County Surveyors and the Important Work They Do for Wisconsin
Speaker: Bryan Meyer, County Surveyor, La Crosse County
Moderator: Staci Hoffman, Register of Deeds, Jefferson County
County Surveyors and the Important Work They Do for Wisconsin

Bryan Meyer – La Crosse County Surveyor
Immediate Past-President of the Wisconsin Society of Land Surveyors
Past President Wisconsin County Surveyors Association

September 18, 2023
For your convenience, many of your questions and comments have already been incorporated into this presentation.
“Dude, what exactly qualifies you to talk about the importance of the County Surveyor?”
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**June 1976**

**H. A. Sime and Associates**

**Tomah, Wisconsin**

**Historian**
**Mathematician**
**Cartographer**
**Lumberjack**
**Archeologist**
**Interpreter**
**Writer**
**Thinker**
**Moderator**
Rhinelander, Wisconsin
H. A. Sime and Associates
Tomah, Wisconsin

28½ years

PRIVATE PRACTICE SURVEY WORK
December 4, 1998

Part-time County Surveyor

Juneau County, Wisconsin

Part time – four hours the second and forth Monday of the month
Eight hours a month?
Wisconsin River Power Company (WRPCO) operates two hydroelectric plants, Petenwell and Castle Rock, on the Wisconsin River. It proportionately sells the energy produced to the two companies that own all of the outstanding shares of stock of the company.

Wisconsin River Power Company sold off some land along portions of the Wisconsin River, including Juneau County.
Over the course of the next 10 years...

...the need for more time for the County Surveyor became evident:

Expanded to eight hours the second and forth Monday of the month = 16 hours per month

Expanded to eight hours the first four Mondays of the month 48 days per year = 384 hours per year

Expanded to eight hours the first five Mondays of the month 52 days per year = 416 hours per year
Provide oversight

Contracted service to do PLSS remonumentation work
47 years as a surveyor
25 years as a County Surveyor
“So, Bryan, what's the agenda for today?”
Today’s Outline:

A) The origins of the County Surveyor
B) The status of the County Surveyor in Wisconsin today.
C) The statutory duties of the county surveyor
D) The 5 BIG things a typical County Surveyor does
   1) Reestablish and maintain the corners of the Public land Survey System (PLSS)
   2) Review Survey Maps
   3) File Survey Maps
   4) Work for other County agencies
      a) Highway Dept Example
      b) Register of Deeds Example
      c) Rela Property Lister Example
   5) Answer Lots and Lots of Questions
D) Bryan’s Favorite PLSS Corner
F) Write a letter
“Hey Bryan, where did the position of County Surveyor come from?”
The Origin of the County Surveyor in Wisconsin
Law of July 31, 1830

Each County in the Michigan Territory designated a “surveying district”

Surveyors for those districts appointed and commissioned by the Governor
Same “Surveying District” laws carried over

Statutes of 1839 made the office of District Surveyor elective (two year term)

Laws remained in effect when Wisconsin was granted statehood in 1848

Since 1849 the office has been designated as County Surveyor

Constitutional Office
Constitutional and Statutory Officers.

Constitutional officers have their own duties, responsibilities, and authority described in the statutes.

They are as follows:
1) Clerk 59.23 (board & other records)
2) Treasurer 59.25 (collect & disperse funds)
3) Sheriff 59.26-59.33 (jail, law enforcement)
4) Coroner (or Medical Examiner) 59.34 (medical examiner)
5) Clerk of Court 59.40 (court records)
6) Register of Deeds 59.43 (record real estate and vital statistic documents)
7) Surveyor 59.45 (certain land surveys)
8) District Attorney 978.05 (criminal prosecutor)

Because these officers are elected, just as the members of the County Board of Supervisors
Today each Wisconsin County may:

- Appoint
- Elect
- Leave Vacant
CURRENT STATUS OF COUNTY SURVEYORS

- 33 FULL TIME
- 29 PART TIME
- 11 NONE

As of August 2023
59.45 County Surveyor duties, deputies, fees.
59.45 County surveyor; duties, deputies, fees.

