



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
COUNTY OF LOUDOUN
OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT

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Gary M. Clemens
Clerk



Women's History Month Moment from the Clerk's Historic Records Team

We hope you enjoyed our virtual Black History programs last month and we are grateful to the Virginia Humanities and the Loudoun County Public Library system for their partnership as we offered our first virtual Black History program. The Loudoun County Board of Supervisors issued a resolution to celebrate the month of March as Women's History Month. In light of this resolution, my historic records team is offering a special online posting of various narratives of special women in Loudoun's history. This first posting shares information about the first known documented female deputy clerk in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court. I have several deputy clerks who are women working with me today so it's hard to imagine a clerk's office without women. I hope you enjoy these postings assembled by Eric Larson, my historic records manager, and our dedicated historic records team.

Nellie Blanche Hammerly: The First Female Deputy Clerk of the Circuit Court By Lori Kimball

There are 38 female Deputy Clerks of the Circuit Court today, and Nellie B. Hammerly paved the way in the early 1900s. She had been named to this position by 1920 when she registered to vote and listed her occupation as "deputy clerk of court."

Nellie was born in 1886, the third of 7 daughters in the family of Charles Decatur and Mary Hammerly. She did not have far to walk to work as the family lived two blocks north of the courthouse on the southwest side of King and North Streets. The large stucco house at 107 King Street now serves as office space for McEarny Real Estate. Charles Hammerly was an undertaker and cabinet maker. It was not unusual back then for an undertaker to also be in the furniture or cabinetry business because both required woodworking skills. He operated his business in the frame building next door at the corner of King and North Streets. It presently houses RGS Title Company.

Nellie's commitment to civic duty is evidenced by her immediate registration to vote after the 19th Amendment was passed in August 1920. Nellie and three of her sisters registered a month later in Leesburg (See image below). She was active in the Leesburg United Methodist Church, local service organizations, and the Loudoun Business and Professional Women's Club. The Loudoun Bar Association honored her several times for being an efficient and dedicated employee at the courthouse.

The County Clerk's office was renovated in late 1955 or early 1956, and Nellie is shown in this picture that was published in the Blue Ridge Herald newspaper. (See image below).

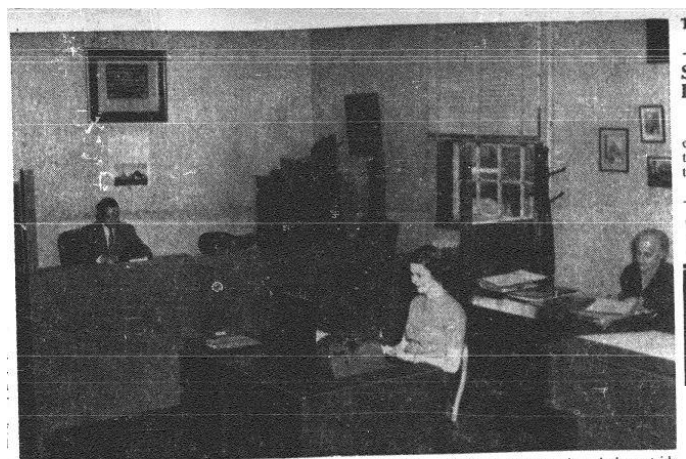
After working at the courthouse for 56 years, Nellie retired in 1963. She lived with her sisters at the family home until she died in March 1979. She is buried in Union Cemetery in Leesburg.

As we celebrate Women's History Month, we honor Nellie B. Hammerly, the first female Deputy Clerk of the Circuit Court in Loudoun County and an active, civic-minded woman in Loudoun County.

Roll of * White Voters Registered at Leesburg Town Precinct in Leesburg Magisterial District
(WHITE OR COLORED)

