

THE FLORIDA SURVEYOR

March 2026
Volume XXXIV, Issue 3

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National Surveyors Week
Speculation & the Forbes Purchase
Historical Monument Award





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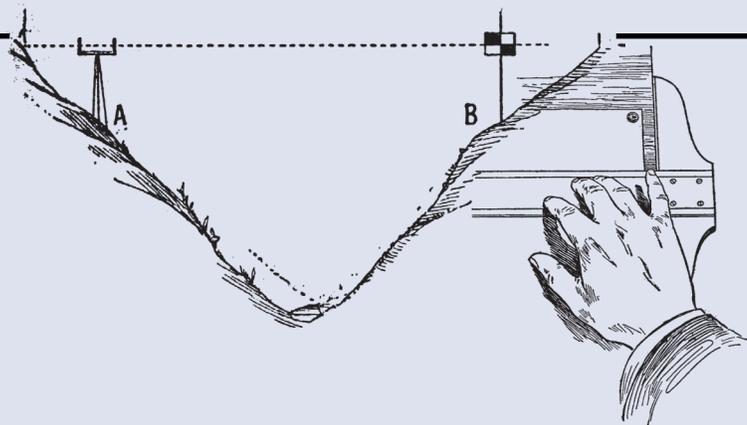
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THE FLORIDA SURVEYOR is the official publication of the Florida Surveying and Mapping Society, also known as FSMS. It is published monthly for the purpose of communicating with the professional surveying community and related professions who are members 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

March 2026



Members,

National surveyors' week is upon us. Surveyors' week runs from March 15th to March 21st, culminating with Global Surveyors Day on March 21st.

As you may know, the goal of National Surveyors Week is to explain the importance of surveying and to make the public aware of the role that surveyors play in today's society.

The first Surveyors Week was signed into law on November 30, 1983, as Ronald Reagan signed public law 98-182 designating the week beginning March 11, 1984, as "National Surveyors Week".

Surveying is one of the world's oldest professions. Beginning in Egypt in 3000 B.C. surveyors were utilized for construction projects and re-establishing boundary lines after the annual Nile River flooding. Fast forward to 1785, within the United States, Thomas Jefferson helped craft a method for orderly transfer of property through the Public Land Survey System (PLSS) in the Land Ordinance of May 20, 1785. Today We are still determining boundary lines and so much more. Surveyors utilize technology like laser scanners, GNSS, drones, and LiDAR to aid the AEC industry with whatever projects they can dream up.

Our job now is to educate the public about what we do, and to introduce middle schoolers and high schoolers to the surveying profession. This can be done in a number of ways.

The National Society of Professional Surveyors has created the NSPS Trig-Star program. Trig-Star is a competition that recognizes and awards high school students who excel in mathematics, with the goal being to demonstrate



President

Robert Johnson

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PRESIDENT'S Message

practical uses for mathematics and bring greater awareness to the surveying profession. For more information, see the trig-Star Informational flyer.

<https://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/ffgs/files/2025/07/Trig-Star-general.pdf>

If you know of a teacher that may be interested in having their students compete, they can reach out to geo-extension@ifas.ufl.edu for more information.

As surveyors we have the tools and ability to do outreach to the Boy Scout and Girl Scout groups. Scouting has a surveying Merit badge. Contact your Local scouting troop, the field work requirements take about an afternoon to complete.

Lastly, I would like each of our members to show up at your local municipal Surveyors' Week proclamations, projecting visibility of the surveying profession in the communities we serve.

Your thoughts are important, and I would like to hear from you regarding any comments or suggestions you may have. Please email me at president.fsms@gmail.com.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert N. Johnson, PSM, CFM

MONTHLY MEETING SERIES

"Benefits of Joining the Florida Surveying and Mapping Society (FSMS)"

This Month's **Don Elder**,
Speaker: PSM

MICROSOFT TEAMS

MARCH 25, 2026
12:00-12:30 PM

FL Young Surveyors Network

Surveying Careers in Florida ([Click Here to Learn More!](#))

County Surveyor

Location: Gainesville, FL

Organization: Alachua County Board of County Commissioners

Experience: 5 - 10 years

Education: Bachelor's Degree

Salary: \$93,392 - \$112,320 Annually

This is responsible, professional, and supervisory work in all phases of surveying and real property acquisition and disposal for the County. An employee in this class organizes the methodology and develops operational procedures, as well as directing and coordinating the functions and activities associated with the Survey, Real Property and GIS Division within the Transportation and Development Department of Public Works.

Professional Surveyor & Mapper - Section Manager

Location: Clearwater, FL

Organization: Pinellas County Public Works

Experience: 10 years or more

Education: Bachelor's

Salary: \$92,622.40 - \$148,179.20 Annually

Pinellas County Public Works is seeking a motivated and collaborative Professional Surveyor and Mapper to manage the Survey Mapping and Research Section. Work includes overseeing professional and technical staff and building cross-departmental teams for the purpose of maintaining and developing the County's infrastructure while keeping Survey and Mapping goals and initiatives in alignment with Public Works goals and initiatives and the County's strategic plan.

Senior Survey Drafter, Senior Survey Crew Chief, Land Surveyor in Training

Location: Anywhere in Florida

Organization: New Survey Business

Experience: 5 - 10 years

Education: High School / GED

Semi-retired Florida PSM seeking to assist in establishing a new surveying business anywhere in Florida in partnership with qualified individuals to serve the residential construction market. The qualified candidate will be 2-3 years from becoming a Florida registered surveyor, and has a desire to start their surveying business experience as soon as possible.

Professional Surveyor

Location: Royal Palm Beach, FL

Organization: Wilco Electrical LLC

Experience: 3 - 5 years

Education: Bachelor's Degree

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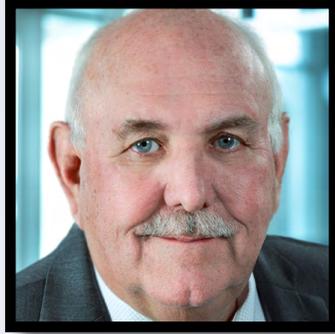
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| Young Surveyors Network | Mary Voor |

The Origins of National Surveyors Week

By John Palatiello

Following about five years of retaining an outside independent lobbyist and then a national law and lobbying firm, the American Congress on Surveying (ACSM), the predecessor to NSPS, decided to create an in-house government affairs program and hire staff to manage the activity in 1981. This decision coincided with a proposed "consolidation" or merger between ACSM and the American Society of Photogrammetry (ASP), later renamed the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS). A joint board known as the Council of Mapping, Photogrammetry, and Surveying Societies (COMPASS) was formed to develop a consolidation plan. In the transition to a combined organization, joint programs in education and government affairs were formed. I was hired as the first Joint Government Affairs Director in January of 1982.

The surveying and mapping profession had experienced several adverse legislative and government affairs decisions and actions that needed correction. The "Brooks Act", providing for qualification-based selection of firms as contractors for architecture, engineering and related services by Federal agencies, enacted in 1972, had been considered to apply to surveying and mapping contracts, but these services were removed from the law by bid protest decisions rendered by the Comptroller General of the United States in 1977. The controversial Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act was signed into law by President Jimmy Carter in 1977, after previously being vetoed by President Gerald Ford in 1975. It specified that engineers or geologists shall be lead professionals authorized to prepare cross-section maps or plans of the land to be affected in a surface mining permit application, usurping and preempting most state laws that define such activities as the practice of land surveying. Numerous other Federal activities defined or classified surveying and mapping as less than a professional activity, regarded surveyors as members of an occupation that was not recognized as a profession, and did not recognize licensed surveyors as professionals.

My task as Joint Government Affairs Director was to lobby Congress and Federal agencies to restore, elevate, and define surveying as a profession.

While the groundwork to remedy the aforementioned disadvantageous laws and policies was being laid, it became apparent that the surveying profession lacked the experience or ability to engage in grass roots lobbying by individual surveyors. My memory, and NSPS's records, fail to document who originated the idea for National Surveyors Week, but Don Bender of California, 1982 NSPS President and Paul Lapham of Michigan, a NSPS past president and chair of the ACSM-ASPRS Joint Government Affairs Committee, were instrumental. My experience as a

Congressional staff professional prior to coming to ACSM included leading the effort to pass a Congressional resolution to authorize the President to proclaim the week that includes Thanksgiving as National Family Week was an important part of the decision to pursue a similar effort to establish Surveyors Week.

In those days, hundreds of commemorative resolutions were introduced in Congress each year. Some members of Congress, staff, and citizens believed Congress was spending too much time on things like building naming, postage stamps, commemorative coins, Congressional Gold Medals, memorials, and designating special days, weeks, months, and anniversaries at the expense of more substantive legislation to address national priorities. At the time, the House had a protocol that a commemorative resolution, once introduced, needed 218 cosponsors, one-half of the members of the House, and the Senate required 25 cosponsors, divided among senators from both political parties, in order for a committee of jurisdiction to act on a resolution to triage in favor of those with significant support. (In 1995, the House adopted a rule still in effect today that prohibits commemorative resolutions.)

Many congressmen and senators would only cosponsor a commemorative resolution if they received a request from a constituent. In order to secure the necessary cosponsors, and to engage in a drill to introduce surveyors to grass roots lobbying and communication with their federal representatives in preparation for more substantive forthcoming legislative efforts, the National Surveyors Week project was launched. That was not to say there were no surveyors who were politically active and astute, nor without strong personal relationships with their congressmen or senators. NSPS member P. Porcher “Shay” Gregg of Virginia Beach, Virginia and Ferrell Prosser of Florence, South Carolina volunteered to secure sponsors for the Surveyors Week resolution. They were immediately successful as Representative G. William Whitehurst (R-VA) and Senator Strom Thurmond (R-SC) committed to introducing House and Senate resolutions, respectively.

Concurrent with this effort was the establishment of the ACSM-NSPS Political Action Committee (PAC) on April 1, 1982.

On October 1, 1982, Senator Thurmond introduced Senate Joint Resolution (S. J. Res.) 263, to authorize the President to issue a proclamation designating the week beginning on March 13, 1983, as “National Surveyors Week”. NSPS members, Senator Thurmond, and I immediately went to work. Having garnered 35 cosponsors (20 Republicans, 15 Democrats), the resolution was discharged from the Committee on Judiciary and passed by the full Senate on a voice vote on December 10, 1982. On September 9, 1982, Representative Whitehurst introduced House Joint Resolution (H.J. Res.) 591, to authorize the President to issue a proclamation designating the week beginning on March 13, 1983, as “National Surveyors Week”. However, having only secured 167 cosponsors, the Whitehurst resolution, as well as

Thurmond's Senate-passed resolution, died in a House committee when Congress adjourned at the end of 1982.

While the NSPS membership was deeply disappointed, but neither deflated nor discouraged. Instructed by the adage popularized by then-Speaker of the House Thomas J. "Tip" O'Neill, Jr. (D-MA) that "all politics is local", NSPS redoubled its efforts and committed to securing the requisite cosponsors on new resolutions in both the House and Senate. The failure of the first effort to pass a Congressional resolution did not deter the surveying community. During the 1983 ACSM-ASP convention in March, Surveyors Week was nonetheless launched. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV), sponsor of legislation to reinstate the surveyor as a lead professional in the Surface Mining Act was a speaker. The first PAC reception was held at the Capitol Hill Club, attracting scores of the association's members and numerous lawmakers. This was a precursor for today's annual "Day on the Hill". A special National Surveyors Week campaign button was worn by members throughout the convention. Even without a Congressional resolution or Presidential proclamation, state proclamations designating Surveyors Week were issued by the governors of Pennsylvania and Wyoming and a feature was published in the newsletter of the Defense Mapping Agency, among other observances.

On March 2, 1983, Senator Thurmond introduced S.J. Res. 44, to authorize the President to issue a proclamation designating the week beginning on March 11, 1984, as "National Surveyors Week". Building on the groundwork of the previous year, it was introduced with 31 cosponsors. And when the magic 35th cosponsor (18 Republicans 16 Democrats joined Thurmond) signed onto the resolution on March 17, it was immediately discharged from the Judiciary Committee, of which Thurmond was chairman, and passed by the Senate on that same day. It was sent to the House and referred to the Committee on Post office and Civil Service.

Meanwhile, determined to work with NSPS and not fall short again, Representative Whitehurst started earlier by introducing H.J. Res. 103 on January 26, 1983. While it took a sustained effort, this time the NSPS effort was successful. The Whitehurst resolution secured its 218th cosponsor on November 9, 1983 (and then added six more, getting to a total of 224), the House Committee on Post Office and Civil Service was discharged from further consideration of Thurmond's S.J. Res. 44 and the full House unanimously passed the resolution on November 17. A resolution to authorize the President to issue a proclamation designating the week beginning on March 11, 1984, as "National Surveyors Week" was on its way to President Ronald Reagan who signed it into law, Public Law 98-182, on November 30, 1983.

