



23rd Annual *Esto Perpetua Awards Ceremony*

Bill Scudder Wallace	TAG Historical Research & Consulting Boise	Stephanie Palagi Pocatello
Coeur d'Alene Press Coeur d'Alene	Don Aslett Pocatello	Brandi Burns Island Park
Dulce Kersting-Lark Moscow	Richard L. Hansen Pocatello	Museum of Idaho Idaho Falls
Ryan Hatfield Council		Robert Hoff Idaho Falls



IDAHO STATE
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY



FOUNDATION
for IDAHO HISTORY

"Let It Be Perpetual"

ESTO PERPETUA AWARDS PROGRAM

WELCOME

Doug Petcash, Master of Ceremonies
KTVB News Anchor

OPENING COMMENTS

Bill Butticci, Chair, Board of Trustees
Janet L. Gallimore, Executive Director
Idaho State Historical Society

2022 ESTO PERPETUA AWARDS

Doug Petcash

FOUNDATION FOR IDAHO HISTORY

20TH ANNIVERSARY

Mary Ann Arnold, President

2022 ESTO PERPETUA AWARDS

Doug Petcash

CLOSING COMMENTS

Doug Petcash

IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Idaho State Historical Society is an extraordinary system of cultural and historic resources whose mission is to preserve and promote Idaho's history. Committed to its statewide leadership role, the Idaho State Historical Society actively engages communities throughout Idaho to share information about Idaho's history.



Idaho History Center
Idaho State Archives and Records Center
Lincoln: His Legacy In Idaho Exhibit
Merle Wells Research Center
Idaho State Historical Society Administration Offices

The Idaho State Historical Society began in 1881, and the state legislature established ISHS as a state agency in 1907. The society is comprised of the Idaho State Museum, Old Idaho Penitentiary, Idaho State Archives and Records Center, Idaho State Historic Preservation Office, and statewide historic sites.



Idaho State Museum

The Governor of Idaho appoints a Board of Trustees to govern the Idaho State Historical Society. Through a staff of fifty professionals, 150 volunteers, and numerous affiliates, the Idaho State Historical Society provides essential and dynamic services statewide.



Old Idaho Penitentiary

The Idaho State Historical Society illuminates our state's future and helps people of all ages explore and appreciate Idaho's rich past and learn more about themselves.



State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)

ESTO PERPETUA AWARDS

Esto Perpetua is Idaho's state motto, which translates to *"let it be perpetual."* The Idaho State Historical Society initiated the Esto Perpetua Awards program in 1999 to honor individuals, organizations, and associations for their professional accomplishments, public service, volunteerism, and philanthropy related to the preservation of Idaho's heritage.

The Idaho State Historical Society has sponsored the awards program for the past sixteen years, engaging communities by building on shared experiences and inspiring further action and understanding. The following individuals and organizations will receive this award for outstanding accomplishments in preserving and promoting Idaho's history.

Bill Scudder
Kingston

TAG
Historical Research &
Consulting
Boise

Stephanie Palagi
Pocatello

Coeur d'Alene Press
Coeur d'Alene

Don Aslett
Pocatello

Brandi Burns
Island Park

Dulce Kersting-Lark
Moscow

Richard L. Hansen
Pocatello

Museum of Idaho
Idaho Falls

Ryan Hatfield
Council

Robert Hoff
Idaho Falls

The Esto Perpetua Awards program would not be possible without the generous support of the Foundation for Idaho History, the Idaho State Historical Society Board of Trustees, and especially you. Thank you for attending and supporting the efforts of those working to preserve Idaho's heritage.

ESTO PERPETUA AWARDS



District
One

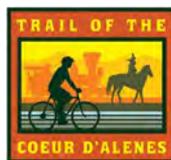
Bill Scudder, Kingston
Nominated by Jim See



Bill Scudder is receiving the Esto Perpetua Award in the *Distinguished Service Category*. The *Distinguished Service*

Category recognizes an individual or organization that received monetary compensation while working to collect, preserve, and promote state and local history.

