

# IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY REFERENCE SERIES

## CHARLES A. HACKNEY AND THE OWYHEE AVALANCHE

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Charles A. Hackney was born in Indiana in 1860. He learned the newspaper business working on a morning newspaper in Chicago.

During the Spanish-American War, he served as a corporal in the United States Army in Cuba. After his war service, Hackney worked for various newspapers in the South. He came to Idaho in 1902 from Tennessee. The next year he became editor of the Meadows Eagle, which he ran until 1911, when he discontinued the paper and sold the equipment to L. T. Alexander, who moved it to Jerome, where it became the Lincoln County Times. Hackney's whereabouts for the next three years have not been established, but in February, 1914, he became the publisher of the New Time in Mountain Home. In April of 1914 he changed the name to The Elmore Times. He ran that paper until October of 1915. Sometime after that, he became publisher and editor of the Jordan Valley Express. During World War I, Hackney was active in Red Cross supply work in Jordan Valley, Oregon.

He purchased the Owyhee Leader in Silver City from R. W. Mangun of Silver City in the spring of 1921. He soon changed the name to the Owyhee Avalanche, the name of an old Silver City newspaper that had been discontinued several years earlier. Hackney published the Owyhee Avalanche until he closed it down in December, 1932.

In 1927 he was elected to the Idaho State House of Representatives, where he served two terms as a Republican from Owyhee County. He served as chairman of the committee on school and public lands and served on the printing and educational institution committees. He was described "as dean of the bachelors in the house, he has earned their jealousy by his sartorial and social supremacy, and they are trying to learn his age."

After finishing his service in the legislature and closing out his newspaper, Hackney did a survey of the cemeteries in Owyhee County. Most of that material has not been found; only one article published in the Idaho Statesman, February 17, 1935, contains quotes from his work.

Charles A. Hackney was Master of Silver City Lodge #13 A. F. & A. M. For thirteen consecutive years. He died April 18, 1943, in Boise. Services were conducted at St. Michael's Cathedral (where he was a member) with interment in Silent Camp, Morris Hill Cemetery.

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