The Dodds Book

The SLSI Board of Directors was recently informed by the Executive Director that SLSI is running out of copies of “Original Instructions Governing Public Land Surveys of Iowa” by John S. Dodds. This book, commonly referred to as the “Dodds Book” is considered a mandatory reference for Iowa land surveyors. Since the original publisher is no longer in business it would be necessary to scan an original copy to obtain the files needed to re-publish. In the course of discussing options for having the book reprinted it was discovered that the book has already been scanned and is available online. The next step is to determine if permission can be obtained to use one of the scanned images to re-publish the book or whether there is even any point in printing a hard copy. The online version can be found here:

https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/001513756

Railroad Strip Maps

SLSI Past President Terry Coady and I met with Robin McNealy of the Iowa State University GIS department to discuss the possibility of obtaining a grant to scan paper railroad strip maps and make them available to Iowa surveyors. Shortly after this meeting SLSI held its annual conference. Charlie Tucker, Project Manager for the Farnsworth Group was the featured speaker and he informed us that the scanning was already being done by others so this project is currently on hold as well.

Non-licensed Practice

SLSI continues to monitor the ongoing issue of the employees of several Iowa cities “locating” property corners for residents. In some cases letters from SLSI has curtailed this practice but in at least one instance, although current city employees no longer engage in this activity, a retired city employee is now providing the service at a nominal charge. The position of the Board is that this is the unlicensed practice of land surveying. Unfortunately, as an entity, the SLSI board does not have standing to file a complaint with the licensing board. Such complaints must come from individual licensed surveyors or members of the public and providing adequate evidence to obtain a favorable ruling from the licensing board has proved to be problematic.
SLSI 83rd Annual Conference  
March 5-6, 2020  
Scheman Center, Iowa State University  
Ames, IA

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