

CFR 0806

Wayne and Harold Rietmann

CERTIFICATION OF OWNERSHIP OF CENTURY FARM

I hereby certify that the farm for which Wayne + Harold Rielmann
Ellis Rd. Ione, Oregon 97843
(owner's Name and Address)

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

Barbara Bloodworth
(County Recorder/Clerk)

4-23-84
Date



The Paul Rietmann Family

PAUL RIETMANN FAMILY

Paul Rietmann was born October 30, 1855, at Highland, Illinois. His father, Arnold, had emigrated from Switzerland in the 1840's. In the new country, Arnold married and had three children. At the death of his first wife, he wrote to her best friend, Sophia Wyss, in Switzerland, asking her to come visit. This visit turned into marriage, and of this union, Paul, Ernst, and Greda were born.

Paul married Margaret Glock in Highland on March 16, 1882. Her parents, Adolph and Anna Iberg Glock, emigrated from Switzerland. Adolph was an architect and had attended Heidelberg University. He came to America, thinking it would be a suitable place to continue his practice as an architect. He was shocked to find the buildings in the cities here built of wood. He felt these "wooden cities" were prime targets for fire, which turned out to be true. Anna's family with their children, possessions and cattle arrived in the new country by sailing ship. It took 2½ months to reach New Orleans after their ship was becalmed at sea. They sailed up the Mississippi River to Highland, a Swiss settlement east of St. Louis, Mo.

Paul and Margaret lived in Highland for several years after their marriage. After their first children, who were twin girls, died shortly after birth, they decided to go West, where they hoped to find a farm, as conditions were not too favorable in Illinois.

The trip west was made by train, which crossed the continent at that time. They arrived in San Francisco and traveled by boat to the Puget Sound area, where they both found work. The prospect of clearing ground for a farm in that area seemed impossible, so they packed their belongings in two large wooden trunks, loaded them in their Democrat Wagon, and moved to Walla Walla, Washington. There, another baby girl was born, but died suddenly, probably from a brain hemorrhage. At about this time, they heard of homestead land in what was then Umatilla County and is now Morrow County. They again packed their wagon, drove past Wells Spring, and picked the place where the Rietmann home ranch is now located, two miles north of Ione, up Rietmann Canyon on Ella Road. Possibly they chose this place because they thought they could find spring water there. Most of the area was sagebrush and there were already people grazing sheep in the area. It was shearing time and Margaret was asked if she could cook for the sheep-shearers. They were living in a tent but she had a stove, so she took the job. Paul plowed the sod with a walking plow and his two ponies — and so the farm began.

Between 1885 and 1904, two girls and eight boys were born to the family. They were, in order of age, Edward, Anna, Walter, Otto, Omar, Werner, Victor, David, Robert, and Alice. All the children were born at home without doctor assistance, except for the youngest. Margaret delivered one child while alone. All of these children were healthy except for Victor, who had a milk allergy. Margaret kept him alive on oatmeal gruel and softened soda crackers.

Margaret was an industrious cook, homemaker, and mother. A local doctor remarked that if all mothers would feed their families as well as Margaret did, there would be no need for doctors.

Paul and Margaret started out in a tent, then built a homestead cabin, and later a small wood frame house where all the children slept in a large attic room. In 1914, the present house was built by Charles Allenger, a local builder.

A German-Swiss dialect was spoken in the home and the older children learned English at school, as did other children in the area.

In 1887, Paul took two horses and a wagon and hired out to help build the railroad line from Ione to Jordan. He left early Monday morning each week and did not begin the three mile trip home until late Saturday. It was noted by his daughter that his rate of travel speeded considerably if he ran out of chewing tobacco, and he was

known to have traveled to Arlington and back in a day to secure a new supply.

The family was at home on Sunday, June 14, 1903, when an employee came to tell them about the Heppner flood. Paul left the next day to travel to Heppner. When he arrived, the local officials quarantined all in the area because of the danger of typhoid, so he stayed to help clean up the city.

Besides his active life on the farm, Paul served for over twenty-five years on the Ione School Board. When money was scarce, during the late 1920's and early 1930's, teachers were paid by warrants instead of money. Paul and Margaret redeemed many of these for cash so teachers could afford to live.

Paul died on June 25, 1928. Margaret continued to live in their family home on the farm until shortly before her death on February 6, 1946.