

# IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## REFERENCE SERIES

RICHARD Z. JOHNSON  
May 21, 1837-September 10, 1913

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Richard Z. Johnson was born in Akron, Ohio, on May 21, 1837. He graduated from Yale University law school in 1859, practiced in Minnesota, then moved to Virginia City, Nevada. He moved to Silver City, Idaho, in about 1865 where he established a law practice. In 1878 he moved his practice to Boise.

Johnson represented Ada County in the 1880-1881 session of the legislature as a member of the Council. In 1885 he was appointed to the commission to revise the territorial statutes, and served as the territory's attorney general from 1887 to 1890.

Johnson sponsored the legislation creating the Boise Independent School District, he served many years on the Boise school board, and was a regent of the University of Idaho. In addition to his legal and political work, he had extensive real estate holdings in Boise and built a law office on 6th Street and an apartment building on Idaho Street.

Johnson married Kate Broeg in about 1862, and they had two sons, Henry Z. And Richard H. Johnson, both of whom became lawyers. After retiring from active practice, Richard Z. Johnson and his wife made frequent trips to her homeland in Germany and later purchased a villa there. Johnson was last in Boise in 1910; he died in Wasserburg, Germany, on September 10, 1913.

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