



GEORGE WASHINGTON SOMERVILLE.

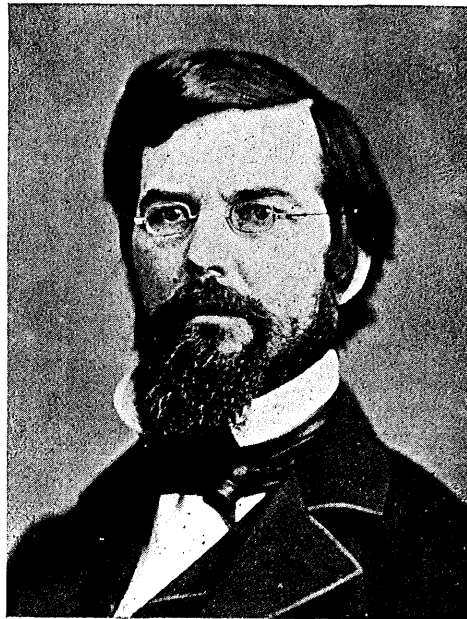
One of the most prominent members of the legal profession in Southern Minnesota is George Washington Somerville, of Sleepy Eye, Brown County, Minnesota. Mr. Somerville was born in Ripley County, Indiana, June 3, 1855; son of William and Rachel (Cunningham) Somerville. On his father's side he is of Irish 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,

in 1630, and crossing the Atlantic, located in Boston. In 1634 he went to Watertown, Massachusetts, which was long the family home. His son, also William Swift, lived in Sandwich, and was a representative in the legislature in the years 1664-67. Dr. Isaac Swift, grandfather of the subject of this sketch (1753-1802), sat in the Connecticut legislature in 1772 and 1799. He was also a Revolutionary soldier. After the battle of Concord and Lexington, with a number of neighbors, he proceeded to Boston and enlisted in the patriot army. The regiment went into the field in the spring of 1777 at Camp Peekskill, New York, and in September was ordered, under General McDougal, to join Washington's army in Pennsylvania. It fought at Germantown, October 4, 1777, and wintered at Valley Forge, 1777-78. Dr. Swift was assigned the post of surgeon, in which capacity he served until the close of the war. His son, Isaac Swift, Jr., was born at Cornwall, Connecticut, in 1790, and was graduated from Columbia Medical College, New York city. He at once started on a Western tour, but was detained at Ravenna, Ohio, on account of an accident to his horse. Before the animal had recovered from the effects of the accident, the doctor had acquired what promised to develop into a lucrative practice, and so he decided to remain in Ravenna. In 1818 he was married, in that place, to Eliza Thompson. The old Swift homestead, where Dr. Swift took his bride, is still the home of his daughter, Mrs. E. R. Waite. There had been no church organization in Ravenna when Dr. Swift arrived, but soon after his coming the young men of the town—none of them church members—instituted religious meetings. Dr. Swift read the sermons and led the singing. These meetings were not discontinued until a church was organized. Eliza Thompson, Governor Swift's mother, was the daughter of Isaac Thompson and Patience Campbell Thompson, of Stockbridge, Massachusetts. She was born in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, in 1800, and was fourteen years of age when the family moved to Ravenna, Ohio. Other ancestors of Governor Swift were Governor Thomas Mayhew, of Martha's Vineyard, proprietor of the Vineyard, and preacher for thirty-three years, and



Thomas Tupper, one of the original grantees of Cape Cod, deputy for nineteen years, and who besides, spent much time in "gospelizing the Indians." Governor Swift was born in Ravenna, Ohio, in the homestead already referred to, March 23, 1823. His parents were educated and refined people, and his home influences were the best. He was graduated from Western Reserve College, Hudson, Ohio, and went at once to Mississippi, where he taught school for a year. The condition of the South did not please him, and he returned to Ohio as soon as his contract as a teacher was terminated. He studied law, and in 1845 was admitted to the bar at Ravenna. During the winters of 1847-48 and 1848-49 he was chief clerk of the Ohio house of representatives. In 1853 he located in St. Paul, Minnesota, where he opened a law and insurance office. Joining the company that platted the town of St. Peter, he removed to that place in 1856, becoming register of the United States land office. In 1857 he was nominated for congress by the Republicans, but was defeated with the remainder of the ticket. In the fall of 1861 he was elected president pro tem of the state senate, and succeeded Ignatius Donnelly, who had resigned the office of lieutenant governor to begin his work in congress. The same session of the leg-