(1) Surveyor; duties.

(a) The county surveyor shall do all of the following:

1. Execute, personally or by a deputy, all surveys that are required by the county or by a court. Surveys for individuals or corporations may be executed at the county surveyor's discretion.

2. Make, personally or by a deputy, a record, in books or on drawings and plats that are kept for that purpose, of all corners that are set and the manner of fixing the corners, of each survey made personally, by deputies or by other professional land surveyors and arrange or index the record so it is an easy-to-use reference and file and preserve in the office the original field notes and calculation thereof. Within 60 days after completing any survey, the county surveyor shall make a true and correct copy of the foregoing record, in record books or on reproducible papers to be furnished by the county and kept in files in the office of the county surveyor to be provided by the county. In a county with a population of 750,000 or more where there is no county surveyor, a copy of the record shall also be filed in the office of the regional planning commission which acts in the capacity of county surveyor for the county.
3. Furnish a copy of any record, plat or paper in the office to any person on demand and upon payment to the county of the required fees.

4. Administer to every survey assistant engaged in any survey, before commencing their duties, an oath or affirmation to faithfully and impartially discharge the duties of survey assistant, and the deputies are empowered to administer the same.

5. Perform all other duties that are required by law.

(b) Surveys for individuals or corporations may be performed by any professional land surveyor who is employed by the parties requiring the services, providing that within 60 days after completing any survey the professional land surveyor files a true and correct copy of the survey in the office of the county surveyor. In counties with a population of 750,000 or more the copy shall be filed in the office of the register of deeds and in the office of the regional planning commission which acts in the capacity of county surveyor for the county.
The five BIG THINGS a typical County Surveyor does:

1. Re-establish and maintain the monuments of the Public Land Survey System.
2. Review survey maps
3. File survey maps
4. Do work for other County Departments
5. Answer lots and lots of questions
Re-establish and maintain the corners of the Public Land Survey System.
Total Number of Reported PLSS Corners Set in the Original Government Survey

Statewide Total = 193,720

(source: 2016 WLIP County Land Information Plans)
Starting Points for surveys

BIG THING #1
Every survey performed in the State of Wisconsin is required to be referenced (tied) to two PLSS corners.

Wisconsin Administrative Code

Chapter A-E 7 MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR PROPERTY SURVEYS

A-E 7.05(4) The map shall describe by bearing and distance the corner monuments used in determining the location of the parcel boundary and show by bearing and distance the relationship of at least 2 government monuments, if not previously tied, and all newly established monuments, to the surveyed parcel. All the monuments shown on the map shall indicate whether such monuments were found or set, including a description of the monument with a legend or notes for all symbols and abbreviations used on the map.
236.20(3)(b) The location of the subdivision shall be indicated by bearing and distance from a boundary line of a government lot monumented in the original survey or resurvey of Wisconsin, quarter section, recorded private claim, or federal reservation in which the subdivision is located. The monumentation at the ends of the boundary line shall be described and the bearing and distance between them shown.
Plat of Survey Map
Every survey in Wisconsin is required to be tied to at least two PLSS corners!

BIG THING #3
“Hey Bryan, where did all of these PLSS corners come from?”
Gridwork of 6 mile by 6-mile squares (Townships)

Each of those squares contain 36 1 mile by 1-mile squares (Sections)

Corner markers set a roughly half mile intervals (Section and Quarter corners)
The PLSS was championed by Thomas Jefferson. He saw a nation of yeoman farmers, each one owning 160 acres.
Public Lands Survey System (PLSS)
In Wisconsin, the Original Government Survey took place between 1832 and 1866.
PLSS

Townships across Wisconsin

6-mile by 6-mile squares

BIG THING #1
1405 corner locations at basically ½ mile intervals

Starting points for surveys in La Crosse County

Our department goal is to visit 5% of those corner locations per year.
Townships = Roughly gridded 6 by 6 mile squares.

