

THE FLORIDA SURVEYOR

December 2025
Volume XXXIII, Issue 11



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Surveyors in Government
Olde Florida Maps





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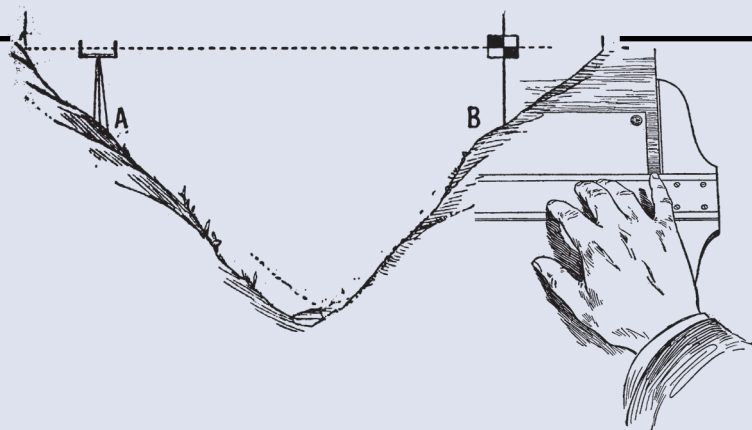
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THE FLORIDA SURVEYOR is the official publication of the Florida Surveying and Mapping Society, also known as FSMS. It is published monthly for the purpose of communicating with the professional surveying community and related professions who are members of FSMS. Our award winning publication informs members eleven months out of the year about national, state, and district events and accomplishments, as well as articles relevant to the surveying profession. In addition, continuing educational courses are also available.

PRESIDENT'S Message

December 2025



Members,

Last month I was able to attend the South Florida Global GIS Day Celebration at the UF Research and Education Center in Davie. A Story Map student competition with undergraduate and graduate student categories was held, and I must say, I was blown away with the ways that data can be conveyed and made easily understandable. I want to wish all competitors a job well done.

This month I was privileged to be invited to speak at the Indian River Chapter Christmas Party. It was a great event led by Chapter President Marla Moore. Cobb's Landing is a great location, and we were fortunate enough to have our President-Elect, Brion Yancy and Board Members Howard Ehmke, Earl Soeder and John Liptak in attendance.

On a personal note, I would like to share a recent story from within my family. I grew up in the sun. When the weekends rolled around my family and I were boating, camping or working in the yard, rarely with sun protection. My wife, to a lesser extent, did the same. But as we had our family, to my wife's credit, she always made sure that our two boys wore sun block, sometimes to the point of my annoyance. Fast forward, my boys are now 20 and 22; they too love the outdoors.

My youngest decided a few years ago to start detailing cars for college money. He was moderately good about wearing sun block, but not always. Recently, he had an appointment with his dermatologist and found out that he had Melanoma. Thankfully, it was caught fairly early and two surgeries later, we were done; or so we thought. His latest appointment found an abnormal mole that will now need to be removed. Again, we are so thankful that it was



President

Robert Johnson

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PRESIDENT'S Message

caught early, but I want to make a point to all the membership that due to the profession we are in, cancer – skin cancer especially, can't be ignored.

The three main types of skin cancer are: Basil Cell Carcinoma, Squamous Cell Carcinoma, and the most serious of the three, Melanoma. All are curable if caught early.

Several risk factors that make us more susceptible to skin cancer, including light colored eyes, blond or red hair, fair or freckled skin, if you spend a lot of time in the sun, or have family history of skin cancer, have numerous or irregular-shaped moles, if you're easily sunburned or have a history of sunburns.

Things to watch for:

New growths, changing moles, scaly patches, or sores that don't heal, and the ABCDE's of existing moles or new growths.

- A: Asymmetry (irregular shape)
- B: Border (blurry or irregularly shaped edges)
- C: Color (mole with more than one color)
- D: Diameter (larger than a pencil eraser)
- E: Evolving (changing in shape, size, or color)

Other signs to look for:

A sore that bleeds, crusts, or won't heal; itchy or tender spots, scaly, and rough patches.

(Cleveland Clinic)

I highly recommend scheduled dermatology screenings twice a year. It's so Important.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert N. Johnson

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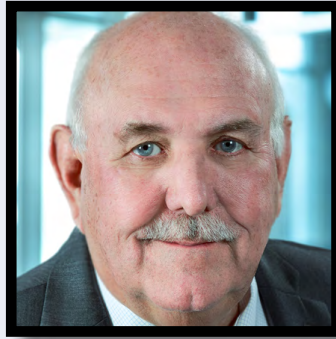


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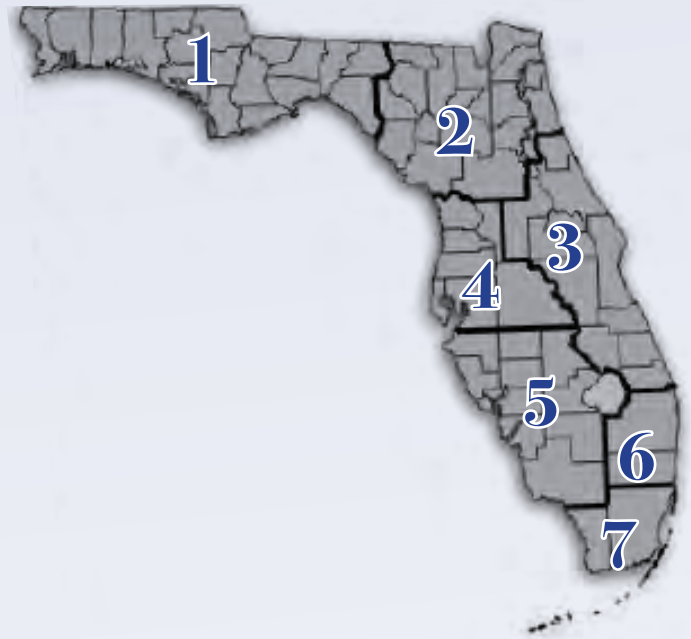
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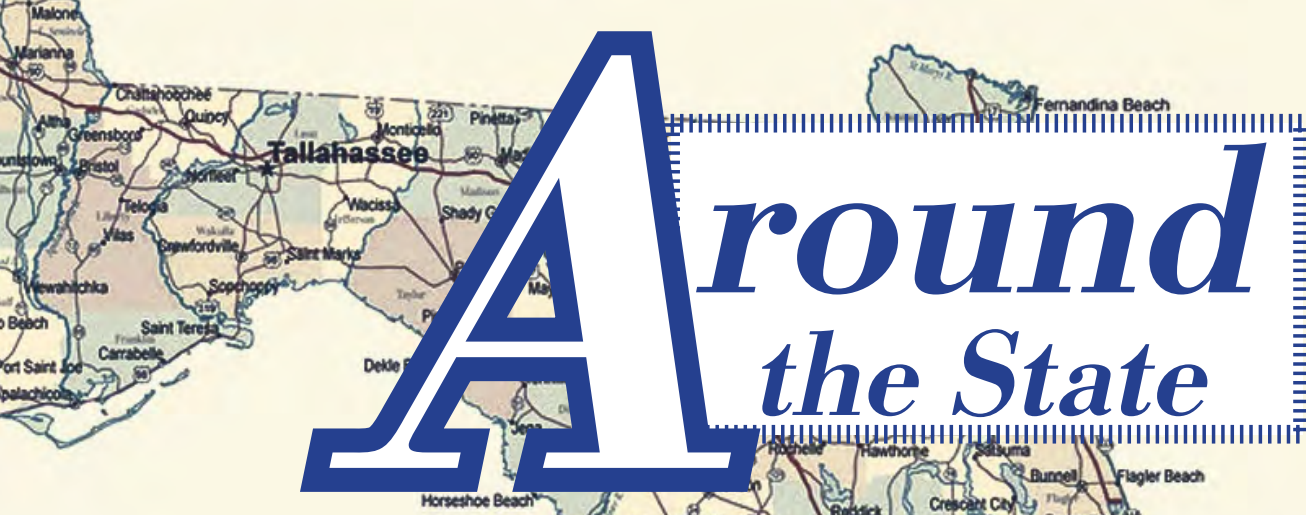
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Young Surveyors Network	Joseph Samberg



Tim Morris, PSM – District 4 Director

I recently had the honor of swearing in our Florida Surveying and Mapping Society Ridge Chapter 2026 slate of officers. I am extremely thankful to have these individuals donate their time & energy to keep this great chapter moving forward in a positive direction.

Jeff Ammermann – President

Harley-Davidson Motor Company (HFD) – Vice President

Sherry Kirkland – Treasurer

Karol Hernandez, – Secretary

Fun fact: 50% of our officers are women & 100% are University of Florida Geomatics Alumni!





Central Florida Chapter

Thank you all for an incredible FSMS Central FL Chapter meeting!

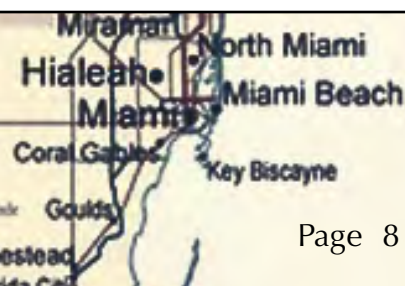
We're still buzzing from the inspiring session with our special guest, Dave Doyle (Retired NGS Chief Geodetic Surveyor), who opened our minds on "Are You Ready for 2025?" and the evolving world of datum transformations.

A huge thank-you also goes to: Southeastern Surveying and Mapping Corp. for generously sponsoring the food and keeping us energized throughout the day, as well as UF IFAS Mid-Florida Research and Education Center for hosting our hybrid gathering in Apopka.

Your enthusiasm and support made this event both productive and memorable. Looking forward to the next chapter meeting!

Organized by Central Florida Chapter FSMS Officers:

Edwin Munoz, PSM - President, Ralph A. Nieto - Vice President, Tim Jaskiewicz - President Elect, Marco Krieger - Secretary, Betty Morris, GISP - Treasurer, Allen (Al) Quickel, PSM - District 3 Director, Bill Rowe - Director, Chris LaBerge, PSM - Director, Christy Graves - Director, John Gray - Associate Director, Dr. Youssef Omar Kaddoura - Associate Director, Colton Locklin - Associate Director, Kenneth Dell SIT - Associate Director, Richard Allen, PSM, CFM - Scholarship/ Recruiting/Valencia, Dolly Carwile, PSM - Webmaster.



From Todd Bates, PSM, UF Geomatics

2025 GIS DAY SOUTH FLORIDA STUDENT MAP CONTEST!

Hosted by UF Geomatics – Fort Lauderdale REC

- 24 talented students, 9 MAP entries, from 17 students.
- 20+ industry pros.
- \$3,400 in cash prizes.
- FREE dinner for students.
- \$1000 in Donations to the UF_Geomatics FLREC program to support Geomatics students!

All this happened on Thursday, 11/20/2025, and it was an incredible celebration of geospatial innovation!

A huge THANK YOU to Rick Householder, Geospatial Program Director at Woolpert, and to our amazing sponsors for making this event possible. Your support fuels the next generation of geospatial leaders!

For full details, student profiles, and their amazing maps, explore our ArcGIS StoryMap here: <https://arcg.is/1e4Ki01>





Florida Young Surveyors Network

We had an amazing time hosting the UF v Tennessee tailgate in partnership with the University of Florida Geomatics Student Association!

It was so great getting to meet everyone and build connections within the young professional community. We'd like to thank all who made it out and of course, our sponsors JBPro, for making the event a success!

Go Gator Surveyors!



Manasota Chapter — Pam Hyatt

Great holiday meeting! 21 in attendance and everyone enjoyed socializing and exchanging gifts.



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INSPIRED FLIGHT





Surveyors in Government

December 2025

Greetings All,

This month as we are all getting ready for the holiday season we are working on closing out the year and planning for what is on our agenda for the next year. As I write this, we have been continually working on an expansion of services. What can we provide beyond traditional services, how do we keep current? I love to keep up with technology, but on the government side of surveying, it can be challenging for several reasons. First, it takes a good amount of time to budget for it. You can plan all year and get buy-in from your leaders, for that funding to only be cut at the completion of the budgeting process. This happened to us a few fiscal years. With this you must persevere and keep pushing forward. The issue with this is that technology can change rather quickly, and you find yourself adjusting what your plan is in the preparation for the next fiscal year.

The second issue is that you need multiple years of compiled budgeting to put together enough equipment to focus on some of the areas of the profession that have very expensive equipment. You must do all of this while keeping your conventional equipment current, calibrated, and operational. I am not saying that the private side does not have these issues, they do. Many can meddle in the technology playground with their R&D funding and not have second thoughts, this is a challenge for smaller operations and planning for it is not only a trial, but it can also be a defined process that you can use repeatedly.

For the City, we have introduced new technology and found support with leadership that supports future initiatives when they interact with the data from the new technology. One example is when we introduced the use of drone imagery in 2020, it was not until Hurricane Ian in 2022 where we sent videos and stills of the various flooding impacts from the hurricane. Until that time I had flown 10-12 missions. During the hurricane alone, I flew 22 missions in the matter of 10 days. Most were the days right after the storm. I was recalled by the Public Works Director during the storm and asked to capture an area in our downtown for use by the Emergency Operations Center. So, for the next 10 days I continued to collect and report damage around the city.



Surveyors in Government

CITY OF ORLANDO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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DISTRICT 3

COMMISSIONER SAMUEL INGS
DISTRICT 6

PREPARED BY:

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE DIVISION

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, RICHARD M HOWARD, P.E.
MANAGER OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE DIVISION, TOM CONNERY, P.E.
PROJECT MANAGER,
FEBRUARY, 2015

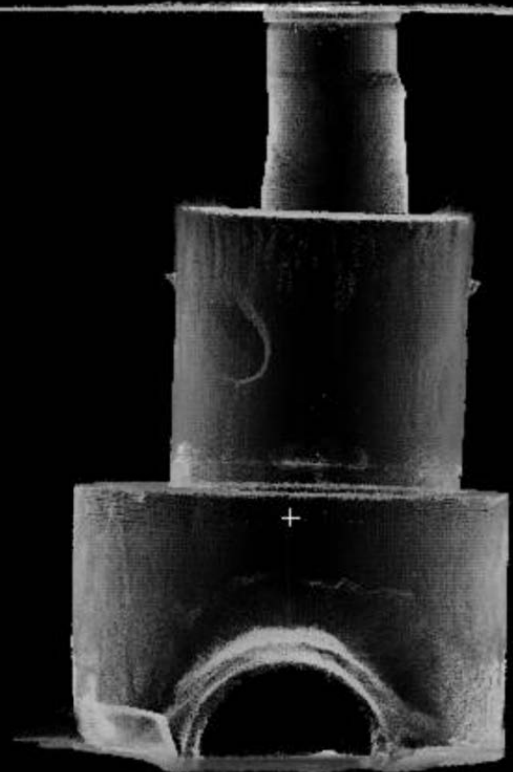
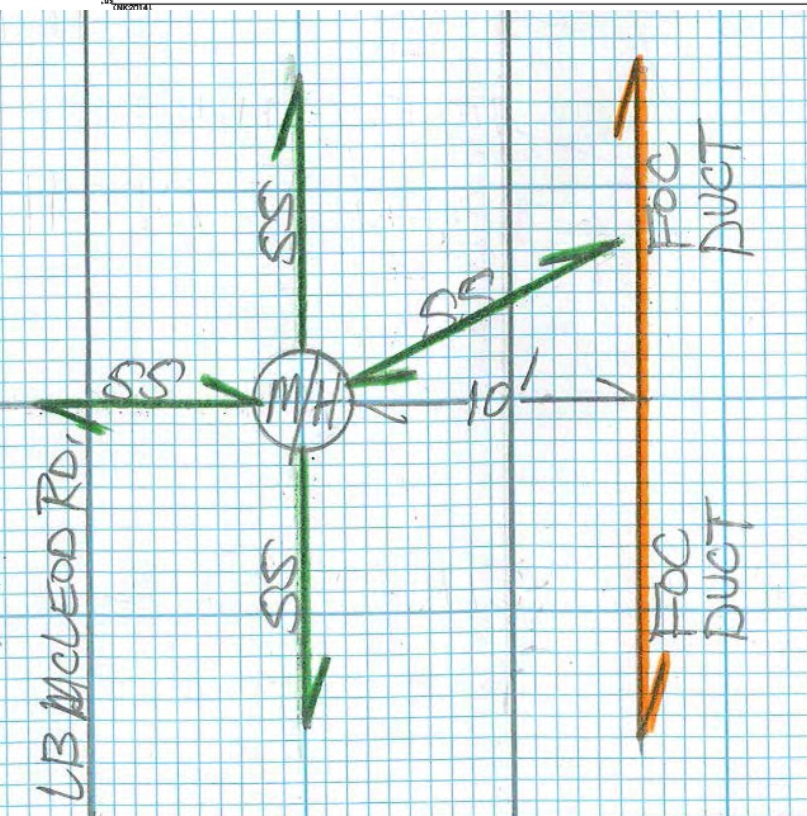
INDEX OF DRAWINGS

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SHEET 8	RIGHT OF WAY & TOPOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

FOR ORLANDO, FLORIDA
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Orlando, Florida 32801-4000
(407) 241-1000, Fax: (407) 241-1001
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L.B. MCLEOD ROAD RIGHT OF WAY
& TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEY





Surveyors in Government

Drones are only one instance, for our LiDAR operations we have been slowly acquiring sensors and putting them to use. Currently we have three different sensors that are all terrestrial based. The first sensor we purchased was in 2017 and that was a process that started six years earlier. We had a project that Southeastern Surveying and JMR Surveying had teamed up for the city in 2011. They mapped and scanned manholes for use in sewer slip lining projects and the manholes were hand-built as well as irregular in size.

Having the perspective to see and measure the structure was extremely beneficial for the engineer working this project, because he preempted the slip lining company with the joints and how the lines would have to intersect into the various seven manholes down the centerline of an extremely busy roadway. Now to perform this kind of work we all now know that you must have a specialized tripod, which Jerry Rinnert with JMR Surveying had to create his own welded tripod. This was because he was doing scans that not many in the world had been doing, I believe at the time of this project, it was the first time in the United States that we could find. He used a Faro Focus scanner inverted, which at the time very few scanners could do because of the compensator. Now I believe most can achieve this process with the right equipment.

I will tell you about the tripod, because those are over \$1,300 and then the scanner was another \$65,000 for GSA pricing. But then you must buy software (\$7,000 initial cost, with on-going maintenance of \$1,400 a year, not including the scanner warranty of \$4,500), and that is where your long-term investment lies. Keeping up with technology is not cheap as you will find out, but it takes careful and progressive planning. In our current configuration of staffing and equipment, it has been a process of ten years that I have been continually requesting, adjusting and resubmitting. Many times, it was received with a response of, “we’ll see” that never comes to fruition, to the “that’s a great idea” moment. As of late we have been receiving more responses “what do you need?” that are extremely helpful, but that is because you must always provide a return on investment as we all know. Small wins lead to big victories. That is not to say we have not had setbacks. When I originally requested the scanner, I had requested a staffer to run the equipment as well. The equipment was approved but the staffer was not. That took an additional



Surveyors in Government

six years to complete. A current issue is that we have a drone that has issues with the on-board RTK integrating with the imagery, which we have had to send back to the vendor two times. The drone is still having issues that we are working through. This is a drone that was over \$22,000 that we need to get 100% operational, and that has been a slow process.

