

It takes more than a good resume to get a government contract.

William Rankin Ballard (1847-1929)

From "History of Seattle"¹

Captain William Rankin Ballard, a resident of the Pacific northwest from the age of eleven, was long numbered among the prominent and honored citizens of Seattle, where he passed away in February, 1929, in the eighty-second year of his age. His personal characteristics were such as won him the respect and the love of all with whom he came in contact and no man was better known among the city's early settlers.

His birth occurred at Perrysburg, Ohio, on the 12th of August, 1847, his parents being Dr. Levi and Phoebe A. (McConnell) Ballard, the former born in Hillsboro county, New Hampshire, December 21, 1815. The Ballards are of English ancestry and the family was early established on American soil, representatives of the name being respected and influential residents of the Granite state for many years. In early manhood Dr. Levi Ballard went to New Jersey, where he began reading medicine, and later completed his preparation for the profession by graduation from the Cleveland Medical College of Cleveland, Ohio, with the class of 1844. The same year, in Richland County, Ohio, he wedded Miss Phoebe A. McConnell, and there they established their home, Dr. Ballard devoting his attention to medical practice. After a happy married life of about six years his wife passed away, leaving two sons, Irving and William Rankin. The former became an attorney of King county, Washington, and died in 1880. In 1852 Dr. Ballard made the overland trip to California, but after a few months spent on the Pacific coast he returned by way of the Isthmus route to the east. He again crossed the plains in 1854, but in that year Oregon was his destination. He became a factor in the pioneer life of the state and served as surgeon of a regiment of volunteers during the Indian war. In 1857 he went to the east by way of the Isthmus of Panama and wedded Miss Mary E. Condit. He brought his wife and two sons, born of his first marriage, to Oregon in 1858 and engaged in the practice of medicine and surgery at Roseburg for seven years, removing in 1865 to a tract of eighty acres of land, on which is now located the town of Auburn, Washington, where he resided until his death. He had attained the venerable age of eighty-one years when he passed away on the 12th of January, 1897, leaving behind

¹ History of Seattle, Washington, with Illustrations and biographical sketches of some of its prominent men and pioneers: ed. By Frederic James Grant, New York, American Publishing and Engraving Co., 1891.

