

CFR 1149

Byron Scott Farms, Inc.  
Knighton



## Century Farm & Ranch Program Application

Date 5-26-2009

Type of designation (please check)



Century Farm



Century Ranch

Legal owner's name Byron Scott Farms, Inc

(Please attach contact information if different than legal owner)

Mailing address Redacted for Privacy

Telephone Redacted for Privacy E-mail address Redacted for Privacy

County Linn Location of farm or ranch (distance from nearest town) 2 miles south of Tarent

Township 12S Range 3W Section 18 (Lot 500)

Original family owner(s) or founder(s) Commodore & Rosannah Knighton

Date (year) this farm or ranch was acquired by founder(s) 1853  
(Attach verifying documentation. See Application Qualification #7)

Founder(s) came to Oregon from Jefferson County, Missouri

Who farms or ranches the land today? manyanne and Don Wirth; and Lisa and David Goracke

Relationship to original owner (See Appl. Qualification #5. Please explain lineage) Great - Great Grandchild

Are any of the original buildings still in use? ☒ Yes ☐ No Listed on National Register? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, please describe the original barn is still in use for livestock and seed storage.

History of crops or livestock raised on farm or ranch (use additional pages, as needed) Historically, ryegrass, wheat, and oats were grown by the Knightons. Subsequent crops include clover and fescue. Also pigs, sheep, cows, and feeder cattle were raised.

How many generations live on the farm or ranch today? no family lives there, but the farm is operated by

Please list names and birth years manyanne Scott Wirth 1-5-47; Donald R. Wirth 4-5-46; Lisa Anne Wirth Goracke 4-8-72 and David Patrick Goracke 6-16-72.

2 generations

[ Please submit two or three pages of family history narrative, including, but not limited to generational transfers of the farm or ranch. You are also encouraged to submit photos of the property.]

(Please continue application on next page.)



## Statement of Affirmation

I, Maryanne Wirth, agent for Byron Scott Farms, Inc  
hereby affirm and declare that the farm or ranch which I own at Redacted for Privacy  
Redacted for Privacy, in the County of Linn

has been owned by my family for at least 100 continuous years, as specified in the qualifications for the Century Farm & Ranch Program, on or before December 31 of the current calendar year. Further, I hereby affirm that this property meets all other requirements for Century Farm or Ranch honors, including that the farm or ranch has a gross income from farming or ranching activities of not less than \$1,000 per year for three out of the five years immediately preceding making this statement. I understand that the application materials will become property of the Oregon Historical Society Library and be made available for public use. By signing below, I understand that I am consenting to the use of both information and photographs.

Maryanne Wirth  
Signature of Owner

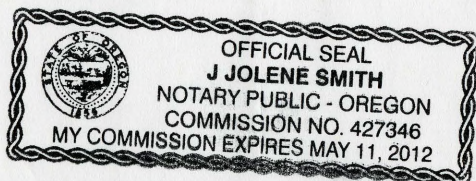
5/20/09  
Date

### Certification by Notary Public

State of Oregon Linn  
County of Linn

Be it remembered, that on this 20 day of May, 2009, before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for said county and state, personally appeared the within named Maryanne Wirth, known to me to be the identical individual described in and who executed the within instrument and acknowledged to me that Maryanne Wirth executed the same freely and voluntarily.

In Testimony Whereof, I have set my hand and affixed my official seal the day and year last above written.



J. Jolene Smith  
Notary Public for Oregon

My Commission Expires 5-11-12

### Fees

Application Fee  
(includes one certificate) \$ 50.00

Additional Certificates (\$15 each) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to:  
Oregon Agricultural Education Foundation or OAEF

### For office use only

Date Received 2009

Approved? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Authorization GM  
Century Farm & Ranch Program Coordinator  
OHS Library

MSS 1604 Program ID No. CFR1149



## Century Farm Application: Historical Background

### BYRON SCOTT FARMS, INC

**Ammon Knighton** is the paternal great-great grandfather of Byron Clarendon Scott. Ammon was born May 13, 1789, in Stokes County, North Carolina. His paternal and maternal lineage has been traced to U.S. settlement in the early 1700's in Maine and Virginia, respectively. His father, Jesse Knighton, Sr. (born in 1750 in Montgomery, Virginia) is notable as a Captain in the U.S. Army who served under General Griffith Rutherford in the Revolutionary War (1781 "Battle of the Brick House" at the seashore near Wilmington, North Carolina). Ammon Knighton married Fanny Cox (born October 31, 1794) on February 1, 1810 in Muhlenberg, Kentucky. The couple had 13 children (Minvera, Joseph, Lovell, Lucretia, Wiley Leander, Louisa, Julia, **Commodore Perry**, Nancy Ann, Melissa, Thomas Ammon, Isaac, and William Green). On April 23, 1841, Fanny Cox died in Jefferson County, Missouri. Ammon Knighton never remarried and died on August 7, 1877, in Forest Grove, Oregon.

