

CFR 0735

Willeska R. Loosley

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. Willeska R. Loosley\*

Your address: Route 1120 Pine St. P.O. Box Apt. 203 Town Klamath Falls

Location of farm: 2 1/2 miles south of Fort Klamath Klamath  
(Address) (County)

Acres in your farm today: 243 Acres in original farm: 160 (less a few acres for roads)

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): \_\_\_\_\_

John Loosley

Year founder settled on farm? 1873 Where did he come from? England

How many families have farmed this land? Four generations

Are any of original buildings still in use? No

Who farms land today? You? No A renter? No A manager? No Other? Daughter and son-in-law who are buying it under Contract of Sale. Deed is in escrow  
If you own the farm but live in town, do you manage the farming operation? \_\_\_\_\_

What relation are you to the original owner? Widow of a grandson of John Loosley

If you know crops or livestock raised on farm 100 years ago, please list Hay and livestock, I believe. Later I know.

What do you raise on farm today? My daughter & son-in-law pasture livestock. Her name is Maxine Loosley Kizer, address Star Rt., Chiloquin, Ore. 97624

How many generations live on the farm today? (Names) Maxine Loosley Kizer, 4th generation. She has lived on the place for 17 yrs., & reared her family mostly there. She was born on the place in 1922. My husband died 17 years ago. That was when my daughter & son-in-law came to take it over.

Has the farm ever been rented? No 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

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

Mrs. Raymond S. Loosley  
(Signature of owner)  
or Mrs. Willeska R. Loosley

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

*National Archives and Records Service*  
*Washington National Records Center*  
*Washington, DC 20409*



July 31, 1973

Mrs. Maxine Loosley Kizer  
Star Route  
Chiloquin, Oregon 97624

Dear Mrs. Kizer:

Land office records in our custody reveal a Declaration of Intention for John Loosley dated June 26, 1872. The declaration was filed in Oregon and gave evidence of his intention to become a United States citizen.

Subsequently, Mr. Loosley submitted Declaratory Statement 111, at Linkville, Oregon, dated October 4, 1873. This statement covers land in Lot 1, Section 34, Township 33 South, Range 7 $\frac{1}{2}$  East.

According to sworn affidavits from several witnesses, Mr. Loosley settled on the land October 2, 1873. Homestead Application 118 was filed at a later date (January 14, 1878) at the land office in Lakeview, Oregon, and Final Certificate 30 shows issue of a patent to the claimant as mentioned in your letter.

We hope this information is sufficient to answer your inquiry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janet L. Hargett".

JANET L. HARGETT  
General Archives Division

Form A - Century Farm Program

Oregon Department of Agriculture  
Oregon Historical Society

CERTIFICATION OF OWNERSHIP OF CENTURY FARM

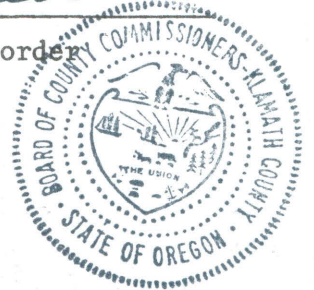
I hereby certify that the farm for which Willeska R. Loosley  
(Owner's name and address)  
1120 Pine St., Apt. 203, Klamath Falls, Or. 97601

is applying for Century Farm Honors, has been in <sup>her husband's</sup> his family continuously for  
100 or more years.

*W. D. Irvine*

\* ~~County Commissioner~~-Recorder

MAY 6, 1974  
(Date)



\*Please strike office not applicable



Submitted by Willeska R. Loosley, 1120 Pine, Apt. 203, Klamath Falls, Or. 97601  
(Name and Address)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The year was 1871 when John Loosley, his wife Lucy (Lucy Walling) and their eight children encamped on the bank of Link River, across the stream from the tiny town of Linkville (now Klamath Falls). They had just arrived from the Willamette Valley, coming by covered wagon over the crudest of mountain roads.

They were headed for Klamath Agency, where John, who had learned the miller's trade in England, was to operate the grist mill for the United States Government. Lucy had arrived in Oregon in 1847, making the long trek from Iowa by covered wagon.

John Loosley was "taken" with the level grassland in the Wood River Valley, and in 1872 began the necessary work of filing on a homestead on the banks of the crystal clear stream, across the river from old Fort Klamath. John built a large house of boards, the first board house in the valley, excluding those at the fort.

