

CFR 0224

Harold K. Mullen

Albany, Oregon
July 14, 1958⁺

I, Harold K. Mullen, of Rt. 1 Bx 298, Albany, Oregon, first being duly sworn depose and say that Walter M. Ketchum was my great grandfather, and he located a claim of 639.91 acres of land located in part within Section 8, 9, 10, 16, and 17 of T. 11 S.R. 2 W. The west half of the land to Mr. Ketchum and the east half to his wife, Laura Ketchum. The settlement had commenced on December 6, 1851. My great grandfather at that time began a settlement upon said land and retained it as a home stead. At the death of Walter M. Ketchum and Laura Ketchum, said property was heired by C. S. Mullen. C. S. Mullen being the husband of Emma Ketchum.

I further state that C. S. Mullen was my grandfather. Emma Mullen wife of C. S. Mullen, died and he then re-married Fannie Mullen. At the death of Fannie Mullen said property was heired by Harry E. Mullen and Lydia Mullen. Said Harry E. Mullen and Lydia Mullen being father and mother of Harold K. Mullen.

I further swear that upon the death of Harry E. Mullen, the property involved was heired by Lydia Mullen.

I further swear that Harry E. Mullen and Lydia Mullen had the following children: Floyd Mullen, Emma Snelling and Harold K. Mullen.

I further swear that Floyd Mullen received a 1/3 share and Harold K. Mullen received a 1/3 share and Emma Snelling received a 1/3 share of the interest of Lydia Mullen She retaining life estate in said property.

I further swear under oath that I, Harold K. Mullen, now reside on part of this old D.L.C. and am operating the same as a farm.

I further certify that this farm, or homestead, has remained in our family's possession, for more than 100 years.

I, Harold K. Mullen, further certify that ~~my mother~~ still lives on the farm with me, and she is assisting me in the operation of said farm, and she also, in my opinion, would be entitled to a certificate from the State Department of Agriculture as well as myself.

Rt. 1 Bx 298
Albany, Ore.

Harold K. Mullen
Owner

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 14th day of July, 1958.

July 14-1958
Accepted
this date
B. B. Arnold
County Judge

Marjorie L. Amos
Notary Public for Oregon
My Commission Expires: 4-11-60

Lydia Mullen
and
Harold K. Mullen



Century-Old Farm Records Stir Memories

By Josephine Sommer
Democrat-Herald Correspondent

RIVERVIEW—A letter they received from the National Archives and Records Service in Washington, D.C., brought an interesting glimpse into the past for Harold Mullen and his mother, Mrs. Harry Mullen, as they searched for proof that their farm had been in the family for 100 years or more.

A keen interest in his ancestry and the relics of pioneer days, still to be found around the Mullen farm, had already prompted Mullen to start a family record. Finding no available proof here that his great-grandfather, Walter M. Ketchum, had filed his donation land claim more than a century ago, Mullen wrote to the Bureau of Land Management in Washington and they forwarded his letter to the National Archives.

It is interesting to note how two or three paragraphs of names, dates and locations brings to mind such vivid mental pictures of a past era that found three pioneer Linn County families traveling West together in covered wagons. Arriving here in September of 1847, the Ketchum, Peterson and Driggs families settled on adjoining land claims and began their lives in this new and strange country.

At that time there was a clear lake just east of where the Lakeview school now stands on Highway 20 about one-fourth mile south of Cottonwoods.

Ancient Trees

The Mullen family is sentimental about the huge old trees on the place, some of them six feet in diameter. Many give evidence of having been blackened by fire for 20 to 30 feet from the ground. The story is that this occurred when the Indians burned the underbrush to make hunting grounds.

An old family mill, torn down and brought across the plains in the covered wagon, was used by several generations of farmers as they cleaned their seed grain, and still is in the Mullen barn. Put together with wooden pegs, it was in use as late as 1927. The mill is in good condition, if anyone wished to clean grain by the old crank method.

Joel and Julia Ann Ketchum, parents of Walter, and one daughter, Cherion Ketchum Driggs, came here from Berkshire County, Mass. Oregon Donation Certificate 178 was issued to them on June 8, 1854. The patent on their 640 acres was issued Feb. 18, 1859 after they proved that their settlement started on Sept. 30, 1847. A part of that claim is the present home of Mr. and Mrs. Winnaford Mullen.

Young Walter felt the need of more money and joined the "California Gold Rush" in 1849. On his return to Oregon, he married Laura Peterson on Oct. 30, 1851. Her family had settled near the Butte which now bears their name.

The young couple settled on another 640 acres adjacent to and north of his parents, on Dec. 6, 1851. Donation certificate 2422 was issued to them March 21, 1855 and the final patent on Dec. 14, 1866. During their years of farming and improving their land, four children, Frank, Alva, Ella and Emma were born to them, and one daughter, Lottie, was adopted.

One of the antiques still cherished by the family is a cradle in which four generations of babies was rocked. One rocker is badly worn where the mother's foot rested to keep the cradle gently rocking while she kept up with the many tasks required of her.

Three huge totem poles, now standing in the side yard of Mullen's home were originally hand carved by his great Aunt Lottie's husband.

A large oil painting of a typical Oregon mountain and lake scene, painted by Ellie Ketchum DuBrille, another of the great-aunts, graces the wall of the upstairs hall in the Mullen home.

The next generation to take over the farm was C. S. (Sam) Mullen and his wife Emma Ketchum Mullen. Born to them were two sons, Charles and Harry. In the years following Emma's death, Sam married again and another son, Winnaford, was born.

Emma's wedding dress and



HAROLD MULLEN AND MOTHER: Letter Opens Past

shoes, still in good condition, are another of the family keepsakes. Also two of her vases, believed to be over 100 years old, are proudly displayed by Mullen's daughter, Joy, now Mrs. Kelly Arnold, in her Albany home.

For a year and a half before marriage to Lydia Myers, whose family were early settlers in the Crabtree community, Harry Mullen lived alone in a cabin on the place.

Recalling those days, Mrs. Mullen said, "We still have the surrey

Harry drove when he was courting me, but it is minus the fringe on top now."

Sometimes he walked to see her, and she laughed as she remembered how Nathan Sumpter used to keep track of Harry's trips to Crabtree.

"He loved to try to scare Harry by throwing rocks at the bottom of the long covered bridge over the Santiam River, as he made his way through the long dark tunnel," she said.

At first Harry and Lydia added

a bedroom to the cabin as the family grew, while making plans for other buildings. The new barn went up in 1910, and they began saving for a house. About 1915 when their neighbors began buying cars, Harry said, "Well, Lydia, shall we buy a car or build the house?" She did not give up her dream home and that year they built the house in which their children, Floyd, Emma and Harold grew up.

After Floyd and Emma were married and away from home and Harold who was farming with his father, also married, another house was built on the place for his parents and he and Mabel took over the big house. To them were born three children, Joy, Ronald, and Cheryl, and they too have grown up in the home their grandparents built. The house was remodeled in 1949, to meet the needs of their own family, just before Mabel contracted tuberculosis.

During the years of his wife's hospitalization before her death, Mullen spent much of his spare time working in his yard or collecting driftwood, from which he made furniture.

Some interesting pieces of his collection are artfully displayed in the den along with his wife Elsie's hobby, a collection of Royal Doulton character jugs, representing well known people such as Winston Churchill, which she brought with her from her homeland.

A / Bany Democrat
Herald
Oct 6 - 1958