

## Chapter 6 Creation of GLO Boundaries

### 6.1 Introduction

This chapter deals with the creation of the GLO boundaries and the public land survey system. This is the largest surveying project ever undertaken by anyone to date. No one really knows who came up with the initial idea, however Thomas Jefferson is generally given the credit.

GLO boundaries are created under the law. From 1784 to the present, the BLM under the umbrella of the Dept. of the Interior, maintain and "control" the public lands of the US and provide for it's future.

### 6.2 Original Surveys and Corrective Surveys

#### Principle 1

Before a patent is issued for a parcel of public land a corrective survey may be done...the most recent holds over the rest and is considered an original survey.

### 6.3 Law, Manuals, and Special Instructions

#### Principle 2

Manual Of Instructions for the Survey of the Public Lands of the United States.  
· 1804, 1851,1855...1973

### 6.4 Effects of Manuals on Resurveys

#### Principle 3

Use the manual at the time the original survey was performed to see how to apply today's technology to yesterdays activities.

### 6.5 History of the Public Land Survey System

See the five basic concepts that went into the system listed on page 121

### 6.6 Testing Ground: the Seven Ranges

Area West of PA and North of OH river and South of Lake Erie  
6 mile townships divided into 1 miles sections numbered as shown on page 125  
No interior section corners set only the section corners on the exterior of the township.

### 6.7 Act of May 18, 1796-Clarification of 1785

See the Summary of the Act of 1796 on page 127

### 6.8 Acts of 1800

Described the corner rule concerning original corners set by the surveyor should be held  
Quarter corners to be set and error thrown into the northern and western tier of the township.

### 6.9 The System Explodes

Up until 1803 the US was limited to the lands East of the Mississippi...with the stroke of a pen, the US doubled its size and therefore provided work to survey the "new" land.

### 6.10 Act of March 26, 1804

Sale of all or parts of Sections

### 6.11 Act of February 11, 1805

Second most important legislation for the PLSS

### 6.12 Lands Surveys After 1805

### 6.13 Survey Instructions

Tiffin, Coffee, Freeman, all wrote specific instruction to clarify the statute used to survey.

#### 6.14 State Instruction and Statutes

States given the authority to pass on instructions for surveying land with their jurisdiction.

#### 6.15 Instruments Used

Compass, Chains, Solar Compass, Transit, Theodolites, Total Stations, GPS?

#### 6.16 Field Notes

Form, function, use.

#### 6.17 Nomenclature for Sections

See breakdown of a section on page 151

#### 6.18 Meandering

Traverse line run around a body of water.

#### 6.19 Resurveys and Retracements

The gov't can resurvey and re-subdivide a section at any time as prescribed by law and a new plat will be issued...the old plat is not destroyed but kept as a reference to use with the new plat.

#### 6.20 Defective Boundaries Encountered in Resurveys

Surveys used to "fix" boundaries within a township exterior...double corners are set to fix the position within the township only!

#### 6.21 Sectionalized Surveys and Innovations

New technology used to survey an old boundary...teaching and old dog new tricks, expedited how we accomplished the goal.

#### 6.23 Irregular Original Government Subdivisions

Hold the positions of Ranchos and other land grants senior to the PLSS.

#### 6.24 Townships other than Regular

Fixing the mistakes of the past...be very careful and research the manual of instructions for just such situations.

#### 6.25 Summary of the GLO System

Principle 4

## **ASSIGNMENTS:**