

# IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## REFERENCE SERIES

WILLIAM ARMISTEAD GOULDER  
October 21, 1821-October 25, 1910

Number 578

1981

William A. Goulder was born October 21, 1821, in either Nottoway or Amelia County, Virginia. He started west in 1844, worked for a time in St. Louis and St. Joseph, Missouri, and left for Oregon with a wagon train on May 1, 1845. He lived in the Willamette Valley until July, 1861, with a year's stay in the California and southern Oregon mining areas. While in Oregon, Goulder taught school, operated a ferry, and worked on the government survey of the south side of the Columbia River (1859-1860).

In 1861 Goulder moved to Pierce, Idaho, and spent much of the next fifteen years mining in northern Idaho. He also spent some time teaching (he's listed in the 1870 census of Lewiston as a school teacher) and participating in the newly-formed territorial government. He served as a representative from Shoshone County in the second (1864) and fifth (1868-1869) sessions of the legislature, and as a senator in the eighth (1874-1875) session. He was also a Shoshone County commissioner in 1863. In 1868 he began writing for Boise's Idaho Tri-Weekly Statesman and moved to Boise in 1876 to work as a reporter and assistant editor for the Statesman. One biographer described him "as a writer of veracity and historical accuracy, his trenchant pen puncturing the fairy bubbles of many a pretentious myth."

Goulder lived for a few years on the Whitehead Ranch near Boise and later moved to a house on Warm Springs Avenue. He served as Ada County Superintendent of Schools in 1881 and 1882, as state librarian, and as secretary of the Idaho Pioneer Society. In his later years he published Reminiscences of a Pioneer, a popular volume of memoirs. Goulder married Ann J. McCullough on May 23, 1878, in Boise. He died October 25, 1910, at his Boise home.