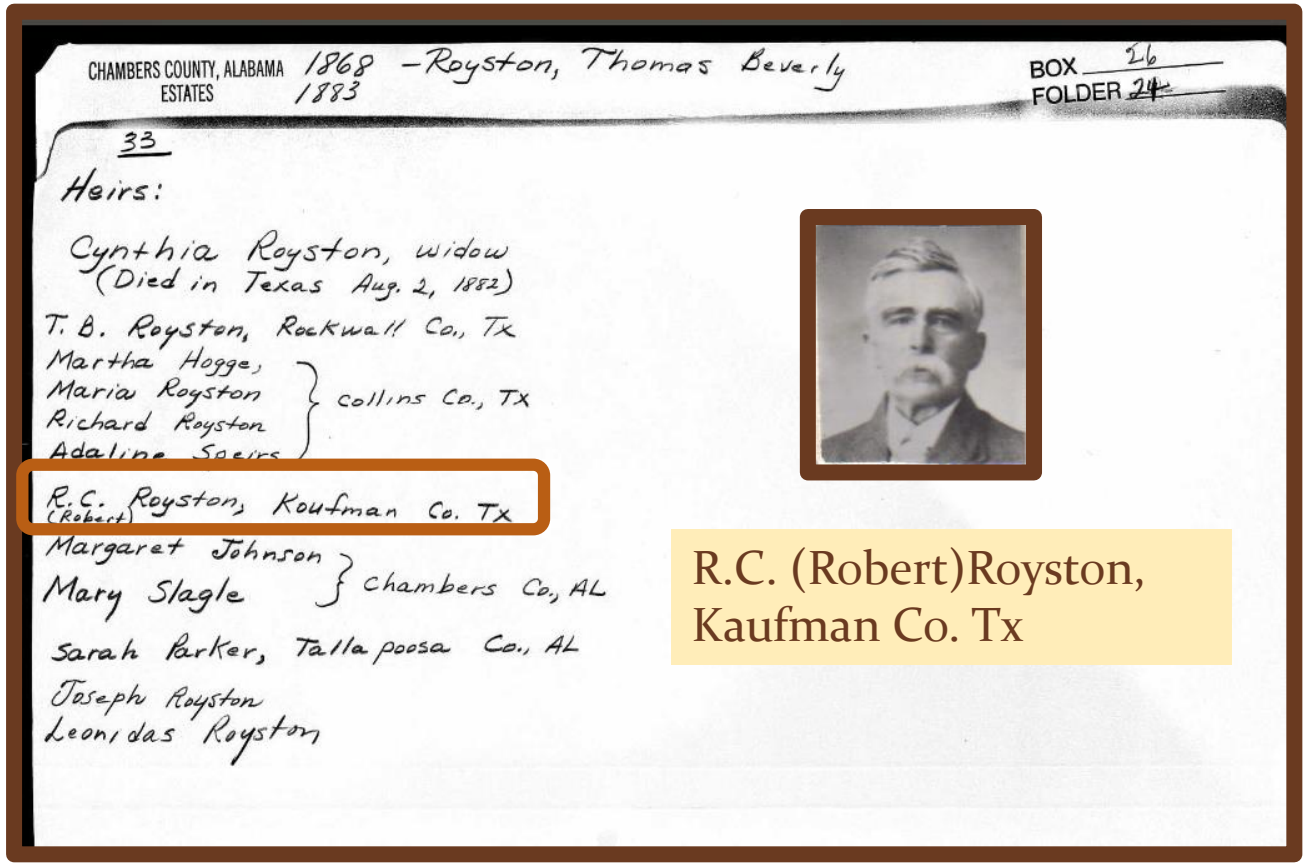
Using Probate Records

By Diana Elder AG®

diana@familylocket.com
https://familylocket.com
@dianaelder11

Why Search Probate Records?

- Increased availability online
- Value of evidence
  - Original sources
  - Primary information
  - Direct and indirect evidence


CHAMBERS COUNTY, ALABAMA ESTATES 1868 1883 –Royston, Thomas Beverly

BOX 26
FOLDER 24

33

Heirs:

Cynthia Royston, widow (Died in Texas Aug. 2, 1882)

T. B. Royston, Rockwall Co., Tx

Martha Hogge, Maria Royston, Richard Royston, Adaline Speirs } Collins Co., Tx

R.C. (Robert) Royston, Koufman Co. Tx

Margaret Johnson, Mary Slagle } Chambers Co., AL

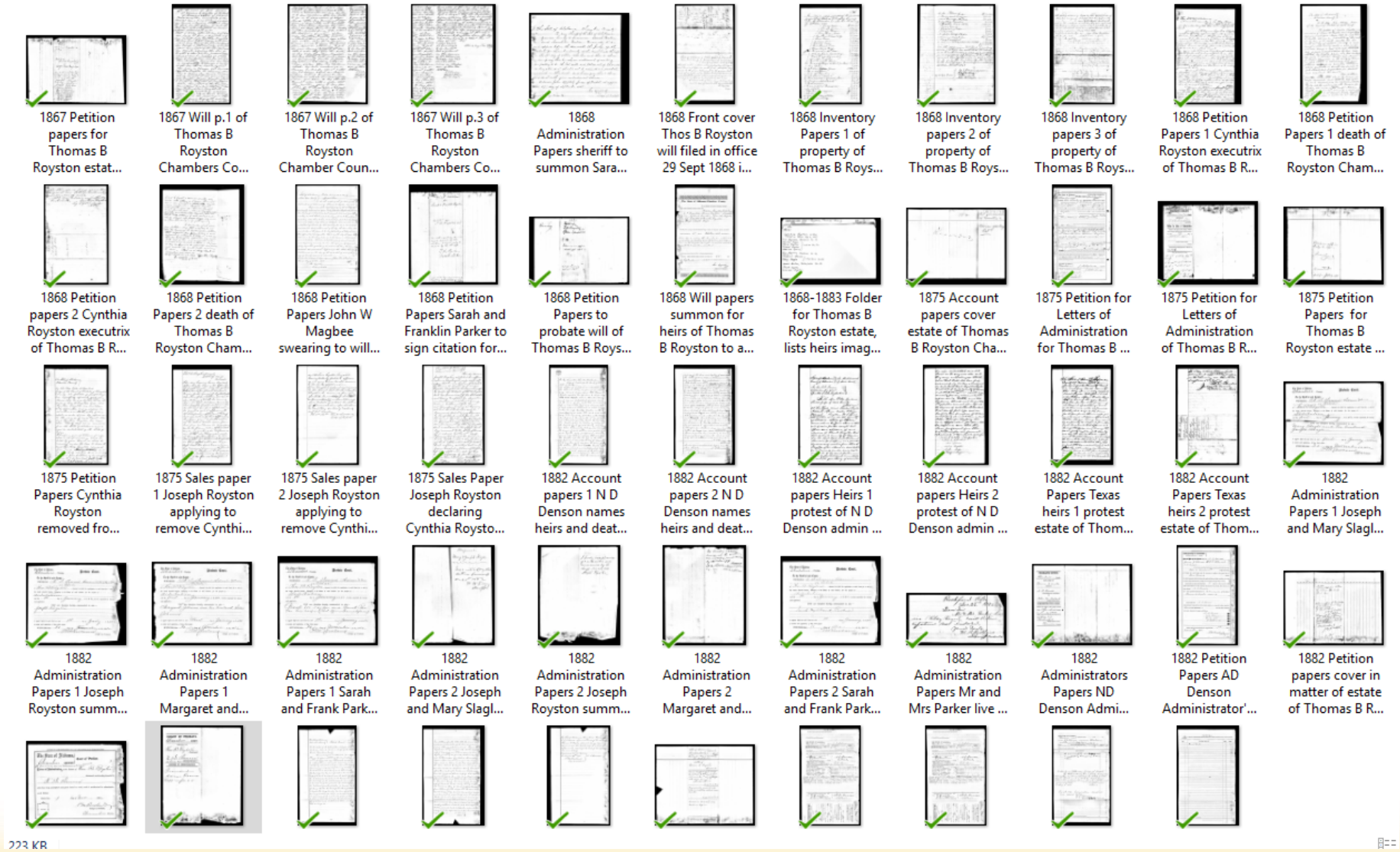
Sarah Parker, Talla poosa Co., AL

Joseph Royston
Leonidas Royston

R.C. (Robert)Royston, Kaufman Co. Tx

Chambers County, Alabama Estates, box 26 folder 24, case file for Thos B Royston, 1867-1883; "Alabama, Wills and Probate Records, 1753-1999," *Ancestry* (http://www.ancestry.com: accessed 19 August 2016), digital images 137-192.

The 1868-1883 Estate File for Thomas Beverly Royston



Information Discovered in the Estate File of Thomas B. Royston – Key in proving Robert C. Royston's kinship

- Death date of Thomas B. Royston
- Death date of Thomas' wife, Cynthia Royston
- Naming of all of his living children
- Proof of son, "Leonidas"
- Approximate date of Cynthia's move to Texas
- Residences of the Texas children
- The rest of the story

What is a probate record?

- A probate record is created by the local court upon an individual's death.

- The records deal with the distribution of the estate and care of dependents.

What is a probate record?

- Probate took place regardless of a will (testate) or no will (intestate).

- Various types of record are created such as: bonds, petitions, accounts, inventories, and administrations.

What kind of information might you find in a probate record?

- An individual's exact death date
- Names of family members
- Family relationships
- Names of spouses of children
- Burial information

What kind of information might you find in a probate record?

