

## DEDICATION OF STEPTOE MEMORIAL PARK.

With much pomp and ceremony and in the presence of one of the most notable gatherings ever held in northern Whitman and southern Spokane County, the Steptoe Memorial Park was dedicated in this city Monday.

Among the visitors were Governor and Mrs. Mead, Colonel Lea Feabiger, commanding officer at Fort Wright, several other army officers, hundreds of prominent Spokane people, including the members of Esther Reed Chapter, D. A. R., a large number of prominent Colfax citizens and many prominent people from all over Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho. The number of visitors from other sections is estimated at 1,200, the total attendance at the ceremonies being about 2,200 people.

The pleasure of the occasion was marred somewhat by a gale that blew continuously all day, but the program was such an elaborate one that everybody enjoyed the occasion in spite of the threatening weather, and the crowd went home, pleased and dusty, but withal happy.

Visitors for the occasion began to gather here the two preceding days, and Sunday evening about 200 visitors were already in the city. The Monday morning trains brought large delegations from Waverly, Plaza and Spangle and a number of visitors from Pullman, Palouse, Garfield and Oakesdale.

The first special train arrived from Colfax at 10:30, bringing a delegation of about 100, headed by the Colfax band, with "little" Fred Ratliff as drum major.

They were met at the depot by the reception committees and awaited for the arrival of the first special train from Spokane, which arrived ten minutes later. On board the first special train from Spokane were Governor and Mrs. Mead, and about one hundred prominent Spokane people, including the members of Esther Reed Chapter, D. A. R. Fifteen minutes later the third special train arrived, carrying Colonel Lea Feabiger, U. S. A., and his staff and the First Battalion, Third Infantry, consisting of three companies, numbering 200 men, headed by a drum corps of sixteen pieces.

The regulars were in campaign equipment, carrying haversack and canteen, and apparently prepared for battle, the only marks of dress parade being white gloves. When the troops

marched up Whitman Street, keeping time to the music of the bugles and the drums, a thrill of pride and patriotism seemed to pulsate through the crowd and the younger folks exchanged ideas, the main trend of the remarks being that "them fellars could lick the Japs."

The military display was a great treat for many of the visitors who had never before seen so large a gathering of regulars under arms.

The parade formed on Fifth Street and marched up Whitman Street to Seventh and up Seventh into the country road and out to the Memorial Park site. At the head of the parade rode Marshals T. F. Prichard and L. W. Anderson, followed by the Fort Wright drum corps, heading the First Battalion; then came the Colfax band, headed by Sheriff Ratliff, and immediately following was the carriage containing Governor and Mrs. Mead, their carriage being followed by twenty-five other carriages containing many of the prominent visitors.

The exercises at the park site were brief. A temporary platform was erected and occupied by Governor and Mrs. Mead, General T. R. Tannat, Mrs. M. A. Phelps, Regent of the D. A. R., Reverend F. N. Smith, County Commissioner W. McCoy of Oakesdale, Mayor F. M. Campbell and Judge M. H. West of this city.

Reverend F. N. Smith of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, offered an invocation, after which Judge West, on behalf of the Rosalia citizens, presented the deed to the park site to Mrs. M. A. Phelps, Regent of Esther Reed Chapter, D. A. R., of Spokane, who expressed the appreciation of the D. A. R., and presented the deed to W. McCoy, Chairman of the Whitman County Commissioners, who officially accepted the same and placed it into the keeping of the county.

General T. A. Tannat, of Spokane, a member of the West Point Graduates' Association, gave a brief sketch of the careers of Captain Taylor and Lieutenants Gregg and Gaston, who met their death on the park site, and concluded with an eulogy of the work of the D. A. R. During the ceremonies the regulars were lined up opposite the stand and at the conclusion of the program the audience joined in cheers and waving of flags. The Colfax band rendered several patriotic airs during the program.

