



The Southern Essex Registry of Deeds Recorder



Register John L. O'Brien

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Register John L. O'Brien Announces Homestead Outreach Program

Register John L. O'Brien is pleased to announce his 2008-2009 Homestead Outreach program. "During these extraordinary economic times, homeowners need help protecting one of their most important assets, their homes." Register O'Brien has created a team of individuals that are visiting Senior Centers, City & Town Halls, Public Libraries, Post Offices and various other locations and events across the 30 communities in his district. "In times like these we all need as much help as possible," Register O'Brien said. "It is very important that I remind the people of Essex County of all their financial protection options." The registry whose motto is "How may we help you!" is also available to assist homeowners from 8am – 4:30pm by calling 978-542-1704 or by visiting our customer service desk at the registry offices in Shetland Park 45 Congress Street, Suite 4100 Salem, Ma or by emailing us at southernessexcustomerservice@sec.state.ma.us or for additional information on Homesteads visit our website www.salemdeeds.com.



First Assistant Register Kevin Harvey and Kathie Gauthier handing out Homestead Literature at Ipswich Town Meeting

Corporate Certificates Now Available Locally

Register of Deeds, John L. O'Brien is pleased to announce that several types of Corporate Certificates are now available at the Southern Essex District Registry of Deeds in Salem. Residents will no longer have to travel to Boston to receive these documents. To view documents that are available or to order documents please log onto our website at www.salemdeeds.com and click on the link "To Order Corporate Certificates from the Secretary of State's Office Click Here". Forty-eight hours later documents will be available for customer pick up at the Salem Registry of Deeds. Please contact Customer Service at 978-542-1704 or email at southernessexcustomerservice@sec.state.ma.us for further details.

Technology Upgraded

On May 27, 2008 the Southern Essex District Registry of Deeds moved to its new location in Shetland Park, at 45 Congress Street Suite 4100 Salem, Ma. While planning the long anticipated move to our new state of the art facilities, Register John L. O'Brien made it his priority to upgrade all registry computer systems including both hardware and software. The most important advantage to the upgrades are better public access to the Registry's vast collection of documents. Customers using our website www.salemdeeds.com are now afforded free 24 hour online access to digitized Recorded Land records from 1983 forward as well as index information from 1964 to the present. All records from the Registered Land and Plan Departments are now also available online. Over the next year, Register O'Brien hopes to

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have records prior to 1983 digitalized and available online. In Register O'Brien's quest to facilitate the immediate release of information to the public all new recording stations have been installed. The new systems allow documents to be checked, recorded, and scanned all at once, which allows immediate online publication for public viewing. The next phase of Register O'Brien's upgrading plan will be to institute a queuing system which will further streamline the recording process.

How May We Help You!

With a motto like "How May We Help You!" Register John L. O'Brien has created a new standard of customer service at not only the Southern Essex District Registry of Deeds but a model of what customer service should be like throughout all state agencies. Register O'Brien has assembled a Customer Service team that caters to the needs of his constituents. By calling, emailing, faxing or visiting the Registry of Deeds the constituents of Southern Essex County are able to receive copies of any and all documents on file with the registry, research property history, file a homestead, record documents, and research foreclosures, to name only a few of the services the Registry can provide with the assistance of a well trained and dedicated customer service staff. To reach the Register's Customer Service Team please call 978-542-1704 or 978-542-1705, fax 978-744-5865 or email to southernessexcustomerservice@sec.state.ma.us.

We Are Here To Help You!



Your Customer Service Staff (l-r): Tom Davis, Deb Zelano, Jeannie Pike, Kendall Trefry, Nancy Doherty, Samantha Sclafani, and Kathie Gauthier

The Deeds Tell the Story

The Southern Essex District Registry of Deeds houses many generations of records which are of important historical significance. Register John L. O'Brien initiated a research project designed to bring documents of historical significance to the public. Register O'Brien wanted the public access to be interesting, informative but most of all wide ranging and easy for the public to use. Creating websites specific to certain historical eras was chosen as the best way to provide this. The first project undertaken was *Native American Deeds*. During the restoration of the first 100 Record Books, Register O'Brien noticed that a number of deeds were signed with small pictographs instead of names. Upon further inspection, it was found that these records documented the transfer of the land from the original Native American inhabitants of Essex County to the English Settlers. The project presents the changing lands and cultures of Essex County. It was a period of time that teaches us how this land changed from being populated entirely by the Natives to being almost completely populated by the Colonists. The public is welcomed to view the historical deeds and narrative from this period by logging onto

www.nativeamericandeeds.com.

After the successful completion of the Native American deeds site, Register O'Brien thought a website dedicated to the Veteran Memorials of Essex County would be a worthy second project (www.essexcountyveterans.com). Using a digital mapping program, maps of the locations of veteran memorials in each community of Essex County were created. To make this site easy to use and easily accessible to the public the use of interactive maps and pictures are employed. This project honors the brave men and women of the armed forces throughout Essex County.

Following the success of *Native American Deeds* and *Veteran Memorials of Essex County*, once again Register O'Brien felt that there are several historically important documents housed at the Registry of Deeds and that these should also be made available to the general public. After careful consideration it was decided to highlight the works of Sydney Perley and James Duncan Phillips, two early 20th century Essex County historians. The history of Salem, its land and its people, are contained within the records housed here at the Registry of Deeds. Mr. Perley developed a history of the land in Salem, starting in 1700 using these records. From this he also created maps of each neighborhood. Mr. Phillips took Mr. Perley's history and created two citywide maps, one of Salem in 1700 and one of Salem in 1780. This research has become the basis of the soon to be released website *Salem in the 1700's*.