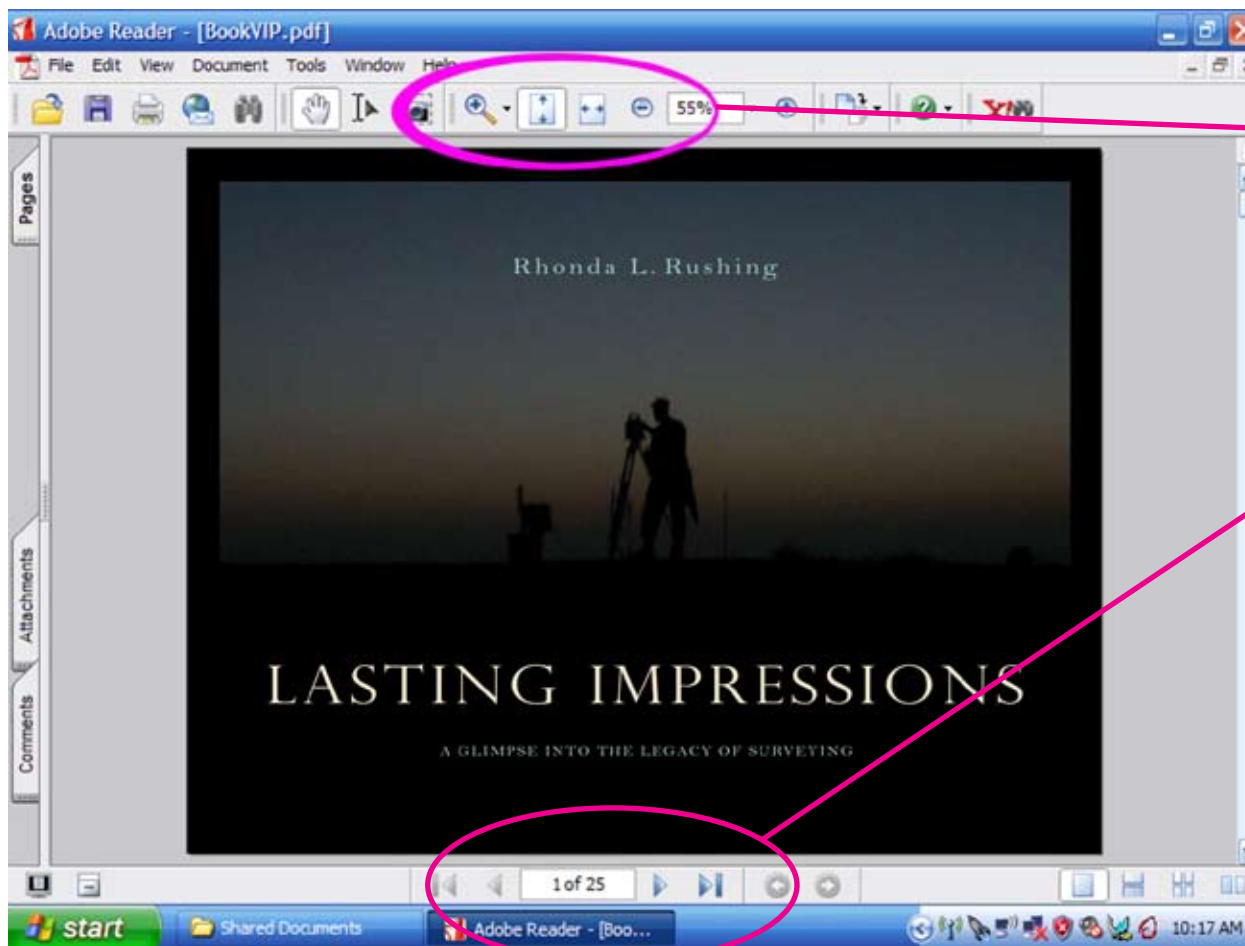


LASTING IMPRESSIONS

A SAMPE OF THE INTRODUCTION



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INTRODUCTION

For years I have dreamed about presenting a book that highlights the important contributions that surveyors have made to our country. As the president of Berntsen International, Inc., I have had the privilege of hearing many stories about survey monuments over the years. I have seen monuments produced for important surveys across this country and abroad. And I knew there were many wonderful stories out there to be told – stories about not only the science of surveying, but also the adventures and challenges of the profession, past and present.

This is a book of lasting impressions. Most of the stories are about survey monuments that, while starting out as ordinary monuments, have stood the test of time. They are often remarkable because of how long they have survived. Despite all the hazards that monuments face – corrosion, tampering, wars, fires and floods, to name a few – many of these monuments have persisted in doing their job for hundreds of years. This job may be marking boundaries or coordinates, or a critical elevation. These monuments have served generations well, in ways that most of us take for granted. Several monuments included in this book have been set more recently, commemorating an important person, place, or event that has made a lasting impression to be recognized and remembered.

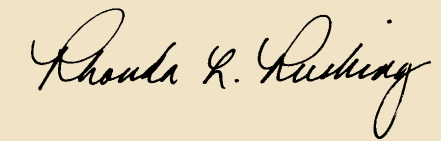
There is a fresh way to look at the history of America – through the eyes of surveyors who worked their way west as our country developed and grew. In a sense, Lasting Impressions is a story of the development of our country, from east to west. We learn of a wooden post that was originally set by Thomas Jefferson in 1793 when he was Secretary of State, and the stone marker that later replaced it and often served as a barge anchor on the Washington City Canal. The story of recently recovered twin stones set in 1815 on the North Carolina and South Carolina borders reminds us that monuments set in the earliest days of our nation still exist today. Finding these was an adventure likened to finding the lost ark. We explore the fact that three of our earliest and most prominent presidents in America were surveyors – George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Abraham Lincoln. Certainly their knowledge and perspectives as surveyors shaped many decisions of their presidencies.

A story from the Molasses Reef in the Florida Keys shows us the aquamarine depths to which surveyors went to set what is believed to be the first high precision geodetic marker placed underwater anywhere in the world. This marker was placed at the sight where the freighter M/V Wellwood struck the reef in 1984.

There are several stories from the “last frontier” of Alaska. The first female surveyor to ever go to the North Slope of Alaska at the age of nineteen describes the significance of finding an NGS monument in the “vast frozen nothingness of the Slope,” and tells about finding caribou antlers and abandoned dogsleds amid wind chills of –125 degrees. Adventure and danger go hand-in-hand as we learn of the hazards of climbing Mount McKinley and the complexities of setting a monument at the highest point on the continent.

There are also several stories of US surveyors abroad. The story “Leaving a Lasting Impression” inspired the title for this book. Sgt. Bradley Limbo of the 109th Engineering Group of the South Dakota Army National Guard, stationed in Bagram Airfield in Afghanistan, expresses a desire to “leave something here for future units to build on; we wanted to leave a lasting impression.”

I hope that the stories and photos in this book about monuments will give readers a glimpse into the legacy of surveying. These monuments are the tangible evidence of not only the survey, but also of the living legacy of generations of dedicated surveyors. Quite possibly all surveyors have reflected on the legacy that their work may leave for future generations. Maybe even the thought that someone will notice and value the work long after the tools have been put to rest is inspiring and encouraging. After all, this is a basic desire we all have in life – to make a Lasting Impression.



THANK YOU!

*We hope you've enjoyed this preview of Lasting Impressions
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or go to www.lastingimpressionsbook.com.*