**Commodore Perry Knighton** was born on November 24, 1823, in Jefferson County, Missouri. He married Rosannah W. Blazer (born June 29, 1831, in Missouri) on March 28, 1850, in Cass County, Missouri. Later the same year the couple, traveling with Frances E. Nanny Phipps (born December 11, 1842, in Putnam County, Missouri), traveled to Oregon from Jefferson County, Missouri, by wagon train. Commodore and Rosannah took up two land grant claims (one of 352.42 acres and another of 642.15 acres) in Tangent, Linn County, Oregon, along the Calapooia River. The couple had 12 children (Isaac, Margaret F., Alden C., Robert Amon, **Sarah Alice**, Sophia Ann, John W., George L., William Penn, Lelia Julia, Willis W., and Rosannah R.). Commodore built a house on the land grant claim. A walnut tree was also planted in the front yard. The original house burned down and another one was built, which still stands near the walnut tree. Sometimes the family had visitors – friendly Calapooia Indians who camped near the Calapooia River. The Indians left behind burial mounds which can be seen today at old camp sites along the river. The family grew wheat and raised livestock on the property. On September 2, 1871, Rosannah W. Blazer passed away five months after the birth of her last child. Commodore remarried to Frances E. Nanny Phipps the same year. The couple had two children (Pearl O. and Nancy Ann Goldie). Commodore died on January 18, 1898. Frances died on March 25, 1906.

**Sarah Alice Knighton** was born on December 28, 1856 on the homestead in Tangent. She married M. Clarendon "Cass" Scott on December 16, 1877. The couple had five children (**Walter C. Scott**, Harold R. Scott, Leila, Erma, and Minnie). Cass was not a farmer, so when Commodore Knighton died, Walter C. Scott took over the farming tradition of his grandfather. M. Clarendon Scott passed away on September 10, 1912. Sarah Alice Knighton passed away on March 31, 1954.

**Walter C. Scott** was born on November 11, 1885, in Tangent, Oregon. He began farming 90 acres of the land grant claim left to his parents by his grandfather when he was age 13. In 1912, he took over operations of the farm after his father died. Walter



married Mary Grace Jenks in 1915. The couple had two children, **Byron Clarendon** and Geraldine. As owner of the farm, Walter combined the Tangent farm with a family horse ranch in Eastern Oregon. This kept the Tangent farm supplied with enough horse power for a six-horse gang plow and a one-horse team for binding. These horses and a herd of cows required a barn, which he built in 1917. The barn is still in use for cleaning and sacking grass seed. In 1919, Walter bought his first Fordson tractor. In time, a one-third interest in a steam thresher further mechanized the farm.

Walter C. Scott was one of the earliest farmers in Tangent to grow ryegrass. He started growing it on six acres across the road from his house to see how it would fair. Ryegrass soon grew to his primary crop. It wasn't always easy to sell. Especially during the depression when ryegrass sold for 1.5 cents per pound. Walter also raised alta fescue, a herd of 150 sheep, and two milk cows. Mary Grace passed away on March 1, 1962. Walter passed away on July 2, 1965.

**Byron Clarendon Scott** was born on October 13, 1917. He was raised on his father's farm in Tangent. However, he almost ended the family farming tradition when he decided to attend Oregon State University to become a chemical engineer. But, the allure to farming was too great, and one day while sitting on his parents' porch he told them "You know, I think I'd like to farm." Byron married Edna June Webber on November 26, 1942. The couple had three children (**Maryanne, Susan, and Nancy**). They built a home on the family homestead, next to Byron's parents, where they raised their children and operated the farm. Byron primarily farmed ryegrass, wheat, oats, clover, and fescue. He incorporated the farm on January 22, 1971. Like his predecessors, he enjoyed a passion for farming and raised pigs, sheep, cows, and feeder cattle on the farm as well. Byron passed away on December 7, 2007. Edna preceded him in passing on February 27, 2006.

