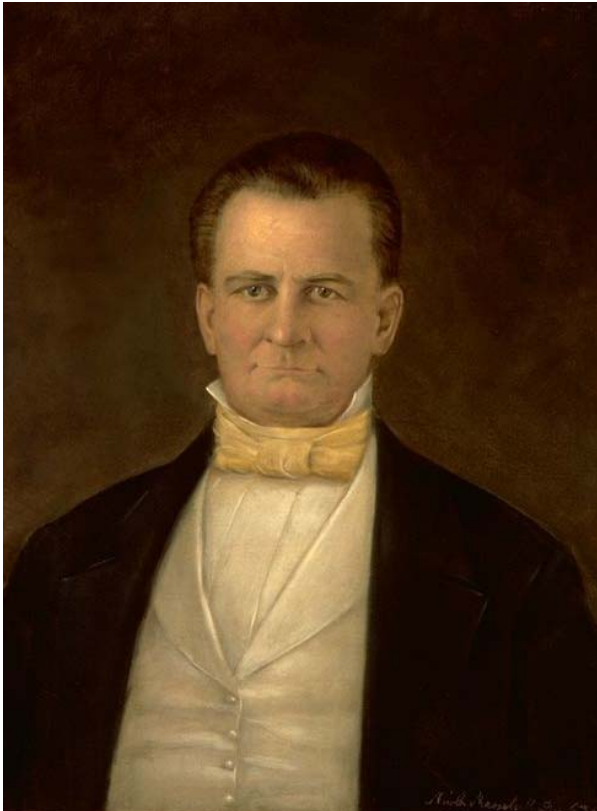


HENRY WATKINS COLLIER

Sixth Chief Justice: 1837-1849

BORN: January 17, 1801; Lunenburg County, Virginia

DIED: August 28, 1855; Bailey's Springs (Florence), Alabama



***Portrait by NICOLA MARSCHALL,
American, 1819-1917***

Oil on canvas

Born in Virginia, Henry Watkins Collier grew up in Abbeville, South Carolina. In 1818, he moved to Madison County, Alabama Territory, where he was admitted to the Bar in 1822. Collier began practicing law in Huntsville, but shortly afterwards, he moved to Tuscaloosa, the state capital.

Collier embarked upon a noteworthy career in public service in 1827 upon being elected to represent Tuscaloosa County in the General Assembly. In 1828 the General Assembly elected him circuit judge, and in that capacity he also sat as a judge on the state's highest court until 1833, when a separate three-judge supreme court was created. Collier was not chosen as one of the Supreme Court judges, but remained a circuit judge.

Governor Clay appointed Collier as a judge on the Supreme Court 1836, and the following year Collier was chosen chief justice, a position which he held for twelve years.

Elected governor of Alabama in 1849 and again in 1851, Collier won both contests by overwhelming majorities.

Henry Watkins Collier was married on April 25, 1826, to Mary Anne Battle, from North Carolina. They had four children.

Junius Moore Riggs Collection

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