

Skaret in Stavadalen, Reinli, Sør-Aurdal

The houses at Skaret is located at 836 meters above sea level. According to tradition, it should be the highest farm in Norway where the grain grows. The farm name comes from the gorge in the mountains to the northeast. It is Skarafjellet that makes it warm enough to grow grain. In 1751, the Skaret was separated as an independent use from the medieval farm Stavadalen. Skaret has summer pastures on Sangatn.

Skaret has been in the same family since the 1770s when Tore Gudbrandsen Austegarden bought the farm. Gudbrand Olsen (1833-1929) took over in 1872. He and his wife Sigrid Toresdatter had the following children:

1. Ole, b. 1856, m. to Kari Arnesdatter, to USA 1878
2. Tore, b. 1859, m. to Kjersti Wøien, to USA 1878
3. Ingrid, b. 1862, m. to Ole Hermannson Kvålshaugen
4. Anders b. 1865, next farmer
5. Erik, b. 1868, to USA 1893
6. Aasta, b. 1871, to USA 1893
7. Anne, b. 1874, to USA 1893



Berit Moen was married to Anders Gudbrandsen who was the farmer at Skaret. Berit died in childbirth on April 4, 1906. The couple then had six children. The picture shows from the left Anders, b. 1865, with Ola, b. 1904, on his arm. Gudbrand, b. 1833, with Nils, b. 1902, on his arm. Siri, b. 1890, Aasta, b. 1900, Anne, b. 1891, and Gudbrand, b. 1893. The child, who died after birth, was a girl named Borghild. She was buried with her mother.

As is common practice, the name of the farm eventually became the family name. However, five of the siblings emigrated to the United States. There they came to use the name variant Skalet. At the census in 1910, the family in Reinli uses Skalet as a surname, while they live on Skaret. This name confusion is said to have come from the fact that a Danish-speaking priest on one occasion had perceived that the name contained the letter l and not r and wrote Skalet in the church register. In local dialect pronunciation, this will sound the same with both spellings. In the United States, the family still uses the name Skalet. The series of users after Ander Skaret has been Gudbrand, b. 1894, Anders, b. 1933 and Geir Henning, b. 1977.



Stavadalen with Skaret at the top, just above the roof. Picture from *Gard og bygd i Sør-Aurdal*.



Skaret. Picture from the last half of the 19th century.



Skaret. The farm under the steep mountain.



Picture from a gathering in connection with a visit from the USA. Tore G. Skalet was established as a photographer in Mayville, North Dakota. He took this picture, and it is likely that he has taken several of the others shown here. Tore made the trip across the Atlantic a total of 13 times to visit the family.



Time for going to the summer pasture in 1896. Siri Toresdatter, b. 1831, in the foreground with her son Anders, b. 1865, on the right.



At the summer pasture Sangatn 1896.



Skaret in 2002. Picture from Norske gardsbruk