

# CAPTAIN F. H. WEST DIES

## OREGON AND CALIFORNIA PIONEER PASSES AWAY.

Deceased Was Distinguished Military and Civil Engineer of Prominent Family.

Captain Francis H. West, a well-known Oregon pioneer and a distinguished military and civil engineer, died at his home on East Alder, near East Twelfth street, Saturday night at 11:30, after a lingering illness. He comes from a family of distinguished men in the service of this country. He was a great-grandson of Colonel John Nixon, of Philadelphia, a prominent Revolutionary patriot.

Captain West was born in Fredricksburg, Va., June 10, 1832. He was educated in the Fairfax Institute and the Norfolk Military Academy. At the age of 16 years he was appointed aid on the United States Coast survey, and on January 10, 1849, sailed from New York in the United States schooner Ewing for the Pacific Coast, arriving in San Francisco July 31, of the same year. Two years later, on the outbreak of the Rogue River Indians, in Southern Oregon, Captain West offered his services and spent the Fall and Summer of 1851 assisting in the suppression of the natives. In the following year he visited the East Indies and the Atlantic States, returning to California by way of Panama. For a time he was in command of the United States Coast Survey steamer Active, and also served as a member of the Northwest Boundary Commission. In 1859 he took command of the United States lighthouse tender Shubrick, being well fitted for that position by his familiarity with the whole Pacific Coast, which his experience in various surveys gave him.

In 1867 Captain West became a permanent resident of Portland, having received from Colonel R. S. Williamson, then United States Engineer, the appointment of superintendent of Willamette River improvements. He served in that capacity until the Spring of 1873, when he resigned to accept the position of superintendent of the locks at Oregon City. In 1883, by reason of ill-health, he removed to Portland from Oregon City, where he resided continuously.

In 1868 Captain West was married to Miss Mary Sophia Stone, daughter of Louis Stone, of Janesville, Wis. Two sons were born to them, Whorton L. and Francis J. West, both residents of Portland. Captain West was a Democrat in sympathy, but was independent in political matters. He was a member of



the Society of California Pioneers, the Oregon Pioneer Association and the Indian War Veterans' Association and for many years was an honored member of the vestry of the St. David's Episcopal Church.

He was a typical Virginian gentleman, affable and courteous to all, and kept up with the times in scientific knowledge. Of late years, his health and failing eyesight made it difficult for him to be about. His accurate knowledge on a great variety of subjects made him an interesting companion and instructive conversationalist. The funeral will be held at St. David's Episcopal Church, corner of East Twelfth and Belmont streets, Tuesday afternoon at 1 o'clock.