

CFR 1009

Mrs. Bonham (Irene W.) and Michael E. Keerins

*(David Keerins and all family farms)*

See also. ~~Keerins, Ben~~  
Keerins:

David

Joseph

Matthew

Owen



APPLICATION FOR CENTURY FARM HONORS

Deadline for Filing Application - May 1, 1996 Redacted for Privacy

(Please print or type)

Telephone #: Redacted for Privacy

Your Name (Mr., Mrs., Ms., Miss) Bonham Keerins (Irene W.) & Michael E. Keerins

Your Address Redacted for Privacy

Street, Route or Box #

City

Zip Code

Location of Farm Izee Oregon of Grant County

To qualify as a Century Farm, a farm must have a gross income from farm use of not less than \$1,000.00 per year for three out of the five years immediately preceding application for Century Farm honors. Does your farm meet this qualification? YES

Name of family member who was founder or original owner of farm:

David Keerins

Founder gained ownership of farm in (Year) resides July 19, 1890 -  
(ATTACH VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION, See Rule 9). Timber Culture

Founder came to Oregon from King County, Ireland

Who farms the land today? Mrs. Bonham Keerins (Irene W.) & Michael E. Keerins

Relationship to original owner niece-in-law & grandnephew

Are any of the original buildings still in use? NO

If yes, which ones? \_\_\_\_\_

If you know crops or livestock raised on farm one hundred years ago, please list: timber, grazing, sheep, horses

What do you raise on the farm today? grazing, cattle, horses

How many generations live on the farm today? Three

Please list names: Mrs. Bonham Keerins (Irene W.) niece-in-law, Michael E.

Keerins grandnephew, wife Joanne, children: Elyse, Erick, Errin, Emily

Do you declare that the statements made above are accurate and correct to the best of your knowledge? YES

Mrs. Bonham Keerins, Michael E. Keerins  
Signature of Owner

Please return forms to: Century Farm Program, Oregon Historical Society  
1200 S. W. Park Ave., Portland, OR 97205-2483

# Keerins Ranch

Irene Keerins

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Privacy

November 11, 1996

Oregon Historical Society  
1200 S.W. Park Avenue  
Portland, OR. 97205

Dear Ron Brentano or Carolyn Hixson:

We understood from the letter from the Oregon Historical Society Century Farm Program (copy enclosed) that all brothers were accepted.

We received Mathew Keerins Farm Certificate September 23.

Called to ask about the other brothers the last of September.

Enclosed is a picture of the sign we had made.

Could the certificate be made similar to the sign listing the four brothers?

Enclosed: 4 applications

1 copy Historical Society letter

1 picture of sign

We will wait for your response.

Sincerely,

  
Irene W. Keerins



June 7, 1994

Send  
6/14/94

Mr Bentano,

Mrs Irene Keerins of Izee, Oregon asked me to contact you about the procedure to have Keerins Ranch listed as a Century Ranch (farm).

The Keerins family came to and settled on land in the Izee area in the 1880's. The ranch became one of the largest in the area and has been owned and operated by members of the Keerins family since the 1880's until the present time.

Please send me an application form and necessary information about the Century Farm/Ranch program. I will help Mrs Keerins with the paperwork and get it back to you.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

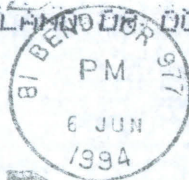
Nancy Taylor.

Redacted for Privacy

Nancy Taylor

Redacted for Privacy

PORTLAND OREGON DEC 4 57208 05 08 31 USA 29



Ron Bentano  
Oregon Historical Society  
1230 S.W. Park.  
Portland, Oregon.

