

CFR 0501

Norman Reid

RECEIVED
JUL 21 1958

YAMHILL CO. COURT

Dayton, Oregon
July 18, 1959

Judge R.E. Rennee
Yamhill County Court House
McMinnville, Oregon

Dear Sir:

I would like to submit my application in the Centennial Farm program.

Herewith is a copy of the Warranty Deed given to my great grandfather, Francis Fletcher. This is attached to the abstract which I have in my possession, and has been in our family since that time. Our present Deed, however, includes 98.58 of the described property.

Sincerely,

Norman Reid

Norman Reid
Route #2
Dayton, Oregon

WARRANTYDEED

David M. Jessee and Sarah J.
his wife

To

Francis Fletcher

Dated March 1, A.D. 1858
Recorded March 19, 1858
Book "E" page 248, Deeds
Consideration \$1200.00
Signatures are scrolled.

Witnesses: D. Smith and Geo. H. Steward

Acknowledged on the ___ day of ___ A.D. 185_ by David M. Jessee and Sarah Jessee his wife before Clerk of the U.S. Dist. Court for said County of Yamhill, Territory of Oregon, E.J. Harding, Clerk by Geo. H. Steward Deputy Clerk.

Granting words: Bargain, Sell and convey.

Covenants: That David M. Jessee is the owner in fee simple of said premises; free from all incumbrances; warrant and defend.

PREMISES

The following described premises, to wit, being part of the land described in Notification No. 1223, on file in the office of the Register & Receiver, and Claim No. 79, in sections thirteen (13) and fourteen (14) in township No. four (4) S.R. number four (4) west of the Willamette Meridian, and more particularly described and bounded as follows,

Beginning twenty eight (28) rods East of the Section line between sections thirteen (13) and fourteen (14) T.4 S.R. 4W on the Yamhill River, running thence South 184 rods; thence West 10° North 20 rods to the Section line; thence North 59 rods on section line between Sections thirteen and fourteen; thence North West 102 rods along the foot of the bluff to a fir tree marked "J F"; thence due North to the Yamhill River; thence down said river to the place of beginning, containing One hundred and twenty acres of land, more or less.

*App'd
July 20th 1858
J. E. [Signature]
C. [Signature]*

OCT 27 1958

Reid, Fletcher Farms Receive Recognition; Family Histories Noted

In recognition of 100 years enduring service in the finest agricultural tradition of the State of Oregon, the farm of James Reid and a part of the Francis Fletcher donation land claim are enrolled by the Oregon Historical Society as a Century Farm. Reid's grandson and Fletcher's great grandson, Norman Reid has shown commendable interest in the work of this large farm.

In the death of James Reid who was killed by the attack of a bull when in his stall in 1926, at their

home "Pleasant Home Farm" near Dayton, Yamhill county lost one of its most substantial and highly esteemed citizens.

Reid was born at Hamilton, Ontario, Canada on May 31, 1844, the son of Scot parents, who settled in Canada in the early days. His father became a landowner and successful farmer. In their family were 13 children, who became widely scattered, two going to Africa and one to Australia, while James came to Oregon and the others remained in Canada.

James Reid received a good education in public schools in Canada and in 1873, when 29 years old came to Yamhill county. For a few months, he was employed as a farm hand but after his marriage in 1875, he bought a farm located 5 miles east of McMinnville, north of the end of the Three Mile Lane. The only improvement on the place at that time was an old house in which they lived one year, while building a new home, shown in the picture.

He was a good farmer and as he prospered in his material affairs, he bought more land from time to time.

When he died, he was the owner of over 600 acres of well improved and productive land, which was later owned and cultivated by his wife and their son, Clair J. Reid. They devoted their attention entirely to farming and stock raising.

James was a staunch Republican in his political views, took a deep interest in public affairs, having served for many years as a member of the school board and as road supervisor of his district. He and his wife were members of Ancient Order of United Workman and a loyal member of the Cumberland Presbyterian church.

