

CFR 0696

Stuart and Margaret Lawrence

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 PRINTYour name (Mr., Mrs., Miss) STUART and Margaret LawrenceYour address: Route 4 P.O. Box 995 Town Roseburg 97470Location of farm: Reston Road Route 4 Box 995 Douglas
(Address) (County)Acres in your farm today: 148 Acres in original farm: 320Does 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): _____

Robert M. and Elizabeth GurneyYear founder settled on farm? 1853 Where did he come from? OHIOHow many families have farmed this land? 5 generationsAre any of original buildings still in use? Up until 1975 - Built 1872Who 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 hereWhat relation are you to the original owner? great-great granddaughterIf you know crops or livestock raised on farm 100 years ago, please list CATTLE,OXEN, Wheat, Oats, Chickens, ducks, geese, Turkeys, First Sawmillin Territory. Also SheepWhat do you raise on farm today? Oats, Cattle.How many generations live on the farm today? (Names) Two generationsMargaret Lawrence and Son, Richard LawrenceHas the farm ever been rented? No How many times has original farm been divided? _____

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 97310Mrs. Margaret Lawrence
(Signature of owner)

Submitted by STUART and Margaret Lawrence

(Name and Address)

Route 4 Box 995 - Reston Road, Roseburg, Oregon 97470

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Attached

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 Stuart & Margaret Lawrence
(Owner's name and address)
Route 4 Box 995 - Reston Road

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

Doris L. Wadsworth, County Clerk
* County Commissioner *by Meryl Seal, Deputy* Recorder

6-30-76
(Date)

*Please strike office not applicable

RESTON HISTORY

Robert Martin Gurney was, as far as known, the first white man to enter the little valley of what is known today as Reston. Mr. Gurney was born August 2, 1818 in Ohio. Later he was bonded out to a minister, but did not stay with him long. He succeeded in making his own way from then on. He married Elizabeth Anthony, cousin of Susan B. Anthony, who was born in Ohio in 1822. Mr. and Mrs. Gurney lived in Dubuque, Ohio, after they were married.

Mr. Gurney started with an emigrant train from Ohio to California at the time many were coming to the West in search of gold. While on the way, he met with an Oregon emigrant train and decided to change his course and come by way of the old Oregon Trail instead of by the California route. Other pioneer families of Douglas County coming to Oregon with this same emigrant party were: The McGuire's of Olalla, Williams of Lookingglass, and McCulloughs of Olalla.

Mr. Gurney was not in search of farming land. He had been interested in timber in the East at one time, and was also in search of timber which brought him to this part of Oregon, arriving here in 1853. It is not known just how long he was on the way. He settled in a little valley near the Coast Range Mountains, (later named Reston) for a period of five years, in order to get a title to the donation claim of 320 acres, which he purchased from the Umpqua Indians. Mr. Gurney is said to have gotten along very well with the Umpquas, who were a peaceful, friendly tribe who harmed no one.

Mr. Gurney constructed a log cabin of eight inch logs notched to fit together. The cabin had one door and a window.

Later Mr. Gurney went to Coos Bay to work in the shipping and lumber business. It was during this time, the Rogue River Indians of Southern Oregon, who were a warlike tribe, went through this vicinity where Mr. Gurney had settled. They burned his log cabin, graineries and other buildings while he was away.

Mr. Gurney named the main creek in this little valley, Cedar Creek, due to the presence of so many of the evergreen trees along the stream. The branch from the North was named Gold Creek. A little gold was picked up in some gravel in this stream near the present Gurney bridge. Bear Creek was the name given the Creek which flowed into Cedar Creek. Mr. Gurney killed a bear here at one time.

The Indians here often said "deep snow", but as long as Mr. Gurney lived in this section the snow was never deep.

Later Mr. Gurney returned to Iowa to bring back his wife and family. The children were: Helen Marr, Voltaire, George, Robert Martin. They came down the Mississippi River to New Orleans, thru the Isthms of Panama. They continued on to Coos Bay harbor, which was settled by the Coos Indian tribes. Their trip through Panama was very rough due to a quagmire which caused the train to jump up and down. The family upon arriving at Coos Bay walked but over the Old Coos River Trail, which was probably an Indian trail. It lay north of the present Coos Bay Wagon Road.

Mr. Gurney built the house which stands today on the Gurney place in 1872. He had a sawmill and cut a lot of timber and cut his own timber for the house and did work himself. The finishing lumber came from Sugar Pine Mountain and was hauled by oxen team. The doors and windows planed by hand, also flooring and rustic. Upstairs was one large room which was used for dancing and later hold Grange a year or two here. The house had ten rooms.

In those days people went to Scottsburg, Oregon and took loads of ham, bacon, wheat, etc. and traded. Some also went to Portland.

Mrs. Gurney said that the grass was knee high to cattle when they first came here, and that she picked wild strawberries in the same patch with bear and neighbor ran.

willow by the spring.

Many homemade things were brought from Iowa. They had a dash churn. Mrs. Gurney made her own candles of tallow. The family had lots of books and all read a great deal.

The children went to school in an old log cabin on the Irwin place before there was a school nearer, walked five miles to Ten Mile where this school was. There was about forty or more pupils. The mail was also obtained from Ten Mile, nearest post office.

In 1878 and 1879 was the first school at the old Beard house. There was three rooms, 20 or more pupils attended. It was named "Sugar Pine Academy" by the children. There was a kitchen on the north side, west end a bedroom out of peeled fir, main room about 16 feet square. The desks were rough. The first teacher was Miss Annie Cooper of Wilbur, daughter of Plinn Cooper of Wilbur. Teacher boarded around and got \$30.00 per month.

