

JOHN M. MARDEN, who came to The Dalles, Wasco county, about the time of the admission of the state of Oregon into the union, is now retired from active business. He was born in Georgetown, D.C., November 30, 1838, the son of Nathaniel M. and Mary A. (Lutz) Marden, the father a native of Virginia, of an old southern family, the mother having been born in Georgetown, The father died in the eighties, aged sixty-four, the mother passed away in 1853 at the age of fifty-six years.

In his youth our subject attended private schools and a preparatory school connected with Columbia College, Washington, D.C. Later he learned the carpenter trade, and April 2, 1849, he joined a party of sixty-four men, known as the Washington City & California Mining Association, and crossed the plains with mule teams. He arrived at Lassen's ranch, California, October 13, 1849, and here he mined on Bidwell's Bar until January 1, 1850, going thence to Sacramento in the hope of receiving letters from home. In February he went to Marysville and assisted in building the first frame edifices in that town. He soon went to Shasta with a pack train, thence to Scott's Bar, Weaverville, and back to Marysville. Here he disposed of his mules, in the spring of 1856, returned to Shasta and filed on a placer claim on the headwaters of Whiskey Creek, where he panned out considerable coarse gold and many large nuggets, one of which was worth eight hundred dollars. That fall he left for Marysville, and thence north up the Yuba river, to Trask Bar, where for six years he remained mining success-fully. In July, 1858, he went to Fraser river, during the excitement incident to that period, with three other men in an Indian log canoe, from Victoria, B.S., as far as Fort Langley, B.C. Finding nothing there worth their time they paddled clown into the Sound to Olympia, and from there he went to Monticello, Oregon, at the mouth of the Cowlitz river, where he took a steamer for Portland. and thence to the Cascades. The following March he came to The Dalles since which time he has lived in Wasco county. In the autumn of 1859 he filed on a pre-emption claim, where for thirteen years he made his home. During the Snake Indian uprising he had some experience in savage warfare, when buildings were burned at the Warm Springs Agency, and Briggs and his Sons were massacred, at Barlow's Gate, in 1860. With his family Mr. Marden came to The Dalles in 1883, where he engaged in the mercantile business with R.F. Gibbons and A.S. MacAllister, mentioned in another portion of this book. When they were burned out in 1891, our subject and Mr. Gibbons settled up the affairs of the company and engaged in the real estate and insurance business which was continued until July, 1902, when they dissolved partnership. Mr. Marden has two brothers, Henry F. and Thomas S., the former a farmer in Prince George county, Maryland, the latter a machinist in Washington, D.C. At The Dalles, February 13, 1869, Mr. Marden was married to Harriet A. Reed, daughter of Calvin Reed. Her parents came to Oregon in 1850 and located near the present site of Troutdale, Multnomah county. Mr. Marden is a member of the California Pioneer Association, of San Francisco; the A.F. & A.M., and is a Royal Arch Mason. Politically he is a Democrat and has served one term as county commissioner of Wasco county and delegate to county conventions.

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