

John V. Bogert



J. V. Bogert
First Mayor
of Bogert

Gallatin History Museum

Bogert's of Bozeman

John V. Bogert was born 9 May 1839, in New York City. It was this city where he grew up, attending both private and boarding schools. As a very young man he went with the DuPont's expedition to New Orleans. He was in business there for three years and he accumulated a small fortune. He went back to New York after the Civil War and went in to a partnership where he lost all his money. He then went to St. Paul Minnesota where he supplied the government with hay, grain and other produce. By 1872 John Bogert was in Bozeman with a contract to supply all the feed for the livestock at several military posts, Fort Ellis being included.

In 1873 Mr Bogert joined with Rich and Willson in their wholesale merchandise business. This lasted for one year. For a few years, John and his father, John B. Bogert, ran a store but soon gave it up.

In 1874, Mr. Bogert was appointed as first receiver of the United States Land Office, in Bozeman. He held that office until 1883 when he went on to become an attorney before the Land Office. This meant that he would be the acting attorney for persons that needed legal help with land matters. He did well in this position until 1905.

When Bozeman was incorporated in 1883 he was elected the first mayor. He held this office off and on through six elections. He last held this position in 1899.

In his first meeting as mayor he suggested some things he would like to see done "Pronto"

1. a properly equipped fire department.
2. no more wooden buildings or tin flues.
3. grading and graveling of main street and cross walks
4. cross walks throughout the city.
5. construction of permanent sidewalks.
6. construction of a decent walkway from Main street to the new Railroad depot.
7. Secural of public health.
8. Secural of a new cemetery.
9. a pound for the elimination of swine from the city and other animals at large.
10. a permanent meeting place for the city council.

This speech is recorded in the city minutes.

As a very patriotic man he planned the 4th of July program, collected the funds needed and made it a memorable day. He cast his first vote for U S Grant and was a born Republican.

He never married. His sister, Miss Elizabeth Bogert, lived with him at the family home on North Church Street. This house was called "The Castle"

At the time of his death, 29 Sep 1907, his estate was valued at \$37,000 This included three pieces of property, savings and many pages of loans to many Bozeman citizens. Loans both large and small. Most of the small loans were declared of no value to the estate.

John B. Bogert, came from Knickerbocker stock, was born in 1813, in New Jersey. Before coming to Montana, was in business in New York. He came to Bozeman in 1873, with his two daughters, to visit his son John B. Bogert, and stayed for the remainder of his life.

He and his son went into business together. This lasted for several years. After the separation, he became a general accountant.

Mr. Bogert sent over two million cancelled stamps to an orphans home in Locle, Switzerland. These were placed on plain white cards and sold to visitors. This was one of the ways the orphanage could make money.

"I'd rather wear out than rust out" was one of his sayings.

Mr. Bogert was an avid collector of odd curiosities, such as an old spur worn by a Knight of the Holy Cross into Jerusalem.

He died in Bozeman on 24 October 1895 and is buried in Sunset Hills Cemetery.

Mrs. Augusta Bogert Place was born 6 January 1855 in New York City. She came to Bozeman at 18 years of age. She married Charles A. Place of New York and moved to Nebraska. In the spring of 1880, after her husbands death, she moved to Bozeman with her two sons, Arthur and Vreeland.

For the final four years of her life, she lived with her son, Arthur. He had moved here from Minneapolis after his wife, Frances Lamme Place had passed away.

Mrs Place, with her sister, were largely responsible for putting Sunset Hills Cemetery into its present shape. They raised money and had planted trees and flowers at the cemetery and the park in front.