Today we are in the process of acquiring a mobile LiDAR system for use in our urban corridor for use in planning and in future construction projects. This is a process that we have been working on for over two years now, and it helps to have patience internally, and with your vendors. I have to say the current team I have been working with on this purchase has been great, and I do appreciate their understanding of how the municipal process runs and how time-consuming it can be. I wanted to share our experience helping the other agencies in this process, or to new government surveyors who have not experienced this. As part of Surveyors in Government, as liaison, I am here to help you all and to share collaboration between agencies. To share experiences and to learn from one another.

Until next time my friends, I bid you adieux.
Thank you for taking the time to read this article!

Sincerely,

Richard Allen,
City Surveyor for Orlando
FSMS Surveyors in Government Liaison
President of the Geospatial Users Group
ASPRS Florida Region Director

407.246.2788 (O)
Richard.Allen@orlando.gov



FLORIDA SURVEYING & MAPPING SOCIETY
"The Association for Geospatial Professionals"



REGISTRATION FORM

Florida Surveying and Mapping Society - Manasota Chapter 7th Annual Orange Crush Classic - Sporting Clays Fundraiser

Saturday, December 20, 2025 - Sarasota Trap, Skeet, and Clays 9:00am-1:00pm

Company Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Contact Name: _____

(if different from company name)

Please indicate your level of participation by placing an X next to your choice(s):

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Please return with payment to:

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Bradenton, FL 34211

E-Mail Address schristy@georgefyoung.com

Thank you for your support of the FSMS Manasota Chapter!

2026 MEMBERSHIP IS OPEN!

Membership for 2026 is open and available for those needing to renew or for those wanting to join The Florida Surveying and Mapping Society. You can Renew your current membership by [Clicking Here](#) and logging-in to your FSMS account.

For those New Members wishing to join or rejoin if they were not a member in 2025, [Click Here](#) to read about our Membership types and click on the “Join FSMS Today” button at the top of the page to begin your membership with The Florida Surveying and Mapping Society.



Dodie Keith-Lazowick, PSM of KEITH



Dodie Keith-Lazowick, PSM

Olde Florida Survey Maps

From the muses of a Professional Surveyor

Chapter 1

by Richard D. Pryce RLS/PSM

Surveying Maps..... Especially old Survey/Military Maps hold a special place for me as a surveyor, as an artist, and as a history buff.

I have done a lot of personal research on different areas of the USA related to surveying and mapping, always looking for uniqueness in maps, and stories to pass on and Florida has many.

Surveying never disappoints on these matters. The surveyors, cartographers, astronomers, geographers, and visionaries of old were true artists and story tellers, and their works and the master engravers that created these masterpieces are worth the effort when you find them. I have searched many places, to bring them to light and think


I found this first beauty by Surveyor General John Wescott 1855 and figured I'd share with all.

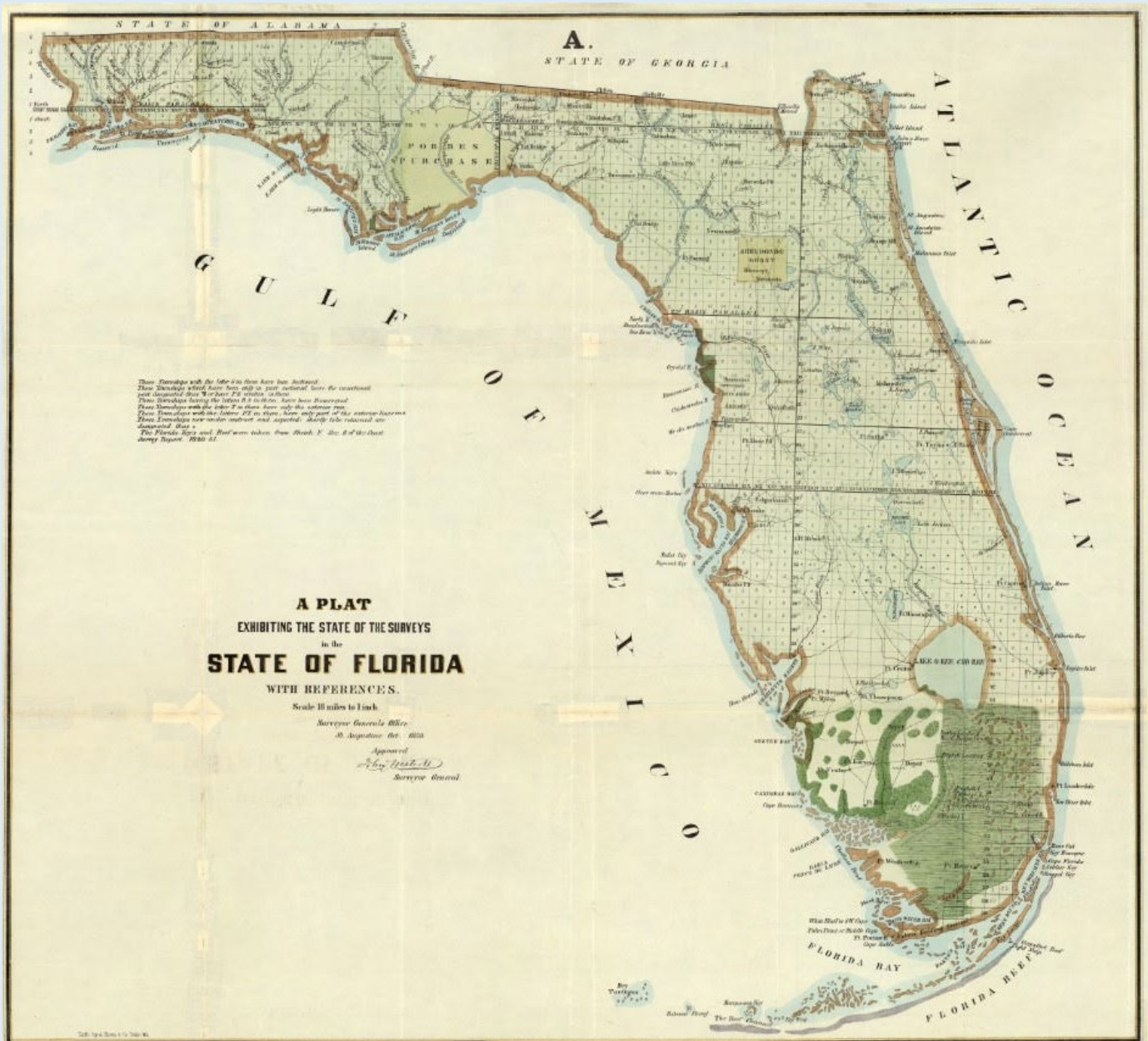
It shows the state of surveys and re-surveys in Florida just 10 years after statehood and based on the notes on the map, it includes survey details obtained by the US Coastal Surveys by superintendent A.D. Bache, Ben Franklin's grandson.



Olde Florida Survey Maps

From the muses of a Professional Surveyor

*Those Townships with the letter S in them have been Sectioned
Those Townships which have been only in part sectioned have the unsectioned part designated thus  or have P.S. written in them
Those Townships having the letters R.S. in them, have been Resurveyed
Those Townships with the letter T in them have only the exterior run
Those Townships with the letters PT in them, have only part of the exterior lines run
Those Townships now under contract and expected shortly to be returned are designated thus **
The Florida Keys and Reef were taken from Sketch E. Sec. 6 of the Coast Survey Report 1848-51.



Olde Florida Survey Maps

From the muses of a Professional Surveyor

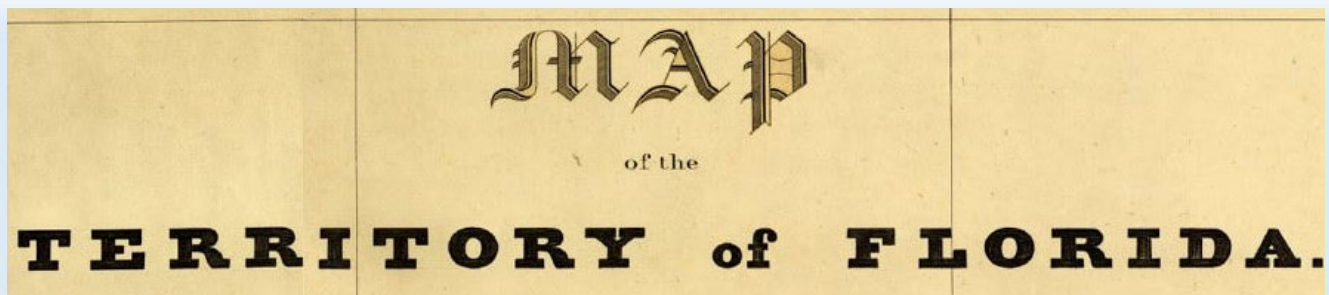
Chapter 2 - Cross Florida Canal

This next map I found by chance years ago. It's an 1829 Topographic Map North Florida Territory with exquisite detail.

This map was cut into three pieces, so I took the time to splice them together with minimal distortion so you can get the full effect and majesty of the original drawing.

Now even at that time they were contemplating a canal route between the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico. So, the Surveyors performed a topographic survey with profiles of two separate routes that are shown on the top of the map.

I have highlighted them on the map to make them easier to see, and color coded the Profiles on the topography of the map.

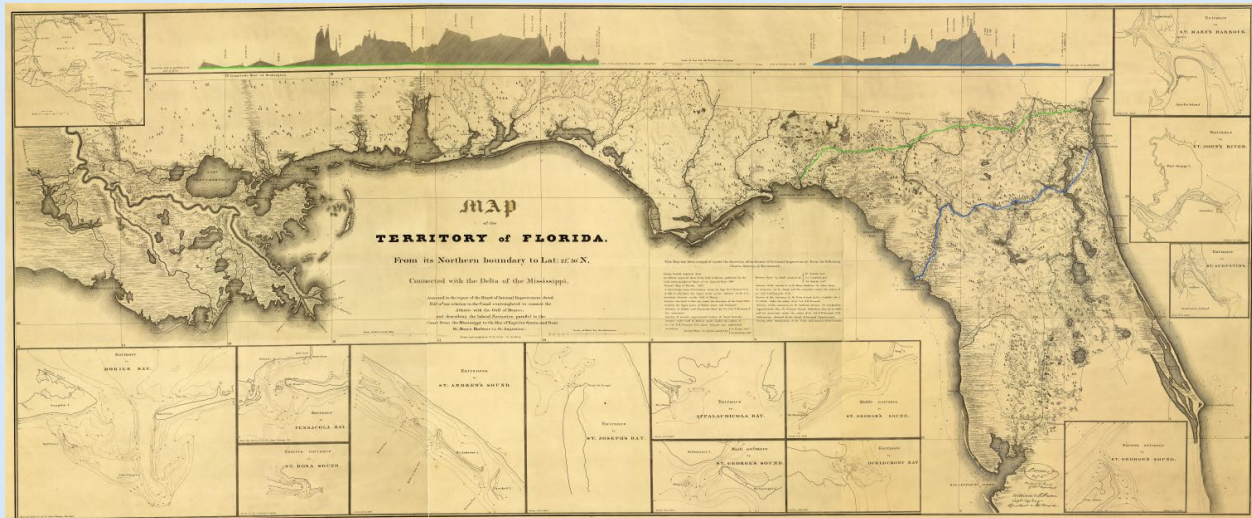


This Map has been compiled under the direction of the Board of Internal Improvement from the following Charts, Surveys, & Documents.	
George Gaulds engraved chart	
An official engraved chart of the Gulf of Mexico published by the royal hydrographical Depot of the Spanish Navy. (1799)	
Tanner's Map of Florida. (1825)	
A manuscript map of Louisiana drawn by Capt. W.T.Boussin T.E. in 1817 to elucidate the report made on the defence of the U.S. maritime frontier on the Gulf of Mexico	
Surveys executed to this day under the direction of the Land Office between the upper parts of Yellow water and Suwanee	
Surveys of Mobile and Pensacola Bays by Lt. Col. J. Kearney & his assistants	
Surveys of several experimental routes of Canal from the Atlantic to the Gulf of Mexico made under the orders of Lt. Col. P.H.Perrault T.E. whose brigade was subdivided as follows	Western Party - Lt. Swift assisted by { Lt. Gwynn Art ^y Lt. Canfield Art ^y Lt. Smith Inf ^y
Eastern Party - Lt. Searle assisted by { Lt. Huger Art ^y Lt. Brisbane Art ^y	Surveys of the entrances to St. Mary's harbour St. Johns River St. Augustine by Lt. Searle and his assistants under the orders of Lt. Col. P.H.Perrault T.E.
	Survey of the entrance to St. Rosa Sound by Lts. Canfield and J. R. Smith. under the orders of Lt. Col. P.H.Perrault
	Surveys of the entrances to St. Andrews Sound. St. Joseph's Bay, Appalaehicola Bay. St. Georges Sound. Ocklockony Bay. by Lt. Swift and his assistants under the orders of Lt. Col. P.H.Perrault T.E.
	Information obtained by the Board of Internal Improvement during their examination of the Coast and Interior of the Country

Olde Florida Survey Maps

From the muses of a Professional Surveyor

1829 Territory Map of Florida showing topographic details of two potential canal locations



Closeup of two proposed Canal Routes

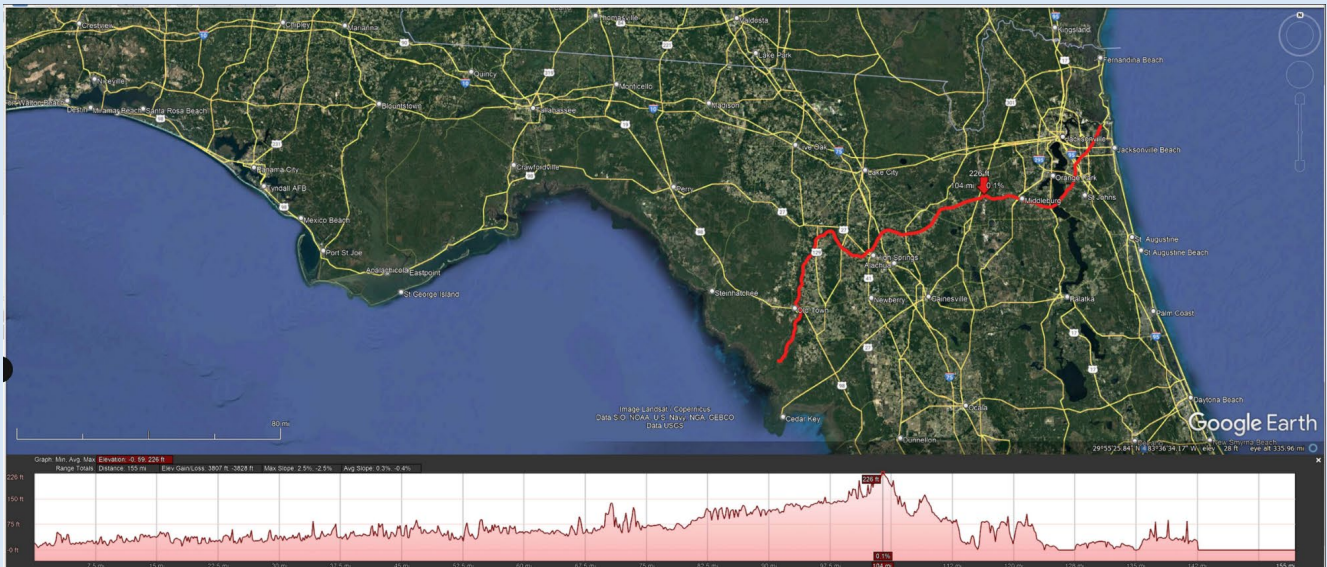


Osde Florida Survey Maps

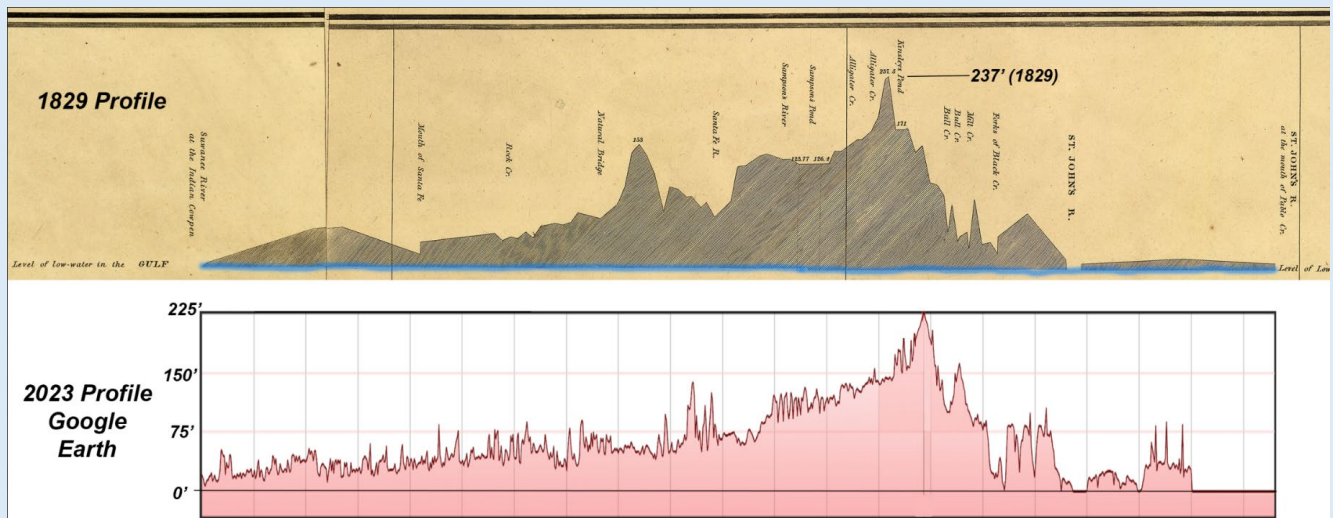
From the muses of a Professional Surveyor

I drew out the southern route on Google Earth trying to use the landmarks to match as close as I could visually and following what the map details show.

The Google Earth image below shows the redlined approximation of the southern canal route, with the topographic profile from Google earth along the bottom of the picture.



Below I condensed the 2023 Google Earth topographic route from above to match the width of the southerly 1829 canal route in the map



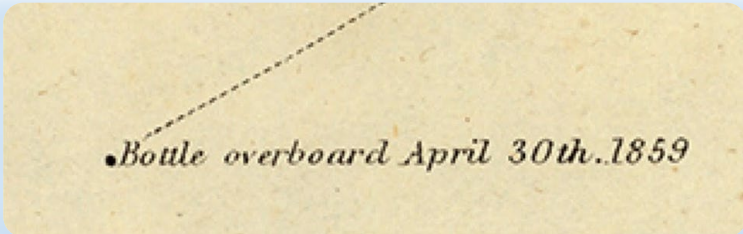
The results above are surprisingly similar, comparing the 1829 terrain to 2023 DEM inside of Google Earth. Which goes to show the level of detail the surveyors/engineers went through to map out and design a new canal to shorten trade routes. Unfortunately, the Civil War interrupted many potential projects in the Florida Territory, and these two routes were never attempted.

