

Charles W. Burdick was fourteen years of age when he came with his parents from Crawford county, Pennsylvania, to Winneshiek county. He received his education in his native state and in the schools near his new-location, passing his leisure hours and vacations in work on the home farm. There he remained occupied with agricultural pursuits until the outbreak of the Civil war. when he became one of the first to respond to Lincoln's call for troops and although it had been his desire to join the first regiment sent out of the state, it was found when he came to Keokuk, the point of rendezvous, that both the first and second regiments had already their full quotas of men and hence he was mustered into the service on June 8, 1861, as a member of Company D of the Third Iowa Volunteer Infantry. His term of enlistment was for three years, at the end of which time he received his honorable discharge at Davenport, Iowa, after participating in many of the greater battles and sharp skirmishes, distinguishing himself for fearlessness in conduct and faithfulness to duty. There is no better proof of his meritorious conduct than the fact that he was promoted to the rank of first lieutenant during the conflict.

After his return to Decorah Mr. Burdick at once engaged in the real-estate business associated with his father, the firm name being N. Burdick & Son, under which style they continued in business for ten years, at the end of which period the father retired, our subject continuing and adding an abstract of title department to his activities. During this time Mr. Burdick had well acquainted himself with the various phases of the business and his knowledge of land values was such that many profitable deals came to fruition under his able management. The years brought him prosperity and, reaching out for new fields of endeavor, he became one of the prime movers in the organization of the Citizens Savings Bank, which institution opened its doors for business on February 10, 1884. He was the first president of this financial institution and guided the affairs of the bank with circumspection and ability until about six years ago, when he retired. The prosperous condition of this bank is largely due to the efforts of him who launched it on its way and carefully guided its policies through the first years of struggle, avoiding pitfalls and difficulties and being principally instrumental in making it the stable and solid business which it is today. He retired only after he had seen to it that it was safely and firmly established. Mr. Burdick was also closely connected with building operations in Decorah, having erected several of the largest business blocks in the city, selling the same to good advantage.

On February 20, 1867, Charles W. Burdick was married to Miss Violetta E. McMurtie, a daughter of Henry and Violetta (Leach) McMurtie. On October 8, 1892, only about a half year after their silver wedding anniversary, Mrs. Burdick passed away, deeply mourned by her family and a large circle of devoted friends who esteemed her for her many high womanly qualities. Of this union were born two children, Allie Susan and May. On November 21, 1894, Mr. Burdick married Mrs. Ida M. Stone, a daughter of Dr. Louis Pagin, of South Bend, Indiana. On November 30, 1899, Mr. Burdick was again married, his third union being with Miss Noble Dixon, of Dubuque, Iowa, by whom he had one child, who died in infancy.

Public-spirited and progressive, Mr. Burdick always took a deep interest in public and political matters, giving his support unflinchingly to the republi