



HARRISON CHENEY

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Memorial to Harrison Cheney

1921

Harrison Cheney was born in the town of Freedom, Cattaraugus County, New York, January 3d, 1830 and died in the town of Freedom on March 10th, 1921. He was married to Mary J. Foote of Henrietta, N. Y., in 1852. He is survived by two daughters, Mrs. E. M. Wood of Rochester, N. Y., and Mrs. Mary Knight of Freedom, N. Y., and one son, H. F. Cheney of Elton, N. Y.

He served in the Civil War, having raised every man in his Company D, 154 N. Y. Volunteers, and was commissioned its Captain, in September 1862. He served as such until February, 1865, when he was promoted to Major of the Regiment. A month later he was advanced to Lieutenant Colonel and in June, 1865, he was honorably discharged.

During his military career he was engaged in a number of battles, at Chancellerville, Gettysburg, Missionary Ridge and others. He was captured during the first day's battle at Gettysburg, but while being taken to prison he escaped and after living in the woods for several days on wild berries he finally succeeded in getting back to the Union Army.

Mr. Cheney was a Republican in politics and served the town of Freedom as its supervisor in 1861, 1873 and 1874 and represented the First District of Cattaraugus County in the Assembly in 1876 and 1888. He was Railway Postal Clerk from 1880 to 1913 with the exception of two years during the Cleveland Administration.

His was a long, active and useful life, discharging every trust faithfully and enjoying very good health up to about three months before his death.

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From 1921 Annual Report of the Board of Supervisors, courtesy of Lorna Spencer, curator, Cattaraugus County Historical Museum, Little Valley.