

## **BEATY v. ROBERTSON**

**Plat Controls** 

WHITING v. GARDNER

**Notes Control** 

ERICKSON V. WICK

**Plat Controls** 

**HARRINGTON V. BOEHMER** 

**Notes Control** 

### **Hudson Investment Co.**

Calls for distance prevail over acreage

## The Signal Companies Monuments control both field notes and plats

United States v. Redondo Development

Area controls over original monuments.

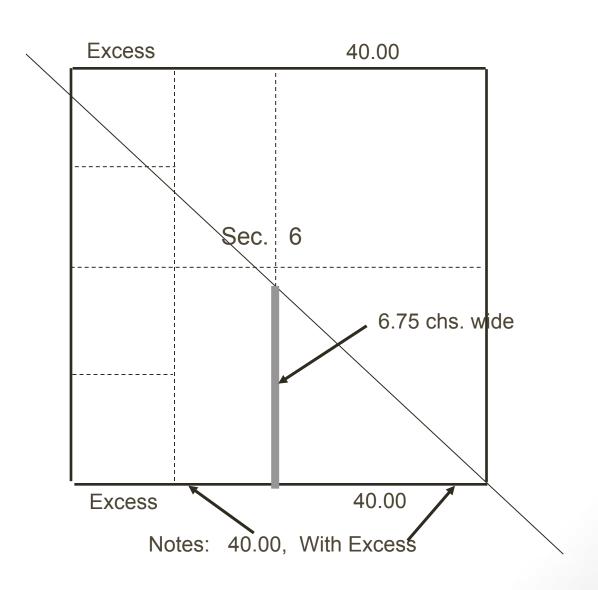
**Facts Control** 

### **BEATY v. ROBERTSON**

"Where there is a variance between the plat and the field notes of the original survey of public lands, the former must control since it represents the lines and corners as fixed by the Surveyor General and by which the land was sold."

(Supreme Court of Indiana)

## **BEATY v. ROBERTSON**



### WHITING v. GARDNER

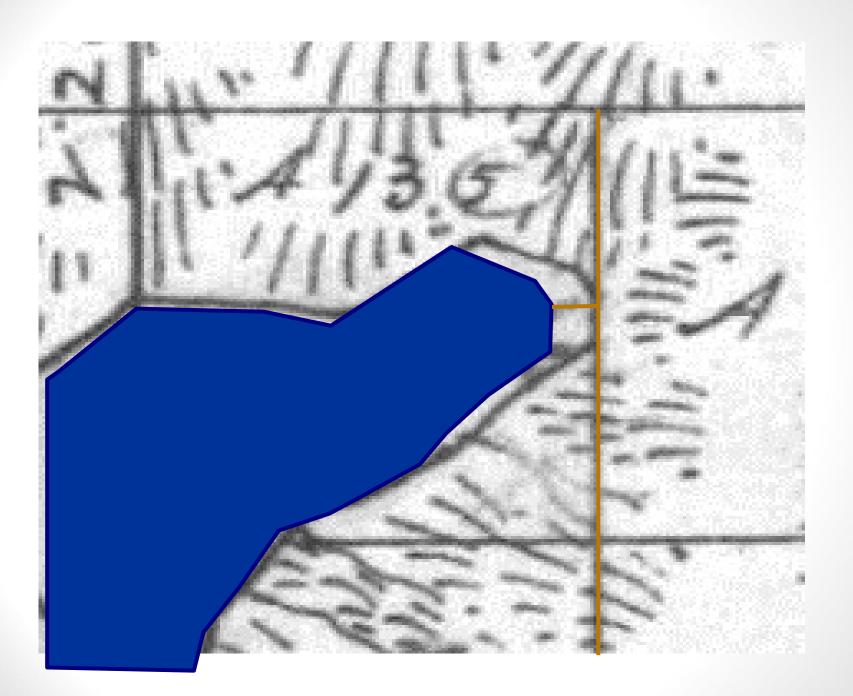
Where the descriptions in a deed refer to a survey and a map base thereon, making both a part of the deed, and there is a discrepancy between the map and the survey, the later will prevail.

(Supreme Court of California)

### **ERICKSON V. WICK**

Where there is variance between plat and field notes and land has been conveyed out of government's title by reference to plat, plat controls.

(Wash. Court of Appeals)

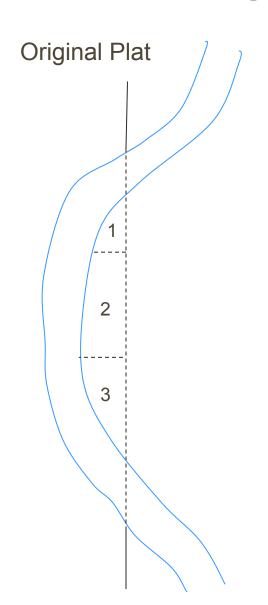


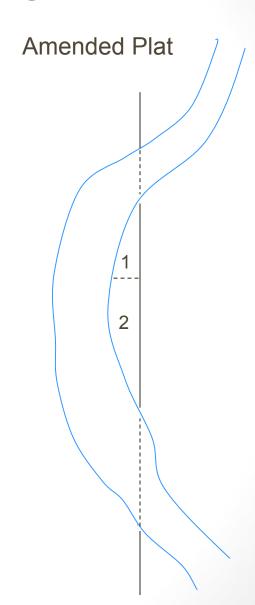
#### HARRINGTON V. BOEHMER

"Where there is a discrepancy between field notes and a plat the latter must give way to the former."

(Supreme Court of California)

## HARRINGTON V. BOEHMER





- 1. Inconsistencies on the face of the Plat;
- 2. Official Field Notes vs. Official Plat
- 3. Original Lotting vs. Resurvey Lotting
- 4. Field Tablets vs. Official Field Notes
- 5. Official Plat vs. Official Procedures
- 6. Official Independent Resurvey Plat vs. Original Patent
- 7. Official Plat and Field Notes vs. Evidence Suggesting A Hiatus Between Townships
- 8. Original Grant vs. Original Survey
- 9. Protracted Sub. of Sec. Lines vs. the Actual Location

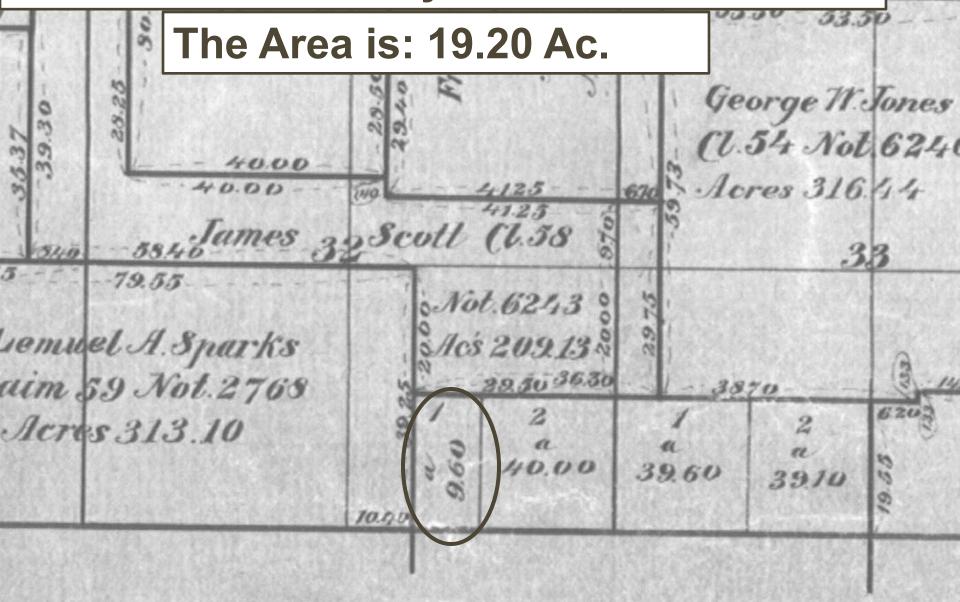
- 1. Gather all the evidence.
- 2. The plat and notes are part of the deed/patent.
- 3. Where were the lines actually run?
- 4. What was the intent?
- 5. Identify the source of errors.
- 6. Is it a common corner or is it a corner of minimum control?
- 7. Does the original corner control?
- 8. What is the best evidence of the position of the original corner?
- 9. Does the plat establish double corners?

## INCONSISTENCIES ON THE FACE OF THE PLAT

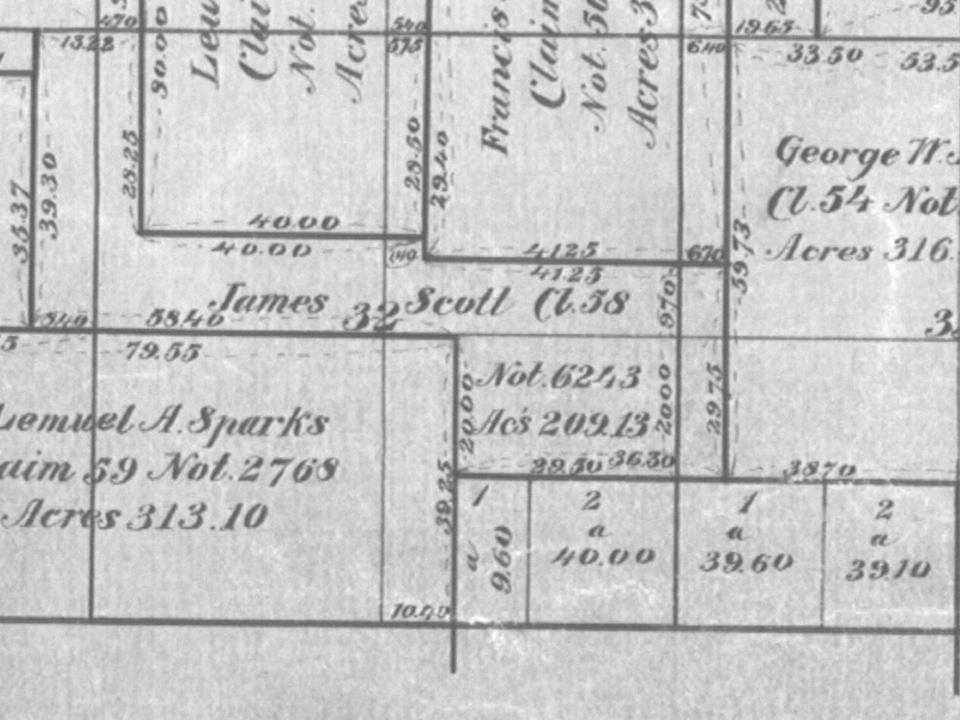
Areas are not based on distances shown on the plat

## Hudson Investment Company et al.

## 9.60 is the length of the south boundary of the lot



- "The rule of priority In resolving an internal inconsistency on the face of the official plat of survey is that the more reliable calls for distance prevail over the computation of acreage."
- ➤ Appellants argue that the Gov. is bound by its survey to treat Lot 1 as containing 9.60 acres



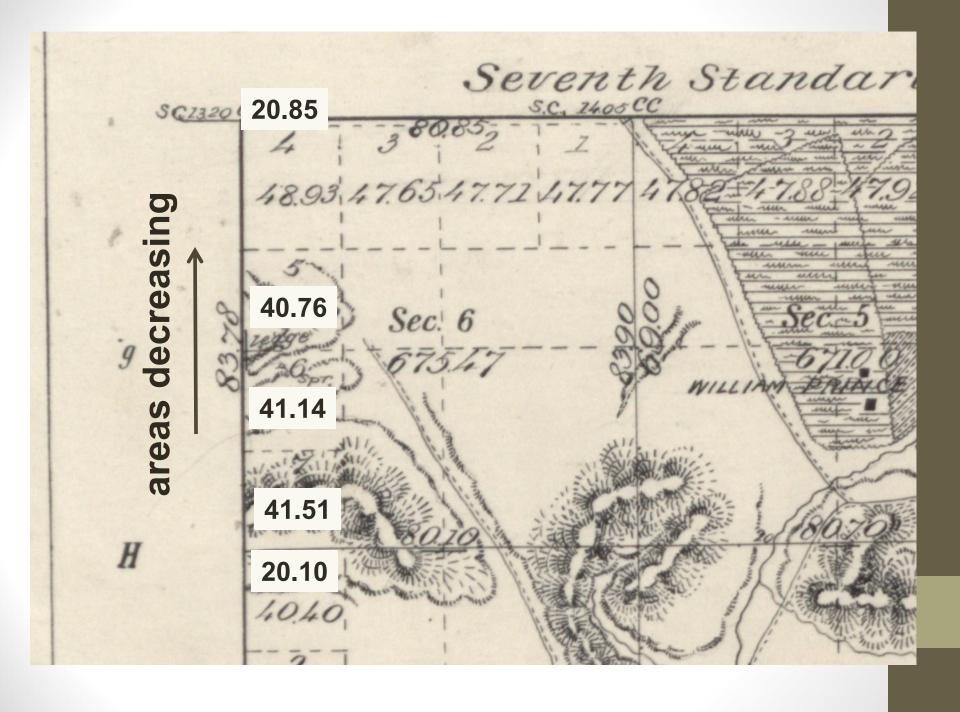
The issue is not whether the Register could recompute the acreage, but whether he correctly resolved an inconsistency on the face of the plat.