- Residences
- Adoption or guardianship of minor children or dependents
- Worth of the property and land holdings
- Evidence of occupation, religion, or military service

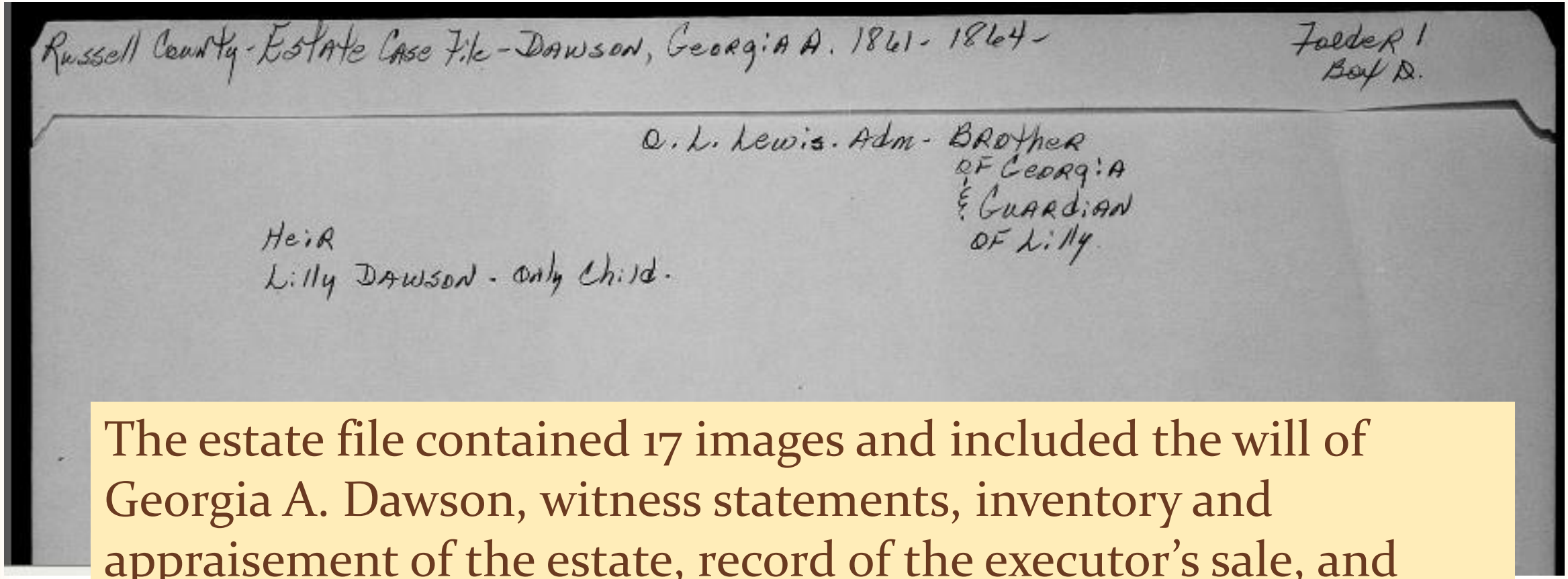
Will Abstract for Georgia A. Dawson

Georgia A. Dawson, 20 Feb 1856, Will Book 2 p. 239
Dau: Lilly Dawson
Brother: A. L. Lewis
Sisters: Mary L. Lawton, Sarah M. Lawton
Nieces: Mary Royston, Sarah Royston

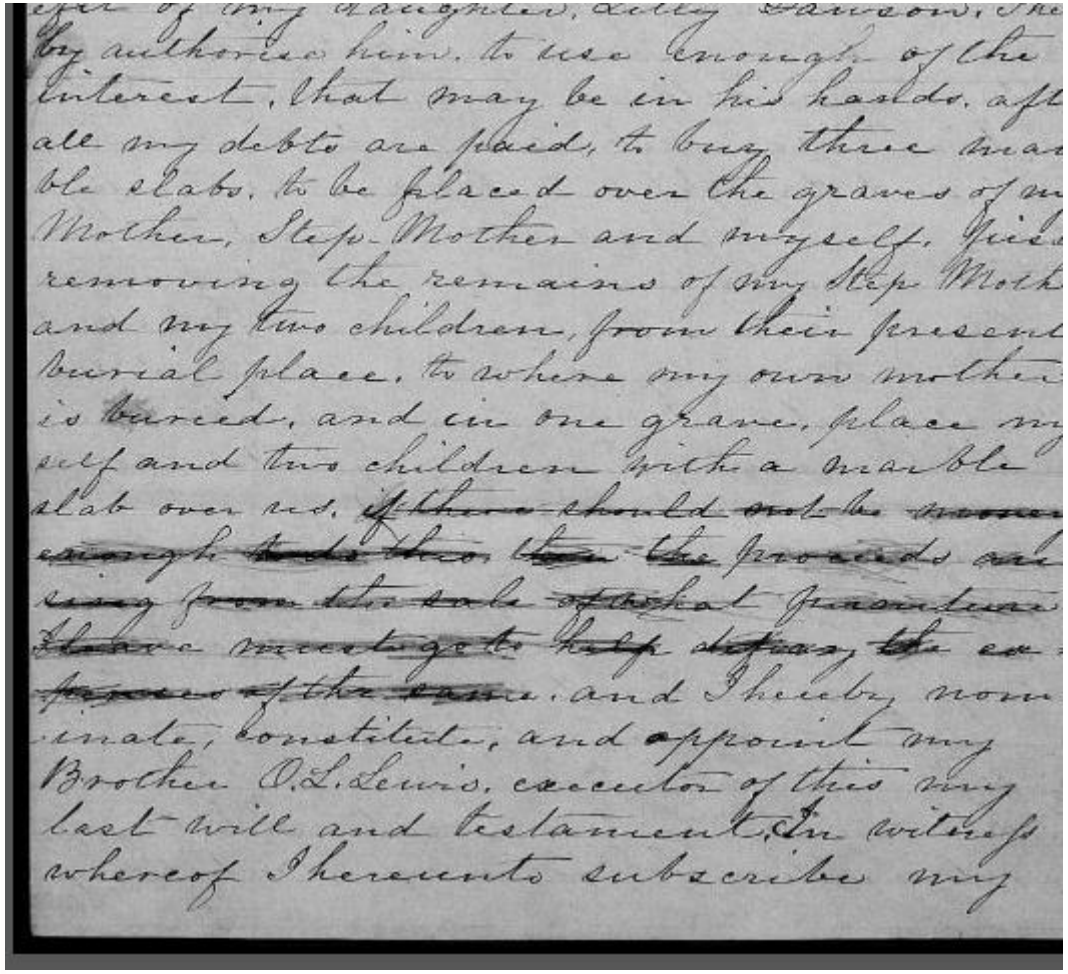
John DeLacy, 10 Oct 1888, Will Book 3 p. 191
Sons: John M. DeLacy, R. E. DeLacy
Daus: Amelia DeLacy, Erin G. DeLacy, Kathleen M. DeLacy
Grandson: Thomas DeLacy Tollman

Marilee Beatty Hageness, "Abstract of Wills 1838-1900 Russell County, Alabama, (Anniston, Alabama: MLH Research 1997), 9. FHL 976. 1485 P2 hm

Russell County – Estate Case File – Dawson, Georgia A. 1861-1864



The estate file contained 17 images and included the will of Georgia A. Dawson, witness statements, inventory and appraisement of the estate, record of the executor's sale, and final administrative documents.

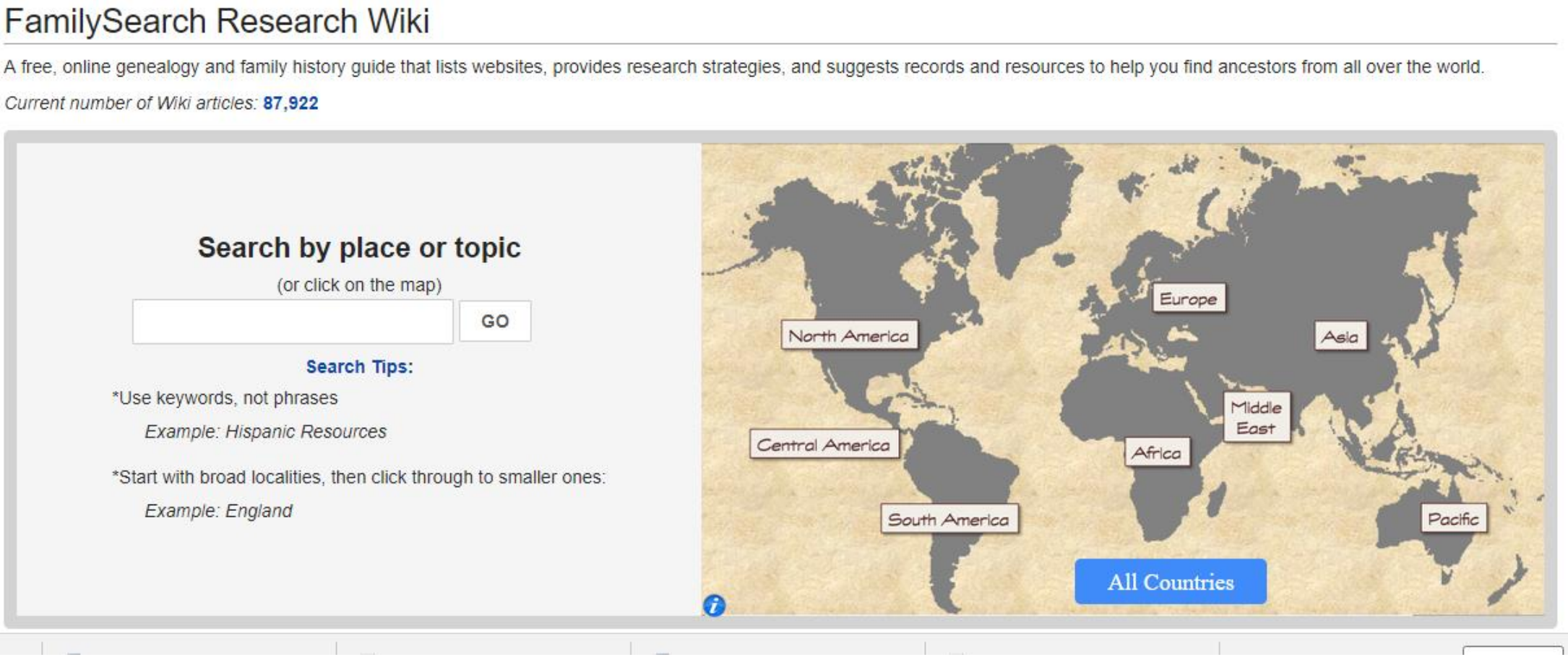


Trustee O.L. Lewis "to buy three marble slabs to be placed over the graves of my mother, step-mother, and myself.

