



Reference Series #1068

Prominent Idaho Leaders or Achievers Who Make Good Subjects For Student Research and Investigation

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Aside from governors and members of Congress who are easily identified, Idaho has a substantial number of people who make good subjects for student research. Documentary sources or oral history approaches can be utilized to advantage in such investigations.

Lloyd Adams, a Rexburg Republican leader, operated quietly but effectively to influence Idaho political development without attracting an excessive amount of attention.

Chuck Ah Fong, a prominent and highly successful Chinese doctor who had an important Anglo as well as Chinese practice, represents sophisticated Chinese culture in Idaho.

James Franklin Ailshie, a North Idaho attorney and Progressive leader, went on to become an outstanding supreme court justice that climaxed his outstanding political and legal career.

Margaret Cobb Ailshie, a newspaper publisher (*Idaho Daily Statesman*), had a major community influence in Boise particularly. Some of her personal files, as well as extensive newspaper files, help document her career.

Espe (Esperanza) Alegria, a Boise Basque leader, ran a radio program for many years promoting Basque culture. She also did much to assist Basque immigrants with tax forms, citizenship applications, and other requirements that helped them to adjust to an alien land.

Albert Larson Alford, of Lewiston represents an important family engaged in publication (*Lewiston Tribune*) and in North Idaho political life.



Leonard J. Arrington, who came from Twin Falls but now resides in Salt Lake City, is an economist who specialized in western economic and religious history. His contribution to many phases of Idaho's historical development merit scholarly investigation.

Polly Bemis, a Chinese immigrant to Warrens who settled on Salmon River, has received a good deal of attention as an unusually successful and interesting representative of Oriental culture, but more sound historical investigation is appropriate.

Ezra Taft Benson, an Idaho native who eventually became Mormon church president, gained much of his early religious administrative experience in Boise. That aspect of his church and governmental career is a good research subject.

Annie Laurie Bird, a Nampa history teacher who did a great deal of investigation of southwestern Idaho development, has assembled a great deal of research material and is a good subject for historical investigation.

Mary McConnell Borah, naturally has importance in Senator William E. Borah's long career--and she outlived her husband by decades. An independent investigation of her experience is a worthwhile research project.

Carol Ririe Brink, of Moscow has a record of literary publication that offers a suitable subject for historical research and investigation.

Mary Thomas Brooks, a prominent Idaho political leader who became United States Mint director, represents a variety of features of Idaho and National history and is a good candidate for oral interviews.

Alfred Budge, son of William Budge, overcame anti-Mormon discrimination to enter a long and significant state supreme court career. (His son, Hamer, became a member of Idaho's congressional delegation and an important federal official, completing a long Mormon political transition.)



William Budge, one of Idaho's most prominent early Mormon administrators, had a long career as a religious and political leader.

Marguerite Campbell, a Salmon Meadows rancher (with one of Idaho's cattle operations), was an important figure in higher education and legislative operations.

Lafayette Cartee, a prominent Boise nursery operator and Idaho's surveyor general, was an important business and political leader whose career can be documented.

Pete Cenarrusa, a state official with an exceptional record as legislative speaker and secretary of state represents Basque interests as well as ranching success.

Eugene B. Chaffee, developed Boise State University from an unusually successful junior college, where he also served as one of Idaho's earliest effective academic historians.

Calvin Cobb, an *Idaho Daily Statesman* publisher, represented an important early twentieth century Republican element; his close relationship with Gifford Pinchot as well as his association with a number of state leaders makes him a good subject.

Frank Coffin, a prospector from Warrens who set out with John Stanley's party in 1863 to discover gold in Stanley Basin and Atlanta, became a business leader chosen in 1890 to serve a term as state treasurer. His career includes a variety of achievements.

Maude L. Cosho, a hotel owner and legislative member with unusual political power, became a wartime Civil Air Patrol and women's Army Corps officer before going into higher education management.

Laura Moore Cunningham, represents important elements of Boise society and major philanthropic activities of C. W. Moore's banking family; her career includes support for higher education and historic preservation.

