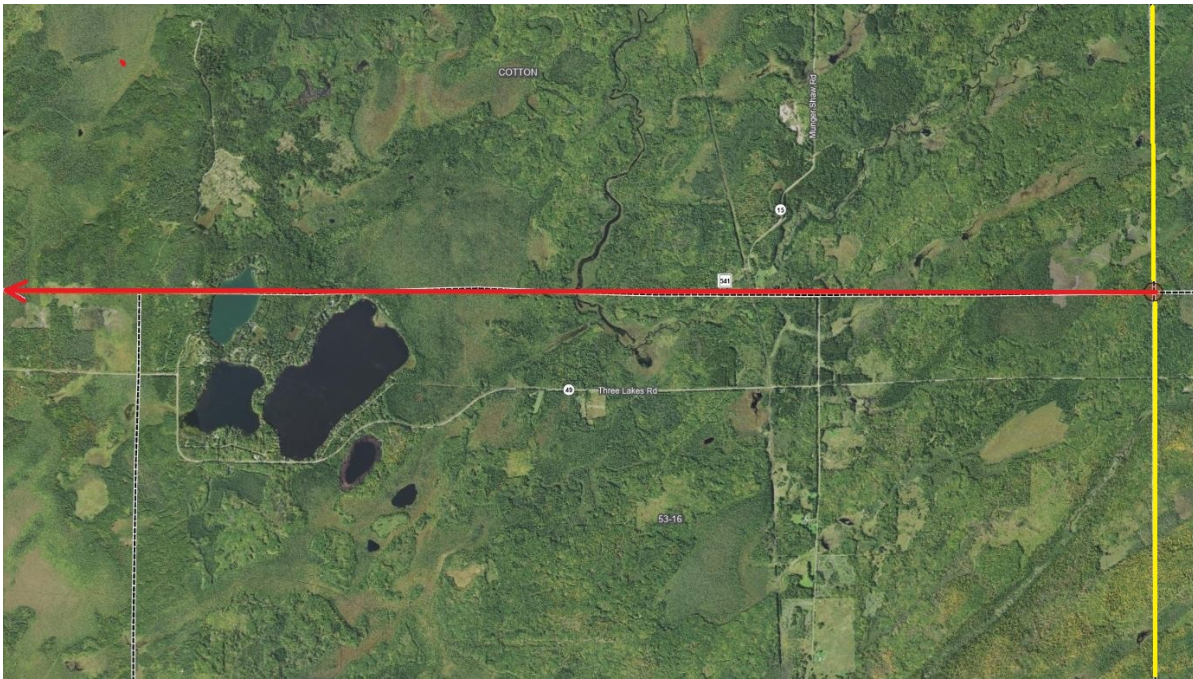
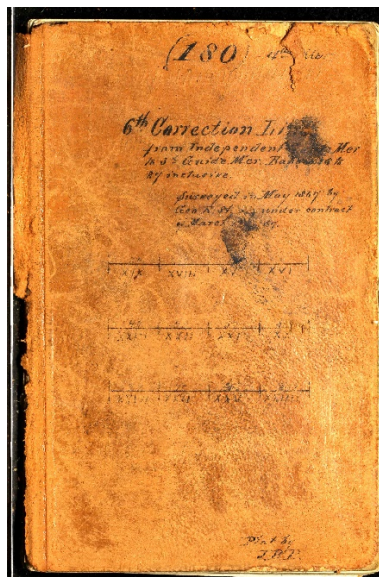


