

GEORGE WASHINGTON BATCHELDER.

George W. Batchelder, of Faribault, Minnesota, was one of the pioneers of that city, and during his long residence has become one of the best-known members of the legal profession in Southern Minnesota. In addition to his eminence in the practice of law, Mr. Batchelder has been conspicuous in politics; always identified with the Democratic party, he has been its candidate at various times for Congress, for justice of the Supreme Court, for state senator, and for mayor of the city of Faribault. Mr. Batchelder traces his ancestry back for one hundred and fifty years through a long line of New Englanders to Rev. Stephen Batchelder, who migrated from Surrey, England, about 1730, and settled in Hampton, Massachusetts. He was a Congregational clergyman. Among his descendants were Daniel Webster and John G. Whittier. The grandfather of G. W. Batchelder was a Revolutionary soldier. He lived at Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and moved with his family to Vermont about 1796. Here his son, John Batchelder, married Alice Kittridge, who was a daughter of Samuel and Harriet Kittridge. The Kittridge family also came from Massachusetts, and emigrated to Vermont in 1800. Mr. Batchelder attended the public schools near his home, and fitted himself for college at Phillip's Academy, in Danville; entered the University of Vermont in 1847 and graduated in 1851, receiving the degree of A. B., and afterwards that of A. M. He was a member of the Sigma Phi Society, and also of the Phi Beta Kappa. To sustain himself during his college course Mr. Batchelder taught school during his vacations, and upon graduating, took charge of the graded schools of Windsor, Vermont. After one year at Windsor he went south and taught for another year in the Academy at Tazewell, East Tennessee. Another year was spent in teaching at Rogersville, East Tennessee. During all this time Mr. Batchelder was reading law, and in 1854 he was admitted to the bar. The following year he came to Minnesota, then a territory, and in May, 1855, settled at Faribault. He has since resided at Faribault, and has been in continuous practice of the



law. His first law partner was Hon. John M. Berry, late Justice of the Supreme Court of Minnesota. When Mr. Berry went upon the bench Mr. Batchelder became a partner of Hon. Thomas S. Buckham, now judge of the fifth judicial district of Minnesota. He now has associated with him his son, Charles, under the firm name of Batchelder & Batchelder. Mr. Batchelder has been frequently honored by his fellow citizens with nomination and election to public office, though as a Democrat in a Republican state, county and district, the more important nomination was frequently not equivalent to election. He was a candidate for Congress in 1868 for the Southern District of the state. In 1871 and 1872 he served as state senator, and in 1888 was nominated by his party for justice of the Supreme Court. During the years 1880 and 1881 he was mayor of Faribault, and for fifteen years, ending in 1892, he served as chairman of the Board of Education. Mr. Batchelder was married on July 12, 1858, to Miss Kate E. Davis, daughter of Cornelius Davis, of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. They have three children; a daughter, Georgia L. Batchelder, and two sons, Chas. S. and John D. Batchelder, both of whom are in the legal practice.

Shutter, Marion Daniel

Progressive men of Minnesota

mpls: mpls. journal, 1897