

Bethinking of Old Orleans

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HON. MARCUS H. PHILLIPS

1829-1917



Marcus H. Phillips was born in the Town of Barre January 23, 1829. He was the youngest child of Hanford and Sally Phillips who moved to Hulberton in 1851 having purchased the Joseph Budd homestead. Mr. Phillips was educated in the district schools of Barre, the Albion Academy and the Caryville Collegiate Seminary at Oakfield. Throughout his life he remained an avid reader which sharpened a naturally brilliant intellect. Marcus Phillips was a life-long farmer but pursued many other avenues of advancement.

From 1866 to 1869 he was engaged in a general mercantile business in Hulberton as well as an extensive produce business. In both these ven-

tures as in other directions, he was very successful. Throughout his working life his attention was also directed to stone quarrying interests, having a quarry on his home farm in Hulberton.

He was very active in the Republican Party and was recognized as a leader in Republican ranks. In 1855 he was elected Superintendent of the District Schools in the Town of Murray and again in 1860. In 1863 he was chosen School Commissioner of all the district schools in Orleans County. Because of his executive ability he became eminently qualified in these positions.

In 1871 he was elected Orleans County Clerk and served one term. He was also elected Assemblyman for our county and served in the State Legislature for 1880-1881. There he served as a member of the Ways and Means Committee. In 1887-1888 he was a valued member of the State Republican Committee during President Harrison's Administration serving also as Deputy Collector of Internal Revenue.

As to his character, he was known for his habits of economy and thrift. He was highly respected and trusted by all who knew him. He was a shrewd judge of character himself and in every public capacity performed his duties for the advancement of others, including public reforms.

He was an active supporter and trustee of the Methodist Church of Hulberton for many years. On November 14, 1858 he married Julie E. Balcom of Murray. They had five children. The youngest, Arthur Phillips continued with the family farm operation in Hulberton. His sons, the late William Phillips and the late Marcus Phillips were both residents of Hulberton. Marcus H. Phillips died in Hulberton in 1917. He was often mistaken for President U.S. Grant. The accompanying photo of Mr. Phillips in the 1880's, does suggest a similarity. This mistaken identity is said to have pleased him very much. Perhaps that's why this was his favorite photo of himself.

"Society affects to estimate men by their talents, but really feels and knows them by their character."

— Thoreau