

# IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## REFERENCE SERIES

CLARENCE A. BOTTOLFSEN  
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A native of Superior, Wisconsin, C. A. Bottolfsen moved to Whitehall, Wisconsin in 1898 and to Fessenden, North Dakota in 1900. There he became a typesetter for the local newspaper in 1908. When the publisher acquired a newspaper in Arco, he was sent out in 1910 as manager for the Arco Advertiser. Eventually purchasing the Advertiser, he continued as publisher until 1949.

Two years after arriving in Arco, he married Elizabeth Hanna, August 27, 1912.

Entering the United States Army on June 27, 1918, he continued on active service for four months after the Armistice until he was discharged in March 1919. After the war he took a leading part in the organization of the American Legion, serving as State Commander in 1934. Aside from political office, he served as president of the Idaho Editorial Association in 1929, and as parliamentarian for the National Education Association for seventeen years. He also was a member of the Arco Chamber of Commerce, a Rotarian, a Lutheran, and a Grand Master of the Masonic Lodge.

In politics, he was elected to the legislature from Butte County in 1920, 1922, 1928, and 1930, and served as speaker of the house in 1931-32. In 1925, 1927, 1949, 1951, and 1957, he held office as Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives. A leader of the progressive Republicans, he was chosen for a term as Republican State Chairman in 1936 and 1937. After four years as editor of the Blackfoot Daily Bulletin (1934-1938), he was elected governor in 1938 and 1942. In 1940 he ran unsuccessfully for reelection as governor, and 1944 he was Republican candidate for United States Senate.

Active in the preparation of the report of the 1949 Interim Committee on Reorganization of State Government after he retired from the newspaper business, he went to Washington, D.C., as Deputy Sergeant at Arms of the United States Senate. Then in 1955 and 1956 he became secretary for Senator Herman Welker. Returning to Arco, he was elected to the Idaho State Senate in 1958 and 1960. Ill health led him to decline to run for reelection in 1962.

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