

Idaho History Timeline



14,000 to 8,000 years ago: Mammoths in Idaho. Paleo-Indian big game-hunters: Clovis culture-12,000-11,000 years ago; Folsom culture-11,000-10,600 years ago, and Plano culture-10,600-7,800 years ago.

7,800-1,300 years ago: Archaic culture with subterranean dwellings and increased plant processing.

1,300-260 years ago: Indian culture with horses for transportation, pottery, and bows and arrows.

1803: U.S. purchased Louisiana Territory.

1805: Captains Meriwether Lewis and William Clark enter Idaho at Lemhi Pass.

1809: Kullyspell House fur trading post built by Canadian fur traders near Lake Pend d'Orielle.

1810: First American-owned fur post west of Rocky Mountains, Fort Henry, established near St. Anthony, Idaho.

1811: Pacific Fur Company parties (Overland Astorians) under Wilson Price Hunt explored future Oregon Trail in Idaho.

1819: Adams-Onis treaty between Spain and U.S. established Idaho's southern border on 42nd Parallel.

1833: Captain B.L.E. Bonneville explored Snake River and Salmon River regions.

1834: Fort Boise and Fort Hall established.

1836: Henry H. Spalding established mission and school near Lapwai, Idaho.

1843: First Oregon Trail wagons crossed Idaho.

1849: More than 20,000 gold rush emigrants passed through southeastern Idaho on California Trail. U.S. Military post, Cantonment Loring, established near Fort Hall.

1853: Washington Territory, including Idaho, created.

1855: Salmon River mission (Fort Lemhi) established by Mormon missionaries.

1860: Franklin, first town in Idaho, established.

1860-63: Major mining strikes in Clearwater River, Salmon River, and Boise Basin regions.

1863: Idaho became a territory, with Lewiston as its capital. Sidney Edgerton, Aleck C. Smith, and Samuel C. Parks appointed first justices of Idaho's Territorial Supreme Court. Richard Williams appointed first U.S. District Attorney for Idaho.

1864: Idaho Territory capital moved to Boise after heated political dispute. First 23 attorneys admitted to practice law in Idaho's District Courts. Idaho's first term of District Court held.

1866: Telegraph service reaches Idaho. Idaho Supreme Court admitted first 29 attorneys to practice law in all Idaho courts. Idaho's first public library, a territorial law library, established at Boise.

1866-68: Snake Indian War.

1867: Owyhee Miners' League established as Idaho's first labor union.

1870: Idaho population-17,804.

1872: U.S. Assay office and Idaho prison completed.

1874: Railroad service reaches Idaho at Franklin.

1877-1878: Nez Perce and Bannock Indian Wars.



Fort Hall circa 1849
(Library of Congress)



Pierce Courthouse
built in 1862
(Idaho State
Historical Society)

1880 to 1919

1880: Idaho population-32,610.

1881: Historical Society of Idaho Pioneers formed to collect and preserve Idaho history.

1882: Idaho's first electric light at Philadelphia Smelter near Ketchum.

1883: Commercial telephone service in Idaho begins at Hailey.

1884: Silver discovered in Coeur d'Alene Mining District. Idaho's first Attorney General, D.P.B. Pride, appointed by legislature.

1887: First publicly available compilation of Idaho laws, the *Revised Statutes*, published.

1889: Constitutional Convention convened on July 4. Constitution ratified by voters on November 5. Idaho legislature established University of Idaho.

1890: Idaho population-88,548. Idaho becomes 43rd state. John T. Morgan, Joseph W. Huston, and Isaac N. Sullivan are first Justices of Idaho State Supreme Court.

1891: James H. Beatty became first U.S. District Judge for Idaho. John R. McBride was first lawyer to practice in Idaho's new federal courts.

1892: Labor-related violence in Coeur d'Alene Mining District of northern Idaho.

1893: Economic depression.

1894: Carey Act opened millions of acres of federal land in Idaho to irrigation and settlement.



Bunker Hill Mine after explosion, 1899
(Idaho State Historical Society)

1895: Helen M. Young was first woman admitted to practice law in Idaho.

1896: Idaho was fourth state in U.S. to give women the right to vote.

1899: Mineworker unrest in northern Idaho resulted in Bunker Hill Company mine dynamited. Troops sent in to quell violence.

1900: Idaho population-161,722. Nine new county courthouses built before 1920.

1902: Reclamation Act used federal funds to build large dams, reservoirs, and canals in Idaho.

1904: New Idaho Supreme Court building constructed at Lewiston.

1905: Former Governor Frank Steunenberg assassinated.

1906: Largest sawmill in U.S. opens at Potlatch, Idaho.

1907: William E. Borah elected to Senate. Trial of William D. "Big Bill" Haywood for Steunenberg's assassination becomes Idaho's "Trial of the Century."

1909: Idaho's first College of Law established at University of Idaho.

1910: Idaho population-325,594. Forest fires consumed one-sixth of northern Idaho's forests. Idaho Anti-Saloon League endorsed 'dry' candidates.

1912: State Board of Education established.

