

8/17/29

Silsbee, Texas.

August 14th, 1929.

Dear Sir:

Herewith submit Field Notes and Plats covering survey work done in correcting and subdividing Sections 346 and 350 Washington County Railway Company in Hardin County, Texas.

Before beginning work on these lands I went to the County Surveyor's and County Clerk's offices and obtained copies of field notes and patents to all the surveys surrounding these two sections.

These lands are located in Hardin County in what is widely known as the "Big Thicket" and are entirely covered by a dense growth of underbrush, briars and vines and this undergrowth is in most parts absolutely impenetrable and it was necessary in rerunning the lines to these surveys to cut a road through the underbrush every foot of the way before we could measure anything.

I began my investigation at the S.W. corner of the J.F. Reading survey at iron pipe in the East line of the A.E. Patton survey and just North of the Kountze-Saratoga road.

From this point I ran a line South and at 389 varas pass the S.W. corner of Sections 343 and 344, and at 1639 varas I fell 14.7 varas West of the S.E. corner of the A.E. Patton survey. This corner is witnessed as follows; a magnolia brs N 49 W 2 vrs and a magnolia brs S 8 W 2.7 vrs; the latter tree actually brs S 8 E 2.7 vrs. This being an error sometimes made in recording field notes.

From this point we ran South with a very old line at 95 varas set a stake in a thicket. This corner calls to be witnessed by a white oak brs N 42 W 10 vrs. No such timber here and after a diligent search could find no evidence of a white oak in the vicinity but the surroundings indicate that the locality had been burned over a number of years ago and no evidence would remain today to show just where the tree stood. Both sections 343 and 346 call for the corner to be 95 varas South of Patton's S.E. corner and I planted a stake there for a corner and as there is no suitable timber to mark, the corner cannot be otherwise described.

Returning to the S.E. corner of the A.E. Patton survey we ran a line West and searched for the N.W. corner of Section 346 and B.B.B. & C.R.R. Co. but no corner found as the timber is all destroyed here, so we continued our line to look for the S.W. corner of the A.E. Patton and at 2052 varas we intersected the old line 20 varas North of the corner. The corner was witnessed originally by a large pine and a magnolia. The pine has been cut but the stump is still there but the magnolia which was a small one has died and burned.

We then measured back 434 varas and set a stake for the corner of Section 346 and B.B.B. & C.R.R. Co. and measured South along an old line and at 716 varas looked for the corner of 346 but not finding anything we continued our line and at 1340 varas we intersected a very old line running West and at 1347 varas we intersect a newer line but no evidence of any corner as all the timber in this vicinity is a small young growth and not old enough to bear

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the marks of the original location of these surveys, at 1811 varas we fall 8 varas West of the old corner of Section 345 W.C.Ry Co. and Hardin County School Land. A pin Oak brs S 40 E 6 vrs and a sweet gum brs N 26 E 4 vrs.

We then measure back along the line just cut out and at 1106 varas we trim out the underbrush and find the old corner of 345 & 346 W.C.Ry Co. The records give no witness trees for this corner but the marks we found are very old and are apparently the old locators work. We looked about carefully but found no other marked trees and the distance being correct for 345 we accepted the corner as genuine.

We then measured East along a very old line and at 648 varas we find an old corner witnessed by 2 magnolias. No description in records for this corner but distance being practically correct we accepted the corner as the proper one as the age of marks indicate this to be the place originally located for the Sections 345 & 346. Finding that we are off the old lines $1/4$ of a degree we change our compass readings accordingly and run from the above named corner S $1/4$ deg. E and at 262 varas we find an old corner in a pond witnessed by 2 black gums with very old marks. The length of this line 3 varas short of its call but we found only the one corner here.

We then ran N 89 deg 45' E along an old marked line and at 1306 varas we passed a corner, line leading South. This corner had no witness trees marked but the line leading from it was an old line and the distance was correct for Section 345. Continuing our line at 2077 varas set a mark and looked over the ground carefully but evidence of a line or corner found there.

