

IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

REFERENCE SERIES

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES IN IDAHO HISTORY

Number 449

1980

As is characteristic of all states, Idaho emerged as part of national development: state history has to be incorporated in a national setting. Because of their concern for national issues when Idaho became a territory during the Civil War, pioneers who founded their own historical society a century ago were fully aware of this requirement for sound historical scholarship. With a pioneer population decidedly Confederate in sympathy, but with enough bold Unionists around to keep up a lively debate on Civil War and Reconstruction issues. Idaho's founders had sufficient exposure to national trends to be thoroughly aware of significant national factors in Idaho's history. They were just as aware of Idaho's contribution to national affairs--a subject that they scarcely could fail to exaggerate, and a trait they shared with all frontier western settlements. Yet they pointed in a direction that studies of more recent Idaho history still need to go. Idaho's inter-relationships with national and world events still have to be studied and explained, just as they needed careful examination a century ago.

In any number of subjects that still require investigation in Idaho and Northwest history, a broad national and international context must be clarified. For mining history, of particular concern to most of Idaho's pioneers, a comprehension of Mexican and Peruvian (or, by 1881, Bolivian) antecedents is essential. Mining practices of Cornwall, England, and engineering as taught in Freiburg, Germany, and at Yale University need to be understood. Much progress has been made recently in this approach, although Idaho applications of technology and the implications of technology for labor history need more attention. Smelting of Idaho ores in Swansea, Wales, and Passaic, New Jersey, needs study. Idaho miners' South African and Yukon experience ought not to be neglected. The effects on Idaho's mining industry and miners of corporate and industrial development, including rail and smelter trusts, need consideration. Fortunately, a number of investigators have provided important material that can be applied to Idaho's mining history--which has recently been getting some much deserved attention.

Agricultural history, which has become even more significant as commercial farming provides Idaho's major economic base, is also receiving more attention. The history of a number of

irrigation projects, successful and unsuccessful, should be studied in a national context whose dimensions are coming to be better understood. Because of Idaho's unparalleled success with Carey Act projects, this unique contribution to national reclamation history needs further documentation. As with mining, local irrigation and general farming history need to be presented in an international setting. Commercial agriculture, with national markets and foreign exports made possible by development of a rail, highway, and ocean-port transportation system, has to be explained as part of a national program. Idaho's sugar beets have to compete in a price structure fixed by international markets. Migrant labor that provides essential farm services throughout the Pacific Northwest also has to be understood in an international--and diplomatic--context. Idaho has made use of advanced agricultural technology ever since pioneer days, when then-modern farm machinery was employed in response to gold rush market demands. Recent modifications in farm technology, which occur too fast for anyone to keep track of any more, have affected Idaho's agricultural history still more. Very recent, as well as earlier, technological adjustments have to be accounted for. This important subject should receive attention while people who understand many of these changes are still available to help explain them.

Stockraising, which has remained important since Idaho's gold-rush era, has undergone a considerable transformation also.

Aside from a study of relationships of Idaho sheep and cattle enterprises with regional and plains livestock drives, investigations are needed of recent adaptations to modern methods and to national marketing problems. Public-land administration in Idaho and sheep- and cattle-raising over more than a century can be presented as specific examples based upon more general information available from national and regional studies.

Mining and farming accounted for a substantial share of Idaho's economy a century ago. Yet Idaho's pioneers had other concerns of significant historical interest. Commercial logging commanded only local markets until after the turn of the century.

Then improved transportation facilities and declining supplies of timber in Great Lakes lumbering areas gave Idaho sawmills an entrance into a large regional sales zone. Reliable accounts of Idaho's forest industries cover an important era, from 1900 to 1960. That leaves an equally long time--forty years before and twenty after--in need of basic investigation. Increased environmental awareness and recent studies in environmental history can affect our comprehension of early, as well as contemporary, forest-products enterprises. A sound history of the United States Forest Service and various national-forest histories have also contributed to a more adequate understanding of Idaho's timber lands. General western conservation histories--which already constitute a considerable literature--provide a suitable regional context for Idaho studies. But special

problems that have affected development of Idaho resources need further analysis. With a greater area of national forest than any other state except Oregon, Idaho produces more lumber than all but Oregon, California, Washington, and Alaska. Additional forest-products research studies clearly will have national as well as local importance.

In common with other western states and territories, Idaho depended upon construction of a large-scale transportation system in order to develop mining, farming, and logging markets. Older states had been able to build and link local road, canal, steam navigation, and rail systems in a manner unavailable farther west. Early western mining settlements usually grew up in scattered, inconvenient places. Early farming and lumbering communities also occupied disconnected, rather than contiguous, lands in territories like Idaho. Settlers who came to Idaho by emigrant wagon had to spend most of a long summer season making their journey. Those headed for Oregon, Washington, and California had a still worse trip. When modern transportation and communication systems began to meet Idaho's needs a century ago, they were part of a much larger western system that must be studied in terms of competition between large regional corporations. Most of this information has become available in one place or another, but additional attention must be paid to local segments of a regional transportation pattern. Without a sound grasp of local detail, broader studies contribute less than they should to an understanding of western development. Because Idaho's geography does not correspond to regional economic and transportation systems (or to any other discernible rational arrangement), local aspects of major transportation facilities require more attention than they might merit otherwise.

