

SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

June 16, 2020 – 6:00 P.M.

VIRTUAL MEETING

MEETING MINUTES

The June 16, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. Solebury Township Board of Supervisors meeting was duly advertised and held electronically through the Zoom Virtual Meeting Platform. The meeting was held in this manner due to the current State and Federal regulations in place from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Attendance: Mark Baum Baicker, Chair, Kevin Morrissey, Vice-Chair, Noel Barrett, John S. Francis, Robert McEwan, Dennis H. Carney, Township Manager, Michele Blood, Assistant Manager, and Catherine Cataldi, Secretary. Zachary Zurbis, Zoning Officer, C. Robert Wynn, Township Engineer, and Mark L. Freed, Township Solicitor were also in attendance.

Zoom recording device was then turned on.

I. The meeting was called to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Approval of Bills Payable – May 28, 2020 and June 11, 2020

Res. 2020-80 – Upon a motion by Mr. McEwan, seconded by Mr. Morrissey, the list of Bills Payable dated May 28, 2020 and June 11, 2020 were unanimously approved as prepared and posted.

III. Approval of Minutes – May 19, 2020 Virtual Meeting

Res. 2020-81 – Upon a motion by Mr. Francis, seconded by Mr. McEwan, the Minutes of the May 19, 2020 Virtual Meeting were unanimously approved with the following requested changes made: 1) Under Presentations, Solebury Township Committees and Boards, the first line, commented changed to comment; 2) Under Public Hearing, HARB – Certificate of Appropriateness – Dennis J. Hansen, resident public comment, Susan Whiteman changed to Susan Whitman; and 3) Under Public Hearing, HARB – Certificate of Appropriateness – Dennis J. Hansen, resident public comment, Neil Whiteman changed to Neil Whitman.

IV. Announcements/Resignations/Appointments

- Executive Session

The Board announced an executive session held on May 21, 2020 dealing with development.

- Resignation of Kevin MacDonald from the Historical Architectural Review Board

Mr. Baum Baicker announced the resignation of Kevin MacDonald from the Historical Architectural Review Board. The Board thanked Mr. MacDonald for his service.

Res. 2020-82 – Upon a motion by Mr. McEwan, seconded by Mr. Barrett, the resignation of Kevin MacDonald from the Historical Architectural Review Board was unanimously accepted.

- Resignation of Joel Weiner from the Solebury Township Land Preservation Committee

Mr. Baum Baicker announced the resignation of Joel Weiner from the Solebury Township Land Preservation Committee. The Board thanked Mr. Weiner for his service.

Res. 2020-83 – Upon a motion by Mr. Baum Baicker, seconded by Mr. Barrett, the resignation of Joel Weiner from the Solebury Township Land Preservation Committee was unanimously accepted.

- Appointment of Elaine Crooks to the Solebury Township Land Preservation Committee

Res. 2020-84 – Upon a motion by Mr. Morrissey, seconded by Mr. Francis, it was unanimously agreed to appoint Elaine Crooks, Solebury resident, without compensation, to the Solebury Township Land Preservation Committee to fill the vacancy resulting from the resignation of Joel Weiner for term ending December 31, 2020.

V. Supervisors Comment

- Mr. Baum Baicker commented on restarting the process for the Borrowing.
- Mr. Francis read a Statement of the Board of Supervisors (copy of which is attached). Mr. Francis announced John Blevins, resident, for public comment as it pertained to the Statement of the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Blevins read his statement (copy of which is attached). Mr. Morrissey commented that the Supervisors already started the process. Helen Tai, resident, expressed support for Mr. Blevins' request and asked that it be addressed in a timely fashion. Mr. McEwan expressed support for Mr. Blevins' request. The Board is to take Mr. Blevins' request under advisory. This is to be done in a timely fashion.

VI. Public Comment – No Public Comment

VII. Presentations

Recorder of Deeds – Adopt a Book

Nicole Douglas, Transfer Tax & Communications Coordinator & Robin Robinson, Recorder of Deeds presented a PowerPoint presentation (copy of which is attached) to the Board. The presentation included: the finding and preserving of Bucks County deed and miscellaneous books dating back to 1684; some of the history that can be found throughout these books; how the preservation of the books is paid for, especially the Adopt-A-Book program; and the FREE Fraud Alert Program that has been put in place to help the residents of Bucks County.

The Board thanked Ms. Douglas and Ms. Robinson for their presentation. The Board is to discuss a donation amount.

Helen Tai, resident, thanked Ms. Robinson.

Barbara Zietchick, resident, commented the following: *Wonderful preservation and presentation. As a printmaker, I am in awe of the preservation you achieved.*

Heritage Senior Living Facility/New Cartwheel Partners (6554 Lower York Road) TMP Nos. 41-022-144, 41-022-144-001, 41-022-144-002, and 41-022-153

Edward F. Murphy, Greg Glitzer, Christopher B. Chandor, Christopher DelPato, And Michael McCormick were all in attendance. Mr. Glitzer and Mr. Murphy presented exhibits, plans, and a list of Zoning Variance to be requested for the Senior Living Facility and Urgent Care/Retail Buildings to the Board.

Conversation ensued between the Board and Heritage Senior Living Facility - New Cartwheel Partners. Highlights of the conversation included: the retail space; the use and access to the back parcel; signage; building aesthetics; building architecture; and PennDOT.

The Board agreed to send a copy of the meeting recording and presentation to the Planning Commission. The Board agreed to send the presentation and meeting recording as an email blast. The email blast is to include a request for community feedback to be received no later than June 26, 2020.

VIII. Public Hearings

Agricultural Security Area Application – James and Adrienne Mageras (TMP Nos. 41-036-134, 41-036-135, and 41-036-136) – Recommendation for Agricultural Security Area

The proposal for addition was submitted by James S. and Adrienne W. Mageras of 6234 Pidcock Creek Road, New Hope, Pennsylvania 18938. The properties in question are Tax Map Parcel numbers 41-036-134, 41-036-135 and 41-036-136, which are located near the intersection of Pidcock Creek and Windy Bush Roads and contain approximately 13.84, 16.13 and 13.12 acres respectively.

Upon a Motion made by Peter Brussock, seconded by Dan Fest the Solebury Township Planning Commission unanimously agreed to recommend the application of James & Adrienne Mageras to include TMP Nos. 41-036-134, 41-036-135, and 41-036-136 in the Agricultural Security Area.

Upon a Motion made by Kevin Morrissey, seconded by Tim Luccaro the Solebury Township Agricultural Security Area Advisory Committee unanimously agreed to recommend the application of James & Adrienne Mageras to include TMP Nos. 41-036-134, 41-036-135, and 41-036-136 in the Agricultural Security Area.

Mr. Freed opened the hearing. Mr. Freed discussed the background of the Agricultural Security Area; the benefits to the Agricultural Security Area; and the process taken up to this hearing.

Mr. Freed opened the floor for Board comments.

Mr. Morrissey expressed support for the addition to the Agricultural Security Area.

No other Supervisor comments.

Mr. Freed opened the floor for public comments.

No Public comment.

The hearing was closed

Res. 2020-85 Upon a motion by Mr. Baum Baicker, seconded by Mr. McEwan, it was unanimously agreed to approve the addition of the James S. and Adrienne W. Mageras property (6234 Pidcock Creek Road, TMP Nos 41-036-134, 41-036-135 and 41-036-136) to the Solebury Township Agricultural Security Area.

IX. New Business

Armitage Road Bridge Project – Bid Award

Solebury Township received numerous bids for the Armitage Road Bridge Project.

