

The haystack's the world.
The needle is cousin Frank.



BLAKE & BLAKE GENEALOGISTS
International Probate Research



MISSING HEIRS LOCATED SINCE 1929

We're the company who'll find him.



Searching farther, faster, with guaranteed results.

For three generations, since 1929, Blake & Blake has assisted estate attorneys, trust officers, executors, and judges responsible for probate research and missing heir/beneficiary searches.

Blake & Blake Genealogists has one of the most extensive networks for locating missing heirs anywhere in the world. However, it is our experienced and dedicated personnel that distinguishes us from other firms.

INTERNATIONAL PROBATE RESEARCH



What is Probate research?

Probate Researchers like Blake & Blake trace people who are entitled to a share in an estate. When an estate is filed with a Probate Court, we work to locate missing heirs; and we research family history to identify unknown heirs.

With over 100 years of combined experience in Probate Research, we understand that virtually every client has questions about our services.

We are proud to provide answers to the most frequently asked questions about our company and our research/recovery services. We trust this will give you confidence in our integrity and our ability to assist you in this important matter.

If you have any questions which are not answered here, please do not hesitate to call us, toll free, at 1-800-722-5100. We look forward to serving you.

“You were of great assistance to us both in terms of efficiency and speed... We are grateful to the U.S. Embassy for having recommended your services.”

—D. H. P. Levy & Co.
LONDON

LOSING TOUCH

In times gone by, homes, land, furnishings, businesses and other family treasures were passed on from generation to generation. The Family, both historically and geographically, were all close-knit units who prospered, grew, faced the future and died together.

Unfortunately, this nucleus of close-knit family and relatives has oftentimes ceased to be constant in today's society. People lose touch with relatives because they have moved, emigrated, quarreled, or simply stopped caring. The last surviving member of a particular branch of family passes on believing he/she has no living relatives. Often they had simply lost touch.

When people die there are generally two possibilities for the distribution of assets. The first possibility is that there is a Will in existence. The other possibility is that no Will exists. In this case, the person is said to have died "intestate". Intestate simply means, "having made no legal Will".

PROBATE RESEARCH

In the cases of both an existing Will and an intestate matter, difficulties can arise when initial inquiries fail to discover the proper heirs or distributees.

Blake & Blake Genealogists function as the Probate researchers tracing people who are entitled to share in an estate. If individuals are named in a Will but have disappeared, we initiate research to ascertain their whereabouts. When there is no Will, we research family history with the objectives of identifying the statutory next of kin, where they are living, and providing them with the necessary documentation to prove their relationship.

Intestate matters can create further problems. For example, the administrator may be aware of cousins on the paternal moiety (father's side of the family); however, there could be several cousins

on the maternal moiety (mother's side) whose identities and whereabouts are unknown. Believing they have accounted for all the heirs, the administrators could incorrectly distribute such an estate. As will be illustrated in case histories, Blake & Blake Genealogists provide the expertise required for the correct determination of heirs and subsequent distribution of an estate.

TRACING HEIRS

The job of compiling an accurate family tree is a complex and time-consuming task. Local, State and Federal offices can usually provide no more than birth, marriage, and death certificates. Access to these records are limited because of geographical restrictions on these agencies. Relatives who are born, marry, emigrate to, or die in foreign countries would not be traceable through these sources.

International in scope with over 100 years of combined experience, Blake & Blake Genealogists is recognized in the industry as one of the largest and most respected firms in the world. The following are some of the benefits of using Blake & Blake Genealogists to determine the rightful heirs to an estate:

- A full-time staff of researchers and offices throughout the country
- Telecommunications for the fast and accurate compilation of information around the world
- The utilization of fully-automated state of the art computer systems that store and cross reference pertinent research sources
- A microfilm and published library with information dating back to the 17th century

Blake & Blake Genealogists is supplemented by an extensive network of associates around the world. These agents are able to draw on the same resources as our own staff of full-time researchers. Through their local contacts, our agents extend still further the service available to our clients.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Why have I been contacted now?

