



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF STATE



NEW JERSEY STATE ARCHIVES COLLECTION GUIDE

Record Group: Atlantic County
Subgroup: Clerk's Office
Series: Justice of the Peace Records, 1822-1949
Accession #: 1978.007, 1978.008
Series #: CATCL001
Guide Date: (DJ)
Volume: 22.5 c.f. [50 boxes]

[Content Note](#) | [Contents](#)

Legislative History

Following English tradition, justices of the peace (also called magistrates) served as the most basic forum for the administration of criminal and civil laws during the colonial period. Their territorial jurisdiction extended throughout the county for which they were appointed by the governor. Justices of the peace jurisdiction over criminal cases was limited to misdemeanor offenses. In the case of civil law, each justice constituted a Court for the Trial of Small Causes, which had the authority to hear cases involving debts not over forty shillings in value. Among many other duties they also officiated at marriages, swore-in grand juries and served on the more formal courts of General Quarter Sessions and Common Pleas.

In 1799, their duties as a criminal justice—which had previously been established by tradition—were codified by statute. These included trying disorderly persons or violators of the peace, runaway slaves or servants, prostitutes, persons accused of assault, and arsonists. In the same act, the maximum amount cognizable by courts for small causes was raised to \$60; it was regularly raised again by successive acts throughout the nineteenth century. Justices were required to keep a docket book of all cases they heard. Their other duties remained the same, but they could not sit on any court of appeal for a case they had tried originally. In 1846, the position became elected annually.

By the beginning of the twentieth century, the courts for small causes and justices of the peace themselves were slowly being replaced. Legislation passed in 1902 and 1903 deprived justices of jurisdiction where a district court existed. In 1928, the justices also lost jurisdiction over cases involving alimony or child support. Finally, in 1948, the office of justice of the peace and courts for small causes were abolished and their functions were absorbed by the district and small claims courts.

Content Note

These records consist principally of docket books and loose complaint files, together with small volumes of correspondence and receipts for fines paid. Docket books were also used occasionally to record marriages. Some documents are labeled “memoranda” or “warrants,” but they contain the same information as complaints. The dockets are arranged alphabetically by the name of the justice, with the oversized dockets stored at the end of the series.

The “Justice of the Peace Index” (in Box OV-13) is arranged alphabetically by defendant, and lists case number, magistrate and date filed. On the inside front cover is a list of the magistrates and their respective districts. Unfortunately, none of the names in this index correspond with the names of the justices for whom there are documents.

Contents

<u>Box</u>	<u>Justice of the Peace</u>	<u>Datespan</u>	<u>Municipality</u>
1	Abbott, John F.	1896	Pleasantville
1	Ackley, William	1826-1828	Hamilton Twp.
1	Ackley, William	1828-1832	Hamilton Twp.
1	Ackley, William	1834-1836	Hamilton Twp.
1	Ackley, William	1836-1838	Hamilton Twp.
1	Allmond, Roselle	May 1928 - September 1929	Atlantic City
2	Atkinson, John	1892-1896	Hammonton
2	Atkinson, John	1888-1896	Hammonton
2	Avery, John S. W. (Mayor)	1856-1858	Atlantic City
2	Barry, Joseph	1926-1927	Atlantic City
3	Bates, D. Henry	1894-1898	Absecon
3	Bowen, J. H.	1835-1839	Hamilton Twp.
3	Bowen, J. H.	1839-1845	Hamilton Twp.
3	Brown, R. G.	1920-1922	
3	Campbell, David	1839	Galloway
3	Campbell, David	1839-1840	Galloway
3	Colasurdo, James C.	1947-1948	Hammonton
4	Collins, William	1876-1881	Buena Vista
4	Collins, William	1882-1886	Buena Vista
4	Crowell, Ansell B.	1904	Mays Landing
OV-1	Driscoll, Charles B.	1943-1948	Egg Harbor
4	Emmel, Phillip	1830-1834	
4	Franks, Peter	1839-1851	Great Egg Harbor
4	Fritschy, John J.	1871-1889	Egg Harbor City
OV-2	Garwood, Joseph	1822-1825	
5	Garwood, Joseph	1831-1847	
5	Godfrey, Hiram	1896-1898	Weymouth
5	Godfrey, John	1830-1837	Weymouth
5	Godfrey, John	1850-1875	Weymouth

