

Wills for London, Middlesex and Surrey before 1858

London Metropolitan Archives Research Guide 6



Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| Wills for London, Middlesex and Surrey before 1858..... | 1 |
| Contents..... | 2 |
| Introduction | 3 |
| Records | 4 |
| Looking for a will..... | 4 |
| Probate records held by LMA..... | 5 |
| LMA Wills 1507-1858 on Ancestry | 5 |
| London north of the Thames and Middlesex..... | 5 |
| London South of the Thames and Surrey | 15 |
| Reading list..... | 19 |
| About this leaflet | 20 |

Introduction

Before 1858 the proving of wills and related testamentary matters came within the jurisdiction of courts administered by the church. There were many such courts operating at different levels. The court with over-riding jurisdiction in England and Wales was the Prerogative Court of Canterbury (PCC). It had sole jurisdiction over those dying with property in more than one diocese in the southern province (the Prerogative Court of York had similar jurisdiction in the northern province) or with property in both provinces and over those who died overseas. It was largely but not exclusively used by the wealthy.

Each diocese had its bishop's, or consistory, court which had jurisdiction throughout the whole diocese. Below that were courts administered by archdeacons whose jurisdiction was limited to their respective archdeaconries or parts of them, and courts administered by bishop's commissaries (deputies) which might have jurisdiction over one or more archdeaconries. The archdeacons' jurisdiction was often inhibited (suspended) for part of the year and during episcopal visitations and at those times the bishop or his commissary dealt with business which would otherwise have come before the archdeacons' courts.

In most dioceses there were small areas exempt from the jurisdiction of the local archdeacon's or bishop's court. They were known as peculiars and the wills of people dying with property in them would be proved in the appropriate peculiar court. Also, within the City of London prior to 1688, there was another court, the Court of Husting, a secular court of the City of London Corporation, which enrolled wills dealing with City property.

From 11 January 1858 church courts were replaced by a centralised system of civil probate registries. The Principal Probate Registry was based at Somerset House. Copies of wills proved in England and Wales from 1858 onwards can be obtained from the Principal Registry Family Division, First Avenue House, 42-49 High Holborn, London WC1V 6NP. Copies of the calendars to wills 1858-1943 can be consulted at the National Archives, Kew. The National Probate Calendar 1861 – 1941 can be searched on the Ancestry website. Copies of wills can be ordered by post from the Postal Searches and Copies Department, Leeds District Probate Registry, York House, 31 York Place, Leeds LS1 2BA. Further information is available on the Probate Service website.

Records

Wills survive in court records in two forms: the original, having been presented in court for probate and having been inscribed with the probate act, would be filed; a copy of the will and act would be entered in a register.

When a person died without making a will (intestate) the court would grant the next-of-kin, or creditors, letters of administration (often abbreviated as an admon or admin) enabling them to deal with the deceased's estate. Letters of administration with the will annexed could be granted in cases where the executors named in the will had died or refused to act.

The court would usually record in an act book the acts granting probates and administrations (a probate and administration act book). Sometimes grants of administrations were entered in will registers. Bonds entered into by executors and administrators faithfully to carry out their responsibilities were retained by the court with other related papers.

Inventories detailing the deceased's goods and chattels (often room by room), debts owing to him or her and plantations abroad were made and presented in court as part of the probate process. These have not always survived. Calendars of or indexes to the records were often compiled. The series indexed were usually original wills, registers of wills and administrations and probate and administration act books.

The indexes to names of testators or to names of the deceased might be in pure alphabetical order or in alpha-chronological order (all the names beginning with one letter put in date order). Many modern indexes to probate records have been, or are in the process of being, published and are often easier to use than the contemporary indexes.

Looking for a will

The executors or administrators of those who died with property within the jurisdiction of one archdeaconry or commissary court should properly have gone to that court. If the deceased had goods worth £5 or more within the jurisdiction of more than one of these courts but within one diocese then the will should have been proved in the consistory court of that diocese. If the property lay in more than one diocese then the matter should have been dealt with by the appropriate archdiocese. However it is clear from the records that such

rules were not always followed and when searching for a will it is advisable, if the will is not found in the obvious court, to check all the courts in the geographical area of the deceased's known property as well as the records of the PCC.

