

# Early County Offices and Officeholders

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The Office Holder list includes major offices. Phase I covers years 1750-1799 and will be periodically refined for additions and corrections.

The Office Holder list is sorted by:

[Office](#) (pdf)

[Date](#) (pdf)

[Surname](#) (pdf)

Major sources being used are Cumberland County records such as Election Returns, Oaths Office, Minutes, Quarter Sessions Dockets, Commission Dockets, Appearance Docket, etc. Past research efforts are also being consulted, such as *History of Cumberland County* by Rev. Conway P. Wing 1879, *History of Cumberland County 1884*, WPA 1939 Research Project, etc.

Note 1: Two or more names may appear in the same year for the same office due to

1. the filling of vacancies resulting from death, resignation, or removal of office
2. overlapping terms within a year
3. conflicting dates in the sources

Note 2: The various spellings of early names and place names have not been standardized and a “?” questions transcription from original text.

The evolutionary chart below summarizes general dates for major offices and positions of Cumberland County **from 1750**. For evolution of these offices prior to 1750 consult *County Government and Archives in Pennsylvania* (Stevens Sylvester K. and Donald H. Kent editors. Harrisburg, Pennsylvania Historical Commission. 1947.)

*As an on-going project, it will be periodically refined with additions and corrections.*

(last update 1 July 2008)

**Office:** Alphabetically arranged by office or position. Only one term used for an office or position in most cases (ex: Warden represents Keeper of Jail, etc.).

**Year Established:** Existed in 1750 unless otherwise indicated.

**Year Abolished:** Still in existence unless indicated.

**Years Appointed:** Year is based on PA Constitution or PA Law with (w/) reference to appointment authority and term.

**Year Became First Elected & Term Change:** Year based on PA Constitution or PA Law with (w/) reference term information. Last entry still in existence.

# Early County Offices and Officeholders

Table 1: Evolutionary Chart of Major Offices and Positions of Cumberland County

Office	Year Established	Year Abolished	Years Appointed	Year Became Elected & Term Change
Assessor County		1780		
Assessor				-1696 w/6 for each county -1701 w/1 year term
Associate Judge (not "learned in law")		1874	-1790/91 by appointment of Governor for indefinite term See President Judge; See Judges	-1838 w/5 yr term (usually 2) STATE ELECTED
Auditor		1961	-1790/91 by Court of Common Pleas Judges w/indefinite term (usually 3 chosen)	-1809 w/1 yr term -1814 w/3 yr term (3 auditors w/1 elected each year) -1838 w/3 yr term -1909 w/4 yr term See Controller
Clerk of the Court of Quarter Sessions and Oyer & Terminer (& General Jail Delivery)			SEE Clerk of Peace	-1838 w/3 yr term -1909 w/4 yr term
Clerk of the Orphans' Court			-Prior 1838 see Clerk of Peace	-1838 w/3 yr term -1909 w/4 yr term
Clerk of the Peace (Clerk of Sessions) clerk for all courts		1838	-1701 appointed by Governor from 3 persons nominated by Justices of the Peace -1790 appointed by Governor alone -1838 SEE 1) Clerk of the Court of Quarter Sessions and Oyer & Terminer 2) Prothonotary	
Commissioners				-1722 w/3 yr term -1776 w/3 yr term & 3 Comm. -1909 w/4 yr term
Controller	1961			-1961 w/4 yr term
Coroner			-1701 appointed by Governor w/3 yr term -1790 appointed by Governor from 2 names elected by county citizens w/3 yr term	-1838 w/3 yr term -1909 w/4 yr term
County Surveyor	1850		-Pre 1850 appointed by Surveyor General & called Deputy Surveyor	-1850 w/3 yr term -1909 w/4 yr term

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Office	Year Established	Year Abolished	Years Appointed	Year Became Elected & Term Change
District Attorney	1850		-Pre 1850 appointed by Attorney General and called Deputy Attorney General	-1850 -1874 w/3 yr term -1909 w/4yr term
Fence Viewer			-1685 appointed by country courts	
Judge "learned in law"	1874			-1874 w/10 yr term
Jury Commissioner	1867			-1867 w/3 yr term -1909 w/4 yr term
Justice of Peace			- to 1776 appointed by Governor	-1776 w/7yr term ELECTED BY MUNICIPALITY
Mercantile Appraiser	1846		-1804 appointed by Commissioners -1838/1841 appointed by Commissioners -1874 appointed by Commissioners w/1 yr term -by 1940 appointed by State Auditor General	
Orphans' Court Judge	1874			-1874 w/10 yr term
Overseer of the Poor - townships		ca 1808 phased out	-to 1809 appointed SEE POOR DIRECTORS	-1809 ELECTED BY MUNICIPALITY
Poor Director County	1808 phased in	1937 phased out	-1937 Commissioners phased in as Directors of Board of "Institutional District"	-1838 w/3 yr term (3 directors) -1874 w/3 yr term
President Judge			-1777 appointed by State	-1838 w/10 yr term STATE ELECTED -1874 w/10 yr term elected by county citizens
Prothonotary (Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas)			-prior to 1838 SEE Clerk of Peace	-1838 w/3 yr term -1909 w/4 yr term
Recorder of Deeds			-1776 by Governor w/indefinite term (combined office w/Register of Wills) -1790/91 by Governor w/indefinite term as separate office	-1838 w/3 yr term -1909 w/4 yr term
Register of Wills			-1776 by Governor w/indefinite term (combined office w/Recorder of Deeds) -1790/91 by Governor w/indefinite term as separate office	-1838 w/3 yr term -1909 w/4 yr term
Road Viewers			-1701 appointed by county Justices	