While the lobbying effort ended, the public relations effort needed to begin. I developed a guidebook that outlined suggested activities to observe Surveyors Week with tips on everything from working with the local news media to



National Surveyors Week, 1984

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

In the development of our country, the role of the surveyor has been of vital importance. In colonial days, surveyors were among the leaders in the community—statesmen, influential citizens, and shapers of cultural standards, including people such as George Washington and Thomas Jefferson. It was the surveyor's work that determined the boundaries of land, the greatest economic asset in the colonies. Thomas Jefferson chaired a committee in 1784 to devise a plan for disposing of lands west of the Thirteen Colonies. He argued that surveying before sale was necessary to prevent overlapping claims and to simplify deeds and registers. He reportedly wrote a plan which was debated in Congress, and in modified form was adopted as the Land Ordinance of May 20, 1785. The ordinance established the Public Land Survey System (PLSS)—the rectangular system that continues in effect today in 30 midwestern and western states.

Since 1785, the nature of surveying has changed dramatically. No longer is surveying limited to the description and location of land boundaries. Today, hydrographic surveys are important to the use of all our bodies of water; engineering surveys are utilized in the study and selection of engineering construction; geodetic surveys determine precise global positioning for such activities as aircraft and missile navigation; and cartographic surveys are used for mapping and charting, including the use of photogrammetry, the science of using aerial photographs for measurement and map production. Many services are provided through the use of sophisticated equipment and techniques, such as satellite-borne remote sensing devices and automated positioning, measuring, recording, and plotting equipment.

In recognition of the significant contribution made by surveyors to the United States, the Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 44, has authorized and requested the President to designate the week beginning on March 11, 1984, as "National Surveyors Week."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the week beginning March 11, 1984, as National Surveyors Week. I urge the people of the United States to observe this week with appropriate ceremonies and activities paying tribute to professional surveyors and their contribution to society. I invite all Americans to look back at the historic contributions of surveying and look ahead to the new technologies which are constantly modernizing this honored and learned profession.

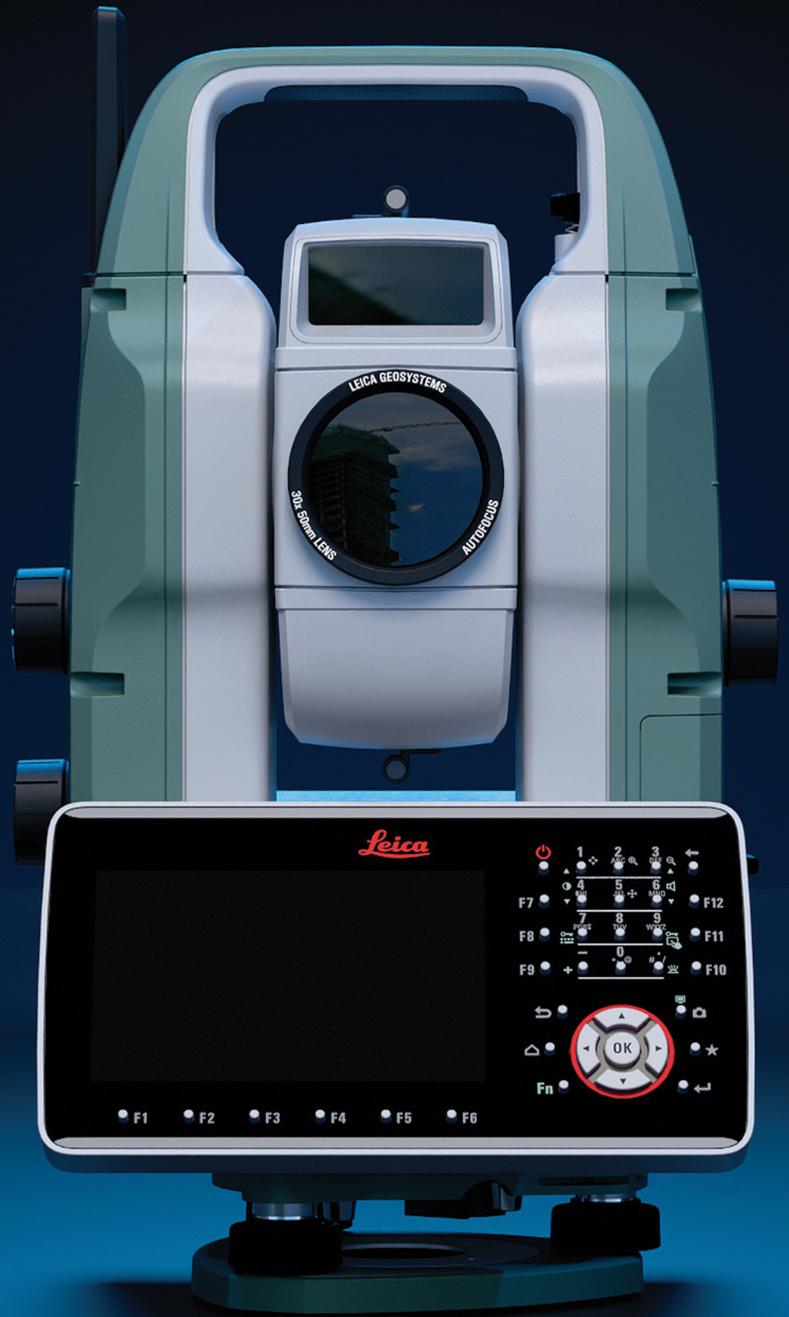
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 13th day of Feb., in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and eighth.

Ronald Reagan

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planning an event. The program won a national association award and earned publicity for ACSM. The effort stimulated activity by numerous state surveying societies, government agencies, and individual surveyors and firms.

Among the most notable public relations success was a special project carried out by the National Geodetic Survey (NGS) to measure the extent to which the Washington Monument was subsiding. It was featured on the CBS Evening News that ended with a dramatic simulation showing the monument sinking at a much more rapid rate than the NGS crew found while Walter Cronkite signed off with his signature "and that's the way it is" one evening during Surveyors Week in March of 1984. A subsequent feature in the Mini Page, a nationally syndicated supplement carried in hundreds of newspapers, educated youngsters on how maps are made.

The PAC reception grew exponentially from its inaugural foray the previous year, attracting over 130 ACSM-NSPS members and more than 40 legislators.

It is interesting to reflect on the House and Senate members who helped pass National Surveyors Week. No Senate cosponsor remains in the Senate today. Rep. Ron Wyder (D-OR), a cosponsor as a House member, is now a senior U.S. Senator, while Sen. Charles Grassley (R-IA) is the only member of the Senate in 1983 still serving today, but he was not a cosponsor. Among House members in 1983, only 4 are still in the House today, Reps. Hal Rogers (R-KY), Chris Smith (R-NJ), Steny Hoyer (D-MD), and Marcy Kaptur (D-OH.) Hoyer and Kaptur were cosponsors. The House cosponsors also included two future Vice Presidents of the United States – Al Gore, Jr. and Richard Cheney. Cheney's brother was a surveyor with the National Park Service and an ACSM/NSPS member. Several House cosponsors went on to serve as Governors, U.S. Senators, Speaker of the House, and Cabinet members, but are no longer in those positions.

The effort to secure a Congressional resolution authorizing President Reagan to issue a National Surveyors Week proclamation also served as a catalyst for effective ACSM-NSPS government affairs activity and success. The Surface Mining Act was amended to reinstate the surveyor as a lead professional by an amendment to an Interior Appropriations bill offered by Senator Robert Byrd (D-WV), other bills were used as vehicles for amendments to reinstate surveying and mapping in the Brooks Act for military construction projects, the Corps of Engineers, highway, Superfund, and airports projects, and then the original Brooks Act itself was amended to add surveying and mapping in 1987. During Ronald Reagan's presidency the Department of Labor reaffirmed a longstanding policy that surveying personnel were not deemed "laborers and mechanics" subject to the Davis-Bacon Act and the occupations of Land Surveyor and Photogrammetrist were removed from the department's list of "apprenticeable" occupations. And the Office of Personnel Management updated its position classification for surveyors employed in the

federal government, providing recognition as professionals, among other legislative and policy victories.

Ironically, the proposed consolidation of ACSM and ASP was narrowly rejected by a vote of members of both societies in the fall of 1983 and the joint government affairs program subsequently became solely an ACSM-NSPS activity. But National Surveyors Week was a springboard for giving surveyors an effective voice in Washington, DC that continues to this day.

John Palatiello was ACSM-ASP Joint Government Affairs beginning in 1982 after nearly a decade as a Congressional staff assistant. He was later promoted to Assistant Executive Director for Public Affairs. He formed Jon M. Palatiello & Associates in 1987 and provided consulting services to the surveying and mapping profession for the next 40 years. In 2013, his firm was retained to manage NSPS government affairs in Washington, D.C., and to advocate for the surveying profession at the federal level, a position his current firm, Miller-Wenhold Capitol Strategies, continues to hold.

2026 National Surveyors Week

March 15-21

nsp.us.com

Global Surveyors' Day

March 21

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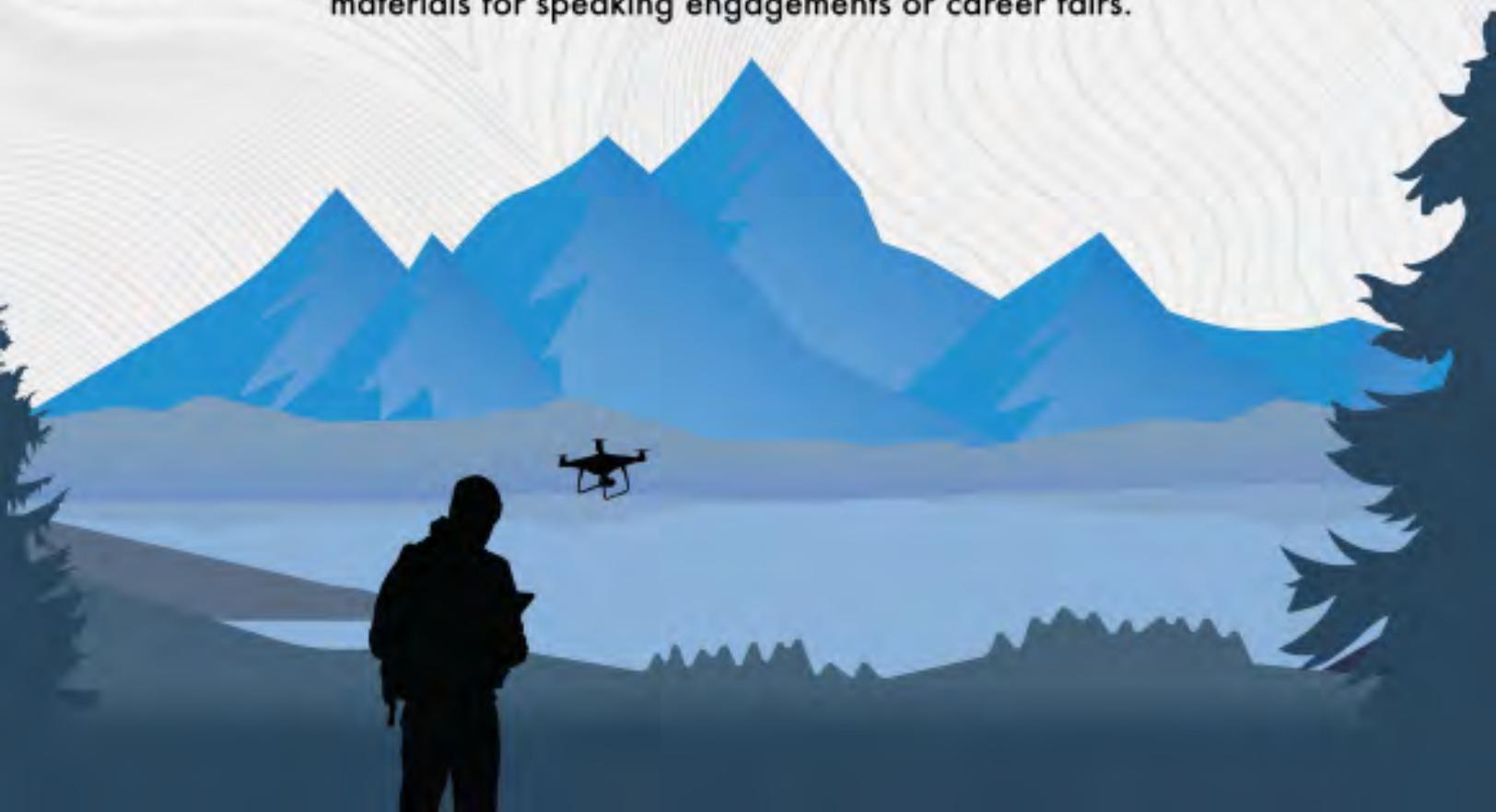
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National Surveyors Week¹

What's It All About

National Surveyors Week – the annual week-long celebration of the surveying profession that takes place in March. What is the best way to use this event to the advantage of the surveying profession?

