

How to Find All of Probate and Estate Records for Your Ancestor on Ancestry

Why Should I look at Probate and Estate Records?

We look at the types of information you will find in estate and probate records that will help prove relationships in your family tree and help tell your family story.

What Probate and Estate Records are Available?

There are a variety of types of records found in Ancestry's new collection. We talk about the different records and give guidelines on what to expect for different places and times.

What are the Best Search Strategies to Find My Ancestors?

Searching for people in these records is different than finding your ancestor in a census record. We review the best strategies for finding who you are looking and who you should be looking for.

I'm Not Finding My People, How Do I Browse the Collections?

Not everyone is indexed in these collections, but you can still find them. We review the browse structure and the types of built in indexes you will find in these records.

I Found It! Now What Do I Do With It?

It is not enough to find the record. You need to pull out all of the relevant information. We look at what questions you should be asking and clues to your family that you will find in the record.

My Ancestor Was Seized and Possessed. What Does That Mean?

Mastering the terminology is key to getting the most out of probate and estate records. We cover common terms and show you where to look up terms you find and don't understand.

How and What Do I Save To My Tree?

You may have your 3rd great grandfather's will but you shouldn't just attach it to him. We review who needs this information in their timeline and how to add it to your Ancestry Member Tree to enhance your family story.