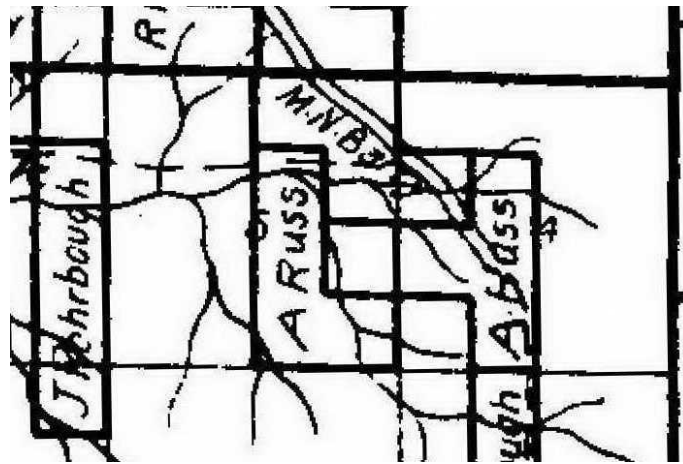


Richard Willburn Homestead Entry

HA06 Map 4: T3S, R8E, S5

H.E. 5212 (on file HR SRNF)

An "X" shown on Base Map marks the general location of the improvements described in the homestead entry form below and in the Appendix at the end of this section. This tract with the name "Willburn" is not plotted on any of the early TNF maps. The 1915 TNF map show the tract as being owned by Augustus Russ (HA08).



(A2: 28)

This is an interesting homestead entry. Despite a review of all of the 1880, 1900, and 1910 census records, only the 1880 census lists a "Richard Willburn." Like many others with the name Willburn, over the years the spelling varies between "Willburn and Wilburn on the census rolls—see B05 for a discussion of this problem.

At first this person simply appeared to be a member of the extended Willburn family, however, this individual was African-American and was a very young boy (possibly as young as 4 or 5 years old depending on what age is correct on the conflicting census listings--see below) who came to California with the Edward Willburn family (B05). He is listed as still living with the Edward Willburn family on the 1880 census. Some of this information conflicts with that of Irene Willburn Stapp (see below). Further research would be useful to understand his relationship to the Willburn family.

He was one of the few individuals classified as "B" –Black-- on any of the censuses for the NFER through at least 1940. There was one African American working at Island Mountain who showed up on the 1920 census (A3: 1920-11). The others listed are mostly related to the wife of Augustus Russ—see HA08, IF02, and HF12 for more information on African Americans living within the NFERW. In some census listings they are listed as "Mu"—mulatto. Therefore, despite some conflicting census data (see below) this appears to be the same individual as there simply were no other African Americans listed as black in this

HA06

area through 1940. Further, by 1940 no one of African American heritage was listed in the Long Ridge census. For a discussion of him and "Nellie" who was listed along with him in the 1880 census refer to B05.

It is worth calling attention to the fact that Richard Willburn, in 1880, was living in Hettenshaw Valley was associated with the Hiram Willburn family not his brother James S. Willburn's family (both the sons of Edward Willburn).

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
26	57	Willburn Edward	W	70	18																				
		Willburn Nancy	W	7	64	Wife																			
		Willburn Hiram	W	70	28	Son																			
		Richard	B	70	15																				
		Nellie	M	7	12																				
		Levee Elizabeth	W	7	22	Servant																			

1880 Census

Note Richard Willburn's place of birth is Texas and matches that on the 1910 census but the place of birth for his parents does not match. His age in 1880 was recorded as 15 and 30 years later in 1910 he was listed as age 50.

(A3: 1880 census HV 1880-2)

It appears that Willburn was not listed on the 1900 census for Long Ridge, but a Richard "Wilburn" shows up on the 1910 census as a boarder living with James Laughlin age 61. Given their placement on the census list they were living to the north of the Long Ridge precinct in the Ruth area (they are listed near John Gray who was ranger at the TNF Ruth MRRD ranger station.

10	70	Laughlin James H.	Head	W	77	61	S.
		Willburn Richard	Boarder	W	13	50	S.

1910 census
(A3: 1910-10)

Richard Willburn does not show up on the 1920 census. The only other "Black" listed on 1920 census was living at at Island Mountain working for railroad There were also two Chinese men working for the railroad.

93	101	McQueen Charles	head	R	M	B	18	S
----	-----	-----------------	------	---	---	---	----	---

(A3: 1920-11)

97	107	Wong S.	head	R	M	Ch	26	M
		Wong Brook	son		M	Ch	15	S

(A3: 1920-11)

Consultant information

The following information was provided by Irene Willburn Stapp in 1991 (A06: I#448), her great grandfather was James S. Willburn (Sr.)—see B05.