Sections = Roughly gridded 1 by 1 mile squares.
The **corners** established by the PLSS

Roughly \( \frac{1}{2} \) mile intervals – NOT the Center of Section
BIG THING #1

= SECTION CORNER

= QUARTER CORNER

NW
NE

SW
SE

22
Original Corners of the PLSS

Wood posts (most cases)

Bearing trees

BIG THING #1
Marking the Corners

Wood posts were typically set for the corners

Bearing trees or witness trees

BIG THING #1
“Wait”

“Wood posts?”

“Trees?”

“Wait”
Original Government Notes

- Measurements
- Corner Established
- Bearing trees
- Terrain
- Assessed timber and soils

BIG THING #1
“Hey Bryan, do you have any examples of the equipment or wood posts from the original PLSS work?”
Today those corner locations are typically marked by modern survey markers about 30” long
Public Land Survey System corners are critical in establishing the interior lines of a Section.
“Hey Bryan, do you have an example of how PLSS corners are used to survey a forty acre tract of land?”
Perfect World vs. The Real World

The Intention

The Reality

BIG THING #1
To do a survey of the SE1/4-NW1/4
1. The PLSS defines the boundaries of nearly every property in Wisconsin.
2. Professional Land Surveyors STILL use PLSS corners to define boundaries.
3. The PLSS is our heritage.
The PLSS is the fundamental way that almost all of the state’s land was first systematically marked, divided, and described, and remains the basis for that real property today.
Primary Focus #2

Survey Map Review

Subdivision Plats
Certified Survey Maps
SUBDIVISION PLAT


Map review

#2
Check for compliance with State Statute and local ordinance

Recorded in the Register of Deeds Office

BIG THING #2
Certified Survey Map and Subdivision Plat Review

AE 7 – Wisconsin Administrative Code (minimum standards for all surveys)
Chapter 236 – Subdivision Plats
Chapter 236.34 – CSMs
SURVEY RECORDS CONSIST OF:

- Old County Surveyor Records
- Plat of Survey maps
- Original Notes
- Tie sheets
- Subdivision maps (copies)
- Certified Survey Maps (copies)
- Highway Right-of-way maps
- Town Road records
Plat of Survey Map

60 Days
#3 File survey maps

Other surveys that take place.

Land surveyors have 60 days from completion of the survey to file a copy of the map in the County Surveyor's office.

File a hard copy in our files and make digital images available online.
The La Crosse County Surveyor is responsible for carrying out the requirements of the County Surveyor’s office as specified in Chapter 59 of the Wisconsin Statutes and the La Crosse County Subdivision Control Ordinance (Chapter 18).

**Surveys Department**
212 6th Street North
Room 1300
La Crosse, WI 54601
608.785.0620

**Bryan Meyer**
County Surveyor
bmeyer@lacrossecounty.org

**Dale Hewitt**
Assistant County Surveyor
dhe Witt@lacrossecounty.org

**RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COUNTY SURVEYOR:**
- Reestablish and maintain the Corners of the Public Lands Survey (PLSS)
- Review survey maps for compliance with State Statutes & Local Ordinances
- Index and maintain copies of all surveys in the county
- Perform survey work for other government agencies
- Assist the public with land surveying and land ownership questions

Those responsibilities include preserving the corners of the Public Land Survey System, which is the basis for all legal descriptions in the County. The County Surveyor is responsible for the remonumentation, maintenance, and protection of the 1403 PLSS corners within the 481 square miles of La Crosse County and to execute all surveys that are required by the county or by a court.