His life was beautifully epitomized by a lifelong friend in the following words: "A man of spotless integrity — a clear-headed optimist, an ideal gentleman and citizen, a devoted husband and father."

On August 25, 1875, James Reid married Mary A. Fletcher, who was born on her father's old home

Manning. Flames were squelched before damage occurred. It was reported.

Too Late
To Classify

2 BEDROOM HOUSE

McMinnville News Register
Oct 27 1958

Yamhill

Century Farm Families Get Recognition

(Continued from Page 1)

tion claim near Lafayette, the daughter of Francis and Elizabeth Fletcher. Her parents were born in England and later lived in Peoria, Ill.

They were among the first American settlers from Illinois arriving in Oregon. Their group was called "The Peoria Party." Fletcher crossed the plains in 1839 and Mrs. Fletcher in 1842 by ox team and covered wagon. The father took a land claim of 320 acres and Mrs. Fletcher took the same amount east of McMinnville.

Fletcher built a log house and began the improvement and cultivation of this land. They started

here under primitive conditions as there were no roads and no trading post nearer than Fort Vancouver where the Hudson Bay company had a post under the management of Dr. John McLaughlin, ruler there for 20 years as Chief Factor.

As soon as he was able to secure seed wheat, Fletcher planted the first grain in Willamette valley. Subsequently he built a good house of boards and logs and spent the remaining years of his life on this place. As he prospered he bought more land and raised cattle, sheep and horses. The Fletchers had six children, John and Frank, Mrs. Mary A. Reid, Almon, Alfred, and Mrs. Florence Olds of Portland. Most of them have died.

Mrs. Reid received a good education attending Willamette university at Salem, which received its charter in 1853. She taught school three years prior to her marriage.

To the James Reids were born four children, two daughters, Viola, born in 1877, and Lottie Lora, born in 1879. Both died while young women. Two sons were born, Clifford F., born in 1882, who died in 1955. He was married to Ella Stewart from Albany and lived all his married life in Los Angeles, Calif., where he was a real estate agent. Clair J., born in 1888, who attended McMinnville high school and was graduated from Linfield college. He married Verda L. Dorsey of Dayton and they had three children, Mary Margaret, Norman C., and Betty Jean. Margaret and her husband, William Hoover and their son, William, Jr., live in Portland. Betty Jean married Eugene Gass and they have four children, Terry, Douglas, Molly, and Victoria and live in Beaverton. In 1932 Norman married DeEtta Fagan, daughter of Mrs. Frank Fagan and the late Frank Fagan, superintendent of McMinnville city schools from 1927 until his retirement in 1950. Their children are Julie, James, Mary, and Malcolm.

Clair J. Reid was associated with his mother in the management of the home place for many years. After their deaths, Norman took over the farm work. They were among the first farmers in the county to begin raising turkeys on a large scale. Norman tore down the old home and replaced it with a modern ranch-style home.

Some of the old relics around the farm are a spinning wheel, the old wooden hoops for the pioneer wagon, a woven basket made by the Indians and sold full of berries to Francis Fletcher, which Margaret Reid Hoover now uses as a waste paper basket in her home. It is still in good condition. Even the old one-seated buggy the grandparents used as a means of travel before cars appeared is still there.

Norman recalled some of the stories told by his grandparents which are interesting. How a group of Indians came to the door at the Francis Fletcher home and not knowing if the Indians were belligerent or not they told them they had the mumps at their house which scared the Indians away. James Reid had his wheat stored in a warehouse at Dayton and when the Yamhill river began to overflow he went with a boat to rescue his sacks of grain and when putting the last sack in the boat the warehouse floated away. In the pioneer days a gang of unskilled laborers called "coolies" would travel over the country contracting jobs among the farmers. They had their own boss, own coat and camping equipment.

Americans in Oregon in 1840 became restless without full protection from the United States, and petition was presented to Congress requesting admission into the Union. Possible trouble with Great Britain deterred action.

On May 2, 1843 settlers met at Champoege and framed and adopted a provisional government, which time Oregon City was chosen the seat of government. Francis Fletcher was one of the voters at this Champoege meeting.