

HOMESTEAD PROOF—TESTIMONY OF WITNESS.

William A. Buxton, being called as witness in support of the Homestead entry of James Merriam for NW 1/4 Sec 9, T 21, R 57 W, testifies as follows:

Question 1.—What is your name, age, and post-office address?
Answer. William A. Buxton, age 27 years, P.O. address Wadsworth 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, 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. The tract is not within the limits of any incorporated town or city, nor selected site of one, and is not being 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. Natural ordinary prairie.
Ques. 5.—When did claimant settle upon the homestead and at what date did he establish actual residence thereon?
Ans. Claimant settled on the tract in December 1895, and established actual residence 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 is unmarried. He has not resided continuously on the homestead.

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. Claimant has been absent about 4 months each summer, going to the city to earn money to live upon.

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 6 acres, and has raised crops 6 seasons.

Ques. 9.—What improvements are on the land and what is their value?
Ans. There is on the tract, House value \$100, Sheds \$75, well \$30, 68 rods, \$15, Canees breaking \$18, 400 set, posts \$40.

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 on the tract.

Ques. 11.—Has the claimant mortgaged, sold, or contracted to sell, any portion of said homestead?
Ans. The claimant has not mortgaged, sold, or contracted to sell any portion of the tract.

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; I think the settler has acted in good faith.
William A. Buxton

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing testimony was read to the witness before being subscribed, and was sworn to before me this 28 day of January 1897.

[SEE NOTE ON FOURTH PAGE.]
W. A. Hulbert, U.S. Marshal
Agent Commissioner
at Young, Nebraska

(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.)