

CFR 0300

Mack and Estella Hamby

APPLICATION FOR CENTURY FARM HONORS

Location and size of farm Township 9, Range 2 and 3 West, Marion County.

Approx 450 acres. State of Oregon

Present owner Mack and Estella Hamby. County of Marion

Address Jefferson, Oregon.

Do you live on this farm and farm the land? Yes

Do you make \$150 a year or more from this farm? Yes

If you live off this land, do you manage the farm operation? Yes

Name and date of first generation owner Isaac Miller 1848

Brief Description of farm Approx 100 acres in hill pasture; Small area in pasture and woodland, remainder farm land under irrigation, bisected by Sidney Irrigation Canal.

History Isaac Miller, upon arrival in Oregon from Indiana in 1848, took up donation land claim, selling the same to his sons Samuel and Charles, in 1849. The part purchased by Charles passed to his daughters, Louisa Miller, Lydia Hoyt and Emma Lillard. Estella Hamby, daughter of Emma Lillard, acquired a part by inheritance and the remainder by purchase. She and her husband Mack Hamby and their son Ellis and his children live on and operate the farm, making six generations in direct line to have lived on the property.

Mack & Estella Hamby
Signature of present owner

APPLICATION FOR CENTURY FARM HONORS

Location and size of farm Township 9, Range 2 and 3 East, Marion County.

State of Oregon)

Approx 450 acres.

) SS

County of Marion)

Present owner Mack and Estelle Hamby.

On this 14 day of July, 1958, before me, a notary public, the undersigned officer, personally appeared Mack and Estelle Hamby, known to me to be the persons whose name is subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged that they executed the within instrument for the purposes therein contained.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I Hereunto set my hand and official seal.

SEAL

Notary Public for Oregon

Jay B. Doyal

My Commission Expires Jan. 22, 1959

Name and date of first generation owner Isaac Miller 1848

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Isaac Miller, upon arrival in Oregon from Indiana in 1848, took up donation land claim, selling the same to his sons Samuel and Charles in 1849. The part purchased by Charles passed to his daughters, Louise Miller, Lydia Hoyt and Emma Willard. Estelle Hamby, daughter of Emma Willard, acquired a part by inheritance and the remainder by purchase. She and her husband Mack Hamby and their son Ellis and his children live on and operate the farm, making six generations in direct line to have lived on the property.

Mack & Estelle Hamby
Signature of present owner

FEB 13 1970

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

FAMILY QUILTS FARMING MILLER CENTURY FARM

506
CENTURY FARMS

For the first time in over 100 years the Miller Century farm will be tilled by other than descendants of the Millers. Due to ill health of the present owners, management of farm has passed to other hands. Mr. and Mrs. Mack Hamby and son Ellis have leased the 225 acres of farm land on Parrish Gap road to the Jensen Brothers of Silverton and are retiring from active farming.

Patent to the original 640 acre farm was obtained by Isaac Miller who came West in 1848. Since that early day, six generations of the family have lived on the farm, in continuous operation.

They are Isaac, son Charles, his daughter Emma Miller Lillard, her daughter Estella Lillard Hamby, the Hamby's son Ellis and his four children, Jess, Nancy, Luann and Lisa. Also for several years between 1910 and 1920, Charles Hoyt, a grandson of Charles, lived on, and operated the place.

After occupying the farm one year, Isaac sold it to his sons, Charles and Samuel for \$3,000 which they had earned in a summer of gold mining on American River in California.

After his marriage in 1854 to Nancy Vaughn, a native of West Virginia, Charles devoted his time to farming his share, and the lumbering industry, and was one of the first to introduce flax growing in Oregon.

A hank of flax which won first award at the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia in 1876, together with the bronze medal, is on display at Champoeg. A fire which burned the flax plant brought an end to that industry and Miller turned to other pursuits.

The father, Isaac, after several years in the Millersburg area in Linn County had moved to Ashland where he had accumulated a herd of registered Jerseys, and the nucleus of his son Charles' herd, one lone cow, was hauled in a wagon from Ashland to the Miller farm here in 1899. Following his death the herd, then numbering 73, was sold at auction in 1914 for a total of \$14,475.

