

CFR 0183

Mr. Manley A. Spores

U.S. Census Definition of a Farm: 10 acres or more with agricultural sales of \$50 or more a year; or, if less than 10 acres, sales of at least \$250 a year.

APPLICATION FOR CENTURY FARM HONORS--1965
(Rules attached)

Deadline for filing application: June 15, 1965

PLEASE PRINT

Your name (Mr., Mrs., Miss) Mr. Manley A. Spores

Your address: Route one P.O. Box 93 Town Springfield

Location of farm: Mouth, Mohawk River Lane
Mouth Mohawk River (Address) (County)

Acres in your farm today 144.06 Acres in original farm 320 acre

Does your farm comply with U.S. Census definition at top of page? Yes

Name of founder of farm (please print): James Madison Spores

Year founder settled on farm? 1857 Where did he come from? Born Illinois 1835

How many families have farmed this land? Three generations

Are any of original buildings still in use? Yes, the House(and part of the barn

Who farms land today? You yes ? A renter ? A manager ? Other

If you own the farm but live in town, do you manage the farming operation?

What relation are you to the original owner? Grandson

If you know crops or livestock raised on farm 100 years ago, please list Cattle, Horses

Hops, Grain, Hay, Potatoes, Fruit, Berries, Vegetables, Permanent Pasture

Sheep, Hogs, Chickens, and Geese

What do you raise on farm today? Sheep, Hay and Permanent Pasture.

How many generations live on the farm today? (Names) Manley A. Spores and wife

Sons Dale Spores and family, David Spores and wife

Has the farm ever been rented? No How many times has original farm been divided? 4

PLEASE list on separate page attached other historical facts you know about this farm.

Do you declare that the statements made above are accurate and correct to the best of your knowledge? Yes

Manley A. Spores
Signature of Owner
Manley A. Spores

SUBMITTED BY:

Echo D. Neale 546 "D" St. Springfield, Oreg.
(Name and address)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This farm was taken as a Donation Land Claim by William N. Griffith and Nancy Spores Griffith in September 27th 1850. She was only sixteen years old, but it was the last chance to get the 640 acres under the old law. This family lived on the farm for several years. Then they sold to James Madison Spores, Nancy's brother.

James Madison Spores moved there with his wife Mary Catherine Thomas Spores and small daughter Arminda. The first daughter died at Coburg, Oregon. John Henry Spores was the first child born on the farm June 17th 1858. The other nine children also were born on the farm.

The farm had fertil river bottom soil for hops and grain, also high rolling hills for range which gave a variety of crops and live stock.

In the early years James Madison Spores took his grain all the way to Oregon City, Oregon to be milled into flour, and once a year supplies were bought.

They were a very hospitable family, feeding and keeping over night any travelers going that way. The Indians too, always knew they would be treated fairly, and given enough food to carry them through an emergency.

The house is still standing. In the early years it had a large fire place where family and friends would gather to visit, the children would pop corn, crack hazelnuts, and eat apples.

The barn was built by James Madison Spores after he took over the farm, when the barn was finished people came to celebrate from all over the country. It is said the music and dancing didn't stop for three days and nights.

The Columbus day storm of 1962 wrecked the barn only one half is still standing.

May 5, 1965

I, Ina Randolph, Director of Records & Elections of Lane County, certify that our records show in Book H, page 375, the United States Certificate #146, to the W.N. Griffith Donation Land Claim, September 27, 1850; and in Book J, page 449, the north half of the Griffith Land Claim was sold to James Madison Spores, on November 13, 1857; In Vol. 87, page 444, the estate deeded it to George Spores on May 6th, 1911; in Vol 89, page 306, George Spores deeded it to Daniel T. Spores; in Vol. 170, page 9588 Daniel T. Spores to Manley Spores, December 16, 1931.

Ina Randolph

Ina Randolph, Director of
Dept. of Records & Elections
Lane County Oregon

May 5, 1965

AUG 26 1965

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

Bought 108 Years Ago

Spores Home Due Century Honors

By WARREN HILL

With the exception of a few building additions and a television aerial perched on the roof, the home occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Manlee A. Spores east of Springfield on Mohawk Road looks much as it did when Spores' grandfather, James Madison Spores, bought the place 108 years ago.

The house was on the place then and is thought to be more than 115 years old, one of the oldest homes in the county.

The Spores farm is one of 11 Lane county farms and 42 in the state slated for special recognition during a program set for Aug. 31 at the Oregon State Fair. The century farm certificates will be presented by Gov. Mark Hatfield.

The Spores family were among the real pioneers of this area.

Jacob C. and Nancy Spores arrived in Oregon in 1847, when he was 52, older than most who braved the dangers of crossing

the country.

Spores was wagon master of the train and a Flathead Indian acted as a guide, which may account for the fact that they had little trouble with the redskins on the long trek. A veteran of the war of 1812, he lived to the ripe old age of 95 1/2.

This was nothing compared to the record of his father, also Jacob, who immigrated to America from Germany and lived to the remarkable age of 115.

The junior Jacob secured a

donation land claim of 640 acres which he improved, and later expanded his holdings to 2,000 acres. He built the first ferry over the McKenzie river near where the present Spores bridge is located at Armitage Park, and operated the line for many years.

Jacob and Nancy had 10 children, including James Madison, born May 19, 1835. He and his second wife had another four, including Mary, born Nov. 17, 1848, probably the first white child to be born in the county.

It is interesting to note that Jacob named two places in the county. It is said that one night a band of Indians rode down the valley and stole Jacob's horses.

A posse set out in pursuit and when Jacob saw a beautiful valley stretch out before him, he called it Mohawk because it reminded him of the Mohawk valley of his youth in New York.

Further pursuing the horses Jacob and the posse finally overtook the Indians who were camped on a creek, and recovered the horses. To this day the area is known as Camp Creek.

Jacob's place was one mile south of where Coburg now stands. When James struck out on his own in 1857 he bought the farm that is to be honored by the state. He and his wife, Mary, reared 10 children, one of them Daniel T. Spores, father of the present owner. James died in 1890.

After his father's death Daniel took over the farm and was considered an excellent manager of the then 312 acres, raising par-

ticularly fine corn and running a hundred or more Shropshire sheep and a thousand chickens.

On Sept. 26, 1899, he married Kate Drury, the daughter of a man who came from Iowa 50 years before and located on the upper Mohawk, serving the people of that area as postmaster for many years. Among their three children was Manlee, born March 25, 1902. Daniel lived until 1957.

Manlee attended Springfield high school, Columbia college at Milton in northern Oregon and the University of Oregon. He married Sarah D. Williams of Halsey on July 2, 1925, and after her death, Doris L. Sword Sylvester.

Manlee and Sarah had two children, both living on the century old place, which now covers 140 acres. David and his wife now live in an attractive new home only a few steps from the old house and Dale and wife and four children live on another house on the place.

Although the old home provides many memories Manlee says it's about time he was putting up a new house, too, although the rambling aged home shows no signs of falling apart.

The more than 100-year-old barn on the place, put together with wood spikes and hand-hewn beams, however, is near the end of its days. The ravages of time were present when the Columbus Day storm of 1962 dealt it almost a fatal blow.

Part of the old structure, just east of McKenzie River Plywood Corp., is still standing, flanked by blackberry bushes that were heavy with fruit last week.