Consider having three goals of public awareness through:

1. Education of the public
2. Public media
3. Public service

Education of the public is the number one goal of National Surveyors Week. The work surveyors perform for the benefit of the public often goes unrecognized and surveyors need to share our knowledge with them. The work being done by NSPS TrigStar volunteers is incredible and should be highlighted during National Surveyors Week. There are volunteers doing outreach to Boy Scout and Girl Scout groups and resources are available for these programs. We can expand on this and offer to speak to the local Rotary or Lions Club. They are always willing to have a speaker at their meetings. How better to promote your profession and your business than to make a public appearance?

Reaching out to the public through the media and making them aware of the surveying profession and our role in today's society is a goal whose value we all recognize. Over the last few years we have achieved this in a variety of ways including Presidential, gubernatorial, and municipal proclamations, newspaper articles, and radio spots highlighting National Surveyors Week. There is also a GPS Day, Facebook and X. Each of these channels represents another way for the land surveying community to stay connected with a different segment of the public.

Although the annual effort of contacting the President, members of Congress, your governor and your municipal leaders may seem trivial, remember that it serves to remind *them* that surveyors are important. It is an essential part of the NSPS awareness campaign and serves as an introduction to our senators and representatives when we visit them on the hill. Whenever a bill, law or ordinance is being contemplated which affects the public and affects the surveying profession, these elected officials should know who to turn to for answers to their

questions – surveyors, YOU!

Newspaper articles, radio advertisements, and on-line media can serve the same function for the surveying profession, keeping us in the public eye. Too often our image is hidden behind the impressions of an attorney, title agent or real estate agent. Surveyors can use the media to highlight the value of the surveying profession with our most important constituency, our clients. The best way to get an article about surveying published in a newspaper is to contact a local reporter and let them know that you have a good lead on a community interest story. If that fails to attract their attention offer to write one yourself and submit it to the paper. State societies, society chapters and even private firms have written or sponsored articles or public service announcements which serve as advertising for the surveying profession and their businesses.

In his inaugural address on January 20, 1961, President John F. Kennedy poignantly challenged us when he said “*Ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country*”. It is with this attitude in mind that we surveyors should attempt to give back to our nation and our profession and lay the groundwork for the future. Surveyors may lament the passing of the geodetic field parties of the past and the disappearance of the NGS monuments, but surveyors need to embrace the future, share expertise and volunteer for a common cause. In doing this we can prepare the foundation with which the public will turn to future surveyors and for their professional services. It will help us hone our skills and keep us abreast of changes in our own practice.

¹Modified from an article by Frank Lenik, PLS (2016)



National Surveyors Week Volunteer Kit

WHO. WHAT. WHEN. WHERE. WHY.

HOW!

It's all about the HOW.

It's not breaking news that the annual number of retiring surveyors far exceeds the number of those entering the surveying profession. It's up to us to reverse this trend. One of the best ways to do that is to introduce the newest generation to the surveying profession. Show them how interesting your job is and how it relates to their local community.

SECTION 1

How to request a proclamation.

An easy way to bring public recognition to the profession is by obtaining proclamations from local, state, and national governments to recognize the contributions of surveyors.

Contact the state and local government offices from which you would like to request a proclamation to determine the process for each. Most state and local governments need at least 3–4 weeks to complete the request. Sample proclamations are available on the National Surveyors Week website, www.nsps.us.com/page/NSW. Make sure you follow up to confirm receipt of your request and to find out how long it will take to complete it, how you will be notified, and if you can schedule a signing ceremony.

If you are able to schedule a signing ceremony,

- Arrange to have several surveyors present
- Promote the day and time of the ceremony on community calendars and in local news publications
- Be sure to take pictures during the event so that you can include a photo with any news releases, and post them on your website and other social media that you use.
- Provide information and photos about signing ceremonies to NSPS (info@nsps.us.com)

SECTION 2

How do I talk to kids about surveying?

HOW do I start?

Identify potential groups within your local community. Your list should include local elementary and middle schools, after-school care programs, Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops, Boys and Girls Clubs, and other area youth groups.

HOW do I set up a visit?

Contact NSPS (240-439-4615 or info@nsps.us.com) for give-away items. Look at your list and see if you have a personal connection to any of the groups. Do you have a daughter who is a Girl Scout? Is your neighbor an elementary school teacher?

SECTION 2

(continued)

Once you've identified a group to work with,

- Reach out to them and explain that you are interested in visiting the group and to lead a hands-on activity related to surveying
- Answer any questions they may have
- Ask if they have a volunteer policy
- Schedule and confirm a date and time for the visit

HOW do I explain surveying to kids?

Hands-on activities are the best way to engage the group and illustrate basic surveying principles. You can bring some of your equipment and demonstrate how and why you use it. Additionally, you can use programs like Get Kids Into Survey (GKIS). Since 2017, GKIS has been working internationally to educate young students about the world of surveying. Through the development of online resources, school, and career-day events and through the production of engaging and exciting learning materials, children all over the world have already learned a great deal about geospatial work. GKIS has a variety of resources that you can use when speaking to young students, including coloring sheets, lesson plans, posters, quizzes, and a comic book. In addition to using these free resources online, you can also become a brand ambassador or sponsor of GKIS. Visit getkidsintosurvey.com for more information.

HOW do I get kids excited about the profession?

Use phrases like making a difference and problem solving. Avoid phrases and terms that make it sound difficult to become a surveyor. Ask them about their interests, and see if any of them relate to the profession. Do they like to work with computers? If so, tell them how you use computers and other advanced technology in surveying. Are they interested in history? Tell them about the historical significance of the profession and boundaries. Demonstrate the technology you use every day especially today's high-tech data gathering/processing equipment.

HOW do I prepare for my visit?

7–10 days before the visit

Decide which of your favorite activities you'd like to share with the group, and gather the necessary materials. If you don't have a favorite activity or would like some new ideas, visit the National Surveyors Week website via www.nspw.us.com/page/NSW and download a free copy of GPS Adventures. This easy-to-follow guide provides sample GPS-related hands-on activities that are easily adapted to include basic surveying principles.

Day of visit

Make sure you wear something that you would typically wear to work. If you often work in the field, consider wearing your outdoor attire and gear. Students are usually quick to recognize a surveyor when he or she has on a hard hat and other outdoor gear. And remember, relax, smile, and have fun!

Day after visit

Follow up with the teacher or leaders of the group to thank them for the opportunity and to make sure they know where to find more information. Ask for feedback on the session and activity.

SECTION 3

Global Surveyors Day - March 21 annually

Global Surveyors Day (www.globalsurveyorsday.com) was created in 2018 through a collaboration among worldwide surveying organizations to recognize the role of Surveyors.

March 21 was chosen as the date for GSD so that the event will always fall within the dates for National Surveyors Week in the US which is celebrated each year during the week in March following the 3rd Sunday.

SECTION 4

Surveying Merit Badge

HOW can I help a Boy Scout earn the Surveying Merit Badge?

Helping a Boy Scout earn the surveying merit badge has never been easier. Start by visiting the Boy Scouts of America website (www.scouting.org) to download the current badge requirements. Then visit the NSPS website (www.nsps.us.com/page/BSmeritbadge) for step-by-step instructions on how to complete the requirements and tutorials.

After reviewing the requirements, identify local Boy Scout troop leaders in your community. Reach out to them and offer to help their scouts complete the badge requirements. Completing all of the requirements for the badge can take approximately 6–7 hours.

Find out if there is a “Scouts Day” or similar event in your area and contact the hosting organization regarding participation.

SECTION 5

Trig-Star

HOW can I get involved in the Trig-Star Competition?

Trig-Star is an annual competition for high school trigonometry students. It connects what students are learning in the classroom with a profession that requires those skills.

Volunteers are needed to assist in administering the exams and presenting information to the students about the surveying profession. Contact your state coordinator and let them know that you are interested in volunteering. Visit www.trig-star.com for more information and for a list of state coordinators.

Winners from the state competitions (typically 35-40) participate in the annual National Trig-Star Competition.

All students who participate in Trig-Star are eligible to apply for the Trig-Star Scholarship upon proof of enrollment in a college surveying curriculum.

NSPS Guide to Requesting National Surveyors Week Proclamations

What is a proclamation?

A Proclamation is a public or official announcement of an important matter.

Why should I request a proclamation for National Surveyors Week?

A proclamation is a great way to announce the dates and purpose of National Surveyors Week. It's effective in bringing public recognition to the surveying profession and the vital services surveyors provide regarding the advancement and betterment of human welfare.

How do I request a proclamation?

Contact the state and local government offices from which you would like to request a proclamation to determine the process for each. Use the samples provided in this guide to complete and submit the request.

How long will it take to process my request and receive a proclamation?

Most state and local governments need at least 3-4 weeks to complete the request.

What do I do once I've submitted the request?

Make sure you follow-up to confirm receipt of your request and find out how long it will take to complete it, how you will be notified, and if you can schedule a signing ceremony.

What do I do with the proclamation?

If you are able to schedule a signing ceremony, you'll want to arrange to have several surveyors present. Promote the day and time of the ceremony on community calendars and in local news publications. You'll also want to make sure a photographer is present to commemorate the event so you can include a photo with any news releases and post them on your website.

Sample Request Letter

January 1, 2026

City Council
City of [insert name of city]
Address
City, State, Zip

**RE: [insert name of state/local chapter]
National Surveyors Week Proclamation**

Dear City Council:

Please accept this letter as a request to issue a "National Surveyors Week" proclamation declaring March 15-21, 2020, National Surveyors Week in [insert city or state].

National Surveyors Week was established by the National Society of Professional Surveyors as an annual event to bring public recognition to the surveying profession and the vital services surveyors provide to the advancement and betterment of human welfare. During this week, thousands of professional surveyors throughout the country will take part in local activities designed to introduce a new generation to the profession and highlight the use of technology in their day-to-day work.

A copy of the proclamation is enclosed. Thank you in advance for your support of NSPS and the surveying profession. Please contact me at [insert contact information] if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

[insert your name]
[insert name of state/local NSPS chapter]
[insert your position with the state/local NSPS chapter]

enclosure



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

My Public Lands

Middle School Teaching Guide

**CLASSROOM
INVESTIGATION**

**Cadastral
Surveying:
Finding the
Boundaries
of U.S.
Public
Lands**

[CLICK FOR DOWNLOADABLE PDF](#)

Strategic Planning and Board Meeting

The Florida Surveying and Mapping Society invites you to join us for our upcoming Strategic Planning Retreat and Board Meeting. This will be held Tuesday, March 31st from 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. and Wednesday, April 1st from 8:30 a.m. – 11 a.m. in Gainesville, Florida. Board Meeting will follow the Strategic Planning Retreat on Wednesday, April 1st.

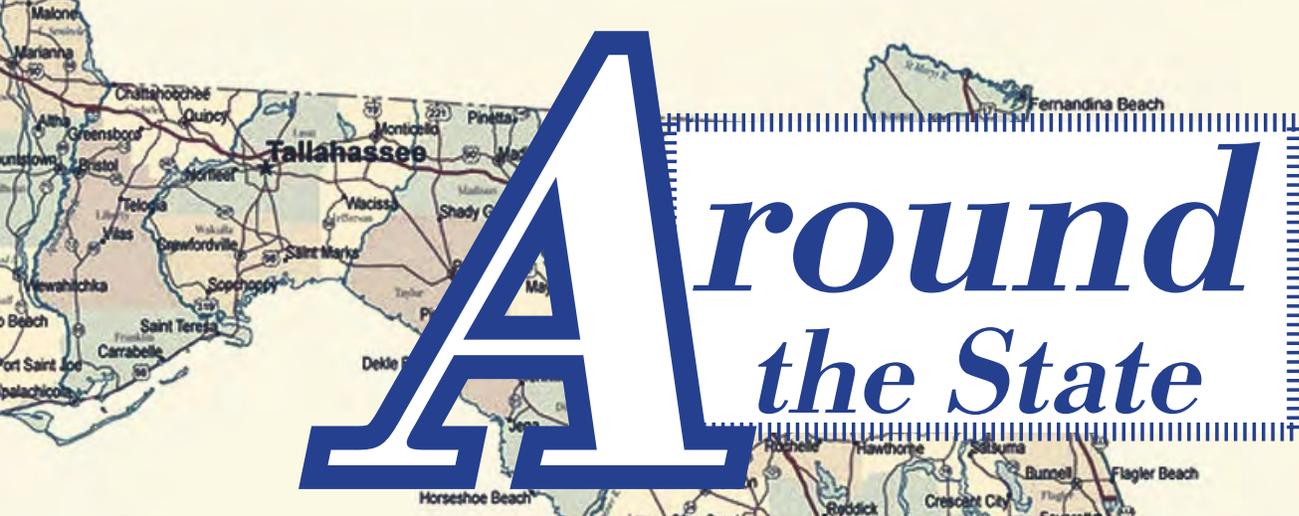
This retreat offers a venue for professional surveyors to bring forth major issues they are facing within the profession and is open for anyone to attend. We will announce the exact location(s) for these events next week in a follow-up email.

