

JOHN A. WILSON was born in Indiana, on May 21, 1841, and now resides about three miles southwest from Hood River where he has one of the fine farms of the valley. He is known as a substantial and good citizen and has manifested of for real worth and industry since coming to this country. His father, Samuel Wilson, was born in South Carolina, as were also his parents, and was a pioneer settler in Indiana, being sixteen years of age when he came with his parents to that country. He died in Missouri, in 1875. He had married Dinah Martin, also a native of South Carolina, the wedding occurring in Indiana. Her parents were pioneers to Indiana, coming thither on horseback, and the mother, who was a Smith before marriage, carried Dinah in her arms. They came from an old and prominent family. Our subject was educated in the district schools where he lived, and on April 23, 1861, in response to the first call for men, enlisted in Company H, Eighth Indiana Infantry, and served ninety days then reenlisted in the Forty-sixth Indiana, the date being October, 1861. His entire service in the war being one month over four years. His first battle was at Rich Mountain, West Virginia, and the next at New Madrid, Missouri. Later, he was in the battles at Biddles Point, Missouri, Fort Pemberton, Mississippi, Fort Gibson, Champion Hill, Siege of Vicksburg, Jackson and at Grand Chaton and Mansfield, Louisiana. At the latter place he was taken prisoner and spent four months at Camp Ford, Texas and four months at Camp Gross, Texas. On December 8, 1864, he was exchanged and continued in the service until September 4, 1865, when he was discharged at Louisville. Mr. Wilson has great reason to take pride in his service as a soldier for his country as he endured all the hardships incident to that life and showed a fortitude and bravery which commend him to every patriotic citizen. After the war, he returned to Illinois whence his parents had moved and remained there six years then he married and moved to Missouri and bought a farm in Caldwell county. Four years later, he moved to Oregon and purchased the land right from a squatter, where he now lives, and since that time, he has continued here. He has five acres into strawberries and the balance of the land is devoted to general crops.

The marriage of Mr. Wilson occurred on February 4, 1869, at Ancona, Illinois. Nancy Chamberlain a native of Ohio, then becoming his bride. Her father, Washington Chamberlin, was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, and his father in New Jersey, and his mother probably in that state also. Mrs. Wilson's mother, Elizabeth (Eggy) Chamberlin, was also born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, and is now living with our subject. She came from a Pennsylvania Dutch family. Mr. Wilson has one brother, William L., and one sister, Mrs. Caroline Martin. Mrs. Wilson has three brothers, Leander, John, and Newton. Seven children have been born to our subject and his wife; Austin at Mullan, Idaho; Laura in The Dalles; George, Lee, Grace, Flora and Viola, all at home.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilson are members of the Christian church and are liberal supporters of the faith. Politically he is a Republican and active. In school matters, Mr. Wilson has shown a marked zeal and activity and with Mr. Gibbons was instrumental in establishing the Barrett school. He worked very hard for this fine enterprise and deserves much commendation from the community for his aggressiveness and zeal in bringing about this desired end.