

[4-3696.]

HOMESTEAD, PRE-EMPTION, AND COMMUTATION PROOF.

TESTIMONY OF WITNESS.

(The testimony of two witnesses, taken separately, in addition to the testimony of claimant, is required in each case.)  
 (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.

Question 1.—What is your true name, (christian and surname), given in full, your age, residence, and present post-office address?  
 (Give description of land on which you reside, quarter-section, township, and range.)

Answer Samuel J. Hodges age 40 years  
 SE Sec 10 Tp 20 R 57  
 Somerton Neb

Ques. 2.—What is your present occupation, and where and by whom have you been employed since Jan 14 1888 the date of claimant's alleged settlement on said tract?

Ans Farming Not employed by any one

Ques. 3.—Are you related to claimant or in any way interested in this claim, or are you connected with him in business of any kind?

Ans No No No

Ques. 4.—How far from the residence of claimant, on said tract, do you reside, and how long have you lived there?

Ans About one half mile About three years

Ques. 5.—Give the names and residences of two or more persons living nearer to the claimant of this tract than yourself. If none are nearer than you, give the names of two or more next nearest, and state the land on which they reside.

Ans Richard B. Barkell SE Sec 9 Tp 20 R 57  
 John H. Barkell SE 1/4 Sec 9 S 2 NW SW NE Sec 10 Tp 20 R 57

Ques. 6.—How long have you known Clark B. Whipple the claimant, for whom you appear as a witness, where has he been living since you first knew him up to the present time, and is he the identical person he represents himself to be?

Ans About seven years I first knew him in Bon  
 Comity Neb since March 6 1888 on his claim Yes

Ques. 7.—Are you well acquainted with the land embraced in this claim? Give correct description thereof; also state the extent of your knowledge and how you know what you affirm.

Ans Yes. NW Sec 15 Tp 20 R 57 By  
 section lines and corner stakes

Ques. 8.—How often have you been on this tract of land since claimant's alleged settlement thereon, at what time or times, and when did you last see him on the land?

Ans About three times a week May 20 1890

Ques. 9.—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 No No

Ques. 10.—State specifically the character of this land—whether it is timber, prairie, grazing, farming, coal, or mineral land.

Ans Prairie land most valuable for  
 farming and grazing

Ques. 11.—Are there any indications of coal, minerals, or talines on this land?

Ans No No indications

Ques. 12.—Is it within any stock range or fence or other inclosure? If so, give the names of the parties owning or in any manner controlling such inclosure or range.

Ans No