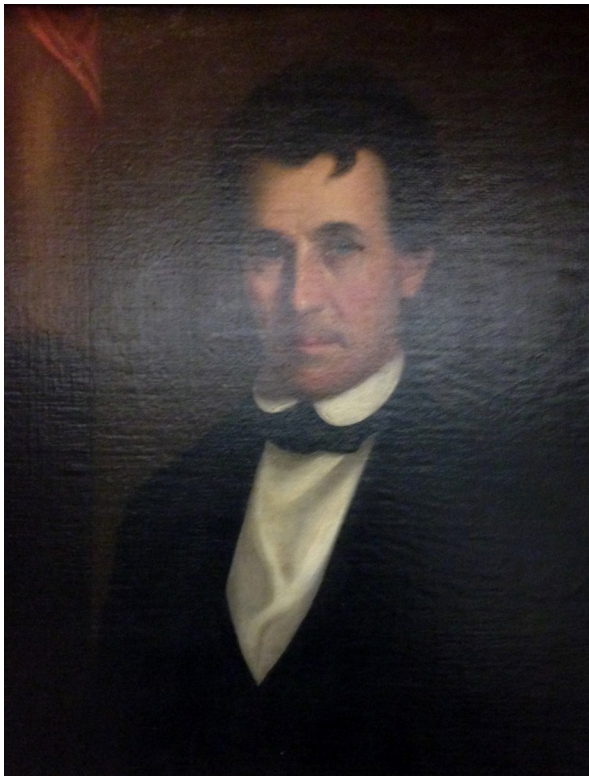


SILAS PARSONS

Associate Justice: 1849-1851

BORN: CIRCA 1800; Kentucky

DIED: September 17, 1860; Huntsville, Alabama



***Portrait by HENRY BYRD
Irish, 1804-1884
Oil on Canvas***

A native of Kentucky, Silas Parsons came to Alabama from east Tennessee around 1819 and settled on a farm in Jackson County. In 1823, he was elected sheriff of the county and served in that capacity for three years. During that period he also read law and was admitted to the Alabama State Bar.

Parsons practiced law for a few years in Bellefont, at that time the county seat of Jackson County, then moved to Huntsville in 1831. The Legislature elected him chancellor of the Northern District of Alabama in 1839, but he declined the appointment.

In July of 1849, Governor Reuben Chapman appointed Parsons to the Supreme Court of Alabama to fill the vacancy brought about by the resignation of Justice Henry Watkins Collier.

Parsons remained on the bench serving as an associate justice for two years. He resigned in June, 1851, apparently due to ill health. He then moved to Texas, where he lived on a plantation near Austin.

Parsons married the daughter of Colonel John Reed of Huntsville. They had no children.

Junius Moore Riggs Collection

Location: Lower Rotunda Museum, Heflin-Torbert Judicial Building