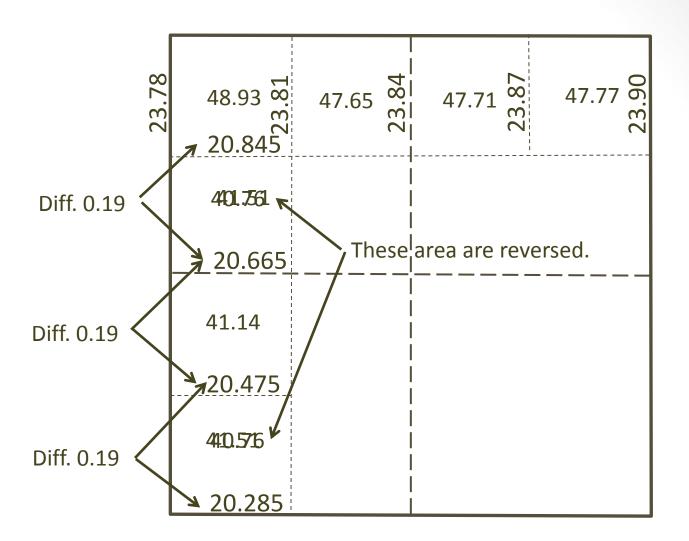
"Thus, when the register considered the plat in conjunction with the field notes, he was constrained to use the distance calls"

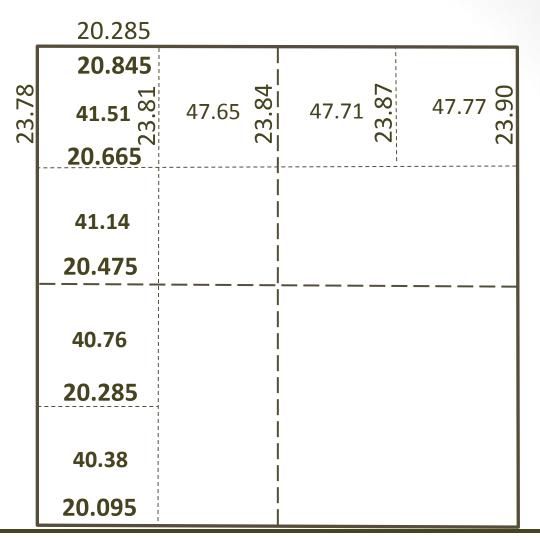
- 1. Attempt to Identify the source of the discrepancy.
- 2. Does the discrepancy affect the subdivision of the section?
- 3. Determine how the section should have been subdivided or what the parenthetical distances and areas should have been.
- 4. The solution should protect the plat in its entirety, including the regular aliquot parts

## INCONSISTENCIES ON THE FACE OF THE PLAT

Area calculations contain multiple errors.







We have identified the error and we are "constrained" to use the correct areas and parenthetical distances.

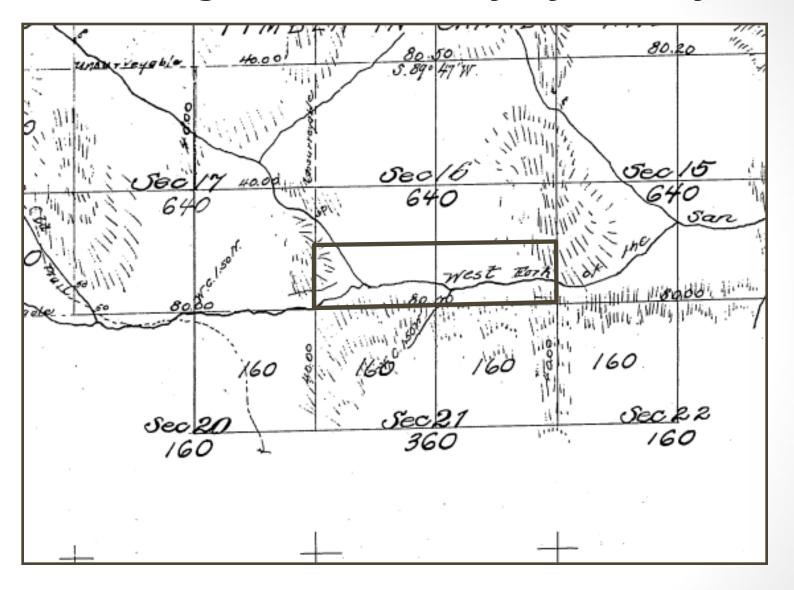
## INCONSISTENCIES ON THE FACE OF THE PLAT

Topographic features are not properly located on the original plat.

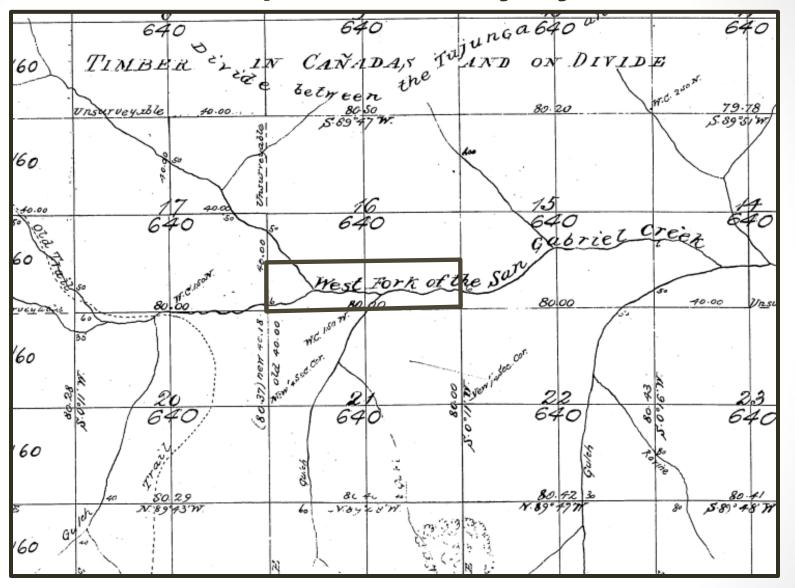
## J. M. BEARD (ON REHEARING) 52 L.D. 451

- ➤ In 1905 A.G. Strain purchased the S½S½ Sec. 16 from the State of California and later transferred the tract to J.M. Beard.
- Beard instituted a suit to recover land occupied by the West Fork Ranger Station of the U.S. Forest Service.
- ➤ Beard relied on a survey by Friel which located the S½S½ Sec. 16 approximately ½ mile south and ¼ mile west of the true position as determined by reference to corners of the original survey.

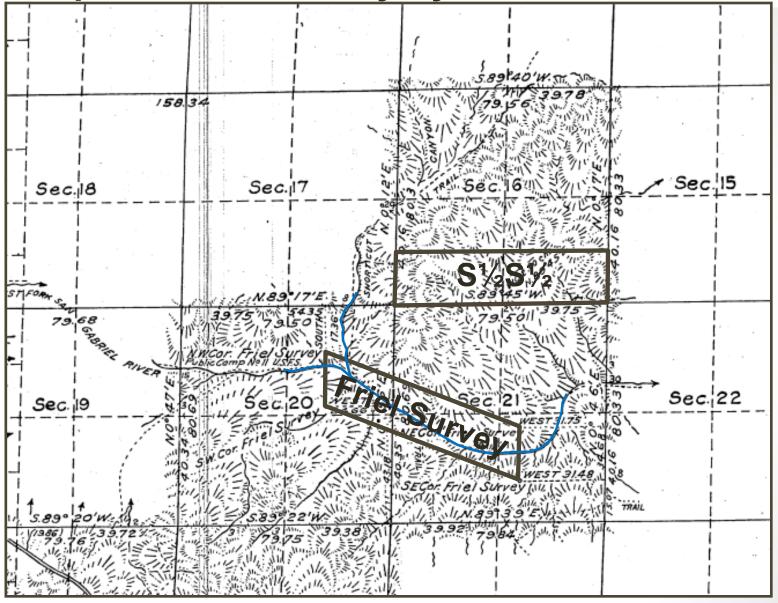
## **Original 1875 Survey By Norway**



## **1884 Completion Survey By Pearson**



## 1926 Dependent Resurvey by Averill and Wilson



### J. M. BEARD (ON REHEARING) 52 L.D. 451

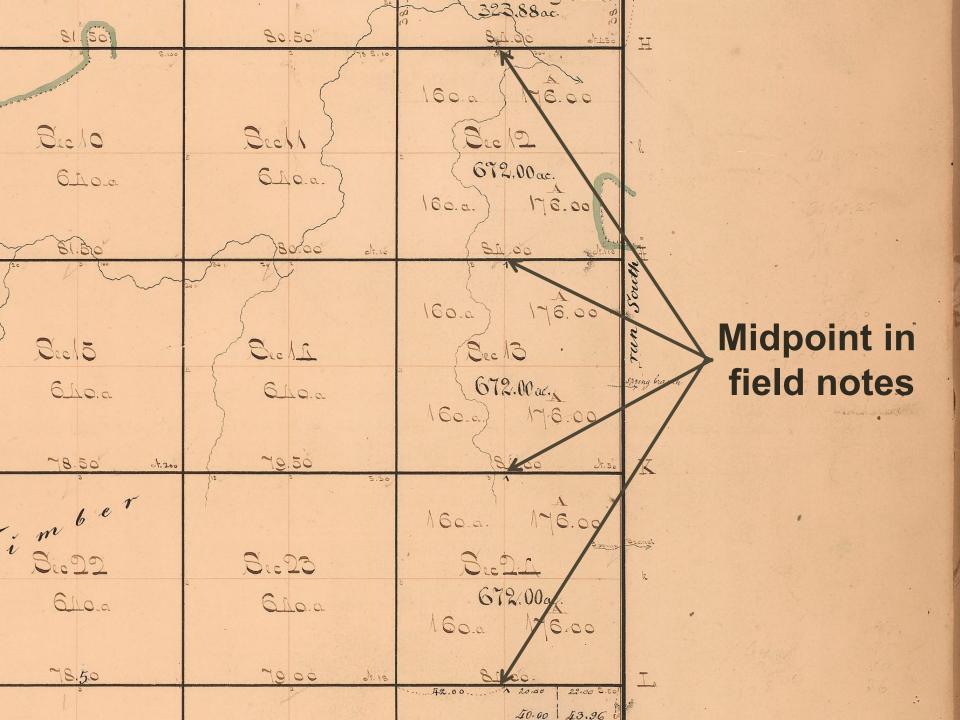
Under the circumstances there appears little justification for counsel's contention that items of topography, the positions of which in the interior of section were based solely upon an estimate or guess on the part of the surveyor, and the record distances to which on the section lines were dependent upon the "recollections of the chainmen," and which were noted as "matters of useful information or likely to gratify public curiosity," should thereafter be accorded the dignity of natural monuments to which both courses and distances must give way.

No such importance has been attached to items of topography by the General Land Office, the Department, or the Federal courts.

# Official Field Notes vs. Official Plat

Corner points reported in the field notes were not used on the plat.

In 1872 M.J. Alexander, wrote the Commissioner of the General Land Office concerning a township in which the length of the south boundaries of secs. 1, 12, 13, 24, and 25 was 84.00 chains. The surveyor placed the ¼ sec. cors. at midpoint but the plat placed the entire excess against the east boundary.

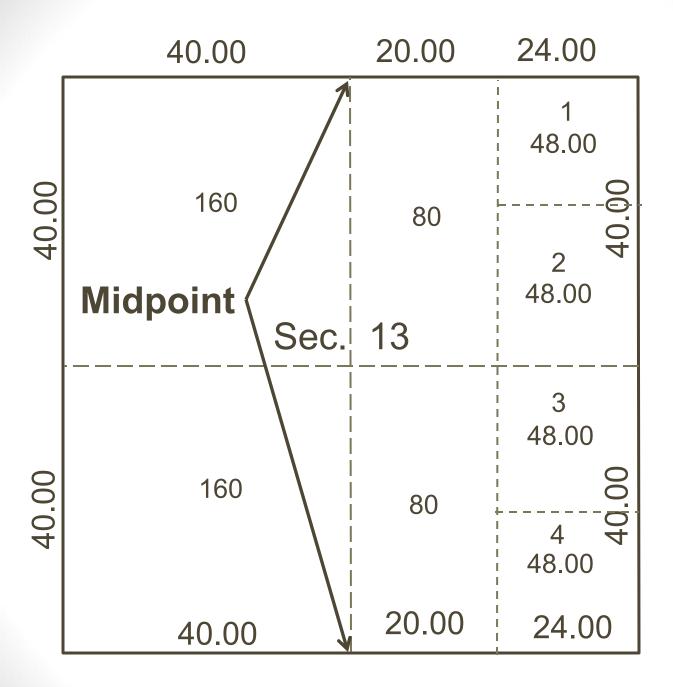


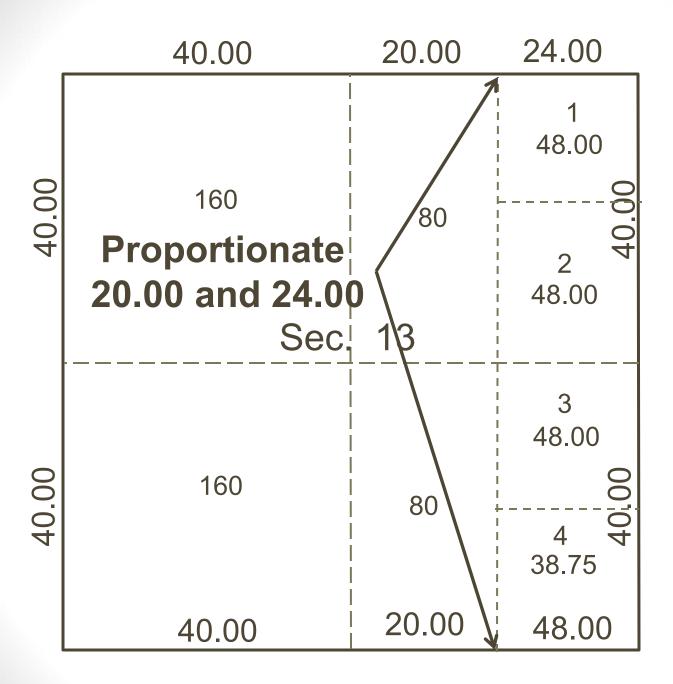


The Commissioner advised him that the field notes controlled; the corners would have to be at equidistant points and the sections subdivided accordingly.