Probate copies of wills (made by the court and given to the executor) and a few original wills may be found in other series of records in London Metropolitan Archives (LMA). Searchers should consult the personal names index available on microfiche and the computer catalogues in the Information Area.

Wills and the probate of them or the administration of the estate might be disputed. Records of disputed testamentary causes (cases) may be found among the records of many church courts. Searchers should consult staff about the records.

Probate records held by LMA

Wills held by LMA relate mainly to the ancient (pre-1889) counties of Middlesex and Surrey, part of the ancient county of Kent and the City of London. Wills relating to these areas can also be found elsewhere. For details of where to look for the wills of residents of the different areas of London, Middlesex and Surrey see below.

In many cases records held by LMA have been microfilmed and the films should be consulted instead of the originals. Full lists of the records, indexes and microfilms are available in the Information Area.

LMA Wills 1507-1858 on Ancestry

Most of the original wills 1507-1858 held by LMA (though not the wills which survive only as copies entered in the will registers or the Court of Husting rolls) have been digitised by [Ancestry www.ancestry.co.uk/](http://www.ancestry.co.uk/). Free access to Ancestry is available at LMA and Guildhall Library.

London north of the Thames and Middlesex

Wills of residents of London north of the Thames and Middlesex should have been proved in one of the following courts:

Prerogative Court of Canterbury 1384-1858

Location of records:

- The National Archives, Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond Surrey TW9 4DU.

Jurisdiction:

- England and Wales (see Introduction)

Wills proved in this court can be searched via Documents Online on [National Archives www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk) . If the search is successful, the will can be downloaded for a fee. They can also be searched and viewed on [Ancestry www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)

Deanery of the Arches 1620-1780, 1832

Location of records:

- Lambeth Palace Library, London SE1 7JU

Jurisdiction:

- City of London (part)
- Disputed testamentary causes in the Province of Canterbury

Index:

- Published index available in LMA library.
- British Record Society. *Index to testamentary records of the Deanery of the Arches in Lambeth Palace Library 1620 - 1845*, edited by Janet Foster. Index Library/BRS, 1985 (vol. 98). (60.34 BRS).

Consistory Court of the Bishop of London 1362-1858

Location of records:

- LMA

This court had jurisdiction over the whole diocese of London except the peculiars. This comprised the City of London and Middlesex and, until 1846, Essex and part of Hertfordshire. In 1846 the parishes of Charlton, Deptford, Eltham, Greenwich, Lee, Lewisham, Plumstead, and Woolwich were transferred to this diocese from the diocese of Rochester and the parishes of Barnes, Mortlake, Newington, Putney, Walworth and Wimbledon were transferred from the Deanery of Croydon.

Surviving records include:

- Original wills and administrations 1507-1858 (with gaps)
- Registers of wills and administrations 1492, 1514-1858 (with gaps)
- Vicar General's books, which include probate and administrations acts, 1521-1644, 1661-1685

Wills 1362-1559 are also entered in the Bishop's registers (DL/A/A/004/MS09531) and indexes to these are held by LMA. Very few probate inventories have survived for this court.

Indexes:

- Alphabetical lists of wills proved in the court and letters of administration recorded in the registers of wills and administrations 1514-1858 can be viewed on the [LMA website: http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/things-to-do/visiting-the-city/archives-and-city-history/london-metropolitan-archives/about-lma/Pages/volunteer-wills-project.aspx](http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/things-to-do/visiting-the-city/archives-and-city-history/london-metropolitan-archives/about-lma/Pages/volunteer-wills-project.aspx)
- Copies of wills included in these lists can be purchased from LMA through our Prints from Microfilm service. They will be printed from the microfilms of the will registers.
- Indexes for 1362-1751 are available in our Information Area on the shelves with the catalogue of the records.
- Indexes for 1670-1858 can be consulted on microfilms X019/009-011.

