislative ambitions as NSPS, J.B. Byrd is the person working the halls-of-Congress on our behalf. He shared the news with attending members of those issues particularly related to the interests of surveyors and reviewed some accomplishments of the past year. They include:

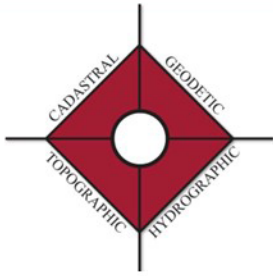
- After NSPS hosted a virtual Congressional "Day on the Hill" program in April that helped result in a "geomatics" provision in the Senate-passed Infrastructure bill. Another win followed with a \$5 million appropriation amendment to the House on the Interior appropriations bill for FY2022, providing for USGS to begin a land level change subsidence program.
- NSPS cosigned coalition letters for robust funding of NOAA's Digital Coast program, USGS 3DEP, USGS Stream gauges, and FEMA flood mapping and won a \$5 million increase in 3DEP in the House bill making appropriations for the Department of the Interior.



Curt Sumner at the NSPS Fall Business Meeting 2021. Photo courtesy of Norm Ellerbrock.

(continued on page 32)

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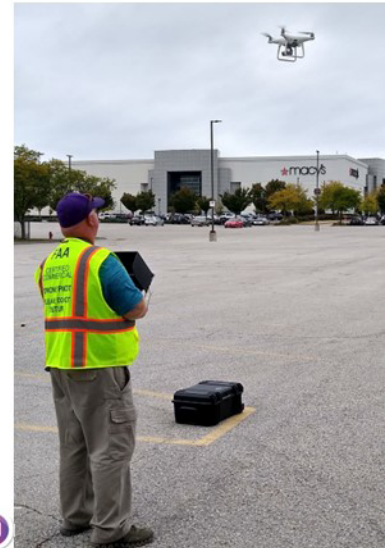
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Curt Sumner Attends MSPS Annual Meeting *(continued)*

- Lobbied Congress and the White House to press for action on the Highway Bill and comprehensive infrastructure legislation.
- Helped to introduce the FEMA flood mapping reform IMAGES Act in the House, and FIRM IT Act in both the House and Senate.
- Helped to introduce the FLAIR Act, FIRESHEDS Act and MAPLand Act in the both the House and Senate.
- Secured a provision in the House Financial Services and General Government Funding bill for FY2022, prohibiting the General Services Administration (GSA) from awarding or facilitating the award of any contract for the provision of architectural, engineering, and related services including surveying and mapping in a manner inconsistent with the Brooks Act.

The briefing was closed with Byrd speaking about the importance of members contributing to the NSPS PAC. Citing the PAC's success rate of results from campaign contributions (95% win rate for the 2020 Federal Elections), JB continued with a plea that members join the Jefferson Club. This is NSPS's PAC contributors of \$500 and more. This support is invaluable to NSPS's ability to secure the interests of surveyors in the political arena. As PAC Chair Jon Warren says, "...you either take part, or you get taken apart. It's our government! Politics is NOT a spectator sport. Take part in the surveying profession today by making a contribution to the NSPS PAC."

For more information on the NSPS PAC, the Jefferson Club and a message from PAC Chair Jon Warren, please visit the following websites: 



JB Byrd (left) with Rep. Jason Smith (R-MO), 8th Congressional District.

The NSPS PAC - <https://www.nspis.us.com/page/PAC>

The Jefferson Club - <https://www.nspis.us.com/page/JeffersonClub>

The Drive to 75 Campaign - <https://www.nspis.us.com/page/Driveto75?&hhsearchterms=%22drive+and+75%22>



Mark Your Calendar for

2022 Spring Workshop April 30 - May 1, 2022

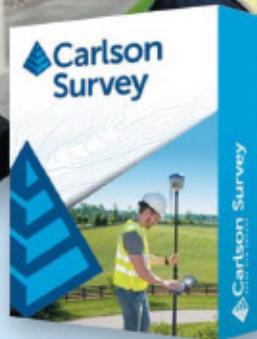


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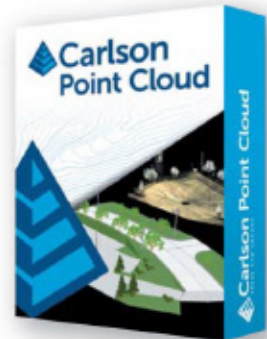
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Newly Licensed Missouri Land Surveyors for 2020-2021

News from the MSPS Annual Meeting

MSPS proudly welcomes the following individuals recently granted their licenses as Missouri Land Surveyors to our community. Congratulations!

