

February 20, 1936

Mr. John Baker,
1301 Esperson Bldg.,
Houston, Texas.

Dear John:

I am dictating this letter from memory, as I may be confined the remainder of the week to my room as a flu convalescent.

As none of the original marks of the Jas. McGahey can be identified with certainty, I am persuaded the position in which it is held on the ground by the owners will prevail. According to my information the survey has belonged to one family nearly one hundred years, and during that ownership it has been held in its present position.

The map of 1841, drawn by H. L. Upshur in accordance with the law that required the district or county surveyor to compile it, should be accepted as giving the McGahey its true position in relation to other surveys, unless, as stated, the survey has been held all those years in a different position. My information, however, is that it is held on the ground in the same position as the surveyors of the map of 1841 had before their records not in the Land Office, as the field notes of the Green Blount, and the district surveyor having worked in that territory, knew the ground facts.

My investigations have led me to the conclusion that the James T. White survey, and probably the survey lying north of it, occupy their original Mexican locations from their west boundaries eastward to include their present areas. Approximately three labors were dipped off the east end of each survey, leaving about four labors of each certificate subject to location elsewhere. The Mexican grants not perfected were for twenty-five labors, the Texas grants are for twenty-six labors. These twenty-six labor certificates could not well have been fitted to twenty-five labor surveys.

Our Mr. Stevenson, employed under an A & of the present

Mr. John Baker

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Legislature for such purpose, will take up in a few days your surveys in Chambers County made under applications to lease, and I expect to go into the case with him and the Chief Draftsman at the earliest practicable moment.

Very truly yours,

Commissioner.

JHW-ewr
dictated over telephone

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