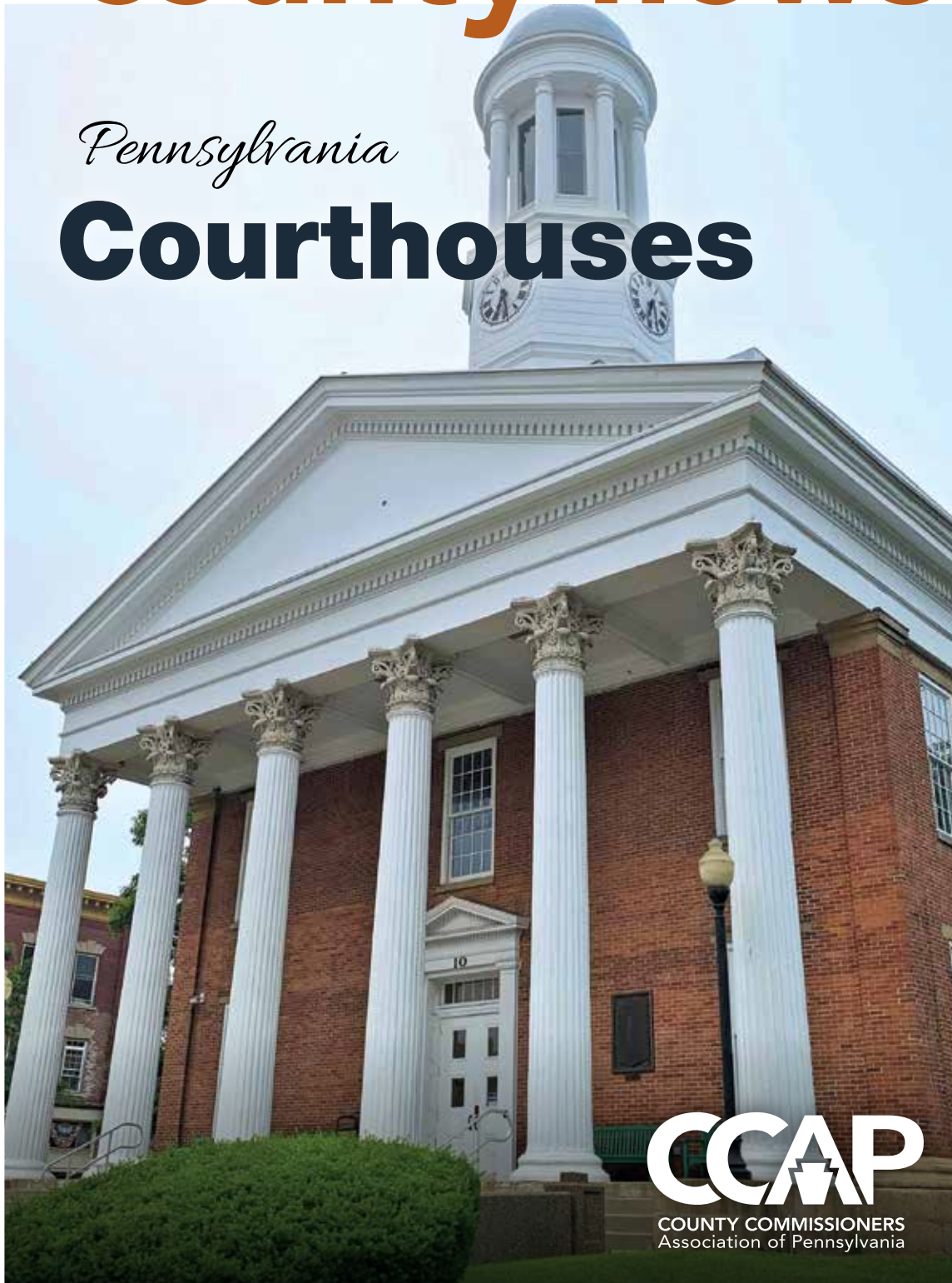


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The County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP) is the voice of county government; a statewide nonprofit, nonpartisan association representing all 67 counties in Pennsylvania. CCAP members include county commissioners, council members, county executives, administrators, chief clerks and solicitors. CCAP strengthens the counties' abilities to govern their own affairs and improve the well-being and quality of life for every Pennsylvania resident. It advocates for favorable state and federal legislation, programs and policies on behalf of counties. CCAP is committed to service excellence through education, information, insurance, technology and other programs that support effective county government. Founded in 1886, CCAP is a partner with the National Association of Counties.

To acquire an article idea submittal form for CCAP's *Pennsylvania County News* please email Lisa Schaefer at lschaefer@pacounties.org.

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fall
2021

PENNSYLVANIA county news

Courthouse Stories

Pennsylvania has some of the most beautiful courthouses in the country. This issue takes a look at a few of them as counties share stories about renovations, famous trials and even a few hauntings.

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executive director's commentary



LISA SCHAEFER

Executive Director
County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania

We often say in Pennsylvania that if you've seen one county, you've seen one county. This issue of the *County News* showcases that maxim perfectly, giving us a deeper look into the rich heritage, legends, and yes, even ghost stories woven into our counties' courthouses.

All 67 counties have their own unique story to tell, not just of the courthouses but also how those courthouses bridge the past to the present. While the buildings provide the setting, these stories are really about the communities they serve and the people who live and work in each county.

Our counties will continue to add to their stories in the future, and in many cases they will be trying to anticipate what is to come so that they can shape those stories themselves. As we were wrapping up work on this issue of the *County News*, the U.S. Census issued its newest release of census data for 2020, allowing us to get a good look at how Pennsylvania has changed over the past decade. In addition, this data allows us to understand patterns and trends that might give us clues as to where we might be headed over the next decade.

For instance, Pennsylvania is now the fifth largest state, but our population growth remains among the slowest in the nation, as we saw our population increase by just 2.4% versus the 7.4% growth of the nation as a whole. Contributing to this is the fact that only 23 counties in the commonwealth saw population growth since 2010, most of them southeast of the Interstate 81 corridor. The other two thirds of the state's counties, the vast majority of them rural, lost population over the past decade. But it's not just a rural issue, as cities like Pittsburgh and Erie lost population as well.

In its September 2020 demographic outlook, the state's Independent Fiscal Office projected that deaths in Pennsylvania will start to exceed births in the next five years, potentially leading to a net loss of residents. That outlook also noted that the number of working age residents (ages 20-64) declined half a percent annually from 2015 to 2020, while the number of retirees (ages 65-79) increased 3.3% annually in the same time and is projected to continue to increase by 2.6% annually in the near term. Further, the number of elderly individuals (80 years of age and older) is expected

to increase 1.9% annually in the near term and 3.9% annually in the long term. Similar to national demographic trends, Pennsylvania's rural counties have a greater share of the retiree and elderly population than urban and suburban counties.

These trends will have profound impacts on our counties, some of whom will be trying to figure out how to meet the increased service demands of their expanding populations and the impacts on local infrastructure. Others will be grappling with how to help their communities survive, and thrive, economically, even as populations continue to decline. Regardless, every county will have to think carefully about its workforce needs, the impacts on local tax bases and much more as they consider what they want their communities to look like in the years to come.

Other data sets offer additional insight into the way that Pennsylvania is changing. Even though Pennsylvania remains one of the least diverse states in the nation, it is becoming more diverse as the percentage of Pennsylvanians who identify as "white alone" has decreased somewhat while the percentage of other demographic

populations, particularly Hispanic and Latino populations, have grown. Like many counties, CCAP is in the midst of reviewing how our commitment to honor diversity, equity and inclusion is actually reflected in our culture and the way we run our operations. This means thinking about, and understanding, both the community we work in and the community we work for, and how that understanding can help to inform the way we do business and the way we serve our counties.

But as we think about how CCAP can best serve our members, we know that we aren't just supporting government operations, but also supporting the services and programs that Pennsylvanians rely on every day. That means looking

into our crystal ball to see what county governments, as well as those they serve, will need not just in the next year, but the next three years, five years, and beyond. As we consider the strong history of county government, the world that surrounds us right now and try to anticipate what is to come, we see that there will be both challenges and opportunities. Together, we can build meaningful education and training to support workforce and operational needs, offer valuable programs, advocate for public policy changes and make sure counties have the right information at the right time to meet those needs head on. Together, we can be ready to help counties write the stories of Pennsylvania's future. ▾

P.S. Speaking of changes, we've been working hard on a new website to showcase all the ways CCAP serves our counties and help you find the information you need more easily. We're looking forward to sharing more details with you shortly!



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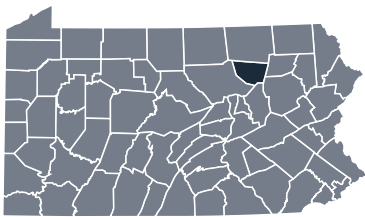
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Courthouses of Pennsylvania

Sullivan

▼ COUNTY COURTHOUSE PROFILES



Sullivan County Historical Society

Sullivan County, Pa., was formed from Lycoming County in March 1847. It took three years and three sets of commissioners from Harrisburg to settle on the final selection of the county seat location. In 1850, Michael Mylert, who owned 33,000 acres in the vicinity in and around what was to become the town of Laporte, gave the courthouse square and the money to build the first courthouse. Mr. Meylert hurriedly made a survey of the town plots to be sold for homes. Many of these plots, that form a rectangle, still exist today. The first courthouse was built that same year.

THE ONLY HANGING

Within the Sullivan County Courthouse, the row offices and court system were then and are now housed. At one time it included three jail cells and the county sheriff both worked and lived there with his family. The story goes that the first (and only) hanging took place in 1856 on the courthouse lawn. The murder was that of John Vittengruber by John Kamm, both German immigrants, living at Elk Lake in Elkland

Township. Mr. Kamm neither spoke or understood English and was judged by a jury to be found guilty.

The day of his hanging throngs of people came on foot, on horseback, in buggies and carriages with children and picnic lunches. Mr. Vittengruber's wife was to be tried also but after two years in the courthouse cell, her meal was brought to her, but the cell door was open, and she was never seen or heard of again. The supposition is that in the 1800s the remote idea of hanging a woman was too much to bear.

CONTINUING TO SERVE

The Sullivan County Courthouse that exists today was built in 1892-1894, after the first courthouse (built in 1850) was demolished in 15 days. This present courthouse was built by local contractors, the Lawrence Bros. The courthouse square is literally that, edged by the streets of Main (also Route 42), Muncy, Meylert and Court.

The nucleus of the present building has been expanded and improved with 1969, 1988 and 2014 renova-



The current Sullivan County Courthouse

tions. The renovations that took place in 2014 required that work be done to repoint the bricks as the outside walls were detaching from the inside walls. The slate roof and metal finials also needed to be replaced. Because the county commissioners discovered that the company replacing the roof was not getting the slate from this country, work was delayed until state side slate was found and ordered. All this was in an effort to keep the historic integrity of the courthouse.

The Sullivan County Courthouse continues to service its residents. The Sullivan County Historical Society's Museum is also located on the courthouse square. Its main building contains the 1880 section built to hold the excess of county records as the county outgrew that first courthouse. The museum today has expanded that old section and now has three more buildings across Meylert Street on Lot #1 of Mr. Meylert's original survey for Laporte. ▼

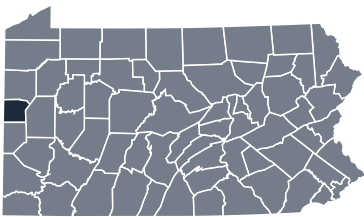


The old Sullivan County Courthouse in Laporte, Pa.

Courthouses of Pennsylvania

Lawrence

▼ COUNTY COURTHOUSE PROFILES



Dan Vogler
Lawrence County Commissioner

The County of Lawrence was created by the Pennsylvania State Legislature on September 1, 1849, when the southern section of Mercer County and the northern section of Beaver County were combined to form the new county. The Greek Revival courthouse, which still stands today, was built during 1850-1852 at a cost of \$32,000. Through the years several additions were built and in 1979 the adjacent Lawrence County Government Center was constructed.

The number of judgeships has grown over the years, starting with one to the current four. Until 1979, courtroom number one, located in the original courthouse, served as the President Judge's courtroom. With the opening of the Government Center that year, three courtrooms were located in the new facility, while the fourth judge utilized what had been courtroom number two in the original courthouse. Also, at that time the original courtroom number one became the law library which resulted in significant remodeling.

Many interesting trials took place in the original courtroom number one during its lifetime, but one of the most, if not the most, notable trials occurred in 1930. On December 27, 1929, 21-year-old Irene Schroeder and her slightly older boyfriend, Glenn Dague, robbed a grocery store at gunpoint in the City of Butler. Once notified of the crime the state highway patrol, based in New Castle, Lawrence County, set up a roadblock on the Butler/New Castle Road. Schroeder and Dague were stopped at the roadblock, at which time a gun battle ensued. Corporal Brady Paul was shot and killed and his partner, Private Ernest Moore, was wounded. The criminal couple then fled to New Castle where they stole a car at gunpoint from another couple. From there, Dague and Schroeder headed west and continued their crime spree. They were ultimately captured in Arizona following a shootout with law enforcement authorities. Once arrested, they were transported back to Lawrence County by train to stand trial for the murder of Corporal Paul. It should be noted that their criminal escapades predated the well-known Bonnie and Clyde by a couple of years.



The Lawrence County Courthouse

The trials for Schroeder and Dague took place in courtroom number one, with Judge R. Lawrence Hildebrand presiding. Noted Attorney Charles Margiotti of Jefferson County, who would go on to become Pennsylvania's Attorney General, led the prosecution team, assisted by newly elected Lawrence County District Attorney and future Judge John Powers. The trials attracted national attention and the New York Times sent a young reporter to provide coverage. He was none other than Ed Sullivan, who would go on to host a television variety show from the 1950s into the 1970s. Each of the defendants was found guilty and sentenced to death. They were electrocuted at the state penitentiary in Centre County in 1931. Irene Schroeder was the first woman in Pennsylvania to be put to death in this manner.

