

HARRY INNES THORNTON

Associate Justice: 1834-1836

BORN: April 3, 1797; Fredericksburg, Virginia

DIED: January 27, 1861; San Mateo, California



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A native of Fredericksburg, Virginia, Harry Innes Thornton, went to Kentucky when young, and having received a thorough education, read law with his grandfather, Judge Harry Innes. He practiced law for a short time in Frankford, but came to Huntsville, Alabama in 1823. Thornton was appointed U.S. District attorney and probably held the office during President John Quincy Adams' administration.

In 1833, Thornton was elected to the Supreme Court of Alabama as an associate justice, to succeed Justice John Taylor. In 1836 he resigned and moved to Mobile, and formed a law partnership with Honorable George N. Stewart. In 1840, he was elected a Senator in the Legislature, to fill the unexpired term of The Honorable Thomas Riddle. He served representing Greene County for three years.

Afterwards, he continued in the practice of law at Eutaw until 1849, when he was appointed commissioner of lands in California by President Fillmore.

Thornton married Miss Crittenden.