> First removing the remains of my stepmother and my two children from their present burial place.
> To where my own mother is buried and in one grave place myself and two children with a marble slab over us."

Russell County, Estate Case File, Georgia A. Dawson, 1861-1864, Folder 1 Box D; "Index and Probate Estate Case files, 1826-1915," arranged alphabetically, > Probate Estate Case Files, Davis, Edward L. - Doles, Arah, 1826-1915, *FamilySearch (*https://www.familysearch.org : accessed 27 May 2018); FHL microfilm 2,203,643.

Where Can You Find Probate Records?



https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Main_Page

Alabama Probate Records

United States ➔ *U.S. Probate Records* ➔ *Alabama* ➔ **Probate Records**

Contents [hide]

1 Online Resources
  1.1 Indexes for Specific Counties
2 Records
3 Availability
4 Index
5 References

Online Resources

- **1753 – 1999** Alabama Wills and Probate Records 1753-1999 at Ancestry.com — index and images $
- **1809 – 1985** Alabama Probate Records, 1809-1985 at FamilySearch — images

Indexes for Specific Counties

- **1800–1930** Talladega County, Alabama probate records at FamilySearch Historical Records Alabama, County Estate Records, 1800-1996
- **1840–1950** Sumter County Circuit Court Files (disputed estates and divorces)FamilySearch Historical Records Alabama, Sumter County Circuit Court Files, 1840-1950
- **1847–1950** Madison County Chancery and Circuit court Records (disputed estates and divorces) FamilySearch Historical Records Alabama, Madison County Chancery and Circuit Court Records, 1847-1950
- Alabama, Marriages, Deaths, Wills, Court, and Other Records, 1784-1920 Book ($)
- Index to Alabama Wills, 1808-1870 ($)
- Alabama, Probate Records, 1809-1985 Index and images.
- Alabama, County Probate Records, 1830-1976 Index and images.

https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Alabama_Probate_Records

Learn the Laws and Courts for Each Location

History

Most probate records in North Carolina were created on a county level though many were
were proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury in London, England. The contents of

Following is a brief accounting of wills in specific time frames. More details are found late

Before 1760 - Most wills were probated by the County Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessi
1760–1868 - Most wills are in the offices of the clerk of the superior court in the county w
testator legally resided.
Between 1868 and 1966 - Wills were proved in the superior court of the county.
Since 1966 - All documents relating to probate cases are kept in case files.

"Before 1760 – Most wills were probated by the County Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions in the county."

Probate records in the state fall into two general categories: wills and estate papers. Most records mention the names of heirs and frequently specify how those heirs are related. Names of children may be given, as well as married names of daughters. Probate records may not give an exact death date, but a death most often occurred within a few months of the date of probate.

- A brief history of the settlement and boundary changes of North Carolina and the resultant effects on record keeping can be found on Ancestry. ($)
- A discussion of North Carolina Probate Records written by Johni Cerny and Gareth L. Mark for *Red Book: American State, County, and Town Sources* can be found at Ancestry. ($)

State Statutes

Understanding the North Carolina probate laws and how they changed over time can help us learn how the estate was administered, taxed, and distributed and might help to solve difficult genealogical problems.

Additional information about North Carolina state statutes relating to probate matters can be found at law libraries. Online digital versions of state statutes can often be found by conducting a search engine search for the term, "North Carolina statutes."

https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/North_Carolina_Probate_Records

United States Probate Records – County Level

Start with the probate records where the ancestor died, then expand to neighboring counties

Visit county courthouses – probate may have been moved to a state repository such as a library or archives

View the *FamilySearch Wiki* for the county to learn where the records are kept and get links to the records online

FamilySearch Wiki: Chambers County, Alabama

Where the records are held: the county courthouse, many on microfilm at the Family History Library

Probate Records

Probate records are held by the Chambers County, Alabama Genealogy Probate Court. Most rec
on microfilm at the Family History Library.

See the wiki page Alabama Probate Records for information about how to use probate records.

Content: Probate Records may give the decedent's date of death, names of his or her spouse, c

Record types: Wills, dower records, personal property sales, settlement records, orphans' records, and bonds.

- Chambers County Probate Records - Estate and Wills at USGenWeb.org. Includes a list of wills recorded in Will Book 3 1856/1872, wills at Chambers Co. AlArchives, and a few other transcripts of wills.

Online Probate Records

- **1753 – 1999** Alabama Wills and Probate Records 1753-1999 at Ancestry — index and images $
- **1809 – 1985** Alabama Probate Records, 1809-1985 at FamilySearch — images
- **1833 - 1856** - Images of Wills. Southeastern Genealogy ($)

Links to online record collections

https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Chambers_County,_Alabama_Genealogy

FamilySearch has digitized probate records for counties throughout the United States.

- The will books are generally indexed at the beginning of the digitized microfilm and estate files are usually arranged alphabetically.

- When viewing the index, take careful notes of the page numbers. Some estates are mentioned on multiple pages and you'll want to locate each one.

FamilySearch Catalog: Chariton County, Missouri Probate Records

Start with general indexes, also check the indexes at the beginning of each volume.

Online and viewable from any computer

Film/Digital Notes **(This family history center has 4 of 4 films/fiche.)**

Note	Location	Collection/Shelf	Film/DGS	Format
General index to vols. 1-2, A, C-E 1861-1896	Family History Library	United States & Canada Film	988511	
Probate record, v. A 1861-1870	Family History Library	United States & Canada Film	988512	
Probate record, v. B-C 1871-1879	Family History Library	United States & Canada Film	988513	
Probate record, v. D-E 1879-1887	Family History Library	United States & Canada Film	988514	

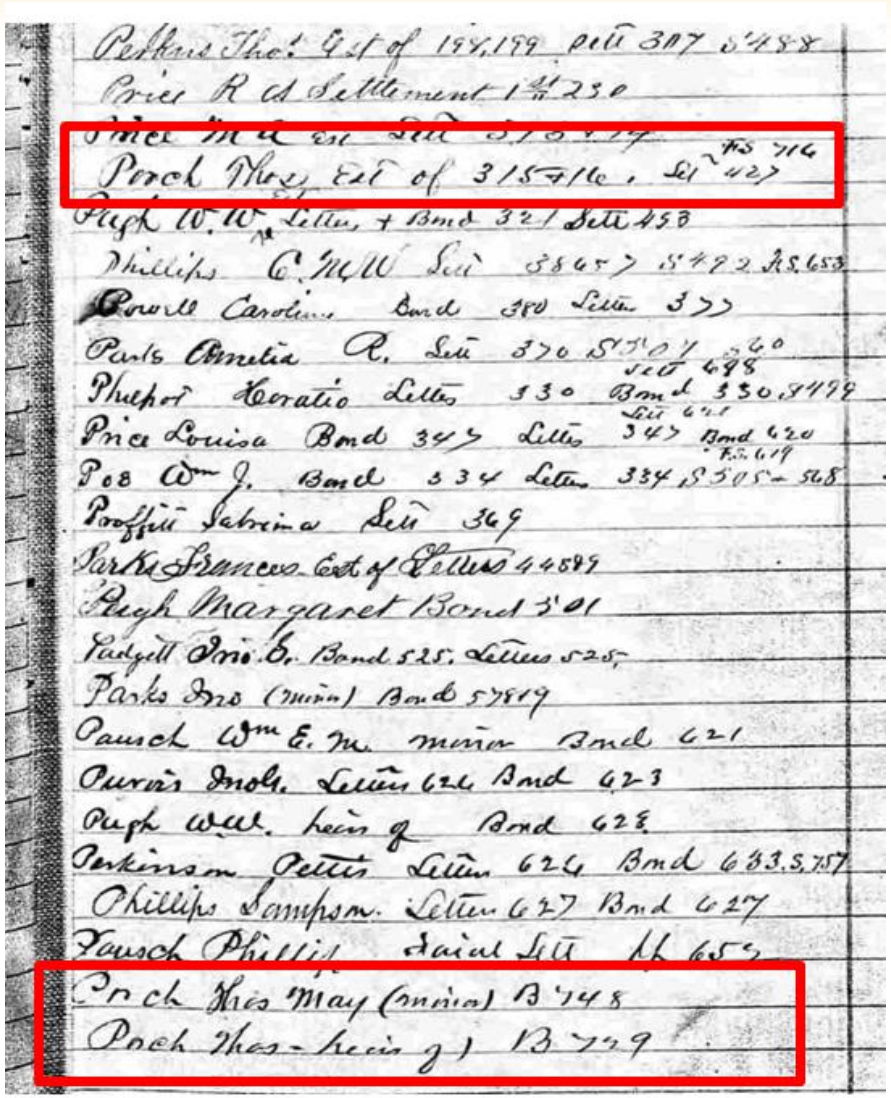
Ancestry has indexed probate records by state so if you're not sure about a specific county, a search in the statewide database might pull up your ancestor's case file.

