



19th Century Land Documents

2007:041

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Historical/Biographical Sketch and Scope and Content Note

These land documents cover a wide range of dates and locations, from 1838 Texas to 1846 Georgia, to 1905 Texas and a 1979 Temple-Eastex internal memo. These documents relate to lands once owned by Temple-Inland and were kept with the legal files necessary for each tract of land. At some point, possibly around the time of the 1979 memo, Temple land department employees felt it necessary to remove these documents from their original files in order to preserve them. Documents included are a State of Texas Land Patent signed by Sam Houston, an 1846 Republic of Texas Land Grant signed by Anson Jones, a series of documents (mostly in Spanish) regarding the transfer of the Candido Sanchez League in Trinity County, Texas (1835), and 1846 Georgia Land Grants signed by the Governor of Georgia.

Physical Description

14 Documents in a variety of sizes, most in moderately good to poor condition. There is some creasing in the documents, several instances of ink bleeding through the paper, and at some point the previous owners wrote identification numbers in pencil on several documents. The collection contains one Sam Houston signature and one Anson Jones signature.

Provenance Note

The exact provenance of each document cannot be certified, but there are several generalizations that can be made. As lumber companies acquired land, through purchase or grant, they found it necessary to collect all of the pertinent documents attached to each piece of land. If the land had been claimed since the 1830's, then there would most likely be Spanish, Mexican, or Texan documents attached to it. In some cases they were able to obtain originals or extant copies of these documents. In theory, as a land is sold from one owner to the next, the documents accompany the land. As Southern Pine Lumber Company, and later Temple Industries, Temple Eastex, and Temple-Inland acquired land, their Land and Timber department kept the legal files for each tract. Some of these files included 19th century land documents. At some point around the time of the 1979 memo described in the inventory, company lawyers and land department personnel pulled these documents from the files and began to keep them separately in an effort to preserve them as historical documents in addition to legal documents. When Temple-Inland sold much of its lands to The Campbell Group in 2007, these documents were transferred to The History Center along with several other collections of land documents so that Temple's land ownership history could be preserved.

Brief Inventory

1860 Land Patent Signed by Sam Houston

Summary of Document:

This document is a land grant from August 21, 1860, granting 319 9/10 acres of land in Anderson County to James C. Ross. It was filed at the County Clerk's office in an unknown county (possibly Anderson) in March 1881. Document is notable because it contains the signature of then Governor Sam Houston, 6 months before the state voted to secede from the Union.

Condition of Document:

Document measures 14.75x12.5 and is in acceptable condition. It shows signs of iron gall ink bleeding though from the reverse, a common problem in documents of this vintage. The document has been folded, and the middle crease is especially deep. There are several stains on the document. On the reverse side of the document, 42 001 0782 100001 is stamped in modern ink.

1856 Land Sale Document, Sabine County

Summary of Document:

Document dates from 1856 and contains statements from Martin J. Brown, administrator of the estate of Albert Emmanuel concerning the disposition of 1166 acres at public auction. John H. Smith bid \$92.50 for the land located in Sabine and Newton Counties on August 5, 1856. The sale was finalized on August 10, 1856. This document was filed with the county clerk (Sabine) on October 16, 1886.

Condition of Document:

Document measures 12.5x15.5 and is made of blue/gray paper. It is in poor condition, with stains, creases, tears, and torn creases.

1846 Georgia Land Grant, Plat 604

Summary of Document:

Document grants 40 acres of land (plat 604) in the former Cherokee County, Georgia to James W. Horne of Baldwin County, Georgia under the land grant law passed in 1843. The document was signed by the governor of Georgia, George W. Crawford, on March 11, 1846. The Secretary of State's office dated the document on March 12, 1846.

Condition of Document:

Document is actually two documents tied together with twine. The documents are a plat map and physical description of the land on top, and the official proclamation signed by the governor on the bottom. Together, they measure 11.25x8.5 and are in fair condition, showing signs of dirt. The deep creases in the document are beginning to tear, and the edges are frayed. The seal is dirty and faded and unreadable except for "State of Georgia" on one side.

*A modern document indicated that the county is currently known as Paulding County.

1846 Georgia Land Grant, Plat 122

Summary of Document:

Document grants 40 acres of land (plat 122) in the former Cherokee County, Georgia to James W. Horne of Baldwin County, Georgia under the land grant law passed in 1843. The document was signed by the governor of Georgia, George W. Crawford, on March 11, 1846. The Secretary of State's office dated the document on March 12, 1846.

Condition of Document:

Document is actually two documents tied together with twine. The documents are a plat map and physical description of the land on top, and the official proclamation signed by the governor on the bottom. Together, they measure 11.25x8.5 and are in fair condition, showing signs of dirt. The deep creases in the document are beginning to tear, and the edges are frayed. The seal is dirty and faded and unreadable except for "State of Georgia" on one side.

