

HOMESTEAD PROOF—TESTIMONY OF WITNESS.

Marion Wilber, being called as witness in support of the Homestead entry of William H. Smith for S.W. 1/4 Sec. 13, T. 20 N. 57, testifies as follows:

Question 1.—What is your name, age, and post-office address?  
 Answer. Marion Wilber, age 56 P.O. address, Dornington 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 the claimant William H. Smith 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. It is not within the limits of an incorporated town or selected site of a town or city, or used 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 mostly smooth prairie land, best adapted to grazing.

Ques. 5.—When did claimant settle upon the homestead and at what date did he establish actual residence thereon?  
 Ans. He settled on the Homestead in the fall of 1888 and established his residence on the land in the month of September 1888.

Ques. 6.—Have claimant and family resided continuously on the homestead since first establishing residence thereon? (If settler is unmarried, state the fact.)  
 Ans. He is unmarried and I think was absent from the land about 2 1/2 years taking care of his mother who was badly crippled with the rheumatism.

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 was absent about 2 1/2 years from the last of June 1892 to the month of May 1895. Except that period he resided on the land continuously from date of settlement until this present time.

Ques. 8.—How much of the homestead has the settler cultivated and for how many seasons did he raise crops thereon?  
 Ans. He has broken out about 25 acres and put in 2 or 3 crops.

Ques. 9.—What improvements are on the land and what is their value?  
 Ans. Shed house 12x20, Corn, Well of water, Claim all fence, Stable sheds etc. of the total value of about \$2000

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, saline or minerals on the land to my knowledge.

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 the homestead or any portion of it 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 the claim and think the settler has acted in entire good faith in perfecting this entry.

(Sign plainly with full christian name.) Marion Wilber

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing testimony was read to the witness before being subscribed, and was sworn to before me this 25<sup>th</sup> day of November 1895, at my office at Bering, in Scotts Bluff County, Nebraska.

[SEE NOTE ON FOURTH PAGE.] O. W. Gardner  
 County Judge.

(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 date, description of land, or otherwise.)