

The purpose of this historical perspective is to give the landowner or land steward a fairly accurate picture of how their land has changed since the mid-1800's. Utilizing historical resources such as the General Land Office Survey Notes, aerial photos taken at intervals since 1938, and population and agricultural censuses from the 1860's to 1900, the attendee will leave with a sense of the natural and cultural history of their land beginning just prior to European settlement. I hope this exercise will create a greater personal connection between the land and land stewards. The registration fee is per property not per person! Several people can attend for one property in fact this is encouraged.

Audience: The intended audience is anyone who would like to gain a deeper understanding of a piece of land they own or are interested in. This workshop would be especially useful to:

- Private landowners interested in native ecosystem restoration
- Public entities such as County Conservation Boards, who are interested in restoring some of their land to pre-settlement conditions
- Family Farms who would like to instill the history of their farm in the next generation
- Schools who would like to incorporate the natural and cultural history of their school grounds into their history and science curriculums
- Home-school teachers who could use their own home site as a window into history and science
- Volunteers who are interested in restoring a public natural area

Product: All products will be available in printed and digital form. Each client will be provided the following:

- Government Land Office survey notes: Copies of the GLO Survey notes for the surveys conducted in the vicinity of the property will be provided. These notes will also be interpreted on topographic maps of the property.

Township 80 N Range 17 W 5th Me.	
Chains	North between Sections 15 & 16
	Variation 10° 28' East
25.00	enter grove course West
30 50	White oak 20 inches diameter
40.00	Set quarter Section post bearings (Red oak 22 N 82° 7' 38 links (Red oak 14 N 14 E 13 links
51.60	White oak 36 inches diameter
64.00	Brook 4 links wide course S.W
80.00	Set post corner to Sections 9, 10, 15 & 16
	Bearings (Red oak 22 S 99° 7' 47 links (Red oak 22 S 39 E 33 links
	Surface Rolling soil 2d rate timber Red black & bur oak walnut Elm hickrey & lind undergrowth oak hickrey haxe & briars
	June 4th 1847

The Government Land Office survey notes provide a snapshot of Iowa's landscape when the surveyors first surveyed the land for settlement. The survey notes include general vegetation summaries, common tree species, and size and species of trees used for survey posts. In addition to vegetation, they also noted direction and width of any stream they crossed. Understanding these notes provides a great glimpse of Iowa in the mid 1800's.

- Historic Aerial Photographs: Copies of all available aerial photographs of the property, usually one per decade from 1940 until 1970, in addition to 1994 and 2002 will be provided. These historic aerial photos allow one to witness the land use changes since 1940. Noticeable changes often include increasing percentage of crop land, increase or decrease in tree density, removal of old buildings and construction of new structures, changes in stream corridors, etc.



- Population and Agricultural Censuses: Census data usually from 1860 until 1900, provides a glimpse of the families that settled the land and the agricultural crops they grew. The population census includes names, ages, and of family members in addition to the birthplace of the individuals and their parents. The agricultural census often reveals the diversity of farm life, recording the acres of all crops grown, in addition to livestock raised, and fruits and vegetables planted.

- Additional Maps: Additional maps created for each property include a soil map, a topographic map, a regional landuse map, and a regional pre-settlement vegetation map.

For more information about creating a historic perspective of your property or one you are stewarding, please contact Chris Bair at 319-668-8110.