

HOMESTEAD PROOF—TESTIMONY OF CLAIMANT.

Simon Ritchie, being called as a witness in his own behalf in support of homestead entry, No. 11624, for SW 1/4 Sec 4 Twp 20 R 5E testifies as follows:

Ques. 1.—What is your name, age, and post-office address?

Ans. Simon Ritchie 61 yrs old, Hull Neb.

Ques. 2.—Are you a native born citizen of the United States, and if so, in what State or Territory were you born?

Ans. I am native born. I was born in Iowa

Ques. 3.—Are you the identical person who made homestead entry, No. 11624, at the North Platte land office on the 16th day of Oct 1886, and what is the true description of the land now claimed by you?

Ans. I am the identical person who made said hd. entry. It is the SW 1/4 Sec 4 Twp 20 R 5E

Ques. 4.—When was your house built on the land and when did you establish actual residence therein? (Describe said house and other improvements which you have placed on the land, giving total value thereof.)

Ans. My house was built in Apr. 1887. I established actual residence Apr 16, 1887. My house was 14x18. I have another house 20x30 and a stable 16x16 together 20x20 and 8x20 a well 30' deep, 8' dia. and a well 16' dia.

Ques. 5.—Of whom does your family consist; and have you and your family resided continuously on the land since first establishing residence thereon? (If unmarried, state the fact.)

Ans. Wife & 4 children. Myself and family have resided continuously on the land since establishing residence

Ques. 6.—For what period or periods have you been absent from the homestead since making settlement, and for what purpose; and if temporarily absent, did your family reside upon and cultivate the land during such absence?

Ans. I was absent from Apr. 1887 to Sept 1887 at work in the eastern part of the state. My family cultivated and resided on the land during that time. I have lived on the land myself all that part of the time.

Ques. 7.—How much of the land have you cultivated each season and for how many seasons have you raised crops thereon?

Ans. They let go 10 a. The 3rd 20 a. The 5th 4 1/2 a. (the rest 80 a. was I have owned crops for 6 seasons

Ques. 8.—Is your present claim within the limits of an incorporated town or selected site of a city or town, or used in any way for trade and business?

Ans. It is not within the limits of any city or town or used in any way for trade or business

Ques. 9.—What is the character of the land? Is it timber, mountainous, prairie, grazing, or ordinary agricultural land? State its kind and quality, and for what purpose it is most valuable.

Ans. It is prairie land. Good farming land and most valuable for that purpose

Ques. 10.—Are there any indications of coal, salines, or minerals, of any kind, on the land? (If so, describe what they are, and state whether the land is more valuable for agricultural than for mineral purposes.)

Ans. There are no indications of minerals of any kind on the land.

Ques. 11.—Have you ever made any other homestead entry? (If so, describe the same.)

Ans. Have never had any other homestead entry

Ques. 12.—Have you sold, conveyed, or mortgaged any portion of the land; and if so, to whom and for what purpose?

Ans. I have not sold, conveyed or mortgaged any portion of the land.

Ques. 13.—Have you any personal property of any kind elsewhere than on this claim? (If so, describe the same, and state where the same is kept.)

Ans. I have no personal property of any kind elsewhere than on this claim

Simon. Ritchie

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing testimony was read to the claimant before being subscribed, and was sworn to before me this 22nd day of March 1893.

[SEE NOTE ON FOURTH PAGE.]

J. H. Vickrey
Clerk District Court
North Platte, Nebraska

* (In case the party is of foreign birth a certified transcript from the Court records of his declaration of intention to become a citizen, or of his naturalization, or a copy thereof, certified by the officer making this proof, must be filed with this case. Evidence of naturalization is only required in final (five year) homestead cases.)