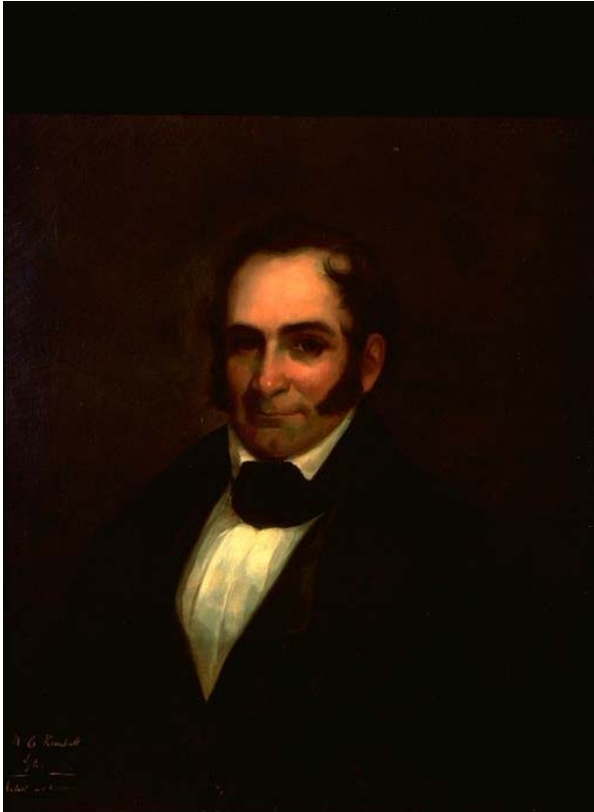


ABNER SMITH LIPSCOMB

Second Chief Justice: 1823-1835

BORN: February 10, 1789; Abbeville, South Carolina

DIED: December 3, 1857; Austin, Texas



**Portrait by M.G. KIMBALL, American
Oil on canvas, 1853**

Abner Smith Lipscomb was born and raised in South Carolina, where he studied law before moving to St. Stephens in the Mississippi Territory in 1811. He fought in the Creek Indian wars of 1813-14, including the Battle of Burnt Corn Creek, served in the territorial legislature in 1818, and on December 14, 1819, became one of the circuit judges appointed to serve the new state. When Clement Clay resigned as chief justice in 1823, the circuit judges chose Lipscomb as Clay's successor.

In 1832, when a three-judge supreme court was established as an entity separate and distinct from the circuit courts, Lipscomb continued as chief justice. His opinions are in the first ten volumes of the *Alabama Reports*. In 1835 he resigned his post as Chief Justice and moved to Mobile to practice law.

After serving a term in the Alabama legislature in 1838, Lipscomb moved to Texas and pursued another noteworthy career in public service. He served as secretary of state, as a member of the 1845 Constitutional Convention, and as an associate justice of the Texas Supreme Court. Abner Smith Lipscomb married Elizabeth Gaines in 1813, and in 1843 he married Mrs. Mary P. Bullock of Austin, Texas.

Junius Moore Riggs Collection

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