

CFR 0975

Jeffry and Terri Ann Zurbrick

Received 6-22-2000

UNION

Oregon Historical Society
CENTURY FARM & RANCH PROGRAM
Application Form

Deadline for filing application - June 30, 2000

Type of designation (please check): Century Farm Century Ranch

Owner's Name: Jeffrey Zurbrick + Terri Ann Zurbrick
Redacted for Privacy

Mailing Address: Redacted for Privacy

Telephone: Redacted for Privacy County UNION

Location of Farm or Ranch: Redacted for Privacy

Township, Range, Section: 2 South 38 East Sections 26 + 27

Original family owner(s) or founder(s): Franklin Zurbrick

Date (year) this Farm/Ranch was acquired by founder(s): November 12, 1900
(Attach verifying documentation, see Rule 9)

Founder(s) came to Oregon from: New York

Who farms/ranches the land today? Jeffrey Zurbrick + Phillip Zurbrick

Relationship to original owner GREAT GRANDSONS

Are any of the original buildings still in use? Yes No

If yes, please describe: The FARM HOUSE which was built in 1884 + is our residence

History of crops or livestock raised on farm/ranch: WHEAT, BARLEY, ALFALFA, PEAS,

AUSTIN PEAS, CATTLE, PIGS, GARBANZO BEANS, HAVE BEEN GROWN/RAISED AT TIMES.

What is raised on the farm/ranch today? WHEAT, BARLEY, ALFALFA, HORSES

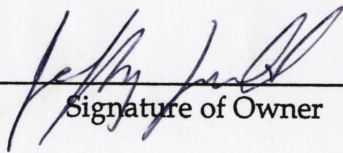
How many generations live on the farm/ranch today? 1

Please list names and birth years: Jeffrey Dan Zurbrick - 1954, Terri Ann Zurbrick - 1958

(Jeffrey's wife) INVOLVED WITH THE FARM BUT LIVING ON OTHER NEARBY LAND ARE

Phillip Zurbrick - 1938, and JACQUETTA ZURBRICK his wife.

I hereby declare that the statements made above are accurate and correct to the best of my knowledge:


Signature of Owner

6/1/2000
Date

Please return to:

Rick Read, Field Services Coordinator
Oregon Historical Society
1200 SW Park Avenue
Portland, OR 97205

CFR0975

Oregon Historical Society
CENTURY FARM & RANCH PROGRAM

STATEMENT of AFFIRMATION

I, Jeffrey Don Zurbick,

Redacted for Privacy

hereby affirm and declare that the farm/ranch which I own at

LA Grande, OR 97850 (Sec. 26 + Sec. 27 Township 25 Range 38E)

in the County of Union,

shall have been owned by my family for at least 100 years, as specified in the qualifications for the Century Farm & Ranch Program, on or before December 31, 2000. Further, I hereby affirm that this property meets all other requirements for Century Farm or Century Ranch honors.

[Signature]
Signature of Owner

6/1/2000
Date

* * * * *

Certification by Notary Public

State of Oregon

County of Union

Be it remembered, that on this 1st day of June, ~~19~~ 2000, before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for said County and state, personally appeared the within named Jeffrey Zurbick, known to me to be the identical individual described in and who executed the within instrument and acknowledged to me that he executed the same freely and voluntarily.



In Testimony Whereof, I have set my hand and affixed my official seal the day and year last above written.

Sally Nebeker
Notary Public for Oregon

My Commission Expires Sept 6, 2003

Notes to Century Farm Application

Land Ownership History:

The land that we currently own and live on was initially purchased from the State of Oregon. It was school land that the Federal government had given to the State. There are two adjoining eighty acre parcels. The first was purchased in the spring of 1871 by R.S. Fowler, who paid \$100.00 for the 80 acres. He paid \$33.00 in cash, and executed a mortgage for the balance. In the fall of 1871, he purchased the second 80 acres, again for the sum of \$100.00, and again with 1/3 down.

