

CFR 1089

Simmons Family Trust

CFR/0 89

Oregon Agricultural Education Foundation

Century Farm & Ranch Program Application

Date 5-15-05

Type of designation (please check) Century Farm Century Ranch

Legal owner's name Simmons Family Trust (co-owners) David Simmons Karen Martell Nancy Mohr Doug Simmons

(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) Redacted for Privacy

Township 55 Range 1E Section 30

Original family owner(s) or founder(s) ole & Karolina Skei

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

Founder(s) came to Oregon from Lake Park, Minnesota

Who farms or ranches the land today? David Simmons

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

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 (use additional pages, as needed) Oats, Corn, Strawberries, Hay, Cucumbers, Sugarbeet Seed, Hazel nuts, Dairy cows, Chickens, potatoes, turkeys, Peach orchard

How many generations live on the farm or ranch today? 2

Please list names and birth years David Simmons b. 1957, Cori Simmons b. 1987
Emily Simmons, b. 1990 Kelsey Simmons b. 1993

[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, Nancy Mohr,
 hereby affirm and declare that the farm or ranch which I own at Redacted for Privacy
Woodburn, 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.

Nancy Mohr _____ May 12, 2005
 Signature of Owner Date

Certification by Notary Public

State of Oregon
 County of Clackamas

Be it remembered, that on this 12 day of May, 2005, before me, the
 undersigned, a Notary Public in and for said county and state, personally appeared the within named
Nancy Mohr, known to me to be the identical individual described in and who
 executed the within instrument and acknowledged to me that _____ 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.



Kathy K Best
 Notary Public for Oregon

My Commission Expires 1-9-09

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 5-23-05

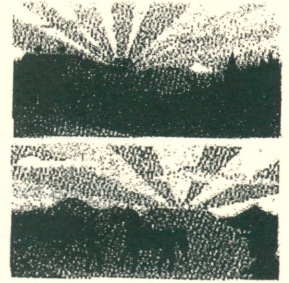
Approved? Yes No

Authorization _____
 Century Farm & Ranch Program Coordinator
 OHS Library

MSS 1604 Program ID No. _____

Century Farm & Ranch Program

Application Guidelines



Background

The Century Farm & Ranch Program started in 1958, on the eve of the Statehood Centennial Celebration, to honor farm and ranch families with century-long connections to the land and recognize Oregon's rich agricultural heritage. The program is administered through the Oregon Agricultural Education Foundation and partially funded through a partnership with the Oregon Farm Bureau, Oregon Department of Agriculture, and the Oregon Historical Society. All applications are added to the Oregon Historical Society (OHS) Library and provide valuable information about settlement patterns, livestock and crop choices, building design, and family history. Successful applicants receive a special certificate, with acknowledgement by the governor of Oregon and the director of the Oregon Department of Agriculture. A metal roadside sign identifying their historical Century Farm or Century Ranch property is also available at the owner's expense.

Qualifications

1. Only the legal owner(s) of the property may apply for the Century Farm or Century Ranch honor.
2. Your farm or ranch must have been operated continuously in the same family for 100 years or more. A farm or ranch settled any time 100 years ago or earlier will be eligible if it meets other requirements.
3. The farm or ranch must have 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 the application.
4. You must live on the farm or ranch, or if you live off the property, you must actively manage and direct the farming or ranching activity on the land. If the entire farm or ranch has ever been rented or leased, it may not qualify.
5. The line of ownership from the original settler or buyer may be through children, siblings, or nephews and nieces. Adopted children will be recognized equally with other descendants.
6. Applications must be submitted on official forms provided by the Century Farm and Ranch Program with all questions completed. Applicants must submit additional descriptive information on other family history details not specifically requested in the application (**two or three pages of narrative**). Copies of historical photographs are encouraged. All information, including photos, will be deposited in the OHS Library for future reference.
7. All applications must include verification of continuous ownership for 100 years. Acceptable forms of proof include a document (either original or photocopy) showing date of earliest ownership. This may be provided through a Donation Land Claim, Deed of Sale, or Homestead Certificate. Other records, subject to review, include Family Bible, diary entry, or correspondence.
8. Applications must be signed and certified by a Notary Public.
9. Deadline for returning applications is **June 1** of the current year. All applications postmarked by midnight of that date will be considered.

Fees

A \$50 non-refundable fee is required with each application. This fee covers administrative costs and includes one certificate. Additional certificates may be ordered at the time of application @ \$15 each. Make checks payable to **Oregon Agricultural Education Foundation** or **OAEF**.

Where To Send Completed Application Packets

When you have completed the form and gathered the necessary documentation, please send the pages titled **Application** and **Statement of Affirmation** and your documentation, with fee payment, to:

Century Farm & Ranch Program
Oregon Agricultural Education Foundation
3415 Commercial Street SE
Salem, OR 97302

(Suggestion: Make a file copy of your completed application form before mailing.)

