

The Docket

September/October 2020

What is the Clerk of Courts?

The Clerk of the Court of Quarter Sessions and Oyer and Terminer has existed in Pennsylvania since the first organization of English government in colonial America. A change in the Pennsylvania Constitution consolidated all the various courts into the Court of Common Pleas with the clerk now being known as the Clerk of Courts.

Most duties performed by other row officers today were responsibilities that belonged to the early clerks. For example: duties such as recording judgments, executions and attachments, maintaining naturalization records are now performed by the prothonotary; recording of deeds and surveys of town plots, and commissions granted now belong to the recorder of deeds; and the entering of wills or administration fall within the realm of the register of wills.

In addition to those records, many other types of records that are now obsolete were at onetime preserved by the clerks. These include:

Bolter and Baker Brandmarks (1724) - a record of trademarks of bolters, bakers and flour millers containing the date of registry, copy of the mark and name of the owner.

Lists of Owners of Enslaved People(1780-1788) - names of all persons in the county who own slaves. Each list contained the owner's name and also the name,

(See CoC History on page 2)

Munroe Reaches Across Aisle for VFW

Clerk of Courts Brian Munroe also serves as Chair of the Warminster Democratic Committee. When he was informed the Warminster VFW Post 6493 was on the verge of shutting down due to the pandemic he joined forces with the Warminster Republican Committee to raise funds to keep the VFW open.



Munroe established a Go Fund Me site with the belief that everyone could come together to “help save and support a great part of our community.”

Warminster Supervisor Mark McKee and Township Tax Collector Bobbie Loftus gave generous donations to push the amount raised passed the initial \$6,000 goal. Numerous other current and former officials also donated to the cause including Township Supervisor Judy Hoover.

Munroe and Republican Committee Vice Chairman Jason Croley were both very pleased that the parties could work together for the benefit of the community.

(CoC History, continued)

Common Pleas Court Criminal Cases
Show Significant Two Year Drop:

2015	8,727
2016	8,761
2017	8,739
2018	7,447 (15% decrease)
2019	6,946 (7% decrease)

age, sex and length of required servitude for each slave in his possession.

Stallion Certificates (1893-1911) - Certificates indicating the name and age of the stallion, date foiled, description and pedigree plus owner information.

The one enduring responsibility of the Clerk to this day has been custodian of the criminal court records from the early hand-written dockets to the evolution of the present-day technological records that are maintained. (Source: Stevens, Sylvester K. and Kent, Donald H., County Government and Archives in Pennsylvania (1947))

TRIVIA

What are the eight counties adjacent to Bucks County? (Answer below)

We asked the staff: If you could meet anyone, past or present, who would it be?

Alison— Audrey Hepburn

Amanda— Judge Judy

Arianna— Princess Diana

Brian— Albert Einstein

Eileen and Sharon— John F. Kennedy

Frank— Alexander Hamilton

Jackie— Katharine Hepburn

Jason— Jesse Michaels, musician

Liz— JonBenet Ramsey, one of the biggest unsolved crimes of a generation.

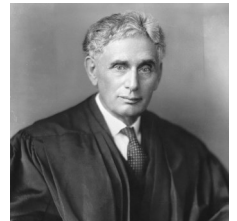
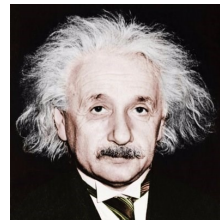
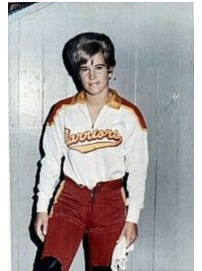
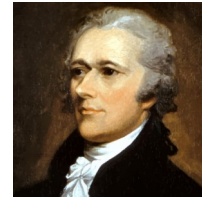
Lizzy— Great grandmother

Marcia— Paternal grandfather

Michele— Judy Arnold, Captain of Philadelphia Warriors Roller Derby Team.

Mike— Louis Brandeis, Supreme Court Justice

Shannon— Robin Williams



<http://buckscounty.org/government/RowOfficers/ClerkofCourts>

November/December Newsletter— CoC Starts DRIP to collect unpaid fines/costs/restitution due the County.



Answer to trivia Question: Burlington (NJ), Hunterdon (NJ), Lehigh, Mercer (NJ), Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia and Warren (NJ).