Umatilla County Historical Society

Century Farm Tour

May 20, 2000

Generations of farmers have been stewards of Umatilla County's land since emigrants began arriving in the mid-1800s. Forty-four of these operations have achieved Century Farm recognition by the State of Oregon. To qualify they must have been continuously farmed by the same family for 100 years or more, an incredible feat when the many and varied challenges are considered.

Front Cover

Four horses pull a rig designed by Jens Terjeson to spray fields on the Terjeson ranch. (Airborne crop dusters were a novelty.) Jens, operating the sprayer, is watched by his father, Gunder, and his twin half-brothers Ronald, left, and Richard, right. (UCHS Archives)

Itinerary

Deining Century Farm
Enbysk Century Farm

Orientation
Greasewood Finnish Church & Cemetery

Hudemann Century Farm
German Cemetery
Shafer Century Farm
Hudemann Century Farm
Eggers Century Farm
McAlavy Century Farm
Lorenzen Century Farm
Holdman Century Farm
Muller Century Farm

Refreshment Stop
Winn Century Farm

Newtson Century Farm
Kern Century Farm

Dinner & Dance
Olsen Century Farm

Mathias Deining Century Farm
3 miles north of Highway 11, West of Helix Highway
1883

The Deinings came to America in 1871 from Finland, spending several years in Michigan before immigrating to Oregon by train to San Francisco, steam ship to Portland, riverboat and stagecoach to Umatilla and Pendleton, arriving in 1877. They headed by hired hack toward Centerville (Athena), but stopped when they recognized friends from Finland in the Greasewood area.

They were charter members of the Apostolic Lutheran Church (aka The Finn Church) which was constructed in 1884. Charles was an original member of the "Wild Horse Rangers" of the Oregon Volunteer Militia.

The 160-acre homestead is headquarters of Don Woodward's farm, operated by three generations.

Peter Enbysk Century Farm
Enbysk Road north of Hwy 11
1887

Peter K. Enbusk (note spelling) was born in Norway in 1853. He left Norway in 1871, bound to Michigan. Because his Certificate of Naturalization has his name as Peter C. Enbysk he settled on that as a legal signature.

In 1877 he and a group of friends emigrated to Oregon and settled in Greasewood where he became a member of the "Wild Horse Rangers" of the Oregon Volunteer Militia.

Peter and Josefiina donated an acre of land, for one dollar, for the location of the Apostolic Lutheran Church of Greasewood. The Gallaher School building, later known as the Finn School, has been moved to the Enbysk place.

The homestead is currently farmed by Carolyn Enbysk.

Greasewood Finnish Church
Apostolic Lutheran Church
Enbysk Road

Built in 1884 by volunteer labor on land donated by Peter and Josefiina Enbysk by fundamentalists from Finland and Lapland.

The services were most often lead by traveling ministers or missionaries whose lodging was provided by members of the congregation. The Finnish language was used exclusively in the services, and the sacred songs were generally sung in a minor key.

In 1910 the congregation observed Haley's comet.

Men sat on the right, women on the left; horses hitched on the north of the building; and horseless carriages on the east.

Julius Hudemann Century Farm
Hudemann Road
1889

Born in Germany in 1848, Julius Hudemann moved to Illinois and married Marguerita Eggers in 1878. Arriving at Myrick Station in 1884, Julius had proved up on his homestead by 1889. Julius had 11 children,and in a move unusual for the times, divided his holdings evenly among all of his children, rather than everything going to the eldest son. One quarter went to Julius' son, Henry, and the other to his daughter, Cora Hudemann Foley. These two quarters of the 11-quarter farm were designated Century Farms in 1999.

Henry's son, Ferdie, began farming his grandfather's land in 1937 and still resides on the homestead quarter. Great-grandson, Kirk Terjeson, now farms some of Henry's original leased land.

German Cemetery
1897
Junction of Hudemann and Myrick Roads

The German settlers of Umatilla County built their first church on this site in 1897 on land donated by Henry Eggers.

The church served the needs of the community for twenty-seven years. After the Peace Lutheran Church was built at 9th and Carden in Pendleton, the church near Myrick Station was sold in 1934 and was moved.

Some graves remain at this site, but many have been moved to Walla Walla and Pendleton.

James Wesley Shafer Century Farm
Junction of Midway and Myrick Roads, S.E. corner
1882

JW traveled from Pennsylvania as a teenager with his widowed mother and younger siblings to meet the two older brothers, Will and Ep, who had preceded them to Centerville (Athena). They came by emigrant train to Sacramento, then by boat to Portland and Umatilla.

In 1877 JW staked a claim on railroad land. In 1882 he had proved the claim and established a homestead seven miles north of Pendleton. He continued to buy contiguous parcels, including the homesteads of his brothers, to make three sections. The land was later farmed by sons Dave and Jack. When JW died in 1955 at the age of 95, the land was divided among his four children. Dave Shafer's share that was passed to his daughter Helen Shafer O'Brien, continues to be operated by great- granddaughter, Ronnie Belsma.

Julius Hudemann Century Farm
1899
Junction of Hudemann & Myrick Roads

No buildings remain on this second Century Farm established by Julius Hudemann and now owned by Patricia Terjeson.

When the German Lutheran Church was built at Myrick (Warren Station) in the 1890s, Julius Hudemann deeded four acres from this quarter section to the church for construction of the parsonage. The church was built across the road.

In 1893 North Pacific Railroad went through the west side of the property. The trains continued to haul commodities to market until the 1990s.

Henry G.F. Eggers Century Farm
Myrick Road
1891

Born in Germany in 1860, Henry Eggers immigrated with his family to Illinois in 1864. He married Anna Marie Witt in 1884 and came to Umatilla County in 1886 by covered wagon. They had five children and an adopted son.

