

SFR 0022

Byron Scott Farms, Inc.

Date Received  
6/1/10 *JR*

A program of the Oregon Agricultural Education Foundation

# Sesquicentennial Award Application

Date May 27, 2010

Type of designation (please check)



Farm



Ranch

Legal owner / Applicant name BYRON SCOTT FARMS, INC

Mailing address of Legal Owner / Applicant Redacted for Privacy

Telephone Redacted for E-mail address Redacted for Privacy

Contact name (if different than legal owner) Maryenne Wirth

Mailing address of contact Redacted for Privacy

Contact telephone Redacted for Privacy Contact E-mail address Redacted for Privacy

## Location of farm or ranch (which is the subject of this application):

County LINN

Distance 2 MILES SOUTH from nearest town

Township 12S Range 3W Section 18

Address or physical location of the farm or ranch (which is subject of this application): 32280 HWY 99E, TANGENT, OR, ALSO INCLUDING 12S-3W-18-400, 12S-3W-18-500, 12S-3W-19-100, 12S-3W-20-400, 12S-4W-24-100, 12S-3W-7-101

GPS (Global Positioning System) Coordinates, if known: \_\_\_\_\_

(Please continue application on next page)

## Sesquicentennial Award Application - Continued

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Please provide the following information.

### Founder(s):

Original family owner(s) or founder(s) COMMODORE PERRY KNIGHTON AND ROSANNA KNIGHTON

Year this farm or ranch was acquired by founder(s)

1853

Year farm or ranch was awarded Century Farm or Century Ranch status, if applicable

1958

Who farms or ranches the land today? MARYANNE AND DONALD WIRTH; LISA AND DAVID GORACKE

Relationship of applicant to original owner. Please explain lineage. *ORIGINAL OWNERS ARE GREAT GRANDPARENTS OF MARYANNE WIRTH AND GREAT-GREAT GRANDPARENTS OF LISA GORACKE*

### History of buildings:

Are any of the original buildings still in use?  Yes  No

If yes, please describe the buildings and their former and current use:

HOUSE BUILT IN 1917, 1032 SQ FT – VACANT/STORAGE FOR FARM  
BARN BUILT IN 1917 – CURRENTLY USED FOR CLEANING AND SEED STORAGE;  
PREVIOUSLY USED FOR SIX HORSE GANG PLOW STORAGE, HORSES, AND COWS.

Are any of the buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places?  Yes  No

If, "yes", please describe:

### History of crops or livestock raised on farm or ranch:

Please describe the early crops or livestock.

WHEAT, OATS, CHEAT, HORSES, AND COWS.

How many acres were included in original farm or ranch? 640 ACRE LAND GRANT CLAIM

How did the crops / livestock / use of farm or ranch change over the years?

ORIGINALLY USED TO GROW WHEAT, OATS AND CHEAT, AND RAISE HORSES AND COWS.  
PROGRESSED TO RYEGRASS, SHEEP, AND ALTA FESCUE.

(Please continue application on next page)

## **Sesquicentennial Award Application – Continued**

### **History of crops or livestock raised on farm or ranch – Cont'd:**

What are crops / livestock raised on the subject farm or ranch today?

CURRENTLY USED FOR RYEGRASS, SHEEP, PIGS, COWS, AND FEEDER CATTLE

How many acres does the subject farm or ranch include today? A TOTAL OF 690.50 ACRES

How many acres are in agricultural use today? 690.50 ACRES

### **The Family:**

How many generations live on the farm or ranch today? HOUSE IS VACANT, BUT FARM IS UTILIZED.

Please list names and birth years:

**Please include a narrative of your family history. Please also submit historical & current photos of the property & family, as available. If photos can be provided in digital format at a high resolution appropriate for publication (300 dpi or greater), it would be appreciated.**

Types of information to include in your family history narrative:

- From which city, state, or country original owner moved
- Generational transfers of the farm or ranch property
- Significant events in the family (births, deaths, marriages, etc)
- Any major changes to operations (methods of production, etc.)
- Additional information on crops, buildings, other changes from the original farm or ranch

(Please continue application on next page)

**Statement of Affirmation**

I, Maryanne Wirth

do hereby affirm and declare that the farm or ranch which I own at Redacted for Privacy

Redacted for Privacy, in the County of Linn

has been owned by my family for at least 150 continuous years, as specified in the qualifications for the Century Farm & Ranch Program / Sesquicentennial Award, 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 / Sesquicentennial Award 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.