Hotel suggestions include:

Drury Inn, DoubleTree by Hilton Gainesville, Courtyard by Marriott Gainesville FL.

If you have any questions, email Executive Director, Rebecca Porter at director@fsms.org or call us at (850) 942-1900. We look forward to seeing you in Gainesville.





Central Florida Chapter

Thank you all for an incredible Central Florida Chapter FSMS Chapter meeting! We're still energized from the inspiring session delivered by our special guest, Ronald - Ron Hanson, PSM, CPM. Ron is a Florida Professional Surveyor and Mapper with the Florida Department of Transportation, Office of Transportation Technology, Operational Technology — Surveying and Mapping. As the Geodetic Services Supervisor, he oversees the @Florida Permanent Reference Network (FPRN) and statewide geodetic control. With a 39-year surveying career — including 25 years as a PSM — Ron was among the earliest private-sector users of the FPRN to receive real-time corrections. He has been leading and advancing the FPRN since January 1, 2013. His experience and insights made this session especially valuable.

A huge thank-you also goes to:

1-Southeastern Surveying and Mapping Corp. for generously contributing to the Chapter meeting refreshments.

2-UF IFAS Mid-Florida Research and Education Center for hosting our hybrid gathering in Apopka and supporting our chapter's mission.

Your enthusiasm and participation made this event productive, engaging, and memorable. We look forward to seeing everyone at our next chapter meeting!

Organized by the Central Florida Chapter FSMS Officers:

Edwin Munoz, PSM, 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 Nordby, LSIT Locklin — Associate Director

Kenneth Dell SIT, SIT — Associate Director

Richard Allen, PSM, CFM — Scholarship/Recruiting/Valencia

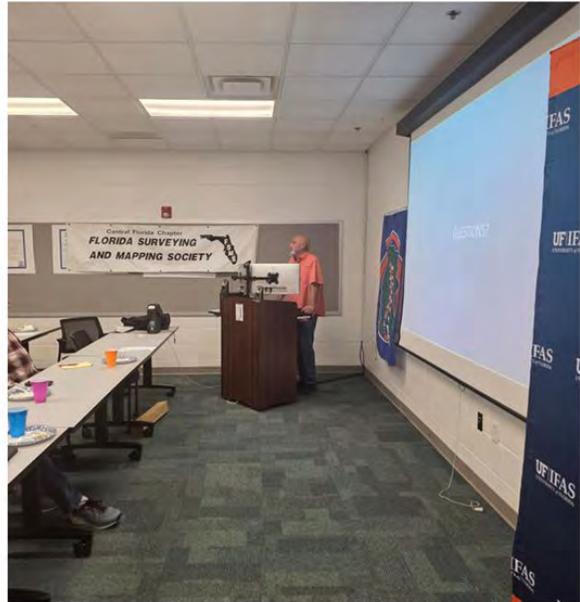
Dolly Carwile, PSM — Webmaster





Successful FEBRUARY 2026

Florida Permanent
Reference Network
BEST PRACTICES for FPRN (2026)
New Course offered for FSMS
Chapters



Northwest Florida Chapter President – Jeremiah Slaymaker

Great folks doing great things!

I am very grateful to be part of an outstanding group in the Florida Surveying and Mapping Society (Northwest Florida Chapter) that continually finds ways to give back to our local community. Earlier this year, we had the privilege of presenting a \$1,500 donation to the Honor Flight Network, a remarkable organization that recognizes our WWII, Korean War, and Vietnam War veterans by providing them with a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to travel to Washington, DC and visit the monuments dedicated to their service and sacrifice.

At last week's local chapter meeting, we continued that spirit of collaboration alongside Jonathan Nobles and Rick Armond. Both are proud members of the society and strong advocates for the Florida Young Surveyors Network (YSN). They quickly stepped up and volunteered to work with Katie Britt, Assistant Director for Geomatics at the University of Florida, to ensure the surveying profession is well represented at the upcoming Worlds of Work event. This career fair will bring together hundreds of high school students from Leon County and surrounding areas, providing an incredible opportunity to introduce the next generation to the surveying profession.



Beach
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Raton
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FSMS TRI-CHAPTER MEETING



MARCH 26, 2026

5:30 PM – 9:00 PM

HUNTINGTON HILLS GOLF CLUB

6925 HERMITAGE DR
LAKELAND, FL 33810

GUEST SPEAKER:

ROBERT JOHNSON

FSMS PRESIDENT

TOPIC:

THE STATUS OF THE SOCIETY

SURVEY • MAPPING • GEOSPATIAL

FSMS News March “Florida Surveyor”

A New Award category has been approved by the FSMS Awards Committee for 2026

Richard D. Pryce, RLS/PSM

“Historical Monument Award”

The background of this Award came from the FSMS Annual Conference in 2025 when I gave out a Presidential Award to several Surveyors that had located historical monuments from 1855 that were part of the original U. S. Coastal Surveys of Florida by then Superintendent A. D. Bache, the great-grandson of Benjamin Franklin.

In order to improve the accuracy of the U. S. Coastal Surveys, there were two precise baselines established in South Florida, one on Key Biscayne and one on Cape Sable in 1855 within two months of each other. Both were 4 miles in length and special monuments were set on both ends and every mile in between with extreme accuracy and precision. The North Base monument of the Key Biscayne baseline was found in 1972, it was researched and documented and then in the 1980’s, Surveyors of the then FSPLS collaborated with the National Park Service, FDOT and the Airforce Recovery team to locate, find, and recover the South Base monument which was about 300 feet offshore under 12-15 feet of water due to erosion. There were multiple articles about this discovery and the recovery of the two end bases which were massive solid granite obelisks and stamped 1855 and A.D. Bache on its sides. However, the discovery of the individual Mile posts, which were also granite but much smaller by other surveyors in the 1990’s was never documented properly or reported. Those Surveyors, Ted Riggs and John Liptak were recognized in 2025 with a FSMS Presidential Award

In connection with the Coastal Surveys in 2024 & 2025 two other Surveyors went looking for the monuments for the Cape Sable Baseline. Mike Bartholomew and his son found the East Base monument which was a nine-inch diameter cast iron screw pile with a brass disk on top stamped A. D. Bache. His search continued west two miles looking for the Mid-Base monument. With much effort and digging, he was unable to locate it at the time, but felt he was close. A few months later Brion Yancy, his father, and a couple of other Surveyors did another search for the Mid Base and finally found it within a couple of feet from where Mike Bartholomew had been looking. That Monument turned out to be a solid granite monument with a brass plug on top. These Surveyors were also recognized in 2025 with a FSMS Presidential Award.

The extraordinary effort, research and significance of the monuments were what set these discoveries apart from our daily surveying activities and why I felt it important enough to recognize those involved with a special Presidential Award to commemorate the occasions. I did my own research and put together a presentation showing what was done to find these monuments and the

research behind the scenes. This included notes from A.D Bache's report to Congress in 1855, the instruments and procedures they used to measure the baselines accurately, and the background on the Screw piles for the Cape Sable Baseline. I also included notes and pictures of the recovery of the South base on Key Biscayne from the 1980's articles, pictures of the mile post monuments from the 1990's and newer pictures from Mike and Brion's discovery of the Cape Sable East and Mid Base monuments.

After the Annual Conference was over I kept thinking about these monuments and how many other Historical Monuments are still out there and thought that we should do something about it. So, I brought it to the attention of the FSMS Awards Committee and proposed that we make this an annual Award for the Oldest Historical Monument found each year.

I believe that there are many significant monuments out there with their own stories to tell, that have already been found by many of our members and peers but are only documented in their field books, on a survey they performed, or just found and referenced. We would like to bring them back to life and share their importance before they are lost to development or time. Our history as Surveyors and the footsteps of those who came before us, their records, the monuments they placed in the ground, as well as the evidence they left behind are part of our heritage. The field notes, plats, surveys and maps produced with careful consideration and effort to ensure the boundaries would stand the test of time.

I believe strongly that this Award is significant and important to all of us as a celebration to our heritage and our profession. I had the Award specially designed and built to show its importance and the significance to our history and of the monuments it represents. Its outer frame is made of oak and glazed with six coats of clear polyurethane to protect its surface. I felt that the centerpiece of the Award should be its focal point.

One of the crews I was working with before I retired from Craven Thompson & Associates was retracing a Section out in Township 48 South, Range 33 East, part of a Dependent Resurvey of that Township by the Government Land Office (GLO) in 1939 for the boundary of the Seminole Indian Reservation. As they were searching for this particular section corner they discovered the GLO monument set in 1939 had been pulled out of the ground and was just laying there several feet from its calculated position with no visible evidence of where it had been or why someone would do this. It was in an area that was relatively undisturbed with no fences or other boundary evidence. It was covered in dirt and algae and looked as if it had been there several years. I had the crew retrieve it and I brought it home. It weighed 75 pounds, and was a 6-inch diameter concrete monument, 37-inches long with a 3-inch brass disk on top with the GLO stamping, section, township, range and 1939 date. I pressure washed the outside of the entire monument and then cleaned and polished the brass disk on top to show off its important information.

After holding on to this important monument for several weeks, I realized that this would make the perfect centerpiece for the Award, so I removed the top four inches of this GLO monument, and it now rests in the Award for everyone to see. Whoever wins the Award each year will be able to take it with them to display in their office for the next year, but will need to make arrangements for its return to the FSMS Tallahassee Office at least one month before the next Annual Conference. Upon return to FSMS each year, the winner's name will be stamped into a brass plate and added to the monument showing the year they won.

See the Award below which is still in progress, waiting for brass plates, and the attached Criteria for applying for it.



Award Criteria: “Historical Monument Award”

Purpose:

Encourage participation from Members across the State to search for and document historical monuments that may still exist before they are lost or destroyed by development or other environmental factors. The monument(s) must have been found within the past two years, so that some recent findings can be included.

Definition:

Historical monument: Must be a minimum of 50 years old. It can be a PLSS/GLO/BLM, NGS/USGS, RECORD PLAT, and/or other HISTORICAL monument that can be identified by Map, field notes, or other such records to properly identify and prove the importance of the monument.

Basic Criteria:

1. The Monument must be documented and verified in the public or historical records (field notes, maps, and dates)
2. You must take a minimum of two pictures.
 - one of location standing a minimum of 3 feet away from the monument and facing a cardinal direction.
 - one of monument face that is readable.
3. Collect State Plane Coordinates, identify Zone, and Latitude and Longitude with GPS if possible.
4. Must include a brief story of the monument/corner with the description of your search, methods and why this monument was needed or searched for.
5. If it is a PLSS/GLO/BLM monument then a CCR should be referenced with the found monument or created and sent to FDEP.
6. If it is an NGS monument then NGS documentation and pictures should be updated on the NGS website.
7. Notify FSMS to add to the “Florida Surveyor” magazine.

Potential Categories:

1. **Oldest Historical Monument/Corner:** Other than PLSS/GLO/BLM, NGS/USGS, or RECORD PLAT and verified by historical record documentation or stamped on monument.
2. **Oldest PLSS/GLO/BLM Monument/Corner:** Found original and verified by historical record documentation and/or stamped on monument.
3. **Oldest NGS/USGS Monument:** Found and verified by historical record documentation or stamped on monument.

4. Oldest Recorded Plat Monument/Corner: Found and verified by historical record documentation and/or stamped on monument.

The Winner:

The winner of this award each year will be able to take home the Official Award Monument Plaque for one year +/- for display in their office(s). They will need to make arrangements for the return of the Award Plaque to the FSMS Office in Tallahassee at least one month before the next annual Conference. Upon return to the FSMS Office the name of that individual(s) or company will be added to the side of the Plaque in recognition of their accomplishment.

Submittal Requirements:

For recognition and eligibility for one of the awards categories at the Annual Conference, all submittals need to include an award documentation package and be sent to FSMS no less than 90 days prior to the FSMS Annual Conference.

The Award

The special case is made of Oak, and the centerpiece is the top of an original GLO monument set in 1939 and found pulled and laid over on top of the ground in 2025 near the Section, Township, and Range stamped on top. Out of respect for the importance and history of the GLO surveys, the monument was cleaned and polished and made part of this important award in recognition of history of Surveyors of Florida and created for Florida Surveying and Mapping Society.



**TAMPA BAY SURVEY & MAPPING
SCHOLARSHIP FUND, INC.**

Save the date!

