

CFR 0428

Mr. Aldon H. Gray

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--1973  
(Rules attached)  
Deadline for filing application: July 27, 1973.

PLEASE PRINT

Your name (Mr., Mrs., Miss) Mr. Aldon H. Gray

Your address: Route 1 P.O. Box 219 Town Cove

Location of farm: Rt 1 Box 219 Cove, Oregon Union  
(Address) (County)

Acres in your farm today: 570 Acres in original farm: 1000

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

Name of founder of farm (please print): George Grant Gray

Year founder settled on farm? 1872 Where did he come from? Tenn.

How many families have farmed this land? 3

Are any of original buildings still in use? Yes

Who farms land today? You?  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 & Grain

What do you raise on farm today? Sheep - Hay - Grain

How many generations live on the farm today? (Names) 2 Aldon H Gray  
son - Bryan N. Gray

Has the farm ever been rented? Part How many times has original farm been divided? 3

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

Aldon H Gray  
Signature of Owner

State Department of Agriculture  
Oregon Historical Society

CERTIFICATION OF OWNERSHIP OF CENTURY FARM

I hereby certify that the farm for which Aldon H Gray  
Owner's name and address  
Box 219 Cove, Oregon is applying for Century Farm honors,

has been in his family continuously for 100 or more years.

Russell Elmer  
\*County Commissioner ~~Recorder~~

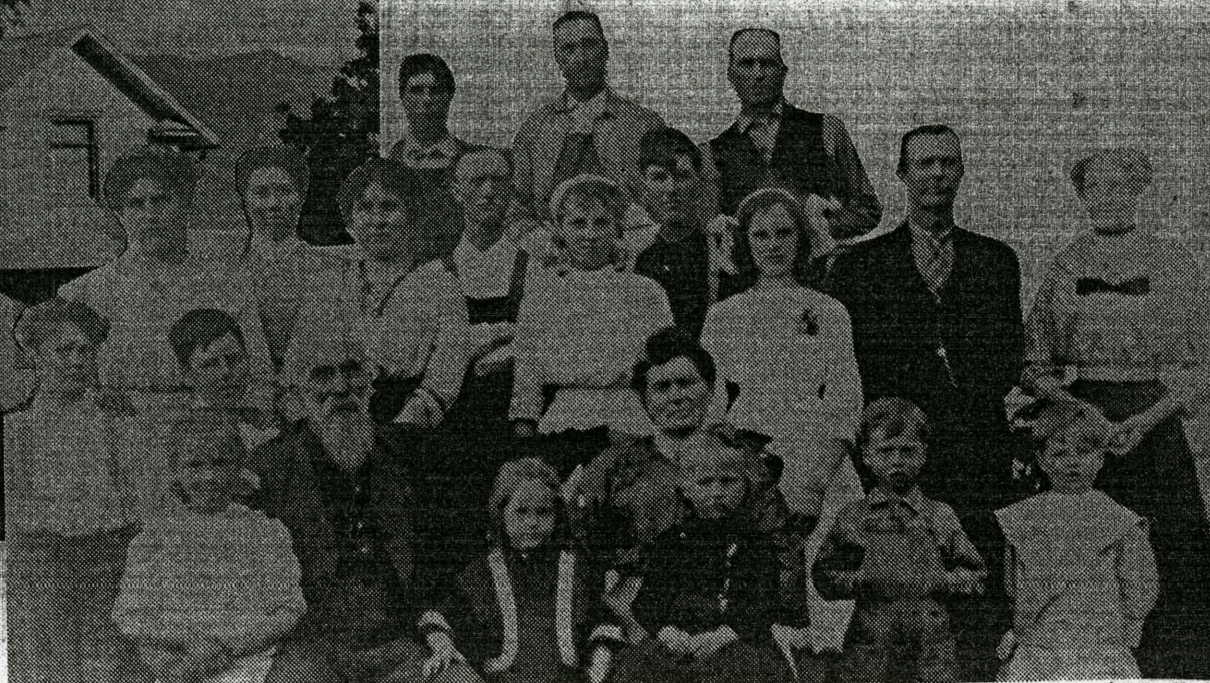
Date: 7-26-73

\*Please strike office not applicable



At far left, Aldon H. Gray, present occupant of the family ranch, with sister Delda Gray Smith, La Grande and Donald H. Gray, California. All are grandchildren of George Grant Gray.

## The Grays



One hundred years is a long time to keep 'em down on the farm, but Aldon H. Gray, the third successive generation of Grays maintaining the family farm outside Cove says, 'well, it's a good place to bring up kids.'

The Gray farm was one of 37 in Oregon and two in Union County to be distinguished this year as 'Century Farms' by the Oregon State Fair. To qualify, a farm must have been in continuous family ownership for a century or more. Since the classification began in 1958, 538 Oregon farms have rated this distinction.

