

[4-369 a.]  
**HOMESTEAD, PRE-EMPTION, AND COMMUTATION PROOF.**  
**TESTIMONY OF CLAIMANT.**

Full and Specific Answers must be given to each Question. Evasive Answers will be Fatal to the Proof.

William J. Gurrhen, claimant, being first duly sworn, testifies as follows:

Question 1.—What is your correct name, your age, and occupation? If employed by any person, state by whom.

Ans. William J. Gurrhen - Age 48 years - Farmer - Not employed by any person

Question 2.—What is your post-office address?

Ans. Hull Basin County Nebraska

Question 3.—Are you the identical person who made pre-emption filing No. \_\_\_\_\_ (or homestead entry No. 9679) at the North Platte Neb. land office on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of March, 1887, and what is the true description of the land now claimed by you?

Ans. Yes -  
W. C. 4 Section 24 Town 20 Range 58

Question 4.—Where did you live before settling upon this land, and what was your occupation?

Ans. Delaware to New York - I was running a stationary engine

Question 5.—Are you a citizen of the United States, or have you declared your intention to become such?

Ans. I am a native born citizen of the United States.

(In case the party is of foreign birth, a copy of his declaration of intention to become a citizen or full naturalization certificate, officially certified, must be filed with the case. The latter is only required in final homestead entries.)

Question 6.—Are you interested in any other entry or filing than the one upon which you now seek to make proof?

Ans. No.

Question 7.—Have you ever made a pre-emption filing for any other tract of land, or made any other homestead entry or filing of any kind? (Answer each question separately, describe the land, and state what disposition you made of your claim.)

Ans. No - No - Yes - Made a timber culture filing on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of June 1885 - I relinquished the same to the government.

Question 8.—Is your present claim within the limits of an incorporated town or selected site of a city or town, or used in any way for trade and business?

Ans. No.

Question 9.—What is the character of the land? Is it timber, mountainous, prairie, grazing, or ordinary agricultural land? State its kind and quality, and for what purpose it is most valuable.

Ans. Prairie land - Sandy loam soil - Most valuable for stock raising.

Question 10.—Is the land valuable for coal, iron, stone, or minerals of any kind? Has any coal or other minerals been discovered thereon, or is any coal or mineral known to be contained therein? Are there any indications of coal, salines, or minerals of any kind on the land? If so, describe what they are.

Ans. No. No. No. No.

Question 11.—If the land is timber land, state the kind, quality, and amount of timber thereon at date of initiating your claim, the amount still standing, how much has been cut and removed, and by whom, and whether the same has been disposed of, and to whom, also whether any other person than yourself has any interest in the timber, and if so, what kind of interest.

Ans. Not timber land.