

State of Texas. Austin, 3-27-1901.

Hon. Charles Rogan,

Commissioner of the General Land Office,
Austin, Texas.

Dear Sir:- I herewith hand you a sketch showing in full the result of recent surveys made by me, as State Surveyor, under your appointment in Crockett county, Texas.

The West corners of survey #4, Block MN furnished the most certain data from which to locate Blocks QR and ST, as these corners are fully identified as made by the locating surveyor before he located Blocks Q.R. and ST. The corners made by the same surveyor in locating Blocks OP and UV cannot be used as a guide in determining the position of Blocks QR and ST, because the locating surveyor made an error in his base line at the S.E. corner of survey #19 in Block OP, his line swinging to the left $1^{\circ}16'$ as shown by the East corners of #19 Block OP. That a similar error was continued for several miles along his base line West from the N.E. corner of survey #19, Block OP into Block UV is evident from the position of the corners which I found and identified by the descriptions returned with the original field notes. The distance West from the N.E. corner of #19 Block OP to the North corners of #67 and #91 same block indicates the surveyor made an error in his "tally". Either of the above errors would cause the locating surveyor to mistake the position of the corners in Block OP and UV as related to the position of the corners in Blocks QR and ST which he had previously located. Hence the corners in Blocks OP and UV cannot correctly indicate ^{the} position of Blocks QR and ST.

The earth mound at the S.E. corner of survey #29 Block 46 University of Texas land cannot be identified and the irregular position of other corners in the Block furnish conflicting testimony as to the true position of this corner. Since any position which could be assumed as the correct N.E. corner of survey #29 could be called in question and evidence introduced tending to show it had a different position I regard this call as less certain than the calls of the surveys in Block ST for Block QR and the calls of the surveys in Block QR for Block MN, these Blocks having all been located by the same surveyor August 14th to 17th, 1880.

Attached to and made a part of my report I return explanations, and of Mr. E.M. Powell, who, I am reliably informed acted for himself and as agent for others in locating the certificates for the land in blocks AB, -CD, -EF, -GH, -IJ, -KL, -MN, -OP, -QR, -ST, -UV, -WX, -and YZ. The surveys made by me do not furnish complete data as to the amount of excess which is in Mr. Powell's locations, but I am convinced the surveys were made excessive, as Mr. Powell intended they should be, for in each instance where I found a corner by running the line of one section the distance was found excess as shown on sketch. Thompson & Donald, the present county surveyor of Crockett county informed me that Mr. Powell claims that the rock monument which I have shown in the West line of survey #10 Block UV is the original N.W. corner of survey #91 Block OP; And relying upon this monument as such, he includes 805 yds. of excessive distance from the N.E. corner of survey #19 to the N.W. corner of survey #91 Block OP.

CHARLES ROGAN, COMMISSIONER.
J. J. TERRELL, CHIEF CLERK.

General Land Office,
State of Texas. Austin,

C. R. #2-3-27-1901.

Mr. Powell's letters are calculated to assert this construction is the correct one. Since this construction is contradicted by a series of corners described by the locating surveyor it cannot be the correct one, but the statement indicates an enormous and unreasonable amount of excessive distance was intentionally included in the surveys located by Mr. Powell - aggregating an area of about thirty sections of land above what was authorized by the certificates. I am,

Yours respectfully,

W. K. Twichell
State Surveyor.

Examined and approved
this 27th day of March 1901.

Charles Rogan
Comm'r G. L. O.

General Land Office,
State of Texas. ~~XXXXXX~~ Austin, ~~XXXXXX~~

W.D. Twichell,
Austin, Texas.

Dallas, Texas, Mar. 19th, 190.

Dear Sir:- Accept my thanks for your letter of 16th inst. which kindly gives me an opportunity to go over the facts with you in regard to the field work you have just finished in Crockett county.

You suggest a short mile between the N.E. cor. of 19 and the quart corner in block O.P. The fact is that all the surveys in O.P. and U.V. are a little long from East to West in order to correspond with the surveys in the great block of University Land in the North edge of Crockett Co. The south line of the University Land from block 56 to S.W. cor of block 51 was carefully traced and most of the corners found, before any surveys were made in blocks O.P.; Q.R.; S.T. or U.V. and they were all long; and the surveys in O.P.; Q.R.; S.T. and U.V. were made to correspond.

There has been several determined efforts by individuals to open up a strip between these blocks; one effort was made when Hall was Com'r. and a very persistent one made when Baker was Com'r.

