

name, place and date of probate, reference to liber and folio of the record, and the cost of a photographic reproduction of the document. All of this can be done in a few minutes without examining the document, except to estimate the cost of a reproduction, which requires only a count of pages.

What should be our reply if he asks for the names of the heirs or of the executors? When was the will written? Who were the witnesses? Information of this kind may be found by glancing at the document, if the searcher is skilled to do it; and while we disapprove on principle, in practice we will furnish this information. But somewhere we must stop, and we have chosen as a convenient place the point at which we are asked the terms of the will. That usually requires a careful reading and a long letter. We will certainly not furnish the names of the parents of the deceased, for that would require a search through all the documents of the period bearing the same name, as parents are not usually mentioned in a will. To sum up—in general we will furnish only the information which is to be found in our indexes, without a fee and without complaint. We make exceptions, of course, but we recognize them as exceptions.

This refusal to solve a problem for an individual may annoy him when he is aware that a little time on our part would be all that is required, while it would mean an expensive trip or the employing of a professional researcher for him to accomplish the same result. Our justification is that in the end, by refusing what is time-consuming, we may devote ourselves to the preparation of more indexes and other finding mediums and thus ever extend the field of service which we can give free of charge and to every inquirer. As a result of following this program we now have perhaps the most useful name index in the country. In any case, a searcher need not be stopped by our refusal to study documents. We will provide him, gratis, with a list of materials having to do with the person in whom he is interested, and he may order copies of one or all of them at little cost.

Unindexed materials present a special problem. It is obviously impossible to search a county court record series in the