

NEWSPAPER FILLER MATERIAL

(Happenings of significance and interest from Idaho's past prepared by the Idaho Territorial Centennial Commission with the hope that these items of history, appearing in local newspapers, will help Idahoans to learn more about their wonderful heritage, thereby developing an increased love and appreciation for their great State.)

The Lewis and Clark Expedition reached Idaho at Lemhi Pass, August 12, 1805, the first known white men to explore this State.

David Thompson, an early trapper with the Northwest Fur Co., began the Idaho fur trade with the Flathead Indians near Bonner's Ferry, Idaho on May 8, 1808.

David Thompson established Kullyspell (Kalispell) House, a Northwest Fur Company trading post on Lake Pend Oreille, September 9, 1809.

On April 12, 1810, Alexander Henry, whose party was attacked by the Blackfeet Indians on the upper Missouri, crossed the continental divide to seek safety on the Snake River, and built Fort Henry in what later was Idaho. (near Sugar City.)

Donald Mackenzie of Astor's Pacific Fur Company, left Astoria, June 29, 1812, to establish a fur trading post on the lower Clearwater, from which he returned January 13, with news from Montreal that the War of 1812 had broken out.

Sale of Fort Astoria and the Pacific Fur Company to the Northwest Fur Company was agreed upon, October 16, 1813, and completed November 12, just one month before a British warship arrived to capture the post from the Americans.

British trappers were forbidden to trade with the Indians in the United States by act passed April 29, 1816. This law did not apply to Idaho until 1846, but would have kept the Hudson's Bay Company traders on the Idaho side of the continental divide if they had paid any attention to it.

Union of the Hudson's Bay Company and the Northwest Fur Company was completed April 6, 1821, and the Idaho fur trade was reorganized as a result.

Peter Skene Ogden took over the Hudson's Bay Company Snake Brigade in 1824 and started on the first of his six Snake Expeditions (four of which went through Idaho) on December 20, 1824.

While his partners in the Rocky Mountain fur enterprise were attending their annual Rendezvous at Bear Lake, Jedediah Smith's party of trappers was almost wiped out in the Umpqua Massacre, July 14, 1828, while returning from California.

Nathaniel Wyeth, on his second expedition across Idaho, stopped to build Fort Hall (near Pocatello) during July and August of 1834. The Fort was sold to the Hudson's Bay Company in 1838.

Missionary Jason Lee's sermon to the Indians at Fort Hall, July 27, 1834, marked the beginning of missionary activity in the Northwest.

Henry Harmon Spalding located the Lapwai Mission among the Nez Perce Indians, October 12, 1836. In 1839, Spalding set up a printing press, the first in Idaho, and printed an eight page publication.

Henry Harmon Spalding, Marcus Whitman, and new missionary recruits met at Kamiah, July 9, 1839, and decided that the season's crops at Lapwai and Kamiah could be saved only by irrigation, which was used.

Robert Newell, William Craig, and Joe Meek left Fort Hall, September 27, 1840, and took a wagon west from Fort Boise over the Blue Mountains, thus showing that the Oregon Trail was a possible wagon route.

Moved to a new site at what was later to become Cataldo, the Coeur d'Alene Mission of the Sacred Heart reopened April 9, just in time for Easter, April 12, 1846.

James Marshall's discovery of gold in California, January 24, 1848, led to a great rush on the California trail through southeastern Idaho, and, twelve years later, to discovery of important gold deposits in Idaho.

On February 2, 1848, California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, and New Mexico became part of the United States, so that the Idaho area no longer bordered on Mexico.



Snake Indians massacred the Ward party of Oregon immigrants in the Boise Valley, August 20, 1854. Governor Curry of Oregon, as a result, recommended a United States Military post at Fort Boise.

June 18, 1855, marked the establishment of Fort Lemhi (near Salmon, Idaho) by Mormon missionaries. The Fort was abandoned on March 27, 1858 and the Mormon's returned to Utah.

Granville O. Haller's punitive expedition against the Snakes in Boise Valley caught up with the perpetrators of the Ward massacre on July 18, 1855, and created such ill-will for the whites that Fort Hall had to be abandoned that Fall. Haller's force was defeated by the Yakima Indians three months later, after which Fort Walla Walla had to be abandoned. Thus Fort Hall, cut off from supply via Fort Boise and Fort Walla Walla, was doomed.

Peter Skene Ogden left Fort Owen in the Bitterroot Valley, July 18, 1856, to pick up Hudson's Bay Company property at Fort Hall, and to close the post. He arrived back at Fort Owen on August 25.

E. J. Steptoe was defeated by the Palouse, Spokane, and Coeur d'Alene Indians in May of 1858, but Colonel George Wright retaliated by defeating the Indians four months later and the way was cleared for gold prospecting in parts of North Idaho.

