



ROBIN ROBINSON'S RECORDING NEWS

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE BUCKS COUNTY RECORDER OF DEEDS

Recorder of Deeds Office - 55 E. Court Street, Doylestown, PA 18901 - 215-348-6209
Monday through Friday 7:45AM to 4:15PM

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**

Please Call 215-348-6209 to schedule an appointment for Oath of Office for Notary Public or Recording Documents.

We are not taking appointments for searches at this time.

MISCELLANEOUS BOOKS PRESERVED AND RETURNED

The Recorder of Deeds is delighted to announce the return of the 61 miscellaneous books sent to Kofile, our preservation specialists, in February. These books hold a special place in Bucks County history, as they contain slave records.

It wasn't until Robinson went to a Pennsylvania Recorder of Deeds conference in 2018 that anyone in the office even knew

these records existed. These miscellaneous books contain many recordings, such as powers of attorney, sales of cattle and other goods. Staff in the office were able to find slave records in these books dating before the Civil War. The records include bills of sale and manumissions, which is the emancipation of slavery.

It was with the help of a \$125,000 federal grant that made preserving these books possible. This grant, called, Save America's Treasures, funds preservation on nationally significant historic collections. It was administered by the National Park Service in conjunction with the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), was received in the fall of 2019.



**Misc.
Books
Return**



**May
20,
2020**



Dennis and Joe from Kofile.
Robin Robinson, Recorder of Deeds.
Steven Pizzollo, ROD 2nd Deputy.
Mike Duncan, General Services.
Katy Meyerson, ROD Grant Writer.



Bucks County Military Affairs Helping Veterans in Need During the COVID-19 Pandemic and Everyday

The staff is always ready to help any veteran in need of assistance.

Please call the office at 215-345-3307 and they will help determine what kind of assistance is needed.



The PA Department of Military and Veteran Affairs has a grant program that will give a veteran up to \$1600 for bills/rent/mortgage/etc.

Contact either Lynn, in the Levittown office, at 267-580-3560 or Betty at 215-345-3885

Linda Salley, President of the African American Museum, was there in February to see these books off. She said, "It's exciting, this is what we've been searching for, the true history of Bucks County. And now it will be revealed. I'm grateful to be a part of this, to share this history with all of Bucks County and the world."

ROBIN ROBINSON AND STAFF, KEEPING IT ESSENTIAL FOR NOTARIES PUBLIC

That is what Robin Robinson and her staff are doing during the COVID-19 crisis, keeping the essential moving.

The Recorder of Deeds office archives many different documents, mainly ones that have to do with property. One set of documents, not

having to do with property, that the Recorder of Deeds takes care of is the swearing in and recording of newly appointed and renewing notaries public Oath of Office. Going to the Recorder of Deeds office is one of the last steps in the whole notary process.

Due to the ongoing pandemic, all Bucks County offices were closed to the public, and notaries could not come into the office to take their Oath of Office. Because notaries are essential to numerous business that are working during the COVID-19 pandemic, Robin, had decided to continue to administer their Oath of Office when possible, at an off-site location. Robinson says, "My office is here to serve the public. We have found ways to continue recording deeds and mortgages while keeping with the recommended social distancing. I want to make sure these newly appointed or renewing notary publics can continue to work and provide services that impact our daily life." Please understand that every precaution was being made during these interactions, from both Robin and the notary wearing masks, to using a new pen for every appointment.

The final step in the notary process is to go to the Prothonotary's Office and sign your signature card. Once this is all completed, the notary is then official and can legally notarize documents. Their commission is valid for a term of 4 years, after which must then be renewed.

To become a notary visit:

<https://www.dos.pa.gov/OtherServices/Notaries/Pages/default.aspx>

If you have any questions, please call the Bucks County Recorder of Deeds office at 215-348-6209.



FROM THE SOLICITOR'S CORNER – BY DIANNE MAGEE, ESQ.

Do You Need A Living Trust?



Living trusts were created about 40 years ago by attorneys in California, as a clever way to avoid an overly bureaucratic, expensive, and time-consuming process known as “probate.” When someone dies owning assets, such as real estate and financial accounts, in his name alone, without a beneficiary designation, those assets must be administered to pass from the decedent’s legal representative, known as an executor or an administrator, to the decedent’s beneficiaries under a will or to the decedent’s heirs at law. The process of having that personal representative appointed, either under a will or according to state law, and then collect the assets, pay the bills, and transfer the remaining assets to the beneficiaries or heirs is the probate process.

California has a formal probate process, which requires periodic reports to, and appearances before, a court. To escape those complications, the concept of a living trust was devised so that, when the individual died, there would be no assets titled his name alone to require probate. Accordingly, the individual, during lifetime, creates a trust, names himself as the trustee, transfers all of his assets into the trust, and directs in the trust what will happen to those assets upon his death.

Unlike California, Florida, and some other states, the probate process in Pennsylvania is informal and, under ordinary circumstances, never involves the court. Unless you own real estate in another state, which would then control the disposition of your real estate upon your death, or have other unusual reasons, creating a living trust will cause you much more trouble and expense during your lifetime than will the simple probate of your will cause to your designated executor. For married couples, probate is usually unnecessary when the first spouse dies, in any event. And, unless you are extremely diligent, the likelihood is that you will forget to transfer all of your assets into the trust, and probate will still be required.

