

HOW TO FIND LONDON DISTRICT AND MIDDLESEX COUNTY WILLS – 1800-1930

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1800-1839:

Western Archives has microfilmed London District estate files for the period 1800-1839. Each estate file pertaining to a probate contains the original will.

There is an index available in the Reading Room. The files may only be used on microfilm; go to the microfilm cabinet and pull reels M1330-1332.

Western also has microfilm of the London District Surrogate Court register for the period 1800-1817. This register will not necessarily contain a copy of the will in probate cases. It may only be used on microfilm; go to the microfilm cabinet and pull reel M567.

Note that the register for the period 1834-1839 is available at the Archives of Ontario. The whereabouts of register(s) for 1817-1834 are unknown.

1839-1845:

These records were destroyed in a nineteenth century fire.

1846-1923:

For post-1846 records, we have custody of microfilmed general indexes up to 1980 (M714-715) and registers up to 1930. We do not have custody of estate files; these are only available via the Archives of Ontario¹ or Family History Centres.

Registers dated 1846 to 1930 usually contain a copy of the will after each grant of probate. See attached spreadsheet to identify what microfilmed Registers are available.

Step 1 – go to the microfilm cabinet and pull the Surrogate Court records general indexes

on reel M714. This reel contains indexes for the years 1846-1901, 1902-1923, and 1924-1941.

The indexes are arranged alphabetically by last name within each of the periods noted above. For those up to and including 1923, obtain the register volume reference from the column “Register”. The volume identifier will usually be a letter followed by a number (e.g. B 271) that corresponds to the volume letter, and page number.

After 1909, registers were no longer lettered, so references are to year and page number. In addition, references up to 1923 identify the “GB [Grant Book] Fol. [page]”, and [Application] “No.”

See table (page 2) to identify what register letter or year corresponds to the microfilm reel under the column “Call #”.

Step 2 – go to the microfilm cabinet and pull the corresponding microfilm reel. Scroll to the relevant grant and associated copy of the will.

1924-1930

The 1924-1941 index on reel M714 identifies the “Application No.” and the year and nature (i.e. probate, administration, etc.) of the grant, but does not provide a reference to a Register entry.

Consequently, researchers will have to use the index included with each separate Register.

The application numbers serve as the estate file numbers. Estate files are available on interloan from the Archives of Ontario¹ or Family History Centres.

¹See http://www.archives.gov.on.ca/en/microfilm/surrogate_court_middlesex_t.aspx for information on how to order these files via inter-institutional loan.

INDEX REEL	INDEX DATE	REGISTER LETTER OR YEAR	CALL #	REGISTER DATE
M714	1846-1901	A-C	CS 88.M54057 1966 reel 1	1846-1860
		D-E	CS 88.M54057 1966 reel 2	1860-1873
		F-G	CS 88.M54057 1966 reel 3	1873-1879
		H	CS 88.M54057 1966 reel 4	1879-1880
		I-J	CS 88.M54057 1966 reel 5	1880-1883
		K	CS 88.M54057 1966 reel 6	1883-1887
		L	CS 88.M54057 1966 reel 7	1887-1891
		M	CS 88.M54057 1966 reel 8	1891-1893
		N	CS 88.M54057 1966 reel 9	1893-1895
		O	CS 88.M54057 1966 reel 10	1895-1899
		P-Q	CS 88.M54057 1966 reel 11	1899-1900
		R-T (grants 1-155)	CS 88.M54057 1987 reel 1	1901-1903
M714	1902-1923	T (155-348)-V (1-146)	CS 88.M54057 1987 reel 2	1903-1905
		V (146-337)-X (1-188)	CS 88.M54057 1987 reel 3	1905-1907
		X (188-486)-Y	CS 88.M54057 1987 reel 4	1907-1908
		Z-1910 (1-365)	CS 88.M54057 1987 reel 5	1909-1910
		1910 (365-390)-1912 (1-327)	CS 88.M54057 1987 reel 6	1910-1912
		1912 (327-398)-1914 (1-281)	CS 88.M54057 1987 reel 7	1912-1914
		1914 (281-448)-1916 (1-140)	CS 88.M54057 1987 reel 8	1914-1916
		1916 (140-508)-1917 (1-400)	CS 88.M54057 1987 reel 9	1916-1917
		1917 (400-463)-1919 (1-200)	CS 88.M54057 1987 reel 10	1917-1919
		1919 (200-522)-1920 (1-433)	CS 88.M54057 1987 reel 11	1919-1920
		1920 (433-567)-1922 (1-85)	CS 88.M54057 1987 reel 12	1920-1922
		1922 (85-542)-1923 (1-260)	CS 88.M54057 1987 reel 13	1922-1923
		1923 (260-540)-1924 (1-473)	CS 88.M54057 1987 reel 14	1923-1924
M714	1924-1941	1924 (473-534)-1925	CS 88.M54057 1987 reel 15	1924-1925
		1926	CS 88.M54057 1987 reel 16	1926
		1927	CS 88.M54057 1987 reel 17	1927
		1928 (1-480)	CS 88.M54057 1987 reel 18	1927
		1928 (480-557)-1929	CS 88.M54057 1987 reel 19	1928-1929
		1930	CS 88.M54057 1987 reel 20	1930



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