Washington’s Centennial Farms, 25 Years Later

2016 Addendum

In 2016, after the close of the Reconnecting with Washington’s Centennial Farms project, eight Centennial Farms contacted WSDA and provided the information requested in the project questionnaire. This addendum includes a listing for each of these farms – providing a 2014 snapshot of the farm’s ownership, family connections, size of operation, and crops and livestock produced. Each listing includes comments about changes in the last 25 years and, as much as possible, is in the voice of the respondent.

The listings note the page number for the farm’s profile in the 1989 book, Washington’s Centennial Farms – Yesterday and Today, available on the WSDA website at http://agr.wa.gov. A farm’s 2014 listing is best understood and appreciated when read with its 1989 profile, where you’ll find information on the farm’s establishment and its operation at the time of the state’s Centennial.

SNOHOMISH COUNTY

Getchell Ranch est. 1873

Current Owner: Everett D. and Alex G. Alexander
Relationship to 1989 Owner: same
Current Operator: Everett (operations) and Alex Alexander (restorations)
Relationship to Owner: same

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Original Acres Retained</th>
<th>Acres Farmed</th>
<th>Acres Owned</th>
<th>Acres Operated</th>
<th>Crops or Livestock Raised</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>345</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>Hay and livestock</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Changes in the Past 25 Years: Approximately $390,000 has been devoted to restoration of the original home, second barn, and second/third group of outbuildings. The original orchard was also restored. Since 1998, Alex Alexander, a retired plant physiologist, has been engaged in restoring Getchell Ranch as an Environment-Integrated, Sustainable Family Farm.

Additional Information: Histories of the farm and the Getchell family were prepared by A.G. Alexander. Getchell Ranch history has been intimately associated with the history of the Lowell community, which is immediately west, across the Snohomish River. Lowell’s 150th and the farm’s 140th anniversaries were jointly celebrated in 2013. The property is joined by the Snohomish River on three sides, has never been diked, and has survived major flooding in the years 1916, 1921, 1933, 1951, 1959-60, 1973, 1986, 1990, 1995, 2006 and 2009.

Revisions to 1989 Farm Profile: Martin and Olive Getchell, the current owners’ great-grandparents, purchased the property from Eugene D. Smith (the founder of Lowell and brother-in-law of Martin) in 1873. The property was, and is now, the nearest high-quality farmland to Lowell, resting on a gravelly glacial hillside.

Contact: Alex Getchell Alexander, 3914 52nd St. S.E., Everett, WA 98201

SPokane COUNTY

The Bliesner Farm est. 1887

Current Owner: Pauline Gallion
Relationship to 1989 Owner: same
Current Operator: Tom Pottratz
Relationship to Owner: no relation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Original Acres Retained</th>
<th>Acres Farmed</th>
<th>Acres Owned</th>
<th>Acres Operated</th>
<th>Crops or Livestock Raised</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1989</td>
<td>1988</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Winter and spring wheat, wheat, lentils</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>160</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>160</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Changes in the Past 25 Years: No house and no buildings.

Additional Information: Tom Pottratz still farms our land. My mother selected him before she passed away and I continue to lease the farm to him.

Contact: Pauline Gallion, 5812 N. Audubon St., Spokane, WA 99205
The Eickmeyer Farm est. 1884

Current Owner: Eickmeyer Farm Trust: Lee Eickmeyer, trustee
Relationship to 1989 Owner: Lee is Henry Merwin Eickmeyer’s nephew
Current Operator: Lee Eickmeyer
Relationship to Owner: same

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Original Acres Retained</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>Crops or Livestock Raised</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>280</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Grain, hay, honeybees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>280</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Wheat, hay</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Changes in the Past 25 Years: The machinery being used to farm the land is much bigger and is steered with GPS guidance. Buildings that were built in the late 1930s and 1940s are still being used.

Additional Information: Henry Merwin Eickmeyer owned the farm until 2009 when ownership went to the Eickmeyer Farm Trust.

Contact: Lee Eickmeyer, 22925 N. Monroe Rd., Deer Park, WA 99006

WAHAKIAKUM COUNTY

The Foster Farm est. 1865

Current Owner: Mary Foster Doumit Thomas
Relationship to 1989 Owner: daughter

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Original Acres Retained</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>Crops or Livestock Raised</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>320</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Beef cattle</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Changes in the Past 25 Years: We still have the land where the home was – 20 acres – but it is no longer a working farm. The rest of the farm – it was all boggy land – was sold to Columbia Land Trust for a refuge and natural wilderness and bird sanctuary in 2009 and 2012.

