

Using New England Probate Records

Winter Research Stay-at-Home

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Genealogist
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THE BRUE FAMILY LEARNING CENTER



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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

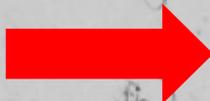
In the Name of God. Amen. The seventeenth Day of April: 1741
 I Phillip Rich of Sudbury In the County of Middlesex yeoman:
 Being sick and weak in Body but of perfect Mind and memory Thanks be
 Given unto God: Therefore calling unto mind the Mortality of my Body
 and knowing that it is appointed for 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 manner and Form

Imprimis

After my Just Debts and funeral Charges paid
 I Give and bequeath to Johannah 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 income of my Estate shall be found sufficient for her
 Comfortable maintenance: Then my will is that I give full power to
 my here after named Executors 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 so much of the Principal as he shall think fit

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 & 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^d 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 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 Nathaniel Wheeler Yeoman
& Samuel Hale Fisherman 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 administratrix of all & singular Goods, Chattels, rights & credits of her husband Joseph Knight late of Newbury aforesaid dec'd Intell* 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* 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

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.

Howley 28 Nov. 1798

Nath.^l Cogswell

[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 *Jessie 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 admini-
stered, leaving *a* widow, whose name is *Jessie 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>Lucretia 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

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 pease of humppon Broad Cloth	20-10-0
to a pease humppon Camblett	21-7-0
to 2 feather beads and furneture at	20-0-0
to one flock beads and furneture	15-0-0
to Outer	20-18-0
to 2 Iron pot and 3 Iron Kittles 2 tramils.	
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 viales	1-15-0

One breaking plough, one set of one Iron Harrow	
one Log Chain four axes & four Hoes	35 4 4 4
One Yoke of Oxen	28 4 4 4
One Negro named Captain, Infirm	60 4 4 4
One Do named old Cook	50 4 4 4
One Do named Sauto Same 80 years old	60 4 4 4
One Negro Girl 6 years of age	60 4 4 4
tract of unimproved Land at Hadley, South Precinct containing about 900 Acres,	900 4 4 4
Lands Bought of Th: Westbrook in the County of York	200 4 4 4
Lands Bought of Henry Gibbs in the County of Do	1000 4 4 4

Tip

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

Ruth Waterboy Admin^r 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

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 Josiah M Reed's 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	<u>\$1839.75</u>

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 50	1 blue chest do 20	1.70
1 Box in Genet 6	1 Glass B.B. & Dots 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 Park tub 50		56
1 Butter tub 37	1 Lidder Woodhead 25	1 Lidder B.B. 25	87
1 Small welsy tub 25	1 Cook Stove & furniture 5.25		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

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. 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 th Account^r Chargeth her selfe wth all
& singular the Goods & Chattels of y^e deceased -
specified in an Inven^t 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

And pray's Allowance as follows. Vizt.

P ^o . for Lett ^r . of Admin ^r . & Reg ^r . & Inventory.	£	10	0	0
P ^o . sickness & funeral Charges of y ^e Deceas ^d .	"	7	16	6
P ^o . To several y ^e Sons as by Receipts doth appear to was due from y ^e Deceas ^d . Amounting in y ^e whole to	£	59	7	6
P ^o . to fam ^r . Carl of Boston a Debt	"	3	3	6
P ^o . J ^r . Barle for repairing y ^e Deceas ^d 's Windows	"	5	12	"
Loss in Clotting of y ^e Deceas ^d 's Linnen & woollen Being worn out, ^{among the Children} Apprized at	£	15	5	"
Wooden ware apprized at l: 13/ being worn out	"	1	13	"
Cart & Tackling worn out	"	1	"	"
Paid to Samuel Gore for his Wife's Portion	£	25	"	"
	£	119	2	6
For Admin ^r . time & Trouble	"	3	"	"
For Drawing Allowings & Reg ^r . & this Acct ^s .	"	8	"	"
	£	122	10	6