An estate has been filed with some or all of the legal heirs unknown. This is a surprisingly frequent occurrence. Blake & Blake's research into the history of the estate family has identified you as an heir.

How do I know this is legitimate?

Our proposal is absolutely legitimate. Blake & Blake is one of the largest and most respected Probate Research firms in the world. For three generations, since 1929, our business has been to locate named heirs and research family history for unknown heirs. Unlike unprincipled companies that demand money up-front from unwary clients, we are never paid a penny until our clients recover assets. We have helped over 25,000 clients recover over \$100 million in assets. We are proud of our strong reputation and would be pleased to provide references from organizations you know well.

Why can't you tell me all the details of the estate?

Generally, we refrain from revealing details about the estate until all heirs have signed an agreement with us. Over the years, we have found that this helps to protect our firm's investments in researching and locating the heirs. If we provide all the details, a certain number of people will disregard our notifying them of this matter, utilizing the information to try to circumvent the reasonable fee we ask for our services, if successful.

How did Blake & Blake learn of this estate?

Estates are referred to us through Probate Court judges, lawyers, bank administrators, and our international network of researchers and associates.

What will this cost me?

Until and unless you actually receive assets from the estate, you will owe nothing. When the court distributes the estate, you owe Blake & Blake the percentage on the Assignment and Agreement you signed with us. We utilize our percentage to recoup all expenses, including our attorney fees, in proving your claim and recovering your rightful share.

What about taxes?

Taxes are not an issue. No income tax is charged on inheritance; and the court deducts inheritance taxes before distributing the estate. So you have no initial tax liability on the assets you inherit.

What about the estate's debt?

You have no liability in that area. The court pays estate debt before distribution. If debts exceed assets, the estate is declared insolvent. In that case, you would receive no asset, but you would never bear any liability.

If, for some reason, I never receive these assets, what will I owe Blake & Blake?

Absolutely nothing. Blake & Blake is only paid if you receive assets from the estate. Our clients are never asked to pay any fee in advance. If you receive no assets, you pay nothing. Blake & Blake absorbs all the expenses in your case.

When will I receive these assets?

The answer depends, in large part, on where the estate has been filed. Court schedules and statutory time requirements vary from one jurisdiction to another. In most cases, distribution is made within 12-18 months. In large jurisdictions, however, it may take much longer.





Who determines my share?

The court determines your share based on your relationship to the decedent, the total number of claimants and the laws of Descent and Distribution of the State or foreign country where the case is being heard.

What if I do nothing?

If you do nothing, the shares of the estate which might be rightfully yours could be turned over to the state as escheated funds. Or those unclaimed shares may be distributed to the heirs who are known to the court.

What should I do next?

If you have any further questions, call us, toll free, 1-800-722-5100. When you are ready for us to proceed with this matter, simply sign the enclosed form and return it to us at your earliest convenience.

“This note is to thank you for the check and to thank Blake & Blake for the efforts in our behalf. It is not very often that a pleasant surprise such as this comes our way. Please do express our gratitude to all involved.”

—Robert Murray

CASE STUDIES

ESTATE OF FRANK HASHIBA **\$175,000**

The decedent had no known heirs. The law firm initially handling this matter was aware that the decedent had been born in Japan, but did not have the means or the resources to ascertain whether there were any living relatives. Through research in conjunction with an associate office, Blake & Blake Genealogists located several cousins living in a small city outside of Tokyo.

ESTATE OF DOROTHY STOER **\$100,000**

In this estate, the decedent died leaving one first cousin who claimed to be the sole heir. After extensive research, Blake & Blake Genealogists located additional heirs living in Sydney, Australia.

ESTATE OF EMILIO BADIA **\$140,000**

Before the attorneys representing this estate contacted our office, it was believed that the decedent had no known heirs. Blake & Blake Genealogists' research determined that the decedent had a daughter living somewhere in Canada. Additional research in Canada indicated that the daughter had moved to South America. We ultimately located the daughter in Caracas, Venezuela and the daughter related how she had lost touch with her parents because of a family quarrel over thirty years ago.

