

CFR 1113

Wilbur Olson

Century Farm & Ranch Program Application

Date 5-28-06

Type of designation (please check) Century Farm Century Ranch

Legal owner's name Wilbur A. Olson, retired

(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 Clackamas Location of farm or ranch (distance from nearest town) 4 miles from Gresham

Township one south Range three east of the Willamette Meridian Section 34

Original family owner(s) or founder(s) John and August Olson

Date (year) this farm or ranch was acquired by founder(s) 1905
(Attach verifying documentation. See Application Qualification #7)

Founder(s) came to Oregon from came from Sweden to U.S. in 1901, came to Oregon in 1903

Who farms or ranches the land today? Donald W. Olson

Relationship to original owner (See Appl. Qualification #5. Please explain lineage) paternal grandson

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

If yes, please describe n/a

History of crops or livestock raised on farm or ranch (use additional pages, as needed) included in following pages

How many generations live on the farm or ranch today? Wilbur A. Olson born 1926 son of August Olson, Donald W. Olson born 1963 son of Wilbur A. Olson.

[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, Wilbur A. Olson
hereby affirm and declare that the farm or ranch which I own at Redacted for Privacy
Redacted for Privacy, in the County of Clackamas

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.

Wilbur Olson
Signature of Owner

5-31-06
Date

Certification by Notary Public

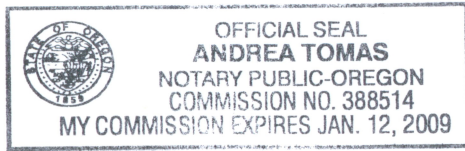
State of Oregon
County of Clackamas

Be it remembered, that on this 31 day of May, 2006, before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for said county and state, personally appeared the within named Wilbur A. Olson, known to me to be the identical individual described in and who executed the within instrument and acknowledged to me that Wilbur A. Olson 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.

Andrea Tomas

Notary Public for Oregon



My Commission Expires Jan 12, 2009

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 _____

Approved? Yes No

Authorization GM
Century Farm & Ranch Program Coordinator
OHS Library

MSS 1604 Program ID No. CFR1113

Olson Farms Family History Narrative
for
Oregon Century Farm Program
May, 2006

In early 1901 August Olson and his brother John and their mother Kajsa, who were born in Vermland, Sweden, decided they would like to come to America. A few years earlier two of the older boys Olaf and Gustav had already left for America. They went to North Dakota and homesteaded some property there, one in McVille and the other at Max. Once August, John and Kajsa had their belongings in order they would head to the United States via boat to New York. Once in the U.S. they made their way to North Dakota where they would stay with Olaf and Gustav for about two years. They decided the winters were too severe in North Dakota and had heard of people who had gone to Gresham, Oregon. They decided to head out west and arrived in Oregon in the fall of 1903. At the time August went to work at a saw mill in Bridal Veil, Oregon. He was staying with people in Gresham when he heard of a 20 acre block of land for sale. John and August decided to purchase the land. They purchased the 20 acres for \$1,000.00 at 6% interest. The property was heavily wooded with only an acre or so in the middle that was cleared. There was a little tiny house and a small barn on it at the time. He decided to get a team of horses and did some road work so he could earn some money to pay off the property. He started to clear some of the timber off the property using a 7 foot crosscut saw to fall the timber and then cut the trees in 4 foot lengths. He hand split the timber with wedges & a sledge. He would then haul the wood by wagon and would sell it for \$1.00 a cord. Using the money he had earned off the wood he would purchase blasting powder, caps and fuses to blast the stumps. Eventually the land was cleared.

In 1909 August's brother John passed away and the property became solely August's.

A fire destroyed the first barn on the property in about 1911. After much hard work another barn was built that was too lost to fire. The final barn built on the farm was done so in 1920. It is the one still standing today. It stands out as a nice land mark.

In 1916 August met a nice young lady named Emma. In December of that year they married. August and Emma had three children. Two daughters, Alice and Miriam and one son, Wilbur who would later take over the farm.

August would later plant some grain, hay and potatoes. He would always have some chickens, pigs and a few cows to keep the family fed. About once a month he would travel into Gresham and exchange eggs and butter for flour and sugar. In 1932 the first strawberries were planted on the property. The berries would be taken to a processor in Gresham.

By the 1940's and 1950's Wilbur would rent adjacent land to farm and would eventually be able to purchase it. Wilbur planted various crops throughout the years. Broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, potatoes, wheat, corn, pumpkins even cucumbers could be seen at various times being raised in the fields of the farm. For a period of time the farm even had a filbert orchard.

In 1961 Wilbur met and married Mildred Carlson. They had two children. A son named Donald and a daughter named Nancy. Once the kids were 7 or 8 years old they were always doing some little thing on the farm which helped them to know what work was.

In 1969 Wilbur started planting nursery stock which was ready to sell by the mid 1970's. Once the nursery stock was saleable the row crops were phased out. Nursery stock was the primary crop until the early 1980's when Don started to plant strawberries on the farm once again.

In 1976 August Olson died at the age of 93. His wife Emma passed away in 1986 at the age of 98.

Nancy has a good job with an irrigation pipe and supply company and Donald has now taken over the farming operations. Currently Don raises nursery stock, wheat, strawberries, pumpkins, corn and a variety of vegetables which he and his wife Denise sell at the farm stand located on the property.

Wilbur, who will be 80 years old this year still resides on the farm. His son Donald and his wife live in the house that is on the original 20 acres purchased back in 1905.

