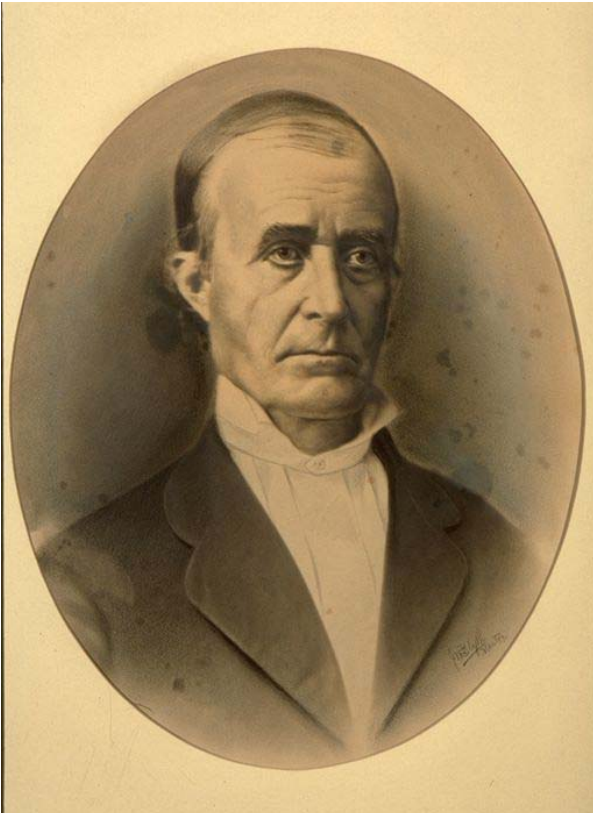


EDMUND SPANN DARGAN

Seventh Chief Justice: 1849-1852

BORN: April 15, 1805; Wadesboro, North Carolina

DIED: November 22, 1879; Mobile, Alabama



***Portrait by JAMES W. BLYTH,
American
Photograph/Charcoal***

A North Carolinian by birth, Edmund Spann Dargan moved to Alabama in 1829, settling in Autauga County. There he taught school, served as justice of the peace, and practiced law. In 1833 he moved his law practice to Montgomery, where he remained for nearly eight years.

Dargan's career in public service began in 1841, when the General Assembly elected him circuit judge for the Mobile circuit. He moved to Mobile, but resigned his judgeship after two years. He was elected state senator from Mobile in 1844 but resigned this position to serve a term in the United States House of Representatives from 1845 to 1847.

The General Assembly elected Dargan to fill a vacancy on the state Supreme Court in 1847, and in July of 1849, he succeeded Henry Collier as chief justice. In 1851, when the General Assembly increased the number of justices on the Supreme Court from three to five, Dargan became the first chief justice to preside over a five-judge court.

Dargan resigned from the court in December 1852, to return to the practice of law. He represented Mobile County in the Constitutional Convention of 1861 and was a member of the first Confederate Congress.

Junius Moore Riggs Collection

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