

IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

REFERENCE SERIES

HENRY P. ISAACS AND JOSH C. ISAACS
March 1822-July 14, 1900 and ca. 1830-?

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Henry P. Isaacs and his brother, Josh C. Isaacs, only resided in Boise for a short time, but they had an impact on the town's early economic development. Henry Isaacs was born in March, 1822 in Pennsylvania. Josh was born ca. 1830. They reportedly followed the 1849 rush to California, then moved to the Pacific Northwest and established successful careers as merchants and millers.

In 1858 Henry Isaacs is known to have had a store in The Dalles, Oregon. That same year, he sent William McWhirk to Walla Walla to open a store. In 1862 Isaacs himself came to Walla Walla and built the North Pacific Mills. His brother Josh owned a store in Walla Walla in the mid-1860's. In about 1867 the Isaacs came to Boise, built the War Eagle Mills and opened a store at 6th and Main streets. In 1871 H. P. Issacs helped finance the Middleton Mills in which his brother was a partner with A. Packard.

Sometime before 1874, the Isaacs returned to Walla Walla. H. P. Served in the 1885-1886 Washington legislature and was instrumental in getting the Washington penitentiary established at Walla Walla. He continued working as a merchant and miller, building mills at Prescott, Washington, in about 1882 and at Wasco, Oregon, in 1898.

J. C. Isaacs seemed to have remained single. H. P. Isaacs and his wife Lucy were married in about 1860. Their children included: Bessie, Grace, Mattie, Edwin, and John Phillip. H. P. Isaacs died July 14, 1900, in Walla Walla.

[Note: The 1870 and 1880 censuses state that H. P. and Lucy's eldest child was born in 1861 in Indiana when he was supposedly in Oregon. It's possible he returned to the East for awhile, or the child could be his wife's from a previous marriage.]