

## *Part I: Homestead Resources by State*

*(extract from 9/17/2011 edition of “Guide to Homesteading Resources” by Robert King, BLM-Alaska)*

### **Idaho:**

#### **Homestead Statistics for Idaho:**

**Total: 60,221 homesteads**

**Total acres in State: 52,960,640**

**Total acres homesteaded in State: 9,733,455**

**Total percentage of Idaho homesteaded: 18%**

#### **First Homesteaders in Idaho:** (source: <http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/>)

The first people to receive homesteads granted under the 1862 Homestead Act in Idaho apparently did not receive patents to their homesteads until September 30, 1874. None was patented earlier.

On September 30, 1874, BLM records show that 31 homestead patents were issued to persons in Idaho, with the following breakdown by county:

Ada County (24): Samuel D. Aikens, Daniel Bacon, Seth Bisby, John Blagg, John Carpenter, Henry B. Conway, William B. Crane, Elijah Frost, William Ganey, John B. Gard, John M. Glenn, James B. Huff, Samuel G. Hull, Thomas Kingsbury, Martin M. McHendry, Gabriel Newman, Jared G. Peck, Phillip S. Schick, Franklin B. Smith, John & Lucinda Turner, Jerome B. Walling, John V. Wilson, Joseph P. Wilson, and David Woods

Canyon County (7): Thomas Andrews, Reuben Cox, Mathew Kennedy, Marion E. Mason, James Mondy, William N. Montgomery, and Elias M. Powell

Of these 31 first homestead patents issued on September 30, 1874, all appear to have been issued to individual men with one exception:

to John and Lucinda Turner – Their patent was for 136 acres of land in T3N, R2E, Section 24 in Ada County, Idaho Territory (Boise Meridian).

Lucinda Turner is the first woman to be named on a homestead patent in Idaho. This may indicate that she was either the heir (or widow) of John Turner, or was considered the head of the household if she had a living husband who was disabled. (Note: Under the 1862 Homestead Act, women over age 21 who were heads of their households were able to receive homestead patents. This included widows, those with disabled husbands, and single women.)

**Dates of last known Homestead patents in Idaho** (source: 2004 query of BLM serial records) – (Note: The patents for the first three “last” homesteads listed below, reserved to the U.S. Government certain feature associated with federal irrigation districts, so it is possible that these homesteads were within dry land regions withdraw under the 1902 Reclamation Act. Otherwise, because they are so relatively recent,

it could mean that they were either correction patents needed for legal reasons or possibly patents to heirs of the original homesteaders. Each would need to be verified.)

7/14/1981: date of last known patent issued under the 1862 Homestead Act in Idaho – patent for 80 acres issued to Gerald D. Trunnell & Ben A. Anderson – Serial #IDBL 0041551 – Patent #11-81-0066 – location: T5N, R5W, land within Section 31, Boise Meridian, located in Canyon County, Idaho (Note: The patent for this homestead reserved to the U.S. Government a right-of-way for certain ditches and canals, suggesting that this land may have been within an area homesteaded under terms of the 1902 Reclamation Act.)

12/6/1974: date of 2<sup>nd</sup> to last known patent issued under the 1862 Homestead Act in Idaho – patent for 40 acres issued to Glenn D. Allender – Serial #IDBL 0041320 – Patent #11-75-0054 – location: T5N, R6W, land within Section 25, Boise Meridian, located in Canyon County, Idaho (Note: The patent for this homestead reserved to the U.S. Government a right-of-way for certain ditches and canals, suggesting that this land may have been within an area homesteaded under terms of the 1902 Reclamation Act.)

3/11/1971: date of 3<sup>rd</sup> to last known patent issued under the 1862 Homestead Act in Idaho – patent for 158.56 acres issued to John L. Richardson – Serial #IDI 0012240 – Patent #11-71-0107 – location: T5N, R5W, land within Section 31, Boise Meridian, located in Canyon County, Idaho (Note: The patent for this homestead reserved to the U.S. Government certain irrigation-related features, including water pumps, beside a right-of-way for ditches and canals, suggesting that this land may have been within an area homesteaded under terms of the 1902 Reclamation Act.)