Res. 2020-86 - Upon a motion by Mr. Baum Baicker, seconded by Mr. Barrett it was unanimously agreed to authorize the bid for the Armitage Road Bridge Project to Bertolet Construction Corporation.

Laurel Park Paving – Bid Award

This topic was tabled from the May 19, 2020 Board of Supervisors meeting.

Res. 2020-87 - Upon a motion by Mr. McEwan, seconded by Mr. Francis it was unanimously agreed to authorize the total bid for the Laurel Park Paving Project to GoreCon, Inc.

X. Public Comment – No Public Comment

XI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Catherine Cataldi
Secretary



Published on Solebury PA (<https://www.soleburytp.org>)

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A Statement from the Board of Supervisors

We have watched the events of the past week with great anger, sadness, and frustration. We have seen the massive protests in Philadelphia, New York, and virtually every major city across the country which we recognize as an attempt by aggrieved communities to be heard in response to the continuing incidences of police brutality. We are angry, because the brutal killing of George Floyd is just the latest in a series of egregious assaults on black communities, and this continuum of racially motivated killing of innocent black men and women must stop. And our sadness and frustration derive from the seeming inability of our nation to come to grips with the structural problems that underlie all of this, despite repeated, painful reminders. While we condemn the protests that have resorted to violence, we will continue to lend our overwhelming support to the peaceful protests across the country.

As a nation we must find an answer to the ongoing cycle of racially-directed police behavior. We believe that the great majority of police officers in this country are dedicated to public safety and well-intentioned in their actions to protect it. However, the many abominable incidents that have occurred in recent years have long-since overrun the traditional idea that these are isolated events.

The Solebury Township Board of Supervisors recognizes that the underlying root cause of the cycle of violent police action and resultant street violence is structural and societal, and we join with many other Americans in calling for a re-examination of the criminal justice system in the United States and the role that state and local governments can play in helping police in its onerous and important task. [Our police chief released a statement yesterday](#) that expressed his personal outrage at the Floyd tragedy and outlined the training, experience and special recognition of the officers of our police department.

We as a Board intend to do what we can at our local level to undertake and press for action, and we continue to stand with all those who seek just and fair treatment for all.

Source URL: <https://www.soleburytp.org/home/news/statement-board-supervisors-0>

John Blevins' Statement

Solebury Public Safety Review Committee

On June 3rd, this Board of Supervisors issued a statement decrying long-standing structural problems underlying racially motivated killings at the hands of police, calling for "*a re-examination of the criminal justice system in the United States and the role that state and local governments can play*" and stating its intention to "*do what we can at our local level to undertake and press for action*".

I am here to call on this Board to initiate those actions here in our township by forming a citizens' committee to undertake a review of the role and funding of police in Solebury.

The scope of this committee would include a review of police training, use of force policies, weapons, and equipment. Its responsibilities would also encompass a broad view of public safety needs, priorities, and resourcing.

Let me be clear that I am not accusing the Solebury Township Police Department of any wrongdoing, but it is incumbent on us as citizens to evaluate whether the current structure and level of investment represent the best way to keep our community safe and healthy.

In my initial review of the 2020 township budget I find that the police department consumes about 25% of the operating budget of the township. The committee would consider questions such as:

- Are we over-relying on armed officers for public safety services that don't require a gun and a badge?
- Are we tasking armed police with social services, substance abuse prevention and diversion programs, mental health, housing, and animal control duties that would be more appropriately performed by non-uniformed, unarmed employees or contractors?
- Should we redirect funding toward other township priorities?

The committee would review union contracts, cost structure and size of the department, and the role of county and regional cooperation in public safety. It would formulate recommendations regarding engagement in policy forums at county, regional and state levels, and identify opportunities to join with other municipalities, civic organizations and advocacy groups to advocate for specific policies.

Most importantly, through our example, our community would be promoting the kind of self-examination and accountability that governing bodies at all levels should undertake to implement proper oversight of police and the structural reforms necessary to correct long-standing inequities in enforcement.

Preserving History with the Bucks County Recorder of Deeds

Robin Robinson



Finding out about Historic Deed Books

- Mary Ann Bennis
- The Recorder of Deeds for Blair County, Pennsylvania



Books stored in the Warehouse



Company used for deed book preservation

- One of the oldest and most experienced firms specializing in the preservation of legal and historical public records.
- Located in Essex, Vermont

“The Recorder of Deeds is dedicated to restoring the deed books and preserving the history of Bucks County landowners. To that end, the office is having 700 of the oldest books treated and rebound by Kofile. We trust Kofile with these important records.”

**Robin Robinson | Recorder of Deeds
Bucks County, PA**



Kofile

Start of preservation – organizing the pages



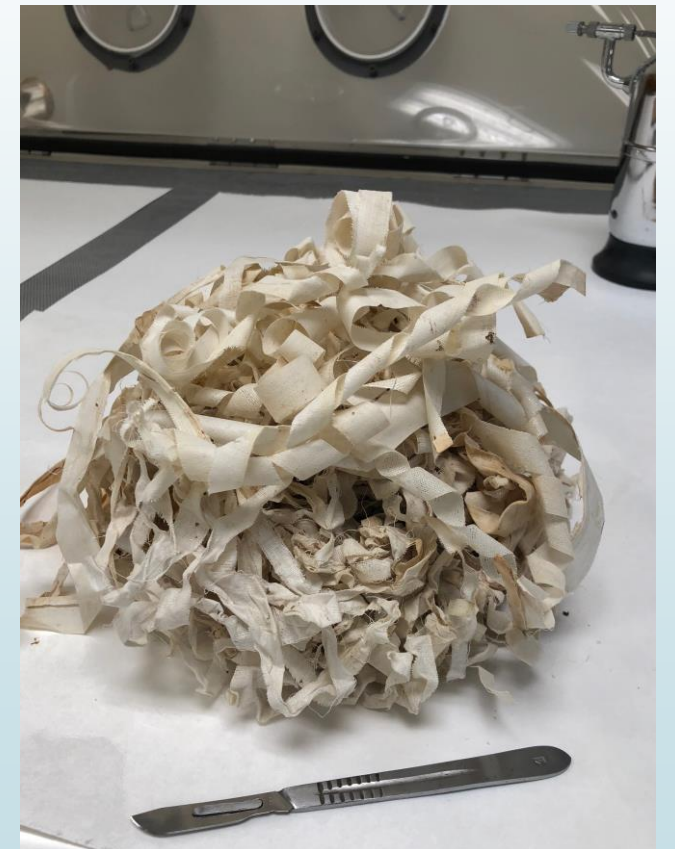
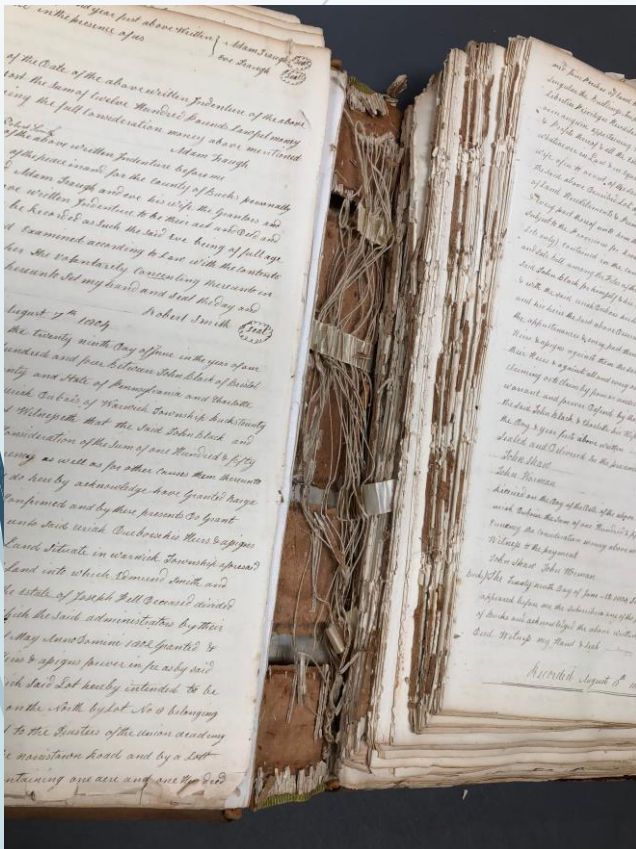
Paper found during preservation process

