

ALVIN A. THOMAS, deceased. Among the worthy pioneers of the great state of Oregon, the name of Alvin A. Thomas appears well up in the roll of honor. He was a man of staunch Christian character and lived the faith that makes faithful and manifested in his career the principles of Christianity in every day life. He was born in Michigan on October 6, 1837, the son of Laren L. and Mary A. (Mathews) Thomas, natives of the eastern part of the United States. The mother died when this son was small. The father died in Marion county, Oregon. Our subject was educated in Michigan and Oregon whither he came with his father, who had married Eliza Spoons. Settlement was made in Marion county and they took a donation claim, where the father remained until his death. His widow still resides there. The date of this journey across the plains was the forties. Our subject was reared principally in the Willamette valley and there on April 12, 1860, he married Miss Mary J. Quinn, the wedding occurring in Clackamas county. Mrs. Thomas' parents were Joseph and Polly (Walker) Quinn. They were married in the east and crossed the plains in 1852. The father suffered terribly from the cholera, but survived. The mother was born in Orange county, Indiana, on November 10, 1822, and died in Clackamas county, on August 7, 1888. Mrs. Thomas was born in Indiana and well remembers the trip across the plains. After her marriage in Clackamas county she and her husband resided there until 1900, July 4, when they came east of the mountains and since then she has resided with her daughter, Mrs. Sigman. At Dufur, on March 22, 1904, Mr. Thomas was called to depart from the scenes of his earthly labors and enter into the realities of the world beyond this wilderness way. He died as he had lived, a true Christian, and all knew that a good man had that day been taken from among them. He was buried with becoming ceremonies and his remains rest in the Dufur cemetery. He had for many years been a member of the Christian church as his widow is now and they supported the faith with zeal. To Mr. and Mrs. Thomas six children have been born; Margaret E., the wife of Alvin Sigman, who is mentioned elsewhere in this work; Polly A., the wife of Cyrus Covey, on a farm nearby; Walter A., a teamster at Boyd; Lorenzo M., a farmer near Prineville; Charles K., at Dufur; and William H., who died March 1, 1884, aged eighteen. Mrs. Thomas' mother bore sixteen children; she was a woman of whom it may be said, because of her Christian life, that she was a real "mother in Israel."