

SIMPSON COPPLE, who resides about seven miles south from Hood River, is one of the prosperous farmers of this valley and a skillful fruit raiser. He was born in Marion county, Illinois, on July 12, 1842, the son of Andrew and Christina (Fine) Copple, natives of North Carolina and from German extraction. The father died in Illinois, in 1881. While our subject was studying in the public schools, the Civil war broke out and he enlisted in Company C, Eleventh Illinois Infantry, under Captain George C. McKee and Colonel W.H.L. Wallace, and fought through the most of the war. His regiment is well known in history as one of the hardest fighters in the army and it was so depleted by service that it absorbed the one hundred and ninth to fill its ranks. Our subject participated in the fight at Fort Donelson, Shiloh, Pittsburg Landing, and through Grant's campaign and the capture of Vicksburg. He was wounded at Pittsburg Landing where his regiment lost heavily. His regiment was among the very first to occupy Vicksburg. On August 15, 1864, he was honorably discharged at Vicksburg and went to Indianapolis where he attended school then looked after his brother's family and farm until the latter was through with his service in the war. After that our subject studied and taught in various places until he married and settled to farming in Illinois. There he remained until 1886, when he sold and came to Hood River, landing here on October 10. He bought the right of a squatter to his present place and when it reverted to the government from the railroad he homesteaded it. Since then he has given his attention to farming and fruit raising and is one of the successful men of the valley.

He has twenty acres of choice winter apples and has taken prizes many times at the county and district fairs.

On June 15, 1868, at Centralia, Illinois, Mr. Copple married Miss Alice F. Williamson, who was born in Vermilion county, that state. Her parents, Robert E. and Lydia (Madden) Williamson, were natives of Kentucky and North Carolina, and of Irish and Welsh extraction, respectively. The father's father was born in Ireland and was a riverman for many years. Mr. Copple has one brother, Jacob and one sister, Mrs. Mary E. Sanders, while his wife has four brothers, Thomas J., Lina H., John P. and James E. Ten children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Copple; Claud E., of the Davenport Lumber Company; Robert A., a merchant and preacher in Pendleton; Clarence, on his father's farm; Hugh W., a school boy; Cora L., a teacher in Hood River; Bertha, wife of J.W. Taylor, a captain on the Columbia; Lillie B., wife of George W. Fisher, in the postoffice in Portland; Carrie C., teaching in the Hood River graded schools; Edith, a school girl; and Hugh, also in school. Politically Mr. Copple is a Democrat, or rather has been until recently he joined the ranks of the Prohibitionists. He has held various offices in the east but since coming west has not been active in these matters. His first vote was cast for Lincoln. It is interesting to know that Mr. Copple was discharged as sergeant and never missed an engagement while with his regiment. He was in many hard and trying places but showed the true stuff of a soldier and made a first class record. He and his wife belong to the Christian church and he is an elder in that denomination.

Misses Cora and Carrie Copple are very popular educators of Wasco county. The former has taught six years and the latter has taught three years. Both hold first class certificates and have their present enviable positions by real merit and constant attention to the business in hand.