

The Third Congressional District embraced the counties of Allamakee, Buchanan, Clayton, Delaware, Dubuque, Fayette and Winneshiek.

At the Congressional Convention held at McGregor Sept. 6, 1876, Theodore W. Burdick, of Decorah, who had not sought the office, went into the convention supported by nineteen delegates from the Winneshiek County Republican Convention, who stood by him through the Convention, until he was nominated on the 22d ballot. J. M. Griffith, of Dubuque, was his Democratic opponent, and the contest was a fierce one, intensified by the fact that a Democrat had been elected for the preceding term. Mr. Burdick was elected by a majority of 1,267, his own county leading the list of Republican counties by a majority of 1,265. He was a faithful and efficient working member of Congress, and at the close of the term positively declined a re-nomination. Since the previous biographical sketches in this volume have been put in the hands of the printer, it has been decided to give more complete sketches of prominent men elsewhere in the volume, so that it will not be necessary to give them at length in the regular history, but the following from Andreas' Atlas of Iowa, published before Mr. Burdick's election, is worthy of reproduction here.

"Theodore W. Burdick, cashier of the First National and Savings Banks of Decorah, is a native of Pennsylvania, born October 7, 1836. He removed with his parents to Winneishiek County at the age of 17, having previously acquired a good English education, his father having intended him for a collegiate course at Oberlin. The removal to the west, however, interfered with that arrangement, and on their arrival at Decorah, in the spring of 1853, he was employed as the first school teacher in the place, the first school-house having just then been completed. The following spring his father was elected County Treasurer, and he took charge of the office and also that of County Recorder, discharging practically the duties of both until he became of age, in 1857. At the next election following he was elected County Treasurer, and filled the office in a most faithful and satisfactory manner till 1862, when he resigned to enter the army. He was commissioned Captain of Company D, Sixth Iowa Volunteer Cavalry, in which capacity he served for three years—till 1865. Four brothers besides himself were in the army, and three of them lost their lives in their country's service. On his return from the army Mr. Burdick purchased an interest in the First National Bank of Decorah, of which he was elected Cashier in 1866. Since the war he has held no public office, but has devoted himself exclusively to business. Both in his public and private relations, for a period of over twenty years, since he became a citizen of Decorah, he has been noted as a gentleman of honor and integrity, of good business talents and irreproachable character."

in 1854 he removed to Minnesota, locating near Spring Grove, Houston County, where he engaged in farming. He was elected to represent the county in the legislative assembly of 1861-2, and in 1866 he was appointed enrolling clerk of the senate, which position he filled one term. In 1869 Mr. A. was again called upon to serve the people, and at this time was elected county treasurer of Houston county. At the expiration of his second term of office he came to Winneshiek County and settled on a farm near Trout Run. In 1880 he removed to his present residence in the east and southern portion of Decorah, and engaged in business as before mentioned. He is a son of Samuel and Nancy Farewell Aiken, who were born in Vermont, but who are of Scotch descent. He was married to Elizabeth Burt, a native of Ohio; they have four children, Effie E., now Mrs. E. W. Holway; Wm. E., Ida A. and Grace A.

E. T. Allen, justice of the peace and farmer, was born in Montgomery County, N. Y., in 1832, and is a son of Robert B. and Lydia Thayer Allen. In 1855 he came to Rock Co., Wisconsin, where he remained four years; he then went to California, remaining a short time, and returned east as far as Virginia City, Nevada; from there he went to Idaho and Oregon, and followed teaming and mining until 1867, when he returned to N.Y. He soon after again moved to Wisconsin and engaged in the lumber business; thence to Dubuque in the same business, and in 1868 came to this county and located at Ridgeway. He married Mary E. Griffith, also a native of N. Y., and they have three children, Nellie E., Robt. E. and Cora A. Mr. Allen was elected justice of the peace in 1868, and has held the position ever since.

Hon. D. O. Aaker, dealer in general merchandise grain and stock; also proprietor of Ridgeway Creamery; was born in Norway in 1839, and is a son of Ole Aaker. In 1848 he came with his parents to America, and located in Waukesha County, Wis., remaining there until 1854, when they removed to this county, locating near Burr Oak Springs. In 1868 the subject of this sketch came to Ridgeway, and entered the lumber and grain trade. He subsequently sold his lumber yard, and has since increased his business to its present dimensions. In 1881 he was elected member of the legislative assembly, which position he still holds. He married Christena Ellefson, also a native of Norway, and their children are Lena, John, Theo., and Adolph Oscar. In 1862 Mr. A. enlisted in Company G, 12th Iowa Infantry, and served until 1866.