## George Stuntz May 1867 Survey – The First Written Record of Visiting Three Lakes

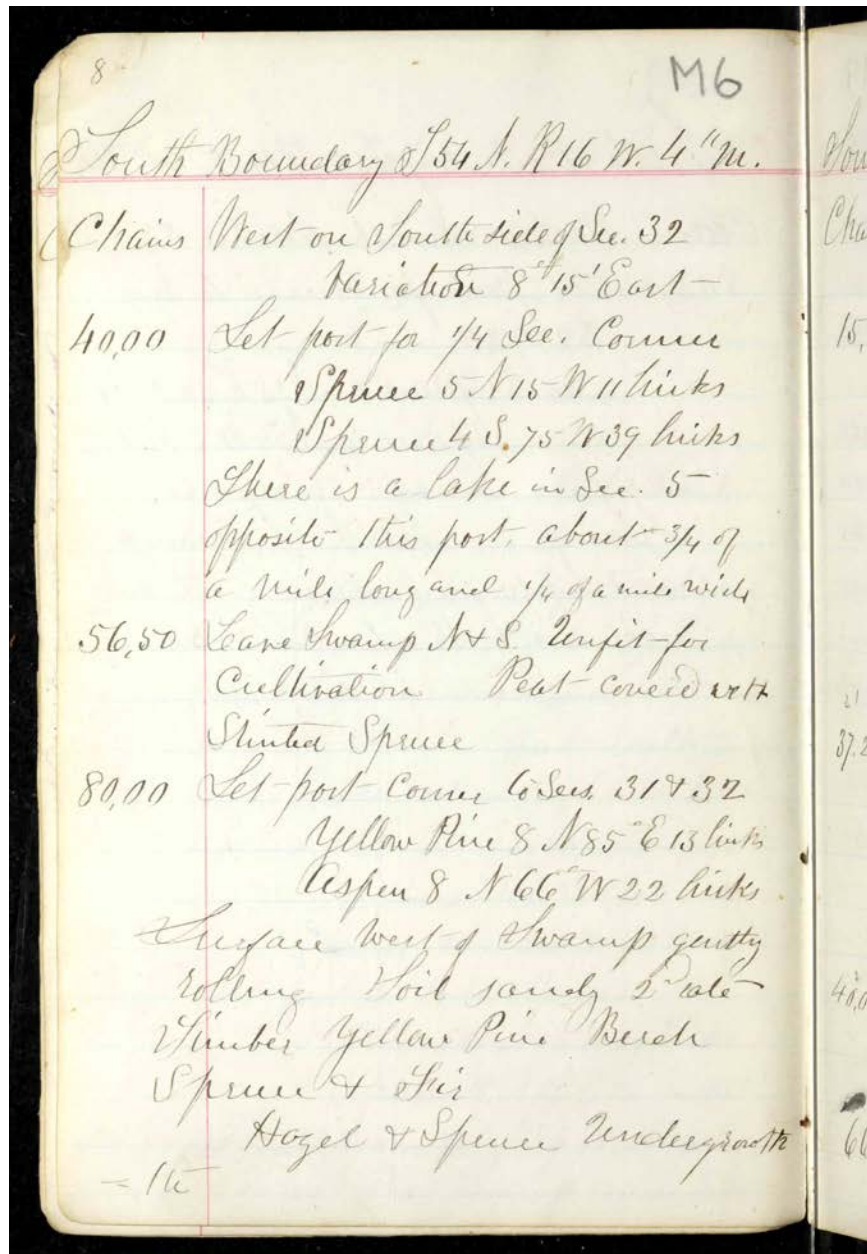


George R. Stuntz was a pioneer Duluthian who had come as a trader to Minnesota Point, near the Superior Entry, in **1853**, just before the signing of the **1854** Treaty of LaPointe. His principal work was that of government surveyor, establishing the pattern of townships throughout the region which were necessary for legal descriptions, land sales, and settlement. He continued this work for the next 30+ years. In May of **1867** he was contracted to establish the 6<sup>th</sup> Correction Line (red line above), forming the border between what we now know as Twp 53N and Twp 54N. This east-west line commenced at the Independent Meridian which separated Range 15 to the east and Range 16 to the west. This Independent Meridian (yellow N-S line above) had been surveyed 11 years earlier, in **1856**, from the St. Croix River near Danbury, WI, north to what is now the Town Line Road in Makinen, just north of Mudhen Lake.

Stuntz's starting point is  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile north of the Three Lakes Road on the meridian line, two miles east of the Munger Shaw Road (see map above, red circle). The line extends from this point over to the west side of the Mississippi River, about 50 miles west of here. The written survey notes are available for public viewing today from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), here is the cover of that survey book for this contract with Stuntz.



On the first day of the survey, May 11<sup>th</sup>, 1867, the survey crew established the South Quarter Corner post of Section 32 T54N R16W, and made the following (recorded) observation:



"Set post for 1/4 Sec. Corner. Spruce 5 N 15 W links, Spruce 4 S 75 W 39 links. There is a Lake in Section 5 (of 53-16) opposite this post about 3/4 of a mile long and 1/4 of a mile wide." This is, for all practical purposes, **the first written description of Lake Elora**. The references to spruce trees are survey witness posts to this south 1/4 corner of Section 32. Their diameter is listed, as well as the direction and distance from the 1/4 corner post.

The next day, May 12, 1867, the survey crew continued to the west about another mile or so, and then made the following notes:

9

South Boundary of 54. N. R. 16 W. 4. <sup>10</sup> 116.

Chains West on South side of Sec. 31

Variation 8° 30' East

15.50 Intersect Lake  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile long, and set Meander Corner

White Pine 12 N 30 E 12 links  
Spruce 8 S 60 E 12 links

Offset N 24 W 6.00 chains

Post on opposite side of Lake

21.77 bears S 74 W - Distance Lake 21.77

37.27 Set Meander Corner on West side of Lake

Yellow Pine 10 S 59 W 25 links  
White Pine 10 N 35 W 31 links

Sandy beach & bottom

40.00 Set post for  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. Corner.

Birch 7 N 25 W 14 links  
Yellow Pine 8 N 66 E 18 links

66.00 Enter Swamp S.W.

“Intersect Lake  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile long, and set meander corner. White Pine 12 N50E 14 links, Spruce S60E 12 links.... dist. over lake 21.77 (chains).”

Continuing, they write “Set meander corner on west side of lake: Yellow (Norway) Pine 10 S59 W 25 links, White Pine 10 N35 W 31 links. Sandy beach and bottom.” Witness post trees (white and Norway pine) are again listed, diameter and direction and distance from the installed meander post.

Again, this page from the survey book is, for all practical purposes, **the first recorded observation of Rose Lake.**

Stuntz returned in mid-June of 1867 to complete the west and north boundaries of Township 54N Range 16W. The interior subdivisions of this township (sections) were not surveyed until 14 years later, in the winter of **1881**. To the south, Township 53N Range 16W, the township including Lake Elora and Dodo Lake, was completed in **1870**.

These two township maps, from the General Land Office of the U.S. Department of Interior, are available for viewing under the “Lake Plats and Maps” section of the Resource menu tab on our website.