

LATAH LEGACY

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in this issue:
JULIAETTA'S FORGOTTEN HUMANITARIAN
MOSCOW IN THE 1890'S

Spring 1980

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Originally from Dayton, Ohio, CAROLYN GRAVELLE and her husband Paul moved to Juliaetta in 1973. Mrs. Gravelle is a lecturer in English at the University of Idaho and her husband is a forester for Potlatch, Inc., in Lewiston. They and their three children John, Matt, and Lisa, enjoy the climate at Juliaetta which allows them to have a small orchard and large garden. In the future, Mrs. Gravelle hopes to continue her research on Dr. Foster and his treatments and to pursue a growing interest and success in poetry.

W. G. EMERY was born in California and lived his entire life on the Pacific Coast. For many years he was a photographer for Outing and other magazines, until in 1895 he moved to Pullman and opened a photographic studio. One year later he moved to Moscow and opened a studio there. Besides being one of the town's earliest photographers, he was also one of its earliest historians.

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Cover photo: Foster family about 1916.

1st row, left to right: Leva, Beatrice, Charles.

2nd row, left to right: Nana Foster, Dr. Foster, James Robert.

JULIAETTA'S FORGOTTEN HUMANITARIAN:

ROBERT FOSTER, SR. (1868-1934)

by

Carolyn Gravelle



Editor's Note: About 1903 Robert Foster established a Juliaetta medical service which was to become famous throughout the Northwest for curing skin cancer without a knife, applied psychology, natural foods, and self-assertiveness training. Carolyn Gravelle of Juliaetta prepared this account of the doctor's life and his significant impact upon the small community.



Tightly wrapping his strong arms around the sick baby, the man from Kentucky, through powers even he did not know, transferred the high fever from the small body to his own six foot build. While the infant was miraculously relieved from the dangerously high temperature, the young man became extremely ill, close to death. Suddenly aware of his natural gift to help sick people, Robert Foster, after his slow recovery, began studying medicine to cultivate professionally the art of healing.

To begin, he trained under Dr. W. A. Jackson, a renowned cancer specialist of the 1880's in Kentucky. There, in July 1889, Foster received his first medical diploma at twenty-one years of age. His graduation from the American School of Magnetic Healing in Nevada, Missouri, followed in January 1890. Then, ten years later, in Louisville, Kentucky, he graduated, October 1900, from the Louisville School of Physicians and Surgeons.

The early 1900's found Foster in Oakland, California, with his wife Nana Nichols, who hated her nickname "Nanny." How and where the couple met was undetermined. Some said his wife was one of Foster's cured patients who fell in love, then

married him. Others said no marriage took place. Some said Mrs. Foster, being a trained practical nurse, encountered the doctor somewhere during his training. Others said Mrs. Foster knew the doctor in Kentucky long before he even began his schooling. Known for her Kentuckian accent and Southern formalities, Mrs. Foster probably met and married her love in Kentucky, then ventured West with him to help set up his first practice.

While the Fosters lived in Oakland, Mr. Eighler, an elderly, rich, civil war veteran, who traveled world-wide with his wife, was suffering from a serious health problem. He went to Foster and was cured. Gratefully indebted to his "miracleworker," Mr. Eighler always kept in close range to his fine doctor's help.

For unknown reasons, perhaps homesickness for one, the Fosters decided to leave California and return East. Mr. Eighler encouraged, if not insisted, that Foster travel through the Pacific Northwest, more specifically through the Lewiston-Clarkston area. So Foster and his wife traveled up to Portland, then took the steamer on the Colombia and Snake Rivers to Lewiston, Idaho. There, receiving word from the Eighlers to visit them in

Juliaetta where they were temporarily staying, Foster hired a hack for the twenty mile ride up river from Lewiston.

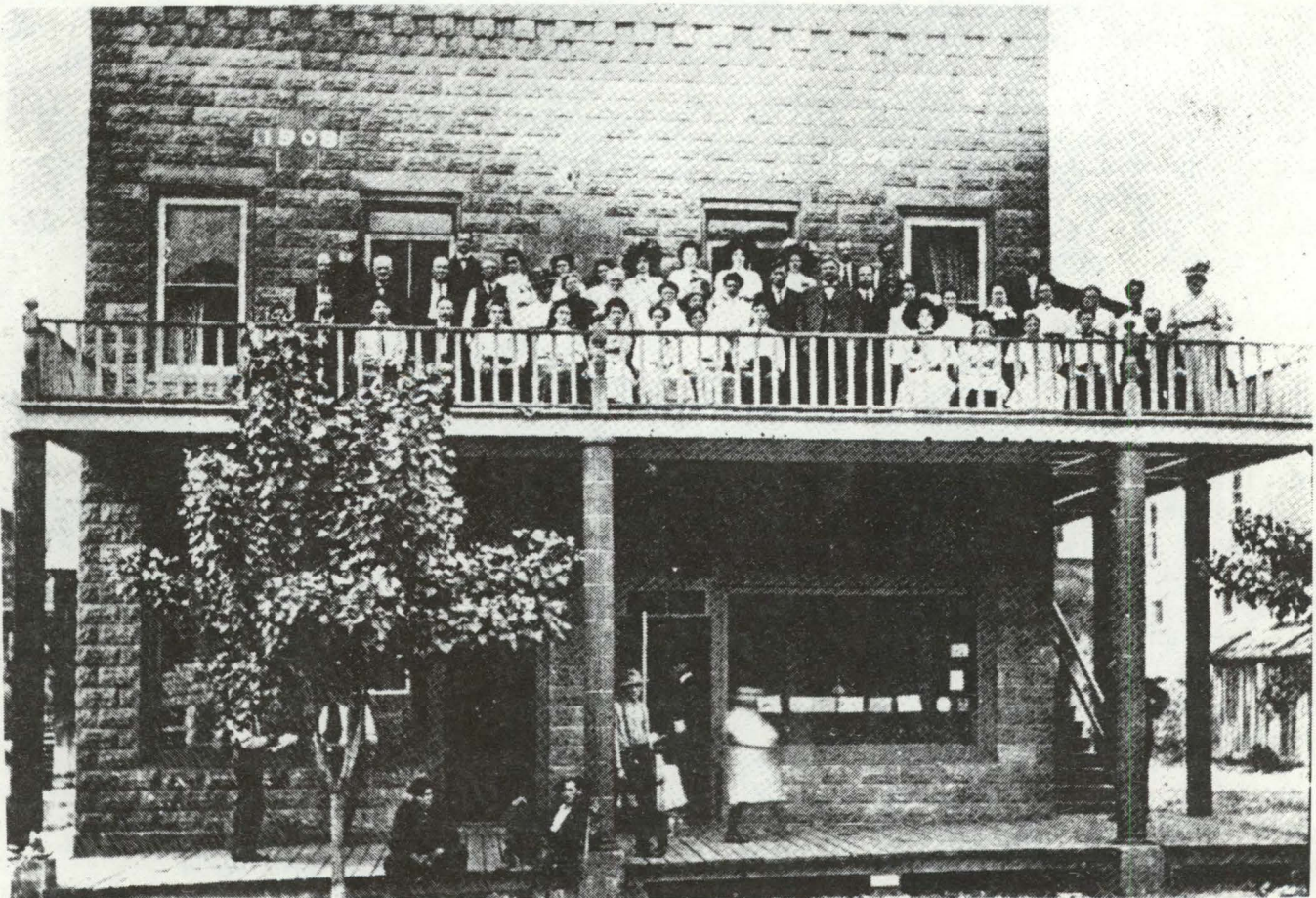
Struck by the lovely white syringa blossoms, Mrs. Foster fell in love with the Potlatch River Valley. She had never seen anyplace more beautiful: the verdant hills, the embowering pine trees, the musical river gurgles, ah, yes, and those enchanting syringa. Mrs. Foster wanted all that to be their home.