**FAQs**
- Can the County Surveyor find my lot lines? The County Surveyor does not perform survey work for private parties. He only does field work for County projects. A list of private land surveyors is available here.
- Doesn’t every lot have to be surveyed? The vast majority of parcels in La Crosse County were created by written legal description and not by a field survey. Therefore it is likely that there are no physical markers in the ground to show lot corners. Surveys are now required for certain new land divisions as determined by municipal or county rules/ordinances. A bank may also require that a survey be performed.
- What marks the corners of my lot? If your parcel has indeed been surveyed (see above), it is likely that lot corners are marked with an iron bar or iron pipe. However, many other different objects have been used as monuments. The legend on your survey map should indicate the type of monument set. Most often the monuments were set below the surface to help avoid disturbance.
La Crosse County

Filed Survey Maps

Maps

- T17N R7W
- T15N R5W
- T15N R6W
- T15N R7W
- T16N R5W
- T16N R6W
- T16N R7W
- T16N R8W
- T17N R5W
- T17N R6W
- T17N R7W
- T17N R8W
- T18N R5W
- T18N R6W
- T18N R7W
- T18N R8W
- T19N R7W
- T104N R4W (5th MER)

Big Thing #3
Section 20

NE 1/4

O-1394

BIG THING #3
Work for other County Departments

Highway Department
Facilities
Economic Development
Corp Counsel
Register of Deeds
Land Information
Department
Zoning Department
Land Conservation
Department
Clerk
Treasurer
Excess Right-of-way for the Highway Department
RESOLUTION # 37-12-22

TO: HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE LA CROSSE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

RE: SALE OF COUNTY PROPERTY ON CTH DE TO JACOB BEESKAU

WHEREAS, La Crosse County is the owner of a parcel property that was previously obtained for highway right of way; and

WHEREAS, this property abuts CTH DE but is excess right of way that the County Highway Commissioner has determined is not needed for highway right of way;

WHEREAS, the property owner, Jacob Beeskau has expressed an interest in purchasing the approximately .04 acre property more specifically described as:

A PARCEL OF LAND LOCATED IN THE NE¼-SW¼ AND THE SE¼-SW¼, SECTION 31, T 18 N, R 5 W, TOWN OF FARMINGTON, LA CROSSE COUNTY, WISCONSIN, DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

COMMENCING AT THE SE CORNER OF SAID SECTION 31;
THENCE N 63°42'46" W, A DISTANCE OF 2935.26 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING;
THENCE N 87°21'29" W, A DISTANCE OF 8.77 FEET TO A POINT ON THE WESTERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF COUNTY TRUNK HIGHWAY DE;
THENCE N15°42'19" W, ALONG SAID WESTERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE, A DISTANCE OF 135.18 FEET;
THENCE N 76°37'19" E, A DISTANCE OF 17.00 FEET;
THENCE S 12° 05' 34" E, A DISTANCE OF 137.52 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

SAID PARCEL CONTAINS 0.04 ACRES OF LAND MORE OR LESS AND IS SUBJECT TO ANY AND ALL EASEMENTS, COVENANTS, RESTRICTIONS, AND RIGHTS-OF-WAY OF RECORD; and

WHEREAS, the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee has previously determined that it is in the public interest to sell excess right of way using the rate at which the County most recently acquired property for right-of-way acquisitions. ($9,027/acre);

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the La Crosse County Board does hereby approve the sale of the .04 acre parcel to Jacob Beeskau for $361.08;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Board Chair is authorized to sign any and all documents including deeds to complete the sale of such parcel after approval by Corporation Counsel.
“Hey Bryan, do you have another example of the County Surveyor working with another County Department?”
November 10th A. D. 1855
La Crosse County, Wisconsin

I hereby certify that I did survey the above-entitled Plat Addition to La Crosse, the same being the North West quarter of the South West Quarter of Section No. Five of Township No. Fifteen North of Range No. 7 West of the 4th principal Meridian and the within Plat is a true Copy of the work as done by me.

Wm. Hood
Surveyor
There is a problem with the Lot numbering in Block 11.
This parcel has no designation. How do we tract it?
Downloadable Forms

This association provides only the following forms. Other forms can be found through the links listing on bottom of this page.

