

THE FOUNDER OF POST FALLS, FREDERICK POST, WAS BORN TO FREDERICK W. AND IDA S. POST IN HERBORN HESSE IN WEST-CENTRAL GERMANY ON SEPTEMBER 16, 1827. AFTER HIS FORMAL EDUCATION, POST WORKED AS A MINER AND WAS LATER DRAFTED INTO THE MILITARY, BECOMING A LIEUTENANT IN THE REAR GUARD. AFTER MILITARY SERVICE, HE WAS EMPLOYED BY THE GERMAN-ENGLISH MINING COMPANY AS AN OVERSEER.

POST MARRIED MARGARET HILT, DAUGHTER OF PHILIPS AND CATHERINE HILT IN 1848. THEY IMMIGRATED TO THE UNITED STATES IN 1850, SETTLING IN KENDALL COUNTY, ILLINOIS. POST FARMED, CONSTRUCTED LIMEKILNS AND OPERATED A STONE QUARRY. HE ALSO DEVELOPED WATER POWER ON THE FOX RIVER. IN 1871 HE SOLD HIS HOLDINGS AND MOVED TO NORTHERN IDAHO, BECOMING AN INFLUENTIAL PIONEER AND DEVELOPER IN RATHDRUM, SPOKANE AND POST FALLS.

POST RECOGNIZED THE POTENTIAL OF THE LITTLE OR UPPER FALLS OF THE SPOKANE RIVER, IDAHO TERRITORY AND BEGAN CONSTRUCTION OF A SAWMILL THERE IN 1871. HIS NAME AND THE DATE JUNE 1, 1871 AND INDIAN PICTOGRAPHS APPEAR ON A ROCK FORMATION JUST WEST OF POST FALLS CALLED "TREATY ROCK."

IN 1876, POST MOVED TO SPOKANE FALLS WHERE HE BOUGHT FORTY ACRES FROM JAMES N. GLOVER. UTILIZING THE POWER OF THE FALLS, HE BUILT THE AREA'S FIRST FLOUR MILL. POST SOLD THE LAND AND WATER POWER SITE, RETURNING TO THE UPPER FALLS IN 1879, BUT POST STREET AND THE POST ADDITION IN SPOKANE REMAIN AS LEGACIES.

FREDERICK POST COMPLETED THE SAWMILL AT WHAT BECAME KNOWN AS "POST'S FALLS" IN 1880. IT WAS ONE OF THE FINEST MILL SITES OF KOOTENAI COUNTY UTILIZING THE WATER POWER OF THE FALLS AND BOOMS TO BRING LOGS FROM LAKE COEUR D'ALENE DOWN THE SPOKANE RIVER. FOR SEVERAL YEARS POST LEASED THE MILL, LATER SELLING IT IN 1894. TODAY POST'S BUSINESS SITE CONTINUES TO THRIVE WITH THE LOUISIANA PACIFIC CORPORATION. THE WATER POWER SITE WAS SOLD TO A GROUP OF MINE OWNERS. IT WAS LATER DEVELOPED BY THE WASHINGTON WATER POWER COMPANY WHO BUILT THE POST FALLS DAM AND HYDROELECTRIC FACILITY.

POST DEVELOPED A WATER SYSTEM FOR THE TOWN OF POST FALLS, AND OWNED LAND FROM MCQUIRE TO ROSS POINT, INCLUDING THE TOWNSITE OF POST FALLS. POST'S LAND OWNERSHIP AND IMPROVEMENTS WERE RECOGNIZED BY CHIEF ANDREW SELTICE AND THE HEADMEN OF THE COEUR D'ALENE INDIANS AFTER THEY HAD NEGOTIATED A TREATY WITH THE GOVERNMENT IN 1889. POST RECEIVED TITLE TO 298 ACRES OFFICIALLY IN 1894. POST AND FREDERICK STREETS WERE NAMED FOR HIM, AND WILLIAM AND HENRY STREETS FOR HIS BROTHERS. ONE OF POST'S HOMES WAS LOCATED AT THE CITY'S SOUTH PARK.

POST AND HIS WIFE WERE MEMBERS OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH. THEY HAD SIX DAUGHTERS INCLUDING JULIA, WHO MARRIED LAYFAYETTE S. DART, PART OWNER OF DART BROTHERS FLOUR MILL OF POST FALLS. MARY MARRIED CHARLES WESLEY WOOD OF RATHDRUM. ALICE MARRIED A.M. MARTIN AND CARRIE MARRIED WILL HAVERMALE. HENRIETTA MARRIED HERMAN LINKE AND SARAH WAS UNMARRIED. POST DIED ON AUGUST 7, 1908 ON HIS 60TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY. HE WAS BURIED IN EVERGREEN CEMETARY, WHICH WAS LATER DONATED TO THE CITY OF POST FALLS BY A.M. MARTIN.

PRESIDENT THEODORE ROOSEVELT DESCRIBED POST AS "A MAN WHO HAS DONE THINGS." HE WAS AN HONEST AND ADMIRABLE MAN, KNOWN FOR HIS INDUSTRY AND FORESIGHT. HIS WORDS WERE QUOTED IN THE EVENING CHRONICLE, SPOKANE, WASHINGTON ON AUGUST 10, 1908:

"I'VE ALWAYS LOOKED FORWARD MORE TO THE FUTURE OF POST FALLS THAN I HAVE TO ITS PAST. ... I CONSIDER POST FALLS A STABLE TOWN, AN IDEAL PLACE TO LIVE. WE'RE NOT CITIFIED AND WE'RE NOT RURAL BUT WE HAVE MANY ADVANTAGES OF BOTH AND WE ARE TRULY AN AMERICAN TOWN."

FREDERICK POST