

LETTERS OF SURVEYOR GENERAL, Volume 9, On file in the Field Notes Section,
Elliot Building, Tallahassee, Florida.

Surveyor Generals Office
St. Augustine 24 Sept 1853

Sir,

Mr. Charles F. Hopkins has returned all the work under his contract with my predecessor to this office. The field notes have been critically examined and tested by actual protraction in this office and plats made accordingly.

I have approved and today sent three plats viz Township 36, Range 37
" " " 36, " " 38
" " " 36 " " 39

I send five more, not yet approved for your examination, and advice or instructions thereon, together with an explanatory diagram of this work. The difficulty with Township 34, Range 36 is that the lines do not correspond with the township lines as surveyed by Houston - see Section 6 east boundary. The same difficulty occurs in T 34, R 37, and the additional of not connecting back from the post on the north boundary and the variation noted.

The difficulty in township 35, range 37, 38, 39 and accounted for (except west boundary, Sec. 1, T 35, R 39) from the practice, sanctioned heretofore by this office that when two surveyors with work adjoining (to township/section) and to enter the field about the same time, the deputy who arrives on the ground first, surveys the township lines. In this case Mr. Hopkins and Mr. M. A. Williams had contracts adjoining, Mr. Williams arriving on the ground first, surveyed and run 12 miles of the south boundary of Mr. Hopkins contract, which is the north boundary of his own as well as a part of it. In performing this his beginning point was the south west corner of T. 36, R 40 running west 12 miles, without any guide for, or connexion with, the southboundaries of the township north of him, leaving a gap or open space of 12 miles broad north, and 12 miles long east and west to be filled up by Mr. Hopkins throwing the whole error of his own running if any upon the line, which Mr. Hopkins was to close upon. In running this distance, it appears ^{598.52'} the lines have spread nine chains and 27 links. The fault therefore of those 82 chs, 86 chs 10 lks and 89 chs 27 lks closures in the north and west corners of township 35 ranges 39, 38 and 37 does not appear to be with Mr. Hopkins. The diagram sent will at once present the whole subject to the eye. Errors have and will occur and accumulate, if deputies are allowed, as they have been, to go into the field, without

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special and detailed instructions in relation to such cases as this, and will produce as they have in this, and a number of other instances, a series of distorted irregular townships and consequently sections, contrary to the surveying laws. If these surveys had been made under contract with myself and my supervision and special instructions necessary in such cases, this gap would not have occurred, without an open and palpable violation of them and therefore would not have been approved, but under the practice by which the deputies have been allowed to do this work here, heretofore, and countenanced by approval of the Surveyor General, it would seem that without doing great injustice to the deputy, to be no remedy but to take this work and take care for the future that such cases do not occur.

To correct this error now would require the whole of these six townships, as well as Mr. Williams work south of them to be done anew, and all the lines and marks of every description to be cancelled, which at best, would have the appearance of a piece of patch work always troublesome to those hunting lines for the purchase of land.

This, and other errors, in the closing of townships, seems not so much the fault of the deputies, as the want of proper, suitable and detailed instructions from the surveyor General before ~~giving~~ going into the field, that would obviate and guard against such a state of things, and the practice heretofore of the office arising from ignorance or carelessness of duty but apparantly unintentionally in leaving too much to the deputies, and giving them too much latitude, which would seem has in too many instances been used to their own advantage, to the detriment of the public service, producing unnecessary ~~and~~ jogs and double sets of posts, in township lines disgraceful to the service.

Very Respectfully

Your OB Svt

John Westcott
Surveyor General

John Wilson, Esq.

Commissioner

General Land Office
Washington, D. C.

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Sir

Enclosed I send you the account of Mr. Charles F. Hopkins

deputy Surveyor for the survey of three townships viz T	36	R	37
"	36	"	38
"	36	"	39

Mr. Hopkins desires a draft may be sent him to this place.

Very respectfully
Your OB Svt
John Westcott
Surveyor General

John Wilson, Esq.
Commissioner
General Land Office
Washington, D. C.

LLOYD & ASSOCIATES
ENGINEERS & SURVEYORS
VERO BEACH, FLA.