History of Paper

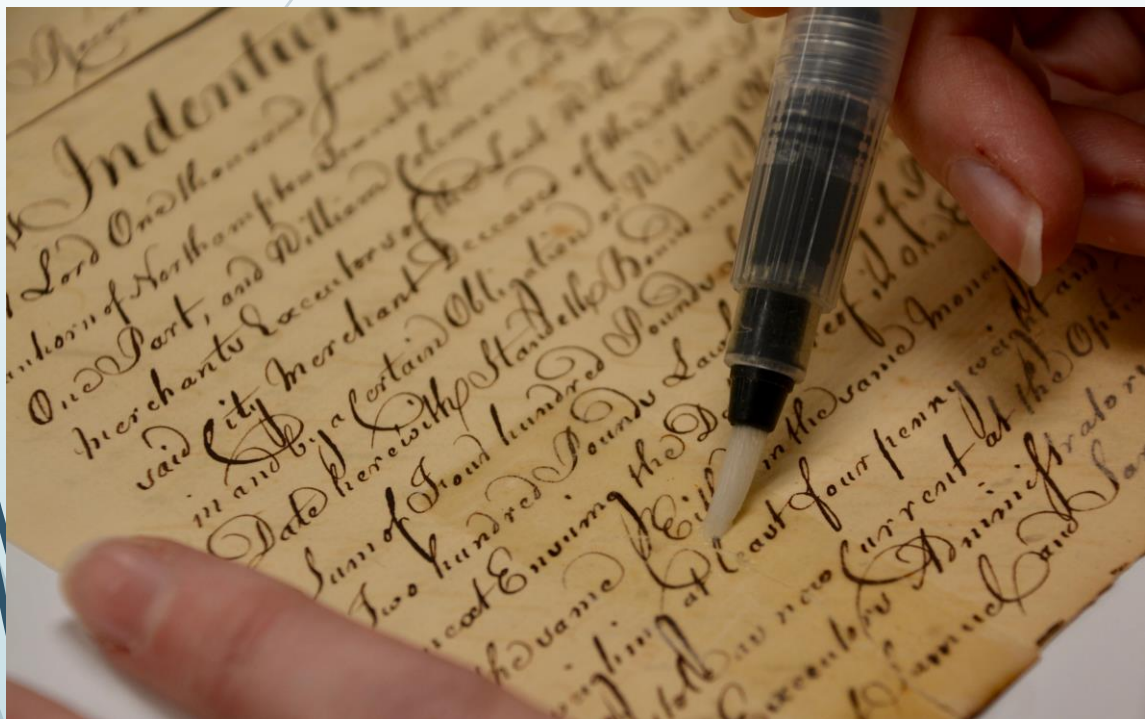
In U.S. Government Record Keeping



Bindings on the old books



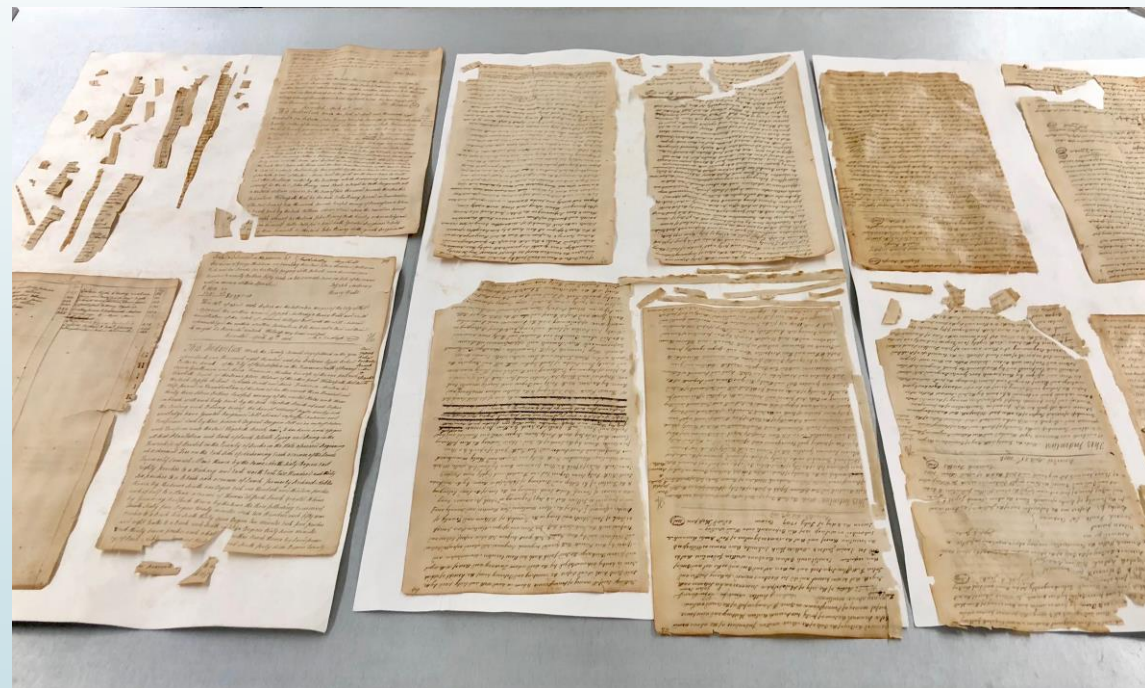
Water pen & scraping of tape



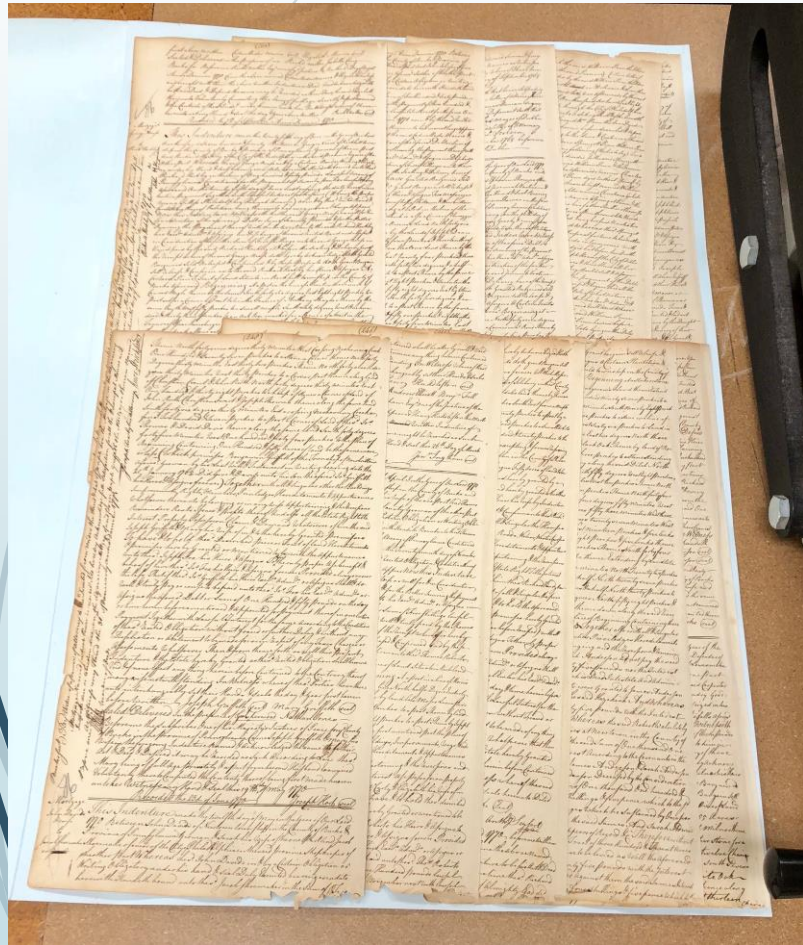
Water bath



Drying of deed book pages



