

Preserving the Past

Enriching the Future

Women in Idaho History

1805: Idaho native Sacajawea returns home to the Salmon area with Lewis and Clark. Later that year a Nez Perce woman, Watkuweis, is credited by many with saving the expedition.

1872: Polly Bemis moves to the Salmon River. The Northwest's most famous Chinese woman is the subject of four books and the movie, "Thousand Pieces of Gold."

1878: Elvina Moulton becomes the only African American charter member of the Boise Presbyterian Church.

1883: May Arkwright moves to the Silver Valley and marries Levi Hutton in 1887. They purchase a stake in the Hercules Mine, and strike it rich. The Huttons engage in many social causes, and May, often teaming with Abigail Scott Duniway, becomes one of the leading suffragettes in Idaho and the North west.



Polly Bemis

1884: Mary Hallock Foote moves to Boise. An accomplished novelist and artist, her life and writings serve as the basis for the Pulitzer Prize winning book by Wallace Stegner, *Angle of Repose*.

1891: Emma Edwards of Boise designs the state seal, the first, and only state seal designed by a woman.

1896: The Idaho legislature grants women the right to vote in state and local elections, the fourth state to grant suffrage.

1898: Clara L. Campbell, Boise, Harriett F. Noble, Idaho City, and Mary A. Wright, Rathdrum, become the first women to serve in the Idaho legislature.



Elvina Moulton

1899: Jenny Hughes receives a Bachelor Science degree, becoming the first African American graduate of the University of Idaho.

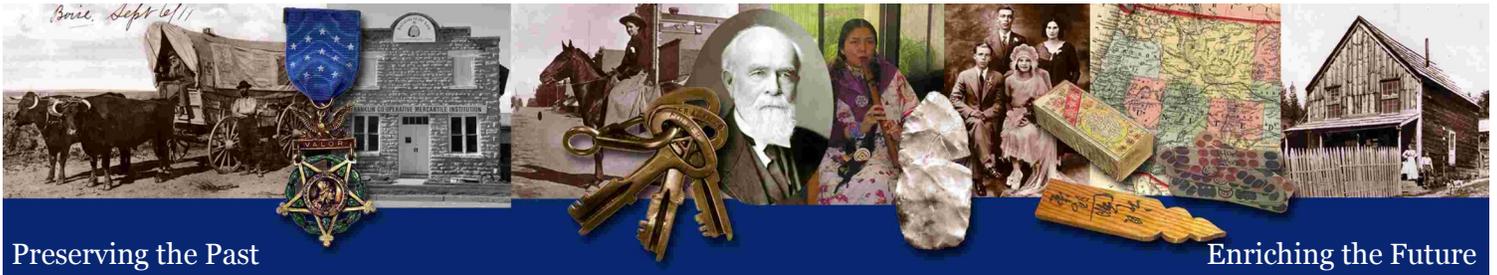
1902: Mable Gray becomes Idaho's first official fire lookout attendant at the Bertha Hill lookout northeast of Orofino; her lookout consists of a perch on a tall snag.

1921: Nell Shipman films and produces "The Girl from God's Country" from her studio on Priest Lake, the first movie made in Idaho.

1928: Margaret Cobb Ailshie becomes publisher of the *Idaho Statesman* and continues in that position until 1959.



Nell Shipman



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1931: Sister Alfreda Elsensohn founds the Historical Museum at St. Gertrude Monastery, one of Idaho's oldest museums. The state's highest award for outstanding museum service is named for her.

1932: Myrtle Enking of Gooding is elected State Treasurer, the first in a line of 5 women to hold that post consecutively until 1959; indeed, the string continued until 1999, interrupted by only one man.

1936: Moscow native Carol Ryrie Brink wins the nation's most prestigious literary award for children's literature, the Newbery Award, for *Caddie Woodlawn*.

1948: Gretchen Fraser of Sun Valley wins gold and silver Olympic medals in skiing. She becomes the first of several Idaho women Olympic champions, including Andrea Lloyd, Picabo Street, Stacy Dragilla, and Kristin Armstrong.



Sister Alfreda Elsensohn

1952: Gracie Bowers Pfof is elected as the first Idaho woman to serve in The U.S. House of Representatives; she serves five terms.

1964: Dorothy Johnson of Pocatello becomes the first African American to gain the title "Miss Idaho, ISA." Later that summer, the same year Congress passed the Civil Rights Act, she becomes the first African American to become a semi-finalist for the Miss USA Pageant.

1974: Amy Trice leads the Kootenai Tribe in declaring war on the U.S. No shots are fired, but the Tribe gains a reservation, clinic, and housing.

1989: Kathryn Albertson Park is dedicated, the third in a chain of parks, including Julia Davis and Ann Morrison, named for Boise women.

1992: Linda Copple Trout becomes the first woman appointed to the Idaho Supreme Court.

2007: Barbara Morgan flies on the Space Shuttle to the International Space Station. A former teacher at McCall-Donnelly Elementary, she first goes to NASA in the Teacher in Space program, and later becomes a full-time astronaut.

2008: Sarah Palin, born in Sandpoint and a North Idaho College and University of Idaho graduate, runs on the Republican ticket for Vice President.



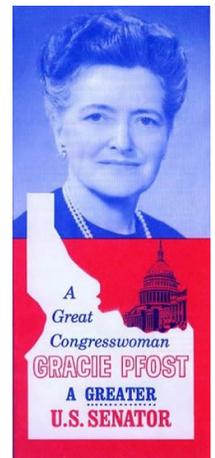
Kristin Armstrong



Amy Trice



Barbara Morgan



Gracie Bowers Pfof



Cherie Buckner-Webb

2010: Cherie Buckner-Webb of Boise wins election to the Idaho House of Representatives, becoming Idaho's first African American woman legislator.

2014: Kaitlyn Farrington of Hailey, Idaho wins the gold medal in the women's half-pipe competition at the Sochi Olympics. The first women rider to perform a backside 900 (rider spins 900 degrees backside in the air).