

Basque Heritage (1920-2005)

The Basque Echevarria family lived in the farmhouse for a time after the Schick/See family moved out, managing the farm for Frank Parsons. In 1927, Parsons hired a Basque farmer, Costantino (Costan) Ostolasa, as manager. The Ostolasa family lived in the farmhouse for nearly 80 years, until 2005.

Costan was born in Spain and arrived in the U.S. in 1907 at the age of 17. He married Lucia Amias in 1917. They had four children: Anastasio (Andy), Aurora, Felisa [Iriondo] and Valentine. Costan died in a tractor accident at the ranch in 1956. Lucia passed away in 1979.

Andy Ostolasa began working the ranch with his father at age 15. After World War II, he married Connie Smith of Eugene, Oregon, and brought her to the Dry Creek ranch where he and his father worked for the owners. The newlyweds moved into the old summer house where they lived until 1964, when a new house was built for them. Aurora and Valentine continued to live in the farmhouse.

At the ranch, the family raised sheep, cattle, horses, swine, turkeys, chickens, and a variety of feed crops. An orchard grew nearby. Haying crews stayed in a bunkhouse (now gone), with their meals prepared by Lucia and her daughters.

Ostolasa family members lived in the old farmhouse until 2005.



*Ostolasa family members at the ranch in the 1930s.
Photos:
Ostolasa family*



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Dry Creek Historical Society

Schick-Ostolasa Farmstead Historic Site

Listed in the National Register of Historic Places since 2006



*Schick Farmhouse, c. 1890
Photo: Del Varyan*

Deep in the trees of the Dry Creek Valley is a farmstead built in the 1860s...

Schick-Ostolasa Farmstead History

The 1860s Schick-Ostolasa Farmstead was listed on the National Register of Historic Places for its significance as an outstanding example of early homesteading in Idaho, and 19th and 20th Century farming in the West. It showcases the entire timeline of Idaho agriculture, with one of the older intact houses in Ada County and the State of Idaho.

Farmstead history is linked to settlement along one of the early supply roads to the Boise Basin mines. Settlers in the Dry Creek Valley raised crops and livestock on the fertile black soil of the bottomland for miners, the military, and the townspeople in nearby Boise.

Nearly 150 years later the Farmstead retains its rural setting among the fields of a community-supported organic farm. Along with typical 19th Century farm buildings, it hosts a 1900-era garden restoration with roses said to be received long ago from prominent Boise pioneer Julia Davis.

Clara Schick (r), undated.
Photo: Del Yaryan

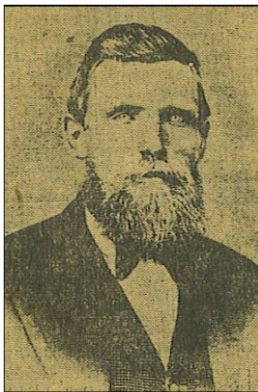


Bottles and a brass powder horn from the Farmstead.



German Heritage 1864-1920

Phillip L. Schick was born in New York of German parents. He traveled to Idaho in 1862 by boat from California through Oregon to Lewiston, and then by ox team to Boise.



P.L. Schick, undated.
Photo: Del Yaryan

Many miners and others came from California that same year as news of gold discoveries in the Boise Basin spread.

Schick is said to have found the Dry Creek Valley when his oxen escaped and he tracked them to a valley of waist-high grasses perfect for grazing.

He and a partner, George Banker, began working 160 acres along Dry Creek in 1864. They started with five horses, a wagon, a plow, and a harrow. A house, stable, and chicken house were in place by 1868.

Schick filed his own homestead application in 1868 and patented the land in 1874.

He married Mary Yaryan in 1870. They had one child, Clara.

Schick is said to have built the nearby Dry Creek School so his daughter could attend classes. The teachers boarded at his farm.

Clara married Forrest W. See in 1892. They had one son, Merl Edgar, whose descendants still live in the Boise area. Phillip Schick dies in 1902 at his Dry



Mary Yaryan Schick (r), undated.
Photo: Del Yaryan

Creek home at the age of 64 of burns suffered in a freak accident.

The Schick/See family owned the farm until 1920 when it was sold to Boise banker and cattleman Frank H. Parsons. Parsons' wife, Anna Louise Moore, was a daughter of Christopher L. Moore, president of Idaho First National Bank.

Parsons was a gentleman farmer who lived in Boise while Basque farmers ran the ranch. His wife sold the ranch after his death in 1942.

DeChambeau Family 1942-1979

Although the DeChambeaus did not live in the Schick farmhouse, they owned the 7L Ranch, that included the Schick farmhouse, for more than 30 years.

John and Earl DeChambeau ran about 200 head of beef with calves, dairy cows, and saddle horses at the ranch.

They introduced motorized haying equipment, formally ending the era of draft horses and reducing the size of haying crews.

Under their ownership, the historic farmhouse received a new kitchen and bathroom. Another house was built in 1964 along Dry Creek near the old farmhouse for Andy Ostolasa's family.

In the 1960s, the DeChambeaus also built a split-level house at the ranch using bricks from St. Teresa's Academy in Boise. This house was removed in the early 2000s.



20th Century haying at the ranch.
Photo: Ostolasa family

The Farmstead historic site is owned by Ada County and managed by the Dry Creek Historical Society.