

Probate Documents

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Wills are frequently a good source for family history information. They often provide the names and relationships to members of the family, the details of the property the deceased owned, and to whom this was bequeathed. Until after the First World War, most people had little property so did not bother making a will. Wills were generally made by the rich and by professionals, and also by many people who were not wealthy, such as shopkeepers, shoemakers, blacksmiths, and farmers, and sometimes by labourers. Copies of most wills made in England Wales can be obtained from the Principal Registry of the Family Division (PRFD) at First Avenue House, London.

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