



ROBERT HODGES served on the Georgia Court of Appeals June 6, 1916, until December 12, 1916. He was born in Macon, Bibb County, Ga., March 9, 1868, and died December 12, 1916.

He attended the public schools of Macon. He began college at Emory College, then transferring to and graduating from Mercer University in 1885 with a Bachelor of Arts degree. He was a member Phi Delta Theta fraternity, and won distinction as a member of the Ciceronian Literary Society. He taught school for two years and was admitted to practice law at the age of 19 while reading law under the Hon. Washington Dessau and Judge Charles L. Bartlett.

He practiced law with R. W. Patterson and later with Washington Dessau. He served as Solicitor Pro Tem of the City Court of Macon; was elected for two terms in the Georgia Legislature from Bibb County; was elected Solicitor-General of the Macon Circuit; served in the Spanish-American war, entering as a private but later commissioned as a captain; was appointed Judge of the City Court of Macon; and later was appointed to the Georgia Court of Appeals to succeed Judge Richard B. Russell, who had resigned. The memorial dated March 12, 1917, in 19 Georgia Appeals Reports, pages 829-833, recognizes some of the achievements and highlights of his life. "He was an ardent advocate of the Baconian theory, and wrote a cryptogram of ingenious and intricate construction to demonstrate the fallacy of Shakespearean authorship."

He had a legal and literary library and spent much time with "his best friends, his books." It was said, "the Bench loses a brilliant jurist, and his profession a lawyer who was always as true to the ethics and traditions of the profession as the needle to the magnetic north". Chief Judge Wade stated, "Of the four requisites Socrates declared a Judge should possess, the last and most important is 'to decide impartially'; and the power to rid himself of every subtle extraneous influence that might subconsciously becloud his mental processes is said to have distinguished our deceased brother to an unusual degree."