Maryanne Wirth  
Signature of Owner

5/28/10  
Date

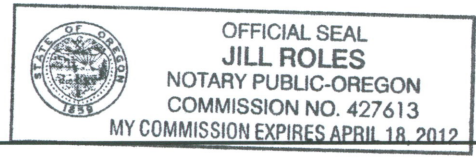
**Certification by Notary Public**

State of Oregon Linn  
County of Linn

Be it remembered, that on this 28<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2010, before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for said county and state, personally appeared the within named Maryanne Wirth, known to me to be the identical individual described in and who executed the within instrument and acknowledged to me that she 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.

Jill Roles



Notary Public for Oregon  
My Commission Expires 4-18-2012

<b>Fees</b>	
Application Fee <i>(includes one certificate)</i>	\$ 25.00
Additional Certificates (\$15 each)	\$ <u>        </u>
<b>Total enclosed</b>	\$ <u>0</u>

**For office use only**

Date Received 2010  
 Century Farm or Ranch ID No. if on File \_\_\_\_\_  
 Not on File \_\_\_\_\_  
 Application Approved?  Yes  No  
 Authorization [Signature]  
 Oregon Century Farm & Ranch Program Coordinator

Make checks payable to:  
**Oregon Agricultural Education Foundation or OAEF**

**OHS Library**  
MSS 1604 Program ID No. SRS 22

Notes  
No fee charged since received CFR status 2009. Should receive sesquicentennial Mason's waived fees. SL

## SESQUICENTENNIAL FARM APPLICATION: HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

### BYRON SCOTT FARMS INC (Commodore Perry Knighton and Rosanna Knighton Homestead)

#### **Rosanna W. (nee: Blazer) and Commodore Perry Knighton**

Commodore Perry Knighton was born on November 24, 1823, in Jefferson County, Missouri. His father, Ammon Knighton was born on May 13, 1789 in Stokes County, North Carolina, and died on August 7, 1877, in Forest Grove, Oregon. His mother, Fanny Cox, was born on October 31, 1794, and died on April 23, 1841, in Jefferson County, Missouri. Ammon and Fanny married on February 1, 1810 in Muhlenberg County, Kentucky. Commodore was the seventh of thirteen children born to his parents. His siblings born in Logan County, Kentucky, include Joseph (born March 22, 1812), Lovell (born January 23, 1814), and Lucretia (born December 6, 1815). His siblings born in Jefferson County, Missouri include Wiley Leander (born March 9, 1818), Louisa (born April 3, 1820), Julia A. (born September 9, 1821), Nancy Ann (born February 4, 1826), Minvera (born March 22, 1828), Melissa (born March 6, 1830), Thomas Ammon (born February 28, 1832), Isaac (born May 31, 1834), and William Green (born September 15, 1837).

Commodore married Rosannah W. Blazer (born on June 29, 1831, in Missouri) on March 28, 1850, in Cass County, Missouri. The couple arrived in Oregon later that same year with a servant, Frances E. Nanny Phipps (born December 11, 1842, in Putnam County, Missouri). Commodore and Rosannah purchased the 640 acre land grant claim (the subject property of this application). The couple had twelve children: Isaac (born February 10, 1851), Margaret F. (born August 14, 1852), Alden C. (born June 21, 1855), Robert Amon (born March 14, 1856), **Sarah Alice (born December 28, 1857)**, Sophia Ann (born December 25, 1860), John W. (born September 25, 1861), George L. (born July 28, 1864), William Penn (born April 29, 1866), Lelia Julia (born February 28, 1868), Willis W. (born June 13, 1870), and Rosannah R. (born April 1, 1871). The original home on the farm burned down, and a second one was built.

