

KLAMATH COUNTY LIBRARY
KLAMATH FALLS, OREGON

THE CENTENNIAL HISTORY
OF
OREGON

1811-1912

ILLUSTRATED

VOLUME III

CHICAGO
THE S. J. CLARKE PUBLISHING COMPANY
1912

large interests. He took a deep interest in the progress of Portland commercially, educationally and religiously and has been a material factor in the development of this city.

ALBERT ALFORD is one of the early pioneers of this state and during the Indian wars of 1855 and 1856 he was one of the ready volunteers to expose himself to the dangers and hardships of camp life among the unsettled, mountainous districts in which the savage red man of the north had established his almost inaccessible haunts. He was born in Sheridan county, Missouri, on the 4th of May, 1833, and is the son of Thomas and K. (Culp) Alford, both of whom were natives of Tennessee. His mother died when he was but a small child. In 1850 Thomas Alford emigrated to the state, crossing the plains with ox teams. He arrived in Oregon late in the season and at The Dalles the members of his party took boats down the Columbia river and made their first settlement in Linn county. The cattle were driven down the trail from The Dalles. On reaching Linn county Mr. Alford filed upon a donation claim of three hundred and twenty acres, upon which he established his home and continued to reside until the time of his death, which occurred in the ninety-third year of his age. He was three times married. He chose as his second companion in life Miss Polly Williams, who unfortunately met her death on the plains during the time of their emigration to this state. He later was united in marriage to Miss Gaily, of Linn county.

Albert Alford was reared in his father's home and acquired a limited education in the common schools of Missouri. He remained under the parental roof until he attained his twenty-first birthday. He then filed upon a donation claim of three hundred and twenty acres of land in Linn county. On this land he established his home and for many years was devoted to its development and agricultural pursuits. While a resident at that place the Rogue River Indian wars became a menacing element to the settlers on the Pacific seaboard and he at once became a volunteer, enlisting in Captain Keeney's company, of which he was an orderly sergeant, and later became a part of the command of Captain Blakeley's company in 1856. This campaign was often attended with great hardships, and at one time during the winter of 1855 his company was snowbound in the mountains and for seven days were without food supplies of any kind. At the close of his service in the Indian wars he returned at once to his home in Linn county and reengaged in the improvement of his place. Here he continued to reside until 1869, when he disposed of the property at a handsome profit and removed to Jackson county and for five years lived upon a rented place at Tolo. He then purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres adjoining the town of Talent and on that place he continued to live until 1910, at which time he sold the property and built for him-

self and family a handsome home in Talent, where he is now living a retired life. He is one of the principal stockholders of the First National Bank of Medford.

In 1853 Mr. Alford was united in marriage to Miss Catherine Brinker. Mrs. Alford is a native of Missouri and from that state emigrated to Oregon in the same train in which Mr. Alford was himself an emigrant in company with his parents to the Pacific coast. To Mr. and Mrs. Alford four children have been born: Russell, now at Klamath Falls; Moses, the first cashier of the First National Bank of Medford; Alice, the wife of L. F. Willetts, of Klamath Falls; and Ollie, the wife of C. W. Walters, of Talent, this state.

Mr. Alford is affiliated with the republican party and has served two terms as county commissioner and was a member of the county board at the time of the building of the new courthouse. Both he and his wife are members of the Baptist church. Albert Alford is indeed one of the hardy pioneers of this state and among all his associates and friends he is known to be a man of integrity. His moral influence upon the community in which he lives is distinguished for its salutary and helpful nature in maintaining and building up a healthy community life among the people.

DARR D. PHELPS, who is engaged in the plumbing business here, was born in Jasper county, Iowa, on the 4th day of July, 1870, being a son of Frank R. and Jennie (Westbrook) Phelps. His parents were both natives of Ohio, and there resided until 1868, when they removed to Iowa, settling in Jasper county. The mother passed away in 1884 and the father subsequently returned to Ohio and has ever since resided there. They were the parents of six children, four of whom are living.

Darr D. Phelps was reared at home and attended the public schools until the death of his mother, which occurred when he was a youth of fourteen years. This event caused a great change in his young life and laying aside his text-books he began earning his own living. On starting out for himself he first worked at any kind of work that came to hand, continuing to be thus employed for two years. At the expiration of that time he apprenticed himself to the plumber's trade, but two years later he abandoned this for carpentry. He followed this for three years and then learned the machinist's trade, being identified with the latter occupation until 1896. He first located in Pendleton in 1887 and during the first two years of his residence here was superintendent of the water works. After giving this up he followed the machinist's trade for a year, following which he entered the hardware store of W. J. Clark, remaining in his employ for ten years. After leaving this concern he worked for R. F. Kirkpatrick for a year, and on the 1st of September, 1911, he became associated with Alexander Burt in the establishment of a plumbing concern, that they are still