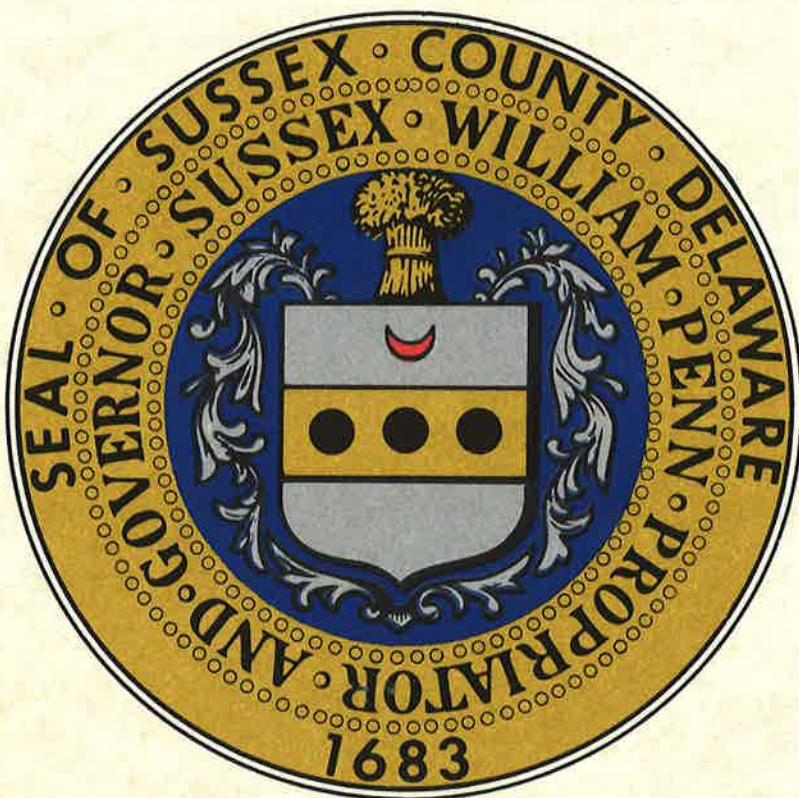




# **Return Day**



**Sussex County  
Georgetown, Delaware**

**Thursday, November 9, 1978**



## **SUSSEX COUNTY RETURN DAY**

The People of Sussex County, the Sussex County Council, and the Return Day Committee welcome you to Return Day. For us, it's the Fourth of July, Mardi Gras, and the Homecoming Game all rolled into one. Our pleasure is heightened by sharing the festivities with our guests from off, who help us celebrate Sussex County's special day the way we have "since time immemorial".

Our Return Day custom is about 150 years old, and although the pretense is maintained, the reading of two-day old elections returns is not exactly news. We feel the day serves a more important function, of considerable value to our state. Nowhere else in the world do people so recently in political contention meet, shake hands, eat, and ride in a parade together. It helps clear the air after the campaign, with personal encounters between former opponents not left to awkward chance. Win or lose, Tuesday is history, and we still have a state to run, together.

In recent years, Return Day has become one of the biggest political and social events in the state; Sussex County is proud and pleased to continue this time-honored tradition.

### **HONORARY DIRECTORS**

Nellie R. Barr  
Ralph E. Benson, County Council  
John T. Cannon, County Council  
Charles W. Cole, County Council

Joseph T. Conaway, County Administrator  
Oliver E. Hill, County Council  
Nutter D. Marvel  
W. Howard Workman, County Council

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Claire T. Croll, Vice-President

Rosalie B. Walls, Secretary  
George F. Couch, Treasurer

### **DIRECTORS**

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Robert L. Littleton  
John T. Purnell

Cindy Pusey  
Anthony Racaniello  
Carl R. Walls  
Jean West

THE SUSSEX COUNTY RETURN DAY COMMITTEE, INC.

## RETURN DAY PROGRAM

**11:00 A.M. Luncheon for Candidates and Honored Guests**  
Grace United Methodist Church Hall  
Prepared by students of Sussex Vocational-Technical  
School under Direction of Joseph Heacock, John J.  
Reinholt and Joanne Atkinson.

**12:00 Noon Concert at Circle**  
3rd U. S. Infantry Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps  
Ft. Myer, Va.  
Bandmaster CW-2 Maurice Williams  
Drum Major Thomas Preston

**1:00 P.M. Parade**  
From Sussex Central High School Eastward on  
Market Street.

GRAND MARSHALL  
Edna Scott Layton

PARADE ANNOUNCER  
Ron Kaus

PARADE JUDGES  
Helen G. Buchanan Charles A. Legates  
Pete Gaffney William R. Ringler  
Charles G. Lamb Joseph Vattilana

