

000 3840
001 000
002 006
003
005 Orphans Court, Kent County
140 Case Files
200 1720
210 1975
220
240 249.51 cubic feet.
241 212 @ 0.47 boxes, 41 map drawers, 10 @ 0.56 boxes, 18 @ 0.69 boxes, 7 @
1.08 boxes, 2 @ 0.24 boxes
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.

29X
310
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WORK STATUS

needs sorting
 needs unfolding
 needs foldering/reboxing
 other: _____

ARCHIVIST:

review for
 identification/further
 determination
 processing
 determine origin/purpose
 other:

CONDITION:

totally disorganized
 order not apparent
 origin questionable
 other: _____

FILM:

for security
 destroy original
 other:

330 Arranged alphabetically by name of deceased or minor.
331 None.
332 Handwritten; typed; form printed with writing; form printed with typing.
360 Fair/poor; acid damage; storage damage; dirt damage; vermin damage
390 Folder list, in-house database.
420 26 cf transferred in 1975 and 2 cf transferred in 1978.
430 Processed by Sherrie Ayers, 2002-2003.
900
990 8/06/1987
995 November 27, 1987; April 29, 1996; May 6, 1996; July 25, 1996; August 2,
1996; August 14, 1996; September 11, 2001; October 1, 2003;
999 This description now contains 3840.5, old 3840.6, 3840.8, 3840.9, and
3840.16.
bhh/clf, revised rlg, revised sla/rlg