Cockling – wrinkling of paper with high ink content



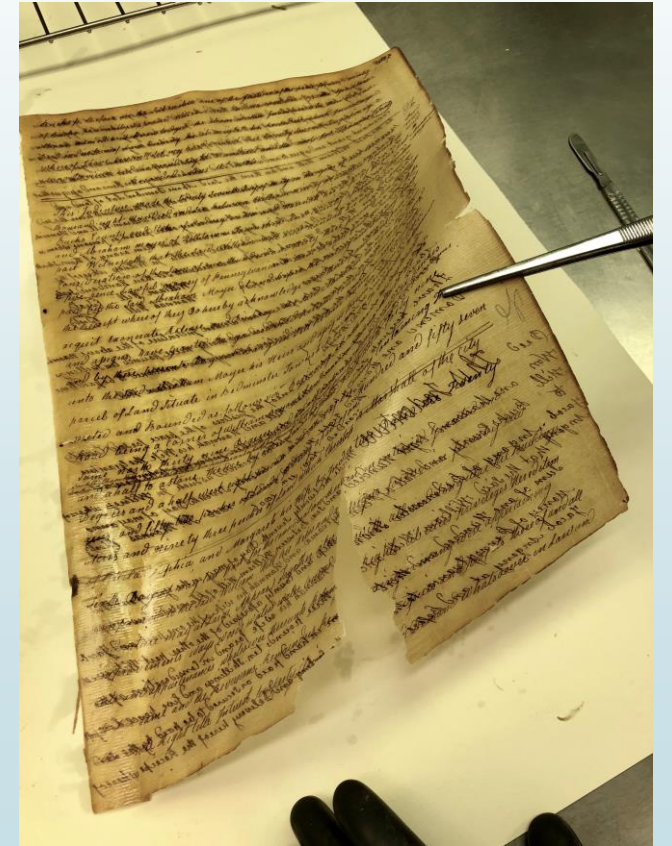
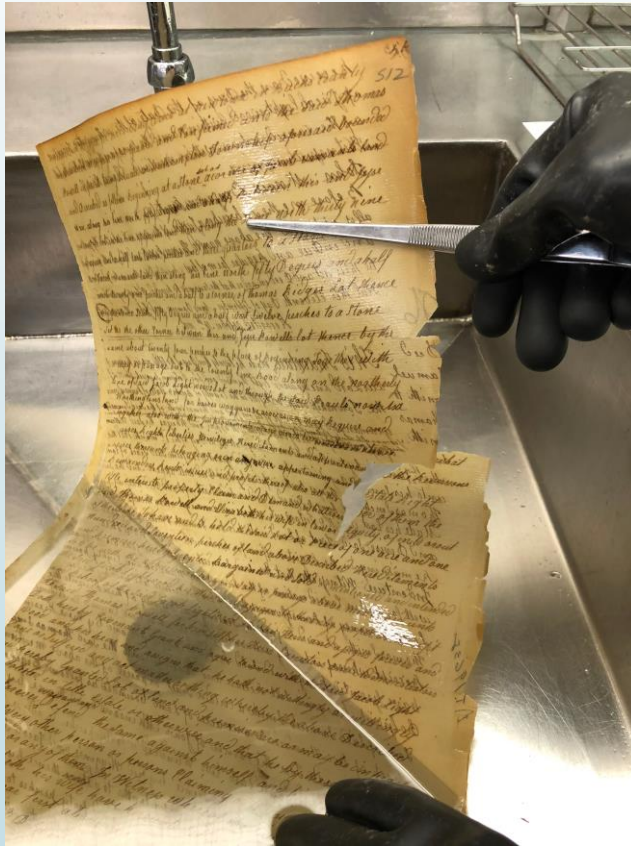
Removal of protective sheath



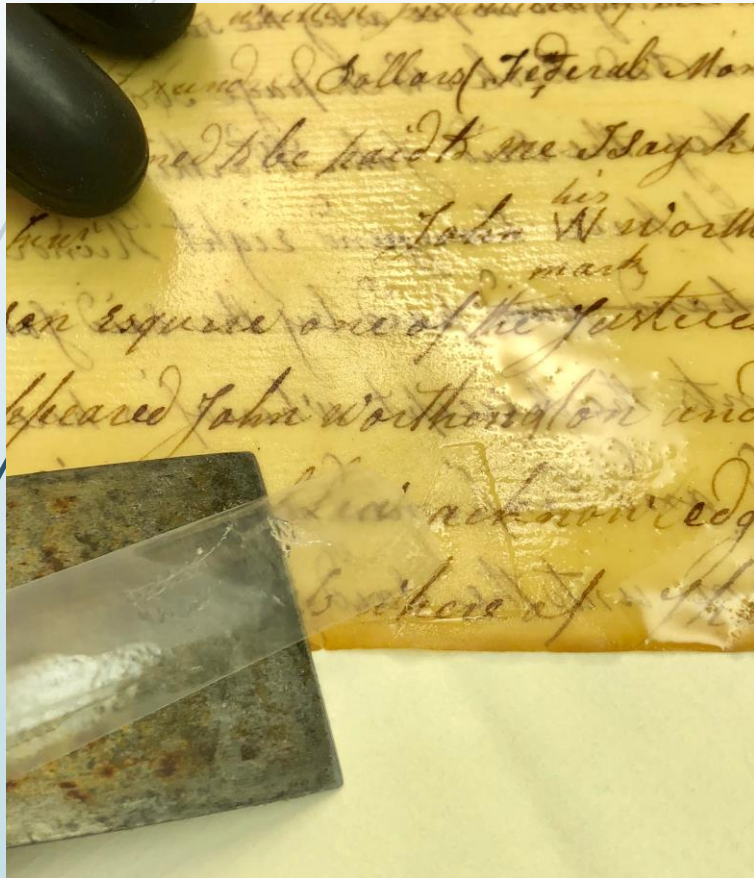
Residual Paste from protective sheath removed



