

BOISE CITY DEPARTMENT OF ARTS & HISTORY

# GOVERNMENT ISLAND MONUMENT

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A SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF IDAHO  
PIONEERS ARTIFACT

**BOISE CITY  
DEPT OF ARTS  
& HISTORY**

150 N. CAPITOL BLVD  
BOISE, ID 83701

# BACKGROUND

## OF THE SONS & DAUGHTERS OF IDAHO PIONEERS

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### ORGANIZATION HISTORY

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The Sons and Daughters of Idaho Pioneers was an organization started in May 1925 to celebrate “pioneers” who had come to Idaho. Their first official act was to erect a monument in honor of George Grimes, “the discoverer of gold in the Boise Basin.” The cost of the monument, including installation, was \$150.

The group set about over the next decades commemorating Idaho and Boise history. Their programs included an annual event called “Pioneer Day,” which grew in size each year. In addition, they held dances and restored Boise landmarks. One such landmark was the Coston Cabin, which they placed in Pioneer Village, a place they founded in 1933. They were also involved in restoring the O’Farrell Cabin. Additionally, the organization supported Boise institutions like the Historical Museum and the Boise Art Museum.

One of their signature programs included dedicating monuments across the state. One document in the manuscript collection indicates that they dedicated 47 monuments in Southwest Idaho. They celebrated the installation of monuments with a dedication celebration – their minutes indicate the monument about the original Fort Boise near Parma drew a crowd of 300 to 400 people. (The monuments were made from Boise sandstone – see attached letter, August 2, 1945). In many cases they used local businesses to furnish the monuments, such as the Jellison Brothers Marble & Granite Works business on Main Street.

Their charter membership records reads like a “Who’s Who” in Boise. For example, one of their presidents was Herbert Lemp, an elected mayor of Boise. He was serving as president of the Historical Section of the organization (he had just recently been elected to this position after serving as President of the organization) when he was in the polo accident that eventually killed him. Before he died in the hospital they swore him in as Boise’s mayor.

The Sons and Daughters of Idaho Pioneers viewed the creation and placing of monuments as a core program of the organization. Ida Butler served as the organization’s historian in the 1940s, and wrote several articles for the paper about the monuments. For the organization’s records she wrote the following about the monuments. I have highlighted key phrases about how they viewed the monuments:

*Community Participation* has been one of the splendid outcomes of the activities aimed at saving our history.

Hundreds of monuments have been erected at strategic points along historic trails during the past twenty years. Tens of thousands of people in the aggregate—the rank and file of American citizenry—have participated in dedicating these enduring records to the memory of our pioneers.

This investment by the common people in their own historical resources has been widespread. In open country, in hamlet and city, even out on the desert, they have gathered. Their reward was to learn stirring history where it happened. More than this, they gained a new sense of sponsorship and pride in the historic shrines close to their lives.

Historical horizons have been broadened. Every commemoration at a storied scene has helped to place the participating community in the national picture.

The commingling of national and state leaders with the folk of various local communities is this patriotic service has also served to widen the historical outlook and give it deeper significance. Through the years Presidents, Congressmen, Governors of different states, Mayors, and Commissioners, religious leaders, educators, business executives, officials of historical and civic societies and youth organizations, have taken active interest in the movement, giving it prominence and added strength.

Even more vitally significant, however, is the eager interest of the local leaders, and the common folk in [this] great cause. Their devoted work on special projects close to their hearts; their presence in numbers at the various commemorations [is] evidence their deep and abiding love for the pioneers of America.

It is this spirit, manifest on every occasion, that infuses the work and makes of every monument, not merely a piece of stone and bronze, but a living symbol of true Americanism.

-Ida Butler

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## GOVERNMENT ISLAND MONUMENT

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The monument on Government Island was erected in December 1933 by the organization. Its purpose was to commemorate Colonel Pinkney Lugenbeel's arrival in the valley to scout a location for Fort Boise. Colonel Lugenbeel and his men camped at Government Island while they searched for a suitable location. They settled on a location on July 4, 1863, and then a few days later on July 7, 1863, Colonel Lugenbeel participated in the platting of the city of Boise.

The text on the monument for Government Island is not completely correct, like some of the other monuments the organization placed. Most of the mistakes on the monuments originate from their outdated and prejudiced language. For example, on the Government Island monument, it states:

GOVERNMENT ISLAND  
THE BEGINNING OF CIVILIZATION  
IN BOISE VALLEY MAJOR LUGENBILE  
SENT BY THE U.S. GOV'T TO  
ESTABLISH BOISE BARRACKS.  
CAMPED HERE JUNE 1863

The most glaring mistake in this text is the claim that the arrival of Colonel Lugenbeel and his men marked the beginning of civilization in the Boise Valley – this is entirely untrue. Native Americans had called the valley home for thousands of years before people of European descent entered the area and forcibly removed them. The second mistake is the misspelling of “Lugenbeel” as “Lugenbile.” The third mistake, which is more of a technicality than a mistake, is the mention of the Boise Barracks – it had originally been called Fort Boise, but on April 5, 1879, Fort Boise was designated as “Boise Barracks.”

