

CFR 0826

Kenneth R. McCrae

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.

APPLICATION FOR CENTURY FARM HONORS--1976
(Rules Attached)
Deadline for filing application: July 1, 1976

APR 14 1976

Agricultural
Development Div.

PLEASE PRINT

Your name (Mr. & Mrs., Miss) Kenneth R. McCrae

Your address: Route 1 P.O. Box 48A Town Monmouth

Location of farm: Route 1 Box 48A, Monmouth Polk
(Address) (County)

Acres in your farm today: 636 Acres in original farm: 320

Does your farm comply with the definition at top of page? yes

Name of family member who was founder or original owner of farm (please print): _____

William Riddell and David Rae

Year founder settled on farm? 1875 Where did he come from? Scotland to Canada to Albany, Oregon

How many families have farmed this land? 3 generations: William Riddell, his sons, now his grandson.

Are any of original buildings still in use? yes

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? Live on and manage farm.

What relation are you to the original owner? Grandson

If you know crops or livestock raised on farm 100 years ago, please list Grain; some hay; Cotswold Sheep; Angora goats; some Clydesdale horses.

What do you raise on farm today? Registered sheep and cattle; grain; hay

How many generations live on the farm today? (Names) just one - Kenneth and Dorothy McCrae

Has the farm ever been rented? NO How many times has original farm been divided? Once

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.

Mail to: Oregon Dept. of Agriculture
Agriculture Bldg., Salem, OR 97310

Kenneth R. McCrae Dorothy M. McCrae
(Signature of owner)

Submitted by Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth R. McCrae, Rt 1, Bx 48-A, Monmouth, Oregon
(Name and Address)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The record of the deed granting the land to William Riddell and David Rae was filed on May 21, 1875, in Polk County records, volume 9, page 388.

David Rae was a brother-in-law of William Riddell.

The land was a Donation Land Claim NO. 62 of Calvin L. Murphy and Margaret E. Murphy. It is recorded in the Polk County records, Book A, page 195, that on March 22, 1854, it was owned by them.

On December 18, 1856, Calvin L. and Margaret E. Murphy deeded the land to a cousin, John E. Murphy.

In 1861 James D. Smith purchased it, selling it in 1870 to John R. Cooper.

On March 30, 1875, William Riddell and David Rae entered into a contract with John R. Cooper to buy the land.

In 1891 David Rae sold his share to Mr. and Mrs. William Riddell and returned to Scotland.

Mrs. William Riddell (Margaret M. Y. Rae Riddell) died December 14, 1907. William Riddell died May 10, 1931.

Several of their sons operated the farm together for a time. Then Edward Geary Riddell, who was born on this farm May 4, 1878, became sole owner of it. At his death it was passed on to two of his nephews, W. James and Kenneth R. McCrae. Their mother was Margaret Rae Riddell McCrae, second child of the William Riddell's.

W. James McCrae died November 6, 1959. Kenneth R. McCrae and family have operated and owned the farm since that time.

Grantors, } J.R. Cooper,
Married, } Lavilla Cooper,
Grantees William Riddell & David Rae,

Instrument. War, deed,
Date of Acknowledgment, May 21st 1875
Names of Witnesses, Hank S. Lewis, J.P. Irvine,

Signatures sealed, Yes,

Before whom Acknowledged, J.P. Irvine,
Residence, Polk County Oregon,
Consideration \$ 2500.00

Title, J.P.
Official seal affixed,
Filed, May 25th 1875

Regular, Yes,

Description:

Situate lying and being in the County of Polk and State of Oregon,
Claim No-62, and 27 in T.8 S.R.5 W. beginning at the S.E. corner, thence
W. 44.85 chs, thence N. 35 chs, thence W. 18.60 chs, thence N. 25.60 chs then-
ce E. 63.40 chs, thence S. 60.65 chs to beginning, Containing 320 acres
more or less.

