

Using Court Records in Your Family History Research

Class 3: Probate Records

Melanie McComb, Senior Genealogist

THE BRUE FAMILY LEARNING CENTER



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Meet today's presenter

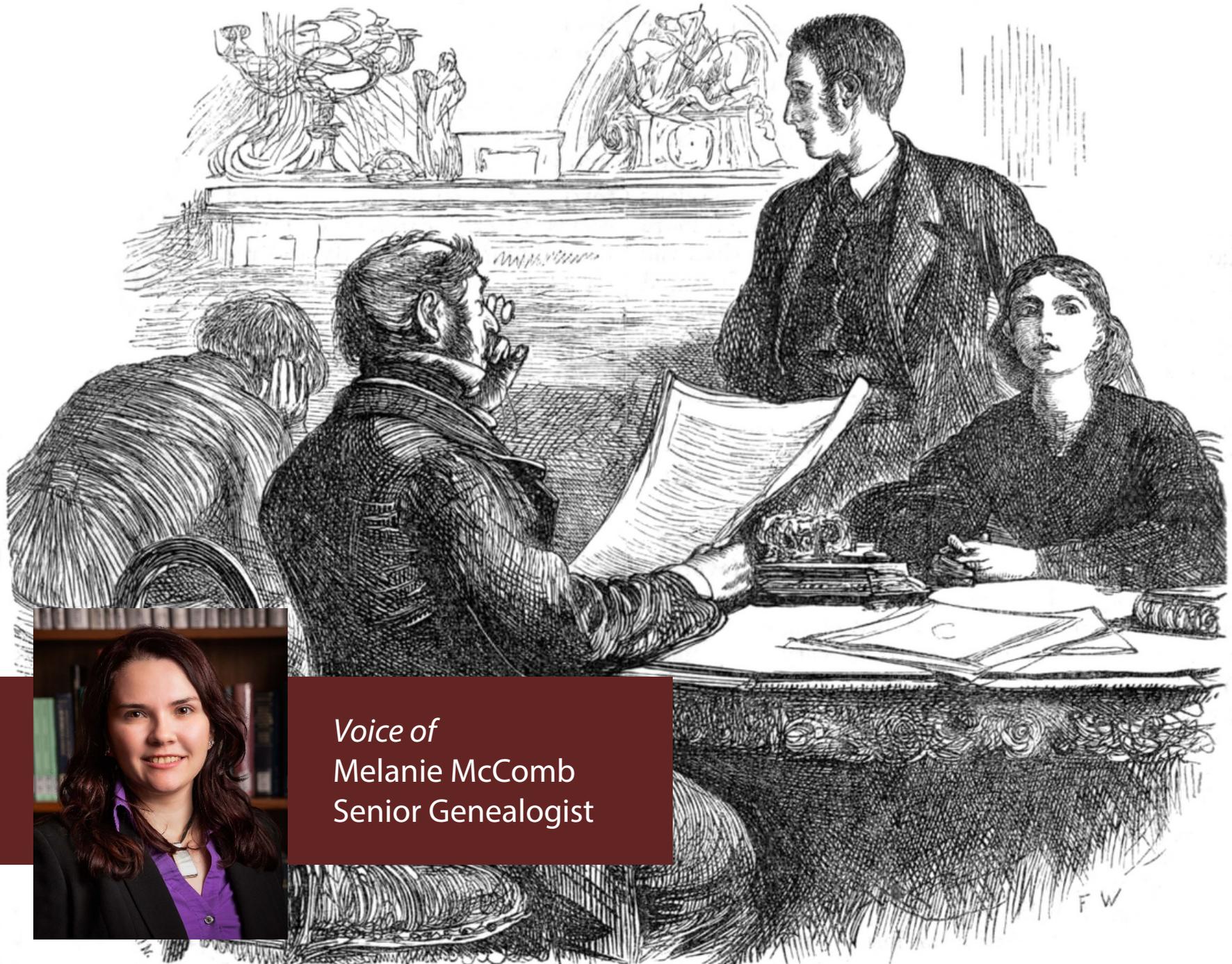


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OVERVIEW

- **Presentation (60 mins.)**
 - Probate Terminology
 - Types of Probate Records
 - Locating Probate Records
- **Q&A (30 mins.)**



Voice of
Melanie McComb
Senior Genealogist

Probate Terminology

What is a Probate Record?

- Court process that disposes of a deceased person's estate
- Describes how an estate will be distributed
- Names who will administer the estate
- Contains a list of property/possessions owned by the deceased

Why Use Probate Records?

- Provide an approximate death date for the deceased
- Verify family relationships
 - Married daughters may be listed with their husband's surname
- Wills and inventories offer a glimpse into the personal belongings of an ancestor and how they were distributed
- Context of an ancestor's life

Challenges of Probate Records

- Not everyone left a probate record (i.e. women)
- Deceased may have had multiple marriages
- Not all children are listed
- No uniformity
- Difficult to read

Common Terms

- **Testate:** dies with a Last Will & Testament.
- **Intestate / Administration:** dies without a will.
- **File Papers:** the original documents associated with the probate file.
- **Record Books / Copy Books:** copies of certain probate files copied into bound record volumes.

Documents Found in Probate Records

- Will
- Codicil
- Letters of Administration & Letters of Testamentary
- Inventory
- Accounts
- Distributions
- Guardianship Records
- Miscellaneous Probate Papers (examples below):
 - Dower Records
 - Bill of Sales
 - Receipts

Testate vs. Intestate

Testate

- Will
- Codicil
- Letters of testamentary
- Inventory

Intestate

- Letters of Administration
- Inventory
- Guardianships
- Distributions

Wills and Codicils

Wills

- A legal document written by the deceased
- Indicates how the deceased wants his or her estate distributed

Wills Cont'd

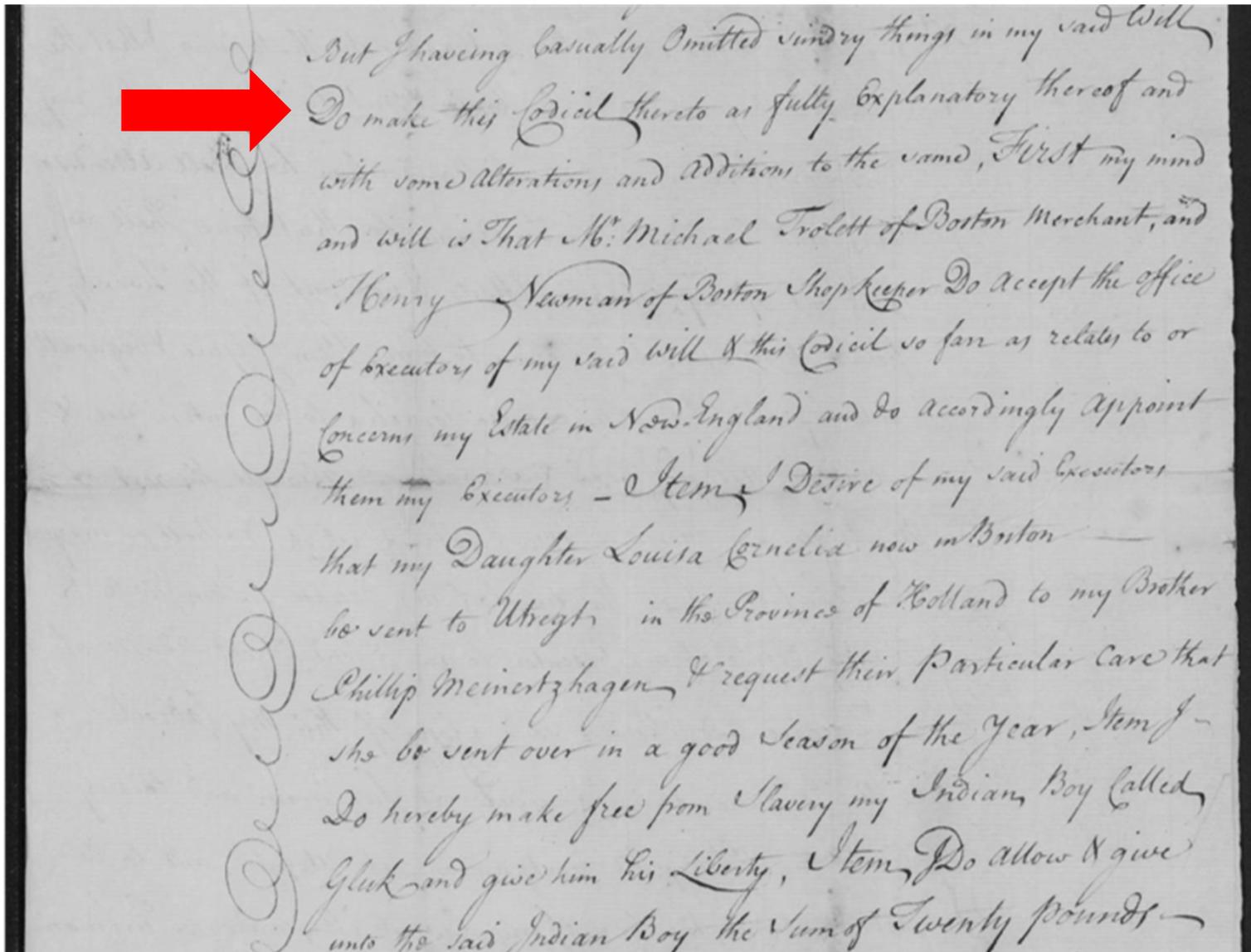
- Wills can include the following:
 - Names of children (and their spouses)
 - Name of spouse
 - Names of grandchildren, nieces/nephews
 - Names of servants
 - Names of enslaved individuals

In the Name of God. Amen. The seventeenth Day of April: 1741
 I Phillip Rich of Sudbury In the County of Middlesex. New-England:
 Being sick and weak in Body but of perfect Mind and memory. Thank God
 Given unto God: Therefore calling unto mind the Mortality of my Body
 and knowing that it is appointed for all men Once to Die Do make and ordain
 This my Last will and Testament that is to say Principally. and first of all
 I Give and Recommend my soul into the hands of God that gave it: and my
 Body I Recommend to the Earth to be Buried in Decent Christian Burial at
 the Discretion of my Executors. Nothing Doubting but at the General
 Resurrection I shall receive the same again by the mighty power of
 God: And as touching such worldly Estate where with it hath pleased God
 To Bless me in this Life I Give Demise and Dispose of the same in
 the following mannert and form
 Imprimis . . . after my Just Debts and funeral Charges paid
 I Give and bequeath to Johanna Rich my Dearly Beloved wife the use
 and Improvement of all my Estate Both Real and Personal that I have in
 Sudbury. During her natural Life and If the improvement. that is
 to say the in-come of my Estate shall be found insufficient for her
 Comfortable maintenance. Then my will is that I give full power to
 my here after named Executor with my wifes Consent. to sell all
 my Estate: and If the Income of the money Let. out. For Interest
 shall be found insufficient for her maintenance then my Executor
 to make use of the said Estate as he shall see fit.

