

Happy Birthday, Boise!

With three companies of infantry and one of cavalry, Major Pinkney Lugenebeel was dispatched from Fort Vancouver, Washington Territory to locate a fort for the protection of Oregon Trail travelers, and local citizens, in the new Territory of Idaho. On July 4, 1863 Major Lugenebeel picked a location for the new fort near the intersection of the Oregon Trail and the roads connecting the Owyhee and Boise Basin mines.

At the same time Henry Riggs rode all night from Bannock (Idaho City) to meet Cyrus Jacob's pack train coming in from Walla Walla. Picking a campsite between the new fort and the river, and hoping to get a little rest he pitched a tent at about where 8th Street and Grove Street are today. Within an hour the supplies arrived, and shortly after that a wagon train came in. Riggs hung out a sign, and Cy Jacobs was in business with Riggs, and James Mullany, acting as his agents.

163 Years ago today, July 7, 1863, Henry Riggs, Cy Jacobs, and 18 other men surveyed in the townsite of Boise City. Most of these men were transients headed for the gold fields, and a number of the men came down from Bannock City (now Idaho City) to assist. The land they had just surveyed was covered with scrubby sagebrush abundant with jack rabbits, and dotted with tufts of bunch grass.

The original city consisted of ten blocks with twelve 50 x 122 feet lots each. The lots were numbered from one to six on the south side of the block, from west to east and on the north side of the block from seven to twelve, again from west to east. The twenty men who worked on the project formed the "Boise City Town Company". When the survey was complete, lots were drawn on a division of out lots among the members. Each man drawing a total of six lots. Two streets were named, Main Street and Garrison Street (now North Sixth Street). Garrison Street went out to Fort Boise. The newly formed plat was signed by "H.C. Riggs — July 7, 1863".

Of the men that stayed, most figured Boise City would be short lived, Pinckney Lugenebeel, W.B. Hughes and 1st Lieut. Charles Hobart were at the fort; Francis (Frank) Davis, Thomas Davis' younger brother, took up farming near Boise City; Cyrus Jacobs ran his general merchantile store (sw crnr 7th & Main); John McClellan farmed southwest of the city on the Boise River; Henry C. Riggs went into the saloon and livery business with James D. Agnew. Their business was known as "Pioneer Livery and Feed Stable" (ne crnr 7th & Main).

During the second session of the Idaho Territorial Legislature Boise was named the permanent Capital City beginning on December 24, 1864. Ada County was split off from Boise County during the same session. Source: ***Founding Fathers Of Boise*** by Hugh H. Hartman.