Review Process and Notification

All applications are checked for completeness by the program coordinator. They are reviewed in June by the Program Board. Following the review, all applicants will be notified about their status by mail.

Honoring Ceremony

Successful applicants are invited to a special ceremony at the Oregon State Fair in Salem and receive a certificate, with acknowledgement by the governor of Oregon and the director of the State Department of Agriculture. The certificate has the name of the farm or ranch in calligraphy and is suitable for framing (11 x 14 inches).

Still Have Questions About the Program?

Please contact **Glenn Mason, Program Coordinator**, at **503-297-5892** or orcentury@juno.com

*Note: A source to help you research a farm or ranch history, **American Farms: Exploring Their History**, written by R. Douglas Hurt, published by Krieger Publishing Co., Malabar, FL, originally printed in 1996, is available at some Oregon libraries or through interlibrary loan.*

Celebrating 100 Years

History and Pictures
of the
Skei Family Farm
1905-2005

Monitor, Oregon

History of the Ole and Karolina Skei Farm

Settled in 1905, the Skei family farm has been continuously operated for four generations. Many various crops have been raised on the farm over the years, including corn, sugar beet seed, grain, potatoes, cucumbers, strawberries, hay, hazelnuts, chickens, turkeys, and cows. Following is a brief history of the farm:

Born in Norway in 1854, Ole Skei came to America in 1881. He briefly visited the Willamette Valley and then settled in Lake Park, Minnesota. In 1886, he married Karolina Johnson. She was born in Sweden in 1852 and came to Minnesota in 1880. They farmed in Lake Park for a few years, moved to Bellingham, Washington, and then settled near Monitor, Oregon with their son Alfred and two daughters, Maria and Petra. They purchased a 60 acre farm in February, 1905 for \$4,500.00 from Hans and Anne Jensen. The farm had a small house and a barn. After clearing the land of timber, brush, and stumps, they earned their living by raising feed for their 15-20 dairy cows and selling the milk. They also had some chickens and 5 acres of potatoes. They farmed with four horses. A new house was built in 1906 by Martin Rostvold.

By 1924, Ole and Karolina were nearing retirement age. They persuaded their daughter, Maria (Skei) Simmons and her husband Raymond Simmons to rent out their farm in Idaho, and move back to the Willamette Valley to help them with the farm. Maria was happy to move back to the valley as she did not like the dust and treeless land of southern Idaho. Raymond was more hesitant as he liked raising Idaho spuds. However, they returned to her parent's farm with their 3 small children, Vernon, Jean and Avon. In later years, Vernon would recall many fond memories of growing up on the farm, but also of the hardships of the depression years.

By 1936, Ole and Karolina were both deceased and in 1937, Raymond and Maria and Maria's brother Alfred Skei purchased their sister Petra (Skei) Moen's interest in the farm for a sum of \$4,000.00.

After the war, it was plainly evident that due to the economics of rapidly changing farming methods and their age, Raymond and Maria would be unable to continue operating the farm much longer.

In 1947, Raymond and Maria, together with their son Vernon, bought Alfred Skei's remaining interest in the farm for \$9,000.00. Vernon gave up his job with a commercial air conditioning firm and moved his family to the farm in hopes of helping his parents and also making a living for his family.

Vernon drilled an irrigation well in 1948, which provided sufficient water to irrigate the pasture and 8 acres of strawberries. In 1953, Vernon built a house for his family, wife Helen, daughters Nancy and Karen, and son Douglas. Another son, David, would join the family in 1957. Vernon also built a machine shed and a farm repair/machine shop on the farm.

Due to economic downturns in the dairy business, Vernon phased out of dairy farming in 1957 and began raising turkeys, primarily for hatching eggs. During the next 3 years, Vernon tiled the entire farm to make it dry for the turkeys at a cost of \$4,500.00. In 1960, Vernon rebuilt the cow barn into a chicken house for hatching eggs. In 1962, he expanded the chicken business with another large chicken house. Turkey diseases as well as other problems forced Vernon out of Turkeys in 1964. Fortunately, the chick hatching eggs business would remain stable for the next 9 years.

Vernon did some research on crops and decided to plant filberts as the area was well suited for them. Raising filberts was not as labor-intensive as other crops and would be a good crop to raise during his retirement years. Vernon kept the chickens until the filberts were mature enough to produce an income.

In 1970, Raymond Simmons passed away, and shortly thereafter, Maria (Skei) Simmons transferred ownership of the farm to her son, Vernon prior to her passing in 1976.

Vernon's son David married in 1982 and moved to the farm to work with his father. The original farmhouse was replaced in 1987. Vernon's wife Helen passed away in November 1994 and Vernon passed away in September 2001 following a fall in the farm's machine shop. The farm remains in a family trust. Currently, David Simmons farms the land, which is still in filbert production. He and

his wife Yvonne are raising their three daughters on the farm where Ole and Karolina raised their children, where Maria and Raymond raised their three children, and where Vernon and Helen raised their four children. There is nothing better than to be able to grow up on a farm. Hopefully, the Simmons farm will remain in the Skei/Simmons family for generations to come.