- Only the main individual is listed in the *Ancestry* index, not the many family members who are listed in a will, administration paper, or final settlement.
- It is up to you as the researcher to dig into the case file and discover the information that may be key to your research.

Index for Chariton County, Missouri Wills and Settlements Vol. 1

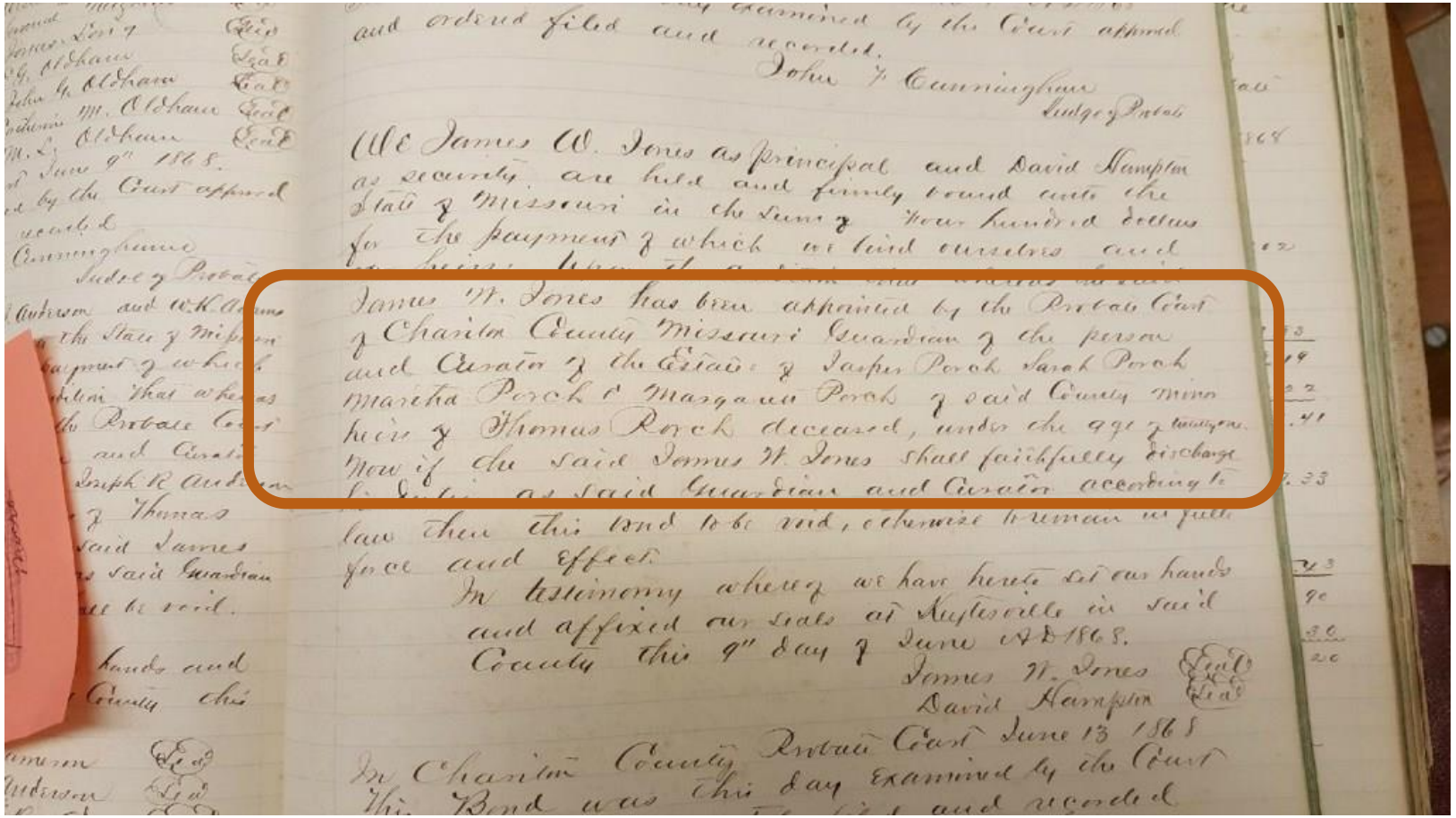
Porch, Thos. Est of 315 & 16, 716, Set. 427, FS 716

Porch, Thos May (minor) B 748
Porch, Thos. Heirs of B 729



Chariton County, Missouri Wills and Settlements vol. 1, index for Porch; "Missouri, Wills and Probate Records, 1766-1988," digitized image, *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com : accessed 10 October 2018).

Thos. Porch heirs: Jasper, Sarah, Martha, & Margaret Porch



and ordered filed and recorded.
John F. Cunningham
Judge of Probate

We James W. Jones as principal and David Hampton as security are held and firmly bound unto the State of Missouri in the sum of four hundred dollars for the payment of which we bind ourselves and

James M. Jones has been appointed by the Probate Court of Chariton County Missouri Guardian of the person and Curator of the Estate of Jasper Porch Sarah Porch Martha Porch & Margaret Porch of said County Minor heirs of Thomas Porch deceased, under the age of fourteen years. Now if the said James M. Jones shall faithfully discharge his duties as said Guardian and Curator according to law then this bond to be void, otherwise to remain in full force and effect.

In testimony whereof we have hereto set our hands and affixed our seals at Keytesville in said County this 9th day of June A.D. 1868.

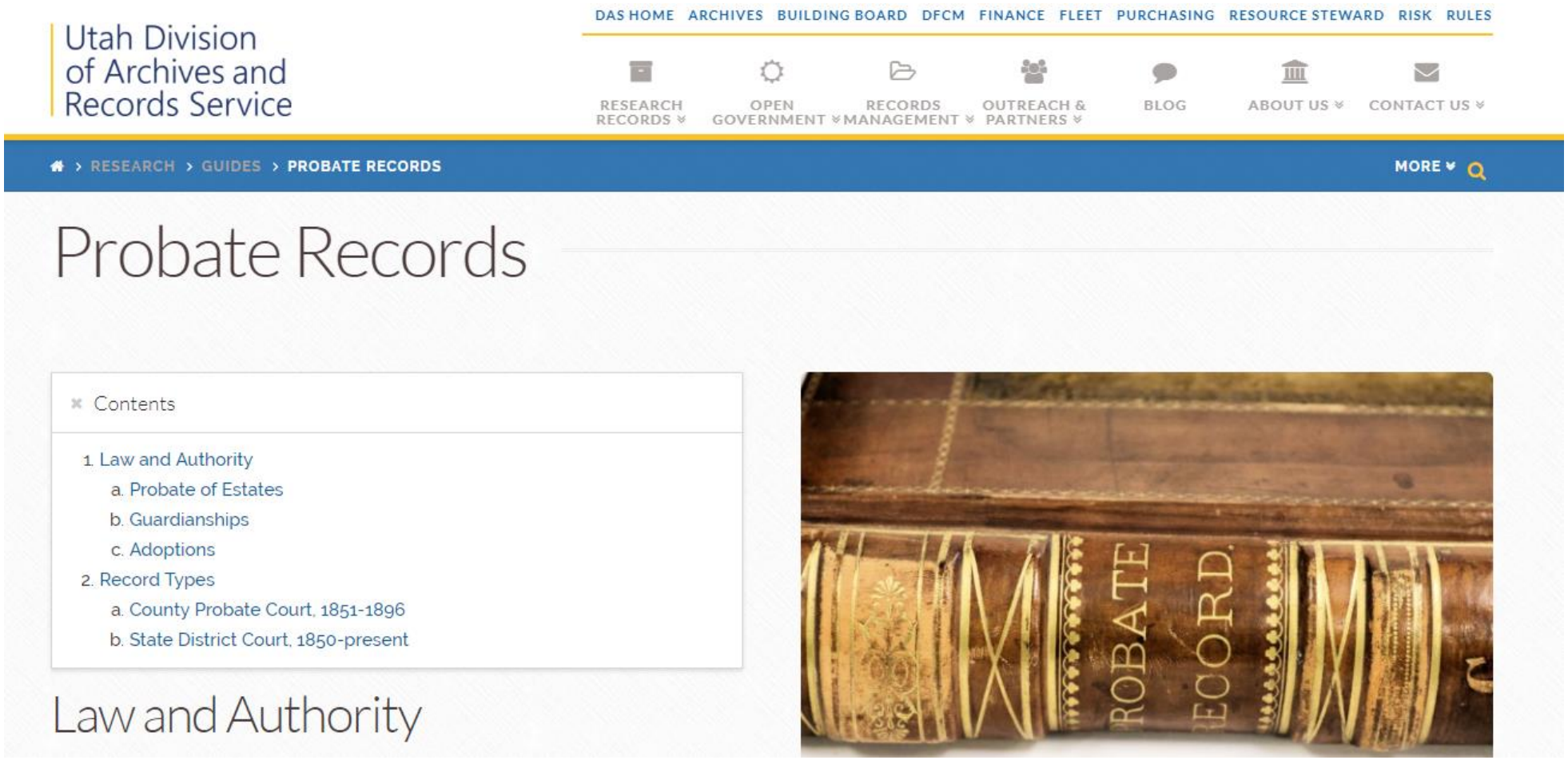
James M. Jones (Seal)
David Hampton (Seal)

Probate Court June 13 1868
In Chariton County this day examined by the Court
This Bond was and recorded

