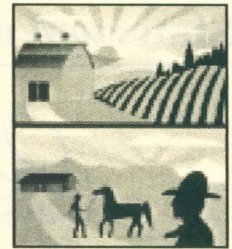


CFR 1055

Ray and Judy Steele; Theresa Steele



# Century Farm & Ranch Program Application

Date 12 JUN 2002

Type of designation (please check)  Century Farm  Century Ranch

Owner's name RAY + JUDY STRELE AND THERESA STRELE

Mailing address Redacted for Privacy

Telephone Redacted for Privacy County POLK

Location of farm or ranch Redacted for Privacy

Township 7 Range 4 W Section \_\_\_\_\_

Original family owner(s) or founder(s) W.F. + ALBERTINA SIMON

Date (year) this farm or ranch was acquired by founder(s) 17 MARCH 1902  
(Attach verifying documentation, see Rule 7)

Founder(s) came to Oregon from WINONA COUNTY, MINNESOTA

Who farms or ranches the land today? RAY - JUDY + THERESA STRELE APPROX 400 ACRES  
RAN 40 ACRES OR

Relationship to original owner MOTHERS SIDE OF FAMILY - HER FATHER'S SISTER  
ALBERTINA BROWN

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

If yes, please describe \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

History of crops or livestock raised on farm or ranch DAIRY, FOXES, GRAIN, CHICKENS  
PIGS

What is raised on the farm or ranch today? HEREFORD CATTLE, HAY AND GRASS SEED

How many generations live on the farm or ranch today? ONE

Please list names and birth years RAY STRELE 1946 - THERESA STRELE 1949

Please submit two or three pages of family history narrative. You are also encouraged to submit photos of the property.

(Please continue application on the back of this form.)

# Statement of Affirmation

I, Ray E. Steele Redacted for Privacy  
hereby affirm and declare that the farm or ranch which I own at \_\_\_\_\_  
Independence, Or.  
in the County of Polk,  
shall have been owned by my family for at least 100 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 Century Ranch honors.

Ray E. Steele  
Signature of Owner

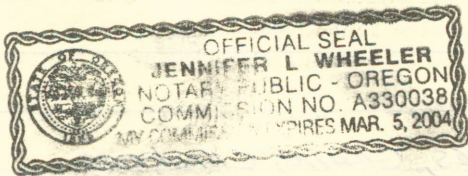
28 June 2002  
Date

## Certification by Notary Public

State of Oregon Polk  
County of \_\_\_\_\_

Be it remembered, that on this 28th day of June, 20 02, before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for said county and state, personally appeared the within named Ray E. Steele, known to me to be the identical individual described in and who executed the within instrument and acknowledged to me that Ray E. Steele 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.



Jennifer L. Wheeler  
Notary Public for Oregon

My Commission Expires 3.5.04

### Fees

Application Fee (includes one certificate)	\$	<u>30.00</u>
Additional Certificates (\$10 each)	\$	<u>10.00</u>
Total enclosed	\$	<u>40.00</u>

Make checks payable to  
Oregon Agricultural Education Foundation or OAEF

### For office use only

Date Received \_\_\_\_\_

Approved?  Yes  No

Authorization \_\_\_\_\_

OAEF project coordinator

### OHS Library

MSS 1604 Program ID No. \_\_\_\_\_

## Brief History

BIOGRAPHY: Ed and Leona came to Oregon in 1908 with their first two children Adrian and Alva.

The farm we currently live on was purchased by W.F. and Albertina Simon on 17 Mar 1902 from John and Sarah Byers. Albertina is E.F. Browns sister. The deed was filed 7 Apr 1902. The purchase price was \$8500. for 258.32 acres.

On 6 Nov 1908 W.F. and Albertina sold the farm to W.N. and Ellen Simon and E.F. and Leona Brown for \$13000. Then consisting of 203 acres, the deed filed on 14 Nov 1908.

On 24 Feb 1909 W.N. Simon and E.F. Brown sold a sixty foot strip to Salem Falls City and Western Railroad Company for \$1.00.

On 8 Nov 1909 E.F. and Leona Brown bought out W.N. and Ellen Simon for \$9500. making the filing for the 203 acre farm on 1 Dec 1909.

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Interesting note:

On 30 Nov 1909 E.F. Brown took a mortgage out on the farm from a Mortimer Morrison of Winona, Minnesota for \$12000. and repaid it on 21 Jan 1911.

\*\*\*\*\*

On 9 May 1911 E.F. Brown gave James T. and Lottie Huntly 13.42 acres and again on 9 Apr 1917, 8 acres. E. F. Brown did this in an agreement with James T. Huntly for working for him without wages.

This place is just on the North side of the railroad tracks.

\*\*\*\*\*

Margaret Cocklin recalls the Brown farm:

As a child, Margaret with her parents would visit the farm. The Brown farm was always busy a busy place in the Summer. The boys were working baling hay, thrashing, etc.. and they would do this on neighboring farms. Merle and John were able to work their way through college this way. Artie had his own farm (He was always joking). My mother, Martha Becker would always help with the cooking, dishes, etc.. They had a large table in the dinning room and all the farm hands would come in for lunch. I believe sometimes for dinner. Each morning Ed Brown would give his sons orders on what to do this day. Then he would disappear. He was always in charge and you did what he said. Every Sunday we would go to the parlor for a church service. Ed served as the minister. I do not know what religion it was. Our cousins Alva, Elise and Doris did the cooking, house work, fed the chickens and foxes, (E.F. Brown raised Silver Foxes until the 1940's) milked the cows and did other outside work. They were disgusted and laughed when Ed, their father bought a milking machine because they could milk a cow in 8 minutes. The last time I talked to Elise, she said they were always glad when their Aunt Martha came because that would be the only time they had dresses that fit. Martha was always there for them and would help with their problems.

