

Hawley, James H.  
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HISTORY  
OF  
I D A H O

*The Gem of the Mountains*

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ILLUSTRATED

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VOLUME II

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CHICAGO  
THE S. J. CLARKE PUBLISHING COMPANY  
1920

# Biographical

HON. JAMES H. HAWLEY.

Hon. James H. Hawley, Idaho pioneer in many parts of the state, a distinguished member of the bar, governor from 1910 until 1912, his record has ever been such as has reflected credit and honor upon the state that has honored him. Born in Dubuque, Iowa, January 17, 1847, he is a son of Thomas and Annie (Carr) Hawley, who were natives of Brooklyn and of Cooperstown, New York, respectively. In the paternal line he comes of English ancestry with an Irish strain, while on the distaff side he is of Irish, Holland and English lineage. One of his great-grandfathers in the maternal line was a soldier of the war of the Revolution, while his grandfather was a soldier of the War of 1812. Mr. Hawley's mother died when he was an infant, and his father went to California in 1849, leaving the boy with relatives. His father resided in California until 1856, when he removed to Texas and lived there until his death a number of years later.

James H. Hawley acquired a common and high school education in Dubuque, Iowa, being there graduated with the class of 1861. He became a resident of Idaho in 1862 and in October, 1864, left Placerville, Boise county, for California to pursue a college course, and was a student in the City College of San Francisco for three years, taking a scientific course. In the meantime he had engaged in mining and prospecting in Idaho from April, 1862, until October, 1864, save for the winter of 1863-4, when he acted as agent and distributor at Placerville, Idaho, for the Boise News, the first paper published in the state. While pursuing his college course in San Francisco he also read law under the direction of the firm of Sharpstien & Hastings of that city, having previously familiarized himself to some extent with law principles before going to San Francisco. Following his return to Idaho in 1868 he resumed mining but incidentally continued his law reading and was admitted to the supreme court of Idaho on the 14th of February, 1871. Mr. Hawley has pioneered in every part of the state. He was among the first to reach nearly all of the placer camps and was identified with mines and their operation in many sections of Idaho in early times. Since becoming a member of the bar he has practiced law throughout the state, devoting most of his efforts to mining, irrigation and criminal law; has had an extensive practice in all these lines; and has the reputation of having tried more murder cases than any other member of the bar in the United States. Soon after his admission he was appointed deputy district attorney for the second district of Idaho and attended to the duties of that office in the western part of Boise county in connection with the mining enterprises in which he was engaged. In 1878 he removed to Idaho City and since that time has practiced law exclusive of other business. He has been interested in a great many mining enterprises in Idaho and other western states and has also been interested in several townsites and additions to townsites and various other business activities in which he has made financial investment, but the practice of law has been his real life work. He was one of the promoters, became a member of the board of directors and the vice president of the Bank of Commerce of Burley, Idaho, so continuing in 1909 and 1910. He was chosen president of the Beet Growers Sugar Company of Rigby, Idaho, and has been connected with several other matters quasi-public in character.

In addition to the usual experiences of pioneers in the Indian fighting of early days in Idaho, Governor Hawley was second lieutenant of a mounted company in the service of the state, organized in the Nez Perce war, but was not actually engaged in the hostilities. He was also commander of a company in the Bannock war but saw very little actual service.