RECEIVED  
JUN 10 1994

Oregon Historical Society

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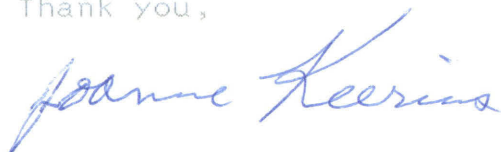
February 6, 1996

Ron Brentano  
Chief Field Representative  
Oregon Historical Society  
1200 S.W. Park Avenue  
Portland, Oregon 97205

TO: Ron Brentano,

I called you last fall about the CENTURY FARM PROGRAM.  
I would like to have a 1996 application. We may make  
application for 4 Keerins's brother who homestead in the  
Izee area of Grant County in 1896. You sent me the  
genral information last fall. Can we make copies of the  
forms if we make a mistake or do they have to be the  
form you sent.

Thank you,



Joanne Keerins

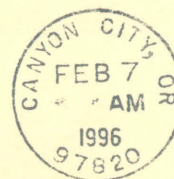
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**Keerins Ranch**

Redacted for Privacy



Ron Brentano  
Oregon Historical society  
1200 S.W. Park Avenue  
Portland, OR

RECEIVED  
FEB - 9 1996  
Oregon Historical Society

97205

**CENTURY**



**FARM**

**KEERINS RANCH**

IZEE, OREGON

1886 EST. 1890

Joseph  
Owen

David  
Matthew



# General Information



March 25, 1996

Keerins Bros. came from King County, Ireland in 1878 to the United States. They showed in Fox Valley in Grant County in 1882 and to Izee in Grant County in 1886. We would like to have a plaque for Keerins Bros.

Owen Keerins - 1890

David Keerins - 1886

Matthew Keerins - 1890

Joseph Keerins - 1886

The ownership of property: David Keerins and Joseph Keerins bought property from Owen or inherited from the estate of Matthew Keerins plus homestead their own ground. When David and Joseph Keerins died, Joseph's two sons, Joseph and Bonham, bought the property from the estates. Joseph and Bonham split the property. Bonham's property contains the 4 homesteads of the four brothers. Bonham left his property to his wife Irene W. Keerins. Irene and, son, Michael E. and wife Joanne run the ranch with their four children: Elyse, Erick, Errin, and Emily.

Owen, David, Matthew, Joseph - to - David and Joseph - to - son's of Joseph, Bonham and Joseph, - to - Bonham -to- Irene W. Keerins and Michael E. Keerins..

The name of 'Izee' was named from the Postmaster C. W. Bonham, Joseph Keerins father-in-law. The Post Office was to be closed if it was not named. C.W. Bonham added two 'ee' to his brand 'IZ'.

Michael Keerins and Mary Flynn were married on January 10, 1842 at St. Carthage's Catholic Church, Rahan, Tullamore, Eire.

They were the parents of: John born November 2, 1842; Patrick, born March 13, 1844; Michael, born October 2, 1845; Owen Eugene, born September 15, 1853; David born September 11, 1861; Matthew, born in 1862; Joseph, born November 1, 1863 and Elizabeth (no date). All were born in Killina, Rahan, Kings County (now County Offaly), Ireland.

The death of the parents caused the sons and daughter to emigrate to the United States (1878), via the Horn to San Francisco.

Michael Keerins stayed in California and settled around Sacramento. He Spelled his name 'Keerans'). The sister, Elizabeth Keerins, died in California about 1879.









# OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

AT  
THE *oregon history center*

1200 S.W. PARK AVENUE PORTLAND, OREGON 97205-2483  
503/306-5200 TELEPHONE 503/221-2035 FACSIMILE 503/306-5194 TDD

September 23, 1996

Mrs. Bonham Keerins

Redacted for Privacy

Dear Mrs. Keerins:

The Matthew Keerins Farm  
Founded 1895

We are pleased to provide you with your completed Century Farm certificate at this time.

As soon as we can arrange for a special recognition program with your county historical society, we will notify you regarding the date and time.

In the meantime, enjoy your hard-earned honor and family keepsake!