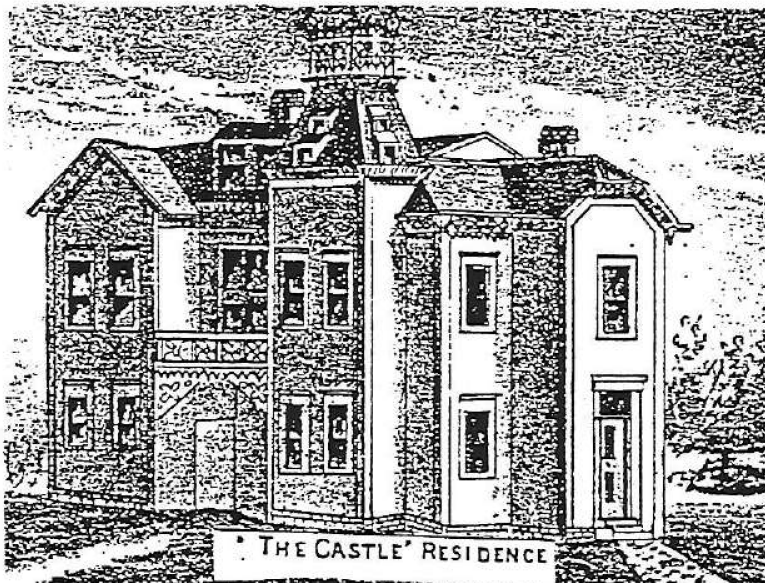
She died at 94, on August 17, 1940. Augusta is buried in the old section of the city cemetery. She lived sixty years in Bozeman.

Elizabeth "Lilla" Bogert , died at the age of 103, on September 4, 1951. The Sunset Hills Cemetery is her final resting place. The cemetery was one of her great interests. She and her sisters, Mrs. Place and Mrs. Charles Roe, sold paintings and needlework at a charity bazaar to raise a substantial sum for landscaping at the cemetery. She was appointed chairman of the cemetery board and continued to improve it and the surrounding park until it assumed its present beauty. Until her death, she was honorary member of the board.

Miss Bogert was a well known artist, of water colors, in this area. Several of her poems were published in the "Badge of Honor", a book published in 1941.

Elizabeth was the executrix and soul heir in John V. Bogert's will. She sold a 5 acre piece of land to the city of Bozeman for a park. This piece of land had for many years been known as Bogert Park and has retained the name until the present day. The price received for the land was \$3500.00.

This article was submitted by Meta Strickler.



JOHN. B. BOGERT.

11. Bogert - J. V. ¹⁸⁴⁴ - Mayor of Bozeman. Came to Montana age of 60 - 1873.
Had a General Merchandise store - Died Oct 24, 1895 age of 82. Had one sister
Katherine who married Lt Roe - U.S.A here in Bozeman 1874.
Was the 1st Mayor of Bozeman and served 8 years. Was with
his father in N.Y. Hardware business before coming to Montana.
Bogert's Park was donated to the City in his Honor

Bozeman

SKIPPY REESE

Chronicle Staff Writer

From the Oct. 3, 1907, Boze-
man Daily Chronicle:

"Last Saturday afternoon at
about 11 o'clock, the final sum-
mons came to one of Boze-
man's most respected citizens,
John Vreeland Bogert. About
10 days prior to his death he
suffered a stroke of paralysis
and never rallied from its ef-
fect, gradually sinking day by
day until the end came.

"When the town of Bozeman
was incorporated in 1883, Mr.
Bogert was elected mayor. He
was Bozeman's chief executive
for eight years. Bogert never
married but he and his sister,
had made their homes together
since 1873. His two sisters,
Miss Bogert and Mrs. Place
were with him until the end.

"During the funeral services
a quartette sang. Singing were
Mesdames D. S. Smith and Al-
ward and Messrs. T. B. Story
and Ed Howard. Mrs. L. S.
Willson sang a solo, "Lead
Kindly Light." At the close of
the services in the Episcopal
Church, the funeral procession

formed, with college band lead-
ing, followed by the fire de-
partment, city council, officials,
relatives and friends of the de-
ceased. The college band played
the dead march.