Soon after the Loosleys were settled in their new home, the Modoc War broke out. This was in 1873. As most of the soldiers at the fort were sent to the lava beds to fight the Modocs, there were few left at the fort to protect the settlers living in the vicinity, which was of no little concern to them, not knowing but what the Klamaths would go on the war path too. The story has been told of how afraid Grandma (Lucy) Loosley was when she must go to the place on the bank of Wood River where she did the family washing, heating the water in a huge iron kettle. This spot has been called "The Old Wash Place" to this day.

John engaged in the raising of cattle, being the first to keep cattle in the valley the year 'round, by harvesting hay from the wild grasses. He did very well until the winter of 1889-90. Snow came early, covering all the grass. A Mr. Colohan, whose home ranch was in Yonna Valley, some fifty miles away, had been pasturing cattle in the Wood River Valley, planning to take them to his home ranch for winter feeding. John Loosley, figuring the snow would soon go off, told Mr. Colohan he could let him have hay to tide him over. But the snow did not go off, and more continued to pile up. Mr. Colohan was unable to move his cattle, and long before spring John's hay was gone, and so were the cattle. All starved to death. Neither man was ever able to recoup his fortunes in this business, though John later had a small dairy herd.

By <sup>the early</sup> 1890's with so many families in the valley, there came a need of a cash crop that would come in regularly throughout the year. The Loosley family--John and one or two of his older sons, decided that the time was ripe to start a creamery. If John could run a grist mill he should be able to run a creamery. It was built on the bank of Wood River, on the north end of his property, and was the first creamery to be built in Klamath County. The milk was hauled to the creamery in the farm wagon, where it was separated. The cream was bought for butter and the skim milk was taken home to be fed to calves and pigs.

John's health was now failing rapidly. Hard work had taken its toll of his magnificent physique, and there was little or no surgery in those days. He died in November 1900. Lucy died in 1912. Both lie buried in the old Fort Klamath Cemetery, where sleep four generations of their family. The old homestead is still in the family, though the old box house has long since been replaced by a modern log house, built from logs cut off the place. Great, great grandchildren love to romp over the green fields they loved so dearly.

Note: the old house stood in three counties: Jackson, Lake, and finally Klamath.

Also, discovered as I checked the applications for the first time that Mrs. Loosley did not sign her application blank. However, everything is in order, with her certification and a letter from US General Services Administration, Washington, D.D. confirming donation land claim date of October 2, 1873, so ran off a copy of her application form and will direct her to send the signed application and all other material directly to you.

*Maggie*  
Maggie Magee

# Loosley Ranch Wins 'Century Status' In State

John Loosley was taken with the level grassland in the Wood River Valley, and in 1872 he filed on a homestead along the banks of the crystal-clear stream, across from the fort.

So begins an account by Mrs. Willeska Loosley of the founding of the farm by her pioneer family which was recently accorded "Century Status" by the Oregon State Historical Society. John Loosley was the grandfather of Mrs. Loosley's husband, Raymond Loosley. Her story appeared in "Klamath Echoes," the Klamath County Historical Society publication in 1968.

John Loosley had traveled with his wife Lucy and their eight children to the Klamath Country from the Willamette Valley in 1871, Mrs. Loosley writes. They traveled by covered wagon over the crudest of roads.

Their destination was the Klamath Agency, "where John, who had learned the miller's trade in England, was to operate the grist mill for the United States government."

Loosley and his family camped on the west side of the Link River, across from the tiny village of Linkville. Mrs. Loosley states, He "dickered with the owner of the ferry, using wheat to pay the cost of ferrying across the stream." Loosley had brought a quantity of the grain on the trip "only to find the bottom had dropped out of the market" because of a depression at that time.

## First In Valley

The Klamath Reservation was on the same side as the fort. Mrs. Loosley continues in her account of John Loosley's founding of the farm. "John built a large house of boards, the first board house in the valley, excluding those at the

fort. It was of box construction: wide tough boards running up and down, with battens over the cracks between. The front part was two story; a big living room and two bedrooms downstairs and the upstairs all in one room, the boys' room.

There was a one-story addition on the back for kitchen and dining room. The whole house was cold and drafty. The only method of heating the big front part was a large fireplace. It was often said, "One side of you roasts while the other side freezes." On cold winter nights the counterpanes on the beds were covered with a thin sheet of ice from the freezing of the occupants' breaths.