A beautiful Victorian home was built on the Myrick property and housed the family until it was consumed by fire.

In 1891 four acres were donated for the construction of the German Lutheran Church.

Malinda, the youngest daughter, married John William Joe Cephus Hawkins and the half-section at Myrick is currently farmed by their youngest son, Wray.

N
Vansycle
Stanton
Smeltz
Apex
HELIX
Pop. 170
Holman
Kings Corner
Juniper (Hist)
Ruthers Corners
Myrick
Midway
McCormmac
McCormmach
Fulton
Havana
R31
R32
R33
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Charles McAlavy Century Farm
Helix Highway
1898

Charles Allen McAlavy was born in Iowa in 1868. In 1898 he purchased 160 acres in the Helix area from John A. Scott. The original house was on top of the hill above the current home.

Stories are told of Charles always wearing a suit and pocket watch and chain whether farming or going to town.

While wintering in California, Charles and Martha's daughter, Ada, met her future husband, Seaborn Espy Brogoitti, a Texas native. Seab and Ada took over running the farm when Charles became ill in 1924. Bruce Brogoittii, grandson of Seab and Ada, now farms the land.

John Henry Lorenzen Century Farm
Athena-Holdman Highway
1894

In 1872, 10-year-old John Lorenzen immigrated from Germany to Iowa and later to Oregon. In 1892 he married Bertha Roehlk in the town of Warren (Myrick).

The original farm land was purchased from J. Cargill in 1894, and early crops included dry-land alfalfa, hay, Austrian peas, fruit, wheat, barley, pigs, cattle and poultry. Early buildings still on the property include the barn, 1902, and the house, 1906. Land across the road from the farm was donated for the German Hall, a social center for the German community.

The land has been farmed by John Henry's sons, Gus and John; his granddaughter Marlene and Dick Goodwin; and by great-grandsons David & Paul Goodwin.

Frank, Ora, Wade, & William Holdman Century Farm
Holdman Junction, Highway 37 and Helix-Holdman Road
1882

Grandma Holdman came from Virginia on the Oregon Trail in 1840, smoking a pipe, legend has it. Her grandchildren were born in Washington and Oregon.

Around 1881, three Holdman brothers ran sheep in the Cold Springs Canyon near what eventually became the town of Holdman, which eventually boasted a school, dance hall, general store, United Bretheran Church, a baseball team, a hotel and later a gas station. The school house on the site is the second school and was built c. 1923.

In 1885 Harold Holdman's father, Frank, homesteaded here and plowed for his first wheat crop in 1893. Horses were replaced by tractors in 1934. The homestead is now farmed by Frank's grandson, Ben, and great-grandson, Chris.

Louis Muller Century Farm
Muller Road
1892

Louis Muller immigrated from Prussia and, in 1891, filed claim on 160 acres 18 miles north of Pendleton under the Tree Improvement Act.

He farmed this and additional land until his death in 1928.

The original homestead passed to Louis' grandson Howard. Howard's son, Wade, and his family live in the house built in the late 1890s to replace the original homestead cabin.

Three generations currently live on the farm.

Ambrose Winn Century Farm
1898
South Juniper Canyon

Ambrose Winn was from Missouri, and in 1898 purchased 40 acres in the Juniper Canyon area north of Helix. Later that year, the land was sold to Iley Winn, great uncle of Tom and Larry Winn. Albert Winn bought the land in 1918 and farmed it until 1935. In 1939 Melvin and Merton bought the land from their dad. The land is now farmed by Larry Winn, grand-nephew of Iley.

Early crops included wheat, horses, mules, chickens and cows.

Three generations currently reside on the farm.

Newt Newtson, Sr., Century Farm
North Juniper Canyon
1887

One of the first Norwegians to settle in Umatilla County, Newt Sr. homesteaded between Juniper Canyon and Vansycle in 1887.

Born Knud Knudsen in 1863 at Voygie, near Kristiansand, Norway, his name later was changed. He married Inger Jensen in 1891. The couple had seven children: Newt Jr., Jens, Einer, Gunval (Dick), Ole, Gunda, and William.

The land is farmed by Bob and Larry Newtson and Bob's son, Jeff.

Kern Century Farm
2 miles north of Helix on Vansycle Road
1893

C.A. Kern came to Oregon from Missouri and purchased land that was originally homesteaded by Wm. E. Davis.

Currently, Verne and Calista Hutchinson farm the land originally homesteaded by Vern's mother's maternal uncle and later purchased by her paternal uncle.

Original buildings now in use include a barn, chicken house, machine shed and house, which was recently remodeled. The antique wagon at the entrance is an original from the farm and was used to haul sacks of grain from the fields to Helix.

Three generations live on the farm.

Salve Olsen Century Farm
Seven miles north of Helix on Vansycle Rd
1888

Salve Olsen was one of the first two Norwegians to come to Umatilla County. He and Newt Newtson, Sr. traveled by train from Nebraska in 1885.

He established his farm in 1888. The original land came via a quit-claim deed from Welcome H. Line and additional ground from railroad settlements. It has been farmed by four generations. Following the death of his wife in 1898, Salve sold his land to Gunder Terjeson and returned to Norway.

Sons Ronald and Ralph farmed the land until the 1980s and now their sons, Kirk and Gunder, farm the land.

A 90-foot well, dug by hand by Salve Olsen, is still in use.

The Umatilla County Historical Society thanks its sponsor partners for their support of Umatilla County's second annual Century Farm Tour:

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Information about each of the farms on the tour was obtained from documentation provided at the time of application for Century Farm status, from *Pioneer Trails* articles, or from descendants currently farming the land.