

106.50 Set a post, and examined,  
unsuccesfully the  
line along the South Boundary  
of Townships  
near  
Saturday Oct 21<sup>st</sup> 1848.

# *GLO Field Notes*

**A SHORT COURSE TO BETTER  
UNDERSTAND THE DETAILS OF THE  
ORIGINAL GLO SURVEYOR'S NOTES**

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# *chains*

# ***GLO Field Notes***

## **Ancillary Notes**

(Extra or Explanatory Notes or Marks)

- Resurveyed
- The "Underline", "Dash" and "Slash"
- Additional Corner Information
- Personal Observations

## **Along the Line**

- Creek Calls
- Line Trees
- Other Features

## **All Those Trees!**

- Discussion of the common (and uncommon) trees and their abbreviations
- side of the line.*

# What are Field Notes?

"Field Notes are a concise written record of collected data and conditions, actual and tangible, on the ground" – Ray L. Riggs

3/13/08 RAR FOUND WAGON IRON AS DESCRIBED + AT  
POSITION WITNESSED BY J. YOUNG. AND YES,  
VIRGINIA, THERE IS A STUMPY HOLE S 15<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> W  
3912 NO EVID. OF WALLACE TREES OR OTHER  
GLO TREE

#50 IS NTP AT POSITION FROM SH NE FNC W  
10' N FNC E 16' N DO NOT USE THIS PT AS  
A TP I SHOT THROUGH LIMBS + GUESSED

EDWARD TIFFIN'S INSTRUCTIONS OF 1815,  
UNDER WHICH SURVEYS HAVE BEEN MADE IN OHIO, INDIANA, MICH-  
IGAN, ILLINOIS, ARKANSAS AND MISSOURI.

Edward Tiffin was United States Surveyor General for Northwestern Territory from 1815 to 1825, and the following Instructions for Deputy Surveyors was received with letter of July 26, 1815; they are now on file in General Land Office, Washington D. C.

6. You will be careful to note in your field book all the courses and distances you shall have run, the names and *estimated diameters* of all corner or bearing trees, and those trees which fall in your line called *station or line trees*, notched as aforesaid, together with the courses and distances of the bearing trees from their respective corners, with the letters and numbers marked on them as aforesaid; also all rivers, creeks, springs and smaller streams of water, with their width and the course they run in crossing the lines of survey, and whether navigable, rapid or mountainous; the kinds of timber and undergrowth with which the land may be covered; all swamps, ponds, stone-quarries, coal beds, peat or turf grounds, uncommon, natural or artificial productions, such as mounds, precipices, caves, &c; all rapids, cascades or falls of water; minerals, ores, fossils, &c; the quality of the soil and the true situation of all mines, salt licks, salt springs and mill seats, which may come to your knowledge, are particularly to be regarded and noticed in your field books.

# GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS TO DEPUTY SURVEYORS (ILLINOIS AND MISSOURI 1834)

Township, or of a whole or fractional Section. All notes of corrections and re-surveys, must be entered *as such* in the proper place of the Field Book, according to the order in which they may be executed; and the former and erroneous survey must be referred to in the said entries. Also, in the margin of the pages containing erroneous surveys, that fact must be stated, and the page on which the notes of the re-survey or correction are entered, must also be referred to.

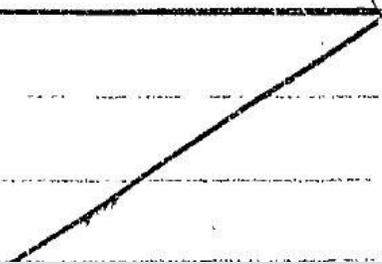
The plots or sketches which you are to return, will exhibit, as accurately as practicable, from careful ocular observation (in addition to the measurements on the line) to be made by you and noted in your Field Book, the true situation of all objects noted; including the courses and connections of all rivers and other water courses, and travelled roads or tracks, denoting the principal places to which they lead, and the enchainment and direction of remarkable hills or mountains.

