

WILLIAM SEWELL THORINGTON

Associate Justice - 1892

BORN: July 30, 1847; Montgomery, Alabama
DIED: January 24, 1915; Montgomery, Alabama

A lifelong resident of Montgomery, William Sewell Thorington read law under former Chief Justice William P. Chilton. He was admitted to practice in 1867. He then practiced law with his mentor, but the firm, Chilton & Thorington, dissolved in 1871 upon Chilton's death.

Thorington's distinguished legal career brought him several honors. Governor Rufus Cobb appointed him trustee of the University of Alabama, and he served as judge advocate general on the staff of Governor Edward A. O'Neal from 1882 to 1886. In 1886 he was appointed city attorney by the Montgomery City Council and elected to that post the following year.

From April through December of 1892, Thorington served as associate justice on the Supreme Court, appointed by Governor Thomas Goode Jones to succeed David Clopton. Thorington chose not to run for reelection and returned to his law practice. He was also special reporter of decisions for the 1892-93 and 1894 terms of court (Vols. 100 and 107 of the ***Alabama Reports***).

In July, 1897, Thorington was elected dean of the law faculty at the University of Alabama, and in 1909, he was chosen president of the Alabama State Bar. He also prepared a city code for Montgomery.

William Sewell Thorington married Wilella Chilton, daughter of Chief Justice Chilton, in October of 1867. They had nine children.