

(4-309.)

HOMESTEAD PROOF—TESTIMONY OF WITNESS.

William J. Merrick, being called as witness in support of the Homestead entry of Sarah A. Bays, decedent for 8543812.7p201 R. 87, testifies as follows:

Question 1.—What is your name, age, and post-office address?

Answer. My name is William J. Merrick, age 51 yrs. Post Office, Hull, Mo.

Ques. 2.—Are you well acquainted with the claimant in this case and the land embraced in his claim?

Ans. I was well acquainted with the claimant in this case and the land embraced in the claim.

Ques. 3.—Is said tract within the limits of an incorporated town or selected site of a city or town, or used in any way for trade or business?

Ans. Said tract is not within the limits of an incorporated town or selected site of a city or town or used in any way for trade or business.

Ques. 4.—State specifically the character of this land, whether it is timber, prairie, grazing, farming, coal, or mineral land.

Ans. The character of this land is prairie devoted to timber, grazing and farming.

Ques. 5.—When did claimant settle upon the homestead and at what date did he establish actual residence thereon?

Ans. The claimant settled upon the homestead in the spring of 1899, and established his actual residence thereon at that time.

Ques. 6.—Have claimant and family resided continuously on the homestead since first establishing residence thereon? (If settler is unmarried, state the fact.)

Ans. The claimant Sarah A. Bays resided a short time there when she went down on a visit to her mother at the time that she was taken ill, in the summer of 1899, that she died in the fall of 1899.

Ques. 7.—For what period or periods has the settler been absent from the land since making settlement, and for what purpose; and if temporarily absent, did claimant's family reside upon and cultivate the land during such absence?

Ans. She went to Iowa in the summer of 1899, was taken ill and I learned at the time that she never recovered but died in August 1899.

Ques. 8.—How much of the homestead has the settler cultivated and for how many seasons did he raise crops thereon?

Ans. The claimant Nancy A. Merrick one of the heirs has cultivated 10 acres of the homestead for 3 seasons and raised some crops each season.

Ques. 9.—What improvements are on the land and what is their value?

Ans. There was a house built on the land in the spring of 1899.

Ques. 10.—Are there any indications of coal, salines, or minerals of any kind on the homestead? (If so, describe what they are, and state whether the land is more valuable for agricultural than for mineral purposes)

Ans. There are no indications of coal, salines, minerals of any kind on the homestead to my knowledge.

Ques. 11.—Has the claimant mortgaged, sold, or contracted to sell, any portion of said homestead?

Ans. No part of this homestead has been mortgaged, sold, or contracted to sell to my knowledge.

Ques. 12.—Are you interested in this claim; and do you think the settler has acted in entire good faith in perfecting this entry?

Ans. I am not interested in this claim and think the claimant has acted in entire good faith in perfecting this entry.

(Sign plainly with full christian name.) William J. Merrick

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing testimony was read to the witness before being subscribed, and was sworn to before me this 7th day of September 1897, at my office at Evening, in Scott Bluff County, Missouri.

[SEE NOTE ON FOURTH PAGE.]

C. W. Ford
Clerk of the District Court

(The testimony of witnesses must be taken at the same time and place, and before the same officer as claimant's final affidavit. The answers must be full and complete to each and every question asked, and officers taking testimony will be expected to make no mistakes in dates, description of land, or otherwise.)