Solvent bath to help remove scotch tape



Scotch tape & Gelatinous Residue removal



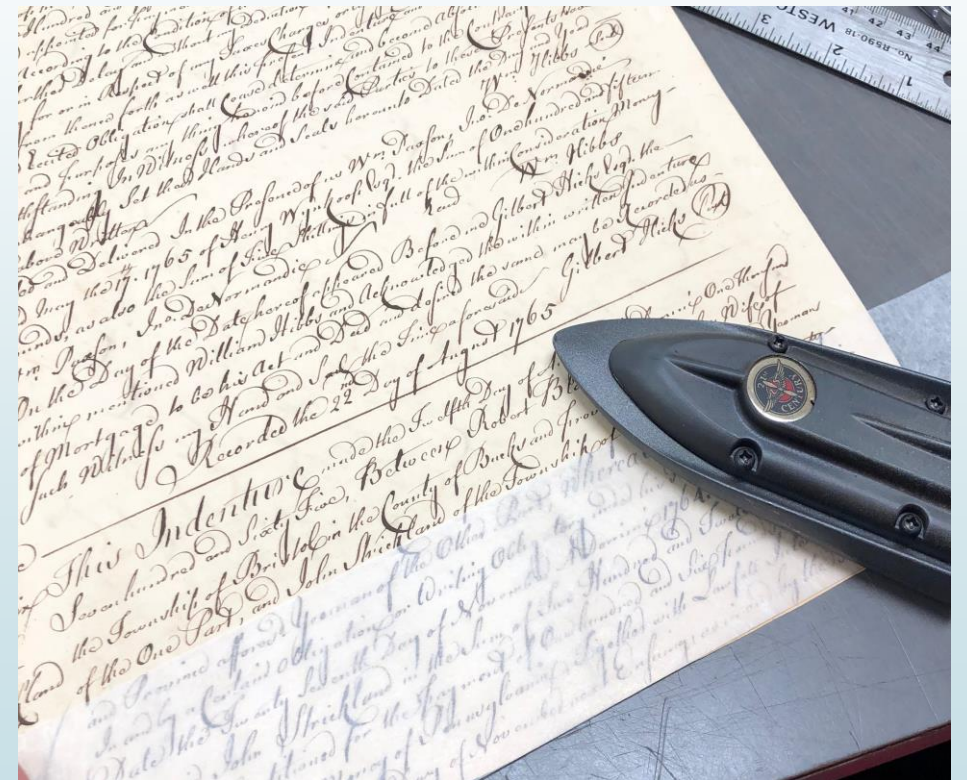
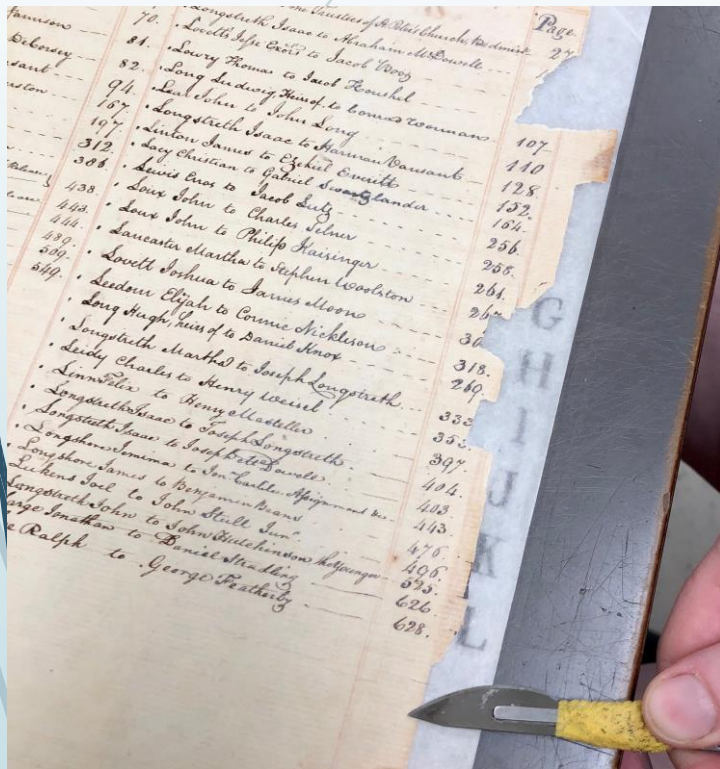
Tape removed from books



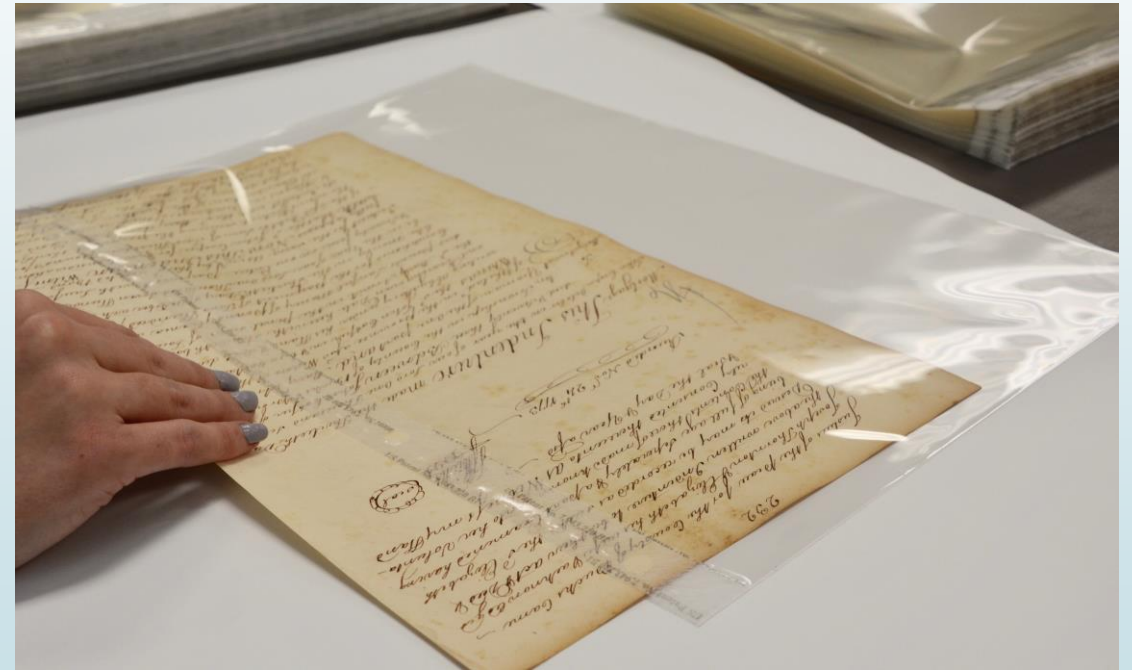
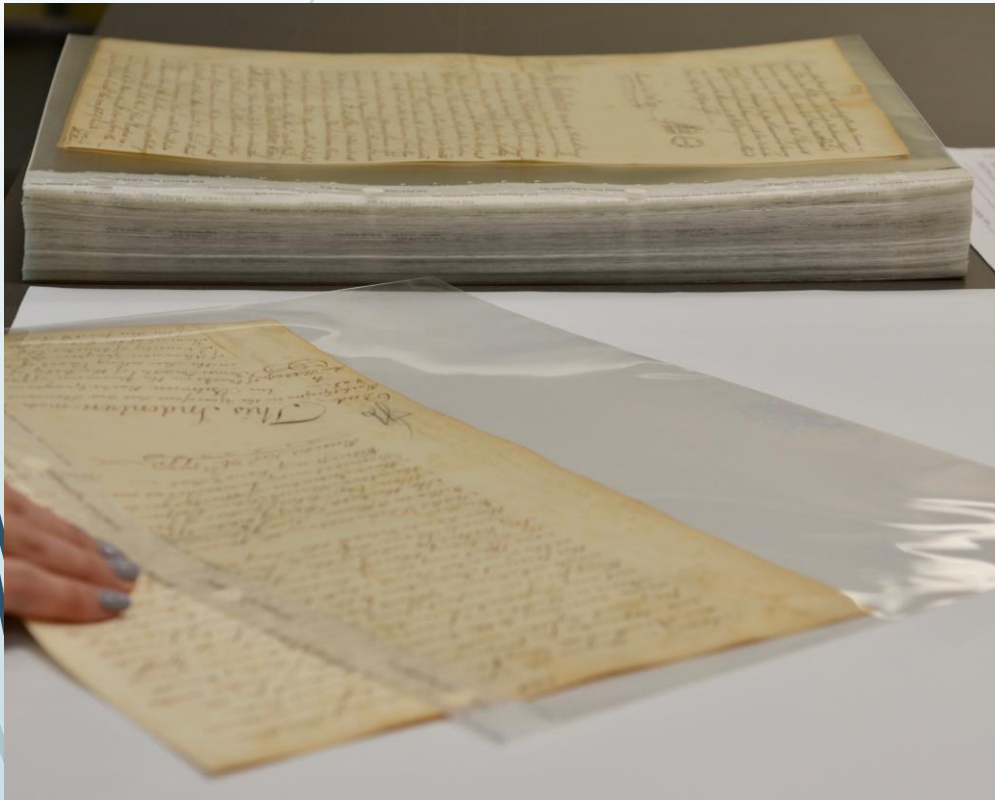
De-acidification Process