George H. Curtis, one of Idaho's early Rhodes' scholars, gained prominence as a New Deal Democrat who retained that preference after most of his leading party colleagues had departed from that course. His experience is well worth historical investigation.



Henry Lawrence Day, a second generation Hecla Mine developer, came from a prominent Wallace family whose achievements have been published in important volumes by John Fahey. Henry L. Day also is a good subject for research.

Eva Hunt Dockery, a prominent *Statesman* staff member for many years prior to 1938, also is a good subject for historical research, partly because of her interest in pioneers.

Ern Eagleson, a state surveyor general and a Boise mayor, had a deep personal interest in Boise Shoshoni people. He contributed in a variety of ways to regional development.

Lydia Justice Edwards, whose ancestry includes a Lewis and Clark member, is a good oral history informant for a variety of aspects of Idaho government.

Myrtle Enking, a Gooding librarian elected state treasurer in 1932, started a tradition of having women hold that office--a precedent that has been maintained from then on.

Permeal J. French, Idaho's superintendent of public instruction elected in 1898, went on to a long career as University of Idaho dean of women, where she had an important impact.

Joseph R. Garry, combines Coeur d'Alene tribal presidential experience with state legislative and national organizational leadership (president, National Congress of American Indians, 1953-1959) in a way that makes his career an outstanding subject for historical, as well as, ethnographic investigation.

Jeanne Givens, a Coeur d'Alene tribal leader with Idaho legislative experience, documents contemporary problems that confront her people and culture.

Emma Edwards Green, whose father had been governor of Missouri before emigrating to California, did a lot more than design Idaho's state seal and choose a state flower. Much of her later Idaho career was devoted to work as a journalist.

Kathleen W. Gurnsey, has had long experience in legislative operations, and is especially useful as an oral history source because of her awareness of significant aspects of Idaho history.



Ora B. Hawkins, a Coeur d'Alene attorney and civic leader, gained experience in a variety of organizations (Camp Fire Girls, Red Cross, National Defense Council, D.A.R., Fortnightly Club, United Spanish War Veterans Auxiliary, and Idaho State Historical Society, among others) that combine to make a useful study.

Janet Hay, with long educational (State Board of Education president) and additional legislative service, dealt capably with many significant Idaho issues.

Anna Hansen Hays, through activity in a long list of Twin Falls area educational, civic, and literary organizations, had a major impact in that region.

Minnie Howard, a medical doctor from Pocatello, took a great interest in local history and had a major impact upon how people of that region view their heritage.

Howard Hunter, Benson's successor as Latter-day Saints church president, completed his elementary and secondary education in Boise--a subject that also is worthy of historical research.

May Arkwright Hutton, a Wallace leader for women's rights (who wandered off to Spokane), is one of Idaho's more unusual historic characters who gained notoriety.

Byron Johnson, has strong historical interests generally, as well as, specifically in Idaho City. An attorney who now serves as a supreme court justice, he is a valuable oral history informant.

Peter Johnson, brought an Idaho approach, as Bonneville Power administrator, to Columbia River electrical management that has an important impact upon Snake River control.

Richard Zina Johnson, a Silver City attorney who became Idaho's attorney general, participated in a variety of important legal and political events that became significant in Idaho's development. Applicable documentary sources are available to illustrate his career.

Grace E. Jordan, an important Idaho author, sheds a great deal of light upon her husband's political career as governor and United States senator, but merits an independent study.



Edith Miller Klein, an attorney with two decades of legislative service and with experience in a D.C. Federal Communications Commission office, a Boise and a New York Federal Housing Administration position, and a War Department office, is willing to join in historical investigation of Idaho issues.

Glen Lungren, a banker and civic leader, has developed a number of successful community programs that make ideal subjects for investigation.

Gertrude McDevitt, through her unusual business experience operating Boise's Mechanafe and her long service administering Idaho's state government historical agency, made important contributions to Idaho history as a representative of an old Idaho City family.

Harry Magnuson, a good oral history informant--had a major role in preserving historic features in Wallace and Murray. His service in managing Idaho's state centennial observance is noteworthy.

C. W. Moore, who joined B. M. DuRell in developing Idaho's initial national bank in 1867, became a prominent Boise pioneer whose career had a significant impact upon community development.