Notwithstanding, the family of Lucy and John was a strong and healthy lot, who seemed to thrive on the rigors of the severe winters and short summers. John's health was much improved and Lucy never

again suffered from asthma.

## War Broke Out

Soon after the Loosleys were settled in their new home, the Modoc War broke out. As the theater of this conflict was some 75 miles away, across the California line, it should not have had much of an impact on the family and probably would not have, if 10-year-old John Frederick had not been asked to carry messages from Fort Klamath to the leaders of the attack against the Modocs in the lava beds of Northern California.

Fred told in later years of how frightened he became when darkness came on, especially when a herd of cattle, south of the present Klamath Falls, became alarmed and stampeded. He was sure he was being attacked by a band of savages. However, he continued on and completed his mission. It is presumed that he was

selected for this dangerous assignment because it was figured that no one would suspect anyone of such tender years of being entrusted with such a dangerous commission.

"Always a gregarious youngster, good natured and large for his age, Fred liked to hang around the fort, watching the soldiers train, and chatting with them whenever opportunity afforded. Naturally he

became quite a favorite.

"Klamath County, long known as a hunters' paradise, in that early day begged a description. The undrained swamps were used as feeding and nesting grounds for countless thousands of migrating waterfowl. They darkened the sky when in flight. In addition there were the large 'honkers' or native geese.

"Mule deer were everywhere,



"The Oregon Historical Society has certified the farm owned by Mrs. Willeska R. Loosley, 1120 Pine, Klamath Falls, as a "Century Farm," one that belongs to a family which is still farming land settled by their ancestors 100 years ago or more.

Mrs. Loosley's daughter and son-in-law, Maxine and Hollis D. Kizer, are currently living on the old 160-acre farm located 2½ miles south of Fort Klamath. The farm is solely in pasture. The Kizers' took over the farm in 1957 after Mrs. Loosley moved to Klamath Falls.

The "Century Farm" program is jointly sponsored by the Oregon Department of Agriculture and the Historical Society. There were 25 other farms certified in the state recently, bringing to 564 the number certified since the program was begun in 1958.

Certificates will be presented to the owners of the farms at special ceremonies Aug. 24 at the Oregon State Fair opening day. The owners will be invited to attend the fair that day as guests of the Oregon State Fair Commission.

The requirements for "Century Farm" status are that the farm has to have been farmed continuously by the same family for 100 years or more and never been rented; the owner must reside in Oregon; the farm must be 10 acres in size and have had a gross income from farm use of not less than \$500 per year for three out of five years immediately preceding application for "Century Farm" honors.

The oldest farm certified for 1974 is owned by the Paul J. Grand family, Canby, settled in 1846 by John Gribble, the great-grandfather of Mrs. Grand. The largest farm in the group is that of Dennis Lemons, Mt. Vernon, which contains 4,200 acres.

Clackamas and Douglas Counties tied for the most farms certified this year with four each. Hood River this year had its first "Century Farm." It belongs to Bernice Jackson Hoffman, and was settled by her grandfather, Capt. Francis Marion Jackson in 1871.

In Klamath County, the Lawrence Horton Ranch has been so certified.

and bears were too numerous for comfort. The streams literally teemed with fish. All one had to do was throw in a baited hook and 'pull 'em out'.

Young Fred became an avid hunter and fisherman at a tender age, and was soon helping to stock the larder at the fort. This endeared him to the soldiers even more.

## Howl Of Coyotes

"There were times when Lucy awakened in the still moonlight of a winter's night to the shrill, wild, eerie howl of coyotes coming across the snow-covered fields, causing shivers to run up and down her spine and a desire to huddle more closely in her warm bed covers. But if there should come a knocking on the door, and a call for help to aid someone on a sick-bed, she was out and into her clothes in almost less time than it took to

tell it, even though her fingers were numb from the cold by the time she was ready to go.

"She had become a practical nurse before her marriage to John, after the untimely death of her first husband, and her specialty, as in the case of most practical nurses of that day, was midwife. And quite often the nightly call for assistance was to act in that capacity. Many young pioneers of that era

were delivered by her deft hands. By this time there were many settlers in the valley (far more than at the present time) as there was a family on every 160 acres or so, and most families were large, so Lucy's services were in demand."

The story continues and contains many more interesting accounts of the settlement in the valley. It appeared in "Klamath Echoes," Fort Klamath Issue, Klamath County Historical Society, No. 6.

Klamath Falls OR  
Herald & News  
Aug 6 1974