Because of the way these monuments are placed and the language they are written in, the monuments should receive further interpretation to clear up issues like the ones outlined above. A simple interpretive sign can explain the importance of these monuments as efforts of locals to commemorate historical events while exploring them as historic artifacts from the 1920s and on. In the case of the Government Island monument, such an interpretive sign could explain the prejudiced language and the other inaccuracies present.

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## PHOTOGRAPHS & RESOURCES

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### Government Island Monument



Example of dedication ceremony for the monument commemorating the original  
Fort Boise near Parma

The following is the Dedication Program of the Unveiling of  
Old Fort Boise Monument, on Sunday, November 6, 1927, at 2:30 P.M.  
at Parma, Idaho.

Monument erected by Society of the Sons of Idaho.

Ceremony in Charge, Sons of Idaho assisted by Daughters of the  
American Revolution and Citizens of Parma, Idaho.

Music by Parma Double Quartet.

DEDICATION PROGRAM

Selection

Invocation

America

Unveiling of Monument

Assisted by "Grandma" Sarah Mitchell.

Raising of colors

Flag salute

Placing of wreath

Song-- Idaho

History

Selection

Address

Benediction

Double Quartet.

Rev. M. G. Montgomery

Audience

Dr. W. J. Boone

American Legion

Audience

Daughters of the

American Revolution.

Mrs. Paul Case

Frank R. Fouch

Double Quartet.

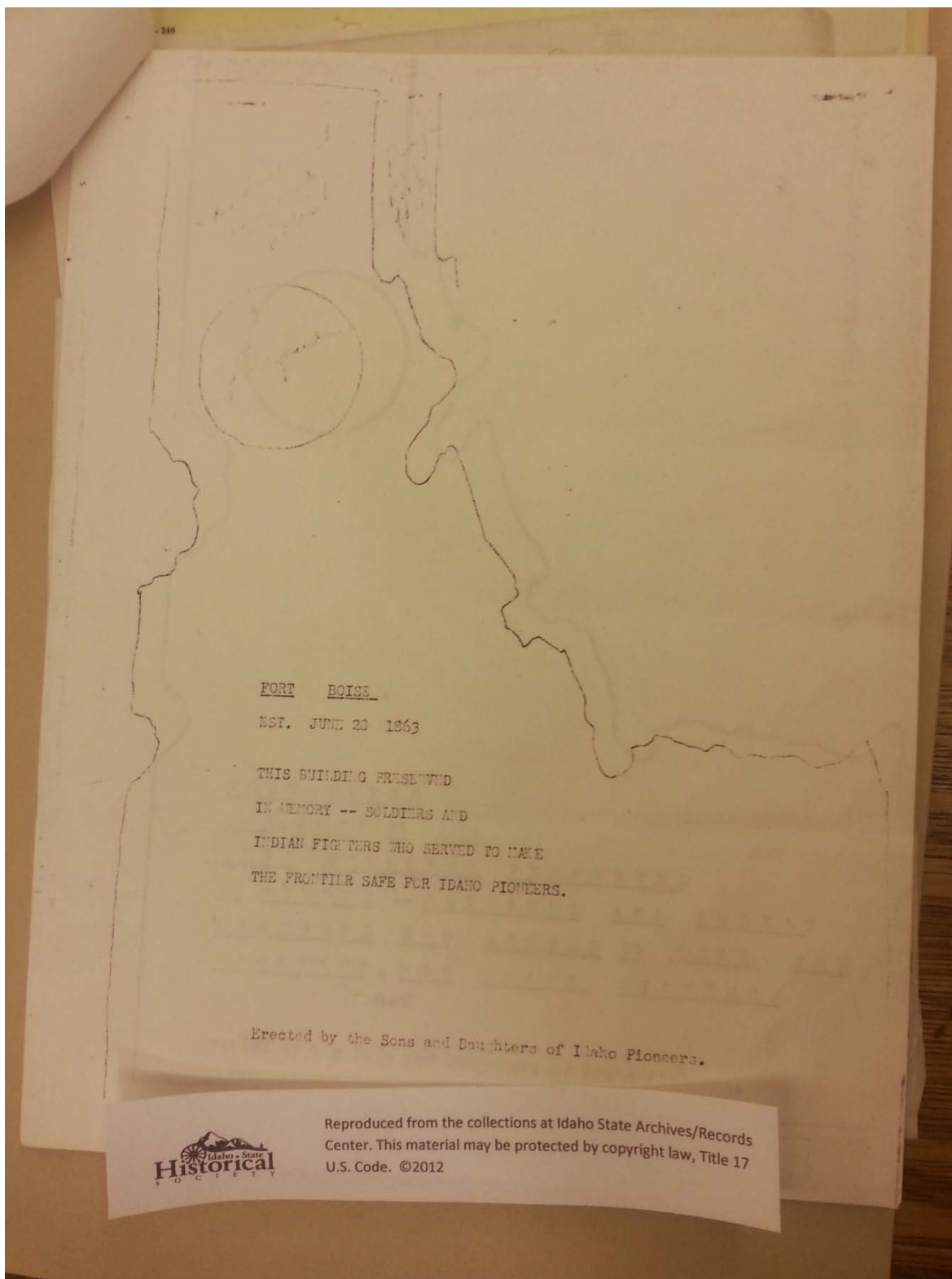
Governor H. C. Baldrige.