"Pallbearers were Gen. L.
S. Willson, D. D. Smith, Charles
S. Hartman, W. M. Alward, Wal-
ter S. Hartman, and F. L. Ben-
epe. With the flag floating from
the city hall at half staff and
the bell in the fire tower toll-
ing in solemn measure, the mor-
tal remains of the one to whom
Bozeman owes so much, pass-
ed on to his rest."

Oct 19 - 1969

Bogert Got Rid of the Pigs

Bozeman's First Mayor Served Eight Terms

By Phyllis Smith

When Bozeman residents voted to incorporate the town on April 9, 1883, general store owner John Vreeland Bogert was elected the town's first mayor at the age of seventy. He had come to Bozeman from New York ten years before—leaving his father's hardware business—and almost immediately involved himself in civic affairs. Perhaps a little quirky, he liked to tell everyone that his middle name was "Vesuvius."

Bogert seemed born to the job of municipal mayor. Shortly after his election, he addressed the newly-seated City Council: William B. McAdow, Will J. Davis, William Tracy, William W. Alderson, Nelson Story, Daniel E. Rouse, and Peter Koch. Some residents did not favor incorporation, he said, but let us convince them of the worth of this experiment by enacting sound and just ordinances. We need a proper fire department and a new cemetery. We need to grade and gravel Main Street—no more wallowing in spring mud—and construct crosswalks throughout the town.

Of particular concern was the need of a walkway from Main Street to the new railroad depot where the first Northern Pacific trains chugged into town. We must stop building fire-prone wooden structures. We should be concerned with public health matters. And finally, he said, we must get the pigs and other wandering live-

stock off our main streets.

On May 1, 1883, Bogert and the city council hired two night watchmen, a police magistrate, city attorney
(See Bogert, back page)



John V. Bogert was Bozeman's first mayor in 1883.

Bogert

(Continued from page one)

ney, city clerk, city treasurer, tax collector and assessor, and city marshal. They formed a streets commission. They also warned citizens by ordinance that the following behavior would not be tolerated:

Walking nude about town.

Dressing in clothes not belonging to his or her sex.

Dressing in "lude" manner.

Smoking opium, visiting an opium den, or owning one.

Getting drunk, frightening people with behavior caused by intoxication, or passing out in public places.

Arranging dog or cock fights.

Shouting "Fire!" when there was none.

Fighting within the city limits.

Swearing or using obscene, vulgar, or indecent language.

Racing horses or buggies down Main Street.

Disturbing church services or other meetings.

Leaving horses untended.

Cluttering sidewalks with trade goods.

Maintaining an open sewer.

Keeping trap doors open.

Mayor Bogert and the City Council also enacted the

first sign ordinance: no sign for any Main Street business shall project from any building. Ahead of his time, the mayor sternly penciled an order which he tacked to his office door:

Smoking is Expressly Prohibited in this Building. No Persons Being Excepted. November 16, 1889.

When John Bogert finally stepped down from city government in 1899 at the age of eighty-six, he had served eight terms, always as mayor. The present Bogert Park is named in his honor. Throughout his life, and to this day, his last name is often misspelled "Bogart."

Phyllis Smith is photo archivist for the Gallatin County Historical Society. She has published three titles on western history. Her history of Bozeman and the Gallatin Valley is currently in production and is slated for publication by Falcon Press before Christmas 1996.

John "Desuvius" Bogert

born 1851 in New York

died 1895

Bogert came to Montana in 1873 at the age of 60 and operated the U.S. Land Office in the area. In 1883, he was elected Bozeman's first mayor. He called for a ban on livestock roaming town streets, and a law that forbade persons walking nude around Bozeman. He was responsible for a "proper" fire department, signs that did not project out from buildings, graveling Main Street, and the building of boardwalks. He left office in 1899 after 8 terms as mayor.

"Desuvius" was the pen name he used in writing a newspaper column. It is not known if this name was actually his middle name. He was influential in bringing the Northern Pacific Railroad to Bozeman. This probably insured the survival of the city of Bozeman. He has a park named in his honor.