6	Gorgolis, John N.	1943-1946	Ventnor
6	Gorgolis, John N.	1946	Ventnor
6	Gouldey, John	1889-1892	Atlantic City
6	Gouldey, John	1894-1903	Atlantic City
OV-3	Gouldey, John	1892-1895	Atlantic City
OV-4	Gouldey, John	1895-1900	Atlantic City
7	Gouldey, John	1888-1903	Atlantic City
7	Gouldey, John	1883-1887	Atlantic City
7	Gouldey, John	1885-1889	Atlantic City
OV-5	Gouldey, John	1895-1896	Atlantic City
8	Gruner, William	1882-1884	Egg Harbor City
8	Hatch, C. H.	1897-1899	Weymouth
8	Hayward, Edwin J.	1897	Atlantic City
8	Hill, W. T.	1858-1857	Mullica
9	Hoover, Francis H.	1852-1881	Hamilton
9	Ingersol, Daniel	1847-1850	Egg Harbor
9	Ingersol, Daniel	1850-1887	Egg Harbor
9	Ireland, Richard S.	1851-1856	Egg Harbor
10	Irving, Albert W.	1883-1885	Atlantic City
OV-6	Irving, Albert W.	1889-1891	Atlantic City
10	Iszard, Daniel E.	1883-1904	Mays Landing
10	Iszard, Daniel E.	1904-1911	Mays Landing
10	Jacobs, P. Henry	1888-1897	Hammonton
11	Jacobs, P. Henry	1890-1892	Hammonton
11	Jacobs, P. Henry	1906-1907	Hammonton
11	Jordan, Charles M.	1888-1889	Hammonton
OV-7	Keller, A. H.	1930-1931	Pleasantville
11	Keller, A. H.	1933	
12	Lake, Henry	1883-1892	Great Egg Harbor
12	Lake, William	1875-1882	Great Egg Harbor
12	Mills, P.	1891-1892	Hamilton
12	Meyers, James E.	1925-1929	Hammonton
12	Meyers, James E.	1934-1935	Hammonton

12	Meyers, James E.	1937-1939	Hammonton
13	Meyers, James E.	1938-1942	Hammonton
13	Paxson, Joseph A.	1922-1927	Atlantic City
13	Perkins, George H.	1892-1896	Atlantic City
14	Perkins, George H.	1892-1894	Atlantic City
14	Perkins, George H.	1896-1898	Atlantic City
OV-8	Perkins, George H.	1896-1897	Atlantic City
OV-9	Perkins, George H.	1897-1898	Atlantic City
14	Pfeil, Matthew B.	1907-1912	Hammonton
14	Pfeil, Matthew B.	1909-1912	Hammonton
15	Ponsold, Anthony	1860-1868	Egg Harbor City
15	Reidel, Charles F.	1925-2933	Landisville
15	Reidel, Charles F.	1938-1944	Landisville
15	Reidel, Charles F.	1944-1947	Landisville
15	Reilley, Edward B.	1874-1877	Atlantic City
16	Reilley, Edward B.	1877	Atlantic City
16	Richardson, I. H.	1835-1837	Pleasant Mills
16	Risley, Gideon	1833-1834	Gloucester County
16	Risley, Gideon	1835	Gloucester County
16	Risley, Gideon	1835	Gloucester County
16	Risley, Gideon	1835-1836	Gloucester County
16	Rudel, Charles F.	1933-1948	Buena Vista
16	Rummler, Joseph	1939-1948	Port Republic
17	Salsbery, John	1827	Galloway
17	Salsbery, John	1827-1830	Galloway
17	Salsbery, John	1830-1831	Galloway
17	Salsbery, John	1831	Galloway
17	Salsbery, John	1831-1832	Galloway
17	Salsbery, John	1832-1835	Galloway
17	Salsbery, John	1835-1836	Galloway
17	Saxters, C. F.	1868-1874	Hammonton
18	Shinn, John H.	1887	Atlantic City

