

Abstracts of the Will records have been published but otherwise none of the probate group has been treated in detail. The several series were accounted for in the Catalogue published by the Hall of Records Commission several years ago, but the usefulness of such a work is, of course, extremely limited.

First drafts of these studies were prepared by the authors several years ago as term papers for the course in Archival Administration offered by American University and the National Archives under the direction of Dr. Ernst Posner. Since that time they have been expanded and thoroughly revised. The authors, Dr. Elisabeth Hartsook, Senior Archival Assistant at the Hall of Records and Gust Skordas, Assistant Archivist, have applied themselves to their difficult and tedious tasks with exceptional perseverance and understanding. Doubtless they will have omitted details or committed minor errors but this is to be expected in pioneering efforts of this kind. That their work is fundamentally sound does not seem subject to doubt.

In addition to the two lists of records the reader will find extremely valuable the historico-legal introductions which precede. A single index for both studies has also been provided.

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