The audience then marched to the stand on Josephine Street and the troops went into camp the corner of Josephine and Ninth Street adjacent to the stand.

It was the hour of the old-fashioned basket dinner and everybody seemed to enjoy it. Many of the visitors were fed at the

ladies' rest room in the Pythian Hall and the dray lines delivered the parcels from the check room to stand. The troops carried their regular army rations, the local committee adding cakes and cigars.

The sight was a picturesque one. Under a huge canvas at the stand sat many of the leading people of Eastern Washington and pioneers of the state enjoying a picnic dinner. Farmers, merchants, officials and professional men made merry; fashionably gowned ladies and prattling children enjoyed the informality of the hour; and just adjacent two sentinels paced back and forth before rows of stacked-up rifles and beneath the trees adjacent the troops partook of their noon-day rations. It was a picture that delighted the heart of the camera artist and many of the kodaks worked overtime. The stand was among the trees and protected from the dust so that the visitors were comfortable. Had the wind been less violent during the afternoon exercises, the speakers would have experienced less difficulty.

At 1:30 Colonel Lea Feabiger delivered the first address on the afternoon program. Colonel Feabiger spoke on the value of the army as pioneers and said in part:

"The history of the world shows the soldier always as the advance agent of civilization or conquest, or both, and savage have either had to conform or cease to exist. The centers of civilization of all times have been extended not by the quiet arts, so-called, but by arms, and the so-called wars of conquest of the ancient Egyptians and Persians, and later the Greeks and Romans, the leading civilized nations of their epochs, were all against barbarian tribes eventually extending to them, in spite of the slaughter incident to the process, the benefits of the highest civilization of their respective days.

"Incidentally the spread of all prominent religions have been by the sword, the Mohammedan faith almost entirely by that means alone and even the religion of the gentle Christ has found its most potent missionary in the soldier, at least in its beginning, all wars against the heathen in the middle ages being waged for this alleged purpose and sanctioned, for that reason, by the head of the then universal Christian church.

"The aborigines of the two Americas were converted by this means, entirely so in the Spanish possessions and practically so in the French, where the energetic and self-sacrificing Jesuit priests were closely followed, where not preceded, by the man of war of that day, himself a zealot of no little ability in church doctrine.

"We are now approaching a stage in the world's history where there are practically no more barbarous people or uncivilized countries, and the soldier of today will soon cease to act as a pioneer for lack of raw material and confine himself more and more to his dual duty of national and universal policeman,

keeping the peace between nations whose commercial spirit and aggressiveness tends even more than the wars of old to oppress and take advantage of the weaker.

"In this latter day role the soldier has even become a pedagogue, as in the first years of the occupation of the Philippines, as soon as military government was established, public schools were at once instituted the enlisted man of the army being installed as teacher throughout the islands."

Following Colonel Feabiger, J. A. Perkins of Colfax made a brief address. Mr. Perkins spoke of the bill introduced in Congress to appropriate \$5,000 for the Steptoe Memorial monument and urged the people of Eastern Washington to take up the question of an appropriation of \$2,500 by the state legislature and the raising of a similar amount by public subscription.

Judge S. J. Chadwick of Colfax was the next speaker on the program. [His address is published in full elsewhere in this Quarterly.]

Governor Mead when introduced told the story of a young man who returned from the war and who was telling his mother about the dangers of the battle. "Why," said the mother, "didn't you hide behind a tree?" "But, mother, the officers had all the trees." The Governor laughingly remarked that had he been in the battle he would have preferred to have had a tree, but if no tree had been around, and Sheriff Ratliff had, he would have preferred to hide behind him. When it is remembered that Mr. Ratliff tips the scales at the 350 mark, it will be noted that even the Governor's ample personage would have been fairly protected from bullets.

