

File 10

Red River County

Sk. & Expl.

counter 35121

February 1863

Commissary of the S. I. Office City of Austin

Dear Sir. In one of your

letters sent me from the Land Office, among other things you say that there is error in the Survey of McLinn's Section, you note says the Ballard S. E. 1/4 line to be 3000 ^{is} (certainly mistaken) It is a square of 3000 ^{is}, my records show, that it was the first survey in that part of the country, and all the surveys made about it were made while the correct rules were standing of in practice and the lines showing by marks in the timber. I found the S. E. C. (perhaps in 1852) when I was called on, to correct the W. A. Christman survey as to quantity of land. I have kept also held that covering the S. E. C. of the B. the S. W. C. of the same land the S. E. C. of the B. Sec. 1, and the S. E. C. of the S. Sec. 11, 200 acres, as my guide or pointer from which to make my calls, in making survey around them. You say in your note, that the lines of Christman & Shuck would leave but 1079 ^{is} space between them now this would do, but that line should be 5000 ^{is} instead of 3000 ^{is}, and if my note call the space for the lines survey to be 1438 ^{is}, it is an error of the pen it was intended as 1288 ^{is}, as I will explain to the Stakeholders, and my further explanation of ~~my~~ my notes on the ground my Record of the survey shows it as 1288. Now I have to take things, not as they are or should be, but as I find them. The Ballard Square is 3000 ^{is} by computation but the S. E. & S. W. corners are found by intersections of the East West line found in the timber to be just 3210 ^{is}. I have had it measured several times in making a survey, and discovered the S. E. corner survey were made conforming to those bearings the S. E. line being in Prairie, and being almost level true measure may be correctly had, & in rising the Christian & Shuck survey was of 2022 ^{is} the other of 1900 making 3922 ^{is} leaving of the 3210. The distance of 1288 ^{is} which are given in the W. A. Christman & the W. A. Christman I now return and if I made a mistake in putting down 1438. please alter it to 1288 ^{is} that is true
counter 35/22

You further state that the Cotton survey conflict with the John Price
survey — you say that the D.D. Benton survey calls for the Price line what
I have a span of 130 n between them, this may be another error in my notes
making it only 105 n between Benton N.W.C. and the supposed line of Price
which line calls to run East from Christian's S.E.C. I trust that by the accom-
panying Map you may see it fully explained, the N.W.C. line of the Benton claim
is 1154 n. It calls to begin at S. Scouting's S.W.C. run West 1560, then N. 1154
calling for Price's N.W.C. then E. calling for Scouting's N.W.C. Now Scouting's
survey of 1814, making a departure of the N & S lines of Scouting & Benton
44 n. yet Price calls to run to the Scouting N.E.C. & C. This would create a
conflict with Price & Benton. I send you a sketch showing you the position
of the several surveys in that vicinity, and made from actual survey at different
times. The west of the Price line, was owned by the estimable City man Amos
Merrill (whom I regard as the best friend & benefactor I ever had in life) & the other concerns
in said tract of land agreed that division of it should be made, and that duty
was assigned to me. I procured chains and a flag lines, and with a
sawyer & driver to carry stakes to be placed at the respective corners which were
intended to be made in the year 1855 to run & define the boundaries of the
Price of S. L. Merrill shortly becoming the sole owner the divisions were
not made but the limits of the John Price were made I found it too large
as I had supposed from the latter's assurances which appeared upon the Record Book
of the survey in the hand writing of the surveyor who made it, or rather (who
plotted and the survey) I made the survey in exact accordance with the calls
as appeared of record by pursuing the calls with the lines of the claims designated
to the S.E.C. of the Christian survey and East to Wilson's W.C. found there was error but
the Price survey being patented & having no assistance from the proper department
I let the matter rest. In 1861 in making the survey of Mr. Collier's Christian
claim I began at the S.E.C. of survey of S. Scouting's survey (being patented)
Run West its calls total 1154 n being the N.W.C. of the Christian survey and the
Red River Co. S.E. 5th # 20