Will of Phillip Rich, Sudbury, 1741, Middlesex County Probate File Papers, AmericanAncestors.org

Codicils

- An addition or change to a will
- Common changes:
 - Add or remove heirs
 - Change distribution of estates
 - Acknowledge deaths of heirs in will
 - Administrators of estate



But Having Casually Omitted sundry things in my said Will
Do make this Codicil thereto as fully Explanatory thereof and
with some Alterations and Additions to the same, First my mind
and will is That M^r. Michael Trolett of Boston Merchant, and
Henry Newman of Boston Shopkeeper Do accept the office
of Executors of my said Will & this Codicil so far as relates to or
concerns my Estate in New-England and do accordingly Appoint
them my Executors - Item I Desire of my said Executors
that my Daughter Louisa Grnelia now in Boston
be sent to Utrecht in the Province of Holland to my Brother
Phillip Meinertzhagen, I request their Particular Care that
she be sent over in a good Season of the Year, Item I
Do hereby make free from Slavery my Indian Boy called
Gluk and give him his Liberty, Item Do allow & give
unto the said Indian Boy the Sum of Twenty pounds -

Codicil, Anthony Henry Meinertzhagen,
Suffolk County, Mass, Case #10998

Why isn't someone mentioned in a will?

- Deceased
- Moved away
- Already received their inheritance
- Not yet born/considered a minor when the will was written
- Estrangement

Letters of Testamentary and Administration

Letters of Testamentary

- Issued by the court
- Exists if a person left a will
- Allows the executor to take control of the deceased's estate and distribute it according to the will

Province of the }
Massachusetts-Bay, } Middlesex, fs.

AT a Court of Probate holden by the Honorable Jonathan
Remington Esq; Judge of Probate of Wills, &c. with-
in and for the County of Middlesex, on the twentyeth
Day of July — A. D. 1741.

THE Instrument hereunto annexed (purporting the last Will
and Testament of Phillip Rich — late of Sudbury
in the same County, Yeoman deceased) was presented for
Probate: Then present the
Witnesses thereto subscribed, who made Oath that they saw the
said Testator Sign, Seal, and heard him declare the said In-
strument to be his last Will and Testament, and that they
subscribed their Names together as Witnesses to the Execution
thereof, in the Presence of the said Testator, and that
he was then (to the best of their Judgment) of sound and
disposing Mind:
And the said Instrument is by the said Judge proved, approved and
allowed as the last Will and Testament of the said deceased, and
Administration thereof in all Matters the same concerning, and of
his Estate, is committed unto the Rev. Mr. Wm. Cook —
the Executor therein named, faithfully to execute the said Will,
and to administer the said Estate according thereunto; who accepted
of his said Trust; and was directed to exhibit an
Inventory of the said deceased's Estate —
and he shall render a full and true Account of his said
Administration, when thereunto required.

By Order of the said Judge,
S. Danforth — Regr.

Letters of Testamentary, Phillip Rich, Sudbury, 1741, Middlesex
County Probate File Papers, AmericanAncestors.org

Letters of Administration

- Issued if an individual died intestate
- The court appoints an administrator/trix
 - Distributes the estate of the deceased
 - If the deceased is married, typically the widow/widower
- After the Civil War, the names of the living heirs are named

KNOW all Men by these Presents, That We
*Sarah Knight Widow Nathran Wheeler & George
& Samuel Hale Fishermen all of Newbury
in the County of Essex*
within His Majesty's Province of the *Massachusetts-Bay* in *New-England*, are
holden and stand firmly bound and obliged unto *John Choate Esq*
Judge of Probate of Wills, and granting Administrations within the County
of *Essex* in the full and just Sum of *One thousand*
Pounds, in Lawful Money of the Province of the *Massachusetts-Bay*, to be
paid unto the said *John Choate* or his Successors in the
said Office, or Assigns: To the true Payment whereof, we bind our selves,
and each of us, our, and each of our Heirs, Executors and Administrators,
jointly and severally for the whole and in the whole firmly by these Presents.
Sealed with our Seals. Dated the *Fifth* Day of *May*
Anno Domini, One Thousand Seven Hundred and *Sixty*
Annoque Regni Regis

THE Condition of this present Obligation is such,
That if the above-bounded *Sarah Knight* *Admin of all &
Singular Goods Chattels rights & credits of her husband Joseph
Knight of Newbury deceased*
do make or cause to be made a true and perfect Inventory of all and singular the
Goods, Chattels, Rights and Credits of the said Deceased, which have or shall
come to the Hands, Possession or Knowledge of *her* the said *Sarah*
or into the Hands and Possession of any other Person or Persons for *her*
and the same so made, do exhibit or cause to be exhibited into the Registry of the
Court of Probate for the said County of *Essex* at or before the *first* *11th*
Day of *July* next ensuing; and the same Goods, Chattels, Rights and
Credits, and all other the Goods, Chattels, Rights and Credits of the said Deceased,
at the Time of *his* Death which at any Time after shall come to the Hands and
Possession of the said *Sarah* or into the Hands and Possession of
any other Person or Persons for *her* do well and truly Administer according to
Law: And further do make

Letters of Administration – estate of Joseph Knight, Essex County
Mass, Case #16000, AmericanAncestors.org

To Samuel Hollen Esq. Judge of Probate for the County of Essex.

Sir I hereby certify your Hon.^r that I refuse to take Administration of the Estate of my late Husband Joseph Knight of Ipswich Merchant, & pray that your Hon.^r would grant the same to Capt. Abraham Wheelwright of Newburypt & as in duty bound shall ever pray
Ipswich Nov.^r 28th 1798.

Betsy Knight

The subscriber Father-in-law to s.^d Deceased,

do signify to your Hon.^r his acquiescing in y.^e above prayer.

Rowley 28 Nov. 1798

Nath.^l Cogswell

Letters of Administration – estate of Joseph Knight, Essex County Mass, Case #16001, AmericanAncestors.org

[Minors must be so designated. If any party is a married woman, her husband's name must be given. Next of kin may be determined by reference to Chapters 91 and 94 of the General Statutes.]

To the Honorable the Judge of the Probate Court in and for the County of Middlesex:

RESPECTFULLY represents *Fannie M. Royal*
of *Lowell* in the County of *Middlesex* that
Lowell *Peter H. Royal* who last dwelt in
day of *February* in said County of Middlesex, died on the *twenty ninth*
intestate, possessed of goods and estate remaining to be adminis-
tered, leaving *a* widow, whose name is *Fannie M. as aforesaid*
and as *his* only next of kin the persons whose names, residence, and relationship to the deceased are
as follows, viz.: —

- | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|---------------|
| <i>Otis Royal</i> | <i>North Stratford N. H.</i> | <i>of age</i> |
| <i>William Royal</i> | <i>Mechanic Falls Me</i> | <i>"</i> |
| <i>Louisa Mann</i> | <i>of said Me</i> | <i>"</i> |
| <i>Esther M. Royal</i> | <i>Portland</i> | <i>"</i> |
| <i>Luzak E. Hodgkin</i> | <i>Portland</i> | <i>"</i> |
| <i>Susan Royal</i> | <i>Mechanic Falls Me</i> | <i>"</i> |

That your petitioner is *his widow and desires to administer his estate*

Wherefore your petitioner prays that *she* may be appointed Administrat *rix* of the estate of said

Administratrix Petition, Peter H. Royal, 1868, Case 40862, Middlesex County Probate File Papers, AmericanAncestors.org

Inventory

What is an Inventory?

- Appraisal of deceased's real estate and personal property
- Provides a value for the estate
- Can provide clues about the lives of your ancestors

What can an inventory tell us?

- How much land/property an ancestor owned
- Job/trade
- Education level
- Level of wealth/status
- The number and names of enslaved persons

The Inventory of the Estate of Joseph Coman
 Late of Providence Deceased
 who Departed this Life June 22: 1751

To Wareing aprical - at	22-0-0
To Silver -	5-5-0
to a piece of humppon Broad Cloth	20-10-0
to a piece humppon Camblett	21-7-0
to 2 feather beds and furniture at	20-0-0
to one flock Bed and furniture	15-0-0
to Outer -	20-18-0
to 2 Iron pots and 3 Iron Kittles 2 Tramiils.	
two Warming pans 2 frying Pans and 2 Shillets tong, Spice & Gridiron	24-5-0
to Table Linning and Napkins	6-5-0
to one Gun Bullet mold and powder ^{horn}	4-10-0
to Glass Bottles and vials	1-15-0

Inventory of the Estate of Joseph Coman, Providence, Rhode Island, 1751, Film #007650467

A handwritten inventory list on aged paper. The entries are written in cursive and include various items and their values. A red rectangular box highlights four entries: 'One Negro named Captain, Infirm', 'One Do named old Cook', 'One Do named Sauto Same 80 years old', and 'One Negro Girl 6 years of age'. The values for these entries are 50, 60, 50, and 60 respectively. The list continues with land parcels and their values.

One broken plough, one pit one Iron Harrow	35
one Log Chain four axes & four Hoes	28
One Yoke of Oxen	60
One Negro named Captain, Infirm	50
One Do named old Cook	60
One Do named Sauto Same 80 years old	50
One Negro Girl 6 years of age	60
Tract of Unimproved Land at Hadley,	
South Precinct containing about 900 Acres	900
Lands Bought of Th: Westbrook in the County of York	200
Lands Bought of Henry Gibbs in the County of Do	1000

Inventory of Isaac Royall, Case 19545, 1752, Middlesex County
Probate File Papers, AmericanAncestors.org

Tip

Note the persons who are taking the inventory. They may be family or close friends/business partners.

Ruth Waterboy Admin^{tr} of the Estate of her Brother
David Waterboy late of Boston Cordwainer deceased
exhibited the above written and made Oath that it
contains a just and true Inventory of the State of the Deced^t
So far as hath come to her knowledge And that if more
hereafter appears she will cause it to be added
Boston May 14th 1698. Jurat Cor^o
W^m Houghton

Inventory of David Waterboy's Estate, 1698, Case #2450,
Suffolk County, MA Probate File Papers,
AmericanAncestors.org

Tip

Review the inventory for any real estate holdings and then look for the corresponding land deeds.

