

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GENERAL LAND OFFICE
WASHINGTON

1909196 "B"

SEP 12 1942

Nebraska Historical Society,
Lincoln, Nebraska.

Gentlemen:

According to our files, the local office plats of surveys for the townships in Nebraska are now in your custody.

Messrs. Wiltse and Wiltse, Attorneys at Law, 1623 Stone Street, Falls City, Nebraska, have requested information regarding certain described land in sec. 24, T. 1 N., R. 16 E., sixth principal meridian, Nebraska. Our office would appreciate your advising us what the local plats show relative to the triangular portion of the land marked in red on the enclosed tracing.

A franked envelope, which requires no postage, is enclosed for your convenience in replying.

Very truly yours,

R. S. Clinton

Chief, Patents Division.

Encs. (2)



No. _____

REPORT ON RESEARCH

Nebraska State Historical Society

Date of Assignment Jan. 20, 1943 Requested by R. S. Clinton, Chief, Patents
Division, General Land Office, Washington, D. C.

Subject Tracing of plats showing survey of T. 1 N., R. 16 E., sixth principal
meridian, showing lines bounding the various subdivisions of fractional Sec. 24 of
the township, together with the entry numbers noted on the plat for each subdivision.

Assigned to Ruth S. Watson

Brief Report of Results: Success yes Partial success _____

Nothing found _____ Time employed 8 hrs. Typewritten pages _____

Signed: Ruth S. Watson
Research Assistant

JOHN WILTSE
JOHN H. WILTSE

WILTSE & WILTSE

Attorneys at Law

1623 STONE STREET
FALLS CITY, NEBRASKA

September 18, 1942

Nebraska Historical Society
State Capitol Building
Lincoln, Nebraska

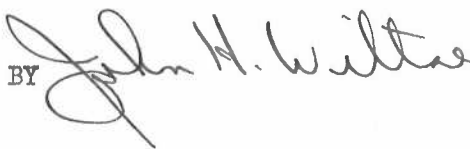
Gentlemen:

R. S. Clinton Chief, Patents Division of
the United States Department of Interior, has sent
a copy of his letter dated September 12th requesting
that you advise them what the plats show relative
to a certain tract of land in Section 24, Township
1, North, Range 16, East of the 6th P.M.

We are anxious to get the description
of this land corrected on the original patent and
would appreciate a copy of your letter to Mr. Clinton.

Yours very truly,

WILTSE & WILTSE

BY 

JHW LM

September 21, 1942

Mr. R. S. Clinton, Chief,
Patents Division,
General Land Office
Department of Interior
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Clinton:

Yours of September 12 with diagram is received; also letter of September 18 from John H. Wiltse of Falls City, on the same subject. Herewith I enclose a report of careful research by Mr. Samuel McCoy of our office force. Mr. McCoy has gone painstakingly into all the plats and documents, not only of the United States Land Office records in our possession, but also into an elaborate report and historical address given before this society some years ago by County Judge Snow of Nemaha County, adjoining Richardson County.

The whole subject of the half-breed tract in southeast Nebraska has been a baffling confusion for many years. Judge Snow knew the subject better than any living man, but since he has passed on I don't know who can supply further information. The original maps and documents covering this particular tract and its kindred tracts are available for examination in our rooms in the State Capitol. I enclose also twelve typewritten sheets covering all these tracts.

Very truly yours,

A. E. Sheldon, Superintendent.

acs:fs
enc. 2

Township 1 North, Range 16 East,
Sixth Principal Meridian, Nebraska.

Sec. 24

47.84 3	30.76 2	78.60 1
39.50 4	30.95 5	48.05 6
37.30 11	53.36 10	39.70 8
	47.00 12	35.87 13
		43.93 14

Surveyor General's Office

29 Jany. 1858

September 21, 1942

Request of R. S. Clinton, Chief
Patents Division,
General Land Office,
Department of the Interior,
Washington, D. C.

For information regarding land indicated in red on
plat accompanying his letter.

The tract in question is triangular in shape, consists of about 8.55 acres and was contained in lot 6. It is part of the half-breed tract, ceded by the Treaty of Paririe du Chien, July 15, 1830 (7 Stat. 328).

