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## THE 12th LEGISLATURE.

### Historical Sketches of the Members of the Council and House

#### CHAUNCEY E. VALENTINE.

of West Bend, Turner county, president of the council after Barleigh resigned, represents the fifth district. His present occupation is that of a farmer, and his previous occupation was that of a general practitioner. He was born in the state of New York, and is 42 years of age. He received an academic education. Politically he is a republican—religiously an Episcopalian. He came to Dakota between nine and ten years ago, from Elroy, Wisconsin. This is his first service in the Dakota legislature, though he has held other offices of trust in the territory having been both county judge and treasurer of Turner county. Mr. Valentine served three and one-half years in the volunteer service during the war, was assistant adjutant general on the staff of Gen. J. G. Fennay. He participated in numerous engagements and thirteen skirmishes and was wounded in battle at Liberty, Mississippi.

#### WALTER A. BURBANK.

of Yankton, Yankon county, represents the 3d district. His present occupation is that of a farmer, stockman and contractor, and his previous occupation was that of a physician and surgeon. He was born at Waterville, Kennebec county, Maine, and is fifty-six years of age. He received an academic education. Politically he is an abolitionist. Religiously a Presbyterian. He came to Dakota sixteen years ago from Kittanning, Armstrong county, Pennsylvania. This is his first service in the Dakota legislature, though he has held numerous offices of trust, having represented Dakota in congress through two terms. He was a soldier in the Mademak war of 1839 and 1840. He was president of the council till near the close of the session when he resigned the position.

#### A. J. MILLS.

of Southglend, Bon Homme county, represents the fourth district. His present occupation is that of a farmer. His previous occupation was that of a real estate and land agent. He was born in the state of Illinois, Lake county, and is 36 years of age. He received a common school and academic education. Politically he is a republican—free, just, and all the time. Mr. Mills came to Dakota nine years ago, from Chicago. This is his third term of service in the Dakota legislature to which he was elected in the years 1871 and 1873, to the house of representatives, and to the council in 1876. He was speaker of the house in 1873. Has held other offices of trust, having been commissioner of Bon Homme county in 1875. Mr. Mills enlisted as a soldier in the army in 1861 in the 69th regiment of Illinois Volunteers and served three years and two months in that regiment. He afterwards participated in the U. S. veteran's conflicts and served one year with them.

#### W. B. DUNCAN.

of Sunny Side, Union county, represents the third district. His occupation is that of a farmer. He was born at Sterling, Scotland, and is 37 years of age. He received an academic education. Politically he is a republican—religiously a Congregationalist. He came to Dakota between four and five years ago from Minnesota. This is his first service in the Dakota legislature, though he has held other offices of trust in the territory and elsewhere—once being commissioner of Union county, D. T. He enlisted as a soldier in 1861, served on the staff of Gen. Howard, Sherman and Lovell, and was mustered out in the spring of 1865. Mr. Duncan was a captain and chief scout for the army of the Tennessee, under command of Gen. Howard. He was one of the most valiant men in Howard's command and rendered distinguished services which have been recognized by the officers and under whom he served in highly commendatory terms.

#### YELSON MINER.

of Vermillion, Clay county, represents the second district. His present occupation is that of an attorney at law, which profession he has followed for years. He was born at Huron county, Ohio, and is 53 years of age. He received an academic education. Politically he is a republican and religiously an Episcopalian. He came to Dakota seventeen years ago from Adel, Dallas county, Iowa. This is his third service in the Dakota legislature, having been elected in the years 1870, 1872 and 1876, to the council each time. He has also held the position of register of the U. S. land office four years, and been notary public. Mr. Miner was for three years captain of company A, Dakota volunteers and commanded three companies in the expedition against the Sioux Indians in 1864, during which campaign he rendered valuable services.