Dr. J. H. Barton.

The Board authorized the printing of 500 programs for dis-  
tribution.

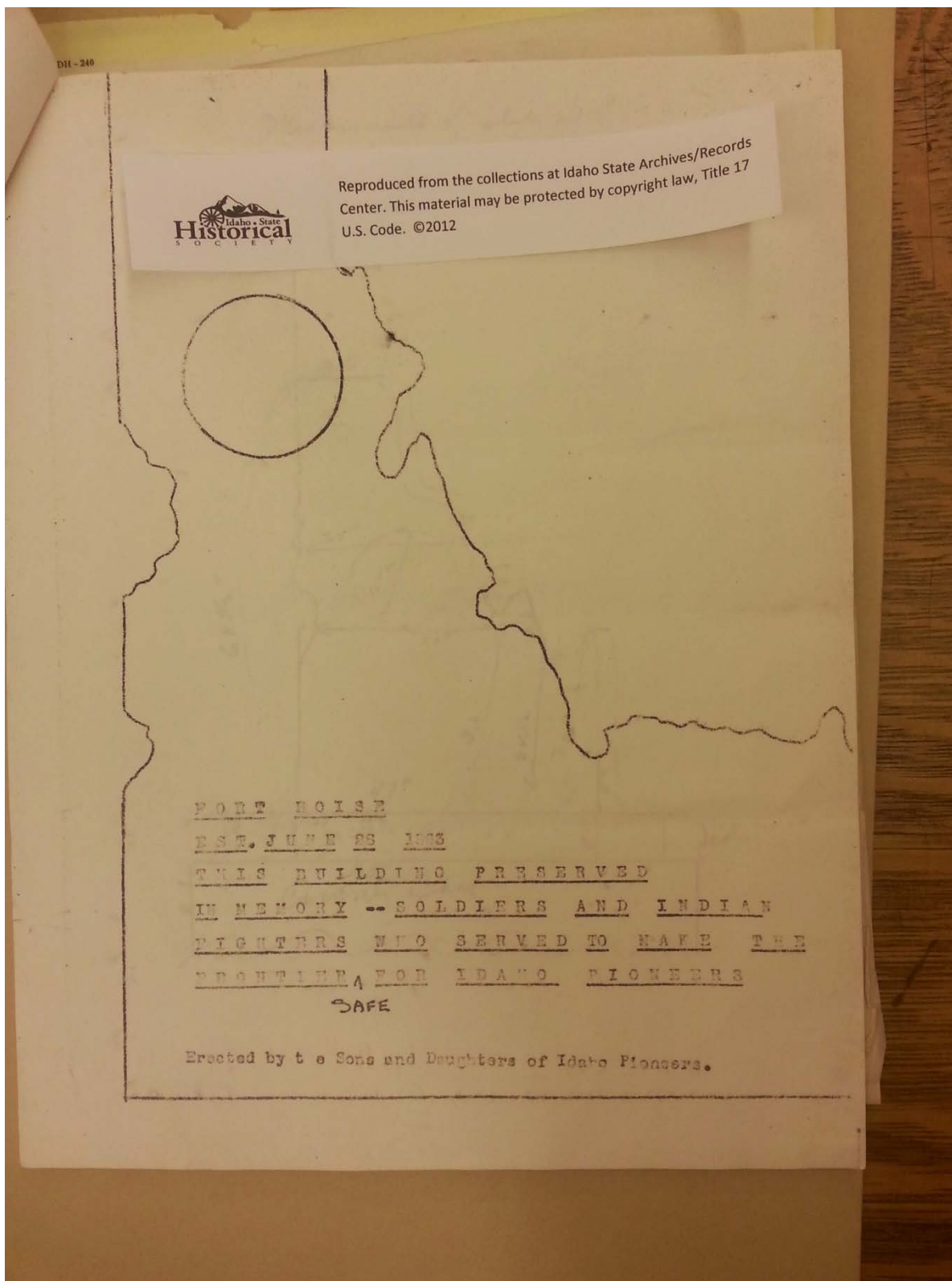
Board appointed Norman Atkinson as Chairman of the

