

CFR 0626

Howard John Payten

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

PLEASE PRINT

Your name (Mr., Mrs., Miss) Howard John Payton

Your address: Route 1 Box 165 P.O. Box _____ Town Baker

Location of farm: Pocahontas Road and Brown Lane Baker
 (Address) (County)

Acres in your farm today: 30 A Acres in original farm: 160

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 Brown

Year founder settled on farm? 1867 Where did he come from? Born in Ireland

How many families have farmed this land? 5-

Are any of original buildings still in use? No

Who farms land today? You? x 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? Great-grandson

If you know crops or livestock raised on farm 100 years ago, please list _____

Hay, grain, cattle, Turkey, geese

What do you raise on farm today? Grain, hay, pasture

How many generations live on the farm today? (Names) No one lives on ranch now

It is used as cropland. Howard Payton lives on land adjoining it.

Note: on back
 Has the farm ever been rented? _____ How many times has original farm been divided? yes
twice

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

Howard J. Payton
 (Signature of owner)

Note: During a portion of Mrs. Abbie Payton's stay on the farm her two grandsons farmed part of the land and two of her daughters' husbands farmed. During this time Abbie Payton lived on the farm - tended the orchard, raised turkeys and geese.

Submitted by Ruth H. Evans - for Howard J. Payton and his
(Name and Address)
father - John Payton.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Century Ranch was purchased by William Brown from John McLain and wife A. M. McLain year 1867. He farmed it until his death at which time he deeded 160 A. to his daughter Mrs. Abbie Brown Payton, maternal ancestor of Howard Payton. The ranch has been in the Payton ever since.. It was divided at the time of Mrs Abbie Brown Payton death .Thirty Acres, then, was given to John Payton who has turned it to Howard J. Payton (his son) who is farming it now. Howard married ~~St~~ Sandra Colton. They have four children. These children can trace their ancestry to four Centennial Pioneer families of Baker County: David Love, Wm. Brown, William F. Payton, Alonzo Long and Calton. Note: Refer to Centennial Pioneer Families of Baker County-- 1975 by Ruth H. Evans
Centennial History of Oregon Vol 3 page 900-03

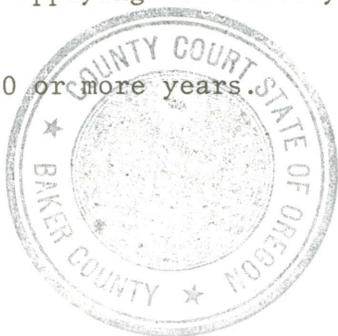
The Payton family has been a prominent family in Baker County and the State of Oregon. William Payton, the paternal ancestor of Howard Payton.

William Payton's son Prof. John Payton was active in education of Baker County. Refer to: History of Baker, Grant, Malheur and Harney Counties, 1902 by Western Publishing Company.

CERTIFICATION OF OWNERSHIP OF CENTURY FARM

I hereby certify that the farm for which Howard J. Payton
(Owner's name and address)
Rt. 1 Box 165 Baker, Oregon

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



Anita C. Johnson

~~County Commissioner~~ Recorder

By

Edith A. Stewart Deputy

June 14, 1976

(Date)

~~*Please strike office not applicable~~

Book A - P. 501

JUL 31 1976

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

Century farm means memories

5064

By SUSAN GALLAGHER
Of The Democrat-Herald

"This farm isn't like whiskey; it doesn't get better with age," John Payton chuckles, strolling around the Wingville farm that has been the family's since 1864.

The semi-retired 70-year-old can stand on the plot of his birth and point to the vicinity of the old Wingville school he attended as a boy.

He remembers the day in 1926 when a combine first cut the farm's grain, and cocking his head to one side laughs about getting 35 cents a bushel for wheat in the 1930's. The most recent figure he heard put the price at about \$3.21.

John Payton can look at the farming methods his son Howard and grandson Vincent use today, and recall "a few differences. Not many, but a few."

John says the biggest difference in farming methods came, of course, with the 1930's advent of farm machinery.

"We continued to use horses quite a bit during World War II anyway," he says, "but when we did use machines it made a big difference in the number of men around the farm."

