

RICHARD SIGMAN is one of the best known men of Dufur, and a veteran of the terrible conflict which raged to preserve to us the rights and privileges of freedom when base treason would have trodden under foot the stars and stripes and rent asunder the land of our fore-fathers. He has achieved a good success in the financial world and has thus far passed a career which is unblemished and filled with industry and good deeds.

Richard Sigman was born in Ohio, on July 26, 1844, the son of James and Ruth A. (Lucas) Sigman, natives of Ohio. The mother died in the spring of 1865. The father came to California in 1849 and about eighteen months later returned to Ohio where he died in 1903. His father, the grandfather of our subject, was in the War of 1812, and the father of that veteran, which is the great-grandfather of Richard Sigman, fought in the Revolution. His wife was the mother of twenty-two boys. Our subject was reared and educated in Ohio and in 1862 enlisted in Company H, One Hundred and Twenty-second Ohio Volunteer Infantry, captained by Mr. Gordon under Colonel Ball. He was soon sent to the front and participated in the Oak Grove and the Winchester engagements. Then he was taken prisoner at the battle of the Wilderness and for weary months was detained in the Andersonville, Libby, and Florence prisons. He weighed one hundred and eighty when he entered those death pits, but scarcely tipped the beam at one hundred when he was finally released. A living death, although the people of the land know well what those horrible places were and something of what the poor boys in blue suffered, still never can it be written the horrors that becloud the perpetrators of that cruelty nor can the anguish of the poor victims ever be adequately told. Living in the midst of the awfullest death, and dying by inches, Mr. Sigman eked out the days until the glad news of his deliverance came and a drawn skeleton, he staggered out to welcome it. After that he returned home and for eighteen years was farming in Illinois. 1884 was the year in which Mr. Sigman came to The Dalles and made settlement in Dry Hollow. This was near Dufur and he took railroad land which afterward reverted to the government. Then he took government claims and also purchased land until he had an estate of nearly one section. Since the years of prosperity have come to Mr. Sigman, he has sold a greater portion of this land to his son and in 1901, he came to Dufur to spend the remaining days of his life in quiet retirement from the bustle of active business.

At Pana, Illinois, in 1870, Mr. Sigman married Miss Ward, a native of Ohio. She died on the home farm here in Wasco county, on March 6, 1890. Her parents were John and Martha (Griffith) Ward, natives of Ohio. The father's parents were born in Ireland. Mr. Sigman has eight sisters, all in the east. His wife had three brothers and two sisters in Illinois. To Mr. and Mrs. Sigman seven children have been born: Melvin and Alvin, farmers near Dufur; Alberta, the wife of Neil O'Leary, a farmer in Sherman county; Jessie, the wife of Darius Smith, on Eightmile creek; Maud, the wife of Milton O'Brien, in the employ of Johnson Brothers; Margareta, teacher in Sherman county; Nettle, a girl of seventeen and now with her father. Mr. Sigman is a member of the G.A.R. and is often at the county conventions. He is a prominent and highly esteemed man and is looked up to by all.