

Mesa Family Search Library Family History Conference Land & Probate Records in the United States - Part 2

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How to choose and order land and probate., Family Search, microfilm, if the records are not digitized.

Using known information, ask a specific genealogical question.

Use a combination of land, probate, and other records to find the answer

Case histories demonstrate:

- Census, probate records, wills, deeds

Use land and probate records to lead to other records

Types of information contained in probate records

- Names and location of heirs
- Property owned by the deceased
- Names of slaves
- If a will, the date it was created
- The date the probate was applied for (Thus approximate date of death)
- Name of Administrator or Executor
- Bondsmen or Sureties

Some types of records that may be found in a probate

- Letters of Administration
- Bonds
- Inventories
- Guardianship
- Receipts
- Accounts
- Petitions
- Reports to the Court
- Distributions
- Letters
- Wills
- Final Decree

Examples From

- Letters of Administration
- Will
- Distribution

Ancestry.com

- Some Probate Records, Abstracts or Indexes
- http://search.ancestry.com/search/group/us_willsprobate
- Scroll Down
- Read lists and descriptions

Ancestry.com

- Some Land Records
- Search All Collections
- Scroll to Tax, Criminal, Land & Wills
- Read Lists and Descriptions

Never Assume a Record Does Not Exist Because You Do Not Find it at Ancestry.com or Family Search

- Contact the Courthouse

Land and Probate Records

- Carefully Analyze
- Compare and Correlate Information
- Broaden Search (Time, Place, People)
- Don't Read Just the Will
- Decedent May Have Left Children Out of the Will
- Transcribe Land and Probate Records

You Will Find New Answers to Genealogical Questions

Now Is The Time To Start