

DANIEL COLEMAN

Associate Justice: 1851

BORN: August 2, 1801; Caroline County, Virginia

DIED: November 4, 1857; Athens, Alabama



***Portrait by EDNA K. SMITH,
American, 1879-1963
Oil on Canvas, Circa 1916***

A native of Caroline County, Virginia, Daniel Coleman traveled to Kentucky, taught school for a year, and attended Transylvania University in Lexington. He worked as a clerk in a court in Kentucky and read law in the office of his uncle. In 1819, he moved to Alabama, opening a law practice in Mooresville, in Limestone County.

In 1822, the legislature elected Coleman judge of the Limestone County court. In 1829, he represented Limestone County in the state legislature.

Coleman was elected judge of the 8th judicial circuit by the legislature in 1835. In June 1851, Governor Henry Watkins Collier appointed Coleman to the Supreme Court of Alabama to succeed Silas Parsons. He served for six months, declining to run for election because of ill health.

In 1843, the legislature chartered the Female Institute of Tennessee Annual Conference (later known as Athens College). He was named to the Board of Trustees, and served as its President from 1843 until his death.

Coleman married Elizabeth Peterson, and they had ten children.

Junius Moore Riggs Collection

Location: Lower Rotunda, Heflin-Torbert Judicial Building