

IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

REFERENCE SERIES

JOSEPH H. HUTCHINSON

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Joseph H. Hutchinson was born at Black Hawk, near Central City, Colorado, in 1864, the son of James and Susan Hutchinson. He attended schools in Denver from the age of 15. In 1883 he won the Woodbury Medal for oratory. For thirteen years Joseph Hutchinson was with the Colorado Mining Stock Exchange, serving as president, secretary, and treasurer. In addition to his mining interests, he took an active part in politics. While in Colorado, he served as chief clerk of the Colorado Assembly.

When James Hutchinson left Colorado for the Silver City mines, Joseph accompanied his family. He became assistant superintendent of the Trade Dollar Mine in the Owyhee Mining District, owned by Andrew Mellon. He continued his interest in politics, and was assistant secretary of the Idaho State Senate in 1895-1896. He served as lieutenant governor of Idaho in 1899-1900, having been nominated by a combination of the Silver Republican and Democratic parties. He was secretary of the first silver club formed in the United States and also secretary of the bimetallic union formed in Salt Lake City in 1895. During his long mining career all over the western United States and even up into the Arctic Circle, he discovered copper in the Seven Devils District, and was one of the first prospectors in the Thunder Mountain area.

He married Helen Hays, daughter of Judge Charles M. Hays, in 1896. They had no children. He died in San Francisco, California, September 3, 1930, and was buried at Reno, Nevada.

By Edith Hayes

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