

CFR 0749

James R. McDole

APPLICATION FOR CENTURY FARM HONORS

Deadline for filing applications - May 1, 1985

Postmarked
5/1/85
LANE

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT:

Your name (Mr., Mrs., Ms.) James R. McDole

Your address: 77217 McDole Rd. Cottage Grove 97424
Street, Route, or Box Town Zip

Location of Farm: 77217 McDole Rd Cottage Grove LANE
Address County

To qualify as a Century Farm, a farm must have not less than 10 acres with a gross income from farm use of not less than \$500 per year for three out of the five years immediately preceding application for Century Farm Honors. Does your farm meet this qualification? Yes

Name of family member who was founder or original owner of farm _____

James Merritt McDole

Year founder settled on farm 1881 Where did he come from? Valley Falls, Ks.

Who farms the land today? James R. McDole

Relationship to original owner? Great Great Grandson

Are any of the original buildings still in use? If so which ones? Yes

1 barn

If you know crops or livestock raised on farm one hundred years ago, please list:

Cattle & sheep timber

What do you raise on farm today? cattle & Hay

How many generations live on the farm today (Names)? Two generations,

James R. McDole and his son James Merritt McDole

How many times has the original farm been divided? One time

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

Please return form to:

James R. McDole
Signature of Owner

Elizabeth W. Buchler, Field Historian
Oregon Historical Society
1230 S.W. Park Avenue
Portland, Oregon, 97205

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ack
5/6/85

DIED.

MCDOLE—At the farm home about 4 miles south of Cottage Grove, Sunday November 27, 1910, Mrs. M.J. McDole, aged 61 years, 5 months and 22 days, after a brief illness.

Lovina Ellen Gordon was born in Indiana January 5, 1849 and when a child moved to Kansas with her parents to reside. In 1868 she was married in that state to M. J. McDole and since 1881 their home has been on the farm near Cottage Grove, where she died so peacefully November 27. Twenty years ago she expressed her faith in Jesus, uniting with the Christian church, since which time she has ever lived a true christian life and was beloved by all who knew her. She leaves to mourn their great loss, a husband, four sons and two daughters, one of whom Mrs. Johnie Veatch resides in this city. Funeral services were conducted at the farm home Tuesday noon by Rev. W. A. Elkins, interment in the Hawley cemetery near by.

JUL 17 1985

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



Jim and Mary McDole stand in the fields that their family has plowed, seeded and mowed for over 100 years.

Photo by Chuck Palahniuk

CG boasts new 'Century Farm'

by Chuck Palahniuk
for The Sentinel

One hundred years is a long time, but it takes at least that long for a family farm to earn the Oregon Historical Society's designation as a "Century Farm."

This year, after 104 years of life, death, memories, work and worry, the McDole family farm in Cottage Grove has earned that title.

Their farm is one of 85 in Oregon to be listed this year on the roll of Century Farms by the Oregon Historical Society, an honor granted only once every five years.

The program began in 1958 in celebration of the Oregon Centennial in 1959. To be eligible, a farm has to have been operated continuously by the same family for a century or more. The applicant must own, live upon and farm the land, or actively manage the farming if living off the homestead.

In addition, the farm must have 10 acres or more with a gross income from farm uses of not less than \$500 annually for three out of the five years immediately preceding the application for designation.

The McDoles and other farms recently granted "century farm" status will receive a certificate and will be able to display a sign on their property.

The original McDoles traveled from Kansas to Oregon as passenger freight, according to Sylvia and Sibyl Veatch, granddaughters of James Merit McDole, who brought the family west 1881.

As passenger freight, the McDoles and several other families shared a passenger car that traveled between the boxcars of a freight train. They traveled at freight rates and stopped wherever freight was to be picked up or delivered, according to the Veatch sisters.

Harry McDole, grandfather of the farm's current owner, Jim McDole, learned how to walk on the train, and his sister Addie McDole discovered that she didn't have sea-legs after the family had reached San Francisco and boarded a ship for Portland,

and Oscar, always took a hound on a leash with them when they went out in the evening to herd the dairy cattle home.

