



Augustus O. Bourn

Augustus Osborn Bourn (October 1, 1834 – January 29, 1925) was an American politician and the 36th Governor of Rhode Island.

Early life

Bourn was born in Providence, Rhode Island, on October 1, 1834. He was the son of George O. Bourn and Huldah B. (Eddy) Bourn and married Elizabeth R. Morrill February 24, 1863.^[1] He and his wife had five children.^[2] He graduated from Brown University and later established a successful career in rubber business, where he started in his father's company. He continued the business after his father's death and incorporated it as the Providence Rubber Company. He also founded the National Rubber Company, which later merged with the former company.

Military service

During the Civil War, Bourne enlisted in the Rhode Island Militia but did not see active service with the Union Army. On April 18, 1864, he was elected as paymaster, with rank of 2nd lieutenant, in the Providence Horse Guards (PHG). On April 17, 1865, he was commissioned a first lieutenant in Company A of the PHG.^{[3][4]} On April 20, 1868, he was elected as captain of Company A and two years later he became captain of Company B. In 1871 he returned his previous position as captain of Company A.

On April 20, 1874, he was commissioned as major of the PHG. On May 13, 1878, he was commissioned as lieutenant colonel in command of the 1st Squadron of Cavalry. He held that position until he took office as Governor of Rhode Island in 1883.^[5]

Augustus Osborn Bourn



36th Governor of Rhode Island

In office

May 29, 1883 – May 26, 1885

Lieutenant Oscar Rathbun

Governor

Preceded by Alfred H. Littlefield

Succeeded by George P. Wetmore

Member of the Rhode Island House of Representatives

In office

1876–1883

1886–1888

Personal details

Born October 1, 1834
Providence, Rhode Island, U.S.

Died January 29, 1925
(aged 90)

Resting place Swan Point Cemetery

Political party Republican

Spouse Elizabeth R. Morrill

Alma mater Brown University

Profession Businessman

Political career

Bourn was a Republican and was member of the Rhode Island State Senate in 1876–83 and again in 1886–88.^[6] He held the governor's office from May 29, 1883, to May 26, 1885. During his administration, a constitutional amendment was proposed to extend suffrage to naturalized citizens. He was the author of this amendment.^[7] Later this constitutional amendment became well known as the Bourn Amendment.

Bourn was an active member of the Freemasons.^[8]

Later years

In 1873, Bourn built an opulent Gothic revival mansion in Bristol named Seven Oaks. The mansion was designed by James Renwick, best known for designing the Smithsonian Castle and St. Patrick's Cathedral, and is located at 136 Hope Street near the Herreshoff boat yard.

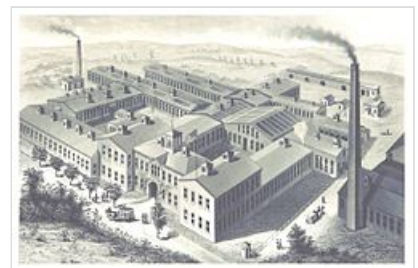
Bourn was United States Consul General in Rome from 1889 until 1893 under the administration of President Benjamin Harrison.^[9]

In 1897 he was elected as a compatriot of the Rhode Island Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.

Governor Bourn died on January 29, 1925^{[10][11]} and was buried at Swan Point Cemetery in Providence.^[12]

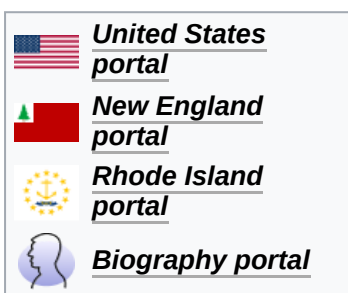


Bourn's official State House portrait



Bourn's NATIONAL RUBBER COMPANY, in Bristol, RI.

Sources



- Sobel, Robert and John Raimo. *Biographical Directory of the Governors of the United States, 1789–1978*. Greenwood Press, 1988. ISBN 0-313-28093-2
- Biography of Governor Bourn (<https://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~rigenweb/articles/130.html>)

References

1. The Political Graveyard (<http://politicalgraveyard.com/bio/boude-bowe.html>), Index to Politicians: Boude to Bowe, Bourn.
2. National Governors Association (<http://www.nga.org/portal/site/nga/menuitem.29fab9fb4add37305ddcbeeb501010a0/?vgnnextoid=217ac2da2484b010VgnVCM1000001a01010aRCRD>), Rhode Island Governor Augustus Osborn Bourn.
3. National Governors Association (<http://www.nga.org/portal/site/nga/menuitem.29fab9fb4add37305ddcbeeb501010a0/?vgnnextoid=217ac2da2484b010VgnVCM1000001a01010aRCRD>), as above.
4. The Report of the Adjutant General of Rhode Island. 1865. pg. 28.
5. Military Record of Augustus O. Bourn. Rhode Island State Archives.
6. The Political Graveyard (<http://politicalgraveyard.com/bio/boude-bowe.html>), as above.
7. The Political Graveyard (<http://politicalgraveyard.com/bio/boude-bowe.html>), as above.
8. The Political Graveyard: Freemasons, politicians, Rhode Island (<http://politicalgraveyard.com/geo/RI/masons.html>)
9. The Political Graveyard (<http://politicalgraveyard.com/bio/boude-bowe.html>), Index to Politicians: Boude to Bowe, Bourn.
10. Asbury Park Press (<https://www.newspapers.com/newspage/144699432/>)
11. Eddy Family Association Bulletin (<https://books.google.com/books?id=-KNIAAAAMAAJ>)
12. The Political Graveyard (<http://politicalgraveyard.com/bio/boude-bowe.html>), as above.

External links

- Augustus O. Bourn (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/3263>) at [Find a Grave](#)
- Bourn's mansion (<https://web.archive.org/web/20160812191109/http://www.liladelman.com/136-hope-st-bristol-rhode-island>) at 136 Hope St, Bristol Rhode Island

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