

WILLIAM H. TAYLOR, one of the earliest pioneers to Oregon, and now one of the largest orchardists in Wasco county, residing about one mile south of The Dalles was born in Knox county, Illinois, on September 11, 1844. His parents, James and Elizabeth (Smelser) Taylor, came from prominent families, the father's of New England birth and the mother's natives of the southern part of the United States. The paternal grandfather of our subject was a wagon boy in the Revolution and died aged ninety-seven. Our subject's parents were pioneers in Illinois, Indiana and Oregon. The father died on March 14, 1888, and the mother on March 27, 1889, both in Baker county, Oregon. They crossed the plains in 1852 with their children and, although the trip was hard, they were fortunate not to lose any life by Indians. Still some stock was stolen and some died. They started with four yoke of oxen and two horses and arrived at The Dalles with three oxen. One was traded for a trip down the Columbia and they finally reached the Willamette with one pair of oxen. Settlement was made in Linn county, and in 1883 they came to Umatilla county where our subject had preceded them three years. William H. had very little opportunity to gain an education, being compelled to work on the farm then having to walk three miles each way to school. They came to Umatilla county and raised stock for eight years in that portion which is known as Morrow county. In 1878, he came to the place where he now resides and together with his children, owns nine hundred acres of choice land. He has an orchard of forty acres, mostly prunes, and produces many thousands of boxes of fruit. He also raises melons and other vegetables. The place is a valuable one, excellently improved, while his residence is a large two story white house, situated in a beautiful lawn with good shade trees and ornamental shrubbery. An air of thrift and neatness pervades the entire premises and Mr. Taylor is known as one of the leading men of this part of the country.

On December 20, 1865, in Linn county, Mr. Taylor married Miss Mary E. Wigle, a native of Illinois. Her parents, John and Katherine (Hunsaker) Wigle, crossed the plains to Oregon in 1852. They were of German descent, and Mrs. Wigle died in Wasco county. Mrs. Taylor died on June 10, 1900.

On October 16, 1901, in Linn county, Mr. Taylor married Nancy E. Kizer, born in Linn county and the daughter of Marion and Mary (Wigle) Kizer. The father came to Oregon in 1853 and dwells on the farm his father bought after selling his donation claim. The mother was born in Illinois and came to Linn county with her people in 1852. They both reside there at the present time. Mr. Taylor has the following brothers and sisters: Isaiah T., Susan J. Hearing, Malinda A. Savage, Julia A. Long, Mary E. Simon, Lizonia Burnside, and John J., who died in Umatilla county, in 1870, aged nineteen. The rest all reside in Baker county, Oregon. Mr. Taylor's present wife has six brothers and two sisters, all but one living in the Willamette valley. His first wife had three brothers. Mr. Taylor's children are named as follows: John A., a native of Linn county, now at Riverside, California; James E., born in Linn county and associated with his father in fruit growing; Albert R., born in Wasco county, at home; William R., born in Wasco county, a school boy; Otis J., born in Umatilla county and died when an infant; Archie T., born in Wasco county, and died when an infant; Martha E., wife of James Clark, in North Yakima, Washington; Rettie, the wife of Earl Livenspire, born in Umatilla county and living with her father; Alice and Carrie, born in Umatilla county, both deceased, the former at twenty-six and the other at three years of age. Alice had married Pery Morgan, and had two children, Velma A., living with our subject, and Cecil C., deceased.

Mr. Taylor is an active Democrat, an enterprising man and one of the best orchardists in Wasco county.

Since the above was written, Mr. Taylor has erected a fine house at 822 Elm street, The Dalles, where he resides with his family. One child, Byron K., in addition to those mentioned, was born to him and his wife on May 7, 1904.