Wath^r. Drap^r. eldest son of y^e Deceas^d mark

Being present at y^e Allowance of y^e. Obig^d. son Draper

Wath^r. Drap^r. eldest son of y^e Deceas^d

Estate Distribution

Distributions

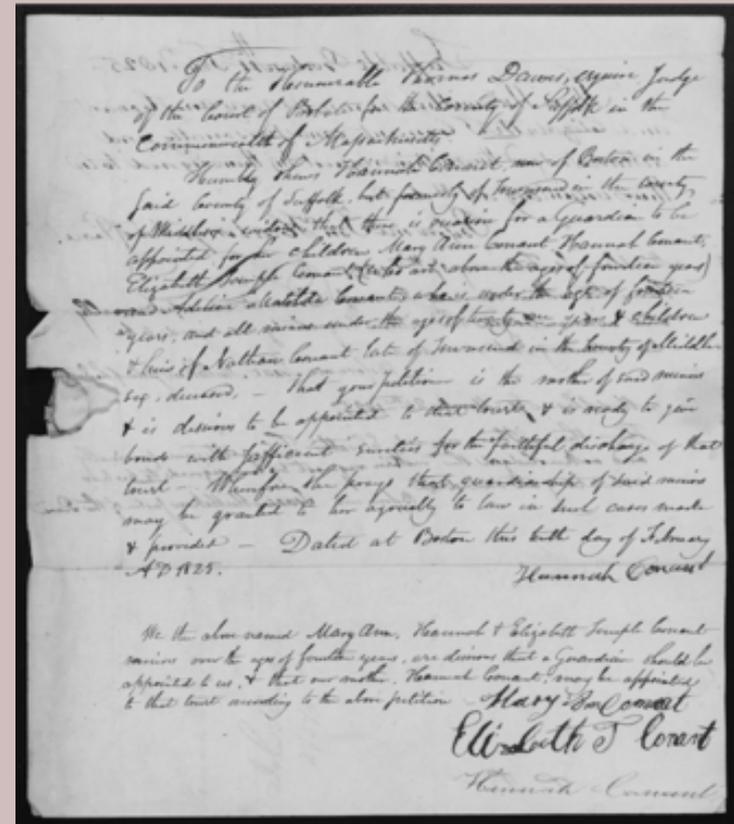
- Dividing an estate among heirs
- Occurs after bills are paid and debts collected
- Heirs (children, widow, etc.) mentioned in distribution
- Genealogical importance:
 - List of children if vital records aren't available
 - Married names of daughters
 - Children of deceased heirs

of Ipswich in said county, merchant, deceased, ...
 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 B. 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

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 Com-
monwealth 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

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 & Improvement 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 followeth

1698.	With money recd. of Wm Griggs Admin ^r of the Estate of the sd Isaac Griggs - - -	£ 100 ¹¹ - -
	more money recd. of sd Griggs - - -	" 8 ¹¹ 2 ¹¹ 6
	With a Bond of James Russell Esq ^r for - - -	" 60 ¹¹ - -
	With one year Interest of sd Bond - - -	" 3 ¹¹ 12 ¹¹ -
1699	With more money recd. of Wm Griggs - - -	" 6 ¹¹ 7 ¹¹ -
	With Interest recd. for £ 150 ¹¹ - - -	" - - -

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. These may be found in probate records or land deeds.

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 *fifth* ~~first~~ *Monday* day of *November* 1844
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;

Receipts

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

Locating New England Probate Records

Where do I find Probate Records?

- Filed at Courthouses
- Usually found on the county level
- Exceptions to this:
 - Rhode Island: town level
 - Vermont and Connecticut: Probate Districts

Tip
Check when
the county/town/probate district
was formed

 PRINT  Catalog Print List (0)

Notes

Windham County was created in 1726 from Hartford and New London counties.

Part of [United States, Connecticut](#)

[Places within United States, Connecticut, Windham](#) ▶



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Windham County, Connecticut Genealogy

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This is about a county in Connecticut. For other uses, see [Windham \(disambiguation\)](#).

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

[Connecticut Online Genealogy Records](#)

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Windham County, Connecticut

Map



Location in the state of [Connecticut](#), [United States Genealogy](#)

Facts

Founded	May 12, 1726
County Seat	Putnam

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](https://www.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)

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probate



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LOCATION ▾

United States (37)

DATE ▾

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- 1850 - 1900 (1)
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CATEGORIES ▾

Court, Land and Probate Records

Results per page 20 50 100

🔍	📷	☆	Connecticut: Early Probate Records, 1635-1750
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🔍	📷	☆	Franklin County, MA: Probate File Papers, 1812-1915
🔍	📷	☆	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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 **Berkshire County, MA: Probate File Papers, 1761-1917**

Exact Search Soundex

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First/Middle/[Maiden] names

Last Name

Years

Location Exact Location

From

To

e.g. Boston, Massachusetts

Volume

Page

Case Number

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

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SEARCH FILTERS ▾

Abraham Osborne

SORT BY

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CATEGORIES ▾

Court, Land and Probate Records (1)

Comment or Question

Results per page [20](#) [50](#) [100](#)

[Print](#) [Save Search](#)

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

◀ 1 ▶

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Berkshire County, MA: Probate File Papers, 1761-1917

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Volume

Page of 29999:15

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- [Report Error](#)

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



Citation

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Berkshire County, MA: Probate File Papers, 1761-1917

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Transcript

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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 Baenniger 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, Sara 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 284 Main St.

