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23238

Fort Wingate N.M.

August 14. 1889

To the

Department of the Interior - Indian Affairs

Washington D.C.

Sir

I have the honor to state that during the month of April 1889 2d Lieut Stotsenburg, 6th Cavalry U.S. Army, asked me to assist him at the Navajo Indian Reservation to survey for irrigating purposes. I went with him, sketched the march, put a finish to his sketches, and made a map of our trip. I was already detailed for another surveying trip, and 2d Lieut Stotsenburg asked me again to assist him on his second trip and that he would try his best to have said order revoked. I accepted his request and sketched again the march as far as I went with him. During the time when 2d Lieut Stotsenburg went for more rations, I obliged the Indian Agent at Fort Defiance and made a plan for an addition to the school house. After coming back from Moqui, I started to work at Fort Defiance on my map, and had it nearly finished when 2d Lieut Stotsenburg came back from Grand Canyon on the Colorado River, and told me that the map did not amount to much, that he wanted sketches made for irrigation purposes. I made the sketch of White Rock Spring because I had the sketch taken myself. Then he gave me his sketches to work. I made one but I told him that it would be better if a surveyor made his own sketches. I asked him to excuse me from such work and went to Fort Wingate to do some other surveying. The Department of the Interior

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received my work except my sketch books with notice about the condition of the land, the soil, the timber, the grass, the mineral, and the advantages for irrigation, and I hope is well satisfied with my work. I had a great deal of expense and no salary for my work, and being requested by 2d Lieut Stotsenburg to do Soldier duty besides surveying, but I take a great interest in irrigation works and have had a good deal of experience in that line, and I think it would be an advantage to me, and the Department of the Interior, if I should receive an engagement to execute those irrigation works. The greater part of my service as a Soldier in surveying or draughting in the Quartermaster Department. I will be discharged November 27. 1889. In Germany I received an education as an Architect. Learning practically during three summers the Carpenter trade, and finished my education at the Academy at Munchen Bavaria. I was employed afterwards as Architect for Government and private buildings. As I came to the United States being unable to work as an Architect, not speaking the English language, I went to a countryman a first class former, and learned farming, with the intention of going west afterwards and take up a homestead. I joined the Army for the purpose of becoming acquainted with the western countries, and to survey good land. I have succeeded very well, and I am perfectly satisfied with my service as a United States Soldier. I located a good many settlers and advised them how to improve their land by irrigation, giving those people an example, during two months furlough on my partners ranch. In my sketch book I mentioned the different ways to build those irrigation works as I studied them. But there is one fact no Engineer can tell, how much water has to be caught by an irrigation dam. The dam has to be built in such a manner as to raise it as high as necessary, and after building it as high as the Engineer think necessary to catch all the water he has to

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to inspect the irrigation works during the day, and through the rainy seasons, and then he could tell what ought to be done, and also what has to be done. Small irrigation works have already been made by Indians, and it would only be a waste of money to interfere with those small works. Before any extensive irrigation works should be undertaken, the Navajo Reservation should be well supplied with watering places for the stock. The springs should be fenced in and cleaned out, and the water piped to watering troughs when water is scarce. Syphons should be built and a good water supply would be furnished. Great irrigation works could be built without much expense. The Navajo Indians are good workers and could be hired for the work, and the Department of the Interior would have to furnish the necessary tools, such as shovels, picks, wagons, scrapers, &c also provisions, as it is very expensive both for white men and Indians to purchase them at the Trading stores at the Navajo Reservation. After one irrigation work is completed, all lands taken up by Indians and cultivated, those Indians should be required to help on other irrigation works according to the number of acres they take up. And I have no doubt but that other irrigation works can be built with very little expense for Indian labor. The only expense being for tools and provisions and the salary of a Engineer. If the Department will furnish the necessary surveying tools, I would make the necessary surveys and make a correct and complete map of the Navajo Reservation. I hope the Department of the Interior will take my application into kindly consideration and notify me before I receive my discharge from the U. S. Army November 27, 1869 whether my application is accepted or rejected.

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Very respectfully
Your obedient Servant
Gustav Myrow
Architect

Private Troop "A" 6th Cavalry

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Gustave Myrow
Ft Wingate N.M.
Aug 14/89

Asks that he be appointed to take charge of surveys for irrigating purposes on Navajo Res. —

Connected with 459 - 1892

F. Attention [illegible]

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