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Shannon Family Manuscripts

2078/3 - 22

Handwritten letter of 3 pages

Gracemere
July 4th/12

Mrs Margaret Shannon
Salt Bush Park
Eaton Via Mackay

Dear Madam

Your letter to hand re Stone-hill Paddock.

I thank you for your offer of the property, but can assure you that considering the character of the property your valuation is far too high. Out of the 1,300 odd acres only 60 or 70 acres are farming land and a great deal of this & part of the rest of the property is badly infested with Prickly Pear. In addition to the above there is one small swampy paddock & the rest is stony ridges - fair grazing land but not fit for farming - Only one paddock has permanent water & that Paddock farthest from the Main Road is quite waterless & embracing as it does the Cult [?] of your country can only be used by us, by our opening the fence & watering the Cattle in our Paddocks, this being our practice the whole time we have rented the country from you. A purchaser would at once have to incur expense in providing water for that end of your country as it is too far for Cattle to walk back to your only water hole -- He would also have to pay half cost of fencing our boundary say 2 miles -- the fence being very old and delapidated. The cost of clearing the land of Prickly Pear was estimated by Mr. Broome at £500.

You accuse me of having had Stonehill "so long at such a low rental & allowed it to drift into a very bad state with pear etc"

In reply I have paid the rent regularly according to the terms of my lease, with which terms you must have been satisfied or you would not have signed same -- that according to the said lease it was not my business to clear the Prickly Pear & erect new fences, but I have constantly notified your Agents of the spread of the pest -- In consequence of such notification, Mr. Shannon has more than once visited Stonehill, but has done nothing to clear the property, until it is now a menace to us & our neighbours.

I may say I am offering much better Land -- all good agricultural with a frontage to the Brisbane Railway at our 15 Whole [?] Stn at a lower price than you ask -- land also quite

free from Prickly Pear, & cannot sell it.

However as your Paddock is handy to us -- I offer you 30/- per acre cash for say 600 acres adjacent to our Watcham [?] Farm or 25/- per acre cash for the whole 1300 odd acres -- Said offer to be open to you for 14 days from date i.e. till July 18th 1912

Yours truly

Robt. I. Archer