Finding Probate Record Books on FamilySearch

The screenshot shows the FamilySearch website interface. At the top left is the FamilySearch logo. The navigation bar includes links for Family Tree, Search, Memories, Indexing, and Activities. The Search dropdown menu is open, listing Records, Images, Family Tree, Genealogies, Catalog, Books, and Research Wiki. A red arrow points to the Catalog option. Below the navigation bar, there is a notification icon and a banner for the Winter Research Stay-at-Home 2022 event 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

vermont, washington

Washington

United States, Vermont, Washington

[United States, Vermont, Orange, Washington](#)

2 Results

- Online
- Family History Center

Search

Reset

Search Results for FamilySearch Catalog

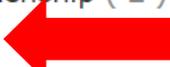
 [PRINT](#)  [Catalog Print List \(0\)](#)

Notes

Created in 1810 from Addison, Caledonia, Orleans, and Orange counties

Part of [United States, Vermont](#)

[Places within United States, Vermont, Washington](#) ▶

- ▶ [United States, Vermont, Washington - Biography \(2 \)](#)
- ▶ [United States, Vermont, Washington - Cemeteries \(3 \)](#)
- ▶ [United States, Vermont, Washington - Court records \(2 \)](#)
- ▶ [United States, Vermont, Washington - Directories \(3 \)](#)
- ▶ [United States, Vermont, Washington - Guardianship \(3 \)](#)
- ▶ [United States, Vermont, Washington - History \(5 \)](#)
- ▶ [United States, Vermont, Washington - Land and property - Maps \(1 \)](#)
- ▶ [United States, Vermont, Washington - Maps \(2 \)](#)
- ▶ [United States, Vermont, Washington - Military records - Revolution, 1775-1783 \(1 \)](#)
- ▶ [United States, Vermont, Washington - Naturalization and citizenship \(2 \)](#)
- ▶ [United States, Vermont, Washington - Probate records \(9 \)](#) 
- ▶ [United States, Vermont, Washington - Probate records - Indexes \(1 \)](#)

[Print List](#)

▼ **United States, Vermont, Washington - Probate records (9)**

Winter Research Stay-at-Home 2022

Homestead licenses, v. 1, 1886-1892	Add
Author: Vermont. Probate Court (Washington District)	
Licenses personal & real estate, 1870-1913	Add
Author: Vermont. Probate Court (Washington District)	
Probate records, 1811-1917	Add
Author: Vermont. Probate Court (Washington District)	
Probate records, administrators, 1870-1913	Add
Author: Vermont. Probate Court (Washington District)	
Probate records, bonds, v. 1-3, 1901-1919	Add
Author: Vermont. Probate Court (Washington District)	
Probate records, insolvency, 1878-1898	Add
Author: Vermont. Court of Insolvency (Washington District)	
Vermont, Washington County, probate estate files : COLLECTION RECORD, 1862-1915	Add
Vermont, Washington County, probate estate files, 1862-1915	Add
Author: Vermont. Probate Court (Washington District); Vermont. Supreme Court	
Wills & executors, 1871-1910	Add
Author: Vermont. Probate Court (Washington District)	



[◀ BACK TO SEARCH RESULTS](#)

PRINT Catalog Print List (0)

Probate records, 1811-1917

[Add to Print List](#)

Authors: [Vermont. Probate Court \(Washington District\)](#) (Main Author)

Format: Manuscript/Manuscript on Film

Language: English

Publication: Salt Lake City, Utah : Filmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah, 1951, 2002

Physical: on 27 microfilm reels ; 35 mm.

Notes

Microfilm of original records in the Washington District Probate Court, Montpelier, Vermont.

Indexes are found within each volume.