Once, in the early darkness of a late autumn dusk, the boys were walking near the woods when the

McDole sons — Jesse, Harry, Bert and Oscar — bought neighboring farms and added them to the family's original land. But while the land grew to an estimated 600 acres of wheat, oats, hay, sheep, cattle, turkeys and apples, the family didn't grow at all, according to the Veatch sisters.

In a letter to their sister Addie, two of the sons described working 10 to 12 hours a day for only a dollar. At those wages marriage was a luxury that many men couldn't afford.

Harry did marry, and he and his wife, Louise, tenuously continued the family name by having a son, Ralph.

As the family grew smaller, the farm grew smaller also, until today, when Ralph's only child, Jim, and his wife Mary, raise hay and feeder cattle on its present 68 acres.

The old farmhouse has also changed with the family.

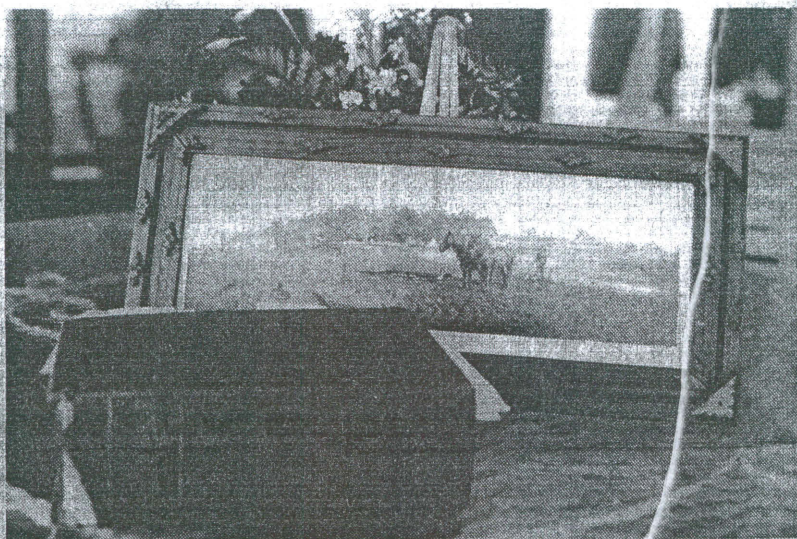
Before the 1920s, when the family was larger, it had four small bedrooms on its second floor. Today, with only Jim and Mary McDole living there, all four bedrooms have been merged into one.

The McDoles are currently finishing a new house to replace the old one, explaining that the latter has no foundation, no insulation and would cost as much to restore as the new house cost to build.

"The house was remodeled in the 1960s. They replaced the old windows and took the flair out of it," said Jim McDole.

Like the old house it will replace and even the long-gone cabin that was on the land when James McDole bought it in 1881, the new house will look south across the fields from the same knoll and toward a treed hilltop in the distance, the Holly-Veatch Cemetery, where the last three generations of McDoles are buried.

From north and south, McDoles living and dead will continue to oversee this piece of land.



The family Bible, brought to Oregon in 1881, rests beside a 14 1/2 x 16 photograph of the McDole family farm.

according to Sylvia Veatch.

"Mom never got through telling how sick she was on that boat. Everybody felt better once they reached the smooth waters of the Columbia, but mom was sick the whole way to Portland," said Sylvia Veatch.

From Portland, the family traveled south by train and settled with friends in Drain before buying the family farm five miles south of Cottage Grove.

Oregon was still wilderness back then, and, while there weren't any Indian attacks, there were still wild animals to worry about, according to the Veatch sisters.

Because of cougars in the old-growth timber that bordered the fields, two of McDole's sons, Harry

and Oscar, always took a hound on a leash with them when they went out in the evening to herd the dairy cattle home.

Once, in the early darkness of a late autumn dusk, the boys were walking near the woods when the

hound began barking. Instantly, the cold, silent air was filled with the dog's howls and the white breath and nervous protests of the two little boys who dug their heels into the muddy ground and strained to keep the thrashing hound out of the brush.

The boys eventually dragged the dog home, and the next day a hunting party found fresh cougar tracks at the woods' edge.

Some animals were threatening for different reasons.

Several times the family walked softly, knowing that a skunk had crawled under the house and that the home would be uninhabitable for weeks if a loud noise frightened it into spraying beneath the floorboards, according to the Veatch sisters.

Over the years, the original