

IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

REFERENCE SERIES

HOSEA B. EASTMAN
November 21, 1835-February 10 1920

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Hosea B. Eastman was born November 21, 1835, in Whitefield, New Hampshire. In 1861 he and his brother, Benjamin Manson Eastman, sailed to California. Soon After, they went to Canyon City, Oregon, and then on to the Owyhee mines in Idaho, where they worked their own claims and purchased an interest in the Morning Star Mine. [A J. K. Eastman (possibly a third brother) is listed in 1864-1867 directories as owner of the Idaho House Hotel in Ruby City, and H. B. Eastman is listed as one of his borders in 1864.] In 1867 or 1868 Hosea and Benjamin purchased an interest in the Idaho Hotel in Silver City. They sold out in 1877 and bought the Overland Hotel in Boise.

Hosea Eastman managed the Overland Hotel until about 1891, making it one of the landmarks of Boise. In an effort to modernize the hotel, Eastman built the first water system in Boise. He organized the Boise Water Works which in 1891 merged with a rival company to form the Artesian Hot and Cold Water Company. Soon after, the company began construction of the Natatorium on Warm Springs Avenue. Eastman continued as general manager of the Artesian Hot and Cold Water Company until shortly before his death.

In 1886 Eastman helped organize the Boise City National Bank and served as its vice-president and then president until about 1907. He was also involved in the organization in about 1909 of the Bank of Idaho, which became the Pacific National Bank in 1911. Eastman served as the latter's president until 1919. From about 1906 until its sale in 1912, Eastman was vice-president of the Eastman-Teller Hardware Company in Boise. He also served on the Boise City Council for a time.

Hosea B. Eastman married Mary Ann Blackinger in Silver City on September 15, 1872. They had two children: Frank M. and Benjamin S. Hosea Eastman died February 10, 1920, at his Boise home; his wife died June 5, 1926.