On February 14, 1859, Oregon was admitted as a state and all of later Idaho was included in Washington for four years after that.

E. D. Pierce discovered gold on the North Fork of the Clearwater in early 1860. His discovery was closely followed by another on Canal Gulch at Pierce.

Franklin, Idaho's first permanent white settlement, was founded by fourteen Mormon families, April 14, 1860.

John Mullan completed his wagon road (which crossed North Idaho) from Walla Walla to Fort Benton, connecting the navigable waters of the Columbia and Missouri Rivers on August 1, 1860.

Shoshone County, which was created by the Washington Legislature in early 1861, cast the largest vote in that year's election because of the Idaho gold rush.

A. S. Gould started publication of the GOLDEN AGE in Lewiston, Washington Territory, August 2, 1862. It was Idaho's earliest newspaper.

The George Grimes' party discovered gold in the Boise Basin on August 2, 1862. Grimes was killed by Indians seven days later.

Indians attacked a large Iowa immigrant party at Massacre Rocks, August 9-10, 1862.

Judge Ethlebert Patterson Oliphant opened court at Pierce, September 1, 1862, bringing regular administration of justice to the Idaho region.

Idaho City and Centerville were founded October 7, 1862, by mining parties returning to work after the Grimes killing in the Boise Basin.

On January 12, 1863, Boise County was erected out of all of Washington Territory south and east of the Payette River and the Bitterroots (Idaho geography was understood rather hazily in Olympia, Washington in those days.) The county included most of later southern Idaho and a fourth of Wyoming as well.

Idaho Territory (including later Idaho, Montana, and almost all of Wyoming) was signed into being by President Abraham Lincoln on March 4, 1863.

Virginia City gold discoveries occurred in Idaho Territory east of the Rockies in May, 1863. Along with the East Bannock mines, the Virginia City excitement led to the creation of Montana Territory from eastern Idaho only one year later.

A new treaty between the United States and some of the Nez Perce Indians was negotiated June 9, 1863, in an effort to get the North Idaho mines outside the Nez Perce reservation boundaries.

On June 20, 1863, William A. Hickman and Harry Richards commenced to operate their Eagle Rock Ferry (Idaho Falls) across the Snake River on the Salt Lake-Virginia City road.



Major Pinkney Lugenbeel chose Fort Boise as the site for the United States military post on July 4, 1863 (the date of Gettysburg and Vicksburg). Three days later, the City of Boise was founded and the townsite located adjacent to Fort Boise.

Lloyd Magruder and his packing party were murdered and robbed on the Nez Perce Trail, September 15, 1863. This was the most notable of Idaho's early criminal cases.

Idaho's first census, taken in September of 1863, showed a population of 32,342. Over sixteen thousand were in Boise County, and nearly twelve thousand in the area later to become Montana.

Idaho's territorial legislature met for its first session, December 7, 1863- February 4, 1864, in Lewiston, the first territorial capitol.

Richland County, Utah (with its county seat at Saint Charles, and most of its population in Idaho) was established January 19, 1864. The Idaho-Utah boundary was not surveyed until 1871.

Silver City was established on March 21, 1864, some seven months after the discovery of the Orofino Lode and five months after the Morning Star Lode. It soon replaced Ruby City as the leading Owyhee mining town.

Brigham Young, L.D.S. Leader, visited the Bear Lake settlements on May 20, 1864, and named Montpelier.

Publication of the IDAHO TRI-WEEKLY STATESMAN commenced in Boise on July 26, 1864.

Ben Holladay's Overland Stage Company began service from Atchison, Kansas to Boise on August 3, 1864.

Governor Caleb Lyon's council at Fort Boise with the local Snake Indians reached an agreement on October 10, 1864, by which a strip of land thirty miles wide would be open for farming in the Boise Valley --- farmers had actually began settling in the Valley as early as February of that year.

T. M. Pomeroy, acting for the citizens of Lewiston, commenced judicial proceedings, December, 22, 1864, to have the second session of the legislature declared invalid, so that the capitol of Idaho would not be located permanently in Boise. However, Boise did become the permanent capitol of Idaho two days later, although the Lewiston injunction suit delayed removal of the territorial government to the capitol.

The date May 18, 1865, marked the first in a series of disastrous fires to strike Idaho City.

Legislative elections in August, 1865, gave an overwhelming majority to the Democrats who were strengthened greatly by the influx of Confederate refugees from Missouri.

Horace C. Gilson, Secretary of Idaho Territory, quietly slipped away to Hong Kong, February 28, 1866, with the Idaho treasury (\$41,062), which, of course, was as his disposal as secretary.

