

CFR 0800

Mr. Orian Albert Wright

MORROW

APPLICATION FOR CENTURY FARM HONORS

Deadline for filing applications - May 1, 1985

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT:

Your name (Mr., Mrs., Ms.) <sup>ORIAN</sup> MR. ALBERT WRIGHT

Your address: Route 1 - Box 3251 Heppner, ORE. 97831  
Street, Route, or Box Town Zip

Location of Farm: 12 miles S.W. of 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 \_\_\_\_\_

ALBERT WRIGHT  
Year founder settled on farm 1873 Where did he come from? LA GRANGE CO. INDIANA

Who farms the land today? GREAT GRANDSON and GREAT, GREAT, GRANDSON

Relationship to original owner? GREAT-GRAND ~~SON~~ SON

Are any of the original buildings still in use? If so which ones? \_\_\_\_\_

House

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

Hay, Sheep

What do you raise on farm today? GRAINS, CATTLE, HAY

How many generations live on the farm today (Names)? 2 - Dean Wright

children, Stephanie, Bryan & Grant

How many times has the original farm been divided? None

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

Please return form to: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Owner

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

CFR0800

CERTIFICATION OF OWNERSHIP OF CENTURY FARM

I hereby certify that the farm for which Orlan Albert Wright \_\_\_\_\_

of Route 1, Box 3251, 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 Bloodsworn  
(County Recorder/Clerk)

1-28-83  
Date

## ALBERT AND BEVERLY WRIGHT AND FAMILY

We would like our future descendants to know some of our family history from both of our families.



Albert and Julia Wright

Orian "Albert" Wright and Beverly Marie Maness met as neighbors on Rhea Creek, 11 miles south of Heppner, Oregon. Both of us lived on ranches about 3 miles



Albert Wright farm

apart. We met in 1948 and started dating and married later on September 19, 1950 in Portland, Oregon.

Albert was born December 24, 1928 on the family ranch. It was homesteaded by his great-grandfather, Albert Wright and great-grandmother Julia A. (Barry) in 1872. He and his wife came across the plains from Stueben county, Indiana, in a covered wagon with 2 young daughters and a brother, Anson Wright. A baby boy, Silas A. was born to them along the way. They reached Oregon City in 1853 and settled there in the vicinity. They had 3 more children by 1872 and lost their oldest daughter Mary and brother Anson by death and buried the two of them at Redland Cemetery, outside of Oregon City. They moved to Rhea Creek area in 1872 and made their homestead where the family farm still is. The sixth generation of Wrights are now living there.

The original Albert passed on his homestead place to his son, Silas A. and wife Martha. They also passed it on to their son Orian E. and Pearl who in turn passed it on to us Albert and Beverly who farm it now with our son Dean A. and wife Cindy and also our daughter Dianna J. Hoeft and husband Gerald Hoeft.

Beverly was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota on December 8, 1930. She lived with her father, William C. Maness and wife Ethel M. on a farm outside of St. Paul, Minn. They had a business of a riding stable, but in November, 1939 a fire



Albert Wright family



destroyed their home and urged them to move to Portland, Oregon where Bill's brother lived. The Maness family moved to Hardman, Oregon vicinity, where Bill got a ranch job at the Harry French place. He quit that job and had several other ranch jobs in the Heppner vicinity and eventually rented the Scherzinger place on Rhea creek, 3 miles from the Orian Wright ranch. Thus Beverly and Albert met and later married.

Albert was in the US Navy for two years, 1946-1948. After he returned home from the service, he worked on the family ranch and he and his brother Bob bought the Wyland place located 8 miles from Hardman.

After we married, we moved to the Wyland place and lived there 2½ years. While there our first child, David William was born, March 28, 1952. He now lives and works on a ranch 9 miles above Olex, Oregon. Then we moved back to the family ranch. On June 5, 1953 our second son, Dean Allan, was born and the following year, our daughter Dianna Jeannine was born October 25, 1954. Thus completing our family.

We are now renting the Scherzinger ranch on Rhea creek from Rachel Harnett and son Melvin. We have a home situated on a beautiful spot along Rhea creek where we met 35 years ago. We also have been blessed with 6 grandchildren thus carrying the Wright family descendants on to make future history.