Scholarship Golf Tournament

Saturday, May 9, 2026 - 8am

Eagles Golf Club

Forest Course
16101 Nine Eagles Drive,
Odessa, FL 33556



37th ANNUAL

For more information contact:

Bill Payne (813)-363-3772

wspayne@wspconsultants.com

2026 SUSTAINING

3d Surveying
850-480-0317

**30 South
Surveying**
863-800-3539

A

**AA Surface Pro,
Inc.**
239-471-2668

Accuracy Datum
863-599-8688

**Accuright Surveys
of Orlando**
407-894-6314

**A. D. Platt &
Associates, Inc.**
850-329-5551

**Adventure Coast
Orthomosaic
& Mapping
Solutions, LLC
(ACOMS)**
352-777-4077

**AIM Engineering
& Surveying**
239-332-4569

**Allen &
Company, LLC**
407-654-5355

Allen Engineering
321-783-7443

**American
Government
Services
Corporation**
813-933-3322

**American
Surveying, Inc.**
813-234-0103

Ameritt, Inc.
813-221-5200

**AOI (Area
of Interest)
Solutions, Inc.**
321-877-0056

**Arc Surveying &
Mapping, Inc.**
904-384-8377

Ardurra
239-292-7773

**Associated
Land Surveying
& Mapping, Inc.**
407-869-5002

ATWELL, LLC
866-850-4200

**Avirom &
Associates, Inc.**
561-392-2594

B

**Barnes, Ferland
and Associates, Inc.**
407-896-8608

**Barraco &
Associates, Inc.**
239-461-3170

**Bartram Trail
Surveying, Inc.**
904-284-2224

BBLs Surveyors, Inc.
239-597-1315

**Bello & Bello
Land Surveying
Corporation**
305-251-9606

Bennett-Panfil, Inc.
941-497-1290

**Berntsen
International**
608-443-2772

BGE, Inc.
561-485-0824

**Boatwright Land
Surveyors, Inc.**
904-241-8550

**Bock & Clark
Corporation(NV5)**
330-665-4821

**Bowman
Consulting Group**
703-454-1000

**Braden Land
Surveying**
727-224-8758

**Bradshaw-Niles &
Associates, Inc.**
904-829-2591

**Brown &
Phillips, Inc.**
561-615-3988

**BSE
Consultants, Inc.**
321-725-3674

**Buchanan
& Harper, Inc.**
850-763-7427

FIRMS DIRECTORY

C

Calvin, Giordano & Associates, Inc.
954-921-7781

Campanile & Associates, Inc.
954-980-8888

Carnahan, Proctor & Cross, Inc.
407-960-5980

Carter Associates, Inc.
772-562-4191

Caulfield & Wheeler
561-392-1991

Chastain-Skillman, Inc.
863-646-1402

CivilSurv Design Group, Inc.
863-646-4771

Clary & Associates, Inc.
904-260-2703

Clements Surveying, Inc.
941-729-6690

Clymer Farner Barley Surveying, LLC
352-748-3126

Coastal Engineering Associates, Inc.
352-796-9423

Colliers Engineering & Design
732-383-1950

Control Point Associates, Inc.
954-763-7611

Cousins Surveyors & Associates, Inc.
954-689-7766

CPH Consulting, LLC
407-322-6841

Craven-Thompson & Associates, Inc.
954-739-6400

Culpepper & Terpening, Inc.
772-464-3537

D

DeGrove Surveyors, Inc.
904-722-0400

Dennis J. Leavy & Associates
561-753-0650

Dewberry
407-843-5120

Donald W. McIntosh Associates, Inc.
407-644-4068

Donoghue Construction Layout, LLC.
321-248-7979

Douglass, Leavy & Associates, Inc.
954-344-7994

DRMP, Inc.
833-811-3767

DSW Surveying & Mapping, PLC.
352-735-3796

Duncan-Parnell, Inc.
800-849-7708

Durden Surveying and Mapping, Inc.
904-853-6822

E

ECHO UES, Inc.
888-778-3246

Eda Consultants, Inc.
352-373-3541

Eiland & Associates, Inc.
904-272-1000

Element Engineering Group, LLC.
813-386-2101

Engenuity Group, Inc.
561-655-1151

ER Brownell & Associates, Inc.
305-860-3866

2026 SUSTAINING

**ETM Surveying
& Mapping**
904-642-8550

**Ford, Armenteros
& Fernandez, Inc.**
305-477-6472

**Geo
Networking, Inc.**
407-549-5075

**Hanson, Walter &
Associates, Inc.**
407-847-9433

**Exacta Land
Surveyors, Inc.**
866-735-1916

**Formtech Land
Surveying Inc.**
786-429-3034

**GeoPoint
Surveying, Inc.**
813-248-8888

**H.L. Bennett &
Associates, Inc.**
863-675-8882

F

**Fortin, Leavey,
Skiles, Inc.**
305-653-4493

George F. Young
727-822-4317

HUB International
850-386-1111

**Ferguson
Land Surveyors**
727-230-9606

**Frontier Precision
Unmanned**
701-222-2030

**Germaine
Surveying, Inc.**
863-385-6856

**Hyatt Survey
Services**
941-748-4693

**First Choice
Surveying, Inc.**
407-951-3425

**F.R.S. &
Associates, Inc.**
561-478-7178

GISurv, LLC
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I

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***\$3,000**

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Banquet Door Prizes
(Sponsorship of Prizes given at Recognition Banquet along with Company Name & Logo on Signage.)
- \$1,500**
Exhibit Hall Breakfast
(Company Name & Logo on Signage during Friday morning Exhibitors Breakfast. Assists with Breakfast Expenses.)
- \$1,500**
Exhibit Hall Luncheon
(Company Name & Logo on Signage during Friday's Exhibitors Luncheon. Assists with Lunch Expenses.)



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~~**\$800**~~
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~~(Sponsorship of Special Activity for the Young Surveyors Network.)~~

\$750
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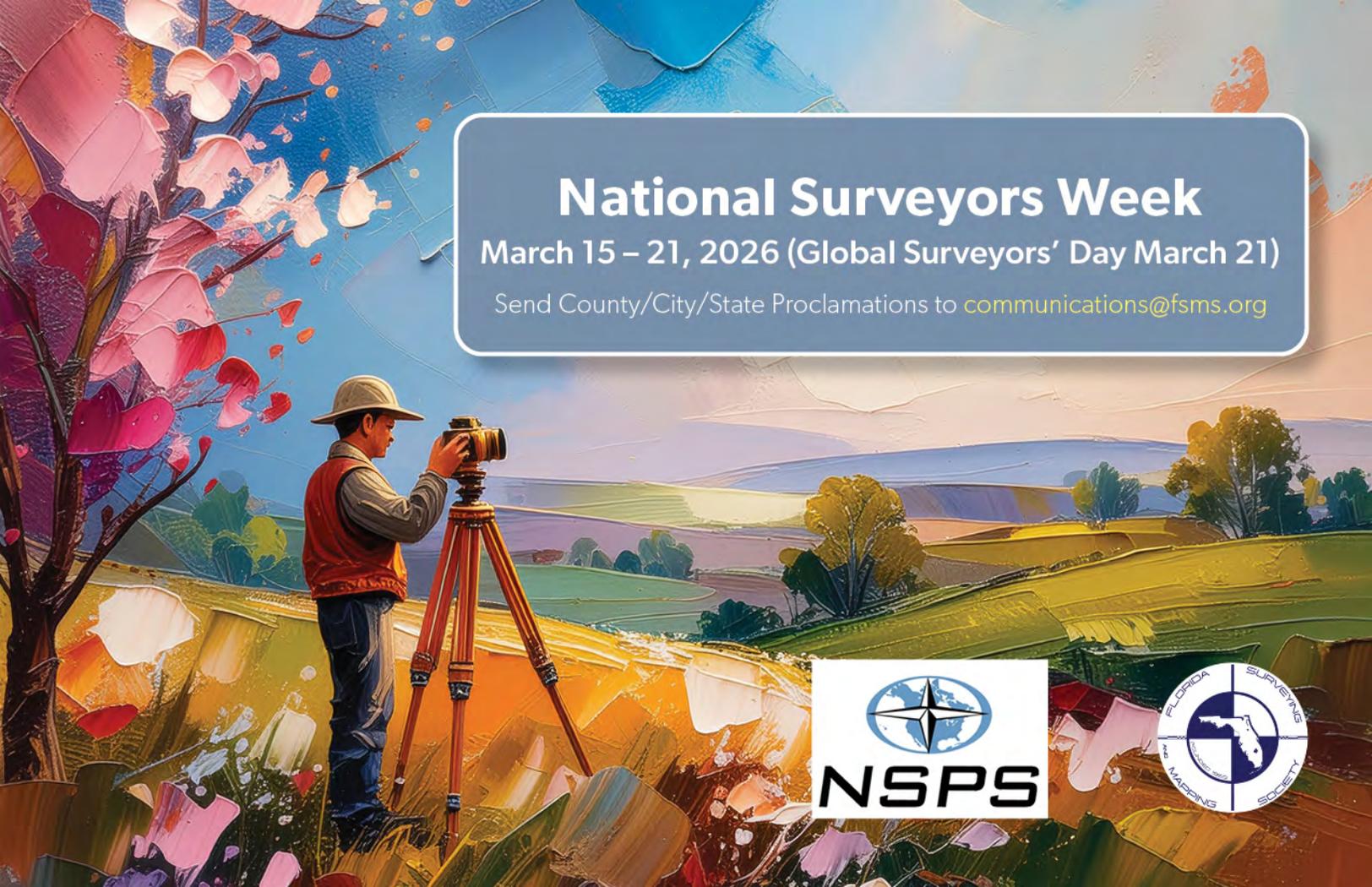
\$500
Exhibit Hall Luncheon Cash Bar
(Company Name & Logo on Signage at 1 Cash Bar serving Beer & Soda during the Friday Exhibit Hall Luncheon. Includes 4 Complimentary Drink Tickets.)

\$500
General Business Session
(Company Name & Logo on distributed General Business Session Board Packet.)

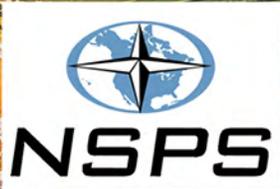
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(Half-Page Ad in The Florida Surveyor.)

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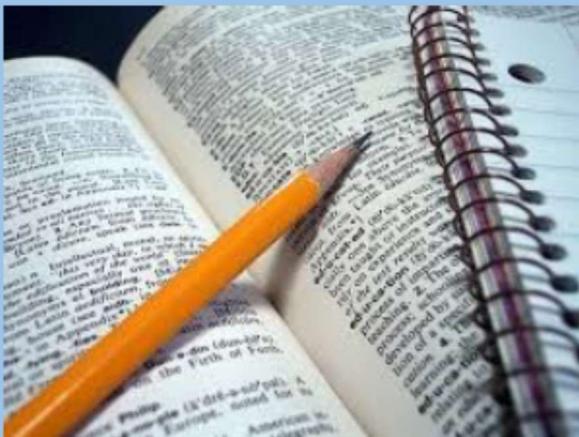
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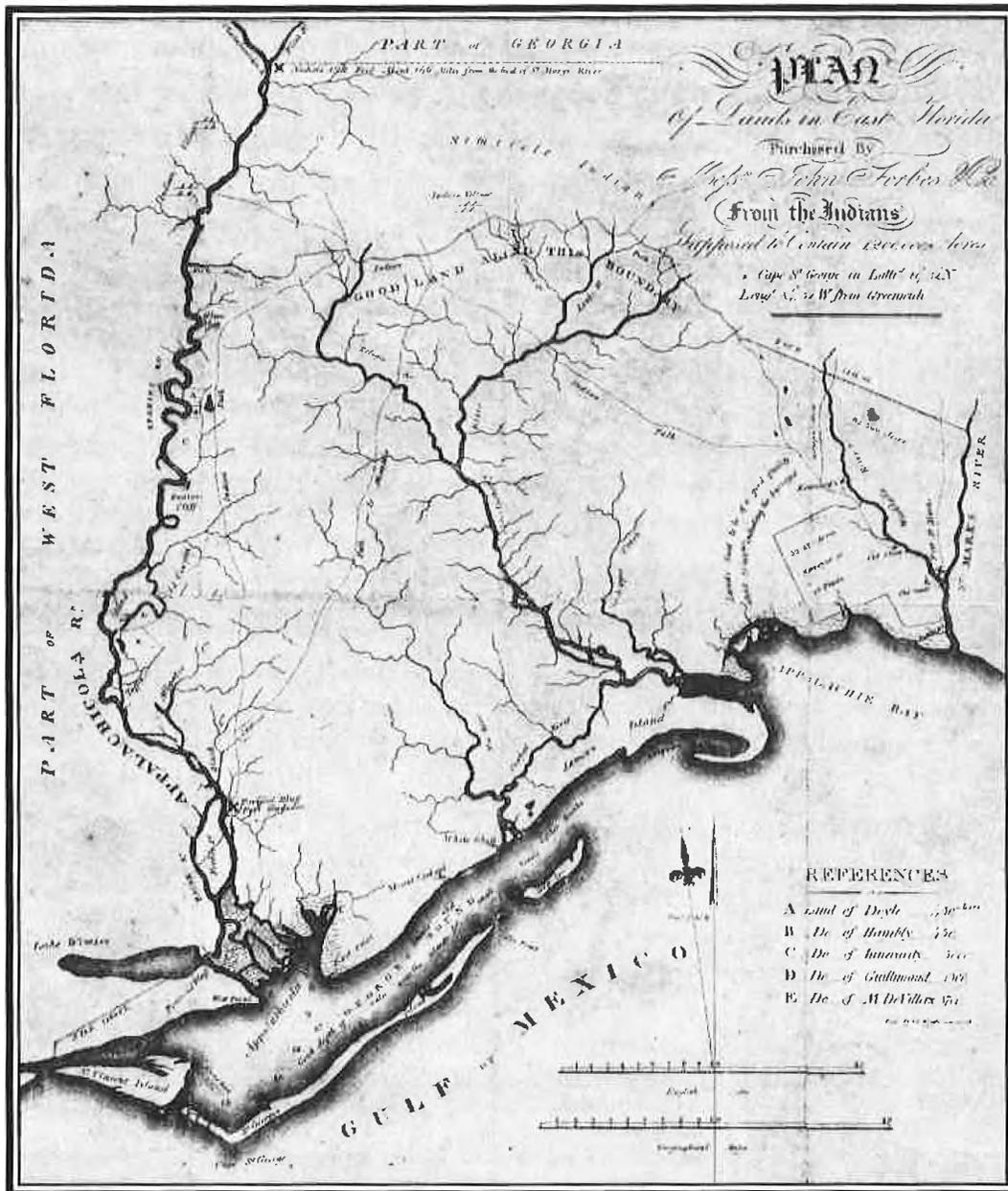
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Forts, Ports, Canals, and Wars

