

CFR 0414

Perry A. Wells

U.S. Census Definition of a Farm: 10 acres or more with agricultural sales of \$50 or more a year; or, if less than 10 acres, sales of at least \$250 a year.

APPLICATION FOR CENTURY FARM HONORS--1970

(Rules attached)

Deadline for filing application: July 1, 1970

PLEASE PRINT

Your name (Mr., Mrs., Miss) Perry-A. Wells

Your address: Route Route 1 Box 78 P.O. Box 78 Town Independence

Location of farm: 7 Miles S of Independence Polk
(Address) (County)

Acres in your farm today: 168 Acres in original farm: 160

Does your farm comply with U.S. Census definition at top of page? yes

Name of founder of farm (please print): B.L. Griffith

Year founder settled on farm? 2-26-1867 Where did he come from? Illinois

How many families have farmed this land? Four

Are any of original buildings still in use? no

Who farms land today? You? yes A renter? _____ A manager? _____ Other? _____

If you own the farm but live in town, do you manage the farming operation? _____

What relation are you to the original owner? GRANDSON

If you know crops or livestock raised on farm 100 years ago, please list Hay-Grain.
cattle

What do you raise on farm today? cherries-prunes-Pears
peppermint

How many generations live on the farm today? (Names) Perry-A. Wells
Hazel-Wells - His wife.

Has the farm ever been rented? ✓ How many times has original farm been divided? None

PLEASE list on separate page attached other historical facts you know about this farm.

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

Perry A. Wells
Signature of Owner

Submitted by: _____

(Name and Address)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

I bought the farm from my father Commodore P. Hills in 1918 and have owned and operated it since I married Hazel Tucker of Salem in 1919 and we celebrated our 50th anniversary last July.

The farm is 1 mile north of Buena Vista on the Willamette, we had a warehouse on the river bank and shipped by steamboat farm products.

One original cherry tree and one grape vine remain 100 yrs. old.

State Department of Agriculture
Oregon Historical Society

CERTIFICATION OF OWNERSHIP OF CENTURY FARM

I hereby certify that the farm for which Perry Wells
Owner's name and address
Rt. 1 Box 78, Independence, Ore is applying for Century Farm honors,
has been in his family continuously for 100 or more years.

H B Hildebrand
*County Commissioner ~~Recorder~~
H. B. Hildebrand,
Chairman

Date: April 27, 1970

*Please strike office not applicable

OCT 22 1970

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

Polk

⁵⁰⁶⁴ Perry Wells receives coveted Century Farm certificate

The Perry Wells farm, Rt 1, Box 251, Independence, located in the Buena Vista area, recently received recognition as a Century farm.

The Century farm program, jointly sponsored by the Oregon Historical Society and Oregon State Department of Agriculture, recognizes Oregon farms which have been owned by the same family for 100 or more years.

The Wells farm has an interesting history behind it. Perry Wells relates that the farm originally belonged to George A and Henrietta Wells. The George Wells family left Pleasant Hill, Ill., in March of 1853 to come to Oregon.

In St. Joseph, Mo., they joined a wagon train to begin the long trip to Oregon. Six months were spent in coming to Oregon.

Wells adds that his grandfather was the hunter for the train and that his grandmother was an expert pistol shot. During the trek 1,000 pounds of buffalo meat lasted them approximately three days.

Wells remembers his father recalling that sometimes it took a week to cross a river. To make the log rafts they used float better, the men would bore auger holes in logs and plug them.

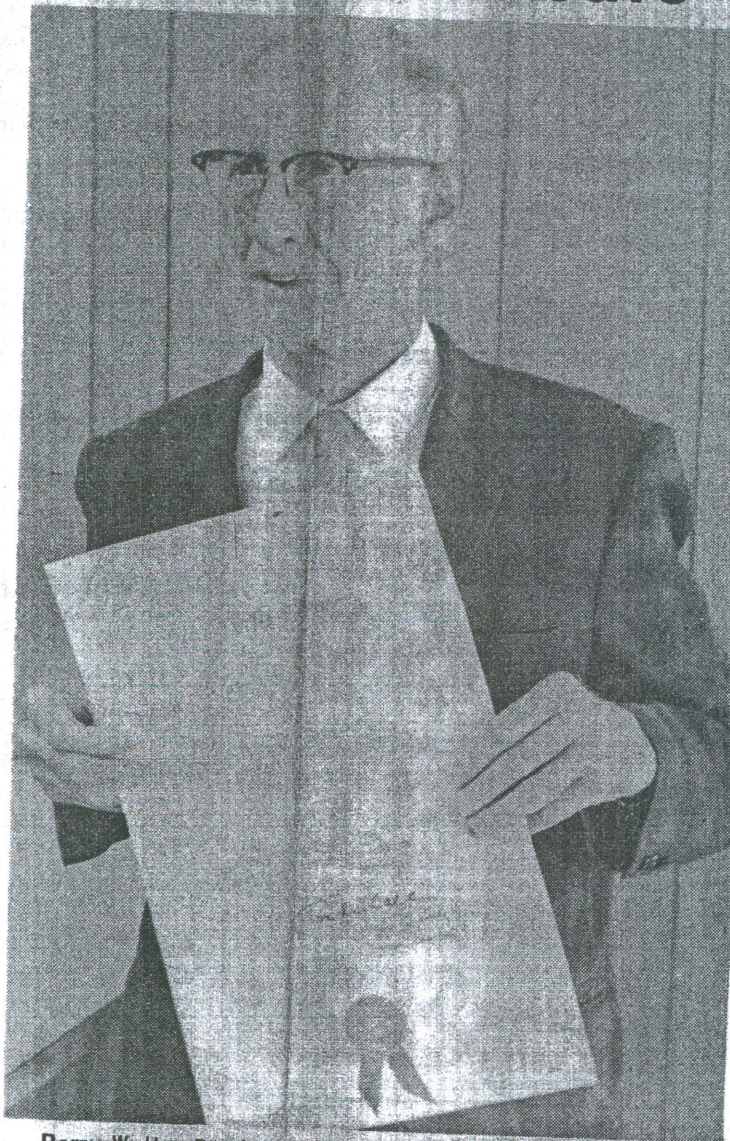
The only problem they had with the Indians, Wells remembers his grandfather telling, was their begging of food.

The George Wells family lost its cattle and rode with others on their way to Oregon's Willamette Valley. They settled first in Hubbard upon arrival in Oregon, and then in 1867 moved to Buena Vista and bought out the Griffith family who had homesteaded the present Wells farm.

Price paid for the land was \$200 for 160 acres.

Comodore Perry Wells bought the farm from his mother in

1905. He retired to it in 1915



Perry Wells, Rt. 1 Box 251, Independence, proudly displays a document signed by Governor Tom McCall designating his farm in the Buena Vista area as a Century farm. Such a designation is awarded to families who have farmed the same land for 100 years or longer. (E-H Photo)

and has lived on it since that time.

Wells says that some of the family has lived on the land continuously since it was purchased by the original Wells family.

He adds that he and Mrs. Wells, the former Hazel Tucker of Salem, have lived on the farm for 51 years. They have two grown sons, Jack of Washington, D.C.,

and Gordon of Salem.

Says Wells, "We now have 65 acres of cherries and prunes and 61 acres leased out to grow peppermint."

The Wells farm was awarded an All-Electric Farm award at the Pacific International Livestock Exposition by Pacific Power and Light company in 1965.