

# IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## REFERENCE SERIES

ADONIREN J. ("JUD") BOYAKIN  
1836-March 28, 1899

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A. J. ("Jud") Boyakin was an early Boise newspaperman with a reputation for a sharp tongue and a quick wit. After his death, the Caldwell Tribune wrote of him: "In those early days there was a hot, glowing fire in the old man, and his trenchant pen was quick to oppose the rings and cliques that dominated early politics."

Boyakin was born in Belleville, Illinois, in 1836. In 1853, he came west to Oregon City and later to Portland where he worked as a printer. He came to Idaho in 1864, mining in Boise Basin for awhile before going to work for James S. Reynolds on the recently begun Idaho Tri-Weekly Statesman. According to Thomas Donaldson, Boyakin served as Reynolds' "foreman, manager, assistant editor, and all." Although reportedly friends, the two men clashed frequently over their political differences--Reynolds was a loyal Republican, Boyakin a faithful Democrat. Donaldson states that "the arguments which the two had over editorials for the Statesman surpassed anything ever heard in Boise." Boyakin had to print what publisher Reynolds wrote, except when Jud was in charge in the latter's absence. Then the Democratic views were aired.

Boyakin raised a sizeable family in Boise, including two sons who worked as printers. He married Henrietta Harris on December 27, 1868, in Boise, and they had two children, Walter and Lottie. Mrs. Boyakin died in 1875, and in 1876 Boyakin married Ida Clifton. Their children were Junias, Algernon, Milo, Raymond, Clifton, and Imogene.

After leaving the Statesman, Boyakin worked awhile for the Idaho World in Idaho City. He returned to Boise and joined with J. R. Pile in 1870 as copublisher of The Idaho Democrat. On May 9, 1877, he began issuing his own paper, The Idahoan, and continued it as The Idaho Democrat until his death on March 28, 1899, in Boise.

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