



Historical Society Offers New Resource For Genealogists

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EDWARDSVILLE - A valuable new tool for genealogists has just been completed by volunteers and staff at the Madison County Archival Library. It is expected that the new "Guardianship Index" will help genealogists solve roadblocks in their family tree and allow them to learn more about their ancestors.

GUARDIAN'S BOND.

Know All Men by These Presents:

THAT WE August Wierening as Principal, and
Wilhelm Stahlhut and Frederick Whelung

as security, of the County of Madison and State of Illinois, are held and firmly bound unto the People of the State of Illinois, for the use of
Arad Brase, Augusta Brase, Henry Brase and
Matilda Brase minor children of Christian Brase dec
in the penal sum of fifteen hundred Dollars, current money of the United States, which payment well and truly to be made and performed we and each of us do hereby bind ourselves, our heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, jointly, severally and firmly by these presents.

WITNESS our hands and seals this 27 day of July A. D. 187

THE CONDITION OF THIS OBLIGATION IS SUCH,

That if the above bounden August Wierening who has been appointed
Guardian of the aforesaid minors

shall faithfully discharge the office and trust of such Guardian according to law, and shall make a true inventory of all the real and personal estate of the wards that shall come to his possession or knowledge, and return the same unto the County Court of Madison County at the time required by law, and manage and dispose of all such estate according to law and for the best interest of said wards, and faithfully discharge his trust in relation thereto and to the custody, nurture and education of said wards, and render an account on oath of the property in his hands, including the proceeds of all real estate that may be sold by him, if any, and of the management and disposition of all such estate, within one year after his appointment, and at such other time as shall be required by law or directed by the Court, and upon removal from office, or at the expiration of his trust, settle his accounts in said Court, or with the wards or their legal representatives, and pay over and deliver all the estate, title papers and effects remaining in his hands, or due from him on such settlement, to the person or persons lawfully entitled thereto—then this obligation shall be void; otherwise to remain in full force and virtue.

Signed, Sealed and Delivered in Presence of

Clerk of the County Court.

August Wierening
Wilhelm Stahlhut
Fred. Whelung

Seal.
Seal.
Seal.
Seal.
Seal.
Seal.
Seal.

LETTERS OF GUARDIANSHIP.

State of Illinois, } ss. { In County Court,
MADISON COUNTY.

Term, A. D. 187

The People of the State of Illinois to

of said County—Greeting:


WHEREAS, At the Term of the County Court of said County, A. D. 187, holden at Edwardsville, you were, by order of said Court, duly entered of record on the _____ day of said month, duly appointed Guardian for

Trusting in your fidelity, therefore, the said Court does by these presents constitute and appoint you to be Guardian unto said minor, and authorize and empower you to take and have the care of _____ person and the custody and management of _____ property, frugally and without waste or destruction to improve and account for the same in all things according to law.

Witness—B. E. HOPPMANN, Clerk of the said County Court and the Probate Seal of said Court hereunto affixed, at Edwardsville, this 27 day of July in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Seventy-7

A TRUE COPY.

Clerk of the County Court.



MCHS has put the index on its website so it can be accessed by anyone, although a visit to the library will be necessary to see the actual file. The index can be found at <https://madcohistory.org/archival-library/archival-library-resources/probate-court-files/>.

It can also be located by going to www.madcohistory.org and looking at Library Resources on the Archival Library page.

The guardianship files are part of an estimated 34,000 pre-1960 probate court records donated to the Madison County Historical Society (MCHS) by the Madison County government in 2013. Estates involving a minor heir, unlike regular probate files, can be listed under the minor child, the parent, a court-appointed attorney, or in other ways that make them virtually untraceable without an index. Normal probate files are listed on the cover by surname and were indexed by the Madison County Circuit Clerk's office, an index still in use today.

Additional background is available on the website. The detailed index describes this subset of Madison County probate records dealing with the guardianship of minor heirs of an estate. This index does not exist anywhere else, and the documents they describe are not available online.

This was a multiple-year project for Archival Library staff and volunteers that was slowed by the onset of COVID-19. Volunteers who identified minors, guardians, and other relevant individuals included Betty Byrd, Susan Coffey, Lynn Engelman, Gary Forshaw, Derik Hefferly, Marty Lane, JoAnn Nabe, Don Reaka, Marilyn Sulc, Joan Wentz, and Janet Zuehlke. the Society is very grateful to this loyal group of volunteers who first worked with Library Research Manager Mary Westerhold, and, after her retirement, with Mary Z. Rose, to create this one-of-a-kind resource.

The Madison County Archival Library at 801 N. Main Street in Edwardsville is owned and operated by the Madison County Historical Society. Hours are Wed-Thus 9-4 and Sunday 1-4. For information about the Guardianship Index, call 618-656-7569.