7/27/1989: date of last known patent issued under the Reclamation Act of June 17, 1902 (32 Stat. 388) in Idaho – patent for 140.31 acres issued to Dallan Schenk – Serial #IDI 0008789 – Patent #11-89-0062 – location: T8S, R21E, land within Sections 22, 23 & 27, Boise Meridian, located in Jerome County, Idaho

2/17/1956: date of last known patent issued under the 1916 Stock Raising Homestead Act (39 Stat. 862) in Idaho – patent for 39.25 acres issued to Hyrum J. Peterson – Accession and Serial #IDBL 0055270 02 – location: T2N, R43E, land within Section 20, Boise Meridian, located in Bonneville County, Idaho

### **Important Homestead Laws for Idaho:**

- 1862: Homestead Act (“An Act to secure Homesteads to actual Settlers on the Public Domain”) (12 Stat. 392, May 20, 1862); Amended March 21, 1864 (13 Stat. 35); and also amended several more times including significant amendments in 1891, 1904, and 1912 – this was the first homestead act where settlers could obtain up to 160 acres without cost other than certain filing fees by meeting requirements to live on the land in a habitable dwelling for 5 years and cultivate the land.
- 1902 Reclamation Act (“Newland Act”): (“An Act Appropriating the receipts from the sale and disposal of public lands in certain States and Territories to the construction of irrigation works for the reclamation of arid land”) (32 Stat. 388, June 17, 1902); partly amended by “An Act To authorize advances to the ‘reclamation fund,’ and for the issue and disposal of certificates of indebtedness in reimbursement therefor, and for other purposes” June 25, 1910 (36 Stat. 835) that repealed a portion of the earlier 1902 law – the 1902 Act allowed the Secretary of the Interior to withdraw lands from entry for the establishment of water projects so that the land through irrigation could become more productive. It was used in Idaho resulting in certain “reclamation” homesteads being patented in the state.
- 1906 Homestead Act in Forest Reserves (“Forest Homestead Act”): (“An Act To provide for the entry of Agricultural lands within forest reserves”) (34 Stat. 233, June 11, 1906) – allowed lands “chiefly valuable for agriculture” within “permanent or temporary forest reserves” to be opened

to 160-acre homesteads; also allowed persons already residing on such lands prior to Jan. 1, 1906 to have a preference right over new claims.

- 1909 Enlarged Homestead Act: (“An Act To provide for an enlarged homestead”) (35 Stat. 639, Feb. 19, 1909); amended June 6, 1912 (37 Stat. 123); Amended March 4, 1915 (38 Stat. 1162) – allowed homestead claims up to 320 acres in Colorado, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, and Territories of Arizona and New Mexico (thus not in Idaho initially nor in California, Nebraska, and certain other states).
- 1910 Enlarged Homestead Act for Idaho: (“An Act To provide for an enlarged homestead”) (36 Stat. 531, June 17, 1910); amended, June 6, 1912 (37 Stat. 123); Amended Aug. 10, 1917 (40 Stat. 273) – extended the same provisions of the 1909 Enlarged Homestead Act to Idaho with some modifications.
- 1912: Three-Year Homestead Act (applied nationwide) (37 Stat. 123, June 6, 1912) – homestead laws amended to require only three years of residence on the land to prove up and receive patent to it if all other requirements were met including cultivation.
- 1916 Stock Raising Homestead Act: (“An Act To provide for stock-raising homesteads, and for other purposes”) (39 Stat. 862, Dec. 29, 1916); Amended Oct. 25, 1918 (40 Stat. 1016); Amended Sept. 29, 1919 (41 Stat. 287); Amended June 6, 1924 (43 Stat. 469); Amended April 16, 1933 (107 Stat. 60) – allowed homestead entry of up to 640 acres in areas that had to be first designated by the Secretary of the Interior as “stock-raising lands.”
- 1934 Taylor Grazing Act: (“An Act To Stop injury to the public grazing lands by preventing overgrazing and soil deterioration, to provide for their orderly use, improvement, and development, to stabilize the livestock industry dependent upon the public range, and for other purposes”) (48 Stat. 1269, June 28, 1934) – this Act provided for regulated grazing on federal public lands (exclusive of Alaska) to improve range conditions and stabilize the livestock industry in the American West. Under this law, President Franklin Roosevelt withdrew most public lands in the western United States for classification as part of grazing districts thus effectively ending the opportunity for further homesteading almost everywhere except Alaska.
- 1976 Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA): (“An Act To establish public land policy; to establish guidelines for its administration; to provide for the management, protection, development, and enhancement of the public lands; and for other purposes”) (90 Stat. 2743, Oct. 21, 1976) – this is the “organic act” for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) that clarified and redefined its mission and authority. It repealed all prior laws related to homesteading in the Lower 48 states including the original 1862 Homestead Act.

