



Frank H. Woody (1833-1916)

Co-founder of Missoula, a member of one of Missoula's most influential families, and Missoula's first mayor.

- **1833-Birth.** Frank was born on December 10, 1833 in Chatham County, North Carolina. Paternal side: Quaker descent, Maternal side: old Revolutionary stock.
- **1871-Marriage.** Frank married Lizzie Countryman in 1871. Lizzie was the daughter of Horace and Elizabeth Countryman, originally from California. They had one son and three daughters.
- **Early life.** Farming with little educational advantages.
- **1851.** Attended New Garden Boarding School (now Guilford College), a Quaker institute near Greensboro NC.
- **1852.** He taught school in the east for a few years until he caught the fever to move Westward. He worked his way through Kansas, Utah, and Washington before joining a party of traders coming to the Flathead country (now Ravalli and Missoula Counties).
- Woody was paid \$15 a month to drive an oxen team of supplies to Flathead country to trade with the Indians.
- Woody, Higgins, and Worden were three of the most prominent founding fathers of Missoula.
- **1856.** October 15th arrived at Hell Gate river (on Mullan Road today). He noted there were on that day 300 lodges of Indians camped where Missoula now stands. Missoula was at that time Washington Territory.
- **1866.** Appointed to serve an unexpired term as clerk and recorder. He was then elected to continue this seat until 1880 when he refused to continue any further. During his tenure, the office of clerk and recorder was combined with the office of probate judge, thus Judge Woody was virtually the incumbent of two offices at the same time, besides which for eight years he was deputy clerk of the Second judicial district court of Missoula county.
- **1877.** Was admitted to the Montana Bar as Missoula's first attorney. He built an extensive clientele and was noted as one of the leading lawyers in western Montana.
- **1883.** Missoula's first mayor elected April 19, 1883. He served for 13 months.
- **1892.** Received Democratic nomination for office of District Judge and was soundly elected and re-elected in 1896.
- **1893.** First (temporary) chairman of University Committee that lobbied the 1893 legislature for legislation allowing the building of the University of Montana. Considerable amount of money was spent on whiskey and three different types of cigars by the 25 lobbyists in their efforts.
- **1916-Death.** Frank died on December 16, 1916 in Missoula from 'nephritis' (inflammation of the kidney).

