

RECORDS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC IN  
THE WARREN COUNTY COURT HOUSE

1. General. There is a vast amount of primary source data useful to both historians and genealogists in the Court House and the County Administration Building. The County offices are open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays, except legal holidays." Copies are available at 25¢ per page in both the Clerk's and Surrogate s offices. Please note that pencils only are allowed in vault areas and please be careful with the older and more fragile. records.

2. Summary of what can be found.

Clerk's Office Terry Lee Count Clerk (Court House)

Deeds. 1825 to present. Separate indexes or Grantor seller) and Grantee (buyer). More than one type of index systems, see front of the Index' book. Older deed books are in the basement area.

Caution: Be careful of Township changes (Hope before 1839 was part of Knowlton and Oxford, Frelinghuysen was formed from Hardwick).

Either Spouse could purchase property, but both had to sign the deed of sale.

Deed date and Recorded date are different and may be years apart.

Deeds have "catchall" phrases and can't be used to date a house unless a house is specifically mentioned, which is rare.

Mortgages. Indexed by Mortgator (lender) and Mortgagee (borrower).

Of minimal use, except that sometimes family relationships can be derived from them-cautiously.

Early marriage records. Recorded from c1825to c1875. Indexed by husband. May give location and pastor.

Newspaper files. Belvidere Intelligencer, 1848-1869; Belvidere

Apolo, 1848-1919; Warren Journal, 1848-1919; Star & Phillipsburger, 1963-1971; Star-Gazette, 1972-1980.

VERY FRAGILE. Very little local information until after the Civil War. Good for advertisements.

Others. Naturalizations (1825-presen t), Military discharges (incomplete), Leins on property, some court records, and maps of subdivisions.

Surrogate' s Court - Albert J. Ruh, Surrogate (Court House) Estate Index. Indexed by first name for each letter - you must know the first name or else look at- each page for the first letter of the last name. All estate documents are listed for an individual. Many county residents cannot be found because there was no will, no property, or a spouse inherited directly.

Petitions or Complaints. Lists heirs at law and their addresses.

Orphan's Court Minutes. Provide real estate data, and other useful information, even cemetery plots.

Estate Inventories. Lists all property, except real estate. Usually very interesting. Indicates lifestyle of decedent. May show debtors.

Engineer's Office ~ Dave Hicks, Engineer (Admin. Bldg.) Road Book. Show almost *every* county road and ~hen it became a county road. Indexed to Road Re turns filed in both Sussex and Warren Counties. Lists landowners, landmarks. Realignments and vacancies shown.

Albert J. Ruh  
September, 1987  
(Revised: 1991)