Olde Florida Survey Maps

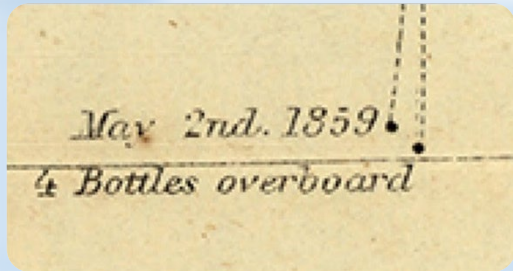
From the muses of a Professional Surveyor

Chapter 3 - Something besides Olde Maps

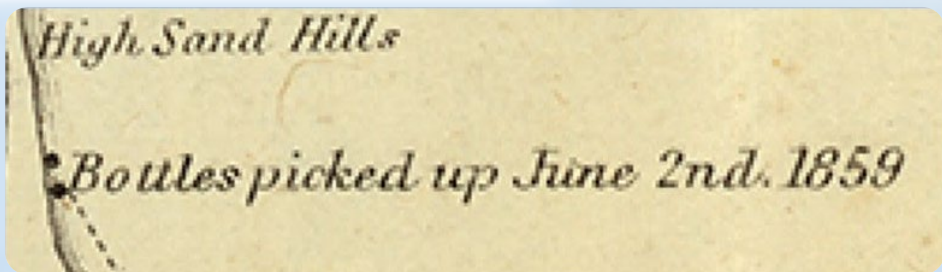
Message in a bottle(s) 1859 Rum bottles?



•Bottle overboard April 30th. 1859



May 2nd. 1859 •
4 Bottles overboard



High Sand Hills

•Bottles picked up June 2nd. 1859

I've seen these on a lot of the Olde Maps in Florida, and they used the bottles with messages in them to map out the currents. The messages would have location information written on them where they were dropped overboard and then when they were found they recorded that location.

However, just because it's on this map got me curious about what they actually drank

back onboard ships. A little research and It turns out they really did drink a lot of beer/rum, for they had a daily ration and a reward, times haven't changed that much. Would be Pirates.....I think.

"It cannot be denied that sailors drank large quantities of alcohol. The average alcoholic beverage consumption across the drinking-age population in the early Republic stood at about 6.8 to 7.1 gallons per person per year, whereas a sailor receiving his full spirit ration every day consumed slightly over 27 gallons per year." USS Constitution Museum

Here's a couple of links to more details on the drinks while you're waiting on the next map.

[Drink in the "Grog" Tub: Beer, Rum, and Whiskey](#)

[Beer on Board in the Age of Sail – Smithsonian Libraries and Archives / Unbound \(si.edu\)](#)

Olde Florida Survey Maps

From the muses of a Professional Surveyor

Chapter 4 - Cross-Florida Shipping Canal saga

As we continue this map series with the Cross-Florida Ship Canal saga that never got built.

I just love a Great map with a back story Well, this one is 1879

Embraced in the preliminary Survey and Examination of the Peninsula of Florida with a view to the construction of a Ship Canal from the St. Mary's River to the Gulf of Mexico

Made in 1879

Remember this image below from Chapter 2, and I compared the blue line profile with Google Earth profile today? Well, they came back to it after Florida became a State and the Civil War ended.

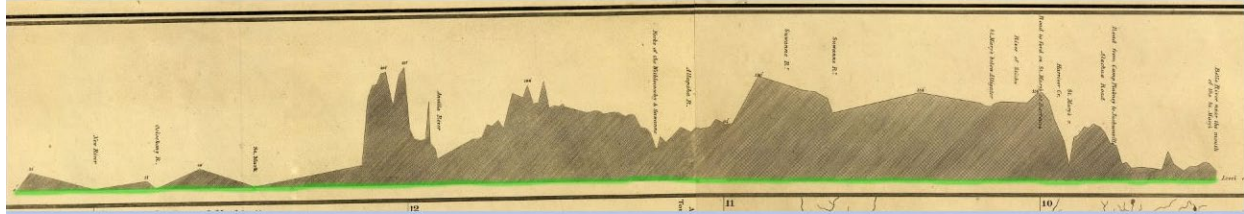


Olde Florida Survey Maps

From the muses of a Professional Surveyor

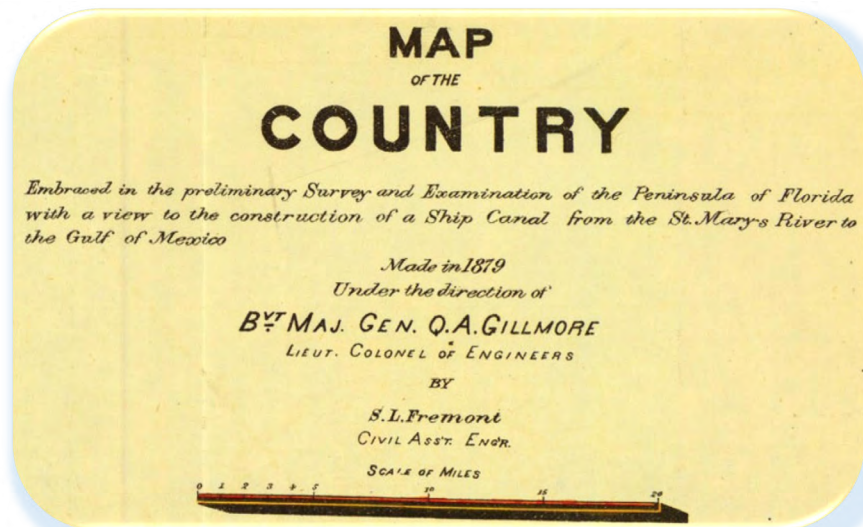
In 1879 they revisited the Cross-Florida Shipping Canal with a more extensive and detailed survey along the northern (**Green**) route and created an exquisitely fine map of the project showing the original proposed barge canal route from 1829, the new route based on the survey, and a proposed alternate route.

What started as the profile from February 1829 below

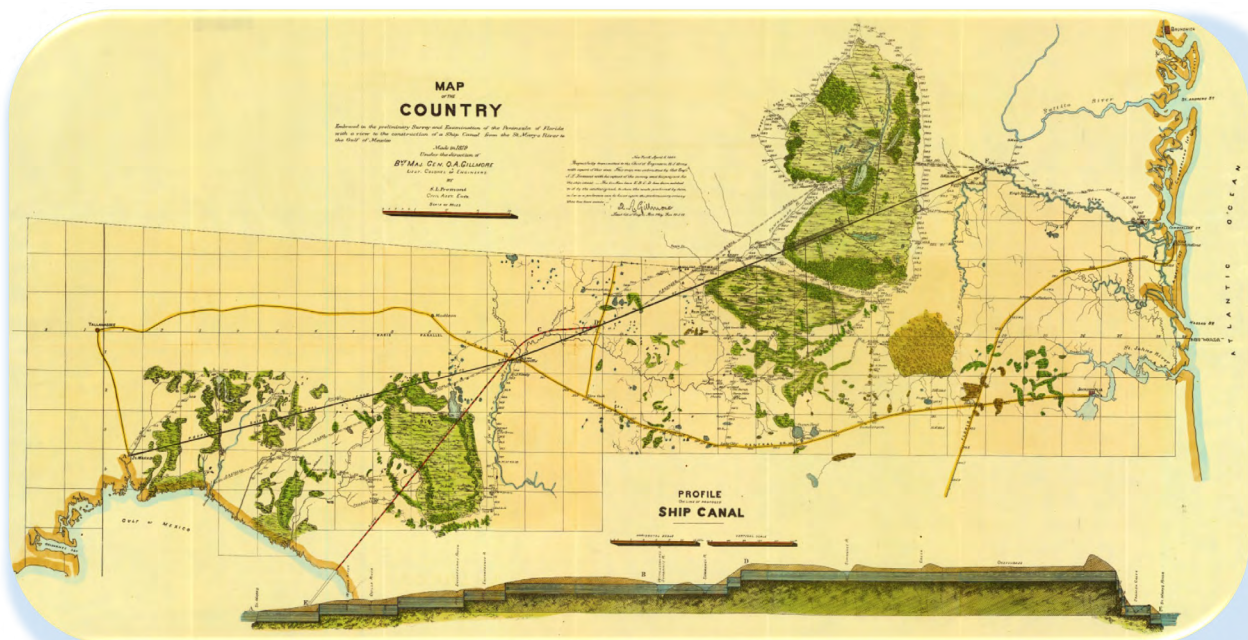


Grew into a serious topographic survey and engineering project design with a series of proposed locks starting at Camp Pinckney of the St Mary's River and running to St Marks River south of Tallahassee. (Below)

The Ship Map is titled below:



The Full Map below:





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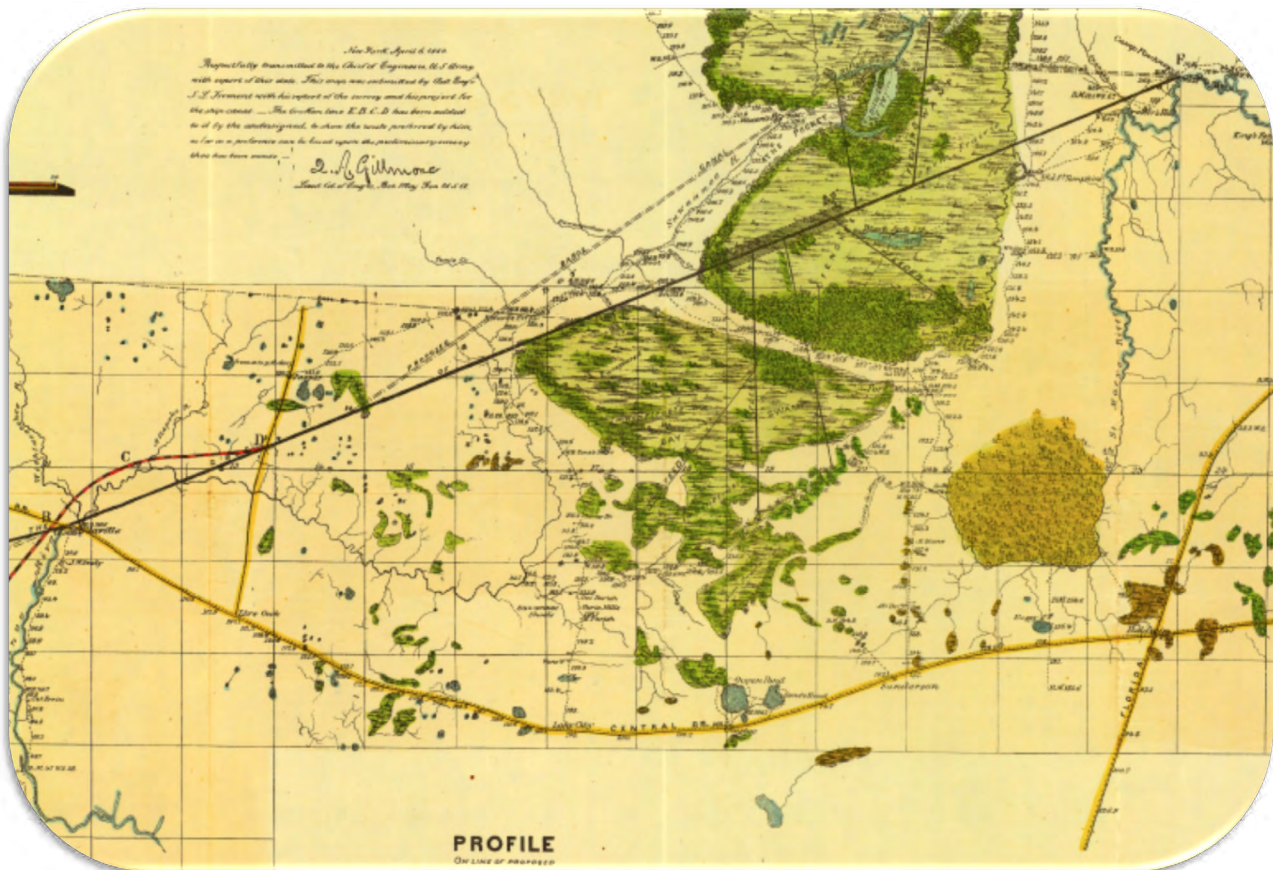
Olde Florida Survey Maps

From the muses of a Professional Surveyor

Map and W ½ Canal details below:



Map and E ½ Canal details below:

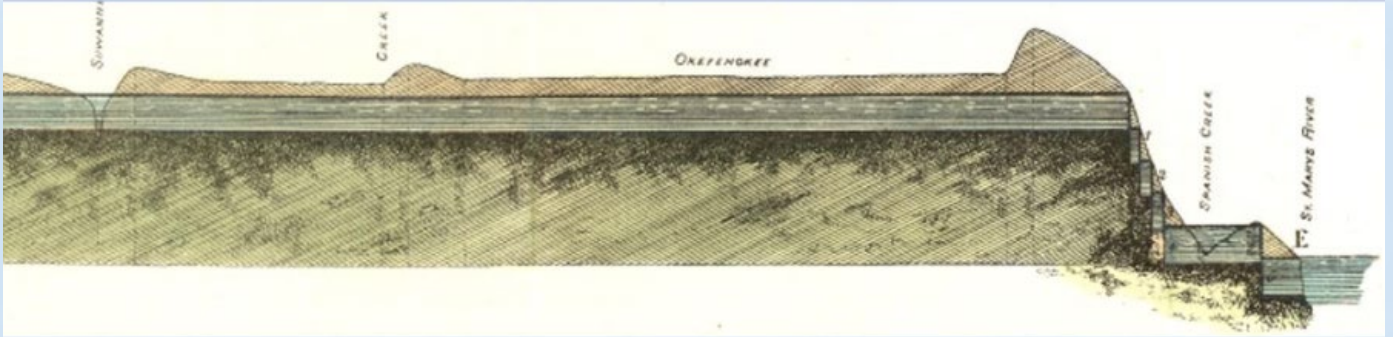


Old Florida Survey Maps

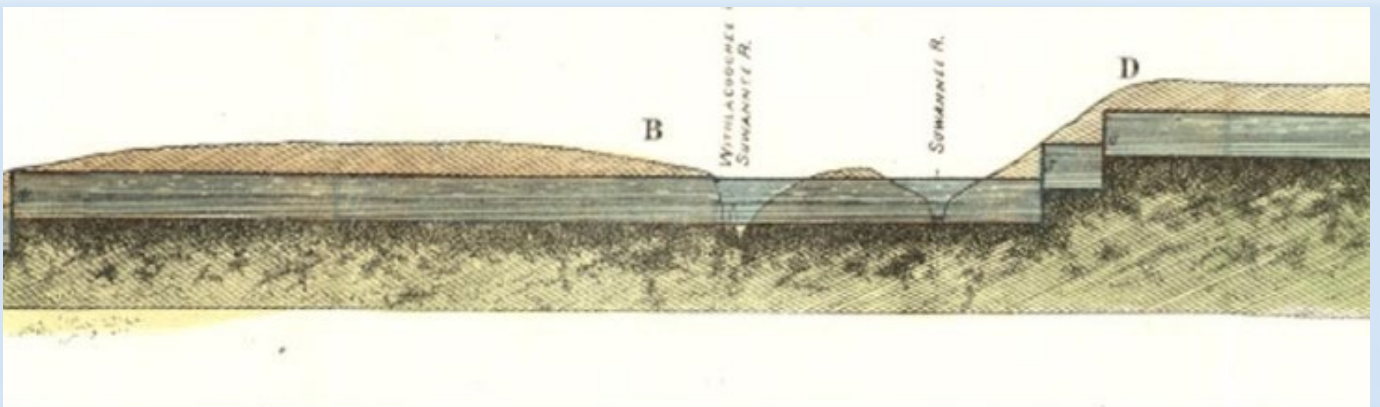
From the muses of a Professional Surveyor

Details of the proposed locks starting at St. Mary's River and running westerly to St. Marks River

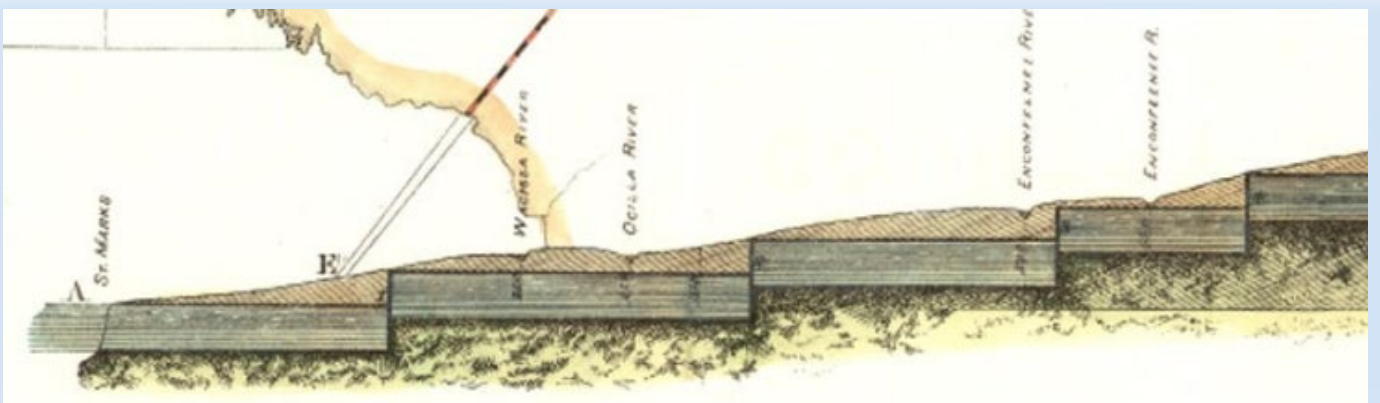
East 1/3 of the Locks - St. Mary's River to the right



