

000 2840  
001 000  
002 039  
003  
005 Orphans' Court, New Castle County  
006  
140 Case Files  
141  
142  
200 1721  
210 1978  
220  
240 217.63 cubic feet  
241 431 @ 0.47 box, 5 @ 1.08 box, 3 @ 0.69 box, 8 @ 0.62 box, 1 @ 2.63 map  
drawer.  
261 Legal documents filed for cases before the court. Cases deal primarily  
with the settlement of estates or the appointment and supervision of the  
guardians of minors.  
27X Files involving the settlement of estates include records relating to  
the division of real estate, the sale of all or part of the estate, and  
laying off the widow's dower. Requests to divide, sell all or part, and  
to lay-off widow's dower generally include petitions, court orders,  
returns of freeholders and recognizances. These records show date of  
action, names of petitioner(s), deceased property owner and heirs,  
hundred, location, acres, and courses and distances of property and  
adjacent property owners. Additional documentation includes notices of  
application made to sell land and broadsides advertising sale of land.

These records are sometimes accompanied by plots (surveys) of land to be  
partitioned. Other documents may be attached to the plot including a  
court order, certificates of appointment for commissioners, and  
commissioners' returns. Court orders give the names of the petitioner  
and deceased, location of real estate, names of adjacent property  
owners, action to be performed, and date of order. Sometimes the year  
of death is given. Certificates show names of freeholders appointed and  
date of appointment. Commissioners' returns show the names of the  
petitioner and deceased; location of real estate to be partitioned;  
metes and bounds and names of adjacent property owners; number of acres  
and valuation of real estate; date of commissioners' report; name of  
surveyor; signatures of commissioners and expenses of commissioners and  
surveyor. The plots show the names of petitioner and deceased, survey  
of real estate with metes and bounds, names of adjacent property owners,  
date of survey, and signature of the surveyor. Plots may also show a  
depiction of houses and out-buildings and the location of roads, mills,  
schools, fields, orchards, woodland, streams, marshes, and other  
geological features.

Files involving the appointment and supervision of the guardians of  
minors include petitions for the appointment of guardians, requests for  
the valuation of a minor's land, petitions to transfer or expend funds,  
guardian bonds, and guardian accounts. Guardian appointment records  
contain the date of appointment; names of guardian, minor, and parent  
(generally the father); individual posting surety; and the signature of  
the clerk. Early appointment forms include the name of the chancellor,  
the hundred in which the guardian and minor resided, and whether the  
minor was above or below the age of fourteen. Generally, the name of a  
parent was not given. Later forms included the amount of bonds to be  
posted by the guardian. Some requests to remove or change guardian and  
releases of the guardian from their guardianship are also included.

Forms requesting a rental valuation of the minor's property show the

names of freeholders selected to view property. A return was made with freeholders' recommendations for improvements and property rental value. Petitions and court orders authorizing guardians to transfer or expend funds of wards shows the date, names of interested parties, amount involved, and the purpose of the transactions.

Guardian Bonds were posted by guardians guaranteeing proper handling of the affairs of the minor to whom they have been assigned guardianship. The bonds show the names of the guardian, surety, minor, and deceased, age of minor (above or below the age of fourteen), amount and date of bond, and names of the court officials. A few guardian bonds contain statements added later to the back of the document that release a guardian from his guardianship.

Guardian Accounts are the record of the settlement of accounts incurred by the guardian for the maintenance of the minor and their property. Accounts show the names of the guardian, minor, and deceased; date of entry; disbursements (boarding, clothing, and tuition); receipts (rents on minors land, and interest accrued); total amounts of disbursements, receipts and balance; date settlement approved; and signature of the Register or Clerk. There are some exceptions to guardian accounts also included. Accounts for most minors with surnames beginning with the letters A, B, or C are not present.

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|   |  |
|---|--|
| WORK STATUS                                       | ARCHIVIST:   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> needs sorting            | <input type="checkbox"/> review for identification/<br>further determination |
| <input type="checkbox"/> needs unfolding          | <input type="checkbox"/> processing  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> needs foldering/reboxing | <input type="checkbox"/> determine origin/purpose                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> other: _____             | <input type="checkbox"/> other: _____  |
| CONDITION:  | FILM:  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> totally disorganized     | <input type="checkbox"/> for security  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> order not apparent       | <input type="checkbox"/> destroy original                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> origin questionable      | <input type="checkbox"/> other: _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> other: _____             |  |

330 Alphabetical by name of deceased or minor.  
331 No index  
332 Handwritten; typed; form printed with writing; form printed with typing.  
350  
360 Fair/Poor; Acid Damage, Storage Damage, Dirt Damage.  
390 In-house database.  
430 WPA Guide p. 152, # 355. Processed by Sherrie Ayers, 2005-2006.  
900  
990 6/30/1987.  
995 October 6, 1987; April 28, 1996; November 25, 1997; August 10, 1998; May 16, 2006;  
bhh/ps/rlg