Throughout his dedicated career as the first and longest-serving Idaho park manager, Bill has truly made significant contributions to the preservation of Idaho history. Bill served as park manager from 1975 to 2007 at the Coeur d'Alene's Old Mission State Park. During his tenure with the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, his job was to protect, preserve, and interpret Idaho's oldest extant building, Old Sacred Heart Mission. Throughout his tenure, his administration implemented additional attractions, including the Visitors Center/Museum and the acquisition of a major, national traveling exhibition, "*Scared Encounters*", which later became a permanent exhibit. The exhibition tells the story of how Jesuit missionaries came to the interior Northwest at the invitation of the Coeur 'd' Alene and Salish Tribes and the profound effects this sacred encounter had on both cultures. Scudder also oversaw the development of the Mission's grounds and the complete restoration of the Old Parish House.



Additionally, Bill engaged with other stakeholders on a major endeavor that resulted in the preservation of seventy-three of the Union Pacific Railroad right-of-way under the Rails-to-Trails program. As a result, this paved trail is now a world-class, premier non-motorized trail.

The Museum of North Idaho recognized Bill with the Friend of History Award and the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation also named him the Beth Durham Moving History Forward: Tale of the Trail recipient as Park Manager of the Year not once, but three times – in 1986, 1996, and 2006. And now the Idaho State Historical Society recognized him as a 2022 Esto Perpetua Awardee. May his contributions to Idaho always "be perpetual".

2022 ESTO PERPETUA AWARDEES



District
One

Coeur d'Alene Press, Coeur d'Alene

Nominated by Friends of the Coeur d'Alene Press

The Coeur d'Alene Press is receiving the 2022 Esto Perpetua Award on its 130th anniversary.

Less than two years after Idaho achieved statehood in 1890, the Coeur d'Alene Press started reporting events near and far.



Joseph T. Scott published the first issue of Idaho's weekly Coeur d'Alene Press on February 20, 1892. In his salutation, Scott stated, *"The people of Kootenai County are here for a purpose: Nature has placed before them crude material for building up a prosperous and wealthy community, and the Press proposes to be one of the factors in this development."* Since 1892 the Press has been promoting and preserving the history of North Idaho and the Pacific Northwest.



The Press has covered noted cultural and natural events encompassing the area's rivers, lakes, mountains, natural resources, and the impacts of timber, mining, and tourism. With article topics ranging from local tugboats and their captains who sailed the lake a century ago to the airport and Farragut Naval Training Station's role in WWII to stories of pioneers, civic leaders, and North Idaho veterans, the Press has ensured that the stories of local happenings and major regional events have become part of Idaho's written record.

The Coeur d'Alene Press may have changed names and altered its print run slightly over its thirteen-decade history, but today, it continues to bring the news of Idaho to its readership in print and digital form. Moreover, mingled in with the news of today, the editors of the paper always leave space for historic content, which does as much to bring history relevance to light as it does to pay homage to the newspaper's deep ties to Idaho history.

2022 ESTO PERPETUA AWARDEES



District
Two

Dulce Kersting-Lark, Moscow Nominated by Joanne Westberg

Energetic, creative, generous, and dedicated are just a smattering of words that her contemporaries use to describe Dulce Kersting-Lark. Dulce has worn

many hats to preserve Idaho's history; Her recognition as an Esto Perpetua Award winner recognizes her efforts as both Curator and Executive Director of the Latah County Historical Society.



Dulce has played an active role in involving, inspiring, and educating the public about the importance of preserving local history. Her collaboration with key stakeholders drew larger attendance at her events and programs, resulting in a true grass-roots growth of support and presence for the Latah County Historical Society. Dulce is generous with her time in supporting the endeavors of other historians throughout Idaho, and the list of presentations, publications, and others services rendered in her community and across the state is extensive.

Aside from leading the Latah County Historical Society, she has been active with many other professional organizations including:

- ◆ Idaho Association of Museums
- ◆ Moscow Central Lions Club
- ◆ Idaho Humanities Council
- ◆ AASLH Leadership in History Awards Review Committee
- ◆ Idaho's Heritage Conference
- ◆ Western Museums Association
- ◆ League of Women Voters Idaho Board of Directors
- ◆ Latah County Parks and Recreation Board



We wish her well in her new role as the University of Idaho's Head of Special Collections.

