

CFR 0019

Richard D. Walker

CFR0019  
Jackson Co.

APPLICATION FOR CENTURY FARM HONORS

Deadline for filing application - May 1, 1990

(please type or print)

telephone: Redacted for Privacy

Your name (Mr., Mrs., Ms., Miss) Mr. Richard D. Walker

Your <sup>mailing</sup> Address Redacted for Privacy  
street, route or box city ZIP code

Location of farm Redacted for Privacy

To qualify as a Century Farm, a farm must have no fewer than 10 acres with a gross income from farm use of not less than \$500 per year for three out of the five years immediately preceding application for Century Farm honors.

Does your farm meet this qualification? yes

Name of family member who was founder or original owner of farm: John and Mary Elizabeth Peninger

Founder gained ownership of farm in (year) 1853  
(ATTACH VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION, see rule 9). (over)

Founder came to Oregon from Virginia

Who farms the land today? Richard D. Walker

Relationship to original owner great-great grandson

Are any of the original buildings still in use? yes  
If yes, which ones? barn, outbuildings, homes (date of construction unknown)  
If you know crops or livestock raised on farm one hundred years ago, please list: grain

What do you raise on the farm today? grass seed, cattle

How many generations live on the farm today? one

Please list names: Richard D. Walker

Do you declare that the statements made above are accurate and correct to the best of your knowledge? yes

Richard D Walker  
(signature of owner)

Please return forms to:

Century Farm Program  
Oregon Historical Society  
1230 S. W. Park Avenue  
Portland, OR 97205

John Peninger (1816-1855) and his wife Mary Elizabeth Peninger (later Fisher) took up a donation land claim of 320 acres about 1853. Mr. Peninger was killed by Indians in the falls of 1855. Their son William Henry Peninger (Sr) was born Feb. 13, 1856 after his father's death. On June 16, 1863 Mary Peninger became the wife of Daniel Fisher. For awhile the ranch was known as the Fisher place and pictures are available in the Jacksonville Museum. Mary died June 5, 1898. On May 8, 1887, Mary deeded 159.75 acres to her son William Henry Peninger, Jr. for the consideration of \$100 and on August 28, 1888 she deeded more land to him for the sum of \$10. Copies of those warranty deed are attached. William Henry Peninger lived until July 7, 1906. His son, William Henry Peninger, Jr. lived on the farm and farmed it until his death in 1975. William Henry Peninger, Jr. raised crops and tuckeys. His widow, Hazel, continued to live on the farm until 1987 at which time she was 93 years old and move into a foster home in California. I, Richard D. Walker, grandson of William Henry Peninger, Jr. took over ownership of the farm at that time.

We have a rather extensive family history book tracing the family from Virginia where John Peninger was born up through the various generations to date



CFR 0019

# Oregon Historical SOCIETY

1230 S.W. PARK AVENUE, PORTLAND, OREGON 97205

503 / 222-1741

CABLE / HISTORE

## Century Farm Program

February 7, 1991

Mr. & Mrs. Richard D. Walker  
Redacted for Privacy

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Walker:

I have just received word from the Southern Oregon Historical Society that they would like to have a Century Farm award presentation honoring your historic farm in connection with National Historical Preservation Week in May. The suggested time and date is Saturday, May 18th, in the afternoon at the Southern Oregon Historical Society's History Center headquarters in Medford.

If you could please let me know if this would be convenient for you, or if you would rather have the certificate before then, I will be sure to comply with your wishes.

With appreciation for your patience and our congratulations again for this extraordinary achievement,

Sincerely,

Ron Brentano, Coordinator  
CENTURY FARM PROGRAM

ps: An exterior Century Farm sign of durable metal is available from the following source: Traffic Safety Supply Co., 2324 S E Umatilla Street, Portland, OR, 97202, tel: 235-8531, the contact there is Myron Boyer. As of last summer, the cost was approximately \$25. Please contact Mr. Boyer for further information.



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*BC Ackwell (exit)  
+ 3/10 mile  
on left  
Chow Hill  
ESTATES  
follow*

*5/8/91  
We still  
have not  
received the  
certificate!*



# Oregon Historical SOCIETY

1230 S.W. PARK AVENUE, PORTLAND, OREGON 97205

503 / 222-1741

CABLE / HISTORE

Jackson

July 3, 1989

Mr. Richard D. Walker

Redacted for Privacy

Dear Mr. Walker:

Thank you for returning the application for Century Farm Honors for the historic **JOHN AND MARY ELIZABETH PENINGER FARM.**

The awards will be presented in the summer of 1990, and you will be notified of the time and place of the presentation ceremony as soon as this is determined. Whenever possible, we try to coordinate the presentation with a county historical society program. If we are unable to arrange such an event, we will mail the certificate to you or have it available here for you to pick up.

