

2346

Alpine, Texas, Nov 21 1922

Mr. Asa A. Jones  
Tesnus, Texas

Dear Sir,

Your letter asking for report came today just as I was finishing it. I was laid up for several days after I got back, the cold had got into my bones I think, and then it took some time to work up the run for 334 -336 so I could make the Commissioner understand it. The field notes are certainly confusing.

The only important fact is that I found an error in my field notes that throws the corner of 31 & 32 400 varas west making the strip only 140.6 wide I do not see how they can do anything but throw it into 31 and 32.

I am mailing my report tomorrow and will mail this at the same time.

It has clouded up and looks like more bad weather here.

Yours sincerely

*R. L. Dod*

JUN 12 1940

REFERRED TO MAIL

letter 156 43

B



Alpine, Texas, Aug 18 1917

Mr. Asa A. Jones  
San Antonio, Texas

Dear Sir,

I learnt today that you would probably be in San Antonio for some time, so I forward plat of line run in Blk 334 & 336.

I went over all the calls carefully and find the distances north and south were all correct, but in running from the N.E. corner of sur 33 we ran East 319 varas before we turned south. This call escaped my notice when I was figuring the traverse, or "Zig-zag" and I placed the S.E. corner sur 35 319 varas too far east. So from this point on east all corners we set are on the line but are 319 varas east of the true position for the corners.

I turned over the plat showing connections made and line run to Van Sickl and a copy to Sutton. Clark came up to see me and he and Sutton decided to accept the line and the corner 319 varas west of where I placed the rock mound. You can get Van's copy of plat and report.

The plat I enclose is on larger scale and shows all points made on our run and gives the bearings at the rock mounds set up.

I find poor Mac's corners pretty badly scattered, the call for the flag we sighted on from N.E. 33 calls to be "about 100 varas north of Mac's corner

But as you can see from our plat and the two readings shown, it is 326 vrs north, but about as far west as his first corners would lead one to expect.

I looked over the Hunnicutt field notes for the north line of Blk G 1, and find he did not put in the last four corners east, and did not put in the N.E. cor 198. So mac had to run from N.E. 192 east 4 miles and north 4 miles to put in his N.E. 40 G 15. On looking up mac's field notes for sur 40 G 15, I do not find any call for the rock marked X, but you can estimate how far the corner is off from our location of the X rock.

I am sorry I made the oversight in figuring from N.E. 33<sup>3</sup> but otherwise I find the survey correct in course and distance and I think you can rely on it with that 319 vara correction.

Yours truly

R. D. Dod

P.S. I am called to Austin on Sep. 1st and will be there perhaps a month or six weeks, at the Gen. Land Office.

JUN 12 1940

REFERRED TO MAIL

Counter 156 77

Greenwater Co. SK. File #16



2



2346

Alpine, Texas, April 20 1917

Mr. A. A. Jones  
Tennus  
Texas

Dear Sir,

I did not get my report ready in time to send it by Mac on Tuesday. I did not realize what a number of individual surveys were involved and the field notes of each and every one had to be examined for marked corners and connections and although I was morally certain no such calls would be found, I could not certify they were not there until I had looked to see, hence the delay.

I made a rough sketch of the conditions intending to make a tracing for you but I have not time as I start for Coleman Sunday on that Spinell case, so I send you the rough sketch.

It took me two days work to get data and make sketch but I think it covers all the points necessary to a solution of the case.

My fee for the two days work is \$20.00, as I shall be away will you kindly send check to Mrs. R. S. Dod, at Alpine, and oblige

Yours truly

*R S Dod*

JUN 12 1940

REFERRED TO MAP

B2

34

Counter 15675



2346

Report on an investigation of the  
records of the Surveyors Office, to find  
the relative position on the ground of certain  
Blocks of Land in Brewster County Texas  
by R.S.Dod.

The accompanying map is supposed to cover the lands in question and their connections or originating points. The main point at issue is the true position, relative to adjacent surveys, of blocks 334 & 336.

These Blocks were surveyed, according to their field notes, in 1862 by S.A. Thompson. But no marked corners are called for in any of the field notes for surveys in these Blocks.

Where no marked corners are given we have to take course and distance from the beginning point.

Block 336 calls to begin at the S.E. corner of survey 20 in Blk 334. To locate this point we must start at beginning point of Blk 334, this is called for as the N.E. cor of survey 2 in Blk 327 stated to be "one mile north of the N.E. cor of sur. 1 in Blk 228 T. & S.L. Ry. Co.

