Madison County (Illinois) Probate and Guardianship Files

Pre-1900 probate files are located at the Illinois Regional Archives Depository (IRAD) at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. The Madison County Historical Society (MCHS) holds probate files dated 1900–1960 and guardianship files dated 1812–1960. (In this context, a "guardian" is a person appointed by the court to manage the inheritance of a minor or the estate of a person deemed incompetent.)

The Madison County Circuit Clerk's office created an alphabetical index to the files to these files. The index is available online on the Madison County Illinois Circuit Clerk CONTENTdm Website. The index is also available in print form at the MCHS Archival Library.

Archival Library volunteers and staff created an index to the guardianship files.

*****Using the Guardianship Index*****

Step 1: Consult the Minors Index to identify a minor of interest. The minors are listed alphabetically by last name. When you find the minor, note the File Location.

Step 2: Using the File Location from step 1, consult the appropriate Location List (below) to identify other relevant individuals in the case. The cases are listed in order by File Location.

Location List Part 1, Boxes 496-528
Location List Part 2, Boxes 529-589
Location List Part 3, Boxes 590-695

Step 3: Contact the Archival Library arrange to view the file or to find out about obtaining copies.