

Mapline

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The Hermon Dunlap Smith Center for the History of Cartography was founded in 1972 at The Newberry Library to promote the study of the history of cartography through research projects, fellowships, courses of instruction, and publications. Further information about the Center is available on request from the Director, **David Buisseret**.

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They Left Their Mark: A Biography of William Austin Burt/John S. Burt. 1985. 188 p.; illus. ISBN 0-910845-31-X.

This is a biography of the man who surveyed a large part of the upper peninsula of Michigan as a General Land Office surveyor, and invented the solar compass which revolutionized the surveying of the public lands after it was generally introduced in 1855. On the way, Burt invented a typewriter and an equatorial sextant for use on board ships, and was a major force in the economic development of the upper peninsula of Michigan. He was a likeable and apparently incorruptible example of a nineteenth-century industrious Yankee and, in the words of Robert Traver's foreword, "probably one of the best of our neglected native geniuses." He is well served by his great-great-great-grandson's adeptly written, appreciative and well-documented biography. Anyone interested in the land office surveys of the mid-nineteenth-century will certainly want to consult this book.