

# IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## REFERENCE SERIES

### ORIGINAL SLATE OF TERRITORIAL OFFICERS 1863

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A week after Idaho was created, March 4, 1863, President Lincoln appointed a compliment of territorial officers. Heading the list was William H. Wallace, whose close connection with the new territory and whose personal connections with the President made him the logical choice for governor. The rest of the Idaho vacancies Lincoln filled upon the advice of Wallace, A. G. Henry and most of the Oregon and California delegations in Congress. The slate included William Brinsmade Daniels for Secretary, Dolphus S. Payne for Chief Justice, Sidney Edgerton and Alex C. Smith, Associate Justices, and Richard Williams for U. S. Attorney, Lincoln put Payne in the United States Marshal's post (which the Henry-Wallace slate had not referred) and added a new appointee, Samuel C. Parks of Illinois for Judge. Williams was appointed but declined soon after. The U. S. attorney's post was not filled until February, 1864, when Lincoln appointed George C. Hough. Hough was the only Idaho resident among the first batch of Idaho officials. He had been endorsed by Wallace and by a number of prominent Idaho Republicans. At least two of the appointees owed their offices either to family ties or to personal acquaintances. The new Secretary, W. B. Daniels, was a friend of McBride and an ardent Republican coworker in the Oregon Congressman's home county, Yamhill. He was rumored to have resigned the Idaho post to accept a position as secretary to Dr. James McBride, father of John R., who was commissioned Minister to Hawaii in April, 1863. The rumor proved false. Alexander C. Smith, from Olympia, was "a son-in-law of Dr. [A. G.] Henry's which accounts for the milk in that cocoanut," an interested Portland onlooker scornfully remarked. Parks, Payne, and Edgerton were easterners with both eastern and western backing.

#### References:

W. H. Wallace file, State Department Applications and Recommendations for Office, National Archives, Record Group 59; Petition of Lewiston residents to Abraham Lincoln, September 9, 1863, Justice Department records relating to the appointment of Federal Judges, Attorneys, and Marshals for the Territory and State of Idaho, National Archives, Record Group 60; Hubert H. Bancroft, Idaho Scraps, 111 (Bancroft Library Manuscript Collection, University of California), 7; Oregon Statesman, April 6, 1863, p. 3, c. 1, April 20, 1863, p. 2, c. 1; May 11, 1863, p. 4, c. 2.

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