As noted, courtroom number one became the law library in 1979. With the advent of digitized and computerized documents, the law library was able to be moved to smaller quarters in recent years. Current President Judge Dominick Motto is spearheading an effort to transform the space back into a courtroom with emphasis being placed on having it replicate what it looked like many years ago. The judge is to be commended for both his foresight and commitment to historical preservation. If the walls of original courtroom number one could talk, they would most assuredly have many fascinating stories to tell. ▼

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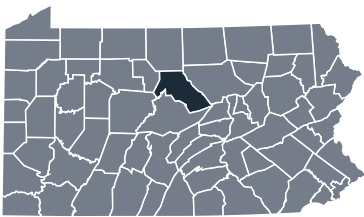
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Courthouses of Pennsylvania

Clinton

▼ COUNTY COURTHOUSE PROFILES



Maria J. Boileau

Director, Voter Registration/Elections
Deputy Chief Clerk
Clinton County

Built in 1869 and set along the west branch of the Susquehanna River, the Clinton County Courthouse is one of county's most prominent showpieces. Beloved as a significant contributing building to the City of Lock Haven's Water Street Historic District, the courthouse is a vital historic asset that has created a unique sense of space and identity for this small rural community.

Clinton County Commissioners, Miles Kessinger, Jeff Snyder and Angela Harding are committed to working with local partner agencies, preservation advocates, and the public to identify and preserve this important community resource. With funding from the Pennsylvania Historic Museum Commission's Keystone Historic Preservation Planning and Construction Grant, the county has recently invested more than \$351,000 in the courthouse. Those funds were used for interior renovations that have made a world of difference for this iconic showpiece.

NECESSARY AND WORTHWHILE

Since his first year as a county commissioner in 2012, Snyder took the reins to oversee building and grounds. What some may think is a monumental project, he has viewed as a necessary and worthwhile challenge. "I just had an interest in getting things done," explained Snyder. "The courthouse should be a focal point of the county."

Renovations to the courthouse over the past several years include improvements to the judges' chambers, renovations to all three courtrooms, relocation of the sheriff and district attorney offices, removal and preservation of the original assessment records from the courthouse tower room, upgrading the exterior lighting, painting the first floor, expanding the holding cell area, added meeting space for attorneys and clients, installation of exterior railings to the front steps, and the addition of a ramp and side door for better accessibility. The most recent renovations have brought luster back to the beautiful woodwork in the front entryway and have highlighted the craftsman-



A sunset view of the west branch of the Susquehanna River with the Clinton County Courthouse on the left

ship of the original contractors and architects. “Walking into the Courthouse today is like stepping back in time,” explains Snyder.

“You cannot google Clinton County, Pennsylvania without seeing a picture of the courthouse,” states Harding. “It is imperative that we not only maintain its historical stature but modernize and update the building so that it remains in good order for generations to come.”

EARLY HISTORY

The Clinton County Courthouse has had a fascinating journey from its construction to present day and there are some memorable stories along its 154-year history that make the county’s landmark a true gem.

The first court proceedings in Clinton County were held in December 1839. According to one resident, W. H. Shaw, “The court for the years 1840 and 1841 were held in a part of a two-story building on Water Street known as Barkers’ Tavern. Old Sheriff Miller discharged the duties of Sheriff in those years, and

a more faithful servant of the people never held the position. His office was a portable concern, in the shape of an old fashioned “bell crown” hat which he invariably carried upon his head. What few writs were issued in those days were deposited in an empty cigar-box in the prothonotary’s office and when the sheriff came to town, they were transferred to his ‘office’ upon his head, and it is said that some of the papers never found their way back to the courthouse.”

In 1842, the first building dedicated entirely to public use as a courthouse was built on the site of the present-day Robb Elementary School on Church Street in Lock Haven. But it was soon outgrown. Between 1850 and 1860, the canal, lumbering, railroad and other industries developed and the county’s population more than doubled. Already by 1858 the *Clinton Democrat* newspaper was calling the old courthouse a “miserable hen-coop”.

But in 1861 the country fell into a Civil War, and the attention of the nation was devoted to other issues. When the war ended in 1865, the courthouse again became a matter of concern. On April 9, 1867, the

county commissioners approved the building of the courthouse on the corner of Jay and Water Streets. The plan for the new courthouse was prepared by Samuel Sloan and Addison Hutton of Philadelphia, the same architects who designed the Venango County Courthouse. The two courthouses were practically identical with the main difference being that the towers were reversed.

The contract for construction was awarded to Col. A. C. Noyes, J. F. Batcheller and Dr. Samuel Adams, for the sum of \$93,000, a debt which the county would finally pay off some fifty years later. On February 8, 1869, the new courthouse was dedicated, and the commissioners met for the first time at 10 a.m. in their office on the first floor.

THE TOWN CLOCK

Right after the construction, a bell weighing approximately 1,500 pounds and measuring 42 inches in diameter was installed in the courthouse tower. But it wasn't until January of 1883 that Mayor Ball of the City of Lock Haven and members of city council met with commissioners to discuss the purchase of a clock. Because of the benefits to its residents, the city agreed to pay for 65% of the total cost and the newly named "Town Clock" was installed in 1883 by the Seth Thomas Company at a cost of \$1,097.66.

The timepiece was under the constant care of four generations of the Wiedhahn Family who had been in business in Lock Haven for more than 80 years. According to the *Lock Haven Express*, "The original 'clock winder' C. G. Wiedhahn administered the necessary windings, oilings, repairs and facial treatments to the clock." Sadly in 1932, in performance of his duties, William Wiedhahn fell while climbing the steep stairway in the tower and died instantly from a heart condition. Some have suggested that the sounds that echo in the building after hours are not just the mechanical workings of the building but are those of Mr. Wiedhahn's footsteps climbing the tower to wind the clock.

On Friday, June 10, 1910, a knot holding the clock's 1,050 weight for the striking mechanism came loose. The weight came crashing down through the tower, splintered a rafter, proceeded down through the courtroom hall and finally landed on the tile floor. There it shattered the tile, made a dent in the concrete



The Clinton County Courthouse

floor underneath and smashed some of the furniture including the chair of Professor Ira N. McCloskey, county superintendent of schools, who had been sitting in it just 10 minutes before the crash. The professor had left for lunch earlier than usual that day.

The clock in the courthouse has only stopped a few times over the years, once when it was hit by lightning in 1895 and once in 1969 when pigeons and children were blamed for causing the clock to stop. The *Lock Haven Express* reported that numerous openings in the tower enabled pigeons to come in out of the cold to roost in the clock room. The vast amount of pigeons' droppings along with unsupervised children who freely climbed the long winding steps from the second floor to the clock steeple were blamed for jamming the clock mechanisms.

PAINTING AND FLOODS

The courthouse was originally built of red brick and was unpainted for many years. In August of 1904, the *Lock Haven Express* reported, "Lock Haven's court of justice lifts its silver head far above surrounding buildings and glistens beautifully in the sunlight since receiving its bright coat of Mayor Cupper's aluminum paint." The towers were also painted white to "harmonize beautifully with the brilliant dome." Peter Smith and Frank Probst were commissioned to paint the

towers 140 feet high above the ground and without the aid of scaffolding. "At that great altitude the men sat on their swinging boards and painted as easily and unconcernedly as though only a few feet above terra firma." Imagine the liability concerns today!

The courthouse has weathered many devastating floods over the years. In March of 1936, Mr. E. A. McGill, custodian, was forced to retreat to the courthouse before the flood waters rose and he remained there for thirty-six hours. It was reported in the *Lock Haven Express* newspaper that McGill was able to preserve many of the county records as he made his headquarters on the second floor in the Law Library. The Commissioners' Minute Book of Tuesday, March 17, 1936, states, "Due to the warm weather and recent rains and the fact that the hills and mountains were covered with an unusual depth of snow which has accumulated during one of the most severe winters that we have had for a long time, the river began rising all day. The water reached a height of 26 inches in the Court House." No loss of life was reported.

The Agnes Flood of 1972 closed the courthouse for several weeks. It was noted that some 200 deed books and criminal dockets in the register and recorders and prothonotary's offices were damaged and that water had reached a height of three feet on the first floor. Today, markers can be found by the back doors of the courthouse indicating the water height during major floods.

RENOVATIONS CONTINUE

In 1937, with \$108,000 in funding, 55% of which came from the Public Works Administration, the courthouse was renovated and an addition was installed to the back of the building. The improvements expanded the courtrooms and gave the building's interior and exterior a new look. And, over the years, renovations and improvements continued due to routine maintenance of an historic building and the growth of county services.

The Clinton County commissioners face the ongoing challenge in balancing today's increasing demand for safety and security with all the architectural characteristics of this historic building, all the while ensuring that the building is barrier free for all members of the public.



Clinton County courtroom chandeliers were brought down for rewiring and cleaning

"The courthouse has weathered many years in its service to residents and visitors," Kessinger explains. "And it is more than just a landmark. This historic and beloved building has served as a meeting place for community groups and churches; it has stood firm as a place of justice, law, and order; it represents the continuity of government; and its halls have documented the journey of the area's residents throughout the life and times in Clinton County."

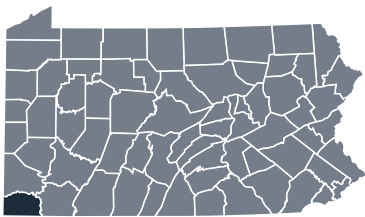
President Judge Craig P. Miller praised the most recent project, "Judge Michael Salisbury and I are extremely pleased with the commissioners undertaking this process. The structure and the fine architectural detail of the courthouse were in serious need of attention. We are very happy with the results to date and are looking forward to further interior and exterior restoration."

"We are all honored to be holding office during this most important renovation project" stated Harding. Plans are in the works for an open house and celebration of the newly renovated Clinton County Courthouse. 🍷

Courthouses of Pennsylvania

Greene

▼ COUNTY COURTHOUSE PROFILES



Matthew W. Cumberledge
Executive Director
Greene County Historical Society

Penn's Woods, a fitting name, and the meaning behind the word "Pennsylvania." It was 1681, when Charles II of England granted William Penn the Charter to establish the Colony of Pennsylvania, the land then was nothing more than a great, vast forest. In the eastern part of the Colony, The Susquehannock People, a Native American Tribe, lived along the rivers and waterways, but the lands that would become Southwestern Pennsylvania were largely vacant.

A FORESTED PARADISE

In the first half of the 17th Century, the Monongahela People, a culture of Native Americans that lived in the greater region of the Monongahela River had seemingly disappeared, and only a few scattered Native American settlements could be found. A network of trails was still wildly used, including the Warrior Trail, a 67-mile-long path that transversed what is now Greene County and headed towards a major flint quarry at Flint Ridge in Eastern Ohio.

Western Pennsylvania would remain a forested paradise for another one hundred and fifty years, and in many places, vast woodlands remain. Such was the case of a new county that was created along the Monongahela River on February 9, 1796. Greene County Pennsylvania was established, from the southern portion of Washington County which was created in 1781. Colonel John Minor, an officer during the American Revolution and a resident of Greensboro, Pa. was Washington County's representative in the Pennsylvania General Assembly, he persisted that a new county needed to be established to allow the residents of that area easier access to their Government by the formation of a new county seat that would be easier for the frontier settlers to travel to in lieu of being forced to take the long (and at times dangerous) journey north to Washington Pennsylvania. In 1796, Minor was successful, and Governor Thomas Mifflin signed the act that brought Greene County (named after a faithful friend of George Washington, General Nathaniel Greene) into existence.



The original log courthouse built in 1797

THE LOG COURTHOUSE

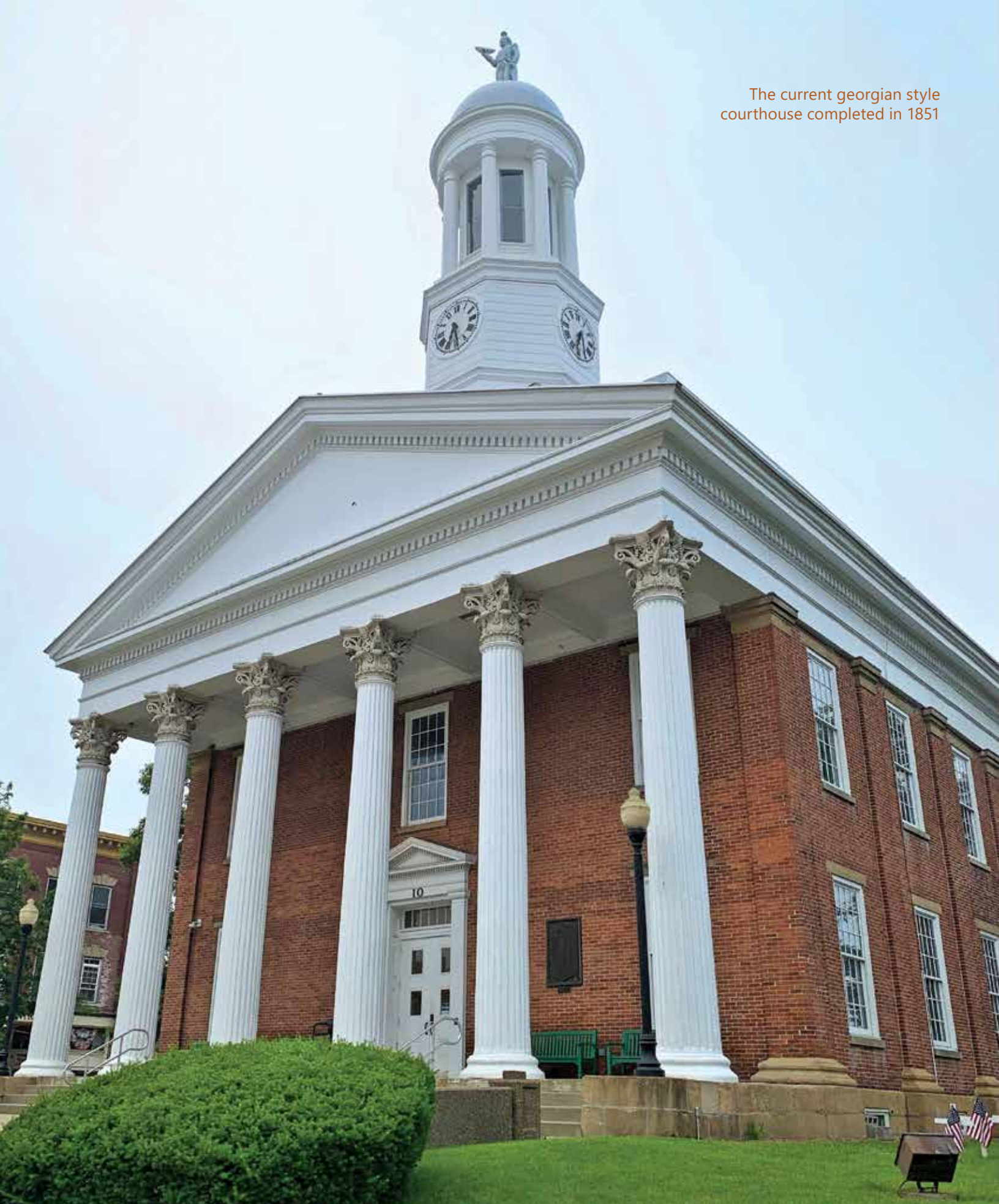
Once Greene County was formed, and the county government established, it was time to find a location for the county's seat of government. A large tract of land was purchased from Thomas Slater, in Franklin Township, that was centrally located in the new county, to establish the county seat of Waynesburg. The town was laid out, divided into lots, with the first lot sold to Christian Sellers for the sum of twenty-one dollars. A location to hold court, however, had not yet been determined, so on January 2, 1797, the first court was held at the home of Jacob Cline on Muddy Creek, about five miles east of Waynesburg. Shortly thereafter, the county acquired a lot at the intersection of Greene Street and Whiskey Alley in the newly formed town of Waynesburg and began the construction of a log courthouse. This log building still stands and is now the home of Cornerstone Genea-

logical Society. On April 3, 1797, court was convened at Jacob Clines residence for the last time and moved that same day and adjourned in the freshly built log courthouse.