2022 ESTO PERPETUA AWARDEES



District
Three

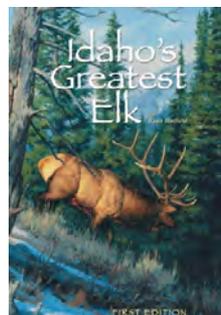
Ryan Hatfield, Council
Nominated by Clete Edmunson

Ryan Hatfield is receiving an Esto Perpetua Award in the *Distinguished Service* Category. The *Distinguished Service*

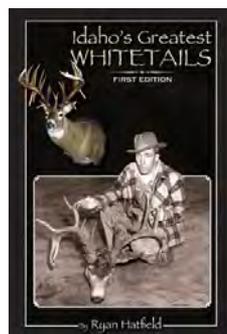
Category recognizes an individual or organization that received monetary compensation while working to collect, preserve, and promote state and local history.



Ryan is a sixth-generation Idahoan whose ancestors settled in Midvale in the 1870's. He was born and raised in Council and went on to receive his bachelor's degree in Forest Resources from the University of Idaho. His roots and pride in Idaho run deep.



Over twenty-five years ago, Hatfield had the foresight and passion to document Idaho's hunting history. For two and a half decades, he conducted interviews, travelling from Washington to Alabama and beyond, to collect stories, photos, and other history associated with Idaho's hunting heritage. When, in the course of conducting research, he encountered a common name like John Smith, Ryan would call every John Smith in the phone book until he connected with the right one. He knew the importance and need for accuracy and attention to detail, and this focus is tangible in his publications, which read as first-person, relatable encounters told by one Idahoan to another. To complement the prose, one only has to look to the brilliantly reproduced photographs and supplementary chapters that address historical elk reintroductions, elk and deer life cycles, and big game management.



This series of *Idaho's Greatest* are an incredible collection of Idaho hunting history and the stories therein depict some of the most outstanding hunts to ever to have taken place in Idaho.

2022 ESTO PERPETUA AWARDEES



District
Four

TAG HISTORICAL RESEARCH & CONSULTING

Nominated by Terri Schorzman

Barbara Perry-Bauer and Elizabeth Jacox make up the dynamic team at TAG Historical

Research & Consulting. TAG is receiving an Esto Perpetua Award in the *Distinguished Service Category*. The *Distinguished Service Category*

recognizes an individual or organization that received monetary compensation while working to collect, preserve, and promote state and local history.



TAG has been in business since 1993, providing quality historical research services to clients around the state of Idaho. The firm has worked on numerous projects for the City of Boise, ranging from architectural and historic resource surveys for the City's Historic Preservation Commission to an array of community research and implementation projects for the Boise City Department of Arts & History to creating and leading walking tours and presentations on the history of the local neighborhoods. Their work spans multiple subject areas including mining history, building histories, immigrant and pioneer history, and migration history.

Additionally, their work has taken them to all corners of the Gem State, providing content for interpretive signs, including the newest interpretive text at Franklin, Rock Creek Station and Stricker Homesite, Wallace, Fremont County, McCall, and other sites along the Weiser River Trail. When not working to engage the public directly, they are hard at work to reach audiences through publications and other written works, which include pieces on South Boise and Boise's trolley system.



TAG is an exemplary example of private citizens working in tandem with state government to

protect historical places, artifacts, and stories. Since 1993 TAG has been key contributor to scholarship on Idaho history and have consistently produced high-quality work and fostered community engagement.

2022 ESTO PERPETUA AWARDEES



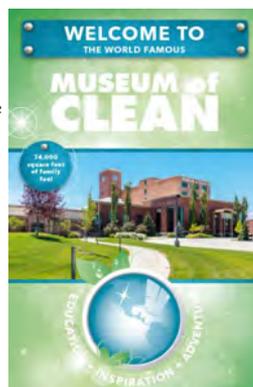
District
Six

Don Aslett, Pocatello Nominated by Brad Kising

Don Aslett, is a multi-business owner, entrepreneur, bestselling author, and the founder of The Museum of Clean in

Pocatello. As proprietor of the Museum of Clean, and a valued member of the Pocatello Community, he is receiving an Esto Perpetua Award in 2022. The museum promotes the value and importance of clean in every aspect of life: clean homes, clean minds, clean language, clean community, and a clean world. Don purchased the museum's current location, which includes two buildings in Old Town Pocatello's Warehouse District, in 2006. The Salt Lake Hardware Company built the main building in 1914, however, it later became the home of a Challenge Butter Creamery. Don completely renovated and repurposed the buildings to house the museum.