The missing page from the Chariton County, Missouri Will Book

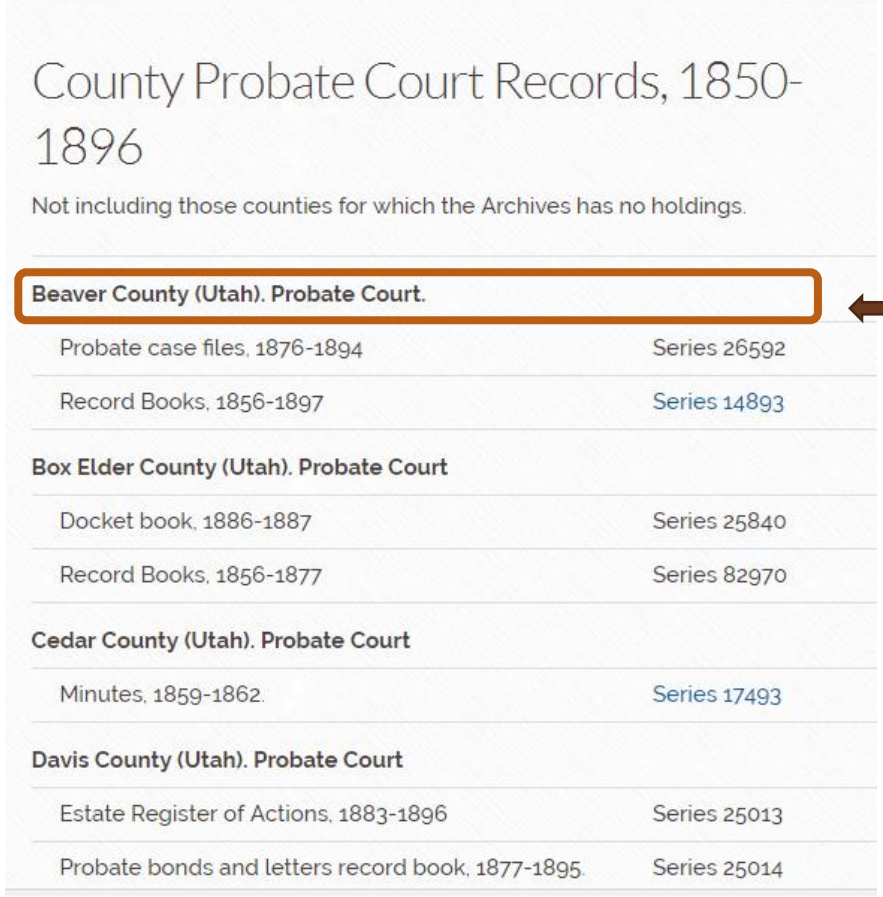
Chariton County, Missouri, Will Book 1 p. 729, entry for Thomas Porch estate, 1868, Circuit Clerk, Chariton County, Missouri.

Digitized Probate Collections Online – State Archives



https://archives.utah.gov/research/guides/probate.htm

Utah Division of Archives and Records Service



County Probate Court Records, 1850-1896

Not including those counties for which the Archives has no holdings.

Beaver County (Utah). Probate Court.	
Probate case files, 1876-1894	Series 26592
Record Books, 1856-1897	Series 14893
Box Elder County (Utah). Probate Court	
Docket book, 1886-1887	Series 25840
Record Books, 1856-1877	Series 82970
Cedar County (Utah). Probate Court	
Minutes, 1859-1862.	Series 17493
Davis County (Utah). Probate Court	
Estate Register of Actions, 1883-1896	Series 25013
Probate bonds and letters record book, 1877-1895.	Series 25014

"Not including those counties for which the Archives has no holdings."

Locating the probate records for your ancestor may require looking both on the county level and the state level.

https://archives.utah.gov/research/guides/probate.htm

Tips for Researching Probate Records

- Determine the year range for the search: from the date of the will to at least 20 years after the death of the individual
- Discover where the records for the time period are kept and access the records.
- Search the records, keeping track of each book, microfilm, or record collection searched in your research log.
- Create a source citation for each search noting the specific details needed to return to that source.
- Create a digital image of each page of the estate file. Download to your computer or scan / photograph originals.

Research Log for Georgia A. Dawson Project

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	Research Objective:	Objective: The objective of this research project is to identify Georgia Ann (Lewis) Dawson, died 1856 Russell County, Alabama. Georgia married John W. Dawson 6 February 1850 in Russell County.						
2	Localities:Russell County, Alabama, Muscogee County, Georgia							
3	Date	Repository	URL, Call #, Film #	Searching For	Date	Locality	Source	Results/Comments
20	6 Mar 2016	Family Search	http://bit.ly/2ITBArW	Probate of will of Georgia A Dawson	1861	Russell County, Alabama	Russell County, Will Records, Vol 1-2, 1838-1878, entry for Georgia A Dawson, p. 240 image 382; "Alabama, Wills and Probate Records, 1753-1999," *Ancestry* (https://www.ancestry.com : accessed 28 May 2018).	Only p. 240 is viewable here, p. 239 not microfilmed. See the Estate case file at FamilySearch for the entire will.
21	25 May 2018	*FamilySearch*	https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33SQ-GRR9-GVD?cc=1978117	Probate for Lewis	1869	Russell County, Alabama	"Alabama Estate Files, 1830-1976," Russell County, guardianship file for Elizabeth, Pearce A. Mary Lewis (1869); *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org : accessed 25 may 2018).	O.L. Lewis guardian for Elizabeth, Pearce A. and Mary Lewis, 1869; final settlement
22	27 May 2018	FamilySearch	https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-9RGL-SMCN?cc=1978117	Probate of will of Georgia A Dawson	1861-1864	Russell County, Alabama	Russell County, Estate Case File, Georgia A. Dawson, 1861-1864, Folder 1 Box D; "Index and Probate Estate Case files, 1826-1915, arranged alphabetically, > Probate Estate Case Files, Davis, Edward L. - Doles, Arah, 1826-1915, *FamilySearch* https://www.familysearch.org : accessed 27 May 2018); FHL microfilm 2,203,643.	My only child, Lily Dawson; commit to care of brother O.L Lewis; if my said daughter Lilly Dawson should die without marrying and before she is twenty one years of age. I want the afore mentioned property, divided into four parts equally between my sisters,Sarah M. Lawton, Mary L. Lawton, Savannah N Buford, and the fourth part between my two nieces Sarah and Mary Royston, my eldest sisters two daughters by her first Husband...after all my debts are paid, to buy three marble slabs to be placed over the graves of my mother, step-other and myself. First removing the remains of my step mother and my two children from their present burial place. To where my own mother is buried, and in one grave, place myself and two children with a marble slab over us
23	6 Mar 2016	Ancestry	http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=1576	Georgia A Dawson in the 1855 Alabama state census		Alabama	"Alabama State Census, 1820-1866," *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com : accessed 7 March 2017); Alabama Department of Archives & History, Montgomery.	NIL for Georgia, Dawson, D*son; only recorded head of household

Transcribe and Abstract Information from Probate Records

- Transcribe all probate documents in a file.
- Place the image or page number at the beginning of each section.
- Use [ ] for illegible words
- Start a new line of the transcription for each new line of the document
- Put the transcriptions in order by date
- Create an abstract in your research log and notes for the key information: dates, places, individuals, and relationships.

Transcription of Georgia A. Dawson's Estate File

Source Citation →

https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-9RGL-SMCN?cc=1978117
Russell County, Estate Case File, Georgia A. Dawson, 1861-1864, Folder 1 Box D; "Index and Probate Estate Case files, 1826-1915, arranged alphabetically, > Probate Estate Case Files, Davis, Edward L. - Doles, Arah, 1826-1915, *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org : accessed 27 May 2018); FHL microfilm 2,203,643.

← Link to online images

Image 1 Estate Case File - Georgia A. Dawson 1861-1864 Folder 1 Box D.
O.L. Lewis. Adm - Brother of Georgia & Guardian of Lilly
Heir Lilly Dawson - only child.

Image 2 Will of Georgia A. Dawson

In the name of God. Amen. I Georgia A
Dawson of the county of Russel [sic] and State
of Alabama. Being of sound mind and mem
ory and considering the uncertainty of this
frail and transitory life, do therefore make
ordain, publish, and declare this to be my
last will, and testament, that is to say first
after all my lawful debts are paid and dis
charged, the residue of my estate real and
personal, I give bequeath, and dispose of as
follows to wit, to my only and beloved dau
ghter and only child, Lilly Dawson, the
following slaves, Sally, Liz, Jane, Robert
Leabonne, Oliver Quinties, Mose, Ada, Stella, &
Charlie, Also, the sum of eight thousand
and forty five dollars. In notes due and
undue, Also I hereby commit my only

- Lines exactly the same as the original document
- Image numbers bolded
- Description at beginning of each document

Tips for Using Probate Records as Genealogical Evidence

- Don't make assumptions from a will.
- Not all children may be named.
- Relationship terms may be loosely applied.
- The wife mentioned may be a 2nd or 3rd wife.
- Look for clues in all the probate documents.

CLUES

- Who provided the bond?
- Who purchased items from the estate?
- Who are the witnesses?
- Married names of daughters
- Residences of heirs

Types of Estates

Testate

- The deceased leaves a will declaring his or her wishes concerning the property disposition.
- Three types of wills: holographic, nuncupative, formally witnessed.

Intestate

- The deceased dies without a will.
- The law determines how the property is distributed.
- A spouse or relative may petition the court to administer the estate.

Types of Wills - Holographic

- Written and dated entirely in the handwriting of the testator and signed by him.
- Does not need to be witnessed.
- Does need two individuals to witness that the handwriting is that of the decedent.

Types of Wills - Nuncupative

- An oral will
- Witnessed by two or more persons.
- Generally valid only if recorded soon after and presented to the court.