In 1880, Mr. Fowler and his wife, Mary, sold the 160 acres to James P. Halley, and his wife Margaret. They paid \$1,200.00 for the property. It is unknown what improvements had been made to the property by the Fowlers in the 9 years that they owned the ground, but we believe that there was a small house, and a small barn at least.

James Halley had the house that we currently live in built in 1884. His daughter Mary died in 1888 at the age of 16, and his wife died in 1896 at the age of 41. He lived here until the fall of 1900 when he sold the property to my great-grandfather, Franklin Zurbrick. The price of the property at that time was \$8,000.00

The property was owned and farmed by Franklin Zurbrick until his retirement, in 1915. Then it was farmed and later owned by Wilbur A. Zurbrick, my grandfather. W.A. Zurbrick farmed the ground until his retirement, in when it was farmed in partnership with my father Harold H. Zurbrick, who became the owner in 1952. Harold Zurbrick farmed and owned the property until his retirement, when I began farming the property in 1978. I became the owner of the property in 1993.

Family History:

As far as we know, all of the Zurbricks in the United States trace back to three Zurbrucks (Zurbrick is an Anglicization), an Uncle and his two nephews, who immigrated here from Germany in the early 1800's. They eventually settled in the area of Cheektowaga, New York. The family had a grist mill there.

In about 1872, Franklin Zurbrick, apparently seeking adventure and or fortune, came to the west, and spent some time in N.E. Oregon splitting ties for the Railroad. He returned to the east and was married to Lizzette. They had a family of 3 sons; Benjamin, Wilbur, and Harrison, and 1 daughter; Gertrude.

Apparently, Franklin had fallen in love with Oregon as a young man, and had always wanted to come back. He felt that this was a land of opportunity. Around 1900, they heard about this property from one of the Geklers, a cousin who lived in the Grande Ronde Valley, and who Franklin had worked with on the rail crew. They ended up buying the farm and came west to stay. The story is that they sold-out in New York, and had their train tickets and two thousand dollars cash. This money had to purchase the land, and see them through to their first harvest. It was a pretty tight year. They had their first harvest in 1901, hence the registered brand of our family 01 (ought-one bar).

Gertrude died suddenly at age 18 in the very bedroom where I now sleep. She reportedly had been feeling ill that morning so stayed in bed. Then, she sat up and said to her father, "Oh Papa, I feel so strange!" collapsed, and died.

Ben, the oldest son, returned to the east.

Harry, the youngest son, stayed in the La Grande area and was a well known Banker, finishing his career with First National Bank of Oregon.

Wilbur, stayed on the farm. He married Stella Hunter, whose family had extensive farm holdings a couple of miles north of our family farm.

Stella's grandfather, John T. Hunter, moved to Oregon with his family from Missouri shortly after the end of the Civil War. He homesteaded 160 acres, as did his wife. He purchased additional property in Union County in 1866, and bought more property over the years. He was elected to the legislature, and died in 1878 when his buggy tipped over on him during a run-away.

Stella's Father, William Gay Hunter, was old enough to also homestead 160 acres, near where his father's farm was. In 1866, he married Eliza Mitchell, who was then also eligible to homestead additional land. He also eventually purchased additional farmground. He was active in the community. In January of 1907, he was doing volunteer work with a group of men on the river channel near Island City, Oregon. They were doing some blasting, and the dynamite they were using had been frozen due to the cold weather. Someone had set the dynamite in a tin bucket by the warming fire to thaw. Apparently, W.G. Hunter bumped or kicked the bucket, which detonated the dynamite. He was carried on a door up to the family house and laid on the kitchen table where his leg was amputated. Stella and her brother Gilbert were assigned the job of burying the leg in the pasture behind the house. Mr. Hunter lived for 1 or 2 days. His leg was retrieved and buried with him. The table where this operation took place is still in use daily in our house.

After the death of W.G. Hunter, the Hunter farm faced some difficult times. Some of the ground was lost, some was split up among the children. As an eventual result of this Stella eventually got 120 acres that is now owned by my brother Phillip. This ground has been farmed by our family since about 1923.

