

CAPTAIN MALONEY AT FORT CHEHALIS

The Robert Gray Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, on June 8, 1929, with appropriate ceremonies, marked the site of Fort Chehalis, which has been singularly neglected by historians up to date: There was no ostentation about the occasion. The audience comprised about one hundred and twenty-five people interested in their local history. The principal address on the program was delivered by Judge William E. Campbell. W. P. Bonney, Secretary of the Washington State Historical Society, had been asked for a brief address on the personality of Captain Maurice Maloney, commander of the old Fort Chehalis. Mr. Bonney's address is here reproduced.—EDITOR.

Madam Chairman:—Men, women and children:—I bring to you greetings from the Washington State Historical Society, that association of men and women that has to do with the past, the present, the future of our great State of Washington. On behalf of the officers of the Historical Society, I congratulate the Robert Gray Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution for the success they have in answering,—“Why? When? Where? Fort Chehalis.”

Little is said in our State histories relative to Fort Chehalis. Elwood Evans in his 1400 pages of history does not mention it; C. A. Snowden in his four volumes, *The Rise and Progress of a Great State* has no word of Fort Chehalis; even General Hazard Stevens, in *The Life of General Isaac I. Stevens*, does not mention Fort Chehalis, though he does tell of the erection of some forty forts and block-houses in our State during the Yakima Indian War. Bancraft in his *History of Washington*, merely has a two line note, that reads:—“In 1868 the War Department ordered to be sold the Government buildings at Gray's Harbor and Fort Chehalis, erected in the autumn of 1859, when the Chehalis tribe threatened the settlements at the mouth of the river.”

The history committee of the Robert Gray Chapter, knew that it was a site which should be marked, so they wrote to the War Department for facts, and learned, that Fort Chehalis was garrisoned by Company A., Fourth Infantry, under command of Captain Maurice Maloney.

Maurice Maloney was born in Ireland, came to America when a young lad, joined the United States Army as a private in the year

1834 or 1835. His first experience with real war was in Florida and against the Cherokee Indian Nation. He was with the army during the war with Mexico, took part in many of the major battles, was brevetted first Lieutenant United States Army, for gallant and meritorious services at the battle of El Molino del Rey; was likewise brevetted Captain for similar service at the battle of Chapultepec, Mexico. The citizens of New Orleans, La., presented him a gold medal for his gallant record in the Mexican War.

He came to the Pacific Coast with the Fourth Infantry, was stationed at Fort Steilacoom, and took prominent part in the Yakima Indian War of 1855-56.

Early in January 1860, with his company he occupied Fort Chehalis and was in command here until May 9, 1861.

He served in the field during the Civil War, was brevetted Lieutenant-Colonel United States Army during the siege of Vicksburg, and afterwards Colonel for meritorious services during the war; on June 16, 1867, he was commissioned Lieutenant-Colonel of the 16th Infantry.

In Appleton's obituaries we find:—"January 8, 1872;—Maloney, Lieutenant-Colonel Maurice, U.S.A. retired list, a gallant officer who had risen from the ranks to his position, who was widely and creditably known throughout the army, and was finally placed on the retired list after thirty-five years of faithful service."

W. P. BONNEY.
