Arthur Hart was born in Tacoma, Washington and received a Masters of Fine Arts in Painting from the University of Washington with minors in History and Geography. He first moved to Idaho in 1948 to accept a position as the Head of the Art Department at the College of Idaho. Arthur then moved to New Hampshire, Washington and Massachusetts for work before returning to Idaho for good in 1969 in order to direct the Idaho State Historical Society. He directed the State Historical Society for 17 years before retiring in 1986. Since retiring, Arthur has continued to research Idaho history and provide history education throughout the state.

Arthur has authored more than 20 books on Idaho and Western history as well as many articles. Arthur enjoys writing books about parts of Idaho history nobody else has written about before, as well as other things he finds interesting. Arthur is well known for his weekly ‘Idaho History’ column which has appeared weekly in the Idaho Statesman for the past 44 years. The column brings history alive by providing readers with interesting historical facts and anecdotes about Idaho history.

In addition to his contributions to written history, Arthur has given speeches and presentations throughout the state of Idaho on a wide range of topics. As a member of the Idaho Humanities Council, Arthur has given speeches and presentations throughout the state on such topics as; Idaho Stained Glass, Idaho’s Churches, Idaho’s Ethnic Diversity, Idaho’s Railroad History, Medicine in Early Idaho, Idaho’s Aviation History, World Wars I and II, and Idaho’s Historic Architecture.

Arthur Hart is a sought after speaker and has presented illustrated programs on Western history and architecture to many different civic and professional groups in state, regional and national meetings. Arthur’s historical expertise is not just limited to Idaho. Arthur has led tours groups throughout North America, Europe, and Asia.

Arthur has been an advocate for the preservation of historic buildings throughout Idaho, as he feels they give identity to communities and that they can continue to have economic value. He has received many honors for his work in historic preservation and writing, including the American Institute of Architects’ highest award to a non-architect: an honorary membership.

The Ada County Board of County Commissioners is pleased to present its Making History Award to Arthur A. Hart for his contributions to literature, history and history education in Idaho.

Ada County Making History Award

The Ada County Making History Award honors people whose activities today are creating our future history. In 2014, as Ada County celebrates 150 of its history, it is pleased to present its Making History Award to one of Idaho’s great historians. Arthur Hart’s efforts researching, documenting and educating people about Idaho’s past will continue to shape its future.
Arthur Hart has authored more than 20 books on Idaho History. Arthur enjoys researching and writing about historical topics which have not previously been written about. Arthur's book topics have included such things as pioneer photography, the history of fire fighting in Idaho, the history of the Boise Police Department, Idaho rangeland history, the history of baseball in Idaho, the history of aviation in Idaho and history of the Western Idaho Fair.

Included on these pages are book covers from some of the many varied books authored by Arthur Hart.