

HOMESTEAD PROOF—TESTIMONY OF WITNESS.

George W. Kessler, being called as witness in support of the Homestead entry of Edwin J. Whipple for S.W. 1/4 Sec. 2, T. 6. N. 20. R. 17. W. 2, testifies as follows:

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

Answer. My name is George W. Kessler, age 51 years, Post Office Dornington, Nebraska

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 the claimant in this case and 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. 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, devoid of timber, grazing land.

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

Ans. Claimant settled upon the homestead in the Spring of 1883, 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. Claimant and family resided continuously on the homestead up to January 1st 1887, since that time he has been Deputy County Treasurer of Scotts Bluff County, Nebraska.

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. The settler has been absent from the land since January 1st 1887 attending to the duties of Deputy County Treasurer of Scotts Bluff County, Nebraska.

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

Ans. The settler has cultivated from 4 to 22 acres of the land for three seasons and raised crop 2 seasons.

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

Ans. Improvements on the land are Log house 14x18, State 4x26, Plow, Churn, Corn, well, Corn, Total value of improvements \$1500

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 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. Claimant has not mortgaged, sold, or contracted to sell any portion of this homestead 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 settler has acted in entire good faith in perfecting his entry.

(Sign plainly with full christian name.)

George W. Kessler

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing testimony was read to the witness before being subscribed, and was sworn to before me this 14th day of June 1898, at my office at Dornington, in Scotts Bluff County, Neb.

[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.)