

CFR 0693

Mrs. Audrey V. (Walker) Riley

To 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.

APPLICATION FOR CENTURY FARM HONORS--1974  
(Rules Attached)

Deadline for filing application: July 1, 1974

PLEASE PRINT

Your name (Mr., Mrs., Miss) Mrs Audrey V. (Walker) Riley

Your address: Route Henderson Rd P.O. Box 20 Town Elkton

Location of farm: Sec. 21-28 Township 22 Range 8 Douglas  
(Address) (County)

Acres in your farm today: 118 Acres in original farm: 640

Does your farm comply with the definition at top of page? yes

Name of family member who was founder or original owner of farm (please print):

ALPHEUS WALKER

Year founder settled on farm? 1874 Where did he come from? Pennsylvania.

How many families have farmed this land? 4 - 2 son in law & 1 son

Are any of original buildings still in use? House and grainery

Who farms land today? You? \_\_\_\_\_ A renter? Renter A manager? \_\_\_\_\_ Other? \_\_\_\_\_

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

What relation are you to the original owner? Daughter

If you know crops or livestock raised on farm 100 years ago, please list Wheat, Oats  
hay, Sheep, hogs, Cattle.

What do you raise on farm today? Cattle

How many generations live on the farm today? (Names) 1 daughter Audrey Riley 1 grand son  
Claude Riley 1 grand daughter Eula Sheffel - 1 great grand daughter Lucille Godding

Has the farm ever been rented? 1 part How many times has original farm been divided? 4

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

Mail to: Oregon Dept. of Agriculture  
Agriculture Bldg., Salem, OR 97310

Audrey V. Riley  
(Signature of owner)

Submitted by Audrey V. Riley  
(Name and Address)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Alphreus Walkers bought the Hathaway Donation Land Claim from John Fryer in 1874. The Walkers had 3 children Vina (Walker) Letson, Rosa (Walker) Butler and George Walker. They adopted me in 1894. I was born in Tacoma Wash. in 1892. The three children were grown when they adopted me. They have all passed away years ago. The place was devided in 1933.

~~Captain~~<sup>Colonel</sup> Hathaway was murdered on this place on Jan. 6. 1870. He had sold the claim to John Fryer for \$900. in 1864 but was given permission to live in his cabin. Mr. Hathaway was shot in the head and his cabin was set on fire. his charred body and several of his hunting dogs died in the fire.

Mrs. June Hathaway Filer, Hathaways grand daughter who lived at Yreka Calif. came to Elkton in 1960 at the age of 88 yrs. and with the help of residents in the area found his grave and placed a head stone there.

The old military road from Scottsburg to Yreka Cal. runs thru our place.

Form A - Century Farm Program

Oregon Department of Agriculture  
Oregon Historical Society

CERTIFICATION OF OWNERSHIP OF CENTURY FARM

I hereby certify that the farm for which Cudrey V. Riley  
(Owner's name and address)

Box 20 Henderer, Elberton Ore.

is applying for Century Farm Honors, has been in his family continuously for  
100 or more years.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\* County Commissioner-Recorder

June 20 1974  
(Date)

\*Please strike office not applicable



AUG 22 1974

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

# Pioneer Days Recalled By Century Farm Owner

By DON AUCUTT  
Of The News-Review  
(Third in series)

ELKTON — "Those were the good old days," said Audrey Riley, 82, seemingly sinking into a nostalgic reverie.

Mrs. Riley and her husband, Fred, 86, had just finished talking about days of rail fences, no electricity, ferryboat travel across the Umpqua River west of Elkton, trips to Scottsburg for sugar, their 1909 marriage and other matters.

"I don't think I'd ever want to go back to that," Audrey Riley said suddenly.

She has lived on the 118-acre ranch, at Box 20, Henderer Road, which has now been designated a Century Farm, since she was 2 years old.