If confronted with that problem today, and if the east halves of the sections had been protracted into lots against the east boundary, the BLM would also restore the quarter corners at midpoint if lost, but would then establish the east one-sixteenth section corners in a position proportionate to the distances used to calculate the areas on the plat.

(A History of the Rectangular Survey System, page 152)





# Official Field Notes vs. Official Plat

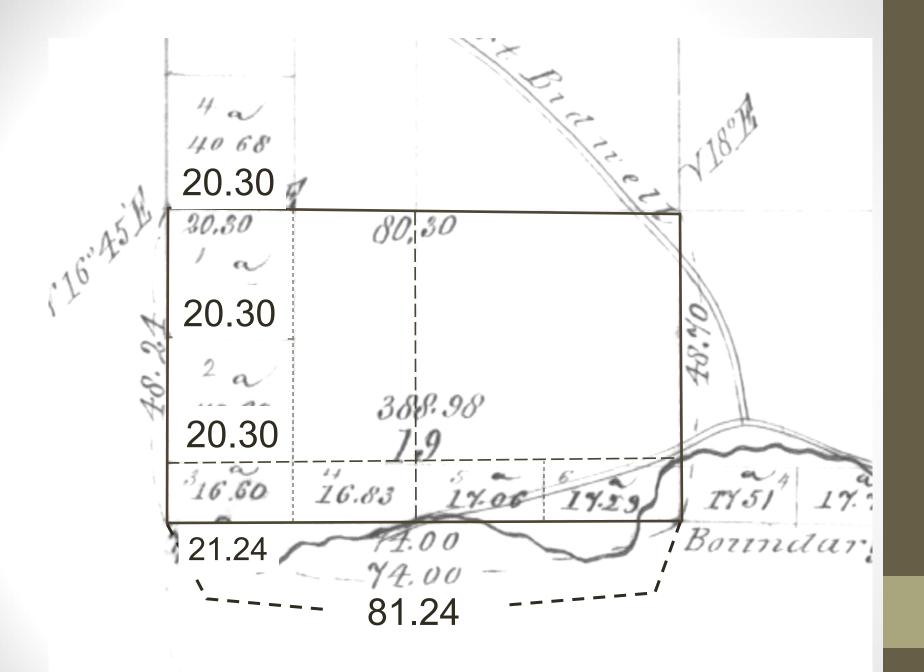
Error in the field notes or error in the field

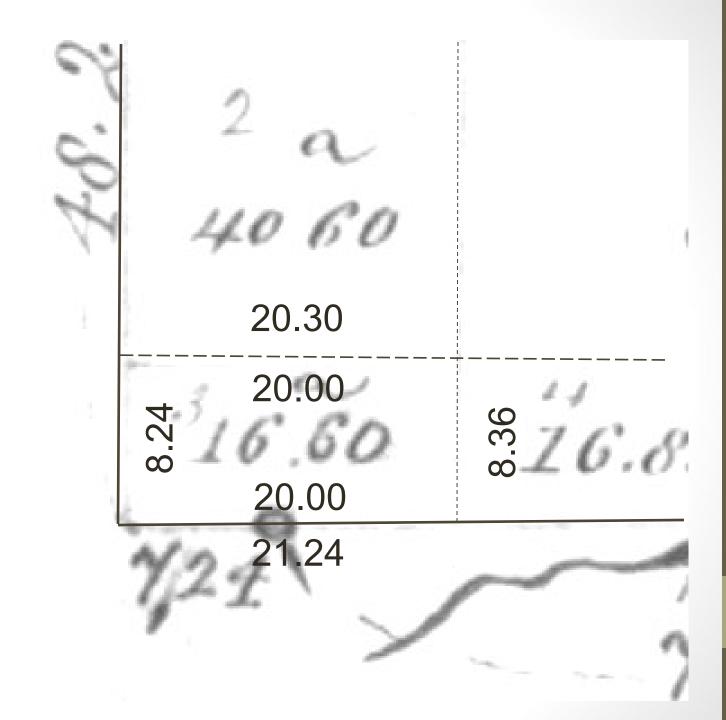
# Field notes report 79.76 with the 1/4 sec. cor. at midpoint 3 38.97 38.72 38.25 House

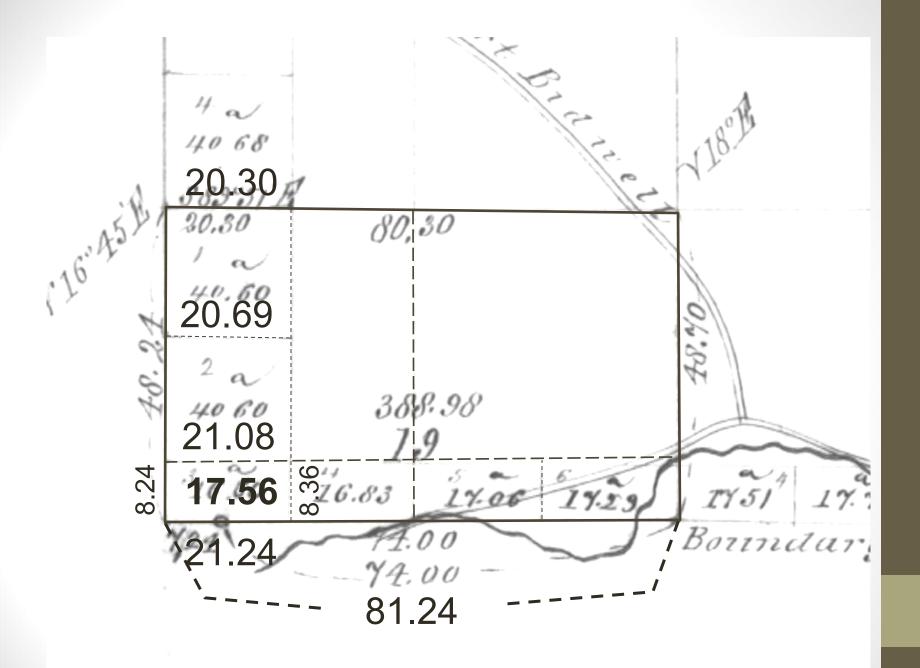
If the original corner is recover it will control so we want to reestablish the corner in it's original position. I believe that is at 40.38 and 40.37, midpoint.

the 1/4 section corner at 40.38 chains. The plat

reports 80.70 chains, with no distance given to the 1/4 section corner. 80.70

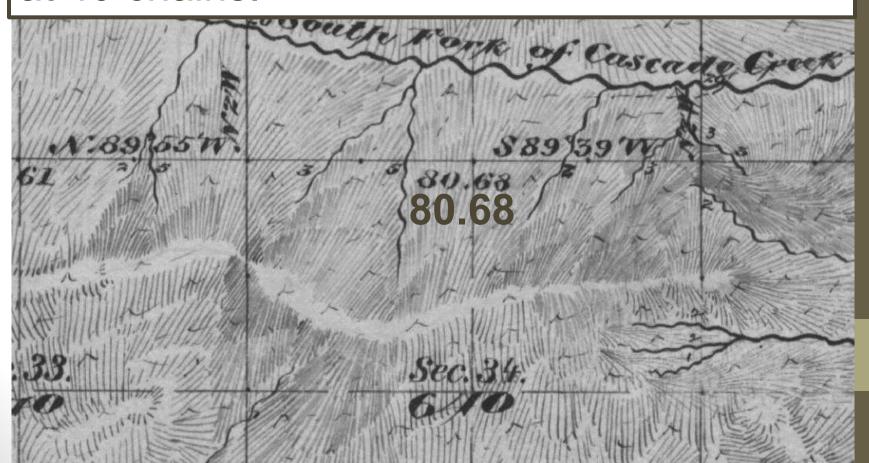




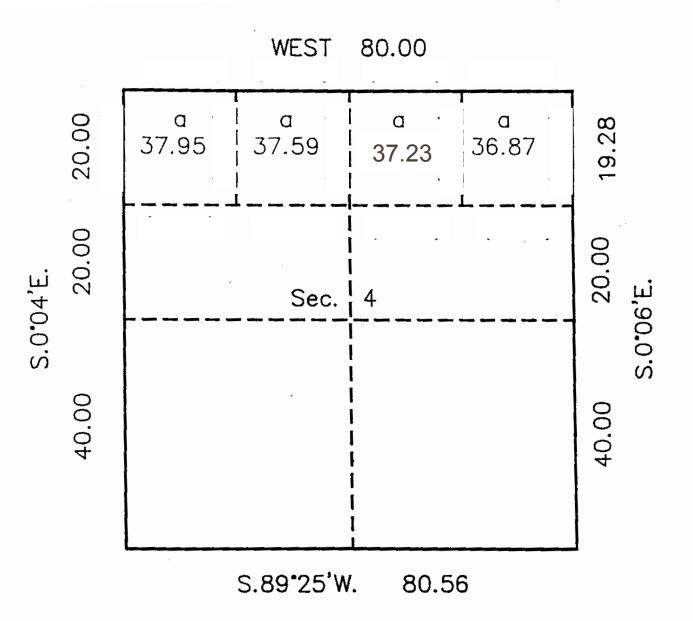


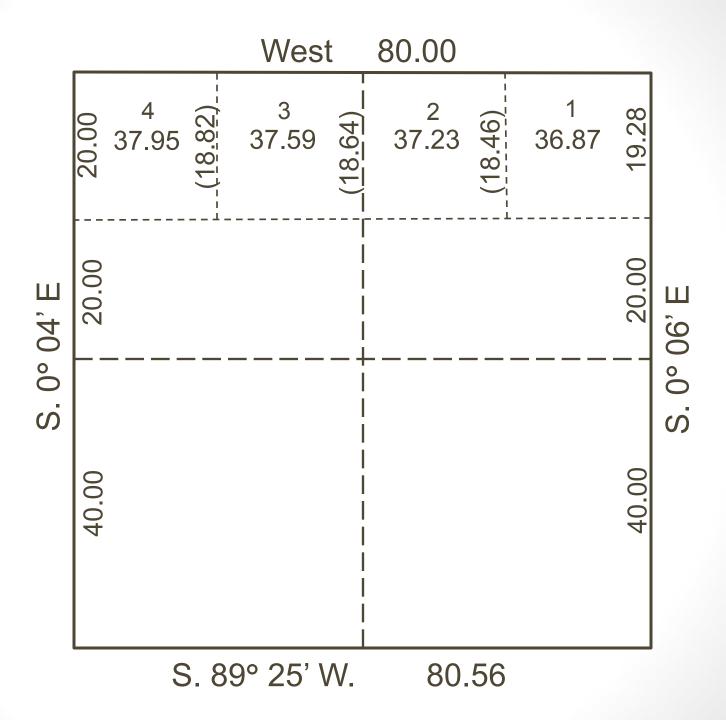
A subdivision based on the correct areas, not those shown on the plat, will protect the aliquot parts and will equitably place the excess or deficiency in the lots against the south and west boundaries

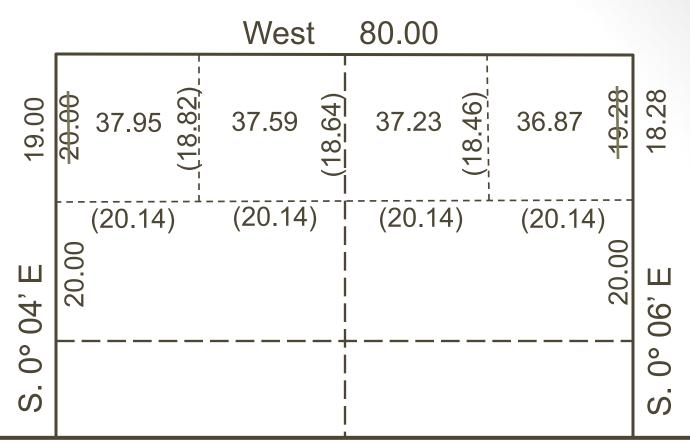
The field notes report running East on a random line setting a "temporary ¼ sec. cor." at 40 chains and returning S. 89° 39' W. on true line and setting the ¼ sec. cor. at 40 chains.