Specifications for the Fort Boise Monument, continued



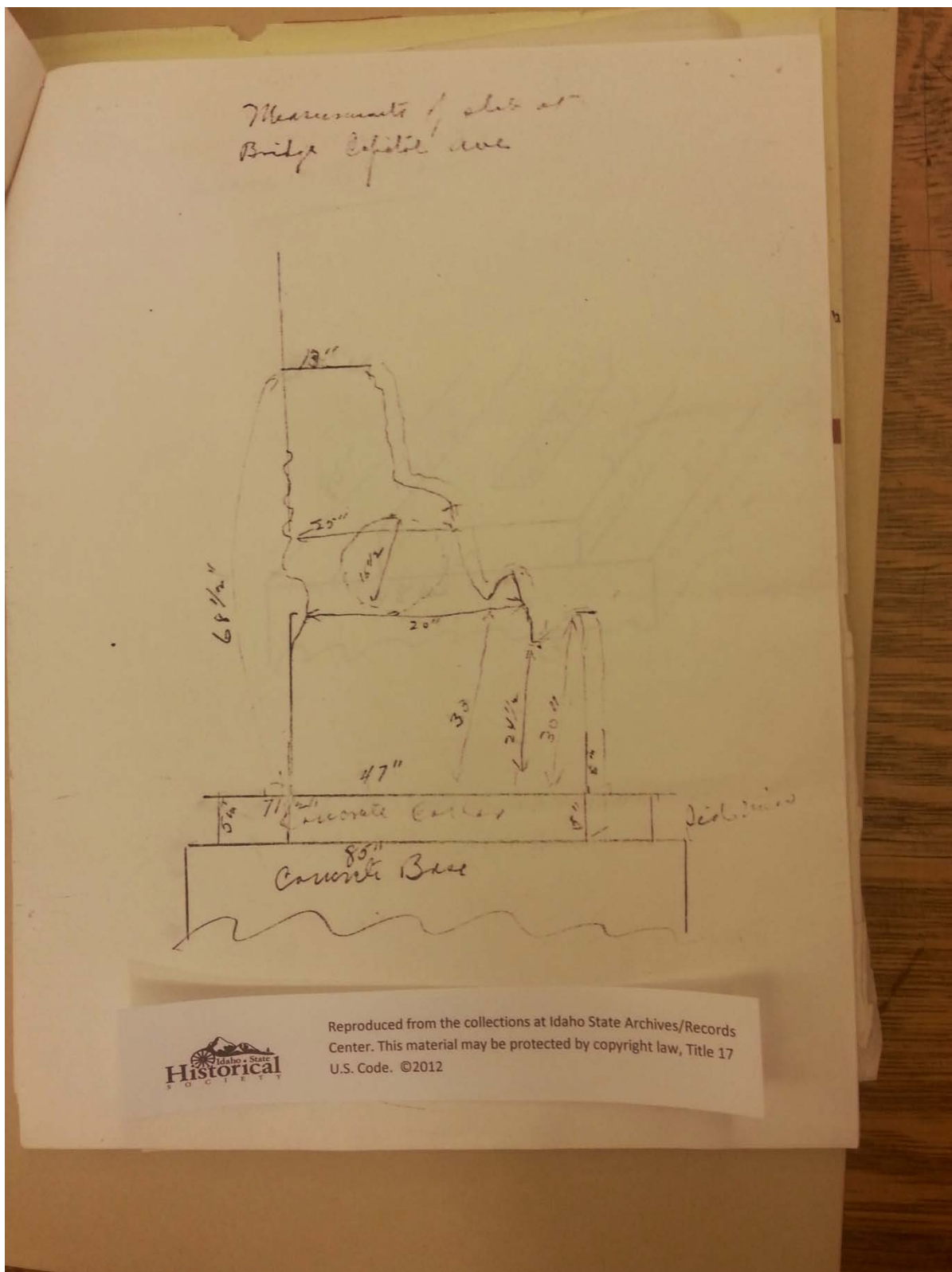


## Specifications for the Fort Boise Monument, continued

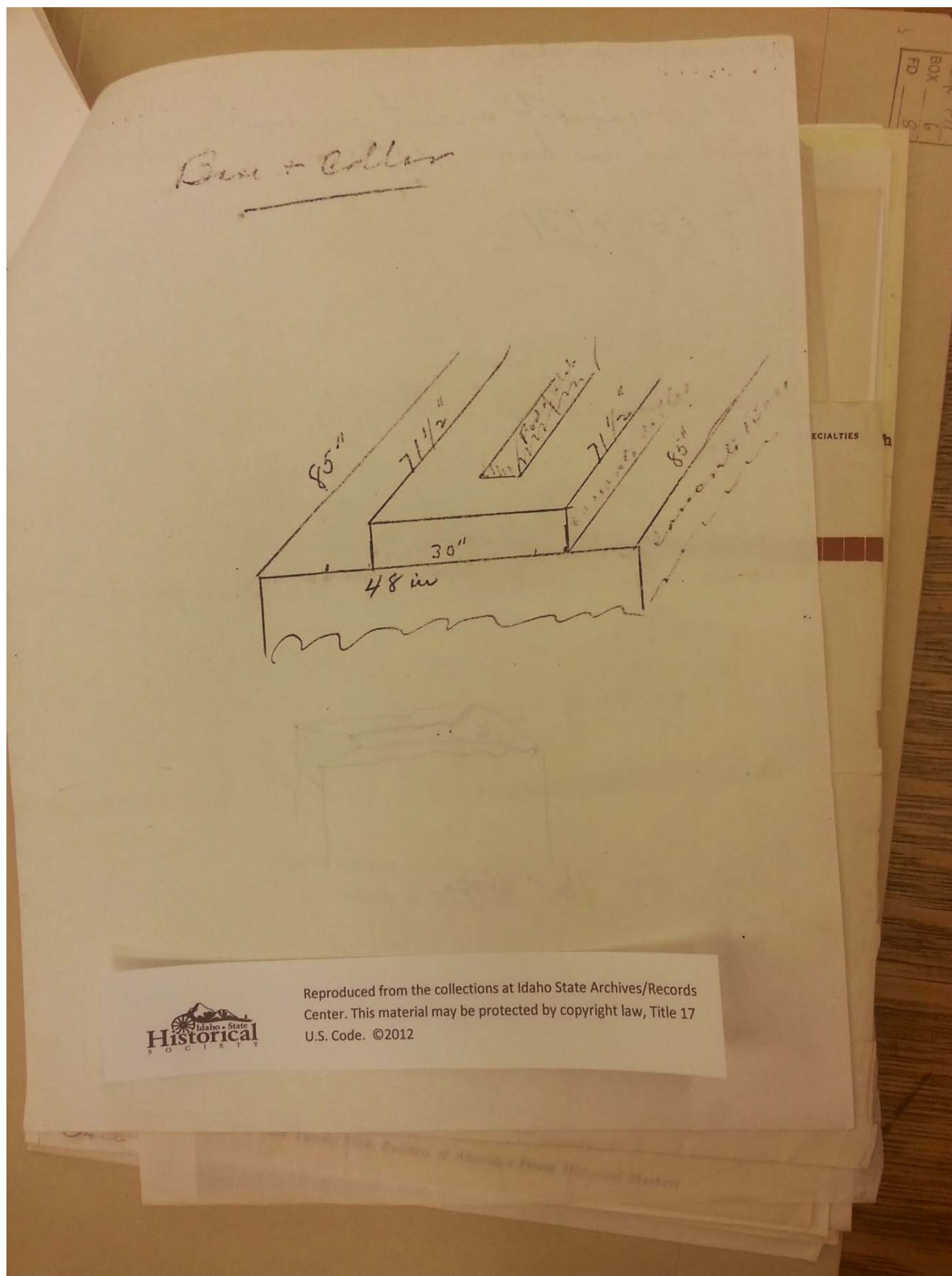




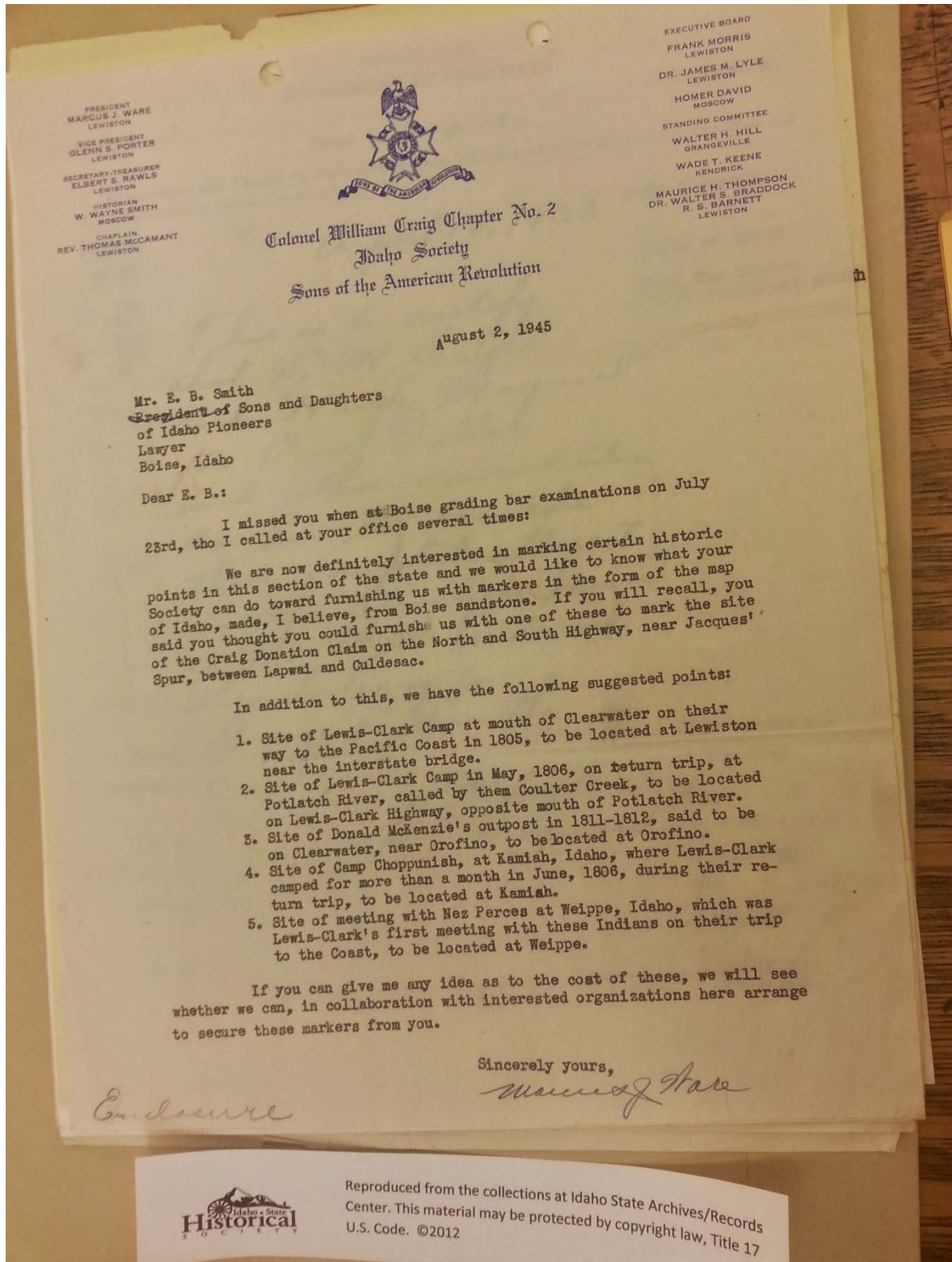
# Specifications for the Fort Boise Monument, continued



## Specifications for the Fort Boise Monument, continued



Letter indicating that the monuments were made from Boise sandstone





## List of Southwest Idaho Monuments

<u>SOUTHWEST IDAHO</u>		
Compiled 1943 by Kostka Budd U. S. Geological Survey		
I - Idaho Guide; IE - Idaho Encyclopedia; HM - Historical Marker Map		
<u>SANTOOTH QUADRANGLE</u>		
1. Site of Alturas, mining town, 1864 . . . . .	IE	1208
2. Galena Summit, Elev. 8752; highest point on Idaho Highway system . . . . .	IE	1294
<u>IDAHO BASIN QUADRANGLE</u>		
