

Christ Episcopal Church Cemetery Inventory
State and Water Streets, Dover DE 19903
Walking Tour # 20

Lot Number: 63 Space: D

Find A Grave # 7367737

Name: **Boyce, William Henry**

b. Pepper's near Laurel DE

Birth date: November 28, 1855 Death date: February 6, 1942 Burial Date: February 9, 1942 Age: 87

Spouse: Emma Estelle Valliant Boyce (1857-1918); m. October 25, 1882

Children: Valliant Boyce (1883-1883); James Insley Boyce (1888-1930)

Parents: James H. Boyce and Sarah J. "Sally" Otwell Boyce

Siblings: Daniel H. Boyce (1850-1920); Sarah Martha Houston (1868-1953); Mrs. O. W. Short

Residence: Dover, DE

Cause of death/Burial/Obituary: see next page

Service/occupation information: Educator, Attorney, Judge, State Representative

Officiate: Rev. Paul A. Kellogg and Rev. Benjamin F. Thompson, both rectors of Christ Church

Lot Owner: William H. Boyce Lot 63 A,B,C,D,E and Lot 64 A-J Boyce Endowment Fund \$1000

Inscription:

William H. Boyce
Born Pepper's near Laurel, Delaware
son of
James H. and Sarah Otwell Boyce
husband of
Emma E. Valliant born Oxford, Maryland
Daughter of William H. and Mary Guest Valliant
father of
Valliant and James I. Boyce
Born Georgetown, Delaware

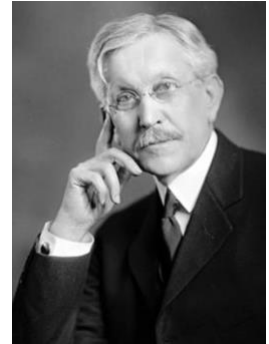
Footstone:

William H. Boyce
1855 - 1942

DIMENSIONS: Footstone: H 9" x W 22" x D 10"
Monument: H 46" x W 66" x D 27"

STYLE: footstone and family
monument (Lot 64)

Repairs needed: cleaned 2021



Inventory date: March 28, 2020 Recorder: Ellen Richardson

U.S. Congressman. Educated at Laurel Academy, he was a teacher and a principal of the public schools in Sussex County, Delaware, (1875-81). He was a recorder of deeds for Sussex County, (1881-86), studied law, was admitted to the bar in 1887 and practiced law in Georgetown, Delaware. He was president of the board of education, (1883-86), Captain of Company G, in the Delaware National Guard, (1887-90) and president of the town commissioners, (1895-97). He was also Delaware Secretary of State, in 1897, associate judge of the Delaware Supreme Court, (1897-1921) and ex officio judicial reporter, (1909-21). In 1923, he was elected as a Democrat to the Sixty-eighth Congress, serving until 1925. After leaving Congress, he resumed the practice of law until his retirement from active practice in 1936.

Bio by: [John "J-Cat" Griffith](#)

The Morning News, Wilmington DE Feb. 6, 1942
TWO

WILLIAM H. BOYCE RITES ON MONDAY

Former Justice of State Supreme Court and Congressman Dies in Dover

Special to The Morning News

DOVER, Feb. 6—Funeral services for former Judge William Henry Boyce, who died at his home today, will be held at 2:30 p. m. Monday in Christ Episcopal Church. The Rev. Paul A. Kellogg, rector, and the Rev. Benjamin F. Thompson, canon of the Cathedral Church of St. John, Wilmington, will officiate. Interment will be private.

Judge Boyce served from 1897 to 1921 as an associate justice of the State Supreme Court and one term as U. S. Representative.

He retired from active duty about six years ago because of failing health. Since Sunday night he had been confined to his bed.

Gov. Walter W. Bacon, said the death of Judge Boyce is a cause of profound regret to the people of Delaware, who know so well his valuable public service while a member of our highest bench, and his outstanding record as a citizen in the communities where he has lived.

"Throughout a long life, as lawyer, judge, and private citizen, Judge Boyce met his responsibilities in such a spirit of fairness and helpfulness that he gained the respect of all and the affectionate regard of many with whom he came in contact.

"At this time when there is such need for the qualities which the good citizen possesses, the passing of a man of his stature leaves us with a feeling of public and personal loss."