#### **National Register of Historic Places information on Idaho homesteading:**

- 1) **Homesteads on or eligible to the National Register:**
  - a. **BLM land in Idaho:** none as of 4/14/2011
  - b. **Idaho statewide:** unreported
- 2) **Homestead National Register Documentation work:** unreported

#### **Non-BLM Books/Theses/Articles/Web resources about Idaho Homesteading (see Part II Bibliography for these authors):**

- 1) **books/theses/articles -- see Part II Bibliography for these authors:** Attebery, Boyd, Cannon, Hensley
- 2) **web resources -- see PART II Bibliography for further information:** (none yet reported)

- 3) **misc. resources/references:** (none yet reported)

**BLM resources about Idaho Homesteading – Books/Articles/Web resources:** (none reported as of 8/6/2009)

**BLM resources about Idaho Homesteading – Sites:**

- 1) Salmon Field Office:
  - a. Tower Creek “Pirimids” Day Use Area -- includes a partially interpreted homestead site (some of site may also be on a Desert Land Entry Claim) with a 20<sup>th</sup> century structure. See:  
[http://www.blm.gov/id/st/en/fo/salmon/recreation\\_sites\\_/tower\\_creek\\_pirimids.html](http://www.blm.gov/id/st/en/fo/salmon/recreation_sites_/tower_creek_pirimids.html)
  - b. Morgan Bar Recreation Site includes a remnant orchard of the Morgan family that homesteaded the area (uncertain if interpreted) See:  
[http://www.blm.gov/id/st/en/fo/salmon/recreation\\_sites\\_/Morgan\\_Bar\\_Recreation\\_Site.html](http://www.blm.gov/id/st/en/fo/salmon/recreation_sites_/Morgan_Bar_Recreation_Site.html)
- 2) Challis Field Office:
  - a. Thousand Springs Homestead – This homestead and stage stop was patented in 1919 and has interpretation on site. See:  
[http://www.blm.gov/id/st/en/fo/challis/special\\_areas/Thousand\\_Springs.html](http://www.blm.gov/id/st/en/fo/challis/special_areas/Thousand_Springs.html)
  - b. Whiskey Springs Homestead – This homestead and stage stop was also patented in 1919 and will be interpreted in 2010, with a signed walking trail that will travel along and through nearby Chilly Slough to the cabin. See:  
[http://www.blm.gov/id/st/en/fo/challis/special\\_areas/Whiskey\\_Springs.html](http://www.blm.gov/id/st/en/fo/challis/special_areas/Whiskey_Springs.html)
  - c. Anderson Ranch Homestead – This homestead was patented in 1922 and is scheduled to be stabilized in 2010 through a cooperative agreement with the NPS’s North Cascades Group and the OSU Preservation School. Interpretation of that site will occur as funding is made available. (no website link yet)
  - d. Boone Creek cabin/”homestead” site – This was a failed homestead (never patented/”trespass”) site that does have an interpretive sign (installed in 2004) (no website link)
  - e. Meadow Creek “homestead” site – This is another failed homestead (never patented/”trespass”) site. However, due to access issues, interpreting and stabilizing it is problematic and has not been done. (no website link)
  - f. Note: Possible future additional homestead sites: The proposed land exchange for the Thompson Creek Molybdenum Mine Plan of Operations (EIS completion expected ca. 2015) would result in the BLM-Challis Field Office acquisition of three patented homesteads currently in private ownership.
- 3) Four Rivers Field Office: (no interpreted homesteads yet but some possibilities):
  - a. Wees Bar Stone House -- ruins and mining features – a study has been done for this site