#### **Determine the Source of the Error**







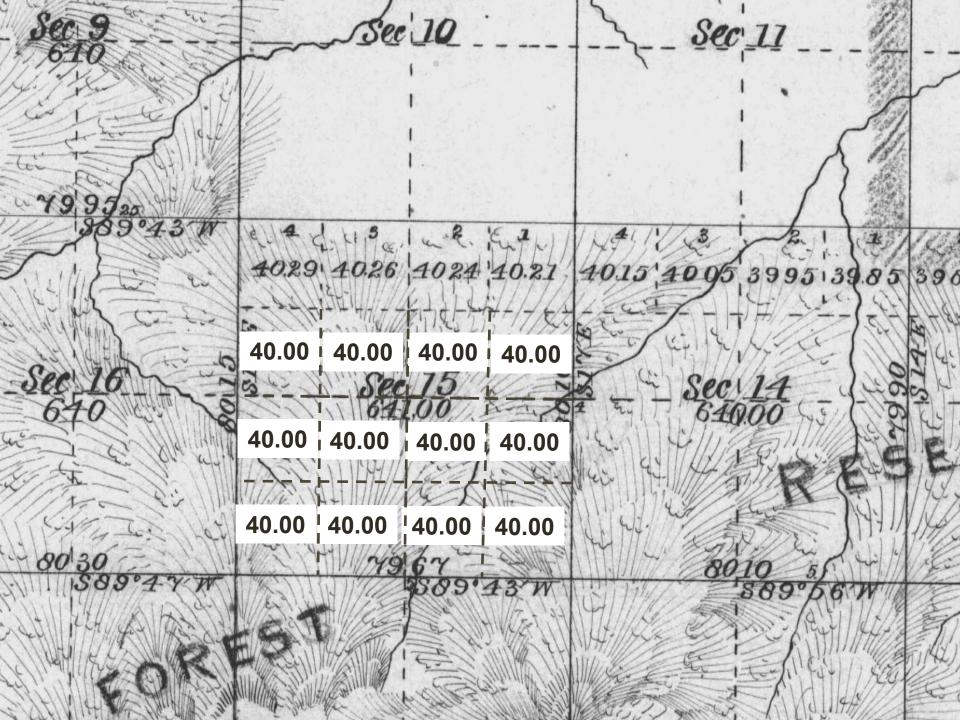
We have identified the error. I believe the N 1/16 sec. cors. should be established where the draftsman should have placed them. (20.00 and remainder)

<u>3.09 Z3 VV.</u>

 $\sigma \sigma$ 

# Original Lotting vs. Resurvey Lotting

Are the new areas shown on the resurvey plat in conflict with the areas shown on the original plat?



The new area are from a proper subdivision based on the original plat and the resurvey measurements. There is no conflict between the two plats. 39.03 32 36.79 36.44 Sec. 16 Sec. 15 Sec. 36.19 N.89° 33'W 37.02 5.89° 30 W. 5.89° 21'W. N.88° 81. 32 39.50 37.98 79. U.S.C.86.S 7

Sec. IV

# Field Tablets vs. Official Field Notes

- 1. Field Tablets are notebooks in which the initial information is recorded in the field and from which the Field Notes are transcribed.
- 2. Field tablets were/are generally destroyed.
- 3. The original copy of the field notes was filed in the Office of the Surveyor General.
- 4. The duplicate copy was sent to Washington D.C. as a security copy.
- 5. The Descriptive Notes (triplicate) were sent to the Land Office.

## Township N. 199 Range N. 66 of the Weightinipal Meridian.

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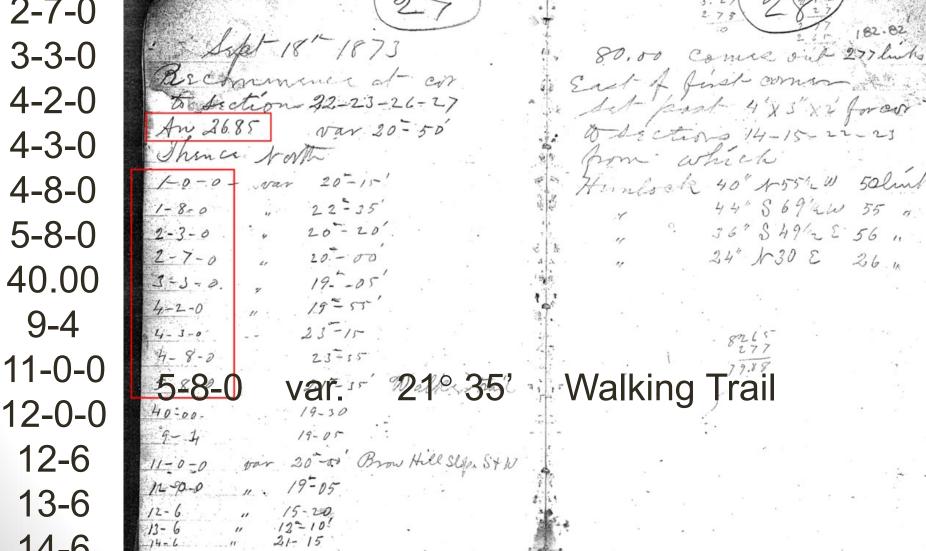
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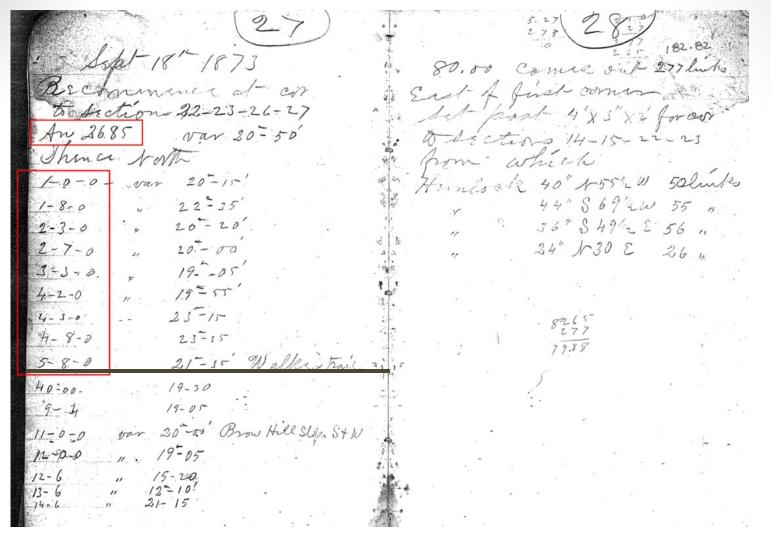
12-6

13-6

14-6

## 1873 Field Tablet





- > 5 x10 x ½ chains, plus 8 sticks, plus 0 links
- > 25 chains plus 4 chains = 29 chains.
- Aneroid Barometer

Willam Ett Meridian. 49) Township / South Range 5 East Begin at corner to Sec 22-23. 20.50 Stream 2 lks wide. runs & 94 29.00 Cross Walkers trail. Course. East & Mest 26 and 27. Thence East on our-40.00 Set-fir post-4ft-long 3 in thick (+160) don't seturem Sec 23 and 26. 40.00 Set temporary 1/4 Sec post 2ft in ground for 1/4 sic cor. 80.22 intersect line 43 like South of cor Fir 24 in dia \$ 68 6 24 lls Fir 24 in dia 868 9 12 lks 89-42 Ir on True line 21.00 Stram 4 lks wids. runs & 9 (+30) Var 19 -00' East-68.00 Var 11-40' East- (+90) 40.11 Set- usulock post- 4 ft long 3 in thick - 00 Set-humlock post-4ff-lay 3 in Square -140 80.00 2ft in ground for 14 Acc cor 2 ft in ground for comer to sections Hemlock 24 india 127 % 8 lks 14-15-22- and 23. R. Henlock 10 in dia S 27 6 40 lks W 21=45 East Hemlock 40 in dia 1559 50 lks 80.22 to Comm. Hemlock 44 in dia S69 2 55 les 7 mlock 36 india 849 & 56 lks Fine for and hamlock, hand Hymlock 24 in dia N30 E 26 lks mary level. Soil 2nd rate. From 0 to 55 chs. open fir timber from 55 to 80 chs, fir and hamlock timber. Begin at-corner to Sec 22-23 Rocky point East of line at 68 chs 26 and 27 thruce North on Land mark level soil 2" rate. lines between Sec 22 and 23. Sipt-20=1873. Var 21-00 East. .

#### ROADS v. STANGAIR, Washington Supreme Court

- Where a deputy United States surveyor who made an original survey could not explain the discrepancy between his field notes and those returned by him to the surveyor general, the surveyor's actual field tablets do not control the transcribed field notes on file in the surveyor general's office.
- This survey was made some 50 years ago, and, inasmuch as the witness, Deputy Surveyor Van Vleet, who made the original survey under dispute, cannot explain the discrepancies between his own field notes and those returned by him to his superior officer, this court will not undertake to do so.

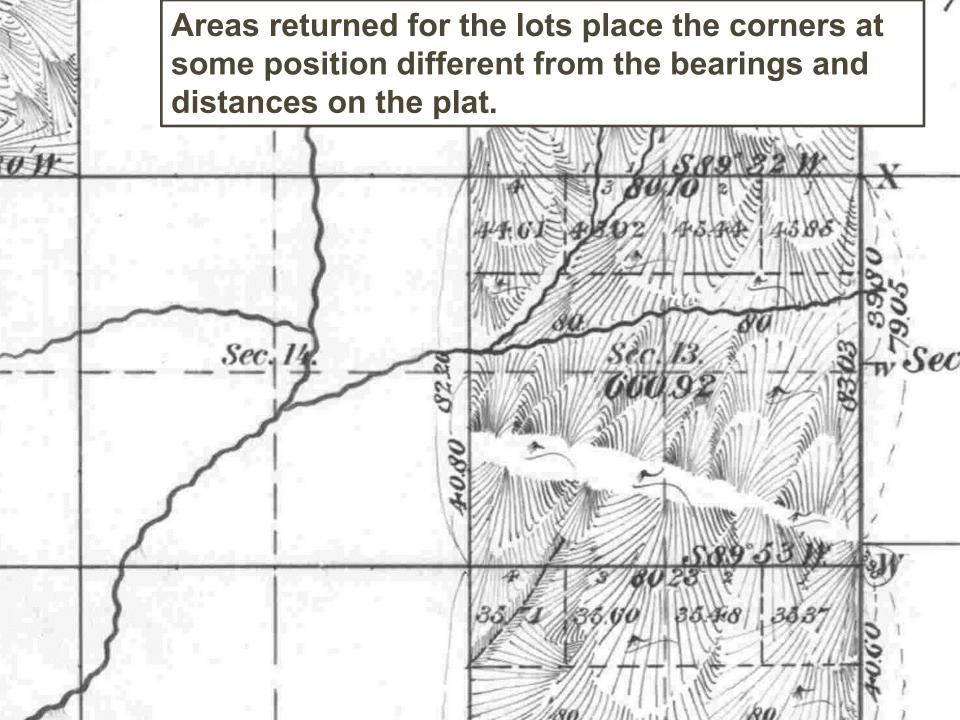
- It might be suggested, however, that the witness (Deputy Van Vleet) may have found it necessary to make some changes in the survey before reporting to the surveyor general, and that such changes were not indicated on the field notes retained by him.
- In any event such testimony as this cannot be permitted to overturn the official record of the survey on file in the proper office.

### Frank Lujan 40 IBLA 184 (1979)

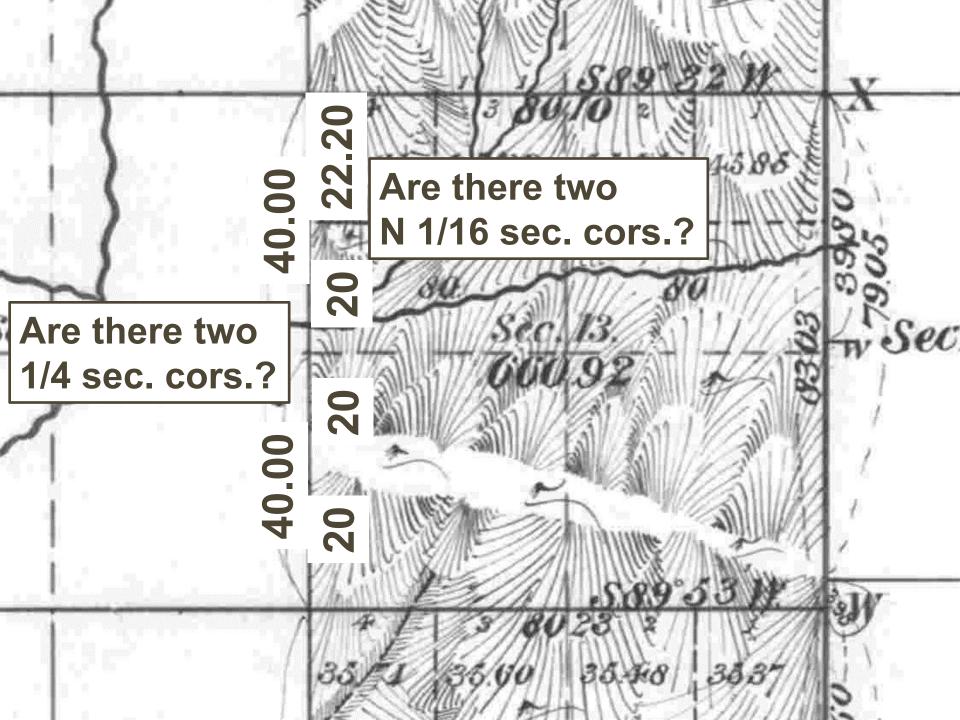
 The Bureau of Land Management prepares and approves the final typed field notes and accepts the plat as the only official and legally binding document of any survey or resurvey executed by them. Only the final typed field notes are signed and certified by the surveyor as the field notes representing field work executed by them. Observations noted in the field tablets may be those of subordinates less experienced and skilled than the surveyor in charge. It is the responsibility of the surveyor to see that no errors or misjudgments noted in the field tablets get transferred to the legally binding, final typed field notes.

