



RT2576 : How to Find Probate and Estate Records on Ancestry

PRESENTER:

Anne Mitchell

Ancestry

RootsTech 2016



With over 160 million records from 50 states, you know that you are going to find something new and unexpected in the Wills and Probates Records collections on Ancestry. But should you search? Browse? How do you know what everything means once you find it? We will show you the basics to get you started on the road to success.

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.

I'm Not a Lawyer – What Does It Mean?

- Old legal documents might mystify us with archaic legal terms but there is a solution to deciphering those concepts.

Searching For Your Ancestor

- Searching Wills and Probate Records is not like searching for a census record or a vital record. We will examine how to search from global search as well as targeted searches. Also we will discuss which search terms to use and not to use.

First Stop: The Record Page

- Many records on Ancestry have one image; probates and wills can have hundreds. Ancestry has updated the record page to help you know what to look at. This page will give you the tools you need to make sure you find everything that there is.

Viewing the Images

- The Ancestry image viewer has been updated to make scanning through multiple images easier. We will also examine the best techniques to use to get everything into your tree.



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.

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

- Not every name is indexed, but your ancestors can be found. We show you basic browsing strategies to quickly find who you are looking for.

Understanding the Indexes

- The variety of indexes for probates and wills in different states and counties will present unique challenges to researchers. We show you what to think about as you familiarize yourself with a new index.

Case Study: Eleven Hitch and Benjamin Hitch

- Is Benjamin the son or brother of Eleven Hitch? We show you how to take a theory and search for the answer in a will.

Case Study: Susan Harris and Thomas Harris

- Often you will find someone mentioned in a tree as a parent with no proof. In this case study, we examine how to use probates to prove what others state is true – or not!

Where you can find me

- Finding Forgotten Stories: <http://www.finding-forgotten-stories.com>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/AncestryAnne>
- Ancestry Academy: <http://ancestry.me/1fZz2VO>