There were conflicting dates as to the year the Fosters arrived in Juliaetta. Foster's obituary in the Lewiston Morning Tribune, written July 29, 1934, stated his arrival as 1902. However, his daughter "Babe," now Mrs. Mel Thomas of Lewiston, recalled her folks talking

about how fortunate they were to have left the San Francisco area three years before the Big Earthquake in 1906. If that were the case, the Fosters would have come to Juliaetta in 1903.

So Foster, thirty-five years of age, and his wife, expecting their first born, decided to stay in the Northwest; their plans to return East were abandoned. Why Foster picked Juliaetta, rather than other area towns, was not known. Perhaps local businessmen, especially newspaperman Everett Tiller, convinced him to stay in Juliaetta by pointing out the town's potentiality and aesthetic qualities. Perhaps, more practically, there was a need for a doctor in town.

Foster purchased a building, built by Emil



Foster School of Healing in Stump building in early 1900s. Photo from "Juliaetta, Latah County, Idaho"--1911 supplement to The Juliaetta Sun.

Merta who managed the Grand Central Hotel on Main Street. Since it was designed for another hotel, the spacious structure easily accommodated both Foster's small family and his beginning practice.

By 1903 Foster established medical service in his home, located on 4th and State Streets. At first it was known as Foster's Osteopathic Sanitarium, never known to be a hospital, and soon changed to Foster's School of Healing. When increasing numbers of people continually flowed in and out of his home, he moved his school in 1909 to the upper floor of the Stump Building, built by Foster himself in 1908 on Main Street. (The first floor of the building held the jewelry shop and the confectionary and ice cream parlor.)

Foster handled cases dealing with the digestive and nervous systems, also with spinal and skin disorders; this included ulcers, colitis, polio, and skin cancer.

Some of his treatments were basically simple. For example, Foster positioned his patient's head and feet in a manner to pinch nerves at the proper place to stop diarrhea. However, with skin cancer, like the lip cancer which ate away part of the mouth of Blacksmith Kennedy on Water Street, Foster used his "burner" treatment. This was one of the more complex treatments, which some said Foster had run onto accidentally.

The "burner" meant application of a paste, consisting of a brown liquid mixed with flour, to the cancerous area on the skin.



Present day picture of Stump building. Photo courtesy of Paul Gravelle.

The number of applications depended upon the size of the cancer; usually the "burner" killed the growth overnight. Foster always warned his patients ahead of time of the burning sensation they would feel. He assured them it would hurt; but, in turn, he mentally prepared them on how to handle the pain. People, treated with the "burner," were seen frequently up and down the wooden sidewalks, the dirt roads, trying to walk off the pain it caused. They walked and walked and walked.

After the paste had been applied, a very thin layer of clean cotton cloth with feathered edges was placed on the treated area. Foster then brushed collodion over the cotton to keep it in place. Often he could accurately predict how long it would take for the cancer to work itself out. When it was time, the cancer, a smooth, slippery mass, similar to an oyster, would be pulled cleanly away from the healthy skin. He then asked the patient if he wanted to keep the cancer; if he did, Foster placed it in a jar of alcohol for the person to take home. One patient said, "Foster would never keep the cancers for himself to show everybody and say, 'Look here. This is what I removed.' Foster wasn't that kind."

After the cancer was removed, Foster cleansed the affected area with alcohol, then spread a heavy brown salve, having the consistency of peanut butter, onto the wound. This specially prepared formula drew out a green virus. If this green virus, which clung to healthy skin tissue remained, the cancer, according to Foster, was not cured!

Once again a clean poultice covered the treated area. Since the green virus quickly set on the worn poultice, it was necessary to cleanse the skin with alcohol, apply more salve, and change the dressing frequently: at least twice a day, twelve hours apart. Few doctors are known to be up and in their offices, dressing their patients wounds at 6 a.m. Foster was among those few.

Not only did this salve pull the virus out, but it healed the wound slowly, completely, first internally until there was no apparent hole or scar. Where there once was ugly cancer, after Foster's treatment, there was beautifully smooth skin.

What were the actual ingredients for these treatments of skin cancer? Although Foster was known to have ordered large quantities of blue vitriol (copper sulfate), it was mere speculation as to what really was used. If acid were used for the "burner" to eat away abnormal cells, as some claimed, why then would it not also eat away normal cells? Foster's formula killed cancerous, never healthy tissue. As for the healing salve, one woman who used it said, "They just don't make those ingredients any more. It's a shame but they just aren't made now." One of the ingredients was said to be calomel. Whatever they were, the secrets were handed down to Foster's son, Dr. J. R. Foster, who, before his recent death, had an extensive cancer following in Portland, Oregon.

Although he settled in Juliaetta, Foster traveled extensively. From New York to Seattle, he would acquire more diplomas, update his professional techniques, attend stage plays and concerts, buy expensive collectibles for his dear wife, and meet men who wanted to settle in the West. Foster influenced many businessmen to come to Juliaetta. An excellent example was J. C. Groseclose whom he met in Spokane, Washington. Persuaded by Foster's enthusiasm, the J. C. Groseclose family arrived in Juliaetta, September 1903, to start a furniture store, an undertaking and embalming service, and a millinery shop.

While traveling to continue his education, Foster had forsaken internal medicine. He turned to different doctoring techniques and graduated from the following schools: the National School of Osteopathy, Chicago, in July 1902; the St. Louis School of Suggestive Therapeutics and Medical Electricity in October

1903; the Chicago School of Psychology in November 1903. Although he became famous for curing skin cancer without a knife, applied psychology, natural foods, self-assertiveness--all became part of his new thought.

The fundamental object of his establishment, according to the 1911 Supplementary Edition of The Juliaetta Sun, was "to inculcate into the minds of its patients the reasons why it is necessary to live, both physically and mentally, in accordance with the natural or infinite laws in order to manifest a healthful, bodily condition."

Consequently, in addition to treating physical disorders, Foster was concerned with the patients' mental disposition and attitude. Besides lecturing on good eating habits, Foster addressed self-help techniques: primarily positive attitudes toward one's self, then positive attitudes toward one's fellow man. The secret of success, he told his patients, included practicing self-control, self-healing, self-hypnosis, self-knowledge, and power to heal others by magnetism, intuition, telepathy, suggestion. These practices led to hope, cheerfulness, happiness; they harmonized the self to be free, fearless, and independent. These life principles were not an imaginary force, it was taught, but they were real, natural functions which could heal in a short time period. They were magnetic, suggestive, healing principles to live in harmony with life and to alleviate sickness, disease, and sorrow. In all cases, mental suggestion formed the basis for permanent healing.

These lectures, which could be attended by anyone interested in the instructive content, were always part of the patients' treatment. Instead of any particular rules, creeds, or dogma, universal principles of living were taught, left to the patients' judgment and discretion for application to their own lives. The principles were presented in a simple, logical language; the science was easily understood in plain, familiar concepts.

Daily lectures, with forty-five to seventy-five people in attendance, were given by Foster or one of his assistants. As many as eight assistants were reported to have studied under Foster in Juliaetta. Some of these medical students were the following: Blacksmiths Stephens and Bozarth, quitting their trade in Juliaetta, became "Rub Doctors," working on backs, particularly dislocated vertebrae; both Stephens and Frank Bozarth eventually practiced in Spokane, Washington. Ulysses G. Marsh, a druggist and Juliaetta postmaster, became an osteopath. John Noble, formerly of Lewiston, later practiced in Vancouver, Washington. J. E. DeBaun stayed with Foster, practiced in Clarkston at Foster's Health Home as a specialist in Radio-Vibratory Diagnosis and Radio-Electronic Treatment. According to legal and educational authorities, these men, who trained under Foster in Juliaetta, were issued licenses to practice as doctors. Indeed a uniquely prestigious honor bestowed upon Foster by Idaho State Law.