Middle 1/3 of the Locks



West 1/3 of the Locks - St. Marks River to the left



Olde Florida Survey Maps

From the muses of a Professional Surveyor

Chapter 5

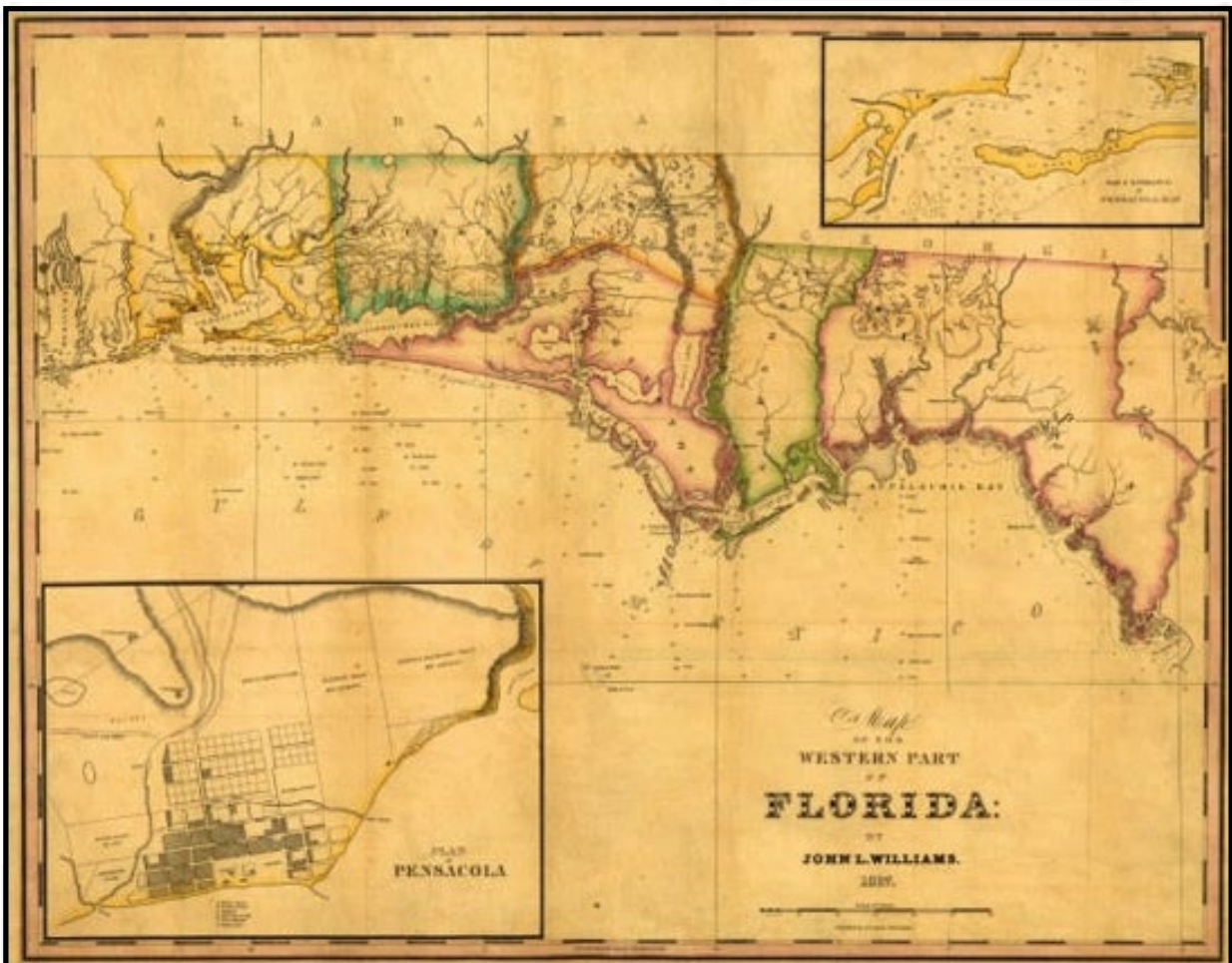
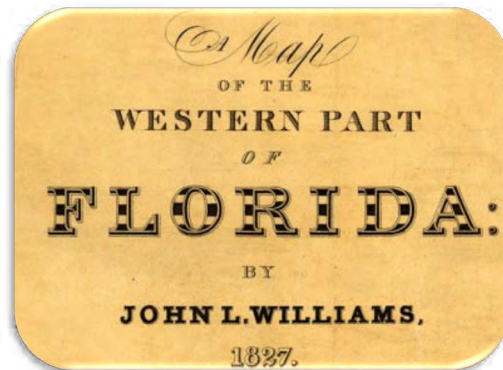
Florida Map Series 1827, 1838, 1839, 1851, 1853, 1879

For this Chapter, let's take a step back in time to see the progression of Maps & Surveys of Florida in sequence and the years leading up to Civil War and after Statehood. I have handpicked seven of the best quality for you in this series, some have color some not, but each one is a large high quality example.

As a surveyor, artist, and history buff, these reflect the wild Florida in its early stages of development, from some of the best map makers in the country at the time. The last two are in full color and highest of quality for the time and I'm glad I was able to find images of them.

John Williams Map of Western part of Florida 1827,

1827

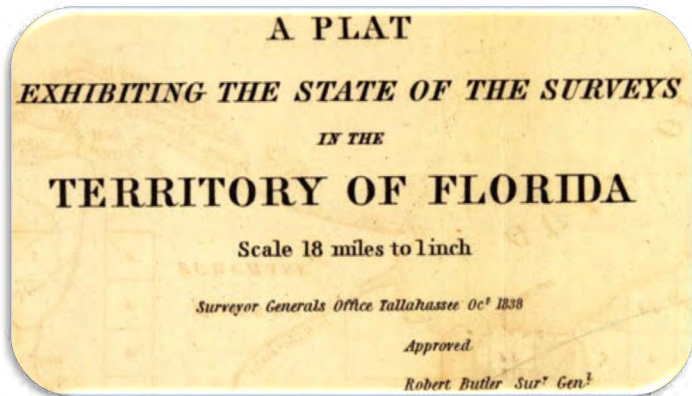


Olde Florida Survey Maps

From the muses of a Professional Surveyor

1838 Plat of Surveys Territory of Florida by Survey General Robert Butler

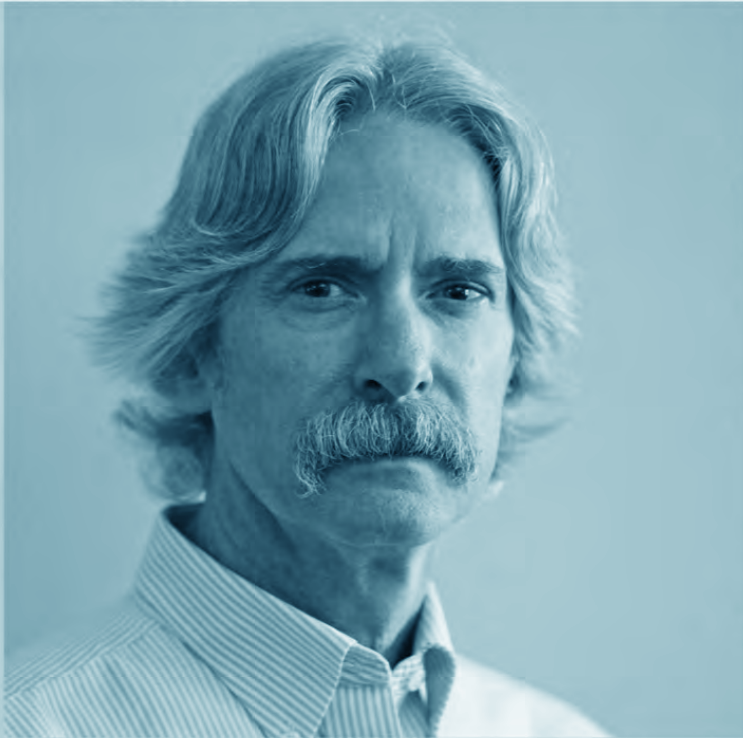
1838



VIRTUAL (ZOOM) SEMINAR

ALTA/NSPS Land Title Surveys – New Requirements for 2026 (2 CECs)

“Learn what Professional Surveyors need to know about the new requirements going into effect February 23, 2026.”



Guest speaker:

● **Gary Kent, PS**



Time:

Thursday

January 22, 2026

2 - 4 pm EST via Zoom



Registration:

\$80 for FSMS Members

\$100 for Non-Members

Course #11233

Provider #CE11

Gary Kent, PS is a Professional Surveyor with Schneider Geomatics in Indianapolis. After 37 years, he transitioned to part-time in 2020 and formed Meridian Land Consulting, LLC through which he provides training, consulting and expert witness services. Gary was Chair of the Joint ALTA/NSPS Workgroup responsible for the ALTA/NSPS Standards from 1995 to 2021 and continues to be actively involved with the standards. He has presented programs on boundaries, standards, risk management, easements, leadership, safety and other topics multiple times in all 50 states. Gary served on the Indiana State Board of Registration for Professional Surveyors from 2004 to 2025 and is a past-president of both ACSM and the Indiana Society of Professional Land Surveyors.

Olde Florida Survey Maps

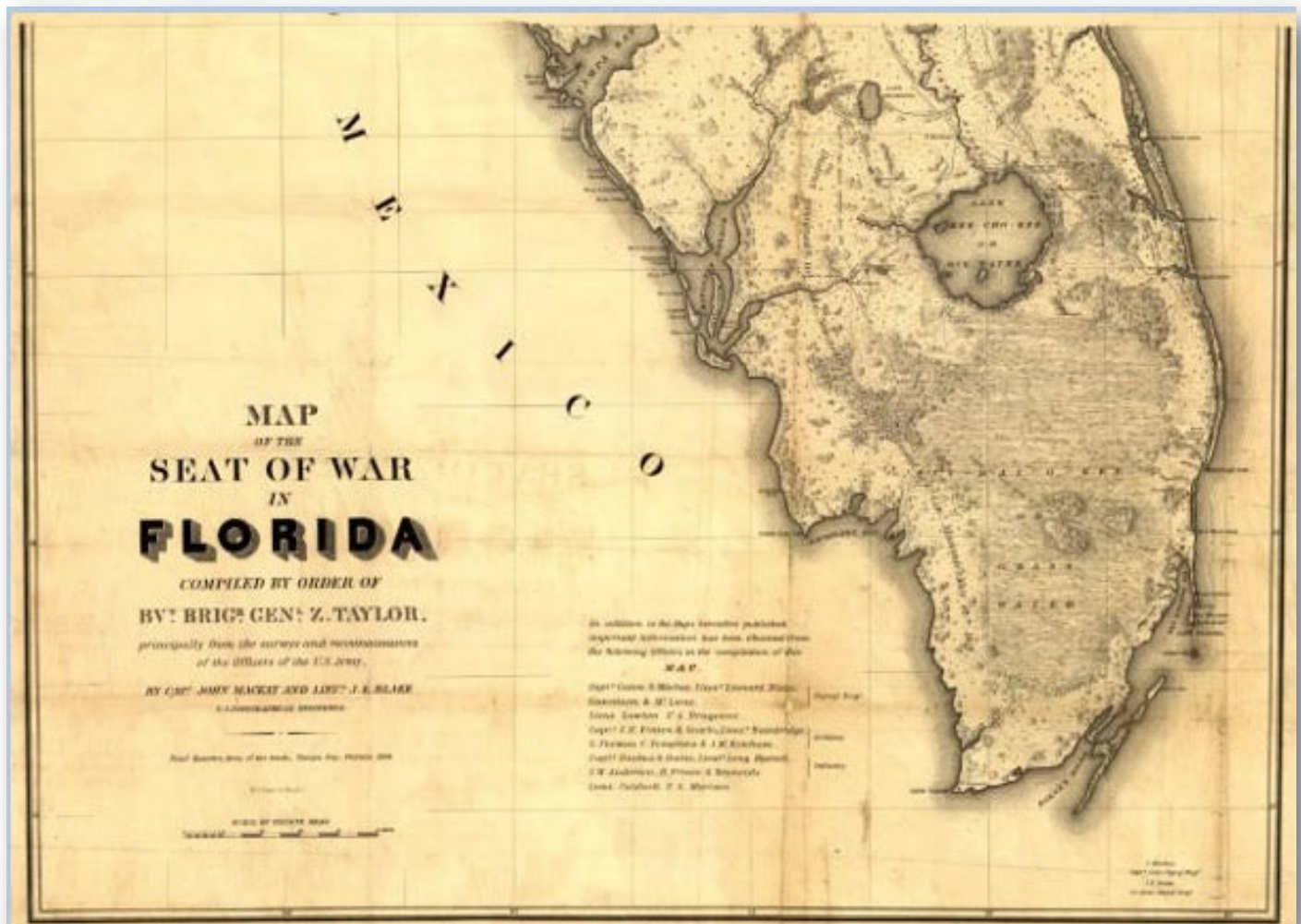
From the muses of a Professional Surveyor

Map of the Seat of War of southern half of Florida compiled under the direction of
Brigadier General Zachary Taylor 1839

1839

COMPILED BY ORDER OF
BRIG^{AD} GEN^L Z. TAYLOR,
principally from the surveys and reconnaissances
of the Officers of the U.S. Army,

BY CAP^T JOHN MACKAY AND LIEUT^T J. E. BLAKE
U.S. TOPOGRAPHICAL ENGINEERS.



From the muses of a Professional Surveyor

1851 Plat of Surveys State of Florida by B.A. Putnam, Survey General

1851

A PLAT

EXHIBITING THE STATE OF THE SURVEYS

IN THE

STATE OF FLORIDA

WITH REFERENCES

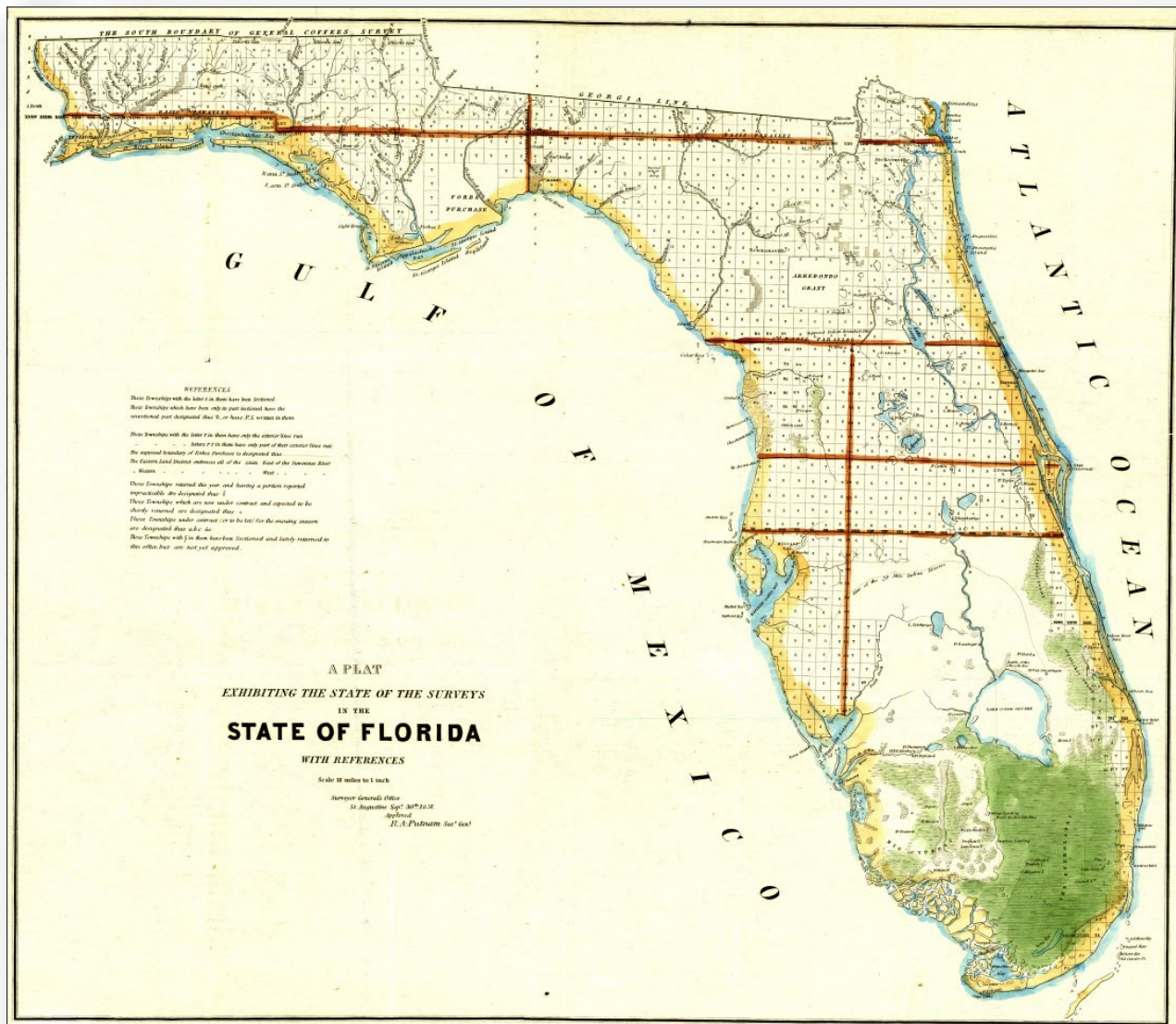
Scale 18 miles to 1 inch

Surveyor General's Office

St. Augustine Sep^r. 30th 1851.