Rosannah W. Blazer died in 1871, after giving birth to her youngest child. Commodore married Frances E. Nanny Phipps later that same year. The couple had two children, Pearl O. (born 1882) and Nancy Ann Golide (born 1884). Commodore died on January 18, 1898, in Tangent, Oregon. Frances died in 1906 in Tangent, Oregon.

#### **Sarah Alice Knighton and M. Clarendon "Cass" Scott**

Sarah Alice Knighton married M. Clarendon Scott on December 16, 1877. The couple had four children: **Walter C. Scott (born November 11, 1885)**, Harold R. Scott (born July 2, 1865), Leila (who later married into the Archibald family in

**Floyd Jenks House**  
**Historical Background for Century Farm Application**

Tangent), and Minnie (who later married into the Jenks family in Tangent). Walter C. Scott took over the Knighton farm in 1912.

**Mary Grace (nee: Jenks) and Walter C. Scott**

Mary Grace Jenks was born on July 17, 1895, at a neighboring farm in Tangent, Oregon (now known as the Floyd Jenks House). In 1915, Grace married Walter. The couple lived on the Knighton farm where they built a house in 1917 (the current home on the farm) and raised their two children, **Byron Clarendon** and Geraldine. Grace sometimes worked at the hatchery at her grandparent's homestead in Tangent and Walter worked on the family farm. The couple maintained Grace's childhood home (The Floyd Jenks House) and managed the farm activities on the Knighton farm. Walter combined the Knighton farm with a family horse ranch in Eastern Oregon, which kept the farm supplied with motive power for a six-horse gang plow and a horse team for binding. The horses and a herd of cows required a barn, which he built on the farm in 1917. In 1919, Walter bought his first Fordson tractor, and soon after 1/3 interest in a steam thrasher. This mechanized the Knighton farm and ended the era of the horse. Grace enjoyed embroidery and raising tuberous begonias. She and Walter continued the family tradition of membership at the Tangent Methodist Church. Grace passed away on March 1, 1962. Walter died on July 2, 1965.

**Byron Clarendon and Edna June (nee: Webber) Scott**

Byron Clarendon Scott was born on October 13, 1917. He attended Oregon State University to become a chemical engineer. This almost ended the family tradition of farming. But the allure of the farm proved too much and he returned. He married Edna June Webber on November 26, 1942. The couple had three children (Maryanne, Susan, and Nancy). They settled on the Knighton farm. Following the death of Byron's father in 1965, Byron and Edna maintained the Floyd Jenks House as a second home and actively managed the Knighton Farm. Byron farmed ryegrass seed on the property and Edna enjoyed the Floyd Jenks House as a weekend "getaway". Byron died on December 7, 2007. His wife preceded him in death on February 27, 2006. Prior to his death he incorporated the Knighton farm as Byron Scott Farms, Inc.

The Knighton farm is currently owned by Byron Clarendon's surviving daughters **Maryanne Wirth**, Susan Mussler, and Nancy Yim (also known as Byron Scott Farms Inc). Maryanne and her husband, Donald Wirth, manage the farm activities with their daughter and son-in-law, Lisa and David Goracke. Maryanne is the appointed agent for Byron Scott Farms. The family wishes to preserve the historical value of the home's architecture, its historical connection to the farm industry of the Tangent area and Willamette Valley, and its historical connection to the prominent Knighton and Jenks Families.

# LINN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER & JOURNAL

President: Glenn Harrison

January 2011

Editor: Glenn Harrison

## MURDER AT HALE'S FERRY

Murder at Hale's Ferry is the topic to be presented by Lenora Whiteman for the Linn County Historical Society program at 2:00 pm on Sunday, January 16. Plan to attend at the Lakeside Center at the Mennonite Village, Albany. Lenora is a 4th generation Oregonian and has written a book on the topic. She is related to a great many people still living in the Willamette Valley. Her father was descended from members of six different Oregon Trail families. Mom still says Dad had relatives "behind every bush in the valley." She graduated from Junction City High School and earned my dental assistant credentials from Lane Community College. Whiteman received an Associate of Science from Clark College in Vancouver.

Milton Hale operated a ferry that crossed the Santiam River about two miles west of Jefferson. It was used to cross the river by the early settlers of Linn County.

## GETTING INVOLVED

Lenora Whiteman explains how she got involved with this story.

