

URIAH WHITNEY. Various enterprises in Marion county have enlisted the interest of Uriah Whitney, a pioneer of 1858, and at present living on a finely cultivated and profitable farm near Stayton. Mr. Whitney was born on a farm near Lewiston, Androscoggin county, Me., March 23, 1834, a son of Thomas and Naomi (Eaton) Whitney. When six years of age he was taken by his parents to St. Clair county, Ill., where his father combined his trade of brick mason with general farming. After the death of his mother in 1842, he was taken to the home of Robert Higgins, a prosperous and prominent farmer residing in St. Clair county, with whom he found a pleasant home and excellent guardianship. Upon attaining the age of twenty-one years he received from Mr. Higgins the sum of \$150. Thereafter he remained with his friend, who was almost a father to him, for two years, receiving in return for services rendered \$110 per year. This seemed a large amount to the farmer youth of that day, and young Whitney was no exception to the rule in this respect.

After leaving the employ of Mr. Higgins he worked for various other farmers in the neighborhood, and by 1858 had quite a sum of money saved up. In the meantime he had determined to better his condition, if possible, by taking an early advantage of the well nigh boundless opportunities offered by the great west and its almost fabulous resources.



Therefore, in 1858, he started upon his journey for Oregon, going by way of New York City, where he embarked aboard the ship *Washington*, bound for Graytown, and thence to Aspinwall. Crossing the Isthmus of Panama, he re-embarked on another steamer bound for San Francisco. But in order to do so, he was obliged to borrow \$50 to pay for his ticket, the preceding stages of the voyage having used up about all his money.

December 24, 1858, he arrived in Marion county, with practically no capital excepting his health, energy and ambition to succeed in life. The first year he worked in a sawmill and gristmill, for which he received the sum of \$330. After working on a farm for W. M. McKinney for a year he was employed by other farmers. In 1861 he drove a herd of cattle across the mountains to Umatilla, for stock dealers, and in 1862 embarked in a mining venture near Florence, Idaho, to which region he traveled with two pack-horses. The extent of his success in this venture may be judged when it is stated that instead of driving that team home he was compelled to make his way back afoot, a sadder and wiser man.

Upon returning to Marion county Mr. Whitney sought to recoup his losses by working upon farms. After saving some money in this way, he embarked in a general merchandising business in Aumsville with W. H. Darby, continuing thus for five years, and making a success of the business. After disposing of his interest to E. E. McKinney in the spring of 1871, he bought his present farm of four hundred and twenty acres for \$10 per acre. Having thus assured himself of a home, he returned the same year to Maine, where he was married to Martha T. Whitney. Returning with his young wife to the farm just purchased, he resided there for two years, and then engaged in the mercantile business with the Hon. W. H. Hobson at Stayton. Upon selling his interest in this business he established a store at Aumsville with the same partner. After disposing of that he removed to Stayton and erected the property now known as the Gardner Flouring Mills. At the same time he started another general merchandise store at Stayton, and while managing both these enterprises became prominently identified in other ways with the best interests of the community. Misfortune overtook him in 1878, when the store was destroyed by fire. Soon afterward he traded the flouring mills for six hundred and forty acres of land situated in the Waldo Hills. After living on the new property for a year, he took his family on a visit of four months to Maine, spending a most delightful time among the scenes of his childhood. Returning to his farm in the Waldo Hills, he lived there for another year, and then returned to his original farm of

four hundred and twenty acres, purchased at the time of his marriage in 1871, and upon which he is now making his home. Since locating there he has spent about eight years in Stayton, where he owned and operated a general store with W. W. Elder; but in 1899 he took up his permanent abode where he now resides, and here he is conducting general farming and stock-raising.

Five children have been born into the family of Mr. and Mrs. Whitney. Lillie is the wife of Thomas E. Worley of Albany, Ore., and is the mother of four children: Byron Uriah, Sherman, Augusta and Frederick; Lena C. is the wife of Frank Sylhaven of Stayton, and has a daughter, Pearl Naomi Shafer; Martha N., Laura and Henrietta are deceased.

Mr. Whitney cast his first presidential vote for James Buchanan, and ever since has been a staunch supporter of the Democratic party. He has never sought for public office though he served for two years as mayor of Stayton, for one year was councilman, and for one year was treasurer. Fraternally he was originally associated with Pearl Lodge, A. F. & A. M., of Turner, of which he was a charter member, and is now a member of Santiam Lodge No. 25, at Stayton. To him is due the distinction of having been treasurer of the Masonic lodge for twenty-five consecutive years.

No man in Marion county has a more enviable reputation for personal worth, probity and sound business judgment than Mr. Whitney. At all times he has striven to make his daily life an exemplification of the Golden Rule, which has been the cardinal principle of his religion. He has found many opportunities to benefit his fellowmen by sound advice and offers of assistance of a more practical and substantial nature, and he has never been known to oppose the progress of any project intended to develop the resources of the Willamette valley or to enhance its standing as one of the most desirable places of residence in the world. His long years of residence in the state and the success which has attended his efforts in many lines of endeavor constitute a career worthy of appreciation and emulation. The young men of the present generation may well regard the brief record of his life here presented as a model for their guidance; for honesty of purpose, integrity of character, perseverance, industry and a singleness of determination toward the goal of honorable success have been the principles which have formed the foundation of his entire career.