

CFR 0274

Jane and Tom Thielsen

U.S. Census Definition of a Farm: 10 acres or more with agricultural sales of \$50 or more a year; or, if less than 10 acres, sales of at least \$250 a year.

APPLICATION FOR CENTURY FARM HONORS--1970
(Rules attached)
Deadline for filing application: July 1, 1970

PLEASE PRINT

Your name ~~(Mr., Mrs., Miss)~~ Jane Thielsen (Sister & Brother)
~~Jane and Tom Thielsen~~

Your address: Route 1 P.O. Box 8 Town Scio, Oregon

Location of farm: 1 mile north of Scio on Stayton road Linn
(Address) (County)

Acres in your farm today: 455 Acres in original farm: 640

Does your farm comply with U.S. Census definition at top of page? yes

Name of founder of farm (please print): Preston Munkers

Year founder settled on farm? 1846 Where did he come from? _____

How many families have farmed this land? 5 generations

Are any of original buildings still in use? no

Who farms land today? You? x A renter? x A manager? x Other? _____

If you own the farm but live in town, do you manage the farming operation? _____

What relation are you to the original owner? great great grand children

If you know crops or livestock raised on farm 100 years ago, please list cattle, horses
and sheep - grain crops and pasture grass

What do you raise on farm today? Seed crops and pasture for cattle.

How many generations live on the farm today? (Names) Two
Mrs Louise H. Thielsen - Jane Thielsen and Tom Thielsen

Has the farm ever been rented? irrigated land How many times has original farm been divided? once

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

Jane Thielsen
Tom Thielsen
by Louise Thielsen (mother)
Signature of Owner

State Department of Agriculture
Oregon Historical Society

CERTIFICATION OF OWNERSHIP OF CENTURY FARM

I hereby certify that the farm for which

Jane Thielson (sister)
Tom Thielson (brother)

Owner's name and address

Rt 1 Box #8 Scio, Ore

is applying for Century Farm honors,

has been in his family continuously for 100 or more years.

May C. McQueen

*County Commissioner

Recorder

Chas. B. Danner
Linn County

Date:

June 25, 1970

*Please strike office not applicable

Submitted by: Jane Thielsen Rt 1 Box 8 Scio, Oregon 97374
(Name and Address)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1955

Lincoln Signed Deed to Linn Land; Has Been Home to Five Generations

Though somewhat reduced in acreage, a large part of the original Preston Munkers donation land claim near Scio, taken in 1846 is now the home of the fifth generation of the original family, a circumstance fast becoming unique in Oregon land claim history. Final deed, still possessed by the family, was signed by Abraham Lincoln.

Living now on the historic homestead are Mrs. Winifred Munkers Hosch, her daughter Mrs. Louise Hosch Thielsen, and her son and daughter, Thomas H. Thielsen, age 5, and Alice Jane Thielsen, 8. The two children are the great, great grandchildren of the original owner, Preston Munkers.

Moving West

In a 1916 press interview, the late Elizabeth Munkers Estes of Salem, gave details of the westward journey of the Munkers clan. Head of the family was Benjamin Munkers who with his wife, three married sons, a married daughter and several younger children, set forth from Independence, Mo., in April 1846. The Munkers outfit was one of the largest and best equipped units of the 100-wagon train that pulled away from the Missouri outpost, for Benjamin Munkers was a wealthy man. He staked what was in those days a fortune, on the western venture.

They left Independence with five wagons, 30 head of oxen, 50 roan Durham cows, five saddle horses, trading goods, supplies and household equipment. In addition, there was a chest containing \$10,000 in gold coin which was hidden under the bed of Benjamin Munkers' invalid wife. She made the entire trip in a bed specially built into the wagon box.

Family Reaches Salem

For expediency the 100-vehicle train was divided when the going became difficult. Those with superior equipment and stronger stock could thus proceed at a faster pace. Mrs. Estes mentions stopping briefly at three forts, Laramie, Bridges and Hall. The Munkers family, one of the first to reach Oregon, came over the Applegate trail arriving in the Willamette valley in October.

When they stopped at the frontier post that was then Salem the condition of the mother, aggravated by the long, hard trip, worsened. Early autumn rain had settled over the valley and proper shelter for her became a necessity. Accordingly, Benjamin Munkers purchased a substantial log house, best that the settlement could offer and the family set up headquarters there.

Sons Look for Land

The younger men, however, were already ranging out over the valley to choose their land sites. Preston Munkers chose land in what is now the Scio section and there he and his young wife, Nancy Jane Munkers, established the home that was to pass into the hands of four succeeding generations.

