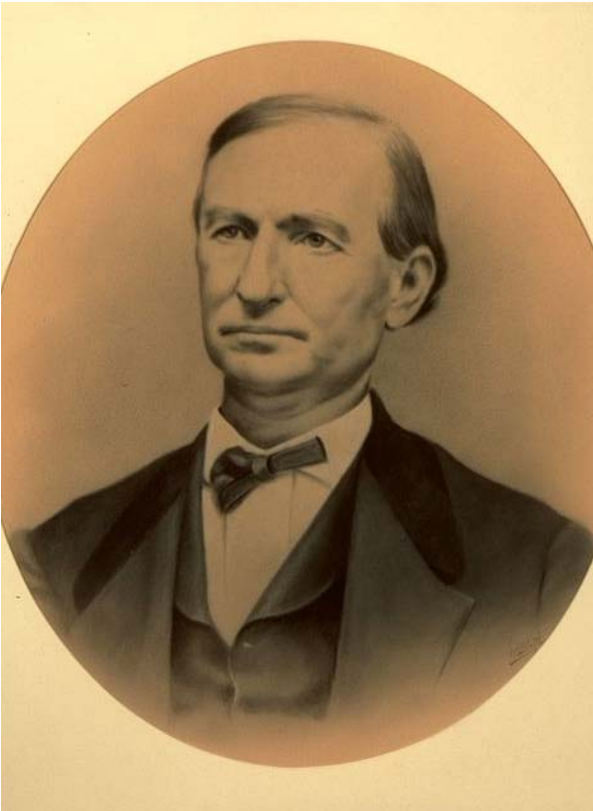


ABRAM JOSEPH WALKER

Eleventh Chief Justice: 1859-1868

BORN: November 24, 1819; Madison, Tennessee

DIED: April 25, 1872; Montgomery, Alabama



***Portrait by JAMES W. BLYTH,
American
Crayon, Unknown Date***

After graduating from the University of Tennessee in 1838, Abram Joseph Walker taught school for two years. He then read law and was admitted to the Tennessee Bar.

In 1842, Walker moved to Alabama. He settled in Jacksonville and taught classes in Latin, Greek, and math while building his law practice. In 1845, he represented Calhoun County in the General Assembly. In 1851, the voters of Calhoun County elected him to serve in the state Senate. The next year he moved to Talladega to practice law.

Walker's judicial career began in 1853, when the General Assembly elected him to preside over the northern division of the Chancery Court. He served as chancellor until 1856, when the Assembly elected him judge of the Supreme Court. Three years later he succeeded Samuel F. Rice as chief justice and served as chief Justice for nine years. During his tenure as Chief Justice, he served as chair of the committee that compiled the Code of 1867. He was ousted from his judicial post in 1868 by the Reconstruction Acts and reportedly refused to administer the oath of office to his successor. He stayed in Montgomery to practice law. Walker married Sarah Ann Nisbet of Jacksonville in 1847, and, after her death in 1871, married her sister Clara.

Junius Moore Riggs Collection

Location: Antebellum Gallery, 3rd Floor, Heflin-Torbert Judicial Building