The new farm house built in 1905 by Martin Rostvold for Ole & Karolina Skei. The previous owners house is to the left & the barn to the right was also on the property when Ole & Karolina purchased the farm.



Sunday guests at Ole & Karolina's farm 1905, Ole & Karolina are in the back left. Daughter Petra is child at the far right. The man leaning against the post, we think, is Karolina's nephew Erik Johnson, from Sask. Canada.



Ole Peter Matthew Skei
B: 23 Jan. 1854
Place: Skei Paa
Donnes, Helgeland,
Norway

Married: 3 Apr.
1886
Place: Lake Park,
Becker, Minnesota

Died: 5 Aug. 1934
Place: Portland,
Multnomah, Oregon



Karin (Karoline)
(Johnson) Skei
B: 16 Jul. 1862
P: Follinge,
Akersjo, Jemptland,
Sweden

Died: 12 Sept.,
1936
P: Monitor,
Clackamas, Oregon

Ole and Karolina Skei and their children



The Ole Skei family 1894, standing back
Lena, Ole left Alfred center, Karolina
holding Petra, Maria in front



The Ole & Karolina Skei farm 1913

From left: Petra, (Ole and Karolina's youngest child) Petra's daughter Olive, Storma Hurricane Olson (a family friend) Karoline (Johnson) Skei. Ole Skei

Dairy farming at the Skei/Simmons farm Monitor, Oregon the 1940's



Marie (Skei) Simmons hoeing and Raymond Hauling milk cans from the road to the barn.



Marie (Skei) Simmons milking with Olaf Skei Watching. Olaf Skei came from the same Island in Norway as Ole Skei but they would only be distantly related if at all.



Raymond Simmons farming in the 1940's

The farm in the 1940's



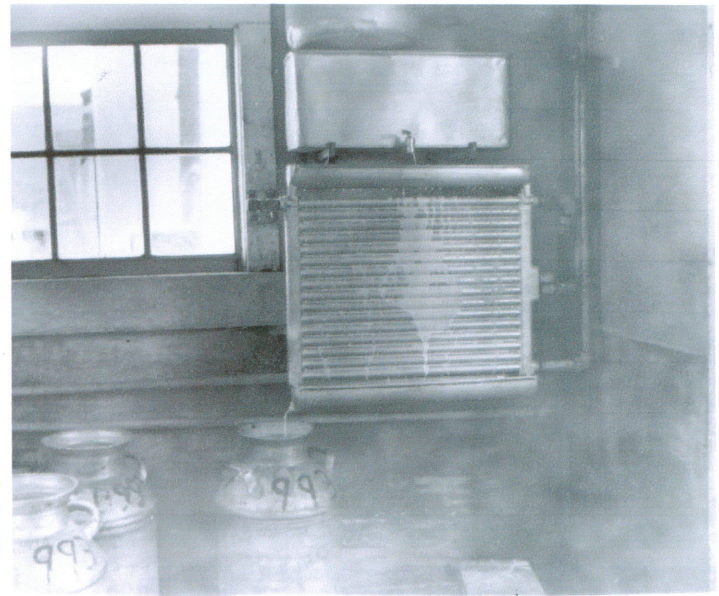
Marie (Skei) Simmons milking the cow.



Raymond Simmons hauling milk cans up from the road



Raymond and Maria (Skei) Simmons' grandson Doug Simmons playing with the calves, 1949.



The milk house



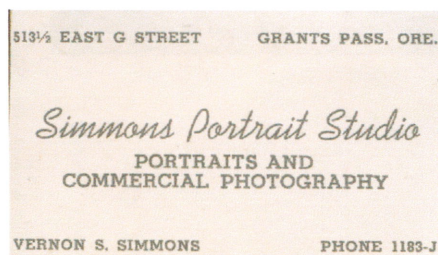
Dear Grandma,

This picture we titled "The Home Front". No doubt you recognize the people as dad and Olaf shocking hay in the far end of our farm. It may be disappointing to you that Dad's face does not show, but notice how he wears his hat, how his overalls hang and the drooping suspender, how he habitually grips the fork. If you concentrate on him for a moment you can feel the tenseness of his arm muscles. Don't you feel as though you would like to help him lift that fork load of hay? Now your eye will glance over to Olaf for only a moment and then right back to Dad. It was important to have Olaf where he is doing the same, other wise your eye would leave the picture too soon. You may notice also that no part of the picture will tire your eye.