The 75,000-square-foot museum complex houses many historic items from Idaho's history. A recent acquisition includes an 1880s dog treadmill used to power a washing machine. Don found this rare piece in Howe, Idaho, and the original owners claimed it had been used through the mid-1970s. The Museum of Clean restored the piece for display. Another Idaho relic exclusively on display at the museum is Muffler Man, Big Don, now known as The World's Largest Janitor. Muffler Men were fiberglass advertising giants from the 1960s and early 1970s. The Museum of Clean is a cultural centerpiece for Pocatello and Southeast Idaho. It is Pocatello's leading tourist attraction, positively impacting the local economy and is an inspirational centerpiece for the rejuvenation of the Historic Warehouse District of Pocatello.



2022 ESTO PERPETUA AWARDEES



District
Six

Richard L. Hansen

Nominated by Lynn Murdoch

Richard has spent much of his life collecting and preserving Idaho memorabilia, particularly Idaho Tokens. He has built an extensive personal collection and has created an electronic database of over 8,000 Idaho trade tokens, which has warranted recognition as an Esto Perpetua Award winner in 2022. Richard has compiled the information in this database and written and self-published book, *Idaho Trade Tokens, 1805-2005*, detailing all the known tokens in Idaho.



In addition to the culmination of his lifelong work, Richard has also been instrumental in supporting the Bannock County Historical Museum (BCHM) inventory and accession the Greg Manos estate. Greg Manos bequeathed his extensive Bannock County collection of 30,000+ artifacts and documents to the BCHM. Richard completed the initial inventory, packing, and delivery to the museum almost entirely alone. The collection included important local history items such as telegrams from Shirley Temple, Charlie Chaplin, and Tyrone Powers, congratulating the manager of the Chief Theatre on its grand opening, and many items relating to Bannock County businesses and lodges.

Richard has been a constant presence within the Bannock County community of history advocates. He has served as a BCHS Board member for over fifteen years, serving as both vice president and president during his tenure on the Board. He has also served on the Fort Hall Replica Commission for the City of Pocatello.

A true Idaho treasure, preserving the past for the future.

2022 ESTO PERPETUA AWARDEES



District
Seven

Stephanie Palagi, Pocatello Nominated by Randy Dixon

Stephanie Palagi, President and CEO of Historic Downtown Pocatello, is receiving an Esto Perpetua Award in the *Distinguished Service Category*. The *Distinguished Service Category* recognizes an individual or organization that received monetary compensation while working to collect, preserve, and promote state and local history.

For over eighteen years, Ms. Palagi has been a driving force behind the revival of Pocatello's Historic District. From vision to planning to grant writing, she has led the charge to rebuild and promote the district. In addition, she has significantly contributed to the Pocatello Downtown Development Plan, which prioritizes the preservation and rehabilitation of downtown Pocatello. With the assistance of the Pocatello Development Authority and Historic Downtown Pocatello, Ms. Palagi purchased and renovated the building and grounds that have become home to Historic Downtown Pocatello, Portneuf Valley Farmers Market, Mystic Market, and Food Truck Round Up, among others.

In 2012 Stephanie formally created a Historic Downtown Pocatello committee to study the feasibility of restoring the Chief Theater neon sign and placing it downtown Pocatello. A devastating and tragic fire destroyed the theater's interior in 1993, leaving only the façade and neon sign in place. The committee, named "Relight the Night" has remained active, and has continued restoring Pocatello's other historic neon signs. Ms. Palagi has continued to serve as a member of the committee since its establishment in 2012.

