

CFR 0656

Willard and Frances M. Boring

APPLICATION FOR CENTURY FARM HONORS

Deadline for filing applications - May 1, ¹⁹⁸⁵~~1980~~

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT:

Your name (Mr., Mrs., Ms.) Willard Boring and Frances M. BoringYour address: 28475 SE Kelso Rd, Boring, OR 97009
Street, Route, or Box Town ZipLocation of Farm: 28475 SE Kelso Rd. Boring, OR Clackamas
Address CountyTo qualify as a Century Farm, a farm must have not less 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 you farm meet this qualification? YesName of family member who was founder or original owner of farm William H. BoringYear founder settled on farm: 1876 Where did he come from? IllinoisWho farms the land today? Willard BoringWhat relation are you to original owner? GrandsonAre any of the original buildings still in use? No

If you know crops or livestock raised on farm one hundred years ago please list:

Family farm with potatoes the principal cropWhat do you raise on farm today? Livestock and hayHow many generations live on farm today (Names)? ThreeWillard Boring, Darrell Boring (grandson) Emily and Nicholas Boring (great grand children)How many times as the original farm been divided? UnknownDo you declare that the statements made above are accurate and correct to the best of your knowledge? Yes

Return form to:

Elizabeth W. Buchler
OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
1230 S.W. PARK AVE.
PORTLAND, OREGON 97205Willard Boring
Signature of Owner

CFR0656

CERTIFICATION OF OWNERSHIP OF CENTURY FARM

I hereby certify that the farm for which Willard and Frances M. Boring

28475 SE Kelso Rd., Boring, OR 97009

(Owner's name and address)

is applying for Century Farm Honors has been in his family continuously for

one hundred or more years.

JUANITA N. ORR, County Clerk

Sherry A. Luyken, deputy
County (Recorder) (Clerk)

3-22-85

Date

HOW BORING, OREGON GOT IT'S NAME

There is a small community in Clackamas County, Oregon located some one hundred miles from the Pacific Ocean on the west, forty miles from majestic Mt. Hood on the east, ten miles from the mighty Columbia River on the north and the name of this community in the center of this Pacific Northwest beauty is Boring. How can it be? Well, here is the way it happened.

In 1861, William Harrison Boring, at the age of 20, left his father's farm in Greenfield, Greene County, Illinois and enlisted in the Union Army as a member of the 33rd Illinois Infantry Volunteers. He served with distinction in the army and was given a medical discharge shortly before the end of the war due to injuries and poor health. He returned to his home in Illinois and worked his mother's farm as his father had passed away. In 1867 he and Sarah Elizabeth Wilder were married and continued to live in Illinois until 1874 when they decided to take advantage of free land in Oregon.

They came west by train to San Francisco and then up the coast by boat to Portland. They had a choice of 80 acres of what is now a part of southeast Portland or 160 acres about twenty miles farther east. They chose the latter and built their home among the tall, beautiful fir trees of that region where they cleared a farm and made their living from the land.

In 1879, their son Orville Wilder Boring was born. In 1883, William and Sarah saw the need for a school for their son and other children in the area and gave an acre of land adjacent to their home for a school. This one room school, which was known as Boring's School, remained in existence as a school until 1904 when it was replaced by a larger building in a different location.

In 1901, the Oregon-Washington Railway and Navigation Co. built a

railroad through the area primarily to haul logs and lumber from the sawmills and the produce of the farms in the area. A railroad station was built and a small town platted around it. This community was named Boring in honor of William Boring who had been instrumental in starting a town by seeing the need for a school and doing something about it.

When the new school was built in 1904, the property where the original building stood was given back to William and he built a two story home using the one room school building as part of that home.

In 1905, William and Sarah's son Orville was married to Lucy Ida Perret and they spent the remainder of their lives on the old homestead. They had two sons, Lester and Willard, who also grew up on this same homestead.

How do I know this little bit of history? My name is Willard Boring, the second son of Orville and Lucy Boring and the grandson of William and Sarah Boring. I still own twenty acres of the original homestead where I and my wife Frances live in a home which was built in 1954 on the spot where the old school stood. Our home is shaded by three large maple trees which shaded the school house and under which our children, Robert, Shirley and James have played as did their grandparents Orville and Lucy as children when they attended school.

Boring is not an incorporated town but the post office serves some 14,000 patrons whose address is Boring in an area covering 45 square miles. It still remains a sawmill town, surrounded by berry farms and nurseries and beautiful homes in some of the adjacent hills. An 18-hole golf course provides recreation for the area and a number of churches provide for the spiritual needs of the community. A modern school with some 500 students, K through 8, has replaced the humble beginning of a one room school almost 100 years ago.

August 3, 1982

Jan 10, 1981

Oregon Historical Society
1230 S.W. Park Ave.
Portland, Oregon 97205

Attn: Elizabeth Beuhler

Early in December I spoke with you
on the phone about an application
to have our farm declared a "Century
Farm". I am still interested in
pursuing this since the family has
lived here continuously since 1874.
We should have applied long before
this but it didn't seem as important
to us then as it does now.

Will you please send us the
papers necessary for this.

Also, can you tell me how I find
out if a name for the farm has been
registered or if it can be registered and
how I go about it. Our place was

always called Maple Shade Farm
but I have no idea whether or not
this is written in any records
or is just a name the family gave
it.

I do appreciate your help in these
matters.

