

GENERAL LAND OFFICE,

CITY OF HOUSTON, Jan 27th 1838.

TO THE COUNTY SURVEYOR FOR THE COUNTY OF *San Patricio*

SIR—

IN compliance with one of the requisitions of the 9th section of the present Land Law, I have thought proper to give you the following general instructions, which you will therefore respect.

1ST. As the certificate of any Board of Land Commissioners is equal to an indefinite order of survey, care should be taken that the several claims do not conflict, as there may be more than one applicant for the same piece of land; in which case you will be governed more particularly by sections 18 and 19 of the land law. Each surveyor should be careful to find some certain corner of a survey which has been granted, before he begins; and no surveyor should be allowed to make a survey, without knowing its bearing and distance from some other section of surveys which have been previously made, and for which titles have been issued. In making surveys on streams which are required by law to be meandered, the general course of the stream must be determined previous to laying off the tracts upon them, in order to give a due proportion of front to each. A league and labor or 26,000,000 square varas should have 2550 varas front on the stream, and run back for quantity. One third of a league should have 1444 varas front, and run back for quantity; and all other tracts in that proportion. Where several persons have made their selections on streams thirty feet or more in width, or on a lake, and there is not sufficient front between the two given points, as required by law for each, the surveyor will, after ascertaining the whole front, divide it in proportion to the number of claimants, and the amount of land to which they are entitled, provided their claims are otherwise equal. The course of the lines may be varied, in order to divide the distance on the stream nearly equally. Otherwise, you will be governed strictly by the 21st section of the land law. *Care should also be taken to leave no small vacancies between surveys*

The measure to be used will be varas and tenths of varas, or Spanish yards: each surveyor will therefore regulate his chain to the length of ten varas, or, what is the same, 27 feet 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches, the vara being 33 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches. 5099.01 varas on each side of a square will constitute a league and labor of land, or 4605.53 acres: a labor of land will be equal to a square of 1000 varas on each side, or 177.136 acres; and one acre, 5645.75 square varas.

2ND. With a view of having uniformity in the field notes, each surveyor will be governed by the following form, viz: "Survey for Peter Parker, of twenty-six labors of land, situated on the west side of the San Antonio river, sixty miles below Bexar: being the quantity of land to which he is entitled by virtue of a certificate, No. 10, issued by the board of land commissioners for the county of Bexar:—Beginning at the N. W. corner of a survey made for Wiley Winchester, stake from which a post oak, marked P P, bears N. 10 deg. E. 2 varas, and a black jack, marked X, bears S. 20 deg. W. 3 varas; thence south at 100 varas a branch 6 varas wide, runs S. E., at 1000 varas intersected the north boundary line of Lyman Lynch's survey, a post or mound, [as the case may be] from which, &c., [as before, giving bearing trees, if to be had]; thence west with said survey 1200 varas to its N. W. corner, a post from which, &c." In this manner each surveyor should proceed, until he completes a survey, establishing the corners of the surveys by taking bearing trees, or raising mounds at least three feet in height, noting also all streams, branches, lakes, prairies, or other natural objects over which the lines pass; the number of labors of each class of land, must likewise be inserted in the field notes. Each surveyor should have a field book, in which to keep his field notes, which he will transmit to you monthly, together with a connected map or plat of the work he may have done; besides he will furnish each man for whom he surveys with the notes and a plat of his land, for your inspection. As the law makes it the duty of each county surveyor to make a map of all the surveys in his county, great care should be taken by each deputy to ascertain the true situation of the old surveys, and inform the county surveyor of the bearings of the lines, their length, together with any other information, by which to make a connected map of the county. All lines necessarily run by surveyors for the purpose of connecting surveys in order to make these maps, will be paid for by the government, as provided for in the 40th section of the law.

You will ascertain the true variation of the needle, and also what variation the surveys have been previously run at, and instruct your deputies to make the new surveys by the true variation. The scale on which surveys must be returned, will be 4000 varas to an inch.

As there has been no returns made to this office of any archives from McMiller's Colony, it is impossible to furnish you with any map of the surveys which have been made in your County. There have however been about one hundred and fifty titles issued in that Colony most of which were for land situated in that County. — You will therefore be governed in making the new surveys, by such information as you may obtain from credible sources and from the old lines which you may be able

to find on the water Courses when there is timber,
observing in all cases not to permit surveys
to be made on lands which, you have good reason
to believe, have been once granted; though the
person to whom the grant may have been made,
have forfeited all right to the same, as none
of such lands can be considered public do-
main or vacant land.

Very respectfully
John P. Borden,
Com. G. L. Office

(7)

COPY OF GENERAL
INSTRUCTIONS TO
CO. SURVEYORS
BY JOHN P. BORDEN
COM. C. L. O
JAN 27th 1838

FILE IN CURRENT
MIS^{cl} INFORMATION BOX
7/15/1948 W.S.

X²

73735