

The business activity in the little town of Beaver is largely due to the enterprise of its leading merchant, Joseph Bixby, who is also one of the large land owners and successful farmers of the vicinity. Mr. Bixby, whose self-made career serves to illustrate the worth of application and integrity, is a native of Cass County, Michigan and was born November 24, 1857.

His father, Harling, was born in Utica, New York, and his mother, Parthena HIGGINS Bixby, was born in Virginia. The parents were pioneer settlers of Cass County, Michigan, and met and married while yet the vast timberlands were practically unexplored and when the Indian was a frequent visitor at their hospitable door.

Eight children were born to Harling and Parthena, 6 sons and 2 daughters. The mother died at the early age of 35 in 1867; the father survived until 1893, his age being 67. Harling Bixby married a second wife, a Mrs. Linn Fish who bore him 2 children.

The 4th of his mother's children, Joseph Bixby was reared on a farm and educated in the public schools. In 1880 he married Edith Patrick who was born in Cass County, Michigan, June 18, 1860, and of this union 5 children have been born: Beatrice, Benjamin F., Lella, Hattie and Roland.

In 1881 Mr. Bixby removed to Oregon locating 4 miles east of Salem, but the following year took up their residence on a farm a quarter of a mile south of Beaver. This 166 acre farm is still in the possession of Mr. Bixby, and under his constant care it has developed into a fine and paying property.

Always ambitious and on the lookout for broader opportunity, Mr. Bixby started a general merchandise store in his house in 1889 which so prospered and rewarded the energy of its owner that he moved into town in 1903 and built a store more in accord with his increasing trade and bright promises.

To his former farm has been added from time to time, and at present he had 378 acres of land. Besides general farming he conducts a dairy of 45 cows. The post-office is conducted in his general store. Mr. Bixby has invested the proceeds of his labor in various home enterprises owning a half interest in the cheese factory at Beaver and the same amount of stock in the Hughey factory.

As a staunch Republican he has served in various local capacities and has been a school clerk for several years. Mr. Bixby is one of the solid, reliable merchants and farmers of Tillamook County, and his name is invariably associated with progress whether from a mercantile, educational or moral standpoint.