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Corner Post

Quarterly Newsletter of the Saskatchewan Land Surveyor's Association



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FROM *THE* EDITOR

The leaves are starting to change colours, kids are heading back to school, and fields are being harvested. Those elements, while scenic and fruitful, also signal the busiest, but best time to survey. I hope you are all managing the stress of this season well and get a chance to enjoy some of the smaller details here and there.

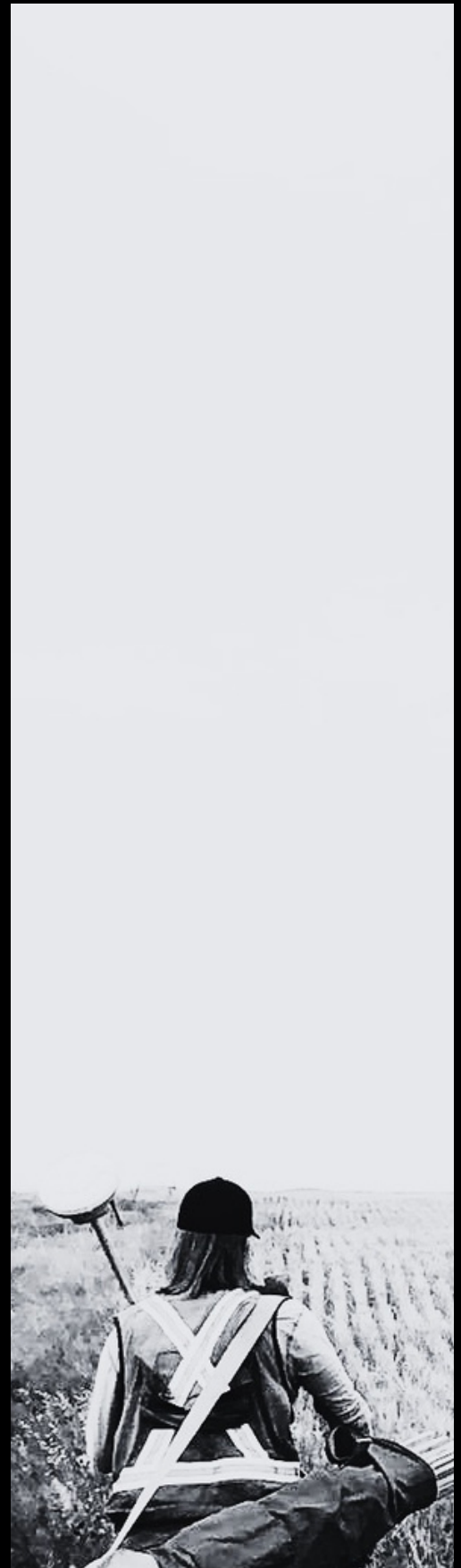
Meanwhile, the leaves aren't the only thing changing and with the changing of the guard at the Newsletter Committee, I would like to express my sincerest appreciation to the former editor, Heather Bennett, who helmed the position for many years in what can only be described as the loneliest SLSA committee. Thanks, Heather!

I am very excited about my new position as I continue to search for and write articles that I believe are of interest to the membership. That being said, many hands make light work, so if you find anything that you think is intriguing, or wish to write a piece of our own, please forward it to me at gsl@taurusgeomatics.com. Additionally, if you are interested in joining the committee, I would love to have you!

In this quarter's edition you will find articles about monumentation restoration after extreme wildfire events, a West coast effort to "Get Kids into Survey," and how the Austrian cadastral system works. Furthermore, there is a message from SAGT regarding their upcoming activities as well as the regular features. I hope you find the new format refreshing and I hope there is something that is of interest to you.

May your posts always be straight,

G. S. Rowley
Editor



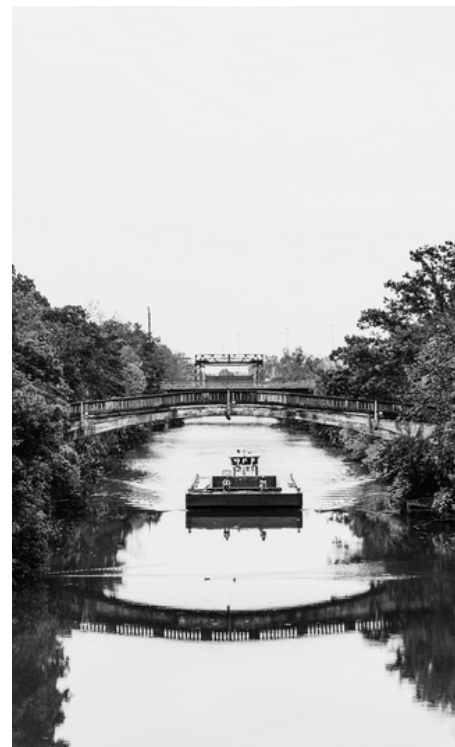
IN THIS ISSUE



[Monuments Going Up in Smoke - The American Surveyor \(amerisurv.com\).](#)



