

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Burke, John E. Senator Burke, John E.
Representes Bremer, Chickasaw and Howard Counties, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 1859

2. Marriage (s) date place

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business He was an member of the Bremer County Co.

B. Civic responsibilities

C. Profession Lawyer

4. Church membership

5. Sessions served 10th General Assembly 1864 - House of Representatives

6. Public Offices 14th General Assembly 1872 - Senate

A. Local District attorney for Bremer County

B. State

C. National

7. Death

8. Children

9. Names of parents

Burke, John E.

10. Education _____

11. Degrees _____

12. Other applicable information _____

Republican

- *He came to Haverly, Iowa in 1858 from Dubuque, Iowa where he had been employed as a bank clerk.*
- *As soon as he came to Haverly, he opened a law office.*
- *He lived and practiced law in Haverly for 18 years when he moved to Chicago, Illinois*
- *While in Chicago, he accumulated a fortune*



E. L. BRAND

ARTIST

HISTORY
OF
Butler and Bremer Counties,
IOWA,

TOGETHER WITH SKETCHES OF THEIR TOWNS, VILLAGES AND TOWNSHIPS, EDUCATIONAL
CIVIL, MILITARY AND POLITICAL HISTORY; PORTRAITS OF PROM-
INENT PERSONS, AND BIOGRAPHIES OF
REPRESENTATIVE CITIZENS.

HISTORY OF IOWA,
EMBRACING ACCOUNTS OF THE PRE-HISTORIC RACES, AND A BRIEF REVIEW
OF ITS CIVIL, POLITICAL AND MILITARY HISTORY.

ILLUSTRATED.

SPRINGFIELD, ILL.
UNION PUBLISHING COMPANY.
1883.

served one term as State Senator. He has been the candidate, on the republican ticket, for Lieutenant-Governor, but was defeated, and is now serving his second term as United States Marshal, for the Western District, with headquarters at Independence, although his family live at Carthage, Missouri.

W. W. Anderson came to Bremer county from Polo, Illinois, in 1863, and located at Waverly. He opened a law office and remained here for several years. He was a native of Upper Canada, where he was born in 1819. He was a small man, noisy, a great talker and a fair lawyer. He is still practicing law at Iowa Falls.

D. W. Coan was another member of the Bremer county Bar. He came here from Illinois early in the sixties and remained about two years. He was a pleasant fellow, but did not meet with much success at law. He went back to Illinois where he still remains.

S. E. Hoffman came to Waverly from Monroe, Wisconsin, about 1853, and engaged in the general merchandise business in company with his brother, S. J. Hoffman. In a few years he read law with G. C. Wright and was here admitted to the Bar, but did not open an office. He left about 1857, and spent a number of years of his life in Neosha Falls and Topeka, Kansas, and is now in St. Louis, Missouri, where he is engaged in the banking business, and is a very prominent and influential man. He is president of a bank in that city.

Hiram Shaver came to Waverly, from Wisconsin, in 1869, and engaged in teaching school. He commenced reading law with G. C. Wright, and in about 1871, was

admitted to practice. He did not open an office here, and soon left, locating in Chickasaw county, where he began practice. He was a single man, full of energy and of natural, as well as acquired ability. In his practice he has been eminently successful, having for a number of years been considered at the head of the Bar of Chickasaw county.

W. A. Stowe was a native of Vermont, and came west with his mother, settling in Clayton county. In 1863 he came to Waverly, soon went into the army, and served about a year and a half. Returning, he read law with G. C. Wright, was admitted, and became a partner of Mr. Wright, continuing thus for three years. He finally removed to Hamburg, Fremont county, where he has been twice elected a member of the Lower House of the General Assembly, and has been a trustee of the Iowa State Normal School. Stowe was far above the average lawyer, was well-posted, sharp, shrewd, and a fine orator. He was a democrat, and an enthusiastic stump speaker; was very sarcastic, and called things by their right names. A few years since he removed to Omaha, where he now lives.

John E. Burke, was a very prominent member of the Bar of Bremer county. He came to Waverly, in 1858, from Dubuque, where he had been engaged as clerk in a bank. He at once opened an office and commenced practice. His business grew rapidly, as he was an excellent orator, a hard worker and full of energy. He was elected district attorney and has served one term each as a member of the State Senate and House of Representatives. He remained in Waverly about eighteen

years, when he removed to Chicago, where he still lives and follows his profession. While here he accumulated a fortune. Burke was a man of good address and had long, curly, auburn hair, on which he rather prided himself, which gave him the title of "Man of the Ambrosial Locks." One little incident is remembered about Burke which is worth relating. He knew nothing of farming, but his tendencies rather ran in that direction. In the spring of 1859, he put in a lot of "garden truck," which he took good care of and worked zealously over. Among the vegetables planted, was a lot of beans. When he thought they had been in the ground long enough, he made up his mind that something was wrong, or the beans would come up. He opened a hill to see what was the matter and saw that the bean as he thought was growing downward, taking the root for the stock. After worrying over the matter, he called in Father Harris and wanted to know if beans "must be planted with a certain end up, that he guessed he had made a mistake, as his was sprouting downward." Harris smiled and told him to "put some manure over it to coax up the sprouts." It is said that Burke went to work and turned some of the plants upside down. But, notwithstanding he knew less about farming than Horace Greeley, he was a good lawyer.

Robertson & Ladd were a firm of attorneys that opened an office in Waverly in 1866. They came from Wisconsin, where they had been in practice. Their office was on the west side of the river, where they remained about one year; not getting much business. Robertson was the main member of the firm, and was a brilliant

young man, a good orator, and with fair prospects; he returned to Illinois, his native State. Ladd was a good counselor; he removed to Clarion, Wright county, where he still lives.

H. P. Brown came to Waverly in 1864, from Junietta county, Wisconsin, and remained for nearly ten years. He was a fine orator, a good lawyer, and had a first-rate practice. He was also a preacher of the Latter Day Saints. He removed to Oakland, California, where he still lives.

A Mr. Turner came in 1863, from Wisconsin, and began practice. He had been admitted to the Bar prior to his coming here, and had also been in practice. He was not much of a lawyer, either in office work or before the courts. He left for parts unknown.

Colonel James W. Wood located in Waverly in 1868, and became a member of the Bar of Bremer county, remaining for a number of years. He is now located at Steamboat Rock, in Hardin county. He is one of the oldest settlers and the oldest practicing attorney in the State of Iowa. He was born in Middlesex county, Massachusetts, April 30, 1800. He was admitted to the Bar at Lewisburg, Virginia, in March, 1827, and immediately came west and located in Illinois, where he practiced law for some years, and was contemporaneous with Lincoln, Douglas, Baker, Shields, Trumbull, Browning, Walker and others of the most prominent men of that State. In 1863, in company with five others, he crossed the Mississippi near where Burlington now stands, and built a cabin, but did not make a permanent settlement until 1834. In 1837, he was appointed the first city solicitor of Burlington, and was secre-