The Half-Breed Reservation in Nebraska was a tract between the Great and the Little Nemaha rivers. It was surveyed by McCoy in 1838 and the survey as returned showed that it contained 137,988.36 acres. Between 1855 and 1857 surveys were made by Michael McManus and William H. Goodwin indicating that the tract contained 120,675.91 acres. To quiet disputes an act of congress of June 12, 1858, established the McCoy lines as the true boundary.

The tract indicated in the letter of inquiry is part of the southeast quarter of the northwest quarter of section 24, township 1 north, range 16 east. It is bounded on the north by the east and west quarter-section line about forty rods south of the north line of section 23; and on the west by a line running diagonally from northwest to southeast, this line marking the western boundary of the half-breed lands, according to the McCoy survey, which was approved by an act of congress June 12, 1858.

Book 149 of land office records now in custody of the Nebraska State Historical Society do not indicate to whom patent for this tract was issued. Apparently this parcel of land was included in lot 6, of section 24. Lots 4 and 5, in the south half of the northwest quarter of section 24 were sold to Mary Ann Dunking April 19, 1858, and she was issued a patent therefor April 2, 1860. The north half of the northwest quarter of this section, comprising lots 2 and 3 and containing 86.65 acres, was sold to Thomas I. Meek August 6, 1859, and a patent therefor was issued to him April 2, 1860. Lot 2 in this tract was half-breed land.

The most perplexing problem in connection with titles to these half-breed lands arises from the fact that when the survey was made an unusual system of numbering irregular tracts as lots 1, 2, 3, etc., was used. Afterwards, the land in the same township and range, but not in the half-breed tract, was surveyed and in designating the irregular tracts the custom of beginning the numbering of lots 1, 2, 3, etc., in the northeast corner of the section was followed. In order to avoid duplicate lot numbers in the same section, the numbers in the half-breed tracts were changed. But this

survey was canceled and the original lot numbers reinstated. In the meantime patents for two lots of the same numbers in the same section were issued, thereby creating two titles for one parcel of land. About the only way to identify them was by the number of acres in the lot for which a patent had been issued.

190196 "B"

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GENERAL LAND OFFICE
WASHINGTON

NOV 23 1942

Mr. A. E. Sheldon,
Superintendent,
Nebraska State Historical Society,
State Capitol Building,
Lincoln, Nebraska.

My dear Mr. Sheldon:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of September 21, 1942 with enclosures.

Our office appreciates the information furnished relative to lots 6 sec. 24,
T. 1 N., R. 16 E., 6th principal meridian, Nebraska.

Very truly yours,



Chief, Patents Division.



Enc.

1909196 "B"

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GENERAL LAND OFFICE
WASHINGTON

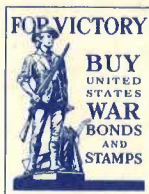
DEC 31 1942

Mr. A. E. Sheldon, Superintendent,
Nebraska State Historical Society,
State Capitol Building,
Lincoln, Nebraska.

My dear Mr. Sheldon:

We find it necessary to call upon you for a tracing of the local office plat of survey of T. 1 N., R. 16 E., sixth principal meridian, Nebraska, which will accurately show the lines bounding the various subdivisions of fractional sec. 24 of the township, together with the entry numbers noted on the plat for each subdivision. If there is more than one plat for this township, would you kindly send us a tracing, showing the information requested, for each plat.

A franked envelope requiring no postage is enclosed for the convenience of your reply. The office wishes to express appreciation for your courtesy.



Enc.

Very truly yours,



Chief, Patents Division.

January 20, 1943

R. S. Clinton
Chief, Patents Division
General Land Office
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Clinton:

Complying with your request of December 31 for a tracing of the local office plat of survey of T. 1 N., R. 16 E., sixth principal meridian, which will accurately show the lines bounding the various subdivisions of fractional Sec. 24 of the township, together with the entry numbers noted on the plat for each subdivision, we are enclosing herewith two separate drawings made by our Miss Watson of the original Land Office plats in our possession. This has required considerable time and careful study. It is one of the many cases in which the Nebraska State Historical Society has been able to furnish information from the documents in its possession which information could not be secured elsewhere.

If this information is satisfactory to your office, you could render a service to us by writing a letter to Hon. H. G. Greenamyre, Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, Nebraska Legislature, stating the service we have been able to render you. Our Legislature is now in session and I do not need to tell you from your acquaintance with public affairs how helpful it is to a department when an outside institution or department is able to volunteer recognition of services rendered.

With sincere best wishes,

A. E. Sheldon, Superintendent

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encls. 2