An Illustrated History of Central Oregon, Western Historical Publishing Company, Spokane, WA. 1905, pages 279-280

JOHN W. NOLIN, deceased. In the person of Mr. Nolin, Wasco county lost one of her respected and substantial citizens, a good man, a patriotic citizen and a kind father and husband. His brother, James M. Nolin, is mentioned elsewhere in this work. Like his brother, James, he was reared on the St. Lawrence river in New York and for several years engaged in the fishing business, which was very profitable. The same being prohibited by law, they then turned their attention to farming in 1882, after which they came to Oregon. Our subject purchased two hundred and eighty-six acres about four miles up Fifteen-mile creek from Dufur, where his widow resides at the present time. He gave his attention to the cultivation and improvement of the same continuously until his death, on February 1, 1903, he being then aged fifty-two years and ten months. Had he lived until April 11, he would have been fifty-three years of age. In Canada, Mr. Nolin was a prominent member of the Orangemen and after removing to New York was a stanch Democrat. He also took an active interest in politics both in New York and here in Oregon. He was clerk in Jefferson county, New York and was offered the nomination the second time, but owing to the fact that he had decided to come to Oregon, he refused it. Here for nineteen successive years, he was clerk of the Remsey district and no one was more zealous for good schools and general upbuilding than Mr. Nolin. He was frequently judge of the election and even delegate to the conventions. His education had been carefully looked after in his younger days as he had received a thorough high school course from the famous Kingston schools in Ontario.

Fraternally, he was a member of the United Artisans at Dufur and in church affiliations of the Episcopal denomination. He was a good man, intelligent and kind, and was deeply mourned at his death.

On June 8, 1875, at Gananoque, Ontario, Mr. Nolin married Miss Cora Potter, who was born in that place on September 1, 1858. Her father, Augustus Potter, was a native of Rhode Island and came from the old Potter family, which was prominent on the Atlantic seaboard all through the early days. His great-grandfather fought for independence in the Revolution and many of the Potter's fought in the War of 1812, and the Mexican and Civil Wars, they were prominent in governmental affairs, were represented liberally at the bar and are large manufacturers throughout New York and in New England. The progenitor who first landed in this country, came on the Mayflower. Augustus Potter's father, the grandfather of Mrs. Nolin, was one of the first school teachers in western New York and later became a very successful physician. With Mrs. Nolin's father and another son, he was later engaged in the woolen manufacturing business. After heavy loss by fire, in this business, Mr. Potter began farming in 1868. His death occurred in Clayton county, New York, on January 6, 1894 at his son's home, being aged seventy-nine. He had married Mary McCuen, a native of Glasgow, Scotland and from an old lowland family. She lives with Mrs. Nolin's sister in New York state. The children of this family besides Mrs. Nolin, are Albert, Ulysses, Nelson, Ernest and Mrs. Elizabeth Murdick. To Mr. and Mrs. Nolin, three children were born; Ella, the wife of Charles Magee, a retired farmer at Dufur; Wilbur and Earl. Mrs. Nolin, like her husband, was well educated and was a graduate of the Lewiston seminary at Gananoqua, Canada. Since the death of her husband she has taken up the management of affairs with a display of courage and wisdom and receives the respect and approbation of all.