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

Subjects

Locality Subjects

[United States, Vermont, Washington - Probate records](#)

Note	Location	Collection/Shelf	Film	Image Group Number (DGS)	Format
Probate records, v. A-C, 1811-1831	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	29040	7714765	
Probate records, v. D-E, 1820-1842	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	29041	7714766	
Probate records, v. F-G, 1827-1835	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	29042	7714767	
Probate records, v. H-J, 1834-1851	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	29043	7714768	
Probate records, v. K-L, 1840-1844	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	29044	7714769	
Probate records, v. M, 1843-1847	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	29045	7714770	
Probate records, v. N-O, 1846-1850	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	29046	7714771	
Probate records, v. P,R-S(p.1-460), 1850-1856	Granite Mountain Record Vault	United States & Canada Film	2318366	7714687	
Probate records, v. S(p.460-end)-V, 1856-1862	Granite Mountain Record Vault	United States & Canada Film	2318367	7714688	
Probate records, v. W-Y, 1862-1866	Granite Mountain Record Vault	United States & Canada Film	2318368	7714689	
Probate records, v. Z,1-2, 1865-1869	Granite Mountain Record Vault	United States & Canada Film	2318369	7714690	
Probate records, v. 3-5, 1868-1873	Granite Mountain Record Vault	United States & Canada Film	2318370	7714691	
Probate records, v. 6-8, 1873-1880	Granite Mountain Record Vault	United States & Canada Film	2318371	7714692	
Probate records, v. 9-11, 1880-1888	Granite Mountain Record Vault	United States & Canada Film	2318496	7714693	

Film # 007714765

Image 1 of 746

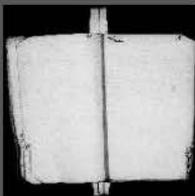
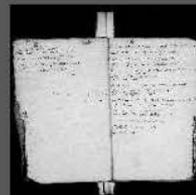
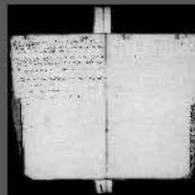
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R.H.
2816-07

LH-2806

STATE OF VERMONT
 WASHINGTON PROBATE RECORDS
 VOL. A
 1826

BEGIN



A
Ainsworth Wareham's Estate Pages - 19-40-79-96-97-
— Pages - 175-235-236-258-259-305

Andrus Benjamin - 258-305-6



Ames Edmund, Estate 265-321-2-3

Austin David Jr. 381-455-461, 2, 3, 4, 5-

A
B
C
D
E
F
G
H
I



258. State of Vermont }
 District of Jefferson } - Be it remembered that at a court of
 Probate holden at the office of J. G. Vail
 in Montpelier within and for the district of Jefferson on the last
 Thursday of October 1813 being the 28. day of said month before
 the Hon. Chapin Keith Judge of said Court Thomas Andrus next
 of kin to Benjamin Andrus late of Galois deceased, declined
 taking administration on the Estate of said deceased & requested that
 Nathaniel Arnussee of Montpelier aforesaid might be appointed to
 administer on said Estate - whereupon it is ordered that said
 Arnussee be appointed to that service, who accepted of said trust
 and gave bonds as the law requires - All letters issued him
 for that purpose allowing him twelve months to close his
 administration & settle the same with the Judge -
 Attest Joshua G. Vail Register -

Finding Probate File Papers on FamilySearch

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Place

United States, New Hampshir

New Hampshire

United States, New Hampshire

1 Results

- Any
- Online
- Family History Center

Search

Reset

▼ [Winter Research Stay-at-Home 2022](#) **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	Add
Author: Batchellor, Albert Stillman, 1850-1913; Hammond, Otis G. (Otis Grant), 1869-1944	
Probate records of the province of New Hampshire	Add
Author: Batchellor, Albert Stillman, 1850-1913; Metcalf, Henry Harrison, 1841-1932; Hammond, Otis G. (Otis Grant), 1869-1944	
Probate records of the province of New Hampshire, 1635-1771	Add
Author: Batchellor, Albert Stillman, 1850-1913; Hammond, Otis G. (Otis Grant), 1869-1944; Stearns, Ezra S. (Ezra Scollay), 1838-1915	
Province [New Hampshire] deeds and probate records from 1623-1772	Add
Author: New Hampshire (Colony)	

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PRINT [Catalog Print](#)

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

[Add to Favorites](#)

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.