State of Oregon,)
County of Multnomah,) SS.

Be it remembered, that on this twenty eighth day of January, A. D. 1908, before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public within and for said state and county, personally came Frederick V. Holman, to me known to be the Vice President, and Franklin T. Griffith, to me known to be the Secretary of the Willamette Falls Company, the corporation which executed the foregoing instrument of writing, and the said Frederick V. Holman, acknowledged to me that he signed the same as Vice President of said Company, for and on behalf of said Company, and as and for its act and deed, and the said Franklin T. Griffith, acknowledged to me that he attested said instrument, of writing, and affixed the corporate seal of said Company thereto, as Secretary of said Company, for and on behalf of said Company, and as and for its act and deed.

And the said Frederick V. Holman, and the said Franklin T. Griffith, being by me first severally duly sworn, did depose and say that he, the said Frederick V. Holman, is the Vice President, and he, the said Franklin T. Griffith, is the Secretary of said Company; that they both know the corporate seal of said Company; that the seal affixed to the foregoing instrument of writing is such corporate seal; that he, the said Frederick V. Holman, as such Vice President, signed the name of the said Willamette Falls Company to the foregoing instrument of writing, and that he, the said Franklin T. Griffith, as such Secretary, did attest the same, and affix thereto the corporate seal of said Company. In pursuance of a resolution of its Board of Directors duly passed at a regular meeting of said Board of Directors, duly called and held at the principal office of said Company at the City of Portland, Oregon.

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and official seal, this the day and year first in this, my certificate, written.

(Seal of Notary)

A. A. Hampson,

Notary Public in and for Oregon.

Filed and Recorded March 6th, 1908 at 11:13 A. M.

G. E. Bandy, County Recorder.

G. E. Bandy Deputy.

This Indenture Witnesseth, that I, Olef Redlund (a single man), for and in consideration of One thousand (\$1000.00) Dollars, to me paid, have bargained and sold, and by these presents do bargain, sell and convey unto John Olson and August Olson, the following described real estate, situate in Clatsop County, State of Oregon, to-wit:

The west half (1/2) of the north east quarter (1/4) of the north west quarter (1/4) of Section thirty four (34) in Township one (1) south, range three (3) east of the Willamette Meridian, Clatsop County, Oregon.

To have and to hold the said premises, with their appurtenances, unto the said John Olson and August Olson, their heirs and assigns forever; and I the said Olef Redlund, do hereby covenant to and with the said John Olson and August Olson, their heirs and assigns, that I am the owner in fee simple of said premises; that they are free from all incumbrances, and that I will warrant and defend the same from lawful claims whatsoever.

In Witness Whereof, I have set my hand and seal this 11th day of February, A. D. 1908.

Signed, sealed and delivered

in the presence of:

J. C. Elliott }
G. Fredelph }
State of Oregon, }
County of Clatsop, } All.

Olef Redlund *(Signature)*

On this, the 11th day of February, A. D. 1908, personally came before me, a Notary Public in and for said County and State, the within named Olef Redlund, to me personally known to be the identical person described in and who executed the foregoing conveyance, and acknowledged to me that he executed the same freely and voluntarily for the uses and purposes therein made.

Witness my hand and official seal, this, the day and year in the Certificate first above written.

(Seal of Notary)

John C. Elliott,
Notary Public for Oregon.

Filed and Recorded March 6th, 1908 at 11:25 A. M.

G. E. Bandy, County Recorder.

G. E. Bandy Deputy.

Know all men by these presents, that we, Mary L. Steel and James Steel, her husband, of Portland, State of Oregon, in consideration of Two Thousand four hundred Dollars, to us paid by William W. Smith, of the State of Oregon, have bargained and sold, and by these presents do grant, bargain, sell and convey unto said William W. Smith, his heirs and assigns, all the following bounded and described real property, situate in the County of Clatsop, and State of Oregon:

Lots six (6), seven (7) and eight (8) in Town: Plat of Riley as recorded in Book five (5) Page 30 of Plats, in Sections eleven (11) and twelve (12) in Township two (2) north range one (1) East N. E. being part of J. S. Riley B. L. C.

Together with all and singular the tenements, hereditaments and appurtenances thereto belonging or in anywise appertaining, and also all our estate, right, title and interest in and to the same, including dower and claim of dower.

To have and to hold the above described and granted premises unto the said William W. Smith his heirs and assigns forever. And we, Mary L. Steel and James Steel, grantors above named do covenant to and with William W. Smith the above named grantee his heirs and assigns that we are lawfully seized in fee simple of the above granted premises; that the above granted premises are free from all incumbrances, and that we, all and our heirs, executors and administrators, shall warrant and forever defend the above granted premises, and every part and parcel thereof, against the lawful claim and demand of all persons whatsoever.

In Witness Whereof, we the grantors above named, hereunto set our hands and seal this 2d day of March, 1908.

Signed, sealed and delivered in presence of us as witnesses:

April '49 August clearing land
behind barn



April '49 Dad clearing land behind the barn

Strawberry time - June - 1953



A. P. - King

Nov. - 55



no. Road is prepared for gravel

July - 54 Wilbur combining
Rescue



D.

Oct. 27 Oct. 1954



Pumpkin field

March 1955 - Windstorm blew
one of the barns over



Sept. - 154 August w/
woodsaw



Dad w/ woodsaw

January, 1952
August with load of cabbage



March - 52



May 49 - Strawberries in bloom

sacks of potatoes just dug in field

