

August 15, 1996

Ilene Dietrich
5585 Somerset Dr.
Santa Barbara, CA 93111
805-964-9213

RE: Gropper Family

Dear Sharon Tiffany,

Thank you very much for the cemetery information you sent to me back at the beginning of the year. I really appreciated your effort in sending it to me!

I am enclosing a copy of the Gropper Cemetery sheet I already had. Also I attached a letter and handwritten notes from my aunt, Jo-Ann Oxner, that I also found. Currently I am still gathering information regarding who is actually buried on the farm. I also have included a copy of the Homestead Certificate and the deed when my grandfather Carl Gropper sold the farm, which refers to the cemetery on the farm. Also I am gathering family history and pictures. In time, I will send additional information to you.

Additionally, I am sending a copy of the photo that was in the Skamania County Pioneer Special Bicentennial Historical Edition that has some members of the Gropper family. Once when visiting, I tried to find out more about the source of this picture, but no luck. Also there is a reference to my grandfather in first grade at Stevenson School, 1901, in one of the historical society publications.

If you find any further information in your work at the Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center, I would appreciate your sending it to me. Thank you again! I look forward to someday visiting the new center!

Sincerely,
ILENE DIETRICH

GROPPER CEMETERY

This small cemetery is on the farm now owned by Sam Melonas. It was once the family home of Casper and Maria Gropper and some members of the Gropper family are buried here. It is in a dense thicket of trees and brush and I was unable to find it. One person who had been there said there were no stones and another said there were stones lying under the moss.

The only records I could find are the following:

GROPPER, Casper	born Austria ca 1844	died after 1902, ca 1912
Maria	born Bavaria ca 1862	died after 1902, nee Mayrhofer 1905/06
Donald Patrick	May 22, 1924	died Feb. 6, 1925, 8 mo.

If there are others they are unknown to me.

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK
SKAMANIA COUNTY
STEVENSON, WASHINGTON 98648

October 2, 1968

Dear Carl:

Since I have been working here in the Court House, in my spare time I have brought an old record book up to date that contained the death records of the county. I also went out to the cemeteries and got all of the information that are on the stones and although my record is not complete it is a lot better than before and many people have used it for one reason or another.

Yesterday a Bonneville Powerman was in the office and asked me if I knew of a cemetery on your old place which now belongs to the Melonas. I told him that I did not know of it. He had been there and he said that the graves were rather sunken and he wondered if perhaps the people buried there had been moved elsewhere. I told him that I felt sure that they had not but would write and ask you.

Could you tell me who is buried there and some dates of birth and death or approximates? I have the following but the records were not clear as to where they were buried so I assumed that those were the ones buried there.

Casper Gropper	born in Austria Jan. 10, 1846	d. December 12, 1922
Maria Gropper	born in Austria 1962	d. March 27, 1906
	(her maiden name was Mayrhofer)	
	(Mayerhoffer, Meyrhofer, Meyerhofer)	
Donald Patrick Gropper	born May 22, 1924	d. Feb. 6, 1925, 8 mo.

There is an Anton and Agatha Gropper buried in the Eyman Cemetery north of Carson. In the old birth records there is an Otilia Gropper born to May Gropper who was 16 at the time, Feb. 4, 1893 — an illegitimate birth. That is the 2nd birth recorded in the county, the first being Ernest Metzger who was also born in 1893. He is still living in Carson.

I am kind of a nut on the early history of the county and save everything I can find about it and the old timers who lived here, so I would appreciate it very much if you could tell me about your old family cemetery.

I hope that everything is well with you and your family.

Sincerely,
DAPHNE (THON) RAMSAY

From Skamania County Pioneer Special Bicentennial
Historical Edition, Aug. 17, 1976, p. 20



SEVERAL OLD-TIME Carson area families are gathered at the Gropper place on Carson Creek. In front row are the four Gropper children. Middle row, from left: Mrs. Andrew Halvorson, Sr., Mr. and Mrs. Kasper, an unidentified woman, Mr. and

Mrs. Antone Gropper, Mrs. O. J. Stross, Andrew Halvorson, and Nick Gregorius, Sr. Back row: Mrs. Rudolph Glur, Sr., Mrs. Printz, Rudolph Glur, Sr., O. J. Stross, Andrew Halvorson, Sr.

