

THOMAS J. CUNNING is a retired citizen of Hood River. He and his wife have a very lovely residence on the top of the hill from which they have a surpassing view. They are well to do and popular people and have hosts of friends.

Thomas J. was born in Ohio, on November 8, 1838, the son of Edward and Jane (Officer) Cunning, natives of Maryland and Ohio, respectively. The father followed carpentering and his parents came from Ireland. The mother descended from Scotch-Irish people, who were natives of Pennsylvania. Our subject was raised and educated in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, and after completing the high school course, learned the miller's trade. In 1861, he enlisted in Company K, Twenty-fourth Ohio Infantry, and served until June, 1865, when he was honorably discharged at Washington, D.C. For eight months he was detailed to handle stock in the quartermaster's department. He was under almost constant fire for the years of his service, and honorably did the part of the brave defender of the nation's flag. He participated in the battles of Green Brier, Cheat Mountain, Murfreesboro, Perryville, Stone River, Chickamauga, all of the engagements before Corinth, and in all of those participated in by the Army of the Cumberland. He was at Missionary Ridge, Lookout Mountain and many others, with skirmishes too numerous to mention. In many of these, Mr. Cunning was in imminent danger and once his clothing was riddled with bullets but he never suffered a wound and was active from the time of his enlistment to the day he was mustered out. After the Rebellion was put down, he returned to milling in Ohio, and in 1869 moved to Missouri where he lived for twenty-five years and followed milling. He was postmaster for four years at Mt. Moriah, Harrison county, Missouri, and owned a mill for six years. During the whole twenty-five years of his residence in Missouri, he was school director and prominent in politics and educational matters. In 1895, he came to Hood River, and since coming here has been mostly retired although devoting some attention to buying and selling real estate and loaning money.

In October, 1865, in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, Mr. Cunning married Mary Kinsey, who was born in Baden, Germany, and the daughter of John Kinsey, a native of Switzerland. She died on October 4, 1889, at Mt. Moriah, Missouri. On February 24, 1894, in Mt. Moriah, Mr. Cunning married Mrs. Agnes Markham, the daughter of Platt and Amanda C. (Lathrop) Blount, natives of New York and descended from old New England families. The father's father is a patriot of the Revolution. Mrs. Cunning's parents settled in Wisconsin before it was a state and did much excellent pioneer work there. Mr. Cunning has two brothers, John D., Captain of Company G, Fifty-first Ohio in the Civil war, and William E. Mrs. Cunning has two brothers, Luke D., a veteran of Company D, Seventh Wisconsin, in the Civil war, and Jerold L., and one sister, Amelia Green. Mr. Cunning has the following named children: Thomas O., a railroad man in Texas; Rosa, wife of Charles Linthicus, Boise, Idaho; H. Alton, living in Hood River; Emma, wife of Frank Butler, a stockman at Boise, Idaho; and Arthur, at home. Mrs. Cunning has one son, Claude E. Markham, living on the west side. Mr. Cunning's mother's brother, David Officer, while attending a free soil meeting in Ohio was killed by a man whom he was ejecting from a church building on account of creating a disturbance. One of the Officer family was a preacher and missionary to Africa. Mr. Cunning is a member of the G.A.R., and one of the substantial and affable men of the town.