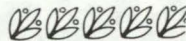
The important feature of Foster's healing institution, stated The Juliaetta Sun, was "not alone in its ability to relieve diseased conditions, but its true virtue lies in teaching the patient the immutable principles governing life, which, when understood, gives the person that power which conquers and overcomes disease and diseased conditions in whatever form." For Foster, being a doctor implied not only being a healer, but also being a teacher.

Stories revealed Foster's standing across the room with his hands held behind his back, his thick, wavy hair combed neatly on his tilted head, and his warm blue eyes keenly observing the person as he entered his office for the first time. Numerous reports disclosed that before the patient sat, spoke not one word, was not touched by the doctor that Foster had the case diagnosed correctly.

Behavior spoke loudly to Foster's sharpened intuitive nature. He analyzed the



Doctors trained by Doctor Foster. 1st row, left to right: Dr. Ulysses G. March, Dr. Foster, Dr. J. E. DeBaun, Dr. Stephens. 2nd row, left to right: Dr. John Noble, Dr. Frank Bozarth.



facial expressions, the walking, standing, and sitting gestures. They all pointed out emotional and physical symptoms of the person's ailment.

Then to confirm his hunches, he examined the patient and always asked, "What have you been eating?" Himself, almost totally vegetarian, encouraged all his patients to eat natural foods, promoting their high nutritional value for health of mind and body. His practical advice on proper diet and healthful foods was part of healing his patient and of educating the patient on how to defer future illnesses.

Some people believed he was a faith healer, a spiritualist who rubbed the devil out, but Foster never claimed that. Others swore he used ESP and telepathy to read minds. Clearly Foster believed in himself and consciously used the power of suggestion. "You are going to be better,"

he told his patients and they generally were!

Because Foster relied upon his highly developed intuitive skills, many of his diagnoses, according to the medical profession, were unscientific. As a result, medical doctors easily, in fact, quite readily labeled him "quack."

Despite growing criticism of his "charlatan" practices, hundreds of sick people kept coming to Foster. Consistently high numbers of patients swore by his treatment, leaving Juliaetta cured. One source says few people were known to have died under Foster's care.

Never publicly advertised, it was his magnetism which attracted thousands of people to enter his life. Approximately fifty local residents were cured, but people came from all around: from northern and southern Idaho, from the states

of Washington, Oregon, Utah, Wyoming, and Montana. Later, when Foster lived in Clarkston, his reputation spread into California where the actress Mary Pickford wrote for his help to cure her mother's cancer. The Mayo Clinic even recognized his work. People from other countries sought his service.

Although he had been criticized for diagnosing a case as cancerous so he could get the money, many people recalled Foster practically giving his money away. When he met a sick person who did not have any money for treatments, Foster treated him anyway. There were many instances when patients with no money would be cured, given room and board, money to return home--all paid by Foster himself. He expected nothing in return.

"I've got to go now," some patients said to Foster after they began treatment but had run out of money.

"You're not well yet," Foster would say, seriously concerned. "You've got to stay."

"I haven't any more money," the patients sadly admitted. Then Foster often paid their room and board to keep them in town until they were well enough to leave. Of course, if a patient had the money, Foster would charge.

Another criticism about Foster's work was that it brought so many sick people to Juliaetta. Although it brought sick people, the point was that Foster brought people. And with people, business promptly picked up to make Juliaetta a bustling town. The town grew in population, over 900; with the visitors, it might have reached 1500. Where did all the people stay? In hotels, boarding houses, or residents' homes who rented out extra rooms.

What effect did all these people have on Juliaetta, on its surrounding farm districts of Fix, American, and Potlatch

Ridges? Over fifty businesses thrived!

There were hotels, mercantiles, millinery and jewelry shops, banks, newspaper offices. There were water works and modern electric plants, a tramway. The Northern Pacific Railway made stops in Juliaetta from Lewiston or Spokane four times daily. Entertainment included an ice cream parlor, a roller-skating rink, a pool hall, a dance hall, a concert band, a movie theater, and an opera house. A barber, dentist, pharmacist, attorney-at-law, undertaker and embalmer served the peoples' private needs. There were fruit packers, a cannery, a flour mill, a meat market. There were real estate brokers, carpenters, a lumber company, a hardware store, a furniture store, a concrete block and brick manufacturer, a dray line, and livery stables. The townspeople congregated in the Catholic, German Lutheran, Presbyterian, United Brethren, and Christian Churches; in fact, Foster himself built the Christian Church on State Street. The town developed an educative quality about which to be proud: there were the Juliaetta School (accommodating grades one through twelve), the Porter School of Art, and Foster's School of Healing.

Foster was the key to Juliaetta's economy. In 1911 The Juliaetta Sun acknowledged this fact: "This institution [Foster's School of Healing] has proven to be one of the greatest factors in the development and growth of the town."

Fascinated with the theme of faith in God and man, Foster was known to quote from the Bible, from the Greek philosopher Plato, from Mary Baker Eddy who was a late nineteenth century American religious leader, scientist, founder of the Church of Christ, Scientist. However, a favorite saying of his own was: "Beyond all being and phenomena, there is God."

This ever present consciousness of God, along with his deep sensitivity of man, was captured in the following, undated

poem, written by Foster himself:

I do not ask, O Lord, that life may be
A pleasant road;
I do not ask that Thou wouldst take
from me
Aught of its load;

I do not ask that flowers should
always spring
Beneath my feet;
I know too well the poison and the sting
Of things too sweet.

For one thing only, Lord, my Lord,
I plead--
Lead me aright,
Though strength should falter and though
heart should bleed,
Through peace to light.

I do not ask, O lord, that Thou
shouldst shed
Full radiance here;
Give but a ray of peace, that I may tread
Without a fear.

I do not ask my cross to understand,
My way to see;
Better in darkness just to feel Thy hand,
And follow Thee.

Other than writing, Foster enjoyed satisfying his unusual sense of humor. At times refined women described him hopeless. For instance, once when Mrs. Foster had dinner guests, Foster would sit down after the meal had begun, proceed to eat peas with his knife, and say, "I know my wife doesn't like this so she's going to kick me under the table." Nonchalantly he continued with his conversation, delighted with disconcerting their guests, embarrassing his wife, and getting away with an unconventional way of eating.

Another time which encouraged people to believe that "he wasn't exactly educated" goes like this: Foster and his wife were arguing over the spelling of "pneumonia." She made the point that she knew there was a "p" somewhere in the word. Foster amusingly insisted, "No, no, no. No such

thing. It's spelled n-u-m-o-n-y. Numony!"

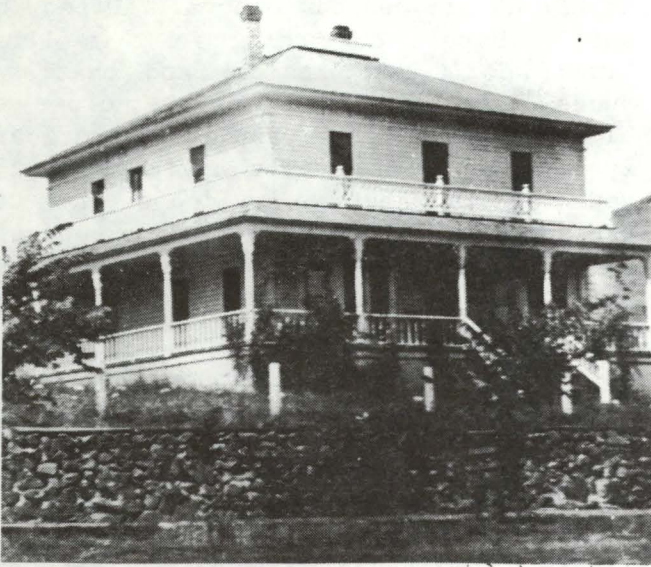
Because of his fame, Foster was the man of the town. His prominence meant money, living well, having a beautiful home. With two living rooms, two dining halls, bedrooms for each member of the family, plus many more rooms, Foster paid "hired girls" for domestic help. The four Foster children, Robert, Leva, Charles, and "Babe," had his or her own private nurse. He hired a gardener for the mansion's grounds and stablemen, including George Smith, for the horses.