I was doing family tree research when I happened across the scanty references to the murder of Elias Hale. My father had always said that there was a murder back there somewhere, but he did not know any more than that. The first reference I found was in the interview with a daughter of Milton Hale. She was not born when her Uncle Elias was killed, and her account was, of course, secondhand. It proved to be only partially true. The next reference I found was in the Lebanon newspaper from in the 1920s. It was one of those short articles favored by small-town newspapers which usually begin "Seventy years ago this week in our small town..." and it gave a very different account of the slaying of Elias Hale, giving both a different name for the murderer and a different outcome for his future. This piqued my interest. Two different men could not have been the killer. And the killer could not have both escaped on horseback to Astoria where he sailed away on a ship, and have been hung the same night he killed Elias. So I started researching the event in earnest. After visits to a dozen historical societies, a dozen libraries, lots of letters and lots of questions, I think I finally found out what happened. None of the accounts told the whole truth. As you know, true stories are better than fiction.

## ANDREW HALE'S DEATH

The following information about another Hale is from an Albany newspaper article dated August 20, 1909 [I didn't find it.] and was reprinted in Linn County, Oregon Pioneers Who Settled on Donation Land Claims Through To the End of 1855, by John Miles and Richard R. Milligan in Volume 25, page 51-52.

The body of Andrew Hale was found hanging by the neck at his home in the suburbs of Sodaville this morning. It was done like this. He had placed a ladder against a tree near his house, climbed up, tied a rope to a limb and swung on into eternity. He was found by neighbors this morning at an early hour.

Mr. Hale was a very peculiar man, had lived alone for many years in a very oddly constructed house of fifteen or twenty rooms, which he had mostly built himself. It was three stories, with many oddly constructed nooks and places, filled with curiosities. Several mechanical musical instruments afforded him amusement. He rarely left home more than to go down town, rarely coming to Albany. He is reported to have been quite well off, besides his home property, a good one, having property in Portland and money in interest.

He was a pioneer, coming here before 1850, a native of Kentucky. He leaves a wife, Mrs. Elizabeth



Indians used to steal from the whites, and describes a little difficulty he and a neighbor had with them over the stealing of an ox, but the Indians of this section never attempted to make war on the whites. At a later time, 1856, there was a fear that the Indians on the other side of the Cascades, who were then on the warpath might come over and fall upon the settlers along the Calapooia. At Fern Ridge a fort was built in anticipation of such a contingency, but results proved their fears groundless, and that they had perhaps given the eastern Indians credit for more energy than they possessed.

During war times there was considerable feeling in this region. The people were many of them from Missouri, and many were Douglas democrats. When the war commenced a considerable number of Douglas democrats turned Republicans. A party composed of Union men and Douglas democrats put out a county ticket in 1862 in Linn County. It was called the Cayuse ticket. Both Union and non-Union men formed secret societies. The democrats organized a secret society known as the Knights of the Golden Circle, one of its objects being to prevent a draft. George Helm was the leading democrat at this time in this section, and was called the "Lion of Linn." The Union men formed the Union League, the chief object of which was to watch the democrats. It was thought at one time that the Knights of the Golden Circle would attempt to capture the fort at Vancouver, but no such attempt was ever made.

As I have before stated, the course of settlement and development in the Calapooia country was quiet and uneventful. The settlers were at first all poor, all subject to the hardships incident to living in a new country, shut off from many conveniences of an older community, and obliged to ascertain by experiment what crops paid best and how they were best handled. Currency was scarce in the settlement and wheat served to a large extent as a medium of exchange. When the men who had been drawn to the gold mines to seek their fortunes began to return with their gold dust there was a rapid advance in business and prosperity.

The first newspaper of this locality was printed by George Dyson; the name and date I can not now give. The second was the *Informant*, printed, like the first, at Brownsville, and by a man named Stein. This was in 1886. In 1887 the *Express-Advance* was started with the *Informant's* plant and continued two years. The *Brownsville Times* was started June 15, 1889, by McDonald & Cavendish. With several changes of editors this paper is still printed, the present proprietors being F. M. Brown and A. B. Cavender. [The current editor is Don Ware.]

