

The Cedergreen Farm



Owner: Jean Cedergreen

Above: Current barn
Right: The Cedergreen family,
ca. 1910



In 1882 John Cedergreen and his wife Amelia founded Cedergreen farm on 160 acres. Their dairy business prospered and Amelia bore 14 children. The large home that is a landmark on the old Snohomish-Monroe Rd. was built in 1910 to accommodate the growing family. The main crop today is field corn.

Submitted by the Cedergreen Family, August 2000

John Alfred Constans Cedergreen left his homeland at age 17, and spent four years working as a sailor all over the world. By the time he reached the West coast of the United States in 1867, he was ready to establish his roots in a new land, and he found the lush and still largely-unsettled Pacific Northwest a perfect place to stay. The young man set down in Snohomish (after living for four years in the San Juan Islands), where he worked for Ferguson and Blackman interests; in 1876 he married Amelia Frederickson, the daughter of Norwegian immigrants, and started a family.

In those days, the United States afforded many immigrants the opportunity to own tracts of land, and John Alfred Cedergreen and his wife hoped to find property of their own. Their dream became reality in 1882 when the claim became available to a one-hundred-sixty acre piece of land a few miles outside of Snohomish. As the story goes, this land had been claimed several years before by two Frenchmen; at one point, however, they got into an argument, one shot and killed the other and found himself in jail, and their land was up for grabs. Cedergreen took this opportunity to file on the rich, heavily forested property: on April 18, 1882, he put \$10 down for the one-hundred-sixty acres, and received his title patent in 1889 -- the year that Washington was recognized as a state in the Union. With the help of his family -- Amelia Cedergreen would bear fourteen children---John Alfred cleared most of the forest and built a barn to house his growing dairy herd, one of the oldest in the county. The homestead's original house (also built by Mr. Cedergreen) was one of the first frame houses in rural Snohomish County, and it became well-known as the House of Seven Gables. This house would be replaced in the early 1910s by the existing Cedergreen home.

In 1931 -- after the deaths of John Alfred and Amelia -- Reuben Cedergreen, the first Cedergreen child to be born on the farm, bought the homestead from his siblings. With the help of his son Clarice, and son-in-law Rob Coleman, he expanded the family's dairy business.

In 1937, Clarice Cedergreen moved to the Snohomish farm where he continued to operate the dairy along with a diversified program. Clarice was responsible for the construction of the large brick barn which still stands on the property. In the early 1960s he ceased the dairy operation, and changed his focus to cultivating green peas and working with the family's Wenatchee-based frozen food company (which moved its headquarters to the Snohomish farm in the 1970s). Clarice passed away in 1992, but his wife, Jean, still lives on the property.

This centennial farm has played an important role in the history of Snohomish county, as well as the heritage of five generations of the Cedergreen family.