

HF12

May N. Berry (Berri)

HF12 Map 4: E/2 SW, SW, SE, T3S, R8E, S.31, and NW, NE, T4S, R8E, S6

In the summary of the homestead entry report (see below) the ranger indicated that: "The claimant owned 160 acres of land at the time of filing and has since that time acquired an additional 160 acres, now owns 320 acres of range land."

The 1915 TNF map shows two tracts with her name HA10 and HF12 in Section 36.



(A2: 28)

H.E. 5404 (on file HR SRNF). There is a hard file copy—most of the information is referenced below. The H.E. hard copy was not available for this study.

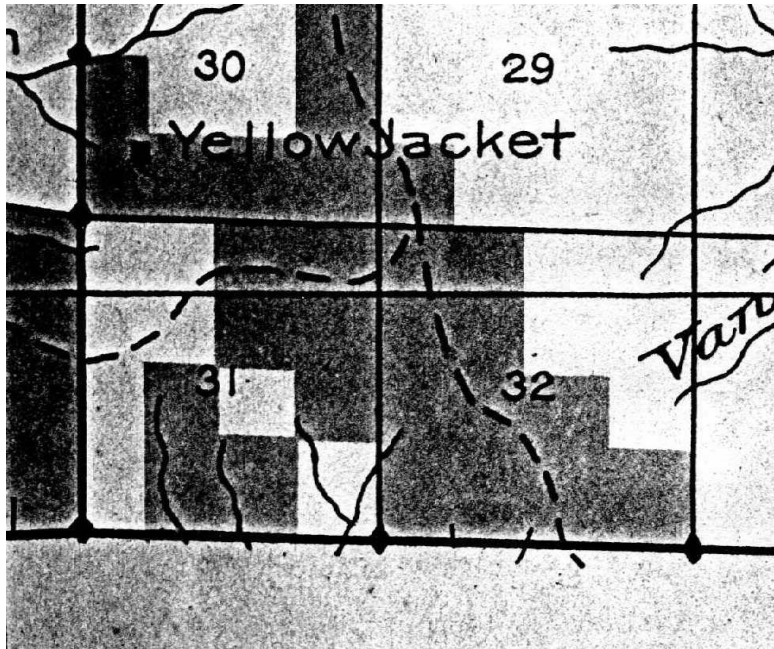
May Berry was ½ African American—refer to the Augustus Russ entry HA08 and Mabel Russ entry IF02 for more information on this subject as well as the census data presented below. She married Reatus Doolittle (see image at HA01) who was the son of Frank Doolittle (F32) and his first wife who drowned in Bear Creek (HA01).

Irene Willburn Stapp (A6: I#448) indicated that:

Rose first married a man named Berri (from the Mad River area) and had a daughter May Berri. *May Berri married Reatus Dolittle*, Frank's son. Frank was married to Becky Doolittle. Rose later married Joe [Augustus] Russ and they had a daughter Maybel who today is 91 and lives in Covelo. Irene STapp A06: I#448). [Emphasis added.]

This tract of land is in the upper Yellowjacket Creek drainage and to the north of Packwood Flat. The exact location of the improvements was not plotted on the Base Map.

Although the file is incomplete it is clear the May Berry (Barry—on the homestead entry forms) acquired the land as it shows up as a private tract on the 1907 TNF map.



Note that the TNF 1907 map shows the portion of the tract in Section 31.
(Map A2: 07)

The 1900 census lists May C. Berry (age 15) as the daughter of Rose Russ and step daughter of Augustus Russ (HA08). The census for 1900 lists both Rose and May as "Black" (1900 census instruction: "negro or negro descent"). See the James S. Willburn (B05) entry and the Russ entry (HA08) for more on the first African Americans to enter southwestern Trinity County.

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---------------|-----|---------------|----|-----|-----|------|------|----|---|
| 7 | 7 | Russ Augustus | 3-1 | Head | 10 | Mar | Dec | 1872 | 27 | M | 5 |
| | | Rosa | 9 | Wife | | B | X | Jan | 1862 | 38 | 3 |
| | | Berry May C | | Step daughter | | B | X | Dec | 1884 | 15 | S |

1900 census at that time May Berry was "at school" possibly an "Indian School."
(A3: 1900-6)

On the 1910 census May Berry is listed as "Nancy E.M." Berry, age 25, and her race is listed—as is that of the entire family—as "Mu." Augustus Russ was not part African American; his father was white and his mother Indian (his father was John Diggins—Russ was a half-brother of Hattie Meyers Hoaglin Diggins (see entry).

The instructions for the 1910 census indicate that: "mulatto" (Mu)—"includes all other persons having some proportion or perceptible trace of negro blood."

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|-----|-----|------------------|---------------|---|--------|-----|
| 101 | 104 | Russ Agustus | Head | M | Mar 38 | M-1 |
| | | Rose A | wife | F | Mar 45 | M-2 |
| | | Mabel A.F. | daughter | F | Mar 9 | S |
| | | Berry Nancy E M. | step daughter | F | Mar 25 | S |

1910 census

Neither the members of the Russ family or May Berry were listed on the 1920 census. It appears that at some point after the Indian Allotment for Mabel Russ (IF02) was approved in late 1915, the Russ family—and given her close relationship with the Russ family perhaps May Berry—moved to Round valley; sometime before the census was taken in 1920.