However, while the Fosters lived in "the show place" of Juliaetta, their home was said to be haunted. One version described a nurse in a white uniform appearing at the front, second floor window, to the right of the observer on the street. The ghost would walk onto the porch, holding a baby. It's rumored the baby was killed while Foster received patients at his home. Why the murder took place and whose baby was killed were unknown. Later, the window was boarded up.

The other version agreed the ghost was a nurse, but instead of the second floor window, it appeared in the long, narrow window on the left hand side of the front door. The ghost stood day and night, without a baby, doing nothing else but standing. Mrs. Foster was asked about the ghost and replied that it was she! The ghost was Mrs. Foster? Was she amused by the question or was she serious?

After the Fosters moved from Juliaetta, the T. O. Green family purchased the home and quickly replaced the glass. It didn't do any good: the ghost remained in that window by the front door. Later, the window was taken out; siding was nailed across its opening; the ghost was dead.

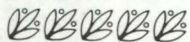
December 1911, after eight or nine years in Juliaetta, at the age of forty-three years, Foster moved his family and practice to Clarkston, Washington. Why Foster left the growing town warranted much speculation.



Osteopathic sanitarium and Foster home. Courtesy The Castle Museum, Juliaetta--Mr. and Mrs. O. Cope.



Foster home today. Photo by Paul Gravelle.



Was the more populated Lewiston-Clarkston area more accessible for his patients? Even though Juliaetta had four daily train stops on its railway lines, its smaller Potlatch River did not handle large river traffic. Being close to the busy piers on the Clearwater and Snake Rivers, along with all the train stops, might have meant a more convenient location for Foster's

practice.

Or were the Idaho State Laws driving him out of state? Around 1909 the state of Idaho, passing laws with stringent medical provisions, might have made it more difficult for Foster to exercise some of his practices. Since the state of Washington had more lenient laws, Foster moved to Clarkston.

Or was the disagreement with one of the bankers over Foster's account enough to aggravate him for a quick departure? Whether Foster broke his leg at the bank because of an actual fight with the banker or because of losing his balance on the bank's slippery step was not conclusively known. Regardless of what happened, within a week after his broken leg, Foster packed up and left town.

One of these reasons or a combination of them might explain why Foster left Juliaetta. But with his exodus, an immediate storm of protest raged in town. Citizens circulated a petition asking Foster to remain. According to a Lewiston Morning Tribune dispatch on January 1, 1912, 95% of the town's electors signed the petition, and fifty Juliaetta businessmen called on Foster one evening to urge him to stay. At first Foster agreed to return to Juliaetta, but soon afterwards changed his mind. Instead of returning, he established the Foster Health Home, an institution, similar to the School of Healing, for the treatment of chronic, nervous, and spinal diseases with cancer and skin specialists. Foster remained in Clarkston, Washington, some thirty miles from Juliaetta, until his death on July 29, 1934.

What resulted when Foster left? Juliaetta was upset. "When Foster was here," commented one source, "everybody who wanted to keep a boarder kept a boarder. Money was flowing." But when Foster left, most of the businesses died.

Many of the townspeople were angry. Criticisms of Foster became apparent.

"Foster didn't care if the town grew or not; he didn't want anything to do with the town."

"He wanted to be in town to see how much money he could make and that's all."

People immediately liked the biting label "quack."

Almost overnight he became an illiterate, even though Foster authored books on healing and Christian living, two of them entitled The Science of Healing and The Way to Live.

His drinking became a great issue. Although Foster was denounced for his drinking problem later in Clarkston, people, forever grateful to their doctor, retorted, "Dr. Foster drunk is worth more than two other doctors sober."

While many were so willing to judge him,

Foster never judged others. Often he said, "There's one thing in this lifetime I don't want to be and that's a judge." He reprimanded those close to him who judged other people. Emphatically Foster repeated this advice: "Don't you ever say that. You don't know his pressures. If you were him, you don't know what you'd do. You'd probably make the same mistake he'd make. Don't ever say that!"

Although many people heard about or remembered some weakness of Foster, he had always held the respect of those healed from his treatments, who heard his wise words, who were showered with his generosity. In a caring manner he changed thousands of lives. And those were the ones who knew him as a gifted doctor, wonderfully dedicated to help his fellow man. No doubt, this was his chief contribution to humanity: saving lives.



Editor's Note: The following items are from an early Moscow Mirror newspaper.

THE TELEPHONE.

While a telephone communication connecting Colfax with Moscow will be of great convenience and profit to the business men of both towns, this aid to facilitate business only demonstrates the more the need of better communications between Lewiston and Moscow wherein so much of our important business lies that cannot be transmitted through other channels. Many an expensive trip is made to Lewiston concerning which that could be done as well by telephone and avoid the expense and labor of travel. Will some one estimate the cost of twenty miles of wire, 320 poles, the cost of erecting and the expense of the apparatus? We think that Lewiston, Genesee and Uniontown would join us in the scheme. Gentlemen think of it.

Moscow Mirror
17 July 1885, p. 2

MOSCOW MATRONS MADE MAD.

To Jacob James Holt, Esq. We, the undersigned ladies of the west part of Moscow, respectfully ask you to remove the manure pile, adjoining your barn on 3rd street, from the sidewalk, so that we can go to and from the butcher shop without wading through hog, horse, and cow manure, ankle deep, at the very next rain. We know of no law that allows a person to take the sidewalk and make a barn yard of it and compel not only the men but the little children and women to pass through it. If your wife and children would come into your sitting room with their shoes, stockings and skirts soiled with barn yard manure when their husbands and fathers were paying taxes every year for roads and sidewalks, you would naturally ask, "why does one man take away our county road and sidewalk and use it for his barn yard? Is he greater than the county?"

Signed: ELEVEN LADIES

Moscow Mirror
17 July 1885, p. 3

A HISTORY OF MOSCOW, IDAHO

by

W. G. Emery



Editor's Note: In 1896, W. G. Emery, a photographer, opened a gallery in Moscow. In 1897 he wrote A History of Moscow, Idaho, With Sketches of Some of Its Prominent Citizens, Firms and Corporations. The History was published as a supplement to the Moscow Mirror newspaper.

Latah Legacy is republishing this history in three installments, of which this is the last.



THE UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO

We have now come to a subject which is one of great interest to all, viz: University education. It is with especial pleasure and pride that we call the attention of our readers to the magnificent institution of learning that stands on University hill overlooking our beautiful city.

