



Mary Cobb
Deputy Clerk

B. P. Daugherty
County Clerk

Russell V. Hurston
Assignment Clerk-Circuit Court

The County Clerk

IN MAKING this annual report of the County Clerk's office for the year 1928, we will necessarily have to leave out a great deal of information which perhaps would be of interest to the tax payers of Oakland County, because of the lack of space.

I assumed office January 1, 1925, at which time, besides myself, there were two employees in the main office; at the present time there are five employees doing the work which, because of new methods of handling cases and other duties incidental to the office, is a small number compared to what we normally might need. A great deal of the work of this office is connected with the Circuit Court, statistics concerning which have been covered to a great extent by the report of the Circuit Judges.

We find that since our former annual report of 1926, there has been a 33 1-3 per cent increase of cases filed. We find also that there has been a 100 per cent increase over the year of 1924. It is impossible to estimate the number of separate papers actually filed because they are of a different number in each case. The County Clerk's office has been very busy in the last two years on elections alone due to the number of annexation and incorporation propositions. We find that in the year of 1927, thirty-two elections of all kinds were held, also that the number of precincts has increased 50 per cent since the year 1925, resulting in an increased amount of labor and an increased cost. We find that when changes are made in municipalities this office is called upon many times to offer advice concerning the routine work of their various offices.

One of the major duties of this office is the providing for room and assisting in the naturalization of aliens; due to the average newly naturalized citizens being unfamiliar



with the election laws and registration problems, we have been called upon a great deal to give them advice along these lines.

The collection of alimony by this office for the Friend of the Court has been systematized so that we do not have nearly so many problems as we had at first. The amount of alimony collected from October 1, 1920, to October 1, 1921, was \$12,531.04. The number of active accounts in 1923 was 102; the amount of alimony collected in 1928 will reach \$140,000, and at the present time, we have 580 active accounts. In the last year we have found it more convenient for this office to pay one day each week on all the alimony accounts, and by mailing the checks direct to the payees, we are relieved from the congestion caused by their coming to the office for their money. I would suggest that some Legislative action be taken providing a nominal charge to pay for the collection of this money.

As in all of the offices in Oakland County, we find ourselves crowded for room. The vault space is entirely taken up and we are faced with the problem of taking care of files which should be of easy access. Unless something is done to relieve this condition in the near future, we will be handicapped in giving service due the public. We find that the general public is appreciating the condition under which this office, as well as others, is working, and are hoping for a correction of conditions. We appreciate the cooperation of the Board of Auditors and the Board of Supervisors in providing sufficient help and sufficient supplies with which to carry on our work. Our only aim is to give the best service possible and to provide a complete record for posterity.

BURTON P. DAUGHERTY,
County Clerk.

MARY COBB, *Chief Deputy*
RUTH WINDIATE, *Deputy Clerk*
LLOYD NILES, *Deputy Clerk*
ETHEL BASSETT, *Deputy Clerk*
ESTHER MELDRUM, *Deputy Clerk*
DON C. NOOGLE, *Deputy Clerk*
RUSSELL THURSTON, *Deputy Clerk*
CARL BRAUN, *Deputy Clerk*