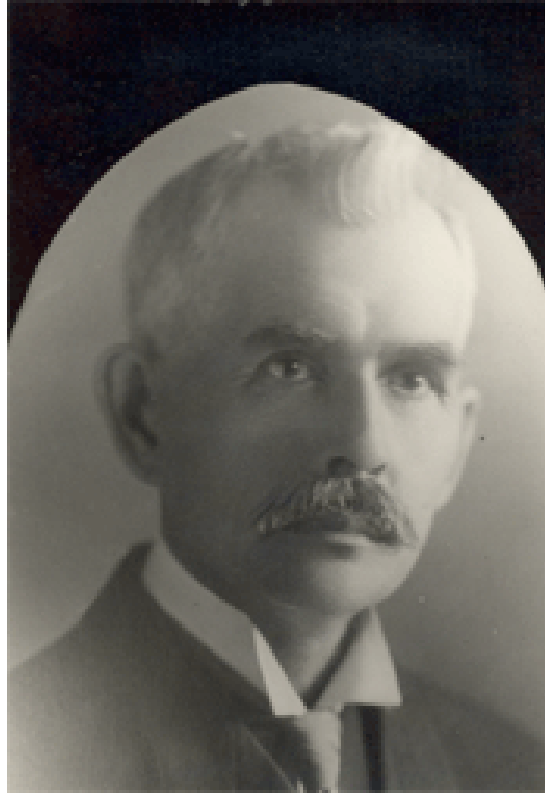


A.F. Isham

Mayor 1900



Dr. A.F. Isham was born as Williston Isham in Burlington, Vermont on February 10, 1858. He married Miss Lida M. Johnson on June 28, 1885. They had four children: Mary; Elsie, Helen and Henry, Jr.

He graduated from the University of Vermont on June 26, 1882. Throughout his career he maintained a great interest in the science of medicine and kept abreast of the new trends. During one of his trips to his old alma mater he was given the honor of the Vice Presidency of the College Alumni of the medical department.

Dr. Isham moved to Idaho in the fall of 1883 with a 6 month layover in Green River City, WY to do surgical work there. When he arrived in Idaho, Caldwell was a tent town. One of the first buildings was the hotel that was moved 5 miles into town on rollers. Upon his arrival to

Caldwell he immediately assumed the duties of surgeon for the Oregon Short Line Railroad where he served for 14 year.

He didn't confine his efforts to the practice of medicine. He also ran the Isham Drug Store at 623 Main out of the Opera House that he owned with A. A. Hoover (they were among the 5 first town officers of Caldwell). He was also the first president of the First National Bank of Emmett, ID, an office that he held for 5 years. He was the vice president of the Peoples Bank of Cambridge, ID for 10 years, an organization in which he assisted in organizing and where he remained a stockholder in this bank for many years to come. He was the director of the First Bank of Vale, OR, and was on the building committee which erected the first fine hotel in Vale. He was the director of the First National Bank of Caldwell for 5 years and remained as a stockholder. He founded and ran the Idaho Milling & Feed Company. He had 500 farmers as his customers and turned out 8 train carloads of product per year. He invested in many different properties, which included 5 farms that he rented out and many improved properties as well. He was known through all of his business transactions to have "displayed notably sound judgment and keen sagacity, which have enabled him to avoid the unwarranted risks and failures into which unrestricted progressiveness is so frequently lod."

Dr. Isham had many fraternal interest, in which he was very active. He served as master of the Blue Lodge in Masonry, he was a member of the Boise Chapter, R.A.M., the Knights Templar Commandery and the Mystic Shrine for 19 years. He held every office in the Odd Fellows organization and was the grand high priest of the Grand Encampment.

When Dr. Isham first arrived to Caldwell he recalled that there was no irrigation system, very few houses and the country had the appearance of an undeveloped desert. He was a member of the Caldwell Building & Loan Association for 7 years, during which they built 117 houses.

Dr. A.F. Isham served as Mayor of Caldwell in 1900, was president of the City Council in 1902 and was a member of the council for 3 terms. He also served on the school board for 2 years.