

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1929

W. D. Bailey Is Summoned

Prominent Attorney Passed Away
Last Saturday at his Home
in Duluth.

WAS MEMBER OF ONE OF
GRINNELL'S PIONEER FAMILIES

Was Born in Grinnell in 1868 and
Graduated From Grinnell Col-
lege in 1891.

W. D. Bailey of Duluth, Minn., died Saturday evening about eight o'clock, August 31, 1929, after an illness of two weeks' duration. He was born in Grinnell, April 3, 1868, on the Bailey homestead, situated on the corner west of West St., and north of 11th Ave. He was the only son and youngest child of James Fordyce and Cornelia Doolittle Bailey. His father was one of the pioneers of Grinnell, having come here in October, 1854, the town having been founded March 13, 1854. He graduated from Grinnell College in 1891. He attended Law school at Iowa State University for two terms. He then read law for a number of months under the direction of the law firm of Haines & Lyman. In the fall of 1892 he went to New Haven where he graduated from the law department of Yale in 1893.

In the fall of 1893, he went to Enid, Okla., soon after the town was started. April 26, 1894, he reached Duluth and was in the office of Harris & Towne for three months. The firm was composed of Lute Harris and Chas. A. Towne, who afterward went to Congress. He then went into the office of Washburn & Lewis at a small salary. Later he became a member of the firm. Later still, the firm name became Washburn, Bailey and Mitchell, which name it still retains. Mr. Washburn retired from active practice many years ago, since which time Mr. Bailey has been head of the firm. Other members have been taken into the firm and counting members of the firm, clerks, stenographers, bookkeepers, etc., there are about twenty in the office. The offices occupy the whole of one floor of the Alworth building. The firm is one of the best law firms in all of the northwest and has a very large practice.

By hard work and upright dealing, Mr. Bailey had become wealthy. His assets were many and large, but he was so modest, people did not learn of his gifts from him. He was so tender hearted that he never tried a personal injury or a criminal case when he could help it. He was the kind of a lawyer, who when he had won the suit for the company in a personal injury case (for the company was not at fault) supported the man and his large family until after a long time when they could take care of themselves, but he did not tell about it.

He was a true friend and stood by his friends when they were in sore distress. In 1922 he had a nervous breakdown, caused by over work. Strong men came tiptoeing in with tears in their eyes to inquire how he was and said that he was the best loved man in Duluth. After ten months resting for the most part, including a winter in California, he resumed his work. He has been to California for a time every winter but one since. He has had several severe sicknesses since.

He tried cases very often before the Minnesota state supreme court, and tried two cases before the United States supreme court. He could have been judge of the Federal district court if he had wished to be. He was one of eight selected from Duluth to go to Europe during the World War to be a military judge, but the war closed before he was called. He was a director of the Duluth Y. M. C. A. and vice president of the Bethel work. He had traveled extensively in this country.

He was one of a family of seven children. Two sisters survive him, Mrs. Ella Bailey Read of Parsons, Kans., and Miss Jennie Bailey of Grinnell. He was married June 12, 1901, to Ora I. Gridley of Duluth, who survives him. He has two daughters, Mrs. A. D. Robertson, who resides in New York City, and Helen. Mr. and Mrs. Robertson had reached Minneapolis to spend Mr. Robertson's vacation in Minneapolis and Duluth, before they heard of her father's illness. Helen graduated from the Shipley preparatory school at Bryn Mawr in June and will enter Smith college this fall.