Types of Wills – Formally Witnessed

- In writing, signed by the testator (or by another at his direction)
- Verbally acknowledge by the testator as his will in the presence of at least two witnesses
- Signed by the two witnesses in each other's presence and that of the testator

The Real Life Drama of the Thomas B. Royston Estate

The Players:

"**Testator (-trix)** – The *testator* (male) or *testatrix* (female) is the person making the will or testament."**(Thomas B. Royston)**

"**Executor (-trix)** – The person (*executor* = male; *executrix* = female) who has been named by the testator of the will to manage the estate." **(Cynthia Royston)**

"**Decedent** – The *decedent* is the person who is deceased." **(Thomas B. Royston)**

"**Heir** – An *heir* is a person who inherits property upon the death of the owner." **(living children: Mary, Adeline, Sarah, Joseph, Robert C, Thomas B, Margarette, Richard, Leonidas, Mariah, Martha)**

"**Minor** – A *minor* is a person who has not yet reached full legal age."**(Robert, Thomas B, Margarette, Richard, Leonidas, Mariah, & Martha)**

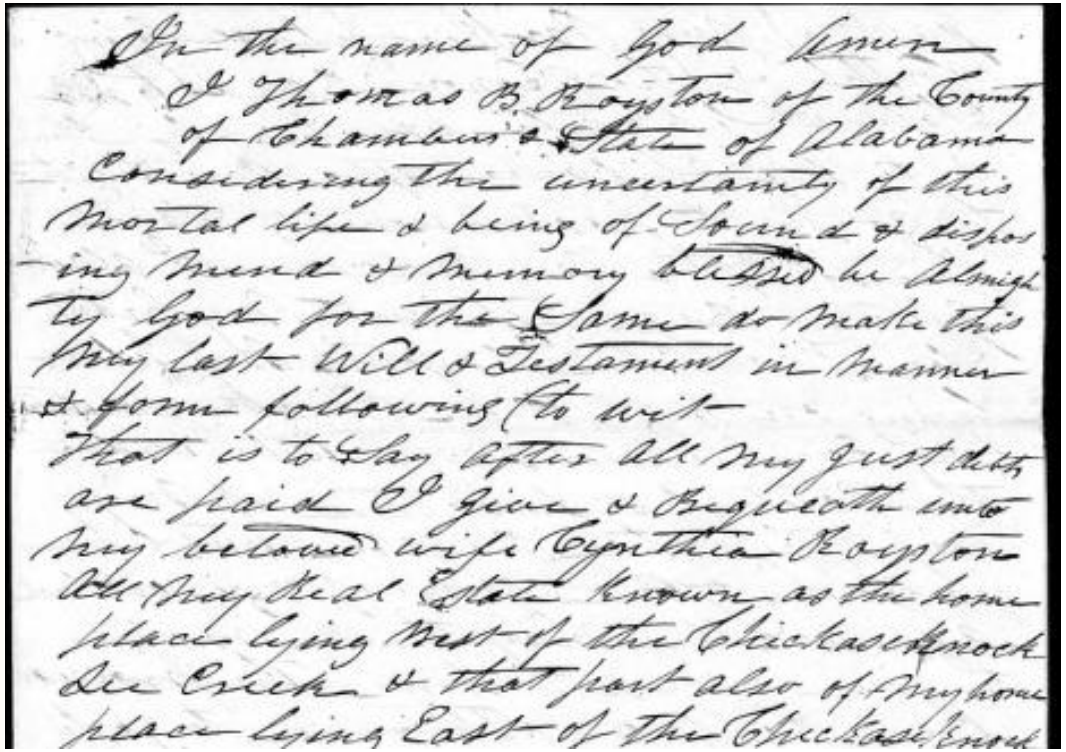
The Real Life Drama of the Thomas B. Royston Estate

The Setting

Chambers County, Alabama

1867

Act 1
Wherein Thomas B. Royston writes his will



In the name of God Amen
I Thomas B. Royston of the County
of Chambers & State of Alabama
Considering the uncertainty of this
mortal life & being of Sound & disposing
mind & memory blessed be Almighty
God for the Same do make this
My last Will & Testament in manner
& form following to wit
That is to say after all my just debts
are paid I give & Bequeath unto
my beloved wife Cynthia Royston
All My Real Estate known as the home
place lying West of the Chickasaw Knock
ee Creek & that part also of My home
place lying East of the Chickasaw Knock

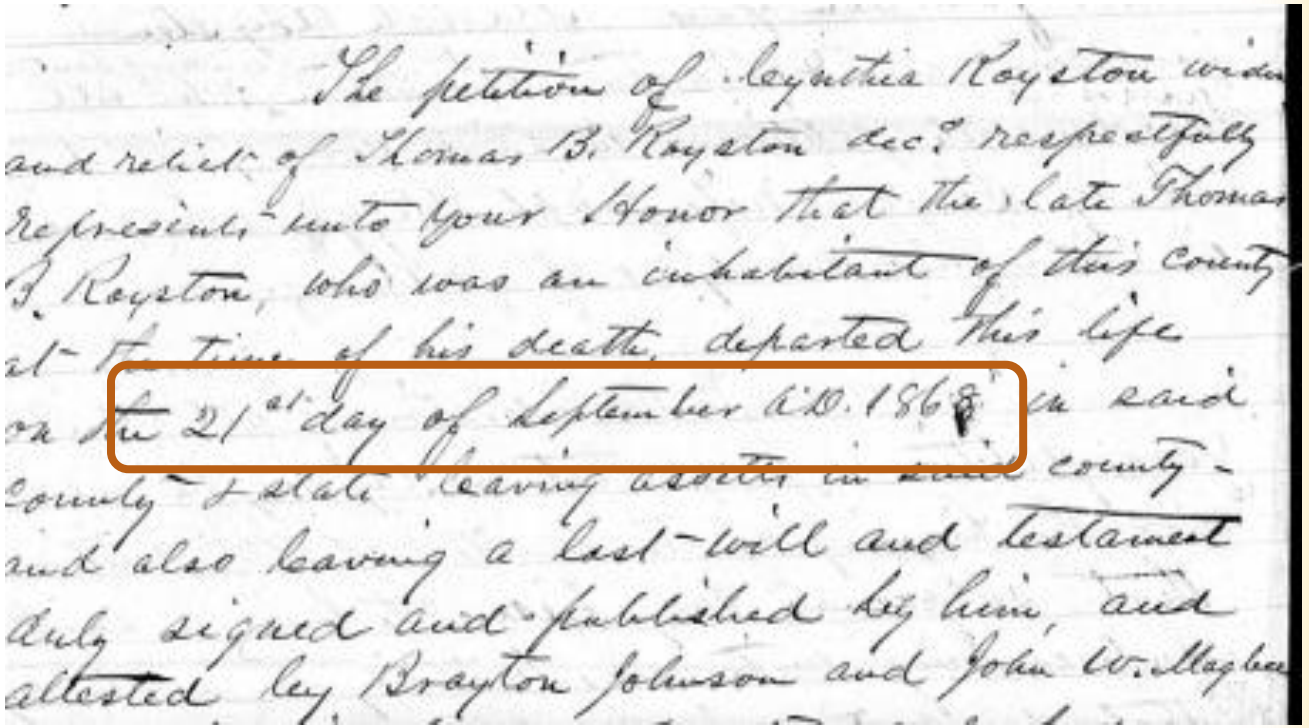
18 September 1867

- Beloved Wife, Cynthia – home place
- Sons Joseph and Robert C., grandson Franklin, and married daughter, Sarah Parker - land

Act II: Wherein Thomas B. Royston Dies and the Probate Process Begins

29 September 1868

- Cynthia, named Executrix in the will petitions the court for the hearing
- Thomas B. Royston, who was an inhabitant of this county at the time of his death, departed this life on the 21st day of September AD. 1868


The petition of Cynthia Royston wid
and relict of Thomas B. Royston dec'd respectfully
represents unto your Honor that the late Thomas
B. Royston, who was an inhabitant of this county
at the time of his death, departed this life
on the 21st day of September A.D. 1868 in said
County & State leaving assets in said county
and also leaving a last will and testament
duly signed and published by him, and
attested by Brayton Johnson and John W. Mayben