Your Field Books for your original notes will be of such a size as you may deem most convenient; they will be of the best quality of foolscap paper; and the original field notes, which are to be returned to this office, together with a fair and correct copy thereof, must be kept in a plain and intelligible manner, according to the form hereafter prescribed in these instructions. Every entry must be so specific as not to admit of a doubt

# Ancillary Notes

Revised Vol. 576 p. 433-35

80 - Set post corner to sec 25 + 36  
from which a 3 fack 12 in dia  
bears S 43 W 43 8 L 4 a Hickory  
5 in dia bears S 26 E 60 E  
1st 1/2 mile runs along the E  
side of level barrens fit for  
cultured last 1/2 hilly stony  
unfit for cultivation.



North Between sections 2 & 3 Towns  
ship 25 North, Range 14 West

Chains of the 5th principal Meridian.

21. 50 A Rocky branch 5 links wide  
runs Westerly

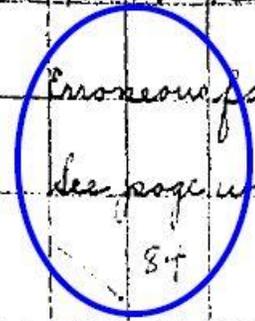
32. 32 A branch 5 links wide runs  
S.W. with rapid current.

39. 35 A pine 12 inches diameter

34. 55 Set a sand stone 14 inches long

10. 00 12 inches wide & 6 inches thick;

Iron one for quarter section corner; from  
see page which a pine 10 inches diameter



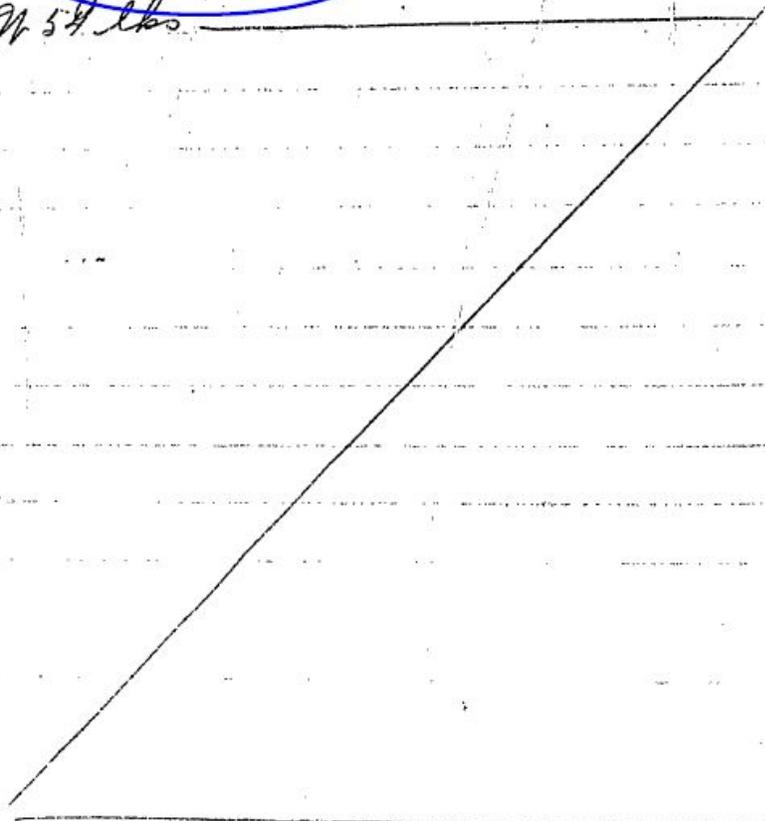
84

West Between sects 25 &

C.L. 36 T. 40 N. R. 16 W.

2,00 To the the bluff 200 ~~ft~~ <sup>lbs</sup>

8,30 Struck the river current  
gentle R. N. W. set post cor for  
fuel sects 25 & 36 for which  
a sycamore 18 in dia, B. N. 37  
W. 54 lbs



80 -

Moved tempy sec post to average  
dist on true line corner to sec  
34 & 35 from which a B Oak 12 in  
dia. bears N. 22 W - L & a B Jack  
4 in dia bears S 80 E 10 L.