Sincerely

Mrs Willard Baring
28475 S E Kelso Rd.
Baring, Ore. 97009

March 25, 1985

Mr. and Mrs. Willard Boring
28475 S. E. Kelso Road
Boring, Oregon 97009

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Boring:

Just a note to tell you that we have received your Century Farm application and are so glad to have it and the information about the family and the town. I recall our correspondence in 1981.

We will probably work with the Clackamas County Historical Society to make arrangements for awarding the certificates, and will keep you advised as plans progress. Thank you so much for your application

Most sincerely,

Elizabeth W. Buehler
Field Historian

January 12, 1981

Mrs. Willard Boring
28475 S.E. Kelso Road
Boring, Oregon 97009

Dear Mrs. Boring:

I must apologize; I remember very well chatting with you in December, and I thought that I had sent you the application form for a Century Farm. Evidently my intentions got lost somewhere in the holiday rush, but I am enclosing an application form and a set of rules for you today. The next Century Farm designation will be in 1985, but the same rules will apply, and we will use the same application form.

As far as I know there is no formal structure for registering a name given a farm by its owners. That is, it is not legally designated by a name in the way that it is by its legal address or by its legal description on the county tax rolls. Your name "Maple Shade Farm" is a delightful one and can be used as its name as frequently as you wish, but it is not the legal name - that is, someone else could also use the name to describe their farm. However, you are fortunate in your choice of name - ~~my~~ family once had a farm in the Mosier Hills which we called "Homewood," and I think we shared that name with at least twenty other farms in Oregon!

I hope this information will be of help to you and that we will have the pleasure of enrolling the Boring Farm in our last of Century Farms at the next designation.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth W. Buehler
Field Historian

AUG 14 1985

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

in clackamas county

Boring home named Century Farm

5087
Among 4
selected
in county

by CHRISTINE BIERMAN
for The Outlook

Former Civil War Gen. Ulysses S. Grant was president and Boring not yet a town when William H. and Sarah Boring homesteaded 160 acres off of what is now Southeast Kelso Road.

That was in 1874.

Although the Borings were far from the first settlers here, the town came to bear their name. And a portion of their original homestead is still farmed by descendants of the early settlers.

The Boring farm at 28475 S.E. Kelso Road, now owned by Willard "Bill" and Frances Boring, will be one of four properties in Clackamas County to be recognized as Century Farms at this week's county fair in Canby.

In addition to the Boring farm, the Weddeler farm in Boring, the Sutter farm in Eagle Creek and the Peter Heater farm in Sherwood will become Century Farms in a ceremony at 3:45 p.m. today on the county fairgrounds outdoor stage.

At 111 years, the Boring farm ranks as the eldest of the four, according to Ken Fitzgerald, fair spokesman.

Clackamas County Historical Society President Hilda Minnickel will present the farm owners with plaques, which will serve as roadside markers, she said. Century Farms are designated every five years.

The farms must have stayed in the same family for at least 100 years, consist of at least 10 acres of farmland and gross at least \$500 annually from farming for three of the last five years, said Chick Wellman of the Oregon Historical Society. Descendants of the farm's founders need not live there but must farm the land.

The Borings and their son, Bob, live and raise cattle on the 20 acres remaining in the family. The rest of the land has been sold over the years, Bill said.

"I guess the only thing you'd say that's original on the place are the



Photo by Christine Bierman

Bill Boring is dwarfed by three 102-year-old maple trees at the family farm in Boring.

maple trees," he said, looking out the living room window at three maple trees shading the front yard. Five were planted in 1883.

All of the farm's original buildings — including a one-room school provided by the Borings from 1883-1904 — are gone. The Borings' 31-year-old home replaces a two-story house that occupied the school site when its ownership reverted to the family.

The farm has seen six generations, since Bill's grandparents moved there from Illinois by train and boat in 1874. William H. Boring had fought in the Civil War and farmed his mother's property by then.

He had heard about the area from a half brother. Boring chose the 160-acre plot over an 80-acre section north of Portland because of the size and rich soil, Bill said.

William H. and Sarah Boring spent the next two years clearing land and building a home on their land. A framed deed to the section bears President Grant's signature.

With most of the land covered by

old-growth timber and with no market for the wood, the Borings burned many trees as they cleared the farm. "It kind of brings tears to your eyes," Bill said.

The Borings grew food for the family on about 60 acres; they had sold the rest. Later, potatoes, dairy cows and strawberries were raised there.

When their son, Orville, born in 1879, was ready to attend school, they built a schoolhouse on an acre. It came to be known as the Boring's School.

The now-towering maple trees were planted around that time. "I've raked a lot of leaves from those trees," Bill grinned.

The area acquired the name "Boring" after the railroad came through, Bill said. The reason? "The only thing in the area that had a name was the school."

Population growth dictated that the school be moved to a four-room building on Richey Road. In 1910, Bill was born in the Boring School-turned-home.

Orville whittled the farm down to

40 acres by the time of his death in 1957. Bill and his brother, Lester, divided the land in half. Lester sold his share. Bill did not.

He maintained the place as a farm while working full-time in the Boring School District and the Sandy High School District. He retired in 1977.

Bill says he hopes — and believes — that the farm will continue to be passed on through the Boring generations.

His is one of some 85 properties in Oregon becoming eligible for Century Farm designation this year, he said. There are about 900 in the state.

The Century Farm program recognizes the importance of the family farm and laments their fading numbers, Minnickel said. "It is hoped that the Century Farms will continue to be in the family," she says.

"The family farms have been cut up into tiny little tracts. There are so few of them in the U.S.," said Minnickel.