Some of the pupils in the early school were Blige Matthews, George Matthews, Mamie Woodin, Arthur Woodin, Frank Woodin, Walter Woodin, Colemans, Weeklys, and Hardmans.

The second Teacher was Mr. Edward E. La Brie of Garden Valley. Wife attended school at Ten Mile, Kate Deal.

The next school house was built near present site of hill. Work was all donated. The first year there was no glass in the windows, a door and stove. There was no floor at first. Log heaps were built and had a fire. The teacher was Fannie Coke, of Coquille, brother of late Judge Coke of Marshfield. The teacher boarded round. Taught three months. If not enough money at end of school to pay teacher, patrons took up subscription. This teacher got three months for 100 dollars.

Daniel O. Clark, a tramp like individual, lived at Ollala and Tamayo. He taught children singing and notes. He went to houses and gave lessons. He was a famous horse stealer and once hid in cave back of Porters in ten Mile. Was finally sent to the penitentiary. Nobody knew where he came from into the country here.

R. W. Chaney, penmanship instructor, came to Gurney home and gave writing lessons. Solomon Asa was one of the best writers and pupils. James, Maggie and Asa all took writing lessons.

Rev. H. B. Johnson, of Camas Valley, preached in Sugar Pine Academy. He was a Southerner.

A. A. Matthews organized first Sunday School in old house (not Sugar Pine Academy). Most children attended it.

Two mountain peaks were named from the Gurney family. One was named Mt. Gurney and Mr. Helen after the daughter Helen. Both in Coast Range Mountains.

The first old stage station was at the Wilson place at the foot of the Coast Range Mountains. One winter the snow was 14 feet deep on top of the Coast Range. One of the first mail carriers was James C. Laird.

Passengers sitting on the steps of the old stage station suggested that "Rest" would be a good name for the place. The women got up a petition. Government called it "Reston".

Mr. Gurney died of measles in 1878. Mrs. Gurney remained on the farm with children a number of years. She died in 1899. The family all grew up and were married except James and Asa who remained on the place until their death, except for four years Asa drove a stage line between Roseburg and Millwood.

Mr. Weekly had the first sawmill and hotel in this section. His donation claim of 320 acres came after Gurneys. Many people also stopped at the Gurney place. The Weekly place was along side of the Gurney place.

Other children born here in the Gurney family here: Mary Rebekah, Solomon Asa, Margaret Melvina, James Walton, and another child died when quite small and was buried at Masonic graveyard.

Mr. Gurney was French and English. He was five feet ten inches in height, very broad shouldered, stout, he was a strong leader and very progressive. Children all over the country liked him and was well liked generally by adults. He was very fond of children. He quit work at fifty years of age, and his boys did the work. He died in 1878 at the age of sixty years.

Anthony (Mrs. Gurney's name) was Irish. Mrs. Gurney was a good mother. And was often called on to care for the sick in the community. She made her own medicinal herbs which she used. She was familiar with many home remedies. Remedies used were cherry bark, sunflower, wild grape root, wild bitter and chittum. Mrs. Gurney also raised many flowers. She brought Iowa plum seed with her as she said the sprouts were good to whip children with. Many people often came to the Gurney home inquiring for "Dr. Gurney." She was often gone for a month at a time caring for the sick. She raised chickens, ducks, geese and a few turkeys. She made a great many quilts, but did no other fancy work. Mrs. Matthews, neighbor, generally quilted her quilts. She had a spinning wheel and the first sewing machine in the country, a Grover and Baker. Mrs. Gurney brought dishes from New Orleans. The Gurney home was furnished with common old chairs and furniture. They cooked on a cast iron stove. The buck stove was the best stove in those days. Mrs. Gurney cooked, canned fruit, made lots of apple butter for people. The family also had a cider mill. The son, James, killed many deer for hides. Often got 100 trout in a day. There were salmon and brook trout. Mooter grouse were plentiful and there were quite a lot of native pheasants and a few cougar. Chinese pheasants came later. Native Oregon quail and later quail of California came.

Beavers were quite plentiful and often holes were seen in the banks along creeks. Once in awhile otter were seen. The skunks were numerous. Silver gray squirrels were very thick. (They are very rare now as they became diseased). Deer were very plentiful and bothered gardens and orchards badly. They would come into the orchards by the dozen at night and could be seen in the moonlight as they ate apples. One night Volney put apples under a tree and was to shoot, but he went to sleep and the deer got the apples and got off.

The Gurney family had all kinds of fruit--apples, peaches, plums, grapes, cherries, quinces. The quinces very large. "Gurney's Golden" also was grown. Mrs. Gurney did much of the grafting. Wild blackberries, raspberries and elder berries were found in abundance. Mrs. Gurney raised crabapples and made preserves out of them. She made jelly and pies out of elder berries. There were some large patches of elderberries near the Gurney place.

About sixty head of cattle were raised. The big ones were sold to Coos loggers. The Gurney's raised their own oxen teams to plow. When Asa was a little child oxen teams were used for logging. They did not know they could use horses for logging.

No dairying was done only for their own use. They had plenty of butter and cream.

Mrs. Gurney had twenty seven kinds of roses and flowers on front and two sides of house. She had beds eight feet wide and 75 or 80 feet long in garden. Asa helped with the flowers. She irrigated flowers. People came thirty or forty miles with horses to see flowers. Mr. Gurney was the originator of the idea of growing flowers after he quit active work. Some of the flowers in abundance were peonies, snowballs, lilacs, iris, and most all of old fashioned flowers. Mint and peppermint were grown six feet tall. These were used for medicine. There was a large weeping