Real Estate

1/3 of the Dwelling House & House Lot. with a Small Barn thereon	\$250.00
1/2 Acres of Meadow adjoining the House Lot on the East side	150.00
3 Acres in the Orchard South of the Meadow	150.00
10 Acres & 106 rods of land lying south of 111 Bradleys } — Sand & North of Issiah M Reeds land including a lane }	639.75
26 Acres of land lying towards the north end of } the old Capt Everts Farm Part Wood	650.00
Amount of Real Estate	\$1839.75

Personal Estate

1 Table 75	1 Look Glass 50	1 Chest drawers 75	\$200.00
1 Cherry stand 17	1 do 75	1 Old Clock 50	142
2 Splint Bottom chairs 25	1 Good Rock chair 75	1 Buckle Arm do 20	1.20
1 Hagg do do 20	2 Wood bottom do 50	6 fancy cane do 3.00	3.70
1 Bedstead & board fl.	1 do high Post 2.	1 Cherry Bureau 2.50	5.50
1 Blue Chest fl.	1 Wood colored do 60	1 Chubb's do 20	1.70
1 Box in Genet 6.	Flower Bk & Dats 30.	2 Spit Boxes 6	.42
1 Large Spin Wheel 40	1 Small do 6	2 Splint work Baskets 6	.52
1 Small trunk 6	1 Small Pork tub 50		.50
1 Butter tub 37	1 Lidder Hoghead 25	1 Lidder Bk 25	.87
1 Small welsy tub 25.	1 Cook Stove & furnitures		5.25
1 Large wood bowl 20	1 do 17	1 Small do 20	.57
2 Small do do 12.	2 do 6	1 Butter Ladle 6	.24

Real and Personal Estate, Inventory of Hannah Everts, Salisbury, 1851, Film #007626797

Accounts

Accounts

- List of debts owed to the estate
- List of debts the estate owes to others
- Notices published in newspapers to collect on any remaining debts

Why look at accounts?

- Hint at status of ancestor
 - Do they owe a lot of money?
 - Are they lending money frequently?
 - Do the debts add up to more than the value of the estate?
- Potential family and associate connections
 - Extended family
 - Business associates

Suffolk Co. The Account of Abigail Draper Admin^r
of all & singular the Goods, Chattels, Rights & Credits
of her husband James Draper late of Roxbury
in y^e County afores. Husbandman deceased Intestate -
The Account^t Chargeth her selfe wth all
& singular the Goods & Chattels of y^e deceased -
specified in an Inveⁿtory thereof by her Exhibited
into the Registry of Probate. Amounting to - £ 8⁶ 6⁶
W. Housing & Land - £ 114¹¹ -
W. Rec^d in small Debts due to y^e deceased - £ 21¹⁷ -
Rec^d Cash for Mills sold by y^e deceased - £ 37¹⁸ 8⁸
£ 118² 2²

Account, Estate of James Draper, Case #2456, Suffolk County, MA Probate File Papers, AmericanAncestors.org

And pray's Allowance as follows. Vizt.

P. for Lett. of Admin. & Reg. & Inventory.	£ 10 0 0
P. sickness & funeral Charges of y ^e Deceas'd	" 7 16 6
P. To several y ^e Sons as by Receipts doth appear is was due from y ^e Deceas'd Amourting in y ^e whole to	£ 59 7 6
P. to sam ^l Carl of Boston a Debt	" 3 3 6
P. J. Carle for repairing y ^e Deceas'ds Windows	" 5 12 "
Loss in Clothing of y ^e Deceas'ds Linnen & woollen being worn out, Apprized at	£ 13 5 "
Wooden ware apprized at l: 13/ being worn out	" 1 13 "
Cart & Tackling worn out	" 1 "
Paid to Samuel Gove for his Wife's Portion	" 25 "
	£ 119 2 6
For Admin ^r time & Trouble	3 "
For Drawing Allowings & Reg. & this Acct. f.	" 8 "
	£ 122 10 6

Nath. Draper eldest son of y^e Deceas'd
Being present at y^e Allowance of y^e Debts
W. to Nath. Draper

Account, Estate of James Draper, Case #2456, Suffolk County, MA Probate File Papers, AmericanAncestors.org

QUESTIONS?

Estate Distribution

Distributions

- Dividing an estate among heirs
- Occurs after bills are paid and debts collected
- Heirs (children, widow, etc.) mentioned in distribution
- Genealogical importance:
 - List of children if vital records aren't available
 - Married names of daughters
 - Children of deceased heirs

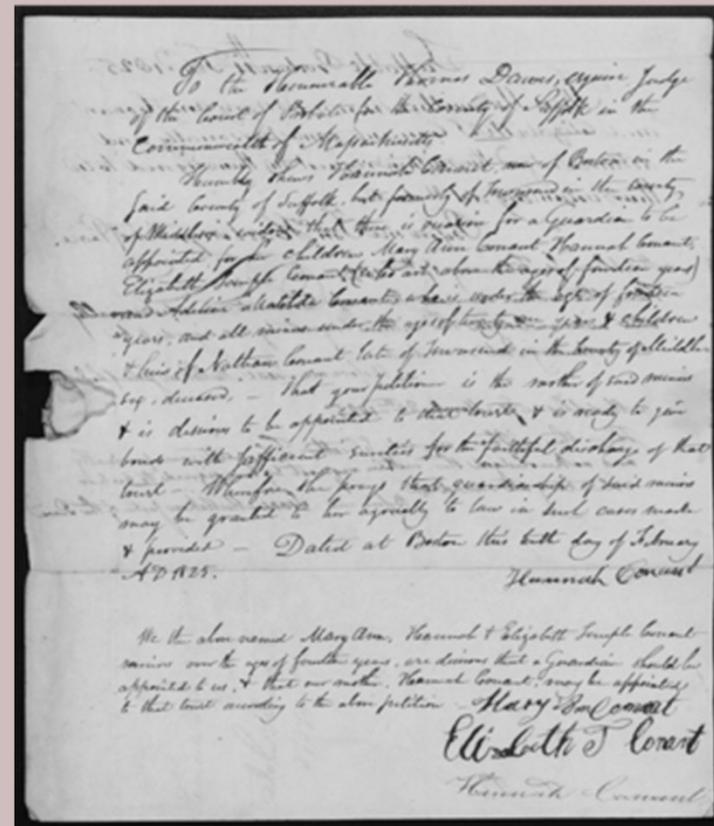
of Ipswich in said county, merchant, deceased, widow,
Whereas by your account of administration of said estate, this day settled and
allowed, it appears that there is now remaining in your hands the sum of four
hundred ninety one dollars seventy seven cents and a half, being the balance
of said account, to be distributed among the heirs of said intestate, agreeably to
law: You are therefore hereby ordered and directed to pay and distribute
formerly Charabette Knight, who was the widow of said intestate, the sum of one hundred sixty three dollars
ninety two cents, as her distributive share of said balance, and to
the said sum, as follows, viz. to Charabette Young, Henry C. Knight,
Frederick Knight and Antonio Knight, children of said intestate, each
the sum of one hundred ~~twenty~~^{nine} dollars ~~eight~~^{twenty} ~~cents~~^{eight} cents, as their
distributive shares of said balance, taking their receipts for the same;
all to be still held, so far as their said shares will extend, to pay their ratable
parts of what further debts and charges shall hereafter arise against said

Order Distribution, Joseph Knight
estate, Essex County, Mass, Case #16001

Guardianships

Guardianships

- Appointed for minor children
 - Males: under 21
 - Females: under 18
- Guardians protected the inheritance of minor heirs to an estate
 - Can provide financial support
- After minor becomes of age, the guardian is released
 - Guardian would then make an account of compensation



To the Honourable *Thomas Daves* Esquire,
Judge of the Court of Probate for the County of Suffolk, in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts,
HUMBLY shews, *Hannah Conant* of
Boston
in said County *Suffolk*, widow that there is occasion for a Guardjan
to be appointed for *Mary Ann Conant*, *Hannah*
Conant, *Elizabeth Temple Conant*, who are
~~near~~ *about* the age of *fourteen* years and *Adeline*
Megilda Conant, who is under the age of
fourteen years
minor and children of *Nathan Conant*
formerly of *Townsend* in the County of *Middlesex*
deceased,

Guardian Bond, Suffolk
County, Mass., Case #27577

We the above named Mary Ann, Hannah & Elizabeth Temple Conant
minors over the age of fourteen years, are desirous that a Guardian should be
appointed to us, & that our mother, Hannah Conant, may be appointed
to that trust according to the above petition - Mary Ann Conant
Elizabeth T Conant
Hannah Conant

Guardian Petition, Suffolk County, Mass.
Case #27575

The Account of Nathaniel Weston of Boston Mariner Guardian to Sarah Griggs — Daughter of Isaac Griggs late of Boston aforesaid in the County of Suffolk Lord wainor deced. as well of and for such and so much Estate as hath come to his hands by virtue of the sd Guardianship & of the profits & Improvem^t. made with the same as of & for his payments and disbursements thereof for and towards the education & maintainance of the said Sarah &c.

The sd Accountant chargeth himselfe with several Sums of money by him recd. as follow^y vizt

1698.	With money recd. of Wm Griggs Admin ^r of the Estate of the sd Isaac Griggs - - -	£ 100 ⁰⁰ - -
	more money recd. of sd Griggs - - -	8 ² 6
	With a Bond of James Russell Esq. for - - -	60 ⁰⁰ - -
	With one year Interest of sd Bond - - -	3 ¹² - -
1699	With more money recd. of Wm Griggs - - -	6 ⁰⁷ - -
	With Interest recd. for £ 158 ⁰⁰ - - -	10 ⁰⁰ - -

Guardianship Account, Estate of Isaac Griggs, 1698, Case #2443, Suffolk County, MA Probate File Papers, AmericanAncestors.org

Miscellaneous Probate Papers

The Condition of the above-written Obligation is such,
That whereas the above-bounden *Mark Newman*
in *his* capacity of guardian of *Hannah Newman and*
William John Newman both
of Andover in said county of *Essex* minors, at the
Supreme Judicial Court holden at *Boston*
_____ on the *first Tuesday*
in *March* last, obtained license to make sale of *_____*
of the real estate of said minors, in order to *benefit them*

Bill of sale, Newman Family, Suffolk County, Mass, Case #28648

Tip

You can find lists of enslaved persons sold to others in bills of sale; may be found in probate records or land deeds.

Tebbs of
to Matson
Bill of Sale

Know all men by these presents that I William Tebbs of Prince William County for and in consideration of one hundred and sixty pounds to me in hand paid by James Matson of the Said County the Receipt whereof I do Acknowledge have bargained and sold and by the presents bargain sell & Deliver to the Said Matson One Negro Man Slave Henry & one Negro Woman Slave Milley to have and to hold the aforesaid Slaves to him the Said Matson and his heirs for ever. And I oblige myself my heirs &c. to warrant and for ever defend the said Slaves ~~from~~ to the Said Matson his heirs &c. from the claim or claims of any person or persons whatsoever as ~~well~~ witness my hand this fourteenth Day

Day of December thousand seven hundred and eighty two 393.
Test Thomas Chapman
Robert Overall
Wm Tebbs.
At a Court held for Prince William County the 2nd Day of June 1782.
This Bill of Sale from William Tebbs gent. to James Matson was acknowledged by the Said Tebbs and admitted to Record.
Test Robert Graham Clerk.