When Wilbur and Stella were married, Franklin and Lizzette bought a house in town, and took what they wanted and moved, leaving the house to Wilbur and Stella. Wilbur and Stella had two children, Harold, born in 1916, and Margaret, born in 1918. They farmed for many years, and managed to purchase additional land near Island City from the McCoy family in 1922. (Margaret, now Margaret Williams, still owns the 'McCoy Place', which we still farm.)

Harold, (my father) secretly married my mother Lola Leonard in Vancouver, WA. in 1935. Both were in Portland at the Pacific International Livestock Exposition. They came home and were going to tell no one. A friend of the family saw the wedding notice published in the Oregonian, and brought it to the attention of my Grandparents. The secret was short-lived! My parents lived in a bunkhouse on the farm for several years. Later, Wilbur and Stella bought a house in town, took what they wanted and moved, leaving the house to Harold and Lola.

There were three brothers in my family. Phillip, Douglas (deceased), and myself (Jeffry). Phil got involved in agricultural education, and his first job was as the ag

teacher in Elgin, Oregon. He eventually got a doctorate from Ohio State University, and was a Professor of Agricultural Education at the University of Arizona until his retirement. He then returned to the Grande Ronde Valley and he and I are currently farming together.

I graduated from La Grande High in 1973, and from Eastern Oregon State College in 1978, with a degree in Ag-Business. I married Terri Westenskow in 1976. Her father, Ron, owned and farmed much of the ground that was formerly owned by W.G. Hunter. When we were married, Harold and Lola broke with tradition, and instead of buying a house in town, built a house on another plot of farm ground 1 mile north. They took what they wanted and moved, leaving the house, and 3 generations of un-wanted stuff to Terri and I. Thankfully, most of the 'unwanted stuff' that was left behind by Franklin & Lizzette, Wilbur & Stella, and Harold & Lola, are now antiques, and of great interest, if not of great value. Some is still used on a regular basis. An example would be a set of bowls that we still use regularly that were given to Wilbur & Stella as wedding presents.

When Ron Westenskow retired, Phil and I bought his farm equipment, and leased his ground. So now, Phil and I are not only farming the Zurbrick Farm, but nearly all of the ground that once belonged to the Hunter family.

The House:

The main portion of our house was constructed in 1884. It has a foundation consisting of rocks piled on one another. The walls are not studded construction, but rather consist of two layers of 1" boards running vertically, and nailed together. Most of the original structure still exists, although there was a double-decked porch which was removed, well before my time. The nails in the house are square nails.

There was an addition put on the house in approximately 1910. This addition was obviously built with wood salvaged from the demolition of some earlier farm building. We redid the walls in our kitchen which is in the 'new' part of the house in the beginning of 2000. We stripped 6 layers of wallpaper, and 2 layers of cheese cloth off of the wall before getting down to the boards. The boards were of random length and width, and some still had obviously been salvaged from the floor of an old barn or shed. They still had dirt, straw and some oats stuck to the boards. We replaced the wall paper with paneling, but figured if the straw and oats had been there for 90 years they should stay for awhile longer, so didn't clean them off. Maybe for the bi-centennial farm celebration!



After recording, return to:

Jeffery Zurbrick

Redacted for Privacy

All tax statements to

Grantee, at:

Redacted for Privacy

146410

Statutory Bargain and Sale Deed

HAROLD H. ZURBRICK, Grantor, conveys to JEFFRY DON ZURBRICK, Grantee, the following described real property:

The south half of the northeast quarter of Section 27, Township 2 South, Range 38 East of the Willamette Meridian.

and

The West half of the northwest quarter of Section 26, Township 2 South, Range 38 East of the Willamette Meridian.

ALL SITUATE IN the County of Union, State of Oregon.

RESERVING, HOWEVER, unto Grantor the right to collect and receive any and all lease payments due or to become due from said property for a period of thirty (30) months from the date of execution of this instrument.

This instrument will not allow use of the property described in this instrument in violation of applicable land use laws and regulations. Before signing or accepting this instrument, the person acquiring fee title to the property should check with the appropriate city or county planning department to verify uses.

The true and actual consideration for this conveyance is other value promised or given.

Dated this 22 day of March, 1993.

