

NEWS DEPARTMENT

Death of Judge Hanford

Judge Cornelius Holgate Hanford died on February 28, 1926. The end of his long, useful and rather dramatic life came in Honolulu, Hawaii, while he was visiting at the home of his son, Major E. C. Hanford.

The life was long in the ordinary measurement of years. He was born in the Town of Winchester, Van Buren County, Iowa, on April 21, 1849. From early boyhood his days were exceptional ones and his life was longer in work than in years.

It was a useful life in that he helped others of his family, he made of himself a good lawyer and served his city, county, state and nation. He was the last Chief Justice of the Territory of Washington and the first United States District Judge for the State of Washington. Statistics were published showing that for years he was the hardest working Federal Judge in the United States. Yet he found time to join with others in the advocacy of good roads. Survivors of the "Old Guard" assembled to honor his memory at the funeral in Seattle on March 12. He took an active interest in efforts to reclaim lands by irrigation, one big project and an adjacent town being named in his honor. During that same congested period he found time to write a number of historical pamphlets which in later life grew into valuable books of history. He was one of the first Trustees of the Washington University State Historical Society, publishing the *Washington Historical Quarterly*, and continued as such Trustee until his death.

Many phases of his life were so unusual that they justify the adjective dramatic. In early boyhood he had not a robust body, he stammered badly and was otherwise unattractive. Old timers are now a little shame-faced as they confess that young Hanford was laughed at and jeered by the other boys of that day.

But he knew how to work.

He overcame the stammering and he studied. At twelve he found himself in San Francisco still studying. There from 1861 to 1867 he had the advantage of a course in a commercial college. Aside from that course he was self-educated. To get the books and the education he worked on farms, in the Puget Sound forest and carried mail on horseback from Seattle to Puyallup. In the

same way he continued his studies in the field of law, made of himself a successful lawyer, evolving into a great judge. The climax of that educational drama was reached when Whitman College crowned him with its highest honor—the Doctor of Laws degree.

Always intensely patriotic, he was one of those who faced the mob with a musket to maintain law and order at the time of the anti-Chinese riots in 1886.

Another dramatic climax was reached in 1914, during a rather partisan Congressional investigation, when he resigned the position of United States District Judge. His old time associates were justly proud of the eminence he had attained. They grieved over what they deemed unfair treatment. As an evidence of their esteem they elected him President of the Pioneer Association of the State of Washington for the year 1924-1925.

He will be remembered for his judicial decisions, for his historical writings, for his patriotic citizenship and for his remarkable struggle as a backward boy up to one of the highest positions in the difficult profession of the law.

Skamania County Historical Society

Preliminary meetings are being held at Stevenson for the purpose of organizing a Skamania County Historical Society. Much enthusiasm has already developed and plans are under way to reconstruct the famous blockhouse forts used there during the Indian wars of 1855-1857. In addition there are many other phases to be studied of early Columbia River history going back to the first explorations by the Lewis and Clark Expedition of 1805-1906.

Telephone Anniversaries

On March 10, throughout the United States, there were held celebrations of the fiftieth anniversary of Alexander Graham Bell's first message: "Watson, come here, I want you," on his completed telephone.

Celebrations were also held in a number of Washington cities commemorating the first installations of their telephone systems. Notable among these was Bellingham celebrating the date of January 15, 1890, and Seattle that of March 7, 1883. The ceremonies take different form but they all tend to show the progress and history involved in the rapid development of this remarkable invention.