



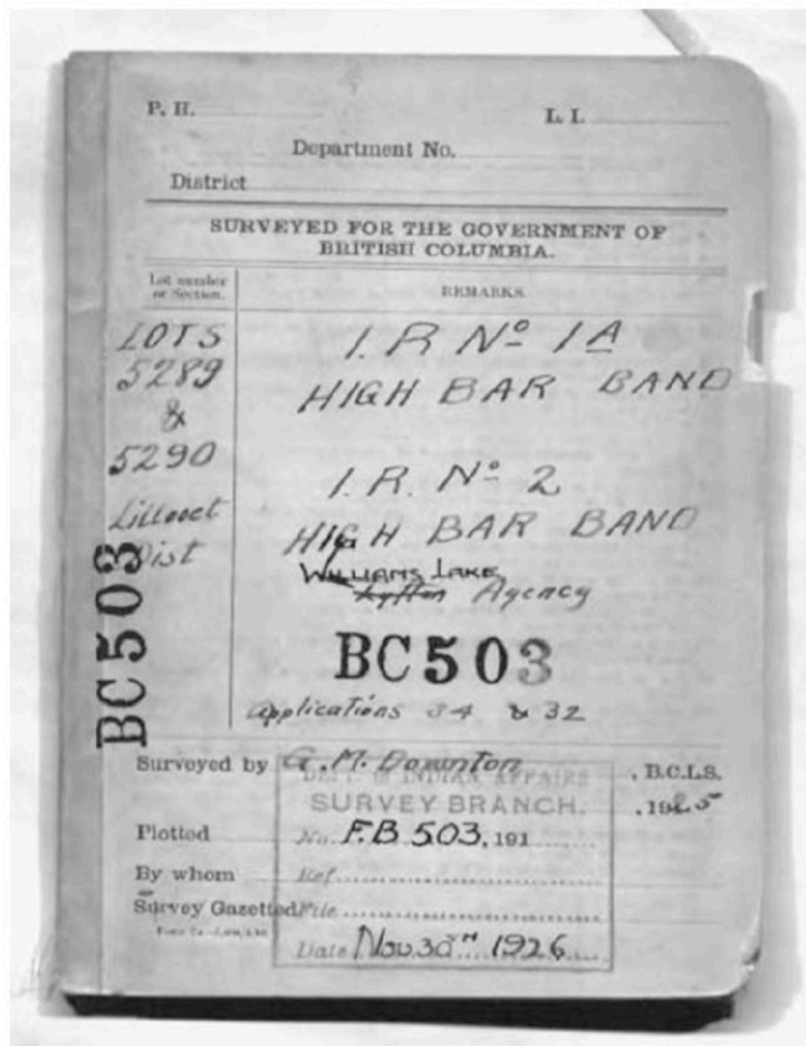
## Assignment 13

### Reviewing Surveyor's Field Books

In this assignment, you will look at a few pages taken from a surveyor's field book and learn how to decipher some of the surveyor's codes.

#### Instructions 13-A

1. Look at the cover page of Surveyor G.M. Downton's field book.

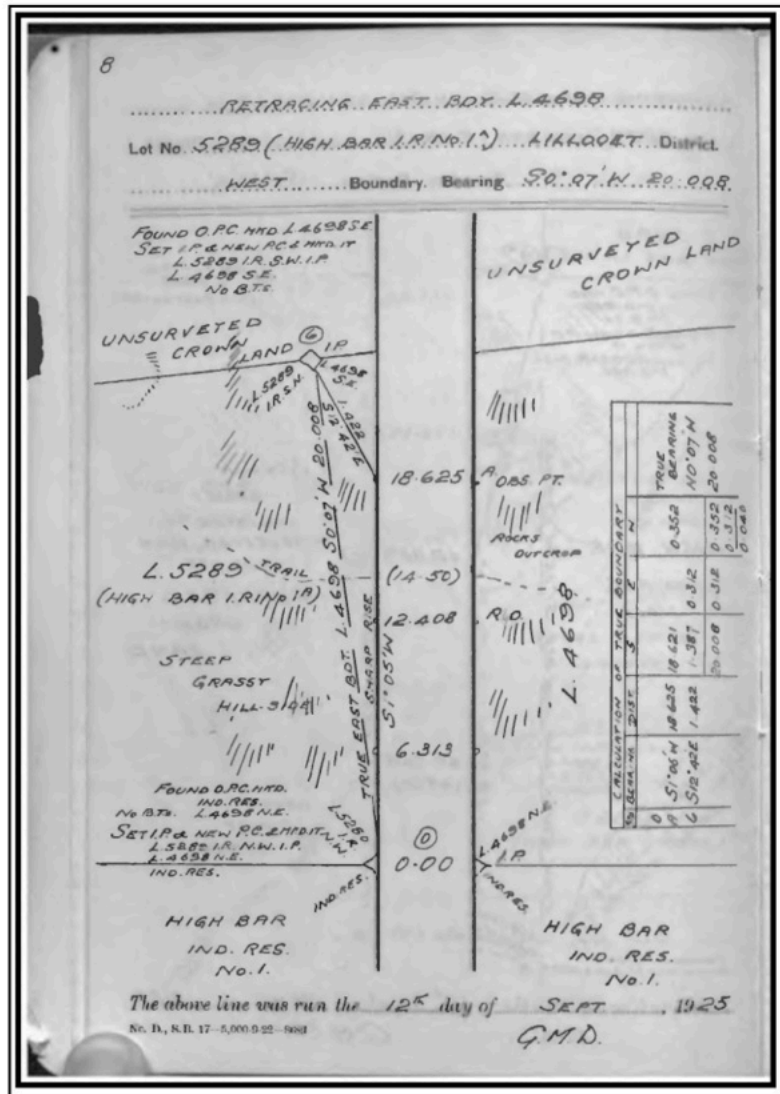


The cover page often identifies the land being surveyed, the name of the surveyor, and the date the survey was undertaken. The cover tells you that you are looking at a survey of High Bar Indian reserved 1A and 2, in the Williams Lake Indian Agency. These parcels of land are also identified as district lots 5289 and 5290 in the



Lillooet land district of BC. The survey was completed by G.M. Downton on November 30, 1926.