Many of our newest LS's joined us at the MSPS Annual Meeting (indicated in the list below by the *).

Bazan, Brent A.	Bloomington, Illinois	*
Beasley, Jason R.	Licking, Missouri	*
Boeh-Cerra, Sarah J.	Troy, Kansas	*
Brooks, Brett Michael	Maplewood, Missouri	
Crotts, Clayton D.	Lincoln, Arkansas	
Darr, Cody Alan	Columbia, Missouri	*
Ditch, Jeremiah D.	Union, Missouri	
Flake, Darrell D.	Columbia, Missouri	*
Forbis, Derek	Glasgow, Missouri	*
Gaston, William Doyle	West Monroe, Louisiana	
Haslag, Christopher R.	Bonnot's Mill, Missouri	
Johnson, Mark E.	O'Fallon, Missouri	
Jones, David Wayne, Jr.	Overland Park, Kansas	*
Kehoe, Luke Richard	Dardenne Prairie, Missouri	
Lamb, Joshua R.	Tulsa, Oklahoma	
Mason, Johnny M.L.	Gentry, Arkansas	
Meaike, Tarron E.	Council Bluffs, Iowa	
Miller, Richard Todd	Lake Ozark, Missouri	
Mueller, Gary S.	Nashville, Illinois	
Parsell, Dana Andrew	Van Buren, Ohio	
Phipps, Nicholas Cole	Chattanooga, Tennessee	
Ridgely, Austin	Parkersburg, Illinois	*
Riley, Dustin G.	Bentonville, Arkansas	*
Rowe, Terry Lee	Spring, Texas	
Rowsell, Jonathan Andrew	Saint Louis, Missouri	*
Shepherd, Dustin Len	Maryville, Missouri	*
Shultz, Neil Charles	Uniontown, Pennsylvania	
Stocklausner, Jacob E.	Springfield, Missouri	*
Terry, Aaron R.	Saint Louis, Missouri	*
West, D. Steven, Jr.	Lenexa, Kansas	*
Womble, Kevin M.	Fenton, Missouri	*
Young, Thomas A.	Jackson, Tennessee	



National Geodetic Survey

Positioning America for the Future

New OPUS Projects Software Available for Beta Testing

October 21, 2021

The NGS Continuously Operating Reference Station (CORS) branch chief was invited to join the International GNSS Service Infrastructure Committee. The committee is a forum of experts that develops policies and standards and launches initiatives to maintain and improve Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS) data and information systems. Initiatives before the committee include network monitoring, performance metrics, guidelines station installation and operation, data exchange formats, and real-time activities.

NGS Conducts Survey at NASA Goddard Observatory

October 15, 2021

NGS collaborated with staff at NASA's Goddard Geophysical and Astronomical Observatory to conduct a full reconnaissance of survey control marks and geodetic techniques in preparation for a full site survey scheduled for spring 2022. This effort required finding historic onsite reference marks that are critical to operations, touring the site to establish a plan to locate new equipment, and working with staff on logistics. NGS employees also spoke with colleagues from NASA and the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers in a discussion about the quantifying deformation of Goddard's Very Long Baseline Interferometry (VLBI).

NGS Presents at Civil GPS Committee Meeting

October 8, 2021

NGS Director Juliana Blackwell gave the keynote speech at the plenary session of the U.S. Coast Guard Civil GPS Service Interface Committee (CGSIC). The CGSIC is a forum for interaction between civil GPS users and U.S. GPS authorities. Blackwell spoke on the past, present, and future of GPS, with a focus on GPS and Global Navigation Satellite System infrastructure.

