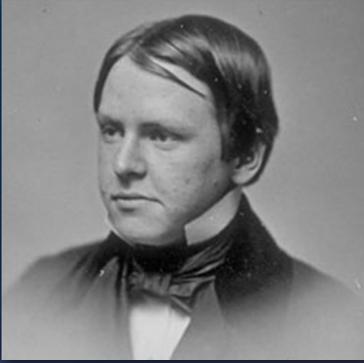




225<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
1789-2014



## William Gardner Choate

**Born:**

August 30, 1830  
Salem, MA

**Received Commission:**

March 25, 1878

**Died:**

November 14, 1920  
Wallingford, CT

William G. Choate was a son of George and Margaret Manning (Hodges) Choate. Both sides of his family were prominent in the history of New England. Choate was educated in Salem public schools, specifically Salem Latin School. He then attended Harvard College, from which he graduated in 1854, followed by Harvard Law School (1852-1854). He was admitted to the bar in 1855.

Choate had a general law practice in Salem until 1865 when he moved to New York and joined the law firm of Prichard, Choate and Smith. In New York, his practice dealt mainly with admiralty, customs, and revenue matters. When he was appointed District Judge in 1878, his docket focused on revenue, admiralty, and bankruptcy cases. The judge was also one of the original founders of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York, and served several terms as Vice-President and President between 1882 and 1903.

Unfortunately, Judge Choate found the salary of a Federal Judge in 1880 insufficient to meet his family's needs, and he resigned his appointment in 1881 to return to private practice. He had a large practice and remained affiliated with the firm (Choate, Laroque & Mitchell) until his death.

Judge Choate purchased a Connecticut home that had been in his wife's family, and in 1896 he co-founded the Choate School at Wallingford, CT along with Mark Pitman. Choate Rosemary Hall still bears his name and continues its college preparatory mission today.

**Sources:**

"Memorial of William G. Choate" prepared by Harrington Putnam in Year Book, 1921 of The Association of the Bar of the City of New York, pp. 162-168. (New York: Nation Press) (1921)

"William G. Choate 90 Years Old, Dies: Brother of Former Ambassador to England Passes Away at Wallingford" New York Times, Nov. 15, 1920, p. 14.

Biographical Directory of Federal Judges, available at <http://www.fjc.gov/>