"We used to have a pretty fair number of men coming here, but with machines you just don't need as many."

Another difference between the farm life of John's early years and that of today is money.

Years ago most persons who bought agricultural land could pay for it with farm profits, John says, but he's "not

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John Payton

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sure that's true any more."

Son Howard says he knows it isn't true. "Buy land today and earn back your investment? Uh-huh. It won't work."

"The only way a small farmer can make it today is if he's had his place passed down to him, or bought it a long time ago."

Howard says corporate farms are strong and turning a profit — "you see a lot more of them in the Umatilla area than around here."

But, he says, there are too many of the oft-mentioned middle men between farmer and consumer for small farmers to earn the profits they are frequently believed to make.

Howard explains he thinks many consumers, gulping over supermarket prices, label farmers high profit makers.

Does he see the profit situation ever forcing him to leave the farm?

"I really don't want to leave, and I don't think it would ever come to that," he says, "but I don't want to see my sons go into it. It's good here, but there are better opportunities."

Listening to Howard discuss his life on a Wingville farm, it's easy to think that perhaps it's a life so ingrained that he overlooks the benefits obvious to outsiders.

He considers his hired hand, for example, and says he "can't understand why in the world he, with a master's degree in psychology, wants to do this kind of work. And he went to Harvard!"

Howard's wife Sandara grew up on a Baker Valley farm and is keenly aware of rural benefits.

"It's comfortable on this farm, and I like being able to raise my children here," she says.

"I wouldn't want them to grow up in

town. Things are just too hectic. Living here, you can just be yourself."

The family farm began when Irish emigrant William Brown, John Payton's grandfather, bought the land from John McClain around 1864.

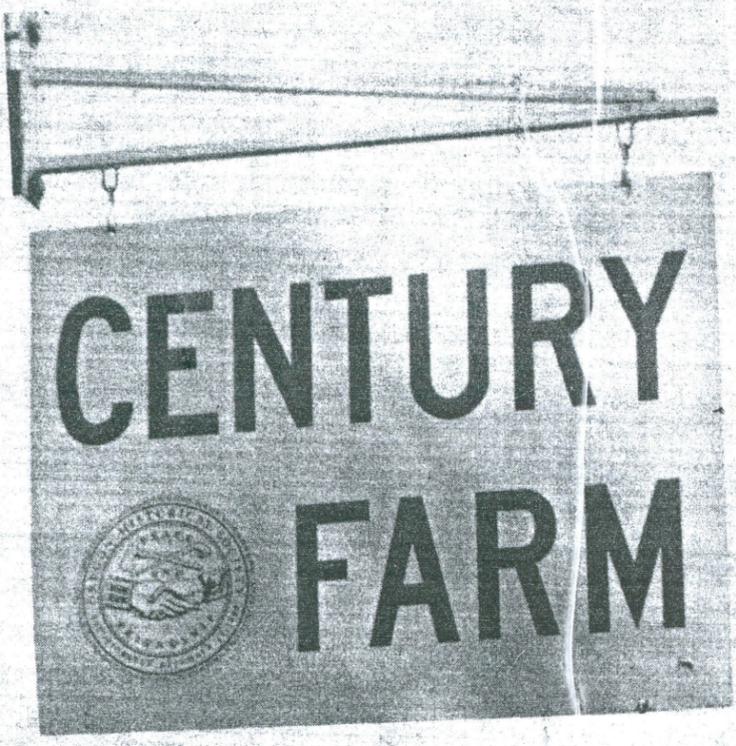
In its early days the farm was 160 acres, but through succeeding generations it has grown to 220 acres devoted to cattle, grain and hay.

The farm is now owned by Howard, his cousin and an uncle. It qualifies as an Oregon Century Farm, a registry of farms in the state that are at least 100 years old.

Though the original farm house has been replaced by a mobile home, and there are few old buildings on the property, some aging machinery is reminiscent of days past.

And when John Payton sits in his easy chair and quips, "This is a million-dollar chair; I've lost that much from sittin' in it too much," it's a bit hard to believe him.

A farm doesn't survive more than 100 years if any of those caring for it do too much sittin'.



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