

Dallas, Texas Feb'y 27<sup>th</sup> 1892.

Hon. W. L. McLaughley

Comr. Genl. Land Office

Austin Tex as —

Dear Col:— In your letter of the 13<sup>th</sup> inst. to the County  
 Judge of Tarrant County, <sup>you state</sup> that you will order the south  
 boundary line of Dallas County retraced and her south  
 west corner definitely determined, and that Dallas County  
 is constructed by law 30 miles square. We respectfully  
 invite your attention to our report now on file in  
 your office showing how we located the south west  
 corner of Dallas County. We also invite your attention  
 more closely to the language used in the act creating  
 Dallas County. You will see by this act that the East  
 and west lines of Dallas County are South and North  
 lines, and are not parallel lines, but are subject to  
 the convergences of the earth's ellipsis. This convergency  
 will shorten the North line 320 rods upon a base  
 of 30 miles on the South; otherwise under the act  
 of March the 30<sup>th</sup> 1846. the East, South and <sup>West</sup> ~~North~~ lines  
 County 52154



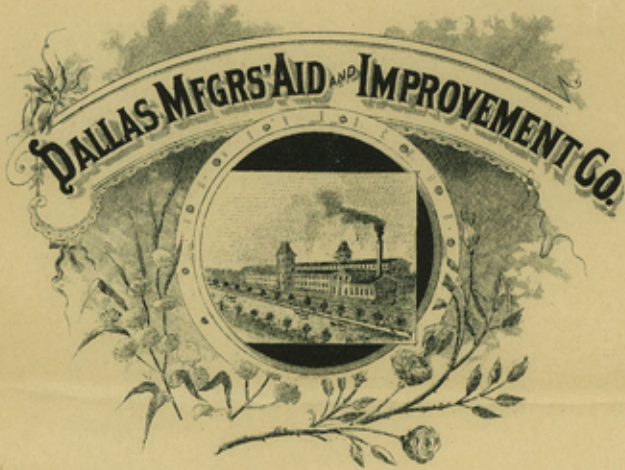
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would be 30 miles in length, based upon the fact that the Fannin County line was a true East & West line. Such however was not true - in fact it was not located upon the ground at that time; and there followed subsequently a dispute between Dallas and Collin Counties as to the proper location of this line; and to definitely fix and settle this line, the Legislature on Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> 1849 passed an act authorizing the appointing of a special surveyor to survey, mark and define this line, and upon the acceptance of his report, the line so run was to be final. In conformity with this act, a Mr. ORR was appointed such surveyor. He made the survey, marked and defined the line, and made his report to the Court of the Genl. Land office which was accepted, and this line became the true <sup>North</sup> boundary line of Dallas County being a statutory boundary. This "Orr line" is not a true East and west line as run upon the ground, but deflects to the North 49' minutes as shown in our report. The establishing of this line does not change the courses of the other lines of Dallas County created by



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the act of March the 30<sup>th</sup> 1846. Some three years anterior to the act establishing this line; and these lines must be run South, west and North on the true Meridian. It may be proper to say, as you are well aware, the true course of these <sup>lines</sup> can not be run with the same magnetic variation. They are statutory lines and must be run according to the law creating them. The initial point (the North <sup>East</sup> corner) of Dallas County being known. The course of the North (Ours) line being known; and the magnetic bearing with the meridian being known, it is easily by calculation to fix the location of the South west corner of Dallas County from said initial point; this we have done in the manner set out in our report above referred to. The South line of Dallas County is by law a due west line, if there is such a thing as a due west line, and is not, and cannot legally be run parallel with the North line. We have read the report of special surveyor Mr. Adair to the County Court of Johnson County; and we submit that said report,



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does not reflect much ability upon him as a surveyor, and in fact does it not show that he is wholly incapacitated for so import work as that of locating and defining County boundaries. We understand that you have a copy of his report. We note his statement in regard to the traditional south west corner of Dallas County. We desire to state the corner referred to by Mr. Adair is the corner set up by Mr. W. A. Ferris 1850 who marked and defined the boundaries of Dallas County and a copy of his report is on file in your office. This corner is a well defined corner now. One of the witnesses true still standing. The old settlers who lived nearby this corner when it was established know its location. These names are W. S. Ricketts, J. H. Holland and Mr. Lowe. This old south line is well defined. This old southwest corner is 3014 rods East and  $6\frac{1}{2}$  rods North of the corner set up by us as the true southwest corner of Dallas County. We have no objection to retracing this old line, and making

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our work conform to it. There being only  $6\frac{1}{2}$  rods difference. We are ~~sure~~ we have the legal line separating Dallas and Tarrant Counties, and we are equally sure we have the legal south west corner of Dallas County, and by the recognition of this corner, Tarrant and Johnson Counties will have their original boundary separating them and the west boundary line of Tarrant will not be disturbed - and the only contest will be with Dallas, Tarrant and Denton as to the North line of Dallas & Tarrant. We have been thus explicit in giving detail of our work, and so that you can form correct conclusions as to its accuracy.

We are glad that our work will be reviewed by one who himself is a practical surveyor and <sup>knows</sup> the methods of surveying -

With high regard we remain re

Yours truly special sur. for Dallas Co.

J. G. Giffell

Special Sur. Tarrant Co.

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To be filed in  
Dallas and Tarrant  
Co Boundary

Sept 6<sup>th</sup> Ellis and  
Dallas and Tarrant  
Co boundary has  
been examined  
and approved  
this day

Banman

*[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]*

*[Vertical handwritten note:]* 1/11/1881



E. P. CANTON, PRES.

C. R. BOWEN, VICE PRES.

E. O. WRIGHT, SECY.

J. W. MURPHY, TREAS.

*[Handwritten signatures and notes on the right side of the page, including:]*  
J. W. Murphree  
J. W. Murphree  
J. W. Murphree  
J. W. Murphree