The small stream which bisects the farm, later named Chehulpum Creek, furnished power for many pieces of equipment, invented and made by Miller, and used in the dairy operation. These included a giant churn, a cream separator, butter-worker and a number of smaller appliances. During these years a large orchard of Italian prunes came into bearing and a dryer was built. Later the prune industry, like the flax, gave way to the dairying and general farming.

Meanwhile, the Lillard family had developed a herd of Jerseys, and Mr. and Mrs. Mack Hamby, after buying the property in the early 1930s, operated a grade A dairy until 1961 when they sold the cattle to Asel Eoff of Salem. Since then, peppermint, corn, bush beans and sugar beets for seed have been grown.

The Hamby's son Ellis moved to Jefferson last year, having sold their house to the Gail Keith family.

The Mack Hamby's are planning an auction of farm implements, trucks and shop tools, Thursday, February 19 at the farm, after which they plan to take it easy and perhaps do some traveling. They will continue to live on the farm and will keep a few head of beef cattle on the pasture land.

FEB 18 1970

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

New Hands Run Century Farm

5064
By LILLIE L. MADSEN

Farm Editor, The Statesman

JEFFERSON — New hands this spring will till the soil on one of Willamette Valley's Century Farms — new hands, that is to the Isaac Miller Land Donation claim on the Parish Gap Road.

The "hands" are not new to the Valley, however, and the Mack Hamby's who now own the old farm, say they feel fortunate in getting Jensen Brothers of Silverton—widely known

grass seed and turf growers — to do the tilling.

The Jensens are leasing 225 acres of the more than 400 acre farm. — "We're keeping some land for Hereford cattle — we've got to keep busy," said Mr. Hamby as he announced he is going to "quit farming" and will hold an auction on the place Thursday starting at 10:30 a.m.

Farm Auction Planned

"We're going to get rid of the farm implements, the trucks, shop tools and so on — so's we

won't be tempted to go back into farming right away," Hamby said "We'll continue to live on the place and — what is it retiring people say? — 'do a bit of traveling, perhaps.'"

Like all Century Farms in the Willamette Valley there lies a whole book of history in the land.

Until now only descendants of the original owner have farmed the 400 acres. Miller, the great grandfather of Mrs. Hamby, acquired the original land patent to the 640 acres in 1847. The Hamby's son, Ellis, who farmed part of the land until a year ago when he sold his share and moved to Jefferson, was the fifth generation and Ellis's son, Jess, now 16, who helped in the summer was the six generation who had, Mrs. Hamby says, "dug in this soil."

Isaac didn't stay with the land donation claim too long. He farmed it a year and sold to his sons, Charles and Samuel, for \$3,000 which they had earned in a summer gold mining stint on American River in California.

Charles, in 1854, married Nancy Vaughn, a native of West Virginia, and the two settled down to manage the newly acquired farm.

Champoeg Museum House Flax

There was quite a bit of experimenting, and Charles produced some of the first flax grown in the Valley. As a reminder of this, a hank of his flax and the medal it won at the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia are now on display at the Champoeg Museum.

In the meantime the father,

Isaac, had moved to Ashland where he developed one of the first herds of registered Jersey cattle in Oregon. Among these was the nucleus — one cow, hauled in a wagon the 300 miles from Ashland to Jefferson — for the Charles Miller herd.

In the early years of the dairy, cream was hand-skimmed and churned and the butter shipped to Portland. Miller was of an inventive turn, and built a head-gate across the creek on the farm, furnishing water for the water wheel which turned the separator, and the huge barrel church, as well as a butter worker, and later, a lathe, a grindstone, and a home-made "power" washing machine.

Charles continued to develop his purebred string, winning prizes and much acclaim for the beautiful cows, until his death in 1912. A year later the string, then numbering 73, was sold for \$14,475.

