

CFR 0001

Cecil (Nel) Sturgill

U.S. Census Definition of a Farm: 10 acres or more with agricultural sales of \$50 or more a year; or, if less than 10 acres, sales of at least \$250 a year.

APPLICATION FOR CENTURY FARM HONORS--1970
(Rules attached)
Deadline for filing application: July 1, 1970

PLEASE PRINT

Your name (Mr., Mrs., Miss) ^{Mrs. nee.} Cecil (Jessie Osborn) Sturgill

Your address: ~~Route~~ 2646 Main St ~~P.O. Box~~ 3 Town Baker Ore.
97814

Location of farm: 4 1/2 miles N. of Baker Baker
(Address) (County)

Acres in your farm today: 150 Acres in original farm: 160

Does your farm comply with U.S. Census definition at top of page? Yes

Name of founder of farm (please print): Stephen Osborn

Year founder settled on farm? In 1860's Where did he come from? Missouri

How many families have farmed this land? _____

Are any of original buildings still in use? No.

Who farms land today? You? _____ A renter? _____ A manager? _____ Other? Nephew

If you own the farm but live in town, do you manage the farming operation? Yes

What relation are you to the original owner? I am the Daughter

If you know crops or livestock raised on farm 100 years ago, please list Livestock,
Cattle,

What do you raise on farm today? HAY

How many generations live on the farm today? (Names) John Osborn (3rd Gen)
Manages it.

Has the farm ever been rented? yes How many times has original farm been divided? one

PLEASE list on separate page attached other historical facts you know about this farm.

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

Jessie Osborn Sturgill
Signature of Owner

Submitted by: Jessie Osborn Sturgill 2646 Main St
(Name and Address) Baker, Ore,

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The other original 10 acres, has changes hands three times, (In the family) we own, the 10 a. and additional property adjoining.

Stephen Osborn; A prominent Baker Co. citizen, esteemed & a substantial agriculturist and stock man, He was placed as one of the leading property owners of Baker Co. Ore, He was born in Sullivan Co. Mo, Jan 8, 1847, Son of Hiram Osborn, Died Baker Co, Aug 5-1921 At the age of 15 yrs. he accompanied his father across the Plains, with ox teams, They left St Joseph, Mo, May 4-1862, Arrived in Powder River Valley Sept 4-1862 In the first wagon train, to settle in the little village of Wingville; so named as the West wing of Price's Army, The father took up a Squatter's claim; and lived on it until his death in 1898, Also acquired bottom land, Stephen freighted with ox teams several years, from the Columbia Basin to Eastern Idaho & E. Oregon, When he became of age (21) he homesteaded Bottom Land (meadow)

1862 The Homestead Act was passed, whereby a person 21 yrs. of age was entitled to apply for Public Land, and when final payment was made was issued a Deed or Patent, from the U.S. Gov. The Patents were issued by The General Land Office in Wash D.C. and signed by the recorder, the Sec. and the President, of U.S.

I have a Patent of the U.S. of America signed by President U.S. Grant (July 1-1872) by Z. B. Sturgus - as Sect, C. B. Baynton Rec, where by it appears that full payment has been made to Stephen Osborn, according to the Provisions of the Act of Congress

Of the 24th of April 1820; entitled
an Act making provision for Sale
of Public Lands; for - The
T S W. $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 29. T. 8 S. R. 40 E
In the district of Lands subject
to Sale at La Grande, Oregon
Containing 160 Acres

Book 5 Page 96. Certificate No 105
This property has raised hay and
cattle every year since before it
was deeded.

The Priority of Water Rights since
1863.

This property has never changed
hands only once, from
my father Stephen Osborn to
Daughter Jessie Osborn Sturgill. 1912,

If I'm not mistaken a person had
to prove up on property 3 years
before a deed was granted.

Mrs Cecil
Signed
(Jessie Osborn) Sturgill

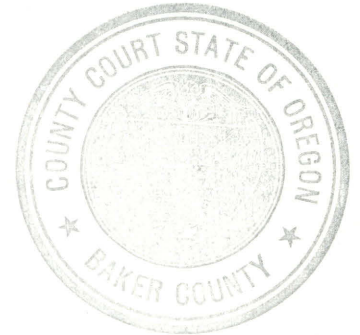
State Department of Agriculture
Oregon Historical Society

CERTIFICATION OF OWNERSHIP OF CENTURY FARM

I hereby certify that the farm for which Jessie Osborn Sturgell
Owner's name and address
2646 main St Baker Ore is applying for Century Farm honors,
97514
has been in his family continuously for 100 or more years.