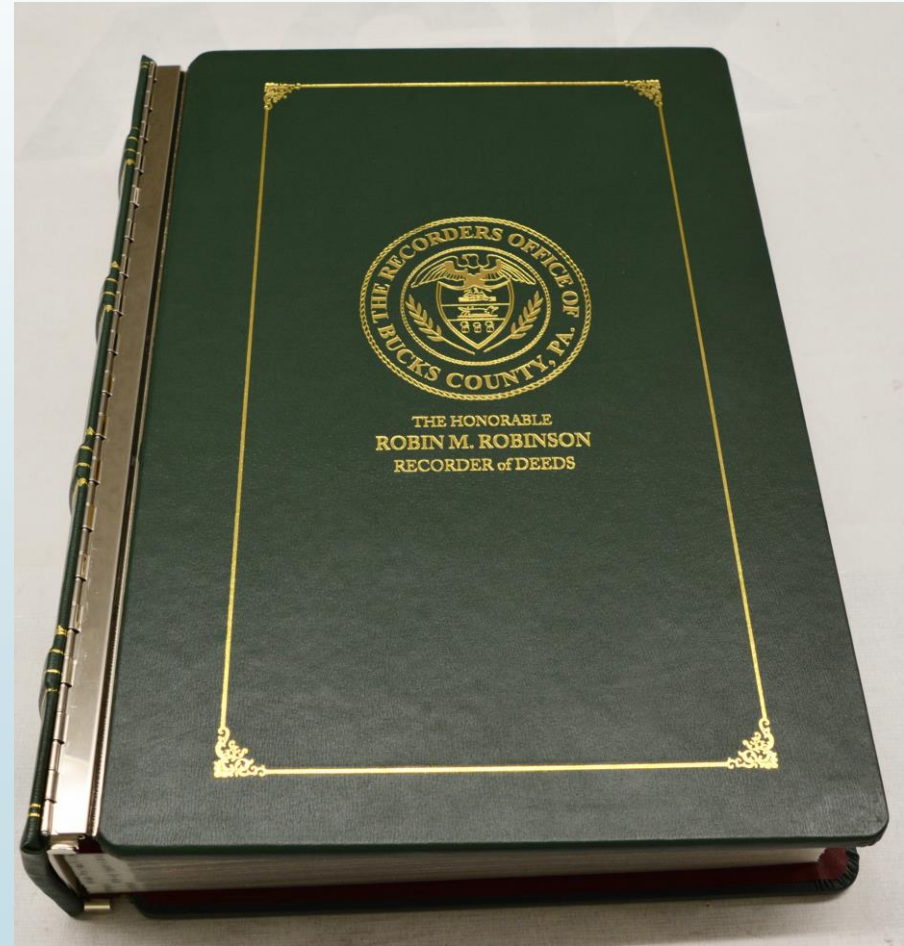
Mending torn pages with Japanese Linen



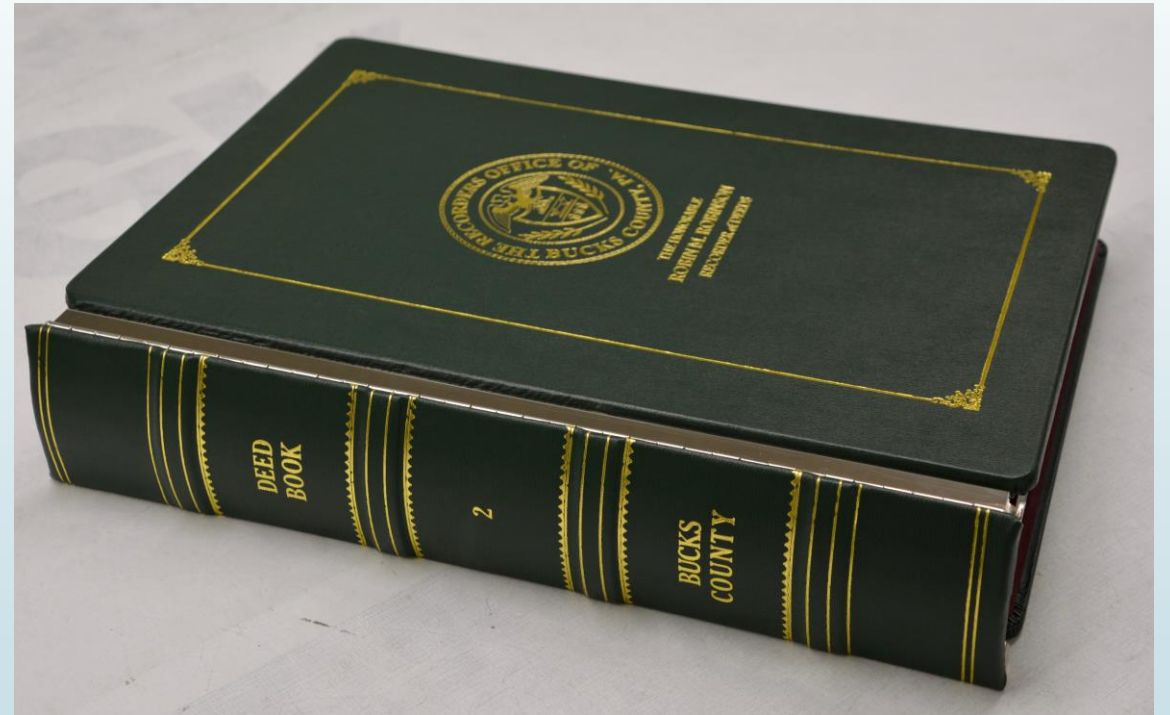
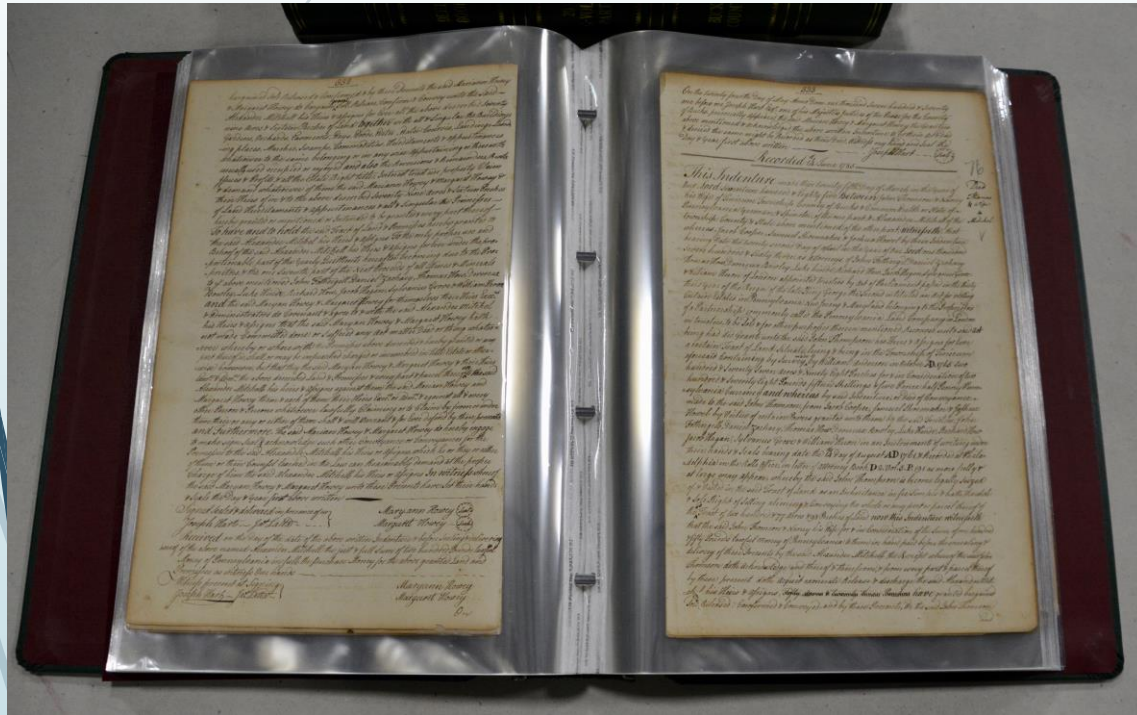
Pages inserted into polyester Mylar sleeves