Summary of homestead entry report

The following section was copied from the homestead entry file by SRNF historian Pamela Conners. There may be more information in the original file at HR SRNF for this tract.

Claimant was an unmarried woman

H.E. 5404 (serial 0962) E/2 SW, SW SE Sec. 31 and NW NE Sec. 6 of T4SR8E

Barry settled on the land April 15, 1905.

Homestead entry report completed by John T. Gray Feb. 9, 1911.

The SWSE Sec. 31 is mountainous with a S exposure and 15% slope. The surface is generally smooth and, for the most part, open grass covered with a scattering of oaks. SESW of Sec. 31 is also mountainous with a S exposure and 15% or more slope. There is 12-15 acres of fairly level land and the remainder is rough and broken with a few scattered Douglas fir and yellow pine along with black and white oak. NESW sec. 31 is mountainous with a S & SW exposure and 15-20% slope. Surface is rough and broken with no timber of any value; just a few scrubby oaks and DF. NENE Sec. 6 is mountainous with S exposure and 20% or more slope. 10 acres is fairly smooth but the remainder is rough and broken. 10 acres is open grass and cultivated. 30 acres has a light growth of DF and YP with a scattering of black and white oak.

House, barn and other improvements are located in the west central part of this tract. Barry had a house constructed on the claim and camped on the land for a few days.

Quoted from the report (minor editing for clarity):

Through the summer and fall of 1905 the claimant was prevented from living on her claim in a steady manner from the fact that her mother, Rose A. Russ

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of Caution, Calif., was dangerously ill and the claimant acted as nurse, she states that during the time between the date of settlement... and the date of filing which was Dec. 9, 1905 she was on the claim every month and generally once every week. After filing lived there continuously until April 15, 1906 when she commenced working as a cook in a hotel at Shelter Cove, Calif., B. L. Notley, employer, she worked at this place until June 15, 1906 at this time returning to her claim, resided there until the summer of 1908, the month of August this year she was employed as cook by Mrs. J.T. McKnight, in a Hotel at Ruth, California.

After leaving this place she returned to her claim and lived there until Nov. 1, 1909 she at this time commenced cooking in a hotel at Hayfork Calif., (A.L. Kellogg employer) and continued to work at this place until about April 15, 1910. She at this time returned to her claim and has since resided there. During each absence from the claim, the claimant states that she was working for wages earning money with which to improve her claim and enable her to live upon it. This information was given by the claimant and confirmed by the statements of Thos. Crabtree, Augustus Russ and H.D. Willburn of Caution....

Approx. 2 acres cultivated last year. Found no farming implements on the claim. In the dwelling was found a cook stove, a heater, table, 2 chairs, cupboard, dishes, cooking utensils, bed and bedding with various other household furniture.

Barry's house was described as 14' x 28' (and side building 14' x 16'). The walls were 8' high and made of logs. Chinked on the outer walls and ceiled with split and dressed lumber on the inner walls. House has a porch, 6' x 10'. One room is 12' x 14' with walls of split and dressed weatherboard nailed to 8' high studding; building covered with split shakes, floored with split and dressed lumber and has 3 doors and 2 single windows, 2 rooms the walls of which have been lined and papered.

There is also a stone chimney and the house is enclosed with a picket fence 60' square. The dwelling is habitable year round and is worth about \$150. The framed barn is 16' x 20' with 12' high walls. One row of 7' lumber around this main building. A shed 10' x 20' on one side with the walls of the shed open. The roof is split shakes. Valued at \$75. 10' x 12' woodshed with walls covered with split lumber nailed upright, roof is covered with split shakes and shed holds about 2 cords of firewood. Shed valued at \$20.

A 20' deep well near the house provides water for domestic use. 120 rods of picket rail fencing on the claim. All improvements built by Barry. The ranger noted that:

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There is now 2 acres of land producing agricultural crops. An orchard consisting of 12 fruit trees, apples and peaches, 2 yrs old. No ditch on the claim and 1 acre slashed and burned, but the land has not been cultivated... The first cultivation was done in ... 1906, a small garden 30 or 40 ft. square was planted but being unable to get it fenced, range stock destroyed the crop. 1907, no land cultivated. 1908, no cultivation but 2 tons of wild grass hay was cut. 1909, cut 3 tons of wild grass hay and planted a few fruit trees and strawberry vines. No garden or other crops grown. 1910, planted 1/2 acre in corn, potatoes and other small garden truck for home use. Sowed 1 1/2 acres in oats and alfalfa which was cut for hay, yielding about 1 ton. There was also 4 tons of wild grass hay cut. All hay has been fed to stock on the claim. The claimant now owns 20 head of cattle, two head of horses and 1/2 dozen chickens. The stock graze at large on the claim and adjacent lands under permit...

The claimant owned 160 acres of land at the time of filing and has since that time acquired an additional 160 acres, now owns 320 acres of range land. Under present conditions the claim is chiefly valuable for grazing purposes, on the whole claim probably 40 acres could be plowed and cultivated. This land is rather inaccessible at present, the nearest wagon road is five miles distance and it is reached only by a rough mountain trail.

Gray closed with: "It is evident that the claimant has made this land her home to the exclusion of a home elsewhere during the past 5 years and has annually used the land for grazing purposes." He therefore recommended issuing patent.