Bill of Sale between William Tebbs and James Matson, 1782, Prince William, Virginia, FHL Film #007897263

Dower Records

- A dower is the right of a widow to her deceased husband's land and property
- In most U.S. states widows had a right of one-third share of deceased's husband's property
- Widows have right to refuse their inheritance given to them in a will in favor of their dower right

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

Plymouth ss. To Theophilus Kins, Joseph E. Smith & Benjamin
Dexter all of Rochester in said County
three discreet and disinterested persons within said Commonwealth,
GREETING.

WHEREAS at a Court of Probate holden at Rochester
in and for the county of Plymouth, on the *first Monday* day of *November* 18*44*
it was made to appear, that *Abigail Turner* widow of
Nallet Turner late of *Rochester*
in said county, deceased, was dowable in the lands whereof he died seized,
and it was decreed by the Judge of said Court that her dower therein be assigned to her
accordingly:—You are therefore authorized and empowered, being under oath, and having
given due notice to all persons interested therein, to set off to the said *Abigail*
Turner the widow of said deceased, by metes and bounds, her dower
or third part of all the real estate, of which the said *Nallet Turner*
died seized in this Commonwealth, provided that it can be done without damage to the whole
estate;

Petition for Dower, Abigail Turner, Plymouth County, Mass,
Case #21349, AmericanAncestors.org

Receipts

- Record of the administrator collecting or paying debts
- Record that the estate has been distributed

Locating Probate Records

Where to find United States Probate Records?

- Filed at Courthouses
- Usually found on the county level
- Exceptions to this:
 - Rhode Island: town level
 - Vermont and Connecticut: Probate Districts
 - New York: Early probate records for the state sometimes filed in Albany County
 - Louisiana: Filed in the parish (ex. Orleans Parish)

Identifying when a County/Town/ Probate District was Formed



Research Wiki

- Wiki Home
- About the Wiki
- Online Genealogy Records
- Guided Research
- Research Resources
- Wiki Policies

Centers/Libraries

- Family History Library
- Family History Centers
- FS Affiliate Libraries

Give Feedback

- Submit Wiki Content
- Report a Problem

Edit the Wiki

- Become an Editor
- Upload File/Image
- Personal Sandbox
- Wiki Projects
- Wiki University

Tools

- What links here
- Related changes
- Special pages
- Printable version
- Permanent link
- Page information
- Cite this page
- Browse properties

Page Talk

Read View source View history

Search by place or topic

Somerset County, Maine Genealogy

United States → Maine → Somerset County

Guide to **Somerset County, Maine ancestry, family history, and genealogy** birth records, marriage records, death records, census records, family history, and military records.

Maine Online Genealogy Records

Contents [hide]

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- 3 County Courthouse
- 4 History
 - 4.1 Parent County
 - 4.2 Boundary Changes
 - 4.3 Record Loss
- 5 Places / Localities
 - 5.1 Neighboring Counties
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- 6 Resources
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 - 6.7 Land
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Somerset County, Maine

Map

Location in the state of Maine, United States Genealogy

Facts

Founded	March 1, 1809
County Seat	Skowhegan



Family Tree Search Memories Indexing Activities

Records Images Family Tree Genealogies Catalog Books Wiki

FamilySearch Catalog

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Notes

Somerset County was created in 1809 from Kennebec County.

Part of [United States, Maine](#)

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- ▶ [United States, Maine, Somerset - Biography](#) (1)
- ▶ [United States, Maine, Somerset - Church records](#) (1)
- ▶ [United States, Maine, Somerset - Court records](#) (6)
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- ▶ [United States, Maine, Somerset - Guardianship - Indexes](#) (1)
- ▶ [United States, Maine, Somerset - History](#) (7)
- ▶ [United States, Maine, Somerset - History - Indexes](#) (1)
- ▶ [United States, Maine, Somerset - Land and property](#) (2)
- ▶ [United States, Maine, Somerset - Land and property - Maps](#) (1)
- ▶ [United States, Maine, Somerset - Maps](#) (3)
- ▶ [United States, Maine, Somerset - Probate records](#) (3)
- ▶ [United States, Maine, Somerset - Probate records - Indexes](#) (1)
- ▶ [United States, Maine, Somerset - Vital records](#) (1)
- ▶ [United States, Maine, Somerset - Vital records - Indexes](#) (1)



Probate Indexes

Probate Index Options

- Card Index
- Index within volume
- Published Index
- Website with images
- Online index
- Not Indexed?



Estate of	Sears, Joshua	Insolvent	Minor
Attached		Legatee	Trust
Deceased			
Town	Norwalk	District	Fairfield
Date	1754	No.	5501
		Deposited	Dec. 9, 1929
.....	1 Wills and Codicils	Distributions
.....	Bonds	Account of Administration
.....	Applications and Petitions	Receipts
.....	1 Inventories	Miscellaneous
.....	Orders of Court	
.....	Returns to Court	2 Total Documents *
Remarks			

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Probate Index 1648-1881

Administr. ^r Guard. ^r	Intestates, Minors &c.
Heath Isaac 2 ^d 19. 92.	Heath Abrah ^m 19. 92.
Horn Fred. 416.	Schwartz Elisab. et al 416.
Houghton Levi 418.	Sprague Creth ^r . a. 418.
Hoyden John 428. 559.	Duston Soph. et al 428. 559.
Herman John 432.	Herman Jane et al 432.
Hayward Thomas 2.	Hayward. etis 2. —
Hodge Henry 51. 46.	Hodge Sally 51. 46.
Hayward Josh. 20.	Farnsworth W ^m et al 20.
Hall Reuben 80.	Parsons Lawrence jr 80.
Hall Ezekiel 105.	Hall William 105.
Hason Israel 594. 467.	Smith Hans. et al 594. 467.
Hunt Ebenezer 100.	Olive David 100. > 1
Hill Deborah 131. 182.	Hill Philip. 131. 182.
Hill John 473.	Hill Maney et al 473.
Hale Sus. A. 142.	Hale Parker 142.
Hinkley Lydia 159. 208.	Hinkley Ezekiel 159. 208.
Hinkley Aaron 134.	Blake Jacob. 134.
Hussey Mary 169.	Curtis Charles 169.

County Record Book Index

Tip

Remember to check Probate Record Books when the file papers are listed as “missing.”

Finding Probate Records on AmericanAncestors.org

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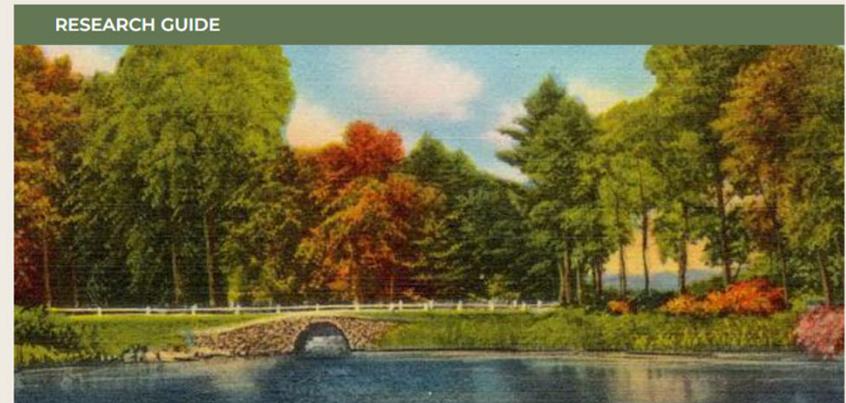
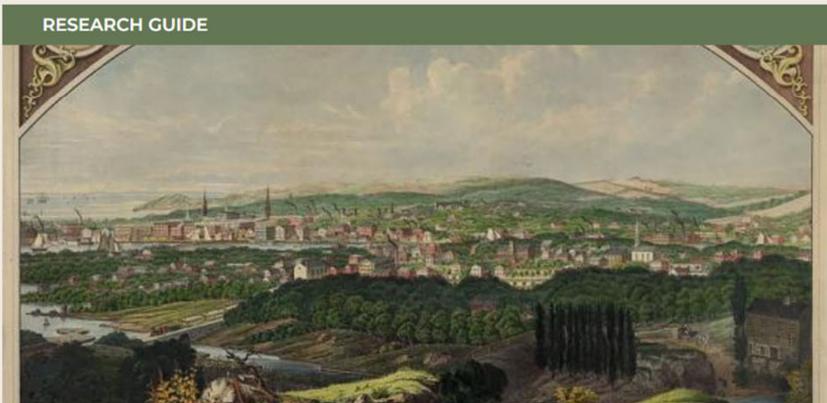
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Research towns throughout New England and New York

Town guides will help you in identifying research strategies for towns throughout New England and New York. They includes information on name changes for towns, settlement and incorporation dates, parent towns or counties and much more. Villages, smaller sections of towns, are not included in these guides.



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The screenshot shows the AmericanAncestors.org website. At the top left is the logo for AmericanAncestors, by the New England Historic Genealogical Society. To the right of the logo is the text "A National Center for Family History, Heritage & Culture". Further right are links for "Bookstore", "About Us", and "MY ACCOUNT". Below the logo and text is a navigation bar with "Search", "Events", "Membership", "Give", "Publications", "Expert Help", "Tools", "Signature Projects", and "Centers & Initiatives". Below the navigation bar is a breadcrumb trail: "Home | Connecticut Town Guide". The main heading is "Connecticut Town Guide". Below the heading is a horizontal menu with letters A through G. The letter "A" is highlighted. Below the menu is a text box containing the following information:

The vital records of most Connecticut towns to 1870 are contained in [Connecticut Vital Records to 1870 \(The Barbour Collection\)](#).

For more information on Connecticut towns and their records, see:

Melnyk, Marcia D. *Genealogist's Handbook for New England Research*, 4th ed., Boston: NEHGS, 1999.

Morrison, Betty Jean. *Connecting To Connecticut*, East Hartford: Connecticut Society of Genealogists, 1995. Kemp, Thomas Jay. *Connecticut Researcher's Handbook*, Detroit: Gale Research Co., 1981.

