

Alpine, Texas, April 23 1912

Hon. J. T. Robison,  
Commissioner Gen. Land Office  
Austin, Texas.

Dear Sir,

On receipt of your favor of the 16th inst. relative to Mr. Jacob Baldwin's request for survey by state surveyor of certain land in Presidio Co. specially Sec. 1356, J. D. English, I went to Marfa and saw Mr. Anderson who is interested with Mr. Baldwin in the English tract, talked the matter over with him and looked into the facts as far as data from the County surveyors office would permit.

Mr. Anderson and his associates will bear all expense of survey if made.

There is a reported conflict between the field notes of the English survey and the position of the Rio Grande relative to Block 250 T. & S. L. Ry Co.

I have enclosed herewith three small sketches which will perhaps explain conditions as I understand them.

The English survey was made by Mr. Thomson originally and resurveyed by him June 1 1886, no reason is given for the resurvey in the field notes. The original field notes are of record at Marfa, but so blurred interlined and erased that I could not read them. Apparently the location of the English survey was changed from south of Blk 250 to west of surveys 11 & 14 in same block. The English survey is not yet patented, but the corrected field notes appear to have been accepted and approved, or at least to be of record in your office.

Sketch "A" shows the position of the English as given by these corrected field notes, and is, I believe, the same as that shown on the county map.

It begins <sup>near the N.W. cor of sec 14</sup> on the south line of sec. 14 in Blk. 250, 993 varas east of S.W. Corner of 14, and runs to the river at a point marked A on sketch, where a rock mound on the bank of the Rio Grande is called for. Thence up the river with its meanders as shown in the sketch and back to the beginning. The field notes will balance and close the survey if we change the call N 55 1/4° E to N 55 1/4° W. I judge that the error of E for W was made in copying.

The T & S. L. Blk 250 is older than the English and was surveyed also by Mr. Thomson. This block calls to begin on the Mitchell Co. School land, also surveyed by Mr. Thompson. I find no calls for marked corners in the T & S L Blk.

While doing some work as State surveyor, under your instructions, for the Orient Ry. Co. I had to retrace part of the Mitchell Co. School land lines and found one of the original corners plainly to be identified on the ground.

This corner and line were connected with certain other old corners and with various natural objects so that I was able to place on the Topographic map part of the Mitchell Co school land in its position as found on the ground relative to these natural objects shown on the map.

Starting from this point on the Topographic map on the Shafter sheet and running south the distance called for by surveys in Block 250 according to the map scale, on the Shafter and Pulvo sheets, will place survey 14 in Blk 250 partly across the Rio Grande as placed on the Topographic map. Other points, courses and distances from one object to another given on the Shafter sheet tallied with our measurements on the ground which leads me to believe that the position of the river shown in sketch "B" is nearly as it will be found on the ground.

Sketch "C" is made from the field notes of a survey made by Mr. Seay of Marfa, and kindly furnished me by the Co. Surveyor. Mr. Seay I understand ran from some point on the Mitchell Co. School land, and finds the river on sur 14 as shown in "C". Approximately the same position as shown in "B", with some difference in the meanders.

If this position of the river on sur 14 is correct, then the river cuts off a portion of the English survey and a survey would be necessary before Patent could issue to determine the acreage &c.

If you will place sketch "A" on sketch "B", bringing the points marked A in each, over each other you will note that Mr. Thompson's meanders follow very closely the meanders of the river given in the Topographic map. This is so very close that I think it will be possible to show on the ground just where Mr. Thompson placed the resurvey of the English tract and perhaps find the initial rock mound he calls for on the river. I am told that the river bank at this point is of rock and not subject to much erosion or change.

It is barely possible that if we can so establish the river calls of the English survey and then work back, some solution for the apparent conflict

may be found.

It seems hardly possible that the same surveyor should have made the survey of the two blocks and the English, and then have gone back on the ground and corrected the English and again made so large an error as would appear to have been made from sketches B & C.

I remember that an error of a mile or more was shown in some work of Mr. Thompsons north of this point and west of the Mitchel Co. School land, and afterward corrected by him. My attention was drawn to this by your instruction when I was surveying ~~in~~ there for the Orient, but I returned the plats and field notes and do not find that I have any data to show whether that error might account for the Conflict in the English survey.

It would seem however that a resurvey will be necessary to determine where the river really is and how the English survey stands on the ground.

Respectfully

*R. L. Dod*  
*State Sur.*

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