

SIDE SHOTS

Volume 37 Number 4

November Journal 2006



HAZARDS OF OLD

A WORK OF FICTION

BY

EARL F. HENDERSON, PLS

Not long ago I had an occasion to peruse some old archival documents in my father's attic. While doing so I came across a letter written by my Great-Great-Grandfather during the Civil War to his wife-to-be, my Great-Great-Grandmother. I hadn't known until reading that letter that surveying was in the family history. It's very touching and I thought I'd like to reprint it here for people to appreciate the hazards of surveying during those times compared to the considerably less deadly hazards we face today.

*August 15, 1862
My Dearest Savannah,*

It is my deepest hope that you are enjoying this hot, steamy, sultry summer in our native Charleston and that this war has not encumbered that beautiful countryside nor your father's plantation, the lovely Apple Blossom Manor. This damned war is going to be the death of us all. It seems ages since last I was able to take in the pleasure of your beauty. I must apologize for my horse. Whence I mounted him and he spun on his quarters thus putting you off like a cannonade, airborne into that mud puddle. I was most embarrassed. But being that our company was marching hence, I had no time to retrieve you from your sloppy perch lest I myself join you in such a condition and delay the company. Had I only known then that I would be spending so much of my time sloshing through such swamps and mud in pursuit of this war I would have gladly entered therein to retrieve you. Please forgive my horse, Scout, as he did not, I am earnestly

sure, have the intent for such a calamity. I had hoped to take the memory of our last kiss with me into battle and draw courage from its vision, but alas I can not rid myself of the sight of you as I rode away to war. I will always cherish that image.

I have been assigned to the First Infantry of Carolina surveying division and as such have had many the opportunity to traverse the countryside of our great, and very new nation. I pray that our endeavour to rid ourselves of the yankee tyrants will succeed. The dangers of the survey corp are not as great or as numerous as those of the infantry but they can be as deadly. We are not often engaged in battle but we must be wary of the possibility of running up on the enemy unbeknownstedly. Sargeant Jezachiah was unfortunate enough to enjoy such an encounter just two short months ago. He was lead chainman and upon breaking through a gamble of underbrush found hisself smack in the middle of a small enemy encampment. In his haste to defend hisself and expunge the glorious South of as many of them damn Yankees as he was able, he quite by accident shot hisself in the foot. I was on the other side of the underbrush and had not yet been made aware of the encounter until this shot and its subsequent reaction alerted me, thus allowing me the opportunity to beat a hasty retreat and escape the clutches of the enemy. Sargeant Jezachiah was not so fortunate as I, since he had thus been wounded and could not escape. He has since become a prisoner of war and I have made application with the Captain for him to receive a medal

for saving my life at the cost of his freedom.

I can blame my lack of battle experience on my father's insistence that I study the mathematics, of which I found an acute ease. Surveying is an acquired taste of skill and knowledge, but once a person achieves the grasp of it, is quite the enjoyable profession. I should like to make application with our county to continue this profession once this war is ended. I believe that I can thus provide a suitable livelihood for you and our children, the first of which I would like to name Jezachiah in honor of the man who gave his freedom that I might not be captured by the yankee vermin.

But don't be drawn in to a melancholy about your dear departed, for I take great pains each day to maintain a vigilance to ensure my safe return to your bosom. Vigilance is necessary as the dangers are many and varied. Last year we lost our able and promising chainman, Private Hannibal when he, totally inadvertently I assure you, stepped upon a loaded bear trap while completing a traverse run through a wood. His leg was at once severed just below the knee. I was grateful that we were not within earshot of any enemy encampments or vicarages. He has since, I am told, been fitted with a wooden leg and returned to his home in the Alabama territory with several medals attesting to his bravery.

I have thus been promoted quickly through the ranks on our survey crew. I was most recently promoted to Chief of Party when Lt. Nehemiah, while reconnoitering a field which had recently seen a terrible battle, happened upon an

unexploded cannonball and was kilt into many pieces. We were forced to bury what we could identify in a small grave. Pray for him, my beloved, that he will be reassembled in heaven.