The Pocatello community recognizes Ms. Palagi's vision, efforts, and dedication to the preservation of the history of Pocatello and in receiving an Esto Perpetua Award, so to does the Idaho State Historical Society.



2022 ESTO PERPETUA AWARDEES



District
Seven

Brandi Burns, Island Park Nominated by Hayley Noble

Brandi Burns is receiving an Esto Perpetua Award in the *Distinguished Service Category*. The *Distinguished Service Category* recognizes an individual or organization that received monetary compensation while working to collect, preserve, and promote state and local history.

Brandi served as the History Programs Manager at the Boise City Department of Arts & History for eight years, and previously as the Boise City Historian for four years. In those positions, she was instrumental in documenting and sharing Boise's history, managing:

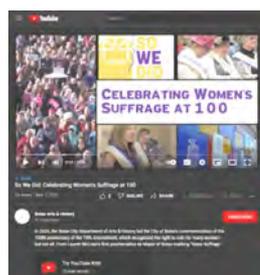
- ◆ "So We Did" project commemorating the passage of the 19th Amendment
- ◆ Boise Greenbelt's 50th Anniversary-programming and exhibits
- ◆ Fettuccine Forums—public presentations
- ◆ Departments Oral History collection
- ◆ Walking Tours
- ◆ Conferences and more

She continued to be a resource to Idahoans through research requests and consulting the *Idaho Statesman* and Boise State Public Radio concerning historical roots of contemporary issues. She has represented Idaho through numerous committees and positions:

- ◆ Regional Chair on the American Association for State and Local History National Leadership Team
- ◆ Western Museum Association Conference
- ◆ Organization of American Historians Public History Committee Chair

A native Idahoan, Brandi has spent her entire career promoting Idaho history, demonstrating the relevance of history, and creating ways to share it.

In 2021, Brandi accepted the position of Executive Director at the Museum of Yellowstone in West Yellowstone, Montana, where she continues sharing Western American History with all of us.



2022 ESTO PERPETUA AWARDEES



District
Seven

Museum of Idaho (MOI)

Nominated by Jeff Carr



The Museum of Idaho is receiving an Esto Perpetua Award for its flagship Idaho exhibition, *Way Out West*, which opened in 2021 and is a particularly impactful accomplishment in the preservation and promotion of Idaho history.

The museum began earnest work on the *Way Out West* in 2017. The core *Way Out West* project team, consisting of Director of Exhibitions Rod Hansen, then-Curator Carrie Anderson Athay, and then-Director of Education Chloe Doucette (since promoted to Sr. Director of Programs and Engagement), began by identifying major themes, by surveying the museum's existing artifact collections and documented stories, and by initiating conversations with scholars, subject-matter experts, and community stakeholders. In 2018, the staff began collecting additional material in both English and Spanish, through forms and events in diverse communities held around Eastern Idaho to solicit stories and feedback on what should be included in a far-reaching, inclusive story of the region's history.

In addition to the individual stories and artifacts provided for the exhibition, the museum partnered



with numerous groups, including the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, the National Park Service, Idaho Public Television, and the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes.

The finished exhibition spans 13,000 years of Idaho history across 14,000 square feet. The seven themed galleries approach the region from numerous angles, including ancient history, geology, natural resources, early settlers and industries, and Idaho's historical impact on the broader world. The exhibition contains more than 250 labeled and interpreted artifacts, as well as numerous interactive elements aimed at different audiences and modes of learning.

2022 ESTO PERPETUA AWARDEES



District
Seven

Robert “Bob” Hoff Nominated by Kim Lee

A native of East Idaho, Bob Hoff's Idaho roots run deep. His grandfather, Rasmus Hoff,



purchased Idaho property along Bonneville County's southern border from Sam Taylor, an original homesteader. Today that property—the 2,400-acre Rainbow Ranch – s a thriving potato farm, growing Russet Burbanks, wheat, and acres of alfalfa. Bob Hoff is receiving an Esto Perpetua Award in 2022 in recognition of his service to the Bonneville County Historical Society and his efforts to preserve the built environment that tells the local history of eastern Idaho.

