

Joseph M. Oldham, Washington County Surveyor

Joseph M. Oldham was the Washington County Surveyor from 1893 to 1906, and again from 1910 to 1917. Oldham preserved hundreds of U.S. corners in Washington County and performed many boundary surveys that are still referenced today. His surveys are recorded in Field Books 1 - 11, and in Surveyor's Record Book 1.

On October 15 1895, Oldham surveyed the east-west quarter line of fractional Section 1, T26N-R21W in Denmark Township. He chained west on the quarter line from a stone monument at the east quarter corner of Section 1. When he came to a 100 ft. limestone cliff at the Mississippi River, he squared up an 8 inch Red Cedar stump, on the line, and marked "1/4" on the face. Today, the "1/4" marking is gone, but a 4 inch by 5 inch post rises prominently from the stump, which stands solid at the top of the cliff.



Since 1895, this 4 inch by 5 inch post carved from an 8 inch Red Cedar stump has marked the east-west quarter line of fractional Section 1, T26N-R21W (Denmark Township).

A 7/8 inch re-rod has been set in front of the cedar stump as a secondary marker.

This 2008 photograph is looking southwest toward Lock and Dam No. 2 on the Mississippi River north of Hastings.