An Uncommon History of Tallahassee & Surrounding Areas

by Dr. Joe Knetsch



Map of land in east Florida purchased by the John Forbes Company from the Indians ... supposed to contain 1,200,000 acres

(State Library and Archives of Florida)

CHAPTER 9

Frontier Speculation and the Forbes Purchase

The names of the Western Reserve, the Yazoo Land Company, the Holland Land Company, and many other frontier ventures usually bring to mind land speculation and sometimes corruption. Spanish claims in the Territory of Florida evoke similar images of speculation and conjure up the names of Arredondo, Levy, Clark, and many others. Many of these ventures began life as simple land claims made upon the colonial powers by settlers under their jurisdiction. One of the major themes in frontier history is the struggle between the settlers and the speculators over land, often represented by these very land companies and grant holders. Such is the case with Florida's Forbes Purchase situated in Wakulla, Gadsden, Liberty, and Franklin Counties. But one of the real questions, often unasked, is just who were the speculators?

Recent materials found in the Florida State Archives, Florida State University, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (old Surveyor General's office records), and other institutions have given rise to some new questions and answers relative to the question of speculation and settlement. It is a well-established fact that the Forbes Purchase was the result of the payment of debts by the resident Creek/Seminole Indians to the firm of Panton and Leslie. The Spanish governments of Florida recognized the legality of this grant under Spanish Law and approved this method of payment. The boundaries of the grant were agreed to by the Native Americans and the Spanish government and run via the metes and bounds system of the day. This type of survey relied heavily upon natural boundaries and marks on the land. It is very different from the rectangular system employed over the rest of Florida, excepting all other land grants.

The basic grant ran over the land between the Apalachicola River and the St. Marks River, with the northern boundary running along Sweetwater Creek eastward toward the Little River thence down the Ocklockony River to a point where it crossed over to the St. Marks. The southern boundary was the

Forts, Ports, Canals, and Wars

Gulf of Mexico with most of the islands included within the grant.

When the United States acquired Florida from Spain, officially in 1821, there were people already upon the land. According to a letter written by the early land agent of the company, John Carnochan, he settled upon the land in October of 1820 on the banks of the Apalachicola River to secure the lands for the Forbes Company, the predecessor in title to the Apalachicola Land Company. There he met one John Collins, his overseer, with some slaves and equipment to establish a homestead and make improvements. He did all of this at the request of Octavius and Colin Mitchel, the brothers of his business partner, Peter Mitchel of Savannah, Georgia, and a large speculator in the lands of Florida and a sometimes merchant trader. At that time, the area was a wilderness and occupied by Indians, sometimes friendly and other times not so inclined. Carnochan states that he lost houses and other improvements at both places where he settled within the Purchase and that he suffered greatly by the privations of frontier life, theft by the Natives, and illness. There were very few settlers on the land in 1821 and this agent of the company soon found himself traveling to the Carolinas, Virginia, and other northern destinations to recruit homesteaders to take up the land. Over the years he went into debt to his brother, Richard, in an amount of over \$10,000.¹

As he was frequently on the road doing the company's bidding, he was granted the assistance of J. B. Brown of Apalachicola. From the start these two agents had to struggle with squatters on the land of the company many of them situated in today's Wakulla County. The major problem for the agents of the company was not just with the squatters/settlers, but also with the question of title. Was the grant to the Forbes Company a legal grant under the laws recognized by the United States? This was decided in the affirmative in the case of *Colin Mitchel v. United States* heard in 1835 by the United States Supreme Court. Arguing against the grant on behalf of the United States was Richard Keith Call, soon to be governor of the Territory. Against him were aligned some of the best legal talent of the day, Joseph White (Florida's Territorial Delegate to Congress and translator of Spanish Land Law), John McPherson Berrien (U.S. Senator, later Georgia governor and Attorney General under Andrew Jackson) and Daniel Webster (U.S. Senator from Massachusetts). Title to the grant was confirmed by the decision of the court. However, this did not clear things up for the agents. What was

to be done about the people who settled upon the land before the court heard the case and what basis did they believe they had good title to the land?

On May 15, 1824, the *Pensacola Gazette* ran the advertisement calling on those interests in the Forbes Purchase to meet at the house of Major Jonathon Robinson to discuss the division of the grant. Other than the immediate investors in the new company, few actually attended this meeting. There is a very good reason for the lack of attendance: what could the company give them that they did not already possess? The question of title loomed large in this venture, and not everyone was convinced that this company actually held legitimate title. If they did not hold title to the vast acreage (over 1.2 million acres) how would it benefit any settler to attend this meeting? On the frontier, possession is 9/10s of the law when no clear title can be given and warranted. Almost all of the early settlers knew of the claim, but few believed it to be valid.

The Forbes Company, as it was known as until 1835 when it became the Apalachicola Land Company, had its hands full. Michael Harvey was one of the first, if not the very first, to settle in what is now Wakulla County under the new regime. He arrived in 1822 and settled upon lands near modern Crawfordville. He came to the area at the “indirect invitation” of John Carnochan, who allegedly claimed that he could give good title to the land. When pressed for such a wanted title, Carnochan could not produce one, and the agent simply let the matter lie with Harvey occupying the land. In a deposition filed in front of Commissioner John Galbraith in 1856, Mark Harvey, Michael’s son, noted that his father never did receive a title from the company agent or anyone else. Occupancy was the basis for his title and when he sold it to George Fisher, he gave only a quitclaim deed.

Mark Harvey eventually repurchased this land along with that which he inherited from his late father. In one of the more revealing statements, Mark Harvey noted that many of those who settled on the lands of the Forbes Purchase did so in anticipation of the Mitchel claim being defeated. Rumors spread by some of the attorneys involved in the case supposedly indicated that Mitchel’s claim would be nullified and that the lands would revert back to the United States whereupon these very same settlers could apply for pre-emption claims or, in some cases, a 640 acre Donation Act claim. Many, in

Forts, Ports, Canals, and Wars

true frontier fashion, would not recognize the claim's validity even after the Court's decision and refused to give up their own possession claims to the land. Mark Harvey further indicated that as some of the early settlers passed to their great reward, their heirs took over their claims and either lived on the lands or sold their interests in the improvements. There were a few who did make payments to the company (many of whom had made arrangements with Carnochan), but it appears that the majority did not.²

In the same suit, former sheriff Alfred Fisher deposed that as ex-officio tax assessor he had occasion to discuss the tide question with numerous settlers in the area. They too admitted that they were not expecting the outcome of the Supreme Court decision and had felt they had a "possessory title" to the lands they had improved. Again and again the question of "good title" came to the fore. None of the settlers, according to Fisher, were willing to claim lands adversely to the United States, which they believed owned the lands. They may or may not have been willing to pay for the land if the Company could give them warrantable title. Fisher's father was the same that purchased the "Harvey's Mill" property and sold it back to his son. Fisher also noted that some of the other early settlers, Mr. Fort, the Harveys, Ashton Vivian, Judge [Ambrose] Crane, Mr. Wikoff, and Squire Ash, were all in possession of lands in today's Wakulla County at the time of the Mitchel decision and had similar feelings about the validity of the grant. Two settlers, to his knowledge, a Mr. Miller and James Kilcrease did purchase directly from the company. The former sheriff also recalled that some of the early settlers including men by the name of Alston, Green, and Brinson, left when the decision came down against the United States claim. These men, too, appear to have been more interested in establishing a claim against the United States either through pre-emption or donation than paying the higher price that was assumed to be charged by the Forbes Company.³

Judge David L. White of Gadsden County also remembered the problem Carnochan had with the settlers on the Purchase lands. At the age of 76, the old settler recalled that only Harvey (he believed), Jonathan Robinson, and a man named Kennedy actually paid money to the company agent for their land prior to the Supreme Court's decision. White also noted that the company claimed land in and around the military fort at St. Marks, which was later disputed too by the United States. The land suits, the lack



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of warrantable title, and the speculation of the frontiersmen made it almost impossible to attract and keep paying settlers on the land inside the Forbes Purchase. Judge White further stated, that although many did recognize that the title was probably in the land company, they were repelled by the “exorbitant prices” charged by the company for its better lands.⁴

Attorney Thomas Baltzell, who served as counsel for the company during the case over the military reserve and also served on the Legislative Council for the Territory, among many other positions he held in the Territory, was also deposed in the case and remembered the service rendered by Carnochan to the company’s efforts at settlement. When he was elected to the board of the company and then appointed president, Baltzell did not recall anyone claiming title superior to that of the company. As president or counsel to the company, he did not recall ever instituting a suit for ejectment against any of the settlers within the Purchase lands. He also admitted that he did not interview many of the early settlers, and based on what little intercourse he had with them, he claimed that they were willing to purchase the lands they occupied at the company price.⁵

One W. G. Burgess lived in early Magnolia in 1829 and resided there for a number of years. He noted in his deposition that no one in that settlement even knew they were within the Forbes Purchase and that the United States government had actually surveyed the area and sold the site of Magnolia to “Messrs Hamlins.” Like many others on the land, he assumed that his title by possession was good. Among those he noted as living in the Wakulla area were Jason Brinson, Thomas J. Green, Virgil Vivian, William Owens, and Mr. Ash. When cross-examined, Burgess did agree that the case in front of the courts was notorious at the time (1829-31), but that he supposed, “that these parties claimed, like Adam by right of occupancy as I always understood.” He further stated: “I was told by Thos. J. Green of Wakulla County that if I would come and settle in his neighborhood in the Purchase that my title to the lands which I so settled upon would be as good as a fee simple title as the question of title between the United States and the Forbes Claimants would probably never be decided, and if it was decided in favor of the claimants, there were so many heirs scattered about that they could never be united in a suit, and others said that if it was in favor of the United States, I and they would be entitled to Preemption Rights.” Mr. Burgess summed up the feelings

of many of the earliest settlers in one neat package.⁶

When a young officer of the Army showed up in 1825, he observed very few settlers on the lands of the Forbes Purchase. He noted Canorchan, Robinson, and Henry Young, all of whom held lands under title or agreement with the Forbes Company of which Carnochan was the agent and who had an interest in said company. When the land office was established in Tallahassee, a young Richard Keith Call noted that the U.S. surveys did not extend, except by mistake, over the lines of the Purchase, nor did the pre-emption laws apply within these limits. Call also recognized that many settlers were anxious to move onto the lands of the company and it was generally assumed that the United States had a superior claim to the lands and would eventually win the suit. People rushed onto these lands to establish their claims in what was viewed as the eventual triumph of the United States. According to Call's deposition, no one questioned the title or claim to the lands since the company regularly paid its assessed taxes. Although he had heard of people upon the land without title, he noted that the company was endeavoring to have these squatters evicted, but had not succeeded as of 1856.⁷ This piece of testimony, if believable, indicates the tenacity with which people held onto lands and improvements they possessed regardless of proper title. This is a typical frontier trait, as is the frequent moving of many pioneer families when title is demonstrated to be in other's hands. Davy Crockett is one of the most famous of this type of frontiersman.