Bob is trustee of the Bonneville County Historical Society (now the Museum of Idaho) and continues to contribute his time, talents, and resources to ensure its ongoing success. Additionally, Bob has been instrumental in preserving the Red Baron Hanger, which is located adjacent to the Idaho Falls Airport. The hanger and the other structures on the property were built between 1930-1936 and are significant to local history as they represent air-related transportation, area commerce, and community life. Having grown up in a “Flying Family”, Bob has many wonderful memories of his time at the hanger. Previously under threat of demolition, Bob invested his own personal and financial capital to ensure its preservation. His efforts are a testament to his passion to preserve Idaho history. The hanger, along with its contemporaneous administrator's cabin and 1930 beacon, are now listed on the National Register of Historic Places (1997) and continues to serve the Idaho Falls aviation community.



Bob's life is full of successful efforts to preserve Idaho's historical assets. Through his work with the Bonneville County Historical Society, preserving the family farm, (listed as an Idaho Century Farm), and the preservation of the Red Baron Hanger, Bob has contributed a lifetime of extraordinary effort to the preservation, interpretation, and dissemination of Idaho history. He is a role model for family, friends, and community members, on how to advocate for and preserve our history.



FOUNDATION for IDAHO HISTORY

On the 20th anniversary of the Foundation for Idaho History we give special thanks to the founding members and the past and present Board of Directors for their continuing support of the Idaho State Historical Society.

Jessica Anderson, Boise

Mary Ann Arnold, Boise, President

Hope Benedict, Salmon

Bill Butticci, Emmett

Roy Eiguren, Boise

Dixie Grant, Boise, Treasurer

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W. James (Jim) Johnston, Pocatello

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David Leroy, J.D., Boise

Bill March, Mayfield

Mikkel McBride, Meridian

Evelyn Self, Eagle

Chris Smith, Boise, Secretary

Neal Squires, Nampa

Justin Vipperman, Wendell

The Foundation for Idaho History (FIH) works in partnership with the Idaho State Historical Society (ISHS) to preserve and promote Idaho's cultural heritage. The mission of the FIH is to advise and assist in attracting private financial support for the ISHS to aid in achieving institutional goals, vital community programming, and world-class exhibitions for students, teachers, and the citizens of Idaho.

[Foundation for Idaho History](#) | [Idaho State Historical Society](#)



*Thank you to our
Master of Ceremonies
Doug Petcash*

*Anchor of KTVB week day News
at Noon, 4, and 6 o'clock and Sunday News at 10*

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IDAHO STATE SEAL



Emma Edwards Green's pencil and ink sketch of the Idaho state seal.

Idaho became the 43rd state on July 3, 1890, and at the time, Idaho had not officially adopted a state seal. However, the state constitution outlined that the territorial seal would be the official seal until the legislature adopted a new design. In 1891, the first legislature appointed a joint committee to recommend the new state seal design. The committee announced a call to artists for potential renderings, and artists from New York, Boston, and Chicago, among other places, submitted designs. However, the committee

overwhelmingly selected a local submission from Miss Emma Edwards Green as the winning design.

Emma Edwards was born in 1856 to Emma Catherine Richards and John Edwards in Stockton, California.

Emma received a first-class education and had shown promising artistic talents as a young girl. She arrived in Boise in 1890 and submitted a drawing in the state seal contest. On March 14, 1891, the Idaho Legislature passed Concurrent Resolution No. 1, officially adopting her design as the state seal. To this day, Idaho's state seal is the only seal believed to be drawn by a woman.



Emma Edwards Green

Emma's design represented Idaho's most prominent industries—mining, agriculture, and timber. It also highlighted elements of Idaho's flora and fauna and its vast water resources. Emma intentionally placed a man and woman on equal footing and at equal stature as the focal point of her design. At the time, Idaho and several other western states were contemplating women's suffrage. This design reinforced the notion that women had, and would always have, a prominent place in Idaho's political and social circles. Since 2020, Idaho has officially recognized March 14th as Idaho Women's Day to pay homage to Miss Emma Edwards Green's design and honor and recognize women's contributions and influence in Idaho.



