

(Note for picture of O.H. Browning)

Orville H. Browning.

Orville H. Browning for thirty years was one of the conspicuous public men of Illinois. He was born in Kentucky, in Harrison County, in 1810; came to Illinois at an early day; located at Quincy, and took up the practice of the law. He was elected to the State Senate in 1836, again in 1838, and became a member of the House in 1842, when he was the Whig candidate for Speaker. In the latter year also he was the Whig candidate for Congress, and was beaten by Stephen A. Douglas. He was a public speaker of great force, and every campaign for the next twenty years found him on the stump. *During these years* ~~In the meantime~~ he built up an extensive and lucrative legal practice. He was one of the organizers of the Republican party in Illinois, ~~and~~ ~~the~~ ~~death~~ ~~of~~ ~~Stephen~~ ~~A.~~ ~~Douglas~~ ~~in~~ ~~1861,~~ ~~Gov.~~ ~~Yates~~ ~~appointed~~ ~~him~~ ~~United~~ ~~States~~ ~~Senator~~ ~~to~~ ~~fill~~ ~~the~~ ~~vacancy~~ ~~created~~ ~~by~~ ~~the~~ ~~death~~ ~~of~~ ~~Douglas~~ ~~in~~ ~~1861,~~ ~~when~~ ~~the~~ ~~legislature~~ ~~elects~~ ~~him~~ ~~and~~ ~~was~~ ~~a~~ ~~delegate~~ ~~at~~ ~~large~~ ~~to~~ ~~the~~ ~~Republican~~ ~~national~~ ~~convention~~ ~~of~~ ~~1860.~~ By appointment of Gov. Yates he was a United States Senator from 1861 to '65, filling the place made vacant by the death of Douglas. ~~When~~ In the cabinet of President Johnson he was Secretary of the Interior, and during the last year of the administration he performed also the duties of Attorney General. He died in 1881. Lincoln made the acquaintance of Browning at Vandalia in 1836, when both were members of the legislature, and the intimate friendship formed at that time lasted through life.--J. McCan Davis.

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