

During the terms of Sheriffs Hubert Layton and Norris Williams new jails were built in 1957 and 1994 respectively. The most recent jail built in 1994 is located in Mannington Township and was built at a cost of \$17 million dollars. It is the 6th Salem County Jail.

After completion of the County jail in 1994, the former jail, which sat on Market Street, was renovated and converted into what is now known as the Administrative Building for the County of Salem. This building is now the home for the Sheriff's Office as well as the County Treasurer, Clerk of the Board, Human Resources, Purchasing, and a division of the Prosecutors office.

Salem County entered the Twenty-First century with a population of approximately 66,000 people. The last sixty years saw the sheriff's office held by just four men. Sheriff, Hubert P. Layton, served for over thirty years, Sheriff Norris B. Williams for over twenty years, Sheriff John B. Cooksey for twelve years and Sheriff Charles M. Miller presently holds the position. Sheriff Miller looks forward to increase police presence in all communities within Salem County.

In 2013, The Salem County Sheriff's Office acquired its third division; the 911 Communications Center. The Salem County Communications Center mission is to serve and protect the public and first responders we serve by providing the vital communications link between the community and the emergency first responders.

The Salem County Sheriff's divisions now include enforcement, corrections and communications.



Salem County Correctional Facility

HISTORY OF SALEM COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

CHARLES M. MILLER SHERIFF



Courthouse & Jail c.1775

Sheriff's Roster

1682 Thomas Woodruff
 1693 John Jeffery
 1694 Hugh Middleton
 1697 Rodger Milton
 1698 John Dickson
 1700 & 1705, 1715, 1720 William Griffin
 1701 Rodger Milton
 1703 William Dare
 1709 & 1723, 1732 George Trenchard
 1712 Daniel Rumsey & John Rolph
 1716 James Skerron
 1717 & 1727 Robert Johnson
 1728 Joseph Gregory
 1735 John Hunt
 1741 Nicholas Gibbon
 1748 William Barker
 1752 John Nicholson
 1755 Robert Johnson
 1758 & 1764 John Budd
 1762 & 1769 Joseph Burroughs
 1765 Edward Test
 1771 George Trenchard
 1773 Bateman Lloyd
 1774 Edmund Wetherby
 1783 & 1789 Whitten Cripps
 1786 Benjamin Cripps
 1792 Edward Hall
 1795 Clement Acton
 1798 John Tuft
 1800 Jacob Hufty
 1804 Samuel L. James
 1807 Thomas Bines
 1810 Henry Freas
 1813 Richard Craven
 1816 Samuel Miller
 1819 Jonathan Richman
 1822 Joseph Kille
 1825 Edward Smith
 1828 John Hackett & Issac Johnson
 1831 James Logue

1834 David S. English
 1837 Thomas I. Casper
 1840 Isaac Johnson (2nd)
 1843 Robert Newell
 1846 Isaiah Conklin
 1849 Joseph S. Blackwood
 1852 Samuel Plummer
 1855 Richard C. Ballinger
 1858 Samuel W. Miller
 1861 Owen L. Jones
 1864 John Hunt
 1867 George Hires, Jr.
 1870 William A. Casper
 1873 John Hires
 1878 George D. Barton
 1881 Charles D. Coles
 1884 Clinton Kelty
 1887 James Butcher
 1890 James Newell
 1893 Oliver, T. Wiggins
 1896 Benjamin B. Westcott
 1899 Robert N. Vanneman
 1902 William Johnson
 1905 Collins B. Allen
 1908 Albert Batten
 1911 John E. Ayres
 1914 A. Lincoln Fox
 1917 William T. Mifflin
 1920 A.K. Brandriff
 1923 Robert W. Kidd
 1926 J. Emmor Robinson
 1929 George P. Dixon
 1932 Hubert P. Layton
 1935 Hildreth S. Reeves
 1936 Peter B. Hoff
 1940 Hubert P. Layton
 1943 William H. Morris
 1946 to 1973 Hubert P. Layton
 1974 to 1994 Norris B. Williams
 1995 to 2007 John B. Cooksey
 2007 Charles M. Miller

The Office of the Sheriff is the oldest law enforcement office known within the common law system. From the beginning of English and Scottish law, the sheriff's office was the center of the local administration of justice. The most popular concept of the origin of Sheriff is that it came from England. The office of the Sheriff was brought to this country by the Pilgrims. The Sheriff's duties in the colonies was to collect taxes and make sure local elections ran smoothly. The word Sheriff evolved from the Saxon word 'scyre' signifying 'shire' meaning county, and word 'reeve' signifying keeper or administrative office. Shire-reeve evolved into the present word, Sheriff.

The office of the Sheriff is the only elected law enforcement position in the state of New Jersey. The sale of property had been the responsibility of the Sheriff's office for over seven hundred years and this function is still performed. The authority over constables, wardens and the jail are a continuing responsibility along with court safety, transportation of inmates and the service of warrants.

