

# LEGENDS AND LEGACIES

*Article by resident Jackie Dillemath based on interviews and independent research*

## Dr. Brent R. Browning

**Dr. Brent R. Browning**, DDS, of Browning Smile Design (located at Vintage Park), has resided in Gleannloch Farms for over 12 years. An avid historian of his family's namesake, Dr. Browning is the great-great-great grandson of Jonathan Browning (1805-1879), the pioneer repeating rifle inventor and founder of Browning Arms.



Brent and his twin brother with their mother and father; the boys were born in Hollywood, California

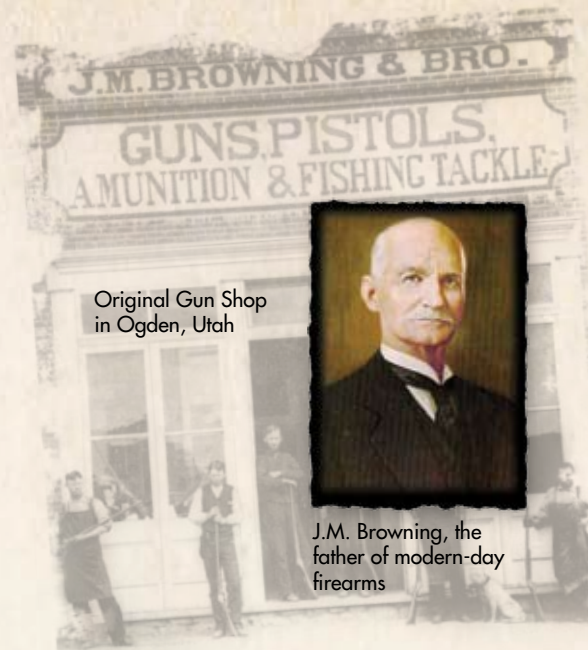
Jonathan was the father of John Moses Browning (1855-1926), known as the Father of Modern Firearms. Brent is quite proud of his family heritage and legacy.

**Brent and Janeen** (wife of 38 years) enjoy sharing some of their family history which includes collecting "Browning Era" Winchester antique rifles and Colt pistols, documents and photos highlighting the Browning family genealogy. Speaking with Brent is a fascinating experience as he interweaves interesting facts about the significance of his family's inventions in American and world history. His dental facility is partly decorated with themes of the west, complemented by family photos, Browning keepsakes, and books detailing his great family history.

The Browning family has traceable roots back to the early days of the Mormon church, with the pioneer exodus of 1847 to escape religious persecution, having eventually settled in Ogden, Utah. Jonathan Browning, an LDS convert, raised 19 children in this small mountain

community. His eldest son, John Moses Browning, developed a passion for building firearms early on, having grown up at his father's side in their gun shop. At the early age of 14, John Moses assembled his first gun, a slide rifle, out of spare parts – a gift intended for his brother's birthday. It was quickly evident that the young Browning's interest was less about the repair and maintenance of the guns (as was the original intent of his father's business), and more about the design and improvement of the mechanisms and handling to ensure improved accuracy and a faster shot.

Through the years, dozens of patents ensued. However, innovation brought demand, and demand drove the need for expanded production capacity, which far exceeded the small gun shop owned by the Brownings. The Winchester Rifle Co. became aware of John Moses' genius with the invention of the Model 1885 single shot rifle. John Moses later pursued business partnerships with Remington, Colt, Savage, and Fabrique Nationale, with expanded manufacturing



Original Gun Shop in Ogden, Utah

J.M. Browning, the father of modern-day firearms

and distribution capability in northeastern United States and Belgium. The large majority of civilian and military rifles, machine guns, shotguns and handguns developed in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, were sold either under the Browning name or his partners' brands based on Browning designs. In the early 1900s, J.M. Browning signed a business agreement with Fabrique Nationale de Herstal in Liege, Belgium, vastly expanding his production capacity and global reach, where his last patented designs for semiautomatic pistols and automatic shotguns were manufactured. Browning's designs and inventions have not only benefited hunters, shooters, and outdoorsmen since his guns started selling over 130 years ago, but they have also strengthened and protected the cause of freedom in many countries where millions of arms have been issued to the military, law enforcement, and government agencies.

In 2011, the Browning Company marked the 100th anniversary of the 1911 .45 semiautomatic pistol, a Browning patented design. This new design made a significant improvement in military firearms carried by American soldiers. Among his other military inventions were the Browning Automatic Rifle (BAR), the .30 and .50 caliber Browning machine guns, and the legendary Browning Hi Power.

In every global conflict involving the United States, including WW I, WW II, Korea, and Vietnam, soldiers used Browning-designed sidearms. All military aircraft, vessels, and tanks were equipped with high caliber weapons designed by Browning. The B-17 bomber, for example (used extensively in WW II), was equipped with 13 x .50 in (12.7mm) M2 Browning machine guns.

Today, Browning Arms remains a major player in the international firearms, gun safes, outdoor clothing, and sporting goods industries, universally recognized by its "Buckmark" logo.

With this impressive historical lineage, Brent Browning retains the spirit of his ancestors' legacy with interests in flying, hunting, and gun collecting. He is an instrument-rated, multi-engine pilot, finding inspiration to earn his pilot's license from his father, who was a combat fighter pilot in WW II and Korea (flying F4U Corsairs and F7 TigerCats) and his uncle, who at age 21 was shot down over Germany (piloting a P51 Mustang). Brent enjoys

working his small ranch with his horses and longhorns and hunting large game throughout North America.

As a dentist, Brent's talents come naturally considering his ancestors' affinity for innovation. He is a seasoned 30-year dental practitioner, who incorporates the latest technologies and state-of-the-art facilities to improve the oral health of his patients. Dr. Browning is a member of the Houston District Dental Society, Texas Dental Association, American Dental Association, Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry, American Orthodontic Society, and Academy of General Practice Orthodontics. He is a graduate of Brigham Young University and the University of Texas Dental Branch at Houston.

Thank you, Brent, for sharing your family's story. It's always appropriate to remember those who fought to protect our freedoms. Without the groundbreaking contributions made by John Moses Browning, our military would not have been as well-equipped to fight on our behalf.



Brent Browning with his restored TravelAir 369BB