

**MATTHEW CHENEY DIED
NEAR LINCOLN, NEBRASKA**

Was Educated at Chamberlain Institute—Married Miss Lucy Stanley Over Fifty Years Ago.

The Nebraska State Journal of July 5th printed the following obituary of a former resident of this village. The edition also contained a fine portrait of Mr. Cheney, who will be remembered by many of the older residents.

Matthew Benjamin Cheney, pioneer resident of Lancaster county, died at the home of his son on Oak creek, west of Lincoln, at 12:40 a. m. today. He was seventy-six years old. He had been ill for some time.

On September 15 of this year it would have been forty-six years since Mr. Cheney and his wife rolled into Lincoln on a stage coach. At that time Lincoln was in the midst of a wide prairie, fifty-five miles from the nearest railroad. There was not a single shade tree of any size in the city and the sidewalks were prairie sod, cut up in every direction with wagon tracks.

Mr. Cheney was born in the town of Kiantone, Chautauqua county, New York, May 20, 1839. His father was a well-to-do lumber man of Chautauqua county. His mother was a daughter of Benjamin Jones, a prosperous farmer of the same county. Ebenezer Cheney, the grandfather of M. B. Cheney, was a soldier in the revolutionary war and fought with the Green Mountain boys at the battle of Ticonderoga in May, 1775.

Matthew B. Cheney acquired a common school education, supplemented by a course in the Randolph (N. Y.) academy. At the age of sixteen years he started out to seek his fortune in the west. He went to California and remained on the Pacific coast from August, 1855, to August, 1860. With the beginning of the civil war he enlisted as a private in Company D of the 112th New York volunteers and on July 29, 1862, was made orderly sergeant of the company.

On September 10, following, he was promoted to the captaincy of Company G of the 154th New York volunteers by Governor E. D. Morgan. He participated in the battles of Chancellorville, May, 1863; Gettysburg, July, 1863; and received on July 26, 1864, an honorable discharge from the army by order of the then Secretary of War Edward M. Stanton, on account of physical disability from wounds received in action.

In September, 1869, Captain Cheney migrated to Nebraska with his family and purchased from the state on September 19, 1869, the farm upon which he lived, having to his credit thirty-seven years of continuous residence in Lancaster county. Captain Cheney has always been a Republican since the organization of that party, but said that he had "often voted for an honest Democrat in place of what I thought a slippery Republican."

He represented Lancaster county in the Nebraska state senate from November, 1878, to November, 1880. Captain Cheney said of that:

"The most important measure for Lincoln we passed through this legislature was H. R. No. 4, an act to build a wing to the new capitol building. It settled the question of removing the capitol to some other town."

Captain Cheney was reared in the Congregational church, of which he had always been a member. He was married July 30, 1862, to Lucy Stanley of Randolph, N. Y. He leaves three children: Luke H. Cheney, Stockville, Neb.; James N. Cheney, Portland, Ore.; Eliot J. Cheney, who resides with his family on the home farm on Oak creek.

An Ellicottville Farmer



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