#### HENRY SEYMOUR BARK.

of Fargo, Cass county, represents the seventh district. His present occupation is that of a land agent and attorney at law, and his previous occupation was that of a scout, guide and trapper. He was born in the state of Vermont, and is 33 years of age. Politically he is an independent democrat. His faith is that of a deist. He came to Dakota six years ago, from Minnesota, where he had lived for fifteen years. He has held numerous offices of trust, having held the position of probate judge of Cass county, D. T., and was once commissioner for state of Minnesota. He was thirteen months a member of the Minnesota mounted rangers during the war and for nearly three years a scout, guide and interpreter before the frontier service against the Sioux Indians. Mr. Bark held his seat in the council until near the close of the session when he stepped down and out and Mr. McFleish, his contestant, finished up the session.

#### ROBERT WILSON.

of Bismarck, Burleigh county, represents the ninth district. His present occupation is that of a merchant. His previous occupation was that of a sutler and post trader. He was born in the state of Illinois, and is 51 years of age. He received a common school education. Politically he is a democrat. His religious faith is that of an Episcopalian. He came to Dakota four years ago from Omaha, Nebraska. This is his first service in the Dakota legislature. Mr. Wilson has been engaged in the business of sutler and post trader on the western frontier during a greater portion of his life. He began the business in 1843 and continued it until he was "Boikaped" out of office in 1871.

#### H. P. PETTIGREW.

member of the council from the sixth district, resides at Sioux Falls, where he is engaged in the practice of law. He was born at Ludlow, Vermont, is twenty-seven years of age and has resided seven years in Dakota, coming here from Wisconsin. He received a collegiate education. Is a member of the Baptist church and is politically a republican.

#### J. A. WALLACE.

member of the council from the first district, resides at Elk Point, where he is a practicing attorney. He was born at Washington, Indiana, is thirty-four years of age, has been eight years in Dakota and came to the territory from Illinois. He received a common school, academic and collegiate education, is politically a republican and is not a member of any religious denomination. This is his first term of service in a Dakota legislature. He served three years and six months in the army during the war.

#### ANDREW BURMAN.

who represented the seventh district in the council after the contest between himself and Mr. Bark was settled, resides in Fargo. He is a dealer in agricultural implements. He was born in Schoharie county, New York; is forty-four years of age and has resided six years in Dakota, coming here from Minneapolis. He has been a re-

publican from the organization of the party. Religiously, he professes the Unitarian faith. This is his second term in a Dakota legislature, having been previously elected to the council in 1874.

#### JUDSON LA MOURE.

member of the council from the eighth district, resides at Pembina, on the Red River of the North, where he is largely engaged in farming operations. He was born in Franklin county, Vermont, is thirty-eight years of age and has resided in Dakota seventeen years, coming to the territory from Canada. He received an academic education. Is a republican. This is his second term in the legislature, having been a member of the house in 1873.

#### HANS GUNDERSON.

member of the council from the second district, resides at Vermillion, where he follows the occupation of a farmer. He was born in Norway, is forty-four years of age and has been sixteen years a resident of Dakota, coming here from Wisconsin. He received a common school education, religious faith Lutheran and politics republican. This is his third term in the Dakota legislature, having been elected to the house in 1867 and 1868.

#### MARK W. BAILEY.

declined to furnish any information about himself, but that does not prevent us from saying that he is from Lincoln county and was the leading member of the council. He is a young man—a lawyer by profession, and one who will be better known in Dakota a few years hence than he now is.

#### JOSEPH B. HANCOCK.

is chief clerk of the council, resides in Yankton where he deals in real estate and is largely interested in mining operations in Colorado. He was born in New Hampshire, is thirty-eight years of age and has resided nineteen years in Dakota, coming to the territory from Chicago. He received an academic education. Is a Congregationalist and a republican. He served as a member of the house in 1843-4, was chief clerk of the lower branch of the first legislative assembly and chief clerk of the council at the next succeeding session. He was Indian agent at Crow Creek agency for a number of years, was judge advocate general on the governor's staff for three years, was U. S. commissioner to audit accounts for Indian operations in 1861-2 and was the first judge of probate for Yankton county. He participated in the Indian war of 62 in Dakota.