[From the ALS News Vault – The Importance of Digging. \(alsa.ab.ca\).](#)



[Land Surveyors Association raises funds for Erie Canal Film - The Times of Wayne County - Waynetimes.com](#)



[Cadastre and Land Register \(bev.gv.at\).](#)



[Diamondback Land Surveying Team Introduces Get Kids into Survey Program to American Grade School Students \(directionsmag.com\).](#)

PRESIDENT'S

MESSAGE

Hello everyone,

I hope you all of you reading this had a great summer and are settling in for the fall season. Our council remains active on a number of topics, mainly what the future of P.Surv looks like in Saskatchewan and preservation of field notes. We are also closely watching and learning from our fellow associations when it comes to legislative changes around self governance. This is a hot topic in Alberta, Ontario and British Columbia.

Council has discussed the future direction of P.Surv and what approach to take given the feedback from last fall's seminar with Dr. Ballantyne. After careful consideration, we decided to take a wait and see approach opting not to pursue opening the Act at this time. There is a movement occurring across Canada that's evident when it comes to Professional organizations and their self governance model. If these changes come to Saskatchewan our entire Act will be overhauled and council felt it best to see what the future brings and address this issue later. We will not overly market the P.Surv in Saskatchewan but also not turn anyone away if someone applies for membership.

Another pressing matter on our agenda revolves around the preservation of field notes, especially in the unfortunate event of a business closure without a succession plan. This issue was brought to light after the passing of Wayne Stockton. Lee Anderson and the Bylaw Committee have been tasked with preparing some options for discussion at future council meetings.



Looking ahead, I'm excited about the upcoming AGM in Nova Scotia this October. It's a prime opportunity to connect with fellow Presidents, exchange insights, and gain updates on how associations are navigating the challenges posed by self-governance changes. I encourage you to reach out if you'd like to discuss any aspect of my article or if you have other matters on your mind.

Travis Wolfe
S.L.S., P.Surv
President

COUNCILLOR

CORNER



Summer has come to an end once again and with it an end to lake sports we all enjoy doing on hot summer days. Fall has always been my favorite time of year for surveying as I'm sure it is for many of you. The days are cooler but not too cold and the crops are off allowing us to travel across the fields in search of evidence.

I have had the honor to serve on council for the past year and look forward to the next year. I have found the experience to be very rewarding and helpful in giving me a great incite into how much work our members put into this association along with the inner workings of all the committees across the association. I would like to encourage my fellow members who have never had the opportunity to sit council to consider volunteering themselves in future.

Have great Fall! I look forward to seeing you all at the Education Seminar

Stephen Conway
S.L.S., P.Surv, B.Tech



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HOOD

STREET

By G.S. Rowley

A SURVEY OF W.W.
MEADOW'S 1910 HOME

I hummed and hawed about writing this article, mainly because it is intimidating to write about a specific survey; this is especially true when the target audience is professional surveyors. However, some facets of this project make it more interesting than a typical job. As such, I will bury my fears and write the article anyway, and after all is said and done, perhaps you or I will learn something.

So why will you find this survey interesting? For starters, the property in question was originally owned by William Walter Meadows, SPS, OLS, DLS, SLS (1873 - 1939). William and his wife, Ida, constructed the house on this parcel in 1910 for \$5,000.00. I understand that William and his family lived in the home until 1937 when he and his wife moved to Vancouver. Unfortunately, Mr. Meadows' retirement was short-lived, as the "surveying lifestyle . . . took its toll on [his] health," and he would pass away just two years later in 1939.

Locally, the house is often referred to as the "Haigh House" because its second occupants were the longest-tenured, but there are select pockets in the community, of which I am a member, that still refer to it as the "Meadows House." The physical building, albeit needing some love, is a lovely turn-of-the-century brick home centered on two lots: Lots 11 and 12, Block 26, Plan No C4681. Meadows did not survey Plan No. C4681, that was completed by Jacob Doupe, DLS, in 1904. Interestingly enough, Jacob's father Joseph was also a Land Surveyor and he also subdivided a portion of Maple Creek in 1900. However, Meadows did some work in the immediate area as he subdivided Block 24 into lots, which is just across the street from his former home. The Maple Creek and Area history book actually contained old photos of Meadows and his crew.



