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McKinley, James, Sr. (1861 -)

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MCKINLEY, JAMES JR.

File No. B-846

James McKinley, Jr., better known as "Jim" was born in Darling township, Lanark county, Ontario, Canada, on February 24, 1861, a son of James M. Senior and Jessie (Yull) McKinley.

The elder James McKinley and his wife, Jessie, were both born in Glasgow, Scotland. During their youth they were brought to Canada and later were united in marriage there. Their eight children were all born and raised in Canada, they are: William, Duncan, Mary(McKinley) Haines; Jennie (McKinley) Anderson; Jessie (McKinley) Haight; James M. Jr., Margaret (McKinley) Knapp; and John.

During the summer of 1869 James Senior, and his son, Duncan came to Minnesota and stayed at Montrose, Wright county, where they worked in the woods making railroad ties. The next spring they were followed to Minnesota by the rest of the family. They made Montrose their home until 1872 when they moved to Meeker county, where James, Senior, purchased a farm.

During the spring of 1874, James McKinley, Sr. passed away. His death occurred on March 23. He was laid to rest in the cemetery west of the town of Manannah.

Jessie (Yull) McKinley and her sons took over the burden of running the farm for a number of years.

In later years, the mother went to live with her daughter, Margaret (McKinley) Knapp, where she died. Burial was made beside her husband, James Senior in the Manannah cemetery.

"Jim" McKinley left home when he was fifteen years old and came to Paynesville, Stearns County, Minnesota, where he secured a job working for

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William Haines on his farm. He stayed here until 1881 when he went to Minneapolis to look for work. He was a dependable young man and soon found a position with the Northwest Casket Company where two large buildings were under construction. Jim was a carpenter of good standing and soon became foreman of the job. After the completion of the two buildings, he stayed on and worked in the plant until 1884. He then returned to Manannah where he was employed in the general store as a clerk for a while. After that he went back to Paynesville where he worked in Angus Haines' general store.

During the summer of 1885, he took leave of his duties as clerk and obtained a job of driving a team for N. P. Clark, who at that time was making a trip west to Deadwood, South Dakota with a caravan of some two hundred wagons carrying supplies and machinery. He was to drive one of the feed teams but later was assigned to drive a team of three horses and one mule which carried a long load of iron pipes. None of the other drivers wanted this particular load. On the way, they were to cross the Missouri River on a ferry at Pierre, South Dakota, but when they were within twenty-five miles of the river, they received word that the ferry boat had broken loose and had gone down the river. The nearest ferry to be used was far North, located at Bismark, North Dakota. This made the trip nearly two hundred miles longer than it would have been otherwise. Upon reaching Bismark, it took three days to cross on the ferry on account of the great number of wagons. Jim purchased a large wooden barrel fitted with a tight cover for one dollar. He carried it on his load of pipes. This barrel proved to be very useful for later during

their journey, the caravan was without water for three days. Jim had enough water in the barrel to take care of the animals and himself.

Finally they reached their destination, Deadwood, South Dakota; and they began at once their work of unloading. Soon new buildings were under construction.

The rate of pay for the journey was eighty-five dollars per month with expenses paid. N. P. Clark offered Jim the same wages to work for him. He stayed for a month and then decided he wanted to go home. He arrived home late in the fall and resumed his duties as clerk in the store at Paynesville. He was working at the job during the time the railroads were built through this part of the country and until the time of his marriage.

Jim Mc Kinley was united in marriage to Lizzie Hoar, daughter of D. B. and Melissa (Bryant) Hoar, on January 1, 1889. The wedding took place in Union Grove township. They made their home in Paynesville. In the spring, Jim built a new home for his bride in the east end of New Paynesville. They lived there a short time.

During the same spring, they were, on one occasion returning from a trip to Manannah by the way of the east end of Lake Koronis when Lizzie (Hoar) McKinley stopped the horses and remarked to her husband, Jim, "This is the place where I would like to live the rest of my life." The land is located in Section 35 of Paynesville township and is covered with a fine growth of white oak timber, it is bordered on the south by Lake Koronis.

After reaching town, Jim set out to find out who owned this particular land.

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It belonged to a man named Chalmers and he was willing to sell the land for eleven dollars an acre. Jim purchased the land and began immediately to build the house, barn, and other buildings that were needed. Today most of the timber has been cleared and the land is under cultivation.

It was on this farm that Jim and Lizzie (Hoar) McKinley, raised their family. They had seven children, who are: Raymond, Gertrude, Cecil, William, Marian, Forrest, and Elizabeth. The children received their education in the Brown district school No. 162. Later they attended the Paynesville High School.

Raymond C., the oldest son, was born February 9, 1890. He was married to Ella Johnson February 25, 1914. They have four children, who are: Donald; Doris, Aileen, and Marion. They live in Minneapolis where Raymond is employed.

Gertrude M. was born August 25, 1891. She was married to Carl Huske on December 22, 1910. They have two children, Gwendolyn and James.

Cecil J. was born October 23, 1894. On May 27, 1925, he was married to Alice Ruddasall. They have three children, who are: James, Rodney, and an infant son. They live at Sandstone, Minnesota.

William O. was born August 14, 1896. He lives near Judd, North Dakota.

Marion J. was born November 3, 1900. She married Carl Henstran on December 6, 1920. They have four children.

Forrest J. was born May 28, 1902. He lives with his father on the home farm.

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Elizabeth G. was born March 14, 1904. On January 1, 1925 she was united in marriage to Robert Rodoll. They have four children. They live on a farm near Judd, North Dakota.

The Christian faith of the McKinley family is that of the Methodist Church. They have been faithful members and workers throughout many years.

Lizzie (Hoar) McKinley passed away at her home on April 2, 1933. She was laid to rest in the Burr Oak cemetery.

Jim McKinley is making his home with his son, Forrest, on the home farm. Forrest has taken over all the duties of running the farm.

Interviewed: James M. McKinley
Date: June 16, 1938
By: Clarence Chisholm

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