

Iowa Senatorial Succession

ISSN 0003-4827

Material in the public domain. No restrictions on use.



This work has been identified with a [Creative Commons Public Domain Mark 1.0](#).

Recommended Citation

"Iowa Senatorial Succession." *The Annals of Iowa* 8 (1908), 472-473.

Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0003-4827.3477>

Hosted by [Iowa Research Online](#)

a people's course is being affected and perhaps directed by new conditions, not to say a new force, comparable with any of the old.

IOWA SENATORIAL SUCCESSION.

When the federal constitution was adopted, Article I, Section 3, clause 2, provided that the United States Senators should be divided into three classes, the first to serve for a period of two years; the second, for a period of four years and the third for a period of six years, thus providing for a continuity of that body. When Iowa was admitted into the Union her two United States Senators, George W. Jones of Dubuque and Augustus C. Dodge of Burlington fell, respectively, into classes two and three. They began their service in the Senate on the same day, December 7, 1848. Jones was 44 years of age and Dodge was 32. Succeeding Jones, James W. Grimes of Burlington was installed, March 4, 1859, at 42, being re-elected and re-installed March 4, 1865, resigning his office December 6, 1869. Mr. Grimes was succeeded by James B. Howell, of Keokuk, at 53 years of age, who was installed January 18, 1870, and retired at the end of Mr. Grimes' second term, March 3, 1871. Mr. Howell was succeeded by George G. Wright, of Des Moines, at 51 years of age, on March 4, 1871, who served one term, retiring March 3, 1877. Mr. Wright was succeeded by Samuel J. Kirkwood, of Iowa City, at 63, March 4, 1877, who resigned March 7, 1881, James W. McDill of Creston, at 46, succeeding him March 8, 1881, being appointed by Governor Gear, and serving out the Kirkwood term, retiring March 3, 1883. James F. Wilson of Fairfield, at 54, was installed March 4, 1883, and served continuously until March 3, 1895, being succeeded by John H. Gear of Burlington, at 69, March 4, 1895. Mr. Gear died on July 14, 1900, and Jonathan P. Dolliver of Fort Dodge, after appointment by Governor Shaw, was installed August 22, 1900, at 42 years of age, serving to the end of Gear's term March 3, 1901, and, by election, until the present time, the term ending March 3, 1913.

The term of Augustus C. Dodge ended March 3, 1855, when James Harlan of Mount Pleasant was installed, at the age of 34, March 4, 1855, and served until January 12, 1857, when his seat was declared vacant by a resolution of the Senate. On January 17, 1857, he was re-elected and installed, serving out the term to March 3, 1861, then by re-election, he served from March 4, 1861, to May 15, 1865, when he resigned to enter the cabinet of Andrew Johnson, having been recommended and confirmed before the death of Abraham Lincoln. Samuel J. Kirkwood on January 13, 1866, was elected, at the age of 52, and served to the end of the term, March 3, 1867. James Harlan after election was again installed March 4, 1867, serving until March 3, 1873, when he retired being succeeded by William B. Allison of Dubuque, March 4, 1873, at the age of 44, who has served continuously since that day, and has been nominated for the term ending 1915.

RECENT PORTRAIT ACQUISITIONS.

The collection of portraits in oil now in the Historical Department Galleries has been recently augmented by two which were publicly installed June 20th. These both represent a phase of interest in the collections awakened by Mr. Aldrich, but which he did not live to see bear fruit. His oft repeated purpose was to acquire good portraits of representative Iowa citizens and of men representative of classes or of movements that aided the development of the State and its institutions. He desired to obtain good art objects of every kind including portraits and not limited to the borders of Iowa. He desired to obtain the permanent and artistic likeness in oil of Iowa men and women who contributed to the good name and fame of our State. In this purpose he invited the negroes of Iowa to place in the collections an adequate portrait of Frederick Douglass, and they, with the aid of their friends and of the Legislature provided such a canvas from the brush of Freeman Thorpe. Thus there is acquired as representative of a

Copyright of Annals of Iowa is the property of State of Iowa, by & through the State Historical Society of Iowa and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.