

HARRY TOULMIN, 1766-1824  
2<sup>ND</sup> SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE OF THE MISSISSIPPI TERRITORY

Harry Toulmin was a remarkable figure in American judicial history, a Renaissance man on the frontier. He was born at Taunton, England, and moved to the United States in 1793 and went to Kentucky. He became president of Transylvania University, a friend of James Madison and Thomas Jefferson, and Secretary of State of Kentucky. He studied law and was appointed to the Kentucky bar, writing and publishing several works on the laws of Kentucky.



In 1804, President Jefferson appointed Harry Toulmin to succeed Ephraim Kirby as Judge of the Superior Court of the Mississippi Territory. He settled at Fort Stoddert in 1804, in a district he described as being 340 miles long and 330 miles wide. He was postmaster in his part of the Territory and the diplomat who represented U.S. citizens in their claims against the Spanish of Mobile. He was minister, physician and judge to the territory. He wrote the Mississippi Magistrate's Guide and The Laws of Mississippi in 1807. In 1817, the Alabama Territory was formed and Toulmin moved to Washington, Alabama, where he helped write the constitution for the new State of Alabama. He wrote his Digest of the Laws of the State of Alabama in 1823. He died in December 1824 at Washington, aged fifty-eight. He was the father of ten children, and his grandson, Harry Theophilus Toulmin, was appointed by President Cleveland as judge of the Southern District of Alabama in 1886.

(Enlarged Silhouette of Harry Toulmin as a young man.)