The Steamboat SHOSHONE, built at a shipyard at Old Fort Boise on the Snake River, made its initial trip up to Owyhee Ferry on May 15, 1866. Unsuccessful in serving the Boise and Owyhee mines, the SHOSHONE sailed down the Snake River to Lewiston in 1869-1870.

United States troops from Fort Boise were called out when the legislature, led by Confederates, commenced a riot in the battle with Governor D. W. Ballard over repeal of the oath of allegiance to the United States in January of 1867.

B. M. DuRell and C. W. Moore opened the First National Bank of Idaho on June 6, 1867.

Union labor organization came to Idaho with formation of the Owyhee Miners' League, October 1-2. A wage contract strike followed two days later.

Wyoming Territory was erected July 25, 1868, and Idaho received its permanent boundaries.

Governor D. W. Ballard selected a site, which is still in use, for the Idaho Territorial Prison on January 28, 1869. (The building was completed and prisoners transferred there by March, 1872.)



Brigham Young established the new town of Soda Springs on June 10, 1870, near the site occupied by Morrisites who settled there in 1863 when Camp Connor was built.

Acceptance of the Idaho-Utah boundary survey, February 15, 1872, led to incorporation of the Bear Lake and Cache Valley Idaho settlements into the territory in 1872.

Boise Valley farmers organized Idaho's first Grange on January 24, 1874. The Silver City and Camas Prairie Granges followed a short time later, the establishment of the latter leading to the founding of Grangeville.

Failure of the Bank of California, August 26, 1875, ruined the Silver City and South Mountain mines.

Hostilities with the non-treaty Nez Perce bands broke out on the Salmon River, June 14, 1877, leading to the defeat of the United States Army at Whitebird and a later battle on the Clearwater, after which the Indians, led by Chief Joseph, decided to cross the Lolo Trail to Montana.

Completion of the Utah Northern Railroad across Idaho to the Montana line was celebrated on March 8, 1880.

On December 16, 1880, Theodore Frelinghuysen Singiser was appointed Secretary of Idaho Territory.

Idaho's olimters incorporated the Historical Society of Idaho Pioneers, February 10, 1881. Twenty-six years later this organization became the Idaho State Historical Society.

Construction on the Oregon Short Line Railroad, which commenced at Granger, Wyoming, July 12, 1881, reached Idaho southeast of Montpelier, June 16, 1882, and had stretched across the Territory (reaching Weiser) by January 4, 1884.

Withdrawal of the Military garrison marked the abandonment of Fort Hall, May 1, 1883.

Northern Pacific Railroad transcontinental service began September 8, 1883, the North Idaho segment having been completed in 1882.

Launching of the steamboat COEUR D'ALENE near Fort Sherman, March 27, 1884, opened the lake for freight and passenger service to the Coeur d'Alene mines as soon as winter ended.

Discovery of the Tiger Mine near Burke on May 2, 1884, followed immediately by the Polaris at Mullan, marked the beginning of lead-silver operations in the Coeur d'Alenes.

Presbyterians in Southern Idaho decided to establish the College of Idaho in September, 1884. Instruction commenced at the college in 1891.

Newspapermen organized the Idaho Press Association in Boise, January 14, 1885.

Construction of an Idaho Territorial Capitol in Boise and an Idaho Insane Asylum in Blackfoot was authorized and a bond issue approved, February 2, 1885.

Noah S. Kellogg discovered the Bunker Hill and Sullivan Mine at Wardner on September 10, 1885.

On February 24, 1886, North Idaho annexation to Washington passed the House of Representatives. However, half of the North Idaho counties joined in supporting an Idaho legislative remonstrance against territorial division.

Idaho won a long uncertain fight against being divided between Washington and Nevada when the House Committee on Territories decided unanimously to preserve Idaho Territory, February 29, 1888.

Idaho Governor E. A. Stevenson reluctantly vetoed an act to establish the University of Idaho at Eagle Rock (Idaho Falls), because the bill was improperly drafted, February 10, 1887.

Idaho's Territorial Legislature held its final session December 10, 1888-February 8, 1889.

Moscow obtained the University of Idaho as part of the movement to preserve Idaho intact, and to obtain state admission, January 30, 1889. Instruction commenced at the University on October 3, 1892.



Governor E. A. Stevenson called the Idaho constitutional convention, April 2, 1889. It convened on July 4th of that same year and remained in session until August 6.

Idaho's population reached 88,548 in the 1890 census.

Idaho admission passed the House of Representatives on April 2-3, 1890, after an extended debate, and became the 43rd State on July 3rd.

Note: Materials obtained from "History of Idaho" by Merrill D. Beal, Ph.D. and Merle W. Wells, Ph.D.