3. Grimes Monument, 1862; discoverer of gold in Boise Basin killed by Indians . . . . .	HM	
4. Site of old Centerville, 1863 pop. 5000, 3 miles north of present Centerville . . . . .	IE	12101
5. Idaho City; Pioneer Cemetery, 1862. 28 out of 260 burials died natural deaths . . . . .	HM	
<u>BOISE QUADRANGLE</u>		
6. Freezeout Hill; monument to early travelers . . . . .	IE	12273
7. Site, Costin Cabin, 1863, became rendezvous for Indians, prospectors, freighters, and packers . . . . .	IE	
<u>NAMPA QUADRANGLE</u>		
8. Emmett; SS (stage station) established nearby on Payette River by David Elvin, 1862 . . . . .	IE	
9. Site, Fells Store, 1867, SS on Utah, Idaho & Oregon Line, Trading & Outfitting Post . . . . .	IE	12103
10. Site, Ft. Boise, Fur Co. Trading Post; now in river . . . . .	IE	12103
11. Monument to Hudson Bay Trail - 1842 . . . . .	HM	
12. Monument to Marie Dorion, at O.T. Crossing of Boise River. . . . .		
13. Site of Ward Massacre, 1854. . . . .		
<u>SOLDIER QUADRANGLE</u>		
14. Site, mining town of Bullion, 1880 population 700. . . . .	IE	12100
15. Site, mining town of Boniphan, 1880 . . . . .	IE	12102
16. Gooding City of Rocks; Fantastic shapes . . . . .	IE	1238
17. Notched Butte, an early landmark . . . . .	HM	
<u>CAMAS PRAIRIE QUADRANGLE</u>		
18. King Hill, Overland SS here burned in 1878 by Chief Buffalo Horn; just Northwest is a landmark (the "Devils Playground") on the early trail from Utah to Boise . . . . .		1248
<u>MOUNTAIN HOME QUADRANGLE</u>		
19. Crater Rings, two great volcanic cones; also great fissure 5 miles long . . . . .		1252
20. Monument to Mountain Home SS Site . . . . .		1249
21. Hot Springs, landmark on Oregon Trail . . . . .		
<u>BIGSKA QUADRANGLE</u>		
22. Kuna Cave . . . . .	IE	12213