S.E.C. of the Benton survey 211 persons' Bow Dan Statute contained the S.W.C. line of
Benton survey 1560. passed by success that I was 506 n West & 25 n S of the
S.E.C. of Adam Shuck's P. survey. It then runs N. the Benton call of 1158 n set a
statute as N. & W.C. then still N 105 n to a point 431 n East of Christian's
S.E.C. and call for Price's S.W.C. making the 25 between Benton's line & Shuck and
Benton's distance of 1158, and the 105 n from N. & W.C. to the supposed line of
Price will just ^{make} the 128 n the length of the N & S. lines of Cotton & Davis
The sketch enclosed will show the whole fact in relation to the survey it is made
not from a plotting out from the office books alone but by actual survey with good
chains and a flag man, for I wish it understood, that in all prairie surveys
as well as in brushy lands I run my lines to a signal staff because of
a hand engaged for that purpose. I do assert that no man can run out the
Price tract lying entire prairie, and no other Prairie line, and do it accurately
without adopting this plan. In running lines to take objects by the eye to small
objects, a small bush, weed, or blossom or any object, that in going to it
the rise & hollow or undulating surface of the ground are too uncertain
methods of surveying to make good & proper work, other important considerations in
surveying correctly is this, to have good chaining, by efficient men with a standard
chain or a chain regulated by one of the proper length that the law requires
Texas is the kind State in which I have ^{had} some pretensions to survey land Jan 1819 & 1820
I surveyed public U.S. lands my compass and chain were tried by a standard compass and
chains kept at the S.L. office. I kept a chain from the standard chain and ^{was} ^{keeping}
regulated or compared every third day, and in setting up over every week, the wear
and opening of so many links and rings in a Gunter chain in long & hard heavy
work would astonish any one, not having a law upheld by practice. I have kept up that
Rule since I have been in Texas. I run with a wire chain which I use altogether
graduated to 4 links to every yard, which I made myself as a matter of convenience to
save time and trouble and uncertainty in throwing poles into bars & sections by
Predepre used the 1/4 wire chain 1847 in the work he done that year in Red River
county 35123

Col Harmon a former prospector in 1842. used the two pole chain making returns
by putting into corners his numerous deputies down the same and all without well registered
chains. I wish you to understand, that I do not complain of you as a superior officer of being
over precise in fact, the most rigid scrutiny into returns is right & proper, upon that exactness
having many men's rights, this (perhaps) annoying essay to you is not that I question the justice
or propriety of the department, but simply to bring to your notice the many obstacles, which
I have to encounter in either making new survey or the correction of old ones.

The surveyor office was opened in July 1838, and a number of Dep. Sur. mostly inexperienced land
owners, unrestricted by any distinct bounds in which to operate, making surveys at hazard
or without making connections properly. The Culls of a great many surveys being found to be
too large and like the Ballard & others in the timber we are bound to abide the lines
& corners as we find them, to confirm the truth of what I say, I state that in surveying the
Auld Auld lands that in many surveys the lines were found to be too long. I will mention the
Jackson & Oggle 600 by N.W. of Clarksville the cull here 19000 is to the line we exposed the
line of 21000 the gas latitudes of labor is over 200 is too long with many other lands
more or less one of among the last returns I made to the land office is one of Collections
which shows as the Auld, which shows that the line of Blount & N.W. line is 11600 ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~the~~ ^{the}
the proper call of 19000.

The fault in these things appearing so does not lie at
the door of the land office department, nor do I think that it should attach to you, but
that it is our misfortune as officers to be perplexed and annoyed in attending to such
unpleasant business as this, is to the community, where it should have been done by those
who first engaged in it, and who received compensation for their services.

I trust with the showing on the sketch that you will be satisfied with what I
have stated in this scribble as I am at this ^{time} feeble and with ~~some~~ ^{very} feeble and unfit
to write, so as to be understood. The explanation given to the W. Cotton survey I
hope you will apply to the Hollin Johnson lying north of the Cotton claim, the corner
of the Joseph Harris that is his S.E. & N.W. corners ^{are} in the timber and the distance
given in the survey of Hollin Johnson & Chas. Adams is correct, being 950 &
730 making 1970 is between Harris two corners. I report only as I find the line & corner
in the timber to identify corners by the bearings & making the lines in open Prairie by
course and distance alone. I hope you will notice the Rice survey as I see from your
Photograph that it conflicts with the French, Sculling & Breton surveys

H. D. Cro



A Sketch of the made from actual survey of the lands lying east of the W. H. Ballard league survey and the position or locality of the John Prie 2/3 league survey, showing their connection by the adjoining survey, and showing that there is no conflict with the lines of M'Intosh's bottom with the John Prie survey.

The Ballard line of Ballard's survey measures 5210 ft long. A Sketch being 19,000 ft. H. Christian 2022 which line is a width for bottom and Dunes of 1255 ft.

The Prie survey cuts to run East from Christian S. E. C. and the Denton survey calls for the Prie line that Denton's line does not reach the Prie line by 105 ft. Prie's calls for Scantling S. E. C. but his line is run from Christian S. E. C. and go 149 ft North of it.

There is between the line of Denton and the line of Sheeh and John Christian a Slip or Opening of 25 ft and a Slip of 10 ft varies the survey of Christian and Prie's bottom, there is no conflict between these surveys.

The surveys here laid down are connected and complete and become of the Ballard League, Head W. of the John Land League and 220 acre survey of J. Scantling from its S. E. C. there are many trees by good Boar, Blue posts well planted in the ground.

File 10.
Red River.

S.W. of Clarksville,
near S.M. Ballard &
John Price surveys

Filed March 14/63.

S.W. corner on the
Priority line

Manual
last copy SK on 4/11/66
last copy
copy for the
May 12/86 Prue