

(4-369.)

HOMESTEAD PROOF—TESTIMONY OF WITNESS.

Samuel J. Hodges, being called as witness in support of the Homestead entry of Thomas Holland for U.S. Sec. 21-20-37, testifies as follows:

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

Answer. Samuel J. Hodges 46 yrs. Dorrington Neb.

Ques. 2.—Are you well acquainted with the claimant in this case and the land embraced in his claim?

Ans. Yes.

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. No No No.

Ques. 4.—State specifically the character of this land—whether it is timber, prairie, grazing, farming, coal, or mineral land.

Ans. Prairie farming & grazing land.

Ques. 5.—When did claimant settle upon the homestead and at what date did he establish actual residence thereon?

Ans. Feb. 1887. Established actual residence in Feb. 1887.

Ques. 6.—Have claimant and family resided continuously on the homestead since first establishing residence thereon? (If settler is unmarried, state the fact.)

Ans. Yes, except short periods, when claimant was away to work.

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. Absent May 1887 to Aug. 1887, 3 or 4 months during 1888, 1891, 3 or 4 months. <sup>not absent since</sup> family remained on claim.

Ques. 8.—How much of the homestead has the settler cultivated and for how many seasons did he raise crops thereon?

Ans. 60 Acres. Crops in 5 seasons.

Ques. 9.—What improvements are on the land and what is their value?

Ans. House 14x20<sup>8</sup> 175. Barn 40x20<sup>8</sup> 150 shed 50. Well 50. 800 fenced<sup>by</sup> 75. Total value \$375.

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. No indications

Ques. 11.—Has the claimant mortgaged, sold, or contracted to sell, any portion of said homestead?

Ans. Not 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. No Yes

Samuel J. Hodges

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing testimony was read to the witness before being subscribed, and was sworn to before me this 4<sup>th</sup> day of June 1892.

[SEE NOTE ON FOURTH PAGE.]

S. B. Shumway  
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 dates, description of land, or otherwise.)