Form A - Century Farm Program

Oregon Department of Agriculture
Oregon Historical Society

CERTIFICATION OF OWNERSHIP OF CENTURY FARM

I hereby certify that the farm for which Mr + Mrs. Kenneth R. McClure
(Owner's name and address)

Routel, Box 48A, Monmouth, Oregon 97361

is applying for Century Farm Honors, has been in his family continuously for
100 or more years.

RIB Haldebrand

* County Commissioner-Recorder

4-13-76

(Date)

*Please strike office not applicable

Mom mouth of
Sun-Enterprise
Nov 27 1965 5087

Couple forced to sell farm

Albany, Mo. - Valley Democrat Herald 11/13/65

'We all feel bad that we lost the farm, but we hope this has helped wake people up to what's happening to family farmers.'

Myron Harper

PORTLAND (AP) — Hard times have forced Myron Harper to sell the Willamette Valley farm his ancestors settled in 1854, months after the U.S. Supreme Court declined to consider their foreclosure appeal. Harper and his wife, Jane, blamed the Farm Credit System for the foreclosure. He said the system's policies unfairly benefit big landholders and force small family farmers off their land.

"We all feel bad that we lost the farm, but we hope this has helped wake people up to what's happening to family farmers," said Myron Harper.

The Harpers owed the Farm Credit Bank of Spokane about \$400,000, including interest and other fees on an original loan of \$291,000.

Tom Tracy, general counsel for Farm Credit Services of Spokane, declined comment Harper's allegations.

The Harpers have raised hogs, corn, berries and grain on the 200-acre farm near Brooks, which was established by Silas W.R. Jones, Myron Harper's great grandfather.

The family was hit by a run of bad luck in the early 1980s: Their barn burned, the lender holding their operations loan was liquidated and their cooperative cannery had several bad years. By 1984, they were behind in their payments to the Farm Credit Bank.

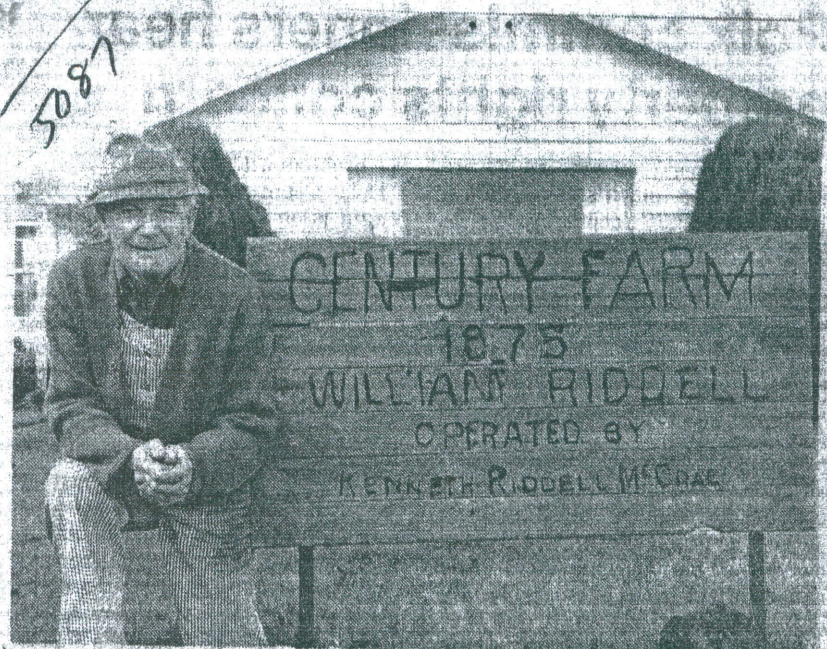
The bank obtained a foreclosure order in September 1987, and a sheriff's sale of the farm was held in 1988.

The Harpers filed suit in federal court, asking to have the foreclosure sale set aside and their debt restructured. The U.S. Supreme Court in January refused to consider a lower court's denial of an appeal.