#### STAS WHORST KNOWN.

of Vermillion, Clay county, is assistant clerk of the council. His occupation is that of a manufacturer. He was born in the state of Vermont and is 28 years of age. He received an academic education. Politically he is a republican. His religious faith is that of an Episcopalian. He came to Dakota ten years ago, from Saint Paul, Minnesota. He was elected to serve in the Dakota legislature as member of the council, in the year 1876. He has held other offices of trust in the territory, having been clerk of the U. S. district court, U. S. commissioner and assistant secretary in the house of representatives in the years 1867-8.

#### DISTRICTS MAGLE.

Speaker of the house, resides at O'Neil, in the fourth district, where he is engaged in the practice of law. He was born in Brown county, Ohio, thirty-seven years of age and has been two and one-half years a resident of Dakota, coming to the territory from Illinois. He received a common school education. Is a republican and leans towards the Methodist faith. This is his first term in the Dakota legislature. He held several important offices while a resident of Illinois. He was a soldier during the war. Enlisted in the 11th Mo. in July 1861, served three years in the army of the Mississippi, wounded at Iuka, Vicksburg and at Pleasant Hill, La., but served full term of enlistment, was in the assault on Vicksburg, May 22, 1863, at the battles of Island No. 10, Corinth, Iuka, Jackson, Miss., and the several engagements on the Red river in Louisiana under Gen. Banks.

#### HANS MYRON.

member of the house from the second district, resides at Lincoln, Clay county, where he is engaged in farming and teaching school. He was born in Norway, is twenty-seven years of age, and came to Dakota from Wisconsin. He received a collegiate education, is a republican and a Lutheran. This is his first experience as a legislator. Has been school district clerk for six years and is now postmaster.

#### ASA ARGENT.

member of the house from the eighth district, resides at Caledonia, Traill county and is a farmer, miller, and real estate agent. He was born in Keacham, Vermont, is thirty-three years of age, has resided six years in Dakota, coming here from his native state. He received an academic education, is a republican and a Congregationalist. He was a soldier in the 15th Vermont during the war. Has been a member of the legislature but once.

#### WILLIAM F. DUNHAM.

member of the house from the fifth district, resides at Lincoln Center, where he is a farmer. He was born in Victory, New York, is thirty-five years of age and has resided four years in Dakota, coming here from Minnesota. He is a republican and a Methodist. This is his first service in the legislature. During a portion of the war he was a soldier in the 49th Wisconsin.

#### JOHN Q. BURBANK.

of Wahpeton, Richland county, represented the seventh district in the house during the closing days of the session, taking Mr. Killeber's seat at the close of a lengthy contest. Mr. Burbank is a surveyor and land agent. He was born in Shelburne, New Hampshire, is twenty-seven years old and has resided six years in Dakota, coming to the territory from Chicago. He received an academic education. Politically he is a republican. This is his first legislative service. He has been county treasurer and judge of probate and sheriff of Richland county.

#### MARTIN O. HEDGON.

member of the house from the seventh district, resides in Cass county, where he is engaged in farming and stock raising. He is a native of Norway, is thirty-six years of age, has resided in Dakota five years and came here from Wisconsin. He received a common school education; is a republican and a Lutheran. This is his first term in the legislature. He has been chairman of the board of county commissioners of Cass county.

#### FRANKLIN TAYLOR.

member of the house from the second district, resides at Vermillion, where he is engaged in farming. He was born at Smith Grove, North Carolina, is forty-nine years of age and has been a resident of Dakota eighteen years, coming to the territory from Iowa. He is a Universalist by faith and is politically a democrat. He has been five times a member of the legislature, having been previously elected to the council at its third and fourth sessions and to the house at its fifth and sixth sessions. He was the first register of deeds and superintendent of schools of Clay county; was clerk of the 1st judicial district court under Judge Williston and deputy collector of Internal Revenue under Wan Shriver.

#### JOHN WELSHED.

member of the house from the first district, resides in Union county and is a farmer. He was born in Sweden, is forty-six years of age and has resided in Dakota nine years, coming to the territory direct from the old country. He received an academic education; is a Lutheran and a republican. This is his first term of service in the legislature. He has held the office of town assessor in the Sioux Valley.