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Name	Established	County	Parent Town(s)	Other Names	Related Databases			
Canaan	1739	Litchfield						
Canada Parish					Hampton			
Canterbury	1703	Windham	Plainfield			Canterbury, CT: Catalogue of the First Congregational		
Canton	1806	Hartford	Simsbury			West Simsbury [Now Canton], CT: Early Settlers, 1780 Connecticut: Records of the Particular Court of the C		
Chaplin	1822	Windham	Hampton, Mansfield, and Windham			Mansfield, CT: Vital Records, 1700-1850 Windham, CT: Congregational Church Records, 1700-		
Chatham					E. Hampton			
Cheshire	1780	New Haven	Wallingford					
Chester	1836	New Haven	Saybrook			Saybrook, CT: Vital Records, 1647-1834		
Clinton	1838	Middlesex	Killingworth					
Colchester	1698	New London						
Colebrook	1779	Litchfield						



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Connecticut Probate Records on AmericanAncestors.org

- Early Probate Records, 1635-1750
- Records of the Particular Court of the Colony of CT, 1687-1688
- Fairfield County, 1704-1757
- Index of Hartford County Court Minutes, Vols. 3-4, 1663-1687

Maine Probate Records on AmericanAncestors.org

- Early Wills and Deeds, 1640-1760

Massachusetts Probate Records on AmericanAncestors.org

- Barnstable County, MA Probate Records, 1685-1789
- Berkshire County, MA Probate File Papers, 1761-1917
- Bristol County, MA Probate File Papers, 1686-1880
- Essex County, MA Early Probate Records, 1635-1681
- Essex County, MA Probate File Papers, 1638-1881
- Franklin County, MA Probate File Papers, 1812-1915
- Hampshire County, MA Probate File Papers, 1660-1889
- Middlesex County, MA Probate File Papers, 1648-1871
- Norfolk County, MA Index to Probate Records, 1793-1900

Massachusetts Probate Records on AmericanAncestors.org

- Norfolk County, MA Probate File Papers, 1793-1900
- Plymouth County, MA Probate File Papers 1686-1881
- Suffolk County, MA Index to Probate Records, 1636-1893
- Suffolk County, MA Probate File Papers, 1630-1841*
*Eventually will include up to 1893
- Worcester County, MA Index to Probate Records, 1731-1881
- Worcester County, MA Probate File Papers, 1731-1881

Rhode Island Probate Records on AmericanAncestors.org

- Providence, RI: Index to Probate, 1646-1899

AmericanAncestors.org Databases with Probate Abstracts

- Fairfield, CT: Families of Old Fairfield
- *Genealogical Advertiser*
- *New England Historical and Genealogical Register*
- Portsmouth, NH: Abstracts from Newspapers, 1776-1800
- *Vermont Genealogy* (1996-2014)
- New York: Abstracts of New York County Wills, 1662-1801)
- New York: Abstracts of Wills, Admins. And Guardianships, 1787-1835

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probate

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- only free databases

LOCATION ▾

United States (37)

DATE ▾

- Pre 1700 (20)
- 1700 - 1750 (3)
- 1750 - 1800 (6)
- 1800 - 1850 (1)
- 1850 - 1900 (1)
- 1900 - 1950 (4)
- 1950 - Present (0)

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🔍	📷	☆	Norfolk County, MA: Index to Probate records, 1793-1900
🔍	📷	☆	Berkshire County, MA: Probate File Papers, 1761-1917
🔍	📷	☆	Barnstable, MA: Probate Records, 1685-1789
🔍	📷	☆	Norfolk County, MA: Probate File Papers, 1793-1900
🔍	📷	☆	Suffolk County, MA: Probate File Papers
🔍	📷	☆	Essex County, MA: Probate File Papers, 1638-1881
🔍	📷	☆	Plymouth County, MA: Probate File Papers, 1686-1881
🔍	📷	☆	Worcester County, MA: Probate File Papers, 1731-1881
🔍	📷	☆	Bristol County, MA: Probate File Papers, 1686-1880
🔍	📷	☆	Middlesex County, MA: Probate File Papers, 1648-1871
🔍	📄	☆	Fairfield County, CT: Probate Records, 1704-1757



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Years **Location** Exact Location

Volume **Page**

Case Number

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Volume

Page

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Search Results

1 - 1 of 1 records for Name: Abraham Osborne (exact), Database: Berkshire County, MA: Probate File Papers, 1761-1917

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Abraham Osborne

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Relevance

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Results per page 20 50 100

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Name	Events	Relationship
<p>Abraham C. OSBORNE</p> <p>Berkshire County, MA: Probate File Papers, 1761-1917</p> <p>Court, Land and Probate Records</p> <p>View Image</p>	<p>PROBATE : 1916 RECORD</p> <p>LOCATION : North Adams, Berkshire, Massachusetts, United States</p> <p>CASE TYPE : will</p> <p>NOTE : page 1 of 17</p> <p>CASE NUMBER : 29383</p> <p>VOLUME : Berkshire Cases 28000-29999</p> <p>PAGE : 29383:1</p>	

1

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Volume [← Page](#) [of 29999:15](#) [→](#)

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Name	Abraham C. OSBORNE
Probate Record	1916
Location	North Adams, Berkshire, Massachusetts, United States 📍
Original Text	
Case Number	29383
Note	page 1 of 17
Case Type	will
Volume Name	Berkshire Cases 28000-29999
Page	29383:1



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I, Abraham C. Osborn, of the City of North Adams, in the County of Berkshire, and State of Massachusetts, being of sound mind, memory and understanding, do make my last will and testament in manner and form following:

First. I hereby direct and empower my executor to pay all my funeral expenses and just debts as soon as possible.

Second. To Herold Baenziger Osborn, my grandson I give my gold watch, chain and fob complete, as a keepsake.

Third. To Julia Louise Osborn, my granddaughter, I give certain unmounted topaz stones, and such articles of jewelry as her mother may select for her, as keepsakes.

Fourth. To Virginia E. Osborn, my granddaughter, I give a pair of square gold, cuff-buttons, owned and worn by her grandmother, Emma H. Osborn, as a keepsake.

Fifth. To Madeline E. Osborn, my daughter-in-law, as an expression of my appreciation of her unceasing care and provision for me, especially in my disability. I give her the dresser with drawers and mirrors, now in my bedroom, my library table, and the hall clock, now in the lower hall of the house at 344 Main St.

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-All- -All-

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First/Middle/[Maiden] names Last Name

Years From To Record Type -All-

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Census, Tax and Voter Lists
Court, Land and Probate Records
Genealogies, Biographies, Heraldry, and Local Histories
Great Migration Study Project
Immigration Records
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<input type="radio"/> all databases				Connecticut: Early Probate Records, 1635-1750
<input type="radio"/> only databases with images				Providence, RI: Index to Probate, 1646-1899
<input type="radio"/> only my favorite databases				Franklin County, MA: Probate File Papers, 1812-1915
<input type="radio"/> only free databases				Norfolk County, MA: Index to Probate records, 1793-1900
LOCATION				Berkshire County, MA: Probate File Papers, 1761-1917
<input type="radio"/> United States (37)				Barnstable, MA: Probate Records, 1685-1789
DATE				Norfolk County, MA: Probate File Papers, 1793-1900
<input type="radio"/> Pre 1700 (20)				Suffolk County, MA: Probate File Papers
<input type="radio"/> 1700 - 1750 (3)				Bristol County, MA: Probate File Papers, 1686-1880
<input type="radio"/> 1750 - 1800 (6)				

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Location Exact Location

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Name	Events	Relationship
<p>Abraham C. OSBORNE</p> <p>Berkshire County, MA: Probate File Papers, 1761-1917</p> <p>Court, Land and Probate Records</p> <p>View Image</p>	<p>PROBATE : 1916 RECORD</p> <p>LOCATION : North Adams,Berkshire,Massachusetts,United States</p> <p>CASE TYPE : will</p> <p>NOTE : page 1 of 17</p> <p>CASE NUMBER : 29383</p> <p>VOLUME : Berkshire Cases 28000-29999</p> <p>PAGE : 29383:1</p>	

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Abraham Osborne

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I, Abraham C. Osborn, of the City of North Adams, in the County of Berkshire, and State of Massachusetts, being of sound mind, memory and understanding, do make my last will and testament in manner and form following; ·
First. I hereby direct and empower my executor to pay all my funeral expenses and just debts as soon as possible.
Second. To Harold Baenziger Osborn, my grandson I give my gold watch, chain and fob complete, as a keepsake.
Third. To Julia Louise Osborn, my granddaughter, I give certain

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I, Abraham C. Osborn, of the City of North Adams, in the County of Berkshire, and State of Massachusetts, being of sound mind, memory and understanding, do make my last will and testament in manner and form following; ·

First. I hereby direct and empower my executor to pay all my funeral expenses and just debts as soon as possible.

Second. To Harold Baenziger Osborn, my grandson I give my gold watch, chain and fob complete, as a keepsake.

Third. To Julia Louise Osborn, my granddaughter, I give certain unmounted topaz stones, and such articles of jewelry as her mother

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New York: Abstracts of Wills, Admins. and Guardianships, 1787-1835

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First Name

Elizabeth

Last Name

Salisbury

Years

From

To

Record Type

-All-

Location Exact Location

e.g. Boston, Massachusetts

Volume

-All-

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1 - 50 of 7736 records for Name: Elizabeth Salisbury, Database: New York: Abstracts of Wills, Admins. and Guardianships, 1787-1835

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Elizabeth Salisbury

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Name	Events	Relationship
<p>Elizabeth SALISBURY</p> <p>New York: Abstracts of Wills, Admins. and Guardianships, 1787-1835</p> <p>Court, Land and Probate Records</p> <p>View Image</p>	<p>1787 - 1835</p> <p>LOCATION : Catskill, Greene, New York, United States</p> <p>VOLUME : Greene</p> <p>PAGE : 536</p>	
<p>Elizabeth SALISBURY</p> <p>New York: Abstracts of Wills, Admins. and Guardianships, 1787-1835</p> <p>Court, Land and Probate Records</p> <p>View Image</p>	<p>1809</p> <p>LOCATION : Catskill, Greene, New York, United States</p> <p>VOLUME : Greene</p> <p>PAGE : 569</p>	
<p>Elizabeth SALISBURY</p> <p>New York: Abstracts of Wills, Admins. and Guardianships, 1787-1835</p> <p>Court, Land and Probate Records</p> <p>View Image</p>	<p>1809</p> <p>LOCATION : Catskill, Greene, New York, United States</p> <p>VOLUME : Greene</p> <p>PAGE : 570</p>	



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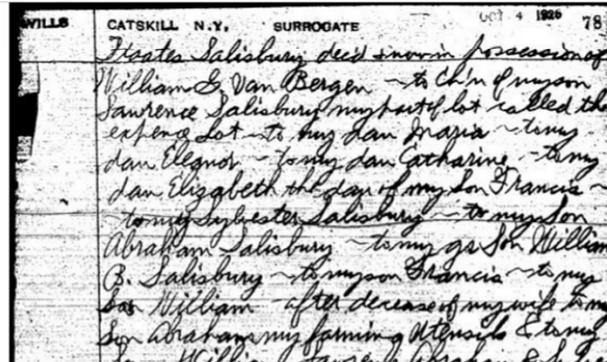
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WILLS CATSKILL N.Y. SURROGATE Oct 4 1926 78

States Salisbury deed in possession of
William S. Van Bergen - to Ch'm of my son
Lawrence Salisbury my part of lot called the
expens lot - to my son Dan Maria - to my
son Eleanor - to my son Catharine - to my
son Elizabeth the daughter of my son Francis -
to my son Sylvester Salisbury - to my son
Abraham Salisbury - to my son William
B. Salisbury - to my son Francis - to my
son William - after decease of my wife to my
son Abraham my farming utensils & to my
son William Lawrence Abraham & S. G.