As ever,

Vernon

Vernon Simmons writing to his grandmother Anna (Tucker) Simmons when he was a photographer the early 1940's





"The Home Front"
continued
Roy Schlottmann
helping his
Father-in-law with the
hay.
This would be the
early 1940's

Picture taken by
Raymond's
Son, Vernon Simmons



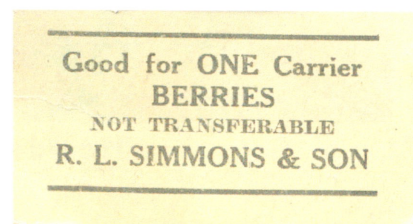


Vernon Simmons in the early 1950's making silage

Avon Simmons and friend Nancy Carver picking strawberries at the Monitor farm about 1948



A ticket for picking strawberries at the Simmons/Skei farm. You earned 30 cents for picking a carrier of berries. Which was about 5 cents a pound. They grew strawberries for about 7 years, from about 1948 to about 1956.



Vernon Simmons sells his dairy herd in 1957. His father Raymond and mother Maria turned the farm operation over to him in 1948.



The silos next to the barn about 1955

R. L. SIMMONS & SON
DAIRY
AUCTION
on
Wed. Sept. 11, 1957 — 12:30 p.m.
1 mile east of Moniter, Oregon—3 mi. N. 2½ E. of Mt. Angel (watch for signs)
As we are going out of the dairy business, we will sell the following cattle and equipment by auction.

28 Head CATTLE 28 Head

26 Hd. Jerseys 2 Hd. Holsteins
9 Head freshening between Aug. 1 & Oct. 1, including both Holsteins which will freshen just at sale time.
4 Head freshening between Oct. 1 & Jan. 1
This herd has been bred Artificially by Ore. Dairy Brdr's Ass'n since 1946.
Cattle Clippers; 2 Universal Milking Units.
New Manure Scraper for three point hook up tractor.

Lunch served by local organization
Terms: Cash Clerk: W. L. Williams, Silverton, Oregon

R. L. Simmons & Son — Owners
Phone: Moniter 2361 Rt. 2 Woodburn

ROY A. BENSON AUCTIONEER
Phone: Hillsboro 5291 220 N. Ebberts, Hillsboro
"Your sale in my hands,
means money in yours"



The old grain shed no longer standing



Aerial view of the farm in the early 60's showing the turkey operation

1. The milk house
2. The barn (built in the late 1880's)
3. The grain shed (built in the early 1900's)
4. The machine shop
5. The old chicken house (built in the late 20's)
6. The new chicken house
7. The turkeys
8. Ole & Karolina's house (built 1905)
9. Vernon & Helen Simmons' house
10. Monte Cristo Road





The farm in the 1970's Helen Simmons at right. The house at the right was the home of Vernon and Helen Simmons. It was originally a mess hall at Camp Adair and was moved after the war to Silverton, Oregon and used as a mess hall for a Silverton lumber mill. Vernon had it moved to the farm in 1953 and turned it into a very nice home, in which they raised their 4 children, Nancy, Doug, Karen and David.



David Simmons learning to be a farm Mechanic. David is the son of Vernon Simmons & great grandson of Ole & Karolina Skei. David now operates the farm and lives there with his family.



The barn when it was turned into a chicken house. The 1960's



Picture of the farm in hazelnut production





Vernon Simmons harvesting the Hazelnut crop in Oct. 1973



Vernon Simmons taking down the water holding tank, one of the last parts of the barn to go, the late 1990's.

Ole & Karolina Skei's house is razed to make room for David & Yvonne Simmons' new house 1987



Dave and Yvone's new house going up 1988



1. David Simmons
2. Vernon Simmons helping build the new house, Vernon had no fear of heights he would climb the highest apple tree with a flimsy ladder, in Sept. 2001 he climbed up into the attic of the machine shop, no one is sure why, he lost his balance and fell through to the ground below with the back of his head taking the full brunt of the fall. He was life flighted to OHSU were he passed away that evening. He said the only way they would get him off the farm was feet first and he got his wish. He was 84 years old at the time.

