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Brownville Tex.

2/10/14  
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FEB 13 1914

Referred to Map

Hon. J. T. Robinson

Comr Genl. Land Office,

Austin Tex.

Dear Sir:- your favor of 5<sup>th</sup> inst. relative to vacancy east of La Feria, grant Cameron Co., is received, and I have decided to let the matter stand, until taking up and disposing of another phase of the question; To wit the position given the Plano Grande and La Feria grants:

I think the records of your office will show that your only authority for carrying these two grants on your official map under true north, or approximately true north course, consists of the re-surveys of the grants by H. M. Field and J. J. Cook, also a statement filed by Co. surveyor of Hidalgo Co. about 1879. Your official map, of course, is supposed to show these grants as they were originally surveyed on the ground.

I would like to ask, if it is not a fact, that the record of Spanish Tills in your office, <sup>do not</sup> show that they were all laid down with Magnetic Courses, at the date of, and for long after the date of these two grants? - 1777-? Why should the Plano Grande and La Feria grants take

any other than Magnetic courses? Do you regard the data in your office sufficient to warrant you in holding them to corrected courses? Every survey in this part of the country—and Mexico—<sup>and</sup> was laid out with Magnetic courses, at that date, for many years later: Why should the Plano Grande and La Tera be an exception? In 1748 the town of Reynosa was founded by Spanish Gov. In 1767 the land was allotted to the Soldiers and Settlers, adjacent to the town on both sides of the river. Magnetic courses were invariably used, and no sort of question has ever been raised as to that point.

In 1777 the Plano Grande and La Tera were surveyed, by the same surveyors who had, just previously surveyed the Porciones to the west, leaving a body of vacant land between the Porciones and the two grants in question, which fact is explained and the reason given, in the Orig. sur of Plano Grande.

In 1834 other locations were put in to cover this vacancy and Magnetic courses were still used.

When the Plano Grande was "denounced" it covered the vacancy referred to above, also it covered the Tera.

I think that I have stated to you that there was no survey, on the ground of the Plano Grande and La Tera at nor about the time that title issued such is the local history and report. But there was a survey, and a thorough one; the record of

which I have recently investigated and from which I have lengthy notes; The Record is in Reyesa San Antonio, Tamps. Mex. and certified copies may be had through the America Consul of Matamoros Mex. Following are the field notes, abbreviated:- Beginning at "La Puerta del Potrero de la Blanca: (See F/N. in your office) Thence East 425 cordels, a point on bank of the river called "El Corral de Jose Antonio Cavazos, where a Mesquite was marked + continuing 200 cordels more, on same course, in all 625 cordels to a Mesquite near riverbank, on the main road. (Note: 425 cordels = 21250 vs. = the width of the Plano Grande E & W. and 200 cordels = 10000 vs. = width of La Leria E & W)

Thence North, "from the exact bank of the river", 600 cordels = 30000 vs to a mesquite marked +.

Thence West 625 cordels (31250 vs.) to a Mesquite marked +, on the bank of a track, which is a little beyond the "Loma Verde". = They went no further with the survey and state in state the fact that they did not survey the west line. The survey ~~ed~~ was made by Jose Maria Tijerina for the Crown and Jose Ignacio de Treviño for the interested parties.

H.M. Field purports to have identified the "Loma Verde" described above, but nothing more. Just such a green hill, as described in Orig. Sur. may be identified as filling the description, perfectly, anywhere

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in that section of country - there are hundreds of "green hills" - when there has been rain enough to grow the weeds - scattered over a wide territory in that section. Therefore I do not regard N. M. Field's identification of the N.W. Cor. of Plano Grande as being of any value whatever. The cor. can be fixed west of a green hill and ~~west~~ east of a thicket five or ten miles from there with just as much likelihood of being correct. In fact, other surveyors have done just that thing and are just as positive of their contention as Field is of his.

This is my contention as to construction of Plano Grande & La Feria Grants:-

- 1<sup>st</sup> The courses of their lines are Magnetic.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> They - together, are entitled to 3125000. down the River - East - from from the initial point - La Puerta del Potrero de la Blanca - there seems never to have been any question as to this point - then north, magnetic, from the bank of the river, not from a "base line" - 30000 - west 3125000 & south to beginning - in other words as for original field notes.

I wish to call your attention to the fact that the above construction will give to the school fund, between 6000 and 10000 acres of land, and I wish to inquire if under an act and an appropriation by the last Legislature, if the State is not authorized to take

up and direct a survey of the grants in ques-  
tion? It seems to me that the matter is worth in-  
vestigating by the state by the state, strictly in its  
own behalf. True, it would make trouble with the  
people who are holding title to these grants. But they  
are already having that among themselves as to bound-  
aries of subdivisions of the grants. Considering the  
matter further, I will enclose the memoranda  
from the orig. Spanish field notes - of record in  
Reynosa - and a map of the La Loria and its sub-  
divisions, from an exhaustive survey of same by  
myself, as it is held on the ground - In some  
instances the subdivisions are held as per said map  
while in others they are not. It's a mixed affair, too  
long to try to explain. But the map will show you  
the so called "Base Line" and 30000 vs. north from it  
instead of 30000 vs north from the River.

I shall be glad to hear from you freely.

Yours truly

Geo. T. Drum.

Also the map shows the most northern point that  
has ever been occupied by the river, which is now  
some two miles south of its most northern old  
position, as shown at the point called the "Hlanos",  
on the map. - There are no improvements, of any  
consequence, on the north end of the grants.

Please return map & memoranda after examination

#16

~~H~~

Hidalgo Co

Geo L Crum's letter  
in. re. to vacancy ly-  
ing E. of La Fer's  
grant,

Dated 2-10-'14  
Filed, 2-13-'14 -

Sherrin Files  
Hidalgo Co

*[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text covering the majority of the page, likely bleed-through from the reverse side.]*

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