Returned to Dairying

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Miller's daughter married a Lillard and the Lillards developed another herd of Jerseys on the old farm.

"And this is where I come into the picture," says Mrs. Hamby, the former Estella Lillard. "After Mack and I were married we bought the property — early in 1930s — and operated the grade A Dairy until 1961 when we sold the cows to Asel Eoff of Salem, and we turned to other farming."

Since then the Hamby's have produced peppermint, corn, sugar beets, bush beans . . .

Things have changed a lot since the first days of the family farm, Mrs. Hamby recalls. She said her grandfather used to tell of his early dairy days and later when a creamery was organized at Jefferson and the buttermaking days for the Millers were over.

"But even then, surplus was not an unfamiliar word in reference to dairy products. The creamery had a surplus of buttermilk and my grandfather made regular trips to town to haul buttermilk in his home-made 'tank' back to the farm

for his pigs.

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PORTLAND

Seattle
San Francisco - Los Angeles

Jefferson Review
Jefferson, Oregon
(Cir. 535)

MAY 9 - 1958

Manner

Sixth Generation Living On 110 Year Old Farm

The Hamby farm in Parrish Gap northeast of Jefferson, qualifies as an Oregon farm in the same family 100 years and more. Taken up as a donation land claim by Isaac Miller on his arrival in Oregon in 1848, it has been farmed continuously by five generations of the family.

This farm will be eligible for the "Century Farm" title to be given by the Oregon Historical Society and the State Department of Agriculture, in celebration of Oregon's Centennial in 1959. The farm is 11 years older than the State of Oregon.

The farm is one of the very few in Oregon holding a land patent. According to Mrs. Mack Hamby, the family has never held a deed to the farm. The patent, is a government certificate of grant or franchise of land, and was given at the time Isaac Miller took out the donation land claim. It has been passed down from one generation to the next.

Isaac Miller, native of Indiana, came west from Missouri in 1848, and was captain of the 30-wagon train. Reaching Oregon after four months and ten days on the Trail, he took up the donation land claim here.

No one contributed more toward the growth of the state than did Isaac Miller, original owner of the farm. He was a member of the territorial legislature. He held a commission as major by appointment of the governor during the Indian war, served in the Rogue River war of 1855-56, during which service he was wounded, and fought during the troubles of that period on the Snake River.

Mr. Miller was recognized as a leader in this community, helping lay out roads, establish schools and form a successful government in the new land. He was the father of nine children, five sons and four daughters.

Living on his donation land claim here a year, he sold his land to his two sons, Charles, sr., and Samuel, who had returned from gold mining on the American River in California. Charles Miller, sr., lived on the land he bought and farmed until his death in 1913 at the age of 83.

Part of this farm, then came into the possession of one of Miller's daughters, Mrs. Emma Miller Lillard. The latter's daughter, Estella Lillard Hamby, and husband, Mack Hamby, inherited it.

Now farming 450 acres of the original donation land claim are the Mack Hambys and their son, Ellis Hamby. The latter's two children make the sixth generation to live on the farm.

The big, square 10-room two-story frame house built by Charles Miller, sr., was torn down about eight years ago, when the modern ranch style house was built by the Mack Hambys.

The farm is one of the show places of this community, overlooking Chelupum valley and the coast range. Besides the large herd of dairy cows, the Hambys practice diversified farming.

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Farm Remains In Family 110 Years

By GLADYS SHIELDS
Jefferson Correspondent

JEFFERSON—The Hamby farm in Parrish Gap northeast of Jefferson, qualifies as an Oregon farm in the same family for over 100 years. Taken up as a donation land claim by Isaac Miller on his arrival in Oregon in 1848, it has been farmed continuously by five generations of the family. It is one of the few farms in Oregon held by land patent, a government certificate granting franchise. There is no deed.

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Community Leader

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Still in Family

Part of this farm, then came into the possession of one of Miller's daughters, Mrs. Emma Miller Lillard. The latter's daughter, Estella Lillard Hamby, and husband, Mack Hamby, inherited it.

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Manor

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C. F. S.

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