Harold Zurbrick

STATE OF OREGON)

) ss.

County of Union)

March 22, 1993

Personally appeared the above named HAROLD H. ZURBRICK, and acknowledged the foregoing to be his voluntary act and deed.

Before me:

Sam H. Ledwith
Notary Public for Oregon,

My Commission Expires:

8-16-93 ²²⁶³⁰ NS 3000

STATE OF OREGON

County of Union

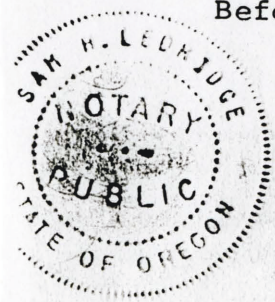
I certify that the within instrument was received for recording on the 23RD day of MARCH 19 93

at 3:12 A.M. (P.M.) and was recorded on microfilm no. 146410

Record of Deeds/Mortgages of said County

R. Nellie Hogue Hibbert, County Clerk

By B. Nelson Deputy



Know all Men by these Presents, that *we*, James P. Halley and Nannie Halley his wife of *Union* County of *Union* State of Oregon, in consideration of *Eight Thousand* DOLLARS, to *us* paid by *Franklin Zurbriech* of *Union* County of *Union* State of Oregon, have bargained and sold, and by these presents do GRANT, BARGAIN, SELL and CONVEY unto *Franklin Zurbriech* his heirs and assigns, all the following bounded and described real property, situated in the County of *Union* and State of Oregon:

to wit, *The South half of North East Quarter of section twenty-seven (27) and West half of North West quarter of section twenty six (26) all in Township 36 S (2) South of Range thirty eight (38) East of Clatskanie Meridian,*

\$800
J.P.H.
1900
Nov 15

Together with all and singular the tenements, hereditaments and appurtenances thereunto belonging or in anywise appertaining, and also all *our* estate, right, title and interest in and to the same, including dower and claim of dower.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD, the above described and granted premises unto the said *Franklin Zurbriech* his heirs and assigns forever. And *I the said James P. Halley* grantor above named do covenant to and with the above named grantee *his* heirs and assigns, that *we are* lawfully seized in fee simple of the above granted premises, that the above granted premises are free from all incumbrances and that *I* will and *my* heirs, executors and administrators, shall warrant and forever defend the above granted premises, and every part and parcel thereof, against the lawful claims and demands of all persons whomsoever, *including taxes thereon for A.D. 1900.*

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, *we* the grantors above named, hereunto set *our* hands and seals this *12th* day of *November* A.D. 1900

Signed, sealed and delivered in the presence of us, as witnesses:
Ida M. Maugh
J. D. Slater
James P. Halley (SEAL)
Nannie Halley (SEAL)
(SEAL)
(SEAL)

STATE OF OREGON,
County of *Union* } ss. THIS CERTIFIES, that on this *12th* day of *November* A. D. 1900 before me, the undersigned, a *Notary Public* in and for *Union* County and State of *Oregon*, personally appeared the within named *James P. Halley and Nannie Halley* who *are* personally known to me to be the identical persons described in and who executed the within instrument, and acknowledged to me that *they* executed the same. And *freely and voluntarily for the uses* of the said *and purposes therein mentioned,* on an examination made by me separate and apart from *said husband,* then and there acknowledged to me that *executed the same freely and voluntarily and without fear, coercion or compulsion from any one.*

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and *Notarial* seal the day and year last above written.
J. D. Slater
Notary Public for Oregon.

Recorded *16th* day of *November* 1900 at *8* o'clock *A.* M.
Geo. Beideman Deputy. *John M. Gickison* Recorder.

Rick Read - Published Union County Century Farm Articles by Trish & Dave Yerges

From: "David Yerges" <Redacted for Privacy>
To: "Rick Read" <rickr@ohs.org>
Date: 11/16/2000 7:25 AM
Subject: Published Union County Century Farm Articles by Trish & Dave Yerges

Zurbrick's Century Farm

By Trish Yerges

"A lot of things can change over 100 years," said Jeffrey Zurbrick, owner of the most recently honored century farm in Union County. The Zurbrick farm on Booth Lane in rural La Grande will have been in operation 100 years this November. "One of my Dad's goals was for the family to be around long enough to be a century farm," said Zurbrick. In an effort to fulfill his father's dream, Zurbrick applied for an Oregon Century Farm Certificate earlier this year and was honored to receive this official recognition in August at the Oregon State Fair.

