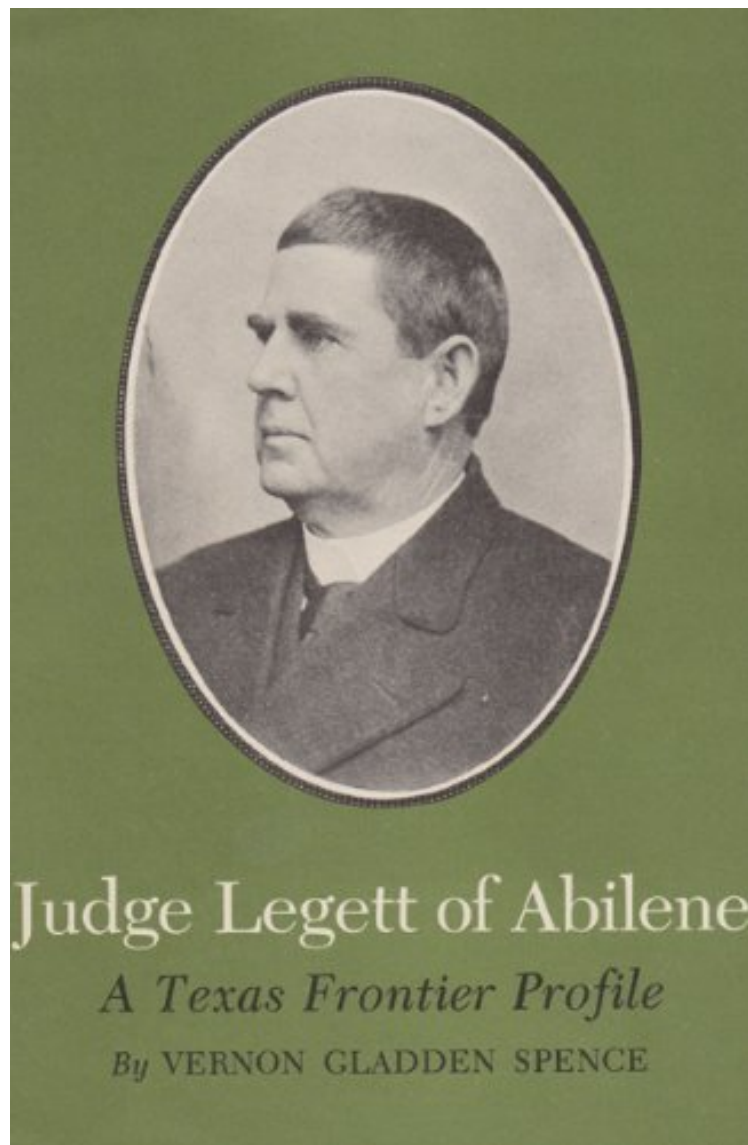


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Judge Legett of Abilene: A Texas Frontier Profile (Centennial Series of the Association of Former Students, Texas AM University)

Vernon G. Spence

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Vernon G. Spence : Judge Legett of Abilene: A Texas Frontier Profile (Centennial Series of the Association of Former Students, Texas AM University) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Judge Legett of Abilene: A Texas Frontier Profile (Centennial Series of the Association of

Former Students, Texas AM University):

When young Kirvin Kade Legett arrived in Buffalo Gap, Texas, in 1879, his principal assets were a good horse and saddle and a license to practice law. When the Texas and Pacific Railroad, building west from Fort Worth, missed Buffalo Gap, the young attorney moved on to Abilene, then a tent city with only two items for sale, "a train ticket to get away or a drink to make you willing to stay." The man and the country were to grow up together. Legett's early clients were buffalo hunters, bone collectors, shepherders, cattlemen, and farmers, but he eventually handled cases of statewide and even out-of-state importance. Although he refused to seek public office, he had some say about those who did, and most serious candidates for state offices sought his counsel and support. A stock farmer and rancher as well as practicing attorney, Legett was a forceful early advocate of farm diversification and did much to further the development of West Texas agriculture, business, oil exploration, and education. Judge Legett was a pioneer and a man of stature; his life story is, in a real sense, an epitome of the history of West Texas, especially of the Abilene area. By the time of Legett's death, that rowdy railroad town had become a thriving, modern city. Vernon Gladden Spence's biography, based on an extensive collection of private papers, offers a clear and detailed portrait of a man whose energies and talents helped turn a wilderness into a habitable and productive country.

About the Author VERNON G. SPENCE awarded the B.A. degree from McMurry College, the M.A. from Southern Methodist University, and the Ph. D. from the University of Colorado. He has taught at McMurry College and is presently professor of history at George Mason University. He is also the author of *Colonel Morgan Jones: Grand Old Man of Texas Railroading* (1971).