Please do not hesitate to call on me anytime for further information, and thanks for your interest in the Century Farm Program.

Sincerely,

Ron Brentano  
Coordinator, Century Farm Program

John's death by Indians was mentioned in records received from the Jacksonville Museum, and in a letter from his grand daughter, Bertha Pomerene. No details about his death, his trading post, or Fort Lane have been found at this time.

At least two of John and Mary's children were born in Oregon, Sarah in 1854, and our ancestor, William Henry, who was born 13 Feb. 1856, four months after his father was killed by Indians 17 October 1855.

The life of Mary continues in the Recorded Story:

"On account of an error in the office at Washington, proofs of his claim were overlooked so in 1857, his widow bought a ranch of 320 acres known as the Walter Davis & Ben Drew Donation Claim, situated 9 miles north of Medford. The first improvements of any value on this place were made under her direction."

In 1964 Darlene wrote: "The 320 acres Mary Peninger bought 9 miles north of Medford is the land that grandpa still owns. It has been in the family 107 years. On the farm still standing are two fruit trees over a hundred years old that still bear fruit. (Both trees have since been removed. m) On the farm Mary Peninger had built an 80' long log house two stories high. It had square holes from which to shoot Indians and feather beds were upstairs. The story is that the Governor of Oregon wrote grandpa asking him to please preserve and save the log house as it was one of the last pioneer homesteads still standing in Oregon. The house burned down shortly after this request was made. There is a picture of it in the Museum. Mary Hanley (of the Museum) told me that grandpa found oxen collars on the farm believed to have been the ones that pulled the wagon of John and Mary across the Oregon Trail, but the collars later disappeared."

The Memorial to Mary concludes:

"On June 16, 1863, she became the wife of Daniel Fisher, a much respected Pioneer who had crossed the plains to California in 1849, came to Oregon two years later, and served as an unenlisted soldier in the Indian Wars of 1853-55-56. Their union was a happy one and death did not long part them, for Mrs. Fisher died June 5, 1898 and Mr. Fisher the 4th of July of the following year.

"Mrs. Fisher's last days were surrounded by plenty. She never was so poor but she had always to spare. No one ever went away empty handed from her door. She needs no flowery obituary to perpetuate her memory. No pen in the hand of any pioneer can do justice to this noble woman. Her charitable deeds will live and be handed down to posterity when many of the high officials of the pioneer days of Oregon will be forgotten."

In 1979 Aunt Bertha wrote: "Our grandmother, Mary Elizabeth Peninger Fisher, was very well known in Jackson County and a wonderful person. After our grandfather John was killed by the Indians, she married Mr. Fisher. His family came from Virginia too and our grand mother knew him back there."

Eleven years before her death on May 8, 1887, Mary deeded 159.75 acres to her son William Henry, for the consideration of \$100. The land is described in part: "The whole of Donation Land Claim No. 52 being parts of Sections 27 & 28 in Township 36, South Range 2 West, in Jackson County, Oregon, and containing 159.75 acres."

On August 28, 1888, she again deeded more land to him for the sum of \$10.00. Part of the description: "Donation Claim Number Fifty One, part of sections 27 & 28 in Township 36 South Range 2 West, containing 161.11 acres; and Lot One of Section 28 in the aforesaid Township & Range, containing 23.73 acres."

Mary signed the first Deed with her mark - an "X".

Of interest is the fact that both of these Deeds were witnessed by Allie Klippel and Henry Klippel, and notarized by Henry Klippel. Mary's grand daughter, Mary A., - Elizabeth's daughter - was counted in the 1880 Jackson County Census as being a member of the Henry Klippel household. She was also counted in the D. Fisher household. She was living at the Klippel home when she died, on her 15th birthday, 6 November 1880.

John C. Peninger was 39 years old when he died, October 17, 1855. Mary Smith Peninger Fisher was 82 when she died June 5, 1898. Both are buried in the Jacksonville Cemetery, as are all of their known children David G., Elizabeth M., John C. Jr., Amos, Sarah, and William Henry.