Margaret adds: Ed and his sons were always up at 0300 or 0400 in the Summer to plow wheat fields and begin milking the cows. Ed and Leona made sausage from pigs raised on the farm and canned and preserved all the food they needed in Winter. Leona sewed most of her children's clothing, as well as quilts, using left over fabric from the clothing. She was an expert pie maker. Leona always had long hair and usually wore it in a bun on top of her head. Their religious faith often took to homes of other believers for Sunday worship.

By Marilyn Morrison:

"My Grandmother Leona Brown died when I was quite young. I do not remember her, but I fondly look at the photographs of her and my Grandfather visiting our house in Dallas. Ed and Leona came to my parents' house every Sunday for dinner. Leona always brought fried chicken for the meal. My Dad said he loved her banana cake and pear pie too. She was an expert pie maker and used most of the ingredients from their homegrown vegetable garden and fruit orchards on the their Greenwood Road farm house North of Independence."

"Dad also spoke happily of the evenings on their farm, after their many chores were done for the day. Ed and Leona Both spoke German and Dad said many times his parents would speak in German to each other so the kids would not be able understand them. Dad said all of the kids along with Ed and Leona, liked to play the piano, violin, sing songs and play games together."

"Ed and Leona taught their eight children how to survive and become self-sufficient on a farm. They grew many vegetables and fruits, raised silver foxes, dairy cows, pigs, chickens and others. They made their own German sausage and had their own cooler building to store pork and other foods for the Winter."

"Many times out of work travelers would stop by their farm and ask for a job in exchange for a meal. there was always a need for an extra worker on the farm, so having an extra person for dinner was not a problem. One such occasion, Ed had a cut on his hand and blood poisoning was already occurring. The traveling laborer saw the dark line going up Ed's arm and prepared a "drawing salve" that he applied to Ed's wound. It was quite effective and Ed's arm completely healed. Dad would often speak of the "drawing salve" and said that Ed and Leona used it on other occasions as the man had given them the formula."

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In 1945 Dad and Mom moved from Toledo and rented the Dr. George Knott farm about three fourth's a mile South of her father's farm along Oak Point Creek on Greenwood Rd. While there Dad caught and tamed a white owl which had been killing his chickens. This was unusual as pure white owls are rare and the local newspapers carried several stories about Dad's owl.

I was born in 1946, while Dad and Mom were farming the Knott place. In September 1948, Dad and Mom moved onto her father's farm. Edward Brown retired and moved to West Salem on Rosemont NW. My sister, Theresa was born in 1949. Dad and Mom purchased 80 of the 220 acre farm of her father's on 28 March 1951. Alvin Freeborn purchased the remainder of the farm.

Deed Record No. 37, Polk County.

John Byers & Sarah Byers  
TO  
W. F. Simon

Warranty Deed

Number 637

This Indenture Witnesseth, That John Byers and Sarah Byers  
for the consideration of the sum of Eight thousand five hundred (\$8500.00) DOLLARS,  
to us paid, have bargained and sold, and by these presents do bargain, sell and convey unto  
W. F. Simon the following described premises, to-wit:

Beginning at the southeast corner of Lot D. E. B. of Division  
between and wife Not. Re. - 107 - Blaine No. 49 in T. 7. N. 4 West  
R. 12 E. in Polk County Oregon, we running West 57<sup>th</sup>  
thence West 97 links, thence North 5<sup>th</sup> chains, thence West  
24<sup>th</sup> chains, thence North 16<sup>th</sup> chains, thence West 20<sup>th</sup> chains,  
thence North 47<sup>th</sup> chains, thence South 83<sup>rd</sup> East 46<sup>th</sup> chains to the  
place of beginning containing 208<sup>32</sup> acres more or less



TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said premises, with their appurtenances, unto the said W. F. Simon  
his heirs and assigns, forever. And the said John Byers  
do hereby covenant to and with the said W. F. Simon  
his heirs and assigns that he is the owner in fee simple of said premises,  
that they are free from all incumbrances, and that he will warrant and defend the same from all lawful claims, whatsoever.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, We have hereunto set our hand & seal this 17<sup>th</sup> day  
of March 1902

Done in the presence of

J. D. Irvine  
J. H. Moran

John Byers (SEAL)  
Sarah A. Byers (SEAL)  
(SEAL)  
(SEAL)

STATE OF OREGON, }  
County of Polk } ss. ACKNOWLEDGMENT.  
On this 17 day of March 1902, personally came before me, a  
Notary Public in and for said County and State the within named  
John Byers and Sarah A. Byers who each personally  
his wife, to me personally known to be the identical person & described in and who executed the within instrument, and acknowledged  
to me that they executed the same freely, for the uses and purposes therein named.  
And the said on examination, separate and apart from her said husband,  
acknowledged to me that she executed the same freely and without fear or compulsion from anyone.  
WITNESS my hand and seal this 17 day of March 1902



J. D. Irvine  
Notary Public

Filed for Record April 7 - 1902

U. S. Toughary County Clerk  
By W. F. Nichols Deputy

*Mr. & Mrs. R. E. Steel*

Redacted for Privacy



*Century Farm + Ranch Program  
Oregon Agricultural Education - Foundation  
3415 Comm'l SE  
Salem, Or. 97302*

97302+4675

