

IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

REFERENCE SERIES

CYRUS JACOBS

December 22 or 23, 1831-June 28, 1900

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Cyrus Jacobs was born December 22 or 23, 1831, in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. He moved to Iowa in 1849 with his parents, James and Margaret Jacobs, then to Dayton, Oregon, in 1852. Cyrus clerked in a Portland store, then moved to Walla Walla in about 1860 where he ran his own mercantile business. In 1863 Jacobs was on his way to Bannock City (Idaho City) with a load of goods when he joined Major Lugenbeel's company as temporary sutler. He accompanied the troops to Boise Valley where the major chose the site for Fort Boise and Jacobs opened a tent store to sell goods to emigrants and miners.

Jacobs joined with other settlers to plat Boise City and in 1864 he built the first brick house in town. His family joined him in Boise in July 1864. He replaced his tent store with an adobe structure, and in 1865 replaced that with a brick store on the corner of Seventh and Main streets. In addition to his store, Jacobs operated a flour mill, packing house, brewery, and soap factory. His flour mill also served as the powerhouse for the street railroad system, of which Jacobs was an officer. He served on the city council and was mayor of Boise in 1880 and 1881.

Jacobs married Mary Ellen Palmer (daughter of Oregon pioneer Joel Palmer) on March 16, 1858. Their children were: Ralph, Edith, Fanny, Carrie, Mary, and Alexander Palmer. Cyrus Jacobs died June 28, 1900, in Boise. Mrs. Jacobs died February 18, 1907, in Chicago.

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