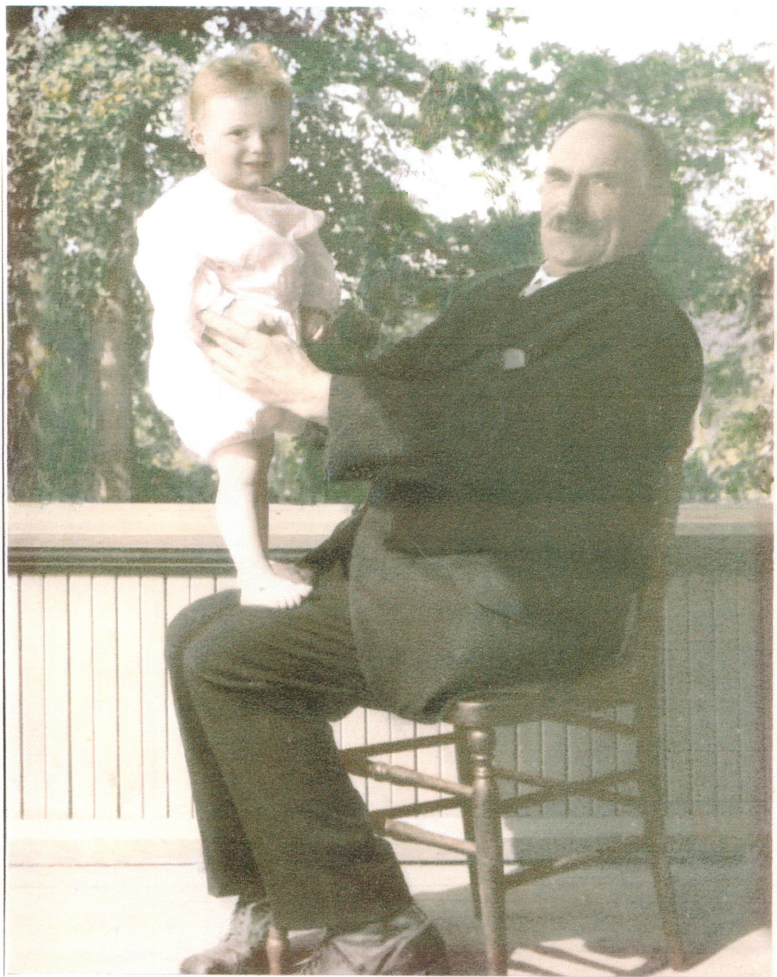


The last of the original buildings to be taken down, the barn was razed in the early 1990's



1. Vernon Simmons looking through the rubble. Vernon and his son David took the barn down themselves. However, David was on the tractor pulling the chain attached to one of the timbers when it decided to fall, not in the direction they had planned. It was falling right towards David and the tractor, David jumped off the tractor and ran out of the way as fast as he could. Fortunately David and the tractor were spared.

Ole Skei holding his
grandson Vernon Simmons
on the porch of the farm
house 1918

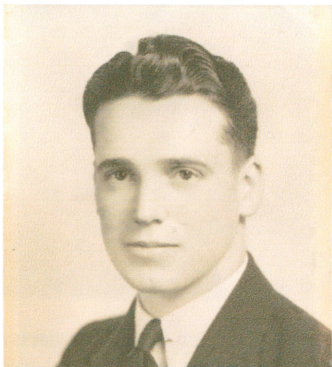


Ole Skei

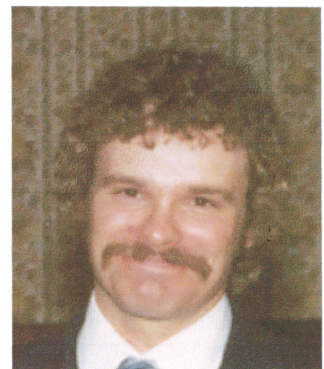
The 4 Skei generations
who farmed the land.



Maria (Skei) Simmons



Vernon Simmons



David Simmons

The Simmons farm Monitor, OR 1963 taken at the home of Vernon & Helen Simmons celebrating Raymond Simmons 80th birthday.



1. Maria (Skei) Simmons daughter of Ole & Karolina Skei
2. Raymond Simmons
3. Vernon Simmons grandson of Ole & Karolina Skei
4. Jean (Simmons) Schlottmann granddaughter of Ole & Karolina Skei
5. Avon (Simmons) Ramberg granddaughter of Ole & Karolina Skei