8 May 1887 - Mary Fisher deeded 159.75 ac to son William H. Peninger for \$100.

474

Mary Fisher

William H. Peninger

WARRANTY DEED

CONSIDERATION,

\$100.00

Having verified that the original instruments of writing were read and that the same are correct

Witness my hand and seal of office at the City of Jackson, Oregon, this 11th day of May, 1887.

H. E. Anderson  
County Recorder

H. A. Holt  
Deputy

Know all Men by these Presents, That Mary Fisher in consideration of One Hundred Dollars, to her paid by William H. Peninger, has bargained and sold, and by these presents do grant, bargain, sell and convey unto said William H. Peninger, his heirs and assigns all the following described real property situated in the County of Jackson and State of Oregon and described as follows, to-wit:

The whole of Donation Land Claim No. 52 in Township 36 South of Range 2 West, bounded and described as follows, to-wit:—Beginning at a point 5 chains and 60 links North and 2 chains and 94 links East from the quarter section post on the line between Sections 28 and 29 in Township 36 South of Range 2 West, and running thence East 117 chains and 6 links; thence South 5 chains and 60 links; thence West 117 chains, and thence North 13 chains and 70 links to the place of beginning, being parts of Sections 27 and 28 in Township 36 South Range 2 West, and containing 159.75 acres.

Together with all and singular the tenements, hereditaments and appurtenances thereto belonging or in anywise appertaining, and also all my estate, right, title and interest in and to the same including dower and claim of dower—To have and to hold the above described and granted premises unto the said William H. Peninger, his heirs and assigns forever And Mary Fisher, the grantor above named do covenant to and with William H. Peninger, the above named grantee, his heirs and assigns, that the above granted premises are free from all incumbrances and that she will and her heirs, executors and administrators, shall warrant and forever defend the above granted premises and every part and parcel thereof against the lawful claims and demands of all persons whomsoever.

In Witness Whereof, the grantor above named hereunto set her hand and seal the 11th day of May A.D. 1887.

Witness my hand and seal of office at the City of Jackson, Oregon, this 11th day of May, 1887.

28 Aug 1888 - Mary Fisher deeded 184.94 acres to her son, William H. Peninger for \$10.

Mary Fisher	Deed	I certify that the annexed instrument was prepared and filed for record the 28 day of August, 1888, at 11 o'clock P.M., and duly recorded the 29 day of August, 1888.
William H. Peninger	10 <sup>00</sup>	H. Miller Deputy, County Clerk.

Know all men by these presents, that I, Mary Fisher of Jackson County, State of Oregon, seized and possessed of the real estate hereinafter described, in consideration of the sum of ten dollars, paid by William H. Peninger, of the same county and state, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, do hereby give, grant, bargain, sell and convey unto the said William H. Peninger, his heirs and assigns the following lots or parcels of land, to-wit: Donation claim number fifty one, described as beginning at a point two chains North and 13.87 chains East from the intersection of a line in line between Sections 27 and 28 in Township 36 South Range 2 West, and running thence North 17.76 chains thence West 20 chains, thence South 17.55 chains, and thence East 16.55 chains to the place of beginning containing 161.11 acres and being part of Sections 27 and 28, Township 36, South of Range two West, Jackson County, State of Oregon, also lot one of Section 28 in the said Township and range aforesaid containing 23.83 acres.

To have and to hold the said premises unto the said William H. Peninger, his heirs and assigns forever.

In Witness Whereof, I, have hereunto set my hand and seal this 28 day of August 1888.

Done in Presence of  
 Allie O. Klippel }  
 Henry Klippel }

Mary Fisher *[Seal]*

State of Oregon }  
 County of Jackson }

On this 28<sup>th</sup> day of August 1888 personally came before me one, a Notary Public in and for said county, the within named Mary Fisher, to one personally well known to be the identical person described in, and who executed the within instrument and acknowledged to me separate and apart from her husband that she executed the same freely for the purpose therein expressed and without fear or compulsion from anyone.

Witness my hand and Notary seal this 28 day of August 1888.

*[Signature]*

Richard D. Walker  
Redacted for Privacy



RECEIVED  
MAY 22 1989  
OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Oregon Historical Society  
"Century Farm" Program  
1230 S.W. Park Avenue  
Portland, Oregon 97205

