

STEELE SALLY A  
Form 4  
January 22, 2010

**FORM 4**

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES**

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
STEELE SALLY A

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
COMMUNITY BANK SYSTEM INC [CBU]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer  
(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
772 STATE ROUTE 1001  
(Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
01/20/2010

Director  10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below)  Other (specify below)

TUNKHANNOCK, PA 18657  
(City) (State) (Zip)

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)  
 Form filed by One Reporting Person  
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)	5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Ownership (Instr. 4)
				(A) or (D)	Price		
				Code	V	Amount	

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

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**Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)**

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any	4. Transaction Code	5. Number of Derivative Securities	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	7. Title and Underlying Security (Instr. 3 and 4)
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	Price of Derivative Security	(Month/Day/Year)	(Instr. 8)	Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)		Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title
				Code	V			
Phantom Stock (Deferred Compensation)	<u>0</u>	01/20/2010	A		231.0062	<u>(1)</u>	<u>(1)</u>	Common Stock
Stock Option	\$ 19.48	01/20/2010	A		4,471	01/20/2010	01/20/2020	Common Stock

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
STEELE SALLY A 772 STATE ROUTE 1001 TUNKHANNOCK, PA 18657		X		

## Signatures

/s/ Donna J. Drengel, as attorney-in-fact, pursuant to a power of attorney for Sally A. Steele

01/22/2010

\_\_Signature of Reporting Person

Date

## Explanation of Responses:

\* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, *see* Instruction 4(b)(v).

\*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. *See* 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

Each unit of phantom stock is the economic equivalent of one share of Community Bank System, Inc. common stock. The units of  
(1) phantom stock relating to the Deferred Compensation Plan will be settled in Community Bank System, Inc. common stock at future dates selected by the reporting person.

(2) Includes 155.3501 units of phantom stock acquired on January 11, 2010 under the Deferred Compensation Plan's dividend reinvestment feature.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.