NGS Adds Popular Software to GitHub

October 1, 2021

NGS has added some of its most-used applications to the software-sharing platform, GitHub. GitHub allows users to explore the repository, find applications that meet their specific needs, build on what has already been constructed for those applications, and contribute their own work. NGS applications added include NCAT (the NGS Coordinate Conversion and Transformation Tool); HTDP (Horizontal Time-Dependent Positioning); and ADJUST, the NGS least-squares adjustment application. NGS will continue to add software applications to the GitHub platform while phasing out its downloadable software programs.

(continued on next page)

NGS News & Events *(continued)*

New OPUS Projects Software Available for Beta Testing

September 24, 2021

NGS has just released its Online Positioning User Service (OPUS) Projects version 5.0 software to a beta server for external testing. For the first time, OPUS Projects 5.0 lets users upload survey data, such as multi-Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS) vectors, from a single-base real-time kinematic survey setup, a real-time network, or post-processing systems for evaluation, quality assessment, and inclusion in a survey network. OPUS Projects will align the data to the National Spatial Reference System. The GNSS vectors must be uploaded in a standard, exchangeable file format called GVX. Example GVX files for entry in OPUS Projects are available online. NGS is working closely with the geospatial industry to create tools for converting GNSS vector data from GNSS equipment and commercial software to GVX files. 🇺🇸

Tee off at 1:00 pm *(continued)*

The meeting went well with Judge Golf. Golf was no dummy by any means and he did have a working knowledge of interpreting a survey drawing. He said, “Larry, it looks like Mr. Appleseed has 35 fruit trees on Mr. Kubota’s property”. I replied, “Yes, that is correct.” Next, he looks at the survey drawing and studies it. After a period of time he said, “Looks like the barn in the northwest corner of Mr. Kubota’s property is very close to his west property line and I can see where you have given dimensions to the barn. About 6 feet, is that correct?” I replied, “Yes, that is correct.” “Your survey shows a stockade wooden fence around the barn and a portion of that fence would be west of the property line onto Mr. Appleseed’s property. Correct?” I replied, “Correct.” “Whose fence is it?” “Judge, I would think it would be Mr. Kubota’s fence. The fence doesn’t look to be very old and it has a loading ramp built into it. Mr. Kubota did have cattle on his place. The fence location also gives ample room for a tractor, other farm implements, etc. to enter the rear of the barn for storage purposes. I recall a hay rake being stored therein.”

“Larry, thanks for coming up this morning, I just wanted to make sure and double check that I was reading your survey drawing correctly. It’s somewhat of a shame that they could not resolve this matter on their own; but that’s why we, the courts, are here and we will deal with their dispute today. You have been to the site; it is somewhat difficult for a judge to visualize the actual field conditions from their chambers or from the court room bench. What do you think should happen here today?” “It appears to me that both parties are at fault. Kubota probably got aggressive with his fence building and Appleseed got aggressive with planting trees. I think I would alter the property line so that both parties would own what they are occupying and using. The fruit trees are not an eye sore and the barn yard is in the rear of the property away from other houses etc. It would be about an equal swap in land area and probably in the cost, fence and fruit trees would equal out as well.”

I was up at the local court house a lot doing record research etc. Back then, years ago, you could just walk into the courts building and sit in and listen to any case that was being tried. No security checks etc. like it is today. Since I was already at the court house, I decided I would stay and listen to the Kubota / Appleseed case. I had sat in on other cases in the past and I did learn a lot and felt it prepared me for court cases when I would be called to be an expert witness. I found it to be a lot different from what you see on TV: Judge Judy, Perry Mason, etc.

Judge Golf came into the court room promptly at 10:00 pm. The clerk, bailiff, two young attorneys, etc. were all ready for the judge to call the court in session. I am not going to give you a play-by-play detail account of the court room procedure; however, Judge Golf made it apparent he was in no mood for any long theatrics by the young attorneys. Kubota’s attorney,

Bulldog Sickem, started off by saying “Judge, this case isn’t about the money but.” Bulldog didn’t get to finish his statement as Judge Golf’s gavel came down hard making a loud noise. Judge Golf says, “It’s always about money, now proceed and get on with it young man.” Yes, Judge Golf pushed that trial through in record time. In my opinion, the true important facts were heard and I did like the judge’s ruling on the case.