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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New Hampshire, County Probate Estate Files, 1769-1936

County

[Carroll](#)

[Cheshire](#)

[Coos](#)

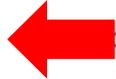
[Rockingham](#)

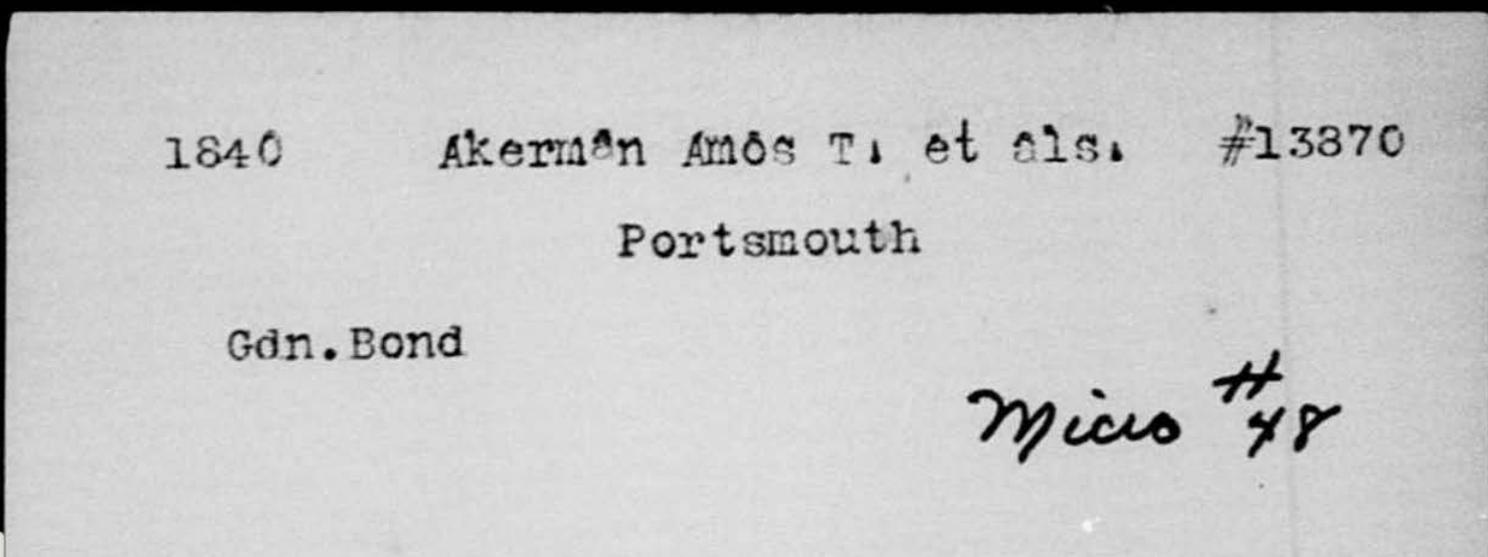
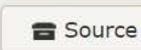


New Hampshire, County Probate Estate Files, 1769-1936 ▾ | Rockingham >

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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Case no 4270-4402 1776-1777	Case no 10057-10141 1820	Case no 14201-14254 1841-1842
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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

