

Edwin Hurd Conger

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NOTABLE DEATHS.

EDWIN HURD CONGER, born to Lorentus E. and Mary (Hurd) Conger, March 7, 1843, in Knox county, Illinois, was of the sixth generation after Reuben Conger, first of that name in America. Edwin H. took the public school course, then graduated from Lombard University, class of 1862. He enlisted almost immediately in Co. I, 102d Ill. Volunteer Infantry, became first lieutenant Sept. 2, 1862, and was promoted to the captaincy Oct. 12, 1863, won the brevet of major for "gallant and meritorious conduct on the field" and was mustered out with his regiment June 6, 1865. Graduating from the Albany Law School in 1866 he entered the practice at Galesburg where he continued until his purchase of and removal to a farm in Madison county, Iowa, in 1868. In 1874 he removed to Dexter, Dallas county, a few miles from his farm, and engaged in banking as successor to his father then lately deceased. Dallas county Republicans nominated him for County Treasurer in 1877, his election following, and a re-election in 1879. Iowa Republicans chose him as a candidate for State Treasurer in 1880, his election and a re-election following. The Seventh Iowa District, consisting then of Adair, Dallas, Guthrie, Madison, Marion, Polk and Warren counties, elected him over Judge W. H. McHenry to the 49th Congress, Speaker Carlisle appointing him on the Committee of Invalid Pensions. He was returned over W. L. Carpenter to the 50th and assigned to the Committee on Agriculture and to the 51st over Allen E. Morrison, Democrat, and J. A. Nash, Prohibitionist and labor candidate. Speaker Reed reassigned him to the Committee on Agriculture, and placed him on those of Banking and Currency and of Coinage, Weights and Measures. Successful advocacy of his bill for the prevention of adulteration of lard gained him great credit. President Harrison appointed Mr. Conger Minister to Brazil, where a successful service was interrupted by a change of administration, but after an engagement in business in Des Moines, during which time he was an Iowa elector at large to the St. Louis convention of 1896, President McKinley reappointed him to the post in Brazil, transferring him in 1898 to China. President Roosevelt advanced Mr. Conger to the embassy to Mexico in which post he completed his public service and resigned in October, 1905. Mr. Conger's diplomatic service was highly creditable throughout, was especially distinguished during the Brazilian revolution of 1893, and rose to international importance in the Chinese Boxer siege of 1900.

On the 22d of June, 1866, at Galesburg Mr. Conger was united in marriage with Miss Sarah J., a daughter of E. W. and Laura Pike. They became parents to a son and daughter, the latter, Laura V., wife of Lieutenant Buchan of the army, only surviving. Mr. Conger retired to private life in Pasadena, California, where Mrs. Conger now resides and where he died May 17, 1907, and was laid to rest. He was a Knight Templar, a member of the Loyal Legion and of the Military Order of the Dragon.

E. R. H.

THOMAS M. BOWEN, the pioneer of Iowa-born legislators and public officials, died at his home in Denver, Colo., Dec. 30, 1906. General Bowen was born in the county of "De Moin," Territory of Michigan, Oct. 26, 1835. The place is understood to be near the present city of Burlington, but before there was such a city, and even before an "Iowa" appeared on any map. A part of his schooling was at

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