April, 1900, when he disposed of the lease and organized a stock company for the purchase of the Helena Evening Herald. He was made secretary and manager for the company, and at once began enlarging and improving the paper, modernizing it in every way and greatly increasing its influence and circulation. The Herald is the oldest daily paper in Montana, having been established in 1866. It has the Associated Press franchise for Helena, with the full leased wire service, an able corps of editors, reporters and compositors, and is a thoroughly alive, up-to-date and enterprising journal. While it is essentially a reflex and guide of public sentiment, it is in its business methods, its aggressiveness and its determination to meet the popular demand, an expression of Mr. Boardman's own personality and bears the impress, in every issue, of his strong mental and scholastic force. It is a straight Republican paper, advocating the true principles of the party without stint and without regard to the political ambition of any person or the temporary advantage of any faction.

At Helena, in January, 1891, Mr. Boardman was united in marriage with Miss Julia Beaudette, a native of Chippewa Falls, Wis. They have four daughters: Genevieve, Esther, Marguerite and Juliet. A son named Edward died in infancy. Mr. Boardman is a staunch Republican in politics, has always been active in the councils of his party and has held every paper he has conducted true to the party's political principles.

HON. J. V. BOGERT, ex-mayor of Bozeman, Gallatin county, Mont., and ex-receiver of the United States land office at that city, is one of the most highly respected citizens of his home community. He was born in New York City, of Holland-Huguenot ancestry.

He is a son of John Banta and his first wife, Jane Vreeland (Haughwout) Bogert, of New York, who, in that metropolis of the Empire state, followed the hardware business until he removed to Montana, in 1873. He eventually opened a general merchandising store in Bozeman, and was engaged in this occupation until some time before his death, which occurred at Bozeman, October 24, 1895, at the age of eighty-two years. The paternal grandparents were Petrus M. and Tynie (Banta) Bogert, natives of New Jersey, who died respectfully in 1846 and 1881.

The mother of our subject, Jane Vreeland (Haughwout) Bogert, was born in the city of New York, and there died on April 27, 1849. Her three children are yet living, J. V. Bogert and two sisters. These ladies are distinguished Daughters of the Revolution, and are amply provided with evidence of their ancestors having served in the colonial army during the Revolution, one of whom was a prisoner of war and suffered confinement in the old "sugar house" at New York. In 1851, his father married Elizabeth C. Bissell, of Litchfield, Conn., who died in Brooklyn, N. Y., May 9, 1872, leaving one daughter, Katherine Bissell Bogert, who was married at Bozeman, Mont., July 29, 1874, to Lieut. Charles F. Roe, U. S. A., now a major general in the National Guard of the state of New York, their present residence being New York City.

The maternal grandparents of J. V. Bogert were Peter A. Haughwout and Ann (Vreeland) Haughwout, natives of New York, both deceased, for many years residents of Staten Island, N. Y.

Through early boyhood J. V. Bogert was educated in the private schools of his native city and at boarding schools located amid the environments of New York. The result of this early and liberal mental training is a man of keen intelligence and superior education, with a highly cultivated mind and wide scholastic attainments. In 1872 Mr. Bogert came to Montana, and located at Bozeman. Here he was appointed the first receiver of the United States land office, which position he filled most efficiently for eight years. Following his terms of office in this position of great responsibility, he was elected the first mayor of the city of Bozeman, and served four terms, in all eight years, a most flattering testimonial to his great worth, high integrity and popularity with the people of his home town. Mr. Bogert was first engaged in the mentioned mercantile business with his father, after which and during his service in the position of mayor of Bozeman he acted as attorney before the United States land department, in which profession he still successfully continues.

