

Hon. William T. McCulloch

Hon. William T. McCulloch, farmer, lives on Sec 14-147-60. He was born in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, Nov 1, 1842, the son of James and Elizabeth McCulloch. He moved to Blanchard twp, Pease County, Canada, as a young child and lived there until he was 24 years old. He then began renting land in Pease County and stayed there until 1880. In that year he settled on land northwest of Sarsboro in Barns County where he lived 2 years. In 1882 he moved to the claim he had filed on in 147-60. He now owns 1700 acres there.

Mr. McCulloch was married, at 24 years, to Miss Sarah A. Sansburn, a native of Canada, who was born in 1849. She was a daughter of Andrew and Elizabeth Sansburn. Her father was a farmer.

Mr + Mrs. McCulloch are parents of 6 children: James A, Elizabeth J (now Mrs. George Pratt) William A, Graham, Maggie, and Norman.

Mr. McCulloch was a state representative from 1891-5, during which time a special session was called to make an appropriation for the World's Columbian Exposition.

Bibliog, Condensed from Compend. of Hist. + Biog, 1900, p 189.

Biography of W. T. McCulloch
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May 31, 1926

Mr. James McCulloch was the father of the pioneer. He married Miss Montgomery.

William Thomas McCulloch was born December 11, 1843 in the Province of Ontario, Canada.

Land was high priced and he was poor, so he came to North Dakota because it was booming. He came here in the year 1880. That winter he worked for R. C. Cooper, teaming between Sanborn and the Cooper Ranch, also doing carpenter work. In the spring he went into the cook shack and acted as cook. The second winter he carpentered in and around Sanborn and built school houses.

He bought a relinquishment about two miles west of Sanborn and lived on it for two years. A frame shanty was built on to another shanty which was on the place. The shanty was built of railroad ties. The barn was built out of an old discarded railroad bridge which had been across Lake Eckelson. After living there the two years, he took up a homestead at Lake Jessie about 1883. The lumber for the first house was hauled from Sanborn, also food provisions, etc. The closest neighbors were Ole Thorn, E. L. Watne and Tollef Tweed.

The first team was a team of oxen; then a team of balky horses. The oxen and horses were driven together until more horses were raised. The machinery consisted of an eight-foot spring-tooth harrow and a breaking plow. The first two or three years he did the seeding by hand. He made a box which held about one-half bushel and this was held by a strap over his head and shoulder. Next he got an eight-foot broadcast seeder. Later he and Mr. Thorn got a wagon seeder which did not prove a success.

The crops consisted of black oats, and hard wheat which yielded about thirty bushels per acre. The price received ranged from forty to seventy-five cents per bushel. The threshing was done with a twelve horse power machine. By putting on more horses the power was increased so generally eighteen horses were put on. The separator was an Aultman Talor, thirty-two inch cylinder and a thirty-six inch rear. Owing to the fact that machines were scarce and the crops heavy, the threshing often continued into the winter. One instance was the threshing for three or four days with half the bundle racks on sleighs. The threshers were often caught in storms and blizzards. The experiences were very uncomfortable. The fuel consisted of wood and most of the pioneers settled near the woods.

Mr. McCulloch married Miss Sarah Ann Sansborn at St. Marys, Perth County, Ontario, Canada.

The claim shanty was L shaped. One portion was 8x16 feet and the other 8x12 feet. This was built of common twelve inch rough lumber, boarded up and down. The boards shrank considerably, leaving large cracks. Mrs. W. T. McCulloch pasted rags over the cracks in order to keep out the snow and cold. James, being the oldest in the family, received the duty of building the fire in the mornings. He had to be

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Careful in getting out of bed in stormy weather to avoid stepping into snow banks, In cold weather the boys wore their caps to keep their ears from freezing. They lived in this shanty from the spring of 1883 until the fall of 1893 after which the brick house was built.

Mrs. W. T. McCulloch died January 16, 1908. Mr. McCulloch married again. He died in 1924 and was buried at Cooperstown.

Those of the family living are:

- Mr. James A. McCulloch, Jessie, North Dakota
- Mrs. Elizabeth Pratt, Cooperstown, North Dakota
- Mr. W. A. McCulloch, Cooperstown, North Dakota
- Mr. Graham McCulloch, Jessie, North Dakota
- Mrs. J. B. Bailey, Bengough, Sask. Canada.
- Mr. Norman McCulloch--Deceased