

CFR 0393

Constance Henderson

*Dolk Co.*

CFR 0393

AFFIDAVIT OF CONTINUOUS OWNERSHIP OF FARM LAND BY ONE FAMILY

Present Owners Name: Constance Henderson

1029 North 11th, Corvallis, Oregon

Name of Original Owner: Henry Washington and Martha Ann Hill *DLC*

Location: Donation Land Claim #45 in sections 28 and 33, Township 8, SR 4 W of Willamette Meridian NOT # 1525, containing south part of town of Independence, and extending south about 3/4 mile.

Our farm of about 90 acres is 1/2 mile south of Independence and contains about 40 acres of original donation land claim.

Proof of continuous ownership can be traced in deeds. Henry and Martha Hill are also listed in histories and Census in the Oregon Room of the State Library in Salem.

Henry and Martha Hill were pioneers of 1847. After returning to Oregon from the California gold fields, Henry Hill found that others had established claims so there was only about 540 acres left in the piece he had chosen, however he liked the location so well, he filed on the land in 1851 after being married July 14 of that year to Martha Hill. Their first home was approximately where the Independence Baptist church now stands. In 1853, the first US postoffice for Independence was located in the log store owned by Henry Hill and partners Burbank and Williams.

My mother was the youngest child of Henry and Martha Hill. She received a part of it in division of the estate. I lived most of my life until married on that part of the donation land claim. We now lease our farm acreage and receive more than \$150.00 yearly income from it. We harvest a small cherry crop ourselves, and do certain upkeep and maintenance work on the farm, looking forward to the day when we can live there.

My cousins Wendell Denlinger of Kellogg Idaho and Orville Hill of Independence also also own parts of the donation land claim which have been in the family continuously.

*Constance Henderson*  
Constance Henderson

STATE OF OREGON     )  
                                  ) ss:  
COUNTY OF BENTON    )

July 19, A.D. 1958

Subscribed and sworn to before me, a Notary Public in and for Benton County, State of Oregon, on the date above shown.

*Conrad S. Gault*  
NOTARY PUBLIC FOR OREGON  
My Commission Expires March 29, 1960

*W. H. Hill*

1029 N. 11th  
Corvallis, Oregon  
July 10, 1959

Oregon Historical Society  
Portland, Oregon

Gentlemen:

RE: CENTURY FARMS

I wish to compliment you on the Historical Caravan that is touring the state. It is very nice to have it come to all corners of the area.

I noted when I last saw it that the name of our Century Farm - Henry Washington Hill - was still listed under Benton County. Altho I live in Benton County, our farm is in Polk County.

My cousin Orville Hill who lives in Polk County, gave the name of our grandfather as Henry Hill, the date, 1847. I gave his name as Henry Washington Hill, date, 1851. They are one and the same man, and I find I gave the wrong date- it should be 1847.

Since Henry Hill was the founder of Independence, Oregon, and it will be in the news quite a bit, I would like to have his name changed out of Benton County to Polk County. Since it is my fault that a wrong date is on my Century Farm certificate, I didn't ask you to change it.

Sincerely,

*Constance Henderson*

Constance Henderson

*Correct list  
You?*