

THOMAS STACKPOLE LANG, deceased, one of the old-time settlers, was well and favorably known throughout Wasco county. A memoir of him is fittingly placed in a history of Central Oregon, since he had much to do with business and political events in that section.

Thomas S. Lang was born in North Berwick, Maine, on June 16, 1826, and was the eldest son of John Damon and Anne (Stackpole) Lang. His father was a native of Gardiner, Maine, whose ancestors were among the early settlers of Massachusetts: his mother was born and reared at North Berwick. John D. Lang was prominently identified with many large enterprises in his native state. He built the first steamboat on the Kennebec river, was one of the promoters of the Maine Central Railroad, was an extensive woolen manufacturer, and one of the most prominent Quakers of New England.

Thomas Lang was educated principally at the Friends' boarding school in Providence, R.I., which is now Brown University, and while a lad removed with his parents to Vassalboro, Kennebec county. After his days of school life were over he was associated with his father many years in, charge of the Vassalboro woolen mills, in which they were both deeply interested. On December 4, 1856, he was married to Miss Mary M. Varney, of Brooks, Maine, the eldest daughter of Moses and Margaret McClure Varney, who were both natives of Sandwich, N.H. He was also interested in lumbering, owning large tracts of timber lands in the north of Maine and operating an extensive lumber business on the Kennebec river and at Bath, where his mills were situated. He was also intensely interested in and owned much fine blooded stock, horses and cattle, at times owning the finest herds of Jersey, Hereford and Alderney cattle in New England.

In 1867 Mr. Lang was appointed commissioner from the United States to the Paris Exposition, and, retiring from business for the time, traveled for about two years in Europe. After his return he resided in Augusta. For two terms he was in the State Senate and for one term in the House of Representatives. He was a very prominent man in his state and was marked by those sterling virtues of integrity and uprightness which characterized him through life. His political colleagues were Reed, Dingley, Blaine, Frye and others.

Owing to ill health he determined to try the west, and in 1875 came to Oregon, spending the winter in the Willamette valley at Rickreal. The following year he went to The Dalles, investing in sheep and ranches near Heppner. For twenty years before his death he had resided in The Dalles, at one time being part owner and editor of the Wasco Sun, and also edited the Times-Mountaineer. From 1890 to 1894 he was receiver of the U.S. land office at The Dalles. His death occurred on June 18, 1896. Mr. Lang had lived a good life, had shown himself a man of patriotism, ability and faithfulness, and was sincerely mourned in many places. His widow and two daughters, Anne M. and Elizabeth L. Lang, survive him, his eldest child, a son, having died shortly after the family's arrival at Rickreal. Mrs. Lang and her daughters reside at The Dalles. Mr. Lang's only brother, the one surviving member of the Lang family, John Alton Lang, is still living at Waterville, Maine.