Published transcripts available in LMA library:

- London Record Society. **London Consistory Court wills 1492 - 1547**. edited by Ida Darlington. The Society, 1967. (60.34 LRS) This is available on [British History Online http://www.british-history.ac.uk/catalogue](http://www.british-history.ac.uk/catalogue)

Commissary Court of London (London Division) 1374-1857

Location of records:

- LMA.

Jurisdiction:

- Acton
- Bethnal Green
- Bloomsbury
- Bow

- Bromley-by-Bow
- City of London (part)
- Cowley
- Ealing with Old Brentford
- Edgware
- Edmonton
- Enfield
- Finchley
- Fulham with Hammersmith
- Greenford
- Hackney
- Monken Hadley
- Hampstead
- Hanworth
- Harefield
- Hendon
- Hornsey
- Ickenham
- Islington
- Kingsbury
- Limehouse
- Marylebone
- Northolt
- Paddington
- Poplar
- Ruislip
- St George-in-the-East
- St Giles-in-the-Fields

- St Paul Shadwell
- Christ Church Spitalfields
- South Mimms
- Stanmore
- Stepney
- Teddington
- Tottenham
- Wapping
- Whitechapel.

It also included the Essex parishes of:

- Chingford
- Epping
- Leyton
- Loughton
- Nazeing
- Waltham Holy Cross (Waltham Abbey)
- Walthamstow
- Woodford

Surviving records include:

- Original wills 1523-1857 (with gaps)
- Registers of wills 1374-1857 (with gaps)
- Act books 1496-1858 (with gaps)
- Administration bonds and related papers 1664-1857
- Probate inventories 1634-1741

Act books (DL/C/B/001/MS09168) and will registers (DL/C/B/004/MS09171) must be consulted on microfilm after 1600.

Indexes:

Published indexes available in LMA library and online at
<http://www.origins.net/help/aboutNWI-procoll.aspx>

Historical Manuscripts Commission. ***Index to testamentary records in the Commissary Court of London (London Division)***, edited by Marc Fitch. 1374 - 1488. HMC, 1969 (60.34 HMC) 1489 - 1570. HMC, 1974 (60.34 HMC)

British Record Society. ***Index to testamentary records in the Commissary Court of London (London Division)***, edited by Marc Fitch.

1571 – 1625 Index Library/BRS, 1985 (vol. 97) (60.34 BRS)

1626 - 1649 & Index Library/BRS: A-G, 1992 (vol. 102); H-S, 1996

- (vol. 108) and 1661 - 1700T-Z, 1998
- (vol. 111) (on open shelves in Information Area)

The published indexes use the following conventions:

- [] indicates information derived from the act books (DL/C/B/001/MS09168)
- < > indicates information derived from original wills (DL/C/B/005/MS09172)
- No brackets Indicate information derived from the will registers (DL/C/B/004/MS09171).

Unpublished indexes to will registers and administrations 1625-1858 (DL/C/B/019/MS09173A/10-39) can be ordered from the stores; microfilm copies of indexes 1374-1858 are also available in the Information Area.

An index to probate inventories by personal name, place name and occupation is available on the open shelves in the Information Area.

Archdeaconry Court of London 1393-1807

Location of records: LMA.

Jurisdiction: City of London (part), St Andrew Holborn with St George the Martyr, St James and St John Clerkenwell, St Leonard Shoreditch

Surviving records include: original wills 1524-1807 (with gaps); registers of wills 1393-1807 (with gaps); act books 1564-1807 (with gaps);

administration bonds and related papers 1663-1786; probate inventories 1662-1705.

Act books (DL/AL/C/001/MS09050) and will registers (DL/AL/C/002/MS09051) must be consulted on microfilm after 1600.

Indexes

Published indexes available in LMA library and online at <http://www.origins.net/help/aboutNWI-procoll.aspx>:

British Record Society. ***Index to testamentary records in the Archdeaconry Court of London***, edited by Marc Fitch.