Donald L. Fuller
~~*County Commissioner~~ Recorder

Date: May 11, 1970



*Please strike office not applicable

SEP 5 - 1970

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

Land homesteaded in 1862 ⁵⁰⁴⁴receives Century Farm award

By DAVE THOMPSON
(D-H Staff Writer)

"When my father reached his 21st birthday, he homesteaded the land that is still in my name," said Mrs. Jesse (Osborn) Sturgill, 2646 Main St., who received a Century Farm award Monday from the Oregon State Historical Society.

The award recognizes farms and ranches that have been in one family for 100 years. Mrs. Sturgill, 82, owns 350 acres in Baker Valley three miles north of Baker that qualify her for the distinction.

"When my father was 15-years-old, he left Terenton, Mo., with my grandfather," Mrs. Sturgill said with a strong, clear voice that belied her years. "He was a man at 15, when he had to drive the oxen over the plains."

"They followed the Old Emigrant Trail, which later became known as the Old Oregon Trail."

Mrs. Sturgill's family, the Osborns, were from Virginia. They moved West to Missouri when that state was still a territory to begin farming.

"My grandfather came to Oregon to make a new home," she said. "I guess he wanted to open new country just like they did in Missouri."

"They arrived out at Wingville in September 1862. My grandfather took up a squatter's claim on hay land in the Baker Valley," she said.

In 1871, her father married a school teacher named Lettie Coleman in a ceremony at Wingville. "She was from Kentucky and just out of college," Mrs. Sturgill recalled.

"I was born at the old homestead at Wingville. My parents had nine children, and I'm the only one left. They lost the first three to diphtheria within one week. Two died in one day," she said. "They didn't have any doctors in those days. Many of the people lost some of their children."

When the Osborns arrived in Oregon, Baker City had not been built according to Mrs. Sturgill. But Auburn was a thriving

mining community.

"Indians would come through once a year to scare us," she recalled. "They'd go to the Snake River every fall to fish. One day they stole some horses from Hardin Estes at Washington Gulch."

In 1912, her father divided his 1,040 acres located in Baker Valley among four children. Mrs. Sturgill received 350 acres. This piece of property has been in the Osborn name ever since the 1860's, and today is used for cattle pasture and for wild hay.

John Osborn, Mrs. Sturgill's nephew, leases the Century Farm's land in his business as a registered Hereford breeder and dairy man. Altogether his ranch includes 800 acres.

"I run 100 Hereford cows and a 50-cow Grade A Holstein dairy," Osborn said as he drove his pickup through the Baker Valley to the land.

His deceased father, Louis Osborn, was Mrs. Sturgill's brother. He originally was a commercial cattleman and later turned to raising dairy cows. "In 1939, we started raising pure-bred Herefords," Osborn said.

No doubt Osborn probably knows every square inch of his ranch. "See those three silver willows over there," he asked, pointing to a speck in the distance. "That's where my grandfather had his house and barn. There's nothing there now except a hollow where the foundation was."

The rancher reset his hat, looked over the 350 acres of prime wild hay land, and said, "This field has never been plowed. We fertilized it once or twice but the fertilizer didn't pay for itself by producing more hay."

"My grandfather had one of the first water rights on the Powder River in this valley," the cattleman continued. "My father and I have ranched all our lives on some of the same land my grandfather acquired."

Osborn sells most of his bulls at the ranch. "I've sold breeding stock in 12 states as far away as Texas and Ohio," he

remarked.

"Last spring I had a Grand Champion bull at La Grande, and the second highest selling bull at Filer, Idaho. He brought \$2,500."

Mrs. Sturgill's land lies near the Herbert Chandler ranch, another 1970 Century Farm winner. Pioneers from both families came to Oregon the same year, perhaps on

the same wagon train.

Land settled by the pioneers has been handed down from original settler to son.

Although ranching techniques have changed, the land, at least some of it, remains in the family of the first men who used it. It seems ranches have a way of keeping folks close to home from one generation to the next.



MR. AND MRS. Cecil Sturgill, 2646 Main St., read a letter from the Oregon State Historical Society, notifying Mrs. Sturgill of a Century Farm award for the Baker Valley land she owns. The Century Farm award recognizes farms and ranches that have been in one family a hundred years. (D-H photo by Dave Thompson)