

VIRGIL WINCHELL has the distinction of having been born in the Hood River valley. This event occurred on August 31, 1865 on his father's homestead, a part of which he rents and resides upon at the present time, and which lies a short distance from the town of Hood River. The father, Jerome W., was a native of Calais, Maine and came from an old colonial family of prominence. Governor Winchell of Massachusetts and other leading men were members of this family. Jerome W. Winchell married Julia Neal, who was born while her parents were crossing the plains. Her father, Peter Neal, was a prominent settler of the east side of the Hood River valley. Our subject's father came to Oregon in 1857, via the isthmus and was married at The Dalles in 1860 and came to the Hood River valley one year later, where he took up land and resided six years. Owing to his illness, he returned to The Dalles and there died in 1870. His widow returned to the farm with her four children and there lived until 1888, the year of her death. In 1873, she was married to John Divers. Our subject has made his home here all of the time and on April 2, 1887 at Hood River was married to Maggie Knapp, a native of California, whose parents, George and (Vealy) Knapp, were natives of New York and Michigan, respectively. The father was a wealthy railroad contractor and the mother died when Mrs. Winchell was eleven years of age. Mr. Winchell had one brother, Markham, who died in 1899; five half brothers, Divers, James, Perry, John and Newton ; two full sisters, Josephine Dimer and Arabella Hoffman; and three half sisters, Dollie English, Mary Sellinger and Julia Estes. Mrs. Winchell has one brother, Clarence, and one sister, Minnie Sorenson. Mr. and Mrs. Winchell are the parents of seven children, Arline, Edith, George, Grace, Joseph W., Maude, and Lena.

Fraternally, Mr. Winchell is allied with the W.W., the United Artisans and the Foresters. He is a staunch Democrat and takes a keen interest in the campaign. He has served for many years on the school board and is a zealous advocate of better educational facilities. He and his wife are both members of the Union church and are substantial people.

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