Judge Golf ruled both parties were at fault, Kubota with his fence and Appleseed with his fruit trees. He ordered that a new property line be established between Kubota and Appleseed. The new property line would be so placed on the ground that Appleseed would own the property where he had planted the 35 fruit trees, and in a like manner, Kubota would retain his barnyard fence. In his opinion, the value of the land swap and value of the improvements made thereon were close to the same value. Therefore, no money damage was awarded to either party. Both parties were to share equally the cost of a survey, legal descriptions, filing fees etc. that would be needed to accomplish this property line adjustment.

Well, court is over. As Judge Golf is leaving the court room he spots me, looks at his watch and gives me thumbs up, and then he swings both hands as if he has a golf club in his hands. I just smiled and gave him a golf swing back. He nods and leaves the court room.

As some may know, old surveyors love to tell war stories and it is commonly known that they may juice them up a bit. That is considered OK and not out of bounds to do so. However, the above is based on true events. The names have been changed to protect the innocent or guilty parties.

In closing; I think Kubota knew where the property line was all along but just decided to disregard the property line and erect a fence that met his needs. I think that Appleseed assumed he owned the land where he planted additional trees but should have ordered a survey prior to planting. As for attorneys, like Bulldog Sickem, and for those surveyors that don’t know when their life is being threatened with a firearm; well, maybe the best thing we can do for those boys is to pray for some divine guidance! Some would say that Judge Golf’s golf game was more important than his duties as a Judge. Actually, I think that the Judge had his priorities intact. Maybe some of us need to think about playing a little more golf and not spend so much time on trivial things.

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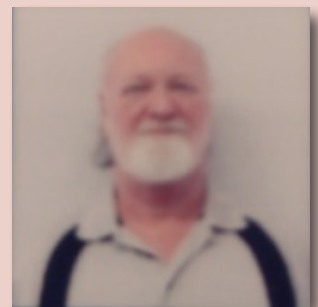
In Memory of Randy Jay Bilyeu

Randy Jay Bilyeu, age 68, of Bixby, Oklahoma passed away on October 15, 2021 in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

The former City Surveyor of Joplin, Missouri, Mr. Bilyeu was a land surveyor for many years. Prior to service with the city government of Joplin, Bilyeu was in private practice, plying his trade of surveying throughout southwestern Missouri under the banner of Bilyeu & Associates.

Mr. Bilyeu was born July 1, 1953 in Springfield, Missouri to the late union of John and Patsy (Lea) Bilyeu. On St. Valentine’s Day of 1998, he and Leslie Sue (Foreman) Bilyeu were joined in marriage in Branson, Missouri. Together they shared 23 beloved years before his passing.

Randy is lovingly survived by his wife, Leslie of the home; and his step-son Gerad Millhollon of Joplin.



In Memory of Jim Exler

James “Jim” Robert Exler was born May 24, 1960 in St. Louis, MO; the son of Raymond Exler and his wife Loretta (nee` Hermeyer). He passed away October 4, 2021 at the age of 61 years. He received his education at Nativity Grade School and St. John The Baptist-Gildehaus grade schools. He graduated from Washington High School in Washington, Missouri. Later, Jim attended East Central College in Union, earning an Associate of Applied Science Degree and Florissant Valley College where he earned a Surveying Degree. He made his home in Villa Ridge, MO.



Jim was a Civil Engineering Designer and employed over the years for multiple companies, including Zavrados Engineering, Musler Engineering Company, and most recently at Premier Design Group in St. Louis, Missouri. He was a member of Immaculate Conception Church in Union. Jim belonged to numerous organizations including the Knights of Columbus Fr. Berten’s Council #1927 in Dutzow, Missouri, and the Missouri Society of Professional Land Surveyors. He also enjoyed his time playing softball in Dutzow and anything that had do with cars. What Jim loved most was spending time with his family and friends, and he will be greatly missed.

