

JAMES J. LEWIS is a farmer at Mosier, Oregon. He was born near Harrisburg, in Linn county, Oregon, on September 11, 1857. His father, John Lewis, was born near Gallipolis, Ohio, and his father, the grandfather of our subject, owned a large grist mill there. He was a native of Pennsylvania and came from a prominent American family. Our subject's father came to Oregon in 1847 and settled first in Portland, where he had a donation claim in what is called Goose Hollow and is now a choice residence part of Portland. He sold out later and bought a pack train and transported goods from Portland to Yreka, California, and from The Dalles to the Salmon river country and to many other points. In 1852, he was ambushed by Indians who destroyed his train and killed two of his men. He was forced to flee for his life and after great destitution found his way to General Joe Hooker's headquarters, who gave him succor and finally secured a contract for him to build the Cow creek canyon road. He made thirty-five hundred dollars on this enterprise and with that, started in the stock business in which he continued until his death. In 1864, he was engaged in the steamboat business on the Willamette with Church, McCully and others. He was a member of the A.F. & A.M. He married Martha W. Howard, a native of Harrisburg, Oregon, and the daughter of James Howard, who crossed the plains with his family in 1844, and was a gun and blacksmith at Whitman station. The Indians, who killed Dr. Whitman, guided Mr. Howard and his family to Portland. The guide and other Indians considered Mr. Howard a supernatural being, owing to his skill in working metals and this accounted for his act of guiding them to safety. His name was Telokite or Teloket and he said Dr. Whitman was cultus. The family were afraid of him and were glad when they reached civilization. When crossing the streams, he would carry Mrs. Lewis, who was then a girl, on his shoulders. They came past where Mosier and other settlements are now located in this vicinity. Our subject's father married in 1856 and after his death his widow married Jonah H. Mosier, in 1865. She died at The Dalles, on September 25, 1903, after an illness of nine years. She was a consistent member of the Methodist church, a woman of strong character and highly esteemed. Our subject was educated in the public schools in the various places where he lived and now resides with his half sister, Dollie C. Mosier, on the old Mosier estate. He has two sisters, Mrs. Emma Taylor and Mrs. Ida Cook, one step-brother, Jefferson N. Mosier, and three step-sisters, who are mentioned elsewhere. Mr. Lewis is a member of the M. W. A. and the United Artisans. He is a Democrat in political belief but not especially active. After completing his education in The Dalles high school, he engaged in stock raising and owned thirteen hundred acres in the Klickitat county. After that, he came to the place where he now resides and has continued here since. It is an estate of thirteen hundred acres and is owned by our subject, his half-sister and three other heirs, Lewis and Mosier's children. Miss Dollie C. Mosier was born in the original house on this estate, which later burned, and was educated in the convent at The Dalles. She began teaching when sixteen years of age at Bakeoven and other places, then completed her education and after graduation, taught in various sections. She keeps the inn and is a highly esteemed lady.