

Thomas Updegraff

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to his home in West Virginia; then for a year studied law in the office of his uncle, John G. Brown, of Morgantown, West Virginia, again removing to Sandwich, Illinois, as principal of the high school. He was associated with his brother, Robert H. Dolliver, in the spring of 1878 for the practice of law, the firm establishing itself in Fort Dodge, Iowa. Almost immediately the Senator took active interest in public affairs and disclosed his singular facility of imparting information and presenting argument. He was made temporary chairman of the Republican State Convention at Des Moines in April, 1884, his address fixing him in the attention of national Republican leaders. He was during the same year in the service of the National Committee and for most of the campaign traveled and spoke with James G. Blaine, the nominee for the presidency. He was a leading speaker thereafter in every national and all the Iowa State campaigns, being drafted in close contests in many of the other States. He was an unsuccessful candidate for the Republican nomination for congress in the Tenth District in 1886, being defeated by Hon. A. J. Holmes, of Boone county. Two years later he was again a candidate, was nominated and elected, thereafter being regularly renominated by acclamation and re-elected up to and including the year 1900. Upon the death of Sen. John H. Gear, July 14, 1900, he was nominated August 22, by Governor Shaw to fill the vacancy. He was elected without opposition by the Twenty-ninth General Assembly to fill out the short term and by the Thirty-second General Assembly for the term succeeding, in which he was serving at the time of his death. A full biographical sketch from the pen of his life-long friend, Sen. William S. Kenyon, will later be published.

BENJAMIN H. MILLER was born in Jones county, Iowa, April 10, 1845; he died in Anamosa, March 9, 1911. With his own native force he acquired in the county schools sufficient education to become a teacher in the public schools of Jones and Cedar counties, at the age of eighteen years. He engaged in the drug trade at Mechanicsville, Stanwood and Olin for a number of years, during which time and after retiring he studied law and was admitted to the bar in March, 1876. He was in the active practice until he was advanced to the district bench in 1903. He served for one term on the bench, then returned to the practice. He was of German descent. His ancestors were among the early German immigrants to America, participating with the Colonies in the Revolutionary War. He served for a time as mayor of Anamosa.

THOMAS UPDEGRAFF was born in Tioga County, Pennsylvania, April 3, 1834; he died in McGregor, Iowa, October 4, 1910. He removed to Clayton County, Iowa, in his early manhood and was soon elected clerk of the district court, which position he held for four years. While in that service he studied law, was admitted to the bar and began practice in 1861. He was elected in 1877 a representative to the 17th General Assembly of Iowa, and in 1878 was elected to congress as a Republican from the third district and continued until his defeat in 1882 by L. H. Weller, a Fusionist. In 1892 he was, however, elected, then re-elected in 1894 and 1896, from the fourth district into which Clayton county had been transferred. In a memorable fight for his renomination in 1908 he was defeated by Gilbert N. Haugen.

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