The question as to why the first settlers came to Oregon is difficult to determine. It seems, however, from the very limited amount of direct testimony I have been able to get, that there were two forces which at least had a powerful influence, and these were, first, curiosity to see this great western country; and, secondly, the desire to pick out a good piece of land from the thousands of acres open to settlement here. . . {p 70-77}

## SESQUICENTENNIAL FARM RECOGNITION

The following information is based on Sesquicentennial Applications, but is heavily revised and corrected with information from [Linn County Pioneer Settlers: Oregon Donation Land Claim Families to 1855](#).

### Rice

James Norval Rice was born on March 17, 1832 in Campbell County, Tennessee, the second son of Charles and Sarah (Lett) Rice. In 1835 his family moved to Cass County, Missouri, where his mother died. With his father's, 1850 wagon train that included Joab Powell, James N. Rice emigrated to Oregon. They arrived in Oregon on October 20, 1850 and began searching for land that wasn't already claimed.

There was an Indian camp on the land that Norval liked along the Calapooia River near Holley, so he gave them a spotted pony to get them to move away. When he filed for his Donation Land Claim #2638 he included an affidavit about the agreement witnessed by Miles Cary, Noah Shanks, and James P. Lewis, a relative of Meriwether Lewis. On March 2, 1853 he settled on his 320 acre claim about a mile southeast of Holley and built a cabin where the current Upper Calapooia Drive meets Rice Road. Charles Rice took DLC # 649.

On September 3, 1857 he married Nancy Ann Robinett, daughter of William Robinett and Hannah

(Powell) Robinette. They had 12 children, but the last died at birth. After their fifth child was born, Norval built a larger house 100 yards south of the original one. That second house was a double box built on 10 X 10 inch timbers set on rocks and ewe wood blocks. The double thick exterior walls were made with one-inch rough, random width lumber placed vertically. When the double thick interior single box walls were added, one vertical and one horizontal and sealed, the walls were four inches thick. That house is still in use although it was renovated in the 1960s. The property was recognized as an Oregon Century Farm in 1958, but now has surpassed 150 years.

Rice was a 3rd Corporal in the 1855-56 Rogue Indian War serving in Captain Jonathan Keeney's Company C, 2nd Regiment of the Oregon Mounted Volunteers. He served in the 1882 Oregon House of Representatives. On July 30, 1887, he was one of the pioneers who met in the hall over the Robert Glass store in Crawfordsville and formed the Linn County Pioneer Picnic Association. The first Pioneer Picnic was held that fall in the trees behind where George Finley's 1892 house was built. The Linn County Pioneer Picnic has been held every year since 1887.

Nancy Rice died on April 6, 1899. Norval died in 1909 following an accident. His horse ran away causing his buggy to overturn. Both Norval and Nancy Ann are buried in the Union Cemetery in Crawfordsville.

Originally the farm that had hay, grain, vegetable garden, orchard, horses, milk cows, sheep, pigs, chickens, goats. Currently grandson Richard N. Rice, born July 14, 1925 and great-grandson Mark B. Rice, born September 28, 1951, live in the house and still have the orchard and a vegetable garden, but now raise beef cattle and have a mechanized hay operation. Part of the property is timber. The farm was recognized as a Century Farm in 1958, but has now passed 150 years. {Also see <http://bluebook.state.or.us/facts/scenic/century/aboutrice.htm>}

## Coon



Washington Coon in 1887

The Coon Family Farm was established in Linn County by Washington L. and Susan Coon in 1850. The current owners are Donald and Dona Coon and Mike and Tami Coon. The farm was recognized as a Century Farm in 1970, but now has been recognized as a Sesquicentennial Farm.

Washington Coon took out his donation land claim in 1850. He soon traveled back east to Pennsylvania where he married Susan, a widow with children. They returned over the Oregon Trail, with the stepsons claiming the adjoining 320 acres next to the Coon's DLC. Like many early Willamette Valley farmers, the Coons raised grain, vetch hay, cattle, horses, dairy cows and hogs. Over the years, the primary crop changed from grains and hay to grass seed.