Morley Nelson, whose experience in preserving birds and their habitat has given him an international reputation, is a valuable representative of environmental concern.

Ruth Gipson Plowhead, published books and feature articles relating to northwest life and history during her long literary career in Caldwell.

Alfred M. Popma, a radiologist who did much to develop Idaho hospital and treatment programs, is noted for his pioneer work that contributed significantly to state medical history.

Les Purce, mayor of Pocatello early in his career, went into state fiscal administration and Boise city government as well. His activity combines important aspects of state and local management in a way that is useful for historical investigation.



Ethel Emily Redfield, active in school administration in Lewiston and Pocatello, also served on Idaho's State Board of Education and was active in civic organizations.

Mary Black Ridenbaugh, whose husband developed Boise Valley irrigation projects and lumber mills, was an active civic leader prominent in founding libraries and in University of Idaho activities. She also was a leader of Boise society.

Margaret Roberts, descended from a pioneer Hailey family, had an important leadership function in women's suffrage and rights, as well as a participant in state and community library development. She took over Idaho State Historical Society wartime operations in 1943. Her prominence goes back to late nineteenth century.

Ken Robison, an historian with a long journalistic career, entered legislative service that makes him a good source for information.

H. F. Samuels, a North Idaho attorney and county official had a career that practically no one else could match: he started as a county official at Wallace involved in events during mine labor wars there in 1899 and became a Bonner County Republican multi-millionaire who had Idaho's 1918 Democratic nomination for governor on a socialist platform. Later he was a leading Progressive who did not get elected.

Louise Shadduck, a skilled government administrator and author from Coeur d'Alene, is an excellent subject for historical research and an exceedingly useful informant for oral history. She deals both with state and congressional issues.

Allan G. Shepard's executive (as attorney general), legislative, and supreme court judicial experience make his career especially useful for historical investigation.

Allen P. Slickpoo, a Nez Perce leader and historian, represents many issues of importance to his people. His career covers more recent times.

Drew W. Standrod, also a political leader and a judge from Pocatello, participated in many episodes of Idaho history that are worth investigating.



Minerva Kohlhepp Teichert, an artist from American Falls, gained national recognition for her murals of frontier life in Idaho. She also published volumes concerning pioneer subjects.

Ted Trueblood, a prominent Idaho conservationist, was a leader whose career illustrates important aspects of that approach to state development.

Betty Penson Ward, an *Idaho Daily Statesman* staff member for several decades after 1938, is an excellent subject for oral history on subjects dealing with Idaho society as well as journalism.

Lyman Wilbur, whose father served as chief justice of California and as Calvin Coolidge's Navy Department Secretary, had an important international career of his own with Morrison-Knudsen. His uncle, Ray Lyman Wilbur, was Coolidge's Interior Department secretary and president of Stanford. He is an exceptionally good subject for oral history.

Kitty Wilkins, had an Owyhee horse ranch that produced large numbers of steeds for Midwestern markets. Her operating and marketing success was important.

Elizabeth Wilson, a daughter of Agnes Moses and a granddaughter of Tolo, has had a long career in preservation of Nez Perce culture that can be studied through historical documentation.

Fremont Wood, a prominent Republican leader who became a district judge in charge of a world-famous trial of William D. Haywood, accused of conspiracy to assassinate Governor Frank Steunenberg, had many aspects of his career (aside from that event) that make good subjects for investigation. His participation in releasing Haywood has gained a great deal of attention, but many of his other activities merit study.

Emma Yearian, a noted Lemhi Valley sheep rancher, received broad regional and national notice for her activities. She also engaged in legislative service.

A number of famous major industrialists and commercial magnates (such as Jack Simplot and Joe Albertson) could be added to this list, which could be expanded greatly with more obscure people too. Inclusion of governors, congressional members, and other appropriate subjects could easily expand it into many hundreds.



Idaho also has had many Kootenai, Pend O'reille, Coeur d'Alene, Nez Perce, Bannock, and Shoshoni leaders who merit careful study, but such projects require linguists and ethnologists, rather than historians, for successful pursuit.