Grizzly Jim and Hiram David Willburn were the first of the family to move to the valley. Hiram (Hi) went back to Texas twice. One of these times he returned with two of their former slaves (freedmen) they were referred to as Nigger Dick [This may be Richard Willburn] and Nigger Doc. Both are buried in the Hettenshaw cemetery

Irene remembers being told that Rose, a black woman, was also brought into the country by the Wilburns. The black men were her uncles and at the time she was a baby. The men worked at chores around the homestead. They lived in the bunk house. At that time all the unmarried men (even the sons) would sleep there but everyone ate in the house.

Rose first married a man named Berri (from the Mad River area) and had a daughter May Berri. May Berri married Reautus Dolittle, Frank's son. Frank was married to Becky Doolittle (his second wife—see HA01). Rose later married Joe Russ and they had a daughter Maybel who today is 91 and lives in Covelo.

Homestead Information

Richard Willburn was living alone and had no family when he filed for entry under the 1862 Homestead Act May 4, 1904. He moved on to the land early in June of 1904. This was affirmed by neighbors Augustus Russ, B. H. Bushnell, and H.D. Willburn of Caution. It is worth noting that the wife of Augustus Russ—Rosa A (Rose) was his neighbor directly to the east in the adjacent tract was also part African American and was listed as "mulatto" on the 1900 census form. She is the young girl referred to by Irene Stapp in the previous section.

The *Report on Agricultural Settlement* was compiled by the TNF MRRD Deputy Forest Ranger on September 27th 1909 (see Appendix below). The following is a brief summary of the report.

Topography and Surface

SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of N/E $\frac{1}{4}$ mostly open grassland. Rock Creek flows through this tract... Sw $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$...on this forty acre tract are [where] all the improvements that have been made on the claim.

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Settlement and Residence

The applicant has maintained a continuous residence. Except for short intervals not exceeding three months each year- during these absences the claimant has been engaged working for wages...the claimant has worked for J. H. Jean and B. H. Bushnell of Ruth California.

Improvements

A log house 14 by 16 ft. walls 8 ft. roof covered with split shakes--building has floor, one door, no windows. Is habitable all seasons of the year. Probable value \$100.00.

Log barn 14 ft. by 20 ft. 10 ft. high, roof covered with split shakes, walls are not boarded. Probable value \$100.00.

There is a small field enclosed with a good substantial picket fence in all about 70 to 80 rods of fencing. Plenty of water for domestic use four springs noted and one small lake covering about ½ acre.

Cultivation

..no land producing agricultural crops. No orchard or garden probably 12 to 15 vines planted Blackberry, Rasp. berries, and etc. ...about one acre of land has been sashed and cleared but has not been cultivated.

The claimant...has used the land for grazing purposes.

Approximately one ton of wild grass hay cut by the claimant. Used for feeding stock...

Grazing

At the present time the claimant owns but two head of horeses...

Timber

On the entire claim there is about forty acres of actual timberland.

Good Faith

The claim has the appearance of a permanent home the buildings are very well constructed and in good repair. The claimant is making his continuous home on the land.

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Final proof was made in Eureka on September 20, 1909. It was grandfathered in under the original HA of 1862. The GLO patented was issued on June 15, 1910. It is not clear, but since Richard Willburn does not show up on the 1920 census, it appears that he was no longer living at that time. It is not clear who acquired this tract on his death. The 1915 TNF map (above) shows this tract as being owned by Augustus Russ. Eventually it was acquired by the Travis Brothers. It was part of the Brown Land Exchange project (refer to CRIR05-10-472 SRNF).

HA06 Appendix 1

Report On Agricultural Homestead Settlement.
(Homestead Claim)

Trinity, Claims, Willburn, Richard.

H.E.5212-Eureka.

Trinity National Forest.

Eureka Land District.

1*(Claimant)*

Richard Willburn, Post Office , Caution, Trinity County
California.
California. Claimant has no family.

2*(Description OF Claim)*

Homestead Entry No.5212. Which covers the SW 1/4 of
NE 1/4 and E 1/2 of SE 1/4 and SE 1/4 of SE 1/4 Sec.5,
Twp.4 S., Range 8 East., H.M.

3*)Topography and Surface)*

SW 1/4 of NE 1/4 Land, mostly open grass ~~land~~. Rock creek
flows through this tract and the surface is considerably
broken however several acres can be cultivated.