The land that eventually became the Zurbrick's 160 acre farm was originally purchased from the Federal Government by the State of Oregon for use as school land. When the land was not used as such, the State sold it in 1871 to Mr. Fowler for a mere \$200. In 1880, the Fowlers sold the property to James and Margaret Halley for \$1,200. Sadly, James Halley suffered the premature deaths of his daughter in 1888 and his wife, Margaret, in 1896; thus four years later in the fall of 1900, he sold the farm to Franklin Zurbrick for \$1,800.

Franklin Zurbrick was from Cheektowaga, New York, where his German "Zurbruck" ancestors settled after immigrating to the United States around 1815 from the German territory later known as Elsass-Lothringen or Alsace-Lorraine. In Cheektowaga, the Zurbrick family established a grist mill. Around 1872, young Franklin Zurbrick came West to seek adventure and found employment with his cousin, a Gekeler, splitting ties for the railroad in Northeastern Oregon. Afterward he returned to New York where he met and married Lizette. They had a family of three sons: Benjamin Franklin, Wilbur Arthur, and Harrison Alfred; also one daughter, Gertrude.

Though Franklin was engaged in a strong family business in New York, he felt that the real land opportunities were out West. His Gekeler cousin, who then lived in the Grande Ronde Valley, informed him of the Halley property that was up for sale. Franklin's offer on the property was accepted so he sold out his interests in the New York grist mill, bought train tickets, and with \$2,000 in hand, he and his family traveled west to purchase the farm. The remaining \$200 had to see them through until their first harvest in 1901. Their registered family brand was consequently, 01 (ought-one bar).

The Zurbricks took occupancy of the farm house that Halley had built in 1884. It had a foundation made of rocks piled one on another. The walls were not studded construction, but rather two layers of one inch boards running vertically and nailed together with square nails. Around 1910, Franklin built an addition onto the rear of the home. Using wood he salvaged from the demolition of an earlier farm building, he assembled boards of random length and width to construct the walls. Two layers of cheese cloth and 6 layers of wallpaper later, oats, dirt and straw still hang tenaciously to these boards and speak of an earlier day of frugal recycling.

The barn that existed on the farm when Zurbrick purchased the property served his immediate needs for livestock, crop storage and farm machinery. Though Zurbrick started farming with a tight budget, his operation quickly grew to support his family along with horses, cows and pigs. He planted his 160 acres in wheat and hay with some acreage in pasture.

As Zurbrick's children grew to age, their individual paths in life took definite directions, and in the process, the next heir to the farm became evident. Gertrude, 18, died suddenly one morning in her bed after complaining to her father that she was feeling "strange". Benjamin returned back East. Harry became a successful banker in La Grande and finished his career with First National Bank of Oregon. Wilbur remained on the farm, actively participating with his father in its operation. In 1915 when Wilbur married Stella Hunter, the daughter of William Gay Hunter, Franklin decided to retire and leave the home place to the next generation of Zurbricks. This closed the first chapter covering the first fifteen years of the Zurbrick century farm history.

When Wilbur and Stella were married, Franklin and Lizette took what they wanted from the farm house and moved into a house they bought in La Grande. The farm house and personal property left behind along with the 160 acres then belonged to Wilbur and Stella. Comfortable in their new home, they immediately started a family. Harold was born in 1916 and Margaret in 1918. Like their family, their land holdings also increased over the next few years. In 1922, Wilbur and Stella purchased 160 acres near Island City from the McCoy family. Then in 1923, Stella inherited 120 acres from her father's estate. Both of the newer properties have been farmed by the Zurbrick family ever since.