After months of negotiations and loan extensions, Harper said he had no choice but to sell the farm to two neighbors. He said the sale was completed just minutes before the final extension expired last month.

The sale was announced Monday in the Portland offices of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, one of the agencies that supported the couple in their fight against foreclosure.

The Harpers have obtained a 20-acre plot about five miles northeast of their farm, where they will move by Oct. 1. They will be allowed to stay on the family farm until then so they can harvest the crops planted this spring.



KENNETH McCRAE POSES beside a sign designating his land as a Century Farm. McCrae has been actively involved in farming for more than 75 years. (Staff photo)

Ken McCrae; Scot of the land for 75-years

By Rusty Qualls
of the Sun-Enterprise

"You take Uglow and I'll take Mistletoe and together we'll meet at McCrae's Farm. And me and my true love will ever meet again on the bonny bonny land that's McCrae's Farm."

From the hilly, rocky land of bagpipes and checkered skirts to the potpourri land where they hoped they would find opportunity came William and Margaret Riddell.

William and Margaret had not yet met each other when they came to America. William was living in California. Margaret was living in Canada. They met in Gwelph, Canada when William went up for a visit. William later returned to Canada to ask for Margaret's hand in marriage. She accepted, they were married and they headed for Albany, Ore. They lived in Albany for a time until, in 1875, they moved to a farm west of Mommouth.

The Riddells had children and, as time went on, their children had children, one of which was a Kenneth McCrae.

McCrae grew up in Florence, Ore. and Lebanon, Ore., but came to the Century Farm to work every summer. As he reflected on his days on the farm, working with his grandfather, a certain glitter was evident in his eye. "He was quite a man," said McCrae.

Riddell was a school board director, on the board of one of the local banks and was a county commissioner.

McCrae, a full-blooded Scot, spoke of how his grandfather was a reasonable man, but one who would firmly abide by principles he believed in.

After McCrae graduated from high school in Lebanon, his parents moved to Mommouth. McCrae then attended the Oregon Normal School where he was a center and an end on the football team and a runner in track.

McCrae said he liked the competitive aspect of sports. "It helps you to become better," he said.

Following his graduation from the Normal School, McCrae went to work year-around on his grandfather's farm. In 1942 his work life was disrupted when a call to serve in the armed services sent him "over there."

He recalled being frightened on one occasion when enemy planes flew right over their heads. No one was injured in the incident. "We all got under cover pretty fast," he said.

After the war, McCrae continued farming and when he was 40 years old he married Dorothy McBee of Dallas. Mr. or Mrs. McCrae met the first time at a pie social held at the

Farmer's Union when she was about nine years old and he was 18. "We were both just always around," he said.

Besides farming, McCrae was actively involved in education and showing and judging livestock.

In education he was the director of both the Central School District and the Polk County Intermediate Education District. "I think it (education) is important. I've tried to do what I can to make it better. It's important for kids to get off on the right foot," he said.

McCrae has shown many farm animals through the years and has won prizes throughout the western states with his sheep, Angora goats and Shorthorn cattle.

As a judge, McCrae said he clearly remembered the one time when he knew everyone was displeased with his decisions. "I didn't feel like I made many of the people very happy," he said.

McCrae, who was recently honored by Oregon State University for having been associated with and donating time, money and the use of facilities to agriculture for 75 years, is a founder of the Polk County Livestock Association and is a member of numerous other agricultural associations. He was honored as Livestockman Of The Year in 1961.

He has seen farming evolve from standing and threshing in the field to the modern combine, from horse-drawn equipment to modern tractors.

McCrae is also a past president of the Polk County Historical Society which has published several articles he has written.

A farmer's life has always been the life for Kenneth McCrae. "His grandfather was very patriarchal," offered Dorothy McCrae. "They say the Scots are clannish. Well, that might be true."

As for the Scots' tendency to be a bit tight with the dollar, she said "he's just like anyone else."