## PIONEER FAMILY OF THE YEAR

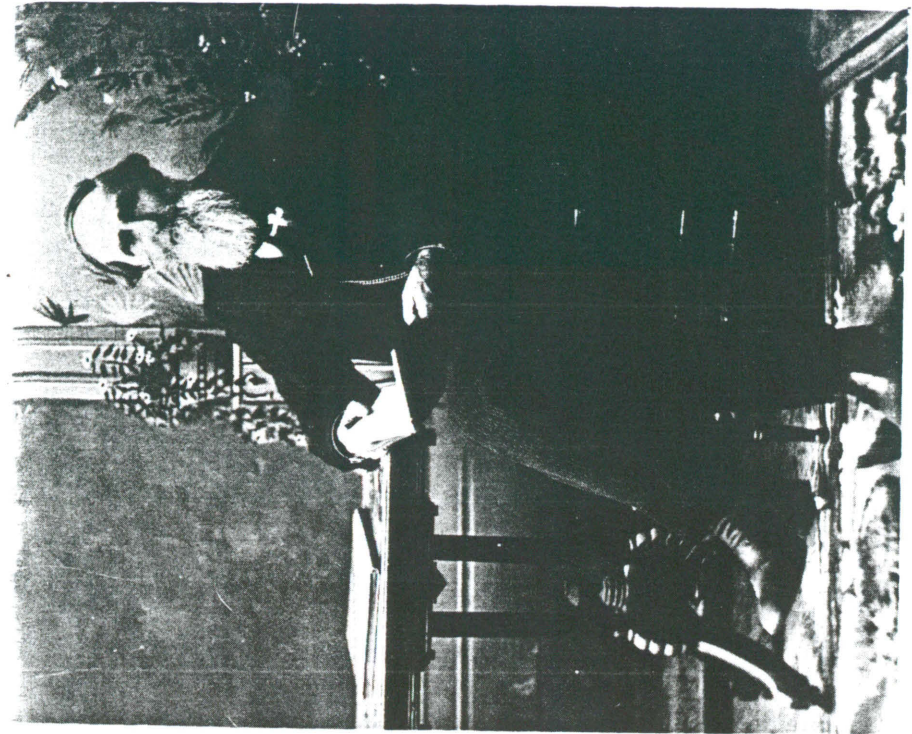
### Albert and Julia Wright

Morrow County pioneers, Albert and Julia Wright and their descendants, now into the seventh generation, have been a very significant part of South Morrow since 1872.

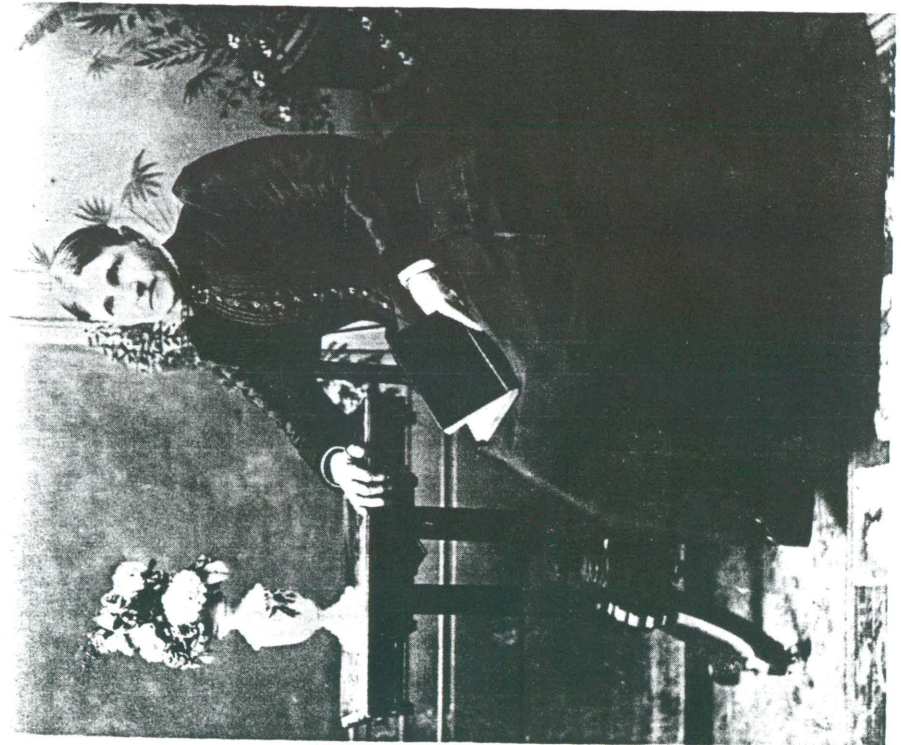
Albert and Julia were married in Stuben County, Indiana. They started their westward journey in 1853 with their two older daughters, Mary Etta and Julia. Their first son, Silas Albert, was born in the Nebraska Territory. They settled near Oregon City, along with Albert's brother, Anson. They lived there for nineteen years.

