

000 4805
001 000
002 021
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005 Court of General Sessions, Sussex County
140 Case Files
141
142
200 1722
210 1952
220 1722-1870, 1900-1952
240 34.78 cf.
241 74 @ 0.47
261 Legal documents filed for criminal cases appearing before the Court of General Sessions. These records include *capiases*, depositions, indictments, summonses, subpoenas, recognizances, presentments, bastardy appeals, commitments, justice of the peace transcripts, sentences, information, jury lists, probable causes of prosecution, appeal record, petitions, writs of execution, affidavits, and warrants. Also included are several officials' commissions, grand jury reports on conditions at the jail and almshouse (1851, 1861, 1884), and a list of prisoners confined in the jail (1806, 1837).

27X Entries on **capiases** show the name of the person to be brought before judges, date to appear, date of *capias*, date issued, and signature of the Clerk of the Peace. The reverse side shows case number and court term, name of defendant, action taken by the sheriff, signature of the sheriff, and amount of fee. **Deposition** entries show names of persons giving and taking the deposition, statement of events, deponent's signature, date of deposition, signature of justice of the peace or person taking deposition. Entries on **indictments** show court term and year, name of defendant, hundred of residence, if a free black or slave, date of grand jury's finding, charge brought, and signature of the Attorney General. Reverse shows case number and term, name of defendant, type of indictment, names of witnesses, whether a true bill or ignoramus, and signature of jury foreman. Jury lists may be attached. **Summonses and Subpoenas** show the name of the person to be summoned by the sheriff, appearance date, names of defendant and judge, date of document, date issued, and signature of the Clerk of the Peace. Reverse shows case number and court term, name of defendant, action taken by the sheriff, signature of the sheriff, and sheriff's fees. **Recognizances** show names of person being bonded and surety, hundred of residence, name of justice of the peace, conditions of bond, charge, location and date of alleged crime, date of recognizance, and signatures of justice, defendant, and surety. Reverse side may show name of defendant, court costs, names of witnesses, and date defendant was discharged or recognizance forfeited. **Presentments** show court term and year, name of defendant, his hundred of residence and occupation, date and location of crime, and charge. Reverse shows name of defendant, crime, names of witnesses, if a true presentment, and signature of the jury foreman. Entries for **bastardy appeals** include a transcript from the justice of the peace which shows name of mother and accused father, sex and date of birth of child(ren), residence of father, date complaint made before a justice of the peace, signature of justice of the peace and plaintiff, dates warrant issued and returned, name of constable, fees due to constable, decision made by justice of the peace after interviewing the defendant, amount of bond to be posted and support to be paid mother, doctor's fees to be paid, date of appeal, amount of appeal bond, and certification by the justice of the peace. Entries on **commitments** show names of the constable and person to be jailed, charge, date, and signature of the justice of the peace. Reverse shows name of defendant, charge, costs, and names of witnesses. **Transcripts** show the actions taken before justices of the peace on cases transferred to the Court of General Sessions. These may include complaints, summonses, and a copy of the justice's docket entry. These documents generally show the names of complainant and defendant, charge, dates of documents, hundred of residence, actions taken on the case, court costs, and

certification by the justice. Entries on **sentences** show date, name of defendant, and punishment ordered by the court. Entries on an **information** show the court term and year, name of Attorney General, date, name of accused and his hundred of residence, occupation, location and date of crime, charge, and signatures of the Attorney General and Deputy Attorney General. Reverse shows case number, court term and year, name of defendant, charge, and names of witnesses. **Jury lists** show names of defendant, of twelve jurors, and of bailiff; date; and if found guilty. **Certificates of the probable cause of prosecution** are statements by the justices that there was probable cause for bringing prosecution although the defendant was not found guilty. Certificates show name of defendant, the charge, court term during which the trial was held, a not guilty verdict, and signatures of the judges. **Appeal record** shows names of plaintiff and defendant, date appeal filed, causes of appeal, date, and signature of defendant's attorney. **Petitions** show name of petitioner, reason for petition, date, and signature of petitioner. **Writs of execution** show the name of the defendant, amount of money to be collected, date return to be made to the court, date of writ, date issued, and signatures of the Clerk of the Peace and Attorney General. Reverse shows type of writ, court term writ to be returned, name of defendant, actions taken by the sheriff including date of sale and amount of money raised, signature of the sheriff, sheriff's costs, and court costs.

Affidavits are the sworn statements of events that occurred, and include the signature of person making the affidavit, date of affidavit, and signature of person taking the affidavit. **Warrants** show the name of the defendant, action to be taken, date, and signature of the Clerk of the Peace. Arranged chronologically by court term, and thereunder alphabetically by type of document. **Commissions for constables** show name of official, hundred of residence, position appointed to, name of governor, and date. **Grand Jury reports** show buildings (jail, almshouse, insane department) were inspected, conditions in each, descriptions of buildings being erected, date, and signatures of the jury foreman and clerk. **Appointments of fence viewers** show date, name of appointee, hundred of residence, and signature of Clerk of the Peace. **A list of prisoners confined in the jail** (1806) shows prisoners' names, by whom committed, their crimes, date, and signature of the sheriff. 1837 list shows the name of convicted person, offense for which convicted, amount of fine or restitution, amount of court costs, total amounts, amount received for sale of prisoners, amount in the hands of the sheriff for use of the State, and certification by the Clerk of the Peace.

29X
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329

WORK STATUS	ARCHIVIST:
___ needs sorting	___ review for identification/ further determination
___ needs unfolding	___ processing
___ needs foldering/reboxing	___ determine origin/purpose
___ other: _____	___ other: _____

CONDITION:	FILM:
___ totally disorganized	___ for security
___ order not apparent	___ destroy original
___ origin questionable	___ other: _____
___ other: _____	

330 Arranged chronologically by court term.
331 No index.
332 Handwritten; form printed with writing.
360 Fair; acid damage; storage damage; dirt damage.
390 None.
430
900
990 4/19/90
995 June 28, 1990; July 18, 1990; March 2, 1996; May 6, 1996; March 8, 2007;
November 16, 2007;
999 Processed by Sherrie from 4805.3, 4805.5, 4805.8, and 4805.11. Office
and CRM both agree no files exist in SC and none have been transferred
here. CRM believes were destroyed long ago, perhaps when the court was

abolished.
rlg