

IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

REFERENCE SERIES

NATHAN FALK

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Nathan Falk was born July 12, 1848, in Eggenhausen [may be Eggenfelden, near Munich], Bavaria, Germany. He came to the United States in 1863 and to Boise in 1865, joining his elder brother David in the Hessberg & Co. Mercantile firm. In 1868 the brothers started D. Falk & Co. Another brother, Sigmund, joined the company in 1873. Sometime before 1886, the company became N. Falk & Brother, and in 1891 they incorporated as the Falk-Bloch Mercantile Company with Nathan as president. In 1900 the company became Falk Mercantile Company and the Falk name continued to be attached to the department store until its closing in the 1980's.

Nathan Falk was active in Boise's Jewish community, serving as one of Temple Beth Israel's first trustees. He also served on the Boise school board and was an officer of the Boise Board of Trade and the Chamber of Commerce.

Falk married Rosa Steinmeier on August 22, 1878, in Germany. They had six children: Bella, Anna, Leo, Ralph, Harry, and Theodore. Nathan Falk died July 22, 1903, while on a business trip to Hailey; Mrs. Falk died December 27, 1940, in Boise.

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