

KIF; Peters' Colony

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## Respectfully to Owners of Peters' Colony Lands in or Near Louisville, Ky.

For several weeks I have expected to call on you, but on account of a spinal affection have been physically unable to travel or do much of anything, and how much longer yet may be the case I cannot say, and deem it expedient to submit you the following:

Yesterday I received information that some of you express dissatisfaction with me for reasons, viz: That I neglect the selling of your lands for my own; a thing I could not do at fair prices, however anxious I might be disposed; nor not one of you for yourselves, if personally here or through other agents—for buyers are choosers, and such sales can be made only when tracts are wanted for use. This can be verified through the Cisco Land and Collecting Agency, to whom in January of each year, sales of my own and for others I have made for the preceding year, are reported to strike from the tax rolls, which show no greater per centage of my own than of others. It becomes those who entertain such an opinion to make the investigation. 2nd. That would-be purchasers refuse to buy or submit offers through me. Then the only reason for it is that you prescribe prices for quality and advantages of tracts, which I closely adhere to, and they know that I know so much about Colony Lands; that they fail to get tracts they desire at their own figures, and therefore mercenary would-be buyers, squatters, usurpers, agents and sub-agents, to whom in your interest the CAUTION TO THE PUBLIC, in my land circulars refer deery and disparage me. That alone I have openly advocated and defended your interest is a widely known fact, and that any of you should join in with their outcry and influence against me is the wonder, for unreasonably inconsistent.

Should such sentiment exist to the extent to deny me a vindication, this I know, that all along I kept you advised of conditions, and urged that you combine against all things against your interest, and for which, if it must be that I be sacrificed, be it so; I shall live conscious of no disgrace thereby; and be it remembered, that the crucial ordeal, through which I have passed for doing right and duty to your interests, I would not knowingly again go through with for my lands.

I trust it will be your pleasure to meet and counsel on Saturday the 28th inst., when most of the owners can be heard from, and I may be able to be present, but should I not, I submit the following as a cure for the whole trouble:

**FOR SALE—"PETERS' COLONY,"  
or Premium Texan Emigration  
AND LAND COMPANY**

LANDS.

Situated in the Counties of Palo Pinto, Stephens, Shackelford, Eastland, Callahan, Throckmorton, Young, Jack, Montague, Clay, Archer and Baylor.

*For purchase of said lands, owned or represented by the undersigned, apply to or address only our Agent,*

*....., Texas, to whom we will refer any and all applications made to us; we, not our Agent, will fix price and terms for our respective lands. This resolved on for the best interest of ourselves and Land Buyers, and have specially recommended our action to other owners of these lands, at a meeting holden at office..... Louisville, Ky., Sept. 28th, 1889,*

*and further, we resolved to prosecute any and all persons who have or may hereafter cut, remove timber, or otherwise deplete on our lands, or herd stock on or inclose them without special permission.*

RESPECTFULLY, we call the attention of JUSTICES OF THE PEACE in each of said counties, to Article 901—Code of Criminal Procedure; and to Article 907, relating to witnesses, who may be fined or imprisoned for refusing to appear or state facts, and the PUBLIC to Article 697, which reads, "If any person, without consent of owner, shall cut down or carry away timber, shall be fined not less than \$10 nor more than \$500 for each offence; and to INFORMERS, to Acts A. D. 1884, pages 68 and 69—That if any person or corporation, or person assisting make or permit to remain standing any fence around the land of another, without written consent of owner duly acknowledged, shall, on conviction, be fined not less than 50 cents per acre, nor more than \$1 per acre for each month so inclosed, (provided that each three months shall constitute a separate offence,) and fined and imprisoned in the County Jail for any period not over two years. **Half of all fines collected shall be paid to the Informer.**" And would be thankful to any and all good citizens cognizant of above mentioned abuses, who may supply our said agent with the names of deplorators and facts.

BANK OF LOUISVILLE by ..... Pres.  
LOUISVILLE SAFETY VAULT & TRUST Co., by ..... Pres, for estates of.....  
FIDELITY TRUST & SAFETY VAULT Co., by ..... Pres, for Estates of.....

A. B.  
C. D.

Your solid alliance and adhesion to the above for six months would test its efficiency. Your Agent to submit fair offers for tracts, quality and advantages considered, or sell at price and terms that may be affixed for tracts; or in his judgment and discretion as might be the expressed wish of respective owners, and under their names be authorized to publish, especially in newspapers of the Colony counties, the above advertisement—at his expense of course—would terminate the confounding of strangers, the intrigues of local would-be buyers on their own terms, the envious of Agents, the jockeyings and misrepresentations and bad influences of persons and combinations against you, the dissentions and dissatisfactions and vexatious annoyances to owners; and forever end, as nearly as practicable, all depredations. It would about silence all questions, and resolve the whole matter to the ability and willingness of buyers to pay each owners' price.

I venture the prediction that should the above advertisement be put before the Texas public, that the tracts, singly or in aggregate, of each owner, will command buyers more readily at the maximum of current market values or more, than ever heretofore. I would be glad to see the Colony interests vindicated and advanced, even should I—who has borne the brunt and burden, and almost every conceivable unjust abuse and reflection incident to it, be refused this only chance for a personal vindication.

Should this program or one that would promise as much or more in our mutual interest, **not be adopted**, it would be impossible as all past experience has proven, for me, or any agent or agents indeed, to advance your interests, and having, at great expense, acquainted myself with the character of surveys in the several counties in order to intelligently dispose of them, as yet without recompense, I could not expect any in the future. Moreover, should I not stand approved by a most respectable majority of you, then, in either case, I beg to now inform all concerned, that my agency for Colony lands will close Jan. 1, next.

Very truly yours,  
E. S. GRAHAM.  
Graham, Texas, Sept. 20, 1889.