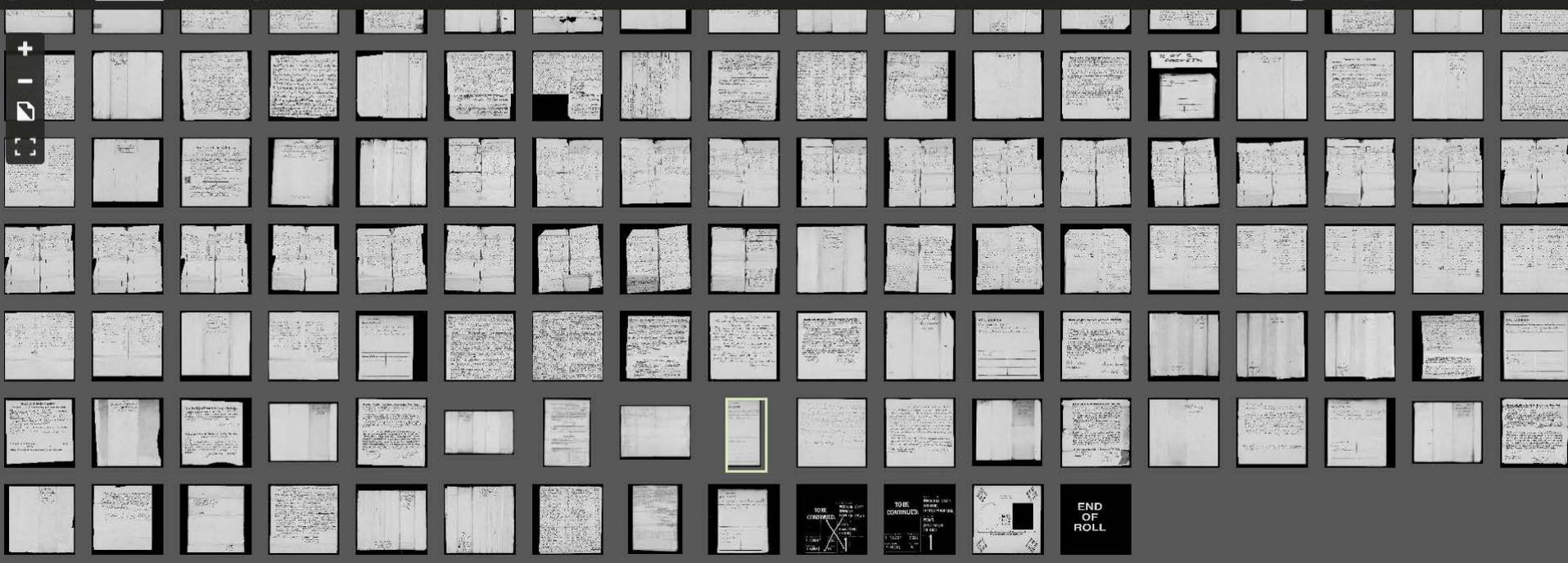


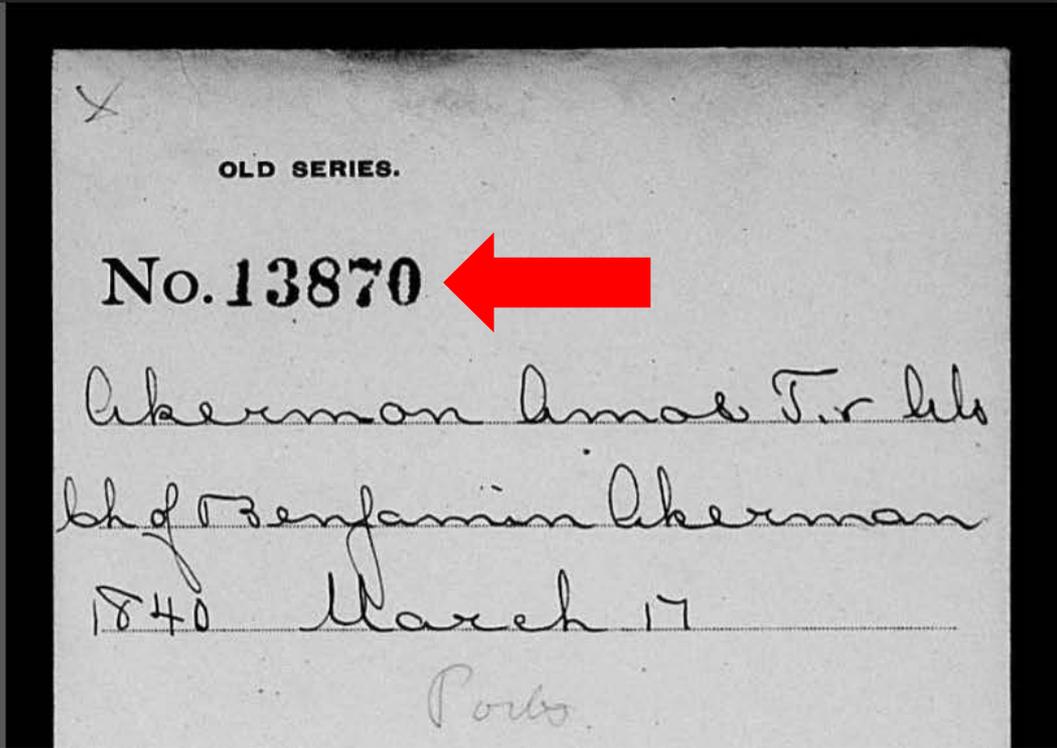
Source Box

Attach to Family Tree

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.

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?

THANK YOU!

AmericanAncestors.org/Events



NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC
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