THE SECOND COURTHOUSE

The log courthouse would serve the steadily growing county for just three years, when in 1800, John Milliken, of Morris Township, Greene County, Pa. was contracted to build a new brick courthouse in the public square, along High Street in Waynesburg. Very little is known about this second courthouse. One image remains, a lithograph that was published in Sherman Day's 1843 book "Historical Collections of the State of Pennsylvania." This image shows a two-story central building, with a door at the center, and a cupola on the roof, with single story wings at either side. A large sign along the street reads "U.S. Court." It is thought

The current georgian style courthouse completed in 1851





Wood cut showing the second courthouse in Greene County

that the proceeds from the sales of lots in Waynesburg generated the funds to construct the first brick courthouse, as few other records survive that detail its origins. Somewhere nearby the site of this was the site of the first jail, a stone structure of which little is known. The jail is first mentioned in 1798 in a lawsuit between the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the “Gaoler” of the County of Greene where the jailer was being sued for using the jail as a stable.

THE CURRENT COURTHOUSE

The new brick courthouse would serve at the County Seat of Government for nearly 50 years, when in the winter of 1849 it was demolished by George Zimmerman to make way for a new, larger, courthouse. Two Grand Juries had condemned the first brick courthouse, and ordered county commissioners, Elijah Chalfant, Abner Hoge and William G. Boyers to replace the aging structure. On June 24, 1850, the cornerstone for the new, and current, courthouse was laid by the Freemasons of Greene County. It was to be built by Samuel and John Bryan of Uniontown and modeled after the Courthouse they had built in Fayette County, on the opposite side of the Monongahela River. The new building would be a large Georgian Style structure, with a portico adorned with Corinthian Style columns crowned by a large cupola, the total cost of the building being \$16.5 million.

This new courthouse would be completed by September 15, 1851, just in time for court to convene. A large Statue of General Nathaniel Greene, the counties namesake, was sketched by a local German clockmaker, Dominicus Haas, and carved by Bradley Mahanna. This statue would sit atop the cupola of the new courthouse and look over the town of Waynesburg as it grew around the town square below. The old stone jail was still in use at this time, and for several years afterwards, when in December of 1873 a Grand Jury condemned it and ordered it demolished to make way for a new jail that was completed in 1880. The new jail annex would be attached to the rear of the 1851 courthouse with an attached residence for the sheriff. The sheriff’s residence and entrance faced Washington Street and the Downey House Hotel.

FIRE AND DEATH

The Downey House Hotel was a grand old building, that sat at the Intersection of High Street and Washington Street, just across from the courthouse. Built in 1869, this building served as a way station for folks traveling through Waynesburg and Greene County and housed a few small local businesses. In the early morning hours of December 23, 1925, H. C. Schieber was alone in his jewelry shop on the first floor of the Downey House when a hotdog stand along the front of the hotel was set ablaze by a small gas explosion.



Inside the rebuilt cupola that was destroyed in the Downey House fire of 1925

As the patrons of the hotel peacefully slept on the floors above, the hotel would be engulfed in flames. Many lives would be lost during this tragedy, and as the hotel went up in flames, embers were blown across the street, setting the roof and cupola of the Greene County Courthouse on fire. The fire at the hotel raged on, the walls began to collapse as the statue of Nathaniel Greene went up in flames. In total, five firemen would lose their lives that day in the falling rubble.

In January of 1926, before addressing the need for repairs to the courthouse, the commissioners met to pass resolutions of appreciation for the fire companies of East Washington, West Brownsville, Charleroi, Fredericktown, Bentleyville, Masontown, Carmichaels, Jefferson, Rices Landing and the Fire Company of the Buckeye Coal Company for saving the courthouse from total destruction, and to honor the men who

lost their lives in the action. The County of Greene would make a \$100.00 donation to each fire company.

There was more than \$15 million worth of damage done to the courthouse, and the county would approve a contract with G. R. Hagerty and Bryon Smith of Uniontown for reconstruction of the courthouse cupola and roof based on plans and specifications drawn by William King of Pittsburgh, and William Ullom of Waynesburg. A new ten-foot Statue of General Nathaniel Greene was commissioned from Acklin Lumber Company based on plans made by John Pauley, Jr., and Albert Wise. Steel rods would be used to secure the six-hundred-pound stature to the dome of the Cupola. The statue was displayed in the lobby of the courthouse until it was raised to its permanent home on November 24th, 1926.

RECENT UPDATES

In 1979, a groundbreaking ceremony was held for a new county jail on Rolling Meadows Road, and when the new jail was completed, it left the old jail annex at the rear of the courthouse vacant. Having sat largely unused for several years, and with an ever growing need to increase space in the now historic courthouse, in 1997 the old jail annex was torn down, as well as most of the sheriff's residence on the Washington Street side of the courthouse. The outer walls of the sheriff's residence were saved however, preserving their 1880s façade with elaborate brickwork and carved stone. A new wing would be built around these walls, and over the site of the jail annex. This new wing would be designed with a mansard roof in keeping with the historic style of the preserved walls of the sheriff's residence, and once completed in 1998, would provide another courtroom as well as more office space and records storage.

In the new millennium, the historic 1851 Georgian Style courthouse that had served its county for more than a century and a half would undergo further preservation to keep this now landmark structure in good repair for future generations. Beginning in 2010 the aging roof trusses were strengthened and reinforced, along with updates to the ventilation system and fire suppression system, and the cupola, replaced



Courtroom of the current courthouse

after the 1925 Downey House fire, would receive updates and repairs including a new statue of Nathaniel Greene. The previous statue is now housed at the Greene County Historical Society Museum.

In 2020, under the watch of county commissioners Mike Belding, Betsy McClure and Blair Zimmerman, the roof of the courthouse and the dome of the cupola were repaired as well as giving much needed updates to the second courtroom.

Just as it has since 1851, the courthouse of Greene County, Pa. stands as a proud symbol of its people and to its people, lovingly cared for, it is an architectural and historic gem situated in a rural county town in Southwestern Pennsylvania. ▼

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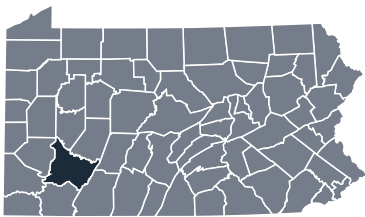
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Courthouses of Pennsylvania

Westmoreland

▼ COUNTY COURTHOUSE PROFILES



Westmoreland County Commissioners and
Melissa Williams Brown, Assistant Chief Clerk

Dedicated in 1908 and dubbed the “finest rural courthouse in the nation,” it should come as no surprise that the Beaux Arts-Styled Westmoreland County Courthouse in Greensburg was easily placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Many visitors from multiple states and countries marvel at its architecture and museum-like resemblance. The courthouse has played host to First Lady Rosalynn Carter, President Bill Clinton, and during Desert Storm, the late Rev. Billy Graham, among others.

In July 1786, a one-story log courthouse was built on the ground which has been used for the same purpose and upon which stands the present courthouse. The first court was held on January 7, 1787. The log house was too small and by 1796, it was torn down to build a more permanent brick building but was delayed almost six years by the Whiskey Rebellion. By 1801, the new two-story brick courthouse was built for \$5,000. Due to the rapid growth of county business, it was torn down in May 1854. It was of a Greek-Revival Style and cost the county \$90,000 to build. It was leveled in 1901 to make room for construction of the current building.

RENOVATION

It’s hard to believe there was talk of demolishing Westmoreland County’s diamond in the rough because it was in dire need of repair. A visitor from England said, “Don’t let anyone do anything to this building. It’s every bit as beautiful as Westminster Abbey.” The decision to renovate the courthouse in 1980 by the board of commissioners was a smart one. At its dedication in 1908, cost of the building was \$1.4 million and the restoration and rededication in 1982 was \$6.8 million. It may not have been the first structure built on the current site, but it is certainly the most beautiful, and is the fourth courthouse.

The central dome of the courthouse is of Italian Renaissance and stands 176 feet above the ground. It is covered by ornamental gold and terra cotta which can be seen from several approaches into the county seat in the city of Greensburg. The dome is only one of two designed by the original architect, William Kauffman. Historians have searched for the second structure with no luck. The exterior walls are faced in a light gray granite from Maine.



The Westmoreland County Courthouse in Greensburg was designed by Architect William Kauffman. The Beaux Arts building is done in Italian Renaissance and is only one of two designed by Kauffman.

Photo by Westmoreland County Deputy Controller Rege Garriss

The tympanum of the front pediment is marked by sculptures in granite representing art and industry under the protection of the shield of the nation. At the crown are three female figures which can be seen from the main thoroughfare facing east, symbolic of justice, the law and the people. On the face of the two large cartouches between the main entrance arches are carved the seals of Westmoreland County and the commonwealth.

COURTROOMS

There are nine courtrooms, four that are original and painted in colors representing the four seasons in blue, brown, green and beige. Some feature hand-carved St. Jago and San Domingo mahogany, and hand-carved quartered oak. All have a gold-leaf technique used throughout. One of the courtrooms features a circular decorative ceiling that was originally hidden by a drop ceiling until it was uncovered during restoration. The remaining five courtrooms are modern in design. Courtroom 3 is known as the



Courtroom 3 of the Westmoreland County Courthouse is known as the ceremonial courtroom, where many elected officials have been sworn in for their new terms of office over the years. It is one of four original courtrooms and the décor depicts the summer season. The three other courtrooms portray spring, fall and winter. There are nine courtrooms at the Westmoreland County Courthouse.

Photo by Westmoreland County Assistant Chief Clerk Melissa Williams Brown

ceremonial courtroom, where county commissioners, row officers, and judges are traditionally sworn in for the start of a new term.

The original courtroom murals were painted by a famous artist, Maurice Ingres from France. During the renovation project, they were restored by Carroll Westfall, an artist who once lived in Lower Burrell, which is one of the most northern cities in Westmoreland County. Ingres' oil painting of an international movie star from the United States, Lillian Russell, who commissioned him to do her first portrait, led him to world fame of his murals and portraits.

English-veiled Italian marble decorates the public hall walls and the rotunda, and corridor floors and ceiling are laid with varicolored mosaics. Panels are set with marble mosaics in Renaissance patterns. A grand staircase of marble from the first floor opens upward to twin spirals to the second floor. Two original courtrooms are enhanced by deep coved ceilings, colorful murals and Edwardian globular chandeliers.



If you look up and around you inside the Westmoreland County Courthouse, it's difficult to take in all the meticulous craftsmanship. This multi-colored design adorns the ceiling as you proceed on the red carpeted grand staircase.

Photo by Westmoreland County Assistant Chief Clerk Melissa Williams Brown

INTERESTING TIDBITS

Built in the beginning of the 20th century, a message was left for 1980, the year of the restoration that was discovered by workmen. Inside a whiskey bottle, folded in a piece of brown wrapping paper torn from a lunch bag, was a note written in Italian (Anno 1907-Di7 Ottobre – Gin Lavoravano due infelici italiani perarriecchire il capitlista Americano) signed by Stefano Martineli and Pietro Chienego. Translation of the note reads “Year 1907, 7th day of October. Here we worked, two unhappy Italian, for making rich the American capitalist.” Speculation was they ate their lunch from a brown paper bag, then wrote on it, and placed the note in a bottle. Because they were marble experts, they were complaining about not getting paid enough for their handiwork. The coveted note is in the possession of the Westmoreland County Historical Society.

Lisa C. Hayes, executive director of the Westmoreland County Historical Society said, “Despite their dour assessment, many choose to think that the courthouse’s grandeur represents the important nature of the activities destined to take place inside – revealing respect for law, the preservation of order within the county, as well as the enrichment of the broader community since the courthouse has been the site of many and varied community meetings and events.”

Hays said Westmoreland County Courthouse’s placement on the National Register of Historic Places represents its significance in early 20th century architecture and political and government matters.

“It is a beautiful testament to the skill of the craftsmen, many of whom were recent immigrants, who translated the architect’s vision into reality. Although their work is a lasting legacy, the attitude of at least some immigrant workers reflects growing political sentiments around the world,” said Hays.



The interior of the rotunda area of the courthouse is breathtaking. Frank Gallo restored the rotunda but never really got to enjoy the fruits of his labor. He died two weeks after the work was completed.