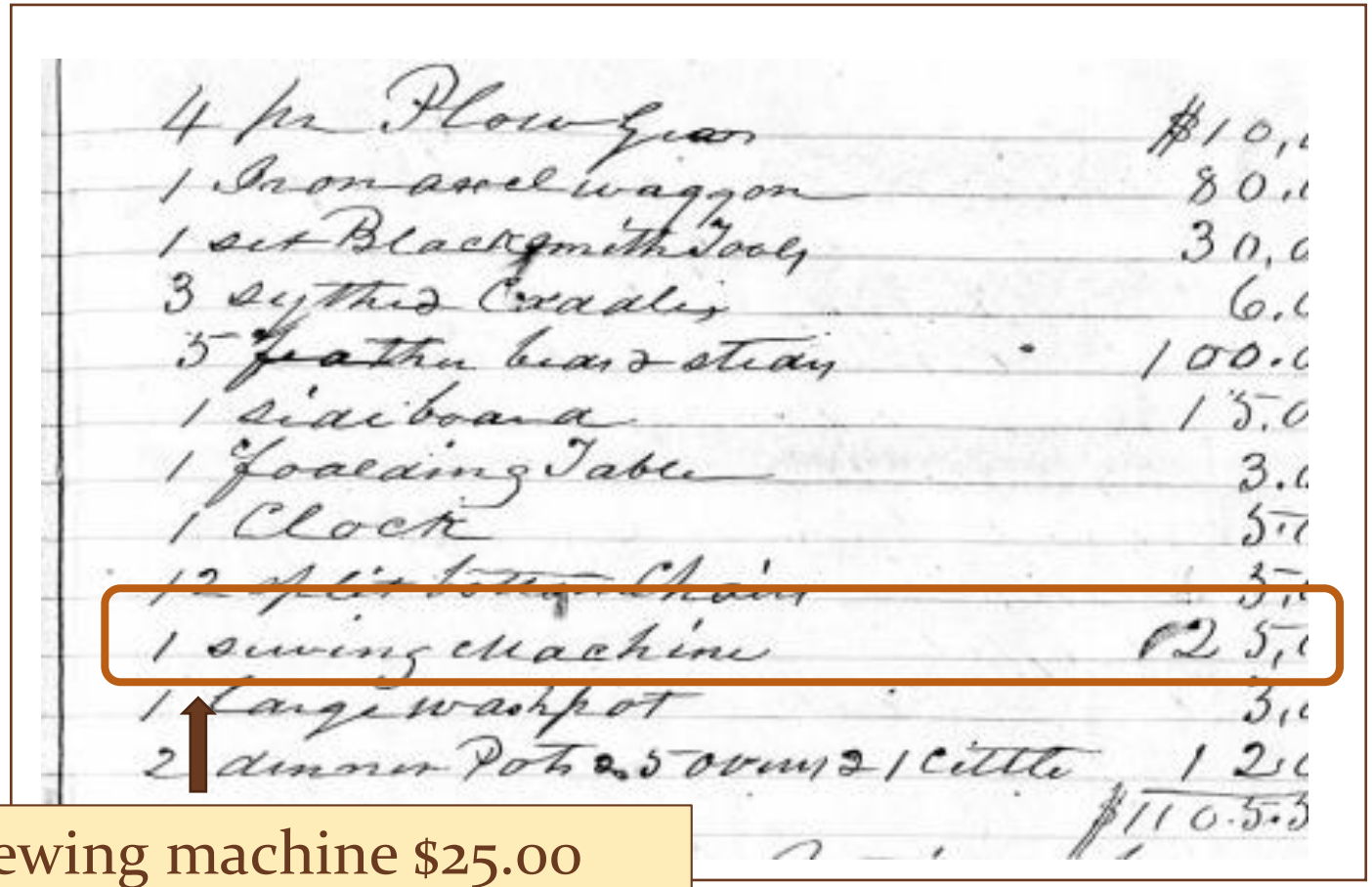
Act II: Wherein Thomas B. Royston Dies and the Probate Process Begins

Naming of Heirs: 11 living children

- Next of kin of said decedent are his children: Sarah Parker who has intermarried with Franklin Parker, who reside in Coosa County
- Adeline Royston over fourteen years of age & resides with your petition in said county
- Joseph Royston over twenty one years & resides in said county
- Robert C Royston a minor over fourteen who resides with the petitioner in said county
- Thomas Royston a minor over fourteen
- Margarette Royston a minor over fourteen
- Richard Royston under fourteen years age
- Leonidas Royston under fourteen years
- Mariah Royston under fourteen years
- Martha Royston under fourteen who all reside with petition in said county
- Mary Slaggle wife Joseph Slaggle who reside in Chambers County of full age

.

Act III: Wherein the Personal Property of Thomas B. Royston deceased is inventoried

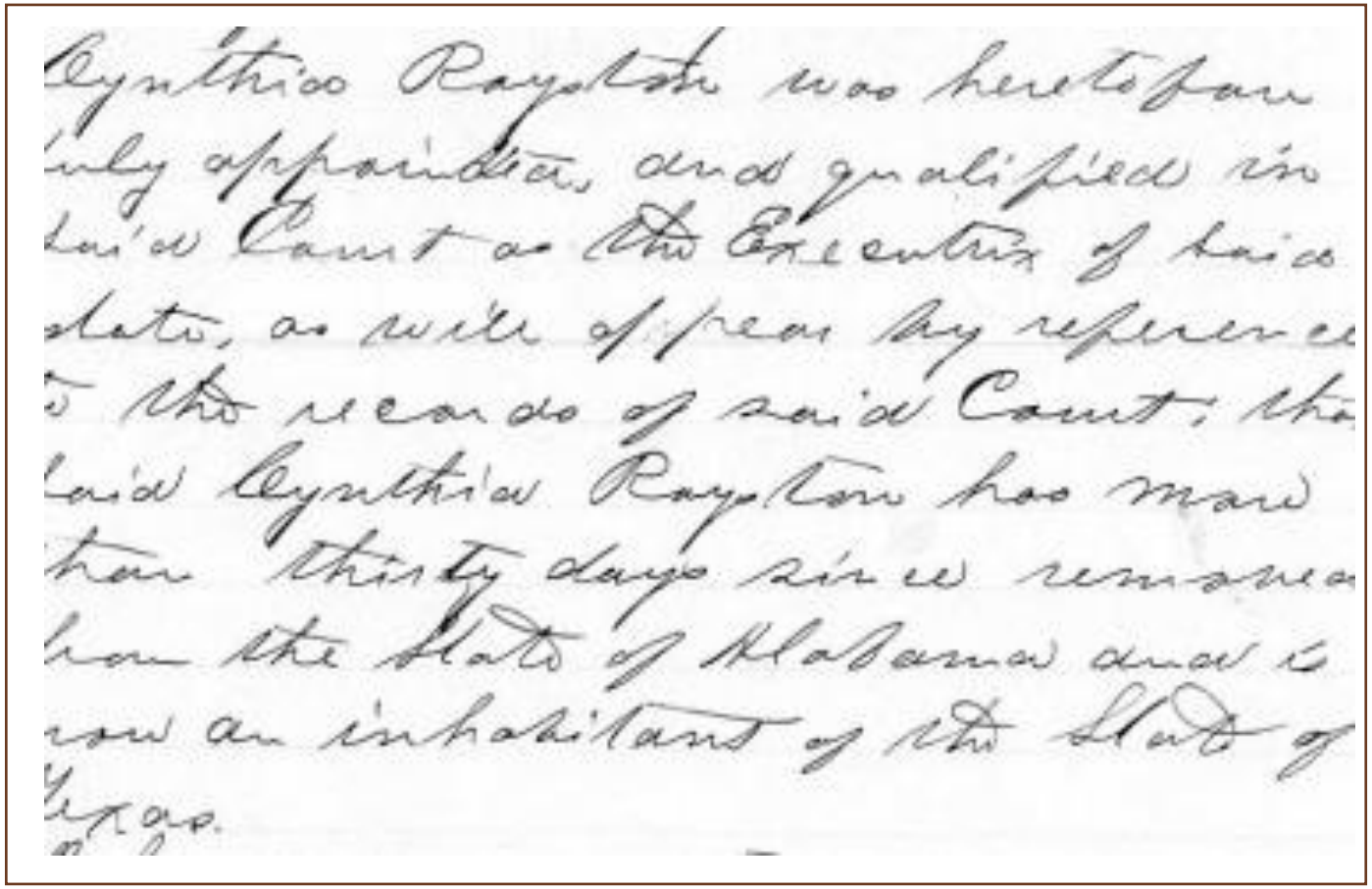


1 sewing machine $25.00

30 October 1868

- 5 weeks later, 4 appraisers arrive at the Royston home
- The inventory includes two cotton gins, blacksmith tools, and a sewing machine.

Act IV: Wherein Cynthia Royston is removed as Executrix

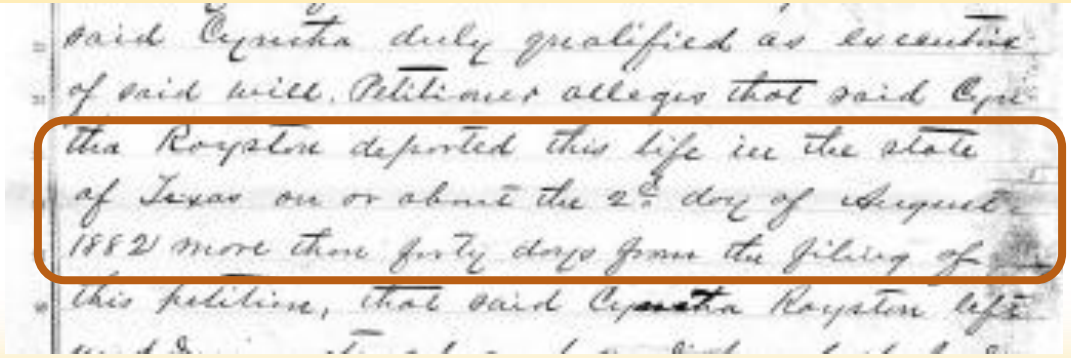

Cynthia Royston was heretofore
duly appointed, and qualified in
said Court as the Executrix of said
estate, as will appear by reference
to the records of said Court; that
said Cynthia Royston has more
than thirty days since removed
from the State of Alabama and is
now an inhabitant of the State of
Texas.

6 February 1875

- 6 ½ years after the inventory, son Joseph Royston appears in court
- Swears that Cynthia Royston has "removed to the State of Texas" without "having made a final settlement."
- Cynthia is removed as executrix and a new Administrator appointed.