Approved

B. A. Putnam Sur.^v Gen.^l

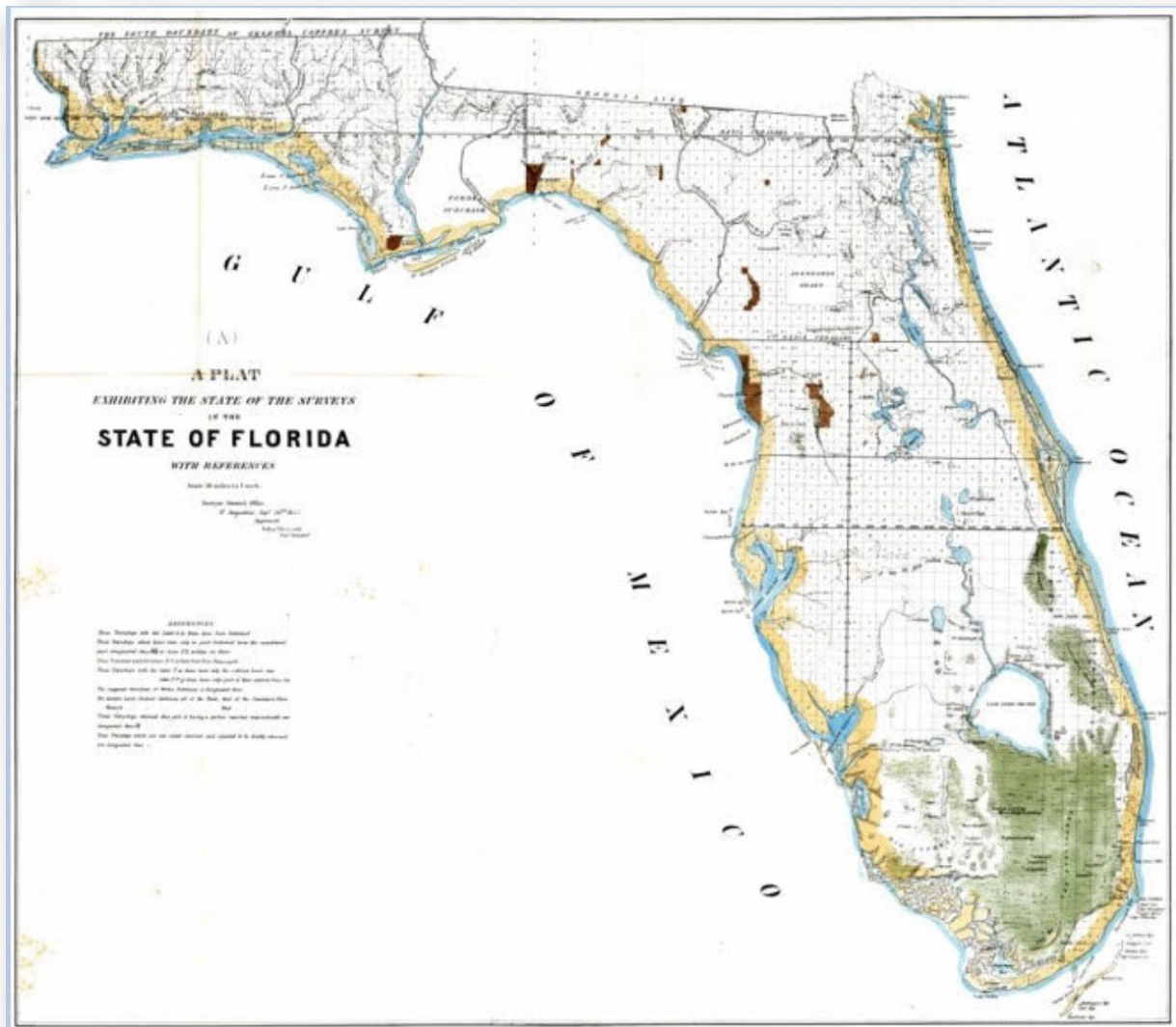
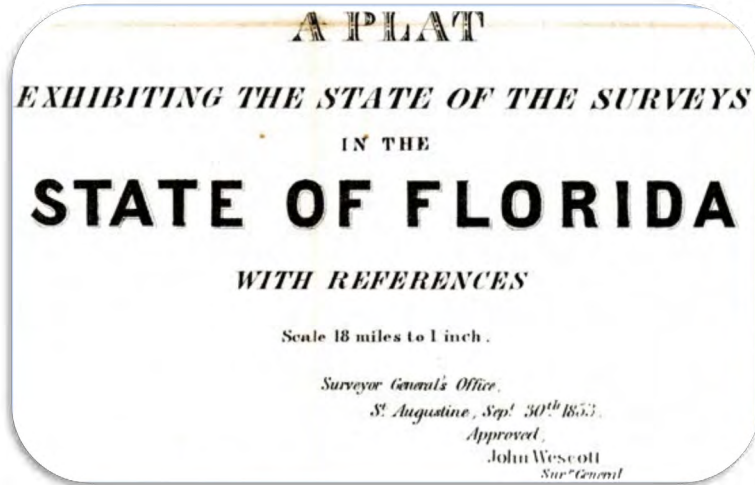


Olde Florida Survey Maps

From the muses of a Professional Surveyor

1853 Plat of Surveys State of Florida by John Wescott, Survey General

1853

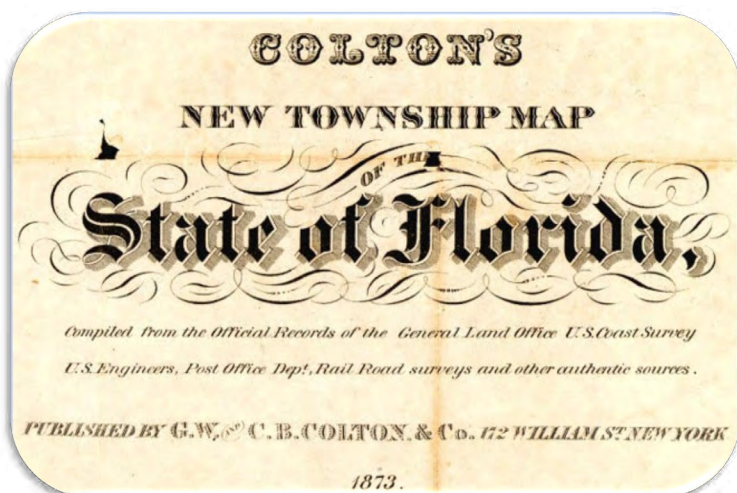


Olde Florida Survey Maps

From the muses of a Professional Surveyor

And finally, the equisally detailed and colored
1873 Colton's New Township Map of State of Florida

1873



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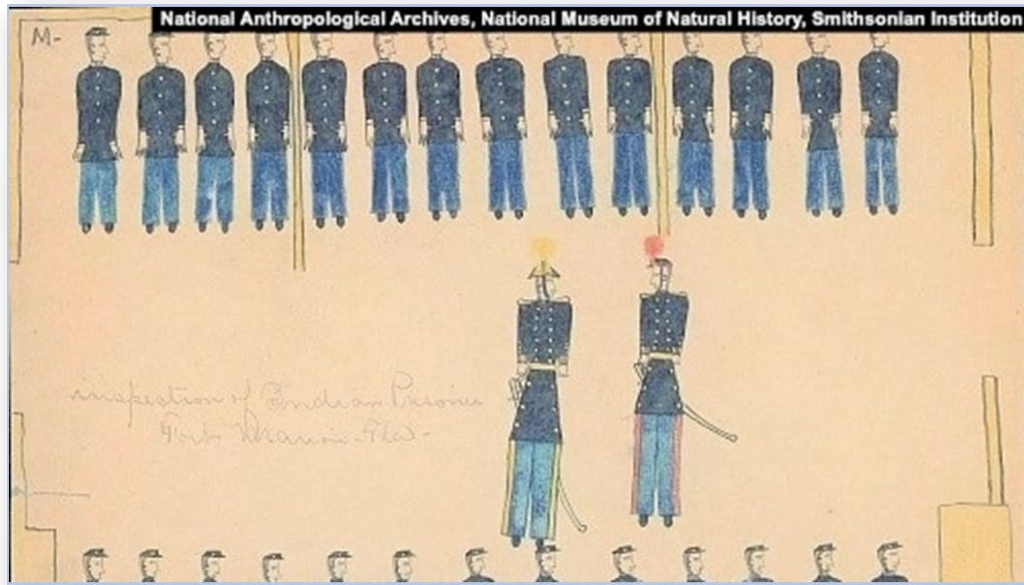
From the muses of a Professional Surveyor

Chapter 6 - St. Augustine

Continuing our series with the St Augustine's history and stories within maps.....

St. Augustine after Florida was relinquished by Spain into the new United States, took on a new role and the Spanish Fort "Castille de San Marcos" became "[Fort Marion](#)" and was used as a prison from 1837- 1886 for indigenous Tribes across the country from Kiowa, Cheyenne, Arapaho, Comanche, Caddo, and Seminole during the Indian wars.

"Inspection of Indian Prisoners, Fort Marion, Fla." 1875 ledger drawing by Cheyenne POW Making Medicine



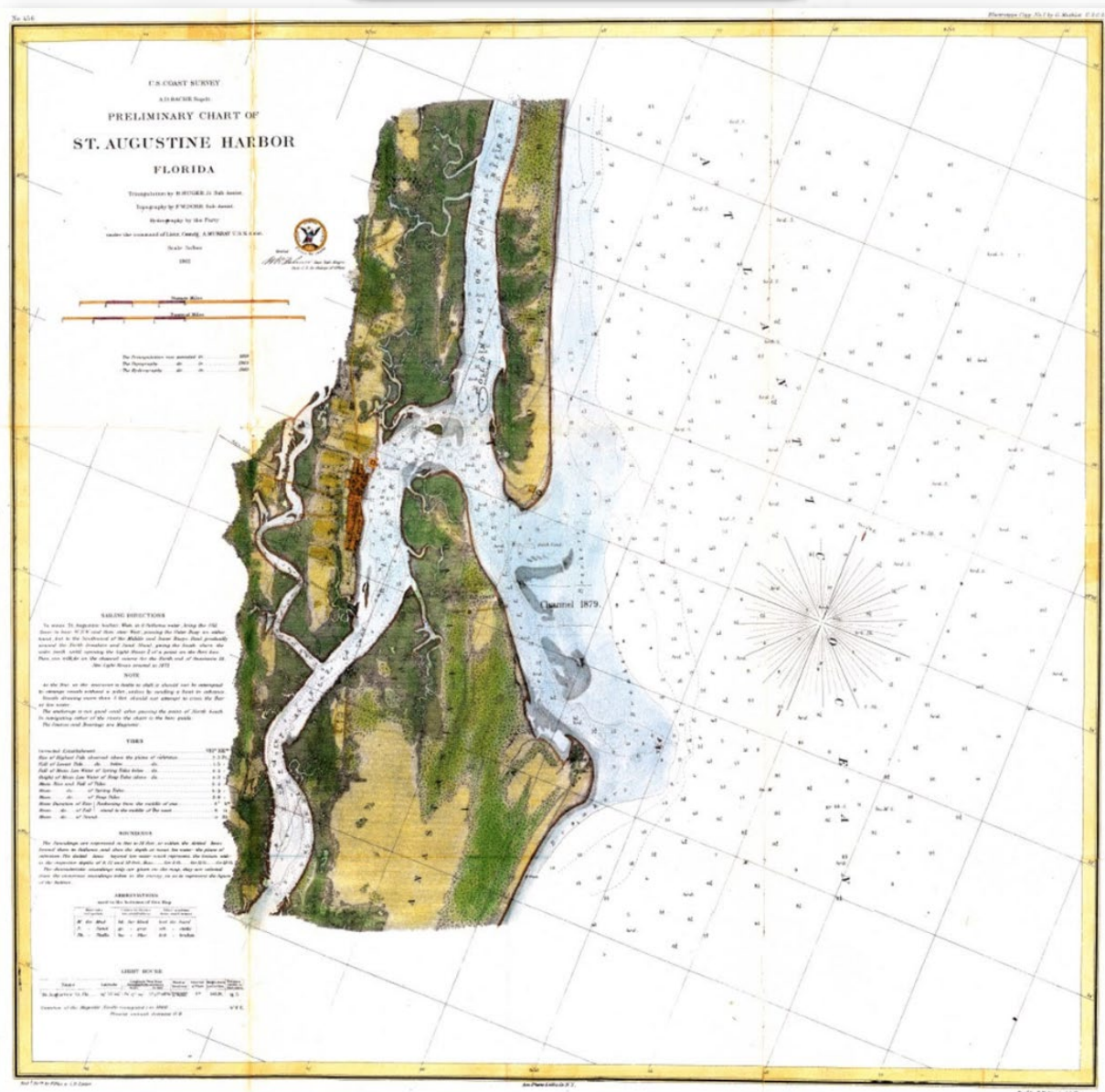
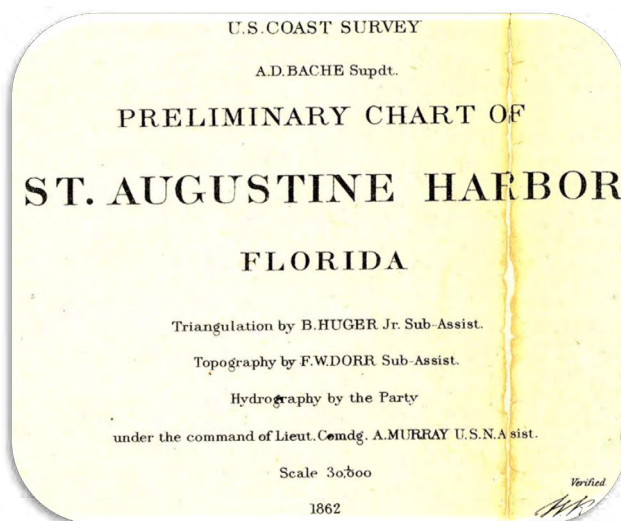
During that time Fort Marion was used for additional purposes and as a Base of operations for the Coast Surveys. The US Coast Surveys were being conducted by the then Superintendent A.D. Bache, (great grandson of Benjamin Franklin) and attached is an 1862 map in full color and details of the Land, the Coast and the Hydrography around St. Augustine and within the surrounding rivers.

You could buy these maps for mere 60 cents in 1862, or roughly \$18.13 in todays money. Based on the pay scale back then probably only Officer's pay could handle that.



From the muses of a Professional Surveyor

A.D. Bache's 1862 Map of Saint Augustine Harbor



Olde Florida Survey Maps

From the muses of a Professional Surveyor

As we see from our maps, Florida went through some drastic changes in its history. But the place that's seen the most and survived is none other than its oldest City, St. Augustine. The attached maps show two different attacks against the Spanish Settlement, and each tell a different story.

The first Map on 29 May 1586

1586 – Sir Francis Drake and over 1,000 men left St. Augustine after burning the settlement to the ground on this date. The raid was part of a much larger Anglo-Spanish War between England and Spain which spilled over into the new world. Although the city was destroyed and much of their supplies had been plundered by Drake's forces, the people of St. Augustine were able to slowly rebuild with the help of the Spanish government and eventually began construction on a permanent stone fort after subsequent attacks from others, now known as the Castillo de San Marcos.

The attached 1589 Map by Baptista Boazio shows the English version of the story in 1586 with a description below of everything about the battle and the fish (dolphin) they found within the waters. It also shows the original Spanish Fort that was burned to the ground.



Saint Augustine.

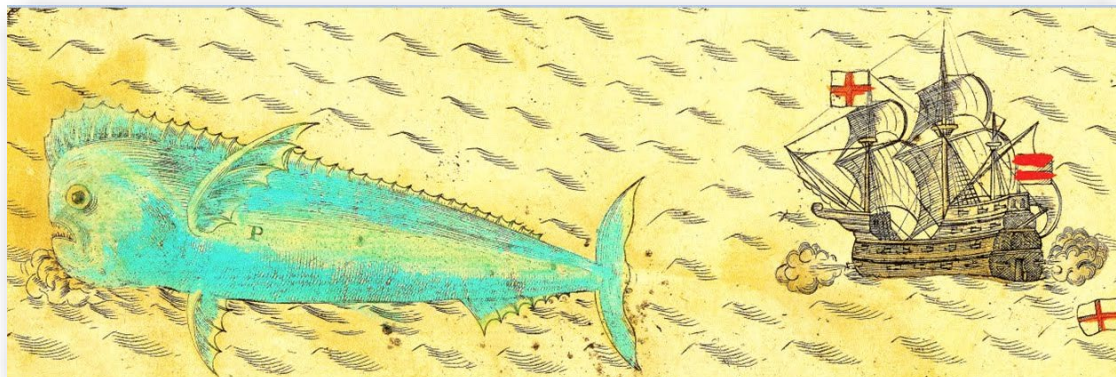
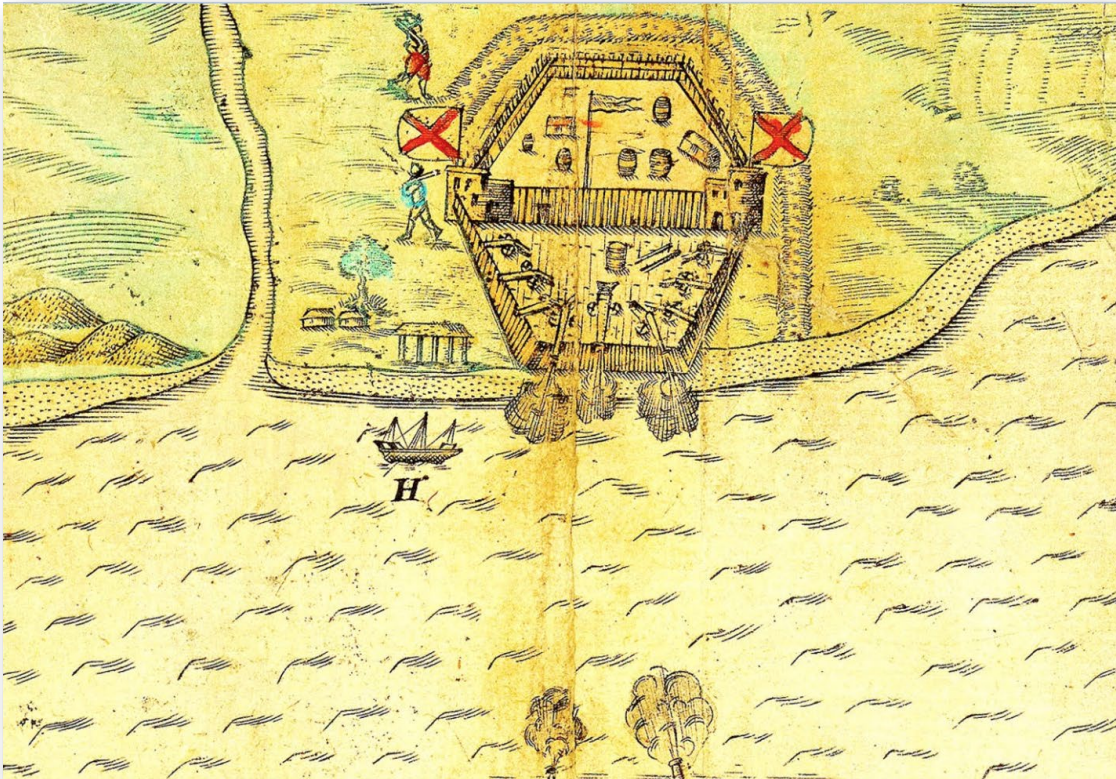
- A The city of Saint Augustine, Florida, is situated on a peninsula, and is surrounded by water on three sides. The city is built on a high ground, and is surrounded by a wall. The city is built on a high ground, and is surrounded by a wall. The city is built on a high ground, and is surrounded by a wall.
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- P The city of Saint Augustine, Florida, is situated on a peninsula, and is surrounded by water on three sides. The city is built on a high ground, and is surrounded by a wall. The city is built on a high ground, and is surrounded by a wall. The city is built on a high ground, and is surrounded by a wall.

Olde Florida Survey Maps

From the muses of a Professional Surveyor

Even though the British won out in the first round, between this battle and the next several battles the Spanish built the Castillo de San Marcos. Construction began on the Castillo de San Marcos in 1672 and lasted 23 years until 1695. The fort came under fire for the first time in 1702. British forces, led by General Moore, burned the city but could not penetrate the Castillo's walls. Subsequent attacks in 1728 and 1740 yielded similar results, and the British were never able to take St. Augustine by force.