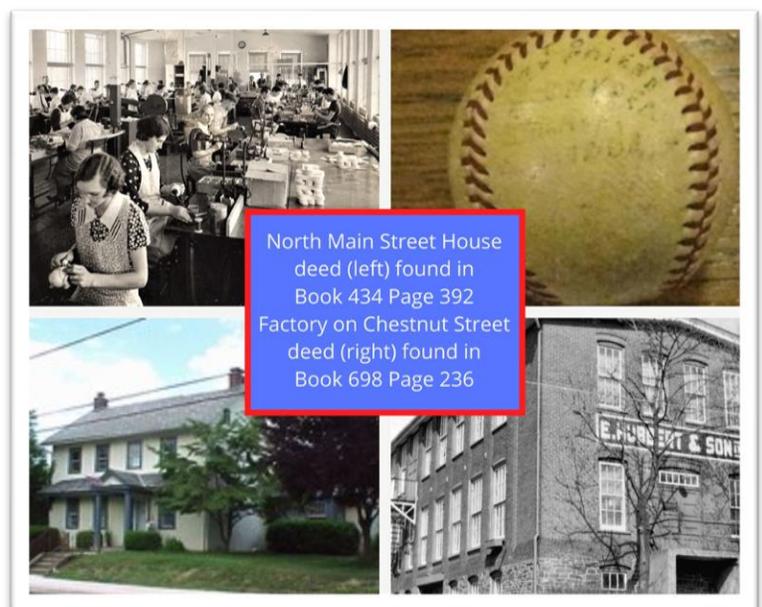
If you are a Pennsylvania resident, you probably do not need a living trust. Don’t fall for slick advertisements or marketers who tell you otherwise.

PERKASIE AND MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

When most people think about Major League Baseball and history, they think Cooperstown and the Baseball Hall of Fame. But Perkasio holds some history too.

Ed and Walt Hubbert, brothers, moved their families to Perkasio in 1920 and started their small business of stitching baseballs. In 1935, the brothers made a deal with A.G. Spalding Co. to produce all the balls used by both the American and National leagues.

Soon most of the Hubbert family was stitching baseballs in the kitchen of their home. This home, 142 North Main Street, had an addition made to accommodate neighbors that also started helping stitch and was considered the Hubbert’s first factory. As the business and need for baseballs grew, the Hubbert brothers opened a two-story factory on Chestnut Street. Between 1935 and 1950 about a third of Perkasio’s population were employed by the



Hubbert brothers. The likes of Babe Ruth, Joe DiMaggio and Connie Mack set records hitting baseballs stitched in Perkasio.

When the contract with Spalding ended, so did the business. But this didn't stop the Hubbert family. David Hubbert, Walt's son, developed a better, more durable softball. The softball production, which started in David's basement and was expanded through the Dudley Sports Company in New York, ensured the employment of 1,000 people in Perkasio. Due to outsourcing, production of the softballs ended in 1990, officially ending the ball stitching tradition in Perkasio.



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HISTORY OF PERKASIE

Even without baseball, Perkasio is a historic place in Bucks County. Incorporated in 1879, it was just 1,640 acres and was named after a tract of land owned by William Penn, called the Manor of Perkasio. The word "Perkasio" comes from the Lenape Indian word, "Poekskos-sing", which means "where hickory nuts are cracked." Starting out with just 68 residents, Perkasio has grown since 1879, now having over 8,000 residents.

Since being incorporated, Perkasio has had two historic fires, taking place almost 100 years apart. The first fire took place on June 8, 1890, destroying 12 buildings. This fire started at the livery stable on 7th Street and led Perkasio council to form the Hope Fire Company. The second fire, burning down about 15% of the town and known as The Great Perkasio Fire, took place on June 26, 1988. It started behind Shelley & Sons lumberyard on 7th and Market Streets, by two boys playing with a lighter. Fighting this fire took 300 firefighters and over 50 neighboring fire companies. While no fatalities were reported, Perkasio lost many historic buildings, two of which were dated back to 1870.

Here are some of the historic places you can find in Perkasio:

- **The Perkasio Historical Society Museum Building**

Located at 513 W. Walnut Street, the building was constructed in 1912 by the Lehigh Valley Transit Company, who purchased the land from Ulysses G. Singmaster in 1911. Used as a trolley station and was part of the Liberty Bell line, which connected Allentown to Philadelphia. Singmaster has purchased the land from Harry E. Grim. Grim was one of the brothers that formed Grim and Grim Law Firm, now known as Grim, Biehn & Thatcher Law Firm.

The deed from Grim to Singmaster can be found in Book 368 Page 326.

The deed from Singmaster to the Lehigh Valley Transit Company can be found in Book 366 Page 304.

For more information about the Perkasio Historical Society and the Museum you can visit

<https://www.perkasiohistory.org/>



- **The American House**



In 1883, Phillip Cressman purchased the American House, located on Seventh Street in Perkaspie, from Oliver Nase. It wasn't until 1887 that Cressman started making major improvements to the property, which included moving the original hotel across the street to 115 & 117 North Sixth Street in 1894. A new hotel, and other businesses, were then built on the original site. The new hotel had a very distinctive tower that was removed at some point. Unfortunately, the hotel was burned in The Great Perkaspie Fire in 1988. The deed from Nase to Cressman can be found in Book 209 Page 483.

- **The Herstine Building**

Located at Seventh and Market Streets, this building was originally established as a woolen mill in 1856. A lot of firsts started from this building for Perkaspie. The first Perkaspie railroad tickets were sold out of this building, the first railroad freight and express was handled here, and the first post office operated here for a number of years. The Herstine Building predates the incorporation of Perkaspie and was one of the oldest buildings before it burned in The Great Perkaspie Fire in 1988.



ADOPT-A-BOOK PROGRAM

A tremendous THANK YOU to all of those who have contributed to our Adopt-A-Book Program.

This program invites individuals and companies alike to help preserve these historical books starting in 1684.

Please call 215-348-6210 with any questions regarding this program.



Preserved Deed Book Presentation

Interested in having Robin do a book presentation to your group?

We can now do Zoom Presentations!!

You can always have Robin come in person in 2021.

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ofDeeds



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