

CHARLES P. BALCH, farmer, druggist and prominent business man of Dufur, Wasco county, and one of the leading citizens of the community, was born in Wisconsin, April 21, 1860. His parents were John A. and Caroline (Stevenson) Balch, the father a native of Vermont and the mother of the state of New York. The father was, by trade, a millwright. The Balch family is one of the most distinguished in the United States, and its members have contributed much to the history of the country. Members of the family were participants in the Revolution and the War of 1812. Captain Balch was with General Knox during the former war. He died in June, at Iola, Wisconsin. The father of Caroline (Stevenson) Balch, mother of our subject, was a native of England; her mother of Scotland. She died in 1878 at Iola.

In the latter town our subject was reared until he had reached the age of eleven, and the family then removed to Oshkosh, Wisconsin, where he attended graded and high schools. He followed various employments after leaving the educational institutions, and in 1883 came to Oregon. He located in Wasco county, on the Des Chutes river and filed on a claim which he improved and sold later. He then removed to Dufur and engaged in the drug business, continuing in the same ten years. He disposed of this property, but three years later purchased a half interest in this business which he still retains, but taking no active part in its conduct. Principally he is engaged in stock raising in company with A.J. Dufur. They winter between three and four hundred head of cattle. Mr. Balch has four sisters; Jennie, wife of J.W. Bishop, of Wausau, Wisconsin, a prominent mining man; Clara, wife of E.J. Goodrick, an attorney, residing in Wisconsin; Elizabeth E., wife of A.K. Dufur, of California; and Kittie, married to George Rock, a railroad engineer, living at Spooner, Wisconsin.

At Dufur, June 28, 1889. Mr. Balch was united in marriage to Lois Dufur, born in Portland, Oregon, the daughter of Andrew J., Jr., and Mary M. (Stansbury) Dufur. The father is a native of Vermont, mentioned elsewhere, and the mother of Indiana. Mrs. Balch has one sister. Fraternally Mr. Balch is a member of Wasco Lodge No. 15, A.F. & A.M., at The Dalles; R.A.M., Ridgeley Lodge No. 71, I.O.O.F., A.O.U.W., W.O.T.W., and the United Artisans, all of Dufur. He is a staunch Republican, and has frequently served his party as delegate to county conventions.