

WILLIAM WELDEN,



Representative from Hardin county, was born of American parents in the village of Highland, Iowa county, Wisconsin, December 8, 1845. In early infancy he was taken by his grandparents to Mifflin, Wisconsin, and by them reared until fourteen years of age, when his grandfather died, throwing him upon his own resources, for his support and education and the support of his grandmother. When seventeen years of age, he aspired to become a teacher; walking twelve miles to the office of county superintendent, he secured the proper certificate, and walked home the same evening, but his career as a teacher was of short duration. Early in 1864 his father, a volunteer officer in the Union army, returned to secure recruits and he, with an elder brother, enlisted with him in Company C, 43d Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, continuing in the service until the close of the war, the father as lieutenant, the elder brother as a sergeant, and he as a corporal. He at once returned to the farm work in the fall and taught school the ensuing winter. Then, with the small capital saved, formed a partnership, opened a general country store in his home town, Mifflin. Closing out his interest in this business in 1868, he removed to Iowa Falls, Iowa, and for a year was engaged with his father in the building of depots on the Cedar Falls and Minnesota branch of the Illinois Central railroad. In the following year he, with his father, went into the mercantile business in Iowa Falls, Iowa, which business has ever since engrossed his attention. Was appointed and served as deputy postmaster for two years, and thereafter became postmaster and served as such for twelve consecutive years. At the general election of 1903 was chosen Representative from Hardin county on the Independent ticket, and was re-elected on the Republican ticket as its regular nominee in 1906 and again in 1908. In the year 1885 was made a Master in Masons Home Lodge No. 192 at Iowa Falls, Iowa; soon after received the Chapter degrees in the Evergreen Chapter No. 55, Eldora, Iowa. In the same year was knighted in the St. Elmo Commandery, K. T., No. 48, at Iowa Falls, Iowa, after holding the various official positions in the Commandery, he became Eminent Commander and served in that capacity for several years. As a member of the Grand Commandery of Iowa, served in various positions, and in 1904 was elected its Grand Commander, and in that capacity had charge of the pilgrimage of Iowa Templars to attend the triennial held at San Francisco in September, 1904. A Republican in politics.

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