

THE MAKING OF A CENTURY FARM! by PAM WOODIN

Farming. Most people never give it a second thought — unless of course you happen to be a farmer.

Think about this...Reuben Morgan. Reuben was a native of Snow Hill, North Carolina. Keep in mind that in the year of 1828, he purchased some property in Pulaski County, Missouri. The original acreage totaled 160. Reuben worked this land, improved the land and began "farming," raising all kinds of livestock as well. In 1832, a "Sheepskin Patent" was given to Reuben, proving the land was his. Now, farming was a lot different than it is now. Fields were plowed, planted, and taken care of by man, livestock and lots of bone-aching hard work. Well, Reuben continued to farm and work his land up until the Civil War.

George Morgan was a young man who was working the fields since the men had all gone to the Union Army Post in Rolla. While George was plowing, the Bushwhackers showed up and had every intention of

taking George with them. Well, George managed to get away and he hid in the buckbrush until the Bushwhackers gave up looking for him. George and Mott Maxey left that night for Rolla. They hid during the day and traveled only at night. The pair made it to Rolla in two nights, staying until the war ended.

After the Civil War, John B. Morgan was born in the log home in 1867. He and his wife Ida, had seven children: Charlie, Florence, Tom, Emir, James, Joe, Claude and Howard. John B. kept the farm going, making improvements, buying property and running the livestock. Acreage total was now at 1700. John B. imported five cows and one bull "Adolphus Regent" from Northeast England in 1900 and started a registered shorthorn herd. When John B. died in 1945 at the age of 77, Charlie and his wife Hattie (Barnes) operated a farm on the Big Piney River which is known as Prewitt Spring Place. They kept the farming going up until Charlie

died in an unfortunate fall from a bluff in 1920. In 1924, Joe N. and Claude kept the farm in working order, in tact and adding more acreage, including what is known as the Anderson Place. John B. had originally purchased the Anderson farm in the late 1800's. Now folks, this place had some history — gambling, horse racing, hell raising stills, you name it!!

The south side of this farm was purchased from John B. by Joe N. and the north side from John B. by Claude. All of these properties were incorporated in the late 1960's to early '70's as a single farming unit.

Joe M. and Harry were born to Joe N. and Rose (Ramsey) Morgan on the original part of the farm. The house in which they were born is still standing though no children since have been born there in the house. Harry purchased the Hobbs' farm in 1969.

A brick house was built in 1971 and Joe N. and Rose moved into it. Joe M. and his wife Mary, moved into the

farmhouse. Harry and his wife Wanda, lived in St. Louis where he was an orthopedist on the faculty of Washington University and Barnes Hospital. Harry retired this year and built a house and moved into it in late April.

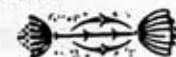
Rose Morgan passed away in January of 1981. Joe N. in April of 1985. Soon after, Joe M. and Mary moved into the brick home, while one of Joe's sons Kenneth J.,

stayed in the farmhouse which had been built in the summer of 1889.

In 1988, this was the Pulaski County Farm Family of the Year. This family is still working the fields, tending to livestock and keeping this farm going by lots of that hard, bone-aching work even with mans' modern inventions. Joe M., Harry and Kenneth are still operating nearly 3000 acres along with the help of Claude's son Bill,

and his wife Louise.

For 161 years this family has kept Reuben Morgan's original 160 acres in tact. There has been a lot of hard work put into this farm operation by one family. When they received their Century Farm Award there were only 170 other registered Century Farms in the state of Missouri.



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