The Century Farm honor — applied for by Mrs. Riley —

came this year from the Oregon Department of Agriculture and the Oregon Historical Society, which cosponsor a program to honor farms which have stayed

an orphan from Tacoma, Wash., out of a home for boys and girls in Portland in the late 1800s. Walker, who was then 65 years old, adopted Audrey and brought



CENTURY FARMS

in the same family for 100 years or more and have been continually used.

Alpheus Walker took Audrey,

her to his ranch fronting on the Umpqua River.

Walker had bought the property some 20 years earlier. He came to Oregon from Iowa, his adopted daughter recalled earlier this month. Traveling in a covered wagon, he first settled in Yoncalla, then moved to the ranch near Elkton.

"When I was a kid, I used to



have to take care of the sheep," said Audrey.

Walker raised cattle and sheep and grew grain like his neighbors along the Umpqua River.

Audrey and Fred Riley now have only part of the ranch once owned by Alpheus Walker. His original 600-plus-acre ranch was divided among four people in 1933 when Alpheus' widow died.

"He was just an old man," said Audrey about the only man she knew as a father.

While she and Fred talked, they sat on lawn chairs, comfortable in the shade of grape vines already showing clusters of fruit.

Walker couldn't read or write, Audrey remembered. "My dad was the same way," her husband said. His family lived across the Umpqua from the Walker ranch from 1891 to 1898, and Audrey and Fred knew each other when they were children.

"I had a pony. I took care of those sheep and cattle and cleaned 'em. I got up in the morning and milked the cows," remembered Audrey about her childhood.

The ferry trip across the Umpqua is clearly pictured in Mrs. Riley's mind. When she was a child, Henderer Road, which now runs through the Riley ranch, did not exist.

Her brother-in-law fell off the ferry and drowned during a high-water trip in January when Audrey, then 13, was a passenger. "I was on the boat, and his wife, and his little girl, when he fell off. I thought they'd pick him up."

Audrey had good times, too. "We used to have some wild times," she said, then smiled. At night, they would cross the Umpqua in a boat and leave a lantern lit to show the way back home.

Trips were made into nearby Scottsburg for sugar and other staples. "We didn't buy too aw-

ful much stuff," she said. Much of what the Walkers needed was raised on the ranch, including fruits and vegetables, meat, chickens. They went to Drain to have their flour milled.

Audrey went to school in a schoolhouse close to the Walker place — three months in the fall and three months in the spring, with a break in the winter because the water was too high in the Umpqua for some children to get across the river.

Audrey married Fred Riley in 1909 in a ceremony in her

parents' home. The previous winter, Fred worked as a hired hand for Audrey's mother. Fred received 10 cents an hour while he was in the field with a team. Otherwise, his chores covered the board.

After they were married, the Rileys lived in Elkton, Newport and elsewhere. They had many different jobs. "Oh, there was always plenty to do," they said.

"We had more money in them days than we got now," said Fred.

In 1929, they returned to the

Walker ranch and actively worked it for many years. They lived in Alpheus' house until 1947, according to Fred who seems to remember every date of any importance to him and Audrey.

The house, unpainted and minus its porch, still stands near the Riley home. With four rooms downstairs and two upstairs, resembling a displaced New England cottage, the house is now occupied by their daughter, Eula. It was built in 1880.

Another son, Claude, also lives

on the property. They have three other children — two in Oregon, one in California.

The Rileys aren't retired. "We have a fellow that runs cattle here. We have a milk cow. I don't know what it'd be to retire," said Audrey. They travel and go camping.

Relaxing in an arbor of ferns, flowers, Oregon grape and ivy, Audrey Riley said she hopes her family stays on the ranch "as long as they want to."

(Next: A home in Happy Valley.)



1880 Home

The home of Alpheus Walker still stands on a Century Farm property now owned by his adopted daughter, Audrey Riley. Now occupied by Mrs. Riley's daughter, the home has

four rooms downstairs and two upstairs. Audrey Riley and her husband live in another nearby house. (News-Review photos by Tom Morris)