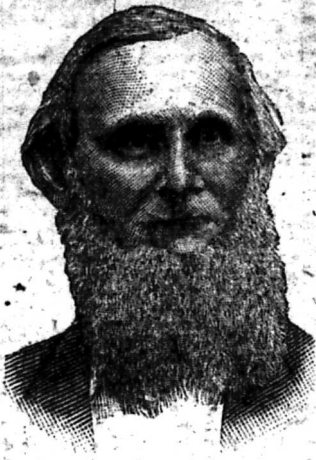


HON. PHILIP M. RUSSELL,

Member of the House of Representatives  
from Chatham County.



Hon. Philip M. Russell is one of the most venerable appearing members of the General Assembly, and, owing to his long and honorable public service, is very widely known and universally respected. He is a son of Isaac Russell, Esq., and Mrs. Perla Sheftall Russell, and was born in Savannah, Ga., December 17, 1815. His ancestors, who came to this country with Gen. Oglethorpe, were among the first settlers of Savannah and the State, and were prominently and honorably identified with the history of the Revolutionary war.

In consequence of delicate health, Mr. Russell was unable to attend school in childhood, but, by his indomitable industry, made up for it later years. In 1833, at the age of eighteen, he commenced the study of law under the supervision of his uncle, Hon. Mordecai Sheftall, Sr., (at that time a leading member of the bar, and afterward, for several years, judge of the Court of Common Pleas, and Oyer and Terminer, of the city of Savannah.) September 15, 1834, he married Miss Elizabeth C. Terre, of Philadelphia, a descendant of Commodore Springer, U. S. N., and, temporarily abandoning the study of law, accepted the appointment of collector for the Savannah, Ogeechee and Altamaha Canal Company. In 1835 he was elected constable of the 2d district, G. M., and held the office for eight years, a portion of the time acting as deputy sheriff of Chatham county, and also, as Deputy United States Marshal, under Col. Wm. I. Davis. June 15, 1843, he was elected sheriff of the city of Savannah. April 9, 1844, he was elected justice of the peace in the 1st district, G. M., by a majority of twenty-five over another democrat and a whig candidate. While holding this office he was appointed inspector of customs by the collector, Gen. Edward Harden. Having removed to the second district, G. M., he was again elected justice of the peace, in January, 1846, receiving the highest vote. While yet a justice of the peace he was elected clerk of the court of common pleas, and oyer and terminer of the city of Savannah, Jan. 1, 1850. In January, 1853, he became city marshal of Savannah, and filled the office creditably for two years. During 1855, he continued the study of law, also acting as clerk of the U. S. Courts, and in 1856 was elected clerk of the City Court of Savannah, holding the position until the opening of the war of 1861.

Mr. Russell had become a member of the Republican Blues, 1st Regt. Georgia Volunteers, in 1863, and having retained his membership until this date, was detailed to look after the comforts of the families of his comrades while the company was occupying Fort Pulaski. At the organization of the State forces under Gov. Brown, he was commissioned captain and commissary of subsistence, and assigned to Col. Harkie's regiment, Gen. G. P. Harrison's brigade, continuing in the active discharge of his duties until, becoming incapacitated from the effects of typhoid fever, he was obliged to resign his command. In October, 1863, he was elected to the Legislature by a large majority; re-elected in 1865 by the highest vote in the county. At the expiration of his legislative term, having become disfranchised under the reconstruction acts, he resumed his position as clerk of the court. After a creditable examination, he was admitted to practice law in the several State courts in June, 1871, and subsequently in

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Mr. Russell has been clerk of the City court of Savannah for about 34 years. He has served on important committees of the House, giving general satisfaction. He has always been a staunch Democrat, and, by his honorable and consistent course, has been held in the highest esteem by the citizens of his county, as is indicated by the fact that, whenever he has been a candidate for office, he has always received the highest vote upon the ticket. One cause of his popularity is that he has always been known as an earnest advocate of the rights of the laboring classes, and the good, practical results of his labors in this direction, both in the Legislature and at home, are plainly evinced in Chatham county. He professes the Hebrew religion, and is a regular and consistent attendant at the synagogue. He is noted for being one of the most charitable men in his county, always ready to aid the poor and needy.