Photo by Westmoreland County Chief Clerk Vera Spina

DOMES

The rotunda area of the dome was restored by Frank Gallo, who never really got to marvel at his work. He died two weeks after the rotunda was completed. In 1910, the Scales of Justice fell into the street below at the conclusion of a controversial criminal trial. The exterior dome was restored with gold-colored aluminum panels which did not harm the historical status of the courthouse.

During renovations, concrete floors were replaced due to 70 years of small amounts of water from scrubbing the floors by hand seeped through the mosaic tile design. Uncovered during that period were brass register covers, inside brick walls were exposed, and the remains of an old steam-operated elevator were found.



Visitors marvel at the varicolored intricate mosaic detail. This is a close up of the detailed handiwork. It's hard to believe there was once talk of tearing the courthouse down because it was in disrepair. Visitors stop in to see the courthouse from multiple states and countries, marveling at its museum-like decor.

Photo by Westmoreland County Chief Clerk Vera Spina

As visitors proceed through the main entrance of the Westmoreland County Courthouse, a Plexiglas-enclosed courthouse replica is featured, which was done by sculpture Gino Mangione. After his death, the family donated the intricately detailed dome for display that was originally mocked using Popsicle sticks.

ORIGINAL BEAUTY

Westmoreland County Commissioners Sean Kertes (chairman), Douglas W. Chew (vice chairman) and Gina Cerilli Thrasher, Esq. (secretary) are very proud of the historic treasure. They maintain offices in the Annex area that was added onto the treasured landmark in 1979.



Countless photos have been taken on the historic red carpeted grand staircase in the rotunda area, including Westmoreland County commissioners, row officers and judges after being sworn in for a new term, along with multiple brides and grooms who were wed at the Westmoreland County Courthouse.

Photo by Westmoreland County Chief Clerk Vera Spina

Commissioner Sean Kertes said it has always been a priority to maintain the courthouse to its original beauty. "It is a gem in our region and the craftsmanship is impeccable," said Kertes.

Commissioner Douglas W. Chew said, "It's humbling that I am able to work in such a historic building, for a county that traces its history back to pre-revolutionary war times. The solid architecture of marble, granite, and mahogany instills a sense of duty in all who enter for court business. I hope it stands for many hundreds of years to come."

Reflecting on the majesty of the courthouse, Commissioner Gina Cerilli Thrasher said, "Visitors to our courthouse are overwhelmed at their first look by the



English-veiled Italian marble decorates the public walls of the rotunda. The corridor floors and ceilings are done in varicolored mosaics. Panels are set with marble mosaics in Renaissance patterns.

Photo by Westmoreland County Chief Clerk Vera Spina

regal red staircase. Then it just gets better. The dome, the marble, and the seasonal courtrooms. I have a very special place in my heart for the courtroom that depicts summer. It is where I was first sworn in as my grandmother held our family Bible and my parents and sister stood beside me.”

The first female judge elected to the bench in 1980 was Assistant District Attorney Donetta Ambrose, who later served on the U.S. District Court of the Western District of Pennsylvania and confirmed by the U.S. Senate and became chief judge for the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania until 2009. She assumed senior status in 2010.

In 2018, the first female president judge elected in the history of Westmoreland County was Judge Rita Donovan Hathaway, who still proudly maintains that position. There are currently 11 judges on the Court en Banc, three of whom are females.

Judge Hathaway conveys her honor and privilege. “I am very honored to have been elected the first female president judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Westmoreland County and feel a sense of tremendous responsibility to live up to that honor. During my tenure as president judge, the greatest challenge has been managing the courts during the pandemic. With the cooperation of my fine colleagues on the bench, we were able to continue court operations with minor delay.”

“It is a privilege to work in such a beautiful and historic courthouse. The grandeur of the Westmoreland County Courthouse is awe inspiring and conveys the solemnity and the gravity of the proceedings that are conducted every day within its walls,” said Hathaway. 🗡



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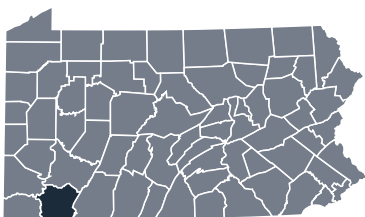
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Courthouses of Pennsylvania

Fayette

▼ COUNTY COURTHOUSE PROFILES



Kaylie Moore

Fayette County Community Relations Coordinator

Several foam takeout boxes containing slices of a colleague's leftover birthday cake sat on a table in his office. Two of them had just opened on their own, their lids audibly creaking as they moved, one at a time, in slow motion. The containers, undisturbed since the noon lunch hour, were quickly closed again, and the late afternoon meeting resumed without further interruption. "Looks like 'Moonie' wants a piece of cake," Fayette County Commissioner Vince Vicites said with a laugh.

HAUNTED HAPPENINGS

In fact, operations always continue at the Fayette County Courthouse, no matter how strange the occurrence. It's long been said the courthouse, which sits along East Main Street in Uniontown, Pa., is haunted – earning its place as a must-see stop on local ghost tours. Many employees, some with decades of tenure, have countless stories of unexplainable things happening at all hours of the day and night; and many of those stories include Moonie.

Lights flickering? Moonie. Heavy, wooden doors opening and closing on their own? Moonie. Objects seemingly moving of their own accord or going missing completely, only to turn up somewhere unexpected? You guessed it – Moonie.

Frank "Moonie" Monaghan Sr. continues to draw attention in death, just as he did in his 63 years of life. A hotelier and businessman, Monaghan was a well-known, if not particularly well-liked, fixture in Uniontown in the early 1900s. However, it was not until his murder in September 1936 that he became a national celebrity.

As documented in the 2001 novel "Screams from the Courthouse Basement: The Monaghan Affair," by Beverly Peterson and Wolford Swimmer, Monaghan's murder in the courthouse basement's Bertillon Room was so shocking that it led to abolition of the law enforcement interrogation practice known as "the third degree."

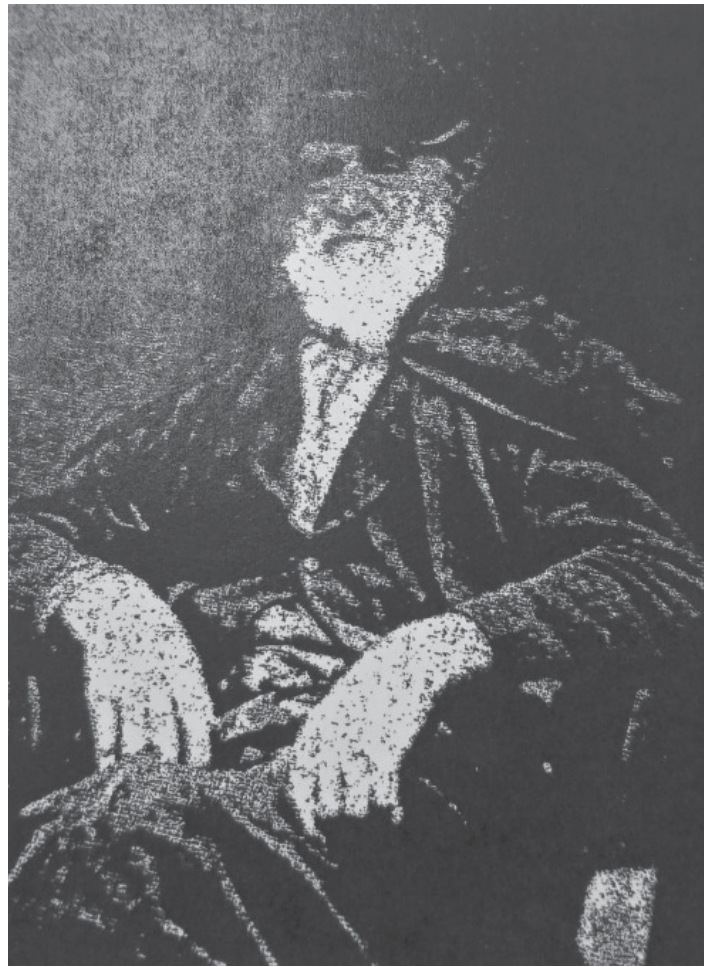


The Fayette County Courthouse in Uniontown, Pa.

While Monaghan was being questioned by state and local officials about the attempted homicide of a county detective, journalists and onlookers gathered close to the windows of the locked-down courthouse. They reported hearing "screams," "groans," "wailing" and other gruesome sounds as Monaghan was slowly tortured and beaten to death by officials.

MURDER AND CONSPIRACY

According to Swimmer and Peterson, Monaghan's initial cause of death was ruled a heart attack. When the truth began to surface, his aggressors backpedaled and offered a variety of other explanations for his demise, including a slip in the Bertillon Room's shower. It was not enough to explain how Monaghan's blood and other forms of DNA were found all over the walls and ceiling.



Frank "Moonie" Monaghan Sr. was murdered in the basement of the Fayette County Courthouse in 1936.

Dubbed Fayette County's "trial of the century," what followed was a lengthy legal battle that saw those in power accused of covering up the heinous crime. The District Attorney's Office, state and local police officers, county coroner, local undertakers and well-known physicians were all indicted for murder and conspiracy.

The story so affected the nation that it led to a major overhaul of our federal, state and local criminal justice systems – cementing Moonie's place in local history. Today – 85 years after his death - he ensures his story lives on by regularly making his presence known throughout the courthouse. Should you find yourself in the basement after hours, you might hear the same wailing or groaning coming from a dark corner or feel like someone's watching you from just out of sight.

EXECUTIONS

But Moonie isn't the only entity said to haunt the courthouse. In the century before his murder, 12 others died on the site – condemned for their crimes and hanged, either in the Fayette County Jail or on its grounds, where part of the expanded courthouse now stands. (Prior to the jail executions, a 13th man was executed on the gallows at the former location of the Fayette County Fairgrounds.)

Just as many paranormal experts would agree that the grisly nature of Moonie's murder was a contributing factor to where he now spends his afterlife, the same argument can be made for the souls lost to the gallows.

Retired Fayette County Law Librarian Barbara Pasqua literally wrote the book on the subject. Titled "The Fayette Thirteen," Pasqua's historic record details the executions using local newspaper articles found in The Pennsylvania Room of the Uniontown Public Library as source material.

Those executed between 1794 and 1914 were John McFall, Richard Thairwell, Michael Metz, Frank Morris, William Simms, Mark Thomas Hayes, William Allen, William Hays, John Jackson, Giovanni Malini, Wilbur Minney, John Harris and Frank Wells.

There was a 72-year gap between McFall's public execution at the fairgrounds and Thairwell's hanging in the jail yard. Metz was the last to be executed in the jail yard. Those first three executions were open to the public, with thousands of onlookers coming from far and wide to buy tickets to witness the hangings.

INNOCENCE AND ARTIFACTS

Also known as Michele Mezzo, Michael Metz, was just 29 when he was sentenced to death for the first-degree murder of his close friend, "Cossidenti." Metz was said to be the godfather of Cossidenti's two children, and many questions remained surrounding his death, including that of Metz's guilt.

"Metz did not realize until a few days ago he was going to be hanged. He thought he would surely get a new trial or that something would happen in his favor," Pasqua wrote, citing newspaper records of his final days. "It was not until last week that he gave up hope, but he did not weaken much and talked about it in a horrible manner. The last few days he became very quiet and talked little."

Pasqua's book indicates that Metz maintained his innocence to the very end, stating:

"I hang for nothing. I never killed nobody. The gentleman that hangs me, hangs me for nothing. I kill nobody. Who hangs me, hangs me for nothing."

Some say Metz still haunts the jail and courthouse, and his presence may be attributed, in part, to a unique artifact that remains on display to this day. In 1984, resident Jane Hyjurick donated two artifacts passed down from her great-great grandfather, former Fayette County Sheriff Isaac Messmore, who served from 1871-1875. The first is the final known photo of Metz, as he stands on the white scaffold in a new suit, awaiting his execution. The second is Sheriff Messmore's admission ticket to witness the execution.

Framed beneath a plaque in the Law Library office, the artifacts – which are available for public viewing during business hours – serve as a reminder of Fayette County's darker moments and often draw curious thanotourists in search of a spirit or two.

STANDING ROOM ONLY

After Metz, all others hung in Fayette County were done indoors with either a limited number of admission tickets sold or a "standing-room only" rule in place. William Allen's crowd was said to be the largest allowed inside, with 1,500 witnesses filling every available hallway and corner.

Something all the executed men had in common with each other – and Moonie – is that their deaths were not very quick. Although the trapdoor swiftly swung open beneath their feet, all 12 executed on the site



William Stanford, also known as Crazy Billy, is said to still haunt the Fayette County Courthouse and jail.

took between seven and 13 minutes to officially be declared dead, according to Pasqua's book. Several died due to strangulation, rather than the intended neck-breaking of the gallows noose, often creating shocking sights for onlookers.

Following Frank Wells' execution on June 25, 1914, hangings ceased in Fayette County, as the state introduced formal use of the electric chair – a device never used at the county level.

In addition to the hangings, Pasqua's book also covers a number of interesting jail and courthouse facts, including the tale of "Crazy Billy," another entity said to mingle with the property's many spirits.

A native of England, William Stanford spent more than 50 years in Uniontown – most of which were as an inmate of the Fayette County Jail. Pasqua writes that Stanford, who later became known as "Crazy Billy," made his "sudden and sensational appearance" at the Springhill (now Nicholson Township) home of Alexander Crow.

After behaving rudely and refusing to leave, Stanford reportedly "seized an axe and drove the family from the house." He was eventually captured and arrested for his crimes against the Crows. While awaiting trial, Stanford encountered another inmate, John Updegraff, who was sleeping off a drunken stupor after being arrested for public drunkenness and disorderly conduct. According to Pasqua, Stanford took a "billet of firewood" and killed Updegraff "with one blow."

After several years in jail, the wife of the new county sheriff, William Snyder, convinced her husband that Stanford was "not vicious," but rather, "incoherent" with an "even and mild" disposition, Pasqua wrote. He was then treated kindly by all, given free roam of the jail and courthouse, "where he became useful as a chore boy" and "was regarded as a mascot."

Always hygienic, but often disheveled, Stanford was notorious for not tying his shoes and carrying his coat on his shoulder, rather than wearing it. Upon his death at the sheriff's residence around age 80, Stanford's body lay in state in the courthouse, where it was viewed by hundreds of mourners. A piece of an old column from the former courthouse was used to mark his grave in Oak Grove Cemetery of Uniontown, where you can still visit him today.