Enlargement details from the overall 1589 Map by Baptista Boazio



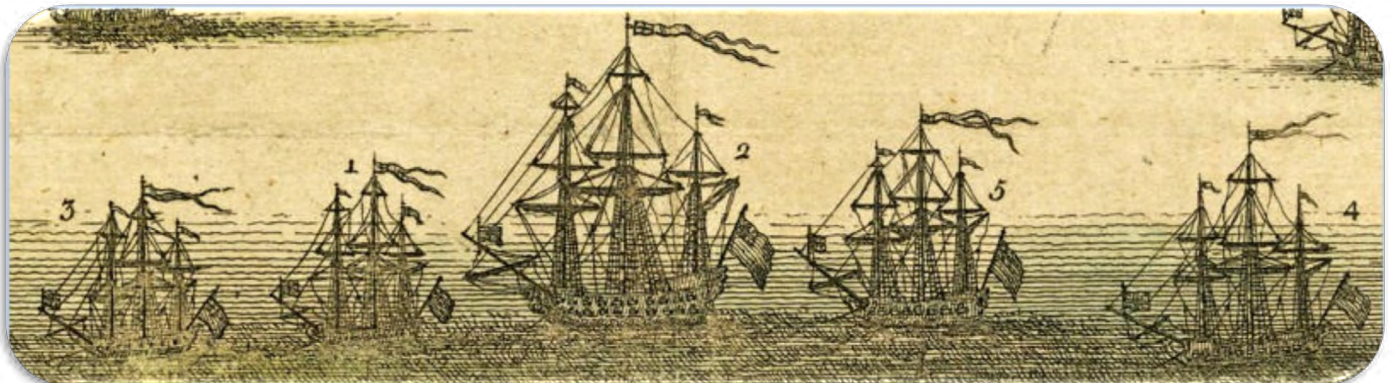
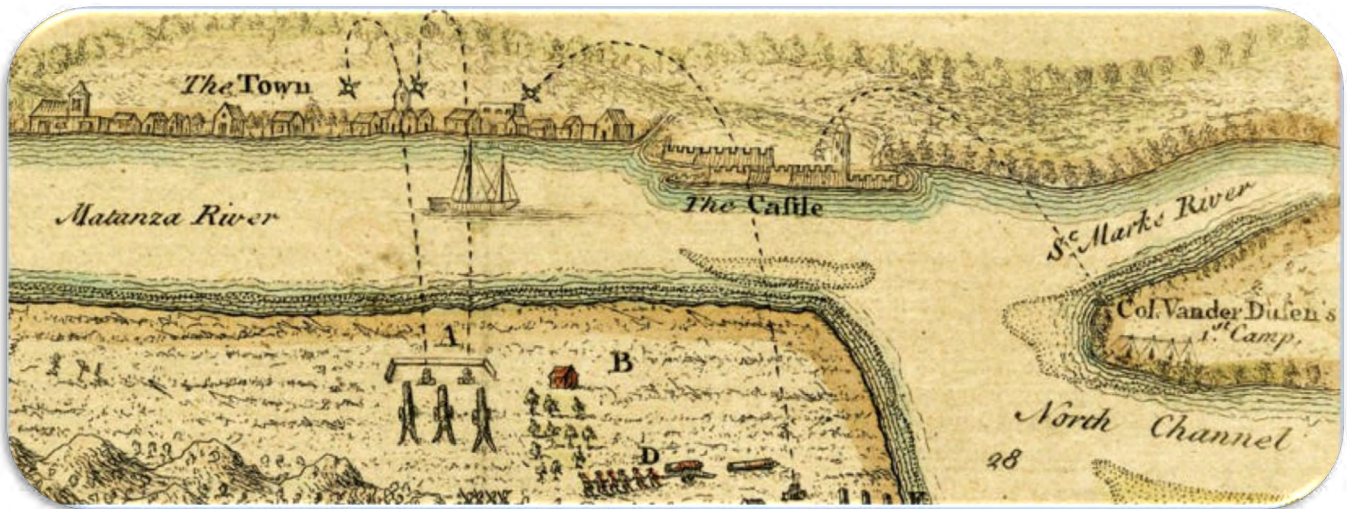
Olde Florida Survey Maps

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The Second Map

The Battle in 1740 where the British tried once again by General Oglethorpe.

On the 17th of June 1740, the general sent a summons to the Governor to surrender. And the Governor sent back word that he would be glad to shake hands with him in the Castille. Bad weather caused the English war ships to set back out to sea, and thus the Spanish held on. A full account of the battle is listed on the map



From the muses of a Professional Surveyor

1740 Map of the last Battle by the British for control of St. Augustine





WE WISH YOU
Merry Christmas
& HAPPY NEW YEAR

Season's Greetings
from the FSMS staff!

Thank you for a fantastic
2025.

May your holidays be merry
and your New Year be filled
with endless possibilities.
See you in 2026!

Forts, Ports, Canals, *and* Wars

An Uncommon History of Tallahassee & Surrounding Areas

by Dr. Joe Knetsch



***The sheer impenetrable nature of some of the lands made
Goldsborough's attempt to survey difficult at best***

(J. Perry)

CHAPTER 6

No Closure: Charles Goldsborough's Failed Attempt to Survey the Forbes Purchase

The process of surveying on an unknown frontier is difficult at best. The obstacles to be overcome are only to be guessed, the real or imagined “enemies” are sheer speculation, and the securing of competent assistance is a variable to which there are no sure answers. In the frontier situation, these things can either mean disaster or fortune. To find your way into the great wilderness without some advanced knowledge of what lies ahead takes courage, skill, and some luck (dumb or otherwise). This is what faced almost every surveyor of the Florida frontier in the Territorial Period and later.

Not every surveyor or survey was successful. Some went broke and left the territory for greener pastures. Others tried their luck in the courts, and frequently lost! A few simply disappeared from the written pages of history without much of a trace. These frontier tragedies were often played out, to the extent of a written record, in the correspondence of the Office of the Surveyor General of Florida. The reading of these old letters gives valuable insight into the life of the frontier surveyors and the problems which faced them in attempting to bring order out of chaos. One such failed attempt was that of Charles H. Goldsborough whose three year struggle to survey the outer boundary of the Forbes Purchase ended in debt and humiliation.

The story of the Forbes Purchase is relatively well known to many in North Florida; however, a brief recapitulation is in order to help in understanding the nature of Goldsborough's problems. In essence, the “Purchase” was little more than a collection of debts from various Indian groups that owed money to the firm of Panton and Leslie, the greatest of the trading companies operating in the South during the British and Second Spanish Periods of Florida's history (1776-1821). The trading partners had worked with the Indians (Creeks and Seminoles) for many years and accumulated large amounts of credit from these tribes in exchange for goods

Forts, Ports, Canals, and Wars

sold at their various stores, especially those on the Apalachicola River. With the consent of the Spanish governor, the firm was allowed to receive tentative title to the lands recognized as belonging to these Indians in return for the cancellation of the debts. The company did not have full right to sell any of these lands without the consent of the Spanish authorities. The bulk of the transaction regarding the land took place in 1804.¹

Panton, Leslie & Company changed its name to John Forbes and Company shortly after the cession of lands was made in 1804. To it went all of the rights and privileges which had formerly been granted to the Panton, Leslie and Company. As Indian debts continued to mount in those tenuous years, the company had to petition the Spanish governor for additional lands in return for the further cancellation of debts. By 1811, most of the lands to be included in the final grant were ceded to the firm, including the famous grant of Forbes Island, seven miles in length and one in width. Title was confirmed to the company by the Spanish government toward the end of 1811. This grant, or “purchase,” encompassed nearly one and one-half million acres of land stretching from the Apalachicola River to the St. Marks River and as far north as Little River in modern Gadsden County.²

The grant actually implied that the Forbes Island was included and Richard Keith Call argued against this inclusion of the island when the case was heard before the Supreme Court in 1835. Call’s arguments against the grant being confirmed to the Forbes interests included the concept that the Indians did not own the land they gave in return for the dismissal of their debts (they belonged to the Crown), that the Spanish Governor of West Florida did not have the power to grant such lands, and that the lands were technically in East Florida and out of the jurisdiction of the Governor of West Florida. An additional argument could have been made, as it was in the case of the second Forbes Grant (called by Coker and Watson “Forbes II”), that the documents concerning the grant were fraudulent and therefore illegal. This was not forcibly argued in front of the Supreme Court, and the documents produced by two visits to Havana were not admitted as evidence against the grant. When the ruling came down from Chief Justice Marshall, the island was included in the grant.³

The second Forbes Grant was to extend to the west beyond the St.

Andrews Bay and included nearly as much land as the first grant. The Innerarity brothers, James and John, fought in local court to have it confirmed on behalf of the investors in the Forbes Company, of which they were two of the largest. When Call made two trips to Havana, he found his suspicions confirmed of the fraudulent nature of the second grant and brought the evidence in front of the court, which ruled against the validity of the grant, especially since it was made after the deadline called for in the Adams-Onís Treaty (January 24, 1818). The second grant was, therefore, annulled by the court's action.⁴

The litigation over the grant was finally decided in 1835, in the case of *Mitchel v. United States*. The original suit was brought in 1828 by Colin Mitchel and others in the Superior Court of Middle Florida on behalf of Mitchel's firm, a Savannah based land investment house which included John Carnochan, James Innerarity, William Calder, Benjamin W. Rogers, and others. The firm lost the suit in the lower court and appealed to the Supreme Court of the United States, which has jurisdiction in cases involving treaties, etc. The boundary of the grant was defined by the Court's final order and included the Forbes Island portion and stipulated that if the attorneys for the claimants could show evidence that the Fort of St Marks was included in the terms of the grant, it might include this property too. However, if the fort was used for military purposes and not part of the Indian cession to the firm of Panton, Leslie & Company, the fortress area would be the public lands of the United States and not part of the grant. This was ruled (in favor of the United States) in The Superior Court of Middle Florida in 1838 and affirmed by the Supreme Court of Florida in 1841.⁵

The U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in 1835 necessitated a survey of the boundary of the grant. Although the language of the Court's order made specific designation concerning the boundary line, it did not have an adequate map of the area, nor did it have an official survey upon which to base any definite opinion. Therefore, the Surveyor General of Florida, Robert Butler, was ordered by the General Land Office to hire a surveyor to make the required survey to delineate the final boundary of the grant. Butler turned to Charles H. Goldsborough, a relative of Lieutenant Louis M. Goldsborough, the son-in-law to William Wirt, a former Cabinet officer under Andrew Jackson.

Forts, Ports, Canals, and Wars

Goldsborough signed his contract to survey the grant on September 28, 1835, and was joined by Louis Goldsborough and Judge Richard C. Allen. The contract specifically read, “Connecting the Public lands with Surveying the several Deeds of Cession enumerated and recognized in the decree of the Supreme Court of the United States at the January Term 1835 to Colin Mitchel and others, as per copy thereof, and instructions furnished herewith.” In layman’s terms, this meant that all boundary lines surveyed under the grant’s language must be tied into those already completed for the Public lands in the area and corners established where these lines met.⁶

The major direction given to Goldsborough was to follow strictly the dictate of the court, and certified copies of the decision were given to him as part of his instructions. Butler also gave special attention to the surveying of Forbes Island, noting that, “The Island granted to John Forbes in the Apalachicola River must be also surveyed, and the necessary observation taken to show its connexion with same (the nearest stations) of the adjoining survey, with a view to perpetuate on paper in your return thereof its relative position in said River ...” He then continued: “... you will designate in like manner St. Vincent or Deer Island, with the tract to which it is appended at the Mouth of Apalachicola River.” Each grant – and there were numerous concessions mentioned in the Court’s decision – was to be surveyed separately. This clause made the final tying together of all the surveys difficult, especially in consideration of the large number of islands, coves, rivers, streams, etc. that dotted the landscape to be included in the grant’s survey. These special instructions also added one further complication – the boundary of the Fort of St. Marks could not be laid off until the Superior Court ruled on its extent, but its exterior lines were to be run, “leaving the reservation to be bounded, where its limits shall be settled by the Court aforesaid ...” This unclear language made the eastern section of the survey even more confusing.⁷

The land greeting the surveyor was not the Elysian Field of classical mythology. Instead, it more closely resembled the name for a large section within the grant, later called Tate’s Hell. The number of islands, the twisting, turning shoreline and the sheer impenetrable nature of some of the lands made the attempt to run any meaningful lines difficult at best. On November 22, 1835, at the beginning of his work, Goldsborough wrote to Butler asking

for some specific instructions in surveying some of the questionable marsh near St. Marks:

I do myself the honor to enquire of your Department whether you will require the Islands lying West of, and near the St Marks river meandered or not. These a half dozen very inferior group of Islands near that river, very boggy and covered entirely with marsh grass, indeed I question whether they ought to be considered islands or as an appendage to the adjoining mail land. I find on examining the map, which I presume the claimants had drawn, that the Islands which I have reference to, are not noticed, but considered simply as marsh land and attached to the main. There are many little creeks or bayous which run in different directions, and when during high water separate these Islands, but when the tide is full ebb leaves but a mass of soft mud.⁸

This description of the land at the beginning of the survey was to presage the rest of this nearly impossible adventure.

Butler's immediate answer to Goldsborough's request for further directions was brusque and pointed. "Your letter of enquiry bearing the date of 22 Ulto. can only be answered by reference to the documents in your possession... From the description of the mud banks alluded to by you it would appear to my mind that they can not be esteemed other than marsh."⁹ The tenor of the reply gives an indication that Butler was not going to be sympathetic to any delays caused by the surveyor not knowing a marsh from an island or any other reason.

By the following May, Charles Goldsborough's troubles were only just beginning. Not only did he incur the displeasure of the Surveyor General, but he aroused the ire of the holders of the grant, who, in turn, put more pressure on the over-wrought Butler. On May 7, 1836, Goldsborough penned the following letter in hopes of gaining more time and, we suspect, sympathy from Butler:

Sir: I have the honor to inform you of the very great difficulty I am at present laboring under, viz. that of employing men to assist me in the performance of the duties which you have been pleased to honor me

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with. I have had occasion recently to discharge three of my men, who, in consequence of disabilities I was forced to part with. I have to request you to permit me to suspend the survey, on which I am engaged, until the ensuing fall, at which time I shall, as a matter of course, proceed to duty. I can at present, employ men at \$40 per month which price I am not disposed to give, indeed I might say, unable to afford, and which I am satisfied you are well aware this contract will not authorize, taking into consideration the circumstances of my having been forced heretofore to give extra wages. However Sir; permit me to remark, that should you insist on the immediate execution of the duties on which I am engaged, I shall go with, notwithstanding the great difficulties I am laboring. With sentiments of great respect,¹⁰

Three days later, on May 10th, Butler fired off his reply:

Sir: Your letter of the 7 inst. is before me and I hasten to communicate that I would not feel myself authorized to suspend the execution of your contract until the fall ensuing upon any plea of pecuniary consideration, and I feel it necessary to state that I had reported some time since to the Commdrs. of Genl. Land Office that I expected that contract completed in a short time. The claimants urge its completion, the contract requires its completion, the Government expects its completion, and my duties require me to say that I expected its completion before this time. Under all the circumstances I must beg your unremitted attention to this duty under apprehensions that you and securities will be ordered to be sued on your bond if much further delay shall be experienced.¹¹

Butler's impatience with the constant delays in completing the contract are justified when it is considered that this survey was only expected to last one surveying season and not two years. Also, from the above letter, it can be seen that the Surveyor General was under considerable political pressure to get the lands surveyed so the firm could commence sales of the land recently confirmed to it by the United States Supreme Court. Despite the pressure asserted by Butler, the survey did not go on as scheduled.

The next letter in the correspondence between Butler and

Forts, Ports, Canals, and Wars

Goldsborough comes on January 21, 1837. Again we find Butler imploring the surveyor to report progress of any sort.

“Sir: From the repeated solicitations and inquiries of the Attorney for the Company of the large grant Forbes & Co. and for the survey of which you long since entered into contract, I feel it my imperious duty to require that you will without delay, report in writing the cause or causes which have led to the unusual delay in filling said contract in all its provisions, that I may be enabled to report immediately a copy to the Commdr. of the Gen’l Land Office for the information and desicison of government.”¹²

Goldsborough replied on the 6th of February:

Your letter to me bearing the date 21st ulto. has just reached me, and in answer have to remark that the very great difficulty attending the survey of “Forbes Purchase” particularly that part which is required by your Dept. of making out exact returns showing the very many indentations on all the lines, also the exact area of all the purchases (say four) can be the only excuse I have in my power to offer you for the long delay of hand in the returns. I have been at work night and day for some time past at my brother’s, making the drawings of the survey, is the cause why your letter did not sooner reach me, and receive that attention which was incumbent on me on [Sic] (to) bestow on it. You have been pleased, Sir; to remark that, “the unusual delay in filling said contract in all its provisions” etc. etc. In answer to which I have only to say that the difficulty in procuring the necessary assistants and also the long spell of sickness which I was afflicted with last summer will possibly be a sufficient apology for the delay. It is only the person who performs the d_ery [drudgery] who knows, and who can in all possibly appreciate the difficulty which I have had to encounter in the late survey. I was not aware myself, Sir, that more and serious difficulties awaited me at my table, by more difficulties have been, in a great measure, overcome, and I think I may safely say that you will be in possession of all the papers incident to the survey in the course of the present month.¹³

Two pieces of information stand out as reasons for the long delay in the

completion of the survey – Goldsborough’s personal illness over the summer and the lack of an adequate labor force on the frontier. He also notes other difficulties, but, at this stage, does not inform the Surveyor General exactly what they are. He also makes an unfortunate remark on Butler’s knowledge of surveying on the frontier in stating that only the person who “performs the d_ery [drudgery]” can appreciate the difficulties. Butler, who knew the area as an aide to Jackson in his Florida campaign and crossed some of the Forbes Purchase territory, was not one to take such an attempted slight lightly.

Butler, a good bureaucrat and administrator, did not want this delayed fulfillment of a contract to reflect poorly on him. On February 9, 1837, he wrote the Commissioner of the General Land Office, James Whitcomb, noting Goldsborough’s letter, which he enclosed, and all of the back correspondence, plus instructions, to show that he was not the cause of the delay in fulfilling the Supreme Court’s mandate.¹⁴ On March 31, 1837, Butler again wrote to the Commissioner to note that he has had, “to order Mr. Goldsborough again to the woods for the important purpose of connecting the public lands with the Survey of Forbe’s etal. as required in his instructions ... which he failed to comply with and which fact but recently came to my knowledge. ...”¹⁵ Thus, it appears from this letter that Goldsborough sent in his field notes for the survey along with the drawings. However, as Butler bluntly remarked, he did not fulfill the contract as instructed, therefore, Goldsborough was again sent to the field.

The costs of the survey were originally set at about four thousand dollars, according to Goldsborough’s contract, however, Butler did not think that sum would be expended. On April 20, 1837, Butler noted to the Commissioner, “It has been estimated that the Survey of Forbes Claim (now under execution) will cost near four thousand dollars, if this be true, a further sum than that on hand in deposit will be required.”¹⁶ Butler appears to have expected the survey to be done for less than the contracted amount, but, because of the delays, the added labor costs, return to the field, etc., Goldsborough succeeded in running the costs close to this amount. The Commissioner wrote to Butler on June 7th acknowledging the receipt of his letter informing the General Land Office of Goldsborough’s successful completion of the Forbes Survey and remitting \$4,000 to Butler’s account for payment on the contract.¹⁷ On June 12, 1837, the Surveyor General

Forts, Ports, Canals, and Wars

again wrote to the Commissioner exclaiming that he now had enough money on hand to meet, “the expected demand of Mr. Goldsborough on his contract.”¹⁸ All appeared to be finished with the long awaited survey of the Forbes Purchase, but it was not to be.

