



*James Grant Doherty
1867-1933*



*Catherine "Stout Kate"
Doherty (Doherty)
1872-1952*

Blackhorse Ranch

Address/Location of Old Homestead Site:

73779 Blackhorse Canyon Lane, Heppner

Land Coordinates of Old Homesite:

45.43241 degrees N, 119.57668 degrees W. (Google Maps)

Legal Description:

Morrow County T 1 S R 26 E
in Section 33 SE is the ranch
headquarters.

Homestead Claim, Original Acquisition:

James Grant "Jimmy" and
his brother Bernard
Francis "Barney or Lame
Barney" each purchased a
quarter section of 160
acres in 1891.



Year of

Purchase: August 10, 1891

Current Landowner:

Anthony "Tony" Doherty, 541-676-5398 (landline).

Homestead Buildings:

Original Buildings - the farmstead house, shop, gas house and garage remain. The house is unsafe to enter.

Century Farm:

The Oregon Century Farm & Century Ranch Program is a statewide recognition program honoring farmers and ranchers who have worked the same land for at least 100 years. Blackhorse Ranch received this designation in 1995.

Ranching and Farming:

Jimmy was one of the first Irish ranchers in Morrow County to raise cattle, rather than sheep, as well as wheat. Crops included primarily wheat and barley, as well as raising cattle. Today, the farm land is used for wheat farming. The grassland is currently used for wildlife and preservation of the land.

Land Holdings (continued on back):

- Jimmy and Barney each purchased 160 acres from the Buchanan brothers on August 19, 1891 for \$500 for each quarter section.
- On June 20, 1892, Jimmy purchased 160 acres for \$650 from Jacob and Fanny Ambrose.
- On January 15, 1893, Jimmy purchased 160 acres of public land from the government and June 30, 1899, purchased an additional 160 acres of public land.

Land Holdings (continued from front):

- Catherine Grant Doherty (Jimmy and Barney's mother) filed for a homestead patent for 160 acres on January 2, 1897. On November 29, 1911, she sold all her interest in 900 acres to her sons for \$10. On November 1, 1913, Catherine died and is buried in the cemetery in Heppner, Oregon
- John "Dutchy" Doherty (brother of Jimmy's wife Catherine Doherty "Stout Kate") filed for a homestead patent for 160 acres on September 24, 1908 and sold it to Jimmy and Barney on February 27, 1912 for a quit claim deed of \$1000.
- Barney received a homestead patent for 160 acres on November 28, 1909.
- On January 12, 1918, Barney transferred 640 acres to Jimmy and Kate for a quit claim of \$10.
- On September 19, 1918, Jimmy and Kate agreed to an annual payment of \$1000 to Barney for his lifetime and Barney transferred his interest in 800 acres to Jimmy and Kate. Barney purchased a house in Heppner on Quaid Street where he lived until his death in 1921. The house became known as the Doherty town house and was the base for the Blackhorse children to stay while attending high school in Heppner. Jimmy and Kate raised thirteen children on this farm: Mary, Sarah, Nora, Anna, Margaret (Maggie), Christina (Tina), Francis, Patrick Eugene (Gene), Bernard, Gertrude, Helen, Paul and Elizabeth (Betty).
- From 1918 to 1972, additional acquisitions were made to bring the farm acreage to approximately 4,000.
- When Jimmy passed away of a heart attack on February 11, 1933, son Bernard took over the farming operations. Bernard married Mary Jane "Jerry" Casteel on November 18, 1939 and Kate moved to the town house shortly thereafter. Bernard and Jerry raised seven children on this farm: Dennis, Roger, Martha, Anthony (Tony), Maureen, Nancy, and Rebecca (Becky). Two died in infancy: Mary and Stephen.
- Grandson Tony assumed operation of the farm when Bernard passed away on July 18, 1977. Tony continues to own and live on the farm but in 2008 leased it to Corey Miller, great grandson of Jimmy and Kate. It continues as a wheat farm with some acreage contracted and planted in the government CRP program.

Driving Directions:

73779 Blackhorse Cyn Ln.
Heppner, OR 97836

- From Main St. in Lexington, Oregon, turn east onto C Street and continue onto Blackhorse Canyon Lane for 5.5 miles. Destination is on the left.