- **Correction Instrument**
  - PDF
  - Correction Instrument Instructions

- **Farm Name**
  - PDF
  - Word

- **Firm Name**
  - PDF
  - Word
State Bar of Wisconsin Form 00-2011
CORRECTION INSTRUMENT
Under Wis. Stat. § 706.085

Undersigned hereby states that a certain document ("conveyance") titled as ____________________________ (type of document), and executed between ____________________________, Grantor, and ____________________________, Grantee, was recorded in _______________ County, Wisconsin, on ____________, ______, in volume ____________, page ____________, as document number ____________, and contained the following error:

Undersigned makes this Correction Instrument for the purpose of correcting the conveyance as follows:
Working with the Register of Deeds and Corporation Counsel....
I, Bryan H. Meyer, do hereby state:

1) That I serve as the County Surveyor for La Crosse County, Wisconsin.
2) That there is a plat called Lord and Rodoff's Addition recorded at Vol. 1, Page 10 at document number Plat1-Pg10 in the La Crosse County Register of Deeds Office.
3) That said plat shows an obvious error in the numbering sequence of the lots within Block 11 [see Figure 1].
4) That the lot located in the Southwest corner of said Block 11 is incorrectly labeled "76".
5) That the lot located in the Southwest corner of said Block 11 should be corrected to be labeled "77".
6) That the lot immediately North of the lot in the Southwest corner of said Block 11 is incorrectly labeled "77".
7) That the lot immediately North of the lot in the Southwest corner of said Block 11 should be corrected to be labeled "78".
8) That the small parcel in the Northeast corner of said plat [see Figure 2] depicted on the plat as being bounded on the North and East sides by the North and East lines of the NW1/4-SW1/4 of Section 5, T15N, R7W, bounded on the West by the East line of Ninth Street South and on the South by the North Line of Market Street East, has no lot number label.
9) That said small parcel should have a lot number label of 132.
10) That I make this affidavit for the purpose of correcting these inconsistencies and these inconsistencies only.
I, Bryan H. Meyer, do hereby state:

1) That I serve as the County Surveyor for La Crosse County, Wisconsin.
2) That there is a plat called Lord and Rodolf's Addition recorded at Vol. 1, Page 10 at document number Plat1-Pg10 in the La Crosse County Register of Deeds Office.
3) That said plat shows an obvious error in the numbering sequence of the lots within Block 11 (see Figure 1).
4) That the lot located in the Southwest corner of said Block 11 is incorrectly labeled “76”.
5) That the lot located in the Southwest corner of said Block 11 should be corrected to be labeled “77”.
6) That the lot immediately North of the lot in the Southwest corner of said Block 11 is incorrectly labeled “77”.
7) That the Lot immediately North of the lot in the Southwest corner of said Block 11 should be corrected to be labeled “78”.
8) That the small parcel in the Northeast corner of said plat (see Figure 2) depicted on the plat as being bounded on the North and East sides by the North and East lines of the NW¼-SW¼ of Section 5, T15N, R7W, bounded on the West by the East line of Ninth Street South and on the South by the North Line of Market Street East, has no lot number label.
9) That said small parcel should have a lot number label of 132.
10) That I make this affidavit for the purpose of correcting these inconsistencies and these inconsistencies only.
I, Bryan H. Meyer, do hereby state:

1) That I serve as the County Surveyor for La Crosse County, Wisconsin.
2) That there is a plat called Lord and Rodolf’s Addition recorded at Vol. 1, Page 10 at document number Plat1-Pg10 in the La Crosse County Register of Deeds Office.
3) That said plat shows an obvious error in the numbering sequence of the lots within Block 11 (see Figure 1).

4) That the lot located in the Southwest corner of said Block 11 is incorrectly labeled “76”.

5) That the lot located in the Southwest corner of said Block 11 should be corrected to be labeled “77”.

6) That the lot immediately North of the lot in the Southwest corner of said Block 11 is incorrectly labeled “77”.

7) That the Lot immediately North of the lot in the Southwest corner of said Block 11 should be corrected to be labeled “78”.
The highest numbered lot on the plat is 131

Next available number on the plat was 132
Filed the signed document in the Register of Deeds Office
Questions related to land surveying and land ownership issues:

- Where is my property line?
- Isn’t the fence the property line?
- Isn’t the power pole/utility box at the corner?
- Why wasn’t my property surveyed?
- Can you survey my property?
- What is adverse possession?
- Can I get coordinates for my property corners?
- If my property was surveyed, can I get a copy of the map?
- What’s the difference between a CSM and a Plat of survey?
Primary focus # 5
Assist with lots of questions!

