

Thomas S. Hulit
Sheriff
1871-1874

In a stunning political upset Thomas S. Hulit became sheriff of Ocean County in 1871. The newspapers of the day give the story:

New Jersey Courier, November 8, 1871

The Regular Republican Party candidate for Sheriff was Edward Ivins. He was defeated by a majority of 98 by Thomas S. Hulit of Jackson Township. Mr. Hulit ran as an Independent Republican candidate for Sheriff, and was elected by both Republicans and Democrats. Mr. Ivins received a total of 1048 votes and Mr. Hulit received 1146.

[The paper reviews the returns and comments thusly:]

Lacey Township: Did pretty well, considering it was her first election, excepting that sheriff vote.

Jackson Township: Threw a good vote for Mr. Walsh, and our Assemblyman, but did badly on Senator and Sheriff.

Brick Township: Surprised everybody by bolting the republican ticket, and giving 55 majority for the opposition sheriff.

We regret to say that our candidate for sheriff was defeated. He was as fairly nominated as any man on the ticket, but the running of Mr. Hulit (who is a very popular man) by a few dissatisfied republicans and the combined democracy, was too much for us and Mr. Ivins was defeated.

[The news item from Bayville under the same date states:] "We are extremely disgusted, chagrined and elated at the result of the late election: disgusted at the election of Joel Parker for Governor; chagrined at the election of sheriff ..."

New Jersey Courier, November 15, 1871

Wednesday night last, some of the Independents, together with Democrats, undertook to fire a salute to honor the election of Sheriff Hulit. ... Philip Helmeth, was badly burned about the wrist.

By the last part of the year Thomas S. Hulit, Sheriff and George Gravatt, late sheriff were advertising sheriff's sales in the *Courier*.

New Jersey Courier, May 1872

Ocean County Freeholders Meeting -- On motion of Mr. Haywood, it was ordered that Sheriff Hulit take care of the Courthouse, for \$100 a year.

New Jersey Courier, May 9, 1872

Ocean County Freeholders Meeting -- Bill of Thomas S. Hulit, sheriff, for arresting Joseph Horner, \$20. Ordered paid.

New Jersey Courier, October 17, 1872

The Ocean County Republican Convention assembled in the Courthouse, at Toms River, on the 15th inst. ...The balloting for Sheriff was commenced:

Brick, 4 for Ivins and 1 for Hulit

Dover, 5 for Ivins

Manchester, 5 for Ivins

At this moment, Jackson, Stafford and Lacey withdrew from the ballot and on motion of Lewis Shinn, Edward W. Ivins was unanimously elected candidate for sheriff. Edward W. Ivins appeared and accepted his nomination.

Edward Ivins lost the election to Thomas Hulit.



Typical Law Enforcement Uniform from 1870's
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