An Illustrated History of Central Oregon, Western Historical Publishing Company, Spokane, WA. 1905, pages 399-400

JAMES W. MARQUISS. The Edict of Nantes secured by Henry IV of France insured to the Huguenots of France political and civil liberty. In 1685 this precious law was repealed by Louis XIV of France and the resulting persecution drove those good people to all parts of the world. Many found refuge in the colonies and especially did they settle in South Carolina. Among these were the Marquiss families from whom comes the subject of this article. He was born in Missouri, on December 26, 1841, the son of Jacob and Esther (Ellis) Marquiss, natives of North Carolina. The father died when our subject was a year old. The mother then came across the plains with her sons in 1847, using ox teams. Her people were prominent in the early colonial days and fought in the Revolution and the other wars of those times. One of her progenitors came over in the Mayflower. Shortly after arriving in the Willamette valley, Mrs. Marquiss enlisted in Company C, First Oregon Cavalry and served for three years. He was stationed in southern Oregon and was a non-commissioned officer. Following the war he located in what is now Morrow county, Oregon, then Umatilla, and farmed and raised stock from 1865 to 1879, having a home-stead, He sold his homestead in 1879 and bought the place where he now dwells. He has two hundred and forty acres and tills about thirty-five acres. He has an orchard of seven acres and raises much stock.

In 1866, Mr. Marquiss married Miss Adeline Adams, a native of Germany. She died in 1901. On November 12, 1901, Mr. Marquiss married Mrs. Clara M. Allison, a native of Pennsylvania. Her father, James D. Shaw, was a native of Scotland, and came to the United States in 1840. He married a Scotch lass, who came to the United States in the early forties, the wedding occurring in 1845. Mr. Marquiss has no brothers living, but has three half sisters, Ellen Kuney, Jennie Stanley and Annie Maxfield. By his first wife, Mr. Marquiss has three children: Frank, a farmer near Goldendale, Washington; Lester, at home; and Ada, the widow of A.A. Urquhart, and living in The Dalles. Mrs. Marquiss has one child by her former marriage, Frank, an oil operator in West Virginia. Mr. Marquiss is a Republican and displays a zeal and activity commendable in the interests of his party. Mrs. Marquiss has the following named brothers and sisters, William A., Elmer, Howard, Ira C., Robert H., Ella Anderson, Sarah Kennedy, and Addie Kneedler. Mrs. Marquiss is a member of the O.E.S. Mr. Marquiss is a man of excellent standing and has wrought with industry and wisdom here for the general progress.

© Jeffrey L. Elmer

