

# IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## REFERENCE SERIES

ALEXANDER H. BOOMER

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Alexander H. Boomer was born in New York state on May 17, 1839. When he was eighteen years old, he moved to western Missouri, then the western frontier. While there, he was employed by the Overland Stage Company that carried mail and passengers to the Pacific Coast. He became one of their managers. During this period, he married and their son, John Henry, was born July 15, 1867, in Independence Missouri.

From 1870 to 1896 he was manager of the northwestern branch of the Overland Stage Company, which covered the area of Idaho, Washington, Oregon, California, Utah, and Montana. The headquarters for Boomer & Company Livery Stable was in Boise. In addition to his stage business, Mr. Boomer was one of the organizers of the Boise City National Bank and was one of its first directors.

The family lived at the corner of Fourth and Idaho streets, known as the "Crutcher House," which was later owned by John Hailey. Four children were born while they lived there: Mary Alice, on February 11, 1871; Alex R., on December 19, 1875; Preston Hamilton, on November 6, 1877; and Fletcher W., on February 28, 1878. Only one of the children, Preston Hamilton, survived their father.

His widespread business activities brought much wealth to Mr. Boomer, and about 1896 they moved to San Jose, California. He had a mail contract in New York City for a number of years, but returned to California about six years before his death. He still owned extensive property in the Boise area at the time of his death.

Alexander Boomer died in San Jose on November 3, 1916. Although they had been gone from Boise for nearly twenty years, Mrs. Boomer offered to donate the Tiffany window--called "The Navitivity" for St. Michael's Cathedral. It was installed in the east transept and dedicated on April 21, 1919, with Mrs. Boomer present. She died in Seattle, August 29, 1923. The only child to survive the parents was Preston who died in 1963. All are buried in the Pioneer Cemetery in Boise.

By Edith Hayes

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