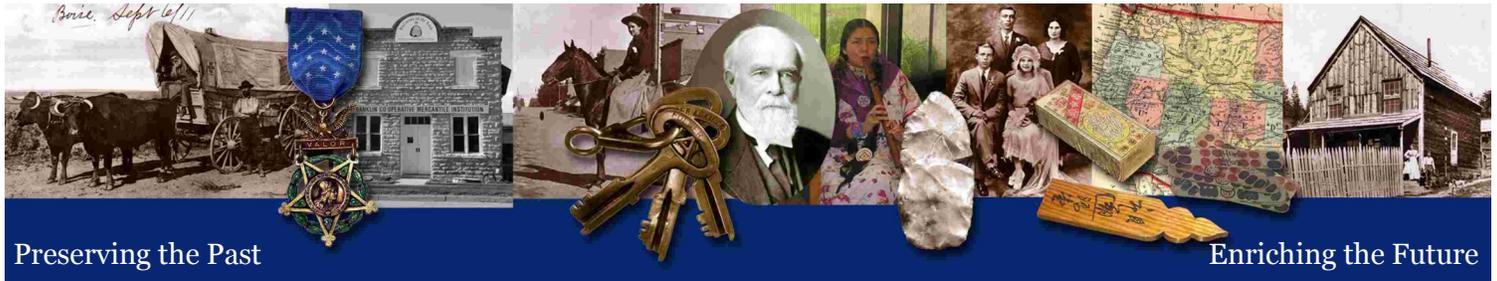


Idaho's Unique History: 20 Dates You May Not Know

- August 12, 1805:** Meriwether Lewis and an advance party of the Corps of Discovery cross the continental divide at Lemhi Pass and step into Idaho, the last of the 50 states to be entered by Euro-Americans.
- 1839:** Henry Spalding begins printing the Bible in Lapwai on the earliest printing press in the Pacific Northwest.
- 1860:** Idaho's two oldest towns, Franklin and Pierce, are established.
- March 4, 1863:** President Abraham Lincoln signs the act creating Idaho Territory; a few days later he appoints William Wallace first territorial governor. Wallace designates Lewiston as the territorial capital.
- 1865:** Boise replaces Lewiston as the territorial capital.
- 1885:** Construction begins on the territorial capitol building in Boise.
- 1887:** Latah County becomes the only county in the United States created by Congress.
- July 3, 1890:** Idaho is admitted as the 43rd state.
- 1891:** Emma Edwards wins a contest to create a state seal; Idaho's becomes the first state seal designed by a woman.
- 1894:** Congress passes the Carey Act which, along with the 1902 National Reclamation Act, makes possible large-scale irrigated agriculture in southern Idaho.
- 1905:** The legislature authorizes construction of a new capitol building in Boise.
- 1912:** Constitutional amendments give Idaho voters the recall, referendum, and initiative.
- 1931:** The legislature adopts "Here We Have Idaho," the syringa, and the Rocky Mountain blue bird as state song, flower, and bird.
- 1935:** Statewide prohibition is repealed and a State Liquor Dispensary created.
- 1955:** Arco becomes the first community in the world to be lighted by nuclear power.
- 1969:** Legislature changes from biennial to annual sessions.
- 1971:** State Legislature enacts a stream protection law.
- 1982:** The legislature outlaws the insanity defense for criminals.
- 2003:** The longest legislative session in history- 118 days.
- 2010:** The legislature and state offices move back into the capitol after a two-year, \$120 million restoration and expansion project.

In anticipation of the upcoming 150th anniversary of Idaho Territory, here are 20 interesting things to know about Idaho. For more about our state's history, look for the Idaho State Historical Society's new and improved website, coming in the summer of 2011.



Looking for more Idaho history?

Visit our website: www.history.idaho.gov

The Idaho State Historical Society preserves and promotes Idaho's cultural heritage. We seek to inspire, enrich and engage all Idahoans by leading the state in preserving, sharing, and using history and cultural resources relevant to today to inform and influence the future.

Cultural resources under agency stewardship: 250,000 artifacts, 65,000 cubic feet of manuscript and archival materials, 30,000 rolls of microfilm, 500,000 images, 5,000 films and videos, 3,100 oral histories, 32,000 maps and architectural drawings, 25,000 books and periodicals, 60 historic structures.

State Historical Museum

610 N. Julia Davis Dr., Boise 83702 208-334-2120

History Day, programs for school children, adults and tourists; comprehensive, permanent exhibition on Idaho's history; special and traveling exhibitions; community events; Pioneer Village exhibitions; and facility rentals; research and reference; gift shop; lecture series; workshops, mentoring and training opportunities for Idaho museums' staff and volunteers.

State Archives and Research Center

2205 Old Penitentiary Road, Boise 83712 208-334-2682

Research and reference services; photographic duplication; oral history program; repository for government (state and local) records of permanent value including storage, retrieval and training; genealogical services.

State Historic Preservation Office

210 Main Street, Boise 83702 208-334-3861

National Register of Historic Places program management; maintains Idaho's inventory (70,000 properties) of records for archaeological sites and historic buildings and structures; manages Certified Local Government grant program; assists developers in obtaining federal tax incentives for appropriate rehabilitation of historic buildings; consults with cities and counties on local preservation policies and projects; oversees the Archaeological Survey of Idaho and its western repository; performs Section 106 Review and Compliance; and conducts and oversees archaeological investigations in Idaho.

Old Idaho Penitentiary

2445 Old Penitentiary Rd., Boise 83712 208-334-2844

The Old Idaho Penitentiary, built in 1870, is located in the Old Penitentiary Historic District in east Boise. The site began as the territorial prison and grew to a complex of several distinctive buildings that was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973. Visitors can imagine life sandstone cell houses, see the contrasting beauty of the historic rose gardens, and view Solitary Confinement, Death Row and the Gallows. Special exhibitions are located throughout the site.

Statewide Historic Sites

ISHS manages several additional historic sites: Shoshone County Courthouse (Pierce); Rock Creek Station and Stricker Homesite (Hansen); Franklin Historic Properties (Franklin); Old Idaho Penitentiary State Historic Site, the Assay Office, and the Bureau of Reclamation Building (Boise); Idaho History Center and Agency Administration (Boise).

The Idaho State Historical Society illuminates our state's future and helps people of all ages explore and appreciate Idaho's rich past and learn more about themselves.

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