

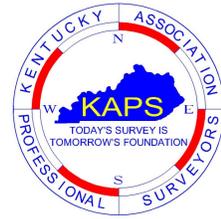
Prints of Professions, Inc.

Publishers of Limited Edition and Special Interest Art

WILLIAM R. ELAM, PRESIDENT & GENERAL MANAGER

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Prints of Professions, Inc. (an art publishing company) and the Kentucky Association of Professional Surveyors (KAPS), working cooperatively, are pleased to announce the availability of a beautiful art print, personalized, matted, and framed, reflecting the heritage of our profession in the earliest years of our nation.



Please see the attached photograph of the framed image, entitled “Among the First”. The print edition is limited to 5,000 prints personally signed by artist Gary Curtis, and each print is serially numbered. The print measures 18” x 24” with the image area slightly smaller, plus the matting and framing. Printing has been done by the finest lithographic process available utilizing fade-resistant inks on acid-free paper. The framed print will be offered to the surveying profession nation-wide on March 1, 2017. Any particular print number will be released on a first-come basis to anyone requesting it if it is still available. This may allow you to obtain the serially numbered print which corresponds to your surveyors license number.

Please note there is an engraved brass plate inserted into the center bottom mat. Included in the purchase price is a similar personalized plate with your name, state of licensure, and license number (or whatever short two-line message you choose).

The beautiful wooden frame encasing the forest green outer mat and the dark earth tone inner mat nicely complement the rich colors of the image and would look great in any home or office décor. If used in your office, the purchase price may be tax deductible (check with your legal or tax advisor).

This is a most unique art print which every professional land surveyor would be proud to own, especially with the matching serial number and engraved brass plate feature. If you wish to acquire that print you must be, like those early pioneer surveyors, “Among the First.”

The American Land Surveyor — “Among the First”

Prior to the early 1780s there was no reliable process to guarantee land titles in the Colonial and immediate Post-colonial era in America in the western areas of the colonies. Particularly, were the lands west of the Appalachian Mountains appropriated by kings, surveying companies, or colonial governors? After the British army had been defeated and the Treaty of Paris had been signed, the American Revolution was truly over and the United States now existed as a peacetime fully independent nation, ready to be surveyed and developed.

Its western border existed only to the Mississippi River and from the crest of the Blue Ridge Mountains to that western border very little of the vast territory had been surveyed. The enormous land area that would become the Louisiana Purchase was totally unknown then and not until twenty years later would Lewis and Clark embark up the Missouri River with their famous Corps of Discovery. The Old Northwest—the lands that would someday make up the states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, much of Minnesota, and part of Michigan—had not yet been opened to legal settlement. That land lay there, belonging to the new nation and awaiting surveying, platting, and sale to citizens for settlement, homesteading, or as payment for military service. That began with the Public Land Survey System in the mid-1780s and the Northwest Ordinance in another two years.

Although prior to the early 1780s there were virtually no legally defensible land claims west of the mountains but that was now changing due to the land grants being issued to settlers and to veterans as payment for their military service. These land patents required actual warrants before they could be surveyed and title granted by a governor or the president. So into the wilderness went the surveyor with his men, compass and Jacobs staff or tripod, chain, notebook, maps and warrants, pistol and powder, cold blade and sharp hatchet, to bring order and define property boundaries for a whole new nation, as he continues to do today. He was, indeed, among the first, as he had always been.

The surveyor had been among the first into the dried flood plain after the winter rains brought fresh soils to the unmarked fields of the Fertile Crescent of ancient Egypt's Nile and Mesopotamia—the ancient rope-stretchers that gave civilization the study of geometry. He was among the first at what would be the foundations of the Great Pyramids, the temples and forums of Ancient Greece and Rome, the Cathedrals and castles of Europe, the boundaries of countries, the courses of waterways great and small, farms and city lots where perhaps no man has yet set foot. Using modern scientific equipment, the surveyor has laid out modern new highways and airports and shopping centers and industrial parks and residential subdivisions as he has refined and defined the boundaries of real property.

Indeed, the land surveyor has always been “Among the First.”