1914: Moses Alexander elected first Jewish governor in U.S. Idaho's U.S. senators elected by popular vote rather than by state legislature for first time.

1916: First all-female jury selected in an Idaho district court.

1917: U.S. enters World War I. Battleship Idaho launched. Idaho's Workmen's Compensation Act passed.



William E. Borah
(Library of Congress)

1920 to 1979

1920: Idaho population-431,866. State Capitol Building completed. Prohibition became law in U.S. Agriculture and timber depression in Idaho. Philo Farnsworth, a 15-year-old student from Rigby, Idaho, developed concepts that led to invention of television.

1922: Idaho's first radio station, KFAU at Boise High School, went on air.

1923: Idaho established statewide Small Claims Court.

1924: Craters of the Moon National Monument established.

1926: First commercial airmail service in U.S. began in Boise. Frank S. Dietrich was first Idahoan appointed to U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

1929: Wall Street crash followed by economic depression. Adelyne Changers was first woman to argue and win a case before Idaho Supreme Court.

1930: Idaho population-445,032. Ten county courthouses built under New Deal programs.

1935: Idaho repealed statewide Prohibition.

1936: Sun Valley resort established by Union Pacific Railroad. World's first ski chair lift opened at Sun Valley.

1939: Joe Albertson opened his first supermarket in Boise.

1940: Idaho population-524,873.

1941: U.S. enters World War II. J.R. Simplot began potato dehydration operations in Caldwell, Idaho.

1942: Japanese-Americans placed in internment camp near Eden, Idaho.

1949: National Reactor Testing Station (NRTS) established.

1950: Idaho population-588,637.

1951: World's first use of nuclear fission to produce electricity took place in Idaho. Experimental Breeder Reactor No. 1 was later designated a National Landmark.

1953: Television came to Idaho with KIDO-TV in Boise.

1960: Idaho population-667,191.

1966: Voters upheld a 3% state sales tax.

1967: Magistrate Division of District Court established. Legal Aid programs began at Lewiston, Emmett, and Pocatello.

1970: Idaho population-713,015. National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) passed by Congress.

1972: Fire at Sunshine Mine in Kellogg took 91 lives.

1975: Port of Lewiston opened Idaho to ocean-going shipping. New Idaho State Prison opened south of Boise.

1976: Teton Dam collapsed, killing eleven and forcing thousands to flee their homes.

1977: Governor Cecil D. Andrus appointed Secretary of the Interior. U.S. Supreme Court ruled that First Amendment protected commercial advertising by lawyers.

1978: Idaho's first U.S. Bankruptcy Judge was Merlin S. Young.

1979: Senator Frank Church became chairman of Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Idaho Supreme Court modified court rules to allow television in criminal proceedings.



**Ada County Courthouse built in the late 1930s,
postcard image.**



Frank Church
{Idaho State
Historical Society}

1980 to 2010

1980: Idaho population-944,038. Eruption of Mt. St. Helens in Washington left parts of Idaho covered with layer of volcanic ash.

1981: Senator James McClure became chairman of Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee in 97th-99th Congress.

1982: Idaho's new Court of Appeals opened with Judges Jesse R. Walters (Chief Judge), Donald R. Burnett, and Roger Swanstrom.

1983: An earthquake measuring 7.3 on Richter scale killed two Challis, Idaho, children and caused millions of dollars in damage. Idaho's first female District Judge, Deborah Bail, appointed.

1984: Harmon Killebrew of Payette, Idaho, inducted into Baseball Hall of Fame. First U.S. Magistrate Judge, Mikel H. Williams, appointed in Idaho.

1985: Two Idaho teachers, David Marquart (Boise) and Barbara Morgan (McCall) among finalists in NASA's Teacher in Space program.

1988: Idaho's affiliate of American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) founded.

1990: Idaho population-1,006,749. Idaho celebrates statehood centennial. Larry Echohawk elected Idaho Attorney General, first American Indian in U.S. to be a state attorney general.

1992: Linda Copple Trout became first woman appointed to Idaho Supreme Court.

1993: Betty H. Richardson became first female U.S. Attorney for Idaho.

1994: Idaho ranked third nationwide in population growth with 33,000 more residents.

1998: Idaho's first Drug Courts established.

1999: New federal courthouse opened at Pocatello.

2001: The 1,000th woman admitted to Idaho State Bar.

2002: Idaho's first Mental Health Court established.

2005: Idaho Legal History Society organized to preserve Idaho's legal history.

2008: Candy Wagahoff Dale became Idaho's first female federal judge. Economic recession: bankruptcy filings in Idaho's U.S. Courts increased by 41 percent in 2008 and 45 percent in 2009.

2009: Idaho lawyer Larry EchoHawk appointed U.S. Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs by President Barack Obama. New federal courthouse opened at Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.



Federal Courthouse at Pocatello, 1999.



Links:

Bureau of Land Management in Idaho: www.blm.gov/id/st/en/prog/cultural/lower_salmon_river/projectile_points.html

Idaho State Historical Society Timeline: http://history.idaho.gov/history_timeline

Idaho State Historical Society Digital Collections: <http://idahohistory.cdmhost.com/>