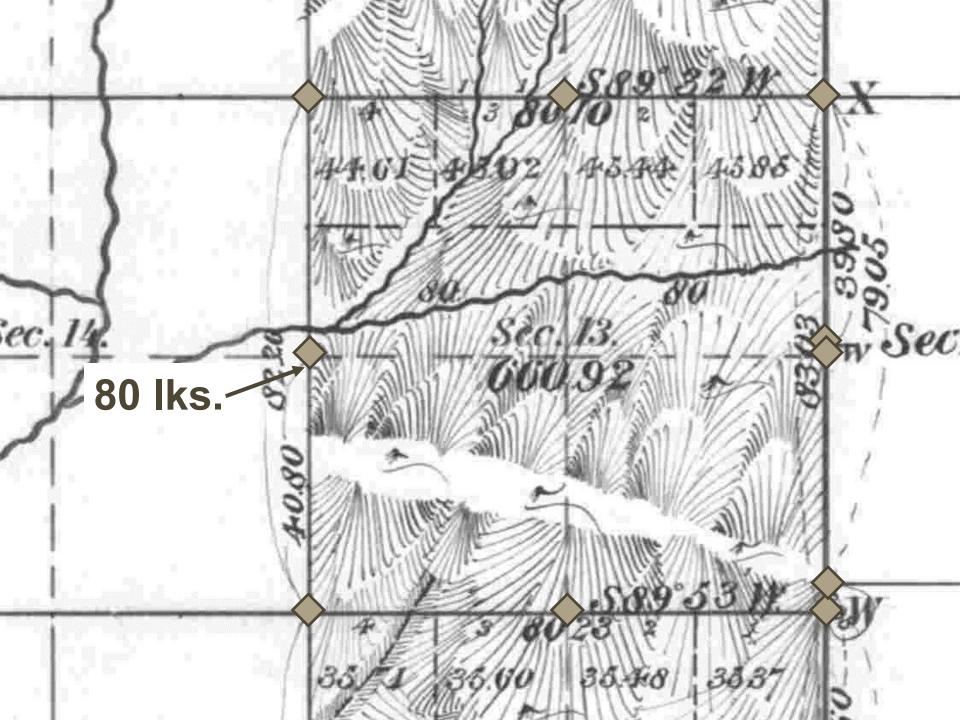
# Official Plat vs. Official Procedures

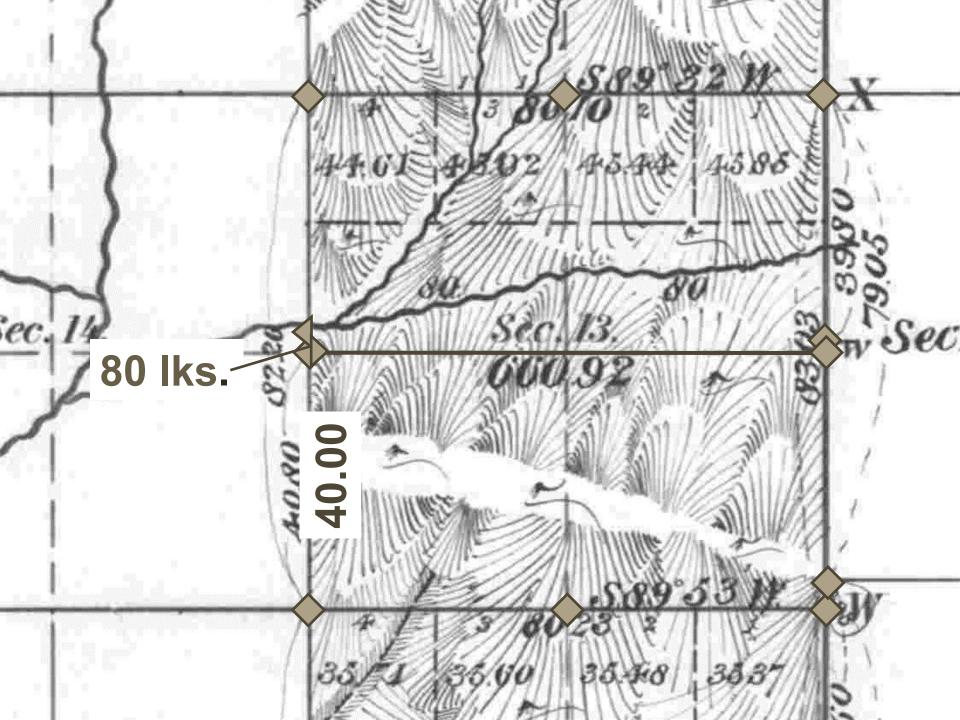
Completion survey is not consistent with the original plat???



589 32 From the corner to Sections 13.14. 23 + 24 which is a post 4 in. og. 12 in. above ground, marked and witnessed as described by the Surveyor General, From Month between Sec. 13+14 Intersected the 1/4 Sec. cor. between Sections 13 +14 Intersected the cor to Sections 11.12.13 114 which is a past 4 m. ig. 12 in above 35/1 35/90 35.48 3537

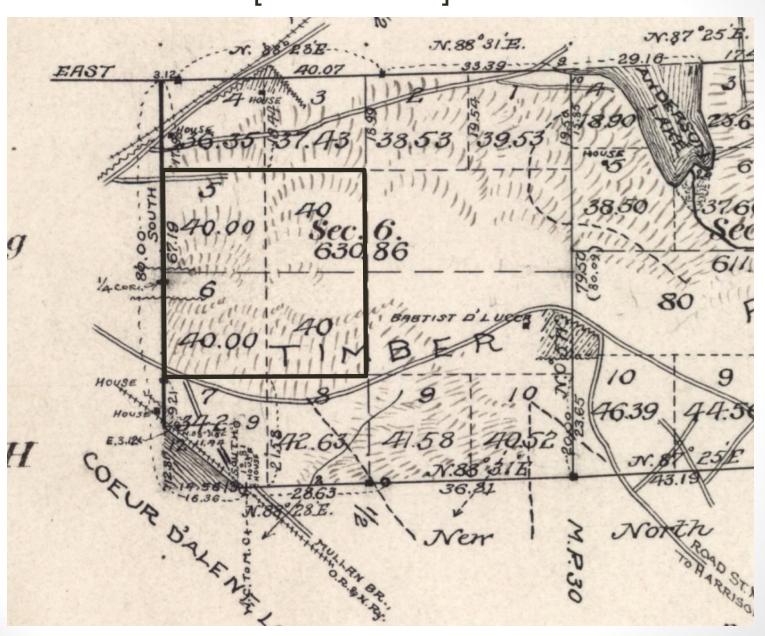


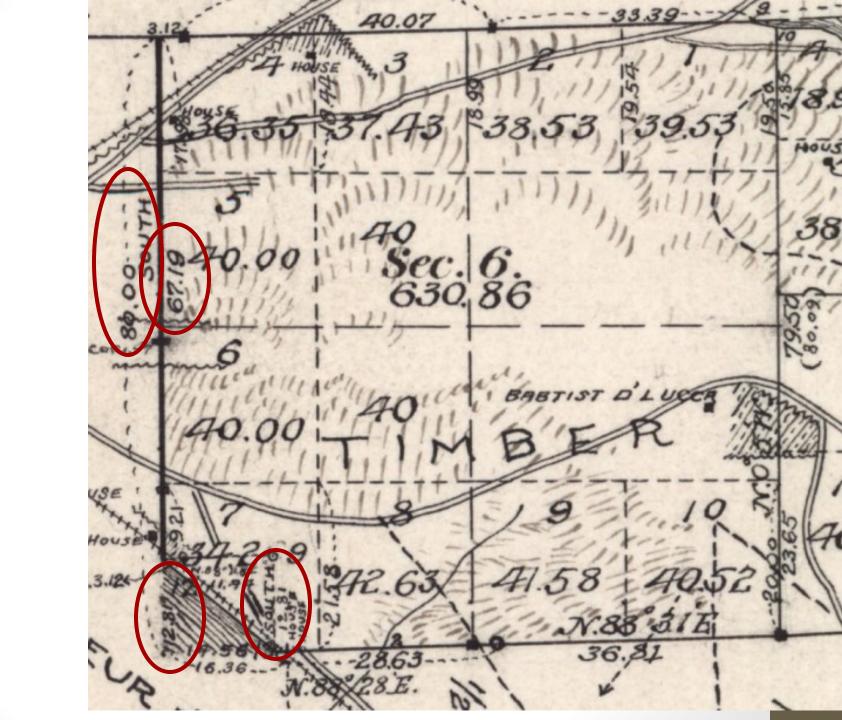


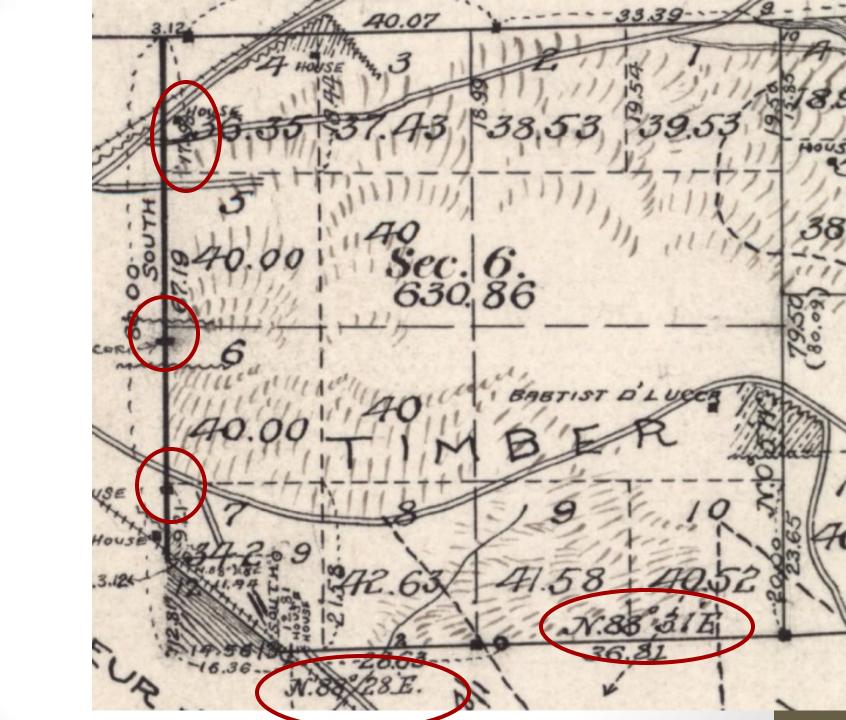


- 1) Ownership
- 2) Improvements
- 3) Existing surveys
- 4) Excess or deficiency of area

SALA v. CRANE [170 Pac. 92.]







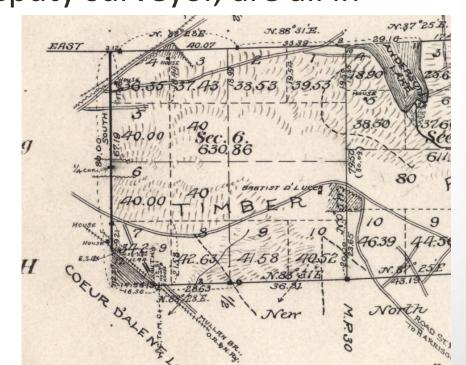
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### SALA v. CRANE Idaho Supreme Court

 The only question involved in this case is as to the identity of the land conveyed to appellant by her patent.

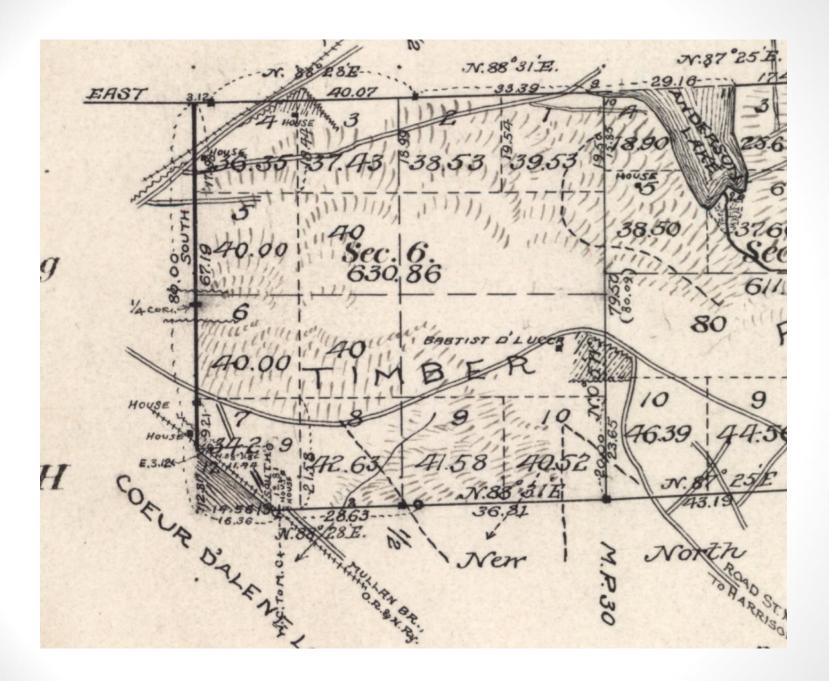
 The original corners of the section, as established by the deputy surveyor, are all in

place.