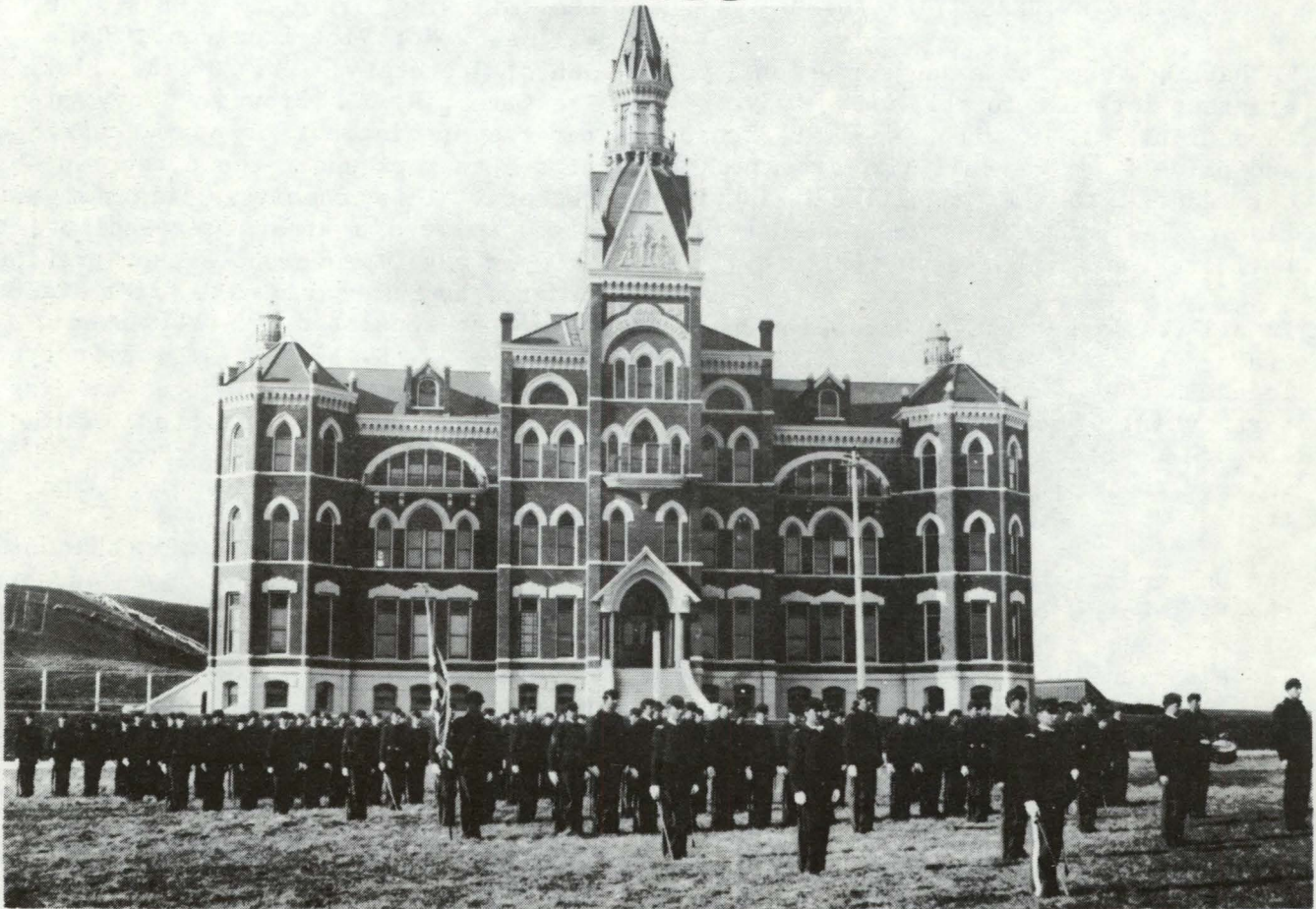
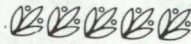
In all its departments are found educators trained at the most distinguished colleges in the land and from its halls come forth yearly young men and young ladies who are destined to be a credit to themselves, their alma mater and their country.

The University of Idaho was established at the fifteenth session of the legislature of the, then, territory, January 30, 1889. The act creating the institution received the approval of Governor E. A. Stevenson. The original bill appropriated \$15,000 to be expended in purchasing and improving the grounds of the proposed building. The regents were empowered to purchase not less than ten nor more than twenty acres of land as a site. The board was appointed by the governor and immediately set to the work of forming itself into an organization. This was done by electing

the following officers: President, Hon. Willis Sweet; Vice-President, Col. J. W. Jones; Secretary, Dr. H. B. Blake and Treasurer, R. S. Browne. They provided for the appointment of an executive committee to work under the direction of the regents. This committee was not authorized to make a greater expenditure than \$100 on any improvement except previously ordered by the board. The first executive committee consisted of Willis Sweet, J. W. Jones and H. B. Blake. It was instructed to purchase grounds for the building and accordingly bids were invited for the number of acres specified in the act. In April of the same year, the bids, which were quite numerous, were opened in the presence of all the members, and that of Mr. James Deakin of Moscow, was accepted. Twenty acres adjoining the town was secured at a cost of \$4000. From this site is obtained one of the finest views of Moscow and surrounding country that can be had from any portion of the city. As soon as possible thereafter plans and specifications were drawn up and notices inserted in the different papers. Bids were invited for laying the foundation and the contract was awarded to Messrs. Taylor & Lauder, at that time a well-known firm of builders in Moscow. Our readers will be able to form some idea of the magnitude

of the building when we inform them that the foundation alone cost \$10,000.98. It is of native granite, laid in Portland cement resting upon hard pan and the width at the base is six feet. Under the watchful eye of Dr. H. B. Blake the grounds were greatly improved and beautified by the planting of an abundance of carefully selected trees. These have rapidly grown and today form a most pleasing foreground to the University and grounds. The thanks of Moscow and of Idaho will always be due these gentlemen for their untiring efforts during the early history of our University. The plans called for a most substantial structure which, when completed, was not to contain a wooden partition in the entire building. This of course made it an expensive undertaking and although it was the wish of the regents to push the completion of the struc-

