



Dick Elgin with a compass made by Jacob Blattner in St. Louis (circa 1845).

About Dr. Richard L. Elgin, PLS, PE
St. James, Missouri

A second generation surveyor, Dr. Elgin was raised in St. James and in his late parents' surveying business located in Rolla. After high school Dick joined the Army, went through helicopter flight school, was made a Warrant Officer, and spent 1969 in Vietnam flying LOH's and the ubiquitous UH-1 "Huey" with the Americal Division. Following the Army he received the BSCE and MSCE degrees from the University of Missouri-Rolla (now Missouri University of Science and Technology, S&T) and his PhD from the University of Arkansas. Leaving Arkansas he joined the faculty of the Department of Civil Engineering at S&T as an Assistant Professor (1980-1984) and still is an Adjunct Professor, teaching surveying courses. From 1984 until 2008 Dick was the owner and President of Elgin Surveying & Engineering, Inc.. Semi-retired, Dick currently works for Archer-Elgin Surveying and Engineering, LLC. He is a former member of the Missouri Board for Architects, Professional Engineers, Professional Land Surveyors and Landscape Architects; is a Past-President of the Missouri Society of Professional Surveyors; is a member of both S&T's and the University of Arkansas' Academy of Civil Engineers; is a member of S&T's Order of the Golden Shillelagh. With Drs. David Knowles and Joe Senne, Dick coauthored the "Celestial Observation Handbook and Ephemeris" and codeveloped the "ASTRO" celestial observation software products. With David Knowles, he coauthored "Legal Principles of Boundary Location for Arkansas." Dick is the author of "The U.S. Public Land Survey System for Missouri." He is an avid collector and researcher of early American surveying equipment. Semi-retired, he and his wife enjoy touring by bicycle, RV or in their perfectly restored 1964 Morgan Plus Four, 1976 Alfa Romeo GT Junior or 1967 Austin Cooper 1275 S.