Similar needs can be identified in other fields, such as banking (for which some superior studies have become available), which also has to be explained in a national economic context. Along different, yet related, lines, engineering history and architectural history are also receiving attention as parts of national and regional as well as local development.

Community building cannot be explained without attention to a variety of developments of which banking and commerce, architecture and engineering, serve only as examples in which studies now are under way. Interest in historic preservation has led to systematic investigation of engineering achievements in Idaho's mining, reclamation, power, and rail and highway transportation development. Inventory and analysis of architectural history have received still greater impetus from concern for historic preservation. Each local community, as well as Idaho as a state, needs attention of this kind. A far superior grasp of Idaho's overall history is resulting from a variety of specialized studies in these fields.

With a distinctive Mormon area in southeastern Idaho, and with a variety of other regional orientations in other sections,

Idaho brings together a cultural diversity that offers great opportunity for historical examination. In common with national and world trends, architecture, art, literature, and other regional cultural expressions in Idaho have gone through a series of historic changes. State and local variations in regional art and literature need identification so that their significance can be interpreted properly. Some architectural and artistic forms have been accepted more readily in some parts of Idaho than others. These differences from a general national pattern need to be identified and accounted for. Important investigations of these aspects of Idaho's cultural history are under way, but a great deal more remains to be done.

Idaho has not attracted large ethnic minorities that characterize many states with industrial economies. More Chinese and Japanese can be found farther west; greater numbers of blacks have settled in states with larger cities; southern and eastern European immigrant groups have greater strength in more industrialized areas. Some of Idaho's mining camps have a distinctive ethnic composition, and a substantial Basque population has brought in a notable cultural element that has gained considerable attention since 1890. Extensive Idaho Basque, Chinese, Finnish, and Japanese studies are under way, but other ethnic investigations should be undertaken.

Like most western states, Idaho retains a significant Indian population that has been subjected to extensive ethnographic research covering early culture and adaptation to white institutions introduced more than a century ago. As in all other states, Idaho's pioneers did not understand or appreciate their Indian predecessors. They tried to modify or replace Indian culture on a white model and began to recognize their failure to supplant Indian patterns of life only very belatedly. Indian history since 1880 has not been studied adequately in Idaho, but representatives of Idaho's early peoples have begun to fill this historical gap. They follow an approach different from that employed by white scholarly investigators, and different results can be anticipated from Indian history projects that they undertake. They are pursuing subjects of importance to Idaho's Indian peoples with a purpose of identifying an Indian cultural heritage in which they can take justifiable pride. This development will provide a notable new aspect of Idaho's ethnic history. Traditional overemphasis upon Indian wars will give way to a more positive approach, in which Indian treaties and difficulties in getting Indians' problems recognized--and attended to--will figure conspicuously.

When they expressed interest in their history a century ago, Idaho's pioneers had an immediate awareness of some unsatisfactory features of their territorial government that they confidently expected to improve after state admission. A decade went by before they achieved this ambition. Extensive study by a number of professional historians has gone into deficiencies (as

well as some little-recognized contributions) of territorial government. Several periods of state government have received notice as well. Senator William E. Borah commanded attention in national affairs sufficient to inspire an extensive historical literature that few western governmental officials can rival. National studies in labor history and state studies in Populist, Progressive, and New Deal history provide extensive Idaho coverage. But major publications in Idaho political history come down only as far as Senator Glen H. Taylor, more than two decades ago. There is now a gap greater than that faced by Idaho's pioneer historical society. And a general synthesis of Idaho political history--as distinguished from a substantial number of special studies--still is required. More effort should go toward identification of state and local trends in a regional and national context. Idaho and Pacific Northwest history can both gain from such an approach.

Recent historical interest in broader cultural subjects, emphasizing everyday life and social trends ascertained through statistical approaches, can be expected to offer a superior interpretation of Idaho's history a century and more ago, as well as of subsequent times. Regional and national material in mining history, labor history, women's history, and a variety of specialties in economic and social history can be employed to improve an interpretation of Idaho history in a broad cultural perspective. Idaho's earliest pioneers were a little short on women, although when some of their reunions were held not long after 1900, this balance had been partially redressed. (Nearly a third of the participants in Boise's 1904 reunion were female.) Specialists in women's history are needed to work on appropriate Idaho problems beyond woman suffrage. Considering that territorial legislative debate of woman suffrage came extremely close to providing that reform in 1871--final action fell only one vote short--Idaho offers possibilities for research that will interpret women's history more adequately. Professional occupational histories (medical, legal, educational, and engineering in particular) also are in progress. Assisted by such efforts, a new generation of historians will investigate Idaho's past along lines Idaho's pioneers would have found entirely appropriate.