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QUESTIONS?

Finding Probate Record Books on FamilySearch

The screenshot shows the FamilySearch website interface. At the top, the navigation bar includes the FamilySearch logo, 'Family Tree', 'Search', 'Memories', 'Indexing', and 'Activities'. The 'Search' menu is open, displaying a list of options: 'Records', 'Images', 'Family Tree', 'Genealogies', 'Catalog', 'Books', and 'Research Wiki'. A red arrow points to the 'Records' option. Below the navigation bar, there is a banner for '2022: Meet Speaker MOLLY' featuring a woman in a red sweater. To the right, there is a 'New Volunteer Opportunity' section with a 'Try It' button and a 'Recommended Tasks' section with 'All' and 'Records' buttons.

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Place

- Prince Edward
- United States, Virginia, Prince Edward**
- Prince George
- [United States, Virginia, Prince George](#)
- [United States, Virginia, Prince George, Prince George](#)
- Prince George's
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- Prince of Wales-Hyder
- [United States, Alaska, Prince of Wales-Hyder](#)
- Prince William

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Notes ▼

Formed in 1753 from Amelia County.

Part of [United States, Virginia](#)

[Places within United States, Virginia, Prince Edward](#) ▶

- ▶ [United States, Virginia, Prince Edward - Census - 1810](#) (1)
- ▶ [United States, Virginia, Prince Edward - Census - 1850](#) (1)
- ▶ [United States, Virginia, Prince Edward - Church history](#) (2)
- ▶ [United States, Virginia, Prince Edward - Church records](#) (7)
- ▶ [United States, Virginia, Prince Edward - Church records - Indexes](#) (2)
- ▶ [United States, Virginia, Prince Edward - Court records](#) (10)
- ▶ [United States, Virginia, Prince Edward - Genealogy](#) (1)
- ▶ [United States, Virginia, Prince Edward - Guardianship](#) (3)
- ▶ [United States, Virginia, Prince Edward - History](#) (5)
- ▶ [United States, Virginia, Prince Edward - History - Civil War, 1861-1865](#) (1)
- ▶ [United States, Virginia, Prince Edward - Land and property](#) (8)
- ▶ [United States, Virginia, Prince Edward - Land and property - Indexes](#) (1)
- ▶ [United States, Virginia, Prince Edward - Land and property - Maps](#) (1)
- ▶ [United States, Virginia, Prince Edward - Maps](#) (2)
- ▶ [United States, Virginia, Prince Edward - Medical records](#) (1)
- ▶ [United States, Virginia, Prince Edward - Military history - Civil War, 1861-1865](#) (1)
- ▶ [United States, Virginia, Prince Edward - Military records - Civil War, 1861-1865](#) (3)
- ▶ [United States, Virginia, Prince Edward - Naturalization and citizenship](#) (1)
- ▶ [United States, Virginia, Prince Edward - Obituaries](#) (1)
- ▶ [United States, Virginia, Prince Edward - Occupations](#) (1)
- ▶ [United States, Virginia, Prince Edward - Officials and employees](#) (1)
- ▶ [United States, Virginia, Prince Edward - Probate records](#) (6)
- ▶ [United States, Virginia, Prince Edward - Public records](#) (1)
- ▶ [United States, Virginia, Prince Edward - Taxation](#) (2)
- ▶ [United States, Virginia, Prince Edward - Vital records](#) (8)
- ▶ [United States, Virginia, Prince Edward - Voting registers](#) (1)

[Print List](#)



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- ▶ United States, Virginia, Prince Edward - Occupations (1)
- ▶ United States, Virginia, Prince Edward - Officials and employees (1)
- ▼ **United States, Virginia, Prince Edward - Probate records (6)**

[Prince Edward County, Virginia wills](#) [Add](#)

[Prince Edward County, Virginia, abstracts of wills : books nos. 1-7, 1754-1837 : each book is followed by a separate index](#) [Add](#)

[Record and will books, 1791-1899](#) [Add](#)

Author: Virginia. District Court (Prince Edward County District); Virginia. Superior Court of Law (Prince Edward County); Virginia. Circuit Superior Court of Law and Chancery (Prince Edward County); Virginia. Circuit Court (Prince Edward County)

[Record of fiduciaries, 1850-1983](#) [Add](#)

Author: Virginia. County Court (Prince Edward County); Virginia. Circuit Court (Prince Edward County); Prince Edward County (Virginia). Clerk of Circuit Court

 [Will books, 1754-1869 ; general indexes to wills, 1754-1915, 1937, 1974-1984](#) [Add](#)

Author: Virginia. County Court (Prince Edward County)

[Will of Andrew Porter of Prince Edward Co., VA.](#) [Add](#)

Author: Porter, Andrew, Col., 1734-1821; Porter, Ralph L.

- ▶ United States, Virginia, Prince Edward - Public records (1)
- ▶ United States, Virginia, Prince Edward - Taxation (2)
- ▶ United States, Virginia, Prince Edward - Vital records (8)
- ▶ United States, Virginia, Prince Edward - Voting registers (1)

Will books, 1754-1869 ; general indexes to wills, 1754-1915, 1937, 1974-1984

Add to Print List

Authors:	Virginia. County Court (Prince Edward County) (Main Author)
Format:	Manuscript/Manuscript on Film
Language:	English
Publication:	Salt Lake City, Utah : Filmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah, 1949 Richmond, Virginia : Filmed by the Virginia State Library, 1984
Physical:	on 8 microfilm reels ; 35 mm.

Notes

Microfilm of original records at the Prince Edward County Courthouse in Farmville, Virginia.

Includes general indexes. Vols. 2-12 are also individually indexed. Index for v. 7 is found at the end of the book. The other filming of v. 1 includes an index.

Contains wills, inventories, appraisements, accounts, and other probate documents.

Bonds in will book, v. 1, were for sheriffs, surveyors, licenses for ordinaries, executors, administrators, marriages, and other officials or functions.

Some pages are damaged. Ink has faded in places.

[View this catalog record in WorldCat for other possible copy locations](#) 

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Note	Location	Collection/Shelf	Film	DGS	Format
General index to wills, surnames A-Z, 1754-1915 (indexes will books, v. 1-16; p. 251 has a few entries from v. 19, 1937).	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	33216 Item 1	7645993	
General index to wills and fiduciary accounts, 1844-1915 (p. 1-400, general index of reports) (indexes will books, v. 9-16) -- General index to wills and fiduciary accounts, 1844-1915 (p. 401-596, general index of inventories, appraisements and accounts of sales) (indexes will books, v. 9-16).	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	2070191 Items 3 - 4	7644209	
General index to devisees and heirs, surnames H-L, 1974-1984 (indexes v. 27-33) -- General index to devisees and heirs, surnames M-R, 1974-1984 (indexes v. 27-33) -- General index to devisees and heirs, surnames S-Z, 1974-1984 (indexes v. 27-33).	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	2070189 Items 1 - 3	7644207	
Will book, v. 1, 1754- 1785 (p. 1-360) and bonds 1754-1783 (1784) (p. 361-442).	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	33216 Item 2	7645993	
Another filming of will book, v. 1, 1754-1785, and bonds, 1754-1784.	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	2070189 Items 5 - 6	7644207	
Will book, v. 2, 1785-1795 -- Will book, v. 3, 1795-1807.	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	33217	7645994	
Will book, v. 4, 1807-1815 -- Will book, v. 5, 1815-1822 -- Will book, v. 6, 1822-1828.	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	33218	7645995	
Will book, v. 7, 1828-1837 -- Will book, v. 8, 1837-1844 -- Will book, v. 9, 1844-1853.	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	33219	7645996	
Will book, v. 10, 1853-1859 -- Will book, v. 11, 1859-1864 -- Will book, v. 12, 1864-1869.	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Overflow	33220	7645997	
Another filming of will book, v. 12, 1864-1869.	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	2070190 Item 1	7644208	

Tip

Duplicate your tab in your Internet browser; keep the index open in one tab while you're opening the volume for the probate in another.

Film/Digital Notes

Note	Location	Collection/Shelf	Film	DGS	Format
General index to wills, surnames A-Z, 1754-1915 (indexes will books, v. 1-16; p. 251 has a few entries from v. 19, 1937).	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	33216 Item 1	7645993	
General index to wills and fiduciary accounts, 1844-1915 (p. 1-400, general index of reports) (indexes will books, v. 9-16) -- General index to wills and fiduciary accounts, 1844-1915 (p. 401-596, general index of inventories, appraisements and accounts of sales) (indexes will books, v. 9-16).	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	2070191 Items 3 - 4	7644209	
General index to devisees and heirs, surnames H-L, 1974-1984 (indexes v. 27-33) -- General index to devisees and heirs, surnames M-R, 1974-1984 (indexes v. 27-33) -- General index to devisees and heirs, surnames S-Z, 1974-1984 (indexes v. 27-33).	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	2070189 Items 1 - 3	7644207	
Will book, v. 1, 1754- 1785 (p. 1-360) and bonds 1754-1783 (1784) (p. 361-442).	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	33216 Item 2		
Another filming of will book, v. 1, 1754-1785, and bonds, 1754-1784.	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	2070189 Items 5 - 6	7644207	
Will book, v. 2, 1785-1795 -- Will book, v. 3, 1795-1807.	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	33217	7645994	
Will book, v. 4, 1807-1815 -- Will book, v. 5, 1815-1822 -- Will book, v. 6, 1822-1828.	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	33218	7645995	
Will book, v. 7, 1828-1837 -- Will book, v. 8, 1837-1844 -- Will book, v. 9, 1844-1853.	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	33219	7645996	
Will book, v. 10, 1853-1859 -- Will book, v. 11, 1859-1864 -- Will book, v. 12, 1864-1869.	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Overflow	33220	7645997	

The screenshot displays the FamilySearch.org interface. At the top left is the FamilySearch logo and navigation links: Family Tree, Search, Memories, Indexing, and Activities. On the top right, there are utility icons (help, chat, notifications) and a user profile for Melanie McComb. Below the navigation bar, a secondary menu includes Records (highlighted), Images, Family Tree, Genealogies, Catalog, Books, and Wiki. A search bar shows 'Film # 007645993'. To the right of the search bar are buttons for 'Source Box' and 'Attach to Family Tree'. Below the search bar, a navigation bar shows 'Image 236 of 463' with left and right arrow icons. On the far right of this bar are icons for 'Print', 'Download', and 'Tools'. The main area of the page is a large grid of document thumbnails. The first few thumbnails are larger and show document headers, including one with the word 'BEGIN' in large letters. The rest of the grid consists of smaller, uniform thumbnails representing individual pages of the document.

