

Henry Clay Bulis

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NOTABLE DEATHS.

COL. CONDUCE H. GATCH was born near Milford, Ohio, July 25, 1825; he died at Des Moines, July 1, 1897. The family originally came from Prussia, settling in Maryland in 1725, and afterwards in Virginia; but in 1798 his grandfather liberated his slaves and removed to the vicinity of Cincinnati, Ohio. The subject of this notice grew up to the age of seventeen on his father's farm, attending school during the winters and laboring the rest of the year. After reaching that age he took a regular course of study at Augusta College, Kentucky. He studied law at Xenia, Ohio, and was admitted to practice at Columbus in 1848. He settled at Kenton, where he resided until the outbreak of the rebellion, in the meantime serving as prosecuting attorney of his county and as State Senator. Originally a Whig, he early became a Republican, and was a delegate in the national convention which nominated John C. Fremont for the presidency in 1856. In 1861 he raised a company for the 33d Ohio Infantry, of which he was commissioned captain. He participated in the battles of Nashville, Murfreesboro, Shelbyville and Huntsville, and during the latter part of his service was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel of the 135th Ohio Infantry. He came to Iowa in 1866, making his permanent home in Des Moines. He was elected to the State Senate in 1885, and was re-elected four years later. Of this body he became one of the most industrious, useful and influential members. Among the measures which he introduced and with which he was conspicuously identified during his legislative service—all of which found their way into the statute books—were those for the improvement of the capitol grounds, the founding of the Historical Department, an act reducing the number of peremptory jury challenges by defendants in criminal cases to the number allowed by the State, and the general law promoting the organization of public libraries in cities and towns. In regard to this last measure it is but justice to state that he had the active aid in its preparation of Judge George W. Wakefield, of Sioux City. The burthen of securing its passage devolved upon Col. Gatch. The chief point in this law was the placing of public libraries under the control of trustees instead of the city councils. It was a decided innovation, a most excellent measure, and of far-reaching importance to the State. He performed a large share of the work incident to the preparation and introduction of the revenue bill, which came from the Committee of Ways and Means in the Twenty-fourth General Assembly. This passed the Senate but failed in the House. He also introduced and secured the passage of several excellent measures of minor importance. But the bill considered by himself the most meritorious of all introduced by him while in the legislature, was one exempting the homestead from taxation to the value of \$1,000, which, though presented at each of his four successive sessions, and most earnestly advocated, failed each time of receiving the favorable consideration of the Senate. As a Methodist he had been twice a delegate to the General Conference—1876 and 1880—and was prominent in church and Sabbath-school work all his mature life. During his residence in Des Moines he attained a commanding position as a lawyer. His record in the army, at the bar, and as a legislator, was honorable and creditable in the highest degree. Stepping down and out of public life made little difference in the career of this useful citizen and eminently Christian gentleman, for as long as he lived he was daily called upon to put his hand to some good work, in the furtherance of measures of public improvement, education or charity. His noble deeds only ended with his life.

HENRY CLAY BULIS, who was intimately connected with the public affairs of our State for over forty years, died at Decorah, September 7, 1897. Dr. Bulis was born in Clinton county, New York, November 14, 1830. His

boyhood days were spent on a New England farm, and he later followed the profession of teaching for about six years. In 1854 he took a degree from the Woodstock Medical College, Vermont, and the same year removed to Decorah, Iowa, where he followed the practice of medicine for a longer period than any other physician in Northeastern Iowa. In 1865 Dr. Bulis was appointed examining surgeon for pensions, which office he held ten years. In 1876 he was chosen president of the Iowa State Medical Society, the highest honor within the gift of the profession in his State. In 1887, after further study, he took a degree from the Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia. Dr. Bulis held various public offices the greater part of the time from his twenty-fifth to his sixty-fourth year. Few men have had the confidence and esteem of their fellow citizens expressed in so marked a way for so long a time. In 1856 he was appointed commissioner for the sale of intoxicating liquors by Judge Reed. In 1858 he became the first county superintendent of schools in Winneshiek county. In 1863 he was elected county supervisor. In 1865 he was elected to the State Senate, and after a term of four years was re-elected. While in the Senate he served as chairman of the committee on the State University. He took an active part in founding that institution and was always its friend and warm supporter, serving as regent for eighteen years and then declining a re-election. In 1871 he was elected lieutenant-governor of Iowa. In 1876 President Grant appointed him a member of the Sioux Commission and in the very important work of that commission he took a prominent part. In 1878 President Grant appointed him special United States Indian agent, and in 1883 he was appointed special agent for the General Land Office. Dr. Bulis was prominently before the Republican District Convention as a candidate for Congress in 1889, but after sixty ballots withdrew in favor of Hon. J. H. Sweeney. He served as mayor of Decorah, 1880-81, and again, 1889-90. In 1890 he was appointed postmaster of Decorah, serving four years. He was a member of the Iowa State Historical Society and for several years one of its curators.

COL. ROBERT M. LITTLER died in Chicago, January 24, 1897. He was a Virginian by birth, but removing to Davenport, Iowa, about the year 1854, was long identified with that city, and for many years one of its best known and most prominent citizens. A man of great energy, activity and public spirit, he was always foremost in aiding every plan that promised to further the welfare of the city. Realizing that the town was practically at the mercy of the destructive element of fire, he aroused public sentiment and succeeded in organizing an efficient, well-equipped and well-housed fire department, of which he was the able chief for many years. He was well known in newspaper circles, and for years city editor of *The Davenport Gazette*. At the time of the Mormon troubles, he organized a company of militia called the "Sarsfield Guards," which stood ready for active duty. But its services were not required. At the breaking out of the rebellion in 1861, he was ready for the emergency and at the call for troops offered Gov. Kirkwood a drilled company of which he was captain, consisting in part of the old "Guards." This became Co. B of the Second Iowa Infantry and did gallant service. Captain Littler soon rose to the rank of Major, and in 1865 to that of Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel. He was wounded at Shiloh and as a result lost an arm. After the war his energies were directed into a new channel, that of the farm and dairy. He acquired the reputation of being the best informed man in the country regarding dairy products, and was instrumental in securing much needed legislation against the sale of imitation butter. His knowledge in this line received due recognition, and he was called to the secretaryship of the Chicago Produce Exchange, which responsible position he filled most acceptably

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