• Land owners
• Attorneys
• Realtors
• Title Companies
• Local Units of Government
• Other County Agencies
• Assessors/Appraisers
• Foresters
• Zoning
From the public and other County Departments
How a missing semicolon can create a title problem.
The South one-half of the Southwest Quarter (S1/2 of SW1/4);

The Northwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter (NW1/4 of SE1/4);

The Northeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter (NE1/4 of SW1/4);

The Southwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter (SW1/4 of NE1/4) and the Southeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter (SE1/4 of NE1/4) lying West of the Town Road,

All in Section Thirty-five (35), Township Seventeen (17) North, Range One (1) East, Monroe County, Wisconsin.

The Fractional North One-half of the Southwest Quarter (Fr. N1/2 of SW1/4);

The Southeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter (SE1/4 of SW1/4);

All in Section Two (2), Township Sixteen (16) North, Range One (1) East, Monroe County, Wisconsin.
The Southwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter (SW1/4 of NE1/4) and the Southeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter (SE1/4 of NE1/4) lying West of the Town Road,
The Southwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter (SW1/4 of NE1/4) and the Southeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter (SE1/4 of NE1/4) lying West of the Town Road,
According to previous deeds and mapping the “lying West of the Town Road” in the highlighted section should only apply to the SE-NE (parcels 030-00882-0000 & 030-00884-0000).

In previous deeds the two quarter quarters were separated with a semicolon (and nothing was on separate lines).

I thought this was a good example of formatting and punctuation making a big difference in a description.
A better way to have said this is with punctuation:

The SW\textsuperscript{1/4}-NE\textsuperscript{1/4}; the SE\textsuperscript{1/4}-NE\textsuperscript{1/4} lying West of the Town Road.
“Hey Bryan, do you have a favorite PLSS corner?”
Did you know?
“So, how did this corner get to be your favorite?”
Wisconsin State Capitol Tours

Drop-in tours (45-55 min.) start at the Information Desk (inside the central rotunda). Mon.- Sat. at 9:00, 10:00, 11:00 a.m. and 1:00, 2:00, 3:00 p.m. Sundays at 1:00, 2:00, 3:00 p.m. A 4:00 p.m. tour is offered weekdays (Monday - Friday) Memorial Day through Labor Day. Reservations requested for groups of ten or more.
Asked the kindly gentleman at the Information Desk about the PLSS corner

Due to the Act 10 Protests

“Restricted area.”

“Employee lunch Room”
“I am about to go on my lunch break. I can get you in to see that monument”

“Follow me.”
“You’re fine. I just had no idea someone could find that kind of joy from a little brass marker in our lunchroom floor!”

Officer Tammy Johnson - Capitol Police
“You are someone who would really appreciate a tour of the top of the Capitol dome”

Officer Tammy Johnson – Capitol Police
284.42 feet
Top of “Wisconsin” statue

236.75 feet
Lantern deck

184.25 feet
Oculus

92 feet
Observation deck

“Resources of Wisconsin” mural (suspended above the oculus)

Spiral stairway

Spiral stairway

SOURCE: Wisconsin State Capitol Guide and History

State Journal
“Can’t do it today, but come back Sunday and bring a guest or two.”
All because I’m a PLSS geek!
Wisconsin County Surveyors Association

2023 Board of Directors

President: Ryan Duckart – Brown County
Past President: Bryan Meyer – La Crosse County
Vice-President: Laurence Johns III – Vernon County
Secretary: Tom Leslie – Brown County
Treasurer: Tom Carlson - Dunn County
Director: Wade Pettit – Clark County
Director: Rob Merry – Kenosha, Milwaukee, Walworth & Waukesha Counties

Meet four time each year in Neillsville/Wisconsin Rapids
One final encouragement......
Write a letter...........
Cancer
Lymph nodes
Colon
Liver
Bones
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What about a gift?
January 20, 2017

Happy 78th birthday Mom! Along with your card I wanted to write you a note to tell you how much I love you and how much you mean to me. I am the man I am today due in large part because of you. God built me from the ground up through you. I have a genuine love of music because of you. You filled our house with music when I was growing up and I loved it. My daily life has music in it and that is a direct result of your influence.