Harold worked many years along with his father. Then in 1935 Harold was married to Lola Leonard in Vancouver, Washington. The young couple lived for several years in a bunkhouse on the Zurbrick farm. Later, Wilbur and Stella bought a house in La Grande, and as this seemed to be the Zurbrick tradition, they took what they wanted from the farm house and moved out. The house and what remained in it became the property of Harold and Lola Zurbrick in 1952.

Harold and Lola had three sons: Phillip, Douglas, (deceased), and Jeffry. Phillip went to college and eventually received a doctorate in agriculture from Ohio State University. After he retired from working as a Professor of Agriculture at the University of Arizona, he returned to the Grande Ronde Valley and entered a farming partnership with his brother, Jeffry.

Jeffry graduated from La Grande High School in 1973, and from Eastern Oregon University in 1978 with a degree in Ag-Business. In 1976, he married Terri Westenskow, daughter of Ron Westenskow. When Ron Westenskow retired from farming, the Zurbrick brothers bought his farming equipment and leased his land, nearly all of which once belonged to their great-grandfather, W.G. Hunter. Now farming as a unit, the Zurbrick brothers work 1800 acres of prime farm land, half of which is irrigated, the other half dry. They raise garbanzo beans, canola, peas for seed, blue and fescue grass seed, wheat, barley and alfalfa.

When Jeffry was married, Harold and Lola broke slightly with tradition and built a house on another plot of farm ground one mile north of the home place. "They took what they wanted from the farm house and moved, leaving the house and three generations of unwanted stuff to Terri and me," said Jeffry. "Thankfully, most of the unwanted stuff that was left behind by Franklin and Lizette, Wilber and Stella, and Harold and Lola, are now antiques and of great interest if not of great value. Some are still used on a regular basis such as a set of bowls given to Wilbur and Stella as wedding presents," explained Jeffry.

Besides expanding their farming operation considerably, the young Zurbricks have introduced horses back onto the farm. "When machines took the place of horses and my Dad sold his last horse, he said, 'Never again will there be another horse on this farm!' said Zurbrick. "I guess that teaches us never to say 'never'," he added. "I wonder what my Dad would say if he saw this now?" Zurbrick pondered with a smile.

What he would see now is a sign at the edge of the road announcing the Zurbrick Stables with 20 privately owned Arabians and another 15 boarded horses on the farm! The Zurbricks find their Arabian market primarily in Texas where they have sold more than one prize winner. Terri raises, trains and shows her horses professionally. In their home, a wall full of ribbons attest to her abilities.

Jeffry and Terri Zurbrick have owned the farm since 1993, and like the others before them, they have left their own mark upon this century farm. They have computerized their expanded farm operation, added the horses and several new buildings to the property. What now? Jeffry says, "My future goal for the farm is to just survive. It's tough economically out there." Then as an afterthought, Zurbrick added, "I also want to try to set some of our oral traditions down on paper. That's one of my goals."

The Zurbrick century farm celebrates more than 100 years this month. It celebrates four generations of hard working farm families, each adding some new development to the farm. The Jeffry Zurbricks have hardly finished their stint on the century farm, but when they do and they take all they want from the house before they move, they will be sure to leave it to another Zurbrick who will love it as only a farmer can.

Rick Read - Published Zurbrick Century Farm Article Photos by Dave Yerges

From: "David Yerges" <Redacted for Privacy>
To: "Rick Read" <rickr@ohs.org>
Date: 11/16/2000 7:33 AM
Subject: Published Zurbrick Century Farm Article Photos by Dave Yerges

Caption: Zurbrick Stables since 1977

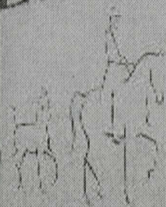
Caption: Zurbrick Farm 1984

Caption: Zurbrick Farm 1954

Caption: Standing L-R: Benjamin, Harrison and Wilbur. Sitting:
Lizzette and Franklin Zurbrick

Caption: Jeff Zurbrick, Farm owner since 1993

Zurbrick Stables



Terri Ann & Jeff Zurbrick
6398 Booth Lane
La Grande, Or. 97850

Phone: 963-2870

Fine Russian/Russian Cross Arabian Horses