**Dash, Underline & Slash**

so considered - on the evening of this day proceeded East one mile with some difficulty being taken with the

piles as was the interpreter with the piles also -

& one of the hands with a fever -

Thursday the 16<sup>th</sup> our disorders are a little better today took beer

176 80	End of 177 miles from
up a stone	which a Red Oak 15 Inc
set here for	di bears N 52 W 42 L
the corner of	the state from
stone corner	and a B. Jack 10 Inc
first bearing	tree bear di S 53 E 40 L
N 64 W	+ the other Land + timber as before
S 45 E	large chinquapin trees
	some <del>land</del>

**Additional Corner  
Information  
&  
Personal Notes**

# Along The Line



19.00 The right bank of the  
Little North fork of White  
River, not a navigable

Stream, 248 links wide, runs  
Chains East about 20 chains then turns  
South

21.48 Entered creek bottoms bears  
East and West

22.00 Entered Tusas' corn field of about  
30 acres bears East and West

31.50 Left field - cut off about 6 acres  
to the West -

32.00 A waggon road bears East & West

32.00 Left bottom not subject to inunda-  
tion

34.50 Entered Tusas' corn field of about  
13 acres bears East and West

38.00 Left field - Left about 1 acre to  
the West of the line -



Path Between sect 26 &

C.L. 27 T 40 N. R. 16 W.

29.38 a w. o. 18 in dia

40.00 set  $\frac{1}{4}$  set post for which a w. o.  
12 in dia B. S. 38 W. 28 lbs

50.10 a w. o. 18 in dia

80.00 set post cor for sects 26. 27. 34 &

35 for which a w. o. 12 in dia

B. N. 17 E. 11 lbs do 18 in dia B. S.

54 W. 64 lbs

land the same as last

East on true line between

C.L. sects 26 & 35 T 40 N. R. 16 <sup>20</sup>

4.00 a perpendicular rock 100 lbs  
high entered bottom

12.67 a w. o. 36 in dia

26.83 struck the edge B. S. W. set

post cor to true sects 26 & 35 for

which a w. o. 12 in dia B. S. 67 W.

