

A Biography from The Centennial History of Oregon 1811 - 1912

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Retyped by Dean Bones March 2023

Alvis W. Bunn is engaged in the manufacture of cheese near Beaver, Oregon, where he owns and cultivates a farm of two hundred acres. Cheese manufacture has been one of the principal features of the farm for many years and constitutes a gratifying source of income.

Mr. Bunn is numbered among Oregon's native sons, his birth having occurred in Yamhill County on the 21st of February, 1859, **his parents being Benjamin and Martha J. SAMPSON Bunn.** The father was a native of Indiana but in early childhood became a resident of Illinois where he was reared to manhood. In the year 1952 he became a resident of Oregon, and in the same year the Sampson family crossed the plains to the northwest. Martha J. Sampson was born in Illinois and accompanied her parents as they removed to this state. It was here she formed the acquaintance of Benjamin Bunn who sought her hand in marriage, the wedding being celebrated in Lafayette, Oregon, in 1853.

After living for a number of years in this state they, in 1861, returned to Illinois by way of the Panama route. The west, however, proved more attractive to them as a place of residence, and in 1865 they once more crossed the plains making the journey with ox teams. It was a slow and tedious process as they wended their weary way, mile after mile, until the long stretch of prairie, plain and mountain had been covered. This time Yamhill County was their destination, and there they resided until 1873. Mr. Bunn was a tinner by trade and conducted a tin shop in that district, but in the year mentioned they removed to Tillamook County, and **he took up a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres where the town of Beaver now stands.** Upton this place he resided until his death which occurred in 1908 when he had reached the rip old age of seventy-six years.

He had long survived his wife who passed away in 1881. Of their family of eight children only three are now living: Nancy, the wife of Theodore Steinhelber, a resident of Oswego, Oregon; Alvis W. of this review; and Lucinda, who is living in San Francisco, California.

In the public schools of Lafayette, Oregon, Alvis W. Bunn acquired the greater part of his education, yet from experience has learned many valuable lessons that have indicated to him the best methods of conducting his business affairs so as to make the greatest possible use of time and labor. He began earning his own living at the age of seventeen years in the salmon fishing industry at

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Tillamook Bay, salting and shipping fish. He followed that pursuit in various places most of the time for eighteen years, when he determined to engage in agricultural pursuits. Having come to that conclusion, **he in 1883, homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres of land adjoining that of his father at Beaver.** Here he has lived since, conducting a dairy and making his own cheese. For a number of years he has been widely known as a cheese manufacturer and in connection with the business is now milking twenty-one cows. The excellence of his product insures a ready sale on the market and good prices are accordingly obtained.

In 1882 Mr. Bunn was united in marriage to Miss Sarah E. Heater, who was born in Yamhill county, Oregon, on May 28, 1867, and is a daughter of George and Sarah Marion Heater both of whom were natives of the East whence they came to Oregon in the early '50s, settling in Yamhill County where the father took up a donation claim of three hundred and twenty acres, converting it into productive fields from which he derived the income that enabled him to provide a comfortable living for his family.

Unto him and his wife were born eleven children of whom four are now living: Charles, a resident of Idaho; Marion, whose home is in Yamhill County; Andrew, living in Tillamook County; and Sarah El, now Mrs. Bunn

By the marriage of Mr. And Mrs. Bunn five children have been born, and all yet survive, namely: Guy E., of Oretown, Tillamook County who married and has two children; Eva, the wife of Theodore Gilliland, a resident of Bellingham, Washington; Lena, Ralph and Howard, all at home. The family are well known in this community where they have many friends.

Mr. Bunn gives his political support to the democratic party which he has always supported since age conferred upon him the right of franchise, yet he is not bitterly partisan and feels at liberty to cast his ballot as his judgment dictates without regard to party ties. The only office that he has every filled or desired to hold was that of sheriff, in which connection he served his county for the years 1881 and 1882. He belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and to the Woodmen of the World and is a prominent and popular member of the Grange as is indicated by the fact that he is now serving as its master.