

Notes

*John Camden Hotten, ed., *The Original Lists of persons of quality; emigrants, religious exiles, political rebels; serving men sold for a term of years; apprentices; children stolen; maidens pressed; and others who went from Great Britain to the American Plantations 1600-1700*. (London, Eng., 1874).

1. *Record of the Courts of Chester County, Pennsylvania 1681-1697*, (Phila., 1910), 30, 303.
2. *Ibid.*, 361.
3. *Ibid.*, 383-84.
4. *Ibid.*, 355.
5. *Laws of the Province of Pennsylvania 1682-1700*, (Harrisburg, Pa., 1879), 111.
6. George Smith, M.D., *History of Delaware County, Pennsylvania*, (Phila., 1862), 186.
7. Dorothy Lapp, ed., *Records of the Courts of Chester County, Pennsylvania*, (Danville, Pa., 1972), 2:6. [It should be noted that this source lists the names of the children brought before the Chester County Court. The names of the buyers and the terms of service are also here.] The Court Records were published under the auspices of the Chester County Historical Society.
8. Willard Heiss, ed., *Quaker Biographical Sketches of Ministers and Elders*, (Indianapolis, 1972), 266.
9. J. Smith Futhy & Gilbert Cope, *History of Chester County, Pennsylvania*, (Phila., 1881), Pt. 1, 430.
10. *Ibid.*, 431.
11. Gilbert Cope, *Genealogy of the Baily Family of Bronham, Wiltshire, England. Descendants of Joel Baily*, (Lancaster, Pa., 1912), 20.
12. *Courts of Chester County*, (1910), 329.
13. *Records of the Court of Quarter Sessions & Common Pleas of Bucks County, Pennsylvania*, (Meadville, Pa., 1943), 391.
14. H. Clay Reed & George J. Miller, eds., *The Burlington Court Book*, (Washington, D. C., 1944), 197-98.
15. *Court of Bucks County*, 325.
16. *Publications of the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania*, 3 (1906):35-36.
17. *Ibid.*, 3 (1907):145-46.
18. *Court of Bucks County*, 399.
19. *Burlington Court Book*, 227.

Bucks County, Pennsylvania Coroners' Records, 1710-1729

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AMONG THE RECORDS PRESERVED in the archives of Bucks County is a series of inquisitions held by the county coroners, pursuant to their investigations of sudden, violent or suspicious deaths. Seventeen of these documents date from the period 1710-1729. Then follows a long gap during which records have not survived. The file resumes in 1786, and the subsequent records are equally rich in information for both the genealogist and the social historian.

Though the earliest actual inquisition surviving is dated 1710, the office of coroner had existed since the early years of the county, and there are several references to the coroner's investigation of deaths in the court minutes.¹ The first recorded instance was on 12 September 1688, when a "Corroners return" was entered in the court minutes: "A return of the sudden death of Rogr Scott was this day made to this Court under the Jurys hands". Another copy of the court record said his death was "accidental Through is owne Carlesnes".²

Other deaths recorded in the court minutes as coroner's returns:

John Ackerman, 11 June 1690, "drowned accidentely" on 11 May 1690.

John Stolon [or Stotton], 10 December 1690, "accidental death."

Elizabeth Chappel, 8 June 1692, "Casual by falling of her horse into the water or neshaminah Creek."

"Unknown pson found neare the mouth of Neshaminah Creek," 8 June 1692, "wilfully murdered."

Richard Atthary [or Athay], 10 March 1696-7, "natural death."

James Hagath, servant of John Scot, 13 September 1699, "by a blow of John Snowdons Horse that he struck him the 5th day of the

Matt. Hughes, Samll. Baker, John Scarbrough, George Brown, George Haworth.

Coroner: Jonathan Woolston.

17 May 1724.

Subject: Rebecca Brown late of Newtown, spinster.

Place: "at Midletown . . . upon the branch of Neshaminy Creek Near the fford Comonly Called Cartars fford."