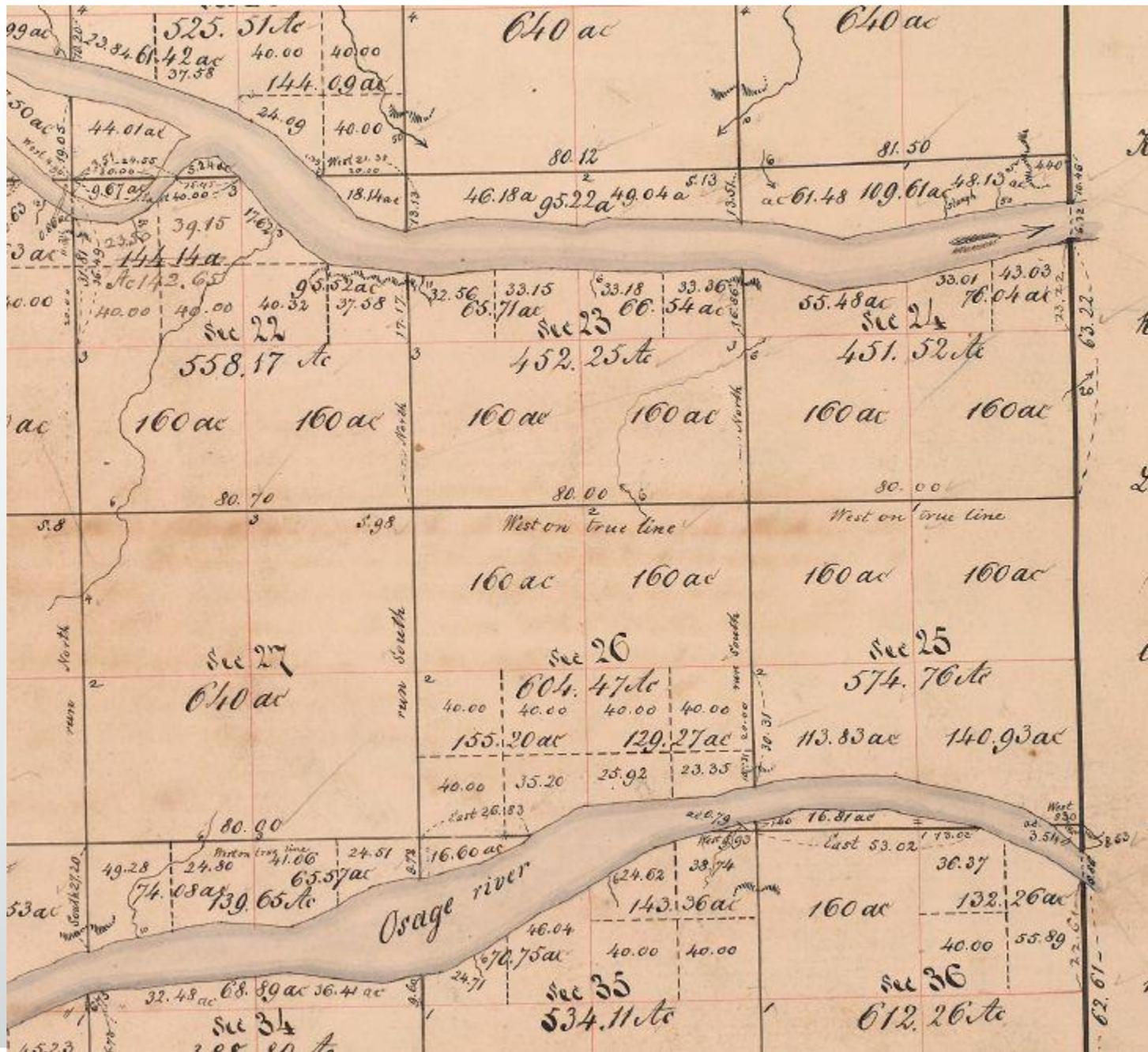
44 lbs and a mulberry 12 in

dia B. N. 25 E. 48 lbs land

mostly level bottom soil good

& well timbered w. o. w. o. Key

Next on true line between  
 C. L. sects 27 & 34 & 40 N. R. 16<sup>th</sup>  
 11.64 a W. O. 12 in dia  
 40.00 set  $\frac{1}{4}$  sect post for  
 which an ellum 12 in dia  
 B. N 65 E 24 lbs  
 45.50 a brook 6 lbs R. S. W.  
 67.12 a W. O. 12 in dia  
 80.00 set post cor for sects 27 & 34  
 for which a W. O. 15 in dia B. N  
 62 E 39 lbs do 12 in dia B. S 72  
 N. 19 lbs land this mile  
 poor stony & hilly Timber  
 W. O. P. O. Key  $\longrightarrow$



# All Those Trees!

## Tiffin's Instructions 1815

be without any marks; the places of the posts are to be perpetuated in the following manner, viz: at each post the courses shall be taken and the distances measured to *two or more adjacent trees* in opposite directions, as nearly as may be, which trees, called bearing trees shall be blazed on the side next the post and one notch made with an axe on the blaze, and there shall be cut with a marking

## General Instructions 1834

And in all cases where there is no tree in any Section within a reasonable distance of a corner, on which to mark the number of Section, Township and Range, that fact must be stated in your field notes.

The names of all bearing or witness trees, and station or line trees, must be written out in full, and not abbreviated; nor

# How Did You Learn To Identify Trees?

**Formal Training in Dendrology**  
**Books or Guides**  
**Training or Instruction From A Mentor**

**What would you call a Maclura Pomifera tree?**

**A large percentage of the Deputy Surveyors were natives of New England or the Eastern Seaboard**

- Prospect K. Robbins 1788 Massachusetts
- Joseph C. Brown 1784 Virginia
- William Henry Ashley 1778 Virginia
- Erskine Stansbury 1807 New York

**However, some of the Chain-men, Flag-men and Axe-men were probably hired from the local population and would have some knowledge of the native tree species.**

Q 7 <sup>11</sup>/<sub>16</sub> from with a Post  
12 in dia lks N 65° E 48 lks  
& a do 10 in dia be N 67  
W 95 lks. &

Set a post in open field for corner to sections 16  
17. 20 & 21 from which:

Sweet gum 29 in. in dia. be N 9° E 288 links

Sweet gum 18 " " " " N 4° W 159 "

There are no trees in sections 20 & 21, within a  
reasonable distance.

which a W Oak 15 in dia bears N 17  
W 17 lks & a ditto 7 in dia bears S 44  
E 15 lks

25 Set post on true line from which a  
Sycamore 12 Ins. Dim. Bears S 78° E 38  
lks & a mapel 10 Ins. Dim. Bears S 17  
W 30 lks

Sugar tree 12 Ins. Dim.

