

THE CENTENNIAL HISTORY OF OREGON

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C. C. FERGUSON, a well known and highly successful real-estate and insurance agent in Newberg, is the son of one of Yamhill county's honored pioneer citizens. His birth occurred in the vicinity of La Fayette on December 17, 1863, his parents being J. L. and Parmelia Jane (Bird) Ferguson. The father was born and reared in Kentucky, whence he came to Oregon in 1852, locating in La Fayette, where he engaged in business. He became one of the influential and affluent citizens of the county, and at one time owned about two thousand acres of land in this vicinity. His political support was accorded to the democratic party, and he always took an active interest in all governmental affairs, and for two years represented this county in the state legislature. As he was a man of forceful character, possessing strong powers of organization and good executive ability he was called upon to serve the public in innumerable ways during the early days. He was always ready and willing to do anything in his power to promote the interests of the community or to advance the development of the country. Realizing the need of higher institutions of learning in this section he was one of those who founded the agricultural college at Corvallis, which at that time was as denominational school, being under the control of the Methodist Episcopal (South) church. To him is also due considerable credit for developing the industrial interests of this part of the state, as he was one of the active promoters of the first woolen mills established at Oregon City. He was highly esteemed throughout the county, not only for the enterprise he had manifested in promoting various public utilities but because of his many fine personal traits, that made him a friend much to be desired. There was deep and sincere regret throughout the community when he passed away in August, 1903, as although he had attained the venerable age of seventy-two, he was still recognized as one of the strong personalities of the county. The mother of our subject was a daughter of John Bird, one of the well known pioneer settlers of the county. Her death occurred at the age of forty-six years. Of the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Ferguson there were born four sons and three daughters, as follows: Ella, the deceased wife of Clarence Baker, who has a son and a daughter living in this county; C. C., our subject; Nettie, who is deceased; Ray, who is a resident of La Fayette, Oregon; James L., who is living in Newberg; Maggie Jane, the wife of ex-Senator Caldwell, now living at Ontario, this state; and Lynn, who is engaged in the drug business in Newberg.

Reared in this county, at the usual age C. C. Ferguson entered the local common schools, where he pursued his preliminary education. He subsequently supplemented this by a course in the agricultural college at Corvallis, after which he returned home and for two years thereafter engaged in farming. At the expiration of that time he took up his residence in La Fayette, entering the employ of the Southern Pacific Railway Company, whom he served for several

years in the capacity of freight and passenger agent at that point. He next went to Oregon City, where for two years he was engaged in mercantile pursuits, subsequently returning to his ranch upon which he resided until he disposed of it. Immediately following this he located in Newberg, engaging in the real-estate and insurance business in which he has ever since continued. This has proven to be very successful and he now has a fine line of both city and country property, while he is the local representative of the Norwich Insurance Company of Loudon, England, and the Pacific Home Mutual Fire Insurance Company. He is an enterprising, capable business man, who conducts his transactions in an upright, straightforward manner, always retaining the respect and confidence of those with whom he has dealings.

On the 27th of September, 1885, Mr. Ferguson was united in marriage to Miss Katie G. Olds, who was born and reared in Yamhill county and is a daughter of James and Nancy (Parker) Olds, both of whom are now deceased. Of the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Ferguson there have been born two daughters; Helena, who is a teacher in the Newberg High school; and Mildred, who is still attending school.

Mr. Ferguson's fraternal connections are confined to his membership in the Woodmen of the World. His political allegiance he has always accorded to the democratic party, and he is now and has been for the past two years a member of the town council. He was a delegate to the state convention held at Pendleton at the time of Cleveland's first nomination, and has always taken an earnest interest in all political activities. Although the duties of his own business make great demands upon his time and energy, Mr. Ferguson is too public spirited a man to neglect his responsibilities as a citizen of the community, and he gives much of his attention to furthering the development of the town, along the various lines of general interest. At the present he is a member of the building committee of the Carnegie Library, which is now in course of construction, and he has often served in similar capacities during the period of his residence here. He is widely known throughout the county where he has spent his entire life, and is held in favorable regard by a large circle of acquaintances, many of whom have known him from early childhood.