COSTUME JUDGES  
Peggy W. Booth Carla Short Lilly H. Walls

FIRE EQUIPMENT ANNOUNCER  
John Smith

FIRE EQUIPMENT JUDGES  
Jay Reynolds Louis Amabili

**3:00 P.M. Ceremonies at the Circle**

**4:30 P.M. Ox Roast**

## CEREMONIES AT THE CIRCLE

National Anthem ..... Sussex Central High School Band  
H. Eugene Bowne, Director

Soloist ..... J. Robert Timmons

Invocation ..... The Rev. H. Sterling Green

Greetings ..... Joseph T. Conaway  
Master of Ceremonies

Welcome ..... W. Layton Johnson  
Mayor of Georgetown ..... Ronald F. Dodd

Returns .....  
Burial of the Tomahawk  
End of the Campaign of 1978

State Chairman, American Party ..... Donald G. Gies  
State Chairman, Democratic Party ..... Henry Topel  
State Chairman, Republican Party ..... Jerome O. Herlihy

Introduction of:  
Gov. Pierre S. duPont, IV  
Lt. Gov. James D. McGinnis  
U. S. Sen. William V. Roth, Jr.  
U. S. Sen. Joseph R. Biden, Jr.  
U. S. Rep. Thos. B. Evans, Jr.  
Former Gov. Elbert N. Carvel  
Former Gov. David B. Buckson  
Former Gov. Sherman Tribbett  
Former Gov. J. Caleb Boggs  
Former Sen. J. Allen Frear  
Former Sen. John J. Williams  
Former Rep., Harris B. McDowell, Jr.  
Former Rep., Harry G. Haskell, Jr.

Introduction of State and County Incumbents and Candidates  
Joseph T. Conaway

Acknowledgements ..... Return Day Committee  
Presentation of Awards ..... Carl R. Walls  
Benediction ..... The Rev. William M. Fitzhugh

## HISTORY OF THE SUSSEX COUNTY SEAL

The Seal of Sussex County was 295 years old in March of 1978 and was a gift from William Penn the Proprietor. It survives from the days when Pennsylvania was still a part of Delaware, before we abandoned our younger sister colony.

In 1683, the first meeting of the new Provincial Council and General Assembly of Pennsylvania ordered that the several counties of Pennsylvania adopt seals. These were taken from the Penn Coat-of-Arms and were to be differentiated by their crests. Philadelphia County was topped by an anchor, Bucks County by a tree and vine, Chester County by a plow, New Castle County by a castle, Kent by three ears of Indian corn, and Sussex County by a sheaf of wheat. The minutes of the Council make no mention of the colors of the different seals.

Engravings of some of these seals appear in Scharf's HISTORY OF DELAWARE, Volume I, scattered through pages 71 to 99. They are in black and white, but the actual "tinctures" are represented by a system of lines and dots that can be deciphered by consulting a text on heraldry. In a black and white engraving of a coat-of-arms, a blank or white space within an outline would be silver or "argent"; rows of dots would be gold or "or"; crossed vertical and horizontal lines would be black or "sable"; vertical lines, red or "gules"; and horizontal lines, blue or "azure". These are the 5 tinctures most commonly used in heraldry; of them, two are "metals" (argent and or) and the other 3 are "colors".

Applying this key to the engraving of the Sussex Seal on Page 88 in Scharf's yields the following information. The shield is plain white, or argent; the band (fess) across it, dotted gold or or; the three circles on the fess are cross-hatched, black or sable, and the moon (crescent) in the upper part (chief) has vertical lines denoting red, or gules. The sheaf of wheat would be natural, or "plain".

Blazonry is the language of heraldry that eliminates drawings or engravings, but enables one to draw and color a coat-of-arms from a written description. The Sussex Seal would be blazoned thusly:

Sussex: Argent, on a fess or three pellets. In chief a crescent gules. Crest, a sheaf plain.

The "mantle" or "mantling" surrounding the sheaf should be of the principal color of the arms, in this case, argent, although many British arms use gules and argent mantling regardless of the principal color.

Enquiries to the Delaware Historical Society and to various organizations in Philadelphia have yielded no hint from whence Scharf obtained his information concerning the tinctures of the Seal. Perhaps he, or someone on his staff, was an amateur herald, and assigned the tinctures for the occasion of engraving them in the HISTORY. In the past few years, both Sussex and Kent County have had their seals reproduced in color, and the tinctures differed from those indicated in Scharf's. This is unremarkable, however, in light of the fact that the Penn Arms on page 70 in Scharf's is rendered incorrectly. Scharf's engraving reads: Argent, on a fess or three pellets. The correct blazonry, according to Boulton's AMERICAN ARMORY and Burke's GENERAL ARMORY, should be: Argent, on a fess sable three plates. Also, the tinctures of the Sussex Seal as engraved in Scharf's violate one of the elementary rules of heraldry; that is, metal is used only on color, and the color is used only on metal: the Sussex Seal has a gold fess on an argent shield, or metal on metal.



Penn Arms



Kent



Sussex



Philadelphia

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