An Illustrated History of Central Oregon, Western Historical Publishing Company, Spokane, WA. 1905, page 387

JOHN I. WEST, a prosperous farmer and stockman, residing at Wapinitia, came to Juniper flat when a young man of eighteen. He was without means and had the capital of a riding cayuse and a saddle when he landed one day in Tygh valley. That was twenty-five years since. Perceiving the opportunities offered the industrious here, he took hold with his hands and thoroughly made up his mind to win the smiles of dame fortune. He has done it, and in a becoming manner, too, as the following sketch will testify. Having been a great benefactor to this country, and now being a leading citizen, it is with great pleasure we embrace the opportunity to epitomize his career.

John I. West was born in Yamhill county, Oregon, on January 6, 1861. His father, William M. West, was born in Missouri, Dade county, and when fourteen years of age crossed the plains, it being 1847, accompanying an elder brother. He made settlement in Yamhill county and his death occurred at Tygh Valley on December 15, 1902. He had married Miss Eliza Harris, a native of Dade county, Missouri, who crossed the plains with her parents when four years of age. She was in the same train with Mrs. Dr. Elwood's father and mother. She died when our subject was a lad of four years. Then he was bound out by his father to Mr. and Mrs. Johnson Basket, in Polk county, where he remained, receiving his education and working on the farm until he was eighteen. Then he started out for himself and in due time with his riding cayuse landed in this flat, as stated above. He soon went to work and for ten years he saved his wages until he was justified in starting into the stock business for himself. He secured land by homestead right and went to work. He now owns an estate of eighteen hundred acres, well improved and supplied with all the things necessary for a first-class stock and farm place. Mr. West associated with Mr. Davis, sent east for the best strains of Shorthorn and Hereford cattle and they introduced them into this neighborhood, which has resulted in great benefit to the people. He has been an enterprising stock breeder and has always the best. He winters about two hundred head, and also sells some hogs. Mr. West had one brother, James, who died in infancy, and no sisters.

On September 15, 1902, Mr. West married Miss Anna N. Horton, who was born in Indiana, on April 4, 1873. The wedding occurred at The Dalles. Mrs. West's father, Jeremiah Horton, was born in Indiana, and his parents came from Yorkshire, England. He married Miss Nancy Wallace, an Indiana maiden, whose parents were natives of Tennessee. Her father, William Wallace, was first cousin of General Lew Wallace, the famous writer. Mr. Horton dwells in Ness county, Kansas, and follows dairying. He is a veteran of the Civil war, having served in Company C, Twenty-sixth Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and was in many of the most hotly contested battles of the war, including the siege of Vicksburg, Shiloh, and others. He lost one brother and one brother-in-law in the siege of Vicksburg, one brother at Shiloh, and one brother-in-law at Corinth. He is a prominent and influential citizen. He carries a ball in his breast received at Vicksburg. Mrs. West has the following named brothers and sisters: Francis J., William J., Samuel G., Charles B., Mrs. Emma Zickefoose, Mrs. Elizabeth Schapher, Lenna A., and Mrs. Minnie Collins. Mrs. West is a normal graduate and an experienced teacher. She also did dressmaking and wrought as saleslady in a dry goods store. She belongs to the Rebekahs and the Women of Woodcraft. Mr. and Mrs. West are popular and genial people, and are valued members of society here.

To Mr. and Mrs. West one son has been born, Isham H., on August 3, 1903.

© Jeffrey L. Elmer