- b. Halverson Lake stone house remains – Remains on BLM lands in the Halverson Lake area include one stone house and several stone house ruins (mentioned in: “Prospects – Land-Use in the Snake River Birds of Prey Area 1860-1987,” edited by Todd Shallat, Boise State Univ. (1987))
- c. Rabbit Creek stone house (near the Snake River) – suspected to be a homestead, but more research needed

**Misc. Source Information provided by BLM-Idaho:**

- 1) Contacts for homestead information?: Best resources would be Rich Wilson in Ogden, and Lorealea Hudson at NWAA in Seattle.
- 2) Comprehensive studies discussing only homesteads in Idaho?: None known, but several Forest Service overviews do include discussions about homesteading. For example:
  - a. Rossillon, Mary P (Mitzi) (1980): An Overview of History in the Drainage Basin of the Middle Fork of the Salmon River. U of I Anthropological Research Manuscript Series #60. (Note: Mitzi did her thesis on ranching in the Northern Rockies)
  - b. Rossillon, Mary Patrice: M.A. (1982) Frontier Ranching in the Northern Rocky Mountains: A Model of Range Use and Site Location. Wash. State Univ., Pullman.
- 3) Homestead information may also be in architectural studies:
  - a. e.g.: Reference to Finn architecture in Long Valley Idaho that I have in my links file under homesteads. This is apparently an excerpt from a NR nomination. (Maybe SHPO knows of others?)  
<http://www.nps.gov/history/NR/twhp/wwwlps/lessons/4logcabins/4facts2.htm>
  - b. OSU’s historic preservation program has produced several theses on vernacular architecture, including homesteads, in Oregon. Contact Don Peting to see if anything for Idaho is in the works or possible.
- 4) Note: The Challis Field Office also supplied the titles for 3 Oregon State University theses with homestead-related information. These involve the states of Oregon and Montana, and are referenced under those states with full citations given in the bibliography.

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**Bibliography for Idaho:**

Web resources: (all Bureau of Land Management)

BLM - Salmon Field Office:

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[http://www.blm.gov/id/st/en/fo/salmon/recreation\\_sites\\_/tower\\_creek\\_pirimids.html](http://www.blm.gov/id/st/en/fo/salmon/recreation_sites_/tower_creek_pirimids.html)

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Books, articles, dissertations and theses:

Attebery, Louie W. (editor)

1985 Idaho Folklife: Homesteads to Headstones. Salt Lake City, UT: Univ. of Utah (softbound, 237 pp. included bibliography) – This is volume 2 on Idaho social life and customs.

Boyd, Gregory A.

(various years) Family Maps of [Name] County, [State] With Homesteads, Roads, Waterways, Towns, Cemeteries, Railroads, and More. Norman, OK: Arphax Publishing Co. This is an ongoing series of publications that provide mapped locations of homesteads and much more within various counties. This is a research tool showing who received the first patents from the Federal government for homesteads and other lands within a county. See the following website for more information on availability:

[www.arphax.com](http://www.arphax.com) As of 20 September 2010, a total of 486 county volumes were available for 23 states, including two county volumes for Idaho.

Cannon, Brian Q.

2009 Reopening the Frontier: Homesteading in the Modern World. Lawrence, KS: Univ. of Kansas Press (hardback, 307 pp.) – Story of homesteading on lands opened by the Bureau of Reclamation under authority of the 1902 Reclamation Act between 1946 and 1966 in the following western states: Arizona, California, Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming.

Hensley, Marcia Meredith

2008 Staking Her Claim: Women Homesteading the West. Glendo, WY: High Plains Press (paperback, 304 pp., including index and bibliography) – This book presents accounts of women homesteaders in seven states as taken from letters and diaries: Colorado, Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, & Wyoming.