

Houston, Texas, December 21, 1932.

RECEIVED

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FEB 8 1933

Hon. J. H. Walker,  
Commissioner of the Land Office,  
Austin, Texas.

REFERRED TO MAP

Dear Sir & Friend:-

On Wednesday, December 7th, when I was last in your office you asked me how Mr. Williams, the State Surveyor in 1899, placed the South East corner of the Ransom House Survey about 100 varas East of the North East corner of the Lemuel Smith survey in Montgomery County, Texas.

I advised you that I had not made a sufficient study at that time to give you an intelligent answer but since then have gone into the matter with the idea of satisfying myself how this came about.

The North East corner of the Lemuel Smith survey according to the creek call given along its North line should be 4308 varas North 60 deg. East from Crystal Creek. The North East corner of the Lemuel Smith survey as Mr. Williams, the Surveyor, located the same in 1899 is only 4226 varas North 60 deg. East from Crystal Creek while the South East corner of the Ransom House, as located by Mr. Williams, is 4319 varas North 60 deg. East from Crystal Creek. It is logical to presume that rather than the South East corner of the house being 93 varas East of the North East corner of the Smith survey that the North East corner of the Smith survey as located by Mr. Williams, was improperly located by about 93 varas. This can be substantiated on the ground from the nearest natural object, Crystal Creek, and the call along the North line of the Lemuel Smith survey from the same. From an original witness tree marked by Mr. Williams as a corner of the T&NO Railroad No. 6, we are able to locate Mr. Williams definitely on the ground at the point which he calls the Southeast Corner of the Ransom House and which practically fits the distance the North East Corner of the Lemuel Smith should be from Crystal Creek.

In addition to this Mr. Wade, District Surveyor, in 1861 located the T&NO Railroad surveys Nos. 3, 4, 5 and 6 and placed his South West lines of these said surveys at the East lines of the Lemuel Smith and of the Alfonse Steel a considerable distance further East than did State Surveyor Williams in 1899, to-wit: in the Patent and field notes to T&NO Railroad No. 3 the call along the South line of the R. G. Hamlett survey which is also a North Westernly line of T&NO Railroad No. 3 is North 60 deg. East 1400 varas. State Surveyor Williams in 1899 made this distance first 772 varas and marked a line therefrom and called the same line in his, Williams, field notes 880 varas along the South line of the Hamlett and furthermore State Surveyor Williams states that he erroneously marked the South West line of Sec. #3 and that the line he actually adopted was parallel and 108 varas from the line so erroneously marked. I mentioned this because it may have been possible that State Surveyor Williams erroneously located the South West lines of T&NO Railroad sections #3 and #4 by 108 varas and may also erroneously located the South West lines of T&NO Railroad #5 and also T&NO Railroad No. 6. If this is a correct conclus-

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ion it would explain the difference Surveyor Williams found between the corner as he located the Lemuel Smith and the South East corner of the Ransom House. The lines of #3 and #4 T&NO Railroad 108 varas South East from where he marked, in all probability, he did the same thing in his original field work for the lines between Section #6 T&NO Railroad and the Lemuel Smith. This would then bring the two corners, to-wit: the North East corner of Lemuel Smith and the Southeast Corner of the Ransom House together and in a position that both would fit the call given on the North line of the Lemuel Smith and its crossing on Crystal Creek.

Now if we follow District Surveyor Wade in 1861, beginning at the intersection of the North line of the Smithers Survey with the South Line of the R. G. Hamlett; thence run North 60 deg. East 1400 varas as Wade said he did and as the State patented the said Section No. 3 on the 15th day of September, 1866, thence North 30 deg. West 2530 varas to the North West corner of the said Section No. 3 then if you will follow the Wade field notes of Section No. 4 T&NO Railroad Survey, the call distance set forth in a course of 30 deg. West to the South line of the Steel, thence with the South line of the Steel North 60 deg. East 1043 varas to the corner of the Steel as located and fixed by Wade, then follow the East line of the Alfonse Steel North 30 deg. West as called for by Wade in Section No. 4 and also in Section No. 5 to the South line of the Lemuel Smith survey, thence to the South line of the Lemuel Smith survey and thence North 60 deg. East 1500 varas to the South East corner of the Lemuel Smith survey as fixed by Mr. Wade and also in accordance with the patent to said section No. 5 issued April 10th, 1877, and then following Mr. Wade in his field notes of Section No. 6 North 30 deg. West, the distance set forth in the Wade notes, you will find on the ground that you fall some 85 varas more or less East of the South East corner of the Ransom House as the same is fixed on the ground today.

I am very much inclined to believe from the information I have and from the surveys on the ground that, if there is an error, in the call of the field notes in T&NO Railroad No. 6 with relation to the Southeast corner of the Ransom House that the survey which is improperly located is the Lemuel Smith East line and not the South East corner of the Ransom House. Just what condition Surveyor Williams may have found on the ground in 1899 such as occupation and claims that might have tended to fix the Smith line, I could only surmise but it is logical to believe that erroneous occupation may have caused Williams to adopt and fix the East line of the Smith in the position he did.

(SK, not enclosed)  
Clark I am attaching hereto a blue print of an incompleted sketch of actual work done in this vicinity showing both the Williams and the Wade work along the lines in question. The Wade work is outlined on this sketch in red. As soon as I have an opportunity to complete the sketch in detail, I will forward you an additional copy of same for your records.

If the present North East corner of the Lemuel Smith is used and a line run from there to the Magnolia at the North East corner of the Ransom House and a line then run at right angles for the North line of the Ransom House, such a line would conflict with the Real, Cooper, Watson and I&GN surveys to the North as they are located on the ground from their original corners which are still in.



Trusting that this will find you well on the road to recovery from your recent attack of flu, I am,

Sincerely your friend,

*J. S. Boyles*  
J. S. BOYLES,  
License State Land Surveyor.

JSB:SM

Encl.

*See file No. 28*  
*1874 D.P.S. Counter*  
 Description: *Wright's Survey*  
 File Clerk  
*G. F. [unclear]*  
 J. H. Miller, Commr.  
 Filed *Feb. - 24 - 1887*  
*J. S. Boyles Report*  
*Wright's Survey*  
 Special File No. *28*



Sketch File No. 29

Montgomery County

J. S. Bayles Report

Filed Feb. - 8th - 1933

J. H. Walker, Comm.

C. F. Blucher

File Clerk

Descriptive: Vicinity Lemuel Smith

& T. & N. D. R. R. Co. Sur.'s.

see St. File No. 30.

recoverly from your recent attack of flu, I am,

trusting that this will find you well on the road to

recovery, your friend,  
W. S. Bayles,  
Michigan State Land Surveyor.

18B:3M

Encl.