In 1872, Albert traveled to a beautiful mountain location in the southwestern part of Umatilla County, where he built a log cabin. This was located near Rock Creek across from the present Anson Wright Park. The next spring, he brought his family to the vicinity, and they built their permanent home on upper Rhea Creek. Three more children had been born in Clackamas County--George, Anson, and Effie.

When Albert and Julia and their three children were traveling west with a sizable wagon train, Albert and the illustrious Methodist missionary J. K. Hines became friends. After the Wright family became settled on Rhea Creek, they joined with other pioneers who wanted church services and religious education for their children, and Albert, through his long friendship with



Albert Wright



Julia Wright



Rev. Hines, encouraged the starting of Methodism in Heppner, first by a circuit-riding preacher, and after some years, as an established church in which Mr. Wright held many offices.

The Albert Wright's youngest son, Anson, is immortalized because of the county park bearing his name. Anson Wright's son, Walter, and his wife Mildred Farrens, deeded eighteen acres of their land along Rock Creek to Morrow County for a park as a memorial to his father in 1970.

Anson Wright's granddaughter, Beth Clark, has a story clipped from the EAST OREGONIAN written by Josephine Mahoney at the time of Anson's death in 1936 which tells of him as a boy. "Anson Wright, then 12 years old, brought 750 head of sheep from The Dalles alone on foot through great herds of long-horn cattle through Grass Valley to this county. These were among the first sheep brought to the area. At the age of 14, he stayed alone in the mountains with the sheep and was aroused nightly by bear, gray timber wolves, and coyotes attacking the flock. He was unarmed and was forced to sleep along with the sheep for protection.

"During the Bannock and Piute Indian uprising, his father Albert moved most of his family to The Dalles, but Anson, then 18, stayed in the mountains with the sheep. In 1881, Anson started in the wool-growing business on his own. He followed sheep-raising until his death. At the beginning of his independent career, he took up 480

acres near Hardman. At his death he owned 8,000 acres, having deeded a quantity of it to his children. He also had upon his large estate a large home he built with shed and barn on his Hay Creek Ranch." He had married Ida Jane Knighton December 29, 1886, and they had eight children; Clyde, Maude, Ray, Harley, Myrtle, Nell, Walter, and Samuel.

Albert and Julia Wright's first daughter, Mary Etta, married J. B. David and died childless. Daughter Julia married Timothy Bisbee and had four children: Albert, Lillian, Louis, and Mary Pearl.

The Wright son born in Nebraska Territory, Silas Albert, married Martha Cantwell and they farmed the home place and reared seven children: Alonzo, Guy, Mary Pearl, Moses Albert, Sydna Della, Orian Elmer, and Silas Delbert (called Deb.)

Albert and Julia's fifth child, George, and his wife Ida Green had a son, Harry. After Ida's death, George married her sister, Minnie Green, and they had two children, Earl and Mable.

Effie Wright, the youngest child of Albert and Julia, married Frank Gilliam, one of the original county commissioners, also an early county treasurer, also mayor of Heppner at the time of the 1903 flood. Frank was a partner with his brothers Leonard and Earl in the Gilliam-Bisbee Hardware and Implement business. Effie and Frank had six children: Ona, Edwin, Earl, Leonard, Clinton, and Hazel.





Effie (Wright) and Frank Gilliam

After the children of Albert and Julia were grown, the pioneers moved to Heppner where they lived in Shobe Canyon in a house which was built on the east side of the creek, but which was moved across to the west slope of the canyon and still stands near the road to Ruggs. Their family has continued to enlarge through the years. Albert's first year in this area, 1872, was the year that Heppner really became a going community, and now his descendants and the Morrow County seat have both passed their 110th anniversary.

Justine Weatherford



Albert Wright home, Heppner