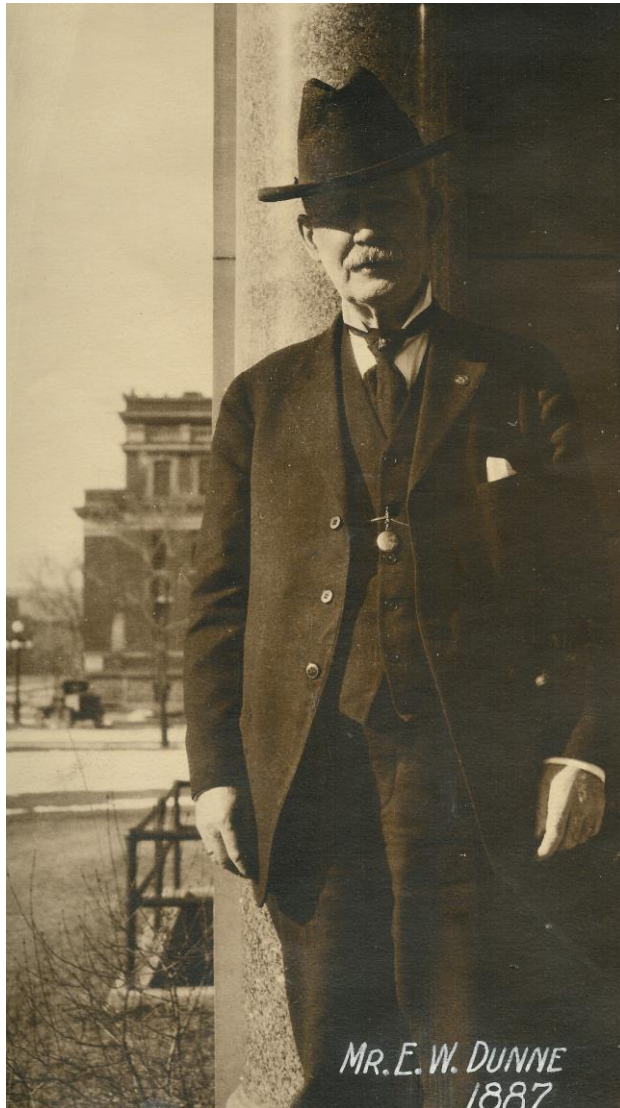


DUNNE, E.W.



Edward Warfield Dunne was born in Cincinnati, Ohio in 1854. He attended public and parochial schools in the city, and enrolled in St. Xavier College (now Xavier University).

He chose to leave before graduating and enlisted in the Army's 11th Infantry in November 1873. He was posted to Texas, and fought in the Indian Wars there. After the Army's defeat at the Little Big Horn in 1876, Dunne's regiment was sent to Dakota Territory to enforce restrictions on the Standing Rock Reservation. A year later, the regiment moved into Montana to build Fort Custer at the confluence of the Big Horn and Little Big Horn rivers. Dunne was attached to the quartermaster's office. His five-year enlistment complete, Dunne left the Army in 1878.

He started out homesteading with Army buddy Henry Frith, then bought the store near the stage station in Huntley. In 1882, he married Miss Anna Kernan. Billings had just been founded in 1882, but within a year had grown to the point of affecting business at Dunne's store. He sold out and he and his wife moved to Billings.

His first job in Billings was with the railway's mail service, where he oversaw the run to Spokane. Two years later, he became the assistant postmaster in Billings, and then was appointed as postmaster. Around 1900, he was appointed

deputy clerk of the district court under T.A. Williams. In 1904, Williams boarded a train for a trip and never returned. Efforts were made to locate him to no avail, and Dunne was eventually appointed to serve out his term. Some years later, when Dunne ran for the office himself, he was defeated.

At that same election, the incumbent county assessor, A.P. Smith, had been re-elected, but had died before his new term started. County officials decided to name Dunne to fill the vacancy. This caused a bit of an uproar, as they had previously named Mrs. Smith to fill out her late husband's term. When Dunne showed up, Mrs. Smith refused to turn over the office. County officials said they meant Mrs. Smith to serve just until the new term officially started, but she asserted that she was appointed until a new assessor was duly elected. Dunne filed suit to oust the widow, which eventually went to the state's Supreme Court. The court found in his favor. He was later elected to the office for two terms before retiring. A Gazette editorial called him "faithful, painstaking, and impartial" in his work.

Dunne and his wife moved to Spokane in retirement in 1928 to be near children and grandchildren. After his death in 1930, Dunne came home to Billings for burial in Mountview Cemetery's veteran section.