

13 Stories III
Story Options 2022

Option #3: Minnie Jane Farr

The daughter of Irish immigrants and the youngest of three children, Minnie Jane Farr was born in Rathdrum, Idaho on December 3, 1886. She never married and was baptized into the Episcopal Church at age 52. She served as the Kootenai County Deputy Treasurer in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. During her tenure, she embezzled nearly \$9,000 dollars, almost all of which she lost gambling. After her arrest and sentencing, over 200 citizens of Coeur d'Alene and Kootenai County signed a petition requesting her early release. They pooled \$9,000 to compensate for the lost funding so that Minnie would not need to repay it herself. Another friend even deposited \$100 into her prison account, "not as a loan but as a gift." While in prison, Minnie worked as a cook in the guards' quarters outside the main yard which supposedly lifted her spirits. The warden said he believed that she was "making a very satisfactory adjustment." Due to the outpouring of support on her behalf and her good behavior in prison, officials granted her a one-year conditional release. She received an official pardon in January 1945. A prominent Boise couple soon offered Minnie a job compiling statistics for the Idaho Biennial Report. She eventually moved back to Rathdrum where her older sister Emily lived. Minnie died in Rathdrum in 1953, where she is buried next to Emily.

