

PATTERSON DAVID CHARLES  
 Form 4  
 July 22, 2008

**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 \*  
 PATTERSON DAVID CHARLES

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)  
 256 POTTER ROAD  
 (Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
 07/10/2008

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

CANTON, NY 13617  
 (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 Following 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                                                  |                                                                                               |                                                          |                                   |
| Common Stock                    |                                      |                                                    |                                |                                                                   | 23,608                                                                                        | D                                                        |                                   |
| Common Stock                    |                                      |                                                    |                                |                                                                   | 5,717.108 <sup>(1)</sup>                                                                      | I                                                        | By Trustee, W&P P.S. Plan         |

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

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SEC 1474 (9-02)

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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 Price of Derivative Security | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | 7. Title and Amount of Underlying Security (Instr. 3 and 4) |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                            |                                                        |                                      |                                                    | Code                           | V (A) (D)                                                                               | Date Exercisable Expiration Date                         | Title                                                       |
| Phantom Stock (Deferred Compensation)      | (2)                                                    | 07/10/2008                           |                                                    | A                              | V (3)                                                                                   | (2) (2)                                                  | Common Stock 148                                            |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address                                 | Relationships |           |         |       |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-----------|---------|-------|
|                                                                | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| PATTERSON DAVID CHARLES<br>256 POTTER ROAD<br>CANTON, NY 13617 |               | X         |         |       |

## Signatures

Donna J. Drengel, as attorney-in-fact, pursuant to a power of attorney for David Charles Patterson 07/22/2008

\_\_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).
- (1) Includes 36,538 shares acquired on July 10, 2008 under the Community Bank System, Inc. Dividend Reinvestment Plan. Each unit of phantom stock is the economic equivalent of one share of Community Bank System, Inc. common stock. The units of
- (2) 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.
- (3) Acquired on July 10, 2008 pursuant to 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.