ESTATE OF GUSTAVE STAPPAS **\$150,000**

The closest heirs to the decedent were initially listed as nine paternal cousins. Blake & Blake Genealogists located a niece and a nephew living in Athens, Greece. The estate was then properly distributed.

ESTATE OF ALBERTINA SCHUERER **\$350,000**

Any living heirs of the decedent were believed to be residing in Sweden. The attorneys for the estate, after exhausting all avenues available to them, could not locate the relatives. The attorneys then asked for the assistance of Blake & Blake Genealogists, and our firm ultimately located the Swedish heirs.

ESTATE OF BOLDISZAR HUGAI **\$75,000**

Our firm located the sole heir, a sister in Budapest, Hungary. There had been no family contact since just prior to the beginning of World War II. The family had split up and the decedent fled Europe and came to this country.

ESTATE OF SHOFIELD THAYER **\$24,000,000**

The decedent originally executed his Will in 1925, leaving a large portion of his estate to his wife. The wife passed away in 1935, and when the decedent passed on, that large portion which had been left for the wife became intestate. At this time four first cousins once removed came forward believing that they were the sole next of kin. Through extensive investigation, Blake & Blake Genealogists located an adopted son of a deceased first cousin. Our research ascertained he had led a difficult life, and when located by Blake & Blake Genealogists, he was living in rather dire circumstances in the Los Angeles area.

