

IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

REFERENCE SERIES

WILLIAM HENRY RIDENBAUGH
April 17, 1854-August 17, 1922

Number 594

Revised 1981

William H. Ridenbaugh was born April 17, 1854, in St. Joseph, Missouri. After graduating from high school in 1872, he came to Boise to work for his uncle, William H. Morris, who was manager of the Northwestern Stage Company and the Wells Fargo & Company's express office. Ridenbaugh was later made agent of the Wells Fargo office.

After his uncle's death in 1878, Ridenbaugh took over Morris' canal and reclamation project. The land reclaimed included that later occupied by Morris Hill Cemetery, the old fairgrounds, and the county hospital. The canal Morris began became known as the Ridenbaugh Canal. Ridenbaugh also took over the Morris flour mill and the sawmill partnership with Alexander Rossi. He was one of the organizers of the Natatorium Company; he was president of Boise's first electric light company; and he helped secure the railroad right-of-way through Boise. In the 1890's, he built a grand Queen Anne-style home on Boise Avenue near his lumber mill.

Ridenbaugh married Mary Elizabeth Black, a daughter of Boise pioneers Charles and Anna Black, on February 3, 1878. They had one daughter, Mary Florence (later Mrs. Calvin D. Cowles). Ridenbaugh died August 17, 1922, in Boise.

Publications--450 N. 4th Street, Boise, ID 83702--208-334-3428