

HOMESTEAD PROOF—TESTIMONY OF CLAIMANT.

John W Cunningham, being called as a witness in his own behalf in support of Homestead entry, No. 356, for S² N⁶ E² Lots 1+2, Sec 2, Tp. 18, R. 57, testifies as follows:

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

Ans. John W Cunningham Age 35 years old, PO Harrisburg 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 Illinois

Ques. 3.—Are you the identical person who made homestead entry, No. 356, at the Sidney land office on the 28 day of October 1887, and what is the true description of the land now claimed by you?

Ans. I am the identical person who made said entry. The South half of North West Quarter of Lots 1+2, Sec 2, Tp. 18, R. 57

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. I built my house during the months of March and April 1885. I established my actual residence there in April 1885. I lived on the place until September the 4th 1888. I have a house 10 ft. by 12 ft. and a stable 12 ft. by 30 ft. I have a well on the place.

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. Myself, wife and five children, we have made that homestead our home, continuously, but have been absent temporarily

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 temporarily at two different times at work to get means to improve the place, but never to avoid my family at any one time. My family has resided on the place during all of the time I was absent. My family was absent until I was on the place

Ques. 7.—How much of the land have you cultivated each season and for how many seasons have you raised crops thereon? (If planted, state what crops have been raised.)

Ans. I have cultivated from 25 to 50 acres each season, from 1885 to 1888. I have raised corn.

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.

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. Prairie farming and grazing land

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. No indications of coal, salines or minerals

Ques. 11.—Have you ever made any other homestead entry? (If so, describe the same.)

Ans. I have not.

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.

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

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing testimony was read to the claimant before being subscribed, and was sworn to before me this 24 day of March 1887.

[SEE NOTE ON FOURTH PAGE.]

* (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.)