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islature elected Governor Alexander Ramsey to the office of United States senator, and Mr. Swift, who was ex-officio lieutenant governor, became governor. It was near the end of the term, and although he was urged to become a candidate for the nomination, he steadily declined, and permitted the honor to go to Stephen Miller, who was subsequently elected. It is said that he might have gone to the United States senate had he so desired. The legislature of 1864-65 stood ready to elect him to that high position, but he did not care for the office, and it was given to D. S. Norton. Mr. Swift was a student, and his tastes were thoroughly domestic. He was ready to give up public position in order to be with his family. While always conscious of the duties devolving upon him as a citizen, and standing ready to discharge them, he frankly confessed that his ambition did not lie in the direction of holding office. A thorough distaste for the methods of the politician perhaps encouraged him in his determination to forego a public life, but none of the considerations referred to were strong enough to prevent him from bearing his full share of the public burden in times of emergency. But for the fact that his presence seemed to be of more importance in the legislature, he would have enlisted in the Union army at the beginning of the civil war. In 1862, at the time of the Sioux uprising, he was among the first to go to New Ulm to assist in its defense against the savages. He was accompanied by William G. Hayden, then county auditor of Nicollet County. When they arrived in New Ulm the people were without protection and utterly helpless. Fortunately some men from Nicollet and Swan Lake had arrived, making in all a party of eighteen. They at once organized themselves into a company and advanced on the Indians, holding them in check until help came. But for this timely aid there is no doubt that New Ulm would have been in ashes in four or five hours, for the Indians had already set fire to five large buildings, some of which were not more than a block and a half from the Dakota house, and the inhabitants would have been murdered, the Indians having sufficient evidence of the complete panic that prevailed prior to the arrival of

the men. The hardships of that campaign developed the disease which brought Governor Swift to his death, February 25, 1869, in St. Peter. One of the leading newspapers of the state summed up his character in these words: "A man of rare and delicate mould, high-hearted, generous, tender, true, loyal to friendship, self-respecting, incapable of meanness; a man to be loved and trusted above his fellows; a man so happy in the singular beauty of his private and domestic life that public honors sought him out only as unwelcome messengers to duties that could not be declined. In all the state no man for years has filled a larger or warmer place in the public heart than Henry A. Swift." In 1851 Mr. Swift was married to Ruth Livingston, of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Her grandfather, Stephen Stevenson, served during the whole of the Revolutionary War. His regiment, the Nineteenth Pennsylvania, took a prominent part in the battle of Stony Point, under the command of Colonel Richard Butler. Stephen Stevenson, from lieutenant of the Nineteenth Pennsylvania, was promoted to the captaincy of the Fourth Pennsylvania, in 1781. He was a member of the Society of Cincinnati. Mrs. Swift died in 1881. Of the children that were born of this union two daughters survive, Mrs. W. M. Spackman, of New York city, and Mrs. G. S. Ives, of St. Peter.

CHARLES F. HENDRYX.

Charles F. Hendryx is one of the best known newspaper men in Minnesota. He came to the state in 1874, and was successively night editor and city editor of the Minneapolis Tribune during the time when it was owned by his father. In 1879 he went to Sauk Center, purchasing the Weekly Herald, whose editor and proprietor he has been since that time. Mr. Hendryx was born at Cooperstown, New York, April 22, 1847, and was the only son of James I. Hendryx, who for twenty-five years was editor of the Otsego Republican, of Cooperstown. He attended the public schools in Cooperstown, and at the age of fifteen was sent to the Deer Hill Institute, at Danbury, Connecticut, an Episcopal school for boys, where