Thank you for your smile and for teaching me about the importance of smiling myself. I wear one every day. You have the most genuine smile of anyone I know. I smile just thinking of you smiling. 😊

Thank you for teaching me about how to deal with hardship and struggles. I can remember times when things would get ugly and you would encourage me with the words "Let it roll off your back like a duck". And it works! I still rely on that advice today and I still apply it at times when things get ugly for me.

Thank you for loving me in those times when I was less than lovable. I’ve heard it said that the two most difficult processes in life are birth; and going from adolescence to adulthood. In the first you squeeze through a small canal into bright lights and people. In the second you go from dealing with scrapes and bruises to broken hearts and a bruised ego. I’m sure I was a pain for you in both instances. Please forgive me for all the times I was less than respectful to you. You deserved way better than what you got from me many times.

Most of all, thank you for being the primary influence in me knowing God and His Son Jesus. I witnessed your faith in how you lived your life. I saw God in you and God’s light shone brightly through you, mom. Thanks for being His beacon in this dark world. You are His daughter and you represent Him incredibly well.

Happy birthday, Mom. I love you more than you can ever know or imagine.

Love,
Bryan
September 2017

59 years of marriage!

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Obituary for Joanne Meyer

Joanne Meyer, age 78, of Tonawanda went home to be with her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on December 4, 2017. She was born on January 20, 1939 to Harold and Gladys (Wallace) Cuz, the third of 11 children. She grew up in the town of Tonawanda and attended Tonawanda Public Schools. She graduated from Williamsville High School in 1956. On September 20, 1958, she married the love of her life, Harold Harry Meyers, God blessed this marriage with five children.

Joanne’s early years were spent in rural Williamsville and then rural Tonawanda, where her parents and older siblings worked as dairy farmers. Every member of the family contributed to the operation of the farm. One of Joanne’s primary roles was feeding the chickens and then gathering the eggs. Joanne described her childhood as fun! Rather than being in the house, Joanne preferred spending much of her time with her father as he performed various tasks around the farm. She enjoyed her parents’ sing-along for never fighting and always telling through songs of growing up during the depression and World War II. Joanne said she never felt the need for teachers.

Her love story began on the evening of February 20, 1957 when she went to a wedding dance for a good friend. There, she had a conversation with the man that would be the love of her life, Harold Meyers.

At the end of the conversation, the normally reserved Joanne worked up the nerve to say, “Why don’t you come up and see me sometime.” The best statement was the spark that started a romance with Harry. The two date and knew they had something special. They were married on September 20, 1958 at a wedding service at St. John’s Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ridgway.

Joanne lived a life of being a housewife and mother, providing her Husband and children with a safe, clean, comfortable home. Being on the work force meant she put her refreshments into a cart and was able to carry on.

Heaven is a place of such beauty and Joanne was so ready to get to the first floor. She was surrounded by her family. Her children were there and the love of her life was there too. Joanne’s life is a beautiful story.}

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I wondered if the letter had an impact....
January 20, 2017

Happy 70th birthday Mom! Along with your card I wanted to write you a note to tell you how much I love you and how much you mean to me. I am the man I am today due in large part because of you. God built me from the ground up through you. I have a genuine love of music because of you. You filled our house with music when I was growing up and loved it. My daily life has music in it and that is a direct result of your influence.

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Happy birthday, Mom. I love you more than you can ever know or imagine.

Love,
Bryan
Knowing that makes me very happy!
Take the time to write a letter to the important people in your life while you can.
Thank You
Questions?

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