

Horace Boies

ISSN 0003-4827

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Recommended Citation

"Horace Boies." *The Annals of Iowa* 14 (1924), 469-470.

Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0003-4827.4881>

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NOTABLE DEATHS

BENNETT MITCHELL was born in Monroe County, Indiana, February 18, 1832, and died at Sioux City, Iowa, August 12, 1922. His parents were Joseph and Eliza Frances (Henderson) Mitchell. He attended common school and was two years at Asbury College, now De Pauw University. He removed to Iowa in 1852, was licensed to preach in 1854 and was admitted to the ministry in the Methodist Episcopal church in 1855, serving as a junior preacher at Albia. His first charge was at Brighton at an annual salary of \$300. He served charges in succession at Floris, Afton, and Bedford. In 1862 he became presiding elder of the Council Bluffs District. In 1865 he was made presiding elder of the Chariton District. In 1869 he became presiding elder of the Sioux City District when it embraced a large part of the northwest fourth of Iowa and the whole of what is now North Dakota and South Dakota. The denomination then had but three church buildings in all that vast region, a frame church at Sioux City, one at Fort Dodge, and one at Homer, and none in the Dakotas. Railroads had only commenced to enter the region. Wagon roads were only trails and bridges were few. In 1873 he became presiding elder of the Algona District, and followed in 1877 as pastor at Algona and later at Emmetsburg, Spirit Lake, Correctionville, Alta, West Side, Wall Lake, Schaller, Kingsley, and Early. In 1902 he was made secretary of the conference claimants' permanent fund. In 1907 he asked for and received the retired relation. His ministry covered fifty-two years, thirty as pastor, seventeen as presiding elder, and five as secretary. He helped found Simpson College in 1867 and was a trustee until 1872, was a trustee of Cornell College from 1880 to 1889, and was a trustee of Morningside College from its organization in 1894. He was a delegate to General Conference in 1868, 1872, 1876, 1884, and 1888. In 1876 he lacked but two votes of being elected bishop. In 1893 he was the candidate of the Prohibition party for governor and received 10,349 votes. On May 13, 1920, during the General Conference of the Methodist church which was then in session in Des Moines, the Northwest Iowa Conference presented to the state of Iowa an oil portrait of Dr. Mitchell. The presentation ceremonies occurred in the presence of a distinguished company, among whom were Dr. and Mrs. Mitchell, and were held in the Historical, Memorial and Art Building, where the portrait now hangs.

HORACE BOIES was born at Aurora, Erie County, New York, December 7, 1827, and died at Long Beach, California, April 4, 1923. Burial was at Waterloo, Iowa. His parents were Eber and Hattie (Henshaw) Boies. Schools were few and he attended but little when a boy. When sixteen years old he went by boat to Racine, Wisconsin, and obtained

work on a farm near there, remaining until he became of age, except that each winter he returned home and attended school in his home district. In 1848 he began to read law with S. S. Clark of Boston, Erie County, and was admitted to the practice in 1850. He located at Hamburg, about ten miles from Buffalo. In 1855 he was elected on the Republican ticket a member of the New York Assembly. Before the next election occurred his district had been changed so as to give the Democrats a majority and he was defeated. In 1857 he visited Waterloo, Iowa, but remained in Erie County practicing law in or near Buffalo until 1867 when he returned to Waterloo where he established and followed the practice of his profession with great success. H. B. Allen was his first partner, the firm being Boise & Allen, until Mr. Allen's health failed. C. F. Couch then joined the firm which became Boies & Couch, until Mr. Couch was elected district judge, when James L. Husted joined the firm. Mr. Boies's two sons, E. L. and Herbert B., also became associated with the firm, which finally was Boies & Boies. Mr. Boies obtained a large and lucrative practice and was considered one of the foremost lawyers of the state. He was as noted in counsel as in trial work where his keen logic, his fairness and frankness, and his persuasive eloquence made him famous. He was a Republican until 1880 when, because of the protective tariff and because of prohibition, both of which the Republican party in Iowa favored, he left it and affiliated with the Democratic party. In 1889 he was elected governor, the first Democratic governor of Iowa since 1854, and was re-elected in 1891. In 1893 President Cleveland offered him the position of secretary of agriculture in his cabinet, but he declined because it would have required him to resign the governorship and because, as he said, he doubted his qualifications for that position. The fall of 1893 he was again the nominee of his party for governor, but was defeated by Frank D. Jackson. In 1896 his name was presented to the Democratic National Convention for the nomination for president and he received a very flattering vote. In 1902 he accepted the Democratic nomination for Congress but was defeated by B. P. Birdsall. For some time after his retirement from the governor's office he gave attention to his law practice, but gradually withdrew from it, giving more time to his farming interests. He became an owner of large and highly productive farms in Grundy County. In the later years of his life he spent more and more of his time in southern California, coming home each summer to look after his farms and visit his friends. He retained his health and vigor until near the end and his mental clearness to the last. Among the many unusual things about this remarkable man was the fact that the nominations for public position, member of the New York Assembly, governor, and member of Congress came to him without his solicitation. He never belonged to a church organization, nor a secret order except the Good Templars, whose principles he faithfully kept throughout his life.

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