Speaking in a serious vein, Governor Mead intimated that his message to the next legislature was yet to be written and that it would contain a recommendation to the state legislature that an appropriation of \$2,500 be made for the Steptoe Memorial monument. Governor Mead during his speech said:

"I have had no more congenial experience during my term of office than the pleasure of prosecuting work inaugurated by me of securing and preserving the portraits of men prominently identified with the history of the territory and state of Washington. At an insignificant cost to the state I have been enabled to secure, through relatives and friends of the men, the pictures of all the governors excepting that of Governor Gholson, many of the territorial delegates to Congress, justices of the territorial and state supreme courts, judges of the federal courts, the representatives and senators since statehood, the territorial and state legislatures from 1881 to the present time, the constitutional convention and an excellent portrait of our naval hero, John Robert Monaghan.

“It is fitting that the great army of which Colonel Steptoe was an honored member should be represented here today; an army which has been such a great factor in compelling peace and maintaining the reign of law in the Indian country; which served so valiantly, not only in subduing the Indian disturbances of the past, but, in the wars that threatened the very existence of our country; served with loyalty and upheld the honor and integrity of our flag.

“Had it not been for the sacrifice of such men as served under Colonel Steptoe, the settlement of this Inland Empire might have been postponed a quarter of a century or more and we might not have had an opportunity to build cities and develop our wonderful resources; might not now have these fields of grain that surround us on every hand from which to garner the abundant harvest; might not have these swift lines of communication, propelled by power developed by the cascades and falls that characterize our streams, and might not have the great branches of our railroad systems to transport our products to market. In fact civilization and all of its concomitant advantages would have long been deferred.

“The patriotic work of this organization restoring historical places, erecting monuments and otherwise cultivating the spirit of patriotism merits the highest commendation. If this nation continues, love of country and patriotism must be transferred from father to son. Not only the children should form the student body of the university of patriotism, but the people who come to our shores from foreign countries must be enrolled that they may be impressed with the sacredness of our history and the development of our institutions, and taught to respect the names of those who have contributed to the success and the up-building of this nation.

“A state possessing such wonderful diversity of resources is surely destined to become the home of millions rather than a million. Unless our future population steadily adheres to the traditional precepts of our form of government and respects our institutions and reveres our history, our past efforts and future growth will be in vain.

“The eyes of the people of Washington are today directed toward this spot and they will hold in grateful remembrance the efforts of your society in preserving this history for future generations. You have a noble duty to perform and you are performing it with honor and credit.”

Thomas J. Beall of Juliaetta, Idaho, who was packmaster under Colonel Steptoe and a survivor of the battle fought on the grounds dedicated was the last speaker on the program. Mr Beall said:

“In April, 1858, Colonel Steptoe, who was in command of the post at Walla Walla, received orders to go into the northern country, that is the Colville country, and establish a post. The

government was just on the eve of surveying the 49th parallel and this northern post was needed to protect the surveyors.

"Colonel Steptoe did not go out to subdue the Indians. That is proved by the fact that the soldiers did not take their sabers, and they had poor guns. There were only about eighteen good guns in the squad, and the Indians were better armed than we were.

"Our guides were Timothy, a Nez Perce, who was friendly; Levi, also a Nez Perce, and Simon, of the same tribe.

"We crossed the Snake River at Alpawai because the Palouse Indians, who were not friendly, did not have the boats that would take us across the swift water, made of canvas would not answer the purpose, so we had to depend upon the Nez Percés.

"From the point where we crossed the river we took the most direct route for Colville. Going out we passed within four miles of Steptoe Butte. We crossed the Palouse River about two miles above the present town of Palouse.

"We also had for a guide a halfbreed, Charley Connors. He was killed on the hill yonder the night before we escaped. On the evening we made our escape many of the soldiers thought faithful Timothy was playing traitor. We supposed we were surrounded, and Timothy asked to be sent to find a gap through which we could escape. Some of the men feared he was going over to the hostile Indians.