SKAMANIA COUNTY HERITAGE

QUARTERLY

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Volume 9, No. 3

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SKAMANIA COUNTY, WASHINGTON, A PARADISE FOR
THE FARMER, FRUIT RAISER, MINER AND LUMBERMAN



STUDENTS IN THE STEVENSON SCHOOL, NOVEMBER 1901

The Stevenson School, District No. 3, closed a three month's term on Friday last. There were enrolled 39 pupils - 23 boys and 16 girls.

The total attendance for the term was 1678 1/2 days. Average number belonging 30; number of cases of tardiness 35; percent of attendance 93.

There were 12 visitors during the term, including the County School Superintendent. There are five scholars on the roll of honor, neither absent or tardy, as follows: Ralph Thomson, John Wachter, Jay Sly, Grandil Lillegard and Ida Wachter.

The pupils, arranged by grades, are as follows: Seventh grade -- Ralph Ginder

Sixth grade — Christian Skaar, Ralph Thompson, Mortie Green, Ida Wachter, Frances Gray, Pearl Thomas.

Fifth grade — John Thomas, John Falmer, Eugene Ginder.

Fourth grade — John Wachter, Frank Wachter, Alfred Salset, Harold Ginder, Anna Nelson, Inga Fosse, Hazel Harlan.

Third grade — Charlie Salset, Lewis Falmer, Bennie Grey, Fern Marble, Lenna Foster, Ruby Foster, Pearl Foster.

Second grade — Frank Rabenau, Lee Garwood, Jay Sly, Ira Foster.

First grade — Harry Aalvik, Geo. Richards, Carl Gropper, Jeff Richards, Jimmie Gray, Bernice Ginder, Myrtle Vallett, Lena Foster, Etta Rivers, Ruth Harlan.

Chart class — Grandil Lillegard.

—PIONEER, Nov. 28, 1901

A 1900 CENSUS PROBLEM

The census gives Stevenson precinct a population of 338. We cast an even hundred votes at the last election, and we have 75 school children on our rolls. This accounts for 175 of them and leaves 163 to be made up from men who are not voters, children under school age, girls and women. By every rule of figuring population we should have 500, and we believe we have them. Either a mistake was made in census office or the enumerator did not get around over the district thoroughly. Chenowith precinct, with only two-thirds of votes, shows a larger population than Stevenson. Before the census was taken we guessed the population of the county at 2000, and we believe that the guess was nearer right than the census.

—PIONEER, March 7, 1901

DEED RECORD 30
SKAMANIA COUNTY, WASHINGTON

STATE OF WASHINGTON)
County of Skamania) ss.

On this day personally appeared before me Maude Roberts, to me known to be the individual described in and who executed the foregoing instrument and acknowledged that she signed and sealed the same as her free and voluntary act and deed for the uses and purposes therein mentioned.

Given under my hand and official seal this 31st day of August, 1945.

(Notarial Seal Affixed) Raymond C. Sly
Notary Public for Washington
Residing at Stevenson, therein.

Filed for record November 7, 1945 by Raymond C. Sly, at 2:10 p.m.

David O. Jones
Skamania County Auditor

#34596 Carl H. Gropper to Gust J. Malonas et al

THE GRANTOR Carl H. Gropper, a widower, in consideration of the sum of One Dollar to him in hand paid does hereby CONVEY and WARRANT unto Gust J. Malonas, George Kink, and George Vichas, GRANTEES, the following described real property in Skamania, State of Washington. to-wit:

- The Northeast quarter of Section 35, Township 3 N. Range 7 E.W.M., except the west 60 rods thereof.
- EXCEPTING ALSO:
 - 1- A strip of land 300 feet in width acquired by United States of America by Bonneville Transmission line.
 - 2- All that portion of the northeast quarter of said Section 35 lying on the east of the County Road known as "Farm to Market Road No. 2"
 - 3- Commencing at the Northeast corner of Section 35 Twp. 3 N. R. 7 E.W.M., thence west along North line of said Section 35 to a point 60 rods east of the one quarter corner, thence South 546 feet, thence East to the East line of Section 35, said point being on the North line of Farm to Market No. 2, thence North 546 feet to point of beginning. All of said tract being on the northerly side of Farm to Market No. 2 and containing 21 acres, more or less
 - 4- Starting at a point 546 feet south of the corner to Sec. 25, 26, 35, and 36, Twp. 3 N. R. 7 E.W.M., said point being on the north side of H/W on Lat. Highway # 2 as surveyed and on file in the office of the County Road Engineer, thence west 564.14 feet, thence South 414.07 feet to a point on H/W line of said road, thence in North-easterly direction along said H/W to point of beginning, containing 2.1 acres more or less.
 - 5- Private cemetery of the Gropper family described as follows: Commencing at a point 220 feet North of the Southwest corner of the Southeast quarter of the Northeast quarter, thence West 40 feet, thence North 40 feet, thence East 40 feet, thence South 40 feet, (being the intent to reserve the tract now enclosed by fences upon which the graves of members of the Gropper family are interred together with the right of ingress and egress thereto and therefrom.)

ALSO conveying, assigning, and quitclaiming all grantor's interest in and to the right to use the tract of land acquired by United States of America above mentioned as described in easement therefor recorded at page 560, Volume "28" Deed records of Skamania County, Washington, subject to the terms of said instrument.

DATED this 17th day of August, 1945.

Carl H. Gropper (SEAL)

STATE OF WASHINGTON)
County of Skamania) ss.

On this day personally appeared before me Carl H. Gropper, a widower, to me known to be the individual described in and who executed the foregoing instrument and acknowledged that he signed and sealed the same as his free and voluntary act and deed for the uses and purposes therein mentioned.

Given under my hand and official seal this 17th day of August, 1945.

(Notarial seal affixed) Raymond C. Sly
Notary public for Washington
Residing at Stevenson, therein.

(\$6.05 U.S.I.R. and \$5.50 State Stamps Affixed and Cancelled "Skamania Co. Abst. & Title Co. 11-7-45")



Homestead Certificate No. 3075

Application 9723

of the LAND OFFICE at Vancouver Washington

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

To all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting:

Whereas, There has been deposited in the GENERAL LAND OFFICE of the United States a CERTIFICATE of the REGISTER, whereby it appears that, pursuant

to the Act of Congress approved 20th May, 1862, "To secure Homesteads to Actual Settlers on the Public Domain," and the acts supplemental thereto, the claim of *Casper Gropper* has been established and duly consummated, in conformity to law, for the *North East quarter of Section thirty five in Township three North of Range seven East by Willamette Meridian in Washington containing one hundred and eighty acres*

according to the ORIGINAL PLAT of the Survey of the said Land, returned to the GENERAL LAND OFFICE by the SURVEYOR GENERAL:

Now know ye, That there is, therefore, granted by the United States unto the said *Casper Gropper* and to *his* thereof, unto the said *Casper Gropper* the tract of Land above described: To have and to hold the said tract of Land, with the appurtenances

heirs and assigns forever; subject to any vested and accrued water rights for mining, agricultural, manufacturing, or other purposes, and rights to ditches and reservoirs used in connection with such water rights, as may be recognized and acknowledged by the local customs, laws, and decisions of courts, and also subject to the right of the proprietor of a vein or lode to extract and remove his ore therefrom, should the same be found to penetrate or intersect the premises hereby granted, as provided by law. And there is reserved from the lands hereby granted, a right of way thereon for ditches or canals constructed by the authority of the United States.

Witness my hand and the seal of the GENERAL LAND OFFICE, at the City of Washington, this *twentieth* day of *July*, 190*7*, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and *ninety seven*, and of the Independence of the United States the one hundred and *thirtieth*

By the PRESIDENT: *L. B. Nichols* Secretary: *Mr. W. H. Keiser*

Recorded, Vol. *6A*, Page *415*
Recorder of the General Land Office.