Now the 5th generation brothers raise grass seed, field peas, clover seed, triticale, and wheat while maintaining a small beef operation on a farm that now exceeds 4,000 acres on the east side of the Willamette River. {<http://bluebook.state.or.us/facts/scenic/century/aboutcoon.htm>}

## Montgomery

William Grimes Montgomery and his wife Mary L. Montgomery moved onto their farm in 1855 and acquired a Homestead Patent of 318.4 acres in 1866. The farm near Scio was recognized as a Century Farm in 1958. It passed from William and Mary to their oldest son and later was divided between their two children with the southern part going to Maysel Montgomery Lyon, their oldest daughter. Her portion was willed to her nephew LeRoy H. Montgomery who willed it to Leland R. Montgomery, LeRoy's second son. Leland is the great-great-grandson of William and Mary Montgomery.

Originally the farm had oats, hay, wheat, apples, prunes, cattle, and sheep. In the 1920s and 30s corn was raised for silage and grass seed was raised in the 1980s. Currently 123 acres are in grass seed production and eight acres in hay for animal feed. The farm is now recognized as a Sesquicentennial Farm.

## Brock

Vineyard Crawford Brock was born in Tennessee on February 3, 1816, but moved to Iowa after he was married. His wife returned to her father's farm in Tennessee. Vineyard and his three children - Mary Catherine, Stewart Patterson, and Alvin M. - came to Oregon in September 1850 by wagon train. In 1851 Vineyard settled northeast of Shedd where he took Donation Land Claim #618 on 320.75 acres and raised grain and cows. Vineyard died on December 14, 1862 and left the farm to his son Stewart P. Brock. Mary died on December 18, 1862 and Alvin died on August 12, 1869.

On October 22, 1864 Stewart married Janette S. Warner and they had twelve children. Stewart lived until April 5, 1929, but divided the farm among their seven living children. Mary A. married Charles Arnold on February 5, 1890. Mary (Brock) Arnold inherited 43.96 acres and the Arnolds added to their farm making it about 250 acres. Jessie A. (Brock) Beamer inherited 43.96 acres, Tempey Brock got 44.54 acres, Kate M. (Brock) Croft received 47.01 acres, Irvin Brock 36.35 acres, Roy Brock 64.47, and Alvin M. Brock 40.00 acres. The irregular boundaries were because the land was on both sides of the meandering Calapooia River.

Mary and Charles' daughter, Janet C. Arnold, was born on the farm in 1905. She married Edmond Herrling in 1931. In 1954 they acquired the farm including the original 43.96 acres.

In 1934 Franklin E. Herring was born on Edmond's homestead near Criterion off of Highway 197 near Shaniko, Oregon. Edmond died in 1972 and Franklin inherited the farm including that 43.96 acres of the original DLC. Franklin's son Curtis C. Herrling was born in 1953 and moved onto the farm in 1974 and still lives there as does his daughter, Loral, who was born in 1993. She is the seventh generation on the Brock farm, which was recognized as a Century Farm in 1958. It is now a Sesquicentennial Farm where grass seed is raised.

## CHANDLER NEWS

On Veteran's Day the [Democrat-Herald](#) featured several noteworthy veterans. The lead article on the People page was LCHS member Richard Chandler, who was a flyer who served during World War II in a P-51 fighter escorting bombers on 22 missions over Germany, in the Korean Conflict, and assisted in maintenance of planes during Vietnam in a 30 year career.

One memorable event occurred immediately after shooting down a German plane. The pilot ejected and the canopy of the German plane hit Chandler's fighter. In 1967, when Chandler was promoted to colonel, his eagles were presented by Chuck Yager. He has received numerous medals and awards and retired in 1973.

## WILLAMETTE CONFLUENCE

East of Eugene in Lane County at the confluence of the Coast and Middle forks of the Willamette River, 1,270 acres have been purchased by the Nature Conservancy for \$23.4 million from the Wildish family. On October 29 funds from the Bonneville Power Administration, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, and others were used to purchase six miles of river frontage. It is an area of thick woods, teeming wetlands, and cool water that adjoins 3,500 acres of public land including the Howard Buford Recreation Area around Mt. Pisgah that includes a 16 miles of hiking and equestrian