When the surveys of blocks O.P.; Q.R.; S.T.; U.V. and others were made; it was taken or accepted as a fact that there was a considerable surveying done on the original locations of the University Land in the North edge of the county, and it was found to be so; also it was accepted as a fact that there was but one corner built when University blocks 29; 30; 31; 32 and 33 were put in; therefore O.P.; S.T.; U.V. W.X.Y.Z. &c. were put in, the idea was to steer clear of 29; 30; 31; 32 and 33 University Land. After all the aforesaid blocks had been returned to the Gen'l Land Office then the office figuring for vacancies began. I am of the opinion ^{that no one} believes that the locator who puts in the strips East and North of University blocks 31 and 32 was ever within ten miles of the land.

I am of the opinion ~~XXXXXX~~ that the present owners know that the land was never located on the ground; like all the rest of us they bought cheap and took chances in many places. I think it would be too bad to strain or over strain everything in the favor of the B. Land Co. against those settlers; that is to say give the B. Land Co. the benefit of all the doubts and to throw all the fractions against the settlers would not be best. Now truthfully I am in a position where I do not see how I can be hurt in this matter; on the contrary ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ the short mile you mention, ^{or} ~~are~~ the long mile prevails I will surely get 640 acres in each survey and if there is much change I am sure to get some of these costly wells that are in S.T.; O.P. &c.; I have not got a dollars worth of improvements. But S.E. Couch's home where he has been living more than ten years, in block S.T. may come my way; Couch has several other wells and windmills. Henderson J.W. has several wells in O.P. none of which cost him less than \$2000.00 Robert Massie's home and four windmills tanks and wells; besides Shannon and many others: One of Shannon's well and outfits worth at least \$5000.00; some or all of these must fall my way; this may throw a cloud over your thought of my sincerity; for would I not like some of these valuable things; or I must have something that I have not shown-Not so- The only thing I am

CHARLES ROGAN, COMMISSIONER.
J. J. TERRELL, CHIEF CLERK.

General Land Office,
State of Texas. Austin,

interested in is to quiet the people if it can be leagly and correctly done. I know well where the original corners are on U.V.; O.P; S.T.&c. and how they can be moved is more than I can understand. Doubtless you went to the original corners of survey No. 1; Bl'k. S.T.

How can that be moved.

Did you run a line from Old Ft. Lancaster to block S.T.? That line has been run by U.G. Taylor and serveral other surveyors of recognized ability and all those ranches, wells fences &c. have been built with reference to lines that they established. Of course you saw Mr. McAuley's home place on Bl'k. 31 University; and you must know that those two wells and two artificial ponds and windmills did not cost less than 6. or 8 thousand dollars. I would be pleased to learn what you found on the ground.

Yrs. Respty.

E. M. Powell

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CHARLES ROGAN, COMMISSIONER.
J. J. TERRELL, CHIEF CLERK.

General Land Office,

State of Texas. Austin, 3^d 21st 1901.

Mr. E. M. Powell,

Dallas, Texas.

Dear Sir:- The facts concerning what was done by the party locating blocks O P, U V, Q R and S T as set forth in your favor of the 19 inst. are of considerable importance. However if they are made from hear say they could not affect the evidence upon the ground. That I may better know what weight to give your statement please tell me if you were with the surveying party which made these locations and in what capacity you served. If you were not with the party please give me the source of your information. Any further light which you can give will be carefully considered.

Yours truly,

W. D. Twichell

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CHARLES ROGAN, COMMISSIONER.
J. J. TERRELL, CHIEF CLERK.

General Land Office,
State of Texas. Austin,

Dallas, Texas, 22nd March 1901.

Mr. W. D. Twichell,
Austin, Texas.

Dear Sir:- Your letter of 21st this month is at hand. I hereby state that during the time that the original surveys were made for Blocks O.P.; Q.R.; S.T.; U.V.; W.X.; Y.Z. and others ^{in Crockett Co} that I was with the locating party in the capacity of employer of all concerned in the work, and took an active part in making the surveys, doing anything from transmitman to teamster I met the locators of the University land at that time in the field, Capt. Holt ~~being~~ at the head of the locating party, and their compassman, Barton, were very kind and friendly to me.

Yours Respty,

E. M. Powell

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ES ROGAN, COMMISSIONER.
RRELL, CHIEF CLERK.

General Land Office,

State of Texas. Austin, 3rd 25th 1901.

Mr. E. M. Powell,

Dallas, Texas.

Dear Sir:- After carefully considering your favors of the 19th and 22nd inst. I wish to say, your statements do not prove I am wrong in stating there is a short mile in block OP, when such fact is indicated by corners upon the ground. A surveyor does not do as he intends when he makes an actual error.

I regret I have not had the privilege of meeting you and of going over this matter fully, with you.

Yours respectfully,

W. D. Twichell.

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