Only two copies of Pasqua's book exist – one of which is located in the Fayette County Law Library at the courthouse and the other at the Uniontown Public Library. Both are available for reading upon request. However, like the many spirits that roam the courthouse hallways, the copies cannot leave their respective libraries.

If you find yourself in Fayette County, stop by for a tour of the courthouse property. Just remember to leave your shoes untied for Crazy Billy, observe a moment of silence for those hung on the gallows, and bring a piece of cake for Moonie. 🍪

Works cited: *Screams from the Courthouse Basement: The Monaghan Affair, Swimmer and Peterson*, 2001. *The Fayette Thirteen*, Pasqua, 2014.



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CCAP Announces 2022 Leaders



*Daryl Miller
Bradford County commissioner*

Members of the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP) elected Daryl Miller, Bradford County commissioner, as the 2022 president of the Association during its 135th Annual Conference in August.

Other county officials elected to be leaders of CCAP include Albert "Chip" Abramovic, Venango County commissioner, first vice president; Michael Rivera, Berks County commissioner, second vice president; and Loretta Spielvogel, Lawrence County commissioner, treasurer. Kevin Boozel, Butler County commissioner and current CCAP president, will serve as the Association's board chair in 2022.

Elected as district representatives to the CCAP board were: District 1 Representative Basil Huffman, Forest County commissioner; District 2 Representative Dan Vogler, Lawrence County commissioner; District 3 Representative Randy Phiel, Adams County commissioner; District 4 Representative Preston Boop, Union County commissioner; District 5 Representative to be determined; District 6 Representative Ray D'Agostino, Lancaster County commissioner; and District 7 Representative Brian Smith, Wayne County commissioner. Those elected will begin their terms on January 1, 2022. ▼

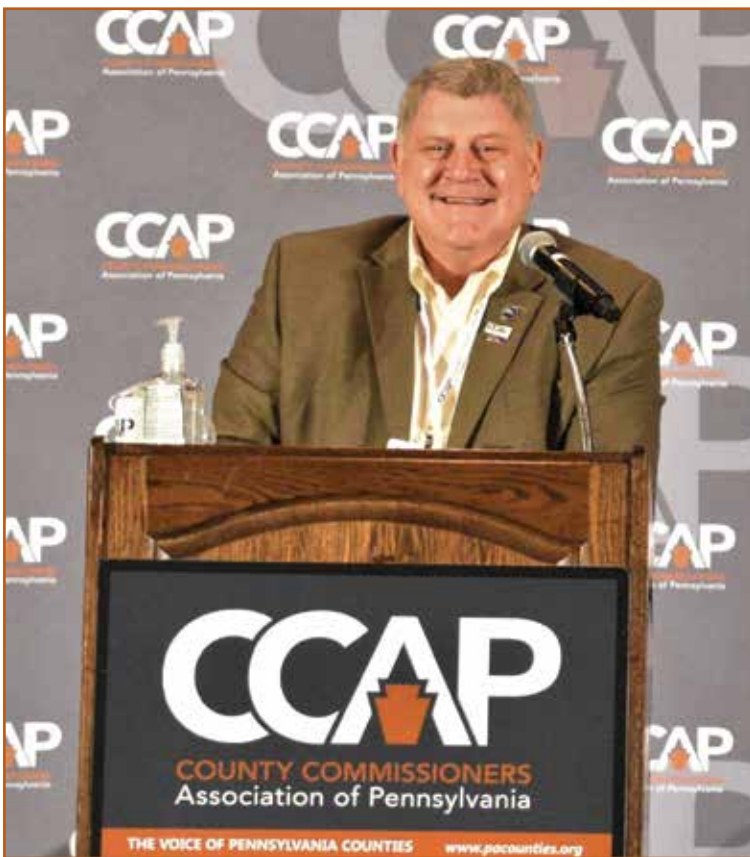




2021 Annual Conference



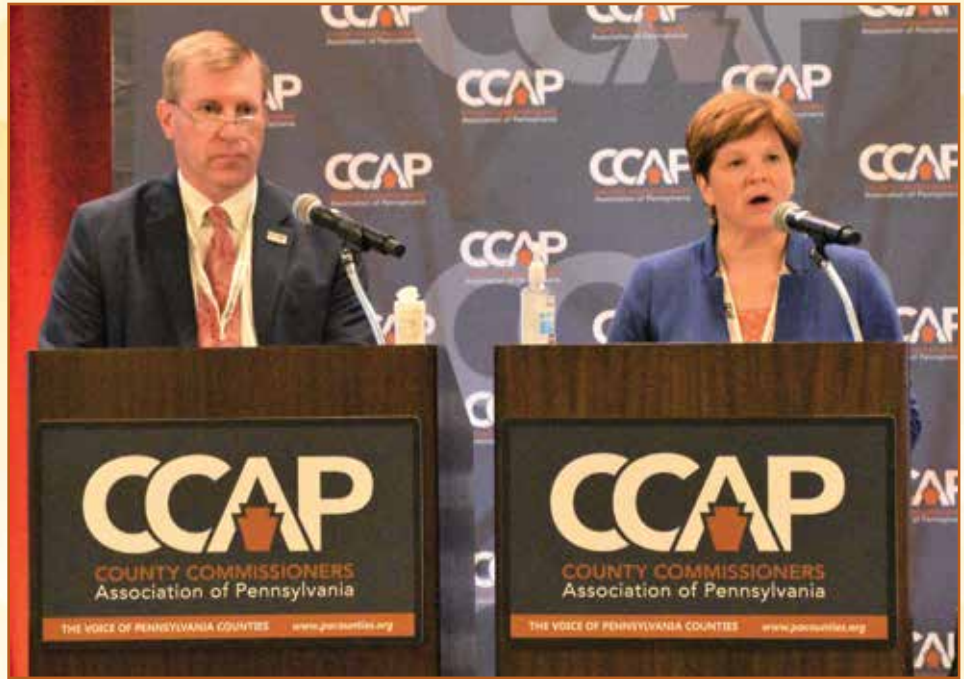
Kevin Boozel, CCAP president and Butler County commissioner



Jeff Snyder, CCAP Board chair and Clinton County commissioner



Kyle Kopko, Center for Rural Pennsylvania director



Joe Kantz, Snyder County commissioner and Sherene Hess, Indiana County commissioner

Kenyon Salo, keynote speaker



Christian Leinbach, NACo representative for Pennsylvania and Berks County commissioner



Leslie Osche, CCAP treasurer and Butler County commissioner



Daryl Miller, CCAP first vice president and Bradford County commissioner



Meg Snead, acting secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services



Dauphin County commissioners Chad Saylor and Mike Pries



George Hartwick, NACo representative for Pennsylvania and Dauphin County commissioner



Cassandra Coleman, 250PA executive director



Leeanne Clayberger, Pennsylvania Economy League chief executive officer



Larry Shifflet, PennDOT deputy secretary for planning



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Awards 2021



Indiana County commissioner Sherene Hess received the President's Award.



Lehigh County commissioner Percy Dougherty received the Outstanding Commissioner of the Year Award.



Bucks County's Joe Khan received the Outstanding County Solicitor Award.





Kevin Boozel, Butler County commissioner, was recognized for his year as CCAP president.



Carbon County's Eloise Ahner received the Outstanding Chief Clerk/Administrator of the Year Award from Daryl Miller.



Jason Kavulich, Lackawanna County Area Agency on Aging Director, received the Friend of County Government Award.

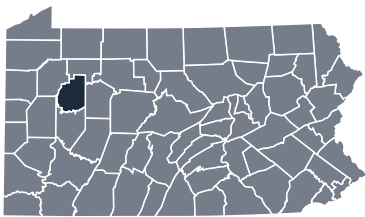


Brinda Penyak, CCAP Deputy Executive Director, received the Affiliate of the Year Award on behalf of the Pennsylvania Coalition of Affiliated Healthcare and Living Communities (PACAH).

Courthouses of Pennsylvania

Clarion

▼ COUNTY COURTHOUSE PROFILES



Mindy Frampton

Deputy Chief Clerk
Clarion County Commissioners Office

The first Clarion County Courthouse was bid to the firm of Derby & Clover of Ridgway PA and Levi G. Clover of Clarion, Pennsylvania. Mr. Derby was the superintending partner of the firm. The total contract price of this project was \$8,500, which as it appears, exceeded the lowest bid by \$2,700. (The extras brought the cost up to \$10,636.16.) The building was started in the spring of 1842 but was not finished until the spring of 1843.

The courthouse was brick, two-storied and divided by a slight offset – from which there were two narrow recesses into two longitudinal wings. The rear annex was slightly lower than the front part of the building. A wooden cupola in the center of the roof surmounted the main section of the building. No clock appeared on this building. The main entrance was through a portico in the Grecian style and was reached by four low steps. Two wooden fluted pillars with plain capitals, and two pilasters, one at both end and painted white, supported the roof of the porch.

About 9 a.m. on the morning of March 10, 1859, smoke and flames broke through the roof near the

cupola. This fire was thought to be the result of a faulty flue. The citizens of the town had no means of getting water up to the second-floor area and within two hours the building was in ruin. However, all the records were preserved. The loss was estimated to \$10,000. Insurance through the Lycoming and York Companies resulted in a claim for \$7,000.

COURTHOUSE TWO

The second courthouse was built by Daniel and Edmond English of Brookville, Pa. and was completed in 1863. It was necessary that a special act of the legislature be passed empowering the county commissioners to erect a new structure.

The total contract was \$15,000 plus extras of \$1,500 (total cost of the courthouse was \$17,200). Architect on this project was Mr. John R. Turner of Carlisle, Pennsylvania. County Commissioners Daniel Mercer, C. Seigworth and Benjamin Miller entered this contract with Mr. Turner. This undertaking was a losing one for the contractors.



The present Clarion County Courthouse

The building was substantial brick with a wooden roof. It measured 60 feet wide by 98 feet long. The height of the first story was 13 feet and that of the second story was 21 feet in height. The overall height of the building excluding the belfry was 65 feet. The building was constructed cheaply considering the cost as to the size and solidity of the building.

About 1 a.m. on the morning of September 12, 1882, fire that had been smoldering in the loft, burst through the roof. The water pressure was not enough to force the water to the top of the courthouse and the flames gained resistless headway. The building was gutted in a few hours, leaving the walls standing comparatively intact. Total insurance received from the result of this fire amounted to \$25,000.

TODAY'S COURTHOUSE

The present courthouse, built in 1883, was awarded after 16 bidders placed contracts for the new building.

John Cooper's bid was the highest at \$135,000 and the lowest bid was that of P.H. Melvin at \$88,370. This bid allowed \$5,000 for materials from the former courthouse and jail. Mr. Melvin was awarded the contract and work was to be completed by November 16, 1884. The work commenced on July 16, 1883, but the building was not handed over to the County Commissioners John Keatly, Aaron Kline and Johnson Wilson until October 14, 1885. However, Board of Commissioners Samuel Bell, David Heffron and Emmanuel Over were the ones to assume office in the new building.

Henry Warner of Allegheny executed the Fresco work. The Star Encaustic Tile Company of Pittsburgh laid the tile floors. Howard Clock Company of New York furnished the clock dial, which is nine feet in diameter and the bell that weighs 1313 pounds.

The present courthouse is a variation of the Queen Anne style of Architecture. Its general dimensions are 78 feet, 8 inches wide, 134 feet long and the elevation from the ground to the top of the tower figure is 213 feet. The tower rests on foundation walls 4 ½ feet thick, which in turn are supported by three graded

courses of stone. Stone columns in the corner of the vestibules and iron cross-girders carry the tower up in the three internal sides. It is surmounted by a galvanized iron figure of justice 9 feet, 11 inches in height. The interior of the clock loft is fitted with gas pipes for illumination. The tower is 25 feet square and its elevation above the roof is 139 feet, and that of the tapering part is 56 feet. The height of the highest part of the body of the structure is 90 feet, 9 inches. The walls of the main part of the structure are constructed of stone and brick and are 22 inches in thickness. The roof is of tin and slate.

THE INNER WORKINGS

The basement part of the building extends the whole length and width of the building and is 10 feet in height. It contains the engine and boiler room.

The building is ventilated on the vacuum principle. A large fan exhausts the vitiated air from all parts of the building. The fan is 62 inches in diameter and 27 inches wide; it escapes up the foul air flue. All the heating and ventilation is done by one engine. The basement is also furnished with a gas regulator and water meter.

In the first story are county offices on each side of the corridor, which is 16 feet wide.

This story is 14 feet, 9 inches high and has a vaulted brick ceiling and is fireproof. The second story is 21 feet in height and the third floor or mezzanine story is 12 feet in height. Each has a lobby that is 21 feet square. The corridor and the lobbies are paved with ornamental tile. On the second floor is the courtroom in front of which on either side of the lobby are two waiting rooms for ladies and in the rear the judge's and attorney's room and two rooms for petit juries. The third story contains the apartment of the county superintendent and surveyor, opening from the front vestibule. From the rear, the grand jury room and two witness waiting rooms. The total cost of the building came to \$126,936.

CHANGES TO THE PRESENT COURTHOUSE

- 1889 Clock was illuminated at night
- 1907 Exterior wood and lady of justice was painted
- 1910 Newly graded and terraced landscaping
- 1918 Erection of flagpole 70 feet high
- 1920 County memorial in front lawn
- 1922 Installation of 2 drinking fountains
- 1923 Wired for electric lights
- 1941 Lights in tower darkened during World War Two period
- 1944 Lights back on in tower
- 1977 Complete re-wiring of the electrical system
- 1981 and again in 2002
Complete exterior renovations

COURTHOUSE RENOVATION PROJECT OF 1981

Actual work began on June 22, 1981, with the erection of the scaffolding at which time, work then began on the repairs to the roof on June 29, 1981.

