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805 SAN ANGELO NATIONAL BANK
BUILDING, SAN ANGELO, TEXAS

San Angelo, Texas
May 2, 1934

RECEIVED
MAY 3 1934
REFERRED TO COMR.

Hon. J. H. Walker
Commissioner General Land Office
Austin, Texas

Dear Mr. Walker:

I have just returned from a trip to Fort Davis and Marfa, where I met, at the former place, Mr. Harold Thompson, son of the old time surveyor, S. A. Thompson, and at the latter place Judge Metcalfe of the law firm of Mead & Metcalfe. Your letter to them had the effect of a "passport fully paid up," and they gave me access to all the records of S. A. Thompson, including a field book and volumn after volumn of correspondence. These were all at Marfa, out in a coal shed. I had a transfer truck to load everything and put it in my room at the Paisano Hotel, where I worked eighteen hours per day until everything had been examined.

I am sorry to state that I found no correspondence nor field book covering the work of S. A. Thompson through Blocks "OP" and "UV", Crockett County. I found one field book which is No. 1 and the work contained in it begins four miles west of the extreme northeast corner of Block 53, University Land, Schleicher County. He follows the block east to the corner, then south to the southeast corner, and also makes ties for a few miles west of the southeast corner of University Blocks in Schleicher County. Then he describes a line southeasterly to Willow Springs on Dry Devil's River. He picks up then and starts again about three miles south of the northeast corner of Block 53, University Land, Schleicher County, and runs east and north-

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east over the head waters of the South Concho River. At the close of this book he says "continued in Book 2." Now this book 2 is the very book we have secured through Mr. Hefner at Dallas, and is also the book so earnestly desired by Thompson when he wrote to Mr. E. M. Powell in Dallas in 1889, but never received. Considering the identification by Thompson of the original corners of University Land in Schleicher and Irion Counties of considerable importance, especially as his notes conform as closely to what we find at the present, I arranged, for a fee of \$10.00, with a portrait photographer at Marfa to make twenty-four pictures of this book, and have therefore brought this record as it was originally written back with me.

The letters, which were written in longhand along in the '81, '82 and '83's, and copied by the old processes, were almost illegible. Most of these letters were written by E. L. Gage at Fort Davis, and directed to Powell and Gage, Dallas, Texas. My hope in reading these letters was to find an explanation of the trouble the locating surveyor must have had when he surveyed Blocks "OP" and "UV", trying at the same time to tie same into the south line of University Land, Crockett County, especially the southwest corner of Block 51. In many of the letters I could distinguish the word "Crockett", but strain as I did I could never get the thought Gage was writing about. However, if it should come to a show down I believe these old tissue paper sheets could be treated in some way, and an expert could probably study and make out everything.

I copied while in my room ten of these letters, and I herewith inclose them for whatever they might be worth in our search for the truth down in Crockett County. I have full description as to the volumn where they can be found by Mr. Metcalfe, and if we need them in any other form, for instance certified, this can be done without very much trouble.

No record could be found substantiating the fact that S. A. Thompson ever went back to Live Oak Creek to re-run his old line for Mr. J. H. Graham of Belknap, Texas.

The surveyor who approached and taunted Thompson about finding University corner "NW 6, Block 29" related in letter of May 30, 1889 to J. H. Graham, was evidently Will H. Bonnell. Strange to say there was never a letter written and never a letter received by S. A.

No. 3 - J. H. Walker - May 2, 1934

Thompson to or from Will H. Eonnell or H. C. Barton.

In getting the photographs of the old field book I got, in addition to a print, the entire set of negatives, from which we may make reproductions in any quantity. These I will bring on my next trip to Austin.

I suggest you write to Mr. Metcalfe thanking him for the courtesy extended to me while searching this voluminous record.

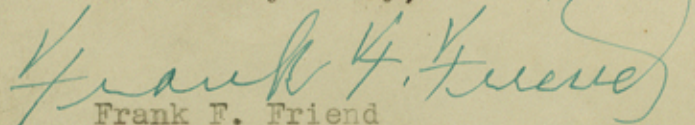
Acting upon the tip picked up in letter No. 7, that one W. J. Mosley of Midland and one Archibald Bogle, of Val Verde had done some work for the owners of G. C. & S. F. Block No. 1 on Live Oak Creek, evidently in the summer of 1888, I proceeded, after finishing at Marfa, to Del Rio, thinking that I might find some of Bogle's field books or sketches. I began early in the morning at 7 o'clock Sunday, April 29, but no record whatever of the Live Oak work by Bogle could be found in the surveyor's records at Del Rio, Texas. Some time when I am passing through Midland I will search there for some sort of record W. J. Mosley might have left.

The more I learn and the more I think of the present-day effort to establish the northwest corner of section No. 6, Block No. 29, University Land, Crockett County, on the west side of Live Oak Creek, instead of the east side of Live Oak Creek, the more I am convinced that these efforts must prove futile. I firmly believe that the G. C. & S. F. Block No. 1 is entirely a paper survey. It was made in the office from records kept by Barton when he surveyed the University Lands. Here, I think, is where Barton got lost; not in the field, but in his office calculations when he makes certain calls for the crossing of certain roads and creeks in his fieldnotes of Block No. 1, G. C. & S. F. RR. Co. land.

Also it is evident from the records found at Marfa that Bogle and Mosley built the mounds which Simpson now pleases to call "original."

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Yours very truly,



Frank F. Friend
Special Surveyor

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Sketch File No. 71.....

CROCKETT County

F.F. Friends Letter about

S.A. Thompson Correspondence
and work

Filed May 3rd - 1934.....

J. H. Walker, Comm.

C.F. Blucher

File Clerk

Descriptive: Includes copies of

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