Soon after this unlikely occurrence I had occasion to be bitten on the arm by a Copperhead snake. It put me in quite a state for several days and nights, but I have since recovered briskly. Don't you fret my darlin', as the swelling has subsided and I am regaining the use of that hand somewhat.

I must close now, my dearest, as we must prepare to depart on the morrow for our next assignment in the Indian territories. I am told by our guide, a trapper with only three fingers and a curious bald spot on the top of his head, that they are of the friendly sort and enjoy trading goods. It is thus that I hope to provision our company for our work and acquire laborers to unburden the men.

Low these many months of separation have been most difficult for me, but I remain true at great exertion. I can but only imagine the burden upon you, my Beloved. Be aware that my thoughts are always of you, to a distraction, and that I shall not tarry whence the time comes that I am released of this war and can return post haste to the warmth of your company and the promise of our union (and not that damned yankee kind of union neither). So until that time arrives, please make company with my mother at our own plantation of Tara every so often, that she may be made aware of my accomplishments through you. And know that I shall not rest in my vigilance lest I may ne'er againe enjoy thy enchanting beauty.

Your Beloved and Faithful,

PLSC, Inc. is seeking people to help update the Statute Book originally prepared by Bob Stollard. The book needs to be updated to include post-sunset legislation items and any other additions and/or updates that have occurred since the book was prepared. If you are memorizing statutes for the exam, this would be a way to benefit from all that studying. If interested, please contact Tom Adams at tom@plsc.net



IN REPLY REFER TO:

CO-956
9655.2

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Colorado State Office
2850 Youngfield Street
Lakewood, Colorado 80215-7093



www.co.blm.gov

September 28, 2006

Mr. Arthur W. Hipp, Secretary-Treasurer
Professional Land Surveyors of Colorado
9660 West 56th Place
Arvada, Colorado 80002

Dear Art:

This letter is to inform you of official cadastral surveys in Colorado that have been accepted from July 1, 2006 through September 30, 2006, and are now available from the Public Room, Bureau of Land Management, Colorado State Office, 2850 Youngfield Street, Lakewood, Colorado, 80215.

The accepted original surveys, resurveys, supplemental plats or remonumentations are listed below by township, range, meridian, group #, type, approval date and number of plats.

<u>Township</u>	<u>Range</u>	<u>Meridian</u>	<u>Group #</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Approved</u>	<u>Plats</u>
T. 1 N.	R. 72 W.	Sixth	Sec.13	Suppl. Plat	07/20/06	1
T. 49 N.	R. 10 E.	NMPM	Sec.18	Suppl. Plat	07/24/06	1
T. 33 N.	R. 13 W.	NMPM	1419	Plat & Notes	07/28/06	1
T. 34 N.	R. 13 W.	NMPM	1419	Plat & Notes	07/28/06	1
T. 1 N.	R. 71 W.	Sixth	Sec.22	Suppl. Plat	07/31/06	1
T. 15 S.	R. 76 W.	Sixth	1435	Plat & Notes	08/01/06	1
T. 5 S.	R. 74 W.	Sixth	1270	Plat & Notes	08/07/06	1
T. 9 S.	R. 74 W.	Sixth	1448	Plat & Notes	08/11/06	1
T. 10 N.	R.101 W.	Sixth	750	Plat & Notes	08/15/06	1
T. 32 N.	R. 16 W.	NMPM	1425	Plat & Notes	08/22/06	1
T. 27 S.	R. 72 W.	Sixth	1410	Plat & Notes	09/12/06	1
T. 32 N.	R. 1 E.	NMPM	1447	Plat & Notes	09/14/06	1
T.33.5 N.	R. 17 W.	NMPM	1452	Plat Only	09/20/06	1
T. 3 N.	R. 80 W.	Sixth	1443	Plat & Notes	09/27/06	1
T. 12 S.	R. 79 W.	Sixth	1416&750	Plat Only	09/27/06	2

As other surveys are completed, I will advise you of their acceptance. You may circulate this letter among the membership of the Professional Land Surveyors of Colorado.

Sincerely yours,

Randall M. Zimon
Chief Cadastral Surveyor for Colorado