

SAMUEL S. JOHNS, who resides at the corner of Bridge and Eighteenth streets, in The Dalles, is one of the best known and most progressive stockmen of the state of Oregon. He has not excelled in raising large numbers of stock, but he has certainly excelled in bringing in and raising some of the finest horses and cattle to be found. This, in reality, is one of the greatest works for the upbuilding of Oregon that one could do. It is eminently a stock state and one that makes such strides in getting good breeds into the country is bringing the entire standard to a higher point, and the value of it can scarcely be overestimated. Mr. Johns has, also, made a first-class success in financial matters and has a holding in valuable property, both personal and real, that does credit to his business ability. He owns a fine stock ranch ten miles out on Mill creek, which is well improved and where he has a choice herd of one hundred and fifty thorough-bred Shorthorns. A part of the herd are registered animals and are among the choicest to be found in the west. In addition to these, Mr. Johns owns some fine horses, among which we may mention Vespasian, a Suffolk Punch draught stallion, registered in 1898, number 2498. He has one of the best records of any stallion and is one of the choicest ever imported' to the United States. He weighs two thousand and ten pounds and is making the seasons at The Dalles. Mr. Johns also owns a three year old colt of Vespasian, which seems to be in every point equal to his famous sire. These two animals cost three thousand dollars. Mr. Johns is making a record of excellence in stock breeding and is one of the most skilled men in this line in this part of the country.

Samuel S. Johns was born in Wales, on November 14, 1863, the son of Thomas and Bessie (Pritchard) Johns, also natives of Wales. The father comes from an old Welsh family which has resided in the vicinity of Cardiff for many generations. He followed stock breeding and dairying. His death occurred in The Dalles, in July, 1902. The mother's father, Captain Pritchard, was an Englishman and was drowned in the wreck of his vessel on the Loochoo or Liu Kiu islands, before the birth of this daughter. She died at Spokane, in 1897, aged fifty-eight. The family came to the United States in 1868 and settled in Kansas, two of the father's brothers, John and Henry, coming with them. For thirty years they did railroad work there, the father being master mechanic on the Kansas City & Southern railroad. In 1880, the family came to Wasco county and the father entered the employ of the O.R. & N. Six years later he engaged in the sawmill business. While in this business he erected a flume from Mill creek to The Dalles, a distance of sixteen miles, and later sold that flume to The Dalles. It is utilized today for the city water supply. After a good high school education in Ottawa, Kansas, our subject learned the machinist trade and wrought at it five years with the O.R. & N. Then he was with his father in the mill business until they sold the flume. He had purchased the land on Mill creek for stock purposes and gave his attention to that exclusively as soon as released from the mill proposition. He owns twelve hundred acres and all the improvements required on a first-class stock farm, besides a good residence and property in The Dalles.

On December 22, 1887, at The Dalles, Mr. Johns married Miss Alice Walker, who was born near St. Helens, Oregon, and died in June, 1882, at The Dalles. Her parents, Robert and Julia (Hull) Walker, were early pioneers of Oregon. The mother died in The Dalles, on March 5, 1902, and the father a few days before Mrs. Johns. On November 14, 1895, at The Dalles, Mr. Johns married Mary Zable, a native of Kansas. Her parents, Frederick and Louisa Zable, were natives of Germany, and are now both deceased. They dwelt many years in Wisconsin and Kansas. Mrs. Johns has the following named brothers and sisters, William, Frederick, Ferdinand, Mrs. Christina Rabensdorf, Mrs. Dora Martin, Mrs. Louisa Mayer, Mrs. Lena Geyer, and Mrs. Amelia Stenber. Mr. Johns has two brothers, Walter I. and David P., and three sisters, Mrs. Mary O'Neill, Mrs. Martha Campbell, and Bessie. Mr. Johns has two children by his first wife, Dora, aged fifteen, and Alice, aged twelve. He is a member of the United Artisans, while he and his wife belong to the Baptist church. He is deacon of that institution and also superintendent of the Sunday school. He is active, in church work as also in all lines of enterprise for upbuilding and betterment of the community and is considered one of the best men of the community. In politics, Mr. Johns is a strong Republican and has been city councilman for six years.