



# Land Surveyors' Association of Washington

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AMERICAN CONGRESS ON SURVEYING AND MAPPING • NATIONAL SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL SURVEYORS  
WESTERN FEDERATION OF PROFESSIONAL SURVEYORS

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## REPORT TO THE LSAW ANNUAL MEETING & THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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MEETING DATE: **MARCH 5 & 8, 2008**  
CHAPTER/COMMITTEE/SUBJECT **LSAW HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY: **Denny DeMeyer, Chairman.**

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### 2007 LSAW HISTORICAL SOCIETY REPORT SPOKANE, WASHINGTON.

Members representing our LSAW Historical Society were involved in the following projects during the year 2007.

- **February 7 – 10, 2007;** with LSAW Historical Society and Surveyors Historical Society Banners and display of antique surveying instruments; attended the Annual Conference of the Idaho Society of Professional Land Surveyors in Worley, ID.
- **February 28 - March 3, 2007;** with LSAW Historical Society and Surveyors Historical Society Banners and display of antique surveying instruments; attended the Annual Conference of the Land Surveyors Association of Washington in Tacoma, Washington. Largely organized by 2006 Chairman Randolph Sleight.
- **March 14-16, 2007;** with LSAW Historical Society and Surveyors Historical Society Banners and display of antique surveying instruments; attended the Conference of the Professional Land Surveyors of Oregon in Pendleton OR.
- **March 20, 2007;** attended the spring board of directors meeting of the U.S. David Thompson Bicentennial Partnership Inc. in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.
- **March 23 & 24, 2007;** attended the grand opening of "Mavericks" at the Glenbow Museum in Calgary, Alberta. This permanent exhibit features individuals that "made a difference" in the development of the province of Alberta with the rooms on surveyor David Thompson being the first and by far the largest of the those exhibits.
- **June 15-17, 2007;** attended the 3 day 2007 David Thompson Symposium titled "*Beyond Borders and Boundaries: David Thompson and the North American Fur Trade*" sponsored by the Montana State Historical Society and the U. S. David Thompson Bicentennial Partnership (DT200 Committee) in Helena, MT. With Surveyor Historical Society member Bill Weikel, we hosted two workshops; one titled "Measuring and Mapping with David Thompson" and another titled "Surveying for Your Supper". We are represented on the executive board of the US DT 200 Partnership. We are the only surveying organization with representatives on that board.

- **June 29, 2007**; thanks to the donation of \$20,000 from many local, state, provincial, regional and national surveying organizations, the **TRAVELING EXHIBIT**: "The Mapmaker's Eye: "David Thompson on the Columbia Plateau" was ready for travel and went to the Kettle Falls Interpretive Center for its first showing.
- **July 17, 2007**; with member Tim Kent, we attended the funeral of Al White in Tigard, OR. Tim has been in contact with the family and they have encouraged him to stop by and go through some of Al's collection of survey things and identify those items that should not be discarded or destroyed. Tim has made one trip and is waiting for a call so he can return. Al White authored four books during his career with the BLM (he started out with the GLO): "**Public Land Surveying, A Casebook**", "**A History of the Rectangular Survey System**", "**Initial Points of the Rectangular Survey System**" and "**A Casebook of the Oregon Donation Land Claims**".
- **August 30 – 31, 2007**; with members of the Alberta and British Columbia Land Surveyors associations, we hiked into Howse Pass between Alberta & British Columbia to commemorate the bicentennial of surveyor David Thompson's first crossing of the Rocky Mountains (June, 1807).
- **September 8 & 9 (?), 2007**, member Tim Kent hosted another SOLAR INSTRUMENT SEMINAR in Texas.
- **September 14-16, 2007**: attended the Surveyors Historical Society 2007 Rendezvous near Stratford Hall, Virginia. Held at the birthplace of George Washington, tours of the homes of George Washington (Mount Vernon) and of Robert E. Lee (Stratford Hall) were featured.
- **October 26-27, 2007**; attended the David Thompson Symposium: "New Perspectives, New Knowledge" at the Glenbow Museum, Calgary, Alberta. One of the highlights of the meeting was a request by best selling author Barbara Belyea to meet with all the surveyors attending the conference to ask for our help on early surveying and mapping methods. Ms. Belyea is the author of "Columbia Journals" a remarkable transcription of David Thompson's original field notes and a new book "Dark Storm Moving West"; a story of the fur trade and the surveyors for the fur trade.
- **November, 2007**: member Randy Sleight is involved with the records of Joe Colcord, longtime civil engineering instructor at the U of W. Randy's email is attached.

I wish to personally thank all our LSAW Historical Society members for their efforts to preserve our surveying history and artifacts and to their dedication to the furtherance of the public's knowledge, understanding and appreciation of our surveying heritage.

Respectfully submitted,

*Denny DeMeyer*