Needed repairs were as follows:

Lady Justice – removed and repaired/restoration and anchored

New roof – slate shingles

Brick work – re-set and re-point all brickwork

Painting – paint and replace all ornamental metal work, woodwork, and iron

Caulking – all windows

Windows – replace all windows

Clock – replace clock face glass

Steps – removal and re-installation of front and rear steps

Lightning protection added



The Lady of Justice watches over Clarion County

The “Lady of Justice” came down from her pedestal on July 23, 1981. This was quite an attraction to the area residents. Upon examination she was quite deteriorated. Her left arm, the arm that held the “scales of justice,” was missing. Rumor has it that a small airplane hit her arm and scales a few years earlier causing the statue considerable damage. There were approximately 25 bullet holes in the statue, and she was quite weathered. As stated previously she was made of galvanized iron. However, the material that she is composed of is zinc. When measured she stands 9 feet, 11 inches in height and her approximate weight was estimated to be 125 pounds.

The female figure of “Justice” comes to us from Greek mythology. Themis, mother of the fates and the seasons, was the goddess of divine justice. The rites of hospitality were under her protection, and she also presided over public assemblies. She is protection and she also presided over public assemblies. She is represented in art as a commanding, austere woman holding a sword and scales, the symbol of order and justice. Her daughter, Astraea, who wears a crown of stars, also represents justice in classical mythology.

It has not been determined who designed this statue, which is hollow. By what method it was originally placed atop the Clarion County Courthouse is also not known. It is likely the identical figure produced from the same mold was used at other courthouses, as she is a fitting guardian for a hall of justice and a government seat.

COURTHOUSE RENOVATION PROJECT OF 2001/2002

This project began in the summer of 2001 and was originally slated to be completed in November 2001 with an estimated cost of \$1.2 million; the renovation project grew to a cost of almost \$1.9 million and extended five months as serious deterioration was found in the buildings clock tower.

Shortly before those renovations were complete, major structural damage to the clock tower was discovered including rotting rafters and deteriorating brick, causing the tower to be structurally unsound. The additional repairs, representing costs that were time and materials only, were expected to push the final cost up by a maximum of \$473,000.



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2018–PRESENT COURTHOUSE RENOVATIONS

Pella Wood Windows were installed throughout the courthouse. A new Law Library and conference rooms were added to the third floor of the courthouse. Renovations to the assessment, GIS and planning departments added enhanced workspace. All new computer wiring, and some HVAC units were installed to service both courtrooms.

In 2021 Clarion County Board of Commissioners Theodore W. Tharan, Wayne R. Brosius, C. Edward Heasley and President Judge Sara Seidle-Patton collectively developed remodeling plans for courtroom one. The remodel will include a technology upgrade, new courtroom seating, jury box and witness stand. Among the COVID-19 pandemic, fundamental flaws were exposed in the design of courtroom 1 and the courthouse public restrooms.

Installation of new courtroom benches and the re-configuration of the jury box and witness stand will implement social distancing designs. The restrooms will be retrofitted to include touchless amenities such as sinks, toilets and paper towel dispensers.

The technology upgrade will include new audio connections, Monopod, wireless conference phone, Watchguard Wireless Access Point, and electric access for lawyer tables.

Courtroom 1 will receive a modern design with the addition of new carpeting installed and a neutral color scheme painted on the walls. The 2021 remodel will cost approximately \$550,000.

Future plans include replacing the rear entrance along with renovation to the basement level of the courthouse. All work on the projects were completed using inhouse maintenance and IT labor. Purchases for building materials and technology upgrades were purchased through the COSTARS Program which enabled the county to complete additional projects. ▀

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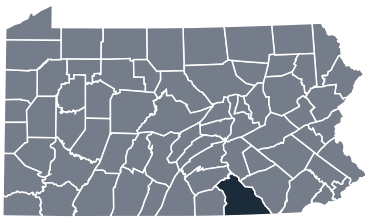
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Courthouses of Pennsylvania

York

▼ COUNTY COURTHOUSE PROFILES



Scott Butcher, Local Historian

John Uhler, Former York County Court of Common Pleas Judge

Mark Walters, York County Communications Director

The County of York was formed in 1749 by an act of the Pennsylvania General Assembly. In 1754, William Willis began construction on the first county courthouse on what now is Continental Square in downtown York. This project was completed in 1756 and served as the home to the Second Continental Congress from September 1777 through June 1778.

In 1839, it was determined that a new courthouse was needed. To the dismay of the general public and after many petitions were circulated to try and influence the decision of the new location, the commissioners decided on the 28 E. Market Street location. In 1841, the second county courthouse was opened at the site of the current structure. This facility was designed by architect John Haviland and was built at a cost of \$100,000. Unfortunately, this Grecian-styled courthouse remained in disfavor of the county residents.

There were only three windows on the entire front of the building and when completed, it lacked space for all that was required. Numerous renovations were undertaken, but the building continued to be plagued

with problems such as poor ventilation that prompted the grand juries to prevail upon the commissioners the need for a new or remodeled facility.

OCCUPIED

This courthouse became the scene of national attention in June 1863 when some 10,000 Confederate troops under the command of General Jubal Early occupied the Borough of York and used the facility as their headquarters. General Early took over the sheriff's office on the west side of the facility. Demands were made for \$100,000, food and sundries for the borough to be spared. \$28,000 was raised before General Early was called to assist at Gettysburg by his superiors.

In 1898, deemed inadequate and unpopular, it was decided to renovate the existing courthouse, with the exception of the front columns, and replace it with a larger, more functional building at the same location. A third story was added as well as a three-story addition to the rear. The large courtroom #1, which remains today, was re-modeled and refitted and a



The current York County administrative center

second courtroom was added on the second floor. A law library and grand jury facilities were added to the third floor. This new three-story building was designed by John Dempwolf and consisted of three distinctive domes to allow light into the courtrooms, stair towers and corridors, with the central dome rising 155 feet above pavement. Luxuries in this facility included an elevator, a modern heating system and a ventilation system to cool the building during the summer months.

Between 1900 and 1950, the population of York County doubled, exceeding 200,000 residents. In 1943, the county acquired an adjacent property for an annex, eventually demolishing it during the 1957 expansion. Architect Clarence Forrer oversaw this \$1.5 million project, which included the construction of two, three-story wings. The project added the orphans' courtroom #3 and a domestic relations/juvenile courtroom #4 on the third floor as well as office space for county officials. The exterior appearance was signifi-

cantly altered with the addition of red brick, which replaced much of the yellow Roman brick from 1898. A second elevator was also added at this time.

GROWING POPULATION

Increased demand for space later necessitated the lease of nearby office space and later the purchase of the Human Services Center and One Marketway West in order to accommodate additional courtrooms and the expanded number of county employees. It was projected that the county's population would exceed 400,000 residents by 2004. In 2001, construction began on what is now the York County Judicial Center around the corner from the Administrative Center at 45 N. George St. In July 2004, this facility opened for business and "the old courthouse" – as it is still colloquially known by native Yorkers – was shut down for a renovation project that would result in the York County Administrative Center. The renovation was completed in 2006. This facility was recognized as



The evolution of the York County Courthouse wall honors previous courthouse structures: the administrative center, old courthouse and the new judicial center

being the first commercial structure in York County to receive Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certification and was also presented the Project of the Year Award for historical restoration/preservation by the American Public Works Association.

Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, or LEED, certification is a comprehensive process for making a building more energy efficient and environmentally conscious. This entails extensive upgrades to heating, ventilation and air conditioning as well as insulation and other utilities. LEED certification raises the profile of a building in the public arena, and in August 2008, the York County Administrative Center received its certification for the stately structure's more than 124,000 square feet. A plaque sits behind the dais where the county commissioners hold their regular public meetings.

Partial funding to support this cumbersome but worthwhile process entailed grant funding from the York County Community Foundation, a stalwart of philanthropic efforts that support local stakeholders to leverage grantmaking for meaningful community improvement.

CELEBRATION

In total, the project to renovate and preserve "the old courthouse" cost York County roughly \$18 million. Once a home to infamous trials, such as the Hex Murder trial in 1928, the building now houses the following county departments and agencies: elections & voter registration, facilities, conflict council, it, tax assessment/tax claim, treasurer, recorder of deeds, commissioners, budget & finance, human resources, solicitor, purchasing, controller, payroll and the York County Planning Commission.

Striking to the passersby are the building's three magnificent Florentine domes and its six stately pillars that loom over East Market Street. Permanent lighting was installed in the domes in August 2019 as part of the county's 270th anniversary. On August 19, 2019, a celebration was held whereby viewers got to see the domes light for the first time from the roof of a parking garage across the street. You could hear the applause from inside the dome. While it only rings on occasion, it is noteworthy that the bell can still ring by a hand-pulled wire. The clocks on the

dome, which courthouses had to help people make their court dates on time, are fully operational and accurate.

A drive for private funds to light up the domes for the 270th anniversary of the founding of York County was not only extremely successful but very highly regarded within the community. It has served as a tremendous example of public-private partnerships that can make impactful differences in York County.

There were funds remaining after the completion of the dome lighting project so the organizations and people involved with the original project sought additional funding to up-light the six pillars that grace the front of the building that has withstood the test of time as a staple of the York City skyline, particularly at night.

The county is currently undertaking a restoration project of the three domes and clock faces to ensure that the building remains one of York County's treasures for years to come. 🏛️



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A photograph of a meadow with tall green grass and purple flowers in the foreground. The background shows a line of trees under a sunset sky with warm, golden light.

RAISING A MEADOW

Considerations for Successful
Project Management

With shrinking maintenance budgets on the horizon, municipalities and other public agencies have been researching options to reduce costs. While turf is necessary for some public areas, there are considerable costs for equipment, labor and maintenance.

Alternatively, well-implemented meadows and natural landscapes require much less costly maintenance and can offer substantial cost savings while offering other sustainable benefits to our communities.

NOT A QUICK, CHEAP OR EASY FIX

While the benefits of meadows are numerous, there are many important considerations to help decide if establishing a more natural landscape is the right decision. It is not as simple as raising the mower deck and redirecting maintenance staff tasks. In fact, implemented improperly, establishing a meadow without strategic direction can become an extremely expensive mistake.

Properly established meadows involve several seasons of investment in time and resources. The cost-savings are not immediate, as there are up-front developmental costs that will lead to long-term maintenance savings over seasons of operation.



STEPS TO ESTABLISHING THE MEADOW

- **Plan a location.** In late winter before you begin, select an appropriate area to establish your project.
- **Kill off existing turfgrass.** To remove turfgrass, you could simply spray the areas with an herbicide like glyphosate. However, there are more sustainable methods that successfully stop weeds from growing. One option is to mechanically remove turf and the topsoil underneath it, which eliminates weeds and their seeds that would compete with your meadow. Alternatively, lay sheets of thick (4-6 mil) plastic over the entire area, overlapping the edges by about a foot, and weigh the ends down with soil.
- **Use an organic approach.** If this is preferred, start with a layer of cardboard to smother grass and weeds. Watering the cardboard and pinning it down helps it stay in place. Apply shredded bark or other material over top to make it less conspicuous than an expanse of plastic. Remove all organic material before seeding to avoid enriching nutrient levels in the soil, because wildflowers do best in soil that is low in nutrients.
- **Purchase seed.** Choose an appropriate native seed mix depending upon your specific climate and desired outcome. Costs will vary depending if you want to establish colorful wildflowers, native grass species, or a combination of the two in different areas. The cost for seed mixes can average from \$60-80 per 1000 square feet, if seeded at a rate of 20lbs per acre (~0.5lb/1000 square feet). Ensure you consult a reputable native

seed supplier from within your state to ensure you purchase the best mix, as bargain mixes may contain old, damaged, or moldy seed that either may have lower germination or may contain invasive species, which could produce questionable results.

LONG-TERM PLANNING

The first several years after planting are critical to ensuring native grasses become well-established and that weeds do not take over. A full season of site preparation is necessary for success because young wildflower seedlings stay small and low to the ground their first year and cannot compete against more vigorous weeds. These initial seasons require carefully timed mowing to prevent the weeds from developing seed heads while allowing native plants to flourish. Weeds grow more quickly than native grasses and wildflowers, so regular high (4-6") mowing will keep the weeds from flowering while allowing the natives to grow and mature.



Maintenance needs will depend a great deal on how well the site is prepared before the meadow is planted and on what types of invasive weed seeds are in the soil. It is important to have a long-term plan for keeping turf grasses out of your meadow. Ensure maintenance crews use mowing patterns to direct any side-cast clippings away from the meadow areas to prevent any unwanted seeds from blowing right back into the area where you are trying to eliminate turf.

After your planting has become established and has covered all exposed ground, maintenance requirements will be substantially reduced. Long-term maintenance involves simulating natural disturbance to keep woody species from moving in and turning the meadow into a woodland. Therefore, your crews will need to continue mowing areas at least 2 – 3 times throughout a growing season in order to maintain these areas.



COMMUNICATING WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

Just because your crews agree with native landscape creation does not mean that the municipal government or neighboring households will support the project. There may be citizens who have objections based upon the perception of a “sloppy” appearance, fear of insects, or wildlife infestation. Work with local conservation groups, scout groups, school districts, and other community organizations to ensure that all the concerned stakeholders are informed of the project – they can become your biggest proponents. Once the community understands the significant social and ecological benefits of meadow projects, they are more likely to be supportive.

Educational signage can help improve public perception during each phase of the project. Engage your community in the monitoring process by using social media to generate user-driven content and to capture positive testimonials. Keep

written notes, photos, and numerical data to record what has been done. This information can be useful to demonstrate progress, nullify potential opposition, and promote fund-raising for future projects.

Properly established meadows and pollinator gardens provide low-maintenance, high-biodiversity habitats that add beauty and value to our communities. Natural landscapes need not be confined to state parks, conservation areas, and nature reserves. Restoring ecological communities to settled landscapes can provide vital connections among remnant natural areas and provide social and economic benefits to our communities.

Opportunities for natural landscapes exist everywhere, including in local community parks, along highway shoulders, and in various open spaces that are currently viewed as maintenance challenges. Cultivating changes in community landscapes can involve everyone, offering both fun and educational experiences for all citizens. 🍷



News-worthy

FALL 2021

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Kehoe Law Firm, P.C.

