

In the venerable and honored retired rancher and citizen, Joseph Bown, Idaho possesses not only one of its oldest residents but also a man who has represented in his long career the best elements which have composed the citizenship of this country throughout its growth from a frontier region to a modern state.

A native of England, Joseph Bown was born in Nottingham, England, February 18, 1829, a son of Samuel and Eleanor Bown. When he was twelve years of age, he and his father came to America. The mother and other members of the household remained in England and did not join the husband until seven years later. The other four children came with the mother to this country and two remained in England and never came to America. The father and son made their way direct to Chicago, and first located at Naperville, in Dupage country, arriving there on June 12, 1841, and where they spent the summer in work at wages for the farmers. In the same year they moved to Lake county, Illinois, and after a few years went on west to Waterloo, Iowa, which remained the home of Mr. Joseph Bown up to 1863. In Lake county, Illinois, the father and son bought eighty acres of land for which they paid \$1.25 per acre, the usual government price. In Iowa they bought one hundred and sixty acres, and by 1863 Mr. Bown was owner of a farm of two hundred and eighty acres near Waterloo, Iowa. The father and mother spent the final years of their lives near Waterloo, where the father passed away at the age of sixty-five and the mother when sixty-three years of age.

In Lake county, Illinois, on November 19, 1853, Mr. Bown married Miss Temperance Statira Hall. Mrs. Bown was born in the state of New York, and was a graduate of the Young Ladies Seminary in Waukegan, Illinois. She taught several terms of school previous to her marriage.

Mr. Bown was one of the first permanent settlers to arrive in Idaho. Leaving his old home in Iowa, he set out across the plains in 1863, and after reaching Walla Walla, turned back and located at Idaho City, where he was engaged in mining during the following winter. In June of that year he took up a ranch in Boise valley, three miles above the present city of Boise and on the south side of the river. This ranch contained two hundred and forty acres.

After he had completed the preliminary survey and preparation for permanent occupation, he returned to Iowa, where he sold his farm and then started with his family to Idaho.

On his first trip across the plains Mr. Bown had employed a five-horse team, but on this second trip he had one wagon heavily loaded with merchandise, drawn by four yoke of cattle. The family rode in a light spring wagon and this was drawn by a span of mules.

A family residing in the same neighborhood with Mr. Bown accompanied him and bidding their friends farewell the two neighbors traveled alone until they reached Plattsmouth on the Missouri river. Here they joined a small emigrant train consisting of only four wagons. This party continued on to what is now the present site of Julesburg, Colorado. Here the commanding officer of the fort refused to let them proceed further, as they were so few in number and the danger from the Indians was too great. They were detained at Julesburg until twenty emigrant wagons arrived and uniting with them they again pushed on towards the west.

They were once attacked by Indians on the Laramie plains and were saved only by the very timely arrival of a large emigrant train from the state of New York. This train consisted of thirty wagons, guarded by ninety men on horseback. Mr. Bown's party proceeded without further incident to Soda Springs, where the company divided, most of them going into Montana, while Mr. Bown continued on to Boise.

On the ranch in Boise valley, Mr. and Mrs. Bown reared their family of seven children, five of whom are now living. The family continued to reside on this farm, which they had occupied at the very beginning of permanent settlement in this country, until 1893, at which time Mr. Bown sold this place and bought one hundred and forty acres on the bench west of Boise. This is all under irrigation and recognized as one of the finest farms in Ada county.

Mrs. Bown died in 1904, respected by all who knew her and admired for her sterling qualities and strength of character. She represented the highest type of a noble self-sacrificing pioneer woman.

Mr. Bown retired about five years ago, after a life of prolonged industry and prosperous activity, and while he has never taken any part in public affairs except as a quiet industrious citizen, his cordial support was always accorded every movement and enterprise for the advancement of the community.

Additional information - Mr. Bown platted three subdivisions in Meridian, the first May 20, 1903. Bown's Railroad Addition August 31, 1908 and Bown's Second (amended) addition July 12, 1910.

He named the street now known as Bower for his wife Temperance and it shows with this name on the original plats. The date the street name was changed has not been researched. Lila Hill