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

Andrew W. Patterson (1814-1904)


Hon. Andrew W. Patterson, M. D. In the attractive and beautiful city of Eugene, which the Hon. Andrew W. Paterson laid out in 1854, there stands a new school building which was named in his honor. All who were personally acquainted with him or know aught of his history cherish his memory and while he was yet living entertained for him the highest esteem and respect because of the important part which he took in the development of this portion of the state and the upright life which he lived. He was one of the pioneer physicians and also one of the first surveyors of this part of the state, and the spirit of helpfulness which he manifested gave a decided impetus to many progressive public movements. He was born in Armstrong County, Pennsylvania, October 4, 1814, and was descended from a family of Scotch origin founded in America by John Patterson, the grandfather, who settled on this side of the Atlantic in colonial times. When the colonel attempted to throw off the yoke of British oppression he joined the troops under General Washington and aided in winning American independence. He was slightly wounded and died in New Jersey while the army was in winter quarters there. His son Andrew Patterson, father of Dr. Patterson, was born in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, where he was reared to manhood. He served an apprenticeship to a spinning wheel manufacturer and later learned the trades of cabinetmaking and carpentering. He was thus employed for many years and subsequently he engaged in farming in Armstrong County to the time of his death, which occurred in 1832, when he was sixty-one years of age. He married Jane Lindsay, of Shippensburg, Pennsylvania and unto them were born five sons and three daughters, who reached adult age.
Dr. Patterson was the youngest son in this family. He supplemented his preparatory education acquired in Bassingham Academy by a course in the Western University of Pennsylvania at Pittsburgh. With the intention of making the practice of medicine his life work, he began studying under the direction of Dr. Joseph Gazam and next entered the Pennsylvania College of Medicine, a school which had recently been established by a part of the faculty of Jefferson Medical College. He practiced for a year in Pittsburg before his graduation with the M.D. degree in March, 1841. He had taken his first course of lectures in 1839 and after his graduation he removed westward to Greenfield, Indiana, where he continued in practice for a time and then returned to Pittsburg. He afterward went upon the road as traveling representative for a manufacturer of surgical instruments and in April, 1852, he was one of a party of five who started on horseback for the then far west. That was a year of great immigration to the Pacific coast and after the usual experiences and hardships of such a trip the party arrived at The Dalles on the 25th of August, being among the first to reach this state in that year.

Believing that someday the present site of Eugene would be selected as a favorable one for the county seat of Lane County, he took up a donation claim about a mile west of the present city. Soon afterward he entered government employ as a surveyor and was given the contract by the county commissioners to survey the plot of Eugene. In 1851 he laid out the town, forty acres of which was given by Charnel Mulligan and forty acres by Eugene Skinner, Eighth Street forming the dividing line. This work was so satisfactorily performed that other appointments of this kind came to him. He continued to engage in surveying for two years, working in Washington and Oregon. When the Rogue River Indian war broke out he was selected to raise a company but declined, hoping to receive an appointment as surgeon. As he received no call in that line he agreed to serve as first lieutenant of Captain Buoy's Company. They reached the battleground on the third day of the battle of Hungry Hill. There Dr. Patterson met the commissary general, Dr. Joseph Grew, who asked him to accept the position of surgeon. Notwithstanding the fact that he could not offer his resignation of lieutenant until the following day, Dr. Patterson went to work, immediately, dressing the wounds of the men, and the next morning, having resigned his commission as lieutenant, he was commissioned and appointed by General Grew as surgeon, which position he held until April 15, 1856, when he resigned. Notwithstanding he had a most rugged constitution, his service in the Rogue River campaign was so arduous that it told upon his health and as recruits were badly needed, he was appointed to return to Eugene to secure enlistments.

In the spring of 1857 Dr. Patterson took a contract to survey six townships in Lane County and while thus engaged his services as a medical practitioner were much in demand, for he was one of the few physicians in the country. When General Chapman was appointed surveyor Dr. Patterson was offered the position of chief clerk and ably served in that connection until a change in the office. In the meantime he secured a contract to survey five townships between The Danes and the John Day River and he therefore, resumed work of that character. In the spring of 1862 he began the practice of medicine in Eugene and continued active in his profession for thirty three years. Throughout that period he was accorded liberal patronage, for he ever held to high standards of professional service and gave his patients the benefit thereof. In 1897, however, he retired from active practice to enjoy a well earned rest. For several years prior to 1897 he had confined his efforts to office consultation entirely.

