



PROTHONOTARY OF BERKS COUNTY
Jonathan K. Del Collo, Prothonotary

2021 PROTHONOTARY OFFICE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. THE PROTHONOTARY'S OFFICE AND COVID-19

I am proud that the Prothonotary's Office **never closed due to COVID**. Our excellent team of deputy Prothonotaries was able to provide full service to attorneys and other customers of our office despite the surge in the omicron variant and other spikes in infections around the Courthouse and Services Center. To say I am proud of the entire staff is a gross understatement. Simply put, we have the **BEST** team in any office in Berks County government.

2. IMAGING OF GENEALOGICAL AND HISTORICAL RECORDS CONTINUES

I am pleased to report that **106,971** pages of our genealogical and historical records were digitized in 2021. These records date to the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and are among our most vulnerable records. They are also very historically significant and, unless digitized and preserved, will be lost forever. This will not happen on my watch as Prothonotary. We are working to digitize records quickly before they fade away and are destroyed.

3. IMAGING BEGUN ON HISTORIC DOCKET BOOKS

In addition to the many records kept in the Prothonotary's Office, we also have many docket books which date to the formation of Berks County in 1752. In 2021, we launched an effort to digitize these docket books, beginning with our most researched books, the Appearance Docket books. I am proud to report that in 2021 we were able to image **20 Appearance Docket books for a total of 3,525 pages**. These books range in date from 1754 through mid-1811. We are working to image more books in 2022.

4. SAVING BERKS TAXPAYERS MONEY

The Prothonotary's Office continues to save Berks County taxpayers money due to the successful efficiencies created by the ongoing cross-training of our staff and by eliminating and not filling budgeted positions. **In 2021, we saved taxpayers \$325,812.** The combined savings to taxpayers from 2018-2021 is **\$750,094.**

5. USE OF OUR MOBILE APP CONTINUES

In June 2021, we celebrated the **second** anniversary of our mobile application. Our app allows customers, researchers, and genealogists to access mostly everything our office has to offer. The app is available for free in the Apple App Store (for Apple users) and the Google Play Store (for Android users). During COVID, our mobile app was very useful in getting information out to our customers!

Users can utilize our app to access general office information, search dockets, search historical and naturalization records, access our e-filing system, request historical records, schedule research appointments and more! Users can also send a message directly to me through our app.

Our app includes push notifications as well as links to our other social media platforms on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. Our app and social media platforms will ensure that all Berks Countians and customers of our office will be able to stay up to date with the very latest information from us. If you haven't already, please download our app today!

Download our app today!

Search: Berks County Prothonotary



6. OFFICE RENOVATIONS CONTINUE

Good progress was made in 2021 on the renovations of the Prothonotary Office. After being largely delayed in 2020 due to COVID, our new back research room was largely completed, and our front office area counters were moved, and new countertops installed. A new handicapped accessible counter area was also incorporated into the new layout.

The office began to undergo a painting facelift that will make it much brighter and more inviting to our customers. Further, the office kitchen/file storage area experienced a partial makeover. This was all accomplished thanks to the hardworking staff of the Berks County Facilities and Operations Department.

The renovation of the office is expected to be completed in 2022.