

Ross County Genealogical Society

303 S Paint St.

P. O. Box 6352, Chillicothe, OH 45601

Phone: (740) 773-2715

Email: rcgs@bright.net

Web Site:

www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ohrcgs

Hours: M-W-F 1-4 p.m., Th 6-9 p.m.,

Sat 9-Noon

Ross County Health Department

Vital Statistics Section

150 East Second Street

Chillicothe, OH 45601

Phone: (740) 779-9630

Hours: M-F 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Chillicothe-Ross County Public Library

140-146 South Paint Street, Chillicothe, OH

45601

Phone: (740) 702-4145

Hours: M-Th 9 a.m.-9 p.m.,

F-Sat 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m.,

Web Site: www.crcpl.org

McKell Library

39 West Fifth Street, Chillicothe, OH 45601

Phone: (740) 773-1896

Hours: T-W-F 1-5 p.m.

Closed All Holidays

Common Pleas Court, Probate Division,

Ross County Archives

21 W. Main St., Chillicothe OH 45601

Mailing Address: 2 N. Paint St., Suite A

Phone: (740) 774-1177 Ext. 113

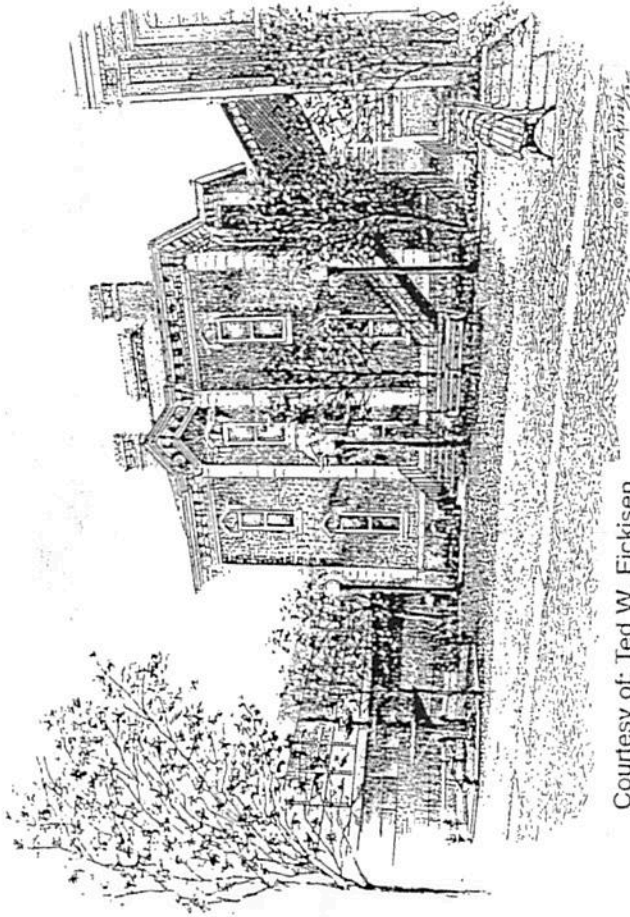
Hours: M-F 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Closed for Lunch (Noon-1:00 p.m.)

Closed All Holidays

Janet Ackley's Email: janetackley@rosscountyohio.gov

Welcome to the Ross County Probate Court Archives



Courtesy of: Ted W. Fickisen

The Archives structure was originally built in 1878 as the Ross County Sheriff's jail and jailer's residence. It contained 16 cells used for males, one holding cell for females, and one holding cell for the mentally ill. Sheriff Fred Heintzelman was the last Sheriff to actually reside in the jail. When Sheriff Thomas Hamman took office in 1977, he converted the living quarters into office space.

In July of 1989, the Sheriff's Department moved into the newly completed law complex. The Ross County Commissioners then approved the use of the old jail as the Ross County Probate Archives. The Archives was officially dedicated and opened for public use in April of 1996.

This may be the first time you have visited the Probate Court of Ross County, Ohio. We would like to welcome you to the oldest Probate Court in Ohio.

The records of the Probate Court of Ross County are a treasure trove of historical information. Many of these records pre-date the establishment of the State of Ohio in 1803.

Chillicothe was the capitol of the Territory Northwest of the River Ohio established by the Ordinance of 1787. General Arthur St. Clair, the Territorial Governor, issued marriage licenses in Ross County in 1798 and the Probate Court continues this service today.

Estate records or inventories of decedent estates were filed in the Probate Court beginning in 1797. These early records reflect values made in two monetary systems, i.e. American dollars and cents and British pounds, shillings, and pence. Estates are also currently administered in this Court.

The Board of County Commissioners recognized the importance of these records and provided space for the storage of our inactive records by the establishment of the Ross County Archives.

All visitors are respectfully requested to treat all of these records with the utmost care being especially careful not to deface, alter, remove, or damage them in any way because many of them are irreplaceable.

Severe penalties may be imposed against anyone failing to honor this request.

On behalf of the Board of Commissioners and myself, I personally welcome you to our facility.

J. Jeffrey Benson
Judge, Probate/Juvenile Court

Marriage Records

- ◆ 1798-1876 Marriage registers-Personal information not included "Ross County Marriage Index" by Bob Casari
- ◆ 1877-1900 Marriage registers-Personal information not included "Ross County Marriage Index" by Bob Casari
- ◆ 1900-1976 Marriage registers-Personal information included *Indexed in individual volumes*
- ◆ 1977-1992 Marriage registers-Personal information included *Indexed by males in General Marriage Index*
- ◆ 1993-Present Marriage registers-Personal information included *Indexed in individual volumes - computerized*

Marriage Affidavits

(Parental consent of underage bride and/or groom)

- ◆ 1816 - 1855
- ◆ 1855 - 1870
- ◆ 1871 - 1885
- ◆ 1886 - 1896
- ◆ 1897 - 1900

Birth Records

(Recording not mandated by law until 1867)

- ◆ 1867 - 1908 Probate Birth Records-Primarily township records *General Index to Probate Court Birth Records*
- ◆ 1888 - 1908 Health Department Records-Primarily city records
- ◆ 1908-Present Recorded and housed at the Health Department

Delayed Birth Registration and Corrections

- ◆ 1941 - 1960 19 Volumes - Indexed in each volume

Death Records

- ◆ 1867 - 1908 Probate Death Records - Primarily township deaths *General Index to Probate Court Death Records*
- ◆ 1888 - 1908 Health Department Records - Primarily city deaths
- ◆ 1908 - Present Recorded and housed at the Health Department

Probate Records

(General Index for all probate proceedings)

- ◆ 1797 - Present Estate proceedings
- ◆ 1801 - Present Guardianship proceedings
- ◆ Naturalization records
- ◆ Lunacy proceedings
- ◆ 1801 - Present Miscellaneous suits