

# IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## REFERENCE SERIES

CHRISTOPHER WILKINSON MOORE AND CRAWFORD MOORE  
?-September 20, 1916 and October 22, 1871-June 17, 1939

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Under the administration of Christopher W. Moore and his son, Crawford, the First National Bank of Idaho became one of the state's major banks. Christopher W. Moore was born November 30, 1835, in Toronto, Canada. Moore grew up in Wisconsin, then moved in 1852 to Oregon's Willamette Valley with his family. He worked as a livestock dealer on the west coast until 1862, when he joined the rush to the northern Idaho mines. He soon discovered that selling supplies to the miners was more profitable than searching for gold, and became partners with Benjamin M. DuRell in hauling supplies from Walla Walla to Auburn, Oregon. In the spring of 1863 they brought supplies to the Boise Valley and ended up opening stores in Boise, Idaho City, Ruby City, and Silver City.

The DuRell and Moore stores offered banking services as well as merchandise, and in November 1866, the partners joined with three others in establishing a bank. The charter for their First National Bank of Idaho was granted March 11, 1867. That same year, Moore moved to Boise from Ruby City and worked as cashier of the bank. He was also manager, in name at least, of the Silver City branch of the bank.

During a 1876 dispute among the shareholders, Moore sold his stock, but he reinvested in 1877 and was again elected to the board of directors. He became president of the bank in January, 1889, and was active in that position until his death on September 20, 1916, in Boise. Moore also served as one of the first trustees of the Boise First Methodist Church, and was a president of the Artesian Hot and Cold Water Company and of the Pioneer Society of Boise.

Moore married Catharine Minear on July 3, 1865. She died in 1911. Their children included Alice (Mrs. H. L. Bettis), Laura (Mrs. J. W. Cunningham), Crawford, Anne L., Marion P., and Raymond H. Moore. The family lived in an impressive mansard-roofed house (later owned by Joseph DeLamar) on Grove Street that Moore built in 1878-79. In 1891-92 he built an even grander house on the corner of Warm Springs Avenue and Walnut Street. It was the first house in Boise to be heated with natural hot water.

Crawford Moore, eldest son of C. W. and Catharine Moore, was born October 22, 1871, in Boise. He graduated from Boise High School and attended school in Boston. In 1895 he was elected a director of the First National Bank of Idaho, but resigned after a year to obtain some practical experience in the livestock business in Colorado. He returned to Boise in 1905 and was reelected to the bank's board of directors in January, 1906. He continued his interest in livestock, operating the Big Springs Ranch where he invested in irrigation for pastureland and transplanted grass.

In July 1907, Moore became vice-president of the bank, the first to be also a full-time, salaried employee. A few days after his father's death in September 1916, Moore was appointed president of the bank. During his administration, the bank became a strong supporter of farming and livestock, financing irrigation, land development, and transportation projects. A financial crisis during the Depression forced Moore to close the bank from August 31 to October 31, 1932. After a reorganization of the bank's finances and management, Moore remained the president, but Homer Pitner was brought in to actively manage the bank. Moore resigned as president in December 1938.

Crawford Moore married Mildred Fraser on December 10, 1902.

Their children were Catharine (Mrs. Donald Davidson) and Marjorie (Mrs. C. Robert Davidson). Moore died June 17, 1939, in Boise.

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