

Childress, Texas Nov. 1909.

Mon. J. T. Robison,
Commr. General Land Office,
Austin, Texas.

Dear Sir:--

We, the undersigned, citizens of Childress County, Texas, would respectively state that we are well acquainted with the County lying along and in the vicinity of North Pease River in the counties of Hall, Cottle, and Childress; that we know that, the lands surveyed for and now occupied by M. S. McKimney viz: Survey No.1 S.F. 3287, survey No.3 S.F.3288, survey No. 4 S.F.3289 and survey No. 5 S.F.3290 all in Block S58, and survey No. 2 West S.F.353 (formerly Ed McCoy) and survey No. 2 East S.F.353 (formerly Ed McCoy) now occupied by Robert Turner, all of Hall County, Texas; are very rough and broken, being composed, almost wholly, of high narrow ridges, deep cañons, breaks, rough draws, and dry creeks; that there is only a very small area of these lands that is susceptible of cultivation and this only in detached bodies; that this land is absolutely dry having no living water, and that they can only be classified as dry grazing.

We know that these said parties caused a survey of these lands to be made and that the field notes forwarded the General Land Office many years ago when no state lands in this vicinity were appraised for more than one dollar per acre.

Signed W. L. Underwood President J. J. Land
F & M State Bank, Childress
" S. P. Britt President, Board of Directors, City National Bank, Childress, Tex.
J. J. Land
B. H. Parker

Sworn to and subscribed before, this _____ day of
November A. D. 1909.

Notary Public, Childress Co., Texas.

Childress, Texas, Nov. 1909.

Hon. J. T. Robison,
Commr., General Land Office,
Austin, Texas.

Dear Sir:--

I would be pleased to say, regarding the character of the lands described in the enclosures herewith that I endorse all which Mr. McKimney sets forth in his letter to you of this date.

I have owned, for a period of about ten years, a small pasture adjoining the McKimney lands, working it constantly and am very familiar with the character of the lands in the vicinity.

The lands which Mr. McKimney desires to purchase are unlike those surveys bordering immediately on North Pease River, the latter having generally large and very fertile river valleys which renders them valuable, while the former are from the river in the hills and breaks.

I have bought lands here of about the character of these in question paying from one to four dollars per acre. I have survey No. 2 east S.F.353, the field notes of which you have lately approved and which is appraised at \$8.00 per acre. This land is all rough and broken with no farming land on it.

I would respectfully ask you to reconsider the appraisal of these lands. I trust that you may be able to re-appraise them in accordance with their character and with the price other lands in this vicinity are selling at.

Yours very truly,

Sworn to and subscribed before me, this _____ day of
November A. D. 1909.

Notary Public, Childress Co., Texas.

Childress, Texas Nov. 1909.

Hon. J. T. Robison,
Commr., General Land Office,
Austin, Texas.

Dear Sir:--

I would be pleased to submit the following and the inclosures herewith, considering the character, topography, and appraisement of the lands now occupied by me, and the field notes of which were approved, very lately, by you.

Believing that you are not familiar with the character of these lands when you appraised them, I have taken the liberty to show it by the affidavits of myself and others who are very familiar with all of the lands in that immediate vicinity, having worked over them for many years. I had a survey of these lands made and the field notes properly made and returned to the General Land Office about eight years ago, when lands here were being appraised at one dollar per acre. I made frequent efforts to secure the approval of these field notes by the Commissioner but was unable to do so until you so kindly took up the matter a few weeks since.

Of course I have had the use of these lands for many years and they were exemp from payment of any lease or taxes, but upon a maximum estimate of ten cents per acre lease and yearly payment of taxes would not, in the eight years which I have occupied this land, amount to one dollar per acre, and you, I believe, will admit that it was through no fault of mine that I failed to secure this land for the one dollar per acre.

This land is all of the property which I possess and I have spent several hundred dollars in surveying and in my futile effort to secure the approval of the field notes so that I could apply to purchase.

These lands are nearly all rough and broken with no living water anywhere upon them. I have also spent more

than one thousand dollars in improving this property. These improvements consist of fence, wells, wind mills, and buildings. I did all this feeling sure that I was legally correct in my location and that my other interests would be protected by the Commissioner.

To purchase these lands at the present appraisement w would cost me about twelve thousand dollars more than they could possibly be sold at at the present time upon a cash basis. We believe that these lands cannot have a greater cash value of more than three or four dollars per acre, including the improvements.

I am pleased to enclose you herewith a letter from the manager of the Shoobar ranch (now owned by the Swifts of Chicago) offering lands of a similar character to Mr. Robert Turner for \$2.50 and \$3.⁰⁰ per acre. The lands adjoining the lands in question are assessed at full value \$3.50 per acre.

I would therefore kindly ask you to kindly reconsider this matter of appraisement taking into account the showing I have made herewith and the vested rights which it seems to me ought to bwrong to me by reason of my efforts to comply with the law and have appraisement in force eight years ago.

If you would care to secure further information regarding the character of these lands and would send some fair and competent man here to inspect them, I would gladly meet all of the attendant expenses. I would say further that the Poilevent lands bordering immediately upon Pease River have very often large and very fertile river flats causing these surveys to sell at a large figure. This does not hold on the lands in this immediate vicinity which are located back from the river as are mine.

Very truly yours,

Sworn to and subscribed before me, this 22d.day of
November A. D. 1909.

Notary Public, Childress Co., Texas.