*A modern document indicated that the county is currently known as Paulding County.

1905 General Land Office Envelope

Summary of Document:

1 envelope from the General Land Office of Texas is postmarked January 6, 1905 and has a .02 stamp affixed to the top right corner. There were 3 items in the envelope: 2 cards accepting an application for land purchase and 1 vellum map.

The cards are dated January 5, 1905 and advise Alexander Gilmer that the GLO has accepted his application for land purchases in Newton County. The land sale was dated December 20, 1904 and granted the T&NO 640, 507, and 342 acres and 525 4/10, 640, 640, 640 acres.

The map is undated, and labeled Brookland and Surroundings, showing disputed land areas.

Condition of Document:

The envelopes and cards are in excellent condition. The envelope measures 6.5x3.75 and the cards measure 6x3.5. The map is in acceptable condition, although the creases are deep and the edges are uneven. It measures 12.25x7.5 at the top and 12.25x9 at the bottom.

1835(?) Candido Sanchez League Transfer Document

Summary of Document:

Document dates from 1834 or 1835 and is signed by Jorge Antonio Nixon (George Anthony Nixon) and concerns lands granted to Candido Sanchez in Trinity County originally in the Joseph Vehlein Colony. Document is in Spanish.

Condition of Document:

Document is 8 folio pages measuring 8.5x12.25 and is in poor condition. The creases are torn and the edges are frayed, there are stains, and signs of ink bleeding through. A modern stamp marks the document with the numbers 42 455 0039 100001.

Translation/Transcription of Various Documents concerning the Candido Sanchez League

Summary of Document:

Document is undated and contains lengthy translations and transcriptions of land transfer documents from Mexico, the Republic of Texas, and the State of Texas.

Condition of Document:

The 11-page document measures 8x10.25. The paper shows signs of yellowing with age and there is a metal fastener in the top left corner. There are also pencil notations and corrections within the text in red ink. There is a stamp reading 42 455 0039.

Stevenson & Stevenson Letterhead

Summary of Document:

Document is one sheet of letterhead from Stevenson and Stevenson, Attorneys in Groveton, Trinity County, Texas. There are handwritten notations on each side.

Condition of Document:

Document is in poor condition, showing signs of paper yellowing. The edges are frayed and torn, and the deep creases throughout the paper are beginning to tear. The document measures 8.5x11. There is a stamp reading 42 455 0039.

1915 General Land Office Title Transfer Invoice

Summary of Document:

Document is a title transfer invoice dated February 2, 1915 directed to R.E. Minton in Groveton, Texas.

Condition of Document:

Document is in acceptable condition. The right edge is torn and folded and 42 455 0039 is stamped along the right side.

Cover to Candido Sanchez Title, 1835

Summary of Document:

Document appears to be the cover sheet to a title transfer from George Antonio Nixon to Candido Sanchez concerning a league of land in Trinity County, Texas, Vehleins Colony. The Document is dated July 30, 1835.

Condition of Document:

Document measures 13x8 and is faded, brown, and has tears, stains, and deep creases that are tearing.

1979 Temple-EasTex Internal Memo

Summary of Document:

Document is an internal memo from Ward Burke to Kenneth Nelson dated May 2, 1979. Burke writes to Nelson that he has pulled several historic land documents from their files, replaced them with copies, and is sending the originals with this memo. He urges Nelson to protect these originals and keep them safe because of their historic value.

Condition of Document:

Document measures 8.5x11 and is in excellent condition.

1835(?) Mexican Land Document

Document Summary:

Similar to the previous Mexican document, this folio concerns lands in the Zavalla Colony and is signed by George Antonio Nixon.

Document Condition:

6-page document measures 12.25x8.75 and is in poor condition, with frayed and torn edges, stains, deep creases, and tears. There are pencil notation on the first page and a modern stamp that reads 42 403 0017.

1846 Republic of Texas Land Grant

Document Summary:

Document grants land in Houston County to Richard Duty and is signed by Republic of Texas President Anson Jones, dated February 10, 1846, 9 days before Texas officially transferred its governance to the United States.

Document Condition:

Document is in acceptable condition and measures 14.75x12.25. There is evidence of water damage, stains, and fading. Anson Jones' signature is quite faded. The seal of the Republic is attached with green ribbon and is also quite faded.

1850 Land Sale Document

Document Summary:

This document records the sale of land originally in the Zavalla Colony from Chandler Johnson to James Lansing. The document was filed with F.B. Brown, Clerk of the Angelina County Court on September 12, 1850.

Document Condition:

Document measures 15.5x12.5 and is in poor condition. The ink is bleeding through, the creases are torn, and someone has taped the two halves together using heavy gray tape. A red stamp records that it is for ST 42 CTY 005 ABST 0019.

SAMPLE LAND DOCUMENT ON NEXT PAGE...

