

CFR 0605

Lawrence Michaels

DOUGLAS

Received  
4 May 98

X

APPLICATION FOR CENTURY FARM HONORS  
Deadline for Filing Application - May 1, 1998

Redacted for Privacy

(Please print or type)

Telephone:

Your Name Lawrence Michaels

Your Address Redacted for Privacy

(Street, Route or Box #, City, Zip, and County)

Location of Farm Days Creek, Oregon

To qualify as a Century Farm, a farm must have a gross income from farm use of not less than \$1000 per year for three out of the five years immediately preceding application for Century Farm honors. Does your farm meet this qualification? yes

Name of family member(s) who was founder or original owner of farm: Lawrence Michaels

Founder gained ownership of farm in (year) 1898

(Attach verifying documentation, see Rule 9)

Founder came to Oregon from Born in Neodesha, Kansas - moved to Bellingham WA - OR

Who farms the land today? Lawrence Michaels and Troy Michaels

Relationship to original owner son and great grandson

Are any of the original buildings still in use? no

If yes, which ones?

If you know crops or livestock raised on farm one hundred years ago, please list don't know - cattle and horses, we think

What do you raise on the farm today? cattle, sheep, italian plums, and hay

How many generation live on the farm today? 2

Please list names Lawrence Michaels & wife Joyce - and Tom Michaels & wife Lois.

Do you declare that the statements made above are accurate and correct to the best of your knowledge? yes

Lawrence Michaels  
Signature of Owner

Please return forms to: Century Farm Program, Oregon  
Historical Society, 1200 S. W. Park Ave., Portland, OR 97205  
Telephone (503) 306-5215

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Century Farm Program 1998  
STATEMENT FORM

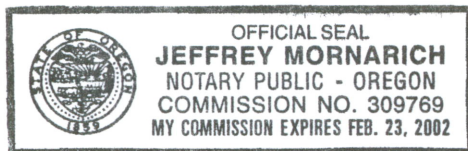
I, Lawrence Michaels  
hereby affirm and declare that the farm which I own at  
Redacted for Privacy  
in Douglas County,  
shall have been owned by my family as specified in Rule 2  
of the RULES FOR 1998 CENTURY FARM PROGRAM for at least  
one hundred years by no later than December 31, 1998.

Lawrence Michaels  
Signature

-----Acknowledgement- for use of Notary Public-----

State of Oregon

County of DOUGLAS  
Be it remembered, that on this 29th day of APRIL  
1998, before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and  
for said County and state, personally appeared the within  
named LAWRENCE MICHAELS  
known to me to be the identical individual described in  
and who executed the within instrument and acknowledged to  
me that LAWRENCE MICHAELS 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.

Jeffrey Mornarich  
Notary Public for Oregon

My Commission Expires 2/23/02



Frederick Stenger & Wife }  
Do }  
Lawrence Michael,

This indenture Witnesseth, that Lawrence Stenger and Elizabeth Stenger, his wife, for the consideration of the sum of Fifteen Hundred Dollars to them paid, have bargained and sold and by these presents do bargain, sell and convey unto Lawrence Michael, the following described premises, to-wit: Beginning at a point 17.57 chains North and 16.50 chains East of the Quarter Section post on the North line of Section Nine, running thence South 57.57 chains, thence West 44 chains, thence North 57.57 chains, thence East 44 chains to the place of beginning, being 253.30 acres of land of the East end of Claim Number 46, in Township 30 South of Range 4 West of the Willamette Meridian and in Sections four (4) and nine (9) in said Township and Range in Douglas County, <sup>Ore.</sup> To have and To hold, the said premises, with their appurtenances

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unto the said Lawrence Michaels, heirs and assigns for-  
 ever. And the said Frank Stenger, and Elizabeth Stenger,  
 his wife, do hereby Covenant to and with the said Lawrence  
 Michaels, his heirs and assigns that they are the owners in fee  
 simple of said premises, that they are free from all incumbrances  
 and that they will, and their heirs and assigns, shall forever  
 warrant and defend the same from all lawful claims whatever,  
 in witness whereof, we have hereunto set our hands and seals  
 this 17 day of December A.D. 1898.

In the Presence of  
 J.R. Kershaw

{ R.S. 430 }

Frank Stenger

Elizabeth Stenger

Seal

Seal

Witnessed and sealed

State of Washington 100

## Michaels Ranch History

*The Michaels Ranch began its 100 year journey through the generations in December of 1898, when Lawrence Michaels bought the original 215 acres from Leonard Stinger and his wife.*

Lawrence was born in Neodeshae, (spelling??) Kansas (30 miles from Independence) to homesteader parents that emigrated to America from a small Dutchie south of France called Alsaysse Lorraine (spelling??). He was of Irish, German and French heritage. Lawrence was orphaned at age 11 and moved to Wisconsin to live with a married sister of his father.

When he was 13 or 14, Lawrence moved to Bellingham, Washington, to live with his sister who worked as a domestic for a man named Judge Harris. Lawrence attended Bellingham Normal School and also worked for Mr. Harris.

After some time, Harris bought a ranch in Days Creek, Oregon, (The Michaels Ranch) from Leonard Stinger. Lawrence moved down to work on the ranch for Harris. After a year or two, Harris lost the ranch back to Stinger.

Lawrence remained in the area and went to work for Bouse Riddle (founder of Riddle, Oregon) at a livery. In 1898, Lawrence Michaels bought the same ranch from Leonard Stinger that he had worked on in Days Creek. Lawrence continued to work for Mr. Riddle off and on while clearing the land and running some cattle and horses on his newly purchased 215 acres of property.

