

(4-369.)

HOMESTEAD PROOF—TESTIMONY OF WITNESS.

John Fairchild, being called as witness in support of the Homestead entry of Willie B. Merriam for SW 1/4 Sec 3, T 2 S, R 2 E, testifies as follows:

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

Answer. John Fairchild, 39 years old, Dunnington State School, N. Neb.

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

Ans. I am well acquainted with claimant also the land embraced in his 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. It is not within the limits of any incorporated town or selected site of a city or town or use any way asked 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. It is ordinary farming land.

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

Ans. He settled in Aug. 1896. He established actual residence thereon in Aug. 1896.

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

Ans. Claimant has resided continuously on homestead since he established residence thereon. He is unmarried.

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. He has been away for a month at a time to work.

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

Ans. He has cultivated 15 acres. He has raised crops for

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

Ans. He has a house 16x24 ft, a barn 14x18 ft, and 15 acres broke. Value \$300.

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 or minerals.

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

Ans. He has not mortgaged, sold or contracted to sell any portion of said homestead.

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 I think the settler has acted in entire good faith in perfecting this entry.

John Fairchild

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing testimony was read to the witness before being subscribed, and was sworn to before me this 25 day of Jan 1897.

[SEE NOTE ON FOURTH PAGE.]

John McKay
Deputy U.S. Marshal

(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.)