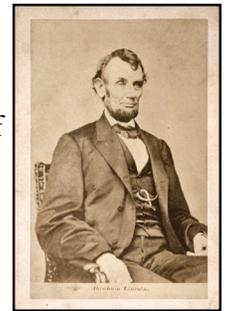


## 20 Dates that Led to Statehood

**February 20, 1860:** Elias D. Pierce, prospecting in the Clearwater Valley, swirls dirt in a pan and discovers “a floating prospect of gold.” He later writes: “I knew I had the destiny of that country and I could flood that region with good reliable men.” Miners flock to what was then eastern Washington Territory. Isolated from the distant capital at Olympia, these new residents begin campaigning for a new territory.

**August 1862:** The Shoshone County courthouse is constructed in Pierce, Washington Territory, at a cost of \$3,700. It is now Idaho’s oldest public building, operated by the Idaho State Historical Society in collaboration with the J. Howard Bradbury Memorial Logging Museum.

**March 4, 1863:** President Abraham Lincoln signs the act creating Idaho, a massive 325,000 square-mile territory that includes all of the present-day states of Idaho and Montana and most of Wyoming.



President Lincoln

**June 9, 1863:** Representatives of the federal government and some Nez Perce tribal members sign a treaty that reduces the size of the Nez Perce reservation by 90 percent, and “legitimizes” Lewiston, which had formerly been a trespass on Nez Perce lands. Many Nez Perce are unhappy with what they call the “theft treaty,” and their discontent leads directly to the 1877 Nez Perce War.

**July 10, 1863:** First territorial governor William Wallace arrives in Lewiston and organizes the new territory’s government.

**December 7, 1863:** Idaho’s first territorial legislature convenes in Lewiston.

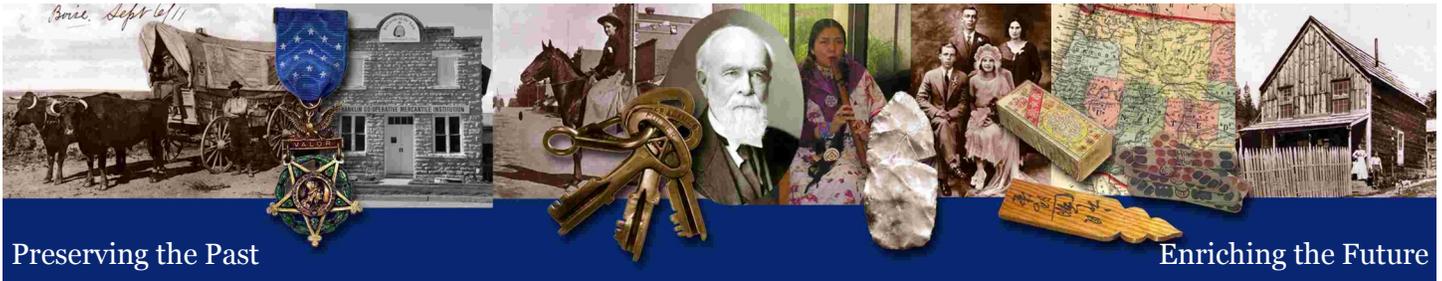
**January 5, 1864:** Idaho’s first criminal trial begins in Lewiston. The court finds three men guilty of the murders of Lloyd Magruder and four companions. On March 4, the murderers are executed. Most people have called this the first legal execution in Idaho, but more recent scholarship has questioned whether the executions were in fact legal.

**May 26, 1864:** Congress passes an act that greatly reduces the size of Idaho, giving most of what would later become Wyoming to Dakota Territory, and creating a new Montana Territory. Montana’s border carves hard to the west, leaving Idaho with an awkwardly shaped and isolated panhandle.

**December 7, 1864:** The second territorial legislature, meeting in Lewiston, votes to move the capital to Boise City. Disgruntled northern Idahoans file a lawsuit.

**April 14, 1865:** On the same day that President Lincoln is assassinated, territorial secretary Clinton DeWitt Smith arrives in Boise with the territorial seal and governmental archives that some people maintain he illegally removed from Lewiston.





## 20 Dates that Led to Statehood page 2

**July 25, 1868:** In order to form a more perfect rectangle, Congress takes land from eastern Idaho and gives it to the new territory of Wyoming. Idaho's permanent boundaries are fixed—at the expense of losing what would shortly become the nation's first national park at Yellowstone.

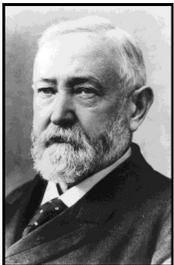
**January 15, 1869:** The territorial legislature appropriates \$2,500 to pay artist Charles Ostner for his equestrian statue of George Washington. It stands outside on capitol square until 1934, when it is moved into the capitol. It is now the oldest artifact in the statehouse.



**June 17, 1877:** Nez Perce warriors earn a lopsided victory at White Bird Canyon, the opening battle of the Nez Perce War. The war begins because of the forced removal of Nez Perce who had not signed the 1863 treaty onto the dramatically reduced reservation.

**December 22, 1884:** Both houses of the territorial legislature pass the Idaho Test Oath, prohibiting Idaho Mormons from voting or holding political office. Ironically, this act of disenfranchising Idaho's predominantly Democratic Mormon population will clear the way for a Republican Congress to consider statehood for Idaho.

**February 2, 1885:** The territorial legislature appropriates \$80,000 for the construction of a capitol building in Boise. Completed in 1886, the red-brick structure enables the three branches of Idaho's government to share a single structure for the first time. The building serves Idaho's government until 1905.



President Harrison

**March 1, 1887:** Congress passes legislation enabling the northern panhandle to secede from Idaho Territory and become part of Washington. After intensive lobbying by Idaho Governor Edward Stevenson, President Grover Cleveland pocket vetoes the measure, ending the most serious threat to dismember Idaho during the territorial period.

**November 6, 1888:** Republican Benjamin Harrison is elected President, and Republicans gain a majority in both the United States Senate and House of Representatives. The party looks for more Republican territories to admit as states.

**January 30, 1889:** Governor Edward Stevenson signs the act creating the University of Idaho. This "olive branch in the interest of peace and good-will extended by one section of the Territory to another," in the words of one legislator, brings a unity between north and south that has been lacking during the territorial period and paves the way for a united Idaho effort to seek statehood.

**July 4, 1889:** Delegates convene in Boise. Over the course of 28 days they craft a constitution for a new state.

**July 3, 1890:** President Benjamin Harrison signs the act establishing Idaho as the 43<sup>rd</sup> state.