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Lubbock, Texas
July 27-1933

JUL 29 1933

REFERRED TO map.

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

Dear Sir:-

Following is a brief explanation of how I located the Block lines and corners of Blocks 15, 16 and 18, Southern Pacific Railroad surveys in Sterling, Coke and Mitchell Counties in my re-survey of these lands from Feb. 23rd to May 5th, 1933

My working data consisted of a photo-static copy of an application and plat filed with the District surveyor of the Bexar Land District by H. Wirkeland to lacte these Blocks of land. This application calls for these Blocks to adjoin and tie together and is shown by the plat accompaning the application.
I had photo-static copies of the field notes of surveys in Block 18, S.P.R.R.Co. signed by Surveyors Oscar Call and S.M.Carter. In the upper left corner of each field note is shown a sketch, showing topography and adjacent surveys. I had a working sketch from the General Land Office of Blocks 15 and 16, S.P.R.R.Co. I had a photo-static copy of a plat filed in the General Land Office showing Mr. Stephens Turner's retrace of the South Line of Block 18 in 1886. I had a photo-static copy of a plat filed in the General Land Office showing Mr. Geo. Williams' retrace of the South Line of Block 18 in May 1906.

I began my survey at the SW corner of Section 78, Block 18, S.P.R.R.Co. a stone buried in the center of the Colorado-Sterling City highway with one mesquite bearing tree as described on Mr. Geo. Williams' plat. I retraced the South Line of Block 18 eastward and identified several old corners, being stone mounds with mesquite bearings which fit the original description and also shown on the Turner and Williams plats. I retraced this South Line of Block 18 to its intersection with what I took to be the southern line of Block 15, S.P.R.R.Co.

Then I returned to the SE corner of Section 78, Block 18, this corner is marked with an iron pipe in old stone mound, with Williams' mesquite bearing trees still standing. From here I went northward, at the first mile I found two mesquites with very old marks as called for in the original field notes; I projected the line of these two corners northward to a corner which I made for the NE corner of Section 18, Block 18, turning 90 degrees to the East; at the NE corner of Section 16, Block 18 I constructed a stone mound on a rocky Bluff at the head of a ravine 240 varas west of the head of another rocky ravine. This point is unmistakeably very near where the original corner was placed. From here I turned 90 degrees to the South; at the SE corner of Section 34, Block 18, I found what I took to be the original corner. An iron pipe in old stone mound with one old mesquite bearing tree plainly marked and a large old mesquite stump in the other position. I found other corners which I took to be originals at the NE corner Section 42, NE Section 50, NE Section 51, NE Section 59 and the NE corner of Section 74.
The West line of Block 18 I placed parallel with the line one mile East. There being a wide highway along this line all trace of original marks have been destroyed.

I placed the NE corner of Section 5, Block 18 at a point which nearest fits the bends in Beal's Creek and the rocky bluff 300 varas east and the point of a hill bears SE as called for in the field notes of Section 5.

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I placed the North line of Sections 1, 2 and 3, Block 18 where it would cross the proper bends in Wild Horse Creek as called for in the field notes of Section 2.

For the North corner of Block 16 I accepted a corner made by Mr. H.W.Stoneham in line with an old fence going SE. Mr. Stoneham's map shows that he identified the original mesquite bearing tree and also two mesquites marked by Mr. Geo. Williams in 1907. I could not identify any of these mesquites although there are several old mesquites and mesquite stumps in the direction and distance called for. I placed the SW corner of Section 49, Block 16 at the foot of a hill. There is old mesquites in the vicinity called for in the original field notes but could not identify and marks. The west line of Block 16 crosses all bends called for in the original field notes for Renderbrook Creek. I retraced the west line of Block 16 as marked by Mr. Stoneham, which is also the east line of the I.L.Ellwood School File No. 8830. This line falls entirely east of the bend in Renderbrook Creek called for in the field notes of Section 36, Block 16.

For the South line of Blocks 15 and 16, I ran a straight line from where I established the SW corner of Block 16 to the corner of an old fence which has been recognized for many years as the South corner of Section 36, Block 15. This line passes over a hill called for in the field notes of Section 32, Block 15 and I placed the west corner of Section 32 the field note distance from this hill.

The east line of Block 15 follows an old fence line passing over Wilson Mountain, there are numerous old stone mounds under this fence, which are corners for the lands lying to the east of Block 15, they will be described in my field notes of these East Sections.

From the NE corner of Block 15 I ran NW following an old fence line to an iron pipe in old stone mound set by H.W. Stoneham for the NW corner of Section 7, Block 15. This line crosses the proper bends in Silver Creek. There are well marked mesquites at the NW corner of Section 7, but I think they were marked by Mr. Stoneham although he shows this as an original corner. I projected this line straight on and placed the NW corner of Section 8, Block 15, 480 varas east of the Colorado River as called for. Then set the NE corner of Section 1, Block 16, 1900 varas NE from this corner and connected a straight line to where I had previously accepted the NW corner of Block 16. This line follows very closely an old fence line. Part of this fence has been moved further south in recent years. It crosses a bend in the Colorado River approximately at the right place but seems to be too far south to fit the river and creek calls in Section 6, Block 16.

At all corners on this entire resurvey I carefully searched for all marks called for in the original field notes. Most of the corners call for a stake with mesquite bearings. It is a well known fact that the life of mesquite trees is cut short in this country by droughts and prairie fires.