Report: "in Company with [—] William Graves Rideing through the sd Creek at the [—] the sd Rebecca then & there fell from her Horse [—] she rod Into the sd Creek or water by means whereof [—] the sd Rebecca was then & there Instantly Drowned."

Jury: Henry Nelson, Jonathan Woollston, Joseph Walker, Jeremiah Croasdale, Amas Watson, James Yates, Tho. Rogers Junr., Thomas Davis, Peter Vanhorn, William Hudleston, Nathanael Twin- ing, Jonathan Carlile.

Coroner: None. Proceedings presided over by Jeremiah Lang- horne, Justice of the Peace.

25 May 1726.

Subject: James ffox, "Late of Durham . . . Labourer."

Place: "at Durham . . . By Delaware river near a place Comonly Called Monetta Ollack."

Report: "the sd James ffox the Twenty second Day of May . . . went into a Certain Creek (Near the sd Monetta Ollack afd) in Company with Divers other persons in order to Bath himself and then & there plunging himself so far into the water that It was over his head & he not being able to swim he the sd James ffox was then & there Instantly Drowned."

Jury: Robert White, Edward moris, Thos. Sisom, Amos That[c]har (mark), Henry Mitchell, Samuel Bonham, Robert Lewis, Stephen Drawer, Richd. few, George Turner, John Heas [Hays], William Varnell.

Coroner: Jonathan Woolston.

4 May 1726.

Subject: Benjamin Lucas, son of Edward Lucas of Falls Township, "being a Child of one yeare and six months old."

Place: "in the fals Township att the hous of Edward Lucas."

Report: "on this 4th day between the hours of Eight and tenn the sd Benj. Lucas was playing neer a Large Spring of Watter that stood in standing water neer 2 foot deep and [accidentally?] fell in to the sd water and was drouned."

Jury: John Cross, Nehemiah Blackshaw, James Harker, John Hillborn, Amos Palmer, Tho. Watson, Samuel Combs, Thomas Ashton, James Downs, Roger Moon, Jonathan Palmer, Amas Wat- son.

Coroner: Jonathan Woolston.

30 May 1726.

Subject: Walter Thomas, "Late of Rights town [Wrightstown] . . . Labourer."

Place: "at Rightstown . . . near the house of Richard Mitchell."

Report: "on the twenty ninth day of may Last between the hours of Eleven and one of the same day, the sd Walter Thomas into the Miln pond of the sd Richard Mitchell did enter With an intent to wash and bathe himself and being swimming cros the sd miln pond as we suppose was immediately taken with the Cramp of which he sunk down and was drownd."

Jury: Daniel flimind [Flemin], William Kendall (mark), David James (mark), John Chapman, Joseph Chapman, Godfrey Kirk, Richard Mitchell, John Wilkinson, Edward Milnor, Peter Johnson (mark), Cephas Child, John Johnson (mark).

Coroner: Jonathan Woolston.

3 June 1726.

Subject: Adam Pettet, "Late of makefield, Cooper."

Place: "att makefild . . . by Delaware [River?] nere Thomas Yardly ferey."

Report: He "went into the River in Company with Samuell Hough and John Pickren in order to wash and Beath him self then and there plunged him self so far into the water not being able to swim to the shore the water being out of his depth he the sd Adam Pettet was then and there Instentently Drouned."

Jury: John Neeld, Warren Barr, Joshua Richa[rd]son, Thomas Stackhous, William Made [Meade], Henry Janney, Noah Gates, John Lee, Henry Woodward, Nicklos Parkar, Benjamin Jannens (mark), Dan[i]ell Lee.

Coroner: Jonathan Woollston.

21 December 1728.

Subject: John Verity, "Late of Wrightstown aforesaid Weaver."

Place: "at Wrightstown . . . on the Barn floor."

Report: "the said John Verity the Twentyeth Day of December ... went into his Barn with a Design to Kill or Chase a Squierel which was in the aforesaid Barn by which means he the said John Verity happened to fall from a mow or scaffold in the Barn afore said upon

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