

= William W. Chapman =

William Williams Chapman (August 11 , 1808 ? October 18 , 1892) was an American politician and lawyer in Oregon and Iowa . He was born and raised in Virginia . He served as a United States Attorney in Iowa when it was part of the Michigan and Wisconsin territories , and then represented the Iowa Territory in the United States House of Representatives . He later immigrated to the Oregon Country , where he served in the Oregon Territorial Legislature .

After settling in Portland , he helped to found The Oregonian newspaper and promoted economic interests in the city . He also was involved with building Canyon Road near Portland , and fought in the Rogue River War in Oregon . In later years , he served in the Oregon Legislative Assembly and promoted the expansion of railroads from Portland . Chapman Square , a park in downtown Portland , is named for him and was built on land he sold to the city .

= = Early life = =

William Chapman was born in Clarksburg , Virginia , (now West Virginia) on August 11 , 1808 . His father died when William was fourteen , at which time he left home to earn his own way . He was educated in the public schools , and then took a job as a court clerk , while studying law on his own time . In 1832 , after reading law , he earned his law license and began practice in Middletown .

Chapman married Margaret F. Ingraham in 1832 , and had seven children with her . They moved to Macomb , Illinois in 1833 , then to what is now Burlington , Iowa (then part of Michigan Territory) in 1835 , where they were among the first settlers . The next year he became a prosecuting attorney , and was then appointed by United States President Andrew Jackson as United States Attorney for the Michigan Territory .

= = Iowa = =

In 1836 , the Wisconsin Territory was formed from the western section of the Michigan Territory . Chapman became the first U.S. Attorney for this new territory when it was created . He was elected as colonel of the militia in 1836 after moving to what is now Dubuque , Iowa . Then in 1838 , the Iowa Territory was carved from the Wisconsin Territory .

Chapman was elected as Iowa Territory 's first non @-@ voting delegate to the United States House of Representatives . A Democrat , he served from September 10 , 1838 to October 27 , 1840 , spanning portions of the Twenty @-@ fifth and Twenty @-@ sixth Congresses . While in Congress he introduced legislation for a pre @-@ emption law , the first to do so in Congress . His efforts secured for Iowa the land grant of 500 @,@ 000 acres (2 @,@ 000 km2) for the support of common schools , and a congressional report on Iowa 's boundary dispute with Missouri that was favorable to Iowa .

After his term expired , Chapman returned to Iowa , relocating in 1843 to Agency City in Wapello County . In 1844 , he served as a delegate to Iowa 's Constitutional Convention , which was held in Iowa City and led to the entry of Iowa into the Union as the 29th state in 1846 . Chapman left Iowa in 1847 , traveling the Oregon Trail to the Oregon Country .

= = Oregon = =

He left in May and arrived in November of what was still the unorganized Oregon Country . At this time the region was under the jurisdiction of the United States after the settling of the Oregon boundary dispute with Great Britain the previous year . In Oregon , Chapman settled first in what was then Marysville , and is now Corvallis , in the Willamette Valley . In 1848 , he relocated to Salem , where he learned of the California Gold Rush while at court at Knox Butte . Chapman went to California for a brief time and had some success in the gold fields before returning in 1849 to Oregon , which had become the Oregon Territory in 1848 .

He accompanied Joseph Lane , the newly appointed governor of the territory , on his return trip to

Oregon . Chapman was elected to the first session of the Oregon Territorial Legislature later in 1849 , representing Champoege County (now Marion) in the legislature 's lower house . After the legislature finished its session , he moved to Oregon City and then Portland , both downstream of Salem on the Willamette River . Later in 1849 , he took a trip to San Francisco , California , where he recruited Thomas J. Dryer to move to Portland and start a newspaper . He also purchased The Gold Hunter newspaper and moved the assets of the paper to Portland . In 1850 , The Oregonian began publishing as a weekly newspaper in Portland . Dryer served as the publisher with Chapman as a co - @ - @ founder . Chapman gave the paper its name . The assets of The Gold Hunter were used to start the paper .

Chapman purchased land in Portland from Stephen Coffin and Daniel H. Lownsdale in 1850 , which he then cleared and built a home . This is now the site of the Multnomah County Courthouse . In Portland , he was a promoter of the city and helped to get Canyon Road built to ensure the city would become the commercial center of Oregon . Chapman practiced law , and in October 1851 he was held in contempt of court by Oregon Supreme Court justice Orville C. Pratt . Chapman was ordered to be sent to jail in the county seat of Hillsboro for 20 days and disbarred , but never went to jail and the order was revoked when Pratt was replaced on the court by justice Thomas Nelson . Chapman had accused Pratt of mistreating lawyers in an affidavit .

Chapman left Portland in 1853 for Fort Umpqua in Southern Oregon . There he engaged in cattle ranching while keeping his Portland law practice . He served as a lieutenant colonel in the militia during the Rogue River War that was fought from 1855 to 1856 against the Native Americans in Southern Oregon . After the war he returned to Corvallis in 1856 before moving to Eugene in 1857 . Chapman was appointed as surveyor general of Oregon and served from 1857 to 1861 when he returned to Portland . He left this federal government position due to his opposition to the election of Abraham Lincoln as U.S. President . Oregon entered the Union as the 33rd state in 1859 .

= = Later years = =

Upon returning to Portland he built a home at 12th and Jefferson streets in what is now Downtown Portland . Chapman then returned to the practice of law . He also worked to secure Portland 's economic future by promoting the construction of the railroad line to California to link with the transcontinental rail line . From 1870 to 1876 he started three companies with the goal of creating a railroad connecting Portland to the Union Pacific 's transcontinental railroad . Chapman 's proposed line would have traveled through the Columbia River Gorge to The Dalles , Oregon , where it would then travel southeast to Salt Lake City , Utah , linking to the Union Pacific line .

In 1868 , he returned to the legislature , representing Multnomah County in the Oregon House of Representatives as a Democrat . While in the legislature , he worked to get a \$ 30 @ , @ 000 government subsidy to purchase and operate a large steam tugboat at the mouth of the Columbia River . This vessel was used to pilot ships across the Columbia Bar and thus improved maritime commerce for Portland . In 1870 , he sold two blocks of land in downtown to the City of Portland , which would become the Plaza Blocks between Third and Fourth avenues at Main Street .

William Williams Chapman died in Portland on October 18 , 1892 , at the age of 84 , and was buried at Lone Fir Cemetery in that city . Chapman School in Portland was named in his honor .

Chapman Square , part of the Plaza Blocks parks with Lownsdale Square , is also named in his honor . The two blocks were purchased from Chapman for \$ 1200 . Lownsdale Square contains the Spanish - American War Soldier 's Monument , erected after Harvey W. Scott wrote an editorial pleading for a monument to the war on June 18 , 1899 . The monument includes the statue of a soldier dressed for the Spanish - American War sculpted by Douglas Tilden . While the granite base is inscribed with Roman numerals indicating 1904 , the base was not received until October 1905 , and the monument was not dedicated until May 30 , 1906 , Memorial Day . The final cost of the monument was \$ 14 @ , @ 722 , paid for by donations following Scott 's plea . The monument also contains two howitzers , donated by Henry E. Dosch , which he found buried in the beach near Fort Sumter . Dosch noted the howitzers had been used by both sides in the American Civil War . There is also a drinking fountain in the square , Fountain for Company H , donated to the city by the Ladies

Auxiliary of Company H (of the 2nd Oregon Volunteer Infantry Regiment) . The fountain was a design of John H. Beaver , dedicated on September 2 , 1914 .