

JEREMIAH M. PATTERSON, the efficient and popular postmaster of The Dalles, Wasco county, was born in Guernsey county, Ohio, November 26, 1845, the son of John and Eliza (Glenn) Patterson, the father a native of Ohio and the mother of Pennsylvania. John Patterson died in Salem, Oregon, in 1873, and the mother in 1880.

In the graded schools of Ohio, most excellent institutions, our subject received a good business education. He was a patriotic youth, and, fully realizing the duty owed to his country, he enlisted before he had reached the age of sixteen years, in Company A., Fifteenth Ohio Infantry, and served gallantly three years during the progress of the Civil war. He participated in the heavy battles of Shiloh, Pittsburgh Landing, Corinth, Stone River, Perryville, Chickamauga and many other minor engagements and skirmishes. Mr. Patterson was in the signal service, during the latter portion of his enlistment, and was, also, telegraph operator. At the breaking out of the war he had just learned telegraphy, with the valuable assistance of his father, who had charge of the railway station at New Concord, Ohio.

Following his discharge he went home on a visit and then entered the government employment in the capacity of a telegraph operator, in which he continued until May, 1865. Although not yet sixteen years of age at the time of his enlistment young Patterson carried a musket and saw active service during the first eighteen months. Fortunately he was not wounded, with the exception of a slight scratch on the finger. He emerged from the war none the worse for his hardships and exposures, and in perfect health. The family removed to Iowa where our subject engaged in the mercantile business with his father in Des Moines, one year, and then they disposed of the property and our subject found employment with the Northwestern Railway Company until 1868, as telegrapher. January 9, 1869, he left New York for Oregon via the isthmus, whither he had been preceded by his father a short time previous.

Our subject and the rest of the family arrived at Salem, Oregon, February 11, 1869. He lived there sixteen years. During two years Mr. Patterson was assistant postmaster, and the following ten years he was engaged in the real estate business. He conducted a machine shop and foundry three years, was burned out and the following year again became assistant postmaster. In April, 1885, he went to the Warm Springs Indian Agency in the capacity of clerk, remained one year and then came to The Dalles to become bookkeeper for A.M. Williams and Company, with whom he remained eight years. He then became cashier of the First National Bank, at The Dalles, during a period of three years, and afterward was engaged in various enterprises until 1900 when he received the appointment of postmaster of The Dalles. During his incumbency the system of free delivery has been installed, and the office is well equipped with everything necessary for a proper and convenient conduct of the business, including a Doremus canceling machine and other labor saving devices. The office is served by an assistant postmaster, two carriers, for city work, two clerks, and one rural delivery carrier.

December 18, 1872, at Salem, Oregon, Mr. Patterson was married to Blanche Gray, born in Iowa, who came to Oregon via the isthmus in 1865. She is the daughter of George W. and Minerva (Berry) Gray, the father a native of Pennsylvania, the mother of Iowa. George W. Gray died in August, 1900, and his wife in December, 1903, at Salem. Mrs. Patterson has three brothers and two sisters living: William T. and George B., engaged in the hardware business at Seattle; Charles A., a contractor, living at Salem; Mrs. U.U. Lownsdale, of Portland; and Jennie G. Kyle, of Salem. Mr. and Mrs. Patterson have four children: Edward G., a merchant at Waterville, Washington; Beulah G., Prudence M. and William G., living at home. Our subject is a member of J.W. Nesmith Post G.A.R., at The Dalles, and for the past five years he has been commander. He also belongs to the W.O.W., and Order of Washington. He and his wife are members of the Congregational church. He is a Republican and has frequently been delegate to county conventions, and was two terms chairman of central committee, Wasco county. While in the real estate business in Salem he served two terms as city recorder.