Modern interest in urban history also will affect Idaho's historiography. A dozen or more Idaho cities deserve extended accounts, and at least that many more should inspire good articles. Idaho's interesting sectional composition provides enough diversity among cities that an overall appreciation of statewide urban development can be attained only after a variety of urban histories has been produced. Cultural resource surveys undertaken as part of Idaho's current historic preservation program require careful historical formulations to interpret different areas in all sections, north and south. A number of archaeological treatments--Clearwater plateau, south and middle

forks of the Salmon, south central Owyhee, and lower Salmon and Snake rivers, for example--have been completed, at least for early occupancy. Others will follow rapidly. A superior concept of Idaho's heritage will emerge from these investigations.

Most of Idaho's more useful historical literature has emerged in the past two decades. Another twenty years of research should provide much better coverage of subjects and problems important to interpretation of Idaho's past within a regional Pacific Northwest context. Among these topics, the following are but a sample of those eligible for future research:

With a broad valley that provides access through mountain ranges from the Great Plains to the Pacific, Idaho has been a region of cultural diffusion for thousands of years. Elements of early northwestern plateau culture and Great Basin desert culture farther south have blended in southern Idaho's Indian life. Studies are needed to evaluate recent and contemporary cultural diffusion between the Pacific Northwest and Mormon Utah through the same corridor.

Some Idaho routes, such as the California and Oregon trails and the Lolo Trail, have received a lot of attention. Others, such as the Wild Horse Trail and the Nez Perce Trail, have been neglected but deserve study.

Accounts of farm and stockraisers' organizations can provide important information concerning Idaho's agricultural development. These generally are related to national movements important in Idaho history.

A substantial influx of Confederate refugees from Missouri greatly affected Idaho in 1864. Studies are needed to determine just how large that migration became and its precise impact. This subject created a considerable difference of opinion among founders of Idaho's original historical society.

By 1870, a majority of Idaho miners were Chinese and Idaho had more Chinese miners than any other state or territory. After considerable agitation, a strong western movement to drive Chinese miners out to San Francisco swept Idaho in 1886. The Chinese refused to go, although after the agitation subsided most Idaho Chinese finally did leave. It would be useful to know more about their reasons for holding out in 1886 and for leaving later.

In an effort to surmount mountain barriers separating Idaho's major sections, a state wagon-road system was constructed shortly after statehood in 1890. A history of this project and of how sectional considerations modified the subsequent state highway system is needed.

In common with other areas. Idaho had a fairly extensive set of streetcar and electric interurban lines installed after 1890. Accounts of these operations are needed to amplify the record of Idaho's transportation history.

Newspapers of Idaho territory have been studied adequately,

but a history of later journalism is needed. More recent developments in radio and television--especially their role in splitting up Idaho by increasing Salt Lake City and Spokane influences and in providing greater links and commonality of experience among regions of the state--should also receive attention.

As a major world source for lead, silver, and zinc. Idaho's Coeur d'Alene mines need a full history that would cover most of Idaho's metal production. A number of important specialized studies are available, but a general account is necessary.

Idaho has developed a number of major successful irrigation projects under state-sponsored Carey Act arrangements as well as those of the United States Reclamation Service and its successors. But some had severe problems. Histories of Salmon Tract irrigation southwest of Twin Falls and of early Minidoka Project development problems are needed.

Studies of Palouse and of Boise-region barns already are under way, but a full account of farm and other rural architecture is needed for all sections of Idaho. Important studies of log cabins and folk architecture are providing a sound introduction to this subject.

Construction of some of the world's major dams--Arrowrock, Anderson Ranch, and Dworshak in particular--needs historical treatment. So do a number of others, lesser projects that have unusual design or other remarkable aspects. Because of a spectacular washout, Teton Dam has already attracted a lot of interest.

An investigation of cooperative and of Forest Service fire protection history in Idaho--scene in 1910 of the nation's worst forest fire on record--would contribute to a better understanding of Idaho's forest resources.

Idaho's conservation and recreation history needs to be documented. Such research should provide full coverage of Sun Valley as well as of river boating, dude ranching, and wilderness legislation. An account of fish and game management is also in order.

Air service has begun to solve some of Idaho's transportation problems between sections separated by mountain barriers. A history of more than half a century of air transportation in Idaho is needed.

Idaho's National Reactor Testing Station has had a substantial impact upon state and regional economic development.

Its cultural and political impacts also need study as significant aspects of recent state history.

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