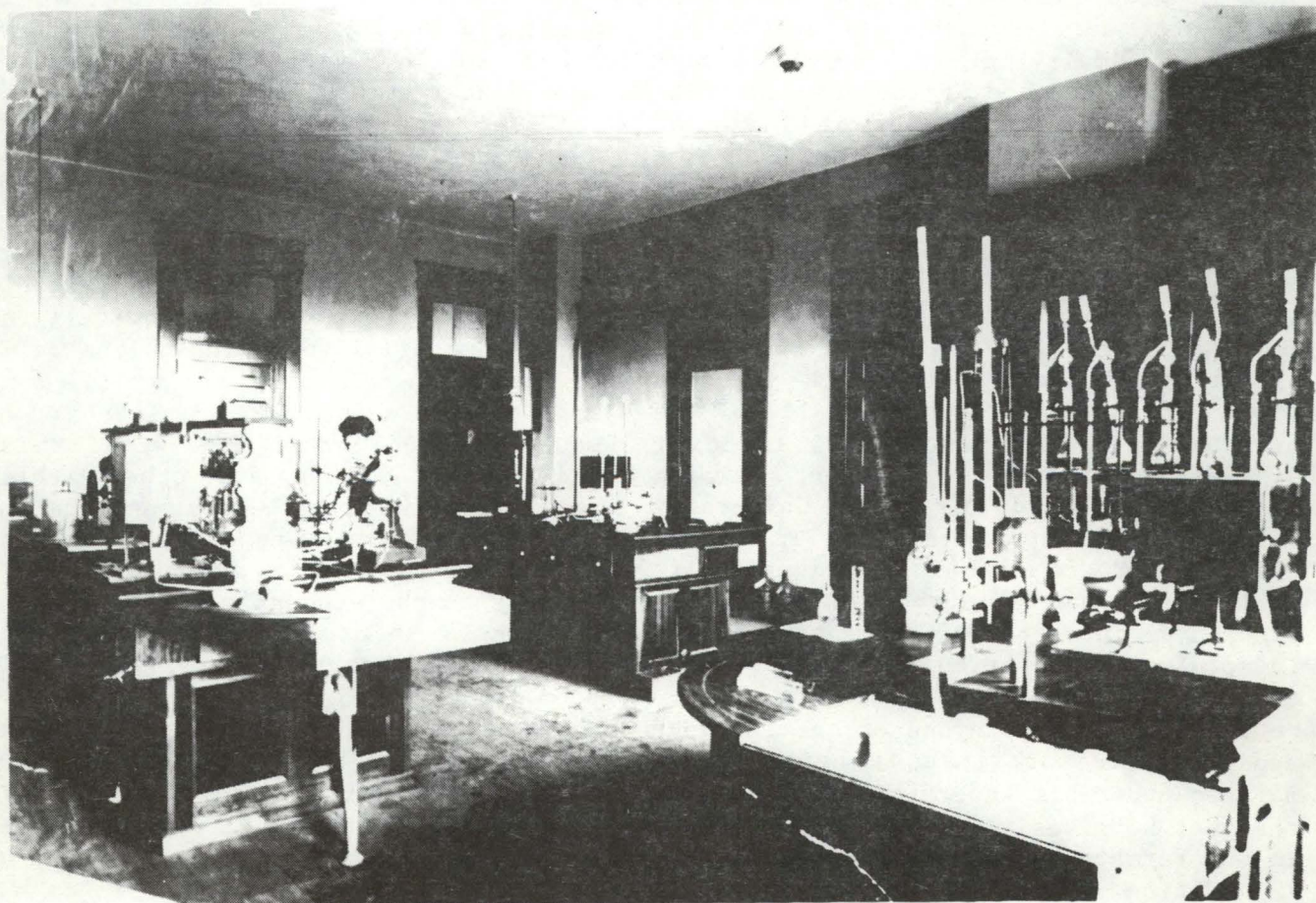
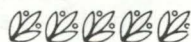
ture as rapidly as possible, yet feeling the pressure of the demand for the immediate operation of the University, they decided to finish the west wing at once. At the next annual meeting, Hon. Willis Sweet and H. B. Blake were reelected and the new members were R. Z. Johnson, Boise City; Senator G. L. Shoup, Boise City; Nathan Falk, Boise City; Hon. J. W. Reid, Lewiston, and J. H. Forney of Moscow. The board met on the 8th of July 1892 and let the contract for building the west wing to Taylor & Lauder of this city. They pushed the work along with the greatest possible rapidity and succeeded in completing the basement story before the storms of winter, which were unusually severe that year, compelled them to desist from further work till the following spring when the work was resumed and carried on with vigor till the wing was com-



ROTC cadets drilling on the old Administration Building lawn. U of I Photo Collection.

pleted and ready for occupancy at the beginning of the fall of 1892. The faculty which numbered but two at the opening of the University has been increased to twenty-four and includes graduates from Cornell, Columbia, Union, Oberlin, Northwestern, the State University of Ohio and Michigan, and the Agricultural Colleges of Michigan and South Dakota. The enrollment for 1896-7 was 255, 64 being in the college classes. The present year opened with a much larger attendance than ever before and promises larger enrollment. A marked and most gratifying increase is also shown in the higher classes which already number over 80. The upper classes in the preparatory school have been greatly increased, while the lowest class is much smaller than formerly. This is due, as mentioned elsewhere, to the advancement of the grade in our public schools

which are coming into closer relationship with the University and have adopted courses to meet its requirements. Were the same grades established in the schools of the sister towns of Moscow, or were the state more bountifully supplied with high schools the preparatory course at the University would not be needed, but until this is done it is a necessity. Some of the best equipped students in the college classes are those whose preparatory instruction was received in this department which is proof sufficient of its value and efficiency. The University has an excellent library of 4,000 volumes and 9,500 pamphlets. The departments of agriculture, chemistry, mining, botany, physics and zoology have thoroughly equipped laboratories, scientific apparatus being valued at \$30,000. Entering the main hall one may spend several pleasant and in-



Early University of Idaho chemistry laboratory. U of I Photo Collection.

structive hours in examining the various valuable and scientific collections on exhibition along either side. Here may be seen specimens of the different flora of the entire northwest; quartz and ores from the different mining districts of Idaho and elsewhere, and groups of fauna, biped and quadruped from the tiny humming bird to the crouching lion, arranged and mounted with all the taxidermist's skill.

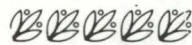
At the beginning of the last scholastic year the new courses of study went into operation. There are now nine regular college courses; the classical, the philosophical, the agricultural, the civil engineering, the mining engineering, the scientific with four years of chemistry as a major, the scientific with four years of botany as a major, the scientific with four years of zoology as a major. The special courses are preparatory, bench work in wood, military science and tactics, wood carving, free hand drawing, art, music, dairying, cooking and assaying. The mining and agricultural departments have adopted methods that are of practical benefit to those interested in these important industries. The professor of mining, in addition to his general duties makes numerous assay tests during the year and early in January gives a short course of practical instruction in assaying, etc., for the benefit of prospectors and others interested in this work. During the summer of 1896 the citizens of Moscow purchased a tract of over eighty acres of excellent farming land and presented it to the University for an experimental station. The benefits derived from this munificent gift will be of especial advantage to the agricultural interests of the entire state. The professor of agriculture follows much the same methods. A visit to his department will convince anyone of the thorough and practical work that is being accomplished under his supervision, and during the year he gives a few weeks of lectures to the farmers on scientific agriculture. In addition to the scholastic work there is a course of military instruction in charge of a U.S. army officer especially

detailed for this purpose by the War Department. The cadets are required to wear a uniform and their practical instruction at drill, target practice, etc., is conducted in accordance with strict military regulations. This has had a marked effect upon the physique and comportment of the students. There are two literary societies connected with the University and also two musical organizations whose public programs always attract a large and appreciative audience. The University Athletic Association, organized four years ago, numbers among its members the greater portion of the students. There are four departments--football, field day sports, lawn tennis and base ball. Along all these lines the U. of I. athletes have achieved marked distinction. With the exception of last year there have been annual contests between them and the representatives of the Washington Agricultural college, located only a few miles away, and so far the honors rest with the U. of I. boys. Last year, owing to some disagreement between the two associations, the usual field-day contests were canceled, to the disappointment of all, and we but voice the sentiment of everyone when we express the hope that this year all differences will be adjusted and the usual athletic exercises take place. Last year the football games did not materialize, owing to the failure of the W. A. C. team to appear on the date agreed upon, but already arrangements are made for games with Lewiston and Spokane. These and other athletic sports receive the hearty encouragement of the faculty, for experience has proven that healthy out-door exercises are necessary to the student's life and that he who excels in athletics is always found among those most proficient in the class room.

In closing this brief sketch of our young University we will state that its influence on the present and future welfare of our State and community is one that cannot be overestimated. Its aim is to make its instruction thorough and practical, to make the opportunities of life broader



Scientific collections in the main hall of the old Administration Building. U of I Photo Collection.



and to train its students for lives of industry, self-helpfulness and honor.

