

# Probate and Land Records

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September 22, 2023

## Probate records

Probate records make excellent census substitutes because they list family heirs. Sometimes relationships are given. If not, do not assume a relationship. They also give approximate date and place of death, residences of family members, and details about a person's property that can give clues about their occupation.

Records were kept by the county court system. The specific court depends on the location. Go to the county page in FamilySearch Wiki for more information.

### Rootstech Video

- **Analyzing Probate Records: Finding Our Ancestor's [Stories](#)**<sup>1</sup> by Cheri Hudson Passey

### FamilySearch Research Wiki:

- [United States Probate Records](#)<sup>2</sup>
- Search for state probate records
- Search the county page for founding dates and availability of records and links to online sites and courthouse information.

Probate records are kept in county courthouses or archives.

Some probate records are now searchable in online indexes.

### Family Search Catalog:

- Keyword search, county name and probate
- Search index first, then look for book and folio number.

## Land Deeds

Land deeds can be found in national records, state records, and county records depending on the type and place.

The original land records, or patent, in states that were settled before becoming part of the United States are held by the state. Those settled after becoming part of the United States are held by the

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/session/analyzing-probate-records-finding-our-ancestors-stories>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/United\\_States\\_Probate\\_Records](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/United_States_Probate_Records)

Federal Land Office found on the Bureau of Land Management GLOR website at <https://glorerecords.blm.gov/>.

Subsequent deeds were kept at the county courthouse.

### **Rootstech Videos from New England Historic Genealogical Society from Rootstech.org 2022.**

- **1. Lay of the Land: Introducing American Land [Records](#)**<sup>3</sup> by David Lambert
- **2. Lay of the Land: Strategies for Using Land [Records](#)**<sup>4</sup>. by Ann G. Lawthers
- **3. Lay of the Land: Mining homestead [Records](#)**<sup>5</sup> by Melanie McComb

### **FamilySearch Research wiki:**

- U.S. Land Records Class Handout, FamilySearch wiki ([https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/U.S. Land Records Class Handout](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/U.S._Land_Records_Class_Handout))
- Search State Land record page
- Search county page for county for formation and availability. Find online sources under land records heading.

### **FamilySearch Catalog:**

- Use keyword Search- county name or town name in Connecticut, Vermont, and Rhode Island and Land and property.
- Use index to find book and folio numbers.
- Find microfilm then search for the book and folio number.

Tips for using the catalog:

- ▶ Take a few minutes and determine how each film is organized.
- ▶ Always check the cover page for each item.
- ▶ Lines have 10 images each.
- ▶ Usually 2 pages per image. Calculate image from page numbers.
- ▶ Most indexes are organized by first one or two letters, then chronologically.
- ▶ Indexes are not always in alphabetical order. Names beginning with common letters often run out of room and could be continued under any other available letter.

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<sup>3</sup><https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/session/1-the-lay-of-the-land-using-american-land-records-in-your-family-history-research>

<sup>4</sup><https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/session/2-the-lay-of-the-land-using-american-land-records-in-your-family-history>

<sup>5</sup><https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/session/3-the-lay-of-the-land-using-american-land-records-in-your-family-history-research>