The farm is currently owned by Byron Scott's daughters. Maryanne Wirth along with her husband, Donald Wirth, daughter, Lisa Goracke, and son-in-law, David Goracke operate the farm. The primary crops are fescue and ryegrass. Maryanne is the appointed agent for Byron Scott Farms, Inc. The family wishes to preserve the farm's historical connection to the farm industry of the Tangent area and Willamette Valley.



# Centuries Develop Farming

When W. C. Scott took over the operation of his grandfather's 59-year-old farm in 1912 he had no idea that one day his major crop would be millions of tiny seeds.

Then it was wheat, oats and cheat that made the Scott family living but mostly wheat, just as it had for grandfather Commodore Perry Knighton from 1853 forward; today it's ryegrass, the "new" crop in Oregon agriculture, and sheep.

The Scott farm, located just south of Tangent on both sides of Highway 99E, is typical of many Century Farms in the Willamette Valley in that it combines long-farmed, one-family land with the progressive methods of modern farming.

It has been a long, interesting career for the Scott land, which today is capable of producing more than ever before.

## Take Homestead

Scott's grandfather Knighton and grandmother Rosanna homesteaded a 640-acre land grant claim and began to rear a family that became 2 sons and 3 daughters. Knighton built a house and planted a walnut tree in the front yard. The house burned down so he built another. Today the 2nd house and the walnut tree still stand, the latter towering some 100 feet into the air.

Sometimes they had visitors—friendly Calapooia Indians who camped near the river of the same name and whose burial mounds can be seen today on their old camp sites.

Their wheat and livestock pros-

## History and Progress



W. C. SCOTT'S seat on a combine is a far cry from the days of the horse-powered reaper, harvester and binder known in 1853 when his grandfather, Commodore Perry Knighton, homesteaded the farm which Scott operates today just south of Tangent in Linn County.

pered until Knighton's death in 1892.

The farm was divided equally among the 5 children, including Sarah Alice Knighton Scott, wife of Clarendon "Cass" Scott. Because Cass was not a farmer, it remained for 1 of their 4 children to carry on in the tradition of his grandfather.

## Boy Becomes Farmer

W. C. Scott, who had been 7 years old at his grandfather's death, became the farmer.

His 2 living sisters, Mrs. Leila Archibald and Mrs. Minnie Jenks,

and his brother, H. R. Scott, all live in Salem.

Of the original 640 acres, 90 remain, to which have been added over 900 for about 1000 in all.

Even as far back as 1912, when W. C. Scott began to farm the land, integration was known. Combining the Tangent operation with a horse ranch in Eastern Oregon, he was kept supplied with the motive power for a 6-horse gang plow and had another 1-horse team for binding. This and a herd of cows required a barn, which he built in 1917 and which he uses today to clean and sack his seeds.

Not long afterward, in 1919, the horses began to see their last work-days when Scott bought his first Fordson tractor. In time a ½ interest in a steam thresher further mechanized him and the era of the horse was ending.



mechanized him and the era of the horse was ending.

#### Tries Ryegrass

Scott was one of the earliest to turn to ryegrass, now his county's chief product. He started 6 acres across the road from his house, just to see how it would do. Today he has 600 acres in ryegrass. It hasn't always been easy to sell, though; he remembers one time during the depression when ryegrass sold for 1½¢ a pound.

Scott also has 80 acres in Alta fescue, another typical Linn County product, and he has 150 sheep and 2 milk cows.

The family tradition for the Scott farm almost ended when the Scotts' son, Byron, went to Oregon State determined to become a chemical engineer. But the allure was too much for him and one day, sitting on the porch, he told his parents, "You know, I think I'd like to farm."

#### Youth Carries On

Byron now represents the new agriculture. His father, approaching 74 and somewhat handicapped by arthritis, says of the new farming techniques, "I leave all that to Byron." To the observer, though, it's obvious that there's plenty of farming left in W. C. Scott.

After Byron, another descendant of Commodore Perry Knighton is likely to take over the farm. Byron has 3 children and his sister, Mrs. Geraldine Cole of Oakville, has 2. One of them is sure to carry on.