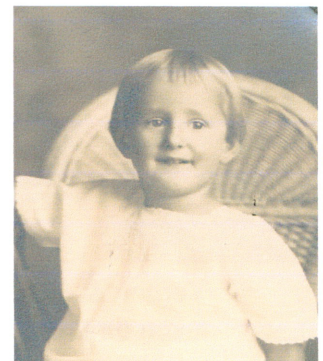
Vernon B. 1917



Raymond & Maria (Skei) Simmons
and their children in the 1920's

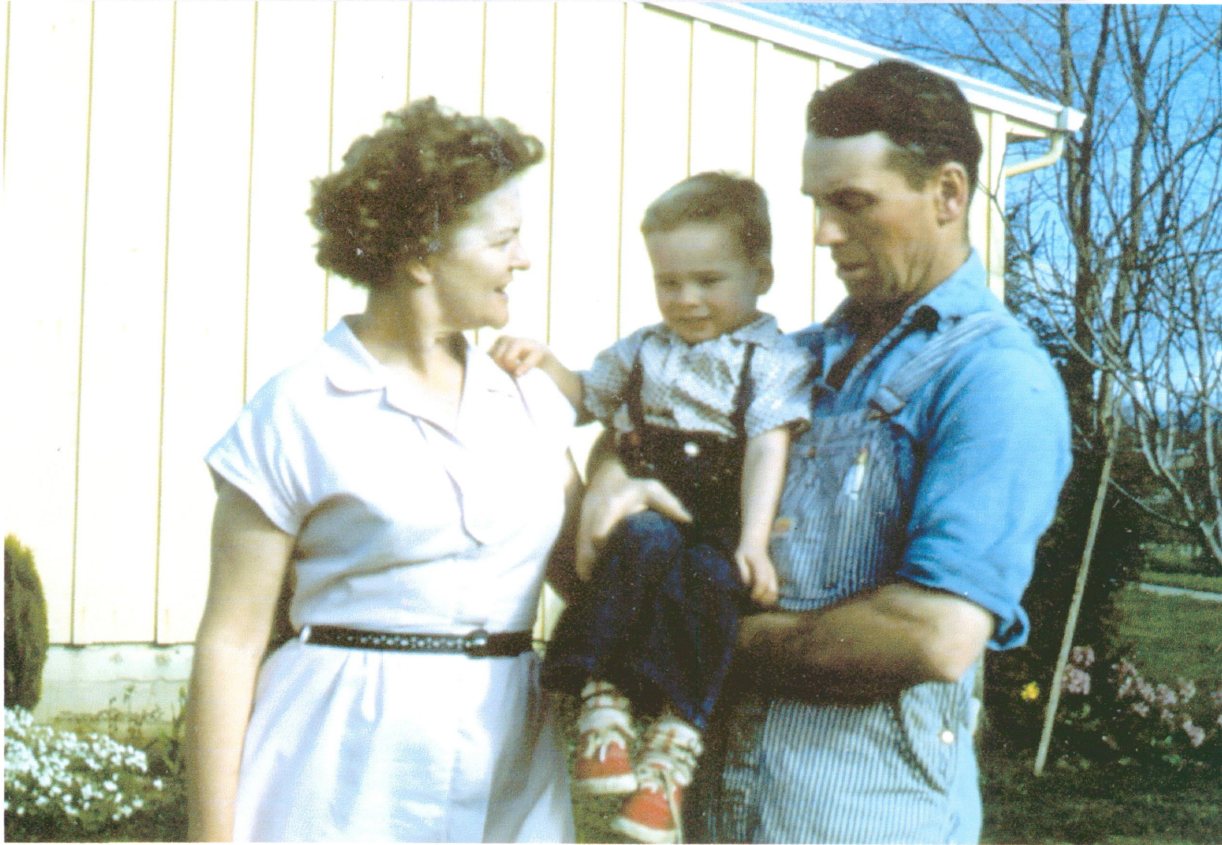
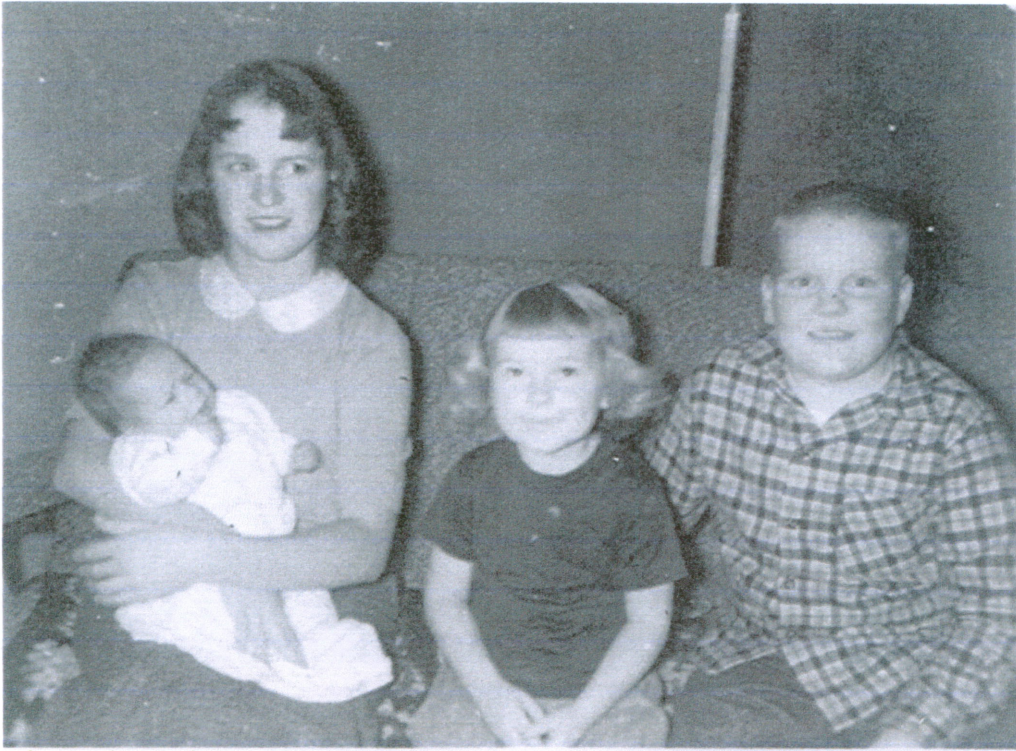


Jean B. 1920



Avon B. 1923

Vernon & Helen Simmons' children who grew up on the farm.
From left: Nancy holding David, Karen and Douglas
Picture taken in 1957



Vernon & Helen Simmons with their youngest son David. Picture was taken on the farm in 1959. David & his family now live on the farm and run the operation.