FamilySearch.org

The screenshot shows the FamilySearch.org website interface. At the top left is the FamilySearch logo and navigation links: Family Tree, Search, Memories, Indexing, and Activities. At the top right is a user profile for Melanie McComb with icons for help, chat, and notifications. Below the navigation is a secondary menu with links: Records, Images, Family Tree, Genealogies, Catalog, Books, and Wiki. The main content area shows a film number '007645993' and a 'Source Box' button. A blue button labeled 'Attach to Family Tree' is visible. The image viewer shows 'Image 236 of 463' with 'Print', 'Download', and 'Tools' options. The central image is a black and white photograph of a book title: 'WILL BOOK NO. 1 WITH INVENTORIES & ACCOUNTS 1754-1785'. On the left side of the image viewer are zoom and crop controls. At the bottom left, there are tabs for 'Image Index' and 'Information', with the text 'No indexes are available.' below them.

FamilySearch.org

FamilySearch Family Tree Search Memories Indexing Activities

Records Images Family Tree Genealogies Catalog Books Wiki

Film # 007645993

Source Box Attach to Family Tree

Image 252 of 463

Print Download Tools

The image shows a handwritten document with two main sections. On the left is a table with several rows of numbers. On the right is a large block of cursive text, which appears to be a legal or religious document, possibly a will or a deed, mentioning 'In the Name of God' and 'Edward County being such of Maryland'.

8		
2	5	
9		
	11	
2	10	
6	8	9
3		
1		

Image Index Information

No indexes are available

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Finding Probate File Papers on FamilySearch



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Search the catalog of genealogical materials (including books, online materials, microfilm, microfiche, and publications) made available by FamilySearch online and in libraries and centers worldwide.

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Search by:

Place | [Surnames](#) | [Titles](#) | [Author](#) | [Subjects](#) | [Keywords](#)

Place

United States, New Hampshir|

New Hampshire

United States, New Hampshire

1 Results

- Any
- Online
- Family History Center

Search

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▼ **United States, New Hampshire - Probate records (11)**

Miscellaneous notes and abstracts of wills from New England states	Add
New Hampshire naturalization and probate records : COLLECTION RECORD, 1643-1948	Add
[New Hampshire provincial and state papers]	Add
[New Hampshire provincial and state papers]	Add
[New Hampshire provincial and state papers]	Add
 New Hampshire, county probate estate files : COLLECTION RECORD, 1769-1936	Add
New Hampshire, county probate records : COLLECTION RECORD, 1660-1973	Add
Probate records of the province of New Hampshire Author: Batchellor, Albert Stillman, 1850-1913; Hammond, Otis G. (Otis Grant), 1869-1944	Add
Probate records of the province of New Hampshire Author: Batchellor, Albert Stillman, 1850-1913; Metcalf, Henry Harrison, 1841-1932; Hammond, Otis G. (Otis Grant), 1869-1944	Add
Probate records of the province of New Hampshire, 1635-1771 Author: Batchellor, Albert Stillman, 1850-1913; Hammond, Otis G. (Otis Grant), 1869-1944; Stearns, Ezra S. (Ezra Scollay), 1838-1915	Add
Province [New Hampshire] deeds and probate records from 1623-1772 Author: New Hampshire (Colony)	Add



[◀ BACK TO SEARCH RESULTS](#)

PRINT Catalog Print

New Hampshire, county probate estate files : COLLECTION RECORD, 1769-1936

Add to F

Format: Manuscript/Manuscript on Digital Images
Language: English
Publication: Salt Lake City, Utah : Digitized by FamilySearch International, 2012
Microfilm Records in this Collection: [Estate papers, old series, 1771-1869 / New Hampshire. Probate Court \(Rockingham County\)](#)
[Probate estate files, 1769-1885 / New Hampshire. Probate Court \(Cheshire County\)](#)
[Probate packets, 1885-1931; probate index, 1885-1992 / New Hampshire. Probate Court \(Coos County\)](#)
[Probate papers, 1840-1936; index to probate papers, 1840-1990 / New Hampshire. Probate Court \(Carroll County\)](#)

Notes

New Hampshire, County Probate Estate Files are available online, [click here.](#)



County probate estate files for Carroll, Cheshire, Coos, and Rockingham counties. This collection is being published as images become available.

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New Hampshire, County Probate Estate Files, 1769-1936

Description

County probate estate files for Carroll, Cheshire, Coos, and Rockingham counties. This collection is being published as images become available.

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View Images in this Collection

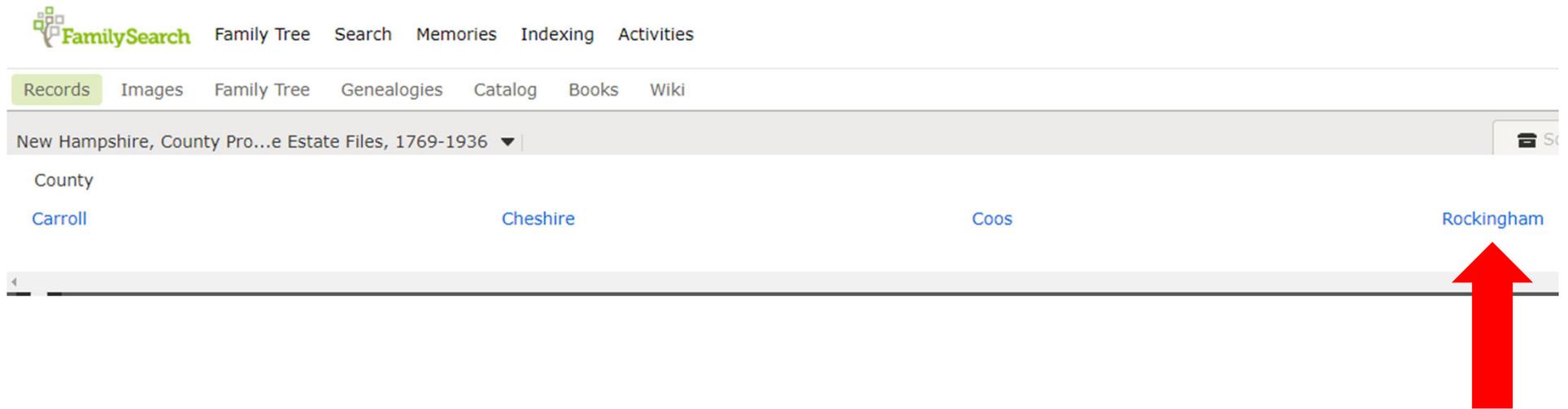
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Citing this Collection

"New Hampshire, County Probate Estate Files, 1769-1936." Images. *FamilySearch*. <http://FamilySearch.org> : 14 June 2016. County courthouses, offices of register of probate, and historical societies, New Hampshire.



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The screenshot shows the FamilySearch website interface. At the top left is the FamilySearch logo. Below it are navigation links: Family Tree, Search, Memories, Indexing, and Activities. A secondary navigation bar includes Records (highlighted), Images, Family Tree, Genealogies, Catalog, Books, and Wiki. The main content area displays a search path: "New Hampshire, County Pro...e Estate Files, 1769-1936" with a dropdown arrow. Below this, a "County" section lists four options: Carroll, Cheshire, Coos, and Rockingham. A large red arrow points to the "Rockingham" link.

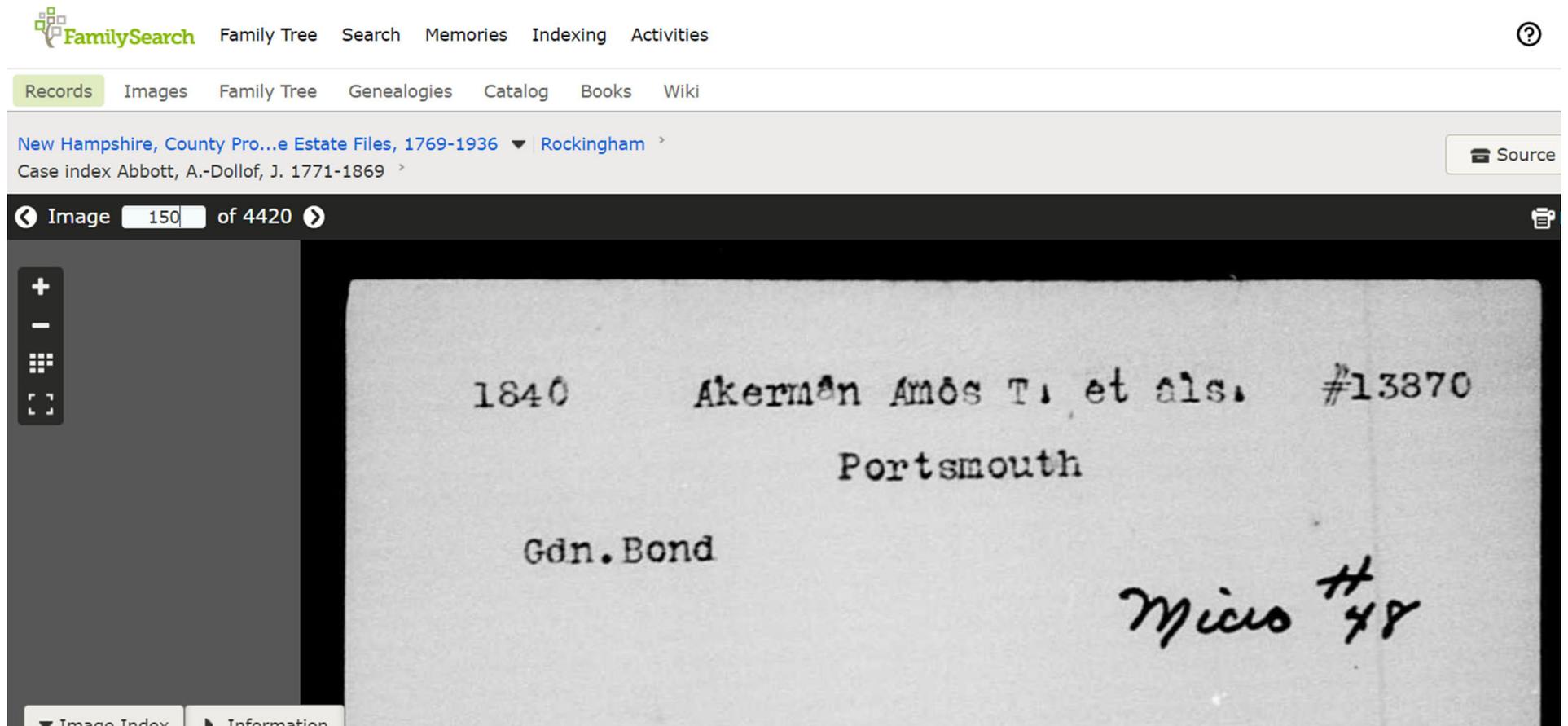
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Index of Case File and Year Range

