

Phone Memo

June 5, 2020 09:42 am

Claims 87-11071 & 87-11072

Call from Joanne O'Brian to Scott Storms

Joanne called in reference to an email I sent her requesting further proof of the claimed priority date on claims 87-11071 & 87-11072. She discussed that she did not have any direct knowledge of the date the hand dug well was completed and put to use. She talked about an old log cabin that was on the property when they purchased it and stated that it was the original cabin on the property but did not know when it was built. I explained to her that the best information I currently have is aerial photography from 1947 showing evidence of the well, and photography from 1954 showing evidence of a structure on the property. She said she was going to look through her safe for any old documents that might reveal more about the property history and do her best to supply any information she finds.

June 10, 2020 9:30 AM

Claims 87-11071 & 87-11072

Call to Joanne O'Brian to Scott Storms

I called Joanne after her message on June 9 to call her. We discussed evidence of priority for both the domestic and stockwater rights. I explained to her that if she could write down any stories she remembers from the neighbors that would explain the dates that the well was dug, and that the first home or cabin was built, she could sign that statement and have it notarized and that would suffice as evidence of priority. She said she did not feel comfortable stating any specific dates as she could not remember what specific years she had been told, and she explained that all the people who told her these stories have since passed. I explained that currently I can only recommend a 1947 priority date on the stockwater and 1954 on the domestic, based on aerial imagery. I also explained that this is still just the Department's recommendation to the court, and that her claim still stands as her official statement to the court and that if she came up with any further information to support an earlier priority date, she could still present that information to the adjudication court.