

CFR 0802

Jerry Brosnan

MORROW

APPLICATION FOR CENTURY FARM HONORS

Deadline for filing applications - May 1, 1985

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT:

Your name (Mr., Mrs., Ms.) Jerry Brosnan

Your address: Rte #2 Box 2337 Heppner 97836  
Street, Route, or Box Town Zip

Location of Farm: Heppner Morrow  
Address County

To qualify as a Century Farm, a farm must have not less than 10 acres with a gross income from farm use of not less than \$500 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 Jeremiah Brosnan

Year founder settled on farm 1875 Where did he come from? Ireland

Who farms the land today? Jerry & Eddie Brosnan

Relationship to original owner? Jerry is a grandson, Eddie great grand grandson

Are any of the original buildings still in use? If so which ones? no

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

Ran horses and small patches of grain hay

What do you raise on farm today? Cattle & alfalfa

How many generations live on the farm today (Names)? 4 generations  
Zetta Brosnan  
Jerry Brosnan, Eddie Brosnan, Eddie's children

How many times has the original farm been divided? never

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

Please return form to:

Jerry Brosnan  
Signature of Owner

Elizabeth W. Buehler, Field Historian  
Oregon Historical Society  
1230 S.W. Park Avenue  
Portland, Oregon, 97205

CFR0802

CERTIFICATION OF OWNERSHIP OF CENTURY FARM

I hereby certify that the farm for which Jerry Brosnan

Rt. 2, Box 2337, Heppner, Oregon 97836  
(owner's Name and Address)

is applying for Century Farm Honors has been in his family  
continuously for one hundred or more years.

Barbara Bloodsworth  
(County Recorder/Clerk)

4-23-84  
Date

## BROSAN FAMILY

Jeremiah Brosnan emigrated from County Cork, Ireland. He landed in New York City. We do not know what year. He had a sister and brother-in-law in Pennsylvania and he went there and stayed for some time. Apparently he didn't get along very well with them so was given a team of oxen for his part in the ranch and he headed west. He ended up in Omaha, Nebraska in 1863 where he was employed by the Union Pacific Railroad which was building westward, ultimately it would link up with the Central Pacific Railroad which was building eastward from Sacramento, California. The two met at Promontory, Utah in 1869 where the golden spike was driven. Jeremiah or (Jerry as he was called) and one other worker were the only two who stayed with the construction all the way.



John, Zetta and Jerry Brosnan

up the Pacific to the mouth of the Columbia River then up the Columbia to the Umatilla Landing where they were met by Felix and Kate Johnson. Kate being Mary's sister and Mike's cousin. This was in 1879.

It was at the Johnsons' home on Butter Creek that Jerry and Mary met.

Jerry and Mary settled farther up on Butter Creek. To this union were born three children: Catherine (Katie) who married Hugh Currin, Mary who married Sam Nelson from Big Butter Creek and John.

In 1908 John married Zetta Hager who was a Heppner girl. To this union were born three children: Jerry who still lives on the ranch, Joe who lives in Little Rock, Arkansas and Margaret who also lived in Arkansas but passed away in December, 1982.

In 1910 Jeremiah and Mary moved to Heppner. John and Zetta and family stayed on the ranch. Jeremiah passed away in 1924 and Mary in 1935. Both are buried in the Vinson Cemetery.

The Brosnans were a Catholic family and as there were no priests stationed permanently in this territory, occasionally a priest would come through to say Mass at the Brosnan home. All Catholics around the neighborhood would come for Mass and then stay for dinner and visiting.

When Jeremiah first settled on Butter Creek he ran horses and cattle, then in the 20's sheep were run. This continued until 1949 when the operation went to running Hereford cattle which continues today.

In 1935 Marian Good from Monmouth, Oregon came to Lena to teach the one room school. She boarded and roomed with the Brosnans. There were five pupils enrolled that fall. Raymond and Joe French, Margaret, Eulenia and Gladys Seehafer. Marian had never been to Eastern Oregon and if she had had enough money would have turned

around and gone back, after seeing how desolate it was.

In a short time though she and Jerry fell in love and were married in 1936. They lived with Jerry's folks for several years until in 1942 when Zetta and John built a home one-half mile down the road.

Jerry and Marian have four children: John who lives at Hubbard, Oregon and has four children, Eddie who now operates the ranch and has 5 children, Joann who lives in Portland, Oregon and has 3 children and Dan who lives in Salem, Oregon and has 2 children.

Jerry and Marian's children all attended Heppner Schools as the Lena school was discontinued.

John Brosnan passed away in 1952 and is buried beside his parents in the Vinson cemetery. Zetta his widow who is 94 years old still lives on the ranch in the mobile home close to Jerry and Marian.

There is the fifth generation Brosnans now living on the ranch. *Marian Brosnan*



Jeremiah and Mary Brosnan

From Utah Jerry traveled to Western Oregon where he worked at Currinsville for several years before coming to Eastern Oregon. Jerry Brosnan first ran horses in the Sands country near the towns of Boardman and Irrigon. In 1879 he settled on Little Butter Creek.

In May, 1880 Jerry and Mary Gaffney were married. Mary had come from County Leitram, Ireland with her cousin Mike Kenney. Their voyage took them south on the Atlantic Ocean and around the southern tip of South America to the Pacific. They came