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Kehoe Law Firm specializes in securities litigation, both class, and direct actions, on behalf of individual and institutional investors. We also represent investors in matters of corporate misconduct and abuse, such as when executives and directors breach fiduciary duties of care and loyalty or engage in self-dealing or other forms of corporate waste. We are highly experienced in securities litigation and have dedicated ourselves to representing investors recovering billions on their behalf.

Pennsylvania Conservative Energy Forum

<https://penncef.org/>

PennCEF was created by PA leaders who want the Commonwealth to adopt an all-of-the-above diversified energy portfolio, emphasizing renewable energy alongside natural gas and nuclear. This will help create good paying jobs, improve national security, conserve natural resources, and position Pennsylvania to compete in the global marketplace. We target conservatives but we are bipartisan in our approach and in the ranks of supporters who see us as a source of science-based educational content.

Perform Care

<https://pa.performcare.org>

PerformCare, founded in 1994 as CBHNP, is a nationally known leader in providing innovative behavioral health solutions to its members. In 2008, PerformCare became a member of AmeriHealth Caritas. PerformCare achieved success through a partnership approach to contract, a mission-driven philosophy, and an unwavering commitment to quality. PerformCare offers an industry-leading program in a statewide System of Care model and integrated medical and behavioral health programs.

Vesper Capital Management

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Founded by 35 year industry veteran John Thompson, West Virginia University Distinguished Professor Dr. Victor Chow, Ph.D., CFA and entrepreneur George Elias, Vesper Capital is a unique academic / private sector collaborative created to bring innovative investment strategies to market to help individuals and institutions better achieve their investment goals.

CCAP Executive Director Lisa Schaefer

recently earned the Certified Association Executive Program (CAE) credential from the American Society of Association Executives. CAE elevates professional standards, enhances individual performance, and designates those who have acquired and have demonstrated the knowledge essential to the practice of association management.



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The American Rescue Plan



**ELIGIBLE USES, FUNDING
STRATEGIES AND COMPLIANCE
FOR PENNSYLVANIA COUNTIES**

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP) was signed into law on March 11, 2021. ARP delivers \$350 billion for eligible state, local, territorial and tribal governments to respond to the COVID-19 emergency, which includes \$65.1 billion for U.S. counties. This represents a tremendous opportunity for Pennsylvania counties to help their communities recover and make a lasting impact.

Although ARP Fiscal Recovery Funds (FRF) are broader than the 2020 Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act in terms of scope and timing, it is critical to understand the eligible uses for FRF and comply with the associated reporting requirements. Given the extended timeframe counties have to spend these funds, it is equally important to develop a strategy that allocates FRF dollars to meet community needs.

TIMELINE

Most Pennsylvania counties have received the initial 50% tranche of FRF, with the remainder to arrive one year later (May 2022). March 3, 2021, officially began the “period of performance,” the date beyond which FRF could be spent or obligated. FRF must be incurred or obligated (i.e., contract signed, subawards made, goods or services ordered) by Dec. 31, 2024. Then, the performance extends an additional two years through Dec. 31, 2026, by which time recipients are required to have their projects completed and their FRF expended.

ELIGIBLE USES

When strategizing eligible uses for FRF, counties should consider the following overarching principles:

- Was there a need identified that is directly attributable to the COVID-19 pandemic?
- Would the use of FRF funds for the expense incurred respond to that need?

Generally, costs that were allowable under the CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) continue to be eligible under FRF, with certain exceptions. For example, payroll costs for public health and public safety employees or units must now be primarily dedicated to COVID-19 response to be eligible for FRF; there is no longer a convenience waiver available for all employees in public health/safety roles, which was the case with CRF. Additionally, CRF provided for expenses related to the issuance of tax revenue anticipation notes, whereas FRF no longer provides for these costs.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND ECONOMIC IMPACT

Provisions are included in FRF for behavioral health services, including mental health and substance abuse treatment. Programs that the county may already operate in these areas may qualify for supplemental funding or new programs could be created to address challenges brought on by the pandemic. In addition, capital investments or improvements to medical facilities that mitigate COVID-19, address the operational needs that are a direct result of the pandemic or enhance or facilitate social distancing or the distribution of vaccinations could be claimed under this provision. Key in this process will be documentation of the county’s strategy and process behind the program so that an audit trail exists.

ASSISTANCE

Eligible assistance to households includes food, housing, utility, cash, assistance for burials, job training and more. Counties could provide such relief through a hardship assistance program. Cash transfers are allowed, provided the county considers the extent to which the household has experienced a negative economic impact from the pandemic. Take guidance from the per person amounts previously provided by the federal government in response to the pandemic in determining the transfer amount. Again, documentation is key.

Assistance to businesses and not-for-profits includes loans or grants for revenue declines, employee retention, operating costs, COVID-19 mitigation tactics and business planning needs, such as job training to accelerate hiring of unemployed and laid off workers.

PREMIUM PAY

Essential healthcare, retail, public health, warehouse, drivers, janitors, childcare, educators, social/human services and other workers are eligible for premium pay under FRF. This program is intended for individuals who were required to “go into work” during the pandemic. Employees who telework are explicitly excluded from receiving premium pay reimbursed from FRF.

Premium pay must be entirely additive to a worker’s regular rate of wages and may not be used to

reduce or substitute for a worker's normal earnings. The U.S. Treasury has provided a limitation of \$13 per hour, which is capped at \$25,000 per worker. Prioritization should be given to lower income workers and those who have not already been paid (i.e., under CRF).

REVENUE LOSS

A positive development within the FRF was the provision for lost revenue as an eligible use. Revenues subject to this provision include taxes, charges for services and certain intergovernmental revenues (i.e., types of revenues routinely generated by Pennsylvania counties). Exclusions, mainly related to utility revenues, do apply. Revenue loss determinations should be based on the county as a whole, not just the General Fund, less appropriate exclusions.

The revenue loss calculation must be made on a calendar year-end. For entities that operate on a fiscal year-end, tools are available to assist with the necessary conversion. FRF also provides for a default growth adjustment of 4.1%, which can be increased if the county's actual growth average over the last three fiscal years prior to the pandemic exceeds the 4.1% benchmark.

In general, a comparison is made of actual revenues, net of the appropriate exclusions, during the 12-month periods ending December 31, 2020 through December 31, 2023. There is no

burden of proof that revenue reductions need to be related to COVID-19; any revenue loss that does not meet the county's growth factor is assumed to be related to the pandemic.

Revenue loss claims can then be used for:

- Provision of government services, such as maintaining or building new infrastructure (limited to revenue loss), cybersecurity, health, public safety and other upgrades
- Avoidance of cutback on government services, including government employees, to help prevent broader economic downturns

FRF revenue loss funds cannot be used for debt service, the replenishment of reserves/rainy day funds (e.g., General Fund balance replenishment) or the payment of settlements, as well as other restrictions.

INVESTMENTS IN INFRASTRUCTURE

ARP includes a provision for direct use of FRF for water and sewer infrastructure projects. Projects generally eligible under the Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water Fund programs are eligible FRF expenditures. Recipients may not use funds as a match for such programs.

Counties can also use FRF for direct investments in broadband infrastructure. Program requirements indicate that improvements must reliably deliver speeds of 100 Mbps (with exceptions for areas where

this is impractical due to geography, topography or cost). Programs should be designed to benefit unserved or underserved households and may include internet access or digital literacy assistance to households facing negative economic impact due to COVID-19. The modernization of cybersecurity is also an eligible expenditure.

INELIGIBLE USES

Certain overarching areas are ineligible in FRF program guidelines:

- Pension deposits: unscheduled/extra payments outside of normal payment timing that reduces an unfunded pension liability (normal contributions for eligible employees are permitted)
- FRF may not offset reduction in net tax revenue that resulted from a change in law, regulation or administrative interpretation
- FRF cannot be used as a match to federal programs

In addition, use of FRF is subject to provisions in the Uniform Guidance.

Unlike CARES Act County Relief Block Grant funding that appeared in Pennsylvania counties' bank accounts with less than a year to plan for and expend the funds and limited guidance available, there is ample opportunity with the ARP FRF to effectively strategize how these funds can be best used to support the long-term recovery and growth of Pennsylvania communities. 📌

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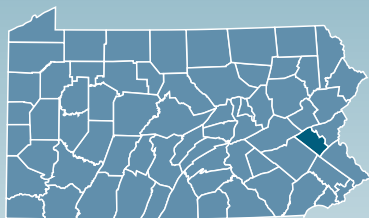


Tim Morgus, CPA, CFE, CGFM
Partner
412.535.5502
tmorgus@md-cpas.com

Brian T. McCall, CPA, CGFM
Partner
412.535.5540
bmccall@md-cpas.com



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COUNTY HIGHLIGHT:
LEHIGH

Laura Grammes
Lehigh County Public
Information Officer



Public Defense Redefined

for Lehigh County
Communities

COMMUNITY OUTREACH DAY: A New Take on Public Defense and Representation

Throughout the United States, it has been the job of the public defender to provide legal representation, consultation, and instruction to those involved in the criminal justice system. For so many individuals, the public defender is the only option financially available to them when facing charges, and for so many, the underlying problems that often resorted those to criminal pursuits do not disappear.

In Lehigh County, Pa., the Office of the Public Defender is taking a stance on this vicious cycle by extending its services beyond the courtroom and right into the heart of the community.

On June 5, 2021, the office came together with local organizations to bring Community Outreach Day to the people of Lehigh County. Free legal consultations. Accessible COVID-19 vaccinations. A food pantry for the hungry. All of these services, and more, were readily available to all who stopped by.

OFFSETTING COLATERAL CONSEQUENCES

Created by Chief Public Defender Kimberly Makoul, Community Outreach Day is exactly what its name states. It is a day where the office reaches out to the community with services and resources that would hopefully offset the collateral consequences brought on from being involved in the judicial system. Multiple volunteer groups joined in on the cause, and soon enough, the concept of Community Outreach Day became a reality.

Makoul was greatly inspired by a holistic client-centered representation model when it came to planning Community Outreach Day. In her eyes, a holistic approach is the key to full and true client representation and necessary to understanding the “whole” picture of a court case. In other words, one cannot just remedy the symptom of a crime without first looking at the root of the issue.



“A holistic client-centered representation model presents the theory that to be truly effective representatives of our clients, we not only have to deal with the underlying criminal charges, but we have to address the collateral consequences that arise from being involved in the criminal justice system,” said Makoul during a countywide press conference advocating Community Outreach Day. “Collateral consequences could be a loss of employment, loss of housing, loss of custody, immigration consequences ... you have to also address the nonlegal issues that drive people into the criminal justice system. Unless we can address all those issues, and focus on the client and all the client’s needs, we truly cannot be fully and completely effective in our representation.”

SERVICES AND RESOURCES

Stands lined Allentown’s Walnut Street parking lot the morning of June 5, offering a variety of services and resources to all who stopped by. The original plan was for residents to receive free con-

sultations from a licensed attorney regarding a suspended driver’s license, a deterrent that could keep someone from commuting to work or even obtaining a job, but it wasn’t long afterwards that more and more organizations volunteered their services. As a result, Community Outreach Day blossomed into a social services expo catered to supplying residents with what they needed to get back on their feet and out of the courtroom.

In the midst of a global pandemic, the event was widely welcomed by the community. The Allentown Health Bureau was present to provide accessible COVID-19 shots at the site to any individual who wished to receive a vaccine. By providing another accessible outlet for vaccinations, residents had another opportunity to combat the spread of COVID-19 and regain control of their day to day lives. This could not have been possible without the assistance of the Allentown Health Bureau and their volunteer efforts to make the vaccine more readily available to the community.

Free legal consultations.

Accessible COVID-19 vaccinations.

A food pantry for the hungry.

All of these services, and more, were readily available to all who stopped by.



A food pantry was also made possible at Community Outreach Day thanks to multiple, generous donations from local grocery chains. At the event, any resident was able to receive a supply of a food at the event, even if they were not in need of the other services. That is what Community Outreach Day is all about—getting to the root of the problem and providing a solution before any escalation occurs.

REALIZING THE IMPACT

The following organizations were also present at the 2021 Community Outreach Day:

- Catholic Charities, Diocese of Allentown
- The Lehigh Conference of Churches
- PA Career Link Lehigh Valley
- Treatment Trends, Inc.
- Workforce Board Lehigh Valley

Rental assistance resources were provided by the Diocese of Allentown's Catholic Charities organization and The Lehigh Conference of Churches along with career opportunities provided by PA Career Link of the Lehigh Valley, Fed EX, and Workforce Board Lehigh Valley. Treatment Trends, Inc. was also present on site to offer free resources for those seeking to recover from drug and alcohol addiction. These organizations realized the impact on what Community Outreach Day could do for the community, and because of their volunteer efforts, residents were able to receive the help they need in a completely judgement-free space.

The idea of a community outreach event in Lehigh County was strongly approved by County Executive Phillips M. Armstrong and his administration.

"It makes me proud to be in Lehigh

County when you get this kind of support for a volunteer program which will make life better for the people who need help in our county. We are taking steps forward. It's not about what you did yesterday but what you are doing tomorrow. It takes cooperation with each other and this is a great example of Lehigh County working with so many different organizations to make a great day for our residents," said Armstrong.

STRENGTHENING THE CONNECTION

Community Outreach Day was well received by both county officials, volunteers, and residents alike. After its initial success on June 5, 2021, there are hopes in the future to make Community Outreach Day an annual, if not biannual, occurrence in Lehigh County. It is a step forward in strengthening the connection between the people and their local government.

"We need to be there for our residents. Not just represent them in court, but truly be there when there is a problem. That is what county government is all about. It's not about the politics. It's about the people," said Armstrong. "It always has been."

Chief Public Defender Kimberly Makoul had a longstanding vision to fully represent the people of Lehigh County, and through Community Outreach Day, that was made possible. A well-rounded representation starts at the core of one's life, and now is the time to fully address what can be done for our communities.

Not just for one need, but for all. 🍷



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A Veteran's Pension is an Important Benefit to Understand, Manage



Veterans and their survivors may be eligible for various benefits from the Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (commonly referred to as VA). Some benefits are service related while others are non-service related.

