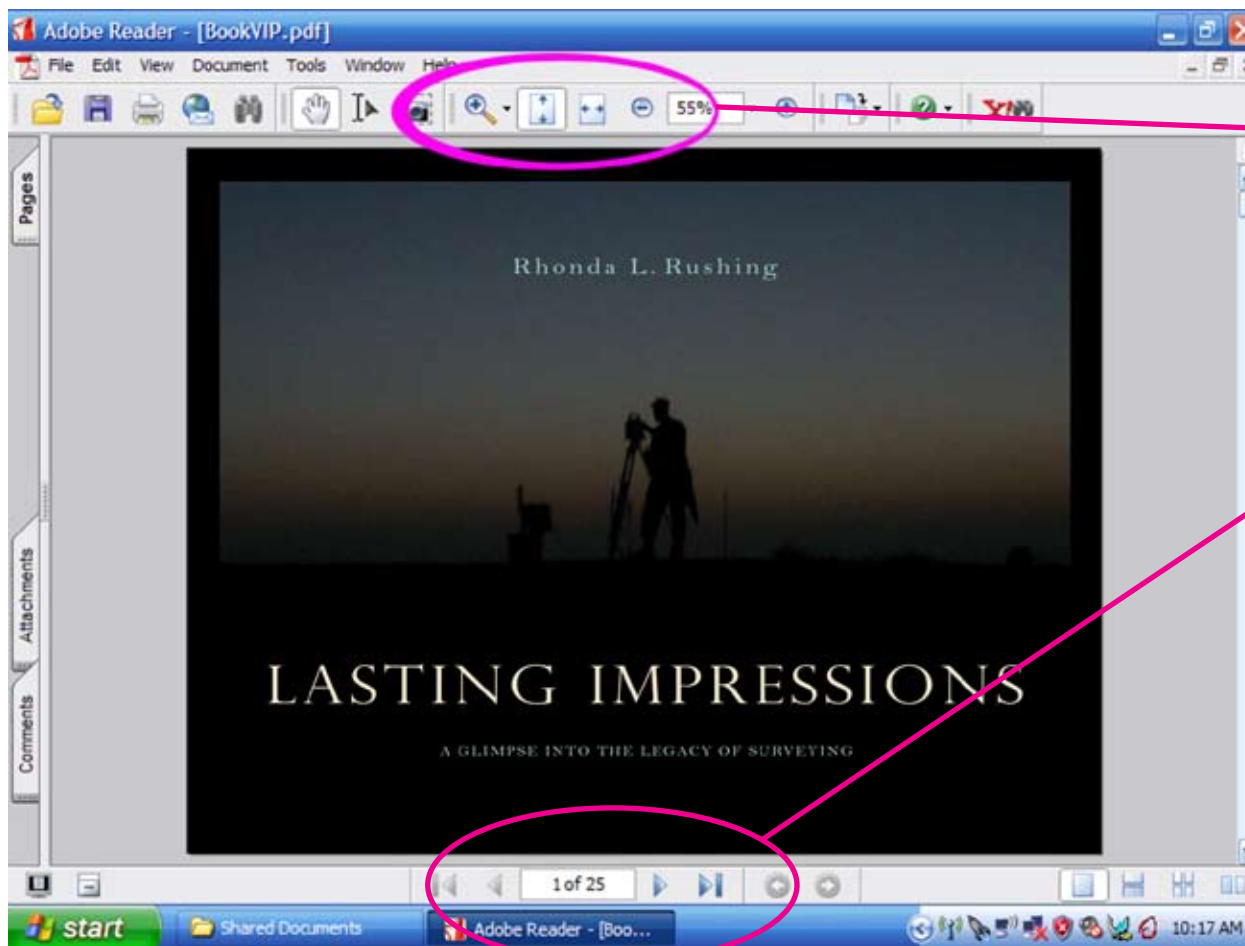


LASTING IMPRESSIONS

A SAMPE OF THE FOREWORD



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FOREWORD

Survey monuments are the realization of the most important part of the national infrastructure of this or any other country, the essential geodetic and cadastral land surveying frameworks. That’s a mouthful, I suppose, but how much of what we do relies on knowing where we are in relation to someplace else? To find their way around, most people use a map, chart, or plat of some form, representing the multitude of physical features that define the surface of the earth. Apart from cartographers, geodesists, and land surveyors, few people take the time to consider what formed the foundation of the map they are using. The physical delineation of boundaries, transportation networks, construction of the vast array of structures for residential and commercial development, communication systems and utilities, all these and more are ultimately linked to networks of monuments established by government and private surveyors tasked with locating boundaries and the determination of points of accurately defined latitude, longitude, elevation, gravity, and magnetic declination.

This book shows that survey monuments take many forms. Regardless of their size, shape, or composition, they are almost always the result of physically and mentally challenging work by professionals dedicated to accurately locating pieces of the earth, like great parts of a jigsaw puzzle that link one parcel to another, with the ultimate goal, however unreachable, of seeing the complete picture.

Rhonda Rushing, president of Berntsen International, a leading innovator and supplier of survey markers, has been inspired by the thousands of surveying and mapping professionals she has met from around the world. She sought out the experiences of surveyors, engineers, and geodesists from across the United States to portray the importance of survey markers to communities. Whenever surveyors gather, their discussions invariably turn to stories about their efforts to

recover a particularly important mark, the location of which has been in doubt for many years. Perhaps a story about how they struggled to establish a new mark in a location “only a mountain goat” could reach, or the honor felt by being allowed to set a mark at a location that is sacred to our national history. Rhonda, with the help of editor and land surveyor, Angus Stocking, has gathered reports and stories from every state, linking small, usually obscure bits of concrete, metal, stone, clay, glass, or wood with the important functions of determining the size and shape of the earth, and showing how tracts of land, large and small, are bound together in the patchwork quilt that is uniquely America.

Lasting Impressions is dedicated to every surveyor who has climbed that “tough hill” or cut brush for hours through a snake, mosquito, and chigger invested swamp to find that called for mark. This book honors surveyors for their determination and detective work in finding that tree stump, brass plug, chiseled square, drill hole, stone or concrete monument that no one else has seen since the original surveyors left their calling card many years ago. Increasingly, efforts by individuals from the popular pastime of geocaching are also playing a significant role in the attempt to preserve and protect these essential components of our national infrastructure. The public may never understand or appreciate the euphoric feeling the cadre of geospatial detectives enjoys. We scrape away decades of dirt and goo to expose the object of our investigations and feel a connection with the pioneers of our national surveying, mapping, and charting history who literally marked the progress of our country – they certainly left a lasting impression.

– *Dave Doyle*

Chief Geodetic Surveyor

National Geodetic Survey

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