1363 – 1649 Index Library/BRS, 1979 (vol. 89) (in Information Area)

1661 – 1700 Index Library/BRS, 1985 (vol. 98). (60.34 BRS)

These published indexes use the following conventions:

- [] indicates information derived from the act books
- (DL/AL/C/001/MS09050);
- < > indicates information derived from original wills (DL/AL/C/003/MS09052);
- No brackets indicate information derived from the will registers (DL/AL/C/002/MS09051).

Webb, Cliff. ***An index of wills proved in the Archdeaconry Court of London 1700 - 1807***. Society of Genealogists, 1996. (R60.34 WEB) This can be consulted online at <http://www.origins.net/help/aboutNWI-acl.aspx>

Unpublished indexes for 1368-1781, with a few entries to 1807, can be ordered from the stores (DL/AL/C/006/MS09054/1-3); they are also available on microfilm in the Information Area.

The unpublished indexes use the following conventions:

- A.B. + number indicates act book (DL/AL/C/001/MS09050) and volume;
- Reg. + number indicates will register (DL/AL/C/002/MS09051) and relevant volume.

An index to probate inventories by personal name, place name and occupation is available on the open shelves in the Information Area.

Archdeaconry Court of Middlesex (Middlesex Division) 1608-1810

Location of records: LMA.

Jurisdiction: Bedfont, Chelsea, Cranford, Feltham, Hampton, Hanwell with New Brentford, Harlington, Harmondsworth, Heston with Hounslow, Hillingdon with Uxbridge, Isleworth, Kensington, Laleham, Littleton, St Anne Soho (Westminster), St Clement Danes, St George Hanover Square, St James Piccadilly (Westminster), St Martin-in-the-Fields, St Mary-le-Strand, St Paul Covent Garden, Shepperton, Staines with Ashford, Stanwell, Sunbury, Twickenham.

Surviving records include: original wills 1608-1611, 1662-1810; registers of wills 1664-1677, 1718-1779; probate and administration act books 1660-1810 (with gaps); administration bonds 1667-1760 (with gaps); probate inventories 1667-1758. The probate business of this court virtually ceased in the 1780s.

Indexes

A calendar of wills and administrations 1608/9-1810 can be consulted on microfilm X001/155

Published transcripts available in LMA library:

Curle, B.R. ***Kensington and Chelsea Probate Inventories*** 1672 - 1734. (typescript, 1970) (60.34 CUR)

Peculiar Court of the Dean and Chapter of St Paul's Cathedral 1535-1837

Location of records: LMA.

Jurisdiction: Albury, Barling, Belchamp St Paul, Brent Pelham, Chiswick, City of London (part), Friern Barnet, Furneaux Pelham, Heybridge, Precinct of Hoxton in Shoreditch, St Luke Old Street, Navestock, Precinct of Norton Folgate, St Pancras with Highgate, Precinct of Portpool (in parish of St Andrew Holborn), Stoke Newington, Tillingham, West Drayton, Wickham St Paul, Willesden.

Surviving records include: original wills 1660-1837; registers of wills 1535-1837; act books 1646-1837; probate inventories 1660-1725; administration warrants and related papers 1660/1-1830.

Act books (CLC/313/K/C/001/MS25625) and Will registers (CLC/313/K/C/003/MS25626) must be viewed on microfilm.

Indexes

An index to registers of wills 1535-1643 and 1660-72 (CLC/313/K/C/004/MS25627) is available on microfilm. Copy calendars of probate and administration act books 1646-50 and 1660-1837, and will registers 1672-1837, are available on the open shelves in the Information Area.

Indexes to probate inventories by personal name, place name and occupation, together with a calendar of the inventories, are available on the open shelves in the Information Area. A surname index to probate inventories presented in this court is also available online at the former [Guildhall Library Manuscripts Section's website](#).

Peculiar Court of the Deanery of Croydon 1664-1841

Location of records: Lambeth Palace Library.

