

(originally published in the December 2007 Newsletter)

Prior to 1850 the local provincial law courts were under the jurisdiction of the individual districts. The Court House and Gaol of the Niagara District was located at the Town of Niagara. (By 1850 they were separate buildings.) Effective 31 December 1849, districts were abolished and replaced with the English system of counties.

1. 1850 - 1860+

CAMPBELL, Edward Clarke (1806 - 1860+) Called to the Bar: 1830. Practiced: Town of Niagara (1830-1841). Previously District Court Judge (Niagara): 1841-31/12/1849. Appointed County Court Judge (United Counties of Lincoln, Welland and Haldimand) effective: 01/01/1850. Died while in office and is buried in St. Mark's Cemetery, Niagara

2. 1860 - 1877. LAWDER, John Marjoribanks (1824/25 – 1893). Called to the Bar: 1845. Practiced: Town of Niagara (1845 – 1856). Crown Attorney and Clerk of the Peace (Lincoln County): 1856 – 1860. Appointed Lincoln County Court Judge: 1860 (retired November 1877). Buried in St. Andrew's Cemetery, Niagara. In 1862, the County Town was removed to the Town of St. Catharines. The Court and County offices took over its Town Hall and an addition was built to accommodate them. A separate County Jail was erected on Niagara Street.

3. 1877 – 1900+ SENKLER, Edmund John, Q.C. (1835 - 1900+). Called to the Bar: 1860. Practiced: Brockville (1860 – 1863). Crown Attorney (1863) and Clerk of the Peace (1876) (United Counties of Leeds and Grenville) to 1877. Created QC: 1876. Appointed Lincoln County Court Judge: 1877. Died while in office, buried in Brockville

4. 1900 – 1916+. CARMAN, Robert Baldwin (1843/24 – 24/01/1916+). Called to the Bar: 1873

Practiced: Cornwall (1873 – 1879). Served as Deputy/junior Judge (United Counties of Stormont and Glengarry): 1879 – 1900. Appointed Lincoln County Court Judge: February/March 1900. Died while in office, buried in Victoria Lawn Cemetery, St. Catharines

5. 1916 – 1936. CAMPBELL, Col. John Samuel, KC (1860 – 1950). Called to the Bar: 1887. Practiced: St. Catharines (1887 – 1915). Colonel commanding 19th “Lincoln” Regiment 1906 – 1910. Mayor of City of St. Catharines: 1908 and 1909. Created KC: 1910. Colonel commanding Welland Canal Force (WWI): 09 February 1915 – January 1916. Appointed Lincoln County Court Judge: Early 1916 (retired 1936). President, Lincoln County Law Association: 1929 – 1933. Buried in Victoria Lawn Cemetery, St. Catharines

6. 1936 – 1949. STANBURY, James George Stuart, KC (1873 - 1951). Called to the Bar: 1899. Practiced: Exeter and London (1899 – 1936). Created KC: 1935. Appointed Lincoln County Court Judge: September/October 1936 (retired 1949). Buried in Victoria Lawn Cemetery, St. Catharines

7. 1949 – 1969. DARBY, Thomas Jefferson (1896 – 1976). Called to the Bar: 1925. Practiced: Welland (1925 – 1949). Appointed Lincoln County Court Judge: 09/02/1949 (retired as Judge from the Judicial District of Niagara North in 1971). Buried in Victoria Lawn Cemetery, St. Catharines. Effective 01/01/1970 counties were abolished by the Province of Ontario and replaced by Regional municipalities. The Lincoln County Court became part of the Judicial District of Niagara North, thus ending 120 years of separate existence under its former name. Researched and Compiled by Alex Ormston.