Additional Information: Recently, we had to take down the homestead house as it would have taken thousands and thousands of dollars to fix it. There are no original buildings left, but the orchards are still there.

Contact: Mary Doumit Thomas, P.O. Box 405, Cathlamet, WA 98612

WALLA WALLA COUNTY

The Leid/Hansen Farm est. 1889

Current Owner: Norman J. and Melissa J. Hansen
Relationship to 1989 Owner: son and daughter-in-law
Current Operator: Norman Hansen
Relationship to Owner: same

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Original Acres Retained</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>Crops or Livestock Raised</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>160</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Wheat, barley, dry peas, oats</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Changes in the Past 25 Years: Robert William Leid purchased his first farm on top of Coppei Mountain in 1889. According to the Walla Walla County Index of Deeds, he bought more land in the area in seven purchases between 1892 and 1901. The original 160-acre parcel left family ownership in 2009; the land still owned by the Hansens is just to the northeast, at the end of Leid Road. Norman and his wife have been the farm owners since 2006.

Additional Information: In 1913, Robert W. Leid bought another farm near Waitsburg on the Coppei from Walter Woods, where he lived in later years; it is now owned by Jim Leid of Waitsburg. The Hansens live in the home that was moved from the original farm and remodeled in 1947. The original blacksmith shop, sheds, and even the original water cistern are still being used. Norman’s parents, Jim and Geraine Hansen, were named Pioneers of the Year by the Waitsburg Historical Society in 2014.

Contact: Geraine Hansen, 2194 S. Fork Coppei Rd., Waitsburg, WA 99361
WHATCOM COUNTY

The Steele Farm est. 1883

Current Owner: Bonnie Steele Burns
Relationship to 1989 Owner: same
Current Operator: Dean Postma
Relationship to Owner: neighbor

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Original Acres Retained</th>
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<th>Acres Owned</th>
<th>Acres Operated</th>
<th>Crops or Livestock Raised</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1989</td>
<td>38.4</td>
<td>38.4</td>
<td>38.4</td>
<td>Hay and corn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>38.4</td>
<td>38.4</td>
<td>38.4</td>
<td>Grass and corn for silage</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Changes in the Past 25 Years: There have been no changes in the farm in the past 25 years. Postma Farms still farms the land, sometimes in grass and sometimes in corn.

Additional Information: It’s a great place to live, situated on the Sumas River and next to the foothills.

Contact: Bonnie Burns, 9200 Telegraph Rd., Sumas, WA 98295

WHITMAN COUNTY

The Draper Farm est. 1873

Current Owner: Dale and Evelyn Draper
Relationship to 1989 Owner: first cousin
Current Operator: Scott Draper and Daniel Draper
Relationship to Owner: son and grandson

<table>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1989</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>1,732</td>
<td>1,385</td>
<td>Wheat, barley, lentils, peas, hay, beef cattle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>720</td>
<td>1,385</td>
<td>Soft white winter wheat, soft white spring wheat, barley, garbanzos</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Changes in the Past 25 Years: Not much at all!
Additional Information: I inherited my mother’s 1/3 undivided interest in our 333-acre farm after she passed away in 1993. The homestead house is still standing.

Contact: Nancy Wehrung, 215 N.W. Windus St., Pullman, WA 99163

The Gragg Farm est. 1878

Current Owner: Nancy Wehrung
Relationship to 1989 Owner: daughter
Current Operator: Roger Pennell
Relationship to Owner: not related; owns other 2/3 undivided interest

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1989</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>Wheat, lentils, barley, peas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>Wheat, barley</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Changes in the Past 25 Years: Not much at all!
Additional Information: I inherited my mother’s 1/3 undivided interest in our 333-acre farm after she passed away in 1993. The homestead house is still standing.

Contact: Nancy Wehrung, 215 N.W. Windus St., Pullman, WA 99163

Corrections: Whitman County, page 3: James Bailey, Inc. (Kelly Farm), Original acres retained in 2014 should be 60, not 42.
Whitman County, page 4: James Bailey, Inc. (Shields Farm), Original acres retained in 1989 and 2014 should both be 42, not 118.