The Gray farm, of nearly 600 acres, contains 120 acres of the original farm established in 1872 by Aldon Gray's grandfather, George Grant Gray. The original farmhouse built by Gray, although considerably altered, is still occupied by Aldon, his wife and three children. Drastic remodeling and additions have erased most traces of the past from the house but he says the interior of the walls are lined with mid-nineteenth century newspapers. One, he recalls seeing during a recent paneling project, splashed a lurid account of the latest exploits of the outlaw Jesse James. It is sealed over now, dormant, remaining to arouse the curiosity of a succeeding generation's renovations.

A relic powder and ball rifle hangs on the wall, a glaring anachronism presiding over shag carpet, color television and furniture of 1970. It belonged to George Grant Gray; it could have belonged to Davy Crockett.

From bottom, left to right, Ernest Gray, Grant Conley, Eudelle Gray (Mrs. Henry Olson), George Grant Gray, Othella Gray (Mrs. Ted Purvine), Sylvina Jasper Gray, Iohn Childers (Mrs. Irl Robinson), Gilbert Miller, Merrell Conley. Second row: Bes-

sie Gray (Mrs. Leo Childers), Annie Gray (Mrs. Ernie Miller), Sallie Gray (Conley), Ernie Miller, Berdilla Gray (Mrs. Eugene Millering), Natan Gray, Vina A. Conley (Mrs. W.K. Ross), Frank Conley, Maty (Miller) Gray. Back row: Joe T. Gray, Lee R. Childers, George M. Gray.

Gleaming and polished, it boasts an elaborate hair trigger. And it is weighed by more than the years—by at least 40 pounds.

Only one original outbuilding remains from the days of George Grant Gray. A small barn, shed really, of corrugated metal siding and roof sheaths an interior skeleton of scarred handhewn timbers locked with wooden pegs.

Local historian W.R. Gekeler wrote an account of George Grant Gray, his travels and his descendants:

'George Gray was the father of the Grande Ronde Valley Grays and was born in Tennessee in 1840.

George Gray moved to near Corvallis with his parents in 1853 and in 1862 brought a herd of cattle to

the Walla Walla district. He started running a pack mule train to the Idaho and Montana mines and packed the first printing press into Helena, Montana. In 1868, he went to Idaho City where he bought and sold cattle. In 1871 he bought 320 acres of land on the Sandridge, but sold it in a year and moved to Lower Cove where he purchased 1,040 acres. In 1874 he married Sylvinna Jasper in Summerville. They were the parents of 10 children.'

Aldon Gray says that the Grays are related, after a fashion, to the other Century Farm family in Union County, the Billy Hindmans of Elgin. The interlock of relationship goes back three and four generations, and as Gray understated, 'it gets rather complicated after a while.'

Brownsville, Oregon  
The Times  
(Cir. W 1,385)

AUG 30 1973

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

CEREMONY FRIDAY, STATE FAIR

## 5 of Linn's 6 Century Farms Are in C-L Area

Central Linn -- and especially the Halsey area -- will be well-represented (percentage-wise) tomorrow (Friday, Aug. 31) during the Century Farms Awards Day program at the Oregon State Fair.

During this program, on the Concert Stage, 37 families will be presented "Century Farm" certificates, signifying that the same family has resided on the same farm for 100-or-more years.

The program is co-sponsored by the Oregon Department of Agriculture and the Oregon Historical Society; and presented in cooperation with the State Fair.

Those scheduled to be honored, from the Central Linn area, with their "Century" connections, are:

Everett E. and Rosa B. Carey of Route 1, Box 14, Halsey (purchased by Mr. Carey's grandfather, Edward A. Freeland, in 1871, from James M. Kennedy);

Lucille Cogswell-Foster and Lee W. Foster of Route 1, Box 90, Halsey (founded in 1871 by Mrs. Foster's grandfather, John Cogswell);

Mrs. Velda Kropf of Route 1, Box 115, Halsey (farm actually on Route 1, Harrisburg . . . founded in 1871 by great-grandfather Edwin Napper Tandy);

Mrs. (Myrtle) Lee McLagan of Route 1, Box 131, Tangent (founded in 1843 by her husband's grandfather, John T. Slate); and,

Orville L. Ohling of Route 3, Box 864, Albany -- Oakville area (founded in 1871 by Ohling's great-grandfather, Paul Ohling.)

A total of 17 Oregon counties are represented by new Century Farms, with Marion and Linn counties being tied for having the most being added to the list

this year -- each with 6 (of which 5 are from the Central Linn area).

Joining the ranks of counties with Century Farms, for the FIRST time this year is Klamath County, with one.

The "Century Farm" program was started in 1958 -- preliminary to Oregon's Centennial of Statehood in 1959 -- by the Oregon Department of Agriculture and the Oregon Historical Society.

Century Farm presentations were scheduled annually, through 1960; and then placed on a 5-year basis. However, an exception is being made this year; as 1973 is the 100th Birthday-year of one of the sponsors, the Oregon Historical Society.

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