
Guide to Locating Probate and Other Records on FamilySearch

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Images of will indexes, wills, other probate books, and loose estate records for various counties in North Carolina are available online at FamilySearch.org under the “Record” search. To locate these records, follow these instructions.

1. Go to <http://www.familysearch.org>.
2. Register and sign in.
3. Across the top of the page you will see **Family Tree**, **Memories**, **Search**, and **Indexing**. Click on **Search**, then click on **Records**.
4. On the right-hand side of the page is a map. Click on the area of the map you want to search.
5. Click on the state you want to search.
6. Click again on **Start Searching in (state name)**.
7. A list of records will come up.
8. Click on **Show all (number) collections**.
9. Click on the record you are interested in. For example, click on the probate records. For North Carolina, probate records are listed at the bottom under **Show top five collections**. Click on this link.
10. On the next page, click on **browse images**.
11. A list of counties will come up. Click on the county of interest.
12. Choose a record to search and the images will come up.
13. Many of the records will have an index in the beginning of the record book, or there may be a separate index volume (an example would be for wills).
14. When searching the loose estates records, a global search is available. You may also choose to **browse images** and a list of counties will come up. Click on the county and then click on the letter of the surname you are looking for and a list will appear. If you don't know which county, do the global search.

Note: A more efficient way to locate a will in North Carolina is to consult Thornton Mitchell's will index for the book and page number, then go directly to the correct will book in the county probate records. Mitchell's will index is only available in print. (Thornton W. Mitchell, *North Carolina Wills: A Testator Index, 1665-1900*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1992).