18	Smith, Elias	1856-1883	Weymouth
18	Smith, Thomas	1878-1881	Hamilton
18	Somers, David B.	1866-1870	Great Egg Harbor
18	Sooy, L.	1925-1927	
19	Stein, Karl	1934-1937	Egg Harbor
19	Stein, Karl	1937	Egg Harbor
20	Stein, Karl	April 1937 - February 1938	Egg Harbor
20	Stein, Karl	January 1938 - March 1938	Egg Harbor
21	Stein, Karl	April 1938 - November 1938	Egg Harbor
21	Stein, Karl	November 1938 - April 1939	Egg Harbor
22	Stein, Karl	April 1939 - August 1939	Egg Harbor
22	Stein, Karl	August 1939 - November 1939	Egg Harbor
23	Stein, Karl	October 1939 - March 1940	Egg Harbor
23	Stein, Karl	February 1940 - July 1940	Egg Harbor
24	Stein, Karl	July 1940 - September 1940	Egg Harbor
24	Stein, Karl	September 1940 - December 1940	Egg Harbor
24	Stein, Karl	December 1940 - April 1941	Egg Harbor
25	Stein, Karl	April 1941 - July 1941	Egg Harbor
25	Stein, Karl	July 1941 - September 1941	Egg Harbor
25	Stein, Karl	September 1941 - October 1941	Egg Harbor
25	Stein, Karl	October 1941 - December 1941	Egg Harbor
26	Stein, Karl	December 1941 - January 1942	Egg Harbor
26	Stein, Karl	January 1942 - March 1942	Egg Harbor
26	Stein, Karl	March 1942 - April 1942	Egg Harbor
26	Stein, Karl	April 1942 - July 1942	Egg Harbor
27	Stein, Karl	July 1942 - October 1942	Egg Harbor
27	Stein, Karl	October 1942 - April 1943	Egg Harbor
27	Stein, Karl	April 1943 - July 1943	Egg Harbor
28	Stein, Karl	July 1943 - July 1944	Egg Harbor
28	Stein, Karl	July 1944 - October 1946	Egg Harbor

28	Stein, Karl	November 1946 - June 1948	Egg Harbor
28	Stein, Karl	June 1948 - October 1948	Egg Harbor
29	Stein, Karl	1939-1945	Egg Harbor
30	Strouse, George E.	1905-1906	Hammonton
30	Strouse, George E.	1909-1910	Hammonton
30	Strouse, George E.	1918-1921	Hammonton
31	Strouse, George E.	1915-1918	Hammonton
31	Strouse, George E.	1921-1922	Hammonton
31	Strouse, George E.	1918-1924	Hammonton
31	Strouse, George E.	1922	Hammonton
32	Strouse, George E.	1923	Hammonton
32	Strouse, George E.	1922-1926	Hammonton
32	Strouse, George E.	1924-1938	Hammonton
33	Strouse, George E.	1926-1928	Hammonton
33	Strouse, George E.	1928-1936	Hammonton
33	Strouse, George E.	1929-1934	Hammonton
34	Strouse, George E.	1929-1930	Hammonton
34	Strouse, George E.	1937-1943	Hammonton
OV-10	Strouse, George E.	1936-1943	Hammonton
OV-11	Strouse, George E.	1943-1948	Hammonton
34	Vanderlip, Charles H.	1900-1902	Mullica
34	Weatherby, S.	1823-1850	Weymouth
34	Weckerly, John S.	1942-1949	Egg Harbor
35	Weeks, James	1839-1844	
35	Westcott, Absalom S.	1838-1839	Mullica
35	Westcott, Absalom S.	1839	Mullica
35	Westcott, John	1836-1848	
35	Westcott, Samuel B.	1825-1826	Weymouth
35	Westcott, Samuel B.	1826-1827	Weymouth
36	Young, Robert	1889-1891	Atlantic City
36	Young, Robert	1891-1893	Atlantic City

36	Young, Robert	1893-1894	Atlantic City
37	Zorn, William H.	1882-1886	Atlantic City
37	Unidentified	1930-1933	
OV-12	Loose sheets [bound]: Samuel Caseboom John Godfrey David Campbell Joseph Westcoat L. Frank Hoone	1831-1844, 1909	
OV-13	Justice of the Peace Index	1932-1948	

Created September 2003

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