Perhaps one of the more interesting forms of speculation came with the survey of some of the lands within the Purchase by Arthur M. Randolph, one of Florida's greatest surveyors. Randolph contracted to survey some of the lands within the Purchase on behalf of the company. His contract clearly stated (as did that of Marcellus Williams west of Apalachicola) that he would follow the form used by the United States surveyors in laying out the public lands. This made title easier to track and more understandable than the river-orientated surveys of McNeil and Hartfield. Interestingly however, he went into the survey with an agreement with the settlers and the company in hand. According to his deposition, Randolph agreed to the following:

Several of the settlers on these lands in Wakulla County came to me in the year 1854 and 1855 to procure their claims from me. I had made a

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bargain with the Agent Mr. Beard to survey part of these lands and take land in pay for my services, and it was by arrangement with several of the settlers that I was to select lands occupied by them and they would purchase from me. It was under these circumstances that the offers were made to me, Nims, Lavender, Lucian Duval, Maxwell, Humphreys, Fisher and Skipper made applications to me to purchase the same way. I do not know the reasons why Brinson, Green and Alston moved off these lands as above stated, nor what they did with their possessions. Arthur Macon remained on the land occupied by him until his death.

Randolph also noted for the court that he never saw a deed conveying full title except that issued by the Apalachicola Land Company. Not surprisingly, he met with no resistance to his surveys while working on the land.⁸ This was opposite of his earlier experiences in Columbia County while surveying the “Little Arredondo” grant.⁹

The question of speculation therefore had a very different twist in the area of the Forbes Purchase. Although the company was mostly made up of New York backers and their money, the true speculators inside the grant were the early settlers, or squatters as the company termed them. This is not to say that some of the more affluent men of the day did not speculate in the lands of the Forbes Purchase. Three of the primary attorneys retained by the company chose to accept land instead of pay for their services. One of the more openly eager men was Senator John M. Berrien, who chose some of the very best lands for his work. He actually received title to 5,000 acres of land which he traded to the company for four lots in the Little River survey and one choice lot in the Hartfield survey. (The 1845 map of the Arredondo Grant in Alachua County shows Berrien doing something similar there. He owned four sections of land in lieu of cash payment within that grant where he also served as an attorney of record.) The lands most desired were those in and around Apalachicola, and the company did very well selling wharf lots, waterfront property, and land along the river. In these cases the land owned by the company paid top dollar for the time. And then the Panic struck!

The Panic of 1837, coming as it did during the middle of the Second Seminole War (1835-1842) made land speculation in Florida a highly risky business. In the period preceding the Panic, land prices were at all

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time highs and speculation was rampant everywhere in the nation. Daniel Webster, the famed Senator from Massachusetts, speculated heavily in western lands in Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Wisconsin. By the onset of the Panic, he was indebted to bankers, his lawyers, and other backers to the tune of over \$100,000. He never recovered from this financial setback and died owing money in spite of the yearly subscriptions paid to support the “Great Man,” as Philip Hone called him. Unlike Webster, most of those who speculated in western and southern lands during this boom time lost their collective shirts. Few had subscribers to support them in the life style which only the very few enjoy.¹⁰

For the Apalachicola Land Company, the Panic brought numerous failures to meet its obligations primarily because their rents failed to be paid on time, if at all; their lands were purchased via contract on an installment basis and many simply defaulted in their payments. Contrary to high school history texts, the Panic of 1837 was not caused solely by the issuance of Jackson’s infamous “Species Circular” and Pet Banks. As early as 1835 many foreign investors began to question the wild speculation taking place in the United States. Barings and the Bank of England, in particular, began calling in some of their more risky loans and things began to snowball from there. Regional banks, like the Union Bank in Tallahassee, had been basing their business on very shaky grounds. Loans were given to planters to purchase slaves and a little while later, before the loan was paid in full, these same planters took out more loans using these same slaves as collateral. It is similar in principle to the current problems with the Secondary Loan market. When the larger banks, centered on the Second Bank of the United States and its branches, started calling in their loans and requiring convertible bank notes or species as payment, the smaller regional or local banks collapsed because the local or regional bank notes were so highly discounted in the larger market.

On an already cash-starved frontier, the impact of all this was devastating. The Apalachicola Land Company, which held its local funds with the Southern Life Insurance and Trust Company, which suspended payments in June of 1840, had a difficult time getting negotiable bonds or species in payment for its lands. The Southern Life Insurance and Trust Company, which had ties with the Union Bank in Tallahassee, operated on a very

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questionable basis. Some Leaders, like James D. Westcott, Jr. (later one of Florida's first two U.S. Senators) called it "that corrupt & corrupting rag-hop" and were pleased to see it fail.¹¹ Westcott and other Democrats had a distinct distrust of banks in general and it should not be forgotten that the 1838-1839 Constitutional Convention held in St. Joseph produced a very anti-bank document. Having been "pinched" by the Southern Life Insurance and Trust Company and the Union Bank, many of the writers of that document were not about to let bankers control the wealth of the Territory again unless strictly supervised. With financial problems and a growing indebtedness due to uncollectible accounts it is little wonder that the Apalachicola Land Company had difficulties.

The final problem for the company in getting its total grant came with the suit against the United States for the lands around St. Marks. Here the company hired Thomas Baltzell to argue the case in the Superior Court of Florida. His basic argument was that it had been part of the original grant from the Indians and could not be detached from the rest of the property. The main counter argument, which the company knew could be the winner, was that the land occupied by the old fortification was similar to the military reserves of the United States. Additionally, the lands around and appurtenant to the fort were also reserved under Spanish law, similar to that at St. Augustine and Fernandina. The company again called in Joseph White, John Berrien, and retained David Ogden in Washington and also contacted Webster for further legal advice. Without belaboring the point, the United States had the better claim and the original survey of the reserve by David Thomas, done in 1830, was held to be the approximate boundary. A more refined survey was ordered and performed by John Irwin in 1841.

The constant litigation (suits were also on-going among the heirs of Carnochan and Mitchel, the Innerarity family and more distant relatives of Forbes) was a continual drain on the resources of the company. The agreements with the Tallahassee to St. Marks Railroad took time and energy without great compensation because of the poor soil along the route. Spending time lobbying in Washington for funding the improvements of the St. Marks River, Apalachicola harbor and approaches thereto, getting their own people in as collector at the port, and working on getting Congress to fund the St. George Island lighthouse, all took time, money, and energy the

struggling company could not afford. It would take years to straighten out all of the affairs of the company, which continued along in various forms until the early 20th Century. It is not surprising given the usual tenor of historical writing in the modern era to see firms like the Apalachicola Land Company castigated by historians, when they remember it at all. However this firm and the lives of those who struggled for many years to make it a profitable entity deserve better than being written off as mere speculators equivalent to some of the more notorious land companies. They brought numerous changes to the Florida frontier, made Apalachicola one of the most important ports of the day, and opened up for settlement some of northern Florida's richest lands. In the case of this firm and the squatters upon its lands we can see who the real speculators were.

ENDNOTES:

1. Bill of Complaint: "In Chancery before the Vice Chancellor, the Separate Answer of John Carnochan, one of the Defendants to the Bill of Complaint of John McPherson Berrien, Complainant." New York: J.M. Elliott, Printer, 1836. 33-34.
2. Leon County Court in Chancery: A. S. Garr et al. vs. Lewis Curtis. Deposition of Mark Harvey. Florida State Archives.
3. Ibid. Deposition of Alfred Fisher.
4. Ibid. Deposition of David L. White.
5. Ibid. Deposition of Thomas Baltzell.
6. Ibid. Deposition of W. G. Burgess.
7. Ibid. Deposition of Richard K. Call.
8. Ibid. Deposition of Arthur M. Randolph.
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11. Clarence E. Carter. *The Territorial Papers of the United States: Volume XXVI The Territory of Florida, 1839-1845*. Washington: The National Archives, 1962. 166.

Forts, Ports, Canals, and Wars



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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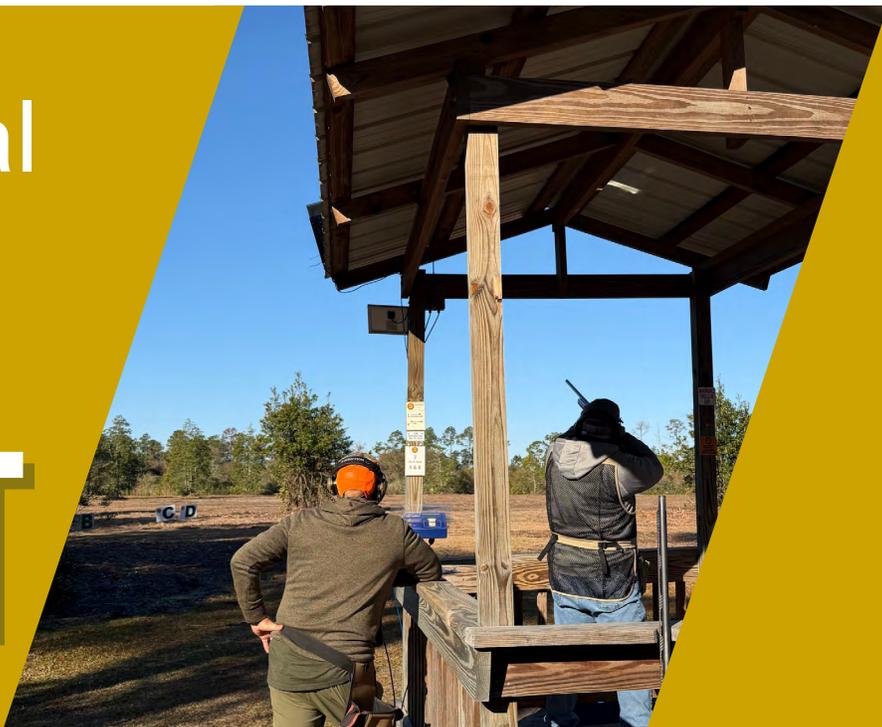


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Chapter VIII.

SOURCES OF ERROR IN DESCRIPTIONS.

IN the description in the previous chapter it has been taken for granted that there have been no clerical errors in recording the field notes or in transcribing them into the deed. In addition to this the actual date of the survey and the name of the surveyor are given. The former gives some definite basis on which to make compass corrections, while it is possible that something is known of the special idiosyncrasies of this particular surveyor. But it can perhaps be fairly said that in these respects this particular deed is an exception to the established order.

The descriptions to be found in many deeds are but dreary inheritances from the past. It frequently happens that circumstances require a surveyor to follow back the title of a piece of land of which he has been furnished only the description from the last transfer. He then frequently finds that the description does not apply to the time of this particular transfer at all, but has been handed down slavishly from transfer to transfer — from decade to decade. This is not necessarily the result of ignorance or penuriousness, but is frequently based on the desire to make sure that the piece of land conveyed is *exactly* the same piece that was conveyed by the next previous deed. In fact most deeds contain a clause stating that this is “the same piece of land formerly conveyed by X— to Z—, dated so-and-so and recorded so-and-so.” Of course this all means that the date of the original survey is so very uncertain that there is no basis upon which to correct the compass, unless the search should chance to establish the time of the original survey in a fairly definite manner. It may at least be said that a few experiences of this sort remove all confidence in one’s ability to make accurate compass corrections from the data contained in the ordinary deed. Indeed it is often much easier to fix the approximate date of the

original survey from the actually measured compass correction of a known line in the field.

Besides this uncertainty of date there are often distinct clerical errors in transcription or even in the original field notes. When there is reason to doubt the description a careful search for what mistake would *probably* have been made under these particular circumstances will often lead to a discovery of what the proper record should have been.

It is not an uncommon matter to find that the bearing has been recorded in the wrong quadrant, especially if the bearing approaches closely due east or due west. Somewhat rarer is the error of reading the compass backward. Suppose that the bearing is N 33° W and that the surveyor is reading the end of the needle nearest him, under which circumstances the figures on the compass ring would be inverted, causing a certain possibility of confusion. His eye, instead of catching the 30 and reading on to the left, catches the 40 and reads on to the right. The result is that he records the bearing as N 47° W instead of N 33° W as it should be. It would seem that these errors ought to come out in balancing the survey at the time of the original computation, but this is not always the case, for I have seen a very bad quadrant error carried straight on and plotted in the map; while in unclosed surveys, such as those of highways, where there is no computation, there is no way of discovering the error after it has once been made.

It is always well at the start to plot out on the paper the description from the deed in order to find errors of this kind, if any are present. There was a certain description where two courses were given as northeast. When plotted thus, a most remarkable outline with great error of closure was the result. Knowing something of the locality, I felt confident that these courses should be made southeast instead. As soon as this change was made the survey closed in a very satisfactory manner, and subsequent fieldwork proved my theory correct.

