

## PRESTON COPELAND CLAYTON

### Associate Justice - 1953-1954

*BORN: September 23, 1903; Eufaula, Alabama*

*DIED: June 20, 1996; Eufaula, Alabama*

Preston Copeland Clayton earned his bachelor's degree in 1924 from the University of Alabama. After three years of working for a Montgomery cotton firm, he moved to Texas, where he spent five years in the cotton business. Upon returning to Alabama, he read law under Judge Walter B. Jones, was admitted to the bar in 1931, and settled in Barbour County.

In the 1930s Clayton was city attorney for the Town of Clayton. He also helped to organize two rural electric cooperatives in the area and served as their counsel. From 1939 until 1953, he was an active and effective member of the Alabama Senate. He is renowned for having successfully carried his motion to adjourn *sine die* a special session soon after the roll was called on opening day.

During World War II, Clayton saw combat as a Lt. Colonel in the Artillery in the Italian and North African campaigns. At Casablanca, he was in command of Allied anti-aircraft defense. He had the duty of disbanding his 90th Anti-aircraft Regiment at the end of the Campaign in Italy. He was a Life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Governor Gordon Persons appointed Clayton to the Supreme Court in 1953 to succeed Joel Bascom Brown. Upon completing that term, he returned to Barbour County to continue his law practice.

Judge Clayton was the first breeder of Arabian horses in Alabama and a former Director of the International Arabian Horse Association. Also a cattle farmer, he was president of the Alabama Cattleman's Association.

In 1933 Preston Copeland Clayton married Jewel Gladys Robinson of Clio. They had four children.