LOUDOUN COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Date Registered	No.	NAME	Date of Birth	Age	Occupation	Residence	Length of Residence			Exempt from Payment, Etc. See Note	If Naturalized		If Transferred, When and to Where
							State	County	Precinct		Date	By What Court	
Sept. 15, 1928	28	Hammerly, Nellie B.	June 7, 1883	47	Dept. Clerk of Court	Leesburg	37	37	37	No			
" "	29	Hammerly, E. W.	Sept. 10, 1880	40	CLERK	"	40	40	40	No			Off
" "	30	HICKMAN, Margaret	Aug. 25, 1897	23	"	"	23	23	23	No			Deceased
" "	31	Hammerly, Ruth J.	JAN. 21, 1895	25	"	"	25	25	25	No			
" "	32	Hammerly, Margaret	Nov. 29, 1891	38	Dress Maker	"	38	38	38	No			
May 7, 1923	33	Housibede, Katie	1878	45	"	"	45	45	45	No			Deceased
May 7, 1923	34	Housibede, Nellie T.	Nov. 5, 1875	47	Housewife	"	47	47	47	No			Deceased
May 7, 1923	35	Hammerly, Adelaide J.	Oct. 11, 1887	33	CLERK	"	33	33	33	No			
April 1, 1925	36	Harrison, Louise Goldsborough	Aug. 3, 1889	33	Housewife	"	3	3	3	No			
Sept. 27, 1920	37	Hawsae, Georgia	Mar. 24, 1880	40	"	"	40	1	1	No			Deceased Fr. Fam Ashburn 5-22-31
Sept. 20, 1920	38	Autchison, Nellie C.		32	CLERK	"	32	32					
Aug. 1, 1931	39	Harrison, Sara Fendall	Sept. 28, 1910	20	student	"	20	20	20	No			
Sept. 11, 1932	40	HARKNESS, ANNA P. R.	Feb. 2, 1877	55	Housewife	"	2	2	2	No			
June 9, 1923	41	HANBACK, MARY E.	JAN. 13, 1891	32	"	"	32	32	32	No			
Sept. 23, 1920	42	Haupt, Ella	Mar. 7, 1879	41	Gov. Clerk	"	41	41	41	No			Deceased
Aug. 4, 1923	43	HEATON, MARTHA D.	1872	51	Housewife	"	51	51	8 ^{mo}	No			Deceased
Apr. 30, 1923	44	Heugh, Sylvia Mullen	Mar. 3, 1927	31	"	"	31	31	31	No			Off
Apr. 19, 1927	45	HARRISON, MARIUS GANT	Apr. 10, 1918	29	"	"	6	6	6	No			Off
Apr. 2, 1923	46	HENDERSON, ENA H.	Aug. 1, 1900	43	Beauty Parlor	"	43	43	8	No			Off
Sept. 5, 1924	49	Hill, Mabel Herndon	Sept. 1, 1921	23	Housewife	"	23	23	23	No			Off
Oct. 23, 1926	50	HARKNESS, CATHERINE G.	July 28, 1921	25	"	"	1	1	1	No			Off
June 10, 1927	51	Hendershall, Florence P.	Dec. 3, 1916	30	DENTIST ASST.	"	30	30	30	No			
" "	52	Howershall, Ida Lee	Sept. 29, 1915	32	Beauty Shop	"	32	32	32	No			Transferred
Sept. 2, 1920	53	Hopland, Elsie Davis	June 21, 1883	39	Housewife	"	39	2	2	No			
June 13, 1925	54	Heugh, Bessie P.	JAN. 5, 1894	31	Typist	"	2	2	2	No			Deceased
June 10, 1927	55	HERNDON, FRANCES C.	Apr. 14, 1904	43	Housewife	"	43	43	43	No			



RENOVATIONS in the office of County Clerk J. T. Martz were completed this week. New sound-proof steel and glass portable partitions have been installed for more efficient office operation. At left is Martz and at desks outside the partition are Mrs. James Rollins, secretary, deputy clerk Miss Nelly B. Hammerly
 —Blue Ridge Herald photo

Loudoun County Voter Registration Book
 Historic Records and Deed Research Division

The County Clerk's office, renovated in late 1955 or early 1956 Nellie is shown in this picture that was published in the Blue Ridge Herald newspaper.
 Courtesy of Thomas Balch Library

PROOF OF SERVICE

Virginia:

In the Circuit Court of the County/City of Loudoun

Stanley Reed and Lawrence Muse
t/a Muse & Reed
Leesburg, Virginia

CHANCERY NO. 1994

vs.

George Hackley, W. N. Hackley, Julian J. Hackley, Lucy Cross, Wilbur C. Hall, Trustee, James Washington, Nancy Russell, and the other, if any, Heirs, Devisees, Assigns and successors in interest of Louise Hackley, deceased, whose names are unknown and who are made parties defendant by the general description of party or parties unknown

Returns shall be made hereon, showing service of Subpoena in Chancery issued Feb 11, 1959, with copy of Bill of Complaint filed Feb 11, 1959 attached:

Executed on the 19 day of Feb, 1959, in the County/City of Loudoun, Virginia, by delivering a true copy of the above mentioned papers attached to each other, to Mary Russell in person.

R. F. Powell
Sergeant
Sheriff, County/City of Loudoun, Va.
By S. J. Warr, Deputy Sheriff.

(Use the space below if a different form of return is necessary.)

Returned and filed the 24 day of February, 1959
J. V. Hamerly, Clerk
N. B. Hamerly, Deputy Clerk

Proof of Service Return with Nellie Blanche Hammerly signature, February 24, 1959
Chancery Case# 1994, Clerk of the Circuit Court