THOMAS GOODE JONES, 1844-1914 JUDGE OF THE NORTHERN AND MIDDLE DISTRICTS, 1901-1914

Thomas Goode Jones was a Georgian whose family moved to Montgomery, Alabama, in his childhood. In 1859, he went to the Virginia Military Institute, where a teacher was Stonewall Jackson. In the Confederate service he became a major, and afterwards he commanded the Montgomery Greys, a local military company. He was admitted to practice law in 1866 and became a legislator and then Speaker of the Alabama House in 1886-88. After a highly controversial election, he became Governor of Alabama in 1890 and was re-elected in 1892.



In 1901, Thomas Goode Jones became president of the Alabama State Bar, and in that same year President Theodore Roosevelt appointed him Federal District Judge for the Norther and Middle Districts of Alabama. He served until his death in 1914.

Judge Jones was a noted orator and compiled eighteen volumes of Alabama Supreme Court reports. He wrote the noted Code of Ethics of the Alabama State Bar Association in 1887, the first such code in the nation. He was the father of thirteen children, leaving many descendants.

(Portrait of Thomas Goode Jones, late-nineteenth century, On loan from the Alabama Dept of Archives and History.)