Act V: N.D. Denson is appointed Administrator de bonis non (administrator of goods not administered)

- 1 November 1882
- 7 years after Cynthia was removed as Executrix, N.D. Denson petitions the judge of Probate to be named administrator de bonis non.
- He "alleges that said Cynthia Royston departed this life in the state of Texas on or about the 2nd day of August 1882."
- All heirs and spouses and their residences in Texas and Alabama are named.
- With all the children now of age or married the remainder of the estate can be settled.


said Cynthia duly qualified as executrix
of said will. Petitioner alleges that said Cyn-
thia Royston departed this life in the state
of Texas on or about the 2d day of August
1882 more than forty days from the filing of
this petition, that said Cynthia Royston left

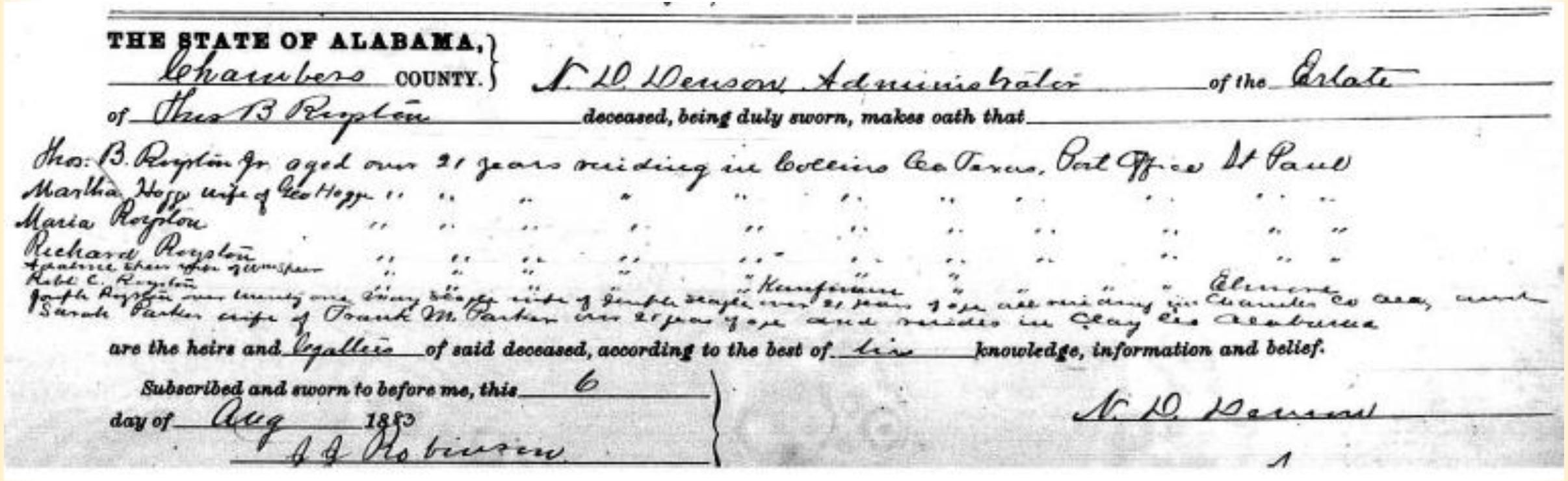
Act VI: Wherein the Texas Royston Heirs Protest the Granting of Administration to N.D. Denson

- 6 weeks after N.D. Denson is granted administration duties, four of the children file a protest in Collin County, Texas.
- Daughters, Adeline and Mattie are interviewed separately to make sure they aren't being coerced by their husbands in this action.
- The protest from the Texas Royston's comes too late, the heirs residing in Alabama are summoned to appear before the court to contest the application for the land sale.

Act VII The Final Settlement

- 6 August 1883
- N.D. Denson appears before the judge and swears that he has not used any of the funds of the estate for his own benefit.
- He swears on oath and names for the last time the heirs, their ages, and their residences.

Act VII The Final Settlement



THE STATE OF ALABAMA,
Chambers COUNTY.
of Thos B Royston deceased, being duly sworn, makes oath that

N. D. Benson Administrator of the Estate

Thos. B. Royston Jr aged over 21 years residing in Collins Co Texas. Post Office St Paul
Martha Hoge wife of Geo Hoge " " " " " " " " " " "
Maria Royston " " " " " " " " " " "
Richard Royston " " " " " " " " " " "
Robt C. Royston " " " " " " " " " " "
Joseph Royston " " " " " " " " " " "
Sarah Parker wife of Frank M. Parker over 21 years of age and resides in Clay Co Ala

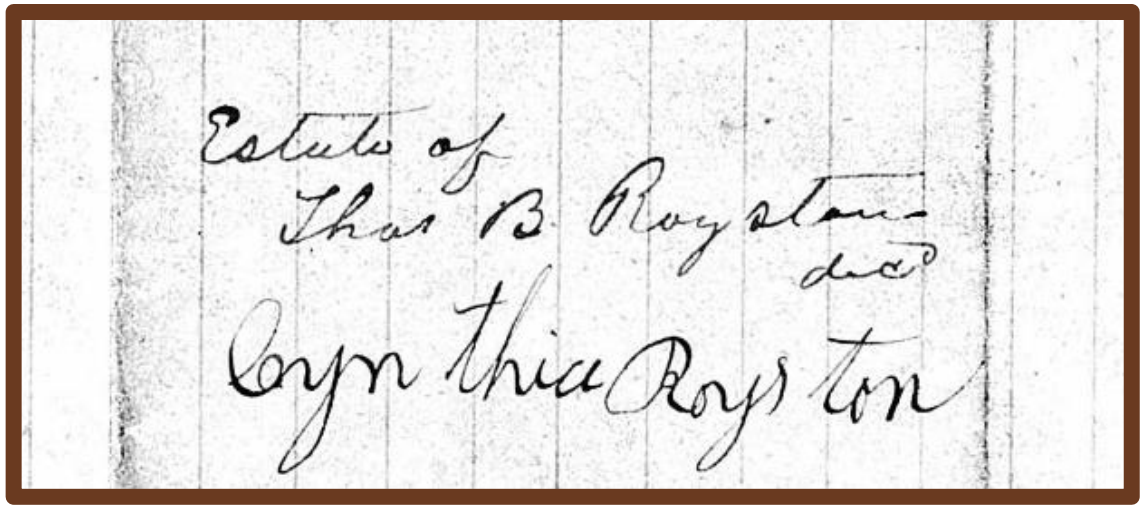
are the heirs and legatees of said deceased, according to the best of his knowledge, information and belief.

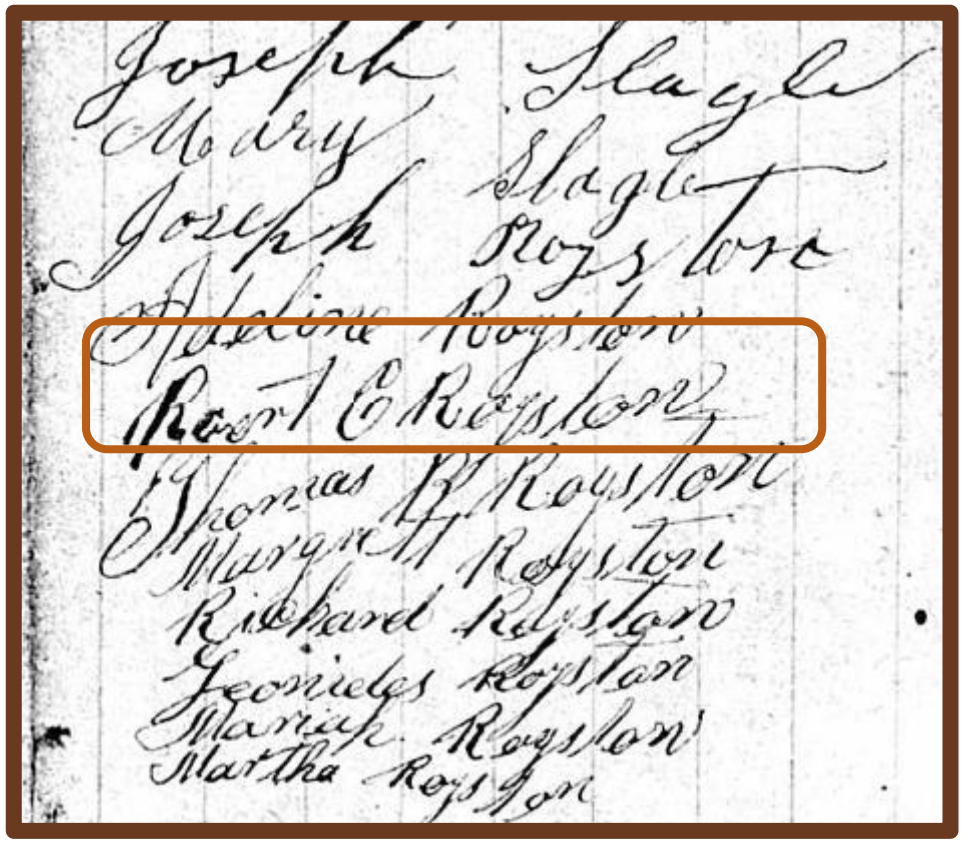
Subscribed and sworn to before me, this 6
day of Aug 1883
J J Robinson

N. D. Benson
Adm

- Chambers County, Alabama Estates, box 26 folder 24, Thomas Beverly Royston, for final papers, 6 August 1883; "Alabam*a,* Wills *a*nd Probate Records, 1753-1999," case file for Thos B Royston, 1867-1883, *Ancestry* (http://www.ancestry.com: accessed 19 August 2016), digital image 164.

Probate Records: A Treasure Trove of Information


Estate of
Thos B Royston
dec'd
Cynthia Royston


Joseph Slagle
Mary Slagle
Joseph Royston
Adeline Royston
Robt C Royston
Thomas B Royston
Margaret Royston
Richard Royston
Jeonides Royston
Mariah Royston
Martha Royston

Tips for Researching Probate Records

- Determine the year range for the search: from the date of the will to at least 20 years after the death of the individual
- Discover where the records for the time period are kept and access the records.
- Search the records, keeping track of each book, microfilm, or record collection searched in your research log.
- Create a source citation for each search noting the specific details needed to return to that source.

What's Waiting for You in the Probate Records?