Field notes of surveys in Blk 334 also call to connect with surveys in Blk G, and with Blk G 15.

As shown on the plat actual location of blocks G & G 15 on the ground, prove that these calls are contradictory, and there is no marked corner at either call.

But Blk 327 was put in by S.A. Thompson, and also Block 228 and all the T. & S.L. Blocks, and he was the original surveyor of Block 334, and is presumed to know where his own corners were actually located.

But Block G was originally surveyed by H.A. Thomson, a different surveyor and at an earlier date. And Block G 15 was put in by J.T. Gano, still another surveyor. Consequently the binding call for the beginning point of Blk 334 will be the call for the Thompson work, or the N.E. cor sur 2 blk 327.

Note. In order to show the distinction between the work of the three surveyors the S.A. Thompson work is shown in red on the map, and the Gano work and the H.A. Thomson work is shown in black.

Neither the N.E. cor of sur 2 blk 327, nor the N.E. cor of sur 2 1 Blk 228 is a marked corner. But 327 calls to begin at the N.W. cor of sur 4 in Blk 228

Now Blks 228, 229, 230, & 231 were all put in by the same surveyor at the same time, and all call for each other, and the individual surveys start at 1 and connect through the block to 36.

On looking over the field notes of this chain of surveys we find no marked corners called for till we reach Block 231, here we find a row of original marked corners called for and these corners have been all identified on the ground by several surveyors. If there were only one corner there might be some ground for further investigation, but when find so many, and each confirming the other, we see at once that this is not only the "footsteps of the original surveyor", but from the position and connection of these corners that they must have been intended as a base from which his other work would start.

To locate Block 334 or any survey in it we start at any one of these original corners in Block 231, and run course and distance through the chain of connected Blocks and surveys to the N.E. cor sur 2 Blk 327, the beginning point for Blk 334 and through that Blk by Course and distance for surveys in that Block and on through 336 for surveys in that Block. This position of these surveys is shown in red on the map.

"This is the original position of these surveys as called for by Thompson in his field notes and run out from original corners on the ground

The position of the Gano work relative to the Thompson work is shown by the black lines on the map.

There is but one marked corner for the Gano work, the S.W. corner of sur 1 in Block G 1.

This corner was actually made on the ground by Gano and can be, and has been identified. He calls for a rock mound about 950 varas from "Stairway Peak", and another bearing on "Iron mountain". Gano also filed with the Land Office a topographic sketch which shows stairway peak as a long ridge or back bone running N.W. and a valley between it and iron mountain.

When you reach the old rock mound which bears as called for from Stairway Peak, you see this valley and across it stand the only two iron mountains anywhere in that country, side by side, and the larger mountain stands as called for by Gano. The peculiar steps that rise from the top of Stairway Peak at once suggest the name and identify the call.

To go on a mile and a half east and nearly two miles south to reach the N.E. corner of 36 in Block 237 as run from Thompsons corners, brings you

B3



across the divide with the ridges running south east not northwest as shown in Gano's topographic sketch, and there is no "Stairway Peak", no rock mound and you can not see Iron mountain.

Another proof of the Gano corner is that he recites that he ran north one mile and then took a certain course. This course will run through Black Gap, the only practicable route to the mouth of the Maravillas where he was headed.

The relative position of this Gano corner to the Thompson work was given by Mr. Hunnicut in his resurvey of the Thompson Blocks.

Gano started from the N.W. cor of sur 1 in Blk 22 G.H. & S.A.

I reran this connection after Mr. Hunnicut had made his survey and was thoroughly satisfied with the identification of the Gano corner. On comparing my run with Hunnicut's I found we were remarkably close together.

I connected with the N.W. cor sur 24 Blk 231 on the way to the Gano corner and this connection is shown on the map.

In May 1881 Gano and Thompson met at the mouth of the Maravillas, intending to do their work together, but the night after Gano and he met, a rise in the river washed away Gano's boats and outfit and he had to abandon his work for a time. This Thompson stated to me. In reply to an inquiry from the Land Office Mr. Thompson said that Gano told him he had put in the S.W. cor sur 1 Blk G, but he, Thompson had never been to it nor seen it. So when Thompson calls for the Gano corner he calls for a point unknown to him but stated to be at a certain place, whereas it is found at another place on the ground. A call of this kind will not hold over course and distance from Thompson's own corners.

