

# IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## REFERENCE SERIES

### JOHN LEMP April 21, 1838-July 18, 1912

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John Lemp was born April 21, 1838, in Neiderweisel, Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany. He came to the United States in 1852, clerked in a store in Louisville, Kentucky, then went to the Colorado gold fields in 1858. In July 1863, he arrived in the Boise Valley. He mined for awhile in the Boise Basin, then returned to the young town of Boise and built a brewery which became one of the largest producers in the territory. He later owned several saloons and built some substantial warehouses and business houses, including the Lemp Block on Main Street.

In addition to his real estate investments, Lemp had a large farm where he produced grain, fruit, and livestock. He became involved in the construction of the Settlers Canal in 1887 and owned the canal until 1901. He was also a major stockholder in the First National Bank of Idaho and the Boise Rapid Transit Company, and served as president of the bank from 1882 to 1889. Lemp was a city councilman for about twenty years and served as mayor of Boise from 1874 to 1876. He was president of the Boise Turnverein Club and a strong supporter of the city's volunteer fire department.

John Lemp married Catherine Kohlhepp (or Kahlhapt) on May 7, 1865. She was also from Germany and had come to Boise with her parents in 1864. She died January 7, 1908, in Boise. They had thirteen children, including Emil, George, Elizabeth, Augusta, Ida, Ada, Albert, William, Edward, Herbert, Bernard, and Louise. John Lemp died July 18, 1912, in Boise.

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