

## **Chief Justice George Sharswood**

1810-1883

### **Term**

December 2, 1867-1882; Chief Justice, December 4, 1879-December 31, 1882

### **Education**

- University of Pennsylvania, A.B., 1828
- Studied under Joseph R. Ingersoll, 1828-1831

### **Professional Experience**

- Admitted to the Philadelphia bar, September 5, 1831
- Private Practice, 1831-1837
- Member, Pennsylvania House of Representatives, 1837-1838
- Member, Select Council of Philadelphia, 1839-1840
- Member, Pennsylvania House of Representatives, 1841-1842
- Editor, American Law Magazine, 1843-1846
- Associate Judge, Philadelphia District Court, April 8, 1845-1867; President Judge, 1848-1867
- Professor, University of Pennsylvania Law School, 1850-1867
- Dean, University of Pennsylvania Law School, 1852-1868
- Elected Justice, Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, October 8, 1867
- Retired from Office, January 1, 1883

### **Honors and Awards**

- Latin Salutary Oration, 1828
- Sharswood Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania, 2007

### **Memberships and Associations**

- Trustee, University of Pennsylvania
- Law Academy of Philadelphia: President, 1836; Vice Provost, 1838-1855; Provost, 1855-1883
- President, Board, Deaf and Dumb Asylum
- Trustee, General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church
- Director, Princeton Theological Seminary
- Vice President, American Philosophical Society

### **Publications**

- The Revised Code of Pennsylvania. 13 no. 25 Am. Quarterly Rev. 30 (March 1, 1833) (it is unsigned, but Hewitt attributes it to him)
- Russell, William O. A Treatise on Crimes and Indictable Misdemeanors (3<sup>rd</sup> Am. Ed., 1836; 4<sup>th</sup> Am. Ed., 1841; 5<sup>th</sup> Am. Ed., 1845; 7<sup>th</sup> Am. Ed., 1853; 8<sup>th</sup> Am. Ed., 1857; 9<sup>th</sup> Am. Ed., 1877)
- Roscoe's Digest of Evidence in Criminal Cases. (1836?; 2d Am. Ed., 1840; 5<sup>th</sup> Am. Ed., 1854; 6<sup>th</sup> Am. Ed., 1866; 7<sup>th</sup> Am. Ed., 1874; 8<sup>th</sup> Am. Ed., 1888)
- Story's Laws of the United States, 1789-1836. (2d ed., 1839-40. 3 vols; vols. 4 and 5, 1837-1848)
- Leigh, P. Bradley. Abridgement of the Law of Nisi Prius (1838).
- Stephens, Archibald. Law of Nisi Prius Evidence in Civil Actions, and Arbitration and Awards. (Am. Ed., 1844)
- Harrison, S. B. Supplement to Harrison's Analytical Digest to 1846 (1846).
- With Geo. W. Biddle. A General Index to the English Common Law Reports, vols. 1-48 (1847)
- Coote, Richard H. Treatise on the Law of Mortgages (2d Am. Ed., 1850) (unnamed editor?)
- Deniston, Stephen C. Crown cases reserved for consideration, and decided by the judges of England (1853)
- Moody, William. Crown cases reserved for consideration, and decided by the judges of England (1853)

- Byles, John B. *A Practical Treatise on the Law of Bills of Exchange, Promissory Notes, Bank-Notes, Bankers' Cash-Notes, and Checks* (3d Am. Ed., 1853; 5<sup>th</sup> Am. Ed. 1867; 6<sup>th</sup> Am. Ed., 1874; 6<sup>th</sup> Am. #d., 1874)
- *A Compend of Lectures on the Aims and Duties of the Profession of the Law.* (1854; later editions under title of *Essay on Professional Ethics*. 2d ed., 1860; 3d ed., 1869; 4<sup>th</sup> ed., 1876; 5<sup>th</sup> ed. 1884)
- *The Common Law of Pennsylvania.* Lecture delivered before the Law Academy of Philadelphia, 1855 (1855); reprinted in *Report of the First Meeting of the Pennsylvania Bar Association* 333 (1896)
- *Popular Lectures On Commercial Law. Written for the Use of Merchants and Business Men* (1856)
- Smith, John W. *Law of Contracts* (4<sup>th</sup> Am. Ed., 1856, 5<sup>th</sup> Am. Ed., 1869, 6<sup>th</sup> Am. Ed., 1878; 8<sup>th</sup> Am. Ed. 1885)
- *Address Delivered at the University of Pennsylvania, Before the Society of Alumni, on the Occasion of Their Annual Celebration, December 10th, 1856* (1857)
- Blackstone, William *Commentaries on the Laws of England.* (1859; 1860; 1861; 1863; 1865; 1866-1867; 1870; 1871; 1872; 1883; 1891; 1894; 1896; 1898; 1900)
- Starkie, Thomas, *Law of Evidence.* (8<sup>th</sup> Am. Ed., 1860; 10<sup>th</sup> Am. Ed., 1876)
- *Opinion On The Elective Franchise.* Appendix to the Argument of Carrie S. Burnham (1873)
- Tudor, Owen D. *A Selection of Leading Cases on Mercantile and Maritime Law* (1<sup>st</sup> Am. Ed., 1873)
- Adams, John, *The Doctrine of Equity.* (6<sup>th</sup> Am. Ed., 1873; 7<sup>th</sup> Am. Ed., 1881)
- *The Origin, History and Objects of the Law Academy of Philadelphia.* Addresses delivered before the Academy, 1883 (1883).
- With Henry Budd. *1 Leading Cases in the Law of Real Property Decided in the American Courts* (1883)

### Sources

56 Pa. iii; Induction Ceremony, 88 Pa. xv; Memorial Ceremony, 102 Pa. 601 (1883); George W. Biddle, *A Sketch of the Professional and Judicial Character of the Late George Sharswood, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania* (1883); Hon. George Sharswood: *The Nominee for Judge of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania* (1867?); Samuel Dickson, *George Sharswood—Teacher and Friend.* 55 Am. L. Reg. 401 (1907); Luther E. Hewitt, *Appendix: Bibliography,* 55 Am. L. Reg. 428 (1907); *Report of the Thirteenth Annual Report of the Pennsylvania Bar Association* 517 (1907); 7 Enc. of Pa. Bio. 2243 (1916)