



REV. SLOAN LAFAYETTE BATCHELOR

Sloan Batchelor was born in Independence, Washington County, Texas, March 28, 1885. He was the third of six children born to Robert M. Batchelor and Laura A. Pierce. He graduated from Vanderbilt University and began his career as a Methodist minister in 1908 in Junction, TX.

He married Mabel Anne Cave in 1906. They had three daughters, Juanita, Thelma, and Imogene. He was pastor at Methodist churches, including San Antonio Englewood and Government Hill, Kingsville, Harlingen, Corpus Christi First, and San Marcos.

He had leadership skills as reflected by his serving as District Superintendent in Uvalde, San Antonio, and San Angelo. He was respected and popular in the conference and was elected several times to be a delegate to General and Jurisdictional Conferences, and he was on important conference committees.

He was active and involved in the communities where he lived and served. He was active with the Free Masons, Scottish Rite and was a Shriner.

He was an active Rotarian and while living in Kerrville he was club president, and he was District Governor 1959-60.

He was intimately involved with the early discussions to establish the Kerrville Methodist Encampment and was on the Board of Trustees. As District Superintendent three different times in the area, he had many occasions to help the organization through the difficult early years.

He was a mentor, and “father figure” to many of the younger ministers in the conference. He affectionately became known as “Daddy Batch.”

His early support of the Encampment included buying a prominent lot on Panorama and building what for years was one of the special houses. He named it "Panorama Lodge." (1308 Panorama Drive) Another early leader of the Encampment was his good friend L.U. Spellman, who bought the adjacent lot and built a house. (1304 Panorama Drive) One of the unique features was a walkway between the two houses. They remained life-long friends and continued their support and leadership in the Encampment.

In 1945 Rev Batchelor took a Conference appointment to be the Superintendent of the Encampment, a position he held until 1956

During those post-war years the camp and facilities grew and flourished. During the summer camp months, his wife, Mable and two of his daughters, Juanita and Imogene (who were school teachers during the year) ran the kitchen and dining hall.

The whole encampment area continued to be outside of the Kerrville city limits until 1967. Therefore, the encampment was responsible to provide or contract for necessary public services like water, garbage, and street maintenance. The lack of typical city construction and setback rules resulted in the eclectic and diverse structures that have added to the charm and appeal of the neighborhood.

Daddy Batch provided much needed guidance and arbitration as the neighborhood grew. He and his wife added on to their house on Panorama with the plan to retire there.

One of his grandsons, Vere Batchelor Wilson, had been a young man with great promise. He had been involved with the Mt. Wesley summer work camp. He was a student at Texas A&I (now Texas A&M at Kingsville). In 1955, he had a fatal asthmatic attack, which was a terrible blow to the whole family. Over the next number of years there was a fund-raising effort to establish a memorial which resulted in the Vere Batchelor Wilson recreation and activity building. Many, at the time felt it was a memorial to the whole Batchelor family for all of their efforts and work on Mt Wesley.

Daddy Batch's wife, Mable died in 1963. He died in 1972 at the age of 87. When he died, he had 7 grandchildren and 16 greatgrandchildren.

Submitted by Franklin C. Redmond