Born in Bull's Mill, Broad Creek Hundred, Nov. 28 1855, he was the son of James H. and Sarah O. Otwell Boyce. He was the oldest of four children.

He was educated at the county schools and Laurel Academy. In 1875 he was appointed principal of the Laurel public schools and five years later resigned to become principal of the Oxford schools.

Served in County Post

Gov. John W. Hall appointed him recorder of deeds for Sussex County in 1881 and during his five years in the office he read law under Alfred P. Robinson, who later was to become chief justice of the state.

Judge Boyce was admitted to the bar in 1887 and became a junior partner of his instructor in Georgetown. He served as attorney for the Sussex County Levy Court from February, 1896, until Jan. 19, 1897, when Gov. Ebe W. Tunnell appointed him secretary of state.

He resigned from this office when he was appointed associate justice of the State Supreme Court, resident in Sussex County, on June 17, 1897. At the expiration of his 12-year-term he was reappointed, this time resident in Kent County, and was ex-officio state judicial reporter until his retirement in 1921.

Member of Congress

Elected to the House of Representatives for the 1923-25 term, he

Retired Jurist Dies



William H. Boyce

served as a member of the Committee on Rivers and Harbors.

He served one year as president of the Delaware Citizens' Association and was president of the Elizabeth W. Murphy School at Dover for indigent white children of Kent and Sussex Counties.

In 1904, 1923, and 1931, he was a delegate to the Delaware General Convention of the Episcopal Church.

Judge Boyce was an ex-officio member of the Democratic state committee and chairman of the Sussex County Committee from 1893 until 1897, and he was a delegate to the national conventions of 1896 and 1924. From 1887 until 1890 he was a captain of Company G, Delaware National Guard. He served two terms as president of the town council of Georgetown during the 1890's.

Surviving him are two sisters, Mrs. O. W. Short, this city, and Mrs. George H. Houston, Seaford; three grandsons, William Henry Boyce II, a student at Exeter School, New Hampshire, and James I. Boyce and Frederick Hinkson Boyce, student at St. James' School, Washington County, Md., and a daughter-in-law, Mrs. James I. Boyce, Wilmington.

Judge Boyce's wife was the former Miss Emma E. Valliant. They were married Oct. 25, 1882. Mrs. Boyce died some years ago.

OBITUARIES

J. M. Conover Rites

David R. Nutter, Wallace Wroten, and Daniel Eber, members of the Exchange Club, were pallbearers yesterday afternoon at the funeral of John M. Conover, former presi-

Obituaries retrieved from ancestry.com, July 3, 2020

JUDGE WM. BOYCE, EX-CONGRESSMAN

Former Associate Justice of Delaware Supreme Court Is Dead in Dover at 86

ADMITTED TO BAR IN 1887

Representative, 1923-25, Also Had Been Principal and Head of Education Board

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

DOVER, Del., Feb. 6—William H. Boyce, former associate justice of the Delaware State Supreme Court and a former member of Congress from Delaware, died at his home here this morning after an illness of several years. He was 86 years of age.

Judge Boyce, member of a pioneer Sussex County family, had had a career as a school principal, public official, attorney, State judge and Representative. He was admitted to the bar in 1887 and in 1897 was appointed Secretary of State, but resigned in June of that year to accept the appointment of associate justice of the Supreme Court, resident in Sussex County.

He was reappointed as a judge in 1909 and became resident judge of Kent County, from which office he retired in 1921. He emerged from retirement to serve as Representative, 1923-1925, his last public office.

Surviving are two sisters, Mrs. O. W. Short of Wilmington and Mrs. George H. Houston of Seaford, Del.

Judge Boyce was born in Sussex County, Del., the son of James H. and Sarah J. Otwell Boyce. He practiced law at Georgetown, Del., 1887-97, was president of the Georgetown Board of Education, 1883-86, and of the Georgetown Town Commission, 1895-97.

He was principal of public schools in Laurel, Del., 1875-80, and held a similar post in the high schools of Oxford, Md., 1880-81. He was recorder of deeds for Sussex County, 1881-86, and chairman of the Sussex County Democratic Committee, 1893-97.

Judge Boyce also was State judicial reporter, 1909-21. While a member of Congress he belonged to the Rivers and Harbors Committee.

He was a former president of the Delaware Citizens Association and was president of the Elizabeth W. Murphey School for indigent white children in Kent and Sussex Counties. He also had been a captain in the Delaware National Guard.

1926