

# ARCHIVES OF MICHIGAN

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## Circular No. 6 – Probate Court Records

Some County Probate Court records are of value to genealogists. Estate files may contain the name of spouses, siblings, and children as well as information about the estate. The following records are in the Archives of Michigan unless otherwise indicated.

### Estate Case Files

This series of records may include: Petition for the appointment of administrator of estate; order for hearing of petition to settle estate; bond of executor or administrator; order granting power of letter of administration; letters of administration; published notice of estate together with sworn statement of publisher; order for appointment of guardian; guardian's bond; petitions for appointment of guardian; report of sale of real estate; "letters testamentary" requesting inventory of goods, chattels, rights, credits and real estate of deceased; statements of monies due; contracts; petitions for determination of heirs; certificate of probate of will; will; petition for license to sell real estate; administrator's license to sell real estate; appraiser's warrant; confirmation of sale; bond or sale of real estate; receipts for probate fees; claims for payment of bills; receipts; commissioner's warrant and report of claims presented, examined and allowed; occasional letters; discharge of administrator; record of obligation of guardianship for minors and heirs of estate with petitions for appointment; letters granting authority; and bond of the appointed guardian. Some cases may be missing. Arranged numerically, unless noted otherwise.

<b><u>County</u></b>	<b><u>Inclusive Dates/Arrangement</u></b>	<b><u>Record Group</u></b>	<b><u>Regional Depository</u></b>
<b>Alpena</b>	1872-1904 (Microfilmed)	RG 80-126	
<b>Barry</b>	ca. 1860-1873; 1879-1913	RG 67-38; 68-15 RG 71-143	Western Michigan University Western Michigan University
<b>Cheyboygan</b>	1858-1901 (Microfilmed. Indexed alphabetically by surname.)	RG 80-97	
<b>Eaton</b>	1838-1900 (Arranged numerically.)	RG 80-73	
<b>Genesee</b>	1852-1883 (Selected cases.)	RG 71-37; 75-86	
<b>Ingham</b>	1839 ca. (Arranged numerically.)	RG 92-429	
<b>Ionia</b>	1837-1869 (Partially indexed alphabetically by surname.)	RG 78-67	
<b>Livingston</b>	ca. 1895-1905 (Missing all adoptions, 1897-1899; arranged chronologically.)	RG 67-90; 71-164; RG 75-12	
<b>Macomb</b>	ca. 1825-1869 (Arranged alphabetically by surname.)	RG 77-112	
<b>Mecosta</b>	ca. 1870-1938 (Selected cases.)	RG 72-45	
<b>Monroe</b>	1804-1870 (Arranged alphabetically.)	RG 71-138; 72-44	
<b>St. Clair</b>	1828-1872	RG 78-65	
<b>Van Buren</b>	1848-1912 (Microfilmed. Indexed alphabetically by surname.)	RG 68-28	Western Michigan University
<b>Washtenaw</b>	1828-1889	RG 2005-79.	
<b>Wayne</b>	1797-1901 (Arranged alphabetically.)	RG 85-35	



Other Probate Court Records may also be of value. More information about the contents of each series can be obtained by visiting the Archives of Michigan or the cited depository where the records are on deposit.

**BERRIEN COUNTY (Western Michigan University):** Includes proceedings of the Probate Court, 1832-1838, RG 67-109; Index to Insane Citizens, 1858-1916; 1919 (Restricted), RG 67-109.

**HILLSDALE COUNTY:** Contains a Record of Wills, 1865-1952, RG 69-81.

**HURON COUNTY:** Includes records relating to Probate of Estates of Deceased Persons, 1865-1886, RG 67-93; Journal of Probate Court, 1880-1898, RG 67-93.

**INGHAM COUNTY:** Includes case files numbered 1-5026 with some files missing, RG 92-429.

**IONIA COUNTY:** Includes Probate Journals, 1837-1895, RG 78-67;  
Petitions to probate Deceased Estates, 1858-1865, RG 76-67;  
Orders of Determining Heirs, 1917-1954, RG 78-67;  
Records of Wills, 1866-1917, 1923-1969, RG 78-67;  
Petitions for Assignment of Dower and Reports of Commissioners in Dowers, 1864-1906, RG 78-67;  
Petitions for Partitions and Reports of Commission in Partition, 1867-1905, RG 78-67;  
Orders to Sell Real Estate at Public Sale and Orders Confirming Sale, 1858-1916, RG 76-67;  
Licenses to Sell Real Estate at Private Sale and Orders Confirming Sale, 1896-1969, RG 78-67;  
Abstracts of Taxable Inheritances, 1899-1966, RG 78-67;  
Orders for Disposition of Widows Pensions, 1887-1903 and 1915-1925, RG 78-67;  
Orders for Admission of Dependent and Neglected Children to State Public School, 1885-1904, RG 78-67.

**KALAMAZOO COUNTY:** Includes fourteen series of probate records between 1833-1984. Individual case files are restricted due to the inclusion of vital records and adoption records. Housed at Western Michigan University, RG 94-309.

**LIVINGSTON COUNTY:** Includes Probate Court Record Books (Estate Cases), 1855-1898, RG 75-12.

**MACOMB COUNTY:** Consists of Probate Court Calendar, 1849-1905, RG 80-95.

**MECOSTA COUNTY:** Records include Journals of the Probate Court, 1860-1893, 1901-1917, RG 72-45; Records of Probate of Wills, 1887-1910, RG 72-45; Index to Estate in Probate, n.d., RG 72-45.

**ST. CLAIR COUNTY:** Records of Proceedings, 1828-1838, RG 79-48.

**VAN BUREN COUNTY (Western Michigan University):** Includes Record of Guardianship, 1845-1867, RG 68-28; Proceedings In Dower, 1847-1878, RG 68-28; Journal of Probate Court, 1846-1867, RG 68-28.

**DUE TO THE CONTENT AND ARRANGEMENT OF PROBATE COURT RECORDS, RESEARCHERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO VISIT THE ARCHIVES OF MICHIGAN IN ORDER TO EXAMINE THE FILES.**

