

Office of
County Surveyor of Dallas County.

J. M. Strong, Surveyor.

Dallas, Texas, June 5⁻⁷⁶ 1883

Hon. W. B. Walsh,

Comr. Gen. Land Office

Austin Texas.

Dear Sir: In making
a re-survey of the County lines of Dallas County, I find upon
actual survey upon the ground, as the owners of the land
now have their land lines adjusted, a very great dis-
crepancy between the field notes and the surveys as recog-
nized upon the ground. Many of the surveys have large excess-
es and others are short in quantities of land. Some of the
surveys are correctly constructed, while others are not, though
the lines and corners have been recognized long enough
for limitation to give boundary. So you see it is almost
impossible to make an accurate map of the County lines -
and a correct report - I think it best to give in my report
only the distances of intersection of the surveys from
their corners and not the distance between the lines
of intersection, or the width of the surveys - In making
my field notes say, "intersecting the West line J. Vance
Co 40 acw ^{sur} 3284 varas North of its S. W. Corner and the East line
of A. Copeland 160 acw Survey 3284 varas North of its S. E.
Corner, intersecting the West line of said Copeland

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and East line of E. J. Myers 320 and Survey 336 varas north of their "E. N. and S. E. Corners" - using the field notes of the Survey to construct them upon the line. It seem to me, that this is the only way to prevent litigation and confusion between the Citizens on the lines. I do not know what other Surveyors have done in their reports to their authorities, or what you require. Hence I write to you for information.

I have re-run the entire boundaries of this County - have been very careful, have made the intersection of the Surveys and I am ready to make my report and only await your requirements. Our West line will be 703. varas in excess of thirty miles. The cause of this is, that the old Fannin County line as marked and defined by Ord. under special act of the Legislature to determine the boundary between the Fannin and the Nacogdoches Land Districts was run at a less variation than the true meridian. The meridian at this point is about $8^{\circ}45'$ East magnetic variation of the true. While 8° will now run the old Fannin line. I ran the East, South and West lines at $8^{\circ}45'$ East magnetic variation of true. and followed the old Fannin line at 8° E. You will observe that this is in accordance with

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Court 52116

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The act creating Dallas County, or it seems to me to be so, Ellis County refused to cooperate on the South line because the County Commissioners Court made the order. She claims that the County Judge is the only authority to make the order - and relies on Judge Ferris opinion in the matter. When you instructed Special Surveyor Mr. Pierce and myself to disregard former erroneous surveys of the North line and to run our ^{line} ~~act~~ according to the act creating the County, Denton County withdrew her cooperation, saying your decision was wrong and she relies on Judge Canrolls opinion, that Dallas County will be held to her old line. I am certain we will have trouble with Ellis and Denton Counties in regard to our boundaries - and I want to be certain that I am right. Hence I ask your opinion in regard to the manner in which I have run the lines - (ie) running the East line at $80^{\circ}45' E$, the South line at right angle to it ($80^{\circ}45' E$) and the West line at $80^{\circ}45' E$. These lines being the true or near the meridian line. and the North line $8^{\circ} E$. The Fannan line is a plainly marked and well defined line, and no mistake about its locality. It is impossible for me to get Ellis or Denton to join in a reference. Please let me hear from you. Very Respectfully. J. M. Strong, Surveyor.

Dallas Co. E. Bdy. Line

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Ltr to
Walsh
from Strong
6/5/1883

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