

JAMES EDWIN LIVINGSTON

Twenty-third Chief Justice - 1951-1971

BORN: March 17 1892; Notasulga, Alabama
DIED: October 15, 1971; Montgomery, Alabama

A native of Macon County, J. Ed. Livingston attended public schools and Alabama Polytechnic Institute. After completing law school at the University of Alabama in 1918, he served in the Army until the end of World War I. He then returned to Tuscaloosa to practice law and remained there for twenty-one years. From 1922 to 1940, he was also a part-time professor of law at the University of Alabama.

Livingston followed in the footsteps of Lucien Gardner, succeeding him in 1940 as associate justice, appointed by Governor Frank M. Dixon, and eleven years later as chief justice, appointed by Governor Gordon Persons. He was re-elected three times. Looking back on all the opinions he had written, Judge Ed, as he was called, maintained that he was proudest of his dissenting opinion in ***Ex Parte Foshee***, 246 Ala. 604, 21 So.2d 839 (1945), which dealt with the Court's rule-making powers.

A skillful raconteur, Livingston was himself the subject of many stories told by fellow judges and lawyers, many of whom had been his students. The subjects of these tales included his activities as lawyer, teacher, and jurist, as well as his hobbies, hunting and farming.

J. Ed. Livingston married Marie Wise of LaFayette in 1913. They had two sons.