He was preceded in death by his father, Raymond Exler; and one sister, Sandy Kehr. He is survived by his mother, Loretta Exler of Washington, MO; one brother-in-law, John Kehr of Washington, MO; one niece, Dawn Hagen and husband John of Glencoe, MO; one nephew, Chris Kehr and partner Nicolas Beck of Eureka, MO; two great-nieces: Sandra Grace Hagen and Emma Marie Hagen; and many other relatives and friends.

A Funeral Mass was held October 7, 2021 at Immaculate Conception Church in Union, MO which Fr. Joe Post officiated.

In Memory of Martin T. Wasson

Martin “Marty” Timothy Wasson of New London, Missouri, passed away on August 17, 2021. He was 48 years-old. A memorial service celebrating Marty’s life was held on August 21, 2021. Marty was born on April 15, 1973, in Hannibal, Missouri the son of Roger L. and Margaret Suzanne (Golden) Wasson.



Survivors include his children Shelby Wasson of Tulsa, Oklahoma, Kayla Wasson of Hannibal, and Joshua Wasson of New London; brothers, Brian Wasson (Manila) of Anaheim, California and Rodney Wasson of Olathe, Kansas; sister, Laurie Wasson of Las Vegas, Nevada; nieces and nephews, Jacob Beckwith, Brandon Wasson, Daniel Wasson, Christian Wasson, Fiona Marie Formaran, Hannah Wasson and Isabella Wasson; numerous aunts, uncles and cousins; and his dog’s he cherished, Delilah and Cooper. Marty was preceded in death by his parents and his stepmother, Rebecca Wasson.

Martin graduated from Hannibal High School in the class of 1990. He went on to pursue his dream of being a surveyor. In 2004, he started Wasson Land Surveying, LLC. Marty was the County Surveyor for Ralls, Pike, Monroe, Shelby and Randolph counties. Marty took pride in his work, knowing that a good survey was important - due diligence was given to the landowners he served.

Away from work, Marty loved spending time with his family. Trips to the river camp, fishing and boating on the Mississippi, hunting for deer and turkey were all things that Marty enjoyed doing with his family. Marty was known for making the best fried catfish and the best rib eye steaks. Marty was also a very talented guitarist that loved to rock out. Kiss was his all-time favorite group and he loved to see them in concert. Marty was serving on the Ralls County Electric Cooperative Board at the time of his passing.

Marty was a member of Holy Family Catholic Church, where he was actively involved in Adoration and had attended several Cursillos over the years.

In Memory of Gene Basinger

Curtis Eugene “Gene” Basinger, 74, of Hartsburg passed away on November 13, 2021 in Columbia, Missouri.

Gene was born on February 12, 1947, in St. Ann, Missouri to the late Wiley and Lola (Logwood) Basinger. He was united in marriage to Teri Elkin on October 18, 1975 in Columbia and she survives at their home.

Gene became a draftsman at McDonnell-Douglas in the late 60’s. He later became a rodman and draftsman for an engineering and surveying firm in Columbia, working his way up to party chief. In 1978 he attained his surveying license and started Basinger Surveying. In 1989, he sold his business to Marshall Engineering and continued working on his own while sharing office space with Bill Marshall and his successors. He served long-time clients under Basinger Surveying until his passing.

Gene was a member of MARLS/MSPS throughout his career. A member of their Legislative Committee since 1983, he also served on Standards and Nominating Committees. Gene carefully vetted legislation proposed by MARLS/MSPS, concerned with its impacted on the surveying profession. He was closely involved with the legislation which created the Land Survey Division of the licensing board. A friend and mentor to several mid-Missouri surveyors, Gene was a big believer in recording surveys so other surveyors could know what he did and agree with his surveys.

Gene loved to hunt and fish, and thoroughly enjoyed spending time at the Lake of the Ozarks. He enjoyed teaching young people to ski. He had many friends both in Columbia and at the Lake that were his extended family.

The family would like to extend a special thank you to the CICU nurses, doctors, and residents of the University Hospital in Columbia for their extraordinary care for Gene.

Friends were received and a service held on November 20th in Columbia. He was interred at Memorial Park Cemetery. Memorial donations can be made to Central Missouri Humane Society of Columbia.



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