

IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

REFERENCE SERIES

HENRY CHILES RIGGS, SR.
May 14, 1826-July 3, 1909

Number 595

1981

Henry C. Riggs, Sr. was born May 14, 1826, in Mount Sterling, Kentucky. He served with the Missouri Mounted Volunteers during the 1846-1847 Mexican War and then in 1850 went to California where he operated a hotel in Washington (near Sacramento). He returned to Missouri and married Mary Lipscomb on March 17, 1852. In 1854 the couple went to Yolo County, California, to farm. A few years later they moved to Corvallis, Oregon, where Riggs was elected mayor in 1861.

In July 1863, the Riggs family arrived in the Boise Valley and helped lay out the new town of Boise. Riggs joined with James Agnew in erecting an adobe building on the northeast corner of Seventh and Main streets that housed a saloon and had a livery and feed stable in the rear. In 1864 Riggs was elected a Representative to the territorial legislature, where he introduced bills to remove the capital from Lewiston to Boise and to create a new county around Boise City. When the county was formed, it was given the name Ada in honor of Riggs' eldest daughter. Riggs was twice reelected to the legislature, serving in the Council for the 1865-1866 and 1866-1867 sessions.

Sometime before 1880, Riggs moved to the Emmett area where he farmed. He and his wife had eight children: Cache (died in infancy), Ada, Henry, Jr., Boise, Joel, Mary S., Samuel, and Idaho. Riggs died July 3, 1909, at the Idaho Soldiers' Home; his wife died December 14, 1912.

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