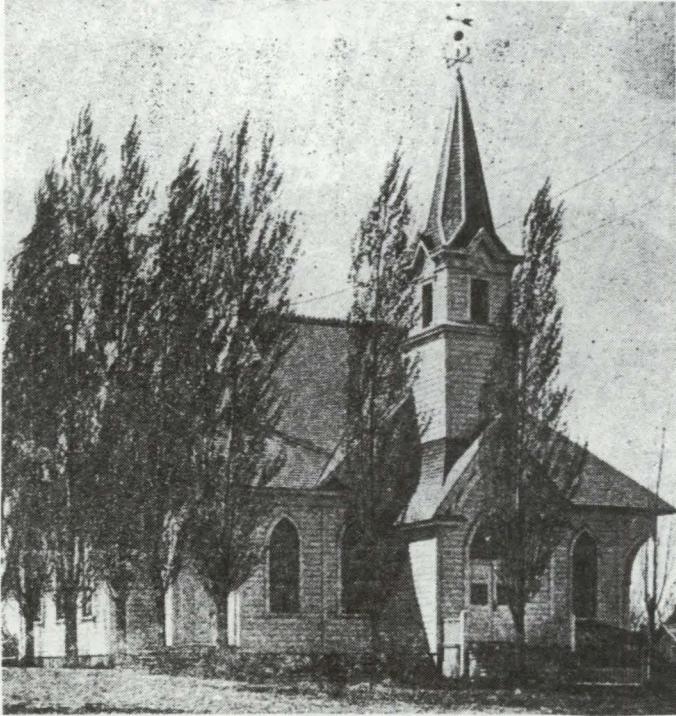
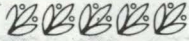
CHURCHES OF MOSCOW

The Presbyterian church of Moscow was organized January 25, 1880, by the Rev. Daniel Gamble, who served the church only about a year. He was succeeded by Rev. H. H. McMillan who remained two years, and partially erected the present church edifice. He was succeeded by Rev. W. C. Beebe, who remained between one and two years. After a vacancy of about two years the church called the Rev. Alexander Adair to the pastorate in December 1886. He remained six years during which time the church was painted, papered and supplied with opera seats and a fine bell. He was succeeded in 1892 by Dr. W. H. Sample who filled the pulpit till the fall of 1893.

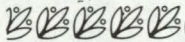
The present pastor, Rev. D. O. Ghormley, formerly of Portland, Or., has been in charge over three years. It is in most excellent working condition and under his able management has taken a place as one of the leading churches of Moscow.

The First Baptist Church of Moscow was organized August 6th 1876 at Paradise Valley school-house by Rev. S. E. Stearns, who supplied the church once a month as the pastor for about two years. Rev. D. W. C. Britt then succeeded him for a year and a half. Rev. S. W. Beaven was then called as pastor and moved his family to Moscow. He remained in charge for nearly four years, during which time A. A. Lieuallen gave the church a lot for a house of worship, which was soon after built. He was followed by his father Rev. J. W. Beaven, who remained one year.

Rev. J. S. Fesenton supplied the church as pastor for a few months when they called Rev. G. N. Annes who remained two years. Rev. A. J. Cable took charge in April, 1889 and by means of his excellent



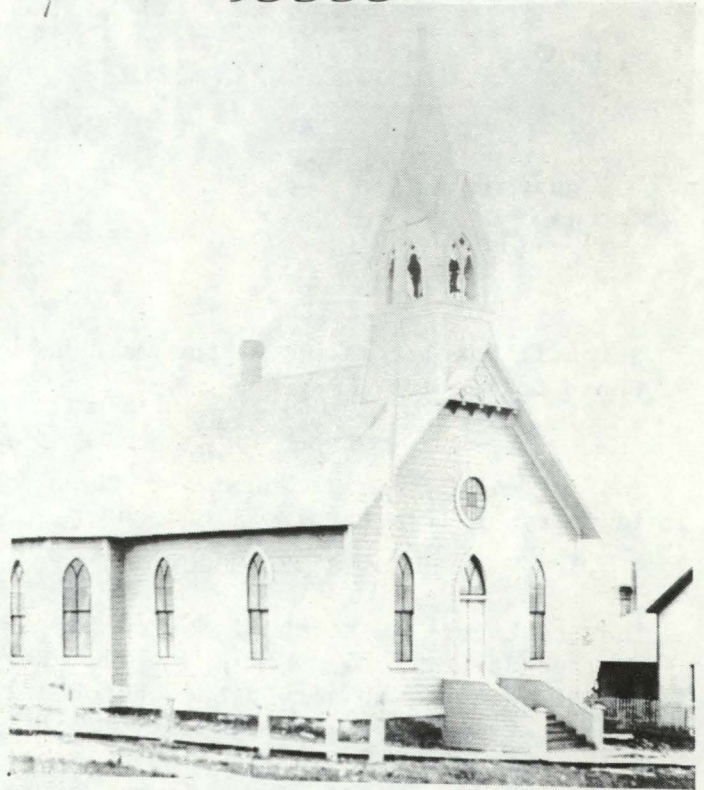
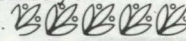
Presbyterian Church in 1906. Photo courtesy First Presbyterian Church.



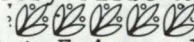
work the membership was increased from 60 to 153. He remained as pastor till his resignation on account of failing health in 1896. Rev. J. C. Douglas then succeeded him and is still in charge. The old church, built in 1878 was for some years the only house of worship in the town. During the summer just passed, feeling the need of more room the old building was torn down and a handsome edifice erected in its place.

The Christian church was organized in the old Maguire school house by Elder D. B. Matheny and he was the first to preach the gospel in the vicinity of our embryo city, as taught by the people known as the disciples of Christ. We have been unable to give the extent of the work during the early years of this church except that for a time it was very prosperous. Fifteen years ago Elder C. J. Wright reorganized the work in Moscow and built up a member-

ship of over 200. After his departure the work ceased and the church practically disbanded till the winter of 1888, when Elder Wm. McDonald again reorganized and continued to preach till the following June. In the spring of 1890 Elder Wm. F. Caroden took charge and perfected the organization. In 1891 a church edifice was erected and services were first held in it on Feb. 14 of that year by Elder L. Rogers assisted by James Sargent, since which time there has been a constant growth in membership. Elder Rogers was succeeded by R. L. Lotz who remained till the spring of 1896. His successor, Elder Barrows and his talented wife have since that time filled the pulpit in Moscow and vicinity.

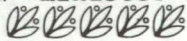


First Methodist at 6th and Jefferson in 1883 (present day Grace Baptist Church). Photo courtesy First Methodist Church.

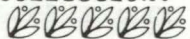


The Methodist Episcopal church of Moscow was organized Aug. 8th, 1881 by Rev. Calvin M. Bryan with a membership of about 20. After a two years' pastorship he was succeeded by Rev. Theodore Hoagland by whom their first church was built in 1883-4, on a tract of land donated by Henry McGregor. He was followed by Rev. J. C. Kirkman, who remained till July,

1885. The next minister was Rev. James Greenslade, who also remained but one year and was followed by Rev. W. B. Carithers, who was pastor till September 1888. During Rev. Carithers' ministry the old church, which the congregation had outgrown, was torn away and the present house of worship erected on the same site. He was followed in turn by Rev. R. C. Moter, Rev. W. A. Tickner and Rev. N. E. Parsons who took charge in Aug. 1890 and remained two years, during which time the present parsonage was erected. Rev. John Uren, the pastor lately appointed to Pendleton was with us five years and during his ministry especially endeared himself to his church and its friends. Rev. G. M. Booth, the new minister is an earnest



St. Mark's Episcopal Church, late 1800s. U of I Photo Collection.



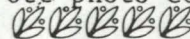
worker and the church will be kept in a prosperous condition.

The Episcopal church was established by

the Rev. Gill in 1888. Previous to this time however, Rev. J. D. McConkey who was located at Lewiston, made a number of visits to Moscow and preached here in the interest of this church. Rev. Gill was



Baptist Church, southeast corner at 1st and Jackson, first church in Moscow. Clifford Ott photo collection.



followed in 1890 by Rev. Patrick Murphy, who remained till about eight months ago when the present incumbent, L. R. Sheffield was called. The present church was built during the administration of Rev. Murphy, about the year 1892. Rev. Sheffield is now away on a visit East and during his absence services have been conducted by M. J. Chapman of Pullman. The membership of this denomination is not as large as that of some others in the city, being about sixty, but their church choir has the finest quartette in the city, composed of Mrs. Carl Hoffman, soprano; Miss Leta Baker, alto; C. F. Lake, tenor; and Dr. Carl Hoffman, basso.

