

HENRY WAKERLIG has demonstrated his grit and pluck in his endeavors in Wasco and adjoining counties, for his path has been beset with many losses and hardships which he has overcome only by sheer force of will and determination. At present he is dwelling at Bakeoven, being the postmaster there. He was born in Switzerland, August 1, 1853, the son of John and Regla (Frei) Wakerlig, also natives of Switzerland. The father served from twenty-one to forty-five in the Swiss army, two weeks and one day each alternate year. Our subject grew up on his father's farm, received his education from the parochial schools and in 1883 came to the United States. He came direct to Oregon, and herded sheep for Solomon Hauser, deceased, for eight months. Then he located his family in the vicinity of where Shaniko now stands and herded sheep for three years, being in the employ of Al Porter, E.M. Gilsay, and William Jones. In 1886 he bought four hundred sheep and started in for himself. He went to Crook county and took a pre-emption in the Paulina valley that fall, and the hard winter took half of his sheep. In the fall of 1887 he sold his place there and returned to the vicinity of Shaniko. He rented the same place where he had first left his family and the next year took a homestead and timber culture on Ocheco creek, a mile a half from Bakeoven, where he lived until 1889. He purchased eleven hundred sheep which he added to his others now increased to twenty-seven hundred. That winter he lost all but three hundred of his sheep. He placed that remnant with another man's sheep and commenced to herd again, as he was in debt and forced to raise money. Two years were thus occupied and he finally made another start. And since that time he has had better success. In January, 1902, he purchased the place where he now resides, having moved there two years previously. He had between nine and ten thousand sheep, but now handles about six thousand. He owns three thousand nine hundred acres of land, and cultivates three hundred to grain and hay. There are seventeen hundred acres of good tillable land in the estate. He also owns fifty cattle and as many horses, and is one of the wealthy men of the county, all of which is the result of his determination to make a success, which he has done.

In Switzerland, on December 12, 1876, Mr. Wakerlig married Miss Mary, the daughter of Jacob and Katherine Wittweiler, both natives of Switzerland. Mr. Wakerlig has one brother, Frederick, a sculptor in his native land, and one sister, Barbara, the wife of Donathe Wittmer, a wagonmaker in New Haven, Connecticut. The wife has no brothers but two half sisters, Mrs. Katherine Myer, and Annie. Our subject and his wife have ten children, Henry, Edwin, Ernest, Walter, Mary, Bertha, Rosie, Julia, Annie and Minnie. Mary is the wife of Albert McKinley, three miles south from our subject's home, and Bertha is the wife of Roy Logan, living near, and the balance of the children are all at home. Mr. Wakerlig is a Republican, and is active in school matters, having been director for many years.

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