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Brownsville, Texas, June 6th 1877

Sir:

Being interested in certain lands in Hidalgo County, I address you in regard to the surveys now being made in that County by Mr. Andres Salinas, County Surveyor, and, in order that you may more clearly understand the matter, I enclose you a rough sketch of a part of the Porcion grants made in the Charter or Act of the Visit of Reynosa (Nieja) and confirmed by Act of the Legislature of Texas by act of 10th Feb. 1852 &c.

You have in the Law Office a copy of the original Act of the Visit, or Charter, of Reynosa, under and by which these Porcion grants were made, with a translation thereof, which will show the nature, quantity, and original surveys of these grants. The Royal Commissioners who executed this Charter, in 1767, first caused a survey of the Jurisdiction of the Town to be made by running four lines from the center of the Plaza to the cardinal points of the compass; then, within this jurisdiction, the individual grants and surveys of the Colonists were executed. By the Act dated August 26th 1767, the quantity of land and mode of survey of the Common and individual surveys was distinctly set out, as follows:—

To original Colonists, two leagues of ganado menor and 12 Caballerias of land

To sons of these Colonists of six years, 2 leagues ganado menor & six " " "

To the "moderns" or new settlers, two leagues of ganado menor

To the Captain a double Porcion, or 4 leagues ganado menor & 24 Caballerias,
 And each person was to have the land upon which his ranch was
 located; "these all to front on the river, and running back for
quantity, in order to accomodate a greater number, the narrow
fronts to be compensated in depth &c"; the quantity of the league
 of ganado menor and of the Caballerias both being exactly given -
 see the Act &c. And the surveys were thus executed, for instance
 look at surveys of Porcion 48, and those following to 92 inclusive:
 "48. Following the same course" (from West to East) "and the margin
of the aforesaid river" (The Rio Grande) "These were measured one
 thousand five hundred varas, which make thirty cords, which with
 an equal number on the opposite headline, and twenty five
thousand in depth, adjust an entire Porcion, it was marked off,
 and, although it contains a few cords in excess, it was
 assigned and adjudicated to Nicholas Zamora, an original
 colonist, because it was rough and heavily timbered."

Salinas, the Surveyor, however, contends that the depth
 of the Porciones should be surveyed from the line run due East
 to mark the jurisdiction and not from the River, and, as the
 river runs a long way south of east below Reynosa, the
 effect of his surveys will be to give to each porcion nearly
 twice the depth and quantity called for in the grants, and
 would be in direct conflict with the grants, which all call
 counter 26395

for "the margin of said river," and not for the line run to ascertain the jurisdiction, which is nowhere mentioned in the individual surveys. A reference to the enclosed sketch and to the record of the Act of the Viceroy will clearly expose his error. He contends that the lines run to mark the jurisdiction were base lines, and the land between the base line and the river was thrown in to the Colonists as "huecos y baldios", a piece of extraordinary stupidity, as "huecos y baldios" merely mean the hollows or arroyos and waste places, which the original surveyors crossed without including their width in their measurements.

His surveys would give to the Porciones below Reynosa a depth of from six to nine leagues each, and nearly double the quantity of the lands over the original grants. And every one of the Porciones now on this side the Rio Grande, except the eight Porciones surveyed back of the Ejidos, call for the margin of the Rio Grande and for twenty five thousand varas in depth, or five leagues, as you will see by reference to the original surveys of Porciones No 38 to 47 and 48 to 72 inclusive, Nos 73 to 80 being back of the Ejidos.

Please examine this question, and when you have done so, I have the honor to request that you will give instructions to Mr Salinas to conform to the law and to make his surveys as called for in the original grants to A²

front on the Rio Grande, and to run back 25,000 Varas, or
 five leagues, for quantity. I ask this because Mr Salinas
 is, unfortunately, entirely ignorant of his business, he cannot
 make out a set of field notes, he is ignorant of the variation of
 the needle, knows nothing of mathematics, logarithms or anything
 pertaining to surveying, but he is a very excellent man and
 a good citizen, and I would like for him to be set right
 as to his duties before the land holders in Hidalgo county are
 set by the ears and thrown into unnecessary costs and
 litigation, which, as an interested party, I earnestly desire
 to see avoided.

These old grants by Spain were run, I suppose, and as
 Maj Blucher & other competent Surveyors say, to the magnetic North.
 Please also inform Mr Salinas on this point, and the difference
 in the magnetic north of today, and of 1767 - which the enclosed
 sketch places at a little over one degree.

Very Respectfully

J. Haynes

Com Commissioner
 of the Land Office
 Austin,
 Texas.

Hidalgo Co. SK File 2

Adm'dge receipt of letter
to tell him, that the County
recorder of Hidalgo Co. has been
instructed about the propriety
of the Partition.

E. W. Perry

Ans'd Aug 4. 1877
Chas. L. Murray

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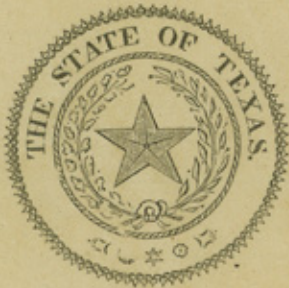
Hidalgo Co 2.

J. L. Haynes letter in re to
porcionis surveyed by An-
dres Salinas,

Dated June 6. 1877,

Case with Sk file 1

6/6/77.



House of Representatives,

Austin, Texas, March 16th 1875.

Now J. J. Croos
Commissioner

Dear Sir

I herewith hand
you rough sketches of two surveys, named "Vargas"
and "El Perdido" in Hidalgo County. I am
representing the owners of these lands, and will
at the earliest moment possible, file the field
notes. In the meantime, I respectfully protest
against the recognition, by your office, of any
adverse locations, and surveys of any character
whatsoever that may be made, upon the territory
embraced in "Vargas" and "El Perdido".

Yours Very Respectfully
Dereñiako Galvan

File N^o 2

Hidalgo County

Sketch & Protest

Filed Mar 18/75.

Rhoads Fisher,

Chf. Clk. Sketch of

"Vargas" & "El Perdido"

Grants on

W. B. Line.

count 26900