Case index Abbott, A.-Dollof, J. 1771-1869	Case no 9494-9576 1817	Case no 13740-13800 1839
Case index Dollof, J.-Lolly S. 1771-1869	Case no 9577-9685 1817-1818	Case no 13801-13871 1839-1840
Case index Lolly, S.-Stevens, P. 1771-1869	Case no 9686-9748 1818	Case no 13872-13937 1840
Case index Stevens, P.-Young, W. 1771-1869	Case no 9749-9827 1818	Case no 13937-14009 1840
Case no 3836-3988 1771-1773	Case no 9828-9895 1818-1819	Case no 14009-14074 1840-1841
Case no 3989-4128 1773-1774	Case no 9896-9973 1819	Case no 14075-14144 1841
Case no 4129-4269 1774-1776	Case no 9974-10056 1819-1920	Case no 14145-14200 1841
Case no 4270-4402 1776-1777	Case no 10057-10141 1820	Case no 14201-14254 1841-1842
Case no 4402-4565 1777-1779	Case no 10142-10223 1820-1821	Case no 14255-14314 1842
Case no 4566-4701 1779-1781	Case no 10224-10301 1821	Case no 14315-14379 1842
Case no 4702-4842 1781-1782	Case no 10302-10390 1821-1822	Case no 14380-14440 1842
Case no 4843-4987 1782-1784	Case no 10391-10464 1822	Case no 14441-14499 1842-1843
Case no 4988-5074 1784-1785	Case no 10465-10534 1822	Case no 14500-14558 1843
Case no 5075-5178 1785-1786	Case no 10535-10624 1822-1823	Case no 14558-14614 1843
Case no 5178-5289 1786-1787	Case no 10625-10707 1823	Case no 14614-14668 1843-1844
Case no 5290-5395 1787-1788	Case no 10708-10790 1823-1824	Case no 14668-14724 1844
Case no 5396-5511 1788-1790	Case no 10790-10859 1824	Case no 14725-14773 1884
Case no 5512-5600 1790	Case no 10860-10913 1824-1825	Case no 14774-14835 1844

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Index of Case File and Year Range

Case index Abbott, A.-Dollof, J. 1771-1869	Case no 9494-9576 1817	Case no 13740-13800 1839
Case index Dollof, J.-Lolly S. 1771-1869	Case no 9577-9685 1817-1818	Case no 13801-13871 1839-1840
Case index Lolly, S.-Stevens, P. 1771-1869	Case no 9686-9748 1818	Case no 13872-13937 1840
Case index Stevens, P.-Young, W. 1771-1869	Case no 9749-9827 1818	Case no 13937-14009 1840
Case no 3836-3988 1771-1773	Case no 9828-9895 1818-1819	Case no 14009-14074 1840-1841
Case no 3989-4128 1773-1774	Case no 9896-9973 1819	Case no 14075-14144 1841
Case no 4129-4269 1774-1776	Case no 9974-10056 1819-1920	Case no 14145-14200 1841
Case no 4270-4402 1776-1777	Case no 10057-10141 1820	Case no 14201-14254 1841-1842
Case no 4402-4565 1777-1779	Case no 10142-10223 1820-1821	Case no 14255-14314 1842
Case no 4566-4701 1779-1781	Case no 10224-10301 1821	Case no 14315-14379 1842
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Case no 4988-5074 1784-1785	Case no 10465-10534 1822	Case no 14500-14558 1843
Case no 5075-5178 1785-1786	Case no 10535-10624 1822-1823	Case no 14558-14614 1843
Case no 5178-5289 1786-1787	Case no 10625-10707 1823	Case no 14614-14668 1843-1844
Case no 5290-5395 1787-1788	Case no 10708-10790 1823-1824	Case no 14668-14724 1844
Case no 5396-5511 1788-1790	Case no 10790-10859 1824	Case no 14725-14773 1884
Case no 5512-5600 1790	Case no 10860-10913 1824-1825	Case no 14774-14835 1844



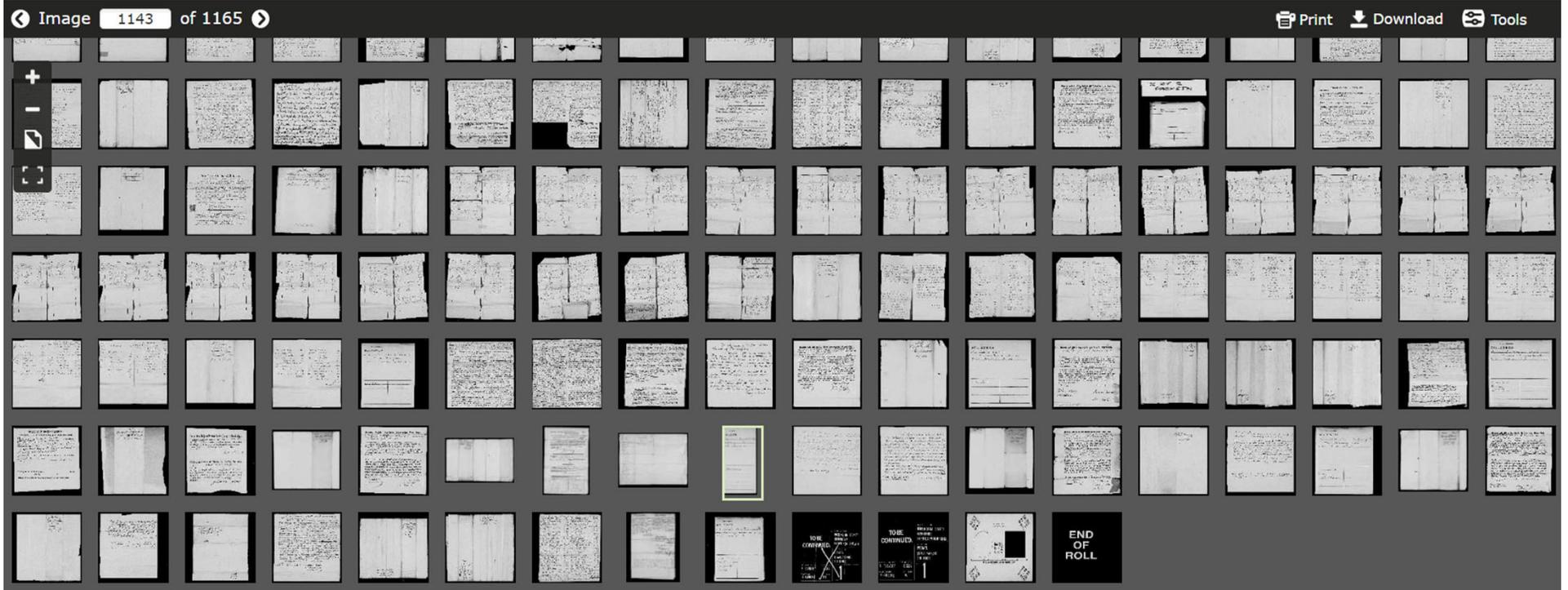
New Hampshire, County Probate Estate Files, 1769-1936 ▾ Rockingham >

Case no 13801-13871 1839-1840 >

Source Box Attach to Family Tree

Image 1143 of 1165

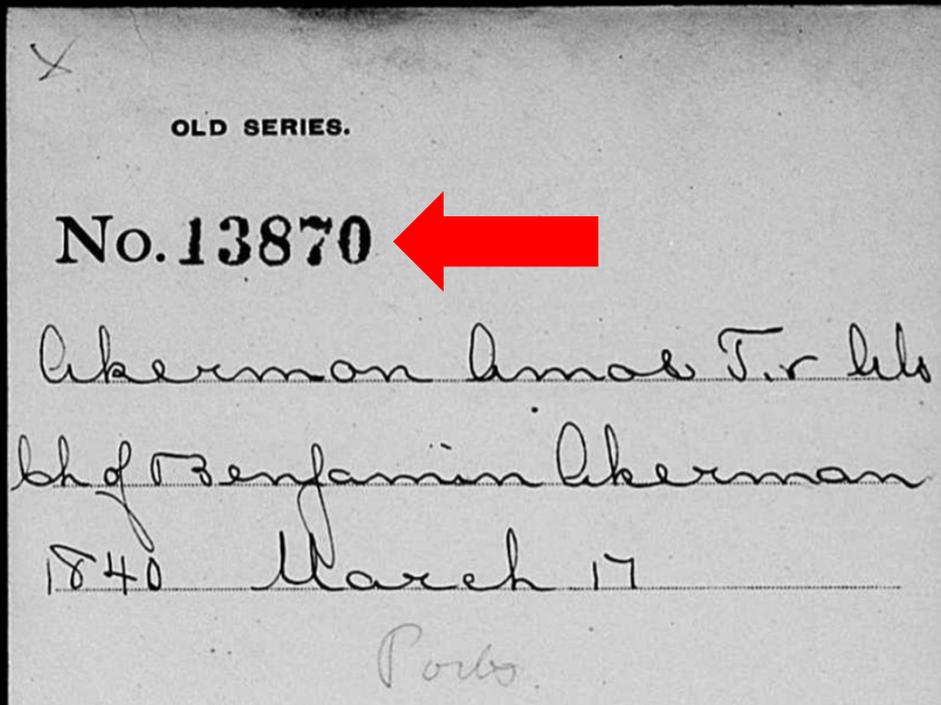
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Case no 13801-13871 1839-1840 >

Image 1143 of 1165



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Rockingham Co. To the Judge of Probate for the
County of Rockingham in the State of New Hampshire

Respectfully Sheweth Amos Tappan Sherman of
Portsmouth in said County, that he is a son of
Benjamin Sherman of Portsmouth in said County,
and a minor upwards of fourteen years of age, that
he has property in said Portsmouth bequeathed to him
by Mary Meloon late of said Portsmouth deceased,
and that he does hereby make choice of Benjamin A-
Sherman of Portsmouth in said County to be his guar-
dian —

Wherefore he prays that Letters of Guardianship
may issue to the said Benjamin Sherman accordingly.

Dated the twentieth day of March — A. D. 1840.

Amos T. Sherman
Witness, William G. Perry.

Guardianship Petition (1840)

Review

1. Don't limit yourself to just looking for a will. Probate records are an invaluable record set for proving relationships within a family.
2. Estate papers should be sought out as they include the original records from the probate process.
3. Probate records can be used to rebuild the story of an ancestor and lead you to additional records.

QUESTIONS?

Hire Research Services

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AmericanAncestors.org/chat

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Thank you for registering for the online course, *Law & Order: Using Court Records in Your Family History Research!*

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If you are unable to attend the live sessions, you will be able to watch the recordings on this course page.

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