

3rd Seal 4 Reales. Validated by the Mexican Nation for the year 1824
Austin

Honorable Commissioner Baron de Bastrop:

I, James Hensley, a native of the U.S. of America and now a residence of the province of Texas, appear before you and say: That, having moved to this place with the intention of settling in the colonial settlement of Empresario D. Estevan F. Austin, established by permission of the Superior Government of the Mexican Nation, I hope that in admitting me with my family as one of the settlers of said colony you will be pleased to grant me and put me in possession of that portion of land which the law concedes to colonists, with the understanding that I am prepared to cultivate whatever may be assigned to me abiding.

The interested party paid in this court of my charge 4 Reales, cost of the foregoing seal. Town of San Felipe de Austin, July 26, 1824

Sylvenus Castleman

Town of San Felipe de Austin, July 29, 1824. Empresario D. Estevan F. Austin shall report as to whether the applicant has the circumstances and requisites by the governing laws in all cases, and to defend the rights of Independence and the liberty of the nation. Therefore, I ask you to please do as I have set forth, wherein shall receive favor and justice.

Town of San Felipe de Austin, July 29, 1824
/S/ James Hensley

Honorable Commissioner:

Pursuant to your foregoing decree, I must say that the inhabitant petitioner, James Hensley, is worthy of favor he solicits and may be admitted as a resident of this new colony by virtue of his good qualities and circumstances and well-known application to agriculture, stock-raising and industries, and in consideration thereof he may be granted one league and one labor of land.

San Felipe de Austin, July 29, 1824

Estevan D. Austin
(Rubic)

In the town of San Felipe de Austin, on the 2nd day of August of the year 1824, the Baron de Bastrop, sixth member of the Most Excellent Provincial Deputation of Texas, Commissioner of the Government and Estevan F. Austin, Empresario to establish a new colony in this province; Lt. Col. D. Lucian Garcia, conferred on the former in his decree of July 16, 1823, and of the order of the Political Chief of this Province, D. Jose Antonio Saucedo, dated June 23, 1824, and of the powers vested in both in consequence of the decree of the Superior Mexican Government dated February 18th, confirmed by the decrees of the Sovereign Constituent Congress and the Supreme Executive Power dated the 11th and 14th of April of the year 1823, and of the decree which the Command General of these Provinces, Brigadier D. Felipe de la Garza, issued on the 16th day of June of the aforesaid year in the record of proceedings considered at the instance of said Empresario D. Estevan F. Austin relative to the emigration of three hundred families that are to be settled as colonists in this Province, exercising the powers vested in us by said commission and decrees, and in consideration of the merits and circumstances which concur in the person of the petitioner, James Hensley, his heirs and successors, one league and one labor of land situated in said colonial settlement, without the facilities or irrigation and only with the use of permanent water, of which land we will put him in possession and deliver to him the corresponding title for his security as soon as he shall have paid the fees designated in the Fee Bill circulated by the political Chief of the Province of Texas on the 20th of May of this year, and in testimony thereof we hereunto subscribe with attendant witness on the day, month and year above written which we certify.

El Baron de Bastrop

(Rubic)

Attendant Witness
John Austin

(Rubic)

Estevan F. Austin

(Rubic)

Attendant Witness
Samuel M. Williams

(Rubic)

We, said Commissioner Baron de Bastrop and Empresario D. Estevan F. Austin; the witness, Charles Belknap, Joseph Stuart, and Albert Soujourner; the adjacent landowners; surveyor Horacio Chriesman, and the interested party, James Hensley, went to the aforesaid league which by the preceding decree we have granted to the last named on the east side of the San Bernard Creek, known as the eighth league east of said creek and south of the tract of George Huff; and the surveyor began at the lower corner of League No. 7 belonging to Wm. Robbins; thence he surveyed 5,646 varas northeast, where another landmark was set on the boundary of said Rossins league; thence southeast 3,846 varas, where another landmark was set in the prairie; thence southwest 9,400 varas to said San Bernardo Creek at a hackberry 20 inches in diameter, marked on one side EB and on the other side of EB, from which an elm marked with the ax bears not 15 degrees west 7 varas distant; and thence following the meanders of said creek upward to the place of beginning, compromising within said limits the amount of one league of land area, bounded on the southwest by League No. 9, and on the northeast by lands of the Nation.

Then we went to the laid labor, situated on the west side of the Brazos River south of the town of San Felipe de Austin and known as No. 12 west of said river, and the surveyor began at the lower corner of Joseph Newman's labor situated on the west side of said river and at a distance of 3 varas from an elm bearing north 63 degrees west of 10 varas from an ash bearing south 21 degrees east; thence he surveyed 1,395 varas southwest to the northeast corner of the labors of Sylvenus Castleman in the prairie; then southeast 1,000 varas to another corner of Castleman's labors; thence northeast 435 varas to the upper corner of said river of Castleman's labors, and thence following the meanders of said Brazos River upward to where the first line began, compromising within said lines the amount of labor of land in the area, bounded on the northeast by the said Brazos River, on the northwest by the labor of Joseph Newman, the adjacent landowner, and by vacant land of the Nation, and on the southwest and southeast by Sylvenus Castleman's labors.

We put the aforesaid James Hensley in possession of said tracts, taking him by hand, leading him over them, telling him in a loud and understandable voice that by virtue of the commission and the authority vested in us, and in the name of the Government of the Mexican Nation, we put him in possession of said tracts with all their uses, customs, rights and appurtenances, for him, his heirs and successors; and the aforementioned James Hensley, as a token of finding himself in real and personal possession of said tracts without any opposition, shouted, pulled grass, set stakes, and performed the other necessary ceremonies, being notified of his obligation to cultivate them within the two-year term prescribed by the law; and in evidence thereof, we, the aforesaid Commissioner Baron de Bastrop and Empresario Estevan F. Austin, hereunto subscribe with attendant witnesses, lacking a notary in the terms of the law, which we certify. In the town of San Felipe de Austin, on the 3rd day of August of 1824.

El Baron de Bastrop

(Rubic)

Attendant Witness

John Austin

(Rubic)

Estevan F. Austin

(Rubic)

Attendant Witness

Samuel M. Williams

(Rubic)