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Office	Year Established	Year Abolished	Years Appointed	Year Became Elected & Term Change
(i.e. Viewers of Roads; Highways )			of Peaces -1776 appointed by county Justices of Peace -1790/91 appointed by Pres. Judges & Assoc Judicial District -1802 appointed by Quarter Sessions Court (usually 6) w/indefinite term -1838 appointed by Pres. Judge etc. Judicial District -1845 reduced to 3 viewers -1874 appointed by Pres. Judge etc. w/indefinite term -1911 Board of Viewers established	
<b>Sealer of Weights &amp; Measures</b> (if exists)	At least by 1914	At least until 1965	-1790/91 by Governor w/indefinite term -1838 appointed by Governor w/indefinite term -1874 appointed by Governor w/3 yr term	
<b>Sheriff</b>			-1701 appointed by Governor w/3 yr term -1790/91 by Governor from 2 names elected by county citizens w/ 3 yr term	-1838 w/3 yr term -1909 w/4 yr term
<b>Solicitor</b>			-1895 appointed by Commissioners	
<b>Superintendent of Schools</b>	1854			-1954 ELECTED BY SCHOOL DIRECTORS w/3 yr term -1911 ELECTED BY SCHOOL DIRECTORS w/4 yr term
<b>Treasurer</b>			-1776 by assessors & Commissioners -1780-1841 appointed by Commissioners w/indefinite term -1799 w/1 yr term	-1841 w/2 yr term -1909 w/4 yr term
<b>Warden</b> (i.e. Keeper of Jail; Goal; Penitentiary)			-1791 appointed by Sheriff w/indefinite term	

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Dept. & Others	Date Office / Department Established	Note
<b>COMMISSIONERS</b>		
<b>Departments</b>		
Administrative Services		
Aging & Community Services		
Agricultural Extension (Independent?)		Penn State Agricultural Cooperative & Extension Office
Bureau of Elections & Voter Registration		
Children & Youth	1937	By Cty Institutional District Act; amended 1961
Commissioners	1750	
Conservation District	1953 (July)	
Crime Lab		
Drug & Alcohol		
Economic Development CVVB - Tourism	2005	1. 2005="501(c)3" including Tourism Promotion Agency (what legal name?)
Finance (Budget/Payroll)	1995 (Oct)	
Human Resources		
IMTO	1) 1999	
GIS		
ERP(Enterprise Resource Planning)	3) ERP	ERP originally Civil Defense (?1956?)
Library System		
Maintenance/Facilities		
Mental Health & Mental Retardation	1967	
Nursing Home		Pre 1808 (by twp/boros 1808 (Perry Cty Home) 1829 (Carlisle, C Cty)
Planning Commission/Zoning		
Farmland Preservation	2) 1989 (July) Farmland Preservation	2) 1 <sup>st</sup> known as C Cty Agricultural Land Preservation Board
Prison/Warden	See above chart	
Public Defender	1960s	
Public Safety (OEP) Operation of Emergency Preparedness		
Redevelopment & Housing Authority	1975	1. board members appointed by Cty commissioners, but doesn't receive any general funds from cty – not considered cty agency
Solid Waste	1991	1. 1975 Solid Waste Authority
Solicitor		
Tax Assessment		
Tax Administration		

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Tax Claims	1962	1. Tax Claim Bureau under 1947 "Real Estate Law (Act 542)
Tax Mapping?		
Transportation	1980	
Vector Control/Weights & Measures		
Veterans Affairs		
<b>COURTS</b>		
Court Administrator	1983	1. by PA Constitution of 1968; previously functions belonged to President Judge; did Judges keep until 1983?
Central Processing ?		
Divorce Master		
Domestic Relations		
Judges		
Jury Services		
Probation, Adult	1966	1. 1949-1966 just Probation w/Juvenile & Adult
Probation, Juvenile	1966	1. 1949-1966 just Probation w/Adult & Juvenile
Victim Services		