Old book cover & new book cover



Final product



Life expectancy & storage of preserved deed books

Forms of Media

Life Expectancy

Paper **300-500 Years**

Microfilm **500 Years**

Digital **2-10 Years**



Where does the money come from for preservation?



- ▶ Record Improvement Fee
- ▶ Adopt-A-Book Program
- ▶ Grants

Record improvement fee

- ▶ State law enacted on April 8, 1982
- ▶ A \$5.00 fee is applied to every document recorded in the office
- ▶ \$3.00 goes into a separate account specifically used to improve the record for the office
- ▶ \$2.00 goes to the County Record Improvement Fund.



Adopt-A-Book

- This program asks the residents of Bucks County to participate in the restorations of these historic books by donations.

Bucks County Adopt-A-Book Program

The Bucks County Recorder of Deeds office is in the process of saving history by restoring old deed books. In order to accomplish this we are asking for the assistance from the friends of Bucks County.

All that donate will receive a Certificate of Thanks and be a part of the Adopt-A-Book Board in the office.

Any large donation will have their name memorialized in a book

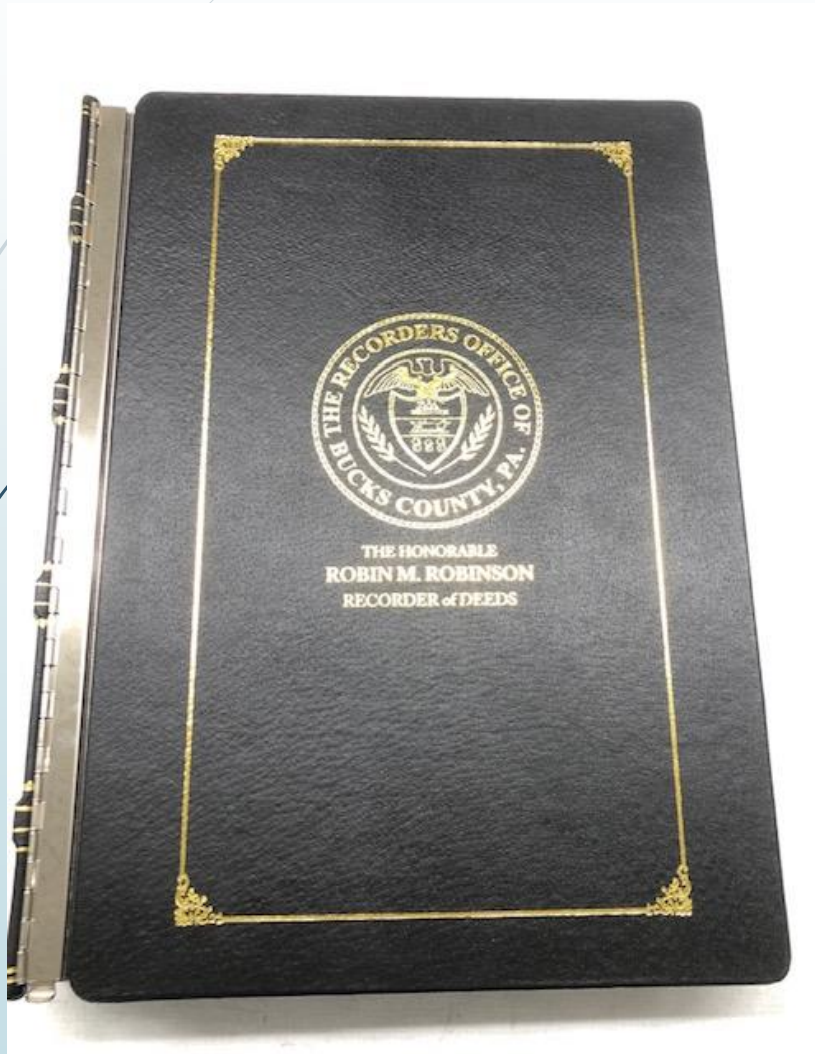
**Checks can be made payable to:
Bucks County Recorder of Deeds Adopt-A-Book
Mail to:
55 E. Court Street, Doylestown, PA 18901**

Grants

- \$125,000 Federal Grant called “Save America’s Treasures” from the National Park Service and the Institute of Museum and Library Services.
- \$5,000 Pennsylvania State Grant for a Historical and Archival Records Care Grant from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.



Bucks County Slaves



- Many slaves throughout Bucks County
- Miscellaneous books contain slave emancipation and bill of sales.
- \$125,000 Federal Grant called "Save America's Treasures" from the National Park Service and the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

DID YOU KNOW...

The Grand Duchess of Luxembourg purchased about 300 acres of land in Middletown Township during WWII.

This land was a working farm, which was used to support the Luxembourg Government, who were forced to leave due to the German invasion.

After the war, the Duchess sold the property in 1964. It was after this that the property was purchased by Bucks County.

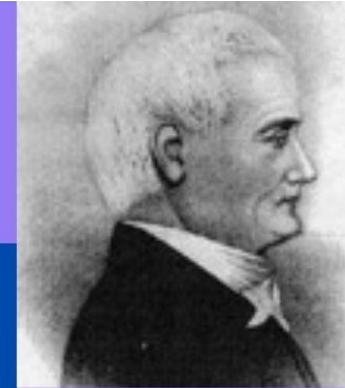
The farm and the surrounding area eventually became Core Creek Park, with the lake being called Lake Luxembourg, in honor of the Duchess. The house she lived in is still in existence today.

The deed when the Duchess purchased this property can be found in Book 732 Page 365



Did you know...