Service-related benefits do not normally factor in the wealth or income level of the veteran or eligible dependent who is applying. Instead, they are awarded based on a disability related to an injury or disease that developed during or was aggravated while on active duty in the military. Non-service-related benefits look at the timeframe of a veteran's military service (era and/or length of service) and often require that the veteran or beneficiary can meet certain income and/or asset limits to qualify. Additionally, some of these non-service-related benefits also consider the medical needs of the applicant to determine eligibility. One example of this type of benefit is the VA pension.

The application process for veteran benefits such as the VA pension can be intimidating, and many veterans and beneficiaries are unsure where to go for assistance. Despite federal law requiring that those who prepare benefit claims be VA-accredited and refrain from charging fees for assistance, many non-accredited agencies have been targeting those seeking assistance with VA pensions and other veteran benefits. The people and agencies perpetrating this often represent legitimate companies registered with the Better Business Bureau.

"Veterans should never stress about receiving the proper assistance with their pension," said Brig. Gen. (PA) Maureen Weigl, DMVA deputy adjutant general for Veterans Affairs. "Pennsylvania has numerous accredited veteran service officers available who are eager to help veterans and apply for benefits free of charge. In fact, there are approximately 200 veteran service officers in Pennsylvania who work within organizations such as the DMVA, county veterans affairs offices and several veterans service organizations."



MORE SPECIFICS ABOUT A VA PENSION?

A VA pension provides monthly payments to wartime veterans and survivors who meet certain age or disability requirements, and who have income and net worth within certain limits. Additionally, those who can prove that they require the aid of someone to perform activities of daily living (e.g., bathing, dressing, eating, toileting, and ambulating), or those who are housebound, may be eligible for enhanced pension benefits through Aid & Attendance (often referred to as A&A) or the Housebound Allowance. These payments greatly help aging veterans and their survivors pay for much-needed care at home or in a nursing facility.

It is important to clarify that a veteran pension is a needs-based benefit with specific eligibility criteria. It is meant to offset recurring medical expenses and should not be confused as a source of retirement funding. A vast majority of Aid & Attendance recipients are age 65 and older. According to a 2019 U.S. Government Accountability Office report, as of October 2018, 95 percent of Aid & Attendance recipients were age 65 and older with 68 percent being age 85 and older.

WHAT IS VETERAN PENSION POACHING?

Veteran pension poaching occurs when scammers, unscrupulous players or dishonest financial planners charge veterans or their beneficiaries for help in applying for or submitting applications for VA pensions. Additionally, some poachers sell financial products of questionable value. Others may charge a fee to restructure assets to make the veteran or beneficiary "eligible" under income and asset criteria. Others will sell a lump sum or advanced loan against a future awarded pension or a promise that the application will be approved if a fee is paid. Still others will sell in-home care that is overpriced or is never actually provided to the veteran.

Scam attempts often involve organizations that cold-call veterans, ask for credit card or bank information over the phone, or charge as much as \$6,000 upfront to represent claimants before VA with a percentage of any eventual back payment from VA as a portion of the overall fee. Veteran pension poaching is financial exploitation targeted at aging veterans and their survivors since the bulk of applicants are age 65 and older. While this is an issue nationwide, Pennsylvania is particularly vulnerable because it has one of the oldest veteran populations in the United States and therefore has a large percentage of aging veterans and beneficiaries who will seek assistance to apply for VA pension and other veteran benefits.

While the extent of pension poaching against Pennsylvania's veterans and their beneficiaries is not fully understood, these scams and fraud attempts occur with regularity. One veteran or beneficiary harmed is one too many! The good news is that veteran pension poaching, and other scams or fraud related to veteran benefits, can be avoided.

"Veterans served and sacrificed defending our freedom and deserve their pension," said Weigl. "No one should ever stand in the way of a veteran receiving their pension, but it does happen. Fortunately, getting scammed is avoidable. Veterans just need to seek assistance from advocates with the proper accreditation."

AVOIDING SCAMS

How can veterans and their beneficiaries avoid scams and fraud related to VA pension and other veteran benefits? Veterans or veteran family members should never pay for help in understanding or applying for veteran benefits. Free and safe assistance is always available from a VA-accredited Veteran Services Officer (VSO). An accredited VSO will help explain, complete, and submit federal or state veteran benefit applications for free. VA-accredited VSOs, attorneys, and claims agents are required to complete regular training and to adhere to federal guidelines. They are kept up to date on the latest changes and can help streamline to process.

Pennsylvania law requires every county to hire a Director of Veterans Affairs and that director must

become a VA-accredited Veteran Service Office (VSO). All 67 counties in Pennsylvania have an Office of Veterans Affairs with at least one accredited VSO on staff. Some offices have multiple VSOs on staff. A listing of Pennsylvania county directors of veterans affairs is publicly available via the DMVA's website and provides address, phone and email contact information for each office.

VA-accredited VSOs are also available through Veterans Service Organizations including AMVETS, Disabled American Veterans (DAV), the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), and Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA). To find an accredited VSO with one of these Veterans Service Organizations visit www.dmva.pa.gov/vetconnect and click on the tile for Veterans Service Organizations.

Accredited VSOs are also on staff at the DMVA and the Regional Offices out of Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. If you are wondering whether someone is VA-accredited or not, you can search for their name via the VA Accreditation Search Tool. Be sure to select the option for VSO representative.

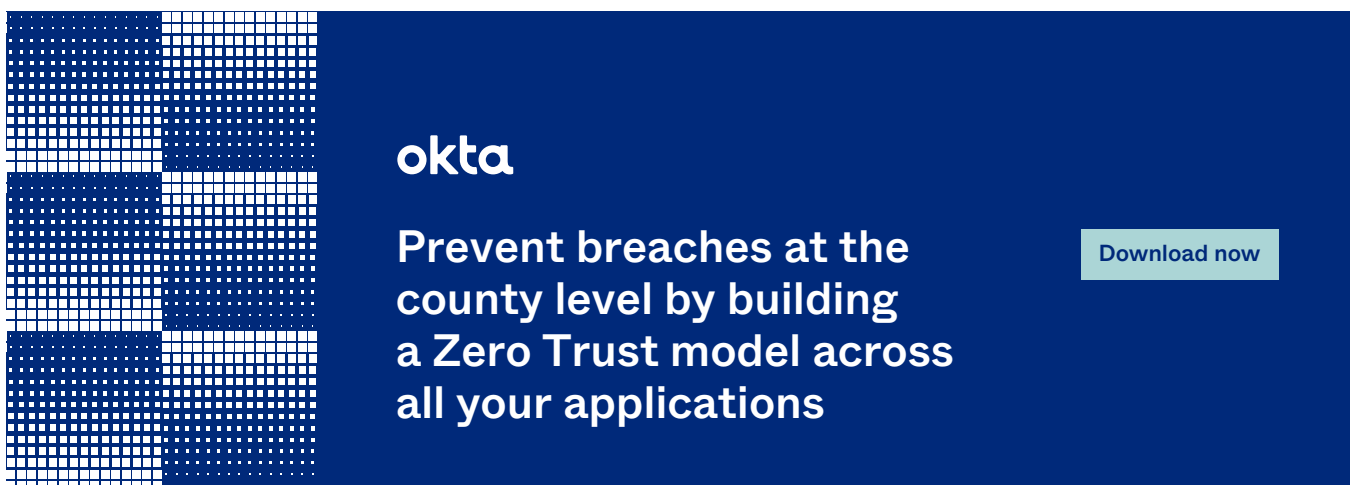
Remember: Veterans should never pay someone for help to complete or file an application for any veteran benefit. Forms cost nothing, filing an application is free, and the VA and the DMVA do not charge to process applications for their benefits and services. Veterans should never accept help from people who randomly contact them offering to assist in the application process, especially if there is any kind of fee attached.

Veterans and their beneficiaries should never pay someone who says that they can guarantee or promise a favorable decision on a benefit such as a pension application. Veterans should be cautioned that moving assets around to help meet financial eligibility criteria may in fact ultimately make the veteran ineligible not only for a VA pension but for state benefits as well (e.g., Medical Assistance). Additionally, restructuring assets may result in much-needed finances being tied up and inaccessible to the veteran. It could also result in the veteran or survivor having to repay benefits to the government.

FRAUD SUSPECTED?

If you or someone you know has paid for VA claim services, has worked on a VA claim with someone not properly accredited through the VA, or has experienced a scam or fraud related to veterans' benefits, please file a report immediately with the Pennsylvania Attorney General's Military and Veterans Affairs section via one of the methods listed below. Your help is needed to stop this from happening to other veterans and beneficiaries!

- Call (717) 783-1944
- Email PAvets@attorneygeneral.gov
- File a complaint online by following the "Submit a Complaint" link from any page of the www.attorneygeneral.gov website. When choosing this option, use the "consumer form" and check the box indicating that the complainant or immediate family member is a military member or a veteran. 🇺🇸

The advertisement features a dark blue background with a white grid pattern on the left side. The Okta logo is positioned in the upper left. The main text is centered and reads: "Prevent breaches at the county level by building a Zero Trust model across all your applications". A "Download now" button is located in the bottom right corner of the banner.

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Township of Upper Dublin

More than 300 school districts in Pennsylvania have chosen to complete their roofing and building envelope projects with Tremco Roofing and our affiliated construction services company WTI. And they're telling their counterparts in local government why.

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- Upfront pricing eliminates budget surprises
- Procurement is streamlined for fast project completion
- Installation is completed by qualified **local** contractors
- Turnkey solutions for comprehensive oversight and quality assurance
- Solutions for improving indoor air quality

Find out why so many Pennsylvania school districts and public entities have turned to Tremco.

Contact Jennifer Miller at jdmiller@tremcoinc.com or 412.225.6007 or visit YourRoofExperts.com.



Tremco Roofing and WTI are part of Tremco Construction Products Group



STRATEGIES TO SAFEGUARD YOUR FACILITY FROM

Winter's Wrath

Randal W. Kline, CDT
Senior Field Advisor
Tremco Roofing & Building Maintenance

With freezing temperatures averaging 100 or more days annually in Pennsylvania, there are ample opportunities for outdoor winter fun. However, the same ice and snow you enjoy in the rink or on the slopes can wreak havoc on your building if you're not properly prepared.

There are simple strategies you can use to prevent winter-induced facility problems. What's more, you can leverage them to save on energy and heating costs, and to ensure occupant health, safety, and comfort.

START AT THE TOP

Old man winter exposes roofs to several harsh conditions, such as snow loading, freeze-thaw cycling, storm debris and possibly even deicing chemicals. So, before the frost arrives, fight it by winterizing your roof with these best practices:

1. **Conduct a Thorough Inspection** – It's important to thoroughly inspect the entire roofing system for any damage and possible points of water entry. Look for tears or punctures to the roof's surface; signs of deterioration on the roof deck or beams/joints/columns; damaged counter flashings, downspouts, drains and pitch pans; and loose gutters or snow guards. Additionally, make sure all storm drains are free of blockage.

2. Identify Any Issues – During the roof inspection, identify and list any issues you find; determine which are critical and should be addressed immediately.

3. Take Corrective Action – Once you have identified any issues, you'll need to make repairs to seal your facility's roof against moisture infiltration. Left untreated, these issues can lead to leaking and the premature deterioration of a roofing system. There are winter-grade repair materials available well-suited to repair roofing defects in colder temperatures.

4. Beware of Snow Load – Being proactive about snow removal is important. If melting snow ponds on your roof, be aware that ponded water is deceptively heavy. Just three inches of water on a 30' x 30' section weighs more than 14,000 pounds – the equivalent of more than three cars.

Here's a winter tip to keep in mind when you're choosing a new roof: roofing systems engineered to provide a healthy "give and take" as the roof adapts to summer heat and winter cold deliver greater elasticity and can help to extend roof life. If you opt for a metal roof system, it should include a ventilated air space between the new and the old roof to help reduce heat transfer in the summer by 30% to 45% and limit icing at gutter edges in the winter months.

SEAL THE ENVELOPE

Your roof is just one part of your entire building envelope. All the components that serve to keep unconditioned air out of your building, such as walls, doors, and windows, are important to maintaining building health. Gaps, cracks, and holes in any building envelope component can cause leaks that result in uncontrolled air movement. Unintentional air leakage can lead to condensation and moisture damage in hidden cavities, rain penetration, poor indoor temperature and humidity control, and unnecessary heat loss in winter or heat gain in summer, which is inefficient and can tax HVAC systems.

Have you ever noticed moisture accumulating between the panes of glass during the winter months? Window problems result from a combination of air infiltration, condensation, and ice build-up. When unwanted moist air exfiltrates through interior sashes, condensation and frost form on the outside. To prevent this, make interior sashes more airtight. While windows and doors are common sources of air leakage, an often-overlooked culprit is the joints of assemblies such as roof/wall junctions, parapets, low level soffits, the intersections of different cladding systems, and internal vertical or horizontal shafts. A professional air barrier audit can help you to identify where leaks occur. The auditor should be able to provide you with energy savings calculations to help you demonstrate how the air sealing will improve energy efficiency and reduce costs.

PROTECT INDOOR AIR QUALITY

The condition of your roofs and building envelopes can significantly impact Indoor Air Quality (IAQ). If the building components that separate the uncontrolled exterior environment from your climate-controlled indoor environment are compromised, problems will result, such as the transmission of airborne contaminants, odors, pests, and HVAC inefficiencies/energy waste. Poor IAQ has been tied to symptoms like headaches, fatigue and trouble concentrating.

Wintertime in the Northeast is hard enough without having to deal with IAQ issues. Dry and cold air has low relative humidity levels that can dry out our eyes, skin, and mucous membrane linings, leading to nose bleeds, eye irritation, dry skin, and scratchy throats. Research indicates that Coronavirus lives longer in low humidity environments, and that low humidity can allow aerosols and droplets to stay aerosolized longer and travel further. It is a good practice to address air leakage as it relates to indoor air quality as part of efforts to minimize the risk of spreading COVID-19. HVAC system hygienic cleaning, sanitizing, and restoration (as needed) is also recommended.

Winter brings its own set of challenges but building envelope and indoor air quality degradation don't have to be among them. By being proactive you can help to ensure your facilities are dry, healthy, safe, and comfortable, no matter how harsh the winter season. 🍂



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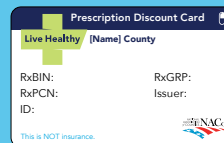
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