

HF02

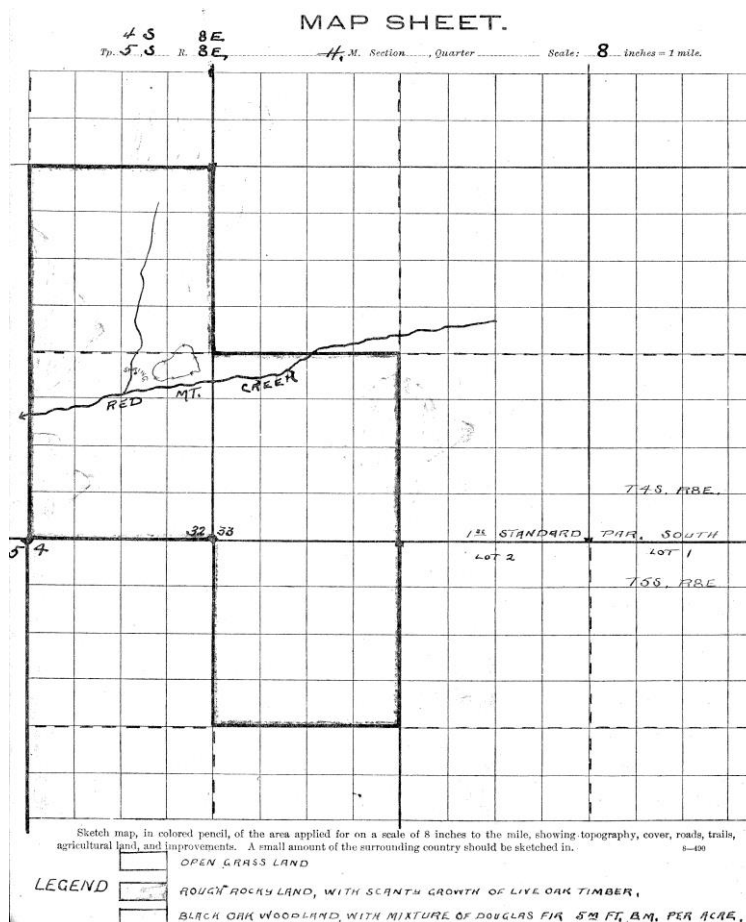
Willburn Aaron Francis

HF02 Map 7: T4S, R8E, S 32, 33, and T5S, R8E, S 4.

See also IA01 and B05. There is a significant amount of correspondence in the hard copy file.

Aaron F. Willburn was the son of James S. Willburn (Sr.) and was married to Minnie Willburn. They had three children (see 1880 census). Refer to B05 for discussion of his family and relationship to the extended Willburn family.

There were huge problems plotting this tract on the Base Map. The original GLO surveys in this area were extremely inaccurate and the survey lines are up to 1/2 mile off. The tract is plotted on the Base Map with dashed lines as the parcel was withdrawn and placed back into the TNF in 1946 (see below). The tract as plotted on the Base Map overlaps with the George White tract (see Lowden's 1894 map A2: 05). This is related to how the parcel was applied for--note that it just crosses over to the north of Red Mountain Creek and included a small unnamed creek.



1912 Tract Map

Background

This parcel was applied for by Arron Francis Willburn according to the Homestead file on November 27, 1911, under the NFHA. A November 20, 1911, letter from the TNF Assistant District Forester confirms this application was received. This is an interesting homestead application. Note that Willburn already owned a parcel (IA01) nearby.

The parcel was inspected by Ranger John Gray on January 12, 1912, and a written report to the file was completed on February 5, 1912. Included below are a few relevant bits of information from Gray's report.

A country settlement, eight or ten families living within a ½ miles distance...The Caution Post Office is north 3 1/2 miles distance [Caution location #2]...The nearest wagon road is at Rock Creek, north five miles distance.

Cover

On the tract there is approximately 120 acres of open grass land. 25 acres rocky with only an occasional scrubby live oak tree. 15 acres Black oak woodland with Doug fir timber running at 5 ft to 2m per acre.

It appears that the parcel was applied for under the NFHA. Initially, the Ranger in his report recommended that the 160 acre tract be listed for homestead entry. Ranger Gray noted that Willburn had previously acquired a parcel of land (IA01) under the Indian Allotment act. He also noted that were some improvements on the tract constructed and abandoned by a unknown squatter prior to Willburn declaring entry. Gray concluded his report by recommending the parcel be listed for entry "if the applicant desires to exercise his homestead right upon it."

A letter in the file dated February 28, 1912 shows the parcel was listed and "open to settlement and entry." It appears, however, that Willburn abandoned his claim and never settled on the land or made any improvements. A letter in the file July 22, (it appears to be the year 1946--it is partly illegible) notes that Willburn filed for the land on November 21, 1914 and it was relinquished by him on February 2, 1920.

The letter then states;

Since the above action was taken it has been found that the classification of the above described area as chiefly valuable for agriculture is erroneous, and this Department, therefore, desires to recall the above list and request that your department revoke the order restoring the land subject to any valid intervening adverse claim.

The listing of the tract was revoked by the DOI GLO on October 18, 1948 and returned to the newly created SRNF.