In politics Governor Hawley has always been a supporter of the democratic party. He made his first campaign for the party in 1870 and has been active in every political campaign in Idaho since that time, stumping the state on each occasion save in 1918, when there was no speaking campaign on account of influenza. Also on that occasion he refused to support the major part of the democratic state ticket because it was nominated by the Non-Partisan League followers who had taken possession of the party. He has been elected to attend five national conventions of the democratic party and has attended all congressional and state conventions of the party since 1870. He was elected a member of the lower house of the Idaho legislature in 1870 and in 1872 served as chief clerk in the house of representatives. In 1874 he was a member of the state senate and in 1876 was made chief clerk of the upper house. In the same year he was elected county commissioner of Boise county and in 1878 was elected district attorney of the second judicial district of Idaho, being reelected to that position in 1880, and was compelled to attend to most of the criminal work of the territory. In 1884 he was a candidate for delegate to congress on the democratic ticket but was defeated by one vote at the convention. In 1885 he was United States district attorney for the district of Idaho and occupied that position for four years. In 1889 he was the democratic candidate for delegate to congress but was defeated by a few votes by the Hon. Fred L. Dubois. In 1902 his fellow townsmen elected him mayor of Boise, in which position he served for two years, and in 1910 he was elected governor of Idaho, filling the office of chief executive of the state for two years. In 1912 he was defeated for a second term as governor by less than one thousand votes by the Hon. John M. Haines. He was several times selected as candidate for the United States senate by the democrats in the legislature and in 1914 was democratic candidate before the people for the United States senate, being defeated by J. H. Brady. Since leaving the office of governor he has occupied no public position save in connection with the war activities. He had charge of the first Red Cross drive in Idaho and was state director of War Savings Stamps drives and engaged in several other matters of that kind. Upon the conclusion of his term as governor he again resumed the private practice of his profession, in which he is actively engaged as a member of the firm of Hawley & Hawley, having an extensive clientage throughout southern Idaho. He was selected by the state authorities in 1906 to manage in behalf of the state the prosecution growing out of the assassination of Governor Steunenberg, his chief associate in these cases being the present Senator Borah. For the past forty years he has been connected with nearly all the important water litigation in Idaho and has done much to formulate and settle the law on this important subject. In this matter, as upon other subjects to which his attention has been directed in the courts, he has sought not only to win the case being tried but also to better conditions in the future. Since his admission to practice he has always occupied a commanding position at the bar and has twice been president of the State Bar Association of Idaho.

On the 4th of July, 1875, at Quartzburg, Boise county, Idaho, Governor Hawley was united in marriage to Miss Mary E. Bullock, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Bullock, who were pioneers of Idaho, arriving in Boise county in the early '60s and residing there throughout the period of early development in the state. Mrs. Hawley was born in New York city, and passed away in Boise in 1916. At the time of their marriage they took up their residence at Quartzburg but in 1878 removed to Idaho City, then the county seat, following Governor Hawley's election as district attorney for the second district. In 1884 a further removal was made to Hailey and from that city to Boise in 1886. Mrs. Hawley was a member of the Catholic church and their children were reared in that faith and are now communicants of that church. The eldest son, Edgar T. Hawley, married Jessie Williams, of Spokane. Jess B., who is now practicing law in partnership with his father, married Genevieve Smith, of Boise. Emma C. became the wife of Reilley Atkinson, of Boise. Elizabeth is the wife of E. W. Tucker, of Boise. James H., Jr., married Miss Mary Dunn, of Portland, Oregon. Harry R., the youngest of the family, is now a student in the George Washington University at Washington, D. C. The other children are all residents of Boise. Governor Hawley now has eight living grandchildren, four being the children of Mr. and Mrs. Jess B. Hawley, three the children of Mr. and Mrs. Atkinson, while Mr. and Mrs. Tucker have one child. That patriotism has ever been a marked character-

istic of the family is indicated in the fact that the eldest son, Edgar T. Hawley, served in the Philippines during the Spanish-American war as lieutenant of the First Idaho Regiment and became a captain in the aviation service of the World war. The second son, Jess B. Hawley, was prominently identified with the war work in Idaho and the third son, James H., Jr., was a first lieutenant of infantry in the conflict with Germany, while the youngest son, Harry R. Hawley, was a sergeant in the field hospital service. The sons had an inspiring example in the record of their father, whose patriotism and loyal support of the country was manifested not only in the early days of Indian fighting but throughout his entire career in his unflinching support of all those interests which have had to do with the welfare of the commonwealth.

Governor Hawley is a well known representative of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Knights of Pythias, the Fraternal Order of Eagles and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. He was exalted ruler of Boise Lodge, No. 310, B. P. O. E., in 1902 and 1903 and has taken a prominent part in the work of the organization since that time. He is also a past grand of the Odd Fellows lodge and has membership in the University, Country, Commercial and Boise Rotary Clubs of Boise and in the Rocky Mountain Club of New York city. By reason of his long connection with the state, his active participation in the public life of Idaho and in many of the most important business enterprises of the state for many years, Governor Alexander when called upon by the managers of the great San Francisco Exposition to name the foremost citizen of Idaho, unhesitatingly selected Governor Hawley for that honor.

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