

Portrait and biographical record of the Willamette valley, Oregon, containing original sketches of many well known citizens of the past and present .. (1903) Pages 359-360

WILLIAM Y. RICHARDSON, who is serving as county treasurer of Marion county, represents one of the old and honored pioneer families of Oregon, his grandfather, John Richardson, having arrived in this state in 1851. Andrew J. Richardson, the father of our subject, was born near Quincy, Ill., and was about eighteen years of age when the family crossed the long, hot stretches of sand and made their way through the mountain passes into the fertile valleys of Oregon. They settled in Linn county, and on attaining his majority A.J. Richardson secured a donation claim near Scio in that county. With characteristic energy he began its cultivation and improvement and resided thereon until 1872, when he took up his abode in Stayton, where he conducted a hotel known as the Farmer's Hotel. He is one of the oldest representatives of this line of business in Oregon and has a wide acquaintance among the traveling public. He married Emeline Crabtree, a native of Missouri and a daughter of Washington Crabtree, who was born in Tennessee, whence he removed to Missouri. About 1852, with ox teams, he crossed the plains and settled near Scio in Linn county, where he remained until his retirement to private life, when he took up his abode in Stayton, coming there in October, 1901, in his ninety-third year. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Richardson were born seven children, Susan C., wife of J. H. Wylie, a business man of Seattle, Wash.; William, of this review; Warren, of Stayton, Ore.; and four who have passed away.

William Y. Richardson was born on the home farm near Stayton, Linn county, June 2, 1864, and upon the home farm remained until eight years of age, when his father removed to Stayton just as the place was being established. There the son attended the public schools and later he was engaged with his father in the livery business under the name of Richardson & Son. When nineteen years of age he purchased the business from his father and continued as proprietor of the barns with success. Later he consolidated his business with that of Thomas brothers, under the firm name of Thomas Brothers & Company. They had two barns in Stayton, conducting these until 1891, when the firm sold out to Thomas & Trask. Mr. Richardson then moved to Salem to become the proprietor of the Club stables as a member of the firm of Downing, Thomas & Co. This firm conducted a general livery business for three years: at the end of that time our subject sold out and returned to Stayton, where he engaged in dealing in stock including cattle, sheep and horses. He was recognized as a prominent dealer in sheep, buying and selling. When elected to public office in July, 1902, however, he returned to Salem.

Mr. Richardson was married in this city to Miss Maude Kress, a native of Wisconsin, and they have two children, Paul K. and Homer J. Mr. Richardson belongs to the Woodmen of the World and he has taken an active interest in local politics, serving for seven years as a Member of the city council of Stayton, and for one year as its president. In 1902 he was nominated on the Republican ticket for the office of county treasurer and was elected by a majority of about sixteen hundred. On the 7th of July of that year, he entered upon his duties which he is now acceptably discharging, managing the affairs of the office in a prompt and businesslike manner.