

= Reuben P. Boise =

Reuben Patrick Boise (June 9 , 1819 ? April 10 , 1907) was an American attorney , judge and politician in the Oregon Territory and the early years of the state of Oregon . A native of Massachusetts , he immigrated to Oregon in 1850 , where he would twice serve on the Oregon Supreme Court for a total of 16 years , with three stints as chief justice . Early in his legal career , he worked as a district attorney .

Boise was a member of the Oregon Constitutional Convention in 1857 , served in the Territorial Legislature , and helped to codify the laws of the Oregon Territory . He also served as a circuit court judge , and was a trustee at several colleges . Educated at Williams College , he was twice married to women from Massachusetts , and had a total of five children .

= = Early life = =

Reuben Boise was born in Blandford , Massachusetts , on June 9 , 1819 , to Reuben Boise and Sally Putnam Boise . He attended Williams College in Williamstown , Massachusetts , graduating with honors in 1843 with a Bachelor of Arts degree . Upon graduation , he moved to Missouri , where he taught school for two years before returning to Massachusetts . When Boise returned , he studied law under his uncle for three years , passing the bar in 1847 . He practiced law for a few years in Chickopee Falls , Massachusetts .

= = Oregon = =

In 1850 , Boise decided to move to the Oregon Territory . To get there , he traveled by ship to Panama and crossed the Isthmus of Panama to the Pacific Ocean . He took another ship , arriving in Astoria , Oregon , at the mouth of the Columbia River later that year . In the spring of 1851 , he moved upriver to Portland and set up a law practice . In Portland , he served on the first school board . In 1851 , Boise married Ellen Francis Lyon of Boston while in San Francisco , California . Boise had become engaged to her in Massachusetts , with her and her family sailing around Cape Horn to attend the wedding . Reuben and Ellen had three sons ? Reuben P. Boise , Jr . , Whitney L. , and Fisher A. ? before Ellen died in 1865 .

Also in 1851 , he was appointed by Oregon Supreme Court justice Orville C. Pratt as a district attorney . In 1852 , he purchased some land in Polk County , Oregon , and renamed the community there Ellendale after his wife . In 1857 , the Boise family moved to Salem , Oregon . In 1867 , Boise married Miss Emily A. Pratt who hailed from Webster , Massachusetts . The couple had two daughters , Ellen S. and Marie E. Boise .

= = Political career = =

In 1852 , the Oregon Territorial Legislature selected Boise to be the prosecuting attorney for Districts 1 and 2 , which covered most of the Willamette Valley . He was selected again the following year and served a total of four years in that capacity . In 1853 , he represented Polk and Tillamook counties in the Territorial Legislature as a Democratic Party politician in the lower chamber House of Representatives . The following year , he was selected to help codify Oregon 's laws , along with James K. Kelly and Daniel R. Bigelow . In 1857 , Boise was a Democratic delegate to the Oregon Constitutional Convention from Polk County . While serving at the Constitutional Convention , Boise served on the Legislation Committee .

In 1857 , Boise was appointed to the Territorial Supreme Court by U.S. President James Buchanan to replace Cyrus Olney , beginning service in 1858 . He was then elected to the Oregon Supreme Court in 1859 after Oregon became a state on February 14 , 1859 . Justice Boise served until 1870 , winning re @-@ election in 1864 . After winning re @-@ election in 1870 , he resigned when the election results were contested . Boise was elected to the commission overseeing the construction of the Oregon State Capitol in 1874 .

In 1876 , he returned to the Oregon Supreme Court after winning the election . Two years later , the Oregon Legislative Assembly divided the court into the Supreme Court and the Oregon Circuit Court , and reduced the number of justices on the Supreme Court to three . With the new court , all prior judges lost their seats and the three positions were filled by appointment of the governor . Boise was appointed by Governor W. W. Thayer to the new court in 1878 , with his term ending in 1880 . During his time with the court , he served as chief justice three times ; from 1864 to 1866 , 1870 to 1872 , and 1876 to 1878 .

After leaving the state 's highest court , he was elected as a state circuit court judge for Oregon 's third judicial district in 1880 , covering Yamhill , Tillamook , Marion , Linn , and Polk counties . He served on the court until 1892 , and then entered private legal practice . After six years in private practice in Salem , Boise returned to the circuit court in 1898 . He retired from the court in July 1904 .

= = Later life and legacy = =

In his later years , Boise served on the board of trustees at Willamette University in Salem and Pacific University in Forest Grove . Pacific gave him an honorary doctor of laws degree . Additionally , he was a trustee at the La Creole Academy preparatory school in Dallas and a regent of the Oregon Agricultural College (now Oregon State University) . He also spent five terms as the master of the state grange association , and owned the Ellendale Woolen Mill . A public speaker , he gave speeches for the Oregon Historical Society , the Oregon Pioneer Society , and the Oregon State Bar as well as at the dedication of a monument to missionary Jason Lee .

Reuben Patrick Boise died on April 10 , 1907 , at the age of 87 in Salem , and is buried at Salem Pioneer Cemetery . Former U.S. Attorney General George Henry Williams gave the eulogy at the funeral , with many prominent politicians and officials in attendance . In honor of the former judge , the state courts adjourned for the day . At the time of his death , Boise owned more than 2 @, @ 600 acres (11 km²) of farmland spread across three farms in Marion and Polk counties . Reuben Boise road in Polk County is named in his honor , as is the R. P. Boise Building in Salem , listed on the National Register of Historic Places .

= = Works = =

" Fifty Years Reminiscences of the Bench and Bar : Speech to the Oregon Bar Association , Nov. 19 , 1902 , " Weekly Oregon Statesman [Salem] , Nov. 21 , 1902 , pp. 6 , 8 .