Their first building was a log house situated on a hill east of Scio, but they later built a town house, an attractive addition to the settlement. Their only child, Thomas Jefferson Munkers was born here, as was his daughter, Winifred M. Munkers who was later to wed a well known Oregon surgeon and physician, the late Dr. J. Frederick Hosch.

There were 640 acres in the original claim but Preston Munkers added to his holdings until the place included 800 acres, much of it fine bottom land devoted to grain and hay. The timbered up-

lands supported sheep. It was at the height of its operation one of the largest and most prosperous farms in central Linn county. One of its long lines of fence today marks the eastern city limits of Scio.

Old Farm Restored

After her marriage, Mrs. Hosch was many years away from the old farm. Then in 1940 the place was restored. New buildings, stock

and equipment transformed it into a modern operation.

Determined that the place should reflect an all-Oregon tone, Dr. Hosch projected an unique planting scheme. He had trees, shrubs and plants collected from all sections of Oregon. Classified and planted in relation to their locale, his park became one of the show places of the state. Many thousands of plantings from high desert, mountains, coast and valley made it an outstanding collection of Oregon flora, but it requires expert attention and considerable expense to maintain.

Lincoln Signs Deed

Final deed to the Munkers place, issued by the U. S. General Land office and signed by Abraham Lincoln on Nov. 28, 1864, was not recorded in Linn county until nearly 30 years had passed. It went on county records Jan. 10, 1891, under the signature of E. C. Davis, then county recorder.

Thomas Jefferson Munkers who was for many years president of the Scio bank, kept this deed in

a strong box at the bank. When the family moved to Portland in 1907, he left it there for safekeeping. For nearly 50 years it lay, its existence forgotten by his survivors.

In checking over records at the bank about a year ago, the strong box was opened to reveal the old deed, together with others signed by President Andrew Johnson in 1865, and President U. S. Grant in 1873. The deeds with their now precious signatures were turned over to Mrs. Thielsen, who in turn gave them to her mother.

Albany, Oregon
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OCT 5 - 1970

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

Linn

Fifth generation near Scio

Farm marks century

By AL BACH ⁵⁰⁶⁴
Democrat-Herald Writer

SCIO — What probably is one of the oldest continuously operated farms in the state was recognized this year as a Century Farm.

This recognition came from the Oregon Historical Society and the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

It is the Thielsen farm — presently a bright green expanse of approximately 450 acres—just north of Scio and west of the Scio-Stayton county road.

Its owners are Tom Thielsen, 20, now stationed in the Philippines with the U.S. Navy, and his sister, Jane, 23, a 1970 University of Oregon graduate currently employed in a Eugene bookstore. They are fifth-generation descendants of the farm's founders.

Their mother, Louise Thielsen, lives on the farm.

The farm has been tilled continuously since 1846 by Preston and Nancy Jane Munkers, original settlers and recipients of a federal land grant, and their descendants.

Major crop of the farm now is bluegrass seed. Cultivated land is leased to Marion Bluegrass Seed Co. of Salem. In addition, the younger Thielsens raise Charolais breeding cattle on the farm, Mrs. Thielsen said.

A deed to the original 640 acres of land grant was issued in 1864 and signed by President Abraham Lincoln.

It was recorded later at Oregon City. The deed is still in possession of the family.

But the modern-day family did not receive the deed until the 1950s, Mrs. Thielsen recalls.

"My grandfather (Thomas J. Munkers) had started a bank in Scio, before the turn of the century," she said. This bank even-

tually became the First National Bank of Oregon's Scio Branch. During the 1950s, a new manager of the bank found the deed in an old deposit box.

Descending through five generations, the farm has fluctuated in size. It regained size when Mrs. Thielsen's father, Dr. J.F. Hosch, bought back some of the land which had been divided by inheritance.

Family records lead to an appreciation of how different life was a century ago. This included some 1935 newspaper clippings and a report of a turn-of-the century interview with Elizabeth Munkers Estes, a sister of Preston Munkers.

The Munkers family left Liberty, Mo. in April of 1846 with about 50 other families.

The Munkers party included Benjamin Munkers and his invalid wife, and his two married sons and their families. One of these sons was Preston Munkers.

The family had five wagons, 30 head of oxen, 50 head of cattle and five saddle horses. Under the bed of the invalid Mrs. Munkers in one wagon was carried some \$10,000 in gold and silver coin.

The party made a safe passage across the plains, recording one Indian scare. The group reached the Columbia River in October of that year, traveled through the Barlow Pass and reached the Willamette Valley.

Another historical sidelight relates to the Thielsen side of the family.

Mt. Thielsen (in the southern Oregon Cascades near Crater Lake) was named for Hans Thielsen, a civil engineer born in Denmark.

He had important roles in early-day railroad construction over what is now the Willamette Pass.

Hans Thielsen was the great-grandfather of Tom and Jane.