2. Now look at the following page. This is page 8 of Downton's field book.



At the top of the page, Downton identifies the parcel of land covered by this particular page of his notes. He also identifies which part of the boundary he is currently measuring (west) and the direction he is walking (his "bearing," in this case, southerly). At the very bottom of the page, Downton indicates the date he surveyed this particular boundary line (the 12<sup>th</sup> day of September, 1925).



## 13-A Key Points and Questions

One of the most difficult aspects of looking at field notes is identifying what part of the survey you're looking at. Modern field notes have multiple columns for entering different types of data, depending on the purpose of the survey. However, older field notes are broken into three basic columns for recording information. The centre column contains measured distances or reference points along the surveyor's line of travel (called the "traverse" or "chain" line, since historical surveys were measured in chains).

Surveyors typically start their notes at "0" with each change in direction, and this information is recorded at the bottom of the page. The surveyor adds notes going upward line by line following the course of their traverse (the line they're walking).

1. Locate the "0.0" notation at the bottom of the column in the middle of the page. Read the page from *bottom* to *top* in order to follow Downton's traverse along the western boundary of IR 1A.

Any offsets in the main line of travel or any observations made in either the left or the right hand columns are noted depending on which line of travel they appeared.

If a surveyor had to cross creeks, fences, or roads, it was represented in field notes by lines drawn across centre column and/or part of left or right hand column. Features parallel to the traverse line were depicted in the corresponding left or right column.

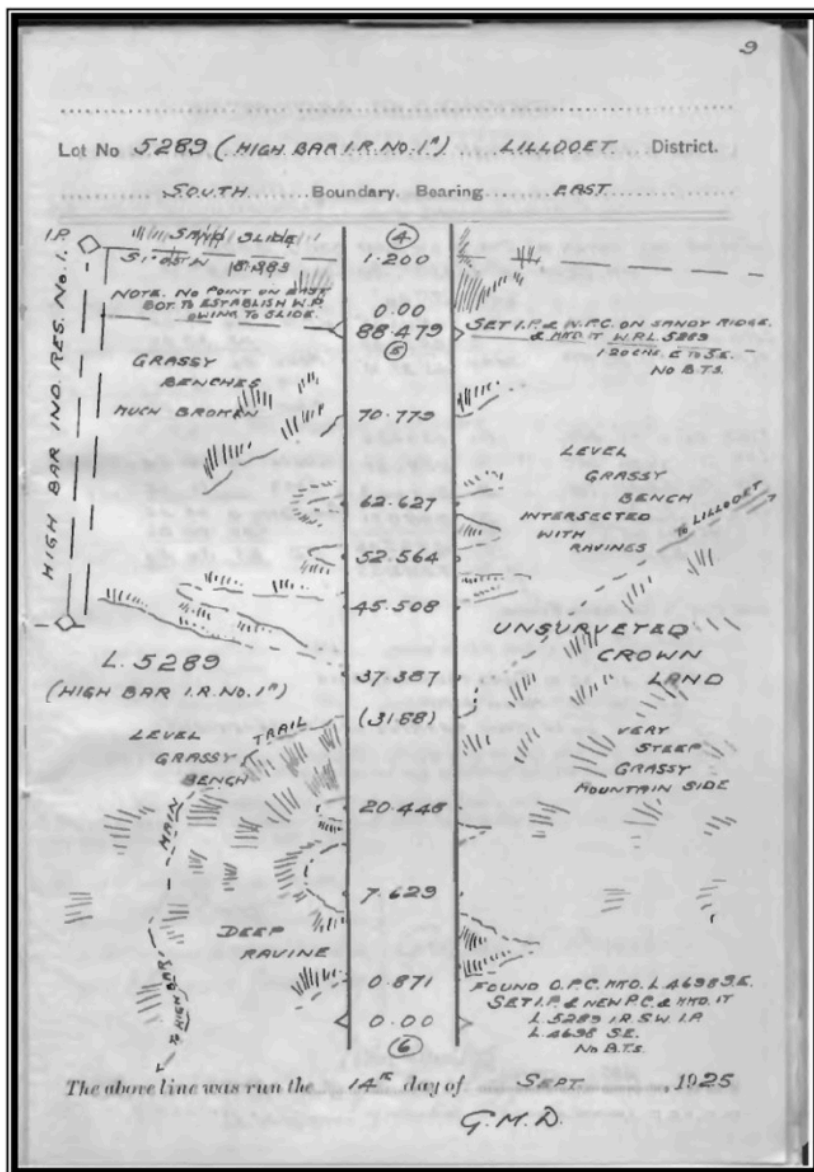
2. List the land parcels Downton identified to his left and right as he walked along the western boundary of IR 1A. At what distance did Downton cross a trail in the course of his survey?



## 13-B Instructions

### Following Downton's Traverse

Look at page 9 of Downton's field book below and answer the questions on the following page.





## 13-B Questions

1. What portion of Downton's survey of IR 1A does this page represent?
2. In what direction did Downton walk?
3. What date did he survey this portion of the reserve?
4. Open the survey plan of IR 1A (BC 326) that you saved to *My Saved Resources* in Assignment 12 to view Downton's final plan.

When you have completed this assignment, remember to save your work, close the assignment, and return to Unit 5-7 of the course.