It has been said of Dr. Patterson: "In the various public movements which were vital to the growth of the country he has ever fulfilled his part as a loyal and intelligent citizen. In the
early educational enterprises he exercised a strong influence." He served as school director and for three terms was county superintendent of schools. In recognition of the splendid service he rendered along educational lines there has been erected to his memory a monument in the Patterson school, which was named in his honor. He was associated for some time with Samuel Simpson in the preparation of schoolbooks and they prepared five Pacific coast series, which were used for a number of years. They also wrote three readers and compiled a speller, all of which were published by Bancroft & Company of San Francisco. He attended the dedication of the Patterson school and, although he had been blind for ten years, it was a source of great pleasure and gratification to him that he was thus honored in the naming of the school. While in Pennsylvania he had published the Northwest Literary Magazine, which was one of the first publications devoted to pioneer history, but his plant was destroyed by fire and it was this that caused him to remove to the west. Dr. Patterson gave his political allegiance to the Democratic Party and in 1855 represented his district in the state legislature, and from 1870 until 1874 was a member of the state senate. He acted as chairman of the committee on public buildings in the senate when the bill for establishing the university at Eugene was introduced. It was due to his work and power as chairman that the bill was brought out of the committee room and passed. Moreover, Dr. Patterson was a most generous contributor to the university fund.

Along material lines Dr. Patterson also contributed largely to the upbuilding and development of his section of the state. He was one of the first to introduce the growing of hops in Lane County. His ranch near the city was washed away and he then purchased what became known as Patterson's Island, where he planted a hop yard. Sending to England for the first roots, he thus did much to promote an industry which for many years has been one of the chief sources of revenue to this part of the state.

On the 4th of July, 1859, Dr. Patterson was united in marriage, in Eugene, to Miss Amanda C. Olinger, a native of Iowa and the eldest child of Abraham Olinger, who was born in Dayton, Ohio, and was a son of John Olinger. Her father became identified with farming interest in Iowa and in 1843 he crossed the plains with ox teams. He was in the first train of immigrants into the Willamette valley, where they arrived after a trip of nine months. Mr. Olinger took up his abode in Yamhill County, where he carried on farming for three years, and then removed to the Waldo hills in Marion County, where he engaged in farming until his death in 1872. He married Rachel Stout, a native of Missouri and a daughter of Ephraim Stout, who crossed the plains in 1843 and died in 1852. Mrs. Patterson was reared in Oregon and after
attending the public schools entered Willamette University. Dr. and Mrs. Patterson became the parents of eight children of whom five are living: Augusta, who is the widow of Oscar Karlstrum and resides in Eugene; Anna, who is a graduate of the University of Oregon of the class of 1885 and is now the wife of L. H. Potter, of Eugene, who is mentioned elsewhere in this volume; Ida, who is a university graduate of 1886 and has been principal of the Patterson school for many years, or since it was erected; Clyde Llewellyn, who is a musician formerly of Baltimore, Maryland, now residing in Macon, Georgia; and Harriet, who was graduated from the University of Oregon in the class of 1993. The family home is one of the attractive and lovely residences of this city located at 387 Eleventh Street. Professionally Dr. Patterson was connected with the Lane County Medical Society to the time of his death, which occurred December 20, 1904. Fraternally he was a member of Eugene Lodge, No. 11, A. F. & A. M., and his religious faith was that of the Unitarian church. It would be difficult to tell in which field his lifework was of most usefulness because of the many activities to which he directed his attention. He was a highly honored physician and one whose ability placed him in the foremost rank of practitioners in the Willamette valley; he was a public official over whose record there fell no shadow of wrong or suspicion of evil; he was a man whom to know personally was to esteem and honor. His life was, indeed, a serviceable one in the world and he left behind him a memory that is cherished by all who knew him.

---