ESTATE OF ADOLPH DANGLER **\$7,000,000**

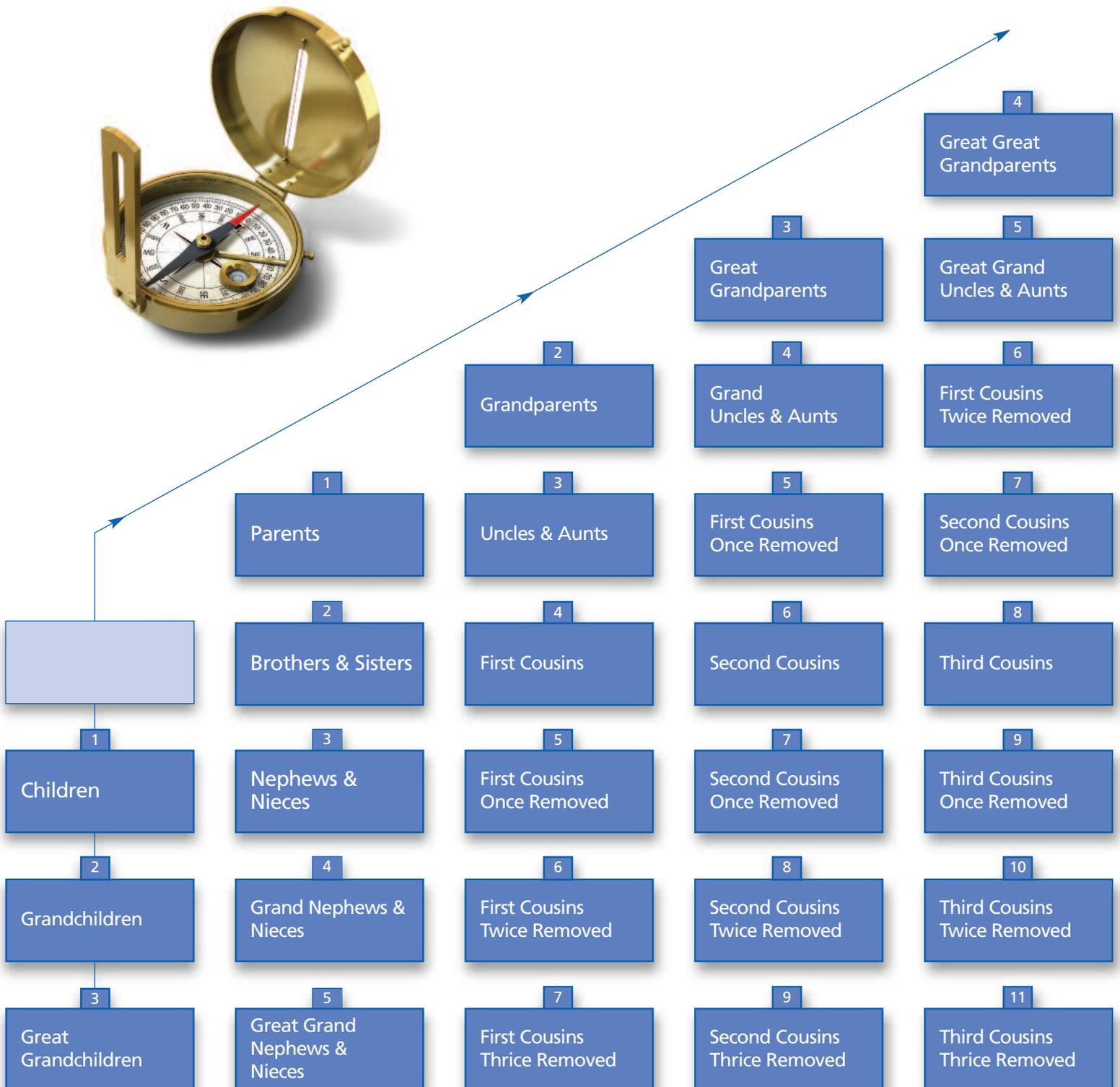
In this very interesting estate, the decedent was born out of wedlock in Germany on February 17, 1900. His mother came to the United States shortly thereafter, leaving the decedent behind with her family. The decedent's mother worked as a domestic in New York City, and eventually married there on September 16, 1906. The decedent's mother then returned to Germany to bring the decedent to this country. The decedent's stepfather was a chauffeur, and the stepfather never legally adopted Adolph. Mr. Dangler amassed his fortune dabbling, at first in a small way, in the stock market. When Adolph died, the only heir was a maternal first cousin living in Westchester County, New York. Blake & Blake Genealogists ultimately located additional maternal first cousins residing in Germany and Denver, Colorado. Although the decedent's natural father never married the decedent's mother, he signed legal documents in Germany formally acknowledging paternity. The natural father subsequently married another woman, and they had children. Blake & Blake Genealogists also located these relatives, the decedent's half-blood sister and half-blood nephew, residing in Vienna, Austria, who were actually determined to be the rightful heirs.

ANCESTRAL CHART

Instructions

Place the subject/decendent that you want to establish relationships with inside of the blank box below.

The blue boxes will then list the relationship by title to the subject/decendent and the degree of distance from them.





FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you would like more information regarding Blake & Blake Genealogists for existing estate matters anywhere in the world, please call us, toll-free, at 800.722.5100.

Thank you for considering Blake & Blake Genealogists for this important matter.

info@blakeandblake.com

www.blakeandblake.com

“Words alone cannot express the gratitude we have for your company in locating our family as the “Missing Heirs” to a cousin Frans Kowalski in Germany.”

—Jack & Theresa Bell

“I had hired an investigator to ascertain the dates of death and whereabouts of next of kin to Ruth Evans. After two months of diligent searching, he found nothing concrete. After receiving a very explicit package of your services, the Estate hired Blake & Blake Genealogists to complete the search for the last remaining next of kin. Within two days following our first conversation, I received a call indicating the possibility of success. It was indeed my long lost relative. I only wish I had found and used you sooner. Thank you for your integrity, resourcefulness and expeditious success.”

—Marilyn Green/Fisher,
Personal Representative



Blake & Blake is proud to be a member of the following Historical and Genealogical Societies.

New England Historical and Genealogical Society

New York Genealogical and Biographical Society

Florida Historical Society

Connecticut Society of Genealogists

Rhode Island Historical Society

New Hampshire Historical Society

Maine Historical Society

Vermont Historical Society



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