

WILLIAM D. RICHARDS, a substantial and progressive farmer of Wasco county, resides about nine miles southeast from The Dalles on Ferry Canyon road. He was born in Easton, Pennsylvania, on August 8, 1844, the son of Daniel and Mary S. (Raub) Richards, natives of the same country as our subject. The father's family were of English extraction and the mother descends from Pennsylvania Dutch. She now lives in Kansas and her husband died in Kansas, in 1878, near Silver Lake. William D. was educated and reared in Pennsylvania and there remained until thirty-four years of age, having learned the carpenter trade in the meantime. He followed that craft and teaming and farming until he left Pennsylvania in 1879 for Kansas, where he operated his mother's farm for two years. Then he spent two years at carpentering and in 1883, came thence to Oregon, settling in The Dalles, where he worked at carpentering for five years. In the meantime, he had taken a government claim upon which the family resided. He gradually improved the same while he was continuing in town, until 1888 when he gave up carpenter work and came out to the ranch. Since that time, he has given his attention entirely to farming and has made a marked success of the same. He has purchased two farms adjoining the home place and owns altogether seven hundred and thirty-five acres, five hundred of which are good wheat land. The entire estate bears the marks of thrift and enterprise and in all the improvements, good taste is manifested. His residence is a tasty story and a half cottage in neat surroundings and everything comports with the same in neatness and good taste.

In 1867, while in Pennsylvania, Mr. Richards married Miss Abbie Hummel, a native of New Jersey. She died on May 30, 1879, in Kansas. Her father was Elijah Hummel, a native of Pennsylvania. On January 26, 1882, at Topeka, Kansas, Mr. Richards married Miss Abbie J. Adams, who was born in Loudon, New Hampshire, the daughter of Jonas Jefferson and Betsey K. (Foster) Adams. The father was a native of Carlisle, Massachusetts, and came from the old colonial Adams family, well known in American history. The mother was born in Tewksbury, Massachusetts, and came from an old and prominent colonial family of English extraction. Mr. Richards has two brothers, Jacob T. and Robert A., and one sister, Mary S. Frost. Mrs. Richards has three brothers, George F., Samuel F., and Daniel J. and three sisters, Julia A. Hayward, Mary A. Warren, and Emma E. Cutler. By his first marriage, Mr. Richards has five children; Mary C., wife of Clarence M. Sisson, a school teacher at Palouse, Washington; Susan E., wife of John M. Mann, a farmer in Wasco county; Lillie A., wife of Richard E. Howarth, at University Park, Portland; Harry R., who operates his father's farm; and Edith A., the wife of J. Frank Howarth, a printer at The Dalles.

Mr. and Mrs. Richards are both zealous and active members of the Methodist church and he is a steward and trustee for the past ten years in that denomination. Politically, Mr. Richards is a staunch Prohibitionist and ran for state senator in 1904.