Altitude approximately 2600 to 2850 ft.above sea level.

NW 1/4 of SE 1/4 North slope, land broken and in most
part timber and brush covered.

Altitude approximately 2650 to 2800 ft.

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SW 1/4 SE11/4 General North and East slope, surface comparatively smooth, On this forty acre tract are all the improvements that have been made on the claim. Altitude approximately 2700 to 2900 ft.

SE 1/4 of BE 1/4 sec.5, General slope North and East. surface mostly broken.

Altitude approximately 2600 to 2800 ft.

On the entire claim if cleared of brush and timber probably 60 acres can be cultivated.

4*(Settlement and Residence)*

The claimant Richard Willburn filed on this land May 4, 1904. Made settlement and established actual residence early in the month of June 1904. as affirmed by the claimant and neighbors Augustus Russ, B.H. Bushnell and H.D. Willburn all of Caution, Trinity Co: Cal.

The claimant Richard Willburn has maintained a continuous residence on this land as affirmed by the above named witnesses except for short intervals not exceeding three months each year - during these absences the claimant has been engaged working for wages to earn a livelihood on various ranches in this locality, cutting wood, making hay and other general ranch work. The claimant has worked for A Russ of Caution Cal. J.H. Jeans and B.H. Bushnell of Ruth California.

On the claim there has been no land cultivated , it having been used for grazing purposes only. No farming implements found , but found bed, bedding, dishes , cooking utensils table and various other house hold furniture.

5*(Improvements)*

A log house 14 by 16 ft. walls 8 ft. roof covered with split shakes - building has floor, one door, no window Is habitable at all seasons of the year.

probable value \$100.00

Log barn 14 ft.by 20ft. walls 10 ft.high . roof covered with split shakes. Shed built for stable on one end of building 12 by 14 ft. roof shakes,walls are not boarded.

Probable value.\$50.00

There is a small field enclosed with a good substantial picket fence in all about 70 to 80 rods of fencing.

All improvements were built by the present claimant.

Plenty of water for domestic use four springs noted and one small lake covering about 1/2 acre.

6\$(Cultivation)*

There is no land producing agricultural crops.

No orchard or garden probably 12 or 15 vines planted black berry, rasp berries and etc. No land under ditch no water available for irrigating purposes. About one acre of land has been slashed and cleared but has not been cultivated. Cost of clearing similar land \$35.00 per acre.

Value of the land when cleared probably ^{\$}12.00 per acre. The claimant has at no time cultivated any land has merely used the land for grazing purposes. Approximately one ton of wild grass hay was cut this season 1909. this has been the only hay cut by the claimant. Hay is used for feeding stock on the land.

7*(Grazing)*

At the present time the claimant owns but two head of horses, the only stock. Stock graze at large on the claim and adjacent lands. No permit necessary.

8*(Timber)*

On the entire claim there is about forty acres of actual timberland. A scattered stand of Red Fir and Yellow Pine over 80 acres of the remaining part. In all probably 500,000 ft. B.M. Red Fir and Yellow Pine Value of which would probably be \$750.00 No timber cut for cultivation. All timber cut on the claim has been used for improvements A small amount being cut each year since settlement in 1904. Claimant has not sold or negotiated for sale any timber on the claim.

9*(Additional Information)*

The claim is used for home building purposes only. The claimant owns no other land and this is the first and only Homestead Entry made by the claimant.

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The claim has not been sold or mortgaged that I can ascertain. The land under present conditions I believe to be most valuable for grazing purposes.

Examined September 27-1909.

10*(Good Faith)* The claim has the appearance of a permanent home the buildings are very well constructed and in good repair. The claimant is making his continuous home on the land.

Ruth, California.

Sept, 27, 1909. Deputy Forest Ranger.

Letter confirming patent for the tract was June 16, 1910

ADDRESS REPLY TO
 "FOREST SUPERVISOR"
 JULY 11 1910
 RECEIVED
 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
 FOREST SERVICE
 TRINITY NATIONAL FOREST
 WEAVERVILLE, CALIFORNIA
 June 28, 1910.

L
 Trinity, Claims, Willburn, Richard,
 E. E., Eureka 0849.

Mr. John T. Gray,
 Forest Ranger,
 Ruth, California.

Dear Mr. Gray:

Notice has been received from the Assistant Commissioner of the General Land Office that patent on the above entry was transmitted on June 15, 1910.

Very truly yours,

Forest Supervisor.