

IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

REFERENCE SERIES

VALLEY COUNTY

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Before its creation by a legislative act of February 26, 1917, lands that became Valley County had, at one time or another, been included in Alturas (only a very small portion), Boise, Idaho, and Lemhi counties. With a number of mountains and valleys remote from settled areas, much of Valley County's geography was not understood at all accurately, so some of its antecedent boundaries were rather strange. An early general plan to place Upper Salmon areas (along with Upper Boise drainage) in Alturas County, but assign all Upper Payette streams to Boise County, and Lower Salmon territory to Idaho County, had some exceptions. These lasted until a considerable transfer to Lemhi County affected later Valley County, January 10, 1873. But by January 21, 1885, practically all of Valley County's later area was in Idaho County. Then Boise County regained its Payette territory, January 15, 1887. That general pattern continued until Valley County came three decades later. A series of four maps, however, is required to indicate those changes following an initial Idaho and Boise County split (44°30') that Idaho's legislature retained, February 4, 1864. (An 1885 error in county boundary codification accounts for a statutory transfer of all Boise County's portion. That blunder doubtless was ignored until it was corrected two years later.) Continued inclusion of remote areas including places like Payette Lake in Boise County after Long Valley was settled and developed, clearly was inappropriate, but reasonable adjustments came slowly.

Map Contents:

1. Alturas segment, January 12, 1866 - April 1, 1881.
2. Boise and Lemhi expansion, January 10, 1873 - January 21, 1885.
3. Boise error and Lemhi retraction, January 21, 1885.
4. Boise correction, January 15, 1887.

(This information has not been edited.)

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