

HOMESTEAD PROOF—TESTIMONY OF CLAIMANT.

W. H. Smith being called as a witness in his own behalf in support of homestead entry, No. 803, for SW<sup>1/4</sup> Sec 13 Tp 20 R 57 testifies as follows:

Ques. 1.—What is your name, age, and post-office address?  
 Ans. William H. Smith age 32 yr. adress, Dorrington Neb.

Ques. 2.—Are you a native born citizen of the United States, and if so, in what State or Territory were you born?  
 Ans. I am a native born citizen of the United States, was born in the State of Iowa.

Ques. 3.—Are you the identical person who made homestead entry, No. 803, at the Sidney Nebraska land office on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of April 1888, and what is the true description of the land now claimed by you?  
 Ans. SW<sup>1/4</sup> Sec 13 Tp 20 R 57. I am the identical person who made such entry at the Sidney Neb. Land office.

Ques. 4.—When was your house built on the land and when did you establish actual residence therein? (Describe said house and other improvements which you have placed on the land, giving total value thereof.)  
 Ans. My house was built on the land in September 1888. I established actual residence on the land about the last of Sept. 1888. I built a house 12x20 ft. with 2 rooms, a kitchen, a bath, a porch, and a well. The total value of the house is \$2000.

Ques. 5.—Of whom does your family consist? and have you and your family resided continuously on the land since first establishing residence thereon? (If unmarried, state the fact.)  
 Ans. I am a single man. I was absent from the land from Dec 23 1892 until May 22 1895. Otherwise I resided on the land continuously from date of settlement to the present time.

Ques. 6.—For what period or periods have you been absent from the homestead since making settlement, and for what purpose; and if temporarily absent, did your family reside upon and cultivate the land during such absence?  
 Ans. I was absent from the claim for about 2 1/2 years altogether. I was absent for the purpose of taking care of my aged mother who lived at Gibbon Nebraska. She had no other support except myself. She was a cripple and required the personal attendance of one person at all times. We were unable to hire it done or to move her to any place.

Ques. 7.—How much of the land have you cultivated each season and for how many seasons have you raised crops thereon?  
 Ans. I broke out and cultivated 20 acres of the homestead and raised 3 crops thereon.

Ques. 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. It is not within the limits of an incorporated town or selected site of a city or used in any way for trade and business.

Ques. 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. It is valley land good soil. smooth prairie land and most valuable for grazing purposes.

Ques. 10.—Are there any indications of coal, salines, or minerals, of any kind, on the land? (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 land that I am aware of.

Ques. 11.—Have you ever made any other homestead entry? (If so, describe the same.)  
 Ans. I have never made any other homestead entry.

Ques. 12.—Have you sold, conveyed, or mortgaged any portion of the land; and if so, to whom and for what purpose?  
 Ans. I have not sold, conveyed or mortgaged any portion of this land.

Ques. 13.—Have you any personal property of any kind elsewhere than on this claim? (If so, describe the same, and state where the same is kept.)  
 Ans. I have no personal property elsewhere than on this claim.

Ques. 14.—Describe by legal subdivisions, or by number, kind of entry, and office where made, any other entry or filing (not mineral,) made by you since August 30, 1890.  
 Ans. I have made no entry of land, or filing since Aug 30 1890.

(Sign plainly with full christian name.) William H. Smith

\* (In case the party is of foreign birth a certified transcript from the court records of his declaration of intention to become a citizen, or of his naturalization, or a copy thereof, certified by the officer taking this proof, must be filed with the case. Evidence of naturalization is only required in final (five-year) homestead cases.)