From the correspondence of the Surveyor General, dated June 29, 1837, Goldsborough apparently did not turn in the final product of his survey. Butler expected the results almost daily, and was anxious to be done with this problem.¹⁹ On July 3rd, Butler again wrote to the Commissioner informing him that he had met with Goldsborough and was informed by the surveyor of, “being ready to return his work into the office in a week at farthest.”²⁰ Seven days later Butler received the following from the tardy surveyor:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this morning calling on me for a circumstantial statement showing the condition of my contract. It is a subject Sir of regret to me that I should have been so long beyond the period for the completion of my contract. In the protraction of the extensive grant to Panton Leslie & Co. including all the lands between the Apalachicola River on the West and extending to the River St. Marks on the East, I find on examination that there has been a great error, so much so, that I could not, with propriety had in your office. The plot has been protracted and as I thought a day or two ago, would be ready for examination by this time, yet it requires a more thorough one than I have enabled to bestow on it and also make out a new plot entirely. The one I have finished being drawn in ink it will require at least a fortnight to protract another so as to ascertain where the error was committed – there being upwards to three thousand courses. All the field notes are finished and ready for inspection. The plots of the other grants are also finished and ready for inspection. ... I will proceed immediately to the examination and protraction of the above named grant and when finished will report to your office the result of it.²¹

The delay produced by this “great error” was to be costly. Two days later Goldsborough again wrote Butler, this time with a new request.

The letter of July 12th shows the extent of expenses incurred by the

Deputy Surveyor in attempting to finish this enormous survey. The letter and Butler's response also indicate the closeness usually found between Butler and his deputies.

Owing to the great length of time I have been engaged in my contract with your office and the very heavy expense I have of necessity, been at, which are upwards of \$2500, induce me again to ask you for such an advance of which you are to be the judge. I feel rather diffident in pressing the matter on you, but Sir; I must resort to the old adage that there is not excuse necessary for an application of this character when necessity demands it of which, I assure you is fully the case. I pledge myself that the returns of my contract will be forthcoming.²²

Butler replied on the same day:

Sir: Your letter of present date is just received requesting an advance of public funds on your contract for the survey of the claim decreed by the Supreme Court to certain individuals therein named / Will you have the goodness to revert to the conversation had with you on this subject a few weeks since wherein I informed you most distinctly that my instructions forbid me in positive terms to making such advances. If I had private funds to spare I would take pleasure to relieve your wants (as I have before to others without the advantage of one cent emolument) but I am denied the pleasure of obliging you.²³

At the same time, Butler wrote to the Commissioner of the General Land Office that Goldsborough had found the "great error" in his own work and that it would, "require some time to correct."²⁴

By mid-October the returns of Goldsborough's survey had not been sent to Butler, and he had to inform the Commissioner that such was the case. He also noted that if the returns were sent in soon, they would still have to await the decision of the Superior Court of Middle Florida concerning the boundaries of the St. Marks reserve, which would then have to be surveyed and included in the Goldsborough contract.²⁵ This an even longer time before the money-starved Apalachicola Land Company, the successor to John Forbes & Co., could get their lands to market with a possibility of clear

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title. With time and patience running out, Butler received the following from Goldsborough on November 28th:

In case you may suppose me too negligent (in which, tis true, I have been) in the performance of the duties prescribed to me by your office in the year 1835, I have the honor to make you acquainted in detail with the circumstances which produced the failure of making out the returns which are usual with your deputies. In surveying the Apalachicola River I was forced as a matter of necessity, to observe the triangular mode of survey, and in doing so, I must have made a considerable error & am therefore unable to form the plots or rather close the maps in accordance with the usage of your Department. I have, in vain, tried every means to close the maps so as to make a correct survey, but find it utterly impossible. A re-survey will be absolutely necessary & I should have undertaken it myself long since had my health have permitted it, which has been bad, and is at this time in rather a precarious situation, and I have my doubts whether I could survive the swamps of Apalachicola were I now to go in them. The other surveys, the one West of the River is completed, also the Island the Apalachicola and the Islands appertaining to the large survey, together with notes of those surveys.²⁶

This letter led Butler to ask the Commissioner to decide whether he could hire another surveyor to finish the job at Government expense or take it from the contracted amount due to Goldsborough through a suit for non-compliance.²⁷ One final complication arose from the reports of murders of settlers on the Gadsden and Wakulla frontiers. This meant that no surveyors would be able to take the field and complete any survey at that time.²⁸

Not until February 1, 1839, did Robert Butler get the opportunity to hire a deputy to finish and correct the work attempted, but never completed, by Charles Goldsborough. On that day, he hired Robert Ker, a fellow member of the First Presbyterian Church of Tallahassee and experienced surveyor. The contract reads almost exactly as that of Goldsborough's, as does the special instructions enclosed with the contract.²⁹ As Rod Maddox, Public Land Surveyor, noted a few years ago in his, "The Forbes Purchase: A Surveyor's Dilemma": "First, the entire boundary was run as a tremendous closed traverse, and the three other contiguous grants given in 1811 are run

Forts, Ports, Canals, and Wars

also along with the islands off the coast which were given in the first cession. This survey [Ker's] is the first complete boundary survey whose notes are presently on record. He [Ker] then retraced the original section, township and range lines which the government did complete on the exterior of the Purchase boundary, and tied them together with the boundary."³⁰ These tasks, not performed well by Goldsborough, were satisfactorily completed by Ker during the 1839 surveying season. With the survey complete and acceptable, Robert Butler could rest more easily and turn his attentions to the many other important surveys to be completed under his direction.

ENDNOTES:

1. John C. Upchurch. "Some Aspects of Early Exploration, Settlement, and Economic Development Within the Forbes Purchase." Masters Thesis, Florida State University, August 1965.10-11.
2. Ibid. 10-14.
3. See William S. Coker and Thomas D. Watson, *Indian Traders of the Southeastern Spanish Borderlands: Panton, Leslie & Company and John Forbes & Company, 1783-1847*. Gainesville: University Presses of Florida, 1986. 350-360.
4. Ibid.
5. Apalachicola Land & Development Co. etal. v. McCrea, Commissioner of Agriculture, etal. 98 *Southern Reporter*. Cited in "A Report on the Application of the Marketable Record Title Act to the Sovereign Lands of Florida." Florida Department of Natural Resources, Office of the General Council, Tallahassee, Florida, August 1985.
6. Copy of Contract between Robert Butler and Charles H. Goldsborough, Dated September 28, 1835. Drawer: "U.S. Deputy Surveyors A-H", File: "U.S. Deputy Surveyor, Charles H. Goldsborough." Land Records and Title Section, Division of State Lands, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Tallahassee, Florida. Hereafter "Goldsborough file."
7. Ibid. Letter of September 28, 1835, Butler to Goldsborough.
8. Goldsborough file. Letter of November 22, 1835. Goldsborough to Butler.
9. Goldsborough file. Letter of November 30, 1835. Butler to Goldsborough.
10. Goldsborough file. Letter of May 7, 1836. Goldsborough to Butler.
11. Goldsborough file. Letter of May 10, 1836. Butler to Goldsborough.
12. Letters of Surveyor General, Volume 2: 1836-41. 23. Bound volume of original letters. Letter of January 21, 1837. Butler to Goldsborough. Land Records and Title Section, Division of State Lands, Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Tallahassee, Florida. Hereafter, Letters of Surveyor General.
13. Goldsborough file. Letter of February 6, 1837. Butler to Goldsborough.
14. Letters of Surveyor General, Volume 2. Letter of February 9, 1837. Butler to Whitcomb. 23.

15. Letters of Surveyor General, Volume 2. Letter of March 31, 1837. Butler to Whitcomb. 26.
16. Letters of Surveyor General, Volume 2. Letter of April 20, 1837. Butler to Whitcomb. 29.
Also see the contract in Goldsborough file.
17. Letters from Commissioner, Volume 2: 1832-39. 23. Letter of June 7, 1837. Whitcomb to Butler. 419. Land Records and Title Section, Division of State Lands, Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Tallahassee, Florida.
18. Letters of the Surveyor General, Volume 2. Letter of June 12, 1837. Butler to Whitcomb. 36.
19. Letters of Surveyor General, Volume 2. Letter of June 29, 1837. Butler to Whitcomb. 40-41.
20. Ibid. 41.
21. Goldsborough file. Letter of July 10, 1837. Goldsborough to Butler.
22. Goldsborough file. Letter of July 12, 1837. Goldsborough to Butler.
23. Letters of Surveyor General, Volume 2. Letter of July 12, 1837. Butler to Goldsborough. 45.
24. Letters of Surveyor General, Volume 2. Letter of July 12, 1837. Butler to Whitcomb. 46.
25. Letters of Surveyor General, Volume 2. Letter of October 16, 1837. Butler to Whitcomb. 47.
26. Goldsborough file. Letter of November 28, 1837. Goldsborough to Butler.
27. Letters of Surveyor General, Volume 2. Letter of November 28, 1837. Butler to Whitcomb. 53.
28. Letters of Surveyor General, Volume 2. Letter of October 1, 1838. Butler to Whitcomb. 121.
29. Contract of February 1, 1839. Robert Ker. "Drawer: U. S. Deputy Surveyors: I-N," "File: U. S. Deputy Surveyor, Robt. Ker." Land Records and Title Section, Division of State Lands, Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Tallahassee, Florida.
30. Rod Maddox. "The Forbes Purchase: A Surveyor's Dilemma." Paper on file in the Land Records and Title Section, Division of State Lands, Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Tallahassee, Florida. This paper was originally composed as a requirement for seniors in the surveying seminars in University of Florida's surveying program and was done under the supervision of Professor David Gibson.



Dr. Joe Knetsch is the author of over two hundred articles and sixteen books, most of them concerning the state of Florida's history. Three of these books involve the Seminole Wars and their impact on Florida's development. He is also a frequent reviewer of books on military history for the *Journal of America's Military Past* and authored regular articles for *Professional Surveyor Magazine* for over a decade. For twenty-eight years he served as the historian for the Division of State Lands in the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Dr. Knetsch lives in Tallahassee with his wife Linda and is now retired.

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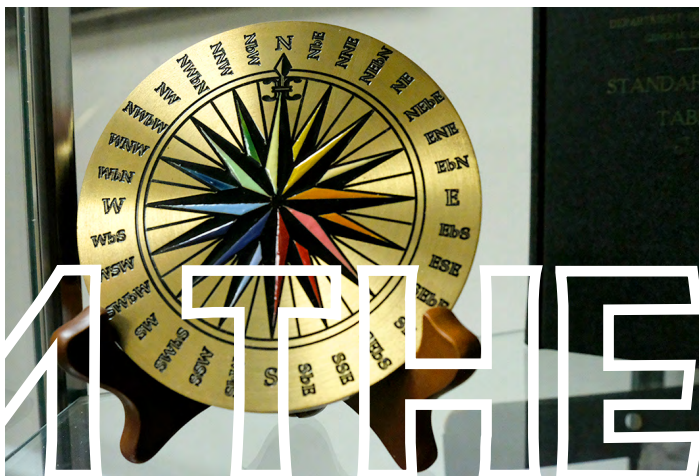
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BOUNDARIES AND LANDMARKS

A PRACTICAL MANUAL

BY

A. C. MULFORD

NEW YORK

D. VAN NOSTRAND COMPANY

25 PARK PLACE

1912

Boundaries and Landmarks

Chapter V.

LANDMARKS. (continued).

MARKED TIMBER. DITCHES AND BALKS.

TREES are frequently used as monuments in the description of property. In these cases the kind of tree is usually named or the tree is specified as a “marked” tree. As far as the author’s personal experience goes, he has found that in the sections where stone for landmarks was scarce, extra attention was given to marking or “blazing” the trees. In the southern portion of Long Island, for instance, there are few fence stones but there is a good deal of marked timber.

The methods of marking timber to indicate a line must of necessity vary greatly with locality and usage, but there are certain “blaze marks” which are so well established that they must be regarded as extremely important, especially as they usually come under the head of “marks on the ground of an old survey.” A property owner often sets up the artificial landmarks, but it is more frequently the surveyor who marks the timber.

Corner trees. — A “corner tree” is usually marked in some distinctive way (Fig. II shows one). Sometimes a series of three notches, one over the other, is cut on each of the four sides, or it may be that these notches are confined to the sides where the intersecting lines enter the tree. Sometimes a stone is jammed into the earth at the foot of the tree to emphasize the corner, like in Fig. 12. There is an instance where the stump of a corner tree which had been small and inconspicuous had been cut down but the stone jammed in by the stump, especially as it was common local usage, identified it with certainty (see Fig. 12.)

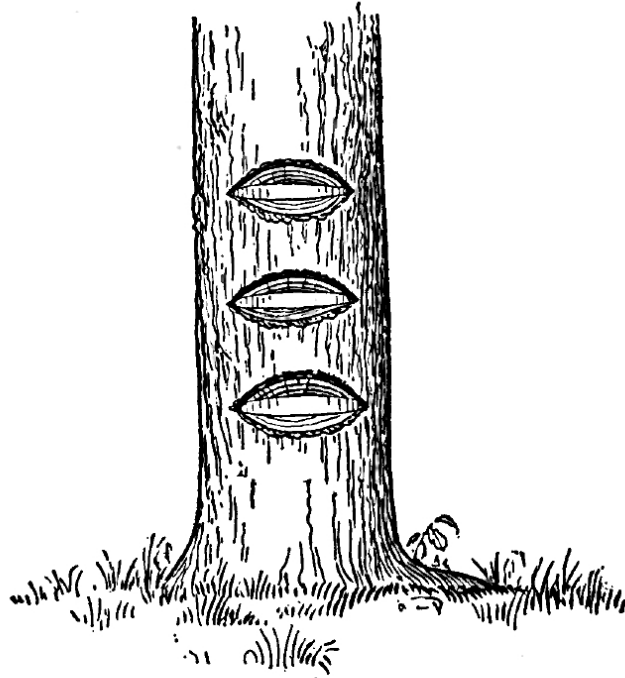


FIG. 11. The three notches in some cases are cut on the four sides of the tree, and in other cases, only on one side when the intersecting lines enter the tree.

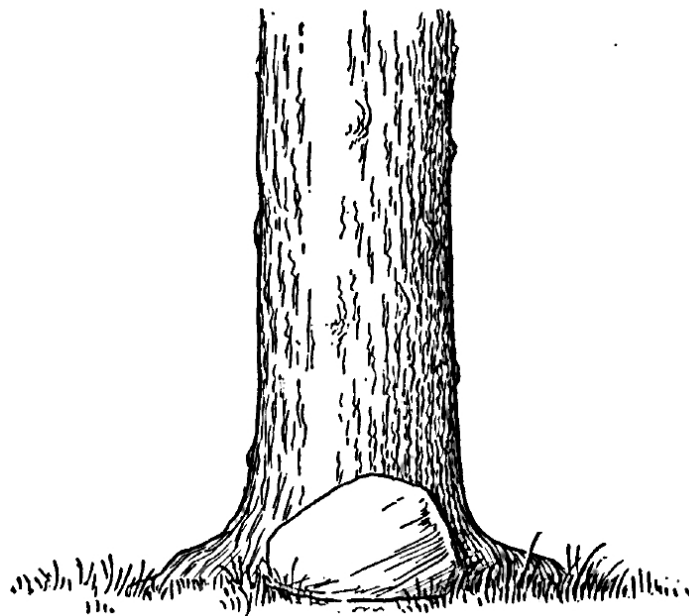


FIG. 12. The stone being jammed into the roots of the tree, where it enters the ground.

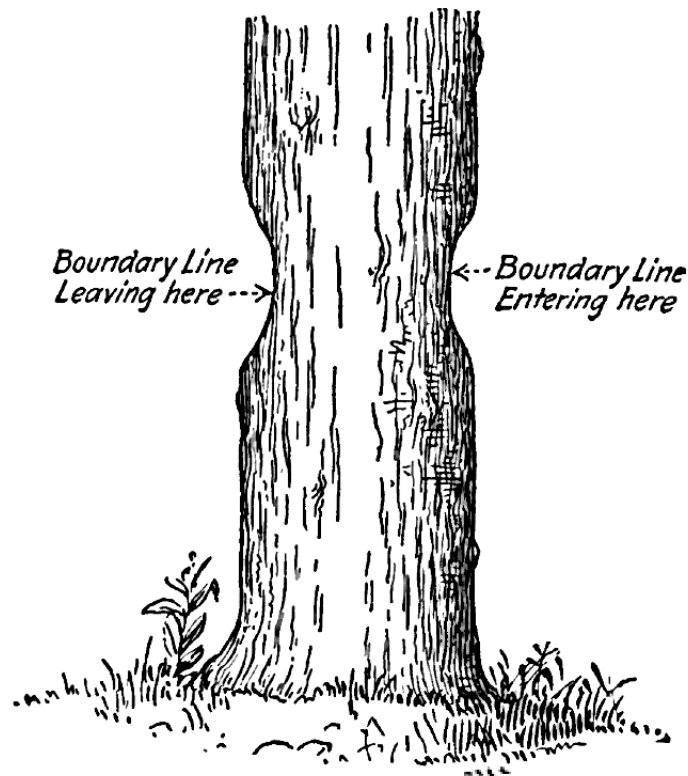


FIG. 13. Being a line tree a chip is taken out of opposite sides.

Line trees. — A “line tree,” i.e., a tree through which the line passes, is usually designated in the field by one of several ways. Ordinarily a liberal chip is cut out of the tree several feet above the ground at the point where the line enters it and another on the opposite side at the point where the line leaves it (Fig. 13 shows such a case). Sometimes a second pair of chips is cut out in such a way that the line connecting them is at right angles to the line of the survey, the tree thus being blazed on four sides. This arrangement has been found less frequent than the other. There are cases where you will find a line tree with only the second pair of chips removed. For lack of a better name any mark intended to indicate a line tree might be termed a “line blaze.”

Lopped trees. — A friend of the author’s who was an antiquarian as well as a surveyor, once called his attention to another very old form of line mark which he called a “lopped tree” (see Fig. 14). It seems that many old surveyors had a practice of “lopping” a sapling which came on the line, i.e., at a point several feet above the ground they cut the sapling half through in such a way that it could be bent over parallel to the ground and in the direction of the line.

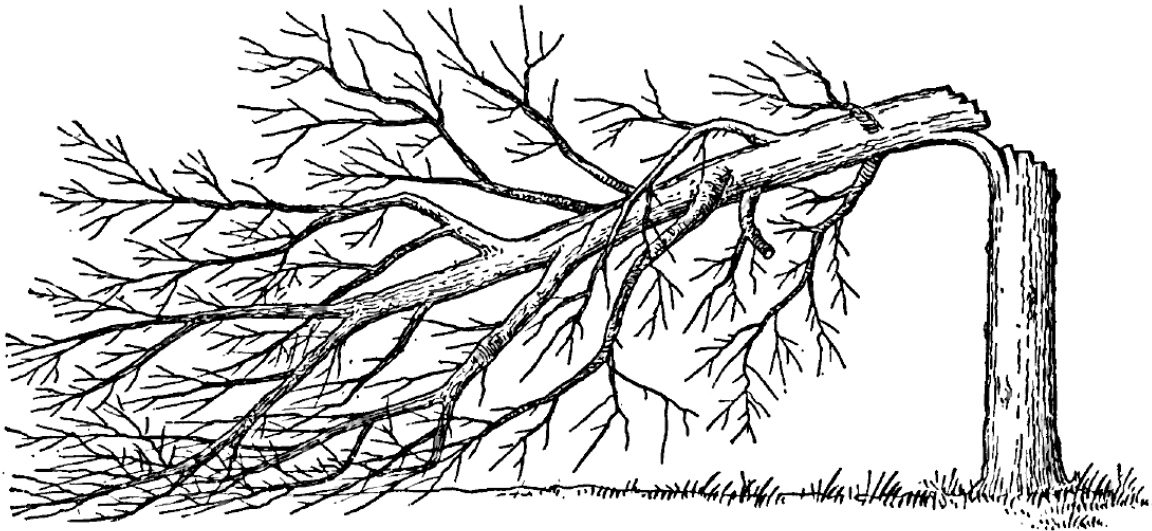


FIG. 14. A lopped tree, bent in the general direction of the boundary line.

