

CFR 0067

Joseph A. Voss

Sherwood, Oregon
July 16, 1958

Mr. Frank Fillpot
Room 203 Court House
Oregon City, Oregon

Dear Mr. Fillpot:

This is to certify that the following heirs are still living on the 319 and 92/100 acres in the East half of Section 5, Township 3S, Range 1 W. of Clackamas County originally owned by Joseph Voss and Elizabeth Voss. This land was settled by Joseph Voss and Elizabeth Voss in the early 1850's and has been resided upon by heirs since that time.

Joseph A. Voss
By J. Voss

Albert A. Voss

Ninya Voss Vienne

Eda J. Voss

Loy M. Voss

Mabel Voss Smith

Judge:
This is O.K.
Original signed in 1866,
(7.7)

CFR067

Portland Oregon.
Oct. 2. 1958

Oregon Historical Society.

Dear Sirs,

In a recent letter you stated there were some Century Farm certificates that had not been claimed. I was not able to attend the program at the state fair, and would like very much to have a certificate.

Thanking You.

Ninga Voss Vraene,
1345 S. E. Bidwell.

Portland, O. Oregon

Voss + Vraene
Voss
Clarkson

CFR0067

Dear Mr. Hilpot:

Am attaching an affidavit in accordance with our telephone conversation of this afternoon. If you have any questions please call me — Jackson 7-8811. In regard to the signatures, my husband's father — Joseph A. Voss — is in the hospital and we hated to tie him to sign, so his daughter, Ivy Voss, signed
(over)

for him. He is 85 & not too well.

Thanks for all your cooperation.

Mrs. Albert A. Voss
Rt 2 Box 21 A
Sherwood, Oregon.

Voss name firmly rooted

5064
By BARBARA COLEMAN

"We're pretty much established around here, you might say. I've lived here all my life and I'm 66," said Albert Voss, referring to the 105-acre farm he owns between Sherwood and Wilsonville, about four miles from Tualatin.

And, if 66 years isn't long enough to establish firm roots on a farm, Voss can trace his roots back further than that. His father and grandfather before him worked the farm he now proudly calls his own. Someday, Voss hopes one or both of his two daughters will be able to continue the family tradition of farming.

The Voss farm was among the first in Oregon named as a Century Farm by the Oregon Historical Society in 1959. The farm was settled originally by Joseph Voss, Albert's grandfather, in 1853. He had a donation land claim of 320 acres. Joseph came

to Oregon from Mineral Point, Wisc. According to Albert, Joseph was a deputy sheriff before his journey to Oregon. Albert's grandmother, Elizabeth, had been married twice before and had about 12 children.

Joseph raised grain and hay on his 320-acre farm. Albert said he lived until the age of about 80. He passed most of his farm onto his son, Joseph, when he died. Joseph junior received 160 acres with the remainder of the farm going to other brothers.

Second generation

Joseph junior was born on the farm of his father in 1872. "He lived there all his life until he was 91," Albert said. "I would say he wasn't off the place three or four weeks at one time all his years."

One house built by Joseph junior in 1915 still stands on the Voss farm. That house is occupied by Albert's sister. Several old apple, pear and walnut trees also stand near the 1915 home. According to Albert, those trees were planted by Grandfather Voss.

When Joseph junior inherited the Voss farm, he continued to raise grain and hay. He branched out into berries, fruit trees, sheep and cows, too. As a youth, Albert remembers the area was largely farming country. But it wasn't a backward spot. When they built the 1915 house, he said, electricity was already available to area residents. There were also more school houses in the area than you could shake a stick at.

Tigard, Tualatin and Newberg had high schools about the time Albert attended school. Sherwood built its first school a few years after he graduated from Tualatin High School in 1928. Albert says he remembers students had to buy \$5.36 worth

of train tickets each month so they could have transportation to the 100-student school in Tualatin.

Christmas trees

Albert inherited 105 acres of his father's farm. Several acres had been sold off to friends and relatives over the years. Albert continued full-fledged farming for a time but soon discovered that farming is not always a profitable business. For the past six or seven years, he said, he and his wife have raised Christmas trees on much of the land. They have also leased about 40 acres for purposes of Christmas tree farming.

The sentimental value of the Voss farm means a great deal to Albert and his family. "That's the reason we're holding on to it," he said.

Albert expects that in the near future, the area in which he and other farmers live will become residential area. New homes are already being built all around the Voss farm, he said. That, coupled with the lack of profitability in farming leads Voss to believe that his daughters may not be able to continue the Voss farming tradition.

"The times change. You just don't know what's going to happen with property... You don't save stuff to give to your kids nowadays," they might want to do something else with their lives, he said.

Despite his fears that the Voss farm may not continue in the future like it has in the past, Albert said his daughters are interested in keeping the farm. They want to inherit the farm and Albert and his sister want them to have it. But still, Albert said, the future of the 123-year-old Voss farm will likely be determined by rising property taxes, declining farm produce values and encroaching residential housing.

Wilsonville - OR
Times
Sep 15/98
Clackamas