Jurisdiction: Harrow with Pinner, Hayes with Norwood.

Royal Peculiar of the Dean and Chapter of Westminster 1504-1803

Location of records: [City of Westminster Archives Centre](#), 10 St Ann's Street, London SW1P 2XR;

Jurisdiction: City of London (part), Paddington, Precincts of the Abbey, St John the Evangelist Westminster, St Margaret Westminster (but jurisdiction in most parishes had passed to the Consistory Court of London or the Archdeaconry Court of Middlesex by the early eighteenth century).

Published transcripts available in LMA library:

Burke, Arthur Meredyth. ***Indexes to the ancient testamentary records of Westminster***. Eyre & Spottiswoode, 1913. (60.34 BUR)

This volume includes indexes to the following series :

1. The testamentary records of Peculiar Court, 1504 – 1700
2. Westminster wills and administrations preserved among the records of the Consistory Court of London, 1540 - 1556.

Miscellaneous testamentary records preserved in the Muniment Room of Westminster Abbey, 1228 - 1700.

Royal Peculiar of St Katherine by the Tower 1688-1818

Location of records: LMA.

Jurisdiction: Liberty of St Katherine by the Tower

Surviving records include: original wills 1689-1818; administration warrants and bonds 1688-1740; act books containing probate and administration business 1698-1793

Indexes

Indexes to wills and administrations 1698-1804 are available on microfilm. Calendars of the St Katharine's Hospital archive, including probate material, are available on the shelves in the information Area (CLC/199/TD/017/MS09742A) and from the stores (CLC/199/TD/016/MS09742).

Court of Husting 1258-1688

Location of records: LMA.

Jurisdiction: City of London and liberties. Any beneficiary of property within the City of London could cause a will to be enrolled in the Court, but often only the relevant part of the will relating to real property was entered on the rolls. The last recorded enrolment of a will in this court was in 1688, but the probate jurisdiction of the Court of Husting had been in decline for some years before this.

Records: Court Rolls (Deeds and Wills) 1252-1695

Index

Sharpe, Reginald R. ***Calendar of the wills proved and enrolled in the Court of Husting, London, AD 1258 - AD 1688:***

- Volume 1 1258 – 1358 Corporation of the City of London, 1889 (60.1 LON)
- Volume 2 1358 – 1688 Corporation of the City of London, 1890 (60.1 LON)

This is available on British History Online at <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/place.aspx?gid=73®ion=1>

The London Probate Index, 1750-1858,

compiled by Dr David Wright, draws together into a single alphabetical sequence by personal name all wills and administrations in nine courts undertaking probate business in London. The probate courts are those for the Consistory Court of London; Commissary Court of London; Archdeaconry Court of London; Archdeaconry Court of Middlesex; Peculiar of the Dean and Chapter of St Paul's; Royal Peculiar of St Katharine by the Tower; Royal Peculiar of the Commissary Court of the Dean and Chapter of Westminster; Archbishop's Peculiar of the Deanery of Croydon; and Archbishop of Canterbury's Peculiar of the Deanery of Arches. The index can be searched by surname on the Find My Past website.

London South of the Thames and Surrey

Wills of residents of London south of the Thames and Surrey should have been proved in one of the following courts:

Prerogative Court of Canterbury 1384-1858

Location of records: The National Archives, Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond Surrey TW9 4DU.

Jurisdiction: England and Wales (see Introduction)

Wills proved in this court can be searched via [Documents Online](https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ Documents Online) on www.nationalarchives.gov.uk. If the search is successful, the will can be downloaded for a fee. They can also be searched and viewed on Ancestry.

Deanery of the Arches 1620-1780, 1832

Location of records: Lambeth Palace Library, London SE1 7JU;
www.lambethpalacelibrary.org.

Jurisdiction: City of London (part); disputed testamentary causes in the Province of Canterbury.

