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Wichita Falls, Texas  
December 6, 1949

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GENERAL LAND OFFICE

Mr. Bascom Giles,  
Commissioner of the General Land Office,  
Austin, Texas.

Dear Mr. Giles:

I desire to make the following report in connection with survey recently made of the B. Brown Survey No. 809 C-57 and the J. Johnson survey C 25/131 located on Red River in the Northeast part of Wichita County, Texas.

The N. Salinas survey, being the senior survey calls to begin 30,200 varas S 76°W from the mouth of Big Wichita River on the bank of Red River, as it would be very impractical to try to locate this survey in this manner, I worked from its occupied corners, its East line being 1200 varas in length, I begin my survey at its SE corner which is also the NE corner of the Fisher survey which was located at a much later date, I ran N 00°20'W 1200.0 varas and established its NE corner, the B. Brown survey No. 809 calls to begin at the NE corner of the N. Salinas survey, thence East 1344.0 varas, I found this to be 1440.4 varas and is partly cooperated by the call of 1512 varas in the South line of the J. Johnson survey lying to the North, the survey having been made in 1886 the original corners of the B. Brown should have been identifiable at that time, thence I ran South along the East line of the B. Brown survey as occupied 1497.7 varas to its SE corner, which is 490 varas South of the SW corner of the B. Brown survey No. 808 as called for in its field notes, thence West 1431.7 varas to the SE corner of the Fisher survey, thence N 00° 20'W 1497.7 varas to the place of beginning. This will give the B. Brown survey No. 809 an excess of 60.98 acres.

Before making the survey of the J. Johnson survey C 25/131 I studied all the available information on this area and found that the South bank of Red River has been located in various positions since 1856 the first record we have on its location, in 1886 the J. Johnson survey was located and lies between the North line of the B. Brown survey No. 809 and the South bank of Red River, I have shown the original meanders of the South bank of Red River according to its field notes in 1886 on the attached Plat, the next record we have showing the South bank of Red River was in 1925 which was located at that time under the direction of the Supreme Court of the United States which according to the survey at that time practically eliminated all of the J. Johnson survey and a part of the B. Brown survey No. 809. I have also shown the meanders of the South bank of Red River according to this survey on the Plat.

I have been familiar with Red River since about 1913 and have hunted ducks along same in this area many times since 1913, my first recollection of the river was its width which in many places would be as much as a mile in width and consisting of a low sandy bed, the low water flow changing after each rise in the river and meandering back and forth across this low sandy area, about the only growth or vegetation between the bluff lines on each side of the river was a few small willows and cottonwoods, as this area was settled up and the means of transportation became more readily available to the people they would take the salt cedar from the Brazos River and set it out in their yards for shrubbery, in this way it gradually spread to the banks of Red River and became really noticeable in the early twenties, as the low sandy area along the banks of Red River was very suitable for its growth it spread rapidly and with its extensive root system and thick growth has gradually

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confined the river to a much narrower chanell, the banks being 10 to 12 feet in height along the edge of the vegetation at the present time while in the early years it would only be 2 or 3 feet in height, this takes care of the volume of water at ordinary flood stage without overflowing the valley lands.

The aerial map which is hereto attached taken in March 1942 was after an excessive period of rain, as 1941 was a year in which we had an excessive period of rain, much more than the normal yearly average for this area and it is my belief that the river is gradually being stabilized to a deeper and narrower chanell, due the thick growth of salt cedar, there are also a number of large Cottonwood and a few Pecan trees growing in this valley land which indicates that the flood stages of the river have been confined to its chanell for a number of years.

I also want to call to your attention a part of the testimony before the Supreme Court of the United States in 1925 in the boundary suit between Oklahoma and Texas in which it was stated that only one avulsive change had taken place along the Northern boundary line of Wichita County, this being a chanell which was cut between what is now known as McFarland Island and the South bluff line along the Red River, this took place in 1891 a few years after the J. Johnson survey was located and the evidence showed that McFarland Island was once a part of the mainland of Texas, accordingly the South bank of the River was located along the North boundary line of the Island.

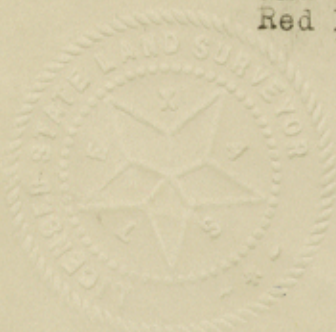
From the evidence obtained on the ground in making my survey it appears that the South bank of Red River has gradually receded Northward in this area, most of which has taken place since 1925, as stated above there are some large Cottonwood trees growing at the present time near the South bank of the river as I have shown same on the attached Plat and I want to call to your attention the two pecan trees located near the NW corner of the B Brown survey No. 808, I would estimate these to be from 15 to 20 years old, these trees are located along a small embankment approximately three feet in height indicating that this was considered the bank of the river at one time and as it is approximately the location of the meanders of the river in 1886 when the two Johnson surveys were located it is reasonable to believe that this was the bank of the river at that time.

I also want to refer you to the Court Judgement of the 78th. District Court in Wichita County August 12, 1926, suit styled Chas Fridgen vs Joe Ward, County Surveyor, No. 17821-B, Judgement No. 47847 recorded in Vol 5 Page 127 78th. District Court records in which it was set out that no vacant land existed North of the M. Gilbert survey and South of the South bank of Red River, the M. Gilbert survey lies just West of the J. Johnson survey.

It is my conclusions that the area shown on the attached Plat as the J. Johnson survey C 25/131 is a part of the said Johnson survey, said survey now containing 377.35 acres, and being accreted land caused by the South bank of Red River gradually moving Northward.

Yours very truly,

*Ross Corlett* (Ross Corlett)  
Licensed Land Surveyor of  
Wichita County, Texas.



Wichita County  
Robert + 2000  
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Wichita County, Texas.  
Bureau of Land Management

*John Corlett*

John Corlett, Land



Sketch File No. 34

Wichita County  
Corlett's Report of John  
Johnson Abst. 559 and Bryant  
Brown # 809

Filed January 12, 1950

BASCOM GILES, Com'r

*W. Von Rosenberg*  
File Clerk

Wichita County, Texas.  
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John Corlett, Land

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