

JOHN GAYLE

Associate Justice - 1823-1828

BORN: September 11, 1792; Sumpter, South Carolina
DIED: July 21, 1859; Mobile, Alabama

John Gayle graduated from South Carolina College in his native state in 1813. He then moved to Claiborne, Monroe County, Alabama, and read law in the office of Abner S. Lipscomb. Gayle was admitted to the bar in 1818, and, in the course of his career, he served in all three branches of Alabama government and in two branches of the federal government.

Gayle served on the Legislative Council for the Alabama Territory and then, for two years, as solicitor of the first judicial district. He represented Monroe County in the state legislature for the 1822-1823 session, after which he was selected to succeed Henry Y. Webb as associate justice on the state Supreme Court; he remained on the court until 1828. For the next two years he represented Greene County in the legislature and was elected speaker of the House of Representatives.

John Gayle became the sixth governor of Alabama in 1831. In 1835, at the close of his second term as governor, he moved to Mobile to practice law.

Gayle was elected to the 30th Congress as a Whig and served from 1847 to 1849, when President Zachary Taylor appointed him federal district judge. He remained in this office until his death in Mobile in 1859.

John Gayle married Sarah Ann Haynsworth, of Claiborne, in 1819. They had 6 children. After her untimely death during his tenure as governor, he married Clarissa Stedman Peck, of Greensboro, in 1839. They had 4 children.