"But Colonel Steptoe believed in Timothy. Besides we were not taking many chances, as our ammunition was exhausted and we should have soon been massacred anyway, with no help nearer than Walla Walla. Even when Timothy returned and reported that we could escape some feared that we were being led into an ambush.

"We left our tents standing, and our campfires brightly burning, and by daylight we were far on our way.

"When we reached the Snake Timothy called over fifty of his graves and stationed them as sentinels during the night, while we got our first good rest for several nights."

J. J. Rohan of Walla Walla, who was erroneously reported dead several weeks ago, was a guest of the day and occupied the speakers platform. Mr. Rohan was with Colonel Wright's command and was one of the company which was sent in the fall of 1858 to remove the bodies of the dead soldiers from the old battle ground.

The program was interspersed with music by the Colfax band and vocal selections by the Rosalia chorus. The renditions by the band were pleasing, and the work of the chorus was highly complimented.

The Old Settlers' Association held its annual meeting immediately following the program and transacted their regular routine of business. The old officers were re-elected for another year

but no other business was transacted, owing to the lateness of the hour and the desire to be at the special trains to bid the visitors "God Speed."

At 4:30 the troops, headed by the drum corps marched through the streets and then boarded the train for Spokane. At 5 o'clock the special Colfax and Spokane trains departed, and many more visitors went out on the 5:30, 6:45 and 9:00 o'clock trains.

Governor Mead left this city for a cross country auto trip, visiting Oakesdale and Tekoa. Mrs. Mead remained in this city until Tuesday, and was the guest of Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Wilmer. J. J. Rohan of Walla Walla also remained as a guest at the Wilmer residence.

Thos. J. Beall remained here as a guest of Mr. and Mrs. Ralston McCaig and went over to Waverly Tuesday to locate a point of interest on the old trail traveled by Colonel Steptoe's command.

Many visitors stayed over until Tuesday and were the guests of local people. In the evening the younger set enjoyed a social dance in Tumley's Hall, about fifty couples being present.

"Old Glory" now waves from the flagpole in Steptoe Memorial Park and marks the spot where the conquering whites lost one of their last battles to the vanquished red man. A few years hence a marble shaft will mark the spot on the hillside where the flag waves and as the trains on three different systems roll by through the valley below, travelers will be told the story of brave Timothy, the Nez Perce chief, who was faithful to his trust and saved the Steptoe command. The body of Timothy now lies in a grave near Lewiston, Idaho, unmarked and unnoticed and the sentiment has been expressed that the field that proved the loyalty of Timothy would be a fitting last resting place for his remains.

Mr. Beall located the place where five Indians were hung by order of Colonel Wright. According to Mr. Beall the punishment of the Indians took place where the old Kaintuck trail crosses Hangman Creek several miles north of Waverly. Four of the Indians that were hung were of the Umatilla tribe and were hung on general principles. The fifth Indian was of the Yakima tribe and was known as Qual-Shon. He was hung for the murder of Indian Agent Bolon.

The following letter was received by the local committee on Wednesday from Mrs. M. A. Phelps, former State Regent of the D. A. R. and chairman of the Steptoe Committee:

I have only a few minutes in which to write, but I cannot let the day pass without telling you and your good friends and neighbors in Rosalia, how absolutely delightful all their arrangements were and how loud in their praise everyone was.

One of our Esther Reed women called me up this morning and said: "I tell you Mrs. Phelps, that was one of the most glorious days our Chapter will ever experience and I shall never hear the word Rosalia, without feeling a warm glow at my heart."

That is the way we all feel.

And the soldiers were so happy—one of them said: "We have never before been treated so well as we were at Rosalia, and if you've any more monuments to dedicate, just call on us."

Will you express to all your townspeople the sincere and hearty thanks of the women of Esther Reed Chapter of the D. A. R.?

Most cordially and sincerely yours,

NETTA W. PHELPS.

—The Rosalia Citizen.

Rosalia, Washington,  
19 June, 1908.