

GENERAL LAND OFFICE, STATE OF TEXAS.

CHARLES ROGAN, Commissioner.
J. J. TERRELL, Chief Clerk.

AUSTIN,....., 1899.

DEAR SIR: In reply to your inquiries, I have to say, that this department has on sale several million acres of lands belonging to the public free school and asylum funds of the State.

These lands are sold at the minimum prices of \$1.00 per acre for grazing and \$1.50 for agricultural lands. (It must not be taken for granted that all lands are sold at the minimum price.)

The terms are: One-fortieth cash, and the remainder in forty years, three per cent. interest per annum, with privilege of paying off the whole amount after three years, and getting a patent.

The lands are sold to actual settlers only, and must be occupied for three years continuously from date of the application to purchase; provided, the settler may be absent from the land not to exceed six months in any one year for the purpose of earning money with which to pay for the land or for sending his children to school. Any person over 18 years old, married or single, can buy the lands.

Not less than eighty acres nor more than four sections will be sold to one person, and not more than two sections must be agricultural land. The purchaser must live on one section or part of a section, and the remainder must lie within a radius of five miles of the home tract.

To purchase these lands, the party must first settle on the section he intends to occupy as a home. He must send to the General Land Office his application to purchase and affidavit that he has settled on the same in good faith, etc. He must at the same time send to the State Treasurer, one-fortieth of the purchase price of the land, and execute his obligation to the State for the remainder. (If his application should be rejected, the money will be refunded.)

Most of these lands are located in the western and "Pan-Handle" counties of the State, though a good deal of it is scattered in other portions.

There are a few tracts scattered through counties organized prior to January 1st, 1875, which may be sold without the condition of settlement on same terms as other school lands; provided they are detached from other unsold public lands.

The law also permits these lands to be leased, at a rental of not less than 3 cents per acre per annum.

To find these lands, the purchaser should go to the office of the county clerk of the county where he wishes to settle. Each clerk has a list of all the lands in his county that are on the market for sale or lease, and the law requires him to keep it in a well bound book open for public inspection. As this department can not give specific information as to the productiveness of these lands, nor their adaptability for any particular purpose, it is much better that one go to the locality in which he desires to locate and see for himself than to write to this department for general information.

Do not write to this department for general information in regard to the lands, climate, production, etc. It can not answer such inquiries.

Send all interest, principal and lease payments direct to the State Treasurer. Under no circumstances can this department receive payments on lands.

These lands are subject to taxation as soon as sold to the settler.

The settler can sell his lands at any time, to any person who will carry out the contract with the State.

The death of a settler releases his heirs from the obligations of living on the land.

There are no lands in this State subject to entry under the homestead donation laws at the present time.

At the time a purchase or lease application is sent to this office the first payment should be sent direct to the State Treasurer, and not to this office.

No unsurveyed land is subject to sale now, but may be leased.

Interest is not payable in advance, but all interest must be paid by November 1st, after it is due, or the land will be forfeited.

Blank applications, obligations, proofs of occupancy, etc., can be had by writing to this department, though they can generally be found at the offices of the county clerks and surveyors.

Very respectfully,

CHARLES ROGAN, Commissioner.

File No. 13

Old Miscellaneous County
Requirements for Land Sale

Filed 12-13 19 84

GARRY MAURO, Com'r

By dh

Counter # 75448