

Walter Griffiths

Mayor 1911 - 1912



Walter Griffiths was born June 3, 1866 near Nauvoo, Illinois.

When Walter was a young adult he lived in Colorado where he built a homestead. He received the degrees of A. B. and A. M. from the University of Kansas, and the next year earned his Master's degree. The following year he took a course in law from the University of Kansas, then spent one year at the University of California where he earned a law degree. He then moved to San Francisco where he entered the Hasting's Law College. He graduated in 1900 and moved to Idaho the same year. He became a legal partner with his brother Henry (H.A.) Griffiths, in the law practice of Griffiths & Griffiths Law Office in Caldwell, Idaho. There he began to gather clients, acres and honors.

On Aug. 11, 1909, the Mercury reported, "A wedding of much interest to San Joseans, in Berkeley when Miss Nellie Mabe Borton became the wife of Mr. Walter Griffiths of Caldwell,

Idaho. The bride is the daughter of Mr. William F. (deceased) and Mrs. Barbara J. Borton. She is a graduate of the State Normal of this city and has been teaching for the past few years in the school department of Berkeley. Walter is a classmate of Fred E. Borton, of Bakersfield, the bride's brother. Mr. and Mrs. Griffiths will reside in Caldwell, Idaho."

Walter became Mayor of Caldwell in 1911, where he served for 2 years. He was unanimously re-nominated for Mayor in 1913 by the taxpayers' party, but lost the election to Charles H. Turner. He held the position of president of the Commercial Club, director and vice-president of the Boise Water Users Association and director of The First National Bank.

Nellie passed away at the age of 40 on April 5, 1913. There are no dates on Nellie's grave marker. Her estimated year of birth is from census records where she is listed as Walter Griffiths' wife in the 1910 census of Caldwell, Canyon County, Idaho, but she also appears in the 1910 census of Kern County, Calif., with her brother, Fred E. Borton and his family in Bakersfield; she was employed as a legal assistant, probably in Fred's law office (he was one of the founders of the Borton Petrini law firm). The census lists her as married with no children. Nellie and Walter Griffiths may have divorced before her death, since her mother served as the executor of her estate.

Walter died on December 26, 1955 at the age of 89.