 Stu Righter, PLS #8884 here. I have been working with George Abbott's plats and files for years, now. This set of Abbott's index cards cover the Camp Meeker-area subdivisions. The first of the subdivisions, Camp Meeker was recorded at the turn of the century, (circa 1900), and continued for many years. A series of surveyors, Williams, Ricksecker, Symonds, and others, recorded additions to Camp Meeker, spreading outward from the northwest of Section 27, T 7 N, R 10 W, in western Sonoma County. There are also some unrecorded divisions, such as Highland Farms, and Orchard, at the southern edge of the series, as well as St. Dorothy's Rest, at the northwestern edge of Camp Meeker. George Abbott worked for many years at the behest of the Meekers. His files contain many sketches and descriptions which help to locate and define the many permutations of the "combination" lots, by which, it is meant that there are not only blocks and lots, but there are portions of lots and slivers which suited the owners better than the original configurations. While the deeds are to be observed and followed as best as can be determined, there are many sketches and helpful geometries which may assist the suveyor in a boundary resolution. He often mentions having found "stakes" and corners of lots. A prime example is the first subdivision, Camp Meeker, which map, though recorded, contains no bearings or distances to help resolve the boundaries. As for that issue, I will say that George Abbott was there since the 1930s and closely associated with those subdivisions till the 1960s, when he passed away.

 One of the benefits of the spread-sheets is the "find" function, with which one may search for Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APNs). Another benefit is that the researcher may also find the owners by the deed(s) numbers, as well. One of the curiosities of this set of index-cards, is that if one were to look for any information concerning the aforementioned St. Dorothy's Rest, one would have great difficulty in finding any reference filed under "S" for Saint, "D" for Dorothy's, or "R" for Rest. There are none. The reason is that the first property was purchased by the Protestant Diocese, and filed under "P." Fortunately, the spread-sheet format helps find St. Dorothy's Rest readily. Other benefits also become obvious with a little use of the set.

 I worked on Abbott's plats and files for some considerable time, and discovered several interesting features. One of the most amazing is that, due to his background in railroad surveying, as well as military surveying, Abbott did the majority of his work on an astronomic bearing basis. This eliminates the uncertainity associated with deed bearings having no such relationship. In addition, Abbott was a great advocate of the astronomic basis for these and other reasons. Abbott also worked with the assessor's office in the early development of the Assessor's Parcel Map system. He was also a road commissioner for Sonoma County.

 I do hope you have success in your searches.

Stu Righter, PLS

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Commissioner of Historical Records, Sonoma County