



Record Group: Atlantic County
Subgroup: Clerk's Office
Series: Prohibition Enforcement Act Docket and Case Files, 1921
Accession #: 1978.007
Series #: CATCL013
Guide Date: (DJ)
Volume: 2 c.f. [4 boxes]

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Legislative History

In order to comply with the federal prohibition of liquor, the state passed "An Act concerning intoxicating liquor used or to be used for beverage purposes," known informally as the "Prohibition Enforcement Act of 1921." It defined intoxicating liquor as brandy, whiskey, rum, gin, beer, wine or any other "liquor which contains one half of one per centum or more of alcohol by volume." The act declared it "unlawful to manufacture, sell, barter, transport, import, export, deliver, furnish, store or possess any liquor" other than that "lawfully acquired ... and used only for ... personal consumption." The act also made illegal the advertisement of liquor or anything intended for its unlawful manufacture. Any unlawful liquor found by the authorities was to be destroyed along with any equipment used to produce it. Law enforcement officers could obtain search warrants from any magistrate, other than a justice of the peace, on statement of probable cause. Officers were authorized to forcibly enter premises if admission was refused. The act established penalties for interfering with enforcement officers, as well as penalties for officers who exceeded their authority.

The 1921 act was replaced by a similar act in 1922.

Content Note

Usually recorded on standard pre-printed forms, the case files consist of a complaint, arrest warrant, and verdict, and are filed by the date of conviction. Most of the cases for May through early July are recorded in duplicate in the "docket book" (mis-labeled "Minutes"). The docket book also contains an index not only to its own cases, but also to an additional, earlier set of cases, the files for which are presumably lost. Finally, an oversize volume contains abstracts for all extant cases, giving name of defendant, date of conviction, name of offense and verdict.

Interestingly, Judge Robert Ingersoll, of the court of common pleas, handled all cases.

Contents

- Box 1 Docket book, May-July 1921 (mis-labeled "Minutes of the Prohibition Enforcement Act"); Case files, May-July 1921
- Box 2 Case files, August 1921; September 1921 (folders 1-2)
- Box 3 Case files, September 1921 (folders 3-4); October-December 1921

Box 4 Abstracts of Cases, May-December 1921 [1 vol.]

Created September 2003

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