Being unable to find the S.E. corner of 346 we returned to the S.E. corner of the A.E. Patton and made another search for the S.W. corner of Section 343 but without finding any evidence of its witness tree we measured a random line N 89 deg 45' E for a distance of 2460 varas the call for Sections 343 & 346. The distance brought us to an open space from which all timber had been removed and no evidence found of a line or corner. This corner is set out in field notes as 218 varas West and 23 varas South of the S.W. corner of the T.P. Kuykendall survey so I made a careful search of the surroundings and found a corner for the Kuykendall and Section 343. I found a corner on a line running East and West and a line running North and at the intersection of the lines I found a blown down dead pine and cut into the heart of it and find an old X mark. From this point I ran a line West and at 191 varas pass North of my mark for 2460 varas and at 334 varas I find an old corner marked for the N.W. corner of the H.J. Cravey survey. This survey calls for a pin oak and a white bay as witness trees but the marked tree at the corner is a black gum with an old X. After searching carefully over several acres of ground in the vicinity I was unable to find but the one line and corner so accepted the corner as genuine, concluding that the original witness trees had disappeared as the timber is small and would leave little trace of their existence after falling down. At 29 varas South of the corner found for Cravey I find an old stake and a white bay marked with old X mark for the corner of 343 & 346. This corner is called in field notes to be 23 varas South of the Cravey corner and is only 2284 varas the S.W. corner of 343 instead of 2460 varas.

We ran from this corner of Sections 343 & 346 a line S $1/4$ E and at 579 varas we found the original N.E. corner of a ewp acre survey made for the B.B.B. & C.R.R. Co., both of its witness trees still visible, a pin oak and a white bay, the latter being dead and broken down but old marks plain.

We then measured the old line of the B.B.B. & C.R.R. Co. 1344 varas to its N.W. corner. Original witness trees gone but found a stake and marked trees

for this corner. From this corner we measured S 1/4 E along an old line and at 303 varas we intersected the line ran for the South line of No 346 at 168 West of the mark set. Here we found an old corner marked for Nos. 346 & 348.

We find from the lines actually marked out on the ground and the corners set up that No. 346 is in conflict by measure with H.J. Cravey 176 varas and with B.B.B. & C.R.R. Co. 168 varas. After a careful search of all the surroundings we could find only the lines and corners as set out above so I had to accept the lines and corners found as being the genuine work of the locator who made the original surveys and corrections.

With the above work actually done on the ground and the corners and lines found we concluded our work on this Section 346 and began our search for No. 350.

We began our investigation of this survey at H.J. Cravey's S.W. corner which is witnessed by a white oak and magnolia. The magnolia is still standing and green with the old marks still visible but the white oak was blown down many years ago and burned but a mound of dirt still shows where it stood.

From this point we ran East along the old line to an abandoned rail road grade and on this grade we measured South 1548 varas to a point in an marked line running East and West. Searched the old line West for a considerable distance and returned to the point in tram road. At 22 varas West of the tram road we found a new corner which proved to be a subdivision of Section 348 W.C. Ry Co. From this corner we measured East and at 104 varas we found the original N.E. corner of the William Wingate survey of 916 acres. This corner witnessed by a black gum and sweet gum. Both trees dead, the black gum still standing but only decayed stump of the sweet gum remains.

Finding that all the lines in this vicinity run to my left I now changed magnetic variation plate to read 9 deg E and ran East and 200.7 varas pass the corner marked for Sections 347 & 348 W.C. Ry Co. and at 2130 varas we set a mark and searched carefully for a line and corner but found no evidence of either but at 90 varas West of our mark I find a very old line and ran South with it and at 32 varas I found a very old corner and an old stake.

The witness trees here are a forked pin oak and a black gum both showing very old X marks.

We then returned to the N.E. corner of the Wingate survey and ran South for a distance of 1690 varas instead of 1697 and fell West of the original corner of Sections 349 and 350. This corner witnessed originally by 2 hollies and a white oak. One of the hollies is still green and standing, mkd W, the other dead and burned out but evidence still visible, the white oak is dead and down but the old X mark still plainly visible.

From this corner we ran a line East and at 2034 varas we again find the old line of Section No 353 & 354. We fell North of the old corner 32 varas. Witness trees, a pin oak and holly with very old X marks, the pin oak now dead but standing. From this point a line which is very old leads East to the N.E. corner of Section 349 but we made no search for its N.E. corner owing to the underbrush being so dense. Retraced the East line of 350 but did not find the corner of 353 & 354. This line runs North and is covered by dense underbrush

tree tops and briars making a close search for the corner a tortous piece of work.

As these surveys are not witnessed by trees in the recorded field notes the only thing to be done is to take them as they are on the ground. I found the lines short but in order to make them comply with course and distance necessitate a resurvey of all that part of the county.

Having completed the investigation of 346 & 350 as above outlined I proceeded to partition them in accordance with the Plats and Field Notes herewith.

Yours very truly,

J. M. Hyde
Licensed State Land Surveyor.

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Hardin Co Sk File

Sketch by T.M. Hyde

J.T. Robinson
Comm.

Filed Aug 17th, 1929

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2 sketches accompany this
report.

Yours very truly,

Licensed State Land Surveyor.

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