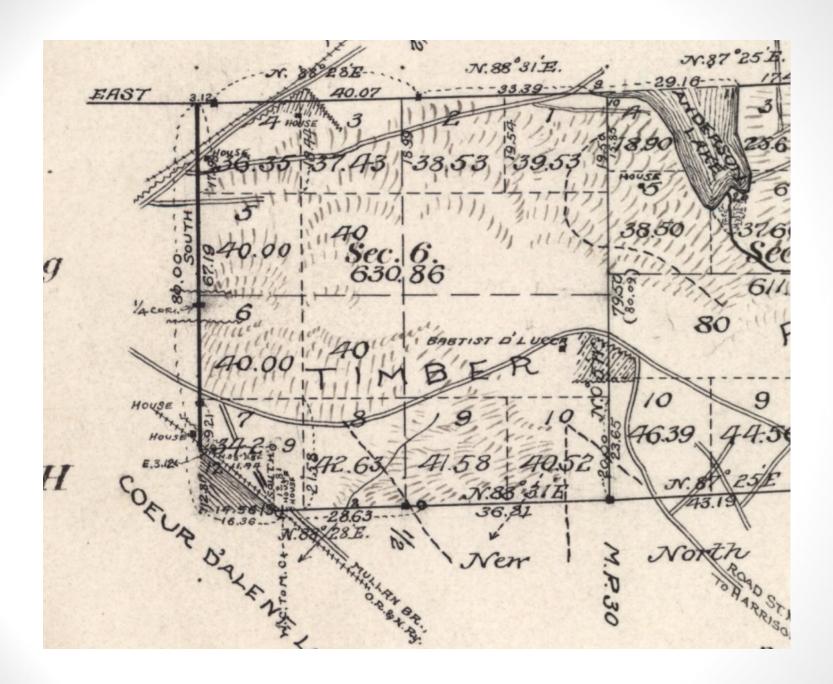


- A description and plat made by the surveyorgeneral from the field-notes are conclusive, and the section lines and corners as laid down in the description and plat are binding upon the general government, and upon all parties concerned.
- This court cannot inquire into the propriety of the surveyor general's action in preparing the plat from the data furnished him by the deputy surveyor in the field. That is a matter committed by the federal statutes to the surveyor general, subject to the supervision of the general land office.

- It is therefore unnecessary to determine whether the section involved in this case, being a fractional section, was properly subdivided by the plat or not, for even though the plat was made contrary to law, it still identifies and designates the land actually conveyed by the patent.
- It is evident that the line on the plat demarking the north and south halves of the section meets the west boundary line of the section 2.02 chains north of the quarter corner as shown on the plat.



- This is not a case of a contradiction between the official plat and the field-notes of the original survey, as respondents seem to suggest, for the plat shows on its face that it corresponds with and was prepared with reference to the actual survey.
- If there were discrepancies between the survey and the plat, and the description in the patent is according to its terms to be determined according to the official plat, the official plat must control.



## Official Plat vs. Official Procedures

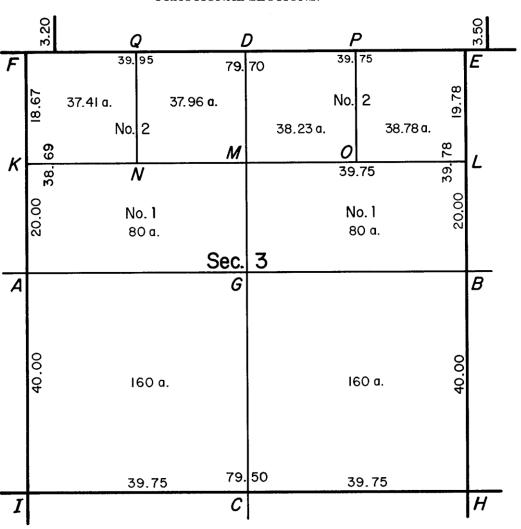
Area calculation procedures do not conform to established procedures.

[ 27. ]

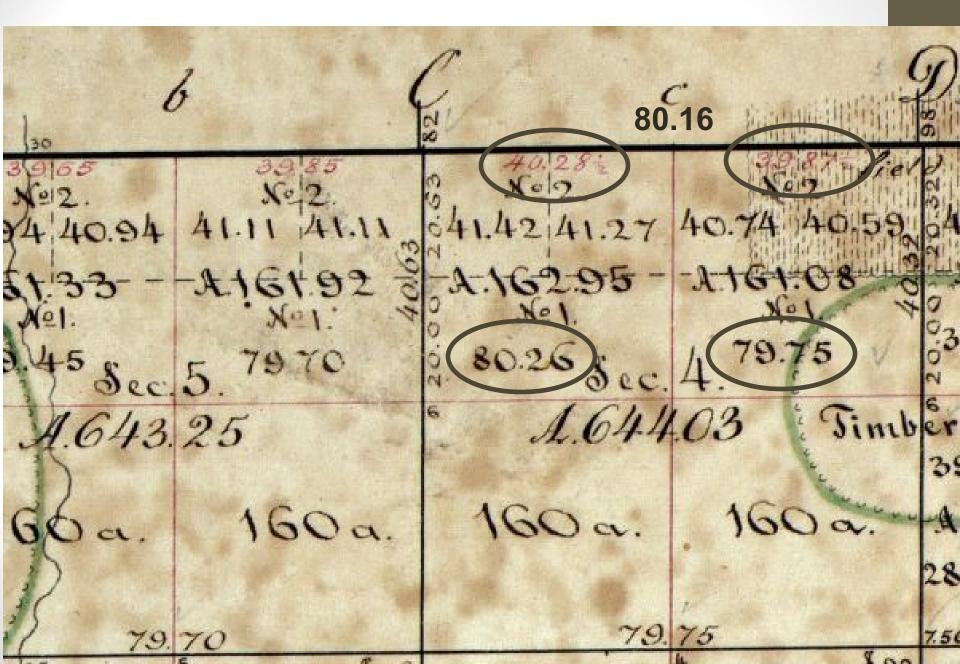
 $Subdivision\ of\ Sections\ adjoining\ the\ North\ boundary\ of\ a$  Township.

#### DIAGRAM No. 4.

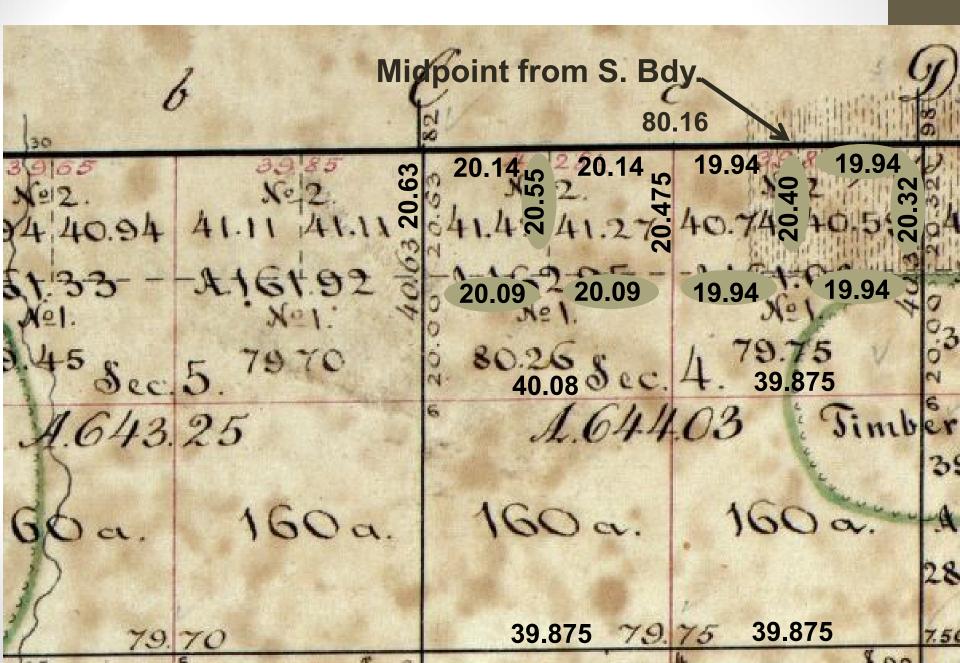
#### FRACTIONAL SECTIONS.



#### Illinois Plat 1839

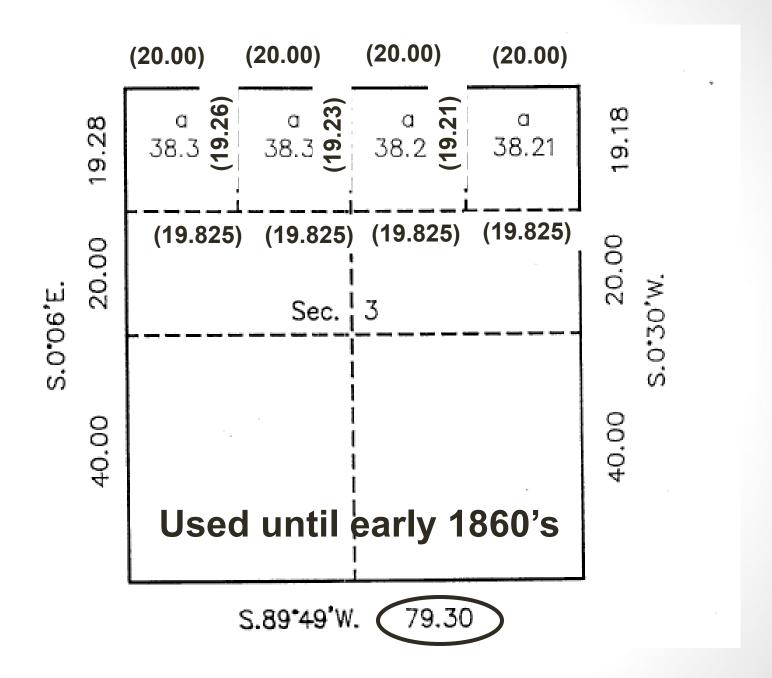


#### Illinois Plat 1839



#### Michigan Plat 1839

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### 1883 Survey T. 35 N., R. 80 W. Wyoming

00.08 3 19.83 19.91 19.98 19.98 | 19.98 19.98 79.925 Sec 79¦85 79.70

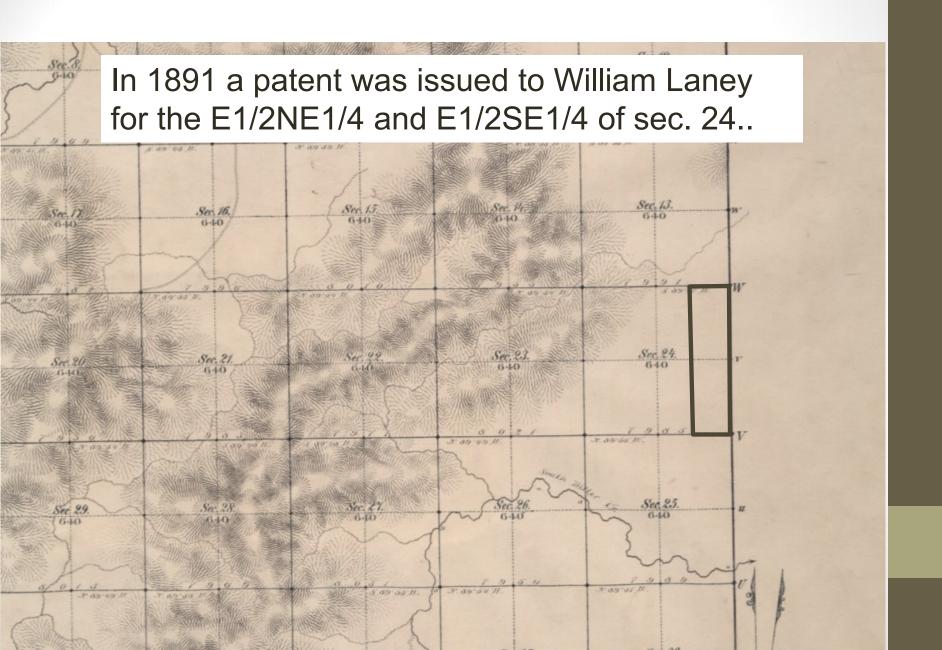
#### Nebraska Plat 1857

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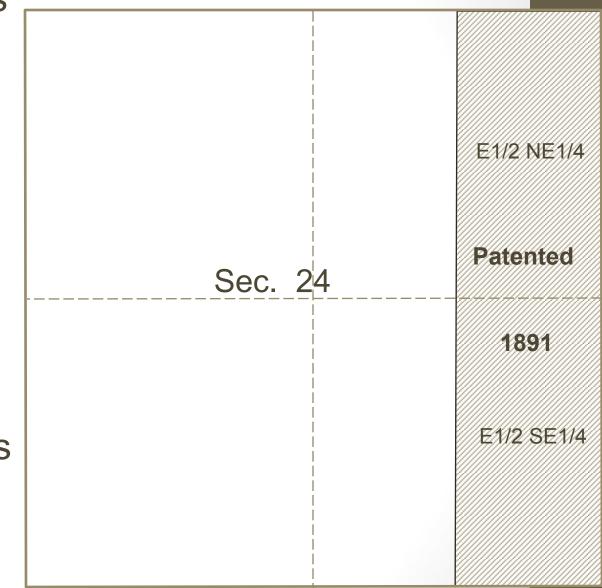
# Official Independent Resurvey Plat vs. Original Patent

The Independent Resurvey does not follow established procedures.

#### Salt Wells Livestock Co. A-26367



- In 1908 Congress ordered a resurvey.
- In 1910 Special Instructions were issued for the resurvey of the township.
- The township was resurveyed in 1911.



- ➤ It was determined that the original survey was "erroneous or fraudulent" and the land patented to William Laney was identified as Tract 37.
- ➤ "Boundary was surveyed according to it's location upon the ground."
- ➤ "the location was identified "by Mr. W.H.
  Gottache, the present claimant."