#### BARNEY H. INMAN.

member of the house from the second district, resides at Vermillion, where he is engaged in the banking business. He was born in Orleans county, New York and graduated at the Rochester

University. He has resided two years in Dakota, coming here from his native state. Politically he is a democrat. He belongs to the Bossard nomination. This is his first term in the Dakota legislature, though he has held several offices in his native state.

**EDMOND BACKETT,**  
member of the house from the ninth district, resides at the city of Blackrock, where he works at the carpenter's trade. He was born in Franklin county, New York, is twenty-two years of age, and has been five years a resident of Dakota, coming to the territory from Missouri. He received a common school education, is a democrat and a Catholic. This is his second term as a Dakota legislator, having been previously elected to the house in 1874. He was mayor of Blackrock in 1870. He served during the war in the 3rd New York regiment.

**JOHN THOMPSON,**  
member of the house from the sixth district, resides in Minnehaha county, where he is engaged in farming and stock raising. He is a native of Norway, is thirty-five years of age, has been nearly eleven years a resident of Dakota and came to the territory from Wisconsin. Politically he is a republican and religiously a Lutheran. He received a common school education. This is his second term as a legislator, having been elected to the house in 1872. He has been for six years chairman of the county board of Minnehaha county. He was a soldier during the war, serving in the 7th Wisconsin eleven months and three years in the 50th Wisconsin.

**GEORGE SPENCER CONINGTON,**  
member of the house from the eleventh district, resides at Medary, Brookings county, where he is engaged in preaching the gospel. He was born at Seneca Falls, New York, is thirty-nine years of age and has resided four years in Dakota, coming to the territory from Illinois. He is politically a republican and religiously a Congregationalist. This is his first term in the legislature. He was county surveyor and county treasurer of Brookings county. Was a soldier in the New York mounted rifles during three years of the war.

**ERICK IVERSON,**  
member of the house from the third district, resides at Yankton. He follows the business of a salesman. He was born in Norway, is thirty-seven years of age, is a republican politically and religiously a Lutheran. He came to Dakota from Winona, Minn., eight years and a half ago. This is his first service as a legislator, but he held the office of register of deeds of Yankton county during the six years ending Jan. 18, 1877. Mr. Iverson served four years in the volunteer service during the rebellion.

**CLARENCE H. YANTASSEL,**  
member of the house from the third district, resides at Yankton. He is proprietor of the up river stage line and an extensive dealer in grain. For a number of years he was the Yankton agent for the Dakota Southern railroad. He is a native of Conestoga, Crawford county, Penn., is twenty-seven years of age and has resided six years in Dakota, coming to the territory direct from the place of his birth. He received a academic education, is a Universalist and a republican. This is his first legislative service. Formerly he held the office of deputy U. S. marshal for Dakota.

**CHARLES RAY WARD,**  
a member of the house from the fourth district, resides at Scotland, in Bon Homme county, where he is engaged in farming. He was born in the town of New York, is twenty-seven years of age, and has been four years in Dakota, coming to the territory from Wisconsin. Politically he is a republican and religiously a Protestant. This is his first service in the legislature.

**JAMES W. ADAMS,**  
member of the house from the first district, resides at McCook, Union county. He is now engaged in farming, but was formerly in the lumber business at McCook. He was born in Center county, Pennsylvania, is thirty-five years of age, and has resided nine years in Dakota, coming

here from his native state. He received a common school education, is a republican and a Presbyterian. This is his first election to the Dakota legislature. He has held the offices of justice of the peace and assessor in Union county. During the war of the rebellion he served in West Virginia's months, re-enlisted for 2 years, Aug. 27th, 1861, in 1st regiment Pennsylvania Reserves, took part in the battles of Dranesville, Falmouth, Winchester, Cross Keys, Cedar Mountain, Bull Run, Chancellery, Fredericksburg, Chancellery and Beverly Ford; at the latter place was wounded in thigh, leg and foot, June 10th, 1862; on January 7th, 1864, was commissioned 1st Lieut. 45th U. S. colored troops, and transferred to the department of the gulf, was provost marshal of district of West Florida, from May 11th, 1864, until November 2nd, 1865; mustered out at Philadelphia, Pa., Dec. 7th, 1865.