A BIT OF HISTORY

In 1881, eighteen years after the creation of Idaho Territory, and nine years before statehood, a group of visionary settlers formed the Historical Society of Idaho Pioneers. They vowed to collect and preserve information connected with the early settlement of the Idaho Territory. Twenty-six years later, on March 12, 1907, the Idaho Legislature established the Idaho State Historical Society as a component of state government. As a result, the agency became the steward of the array of “literary and scientific artifacts” that the Historical Society of Idaho Pioneers had gathered over several decades and had housed at various locations, including the home of Ella Cartee Reed, Boise’s City Hall, and the Boise Carnegie Library. The State Historical Society aspired to grow the collections related to the state’s history and sought pioneer narratives, information on Indian tribes, artifacts, books, manuscripts, pamphlets, and newspapers. John Hailey, an entrepreneur, historian, former Vice President of the Pioneer Historical Society, and Idaho’s Territorial delegate to the U.S. Congress, served as the agency’s first secretary/librarian until he died in 1921. Under his leadership, the agency moved into the basement of the Idaho State Capitol and used that space to exhibit its historical relics and holdings.



Idaho Pioneers reunion, 1899

Between 1921 and 1956, women ran the agency under various titles, including secretary, librarian, and historian. They worked to preserve Idaho’s history while also managing the administration of the agency. During this time, the agency implemented new cataloging systems and launched a county historian program to expand the agency’s work across the state. In 1939, the legislature authorized funding for a new facility that would feature the agency’s collections, and the Idaho State Historical Museum opened in Boise’s Julia Davis Park in 1950. With the enthusiastic support of Governor Robert Smylie and funding from J.R. Simplot, the Board of Trustees in 1956 hired the agency’s first professional director, H.J. Swinney. Under Swinney’s leadership, the agency launched several strategic initiatives to



Idaho State Historical Museum

IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

professionalize the agency, including a membership program and children's programming at the museum. Around the same time, the agency also hired its first professionally trained historian, Dr. Merle Wells. Although he had volunteered with the agency since the 1940s, his contributions as State Historian led to the launch of the agency's publications program, featuring *Idaho Yesterdays* and *The Mountain Light*; the creation of the highway historical marker program; the creation of the thematic Reference Series.



Dr. Merle Wells

Throughout the 20th century, the agency became a leader in the field of historic preservation. Our staff's

contributions to national dialogues resulted in the creation of the Federal State Historic Preservation Program in the late 1960s. Idaho formed its State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) in the early 1970s, and the agency acquired Boise's original Assay Office to house this department. During the 1970s and 1980s, the agency focused on historic preservation and



State Historic Preservation Office

program expansion and acquired several other historic sites, including the Pierce Courthouse (1972); Old Idaho Penitentiary (1975); the Hatch and Doney House, and ZCMI Store in Franklin (1979-2002); and Rock Creek Station and Stricker Ranch (1984). Since the early 2000s, the agency has continued to expand its array of essential services. The agency moved the Idaho State Archives into a purpose-built facility in 2005, and it completed a redesign and expansion of the Idaho State Museum in 2018. Over the last 140 years, our agency supported various national and regional commemoration efforts, including the 1976 American Revolution Bicentennial, the 1990 State Centennial, the 2013 Idaho Territorial Sesquicentennial, the 2003-2006 Lewis and Clark Bicentennial, and 2020 Commemoration of the 19th Amendment. Today, the Idaho State Historical Society is an extraordinary system of cultural and historic resources whose mission is to preserve and promote Idaho's history. We envision a future where history is essential and accessible through dynamic and gratifying services that inspire, enrich, and engage all Idahoans.



“Let It Be Perpetual”

Governor Brad Little

Executive Director, Janet L. Gallimore



IDAHO STATE
**HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

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*Appointed by the Governor,
the Board of Trustees each represent
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ensure geographic representation.*

The Idaho State Historical Society is an extraordinary system of cultural and historic resources comprised of the Idaho State Museum, State Archives, State Historic Preservation Office, and Old Idaho Penitentiary and Historic Sites Program. Our vision is to make history essential and accessible through dynamic and gratifying services that inspire, enrich, and engage all Idahoans.

Idaho State Historical Society
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