Set <sup>14</sup>/<sub>16</sub> Sec post from which a Sugar  
tree 7 1/2 Ins. Dim. Bears S 57° W 47 lks  
& a Blackberry 10 Ins. Dim. Bears S 37° W 47 lks

fit for cult

hymn 24 Ins. Dim.

Set Post corner to Secs 23 24 25 & 26

dia bears S. 24 W. 29 lbs + a Gum 36 in. dia  
an Ash 12 in. dia bears S. 40 E. 12 lbs + a Beach

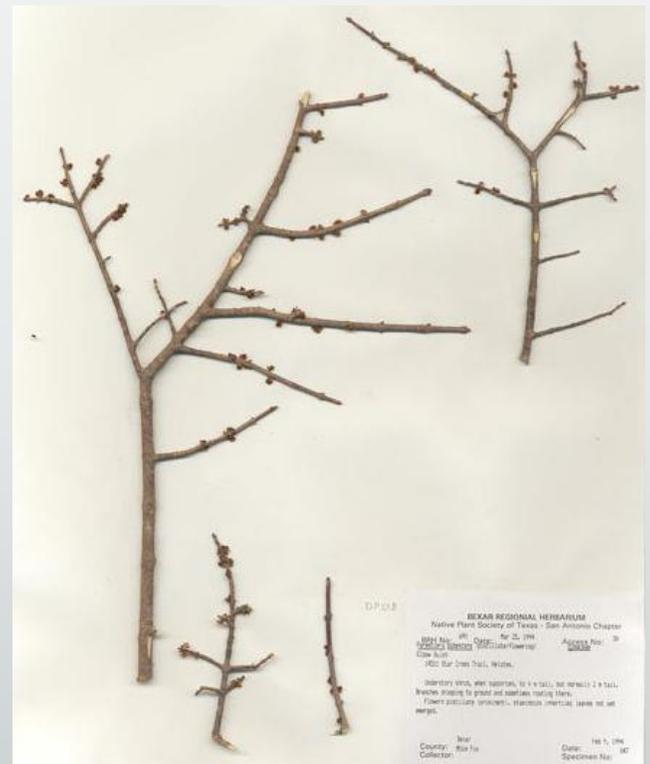
On true line Between Secs 26 & 23  
Set 1/4 sec post on true line Between  
from which a Junewood 9 Ins. Dia

Set 1/4 sect post from which a praw praw 6  
in. dia bears N. 4 E. 55 lbs + a R. O. 10 in. dia

39.07 Set a quarter section corner post  
Bearings } Tubular gum 2 in. dia bears 76 8/9° E. 18 links  
} Tubular gum 10 in. dia bears 86 1/2° E. 33 links  
78.14 The Corner to sections 23, 24, 25 and 26

Sections 22, 23, 26 and 27 in many places very and  
all subject to overflow to the depth of from  
one to 5 or 6 feet. Timber Elm, Gum, Ash  
Hackberry, Maple, with a great deal of  
Elbow brush, Swamp dogwood and swamp  
willow, flags, &c

October 20<sup>th</sup> 1850



There is always  
that one tree  
"stumps" you!

8000 Set a limestone 20 inches  
long, 4 inches wide & 3  
inches thick across to  
sections 28, 29, 32 and 33  
out from which from which  
a Post Oak 10 inches diam  
eter bears S 25° N 64 links,  
a Black Oak 9 inches  
diameter bears S 5° E 112  
links, a Hemlock 9 inch =  
es diameter bears N 64 1/2° E  
223 links and an Elm 9  
inches diameter bears  
N 41 1/4° N 92 links distant

## - Final Thoughts -

The features "Along The Line" can very well lead you back to the Original Corner.

Keep in mind that the trees were described by men (and women?) just like you

Use the GLO Field Notes to their fullest extent.

Questions? - Comments?