Sincerely,

*Ron Brentano* ch

Ron Brentano, Coordinator  
Century Farm Program

RB:ch

Enclosure

THE STATE HISTORY MUSEUM, LIBRARY & PRESS

*Incorporating The Battleship Oregon Museum, the Museum Store, Oregon Folk Arts Program, Oregon Geographic Names Board, Oregon Heritage Tourism Resource Center, Oregon Historical Society Affiliates Program, Oregon Lewis & Clark Heritage Foundation, Oregon Lewis & Clark Trail Committee*



Information

I zee

Area



# Sheep Shooters Well Organized in County

The following is taken from the records of the U. S. Forest Service in Prineville.

Forest Supervisor,  
Prineville, Oregon.  
Dear Mr. Harpman:

Reference is made to your letter dated January 13.

While out on my rounds of the district this winter I have made it a point to get what information I could from the oldtimers relative to the range wars in the early days between cattlemen and sheepmen, and of fights with Indians, etc. I am writing up what I now have, but may be able to add to it later on as I find out more detail of the doings in these early days of things that happened on and within the vicinity of our Ochoco Forest.

## IZEE SHEEP SHOOTERS

On February 5, 1927 I had a long interview with Mr. W. D. Officer, an oldtimer of the Izee country. Mr. Officer stated that the Izee sheep shooters were organized in the Izee country in 1896. The cattlemen formed this organization for their protection from sheepmen encroaching on their cattle range. The cattlemen state that the sheepmen from far distant winter and spring ranges would bring their sheep during

the summer to the Snow Mountain and Izee country, and would herd their sheep right down to the cattlemen's pasture fences, "eat out their door yards," as they put it. The cattlemen felt that the only thing to do was to form this organization and when the sheep came too near their ranges a bunch of sheep shooters would get together and go out and hold up the herder and camp tender and then would kill a good portion of the band of sheep, inflicting unbearable losses on the sheepmen. Naturally the sheepmen moved out and had more respect for the cattlemen after that. This sheep-shooters organization of the Izee cattlemen was in excellent working order, and killed thousands of sheep in the Snow Mountain, Izee and Bear Valley country from 1896 till 1906, the latter date being the year the National Forests were put under the administration and the Forest Service made lines between sheep and cattle ranges for administrative purposes and incidentally put a stop to the range wars.

Mr. Officer stated that the sheep shooters also killed Indians as well as sheep, then he told me the following story:

"In October, 1893 a band of

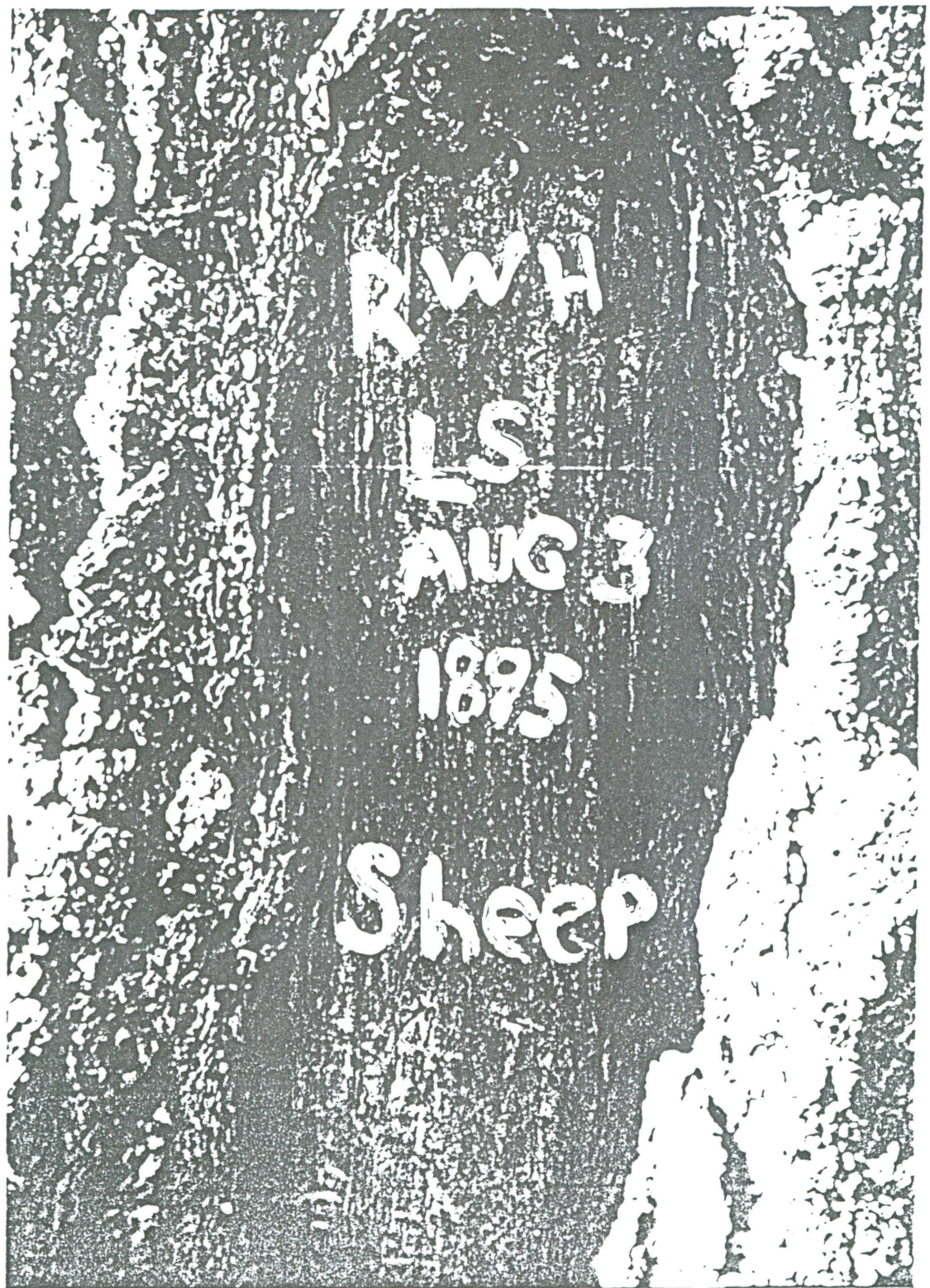
Columbia Indians under Chief Albert were passing through the Izee country on their return to the Columbia river after spending the summer in the Bear Valley country. The Indians camped for the night on Deer creek. They had lost some of their ponies, were in a bad humor, and were about halfway on the warpath anyway.

While these Indians were camped on Deer Creek, John Hyde, from Izee, happened to ride past their camp, and the Indians immediately accused Mr. Hyde of molesting their horses, etc., and during the discussion, in true Indian style the Indians formed a circle around Hyde and tried to get hold of him, but Hyde got an opening and ran his horse through the circle and made his get-away, but was shot at several times as he was leaving. Mr. Hyde went on to Izee and before daylight next morning the sheep-shooters were gathered, well armed, and at daylight were as far as the edge of the timber on their way to pay the Indians on Deer Creek a visit.

The Indians had packed up and were traveling down Deer creek when they were overtaken by the Izee men. The first Indians to be met with were old Chief Albert and another Indian. Chief Albert immediately made fight and fired at a white man but missed, then it seems all the white men fired at Albert about the same time. Albert fell with 14 bullets through his body. But while the white men were shooting Chief Albert this other Indian from a vantage point, had shot and killed George Cutting, a white man from Izee. The white men then followed and caught up with the Indian that had killed Cutting, and immediately dispatched him to the Happy Hunting Ground. The white men also killed several of the Indians' horses and called it a day and went home.

