



Record Group: Stacy Gardiner Potts (1799-1865)
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Biographical Note

Stacy Gardiner Potts was a Trenton journalist and lawyer who also held several public offices, including Clerk of the Chancery Court, State Assemblyman and finally New Jersey Supreme Court Justice. Potts was born on 23 November 1799 in Harrisburg, PA, the son of William Potts and Mary Gardiner. In 1808, he moved to Trenton and lived with his grandfather Stacy Potts, a prosperous businessmen who served as mayor of the city from 1806 to 1814. In 1821, Stacy G. Potts and his friend Joseph Justice founded a new weekly newspaper, the *Emporium*. Potts remained an editor and contributor to the paper until 1838. While continuing his editorial work, he began to study law and was admitted to the bar in 1827. Potts was elected to the New Jersey General Assembly in 1828 and again in 1829. From 1831 to 1840, he served as Clerk of the Chancery Court, and then returned to his law practice. In 1852, he was appointed by Governor Fort as a justice of the New Jersey Supreme Court. He served in this office until 1859, when he retired from public service. Potts died at his Trenton home in 1865.

Bibliography

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- Elmer, Lucius Q. C. *The Constitution and Government of the Province and State of New Jersey*. (Newark, NJ: Martin R. Dennis and Co., 1872). pp. 353-360.
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Content Note

Stacy G. Potts began writing his "Auto Biography" (as he titled it) on his sixtieth birthday, 13 November 1859, and finished the main body of the text on 23 January 1860. He made brief entries for subsequent years until 1864, the year before his death. In this work, Potts recounts the details of his life in Trenton, his family and his career. He also

provides much genealogical information about his paternal and maternal family lines (Potts and Gardiner), as well as those of his wives (Burrows, Snowden, and Moore). The handwritten manuscript also contains an undated newspaper article which provides some Potts family history, and two cemetery deeds for plots in the Trenton Presbyterian Churchyard.

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