

# IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## REFERENCE SERIES

JOSEPH PERRAULT, SR.  
1844-January 30, 1915

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Joseph Perrault, Sr. was born in 1844 in Montreal, Canada, where he graduated from St. Mary's College. He came west in 1864, going first to San Francisco and then to Walla Walla where he managed W. Phillips' hardware store. In 1867 he moved to Lewiston and began a forwarding and commission business, which he sold in 1872 and moved his family to Boise. There he joined his father-in-law, Milton Kelly, as assistant editor of the Idaho Statesman, a job he held until 1878. In 1879 Perrault and his partners built a brick building on the southeast corner of Seventh and Main, and opened a saddle and harness business.

Perrault was appointed Territorial Comptroller and ex-officio Superintendent of Public Schools in January, 1875. In February 1885, he became Territorial Treasurer. He was one of the organizers of the Boise City National Bank, which opened in the Perrault Building in 1886, and he served as the bank's assistant cashier for three years. In 1889 Perrault was appointed receiver of the U.S. Land Office in Boise, and in 1898 he became U.S. Surveyor General for Idaho, a position he held until about 1902. In his later years, he managed the Equitable Life Insurance Company office in Boise.

In addition to his business interests and political appointments, Perrault invested in ranch land and Boise real estate. In 1888 he bought a majority interest in the Boise Valley Water Company.

Perrault married Kate A. Kelly in 1870. They had five children: Delphine, Laura, Louise, Edna, and Joseph, Jr. Perrault died January 30, 1915, in Boise.

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