

IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

REFERENCE SERIES

MILTON KELLY

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A native of Onondaga, New York, Milton Kelly taught school and farmed prior to his admission to the bar in Wisconsin in 1845. Finally he moved to California in 1861 and to Oregon in 1862. Later in 1862, he moved from an Oregon mining camp to Placerville in the Boise Basin. In 1863, he went on to Rocky Bar. Kelly served in the first session of Idaho's territorial legislature, and as an associate justice of the Idaho Supreme Court from 1865 to 1870. From 1872 to 1889 he published the Idaho Statesman in Boise, where he became a senior member of the influential (but not corrupt) Boise Ring. Retiring from the Statesman, he developed a major resort at Kelly's Hot Springs just east of Boise. By that time, he had done far more than his share in beating down projects to parcel out Idaho to surrounding states and territories, and he had earned a rightful claim to a considerable share of the credit for Idaho's admission as a state.

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