The Gano work put in from his corner will conflict with the Thompson work some 2977 varas east and west and 3373 varas north and south, and the Gano being the earlier survey will hold the land and the Thompson work will lose.

Block G 1 begins at the Stairway Peak corner and runs 20 miles north and then 13 miles east, and then south.

Block G 15 begins at the N.W. cor sur 200 in G 1, and runs course and distance as shown.

Block G 14 begins at the S.E. corner of sur 83 in G 1 and runs course and distance as shown.

Block G 18 begins at the N.E. cor sur 40 in Blk G 15 and runs course and distance.

Block G 20 begins at the S.E. cor sur 68 Blk G 18 and runs course and distance.

This makes Block G 15 and Block G 18 conflict with Blks 334 and 336 some 3373 varas north and south all along their south line.

Block G M.K. & T.E. is stated in its field notes to have been put in by H.A. Thomson in July 1881.

On looking over the field notes of this Block we find a few marked corners called for. The nearer to the lands in question being the N.E. cor of sur 11. Where a rock mound is called for with a bearing on an old chimney & on a pointed hill close by. This corner has been identified by several surveyors on the ground, and I am satisfied from personal inspection that it is the original corner. There are some "pebble" corners called for, but an unidentified mound of pebbles has no legal bearing as any one can move it without the change being discoverable.

Hence the surveys in Blk G would be found by course and distance from this well identified corner N.E. 11. I have run north through this Blk from this Maxon Spring corner but have never made the run south, but Mr. Harmon the County Surveyor of Brewster Co. recently made the connection between Blk G 15 and the Maxon Spring corner and reports the S.E. cor of sur 145 Blk G to be by actual measurement 1340 varas north and 522 varas west of the N.E. cor of sur 47 Blk G 15, and I have so sketched it on the Map.

This leaves only 1340 varas between Blk G and Blk G 15, instead of nearly three miles according to the Thompson work. Again Blk G being the older the Thompson work will lose.

There is still one Block to be considered, that is Blk 244 T. & S.L. put in by Thompson in Oct. /81 according to his field notes.

He calls to begin his Block 2 1/2 miles north and 9 miles east of the Maxon Spring corner in Blk G as above described, and marks his corner "E".

It will be seen on the map that he has three corners in a row marked "E" "A3", and "B3", and another marked "A" 5 miles west of B3.

I have never been to these corners and do not know whether they can be found, but if found and identified they would of course control Block 244 in spite of the calls to connect with Blk G, and judging from the conflict below, they may be one to two miles out of place. I put this Block in pencil as it may have to be moved.



Brewster North

Sketch File No. 16

Brewster County

R. S. Dod's report on invest-  
igation of County Surveyors Records

dated June 17, 1940

Bascom Gile Com'r

W. L. von Rosenberg  
File

descriptive: To find relative  
position on the ground of  
Blocks 334 & 336

Counter 15648

ORIGINAL SENT IN  
BY STOVILL  
COPIED & RETURNED

W.S.



I believe this covers the ground as to the relative position of the lands in question except the conflict with the "D" Blocks.

These blocks originate in Terrell County and there are not sufficient field notes in the Office here to settle their beginning points &c. But some years ago I had to run out Blk D 10 and found that the S.W. corner of the Block would be something over two miles across the Rio Grande in old Mexico. This would be a presumption of a conflict with surveys south of the D Block about as shown on the County map of Brewster Co.

In order to mark out on the ground surveys in Blk 334, the starting point can be fixed from the N.W. Hunnicut corner of survey 200 G12.

It might be better to rerun the connection with Maxon spring corner, and to locate the Thompson corners of 244, and then run out any surveys in 334 or 336 from this starting point and bring the lines of conflicting blocks through where necessary.

I may not have made this matter entirely plain, as it is somewhat complicated and may have omitted some data that are so familiar to me that I take for granted that they are well known. If any further explanation is needed write me and I will try to supply it.

As a number of legal points come up in this case I would suggest that you submit the matter to some competent land lawyer before taking action on this report.

Respectfully submitted

*R. L. Dod*

Surveyor  
Alpine Texas

JUN 12 1940

REFERRED TO MAPS

B5



Locate sections  
in Belk's G1

G14-

G15'

G20

G21

G24

all brown

T+St. G.

J.A. Thompson

Corner

beginning N.W.

Cor. Sec 1 - Blk 234

{ S E on 23<sup>Sec 26</sup> }  
{ S W " 230<sup>Sec 31</sup> }  
{ N. W. " 235<sup>Sec 4</sup> }