Simmons Family 1991



1. Vernon Simmons
2. Helen Simmons
3. Nancy Simmons Mohr
4. Myron Mohr
5. Doug Simmons
6. Karen Simmons Morrell
7. Clint Morrell

8. David Simmons
9. Yvonne Simmons
10. Cori Simmons
11. Emily Simmons
12. Mia Mohr Kramer
13. Greg Kramer

The current generation of the Skei family and owners of the farm.
 Picture taken Dec. 25th 2001 at the home of Dave & Yvonne Simmons



1. David Simmons and his family live on the farm David runs the farm operation David is the great grandson of Ole & Karolina Skei
- 2 Yvonne Simmons
- 3 Cori Simmons great great granddaughter of Ole & Karolina Skei
4. Emily Simmons great great granddaughter of Ole & Karolina Skei
5. Kelsey Simmons great great granddaughter of Ole & karolina Skei

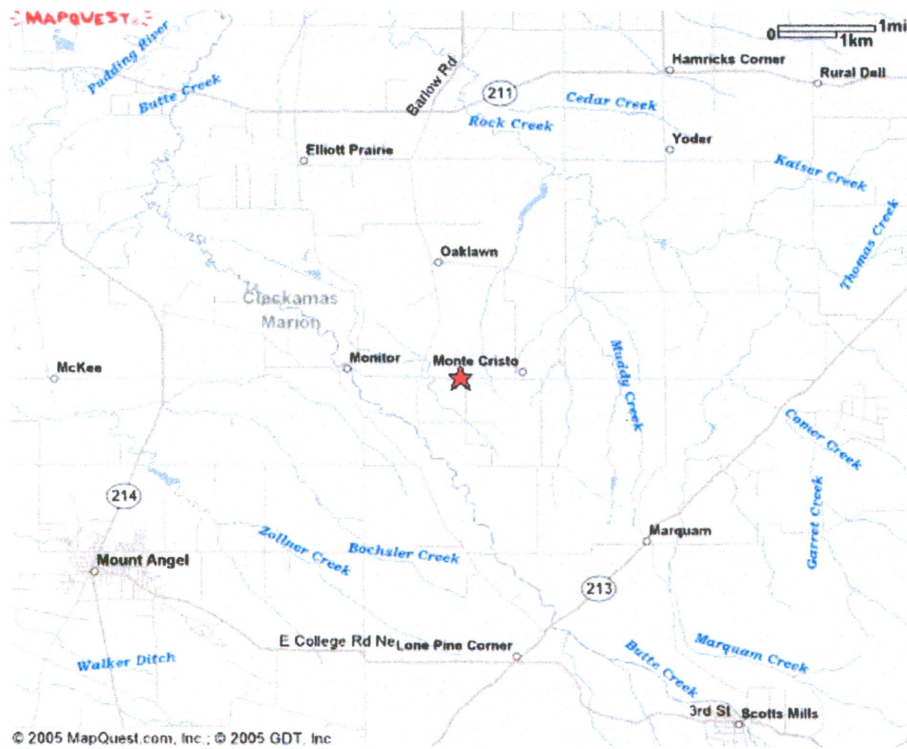
6. Karen (Simmons) Morrell great granddaughter of Ole & Karolina Skei
7. Clint Morrell

8. Douglas Simmons great grandson of Ole & Karolina Skei

9. Nancy (Simmons) Mohr great granddaughter of Ole & Karolina Skei
10. Myron Mohr

11. Mia Mohr great great granddaughter of Ole & Karolina Skei
12. Greg Kramer (husband of Mia Mohr)
13. Anja Kramer (Adopted Feb. 2004 from Siberia) daughter of Greg Kramer & Mia Mohr
 Anja is the great great great granddaughter of Ole & Karolina Skei

