



# DWIGHT MASON

- **County Attorney, State Legislator, and Mayor**
- **Born.** March 24, 1884 in Cannelton, Indiana.
- **Married.** Lillian R. Metz on December 16, 1908 in Spokane, Washington. They had five daughters and three sons.
- **Died.** February 22, 1974 in Missoula, Montana.
- **Education.** Attended the public schools of Cannelton, Indiana.
- **1903.** Dwight graduated from Central Normal College in Danville, Indiana. He continued his education with law courses at Indiana State University in Bloomington, Indiana.
- With law diploma in hand, Dwight sought a new home in the Pacific

Northwest. He engaged in a private law practice Spokane, Washington.

- **1910.** Dwight moved his home and office to Ronan, Montana.
- **1912-1917.** Dwight was School Trustee for School District #28.
- **1914-1919.** Dwight was elected to the House of Representatives. He served six terms and had the honor of being Speaker of the House during one of those terms.
- **1916.** Dwight served as Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee.
- **1917.** Dwight arrived in Missoula, Montana. He accepted an appointment as Deputy County Attorney.
- **1918.** Dwight was elected Missoula County Attorney.
- **Mothers Pension Bill.** One of the most progressive pieces of legislation enacted by Montana was Dwight's greatest success. He is credited with the Mothers Pension Bill. This bill allowed government assistance to single mothers with children. Between 1910 and 1917, 39 states passed similar bills. Each state set its own benefit amounts. States with large populations of single white mothers in the work force were more generous than southern states with large populations of single colored women even though many of those women worked. Dwight drew up, introduced, and successfully guided this piece of legislation through the House.
- **1937.** Elected as Missoula's 30<sup>th</sup> Mayor. Dwight served as Missoula's longest Mayor as he held that post for ten years. He was a strong Democrat. During his administration, the Northside underpass was constructed, the Westside sewer was built, and Sunset Memorial Park was established.
- **1945.** Dwight was President of the Montana Municipal League and member of the Fourth Judicial District Bar Association.
- **1961.** Dwight received a 50-year certificate and pin from the Montana State Bar Association for 'Distinguished Service' to the legal profession. He also received the Boy Scouts American "Silver Beaver Award".
- **Membership.** Dwight was a member of the First Methodist Church, Masonic Lodge, Eagles Lodge, Elks Lodge, Moose Lodge, and the Kiwanis Club.
- **Cabin.** Dwight held the only cabin ever located on Lake Alva. (Lake Alva is a small lake 63 miles northeast of Missoula, Montana.) According to family members, Dwight leased the land from the railroad. His family dedicated many hours to the restoration and re-building of an old homestead cabin located on the property. The Mason family spent a great deal of quality time there. Eventually, the leased land was included in a large land trade between the railroad and the Forest Service. The Forest Service discontinued the lease. The Mason family was required to tear down the cabin and return the land to its original state.

Fortunately, this sad event occurred after Dwight Mason's death.

- **Ancestry.** The Mason's are of English ancestry and were colonial settlers in Virginia. It was reputed that Dwight Mason was a direct descendent of the George Mason who signed the Declaration of Independence.



Located in Grave 8, Lot 13, Block 9A