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# List of Southwest Idaho Monuments, continued

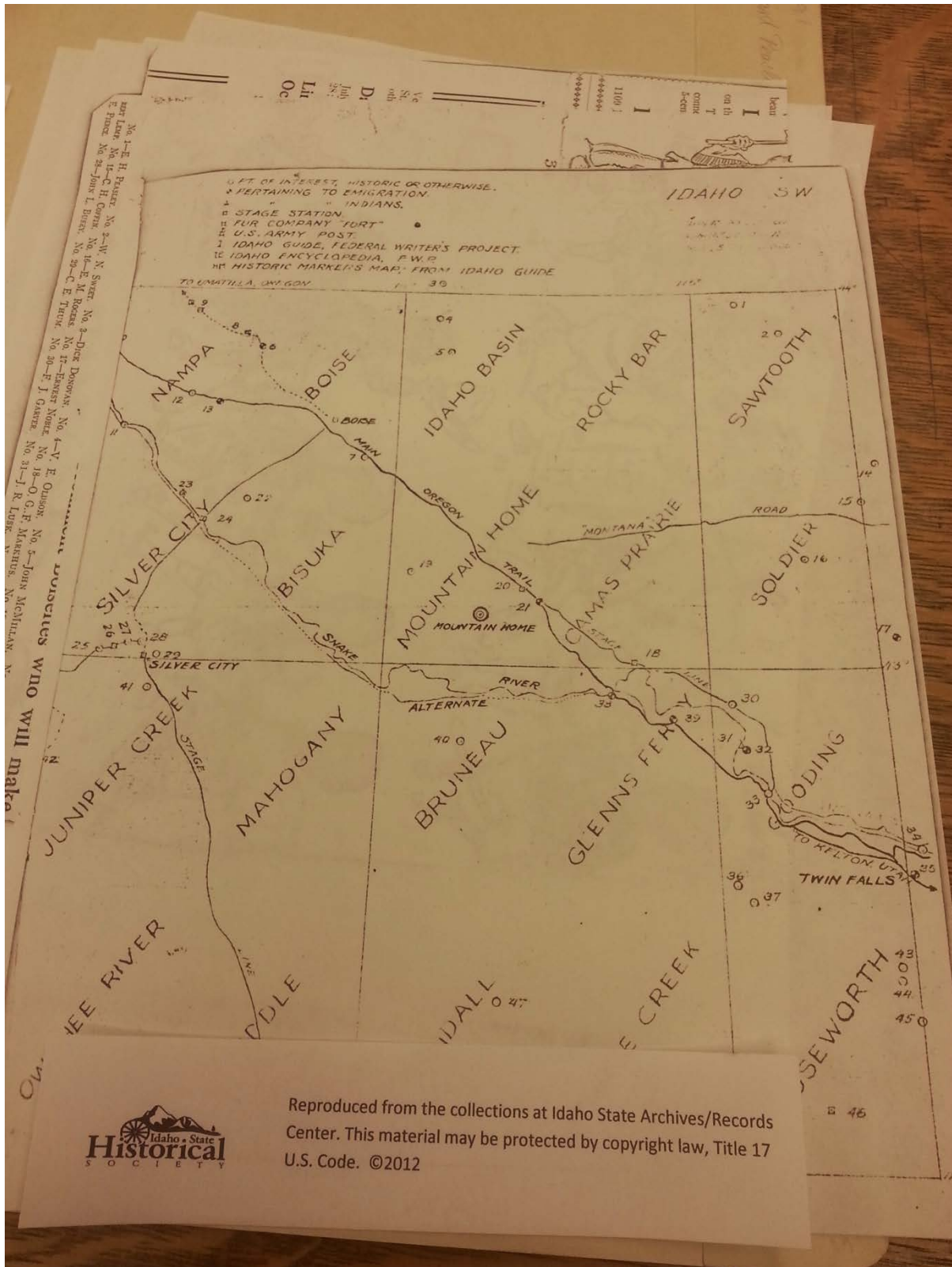
SOUTHWEST IDAHO (continued)	
SILVER CITY QUADRANGLE	
23. Indian Pictograph, largest known shows crude map of Snake River Valley and Jackson Lake in Wyoming . . . . .	1260
24. Old Walters Ferry (at site of present bridge) important point on Boise - San Francisco Stage Line, 1863 - 1921 . . . . .	1260
25. Site of Magentown, 1863. SS. . . . .	12133
26. Delamar, deserted mining town, SS on Silver City - Winnemucca Stage Line . . . . .	12102
27. Site of Moonville, 1863. SS and Mining Town . . . . .	12
28. Site of Ruby, once County Seat. Mining town . . . . .	12
29. Site of Fairview, 2 miles East of Silver City. Mining town . . . . .	12
GOODING QUADRANGLE	
30. Old Bliss Ranch, at foot of ascent to Bliss, where H. L. Bower wrote "Good Indian" . . . . .	1247
31. Indian Petroglyph, in cave on East wall of canyon . . . . .	1248
32. Tablet to Marcus Whitman 3 mile North of Hagerman	
33. Lewis Ferry; Site of Austin; Thousand Springs on North wall of canyon. Thousand Springs Ferns . . . . .	1245
34. Perrine Ranch, Museum; Tropical fruits raised	
35. Twin Falls, Oregon Trail Monument . . . . .	1244
36. "Balanced Rock" and "Phantom Walls" nearby . . . . .	1244
37. "Flow Hole" South of Castleford, an unexplored fissure, alternate intake and discharge of powerful air currents . . . . .	1244
GLENNS FERRY QUADRANGLE	
38. Monument at Glens Ferry	
39. Pilgrims Spring, landmark on Oregon Trail	
BRUNEAU QUADRANGLE	
40. Settler's Tunnel, 1870, dug into bank as refuge from Indians . . . . .	1250
Known as Roberson Cave by residents of Bruneau (quote from Names Card UPCS 1946 "Cave was dug by Roberson boys, Mrs. Mattie Tremmelle's father, the late Senator Arthur Ponce and 21 other people hid here from the Indians in 1878. The settlers were warned by an Indian, friend of the white people. He was nicknamed "Bruneau John" and was later awarded a medal by the President of the United States and wore it around his neck until he died.	
JUMPER CREEK QUADRANGLE	
41. Site of Flint, mining town, 1860. . . . .	12104
42. Camp Three Forks, U. S. Army	
ROSEBORTH QUADRANGLE	
43. Nah Supah Hot Springs . . . . .	1290
44. Wild Horse Springs, famous landmark . . . . .	1290
45. Hot Caves	
46. Stage Crossing; holdup 1888, now under water . . . . .	1291
TINNALL QUADRANGLE	
47. A natural bridge, 136 feet high, spans Jawbone Canyon in this area. Almost inaccessible . . . . .	1250

