

PORTRAIT AND BIOGRAPHICAL RECORD.

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located in the Occidental block, and has the largest business of the kind in Benton county. He makes a specialty of school supplies, and of the incidentals which a cosmopolitan community expect to find in a modern and up-to-date store.

In Corvallis Mr. Gerhard married Adelaide Horton Fullington, a native of Harrisburg, Ore., and daughter of H. S. Horton, an old settler of this county, now residing in Corvallis. Mr. Gerhard is a member of the Corvallis Improvement Association, and in politics is affiliated with the Republican party. Fraternally he is a member of the Woodmen of the World. Like his father, himself and family are members of the Catholic Church. This popular stationer stands high in the public esteem of his native town, and is accounted one of the most successful and promising young business men.

GEORGE FRANKLIN CRAW. To a far greater extent than the average man, George F. Craw has realized his painstaking and well directed expectations. Just as the pent-up enthusiasm of twenty-one found expression in a meritorious war service, so the mature and public-spirited plans of later years have resulted in his election to every office to which he has been nominated by his fellow-townsmen, as well as in a financial standing merited by marked business ability and fearless adherence to high moral principles. The present manager of the Postal Telegraph Company, he is also the treasurer of Lane county, and was for six or seven years city treasurer of Eugene. At the present time he is serving his twelfth appointment as notary public, and in November, 1903, rounded out his twenty-four years in this capacity. Notable among his achievements in behalf of the town of his adoption have been his whole-souled and practical efforts to improve the educational facilities of the town. With his resignation as school clerk in May, 1902, ended fifteen years of truly remarkable educational advancement, nearly all of the school buildings in Eugene having been erected within that time, the sole exception being the oldest school house in the city limits. Shortly after his election as county treasurer in June, 1902, he was stricken with creeping paralysis, but the disorder yielding to treatment at the end of five months he was able to assume the responsibilities of office, to the joy of his many friends, his election being a credit to the community which has honored him with its unbounded confidence.

The youngest in a family of nine children, Mr. Craw was born in the center of eastern conservatism, Hartford, Conn., November 10, 1841, and was reared on the farm of his parents, Abial and Rhoda (Bellnap) Craw, natives of Connecticut, and of Scotch ancestry. Both the

paternal and maternal families were established in Connecticut by the grandfathers, the former coming from Aberdeen, Scotland, and locating on a farm in Hartford township. Abial Craw inclined to his father's occupation, and he and his wife died on the farm which had been their care for so many years, and where they had reared their large family of children. George F. was not the only member of the family whom ambition beckoned to the west, for his brother, Edward, crossed the plains in an ox-train in 1850, and, after varied experiences in the mines on the coast, died in San Bernardino, Cal.

The well worn farm in Hartford township failing to provide for its many occupants, each set about early in life earning his own living. George F. Craw has received practically no assistance from any source since he started in to work in a woolen mill at the age of twelve. His summers were spent in the mill and his winters were devoted to attending the public schools. At the age of sixteen he began to clerk in a store in East Hartford, and was thus employed when the long-smouldering hostility between the north and south culminated in the Civil war. August 7, 1862, he enlisted in Company D, Twentieth Connecticut Volunteer Infantry, and was mustered into service at New Haven, Conn. After participating in the battles of Antietam, Chancellorsville, and some minor skirmishes, he was stricken with sun-stroke at four o'clock in the afternoon while on the march to Gettysburg in June, 1863, and failed to recover consciousness until midnight of the same day. Opening his eyes in a little Fairfax Station church, he realized that his war experience was practically ended, although after being sent to a hospital in Alexander he was anxious to rejoin his regiment, being prevented only by his commanding physician. Unable to stand the rays of the sun or exposure to heat, he was relegated to hospital duty for the remainder of the war, and was mustered out July 23, 1865.

Returning to Portland, Conn., Mr. Craw clerked in a dry-goods store in the town, and at the same time devoted his leisure to learning telegraphy. His first telegraphic charge was with the Connecticut River Valley Telegraph Company, in the affairs of which he afterward became prominent, being advanced to the position of superintendent of construction. In 1869, about three weeks after the completion of the Union Pacific and the Central Pacific Railroads, he made his way to the coast on one of the new lines, arriving in Portland, Ore., in August, 1869. Going to Salem, he found employment in the woolen mills for two weeks, and for the following year was employed as a clerk in the book and stationery store of J. K. Gill of Salem. For six months he clerked in the grocery store of

Logan Adams, of Salem, and in 1871 secured the position as agent and operator under Ben Holliday, at the Portland car shops of the Oregon & California Railroad. Six months later he was transferred to Harrisburg, where the bridge was being built, and remained there until the completion of the road to Eugene. At Jefferson he was agent and operator for a period of two years, and after a visit of three months to his old home in Connecticut, was agent at Aurora for two weeks. At Junction City he remained agent and operator for seven years to a day, resigning his position January 12, 1879, to come to Eugene as agent for the Wells-Fargo Express Company. Six or seven years later, when the Postal Telegraph Company opened an office in Eugene, he became its general manager, holding the combined positions until 1893, when he resigned from the express company, and devoted his entire time to the telegraph company. For fifteen years he was agent at this point for the *Oregonian*, resigning therefrom June 1, 1903, on account of impaired health, and an excess of outside work. For the past seven years he has been interested in the sale of pianos and organs, managing this line of business with the same business acumen and success which has characterized all of his undertakings.

In Portland, Conn., in 1867, Mr. Craw married Emma Griswold, a native of that town, who died in May, 1895, leaving two children. Of these, Nellie, the wife of E. E. Awbrey, of Irving, Ore., has four children; and Mabel is the wife of Elmer Roberts, of Eugene. In Portland, Conn., Mr. Craw became identified with the Masonic fraternity, and in Salem ex-Governor Chadwick conferred upon him the Scottish Rite degrees. He is at present a member of Eugene Lodge No. 11, A. F. & A. M. He is also connected with the Oregon Consistory No. 1, of Portland, and with the J. W. Geary Post No. 7, G. A. R., being past commander. Mr. Craw is not unmindful of the moral and social advantages of church membership, as well as its great opportunities for well-doing. For many years he has been an active worker in the Episcopal Church, has served as junior warden, vestryman and treasurer, maintaining at the present time the first two offices. He is a man of broad and tolerant sympathies, of great generosity towards public benefactions, and intense and vitalizing zeal in promoting educational and general town interests. His friends are many, and his business standing and personal reputation such as any man might do well to emulate.

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