

JOSEPH A. WILSON, a substantial and enterprising business man of Hood River, is at present the owner of a fruit warehouse and a waterpower plant. He was born in Indiana county, Pennsylvania, on October 17, 1854. His father was William Wilson, a native of the north of Ireland and of English parentage. His mother, Letitia (MacDugh) Wilson, was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania. The father came to the United States in 1828 and died in Pennsylvania, in 1883. The mother's parents were from old Highland Scotch stock and descended from the Cameron clan. Joseph A. was reared and educated in Pennsylvania, and when thirty came to Oregon. He was graduated from the state normal school at Millersville, Lamerton county, Pennsylvania, and taught thereafter until he went to Oregon. The well known Brooks, the author of a series of mathematical text books, was principal of the normal and Mr. Wilson received exceptionally good instruction. He followed the lumber business and in the spring of 1884, took the journey west. He engaged on the government survey here after the winter of 1884, well remembered on account of its deep snow, which accumulated to the depth of five feet, and worked all the following summer on the survey. The next year he bought land and has followed farming and surveying considerably since.

Mr. Wilson's mother died in 1871 and his father passed away in 1883. On September 20, 1893, occurred the marriage of our subject and Gertrude M. Kinports, a native of Pennsylvania and the daughter of Porter and Margaret B. (Mahaffey) Kinports, natives of Pennsylvania. The father followed merchandising for fifty years and is now president of the First National Bank in Cherrytree, Pennsylvania, where the mother was born. They are highly respected people. The wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Wilson occurred in Cherrytree and they have one son, Porter K., with his grandparents in Pennsylvania. Mr. Wilson has one brother, Thomas S. and one sister, Mary C. Mrs. Wilson died in Pennsylvania, on February 21, 1898. Mr. Wilson is independent in political matters and is free and untrammelled to view all issues and questions without party bias.

He is greatly interested in the fruit business and packed the fruit that took the grand prize for the state of Oregon and Wasco county at the World's Fair in St. Louis.

In the fall of 1904, Mr. Wilson built a million gallon reservoir on the hill above town and brought water in from the Indian creek. Water is piped to the city for power purposes. He is also interested in the formation of a milling company, being a stockholder. They have erected a fine flour mill plant with a daily output capacity of one hundred barrels.

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