Such a sapling did not die nor did it ever become erect again. Though it might grow to great size, the main trunk was always horizontal or at least showed a double crook. The position of this trunk may indicate half a century later the location and general direction of the line of the early survey.

Another form of blaze is used on a tree that stands very close to the line though not actually on it. This mark consists in a chip taken out of the side of the tree which is next to the line. For lack of a better name this may be called a “side-line blaze” (see Fig. 15).

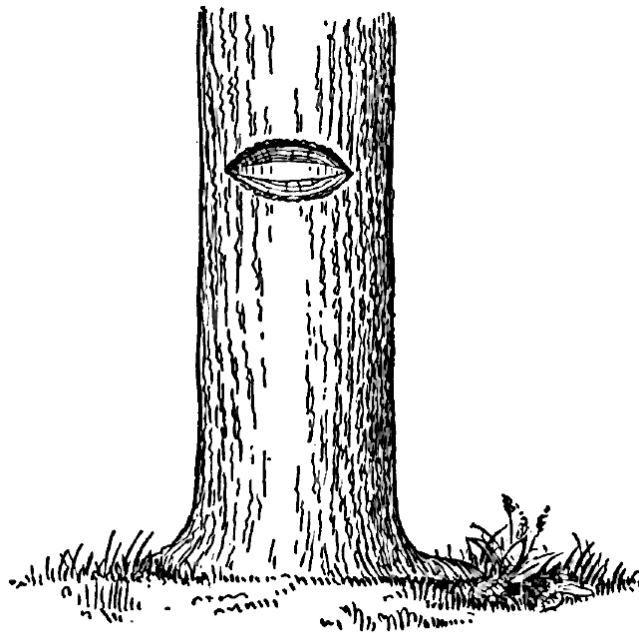


FIG. 15. Side line blaze.

Of all these marks the “line-tree” blaze is the most valuable. It is usually strong and unmistakable. But all blaze marks must be treated with a certain amount of skepticism. A man clearing up a piece of woodland frequently places a side-line blaze on the trees which stand just over the line on his neighbor’s land. Such marks are usually very nearly accurate for the reason that, unless the line was very clear, the man who was cutting the wood would not dare to define it. Scars looking very much like blaze marks may be formed on trees from natural causes, while it must be remembered that a small boy with a hatchet can mark up more trees in one Saturday afternoon than a dozen surveyors can in a year.

In general, blaze marks are to be regarded as suggestive and corroborative rather than determinative. They may suggest that the line runs in a place where you did not expect it and a subsequent study of the records may entirely confirm this. Or in a case where it has been necessary to render a decision on meager evidence, the finding of blaze marks may confirm the decision. But, in general practice, to render a definite opinion on the evidence of a few rather obscure blaze marks is, to say the least, rash. It must, however, be clearly understood that these remarks do not refer to the government blaze marks on public lands, these being clearly and carefully made. These remarks apply only to the cases met within ordinary country surveying.

Ditches. — Ditches are frequently used to mark boundary lines, but usually in meadow lands only. In such cases the line, which usually runs down the center of the ditch, is frequently marked additionally by a stake at either end of the ditch or by a line of stakes extending from one end to the other. Such ditches are usually specifically mentioned in descriptions and their meaning is thereby made clear.

Balks. — The using of this term, which is of perhaps too local a nature, is meant in a wholly tentative manner. It is intended to signify all ridges of earth which mark a boundary line, whether they be natural or artificial.

Another Old Survey Friend Passes On

It's truly a sad day when you discover that another old reliable and trusted Surveyor friend has passed on due to the negligence of others. When so many of us have come to rely on so many of these friends over the years, we just take them for granted that they'll always be there to help guide us through to the next step in our own journey of life.

This particular friend has been there standing proud and true since he came into being in 1965 as a monument to all that have come before him and since and as a testament to the best of what Surveyors have to offer in elevating us to heights of first order perfection. He wasn't the first or will be the last in performing this task for all that have seen him, used him, and trusted his wisdom in elevating our great profession.

He and many other of his compadre's are in the same perilous position he was in and deserves better treatment and respect for what he stood for, for what he represents to Surveyors across this country and for the efforts it took to position him to where he stood proud and strong for so many years and has served as a benchmark to all that have grown to rely on him.

May he rest forever in peace and harmony with the spirit of our forefathers, and those un-named hero's that helped to establish his legacy. They have following in the footsteps of those that have come before him and those that are left as a testament to the greatness of our Country and of Surveyors that have made their mark upon it.

May we all take a moment to say our goodbyes and pay our respects for he has paid the ultimate price to advancing our profession and our knowledge, and will forever be elevated to the heights of perfection that we all strive for!

My only hope is that we do a better job to protect, nurture, and keep better track of those friends that are left for that still have a place in our world and what we do every day.

The NGS Data Sheet

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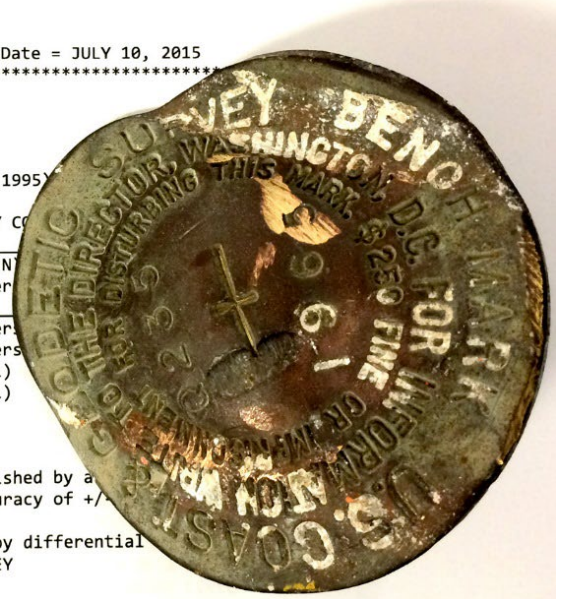
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AD2570 DESIGNATION - Q 235
AD2570 PID - AD2570
AD2570 STATE/COUNTY- FL/BROWARD
AD2570 COUNTRY - US
AD2570 USGS QUAD - FORT LAUDERDALE NORTH (1995)
AD2570
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AD2570* NAD 83(1986) POSITION- 26 07 47.6 (N
AD2570* NAVD 88 ORTHO HEIGHT - 1.937 (meter
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AD2570 OBS GRAVITY - 979,063.0 (mgal)
AD2570
AD2570 VERT ORDER - FIRST CLASS I
AD2570
AD2570.The horizontal coordinates were established by a
AD2570.observations and have an estimated accuracy of +/-
AD2570.
AD2570.The orthometric height was determined by differential
AD2570.adjusted by the NATIONAL GEODETIC SURVEY
AD2570.in May 1994.
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A balk is sometimes simply a low wall of earth built along a boundary line. In such cases the line runs along the center and, if there has been a previous survey, the stakes will be found on top of the mound. It is my impression that this form is most frequently employed where the boundary line follows the junction of marsh and upland.

There is a second form much more difficult of interpretation, where a ditch has been excavated and the earth thrown up in a low mound along one side. This form is not confined to marsh lands, but is sometimes seen in unfenced woodland and hill country and also on the plains here on Long Island. It is an ancient, cheap and permanent method of marking poor land. The great trouble with it is that there seems to be no rule to determine whether the ditch or the balk marks the line. There are cases of it being both ways. If the deed throws no light on the subject, the surveyor must look for other marks on the ground or must consult persons who are familiar with the land and its history. It is a case where additional evidence must always be sought.

A third form of balk is largely the work of nature. The plow is a great destroyer, and where the soil has been loosened by it year after year, nature removes the excess of earth in ways of her own. On the other hand, where man has left the soil alone, nature builds up its surface from plant waste and makes its texture firm by interlacing roots. For this reason the level of cultivated fields is gradually lowered, while, if there is a hedgerow between them, the surface of this undisturbed portion may actually become slightly raised. If, after this, the fields be allowed to lie fallow and the hedgerow be entirely cleared away, the position of the latter will nevertheless be marked in all probability by a low broad balk, an ineradicable mark of ancient boundary.

After all has been said it must be fairly admitted that these three classes of landmarks, — blazed trees, ditches and balks, — though capable of very varied interpretation, form a most useful and valuable portion of the general body of evidence.●

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The Instructor

Dr. Joe Knetsch will be our live onboard instructor for the 2026 Seminars at Sea. Dr. Knetsch received his Ph. D. in history from Florida State University (1990), an MA in history from Florida Atlantic University (1974) and a B.S. from Western Michigan University with a major in History and Economics. He was the historian for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (formerly Department of Natural Resources), Division of State Lands from 1987 to August of 2014.

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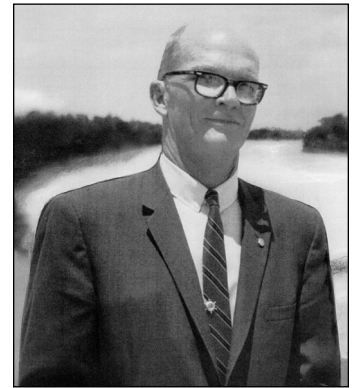
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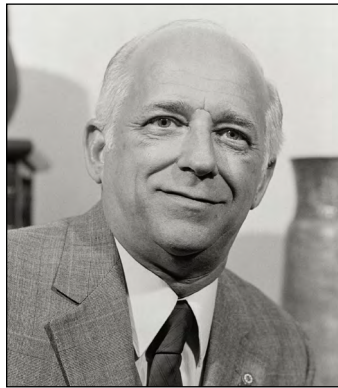
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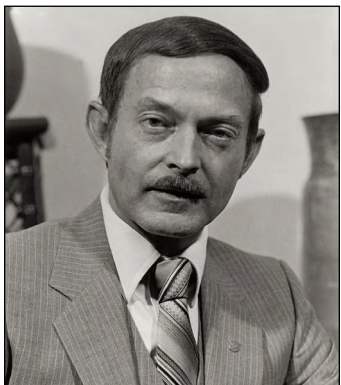
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E.R. (Ed)
Brownell



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E.W. (Gene)
Stoner



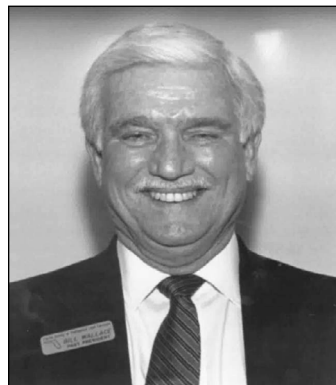
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Lewis H. Kent



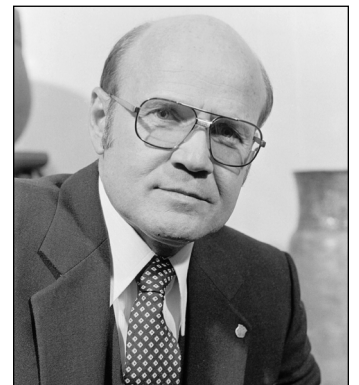
1976 - 1977
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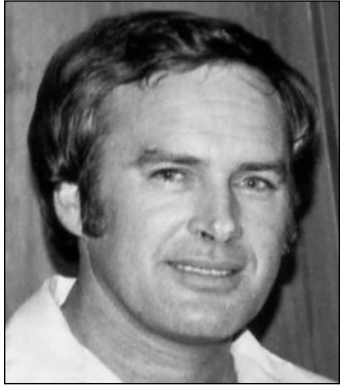


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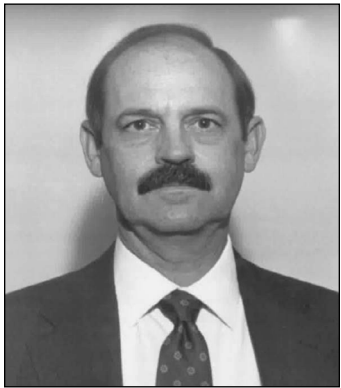
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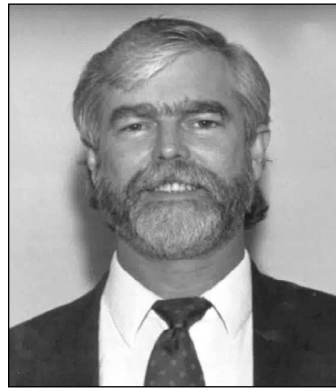
1983 - 1984
Robert A.
Bannerman



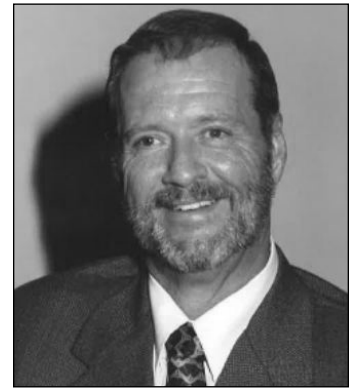
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H. Bruce
Durdén



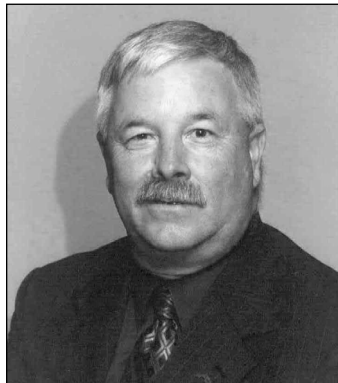
1986 - 1987
Jan L. Skipper



1987 - 1988
Stephen M.
Woods



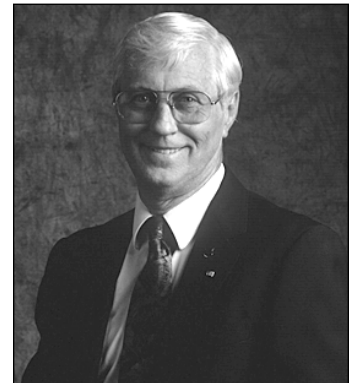
1988 - 1989
Stephen G.
Vrabel



1989 - 1990
W. Lamar Evers



1990 - 1991
Joseph S. Boggs



1991 - 1992
Robert L.
Graham

Past Presidents



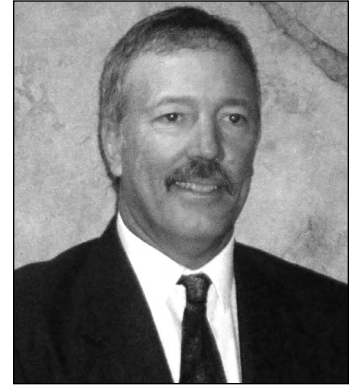
1992 - 1993
Nicholas D.
Miller



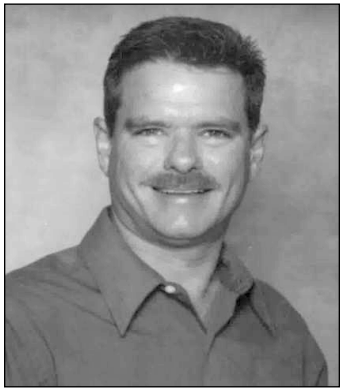
1993 - 1994
Loren E.
Mercer



1994 - 1995
Kent Green



1994 - 1995
Robert D. Cross



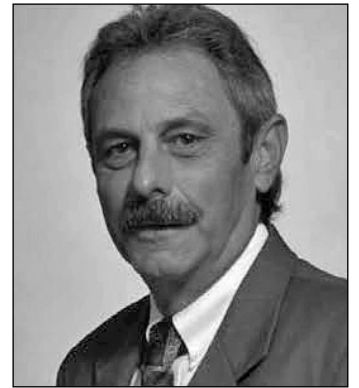
1995 - 1996
Thomas L.
Connor



1996 - 1997
Gordon R.
Niles, Jr.



1997 - 1998
Dennis E.
Blankenship



1998 - 1999
W. Lanier
Mathews, II



1999 - 2000
Jack Breed



2000 - 2001
Arthur A.
Mastronicola



2001 - 2002
Michael H.
Maxwell



2002 - 2003
John M. Clyatt

Past Presidents



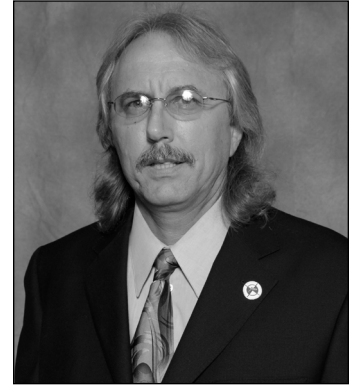
2003 - 2004
David W.
Schryver



2004 - 2005
Stephen M.
Gordon



2005 - 2006
Richard G.
Powell



2006 - 2007
Michael J.
Whitling



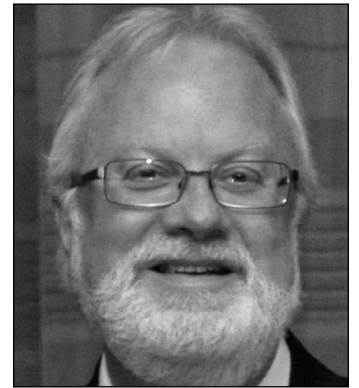
2007 - 2008
Robert W.
Jackson, Jr.



2008 - 2009
Pablo Ferrari



2009 - 2010
Steve Stinson



2010 - 2011
Dan Ferrans



2011 - 2012
Jeremiah
Slaymaker



2012 - 2013
Ken Glass



2013 - 2014
Russell Hyatt



2014 - 2015
William Rowe

Past Presidents



2015 - 2016
Dale Bradshaw



2016 - 2017
Lou Campanile, Jr.



2017 - 2018
Robert Strayer, Jr.



2018 - 2019
Dianne Collins



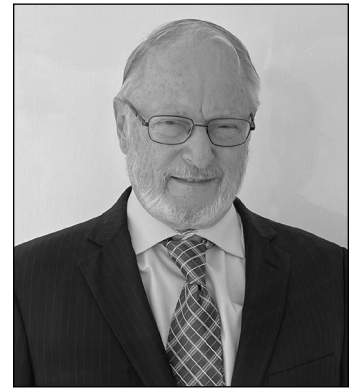
2019 - 2020
Don Elder



2020 - 2021
Hal Peters



2021 - 2022
Lou Campanile, Jr.



2022 - 2024
Howard Ehmke



2024 - 2025
Richard Pryce

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Cathy Campanile

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