

(1)

1

Judge Nathaniel Pope - The  
Graved Talker of Mr Isaac W. Sturgeon

Proceedings of the Circuit and District  
Court of the United States at Springfield  
Illinois on the death of Judge Nathaniel  
Pope - "Present the Hon. Thos. Drummond -  
" Monday June 3<sup>rd</sup> 1850

" On the opening of the Court this morning the  
" Hon. Abraham Lincoln a member of the bar of  
" this Court suggested the death of the Hon  
" Nathaniel Pope late a Judge of this Court,  
" since the adjournment of the last term,  
" where upon in token of respect on the morning  
" of the second it is ordered that the Court do now  
" adjourn until tomorrow morning at 10  
" o'clock and that the motion be entered of record.

" Wednesday June 5<sup>th</sup> 1850

" On the opening of the Court this  
" morning Mr Williams, the District Attorney of  
" the United States made the following remarks.

" The proceedings of the Bar meeting  
" held yesterday, have been placed in my hands  
" this morning with a request that I would com-  
" munate them to your Honor. They are designed  
" to express the sentiments of profound sorrow and  
" regret with which the death of Judge Pope

" has improved those who have adopted them. I  
 " need not say how sincerely I feel the melancholy  
 " event which has deprived the Bar of an honored  
 " incumbent, the Bar of a wise, judicious and  
 " affable Counsellor, the Community of a first  
 " man, a good Citizen, an high minded gentleman.  
 " A proper appreciation of his virtues and great  
 " reputation by those who have long known him, has  
 " dictated the tribute to his worth embodied in  
 " the resolutions which I have now the honor to  
 " present to the Court, and respectfully ask that  
 " they may be placed upon ~~the~~ records.

" To which His Honor Judge Drummond  
 " responded as follows,

" The Court very willingly complies with  
 " the request made on the part of the Bar.

" It is proper that upon the records of the  
 " Court when he a distinguished Justice for so many  
 " years, there should be placed an enduring memorial  
 " of the worth and high qualities as a Judge and  
 " a man of the subject of your resolutions.

" His mind and memory are intimately  
 " connected with the political and judicial history  
 " of the State - He assisted at its admission into  
 " the Union, when admitted he was immediately  
 " appointed a Judge of the Circuit Court and for  
 " more than thirty years he acted in that

"Capacity upon all the events and acts with  
 "which he was connected during a long and  
 "distinguished career, he impressed the stamp  
 "of his firm and decided character. His felt  
 "now - it will be felt always

"While the history and reputation of our  
 "great men are the property of the Country, it is  
 "peculiarly the province and the duty of the Members  
 "of your profession and of the Court to cherish  
 "the virtues and venerate the Character of one so  
 "eminent at the Bar or on the Bench and to  
 "take a pride and high gratification in aiding  
 "to transmit his name to posterity.

"The memory of the Judge whose virtues  
 "and services your resolutions record, will  
 "long be preserved by the members of the Bar  
 "throughout the State, where his ability and  
 "integrity have furnished to us all a guide  
 "and example.

"It is now the order of the Court, that  
 "the proceedings of the Bar be entered upon  
 "the records of the Court and that the Judge  
 "will wear the usual badge of Mourning during  
 "the Term, as an expression of his entire  
 "concurrency with the feelings of the Bar,  
 "which proceedings are as follows -  
 "at a meeting of the Bar of the

"Bar of the Circuit and District Courts of the  
 "United States in and for the District of Illinois  
 "held in the Court Room in Springfield on  
 "Monday the 3<sup>d</sup> day of June A.D. 1850 the  
 "Hon: Samuel H. Tazewell Chief Justice of the  
 "Supreme Court of Illinois was appointed  
 "Chairman and E. A. Powell Esq Secretary.

"The Hon: Stephen T. Logan, the Hon  
 "Norman H. Tappan, the Hon: David L. Gregg, the  
 "Hon: Abraham Lincoln and George W. McKee Esq  
 "were appointed a Committee to prepare & deliver  
 "a report of the sentiments and feelings of the  
 "meeting on the melancholy event of the death  
 "of the Hon Nathaniel Pope late Judge of  
 "the District Court of the United States for the  
 "District of Illinois.

"Whereupon the Hon Stephen T Logan  
 "in behalf of the Committee presented the  
 "following preamble and resolutions

"The Hon Nathaniel Pope District  
 "Judge of the United States Court for the District  
 "of Illinois having departed this life, during  
 "the late vacation of said Court and the members  
 "of the Bar of said Court entertaining the  
 "highest veneration of his memory, a profound  
 "respect for his ability, great experience and  
 "learning as a Judge, and cherishing for

his many virtues, public and private, his  
earnest simplicity of character, and ever  
ostentatious deportment, both in the public  
and private relations, the most lively and  
affectionate recollections have revolved.

That as a manifestation of their deep sense  
of the loss which has been sustained in his death  
they will wear the usual badge of mourning  
during the residue of the Term.

That the Chairman Committee to  
the family of the deceased a copy of their  
proceedings, with an assurance of our  
sincere condoleance on account of their heavy  
bereavement.

That the Hon. A. Williams Solicitor  
attorney of this Court be requested in  
behalf of this meeting to present their  
proceedings to the Circuit Court and  
respectfully to ask that they may be  
entered on the records.

E. A. Powell  
Secretary

Samuel H. Neal  
Chairman