



DR. D. S. MAYNARD

THE PIONEER PHYSICIAN OF SEATTLE

1808-1873

## DR. D. S. MAYNARD, THE PIONEER PHYSICIAN OF SEATTLE. \*

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By Thomas W. Prosch,

SEATTLE, WASH.

David Swinson Maynard was born in the state of Vermont, March 22, 1808. He was there reared and educated. He studied medicine under Dr. Woodward, receiving at an early age a diploma and the legal right to practice his profession. He then moved to the State of Ohio, where, in association with three other men, he established a medical school, which soon had upon its rolls the names of one hundred and fifty students. In 1829 he and Lydia A. Rickey, of Vermont, were married. Several children resulted from this marriage. Owing to his endorsement of another man's business enterprise in Ohio, which failed for \$30,000, Dr. Maynard was financially ruined. Owing further to trouble in his family, he severed all relations with the East, early in 1850, and started for the Pacific Coast. His whole outfit consisted of a horse and what he and the horse could carry, including chiefly surgical instruments, medicines, money in pocket and blankets. Being strong, self-reliant, helpful, intelligent and able, he found hearty welcome among the immigrants that year crossing the plains. He attached himself to a train, among the members of which were Mr. and Mrs. Broshears.

On the journey to the West the immigrants were attacked by cholera. Whole parties and families were in many cases destroyed. In other cases half the members of a train died from the malady. Wagons were abandoned for the want of drivers. Mr. Broshears was one of the unfortunates. His widow was left without help. It was impossible to hire any one. It cannot now be said what would have become of her had it not been for Dr. Maynard. He took charge of the animals, wagons and other Broshears properties, and, driving the cattle himself, brought all through safely,

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arriving in Olympia in September, where he left the widow and her goods with her brother, Col. Michael T. Simmons, the well-known pioneer of 1844.

Dr. Maynard at once entered upon business enterprises. Before the year was out he camped upon the site of the present city of Seattle while on his way to look at a reported coal deposit in what is now Snohomish County. Returning to Olympia, he entered the mercantile business, buying goods in San Francisco, speculating, and between times practicing professionally. He made the acquaintance of Chief Seattle, who, in his desire for a white trading settlement nearer his home, persuaded Maynard to come north and plant himself on Duwamish Bay. Putting all his goods into a large boat, Maynard in March, 1852, started for his new home. On the 27<sup>th</sup> he arrived at Alki Point. There he found C. D. Boren, A. A. Denny and W. N. Bell, about to remove to the eastern shore of the bay. They were pleased to have an addition to their company. All took donation claims, Maynard's being south of Yesler Way, Boren's north, then Denny's and Bell's. Having come sooner than the others, Maynard got in his own right 320 acres, the land allotted to a man under the first donation act. He got nothing, however, on account of his wife. The other men got 160 acres for themselves, and their wives got 160 acres each. Maynard settled at once on his land, building a small house at the corner of Main Street and First Avenue South, where the New England Hotel now stands. There he lived, there he opened the first store in Seattle, there he held court, there was the first election (in Duwamish Precinct, Thurston County, Oregon Territory), and there during the first year was transacted most of the business in the new settlement, destined in later years to be one of the great cities of the world.

In December, 1852, Dr. Maynard participated in the famous Monticello convention, which resolved in favor of a new territorial government and asked Congress to divide Oregon and create Columbia. As a result of this movement, Washington Territory was created by congressional act in March, 1853. Leaving Monticello, Dr. Maynard went on to Salem, where the Legislature was in session. The only representative Puget Sound had was Col. Isaac N. Ebey, of Whidby Island. Dr. Maynard had two objects in

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view. The first was to have the Legislature divorce him from his wife, Lydia, which, after considerable opposition from Ebey, he succeeded in accomplishing. The second object was the creation of King County. In this he also succeeded, the county seat being located upon his donation claim. The bill introduced provided for the creation of Buchanan County. It was amended by changing the name to King, in honor of William Rufus King, who had just been elected Vice-President of the United States

On his way back to Puget Sound Dr. Maynard stopped at Olympia and there married the widow Broshears (born Catherine Troutman Simmons, in Kentucky, 1816). They arrived in Seattle, January 20, 1853, and here has since been the home of the second Mrs. Maynard for more than half a century.

In the summer and fall of 1852 Maynard employed a large number of Indians in the salmon fishery, they putting up for him eight hundred barrels of fish. Early in 1853 he engaged in the sale of town lots, disposing of many before filing the plat, and in that way doing much to establish the town upon his claim. May 23, 1853, by arrangement with Arthur A. Denny and Carson D. Boren for united action, he and they filed plats of the town of Seattle, the name being adopted by common consent of all the people then residing upon the lands about. At the same time Maynard was the town physician, druggist, merchant, notary public, justice of the peace, clerk of the court and hospital keeper, his wife being the nurse in the latter, and generally his helper in his various enterprises. He also acquired sufficient knowledge of the law to pass the necessary examination and secure admission to the bar, he being the first man so admitted in Seattle. He finally exchanged his remaining Seattle lands for the Alki Point farm of Charles C. Terry, and for a number of years dwelt there. During the Indian war of 1855-56 he was a sub-agent at Port Madison reservation, having in his charge many hundreds of neutral or non-combatant Indians, acknowledging the wise leadership of Chief Seattle.

Dr. Maynard's latter years were spent quietly in the town he had done so much to found and build. His professional practice and hospital work interested him and gave him a living. He has parted with his real estate

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holdings all too easily, impoverishing himself that others might thereby profit. At his death, on the 13<sup>th</sup> of March, 1873, he was comparatively a poor man, whose last days were embittered by litigation, instigated by others through his first wife, in an attempt to obtain the donation claim Maynard had endeavored to get for his second wife east of his own claim, the result being that neither wife obtained the desired land, the value of which today is several million dollars. Dr. Maynard was a Mason, and his body was the first buried in the cemetery of that order now known as Lakeview.

Dr. Maynard was a real pioneer. He came in the days of those who, finding only the savage, opened the country to civilization. He came when to do so meant danger, difficulty, privation, suffering, large expense, separation from home and friends, and troubles innumerable and indescribable; and when it also meant excitement, novelty, room, freedom and the opening of a new country to the people of the world, with a place in history for the participants in the stirring events incident to such times. He was active, prominent and unceasing in his efforts necessary to promote the general good, socially, officially, politically, commercially and morally. He was the "First" in more enterprises and undertakings than any of his contemporaries. Without him Seattle might have become as great a city, but with him it had to be.