

ARTHUR FRANCIS HOPKINS

Fifth Chief Justice: 1837

BORN: October 18, 1794; Danville, Virginia

DIED: November 10, 1865; Mobile, Alabama



***Portrait by JOHN WOOD DODGE,
American 1807-1893***

Photograph/Pastel

Born and educated in Virginia, Arthur Francis Hopkins was admitted to the Virginia Bar in 1814. Two years later he settled in Huntsville, in what was then the Mississippi Territory, to practice law. In 1819 he moved to Lawrence County and began his career in public service, first as a member of the Alabama Constitutional Convention of 1819 and then as his county's delegate to the state Senate (1822-1824). After practicing law in Huntsville for several years, Hopkins returned to the legislature in 1833 as a representative of Madison County.

Hopkins was elected associate justice of the Supreme Court in 1836 by the General Assembly and in 1837 he was chosen to succeed Henry Hitchcock as chief justice. After serving nearly a year in that capacity, he resigned and resumed his law practice. He served as temporary chairman of the Whig National Convention in 1844.

In 1845 Hopkins went to St. Louis for about a year, then returned to Alabama to settle in Mobile, where he established a successful law practice. He became president of the Mobile and Ohio Railroad in 1855 and continued in that position for several years.

Hopkins was married in 1815 to Pamela Mosely, also of Virginia, and in 1854, to Juliet Opie, of Baltimore.

Junius Moore Riggs Collection

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