

Hon. J. J. Groce
Com. Gen. Land Office
Austin, Texas.

Surveyor's Office
Tarrant Co. Texas
12th. Feby 1876

Sir: Your communication
of the 1st. ult. in relation to the survey on
the Colorado R. in the N. W. part of this Co.
received; but as you have assumed that
the apparently joint cor. of No. 14th & 15th
was actually established on the ground
with two live oak bearings identical with
the calls in field notes of these two surveys,
I respectfully submit to you the fact that
the cor. described in field notes of No. 14th & 15th
does not exist. I have spent several
weeks altogether, (some times accompanied by
4 or 5 hands who live in that section) in
diligent search, not only for the corner in
question, but for any cor. on the river from
the H. G. Cook, or lower cor. of the Hargrove sur.
up to the Bowditch sur. in Lampasas Co.
The lower cor. of Russell league No. 8 is the
last cor. on the R. (running up) that can
Counter 16737

to found and that has only one bearing standing which was most likely for the Hargrove.

Since my ineffectual effort to find any corner whatever on the R. above No. 8 coupled with my knowledge of the Country and the fact that the surveyor failed to give the meanders of the river and gave bearings at the outer corners, I am forced to the conclusion that the surveyor who located the surveys from No. 8 to No. 16 inclusive never was on the ground at all; but plotted the whole thing. The country for a mile or two out from the R. is almost impenetrable steep rocky cliffs overhang the river for miles. It would be much easier to chain right along the bank of the R. than to get up on the bluff. Several of the surveys give post Oak bearings when there is no such timber on the river and I have never been able to find a man who ever saw one there.

To recapitulate: The surveyor did not give the meanders of the river. If the surveys were made it would have been much the easiest to chain along the bank of R. in which case the meanders would have

been given. No calls for crossing creeks when there are three large ones. The call for Post Oak bearings when no such timber grows on^{or} near the bank of the Colorado in this County. The call for bearings at the outer corners when it was customary, at that time, for the surveyor to make only the river corners. And last of all, no person, not even those who have lived in that section of country for 25 years, has ever seen a corner or anything that resembled one. Hence I assume that none of the corners of No. 14 or No. 15 were ever made on the ground.

In your letter of 1st. ult. you say that because the upper Cor. of No. 14 and the lower Cor. of No. 15 give the same bearings therefore they must be one and the same, unless the two corners can be found. I now respectfully ask your ruling as to the propriety of placing the 1200m. vacancy between No. 14 ^{and} No. 15 in view of the fact that there are no corners as described in field notes of these two sur^s. either on the river or off of it. That such a vacancy exists is a fact. Where must it be? I will state further that that whole region of Country is almost valueless, and hence litigation is not expected. There are

three poor emigrants squatted on the supposed
vacancy between No. 14 ^{and} 15 - Ford, Patterson
and Patterson. They want pre-emptions there
if they can get them; but don't ^{want} to have surveying
done unless they know that you will receive the
work at the Gen. Land Office.

File
(27)
Your early attention to this matter is
respectfully invited and will be gratefully
acknowledged -

Very Respectfully
J. T. Mobley
Sur. Burnett Co.

The Commissioner is willing to receive the surveys of the
above Pre-emptionists and pay them on the strength of the sur-
veys.

J. T. Mobley Statement,
Surveys on Colorado R.,
In N.W. Corner of County
Dated February 12, 1876.

Sketch File No. 27 (6)
Burnett County.
J. T. Mobley