Salem, known as John Fenwick's colony, is the oldest English speaking settlement on the Delaware River. The Sheriff's office in Salem County dates back to 1682. The General Free Assembly of the province made the first division of West New Jersey into judicial districts or counties at its session in May 1682. At that time a sheriff, recorder and justices were appointed for the jurisdiction of Salem though the act did not define the limits of the jurisdiction. An interesting fact that up to 1693, there was no tribunal in West Jersey competent to try offenses of a capital nature. The first settlers, the Quakers almost seemed unwilling to suppose that a capital crime could be committed in their community. It was provided, however, that when a person should be found guilty of murder or



Administration Building

treason, the sentence and punishment was left to the General Assembly "to determine as they, in the wisdom of the lord, should judge meet and expedite".

The jail was built because the thinking at the time was that physical punishment would frighten one into a God fearing lifestyle. The jail was merely a holding place until the offender could be flogged at the whipping post or placed in the stocks which were located just outside the jail.

Thomas Woodruff and his wife, Edith arrived in Salem on the ship "Surrey" in 1679. In 1682 Woodruff was appointed the first High Sheriff for Salem County. Towards the end of his term, in 1691, Woodruff walked Thomas Lutherland to his execution for the murder of John Clark.

With the increase of population it soon became necessary to create another county and Gloucester was organized in 1686. Oldman's Creek and a line from its headwaters to the Delaware River became the northern boundary of Salem County.

In 1692 during the term of High Sheriff John Jeffery, the county of Cape May was enacted by an act of the Provincial Legislature with a boundary between it and Salem County on the East side of the Morris River.

The original jail was built of logs and stood until 1709, when George Trenchard served as Sheriff. It was then replaced by a stone building and this building in 1775 was replaced by yet another, also of stone on the corner of Fenwick and Market Streets.

In 1747-48 an act was passed that incorporated Cumberland County from the southern parts of Salem. During the terms of Sheriffs Nicolas Gibbon and William Barker, the Act of 1747 was passed. It required that all Sheriffs should be residents and freeholders in the county for three years, and that no one hold office for longer than three years. (Freeholder is a term signifying that the person so designated was the owner of property and had the authority to vote.)

In the 1790 census the population of Salem County had grown to 10,437 persons. During the term of Sheriff Clement Acton, in 1795 the jail was damaged but not utterly destroyed by a fire, which

was set by a prisoner named McIntyre. The jail was rebuilt. It was a plain substantial building, encroaching slightly as did its predecessor on the street. It was two stories high and contained not only cells for the prisoners, but also the sheriff's residence. A high stone wall surrounded a spacious jail-yard.

In 1825 Sheriff Edward Smith married a daughter of Andrew Sinnickson. In the 1830's they would be just one family of the many who emigrated west when crops failed.

By 1842 while Sheriff Isaac Johnson was serving as Sheriff, an addition was built to the jail. Action was finally taken in 1851 during Sheriff John Blackwood's tenure, to build a new jail. A committee consisting of Joseph Kille, Samuel P. Carpenter and William H. Nelson was appointed to report estimates as to the probable cost of the building and proposal for the erection of it. They reported back to the Board of Freeholder in 1852, but no action was taken in the matter.

On New Years day 1853, Justice Elmer sentenced Samuel Treadway to the gallows. Treadway was convicted of shooting his estranged wife. Once convicted he made a full confession and on March 1, noon the hanging took place in the rear of the old jail. The hanging was witnessed by three sheriffs, four doctors and over one hundred invited 'guests'; and afterwards the entire populace was allowed to view the swinging remains. The trial and event were well covered by the local and Philadelphia newspapers.

In 1854 during the term of Sheriff Samuel Plummer, a committee was appointed to procure plans and estimates of the cost of a new jail and workhouse. In August that year the committee's reports were placed in the hands of the clerk of the County John N. Cooper and once again the project



Communication Center

slept.

In January 1866, after the Civil War, a special meeting was called for the purpose of considering the matter. It was resolved by vote that the old jail should be torn down and a new one built. At the annual meeting in May 1866 this committee reported that a contractor had been found for the building of a jail and sheriff's house.

The jail was completed early in 1867 and the materials of the old jail were sold. The jail was a stone building with thirty-two brick cells opening into spacious corridors, each cell having a capacity for one prisoner. The Sheriff's house stood in front of the jail, on Market Street. The cost of these buildings was forty thousand dollars in 1869. Where the old jail stood at the corner of Fenwick and Market Streets, the area was cleared and enclosed. The space would eventually become the site of the 1908 expansion of the old courthouse. The new Sheriff George Hires took residence in 1869.

A curious feature of elections in those times was that the sheriffs were elected for one year only but once a man was successful like Sheriff Casper, both parties re-nominated him by courtesy for the next two years. This continued until the 1880's when a three-year term was established by new amendments to the State constitution. Not until 1947 could you succeed yourself in office.

In 1879 the population of Salem County had grown to 23,940. The county was divided into townships of Elsinboro, East Fenwick, (now Mannington), West Fenwick (afterwards Penn's Neck and now Upper and Lower Penn's Neck), Pilesgrove (which included both the Pittsgroves), and Monmouth (which embraced the territory now included in Upper and Lower Alloways Creek and Quinton).

Fenwick Colony has not grown without turbulence. There were numerous capital crimes. On Christmas Eve, 1916, Sheriff A. Lincoln Fox had to deal with the brutal murder of Joseph Westcott. The convicted men were the first criminals from Salem County to be executed by electricity. This was the first capital case since the execution of Sullivan in 1884.