Index

Published index available in LMA library:

British Record Society. ***Index to testamentary records of the Deanery of the Arches in Lambeth Palace Library 1620 - 1845***, edited by Janet Foster. Index Library/BRS, 1985 (vol. 98). (60.34 BRS)

Archdeaconry Court of Surrey 1480-1858

Location of records: LMA.

The jurisdiction of this court covered the whole of the ancient county of Surrey except for the peculiars (for peculiar parishes see below under Surrey: Peculiar of the Archbishop of Canterbury).

Surviving records include: original wills 1534-1857 (with gaps); registers of wills 1480-1821 (with gaps); probate and administration act books 1674-1858 (with gaps to 1725).

Indexes

Indexed abstracts of these wills are available online at <http://www.origins.net/help/aboutNWI-surrwills.aspx>

Webb, Cliff. **Union index of Surrey probate records which survive from before the year 1650**. British Record Society, 1990 (copy available at Information Area counter and online at <http://www.origins.net/help/aboutNWI-procoll.aspx>)

Webb, Cliff. Archdeaconry Court Wills 1660-1751. A Provisional Index (on shelves in Information area with diocesan catalogues)

West Surrey Family History Society. **Index of wills proved in the Archdeaconry Court of Surrey 1752 - 1858**, compiled by Cliff Webb. 2nd edition. The Society, 1994. (Record series vol 1). (60.34 WES)

Published transcripts available in LMA library:

Surrey Record Society. **Surrey wills (Archdeaconry Court, Spage Register)**. The Society, 1922 (S.R.S. vol. no. XVII) abstracts of wills covering the period 1484 - 1489, with index. (60.9 SUR)

Surrey Record Society. **Surrey wills (Archdeaconry Court, Herringman Register)**. The Society, 1915 - 20 (3 vols, as below)

- S.A.S. vol. no. III abstracts of wills covering period 1595 - 1600
- S.A.S. vol. no. VII abstracts of wills covering period 1600 – 1607
- S.A.S. vol. no. XV abstracts of wills covering period 1607 - 1608, and including index to all 3 volumes. (60.9 SUR)

Few probate inventories have survived for Surrey. For further information see Holman, Joan and Herridge, Marion. **Index of Surrey probate**

inventories 16 - 19th centuries. Domestic Buildings Research Group (Surrey), 1986 (60.34 HOL)

Consistory Court of Winchester

Location of records: [Hampshire Archives and Local Studies](http://www3.hants.gov.uk/archives), Sussex Street, Winchester, Hants SO23 8 TH <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/archives>

Jurisdiction: Surrey and Hampshire except peculiars (a small number of Surrey wills proved here: see index 1506-1645 at Society of Genealogists or **Union index of Surrey probate records which survive from before the year 1650** edited by Cliff Webb).

Commissary Court of the Bishop of Winchester in the Archdeaconry of Surrey 1662-1858

Location of records: LMA.

The jurisdiction of this court covered the whole of the ancient county of Surrey except for the peculiars (for peculiar parishes see below under Surrey: Peculiar of the Archbishop of Canterbury).

Surviving records include: original wills 1663-1857 (with gaps); registers of wills 1674-1696, 1729-1857; probate and administration act books 1662-1858 (with gaps); administration bonds 1674, 1731-1858.

Indexes

Indexed abstracts of these wills are available online at <http://www.origins.net/help/aboutNWI-surrwills.aspx>

Webb, Cliff. Nominal Index to Commissary Court Wills. Draft 1663-1751 (on shelves in Information area with diocesan catalogues)

West Surrey Family History Society. **Commissary Court of the Bishop of Winchester in the Archdeaconry of Surrey : index to the original wills... also : Peculiar Court of the Archbishop of Canterbury in the Deanery of Croydon : index to the wills : 1752 - 1858**, compiled by Cliff Webb. 2nd edition. The Society, 1992. (Record series vol.3). (60.34 WES)

Peculiar of the Archbishop of Canterbury in the Deanery of Croydon 1602, 1614-1841

Location of records: Lambeth Palace Library.