The fork of Deer Creek, now known as Dead Indian Creek, takes its name from the killing of these Indians there. Mr. Officer said that he was "not very far away" when this happened, so I am sure this story is authentic. (Officer worked on Ochoco as fire guard in 1926.)"





Blow up of the carving - there  
Are some other letters below "sheep"  
but I don't recall what it is.



## Grant County Pair Wed In Impressive Afternoon Rites At Catholic Church

In impressive afternoon ceremonies at St. Elizabeth's Catholic church in John Day Mrs. Waltraut Irene Schneiderite of John Day became the bride of Bonham Keerins of Izee. The Rev. Richard Conway read the double ring ceremony before a company of friends and relatives of the couple. The wedding music was played by John Liveira of John Day.

The bride, given in marriage by Robert Keerins of John Day, was lovely in a ballerina length gown of mauve pink lace. Her veil was shoulder length and she carried a wedding bouquet of pink carnations and rosebuds.

Her sister, Mrs. Elfride Prins, of Boise was matron of honor. Her gown was of beige lace with matching hat, and she carried flowers similar to those of the bride.

Joseph Keerins of Prineville was best man for his brother and Bill Matzen of John Day served as usher. The bride's son, Mike, was ringbearer.

For her son's wedding Mrs. Della Keerins of Izee chose a blue crepe frock with pink metallic hat and pink rosebud corsage.

A wedding reception was held immediately following the ceremony at Fraternal hall in Canyon City. Following the cutting of the first pieces of cake by the newlyweds, the cake was cut and served by Mrs. Robert Keerins, Mrs. Anna Keerins, Mrs. Bill Matzen and Mrs. Joseph Keerins. Mrs. Mae Jeanett Hankins was in charge of the guest book and Mrs. John Beswick and Mrs. Fred Legler presided at the gift table.

The newlyweds left for an undisclosed destination to spend their honeymoon. They will make their home at the Bonham Keerins ranch in Izee upon their return.

Out-of-town guests for the wedding included Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Keerins and family of Prineville, Mrs. Frieda Prins and son, Richard, of Boise, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Mercier of Vancouver, Wash., Mrs. Madge Tingley and Mrs. M. Ray Deiter of Portland, Mr. and Mrs. Max Mowry of Redmond, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Busch, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Strickland and a large number of friends from Izee and other Grant county communities. The out-of-town guests and family members were entertained at a buffet dinner at the Robert Keerins home following the reception.

The bride was feted at several social events prior to the wedding. Mrs. Robert Keerins and Mrs. Mae Jeanett Hankins were hostesses in the Keerins home at a personal shower for her November 11, and Saturday evening following the wedding rehearsal, members of the wedding party and the immediate family were guests at a dutch lunch at the home of Mrs. Fred Legler.

Newspaper Clipping

REGISTRY RETURN RECEIPT sent Sept 14, 1896

Reg. No. 16 from Post Office at Free Oregon

\*Reg. Letter } Addressed to Frederick & Lea  
 Reg. Parcel } The Dallen

After obtaining receipt below, the Postmaster will mail this Card, without cover and without postage, to address on the other side.

RECEIVED THE ABOVE DESCRIBED REGISTERED { \*LETTER.  
 PARCEL.

(SENDER'S NAME ON OTHER SIDE.)

Sign on dotted lines to the right.

When delivery is made to other than addressee, the name of both addressee and recipient must appear.

Frederick & Lea

\* Erase letter or parcel according to which is sent.

When the registered letter or parcel accompanying this card is delivered, the Postmaster will require signature to the receipt on the other side, also on his record of registered deliveries, and mail this card without cover to address below.  
 A penalty of \$300 is fixed by law for using this card for other than official business.

Post Office Department.  
 OFFICIAL BUSINESS.

Post Office at

RETURN TO:

Name of Sender Reverin Bros



Street and Number, }  
 or Post Office Box. }



Post Office at Free

County of Grant State of Or

Stamp here name of Post Office  
 THE POST OFFICE  
 SEPT 13 12 P M  
 96  
 and date of delivery.



