

# EVAN RUSSELL

CAPT. EVAN RUSSELL, chief of police of Williamsport, was born in Piatt township, Lycoming County, Pennsylvania, September 18, 1840, and is the only living son of Edward H. Russell. He was reared in this county, and received his education in the West Branch High School, Jersey Shore, and at Dickinson Seminary, taking a full course in mathematics and civil engineering. He was engaged in surveying for a number of years, and after his removal from Piatt to Nippenose Township he operated a gristmill for several years. In May, 1861, he enlisted in Company A, Fifth Pennsylvania Reserve, and for meritorious service was promoted to the rank of sergeant. In September, 1862, he was transferred to the Signal Corps, United States Army, with the rank and pay of a sergeant of engineers. During his service of three years he participated in nearly every battle fought by the Army of the Potomac, and had many hair-breadth escapes. He had a horse killed at the battle of Antietam, and another wounded at the battle of Fredericksburg. For a time he served as signal officer on board of a gunboat, and in one engagement on the Rappahannock the boat on which he was serving had five solid shots sent through her hull. After his term of service had ended he was mustered out and returned to Lycoming county. In 1868 he was the Republican nominee for prothonotary, and was defeated by only 202 majority. He ran for county surveyor in 1883, but was again defeated by a very small majority. When Daniel Stock was elected prothonotary he appointed Captain Russell his deputy, which office he filled until April 1, 1881; when he was appointed chief of police by Mayor Keller. In July, 1885, he was commissioned by Governor Pattison captain of Company G, Twelfth Regiment, National Guard of Pennsylvania. He is a member of the Union Veteran Legion and Reno Post, G. A. R., and may be justly proud of his standing among the veterans of the rebellion. Captain Russell was married in 1866 to Sarah, daughter of James Williamson, of Jersey Shore, and has two children: Hubert H., assistant city engineer, and Margaret, a graduate of Dickinson Seminary. He and family are members of Grace Street Methodist Episcopal church, in which he has served as trustee. Captain Russell is one of the founders and directors of the West Branch Building Association, and is a stockholder in the Susquehanna Trust and Safe Deposit Company.

Source: History of Lycoming County, Pennsylvania. CHAPTER XLVIII. BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES. CITY OF WILLIAMSPORT AND BOROUGH OF SOUTH WILLIAMSPORT.

## **Police Chief's of Williamsport**

EVAN H. RUSSELL

No.13 - Evan H. Russell, 49, surveyor, was born September 18, 1840, in Piatt Township, Lycoming County, Pa. He was a Civil War cavalry veteran who was a Captain in Co. G, 12th Regiment, Pa., Volunteers. He participated in nearly every battle fought by the Army of the Potomac and had a horse shot under him at the battle of Antietam and another at the battle of Fredericksburg. Served as a signal officer on board a gunboat

through the hull of which five solid shots were sent in an engagement on the Rappahannock. He was a surveyor and teacher until 1884, when he became deputy prothonotary. Not previously a member of the police department, he served as Chief under Mayor Frederick H. Keller's second, non-continuous, term, 1890-93. Confirmed by Council April 7, 1890, and sworn in as Chief April 8, 1890. Three-year terms for mayors began. Retained by Mayor William G. Elliot, 1893-96. Reconfirmed April 3, 1893. First Chief to serve in the first City Hall, which was built in 1893. Served until April 21, 1896, when he resigned from the police department after not being retained by incoming Mayor James Mansel. Served as Captain in the Pennsylvania National Guard from 1885-1898, when at age 58 he entered the Spanish-American War in Co. M, 5th Pa., Volunteers and was discharged with the rank of Major. Appears to be the first college-educated member of the police force having graduated from Dickinson Seminary with degrees in civil engineering and mathematics. Joined the Pennsylvania Railroad police and was elected county surveyor in 1900. Co-founder, in 1910, of the Kenmar Land Company that developed 34 acres in Loyalsock Twp., into 184 building lots for residential homes. Died February 19, 1925. Buried in Jersey Shore Cemetery.