The I.L.Ellwood Estate owns all lands in all three of these Blocks with the exception of Section 76, Block 18. The Heirs to the Ellwood Estate wish to have corrected field notes filed for all these Sections and pay the State for all excess where possible.

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Am enclosing a white print map showing my work in these three Blocks also a small sketch showing the Westfall surveys in Section 67, Block 18.

Am now writing the field notes for these Sections and would appreciate and changes or corrections which you might find in this work before the field notes are recorded in the County Surveyor's Records of the various Counties.

Yours respectfully,

Sylvan Saiders

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Lubbock, Texas
Feb. 23-1934

FEB 26 1934

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

REFERRED TO MAP

Dear Sir:-

For your further examination I am returning the field notes of Sections 7,8,21,22,35,36 and 49, Block 16, S.P.R.R.Co. and Sections 1,2,14,13,23,15 and 22, Block 18, S.P.R.R.Co. all in Mitchell County, Texas.
Also find enclosed a photostat of Sketch A, filed with the District Surveyor of the Bexar Land District by H.Wirkeland, April 9th, 1858. This sketch shows Blocks 15,16,17 and 18, S.P.R.R.Co. all joined together as one system of surveys. Please compare carefully the creek shown along the west line of Block 16 on Sketch A with my map.
And enclosed find a photostat of a letter to F. Girand, esq, District Surveyor of Bexar from H. Wirkeland, dated April 9th, 1858. This letter describes in detail the location of these blocks as related to each other. You will note that Block 18 calls to adjoin the western line of Block 16. I would presume that the survey was made on the ground prior to the date of this letter of application for location from the detail topograpy shown on sketch. This survey was probably made by one or more surveying parties working as one continuous survey.
And enclosed find photostats of the original field notes taken from the County Surveyors records in San Antonio of Sections 1,2,14,13,23,15 and 22, Block 18; Section 49, D.H.Snyder; and Section 49, Block 16, R.M.Thomson. Please compare sketchs in the upper left hand corner of these field notes with my map. Going south on the west line of Section 49, Block 16 the field notes call to cross a branch at 360 varas. This is a grassy flat drain with no washed channel. My NW corner of Section 49 is on the north slope of this drain, the chain carriers failed to get distance to bottom.
I am also enclosing a sketch which I have prepared showing the true facts as I found them on the ground along the west line of Block 16, the east line of Block 18 and the I.L.Ellwood School File 8830.
Enclosing a blue print made by Mr. H.W.Stoneham showing has re-survey in 1925 and 1926. He shows numerous original corners along both sides of the I.L.Ellwood SF 8830.
I could not identify any of the original calls from points marked by him as original. The first work I did was to retrace Stoneham's west line of Block 16. The west line of Section 36 as marked by him does not cross the bend in Renderbrook creek as called for in original field notes. His iron pipe and stone mound marking the SW corner of Section 22, Blk 16 is east of Renderbrook creek.
I accepted the same point as Stoneham for the NW corner of Block 16. There is old dead mesquite stumps in the direction and distances called for on Stoneham's map; but I could not identify any marks. This corner is in a small mesquite drain and could never have been but a very small distance either east or west and had mesquites in the proper direction and distance.

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There areno drains, branches of creeks along the west line of Section 7, Block 16. This is all high flat ground except the NW corner drops into a flat drain to the Northeast.
At the SW corner of Section 49, Block 16, Stoneham shows to have found the original corner in the east line of Section 25, Block 18. Notice the original sketch shows this corner of Block 16 to project into Section 25, Block 18.
The field notes call for a stake in prairie at the foot of a hill. Stonehams corner is near the top of a hill sloping to the west. Going NW from his corner 114 or 116 varas will not reach a drain where large old mesquites are growing. I moved 170 varas westward from his corner to a point at the foot of a hill. From this point there is large old mesquites in the direction and distances called for in the original field notes but I could not identify marks. The creek crossing called for on the south line of Section 49 indicates my point is still 38 varas too far east.
Stoneham shows to have identified original corners at the east corner of Section 1 and the south corner of Section 14, Block 18. There is no indication of mesquites ever being at the points called for in the field notes from the points marked by Stoneham for these corners.
On my sketch enclosed, at the NW corner of Section 1, Block 18, I have shown the true course and distance to two small clusters of hackberry bushes. I would have to move north or further east with my point to make the original bearing fit.
Thereseems to be about 500 varas difference in the first creek called for in the field notes of Section 22, Block 18 and my field notes. This could not be remedied by moving the east line of Section 22 westward to Stonehams line; but in the next two crossing I have a distance of 420 varas whereas the original field notes give a difference of 320 varas between these creek calls, indicating the east line of Section 22 should be farther east than I have marked it on the ground. Renderbrook Creek has a narrow rocky channel and has always been in its present position.

I think the facts clearly show that the I.L.Ellwood SF 8830 is in conflict with older surveys, and therefore should be cancelled and Blocks 16 and 18 adjoin one another as was the original intention and survey on the ground.

The State will not be harmed in any manner by the cancellation of this strip. The Ellwood Estate is ready and willing to pay for all the excess in Blocks 15, 16 and 18 when my field notes are finally approved. He is now only paying taxes on 640 Acres to each section in all three blocks .

Hoping these field notes will meet with your approval, I remain,

Yours respectfully,

Sylvan Sanders

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Sketch File No. 16A.
Mitchell-Coke
& Sterling
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Filed Feb 26th 1934
J. H. Walker, Comm.
Acee
File Clerk

Descriptive: S.P.Ry. Co. Blks.
15-16-18- by Sylvan
Sanders.

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