

STATEMENT OF JOS. A. PHILLIPS

Judge of Election in the 1st District of Somerset County

Statement of Joseph A. Phillips, one of the Judges of Election in the 1st District of Somerset County, Nov. 4, 1853.

I am one of the Judges of Election of said District, reached the voting place a little before 9 o'clock, A. M. and found a squad of Cavalry on the ground; I was named the Governor's Proclamation and the Order of Gen. Schenck, and there was a good deal of discussion about what I was to do as Judge; I finally resolved to admit all to vote without swearing unless objected to. During the day Jos. Wright, one of our own citizens, distributed a number of voters on the ground of illegality, and to all such the oath prescribed by Gen. Schenck was rendered; those who took the oath were allowed to vote—those who did not were turned down and not allowed to vote. I remember the following persons who were qualified voters who were turned down for that reason—Ralph Rowe, Robert Langsdale, John Wright, Elias W. Taylor, John Higgins, Joseph B. Bates, Joseph Vanables, Rippen Lawson, Isaac A. Wright, and Birdsey and Lambert H. Cooper, and perhaps others. The soldiers being round the polls all day but did not specially interfere. We took about 180 votes, the difference of the district is between 230 and 240 votes. There were many voters present who did not offer to vote because they feared they would be required to take the oath.

Joseph A. Phillips