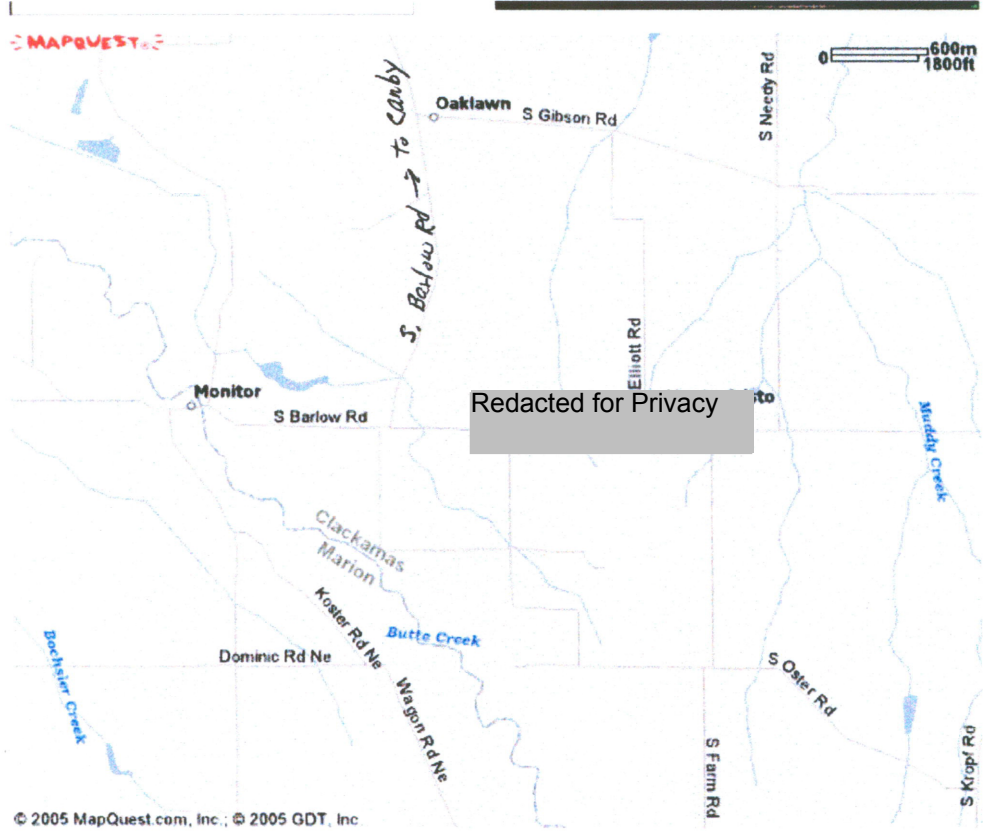
The map showing the location of the Ole Skei farm



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This map is informational only. No representation is made or warranty given as to its content. User assumes all

The map showing the location of the Ole Skei farm



This Indenture Witnesseth, That Hans Jensen and
Anne O. Jensen (his wife) for the consideration of the sum of
Fifty Four Hundred DOLLARS,
 to us paid, have we bargained and sold and by these presents do bargain, sell and convey unto
Ole P. Skei

the following described premises, to-wit: Commencing at a point in
 Center of County Road leading from Monitas
 to Glad Tidings 2 Rods North of South East
 Corner of Section Thirty (30) T. 5. S. R. 1. E.
 Willamette Meridian Clackamas County
 Oregon Thence North one hundred and
 Fifty Eight rods (158) Thence West Sixty
 (60) rods Thence South one hundred and Fifty
 Eight (158) rods to center of above described
 County Road Thence East along center of said
 Road Sixty (60) rods to place of beginning,
 and containing Sixty (60) acres of land
 more or less all situated in Section Thirty (30)
 T. 5. S. R. 1. E. Willamette Meridian Clackamas
 County Oregon,

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said premises, with their appurtenances unto the said
Ole P. Skei His Heirs and Assigns forever.

And the said Hans Jensen and Anne E. Jensen does hereby covenant to and with the said Olaf P. Skei 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 warrant and defend the same from all lawful claims whatsoever

In Witness Whereof, we have hereunto set our hands and seals this 2nd day of February A. D. 1904

Done in Presence of

H. H. Lima
J. R. White

Anne E. Jensen
Hans Jensen

(Seal)
(Seal)

WARRANTY DEED.

FROM

Hans Jensen

TO

Olaf P. Skei

STATE OF OREGON,

County of Clackamas } ss

I certify that the within was received and duly

recorded by me in Clackamas

County Records, Book of Deeds, Vol. # 92

Page 432 on the 11th

day of February 1904.

Henry E. Stevens

County Recorder

By _____ Deputy

Filed February 11th 1904

At 8 o'clock A.M.

Henry E. Stevens

County Recorder

By _____ Deputy

R. E. Moores & Co., Legal Blank Publishers, Salem, Or.

Return to Bank of Woodburn

STATE OF OREGON,

County of Marion } ss

On the 2nd day of February 1904 personally came before me

a Notary Public in and for said County and State, the within named Hans Jensen and Anne E. Jensen his wife, to me personally known to be the identical person described in and who executed the within instrument, and who each personally acknowledged to me that they executed the same freely and voluntarily for the uses and purposes therein named and without fear or compulsion from any one.

Witness my hand and seal this 2nd day of February 1904

John R. White
Notary Public for Oregon