Politically Mr. Bogert has affiliated with the Republican party since he first took an interest in the political issues before the people. He stands high in the councils of the party, and is an influential worker during the campaigns. His first vote was cast for Gen. U. S. Grant for president. Mr. Bogert is a polished, refined gentleman, unassuming and modest in demeanor, but as true as steel to his host of admiring friends. He is a great and dis-

minative reader, thoroughly informed upon all current events of the day, ever active and enterprising, and among the first in any move for the benefit of his residential city. He is a man of affairs, a gentleman of high integrity, who has won the confidence of all. The various offices he has so creditably filled have all been positions of trust—trusts faithfully and safely administered, and has honestly earned the high reputation which he so deservedly holds.

WILLIAM M. BOLE.—Throughout the great west, as in other sections of the Union, the newspapers of localized character have exercised an important function in forwarding progress and insuring material prosperity. The subject of this brief sketch has been prominently identified with journalistic work in this state and elsewhere, and is now editor of the *Bozeman Chronicle*, the leading paper of Gallatin county, published by the Chronicle Publishing Co.

Mr. Bole was born in the village of South Ryegate, Vt., on May 30, 1858, the son of Rev. John and Marion (Brown) Bole, the former a clergyman of the Presbyterian church. In 1862 the parents of our subject removed to Glasgow, Scotland, and in that city and in Belfast, Ireland, Mr. Bole received his early educational discipline. In 1870 the family returned to Vermont, and Mr. Bole completed his educational training in the academy at Peacham. At the age of sixteen years he entered the office of the *St. Johnsbury (Vt.) Caledonian*, where he served an apprenticeship at the printer's trade, which he followed as a vocation for a number of years.

In the city of Cambridge, Mass., August 20, 1882, Mr. Bole was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth S. Dow, and of this union one son has been born, William Symington Bole, a student in the State University, at Bozeman. The year of his marriage Mr. Bole went to St. Paul, Minn., where he purchased an interest in a newspaper and engaged in editorial work for about ten years. He accumulated a modest fortune through real estate transactions, but through over-confidence in a realty boom it was dissipated with equal celerity. In 1891 Mr. Bole came to Montana and located in the city of Great Falls, where for several years he was employed on the editorial staffs of the daily papers, and finally purchased the *Daily Trib-*

une, in association with O. S. Warden. The fortunes of the *Tribune* were at a low ebb when these gentlemen assumed control, but through their effective management it was brought to a high standard, and at the time of its sale, in 1900, no other paper in the state, with the exception of the *Anaconda Standard*, was paying so large dividends. Messrs. Bole and Warden purchased the *Tribune* in 1895 for \$5,000, and disposed of the property in 1900 for the sum of \$40,000, Hon. W. A. Clark becoming the purchaser. In August, 1900, Mr. Bole removed with his family to Bozeman and assumed the editorial management of the *Chronicle*. He is still the controlling spirit of this prominent journal, which is recognized as a powerful factor in the political field and a true exponent of the interests of the wide territory reached through its extensive circulation. In politics Mr. Bole supports the Democratic party; fraternally he is identified with the Masonic order.

WILLIAM G. BOONE, one of the successful farmers and stockgrowers of Broadwater county, his postoffice address being Townsend, has had a varied career, having ever been industrious and enterprising, making the most of opportunities which have presented. His is the distinction of being closely related to the great historical character, Daniel Boone.

William G. Boone was born on November 5, 1845, in Harrison county, Ind., the son of Granville Boone, who was the son of Isaiah Boone, who in turn was the son of Squire Boone, all being residents of Kentucky, where they were extensive planters, the latter being a brother of Daniel Boone, the famous Nimrod. Squire Boone was a native of Virginia, whence he removed to Kentucky, and later to Indiana among the earliest pioneers and where his death occurred. His son, Isaiah, grandfather of W. G. Boone, some time after the death of his father took up his abode at Mockport, Harrison county, Ind., where he was a farmer.

Granville Boone married Julia Arkenbright, likewise born in Kentucky, and they had six sons and four daughters, W. G. Boone being the third. The parents removed to Lewis county, Mo., in 1850, accompanied by Grandfather, Isaiah Boone, who there died in 1860, the father of William G. engaging in farming until his death in 1880.