



# FRANK HIGGINS

- **Pioneer, Lawyer, and Mayor**
- **Born.** December 29, 1863 at the ‘Hell Gate’ in Missoula, Montana. Frank is the son of one of Missoula’s founders, Captain Christopher P. Higgins.
- **Married.** Barbara Hayes from Ontario, Canada on September 20, 1892. They had one son, Grant.
- **Died.** October 15, 1905 at St Vincent's hospital in Portland, Oregon. Frank died from complications of diseases contracted while serving in the Spanish American War. He had suffered a severe relapse of symptoms so he was moved to Portland, Oregon. It was believed that the climatic conditions would help to remove the severe strain to his

nervous system. Unfortunately, it was only a few days later when he died.

- **Education.** Frank attended public schools in Missoula, Montana. He attended the Phillips Exeter preparatory school in New Hampshire and proceeded to earn his law degree at the Ann Arbor Law School of Michigan.
- **Lawyer.** With his degree in hand, Frank returned to Missoula and became a partner in the law firm Stevens, Bickford and Higgins.
- **1889.** Frank was a member of the House of Representatives in the First Session Legislature for the newly formed state of Montana. He continued through the Second Session in 1891.
- **University of Montana.** It was through Frank’s untiring efforts that the University of Montana was located in Missoula. Frank introduced the bill into the State Legislature that provided for the establishment of the state university in Missoula.
- **1892.** Elected the 10<sup>th</sup> Mayor of Missoula, Montana. He served one term.
- **1898 Spanish American War.** When the war broke, Frank was among the first to offer his services to his country. He served two years as Captain of

Company F of the United States volunteers. He was a member of the Grisby Rough Riders during the Battle at



Location: Grave 2, Lot 2, Block 57



Photo dated 1898 by F M Ingalls: Spanish American War volunteers. Missoula volunteers officers – (left to right) Charlie Hall, Frank Higgins, and Will Cave

- **1900.** Frank was elected Lieutenant Governor to Governor J. K. Toole. He served until 1905.
- **Burial.** Frank was originally buried in the Higgins family cemetery located on the Higgins’ family land at the bottom of the Pattee Canyon area in Missoula, Montana. On May 12, 1914, the bodies in the Higgins family cemetery were disinterred and brought to the Missoula City Cemetery. At the Missoula Cemetery, enough land was purchased to bury the bodies being transferred as well as future generations of descendants. Active family burials continue to this day.