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# List of Southwest Idaho Monuments, continued





# Partial list of Charter Members of the Sons & Daughters of Idaho Pioneers

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS		100 LEAVES
P. H. Fouch Theodore Falk Leo F. Falk Leo J. Falk H. H. Falk D. S. Fletcher F. O. Fletcher R. E. French F. E. French	Edward C. Ostner  Peterson, Otto P. Wynn W. Perley Ivin L. Pollard Frank Pinkham Joseph Perrault E. H. Plowhead Ed H. Peasley Hugh Pettingill R. H. Peterson	
Walter D. Galbreath Archie L. Gray Arthur Golden Arthur Garrett John Garrett Frank Goff P. J. Gregory William Garrecht	Henry Quirk  Joseph A. Robinson William V. Regan H. D. Robb A. (Lex) F. Rossi Sam Riggs	
Jesse Bradford Hawley James H. Hawley, Jr. Harry Hawley Edgar T. Hawley Frank J. Haug Henry C. Hart James A. Hart Hiram A. Hart John E. Hannifin Lawrence J. Hannifin W. J. Hartman O. W. Hon Norman S. Hubbell James B. Hays S. D. (Jack) Hays J. A. Ireton	Luther Straight Clyde E. Simpson Len L. Simpson Leon Simpson E. B. Smith Robert Stalker Barr M. Smith Frank B. Smith John S. StClair George J. Schultz  Rolando Turner  Cecil L. Weeks James H. Wickersham Thornton D. Wyman George L. Williams Walter M. Williams George E. Wood Ernest B. Wells	
Vic. M. Jackson Richard M. Johnson Ralph Koppes John R. Kennaly G. F. Kinkaid J. G. Kelley S. E. Kelley Lou Krall W. D. Leonard Reginald Leonard Herbert F. Lemp Bernard Lemp Albert C. Lemp R. D. Leonardson	Norman H. Young Ralph W. York Walter R. York  Matt Zapp	
Roy R. Moore Charles Mace Raymond Moore A. P. Mathison McKeen F. Morrow Madden, Ross E.		
Wm. H. McIntyre John McDevitt Robert W. Newton Frank C. Nourse Walter R. Neilley Clyde I. Nesbitt I. H. Nash Oscar Neilley		



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