Independent Resurvey Plat Sec. 36 ec 33 N 89°51' W 8 5 8 5 Tract 38 33.78 33.90 34.02 34.14 34.93 34.84 34.74 24.67 640.00 ACPRS (448.24 Acres) 9 80 80 School Section 40 80 28.46 Sec.1 Sec.2 Sec 3 615.84 203.42 526,42 12 32.96 29.14 37.00 1400 Tract 9 10 13 42.36 42.36 42.36 28.00 58958 W West N 89°52'W 14.00 80124 79.74 79.96 160.00 Acres 31.00 Patented. 3 38.07 Sec.12 19.05 Sec.11 Sec. 10 640 539,92 640 589°54'W 589° 59' W N89°52' W 80,02 80:20 79 74

Section Sec. 1. 615.84 42 West 589°58W 589°59 W West 589°59'W

Coal Indications in Sections. 19, 27, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36.

Re- Survey.				Original .				
Tract Nº	7.	R.	Sec,	Subdivision	Enti	Nº	Status in Land Office	Entryman.
37				E2E2				William Lane,
38	15	103	36	All	55		Valid.	Wyoming
39	14	103	8	W2 NE4	SL			Wyoming
40	"	"	5	W2SE4	SL		Patented	Wyoming
41	29	رر	4	Lots 3&4 S2NW4	SL		Patented	Wyoming
42	27	"	16	All	55		Valid	wyoming
46	15	103	33	E <sup>2</sup>	SL		Patented	Wyoming
56	14	103	32	NW4	SL		Patented	Wyoming

	SEGREGAT	ED	TRACTS	
Section	Total	/	In Town	ship
37	160.00 H	cres	160.00	Acres
38	640.00	"	448.24	"
39	80.00	2)	80.00	"
40	80.00	,,	80.00	,,
41	160.00	رد	160.00	2)
42	640.00	J)	640.00	<sub>20</sub>
46	320.00	J)	202.82	,,,
56	160.00	.,	90.21	2)

- That nothing herein contained \* \* \* shall be so construed as to impair the present bona fide rights or claims of any actual occupant of any of said lands so occupied to the amount of land to which under the law he is entitled:"
- ➤ The Salt Wells Livestock Company granted an oil lease to land described as the "E1/2NE1/4, E1/2SE1/4, Sec. 24, Twp. 14 North, Range 103 West, Original Survey, being Tract 37 Resurvey, Twp. 14 North, Range 103 West, 6th P.M.

- "It appears also to have been the policy of the General Land Office at that time to segregate under the 1908 act an area claimed by a patentee or an entryman, regardless of location or configuration."
- ➤ "That nothing herein contained · · · shall be so construed as to impair the present bona fide rights or claims of any actual occupant"
- Here, the successor in interest to the patentee acquiesced in the boundary of his claim as shown on the plat of resurvey, and those claiming under him should not now be penalized because of such acquiescence."

Independent Resurvey Plat Sec. 36 ec 33 N 89°51' W 8 5 8 5 Tract 38 33.78 33.90 34.02 34.14 34.93 34.84 34.74 24.67 640.00 ACPRS (448.24 Acres) 9 80 80 School Section 40 80 28.46 Sec.1 Sec.2 Sec 3 615.84 203.42 526,42 12 32.96 29.14 37.00 1400 Tract 9 10 13 42.36 42.36 42.36 28.00 58958 W West N 89°52'W 14.00 80124 79.74 79.96 160.00 Acres 31.00 Patented. 3 38.07 Sec.12 19.05 Sec.11 Sec. 10 640 539,92 640 589°54'W 589° 59' W N89°52' W 80,02 80:20 79 74

# Official Plat and Field Notes vs. Evidence Suggesting A Hiatus Between Townships

Resurvey measurements indicate a hiatus exists along the west boundary of the township.

#### T. 11 N., R. 19 W., 1863

#### Township Nº XI North, Range Nº XIX West, San Bernardino Meridian

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Aggregate Area of Public lands (Surveyed) 22529.94 Acres Estimated Lat-Nº 37 (Hivate Grant) 480.00 - 4ggregate 23099.94 .

Meridian lines not otherwise noted, cun at a Variation of 14:30 East

Surveys Designated	By Whom Surveyed	Darte of Contract	Amount of Surveys	When Surveyed
Township lines Exterior bound & R.O. El Tejon	R.W. Norris G. H. Thompson	June 3rd 1854	23 Miles 79chs, 101hs	1854 1862
Section lines		august 2" 1862	59 - 37 - 51 -	October 18# 1862

The above Map of Tomoshy No 11 North . Rouge No 19 West San Barnarden Marceian is Mily conformable to the feeld notes of the surveyor thereof on ple in the office, which have been examined and approved Surveyor Green Office

San Francisco, California Tetruary 3rd 1863

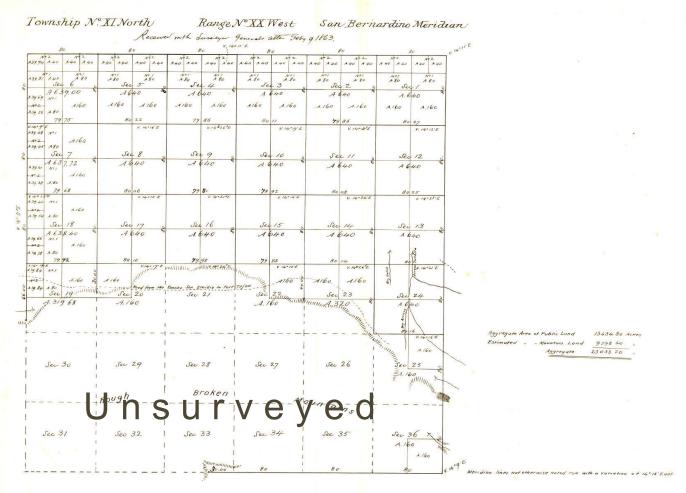
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Sur Gul Cal

1. November 2. 190

34. A. Rechart

#### T. 11 N., R. 20 W., 1863



Surveys Designated	By whom Surveyed	Pate of Centract	Amount of Surveys	When Surveyed
Township lines	R. W. Norris G. H. Thompson	June 3rd 1854 August 2nd 1862	19 miles 16 cm 00 1kg	1854 October 8"1862

The above Map of Jomoshop 12-11 North, Range No 20 West San Bernanden Mondray is strictly conformables to the full voltas of the Surveys Mercy on file in this office, which have been against and appeared Sovereys Tenends Office.

February 3rd 1863

19th M. Rechart

160

52 770

TIINR20WSB

#### T. 11 N., R. 20 W., 1875,

Township Nº11 North

Surveys Designated

To lines colored yellow Partifices

mostiplines colored blue\_

Range Nº20 West

San Bernardino Meridian

Reco moth Sen Gen tetter of June 3-1875

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By whom Surveyed Date of Contract.

P.W. Morrie

G. H. Thompson

Ino A. Bonson V. R. Glover

June 3 " 1854

August 2nd 1862

- January 21# 1875 12 Hiles 31 che 10 440

#### Benson & Glover

Public Land Surveyed by G. H. Thompson

13, 434, 80 Acis 11.445.36 "

Elicale transmitted for filing in Registers Office at Los angeles June 3, 1875

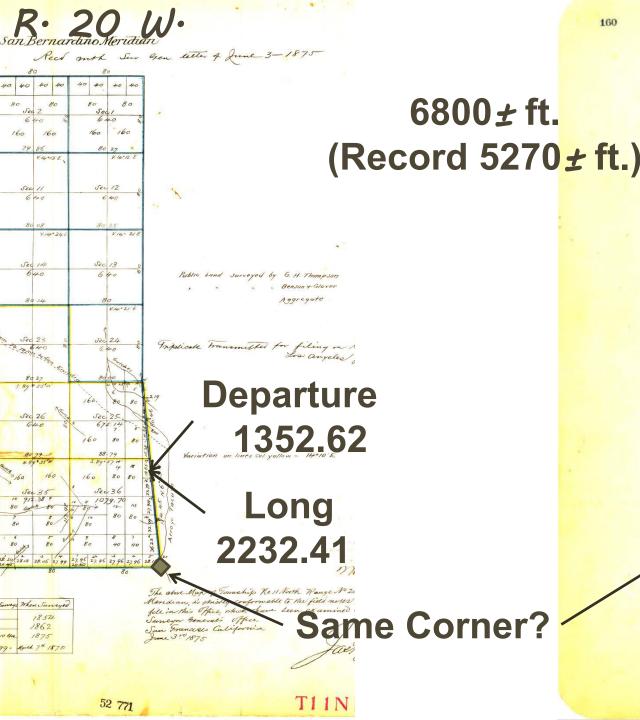
Variation on lines col yellow = 14"10 E

The above Map of Tomship He 11 North Range No 20 West of San Bernardino Meridian, is smothy conformable to the field notes of the Geory thereof on file in this Office, which have been examined and approved. June Francisco California June 3" 1875

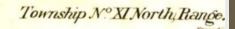
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R. 19 W.



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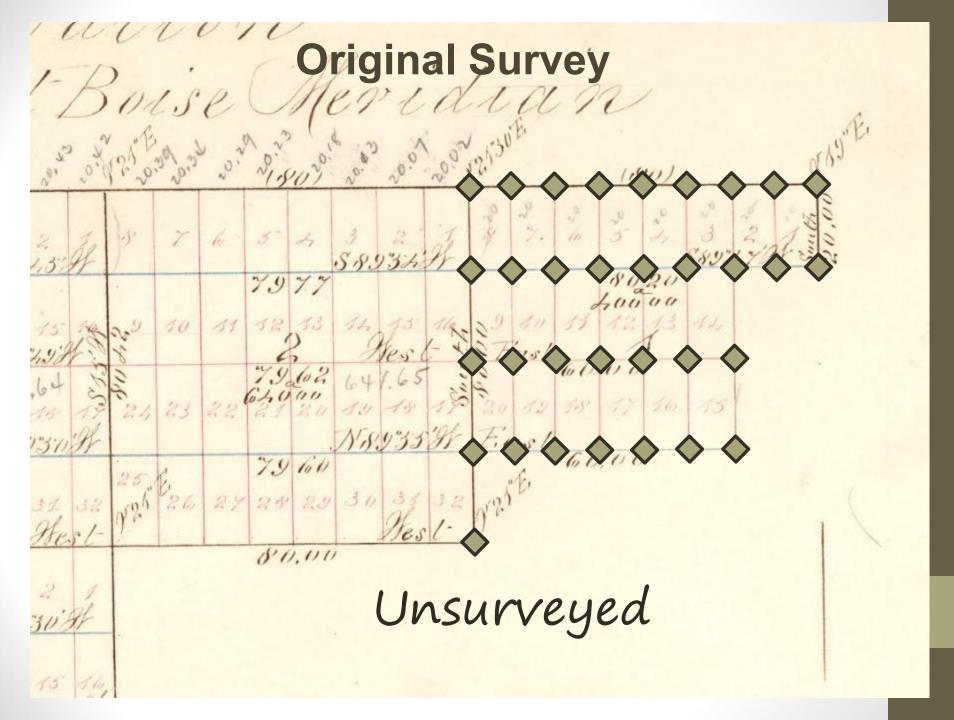
#### The Signal Companies A-31020

- ➤ An oil and gas offer for unsurveyed land in an alleged hiatus lying between the east line of two townships and the west line of the adjoining townships to the east is properly rejected where the existence of the hiatus is predicated solely upon distances and acreages.
- The survey records show that the west line of those townships was surveyed on the ground as coincident with the east line of the two western townships.

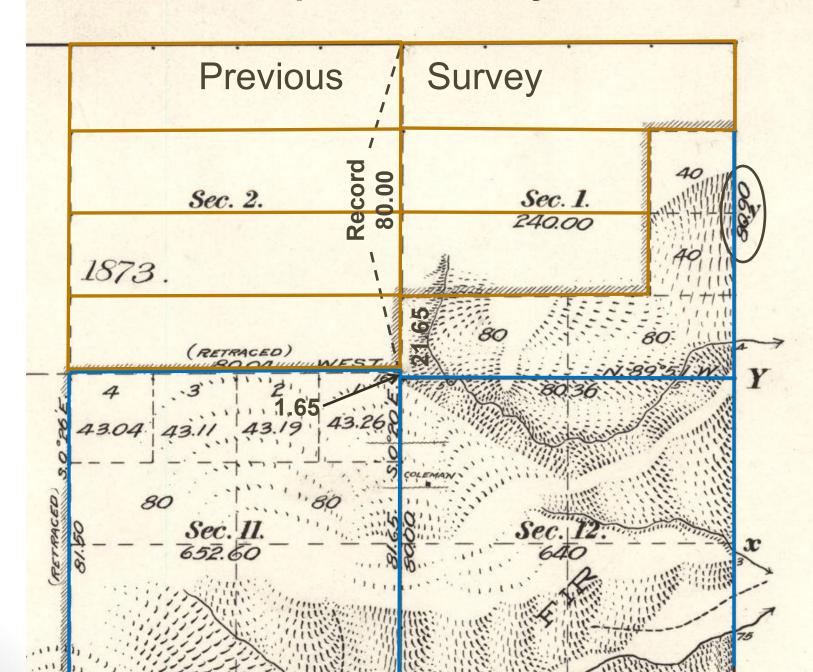
"··· it is a cardinal rule that the corners of a public land survey as marked on the ground control over any courses or distances or acreages as shown on the plats of survey."