The Swedish Lutheran church was organized about 1886 by Rev. P. J. Carlson, who had charge of this work till 1891. During this time the present church was erected. Rev. C. A. Ramstead was next minister and was succeeded about three years ago by the present pastor, Rev. C. J. Beckman. The house of worship is a neat edifice

standing on the corner of the block on which the residence of W. J. McConnell stands.

The Norwegian Methodist church was established in 1886 by the Rev. Carl Erickson and the present place of worship was built about 1888. From that year till the present time the pulpit has been filled in turn by Rev. C. L. Westberg, Rev. C. N. Hauge, G. S. Anderson and Rev. Joseph Olsen. The Rev. P. M. Melby took charge during the last month and is the present pastor. Their membership is about forty-five.

The Catholic church of Moscow was organized in 1882 by Father Teomitie. Their present building was erected in 1886 by Father Hartleib who is still in charge.

The Dunkards have an organization here and a house of worship, but we have been unable to secure the data in regard to its early history. The membership is about fifty.

The Seventh Day Adventist's church was organized in 1890 and a building erected by Rev. Scoles. The denomination is at present in charge of Rev. J. W. Bagby and the membership is about eighty.

AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

In writing a history of our thriving city it is necessary to speak of the varied resources of the surrounding country of which it is the principal receiving and distributing center. Latah county contains within its limits the most favored section of what is known as the famous Palouse country, of worldwide reputation for its genial climate, picturesque scenery and wonderful productiveness of soil. The western and southern portions of the country are a rolling prairie under thorough cultivation. The products are wheat, flax, barley, oats, beans, hay, fruit and vegetables. At the present time the cereals are the principal crops, although the other products are encroaching each year upon the grain acreage and gradually reducing

it. The fruit industry is yet in its infancy, but is growing with great rapidity. In the southern portion of the county where the altitude is the lowest, the orchards are more advanced, having been planted earlier, but in the remote northern part peaches have been raised very successfully and the yield of apples, pears, prunes, peach plums, apricots, cherries and the smaller fruits is certain and simply enormous. The trees, unless securely propped, break down almost every year with the weight of their yield. All this part of Latah county, contiguous to Moscow is an empire within itself and constitutes one of the richest agricultural countries in the world. The last season has been an exceedingly favorable one and under the stimulus of a prospective good price for grain, an unusually large acreage has been cultivated and harvested. This prospective price has materialized in the highest quotations for wheat that have been offered for the past five years and it is estimated that the county's production for 1897 will be over 3,500,000 bushels of wheat, 1,000,000 bushels of oats and barley and 850,000 bushels of flax, to say nothing of the immense bulk and value of its other products. The wheat averages thirty-five bushels per acre, barley and oats forty to fifty, and flax fifteen to twenty bushels. By careful cultivation there are many who produce greater yields than the average. There have been many cases during the past season where the yield of spring wheat has reached sixty bushels per acre and fall wheat as high as eighty bushels per acre, but of course this was where special care had been taken in the preparation of the soil and in the cultivation and harvesting of the crop. In this section no irrigation whatever is required, the natural rainfall being always sufficient to insure bounteous crops without the expense of establishing an artificial water system.

TIMBER RESOURCES

In the limited space allowed the writer cannot give this subject the attention that its importance demands, so will only

touch upon the more interesting facts as mentioned by C. O. Brown, timber inspector, in his late report to the State. Within the confines of Latah county is the greater part of the largest body of white pine now standing in the United States. So far as the examinations have gone it is estimated that this body of timber contains the enormous amount of 2,000,000,000 feet of white pine and 5,000,000,000 feet of other timber consisting of yellow pine, tamarack, red and white fir and cedar. The title of the greater portion of these timber lands is vested in the State for the benefit of educational and charitable institutions.

Well worn trails traverse this dense forest in every direction but their only travelers are the restless prospectors with their outfits seeking a phantom Klondyke and passing carelessly by the sure fortune that capital will in the near future glean from this valuable tract. The importance and necessity of opening up this vast timber region to the manufacturer, and the great advantages and benefits that would necessarily accrue to this city have of late become so apparent to the business men of Moscow and vicinity that steps have been taken for the early construction of a railroad to and through this forest of untold value--upon no tree of which the lumberman's ax has yet fallen. A company has been incorporated under the name of Moscow & Eastern Railway Co., and a preliminary survey made during the summer just passed, from our city to the timber belt.

When the time does come, and it is bound to come, when these valuable resources are made available, Moscow will receive a "boom" far beyond anything we dream of.

MINERAL RESOURCES

Long before this country was considered adapted to the pursuit of agriculture, successful mining was carried on within its confines. As far back as the 60's we have record of placer claims having been worked along our different water courses. Besides rich deposits of gold and silver,

there are also valuable mica and opal mines within its limits. It may not be known to all that the Idaho exhibit of opals, that attracted such wide-spread attention at the World's Fair came from Latah county.

In 1881 a mine of mica was discovered about thirty miles from Moscow by J. T. Woody, and in a short time a number of other locations were made in the same vicinity. The principal placer mines in the country are situated in the Hoodoo district which has been worked for the last thirty-five years. Other mines being worked successfully are on Jerome creek, Swamp creek, Gold creek and many others and in Howard gulch, Garden gulch, Crumrine gulch and others on Moscow mountain. The first quartz mill in the county was operated on a ledge on Moscow mountain and owned by Dr. Worthington and D. C. Mitchell. In 1896 a mill was started in the Daisy mine on Jerome creek, which is now on a paying basis. On Ruby creek is a most valuable gold and silver mine called the Silver King. For years gold has been taken from the ledges of Moscow mountain by the "arrastre" process and if this mountain of wealth was situated in some remote locality, difficult of access it would be considered a veritable Klondyke. The Gold Bug, Golden Gate and the Big Ledge are the principal mines now being worked there. The Golden Gate Co. is driving a tunnel, which will be 200 ft. in length, and a mill is to be put in, in the spring.

In conclusion we have given our readers, we trust, a not too extended account of the early history and growth of our city, together with its business interests, its institutions and its varied and valuable resources, and would impress upon them, that all that has been written is neither colored or overdrawn. If anything, we have under-rated or omitted many important facts that might be more fully written. It is expected that errors may have crept in, as from the nature of the subject, the correct data has been at times hard to secure.

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 Beulah Baker, Moscow
 Mary Banks, Moscow
 Ray and Lura Berry, Moscow
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In 1968 interested individuals organized the Latah County Historical Society to collect and preserve materials connected with the history of Latah County and to provide further knowledge of the history and tradition of the area. Every person, young or old, who is interested in the history of Latah County and who would like to assist in its preservation and interpretation is cordially invited to become a member. Subscription to this journal and a discount on books published by the Society are included in membership dues. Dues for the various classes of membership are as follows:

	Friend	Contributing	Sustaining	Sponsoring	Benefactor
Individual	\$ 5-10	\$11-25	\$26- 50	\$ 51-100	\$101-499
Family	9-15	16-40	41-100	101-200	201-499
Business	25-35	36-75	76-150	151-300	301-499

A "500 Club" is reserved for contributions of \$500 or more. Privileges are identical for all classes; the higher dues represent a much needed donation to help the Society's work. Dues are tax-deductible.

The Society's services include conducting oral histories, publishing local history monographs, maintaining a local history/genealogy research library and the county museum, as well as educational outreach. The Society wishes to acquire objects, documents, books, photographs, diaries, and other materials relating to the history of Latah County. These are added to the collections and made available to researchers while they are preserved for future generations.

The Society is housed in the William J. McConnell Mansion, 110 South Adams, Moscow. The museum is open from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. Visits to the museum or research library are welcomed at other times and can be arranged by calling (208) 882-1004.