

FRANCIS M. JACKSON, a well known and highly respected horticulturist and farmer of the Hood River valley, resides about seven miles south from the town of Hood River, and was born in Athens, Tennessee, on December 13, 1836. His parents, John B. and Dorcas (Cox) Jackson, were pioneers in Tennessee. The father was born in North Carolina, as were also his parents, and when sixteen he went alone to Kentucky, where he married and whence he returned later to Tennessee. He was a man of refinement and education, being especially skilled in mathematics and music. He was professor in Monticello academy, Kentucky, and later taught music. He finally published a musical work that netted him a nice profit. He was clerk of McMinn county, Tennessee, for many years and died in Morristown, that state, in 1858. His wife died in the same town in 1858. She was descended from an old southern family. Our subject lived in Morristown from the age of six to seventeen and received an academic education there. Then he traveled with ox teams to Missouri, and in the spring of 1856 continued his journey on to California, where he wrought for two years and six months at mining. Owing to his father's death he then returned to the east and remained on the old place for some time and bought a farm and some slaves. Owing to rumors of war, Mr. Jackson did not return to California as he originally in-tended to do, and in June, 1861, enlisted in the Fourth Battalion of Tennessee Cavalry, his command being known as Peck's Light Dragoons. He had served only two months as private when he was promoted to a lieutenancy. Previous to enlistment, he had assisted to organize another company, but as there was not a probability of their being allowed to go to the front, they were disbanded. His regiment was mostly in Kentucky and upper Tennessee, and he served as first lieutenant until the Wild Cat fight, General Nelson federal commander and General Zollicoffer confederate. The captain of Lieutenant Jackson's company resigned and he was unanimously elected to the position by acclamation. He was in Fisher Creek battle, near his father's old home, in which conflict General Zollicoffer lost his life; our subject's regiment was defeated and fell back into Tennessee. Captain Jackson was in two fights near Vicksburg, but did not participate in the siege. He was captured in the Black River battle and suffered eighteen months at the war prison in Johnson's island near Sandusky, Ohio. Being exchanged, he visited at his old home and then returned to his regiment and was acting colonel until the close of the war. His commission was on its way for a colonelcy when the war closed. Captain Jackson fought hard and long for the cause he thought to be right and after the war returned to his old home only to find the war feeling so strong that his life was in danger. His finances were ruined by the war and what little he could recover he promptly used to liquidate debts he owed for slaves bought on credit. When his debts were all paid, he had little left and so started life anew. For the last two years in his town, Morristown, he was city recorder and was nominated for mayor when he had decided to some west again. He came to The Dalles via San Francisco and Portland, and soon after arriving took the place where he resides at this time. Since then, the Captain has bestowed his labors here with a good measure of success. He is skilled in horticulture and also does some general farming. Captain Jackson is a man of integrity and honor and his keen sense of justice and uprightness are known to all by virtue of a worthy and commendable life.

On June 8, 1859, at Morristown, Mr. Jackson married Miss Elizabeth L. Thurman, the daughter of William M. and Mary (Bibb) Thurman. The mother of Mary Bibb was Elizabeth Lewis, related to Captain Lewis of Lewis and Clark fame. Mrs. Jackson was a member of the well known Thurman family, one of whom was candidate for vice president with Cleveland. Her mother's mother was a member of the Sutherland family, prominent in the south, of Scotch extraction, members of which served in the Revolution, among which was Mrs. Jackson's grandfather. Our subject has two brothers, David C., a captain in the confederate army, for many years postmaster at Summitville, Tennessee, and, now farming; George W., a preacher in Denton county, Texas. Also, he has one sister, Elizabeth S., wife of S. M. Sawyers, a civil engineer of DeSoto, Kansas. Mrs. Jackson had one brother, Preston C., an attorney in Bonham, Texas. She had four sisters: Martha C., who dwells with our subject; Mary J., widow of J.B. Jones, of Fannin county, Texas; Lucy V., single, in Texas; and Josephine, wife of Mr. Wood, in Fannin county, Texas. Captain Jackson has five children living: Carrie L., wife of John H. Gerdes, proprietor of Gerdes house in Hood River; William F., a farmer near Moro, this state; John B., living with his father and owner of the adjoining farm; David M., with his father; and Francis R., living on a homestead near his father's home.

It is of interest in this connection to state that our subject was a member of the escort of Jefferson Davis up to the time of the capture. Mr. Davis left the escort the day before the capture to visit his family. Our subject is a Democrat in politics and for twenty-nine years he has been director of the district school where he lives.

He was the prime mover in the organization of the Pine Grove district and has shown commendable interest in the building up of the country. He has twice been nominated for county commissioner and, although running far ahead of his ticket, still suffered defeat.