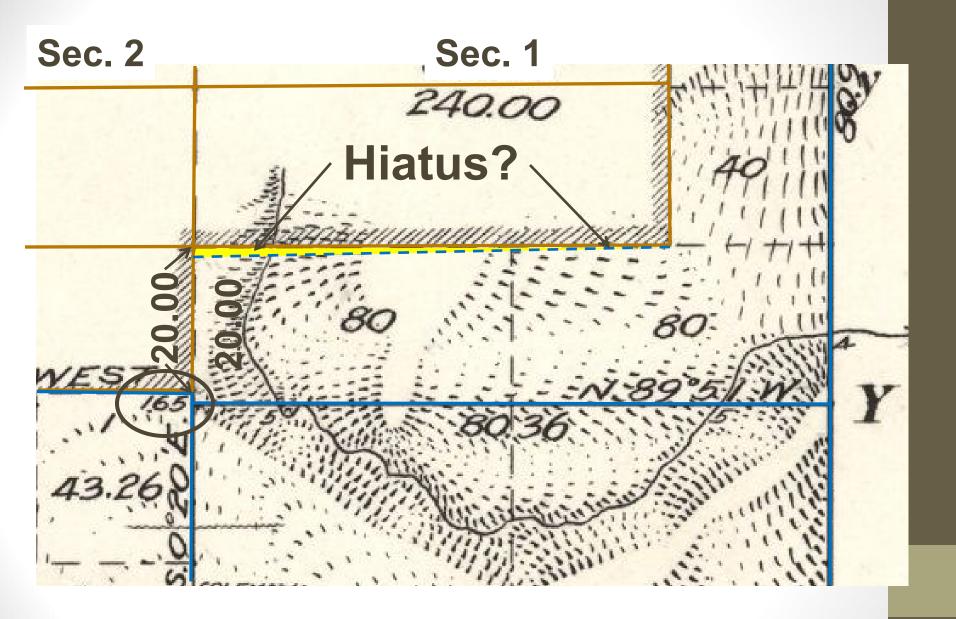
# Official Plat and Field Notes vs. Evidence Suggesting A Hiatus within a section

Areas returned on a plat completing a partially surveyed section suggests there may be a hiatus.



#### **Completion Survey**





### Did this plat create a hiatus between the original survey and this completion survey?

- 1. Remember the S1/16 line is a surveyed line.
- 2. A hiatus only exists where there are two monumented lines.
- 3. The S1/16 line was only surveyed once so by definition a hiatus does not exist.

## Original Grant vs. Original Survey

Do the original monuments control or the description in the grant?

#### Act of June 21, 1860, 12 Stat. 71

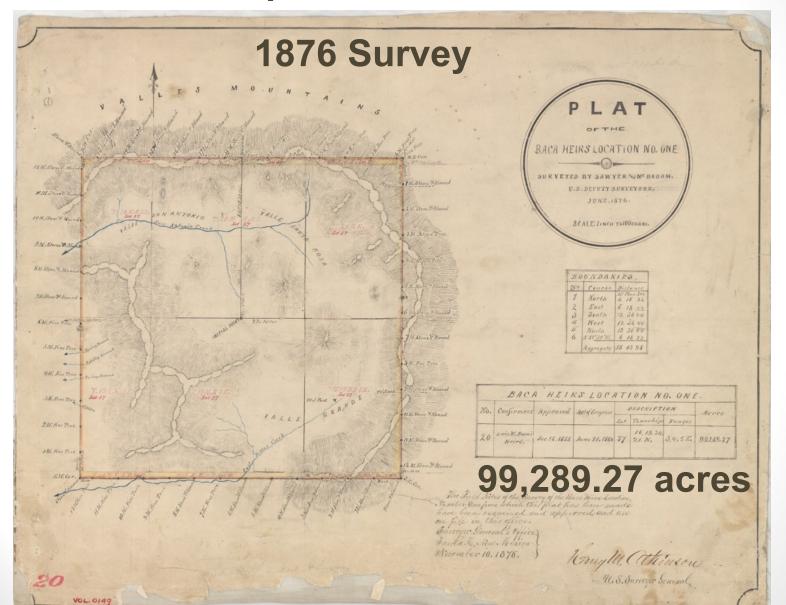
- The Heirs of Luis Maria Baca were entitled to select from the vacant, nonmineral, public lands in the then territory of New Mexico an aggregate of 496,446.90 acres in not more than five square tract.
- The grant was a quitclaims on the part of the United States, and would not affect the adverse rights of any other person.

In December, 1860, they made selection No. 1:

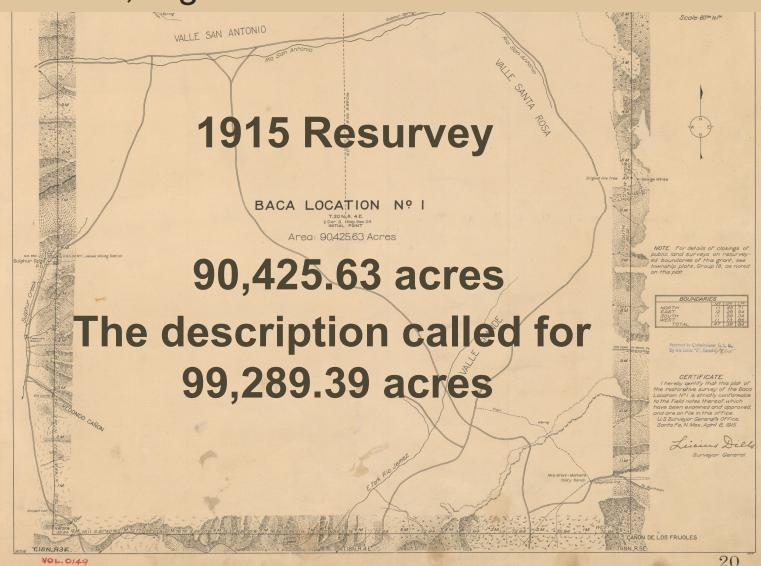
- > containing 99,289.39 acres;
- ➤ The initial point was tied to a township corner 2 ½ miles east;
- > extending north, south, east, and west a sufficient distance to embrace the area
- boundaries conform to the "cardinal points of the compass."

A few days later the surveyor general of New Mexico, being duly authorized, certified that he approved and had located the selection.

## A survey was necessary to segregate the lands from the public domain.



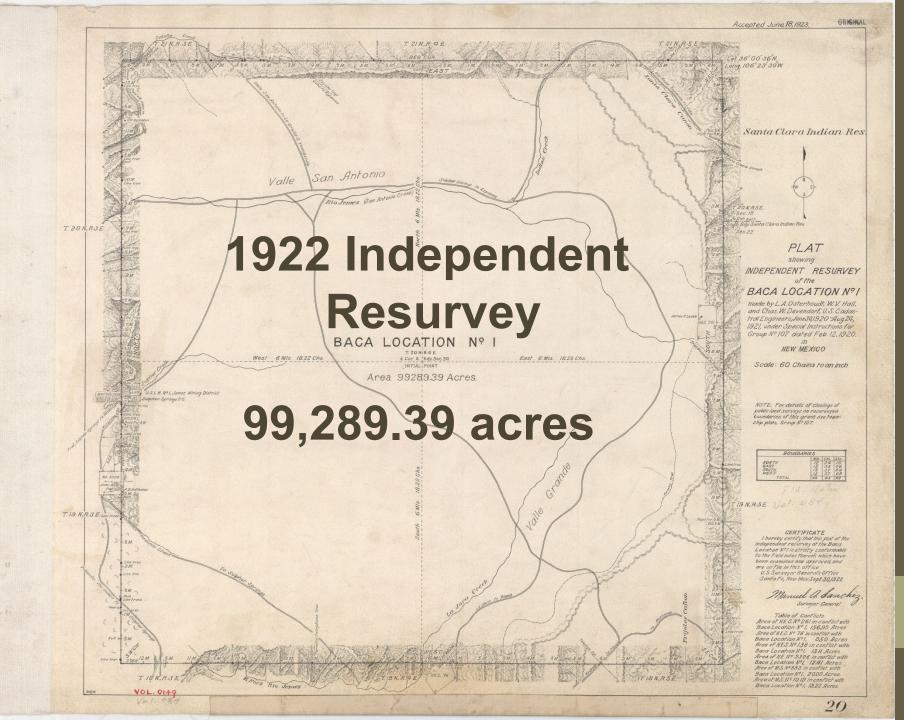
The Act of Feb. 11, 1805 was significant because it said that the corners are the true corners, regardless of correctness.



## In UNITED STATES v. REDONDO DEVELOPMENT CO. the court determined that:

- ➤ A definite and very important feature of Baca location No. 1 was the area.
- > It was to contain 99,289.39 acres of land.
- Quantity was a primary, not a secondary, consideration.
- No officer or employee of the government can deny or impair a right which is founded on treaty obligations recognized by Congress.

The key here is: When was the federal interest was actually conveyed?

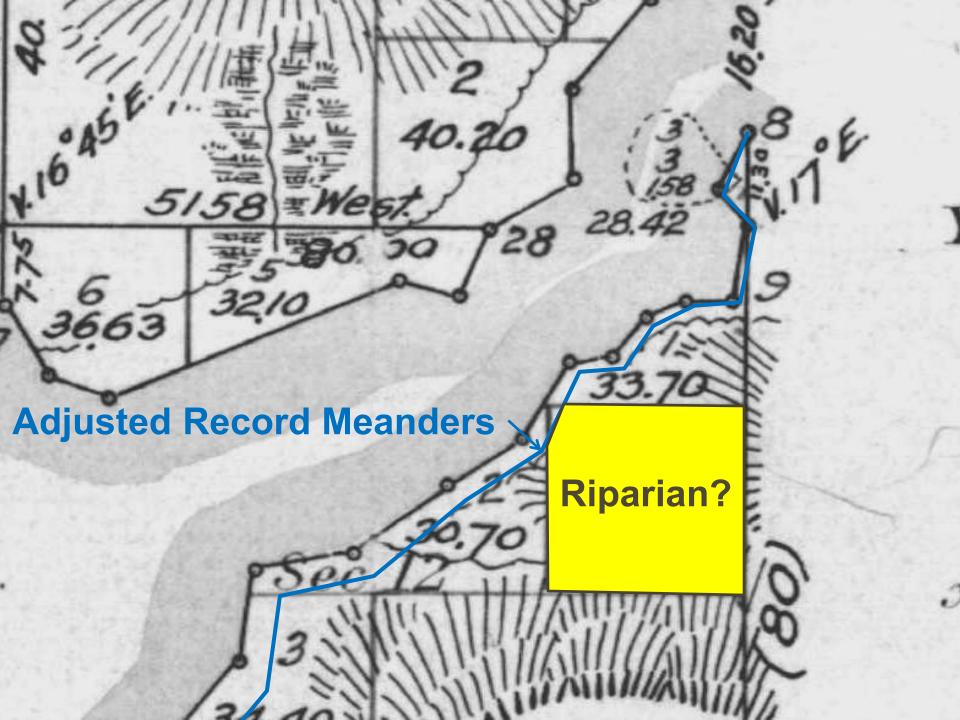


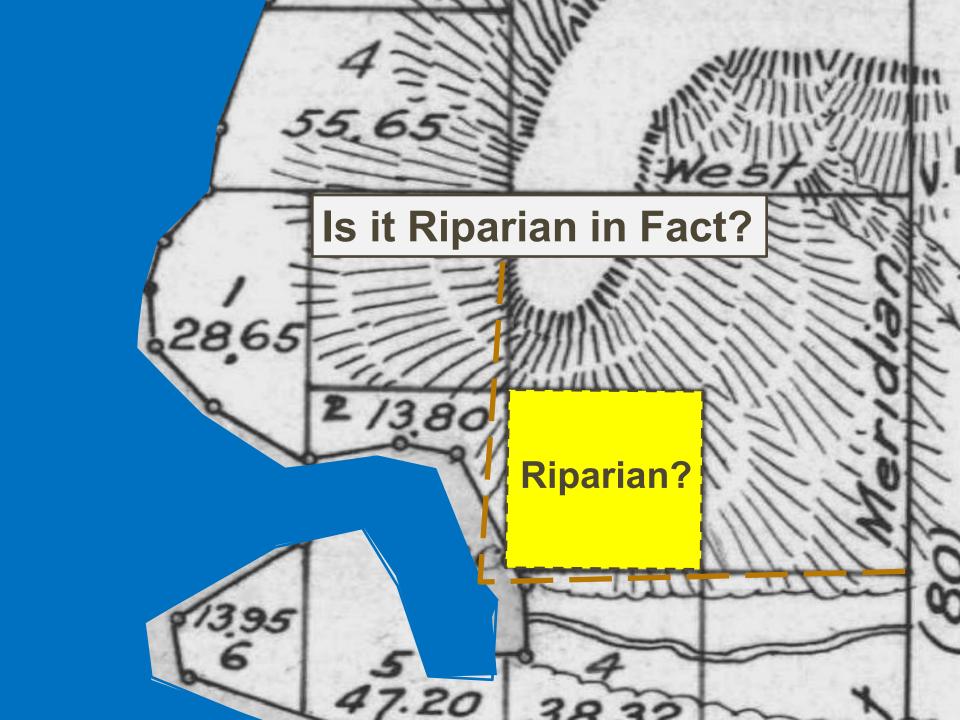
## Graphic Representation of Sub. of Sec. Lines vs. Actual Location on the Ground

Can a lot/aliquot part gain or loose riparian rights where there has been no change in the location of the ordinary high water line?









- 1) Gather all the evidence
- 2) Plat and notes are part of the patent
- 3) What was the intent (protracted lines)
- 4) Where were the lines actually run?

- 5) Generally, the more reliable calls for distance prevail over the computation of acreage.
- 6) Attempt to identify the source of the discrepancy.
- 7) The solution should protect the plat in its entirety, including the regular aliquot parts.
- 8) Documentation.