

C O P Y

April 22, 1949

Mr. Bascom Giles,
Commissioner, General Land Office,
Austin, Texas

Dear Mr. Giles,

With reference specifically to corrected field notes for surveys 14 and 15, Block #25, H. & T. C. R.R. Co., Tom Green County, and with reference generally to the entire H. & T. C. R.R. Co. Systems in Tom Green, Irion, Sterling, Coke and Reagan Counties, I will advise as follows:

The original field notes of the H. & T. C. surveys in these counties were written by M. J. Doyle. These were office surveys and no corners were ever set on the ground. A few connections were run for Mr. Doyle by C. D. Foote, the first surveyor of Tom Green County, but it was not then, nor has it ever been since, considered a ground survey.

In the early eighties, the H. & T. C. R.R. Co. began to sell these lands to settlers. In as much as the surveys had never been located on the ground, the Railroad Company could not show these early buyers their lands, and as a consequence, it became necessary to survey the entire system.

A surveyor by the name of Stephen Turner was delegated to do this work. Turner established headquarters in Tom Green County, and proceeded to survey all the H. & T. C. Lands in this area. He set corners on the ground and witnessed many of the corners to bearing trees and mountains. He prepared field notes and plats, and made all preparations for the filing of these notes in the Land District and in the General Land Office.

Mr. H. B. Tarver was then District Surveyor of the Tom Green Land District, and an argument arose between Mr. Tarver and the H. & T. C. R.R. Co. about the fee that Mr. Tarver was to charge for appointing Mr. Turner as deputy district surveyor and to record the field notes in the district records.

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This argument continued for several years, and finally all negotiations ended, and the field notes of the Turner surveys were never recorded.

In the meantime most of the lands had been sold to individuals and since that time all the H. & T. C. lands have been sold to individuals and corporations.

Since no other monuments, except the Turner corners marked the location of these surveys, they were occupied on the Turner locations, and are still being occupied on these same Turner corners, even to this day.

Since the time that the Turner Corners were placed on the ground, all resurveys have been made from the Turner work, and the General Land Office has issued patents and deeds of acquittances based on these resurveys of the Turner locations. I have many letters in my files, stating that this has long been the policy of the land office. I have written many field notes based on a resurvey of the Turner work. These notes have been approved by your office, and either patents or deeds of acquittances have been issued. This is true for all surveyors who have operated in this area.

Mr. Sheriffs is familiar with this situation, as is Mr. Campbell and Mr. Von Rosenberg.

In the area adjacent to surveys 14 and 15, Block #25, survey #16 has been patented on a resurvey of the Turner work. The Northeast $\frac{1}{2}$ of section 16 was patented in 1924 on corrected field notes by J. J. Goodfellow, and the Southwest $\frac{1}{2}$ of this same survey was patented in 1909 on corrected field notes by H. M. Garden. Both resurveys tie to the Turner corners.

The south line of the J. D. Robertson, S. F. 13901, and the south line of the J. W. Green, S. F. 13909, is located on the north line of Block 25 as established by Stephen Turner. These located vacancies lies immediately south of the Phillip Arnold survey #1, and were patented in 1925. Please refer to Land Office Map of Tom Green County, April 3, 1942.

My clients, the Johnson Estate, have the north lines of surveys 14 and 15 in Block 25 fenced on the Turner north lines of these two surveys. This fence has been on this location for a long time, and they desire to secure deeds of acquittances for these corners and this fence only.

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They have never claimed nor do not now claim any part of the westward extension of the Robertson and Green vacancies lying south of the south line of Survey #3 in the name of John W. Blue.

I have copies of most of the Stephen Turner maps. These maps are quite old and do not print well. I have, however, had a print made of Block 25, and it is enclosed herewith.

I will appreciate it if you will approve these field notes at an early date.

Very truly yours,

H. L. George

cc; J. Willis Johnson Jr.

Olin Blanks

SKETCH 32
File No. _____

COKE County

RE TURNER CORNERS

Filed Apr. 28, 1949

BASCOM GILES, Com'r

W.S.
File Clerk

For Original
see Tom Green
sk File #72

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