Hon. Theodore W. Burdick, cashier First National bank, is a native of Penn., and was born at Evansburg, Crawford county, on the 7th day of Oct., 1836, his parents being Nelson and Almira Mason Burdick. His grandfather was Sheffield Burdick, of Wyoming Co., N. Y. and his great-grandfather was Adam Burdick, third son of Nathan Burdick, of Rhode Island, whose two sons

bore a conspicuous part in the struggle for our national independence. Nelson Burdick was born in the State of New York; removed from his native State to Crawford Co., Penn., and in 1852 immigrated to Iowa, and located at Freeport, on the site now occupied by the paper mill, but did not bring his family west until 1853. At that time the journey was made by railroad to Rockford, Ill., thence by stage to Dubuque; thence by river to Lansing, and again by wagons to Freeport. Burdick soon became a popular citizen, and in the spring of 1854 was appointed to fill a vacancy in the Treasurer's and Recorder's office, caused by the death of Thomas J. Hazlett, and was twice re-elected to the same. When the civil war broke out, he had five sons who were eligible to serve their country, all of whom enlisted, but only two returned from service, as three filled soldier's graves. Theodore W. is the oldest of the three living children. He early applied himself to his studies, so that at the age of 17 he was prepared to enter Oberlin College, Ohio, but came with his parents to Freeport in the spring of 1853. During the summer of that year a school house was completed at Decorah, and the following winter the subject of this sketch became the first teacher. In the spring of 1854 he entered the Treasurer's and Recorder's office as deputy, under his father, having charge of the books as such until 1857, when he became of age, and as his father's term of office expired, the son, in compliance with the votes of the people, succeeded him, holding it until he resigned to enter the military service. In 1862 Mr. Burdick recruited Co. D, 6th Io. Cav., and in October was commissioned Captain of the same. Its field of operation was on the western frontier, and he participated in three battles with the Indians: White Stone Hills, Dakota, Tah-kah-o-kuta, near the line of Dakota and Montana; and Bad Lands, on the Little Missouri river. He served three years, when the regiment was mustered out. In the official reports Captain Burdick is honorably mentioned for gallant services on the field, and was recommended for promotion. In February, 1865, Mr. Burdick purchased an interest in the First National Bank of Decorah, and has since been its cashier. He is also an extensive dealer in real estate, in which business he has been quite successful. On the 6th of September, 1876, he received at the hands of the Republican party its unanimous and unsolicited nomination for Congress to represent the third district, and was elected by more than thirteen hundred majority in a district which two years before had elected the Democratic nominee, and in 1875 had given a larger majority for the Democratic candidate for Governor than the Democratic Congressman had received. His opponent was Hon. J. M. Griffith, of Dubuque. Mr. Burdick's services in Congress were entirely acceptable to the people who elected him, and he again received assurance of the nomination, which, however, he declined, as his private business required all his care and attention. Mr.

Burdick was one of the incorporators of the Savings Bank of Decorah, and is now, and has been since its organization, its cashier and the custodian of its funds. He is a partner in the banking firm of Graves, Burdick & Co., of Estherville, Emmet Co., Io. In December, 1858, he married Miss Nancy Graves, youngest daughter of Hon. Gaylord Graves, of Whitewater, Wis. She has had six children, five of whom are now living, Mary A., Emma, Harriet, Nelson A., and Weld T. Mr. Burdick is a conscientious, reliable man, agreeable in manner, and does everything well that he undertakes. He is a member of the Congregational church.

Henry C. Bulis, M. D., the oldest practicing physician of Decorah, was born at Chazy, Clinton County, N. Y., November 14, 1830. In Oct., 1854, Dr. Bulis immigrated to Decorah, and has practiced here since, except when discharging official duties outside of his profession. When the law creating the office of county superintendent of public schools went into force, Dr. Bulis was the first man to assume its duties, and served three years. He subsequently was a member of the county board of supervisors, serving as the first president of the board, under what was then termed the new system. In 1865 he was elected state senator, and by re-elections served six years, resigning in the middle of his second term to take the office of lieutenant-governor, to which the people had called him. While in the upper branch of the general assembly he was at one time chairman of the committee on claims, and at another, of the committee on state university. He did especially good work on the latter committee; a warm friend of education, and being generous and broad in his views on the subject, he earnestly advocated the appropriation bills, and every measure calculated to advance the interests of the university. Part of the time, while in the senate, he served as president pro tem., and was in that position when placed in the chair of lieutenant-governor. He has been a trustee and regent of the university; he was examining surgeon for pensions from 1865 to 1876, and subsequently president of the Iowa State Medical Society. Dr. Bulis has always been a republican, and as can be seen by this sketch much of the time since he has been in Iowa. he has been a favorite of the party. He has been very serviceable, not to his party or state alone. On the 25th of August, 1876, he was appointed a member of the Sioux Indian Commission, and aided essentially in forming, a few weeks later, the treaty with them by which they ceded the Black Hills, and granted the right of way to the same of three different routes. The services which the doctor rendered in securing this treaty can hardly be over-estimated, and is regarded as the crowning act of his life. On the 11th of September, 1854, he married Miss Laura A. Adams, of Champlain, New York. She died in 1861, leaving two children, Frank H. and Ada A. On the 17th of June, 1863,