Far less easy to locate are errors in copying figures, yet a logical

course of procedure will frequently enable one to make the right correction. I remember one case where the description was supposed to follow the remains of an old worm fence and the actual survey agreed with this description in a most satisfactory manner. Suddenly, on a course given as S 7° E, the line deflected several feet from the fence and on the following courses continued parallel to it. It seemed that the surveyor might have read the compass backward and recorded 7° when he meant 3°. This correction improved the trouble but did not entirely do away with it. I then took the actual bearing of the fence, corrected it and found that the original bearing must have been 4° instead of 7°. The explanation was simple. Someone in writing the 4 had made the first downstroke very short, had made the cross-stroke very high and had carried it only until it met the long downstroke. Someone making a later copy of this description had mistaken the distorted 4 for an elaborate 7 and had copied it as such.

When such clerical errors occur on maps they can frequently be discovered by going over the map with scale and protractor, the actual lines of the map being correct while the accompanying legend is not. Other errors again can only be corrected from the actual conditions as found in the field. For some errors no logical explanation can be found. They must be corrected according to the best dictates of common sense.

Before leaving the subject of deeds attention should be called to one further point of interest, that for purposes of getting back to an original boundary or settling a dispute, several deeds, though equally explicit, are not necessarily of equal value. This is especially true with reference to the determination of boundaries along highways. Most highways are described in the public records by a survey, the courses, distances and width of the road being clearly given. Theoretically the descriptions of properties adjoining such a road should come to the recorded boundaries of the road and no farther. It is a fact, however, that these boundaries along roads are the most unstable of all boundaries for the simple reason that, while each man watches his neighbor to see that there is no transgression of the line between

them, all parties concerned are apt to combine to borrow as much land from the public highway as possible. As a rule a highway record is rather difficult to reestablish, and in cases of small places and house lots the ordinary deed, outside of city limits, makes no pretense of defining the road in accordance with its official boundaries. The survey has usually been made at small charges by some local surveyor, the object being simply to "get something we can put in the deed."

As a result some deeds bordering along such a road, notably those of a date nearest to that at which the road itself was put on record, may be very valuable not only with reference to the piece of property which they describe but also in connection with determining the actual location of the road itself. They more probably represent the conditions before there was any encroachment on the highway, while the deeds of other pieces of land on the same street, though they may agree exactly with the present lines of possession, may be based upon surveys made after the fences had been pushed out on to land properly belonging to the public. There is a case where two small streets together formed a T-shaped court, one street forming the upright of the T and the other the crossbar at the top. Both had been recorded something like fifty years ago, but the official boundaries had been very much neglected. It became necessary to define the boundaries of these streets, since it was generally believed that there had been wholesale encroachment on the highway. A careful examination of the road record, and of the deeds which were made at about the same time and which also referred specifically to these streets as new streets, gave sufficient data for locating the limits of the road successfully. There were other deeds, however, where the case was very different. There was one in particular of a property located at the corner where the two streets met. In this deed the description agreed almost exactly with the land as found in possession, but these lines of possession at one corner encroached several feet on the highway. Investigation showed that for nearly ten years after the recording of the street this corner land had lain unfenced and had practically been regarded as common land. When finally a fence was erected it was placed without reference to the street lines which had

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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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been lost sight of meanwhile. The survey for the deed was probably made as the fence stood, and thus it came to pass that a description which agreed with long-established lines of possession was finally found to be utterly at variance with the road record.

From the above it will readily be seen that it is a delicate matter, in the case of determining a boundary controversy, to sort out the valuable deeds from those which are worthless from the surveyor's standpoint. It requires not only good judgment but a considerable amount of tact as well, for it is a trying matter to convince one party in the altercation that his deed is worthless as evidence while his opponent's is of value. The surveyor is pretty sure to incur criticism in any case.

Of course a large part of the foregoing does not apply to sections where property lines and especially street lines are marked by accurately set stone monuments. In such cases the boundaries are already settled. The suggestions are intended to apply to old acreage and long-settled country communities where the loosely established boundaries of long ago have seldom been verified, and where, during the lapse of easy-going years, the landmarks have been lost or forgotten. It is such lines and such landmarks that it is difficult to reestablish when the requirements of the present day demand them.●

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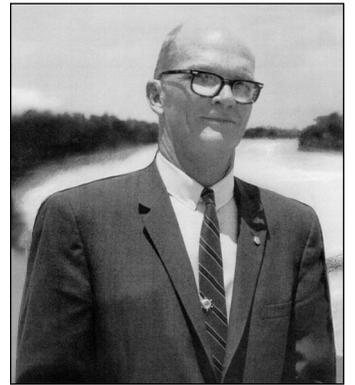
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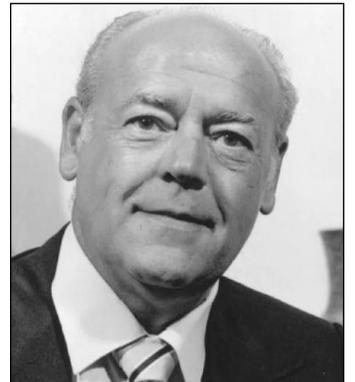
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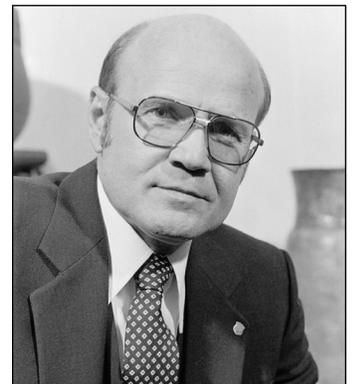
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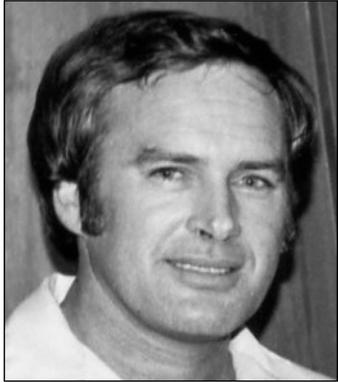


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William G.
Wallace, Jr.

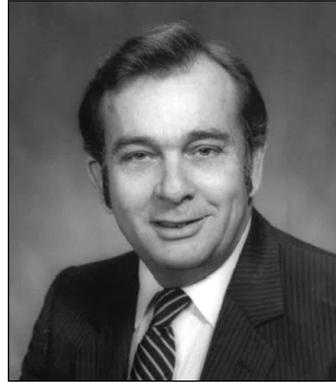


1979 - 1980
Robert W.
Wigglesworth

Past Presidents



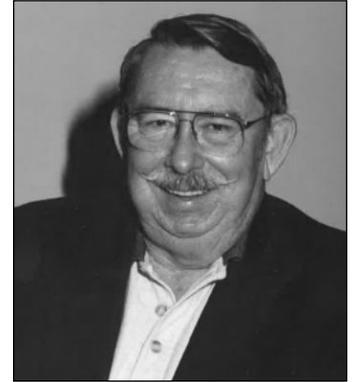
1980 - 1981
Ben P.
Blackburn



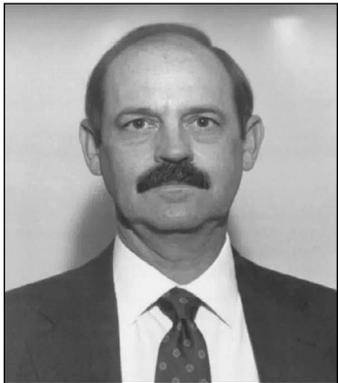
1981 - 1982
William B.
Thompson, III



1982 - 1983
John R. Gargis



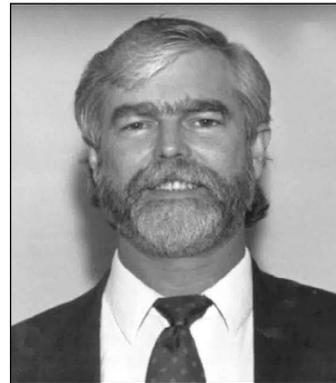
1983 - 1984
Robert A.
Bannerman



1984 - 1985
Buell H. Harper



1985 - 1986
H. Bruce
Durdén



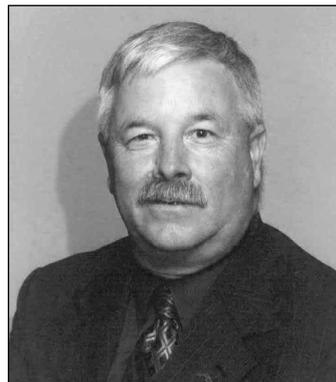
1986 - 1987
Jan L. Skipper



1987 - 1988
Stephen M.
Woods



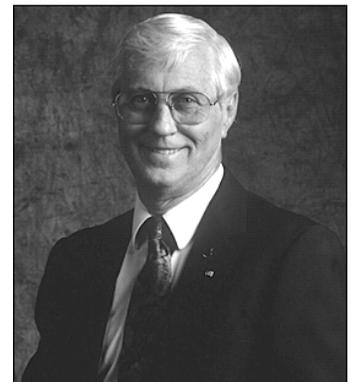
1988 - 1989
Stephen G.
Vrabel



1989 - 1990
W. Lamar Evers



1990 - 1991
Joseph S. Boggs



1991 - 1992
Robert L.
Graham

Past Presidents



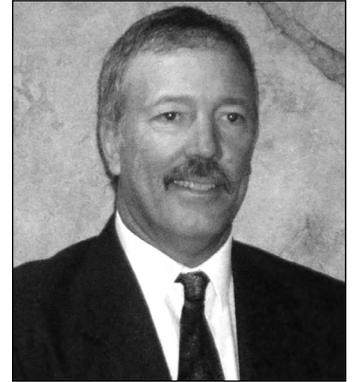
1992 - 1993
Nicholas D.
Miller



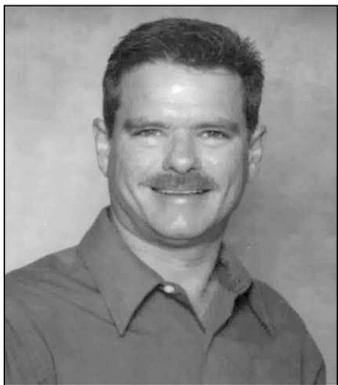
1993 - 1994
Loren E.
Mercer



1994 - 1995
Kent Green



1994 - 1995
Robert D. Cross



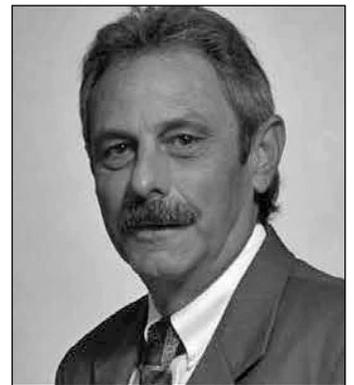
1995 - 1996
Thomas L.
Conner



1996 - 1997
Gordon R.
Niles, Jr.



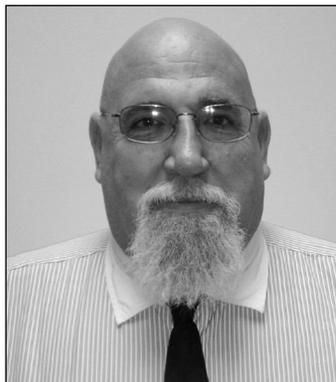
1997 - 1998
Dennis E.
Blankenship



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



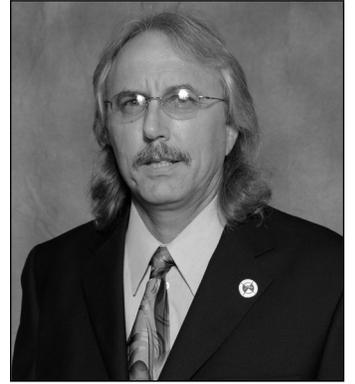
2003 - 2004
David W.
Schryver



2004 - 2005
Stephen M.
Gordon



2005 - 2006
Richard G.
Powell



2006 - 2007
Michael J.
Whiting



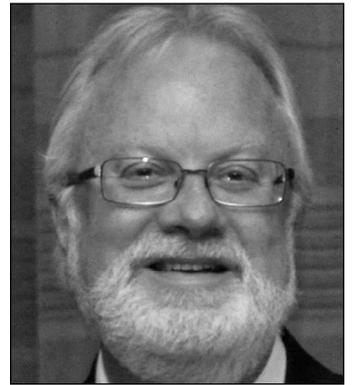
2007 - 2008
Robert W.
Jackson, Jr.



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



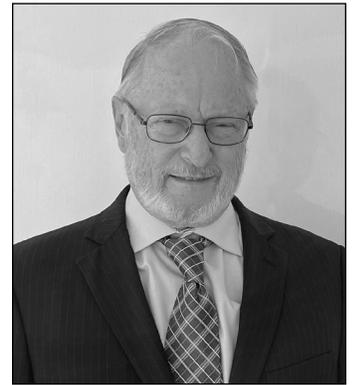
2019 - 2020
Don Elder



2020 - 2021
Hal Peters



2021 - 2022
Lou Campanile, Jr.



2022 - 2024
Howard Ehmke



2024 - 2025
Richard Pryce

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