Jurisdiction: Barnes, Burstow, Charlwood, Cheam, Croydon, East Horsley, Merstham, Mortlake, Newington, Putney, Roehampton,

Walworth, Wimbledon. In 1846 Barnes, Mortlake, Newington, Putney, Walworth and Wimbledon were transferred to the Diocese of London (see Consistory Court of London above)

Indexes

An index to these wills is available online at <http://www.origins.net/nwiwelcome.aspx>

Published indexes available in LMA library:

Webb, Cliff. ***Union index of Surrey probate records which survive from before the year 1650***. British Record Society, 1990 (copy available at Information Area counter)

West Surrey Family History Society. ***Commissary Court of the Bishop of Winchester in the Archdeaconry of Surrey : index to the original wills... also : Peculiar Court of the Archbishop of Canterbury in the Deanery of Croydon : index to the wills : 1752 - 1858***, compiled by Cliff Webb. 2nd edition. The Society, 1992. (Record series vol.3). (60.34 WES)

Consistory and Archdeaconry Courts of Canterbury 1396-1857 and 1449-1858

Location of records: Kent History and Library Centre, James Whatman Way, Maidstone ME14 1LQ email historyandlibrarycentre@kent.gov.uk

Jurisdiction: In 1846 the parishes of Addington and Croydon were transferred to this jurisdiction from the Diocese of Winchester and the Deanery of Croydon respectively.

Consistory Court of Rochester 1440-1858 and Archdeaconry Court of Rochester 1635-1857

Location of records: Kent History and Library Centre

Jurisdiction: Included inner London parishes of Charlton, Deptford, Eltham, Greenwich, Lee, Lewisham, Plumstead and Woolwich which in 1846 were transferred to Diocese of London (see Consistory Court of London above).

The West Kent Probate Index is a master index of wills and administrations in the Archdeaconry Court of Rochester and the Consistory Court of Rochester and two peculiar courts of the Diocese of Rochester. This can be searched by surname on the Find My Past

website or on [Origins net http://www.origins.net/help/aboutNWI-Kent.aspx](http://www.origins.net/help/aboutNWI-Kent.aspx).

For other courts having jurisdiction within the county of Kent consult the books referred to below or the Kent History and Library Centre.

Reading list

The LMA Library has the following works on probate jurisdiction as well as copies of printed indexes and calendars of probate records, some held by LMA, others held elsewhere. This is not a complete list of all relevant printed works for which the main library catalogue should be consulted. For guides to probate jurisdictions, see the works by Anthony Camp or J.S.W. Gibson listed below.

ADDY, John. ***Death, money and the vultures : inheritance and avarice, 1660 - 1750.*** Routledge, 1992. (60.34 ADD)

CAMP, Anthony J. ***Wills and their whereabouts.*** 4th edition. The Author, 1974 (60.34 CAM)

COLDHAM, Peter Wilson. ***American wills proved in London, 1611 - 1775.*** Genealogical Publishing Co., 1992. (60.34 COL)

COX, Jane. ***An introduction to - Affection defying the power of death : wills, probate and death duty records.*** Federation of Family History Societies, 1993. (R60.34 COX)

FURNIVALL, Frederick J. ***The fifty earliest English wills in the Court of Probate, London. AD 1387 - 1439 : with a priest's of 1454.*** Oxford UP, 1882, reprinted 1964. (Early English Text Society original series no.78. (60.34 FUR)

GIBSON, J.S.W. ***Probate jurisdictions : where to look for wills.*** 4th edition Federation of Family History Societies, 1994. (60.34 GIB)

MCLAUGHLIN, Eve. *Somerset House wills from 1858.* 3rd edition. Federation of Family History Societies, 1985 (a McLaughlin Guide). (60.34 MAC)

SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS. ***An index to the Bank of England will extracts 1807 - 1845.*** The Society, 1991. (60.34 SOC)

About this leaflet

This leaflet was published in May 2012, updated 2014, by London Metropolitan Archives, 40 Northampton Road, London, EC1R OHB

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