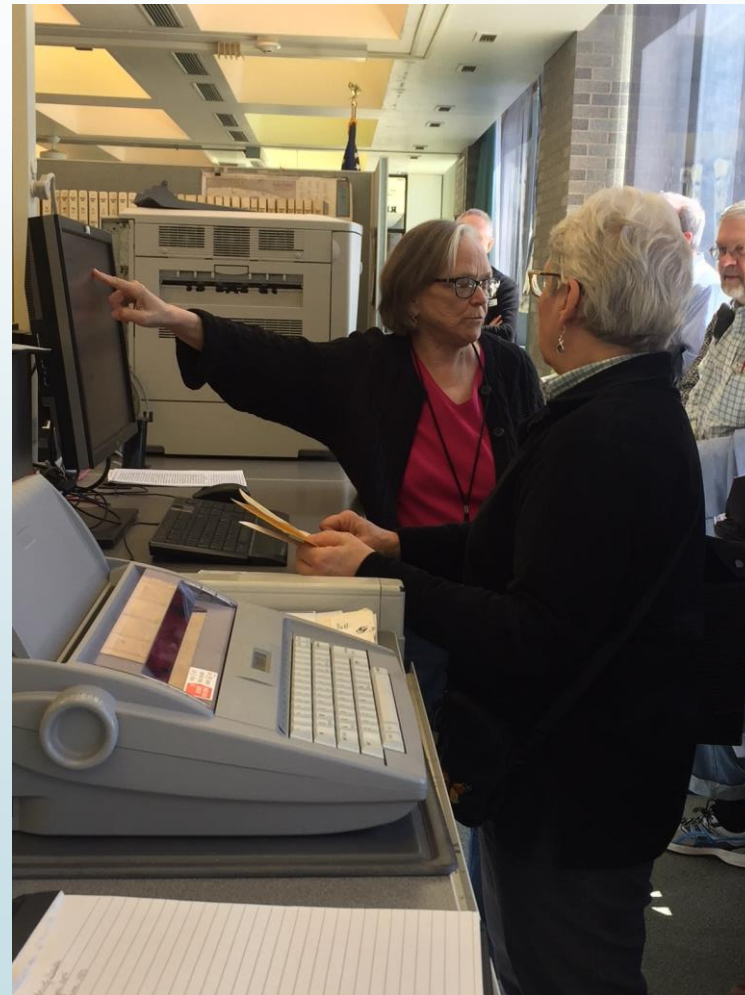
- Benjamin Parry was one of the founders of New Hope.
- Arrived in New Hope, then called Coryell's Ferry, in the early 1780s.
- In 1810, invented a process for preserving corn and grain to travel long distances.
- Led a group of local businessmen and investors in the construction of the first bridge to Lambertville.
- With investors, opened the first New Hope bank.
- Purchased a mill in 1785 from the Todd Family.
 - This mill was destroyed by fire in 1790 and was rebuilt within a year.
 - Renamed the New Hope Flour Mill, which is about when Coryell's Ferry was renamed New Hope in honor of Parry.
 - Is the property in which The Bucks County Playhouse now resides
- The Parry Mansion is located at 45 S. Main Street in New Hope.
 - Parry started building the mansion in 1784 and was completed in 1787.
 - Has been occupied by four generations of Benjamin Parry's direct descendants.
 - It was sold in 1966 to the New Hope Historical Society and is now a museum.



Deed for the mill
can be found in
Book 27 Page 61



Genealogy






Opening of Deed Records

NOW OPEN

**BUCKS COUNTY
RECORDER OF DEEDS
ONLINE RECORDS**

**DEEDS NOW OPEN BACK TO 1684 ON
LANDEX.COM**

 Landex Remote \$0.15 per minute to search \$0.10 per page loaded	 Landex Webstore \$2.00 for the first page \$0.75 for all other pages \$5.00 processing fee	 Index Book One time activation fee of \$25.00
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LANDEX
A Comprehensive System For Records Management

www.landex.com

Please contact Landex at 1-800-370-2836 for any technical support.

Bucks County Recorder of Deeds - 55 E. Court St., Doylestown, PA 18901 - 215-348-6209

- www.landex.com
- Deed records now open back to 1684
- Use of Index Books
- Two ways:
 - Landex Remote
 - Landex Webstore

The Bucks County Fraud Alert System

- This system monitors any documents that are recorded in your name, whether that be a true recording or a fraudulent one.
- <https://www.landex.com/recordalert/bucks>

**The Bucks County
Recorder of Deeds Office**
is now offering the
**FREE AND NEW
BUCKS COUNTY FRAUD ALERT SYSTEM**
to all residents of Bucks County

Sign-up today at:
<https://www.landex.com/recordalert/bucks>

You will receive an alert email from our recording vendor, Landex, anytime a document has been recorded in our office against your name.

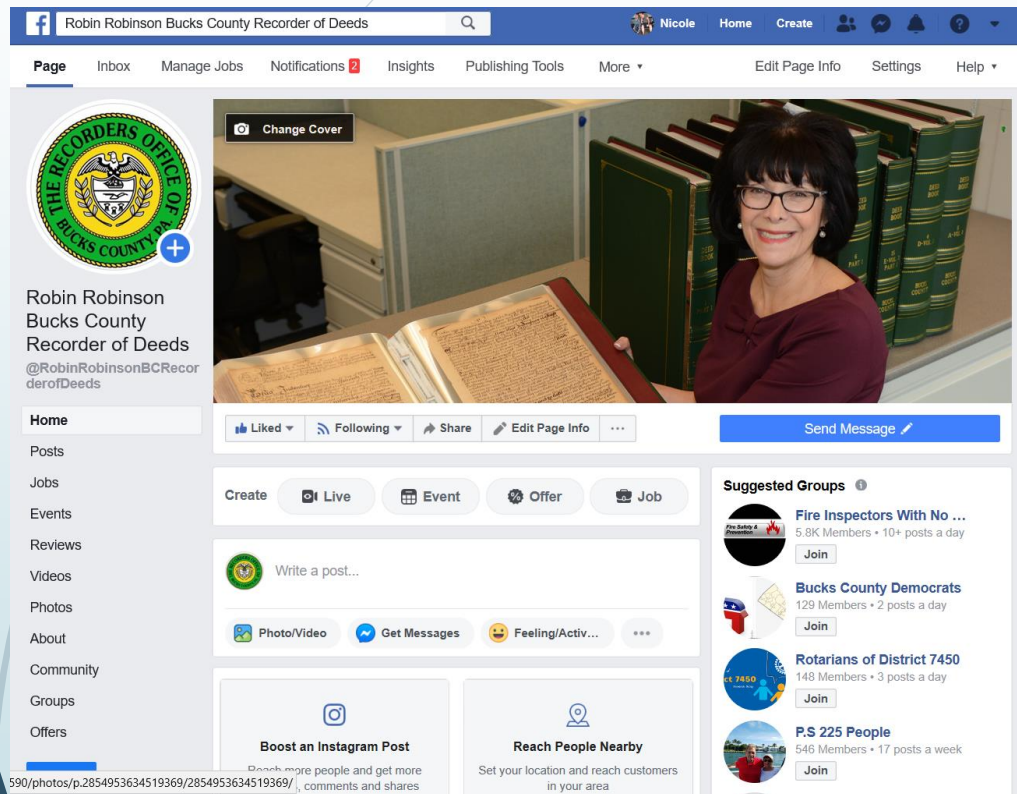
Robin hopes this free service will go a long way in helping you to not fall prey to predatory businesses charging you fees to monitor our property records. Our office can help you do it for free!



Robin Robinson
Recorder of Deeds
County of Bucks
(215) 348-6209

FREE FRAUD ALERT
Protect Your Identity

Social Media



Please like us on

- Facebook
@RobinRobinsonBCRecorderofDeeds
- Instagram
robinrobinsonbucksorod
- Twitter
@BucksROD



Thank You!

From Robin Robinson and the Recorder of Deeds Office