William and Ida Meadows (Maple Creek & Area: Where Past is Present Vol 2)



Joseph Doupe (Goldsborough, G.)



William Meadows and his crew wearing bug nets (Top). Meadows (center) standing with his crew outside of their camp (Bottom). (Maple Creek and Area: Where Past is Present Vol 2)

The evening before I began the survey, I decided to dig for evidence. I started at the NW corner of the block, where I knew a monument existed. I then moved over to the NE corner. The pin finder was not picking anything up at the NE corner; however, this is not the end of the world, as the three surrounding corners are all monumented (let me tell you that is the exception to the rule in Maple Creek). Onwards to the SE corner, my pin finder picks up a faint buzz under a bush. I dig down about 2.5 feet and find a standard iron post. So far, so good! Lastly, I squirm between the fence and the caragana at the SW corner of the block. After finding a monument at the SE corner, I am confident I should also find something at its western counterpart. I dig around the fence corner and a nearby flag pole, all while trying to stay calm in an increasingly claustrophobic situation. I dig and dig and dig, but find nothing. Oh well, I say to myself, I know there is a monument across the street to the south, or so I thought.

Here is where the next point of interest comes along. The monument at the NW corner of Block 24, which I dug up in the Summer of 2014, has been replaced by a SaskTel pedestal box. It may seem strange to remember such a specific location, but I do because it was the first survey monument I ever found, on the first survey I was ever part of. While this monument had nothing to do with our survey that day, it was an easily accessible, nearby example that illustrated what I was looking for. Although the post was now gone, I knew it existed before. I also knew, based on the number of re-establishments that I have conducted in Maple Creek, that simply relying on the next found monument to the south would most likely not reproduce the true position at the NW Corner of Block 24.

So, I had two phone calls to make. Firstly, I needed to get ahold of Midwest Surveys to see if they would share coordinates with me so I could perform a Helmert's transformation with common points from around the block. Secondly, I had to phone SaskTel to ask them why they think it is okay to destroy century-old monuments and burden the citizens of Saskatchewan with the cost of replacing them. I should also state that the tree coverage on the boulevards is significant, and relying on RTK GPS only works when there is no foliage, and you have R10s, R12s, or GS18s. I did not luck out concerning foliage, and I certainly don't have the luxury of utilizing the "latest and greatest." Instead, I often complete these types of surveys conventionally and georeference them after the fact.

Call number one went well. Of course, Midwest would be willing to share enough common points to reposition that monument accordingly. Call number two, to SaskTel, went nowhere for weeks. Eventually, a representative from the corporate office reached out to me and immediately shifted the blame to their contractors. Furthermore, she assured me that this sort of thing never happens. Now, I have read enough Surveyor's reports to know that is wildly untrue. However, as the conversation continued, I made some progress in explaining the delicate nature of survey evidence.

Furthermore, the SaskTel rep agreed to receive examples of survey evidence in picture form to inform contractors what to watch for. Is that the ultimate goal? No. Is it a step in the right direction? Yes.

As I have ranted about before, there is legislation regarding the protection of survey evidence. Yet, I am continually trying to understand why the clause is not enforced; do we as an organization lack the will to stand up for ourselves and the system we protect? The lack of enforcement allows companies like SaskTel to shift blame on their contractors and shift costs onto homeowners and landowners. Luckily, enough information was available in this scenario to piece the puzzle back together. I now had all the monuments I would need to calculate search locations for the missing block corners.

The SW corner of the block fell right under the 4x4 at the corner of the existing fence; I am quite happy with that. Additionally, nothing turns up at the NE Corner, which isn't surprising based on how "fancy" the yard and landscaping looks. With the block corners now dealt with, I could begin searching for the lot corners of interest (I will spare you the details regarding the lane corners, as I am sure you are this close to reading something else).

Regarding monumentation at lot corners, the townsite of Maple Creek has a few knocks against it. Firstly, the two main plans, 854 and C4681, are very old, 1883 and 1904, respectively. Secondly, the soil is quite "gumbo-y," and the moisture content (when there is some) is high. As such, the wooden posts didn't really stand a chance to weather time. I have found more wooden posts in one survey in the village of Piapot than I have found in close to a decade in Maple Creek. However, many moons ago, I learned the hard way, on a survey near Consort, Alberta, that you not only buzz, but also dig.

