

CULBERSON COUNTY SKETCH FILE

(34)

Affidavit by H. L. George pertaining to the 80 Mile Reservation of the T&P RR. CO. Lands located West of the Pecos River.

dated May 1, 1958

(For original see- Reeves County Sketch File No. 19)

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COPY

H. L. GEORGE

207 Central National Bank

San Angelo, Texas

May 1, 1958

Mr. Bill Allcorn, Commissioner
General Land Office
Austin 14, Texas

Dear Mr. Allcorn:

I am enclosing herewith an affidavit pertaining to the 80-mile reservation of the Texas & Pacific Railroad Company lands located West of the Pecos River.

I would like for this affidavit to be filed in the Land Office in the proper file so that it will be available to the public. I will also have copies of this recorded in the records in Reeves County and Culberson County.

Very truly yours,

H. L. George

HLG:dm

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H. L. George

207 Central National Bank Bldg.

San Angelo, Texas

STATE OF TEXAS:
COUNTY OF TOM GREEN:

During the years 1930 and 1931, I retraced all of the original survey work in the Texas and Pacific Railroad Company 80-mile reservation bounded roughly as follows:

On the East by the Pecos River;
On the West by a North and South line approximately through the city of El Paso;
On the North by the Texas-New Mexico line, which is the 32nd parallel of longitude;
On the South by an East and West line 80 miles South of Texas-New Mexico line.

Paul McCombs, who resurveyed this area under authority of the State Land Board in 1883 and 1884, accompanied me on a good portion of this work. At that time, Mr. McCombs was more than 70 years of age, but was in excellent health and was mentally very alert. Mr. McCombs and I shared the same tent for several months and we conferred daily about the Texas & Pacific Railroad Company Surveys and the work that he had done under authority of the State Land Board and the later work that he did for Wm. H. Abrams, who was Land Commissioner for the Texas & Pacific Railroad Company. Mr. McCombs stated that he worked in the 80 mile reservation a good portion of seven consecutive years from 1883 until 1890, most of which was done for Wm. H. Abrams and under direct employ of the Texas & Pacific Railroad Company.

Mr. McCombs stated that the corners he set in Blocks 57 and 56, Townships 1 and 2, Texas & Pacific Railroad Company were set in years following the work he did for the State Land Board and not at the time that he retraced the original Jacob Kuechler work and that these corners were not reported to Governor Ireland, who was Chairman of the State Land Board. These corners, he said, were set for Wm. H. Abrams.

Mr. McCombs, in my presence, identified the corners he had set for the SW and SE corners of Survey No. 43, Block 55, Township 2. He did not identify any additional corners that he had set along the South lines of Blocks 56 and 57, Township 2, and at no time did he ever identify a corner that he had set at the Southwest corner of Block 57, Township 2. He further stated that he had set only stakes along this line.

At the time that Mr. McCombs accompanied me on this survey, he had notes which he consulted. Sometimes he carried these in the field and referred to them at intervals; and sometimes he referred to them only in the evening when he had returned to camp. Mr. McCombs did not show me these notes, I therefore do not know what information he carried with him. I do know that he was very positive at all times, in his identification or rejection of a corner.

Mr. McCombs further stated that when he did the work for the State Land Board, he set several monuments of his own. He wrote these corners into the Kuechler field notes. Most of these corners were on Block lines. In later years he set additional monuments which were never written into the field notes. Mr. McCombs, also, stated that when he began to correct the Kuechler notes by adding calls, that W. C. Walsh, who was then Land Commissioner, would not permit him to call for any direction except North, South, East and West. For that reason, when one of Kuechler's original corners did not fall exactly North, South, East and West of another original corner that he computed the distance that the line would fall away from the second corner and broke the calls for adjoinder of the Surveys within the Block in such instances.

Mr. McCombs is now dead and so far as I know, I am the only living surveyor who worked with him in survey work in the 80-mile reservation. This information that I have given is important and should be made available for public use. There has already been much confusion as to what Paul McCombs actually did, and I believe this statement will clear up many of these points. It is for that reason, I make this affidavit.

Witness my hand this 1st day of May, 1958.

(signed) H. L. George

Before me, the undersigned authority on this day, personally appeared H. L. George, Known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing instrument, and acknowledged to me that he executed the same for the purposes therein expressed.

Witness my hand and seal of office this 1st day of May, 1958.

(signed) Mrs. Helen Poole

Notary Public
Tom Green County, Texas

Seal

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