**THADDEUS STEEL & EL. BRUNSON,**  
member of the house from the tenth district, resides at Yankton Agency, where he is engaged in mercantile business. He was born at Gettysburg, Penn., is thirty-seven years of age, and has resided four years in Dakota, coming to the territory from Chicago. He received a full collegiate education, is an Episcopalian and a republican. This is his first term in the Dakota legislature. He served as a soldier during the war, entering the federal service April 16, 1861, as a private in battery "A," Chicago Light artillery, served through the entire war, and at its close was senior major of 1st Arkansas cavalry.

**F. M. ZIERBACH**  
resides at Yankton, and is a member of the house from the third district. He is a printer by occupation, and has farmed a little during his lifetime. He was born in Pennsylvania, is forty-six years of age, and has resided sixteen years in Dakota, coming to Yankton from Sioux City. He received a "log school house" education, and is a democrat. This is his first service as a Dakota legislator. He was formerly mayor of Sioux City, a member of the board of supervisors of Woodbury county, Iowa, a member of the Sioux City board of education, member of the Yankton board of education, and is at present mayor of the city of Yankton. He was captain of company A, Dakota militia, during the Indian troubles in 1867.

**W. H. H. BEALE,**  
member of the house from the third district, resides in the city of Yankton, where he is engaged in the practice of law. He was born in Parke county, Indiana, is thirty-nine years of age, and has resided in Dak. for eight years, coming here from Wisconsin. He received a collegiate education, is a republican and professes the Evangelical faith. This is his first service in the legislature. He served throughout the war. Entered the army as a private in 1861 and left in 1863 as brigadier general by brevet "for gallant and meritorious services during the war." Received two previous brevets for gallant and meritorious services.

**HENRY A. BURKE,**  
member of the house from the third district, resides in Yankton county, and is engaged in farming and the manufacture of brooms. He was born in Lawrence county, Ohio, is forty-five years of age, has resided nine years in the territory, and lived in California, Montana and Idaho previous to coming to Dakota. Has been a member of the legislature but once.

**DENIS M. KELLER,**  
was a member of the legislature from the seventh district to near the close of the session, when his contestant, Mr. Burbank, went in. Mr. Keller resides at Jamestown, where he is engaged in railroading. He was born in Ireland, is thirty-five years of age, and has resided five years in Dakota, coming to the territory from Omaha. He received a common school education; is a Catholic and a democrat. This is his second term in the Dakota legislature, having been previously elected in 1874. He was probate judge of Cheyenne county, Nebraska, in 1867 and 1870.

**JOHN FAIDY,**  
member of the house from the fifth district, resides at Canton, Lincoln county, where he is postmaster. He is a native of Norway, is thirty years of age, and has resided seven years in Dakota. He received a common school and business education; is a republican and Lutheran. Mr. Faidy came to Dakota from Allamakee county, Iowa. He has served five years as register of deeds of Lincoln county.

**THEODORE A. KINGSBURY,**  
chief clerk of the house, resides in the city of Yankton, where he follows the occupation of a druggist. He was born at Ulica, New York, is thirty-two years of age, has resided in Dakota eight years and came to territory from Chicago. Politically he is a republican. He was a member of the Dakota legislature in 1872 and last present alderman of the city of Yankton. He was a soldier during the war, serving as hospital steward of the 12th Wisconsin regiment.

**MARCELLUS B. KEAT,**  
assistant clerk of the house, resides at Elk Point, where he is engaged in mercantile pursuits. He was born at Plainfield, Illinois, is thirty-two years of age, has resided in Dakota nine years and came to the territory from Illinois. Politically he is a republican and religiously a Methodist. He received an academic education. He was a soldier during the war. Enlisted April 19th, 1861, in battery K, 1st Ill. Ari. Discharged June 10th, 1861, on account of minority. Re-enlisted Jan. 1st, 1862, in Company I, 25th Ill. Vol. Infantry. Captured at Vicksburg, June 23th, 1863. Discharged Jan. 2d, 1865, by reason of expiration of term of service.