

WILLIAM H. WILLIAMS is known far and near in Wasco county as one of the earliest settlers on Eightmile creek, where he lives to this day. His estate is about ten miles south from The Dalles and is one of the choice places in the community. He was born in Terre Haute, Indiana, on November 18, 1838, the son of Washington and Hester (Stevens) Williams, both natives of Indiana. Their ancestors were among the hardy pioneers of the then wilderness of the eastern part of the United States. In 1842, our subject came with his parents to Cincinnati, Ohio, and in 1845 to Iowa. On April 8, 1850, they all started from Ottumwa, Iowa for Oregon, and arrived on November 8, the same year, after a journey accompanied with much suffering. Samuel Brooks, well known here, was in the same party. The father took a donation claim and in 1858 returned to Chicago, where his death occurred in 1861. The mother died at The Dalles, in 1886. William H. was educated in the various places where the family dwelt and grew up amid frontier surroundings. He was in the Indian wars of 1855-6, being in Company C, under Captain Stafford, Lieutenant Colonel Kelley, and Colonel Naismeth. After the war he went to Yreka, California and wrought in the mines until the spring of 1858. Then he joined the rush to Fraser river and at Okanogan river in Washington, his party was attacked by Indians and for twelve hours they fought the savages with the loss of two men and then the battle ceased. A Mr. Robinson was in charge of the party. After a few months in the Fraser country he returned to Oregon City and married. In March, 1863, he came thence to his present place. His marriage occurred on August 11, 1859 and Amanda Abbott was the lady who became his wife. She was born in Oskaloosa, Iowa, the daughter of John and Catherine Abbott. Mr. Williams has one brother, Taylor S., and two sisters, Lettie Holland, and Mary Graham. Mrs. Williams has two brothers and two sisters, John, Robert, Mrs. Catherine Kelley and Mrs. Tillie Hatch. To Mr. and Mrs. Williams the following named children have been born: Richard H., at Goldendale, Washington; Charles F., farming near by; Frank, at Macy, Washington; Jerry M., at home; Harry, also at home; Lew, in the stock business in Washington; Clyde, a railroad man at Macy, Washington; Kate, the wife of Clarence Garrison, at St. Helens, Oregon; Hester, wife of John Harris, mentioned in this volume; Nellie, the wife of John W. Harris, a stock man and liveryman in Macy, Washington; Hazel, the wife of Charles Creighton, on Threemile creek; Fay, wife of Andrew Dufur, Jr., a farmer on Fifteemile; and Clara, single at home. Mr. Williams is an independent Democrat and well informed on the topics of the day, being also interested in school matters. He was road supervisor for many years, and has labored for over forty years in building up this country and is a highly esteemed man.