

CFR 0401

Cassie L. Sechrist

A F F I D A V I T

County of Marion )  
State of Oregon ) SS

Ball  
DLC

I, Cassie L. Sechrist, residing at Ballston, County of Polk, State of Oregon, being first duly sworn, under oath do depose and say:

1. That I am a grand daughter of Isaac Ball and Abigail Ball, founders of the town of Ballston, said town having been named after them.

2. That I am a daughter of Lydia Elizabeth Ball, 12th child of Isaac Ball and Abigail Ball, who was united in marriage to Van B. Sears, my father, on March 26, 1876.

3. That early in the year 1850 my grand parents, the said Isaac Ball and Abigail Ball, settled on a Donation Land Claim of 640 acres lying along the North line of Polk County and the South line of Yamhill County, State of Oregon, this claim now being shown as Notification No. 1910, Claim No. 38, the patent to same being recorded in Book No. 7, Page No. 399, Deed Records for Polk County, Oregon.

4. That although title to our 135 acre farm now owned and operated by John J. Sechrist and Cassie L. Sechrist, husband and wife, and upon which we reside, has been involved in the probation of four estates, that of Isaac Ball and that of Abigail Ball, my grand parents, that of Van B. Sears and that of Lydia E. Sears, my parents, 100 acres of that farm, including the farmstead, either by heirship or purchase of other heir's interests, has been in the continuous ownership and possession of Isaac Ball and Abigail Ball or their direct lineal descendants since the year 1850.

5. That abstracts of title showing said continuous ownership are available.

Further the deponent sayeth not:

Cassie L. Sechrist

Subscribed and sworn to before me, a Notary Public in and for the State of Oregon this 27<sup>th</sup> day of MAY, 1958.

[Signature]

My commission expires 11/2/59



Ballston, Oregon  
August 18, 1958.

Oregon Historical Society  
Portland, Oregon.

Dear Sirs -

In answer to your letter of August second will list what old material I have which might be of historic interest in our state: —

- 1 Sander's Fifth Reader 1855
- 2 School Reader, Third Book 1855
- 3 Arithmetic designed for Academies + Schools 1850
- 4 Davies' Intellectual Arithmetic 1856
- 5 Colburn's First Lessons Intellectual Arithmetic 1849
- 6 Preston's Map of Oregon + Washington Territories 1856
- 7 The Elementary Spelling Book 1820
- 8 An Arithmetic about a hundred years old which uses pounds, schillings, and pence.
- 9 Smith's English Grammar 1856
- 10 Account Book for 1861-2
- 11 Pocket Dictionary 1860
- 12 A year of The American Agriculturist 1859
- 13 A year of The American Agriculturist 1860
- 14 Numbers of same for 1869-70-71 not all 12.
- 15 School Record for District 9 of Polk Co. for the Spring Term - April 29<sup>th</sup> to July 19<sup>th</sup> 1861
- 16 Diary of D. J. Ball covering about nine weeks in the fall of 1863 at which time he died.
- 17 Hymn Book - "Hallowed Songs" about 1870
- 18 Account Book for 1870 to 73
- 19 Account Book from Jan. 1863 to June 1873

- 20 Diary and Time Book for 1872 to 76
- 21 Copies of Arthur's Home Magazine dated 1865-66  
and July to December 1879
- 22 A magazine called Every Saturday - 1869
- 23 Account Book for 1879 to 1883  
Have other books dated 1870's - 80's - and 90's
- 24 One of first typewriters made.
- 25 Square lantern - candle burning.
- 26 Candle snuffer
- 27 Small powder horn
- 28 muzzle loading double barrelled shot gun
- 29 Coffee mill
- 30 Razor strap

There might be other things of historic interest here but these are all I find at present.

Very truly yours  
Cassie L. Sechrist.

P.S. A large "Chromo" picture of Pastoral Scene.

August 27, 1958

Mrs. Cassie L. Sechrist  
Ballston, Oregon

Dear Mrs. Sechrist:

Thank you for your letter of August 18. The publication and other materials you have listed are certainly very interesting. Anything that was published in Oregon is of particular interest as source material for the revisions of McMurry's supplement number three Oregon Imprints .

Our field representative would appreciate the opportunity to call on you at some time and see the materials you have.

I hope that you will be able to attend the colorful ceremonies at Salem on September 2, and perhaps meet some of the staff of the Oregon Historical Society.

Thank you for your interest and cooperation in the Century Farm program.

Sincerely,

Judith Scharf  
Public Service Representative

JS/v

*JS/v*



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS



Oregon Historical Society  
235 S. W. Market St.  
Portland 1  
Oregon.

September 1, 1958.

I should very much like for your field representative to see the old things I have. I hope to be able to give them to the Oregon Historical Society for safe keeping so that the children of each generation can see how others before them have lived and made life as it is for them.

Sincerely

Cassie L. Sechrist.

**Northwest**  
PRESS CLIPPING SERVICE

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# Sechrist Land <sup>90</sup> Judged Eligible As Century Farm

**BALLSTON** — The Ballston farm owned by Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Sechrist has been qualified as one of the century farms being sought by the Oregon Centennial association in a move to increase historical interest in the state, according to Cal Barnhart, Polk county judge.

Of its 135 acres, all but 35 of them are part of the original Isaac and Abigail Ball donation land claim of 1850. Title for the land located one-half mile south of Ballston in Polk county, came to Mrs. Sechrist through her mother, Lydia Ball, 12th child of Isaac and Abigail who came here in 1848 from St. Joseph, Mo. and took the claim two years later. The boundaries extended from the Yamhill river to what is now the south line of the Sechrist farm.

### Ball House Burns

In 1850 the Ball house was built in Ballston on the top of the hill which is now owned by Jack DeJong. This original homestead burned to the ground in 1948.

Lydia Ball was married in 1876 to Van Sears and in 1904 the Sears family moved into what Mrs. Sears called "her dream house," where she lived until her demise in 1923, her husband having preceded her in death by six years.

Cassie Sears was married to Jay Sechrist in 1919 and in 1920 the couple moved onto the farm and into the home where they have lived continuously, excepting 11 years spent in Salem when they hired the farming work done.

In 1878, Joe Gaston for whom the

local town is named, was hired as to promote a railroad in the area for hauling grain out to market. Until this time grain was hauled by ox carts to Dayton for boat transportation to the market area. In the fall of that year the railroad was brought into the district and a station and warehouse built in the town called Ballston after Ball who was selling off lots from his donation land claim.