In 1902, Lawrence married Elizabeth Finn. She was born in Manchester, England and was three years old when her parents moved to America. Her parents, both Irish, were married in Dublin and moved to England during the potato famine. Elizabeth's father worked as a miner. After coming to America, the Finn's lived in Pennsylvania for a year and then moved to Riddle where Elizabeth's father worked

for the nickel mine. He later hauled freight with a team of horses from the railroad depot in Portland, Ore., and also worked as a policeman in Portland.

In the early years of the ranch, Lawrence raised cattle, hogs and grain. There were also dairy cows for household use. Lawrence continued to buy land contingent to the property, to make the place bigger.

Lawrence and Elizabeth had eight children; eight girls and a boy. From oldest to youngest they were: May, Esther, Louise, Kathleen, Francis, Helen, Florence, Lawrence and Betty.

In 1926, at age 55, Lawrence died of cancer. At that time, there were cattle, hogs, horses and a few sheep being raised on the ranch along with 10 acres of prunes.

Elizabeth rented the ranch to her second oldest daughter and her husband; Esther (Michaels) and Ray Wright. Ray and Esther ran the ranch for 4 years and Elizabeth moved the family to Corvallis. After the 4 years, Elizabeth moved back to the ranch. With hired help, she ran the main ranch and rented portions of the place to individuals.

In 1938, Elizabeth's son, Lawrence, bought the 523 acre ranch. (Elizabeth later married Bob Paris and lived in Days Creek.) Lawrence was also married in 1938 to Gladys Ulam. She was the daughter of Clay and Ruby Ulam. Lawrence and Gladys, or "Did", as many people called her, raised two sons: Larry and Tom.

Lawrence too, continued to increase the size of the ranch by buying adjacent properties. In 1940 or so, Lawrence started in the poultry business. At one time, he had about 1500 laying chickens and a flock of 2000-3000 turkeys, along with a herd of cattle and some farming entities. Until 1949, the birds paid the bills.

Starting around 1950, the poultry flocks were decreased and the cattle herd was increased. Also around that time, 10 acres of prune orchard was put in. The



other 70 acres of prunes along with an eight foot high deer fence was put in around 1969 or 70.

Throughout the years, Lawrence has rented other ranches to compliment the operations of the original home place in Days Creek. These other places were as far away as the Williamson River by Chiloquin, but most were closer such as Riddle and Trail (on the Rogue River). He also bought a 1250 acre ranch at Beals Creek (about 5 miles from the home ranch) in 1950.

Cattle, sheep, hogs, turkeys, chickens, prunes, wheat, barley, oats and hay have all been raised in hopes of a profit at the Michaels Ranch, at one time or another over the last 100 years. During the 1950's or 60's, Lawrence was running upwards of 600 cows along with some yearlings. Other animals such as dogs, dairy cows and horses have also been a part of the ranch, but only for working or eating purposes.

The only buildings remaining that were built before 1926 are; the log barn which is still used for hay storage and feeding cattle; the grainry which is now used for storage; and the creamery which is now a gas house.

Cattle, sheep, prunes and hay are the mainstays of the Michaels Ranch in 1998. Troy, a fourth generation Michaels is now helping to run the 1,100 plus acre ranch along with Lawrence, the son of the original owner. The ranch looks quite different than it did 100 years ago, but the same pride and hard work still make it a successful family owned and operated ranch.

4-29-98

Dear Mr. Read,

Here is the application. If any further information is needed, please contact me, as my grandfather ~~is~~ has a hard time hearing over the telephone.

If at all possible, I would like to get this prepared in time for our annual family picnic in July. It would mean a lot to the family, as I'm sure ~~it~~ everyone says. Also, my grandfather's health is failing and the sooner the better.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Carma Mornarich

Carma Mornarich

Redacted for Privacy

Jeff & Carma Mornarich  
Redacted for Privacy

RECEIVED

MAY 04 1998

Oregon Historical Society

Oregon Historical Society  
1200 SW Park Avenue  
Portland, OR 97205-2483

ATTN: Richard T. Read



97205+2483





Lawrence Michaels  
Redacted for Privacy

5 June 1998

Dear Lawrence,

It gives me great pleasure to inform you that your **Century Farm** application has been approved. Congratulations on receiving this prestigious honor for the Lawrence Michaels Farm, founded in 1898. A total of 23 farm and ranch owners submitted applications this year and *all* of them met the requirements for Century Farm status. This brings our grand total of Oregon Century Farms to 921 (recognized since 1958 when the program started).

Now that all 1998 applications have been reviewed, we can begin the process of creating the award certificates. These special documents, signed by Gov. Kitzhaber and dignitaries from the Oregon Historical Society, will be available in the late summer or fall.

To recognize your family's accomplishment, it's customary that the certificate be presented in a meaningful way. If you already have an event in mind—such as a special family reunion—please share that information with me so I can have your Century Farm certificate ready by that date (and attend if you wish). The Douglas County Historical Society (673-4572) may be interested in hosting a certificate presentation ceremony, perhaps during a regular meeting or event, when you and other family members can officially receive your Century Farm certificate. These are just some of the options available to you.

If you are interested in sharing recognition of your honor, you may want to purchase a distinctive "CENTURY FARM" sign for your property. Please see the attached fact sheet for the details. The Oregon Historical Society *does not* sell these signs.

Thank you for participating in this popular, and important, heritage program. If you have any questions about the Century Farm Program, please feel free to call me at (503) 306-5215.

Sincerely,

Rick Read  
Field Services Coordinator

cc. Vera Wilson, Douglas County Historical Society