... I AM CONTINUALLY TRYING TO UNDERSTAND WHY THE [PROTECTION OF MONUMENTS] CLAUSE IS NOT ENFORCED; DO WE AS AN ORGANIZATION LACK THE WILL TO STAND UP FOR OURSELVES AND THE SYSTEM WE PROTECT?



NW Corner of Lot 11, Block 26 (Personal Collection)

PERHAPS GEORGE MUNRO OR
JAMES HOGG PLANTED THEM IN
THE 1960S OR 70S . . . OR PERHAPS
WILL MEADOWS PLANTED THEM
HIMSELF, KNOWING THAT METAL
WOULD HOLD THE POSITION FAR
BETTER THAN WOOD.



NE Corner of Lot 11, Block 26 (Personal Collection)

Sources:

Goldsborough, G. (n.d.). Memorable Manitobans: Joseph
Doupe (1838-1910).

http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/people/doupe_j.shtml

Maple Creek & area: where past is present. (2000 AD). (Vol.
2). Maple Creek & Area History Committee.

So, I make my way to the NW corner of the property and see a singular round fence post and another SaskTel pedestal box; my hopes are low. However, my pinfinder starts screaming the minute I turn it on, and I find an old rusty small iron post, one shovel scoop down just SE of the fence post. That's weird; there shouldn't be any metal here, but when I measure the monument, it fits the calculated point exactly. Next, I set up by the NE corner, with the expectation that I will find something, which is precisely what occurs. There are no fence posts, but there is a row of bushes that runs along the North boundary. I stake out to my calculated position, just south of the bushes, and voila; another old rusty small iron post with what appears to be the remnants of an old wooden post or stake. This monument fits even better than the previous one!

It's not clear where these monuments came from; there are a few potential options, but the truth has most likely succumbed to time. Perhaps George Munro or James Hogg planted them in the 1960s or 70s when they were active in the town doing other subdivisions. Maybe they are from the 80s or early 90s when many companies were in the area surveying gas wells. Or perhaps Will Meadows planted them himself, knowing that metal would hold the position far better than wood. Whoever posted them did a fantastic job and made for an unexpected end to my survey. While it was nice to find the monuments, and to find them in agreement with everything else, it is equally as nice to know that a young family is committed to taking care of William and Ida's home.

May your posts always be straight,

G. S. Rowley,
Bed., Bsc., S.L.S., P. Surv.

A MESSAGE FROM SAGT



Hello to the SLSA from the SAGT!

The SAGT has accepted an invitation to participate in the Sponsorship Program of the 2023 GoGeomatics Expo in Calgary on November 6–8! We are excited to attend, to meet people in the Geomatics Community, and to take advantage of the educational components of this event. You can visit the event webpage here:
<https://gogeomaticsexpo.com/>

The SAGT is looking for new members. Please find the following list of benefits to being a member of the Association:

- Offers educational opportunities and news in the Geomatics world
- Recognition as a Certified Geomatics Technologist
- Membership luncheons and fun events– families welcome
- Affiliation with the SLSA
- Promotes proficiency of its Geomatics Technologists
- The Association is a place to freely exchange ideas and gather industry related insight
- Experiences of fellowship in a network of people in common

Please visit our website for more information about our Association, SAGT Events, and a list of resourceful websites.

Thanks,

Renee Schindelka, CGT



UPCOMING EVENTS

Fall Education Seminar,
November 21 and 22, 2023
Sheraton Cavalier,
Saskatoon.

SLSA Conference & AGM
2024

June 5-7, 2024
The Resort,
Cypress Hills
Interprovincial Park

DISCLAIMER & OTHER INFORMATION

Publication Information

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Deadlines for articles are the last Friday in February, May, August, and November.

Administration

Executive Director: Deanne Cairns

The opinions of the contributing writers may not be consistent with those of the Council of the Saskatchewan Land Surveyors Association. Articles may be reprinted with appropriate credit given to the authors, unless it is under copyright. Links in this edition are shown below:

[Monuments Going Up in Smoke - The American Surveyor \(amerisurv.com\)](#) by Carl C. De Baca, PS

[From the ALS News Vault - The Importance of Digging \(alsa.ab.ca\)](#) by Lyall Pratt, ALS

[Land Surveyors Association raises funds for Erie Canal Film - The Times of Wayne County - Waynetimes.com](#)
by Waynetimes.com

[Cadastre and Land Register \(bev.gv.at\)](#) by Federal Office of Metrology and Surveying

[Diamondback Land Surveying Team Introduces Get Kids into Survey Program to American Grade School Students \(directionsmag.com\)](#) by GoGeomatics Newsmakers