

August 3, 1940

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AUG 5 - 1940

Hon. Bascom Giles, Commissioner

General Land Office

Austin, Texas

REFERRED TO MAP

Honorable Sir:

I have your letter of August 1, TA:caf, requesting additional information on certain corners in Blk. V-7, Val Verde County.

During the spring of 1936 I run out a large part of Blk. V-8 including the north part of Survey No. 50, George Gibbs, original grantee. April 7, 1938, I secured a working sketch from your office covering parts of Blk. A-Z-2, A-3, V-7, and V-8, as there had always been considerable conflict of opinion as to just where certain block lines are located in this area. We first succeeded in finding and identifying the rock mound for the southwest corner of Survey No. 16, Blk. A-3. This rock mound was situated on the side of the hill and the rocks which had been piled up were scattered, however, the working sketch above mentioned refers to the foot of a bluff, 1135 vrs. north of the southwest corner of Survey No. 17, Blk. A-3, and we were able to get our bearings from this point and found the "x" and the "A" called for in the Williams field notes as bearings for the northwest corner of Survey No. 17, same being the southwest corner of Survey No. 16.

We were attempting to locate at that time, the east line of Survey No. 24 patented by J. H. Mills, and surveyed by Mr. Hope February 23, 1920. Mr. Hope claims to have found the southwest corner of Survey No. 16 and the northwest corner of Survey No. 16, but none of the parties interested in the survey made by Mr. Hope in 1920 were present at the time.

After finding the bearings for the southwest corner of Survey 16, I run north 1900 vrs. and found another scattered stone mound, a further search revealing the bearings "X" and "A" as recorded in the field notes. From this point we projected a line north 6609 vrs. for the west line of Blk. V-7.

Last October the Chris Hutto ranch which included Survey No. 16 and Survey No. 15, Blk. A-3, Survey No. 18 and Survey No. 13, Blk. V-7 was sold and I was engaged to check the fence lines and determine

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if same were on the survey lines as far as outer boundary fences were concerned. This necessitated locating the north line of Survey 18, and Survey 13, Blk. V-7. We started this survey at the northwest corner of Survey 16, Blk A-3, thence east at 1900 vrs. we found a very well preserved rock mound and the bearings "X" and "A" described in the field notes. At 3800 vrs. we found another scattered rock mound and the bearings "A" and "X" as recorded in the field notes, however, the "X" was not so well preserved, and my chainman William Boggess, without my knowledge re-cut the "X" to make it more visible, this being the only change made in any of the Williams mounds. From the northeast corner of Survey 16, we run north 1900 vrs. where we found a rock mound fairly well preserved. Mr. Chris Hutto, who was with the surveying party, and who had lived in the country a number of years remembered having seen an "X" cut in a flat rock near this mound. After considerable difficulty, we found the "X" buried under a few inches of dirt and bearing north two vrs. from what appeared to have been the center of the rock mound. Mr. Hutto thought we would find a rock mound similarly marked for the northwest corner of Survey 13, and he stated that he remembered seeing the mound some 25 years ago when building the fence along the north line of Survey 13 and 18, Blk V-7. We failed to find any indication of a rock mound or marks at this point there being a fence along the survey line which probably accounts for the mound being destroyed. No one in the vicinity has any recollection of ever seeing a mound that could be identified as the northwest corner of Survey 18. November 2, 1939, I erected the mound described in my field notes covering Survey 17, Blk. V-7 for the southwest corner of said Survey 17 and the northwest corner of Survey No. 18.

I was told that we would find the rock mound in the northeast corner of Survey No. 12, Blk. V-7, but a very thorough search failed to locate anything. Judge Joseph Jones, who was formerly Surveyor of Val Verde County, gave me instructions for locating the rock mound for the southeast corner of Survey No. 16, Blk. V-7. We run a course north 3695 vrs. from the Williams mound for the northeast corner of Survey No. 15, Blk V-8, thence east 1797 vrs. to where Mr. Jones said we would find a large cedar tree and that the corner would be in the neighborhood of 200 vrs. to the northeast.

We failed to find any evidence of the Cedar tree but did find a very well preserved but unmarked rock mound north  $45^{\circ}$  east 212 vrs. from where our survey indicated the Cedar tree should have been located. I have shown this line in red on the accompanying sketch.

The rock mound for the northeast corner of Survey No. 16 was established by Mr. Dodd as was the rock mound 935 vrs. ~~east~~<sup>west</sup>, which is known locally as "Dutch and Charlie's corner". The records in your office, I am sure, are complete covering this Dodd survey. By mutual agreement the land owners in the vicinity accept the Dodd work without question. Of course, this survey was made in fairly recent times and virtually any ranchman knows the location of both of these mounds. I, personally, have used these mounds on a number of occasions to re-locate the Dodd line and have found that they check correctly with all of Dodd work to the north, however, the mound at the southeast corner of Survey No. 16, Blk. V-7 is not so well identified. Mr. B. Newman, who owns this survey, states that Mr. Dodd run a line to this corner at the time he was surveying out the land to the north.

Mr. Lee Whitehead purchased the 4 sections, 14, 15, 17, and 19 $\frac{1}{2}$ , in Blk. V-7, about the first of this year having already acquired the Hutto ranch to the south. At the time of the purchase of the Hutto ranch by Mr. M. M. Harrison, it was agreed that the fence along the north line of Survey 13 and 18, Blk. V-7 was actually on the line surveyed by Mr. Pierce. I have been unable to locate any documentary evidence that Mr. Pierce found the original rock mound, however, the general consensus of opinion among people living at that time was that a chain of rock mounds existed along the north line of Survey 9, 12, 13, and 18, Blk. V-7. This is about all the information I have on the subject, however, it is my opinion that the original surveyor of Bld. V-7 actually located this line 1 mile north of the south line of the Block. Later Mr. G. M. Williams surveyed out the north line of Blk. A-3 and the fact that the fence along the north line of Survey 13 and 18 is exactly 1900 varas north of the Williams mounds indicated that one surveyor had knowledge of the other surveyor's work. Also, as your records will show, the Dodd survey pull lines north in this vicinity, and again it is my

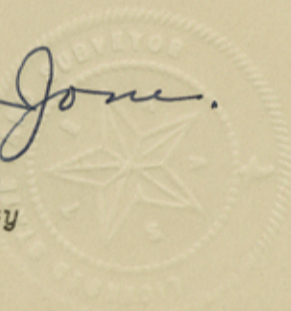
opinion that the excess was thrown into Blk. V-7 in this manner. I would, personally, regret very much to see the excess in Blk. V-7 pro-rated through the entire three miles north and south, as fences and other land lines to the east are all 1900 varas north of the north line of Blk. A-3 and there would be much less complication if the General Land Office were to consider the evidence herewith regarding the north line of Surveys 9, 12, 13 and 18, Blk. V-7 as sufficient to throw the excess in the 2 miles adjoining Block V-7.

In any event we will be very happy to correct the field notes sent you herewith to cover any portion of the excess that you see fit to allot to the surveys in question.

Yours truly,

*H. Conger Jones*

H. Conger Jones  
 County Surveyor  
 Val Verde County



HCJ:mms

44-A

Val File No. Sketch Files

Val Verde County

Report by H.C. Jones

Filed 8-15, 19 40

BASCOM GILES, Com'r

French  
File Clerk

(See Sk. Fl. 44)

Not Public County  
County Clerk  
H. Carter Jones  
Your's truly,  
*[Signature]*



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Bascom Giles

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