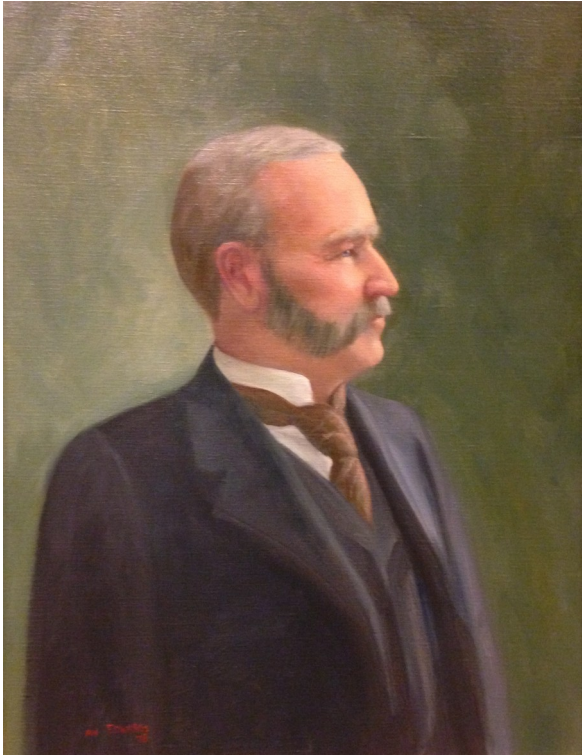


HENDERSON MIDDLETON SOMERVILLE

Associate Justice: 1880-1890

BORN: March 23, 1837; Madison County, Virginia

DIED: September 15, 1915; New York, New York



***Portrait by MARGUERITE EDWARDS,
American 1943-
Oil on Canvas***

A native of Madison County, Virginia, Henderson Middleton Somerville was reared in Alabama and received his college education at the University of Alabama, graduating in 1856. After teaching school for one year, he entered Cumberland Law School in Lebanon, Tennessee, and received his degree in 1859.

In 1861, Somerville assumed the political editorship and management of the Memphis Appeal. In 1863, he was associate professor of Mathematics and classics in the University of Alabama, until that institution was burned in April 1865. He founded the law school of the University of Alabama in 1873, and became its first head.

Somerville was appointed to the Supreme Court of Alabama as an associate justice by Governor Cobb in September 1880, and in 1886 was elected to the bench. In July, 1890, he resigned from the bench in order to accept an appointment by President Harrison to the office of United States Board of Customs Appraisers. He then moved to New York, where he remained until his death in 1915.

Somerville married Cornelia Banks Harris of Tuscaloosa in 1862, and they had seven children.

Junius Moore Riggs Collection

Location: Judicial College, Lobby Floor, Heflin-Torbert Judicial Building