  
Do the 30 1887  
Received from Kerrin's Brothers  
Box 20 Brooklyn June 19 75 Dollars  
Small best 10 15  
No. 20 Wm. McKim Dickerson

  
600  
Bangor City July 5 1887  
Received of Kerrin Bros  
Six <sup>100</sup> Dollars  
In full to date  
No. C. A. Lunt  
Copyright secured 1887



# A look at the communities that make-up the county

**Canyon City** — Canyon City was born in 1862 as a mining camp that grew along Canyon Creek after gold was discovered on Whiskey Flat, located a short distance north of Canyon Creek. For some time there was an influx of miners, perhaps as many as 10,000 lived along the single Whiskey Gulch Street. It has been estimated that around \$8 million was mined from the Canyon Creek diggings over 10 years. The mining declined in the 1870's but the town did not die.

One of the town's better-known citizens was Cincinnatus Heiner (Joaquin) Miller, who settled in Canyon City in 1864 and planted the town's first orchard at the rear of his cabin.

There were conflicts between Union and Confederate sympathizers. When California miners raised the Confederate flag on Rebel Hill on July 4, 1863, the Union-sympathizing Oregon miners stormed the hill and tore

down the flag.

The historic community is the county seat of Grant County, and derives its name from the fact that it is situated in a canyon about two miles south of the John Day River.

Canyon City suffered from a disastrous fire on April 18, 1937, with a large part of the community being destroyed.

**John Day** — John Day was founded around the same time as Canyon City in 1862. Located at the mouth of Canyon Creek, mining was the sole support of the community in the beginning. Then agriculture slowly took hold.

The Trowbridge ranch, located north of the town, was started in 1862 and is the oldest ranch in the county. It is still used to this day.

The town was officially called John Day in 1865 after the river that flows through the valley. It was known as "Lower Town" by

the miners who lived up and down Canyon Creek. By the end of 1864, two saloons were doing business and in 1865, another pioneer built a blacksmith shop. A flour mill was also built at the mouth of Canyon Creek.

In those days many robberies occurred in the community. Weapons were carried by everyone, which was typical of mining communities. In the late sixties, the population began to scatter as the mining gave out. During the seventies, the Chinese were about the only miners left in the area who considered Canyon Creek worth working.

In 1876 a general store, two tobacco stores and a small variety store opened. In 1878, John Day was designated as a post office. Other businesses popped up throughout the following years to come. Among the stores included three lodges, a meat market, school, one church (Methodist), two small hotels and

two livery barns.

After the destruction of Chinatown in 1885 in Canyon City and the subsequent refusal of the residents there to let the Chinese rebuild, the Chinese moved to John Day. At one time, a Chinatown of 4,000 to 6,000 inhabitants was located there.

In 1888, John Day was incorporated and the first mayor and city council members were appointed. In 1890, the John Day Roller Mill ground flour used in Grant County. At this time there were three large general stores.

In 1901, a two story school house was built, on the back side of the grounds where the John Day Junior High is now. In 1936 a new grade school was built in John Day and Grant Union High School was built between the towns of John Day and Canyon City.

**Seneca** — The town was named for Judge Seneca Smith of Portland and was the hub of the

county's railroad logging industry until the sawmill closed.

**Izee** — The community of Izee is located on the South Fork of the John Day River.

Stephen Meek believed he could lead a wagon train more directly across the state — cutting off the long miles from Boise to the Columbia River, by going through this area. In 1845 he found a large number of families willing to follow him. Among the families includes James and Eveline Cooley Officer. A son of this couple returned to Grant County 40 years later in 1884.

In 1882 the Keerins brothers, Matt, Owen, Joseph and Dave came into Izee with a band of sheep. They had come from Ireland to San Francisco and then to Grant County.

For a short time there were two school houses in Izee. One

See "Communities," Page 24