



GEORGE WASHINGTON SOMERVILLE.

One of the most prominent members of the legal profession in Southern Minnesota is George Washington Somerville, of Sleepy Eye, Brown County, Minnesota. Mr. Somerville was born in Ripley County, Indiana, June 3, 1855; son of William and Rachel (Cunningham) Somerville. On his father's side he is of Irish descent, his grandfather having been born in the north of Ireland, emigrating to this country when but nineteen years of age. William Somerville was born in Pennsylvania, but lived in Indiana from boyhood until his removal to this state in 1860, when George W. was but five years of age. He settled on a farm in Viola township, Olmsted County, where he still resides, and is one of the most prosperous agriculturists in that fertile section of the North Star state. He is also prominent as a horticulturist, having early begun to ornament his farm with evergreens, to which he added the useful fruit varieties. He now has one of the best orchards in the state of Minnesota. He has been a prominent member of horticultural societies, and was for several years a lecturer on horticulture with the State Farmers' Institute, being recognized as one of the most competent

authorities on the subject in this state. He was also honored by the people of his neighborhood by being elected to the lower house of the legislature in 1872; he has also held several town offices. George Washington Somerville received his elementary education in the district school of his neighborhood, which he attended only three months out of the year, the balance of the time working on his father's farm. In his sixteenth and seventeenth years he attended the village school at Eyota, in the same county. In 1872 his family moved to Rochester, this state, where George entered the high school, from which he graduated in 1876. Then, having a predilection for the profession of law, he pursued its studies during the following year in the office of H. C. Butler, of that city. In 1878 he entered the law department of the University of Michigan, graduating the year following. Immediately after his graduation he returned to Minnesota and located at Sleepy Eye, where he began the practice of his profession. He has remained at this place ever since and built up an extensive practice. His popularity is attested by the fact that he was re-nominated three times to the office of county attorney of Brown County, declining a fourth nomination, serving in this office from 1882 to 1888. He has also been city attorney of Sleepy Eye for a number of years and still holds that position. In politics he has always been a Republican, and is a leader in the counsels of his party. He has attended a number of state Republican conventions as a delegate, and is a member of the executive committee of the Republican State League. He is a Mason and a Knights Templar, a member of Zuhrah Temple, Mystic Shrine, and is also an Odd Fellow. November 21, 1881, he was married to Mary Fuller, of Rochester, Minnesota. Mr. and Mrs. Somerville have four children, Madge, Saxe, Caroline and W. Wayne.

HENRY ADONIRAM SWIFT.

Henry A. Swift, the third governor of Minnesota, was descended from revolutionary sires. William Swift, the first American of the family, gave up his home in County Suffolk, England,