

## RESEARCH REPORTS

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**FIG. 21**  
**LETTER REPORT**  
**SAMPLE A**

*Statement of objective, repository searched, identification of subject, vital data, and kin*

*Summary of results*

*Complete extract, set off from text—with full documentation*

*Background information on record collection*

*Helpful advice for additional research*

*Closing amenities*

*List of attachments*

**ELIZABETH SHOWN MILLS, CG, CGL, FASG**  
**MILLS RESEARCH SERVICE**

1732 RIDGEDALE DRIVE, TUSCALOOSA, AL 35406

10 January 2000

Mrs. A. B. See  
 123 D Street, NE  
 Anywhere, US 00000

Dear Mrs. See:

As you requested in your letter of 15 December, I have searched the probate files of Tuscaloosa County between 1850 and 1855 for a possible estate record on *Luke Abednigo* (b. 1780, South Carolina; d. ca. 1852, Tuscaloosa County), and his widow *Ruth*.

The search brought mixed results. The probate series in the county courthouse yields no trace of an *Abednigo* estate file, although one recorded "minute" briefly refers to a guardianship requested on a *minor* named *Ruth Abednigo*. That record is as follows:

Estate Minutes C: 111  
 Probate Judge's Basement Files  
 Tuscaloosa County Courthouse, Tuscaloosa, Alabama  
 23 March 1852  
 "James White requests guardianship of *Ruth Abednigo*, a minor under the age of fourteen years. Granted."

In addition to the incomplete series of probate actions that have survived in this county, there also exists an extensive series of "loose" probate files [original, jacketed papers, not yet filmed] that were transferred to the State Archives at Montgomery several decades ago. The collection recently was arranged, cataloged, and indexed by the Tuscaloosa Genealogical Society—Night Group. I have checked its index and find an entry for an unrecorded will (no accompanying papers) under the label *Luke Abednigo, 1852*. It is cataloged as File AAAA.

If you wish to order this file, your inquiry should be addressed to Alabama Department of Archives and History, 624 Washington Street, Montgomery, AL 36130. Please cite the needed record as "Luke Abednigo, unrecorded will, File AAAA, Tuscaloosa County Probate Papers." You should enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope; but do not include funds until you are notified of the cost.

Best wishes for success as you continue your work on this and other lines.

Cordially,

*Elizabeth Shown Mills*  
 Elizabeth Shown Mills

Attachments: Photocopy of cited book/page  
 Statement of time and charges

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**FIG. 22**  
**LETTER REPORT**  
**SAMPLE B**

**Kay Haviland Freilich, Certified Genealogist**

395 Kerrwood Drive  
Wayne, PA 19087-2136

Phone: 610-293-1221  
Fax: 610-293-0999

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**THE WILL OF JOHN B. KELLY OF PHILADELPHIA**  
**Research Report**

8 January 2000

Prepared for: Elizabeth Shown Mills, CG, CGL  
1732 Ridgedale Drive  
Tuscaloosa, AL 35406-1942

John B. Kelly, the father of Princess Grace of Monaco, died in Philadelphia on 20 June 1960, according to his obituary in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* (21 June 1960, page 1). The will you requested is identified as Will 2118 of 1960 in the Philadelphia Register of Wills Office. Coexecutors were his son John Brendan Kelly and the Provident Tradesmen Bank and Trust Company. The will was proved on 27 June 1960 and the final inventory was dated 2 October 1963.

Two copies of the will were located in Philadelphia offices. The first, at the Register of Wills Office in City Hall, is a microform. This version includes several pages of the inventory but is missing pages 1–5 of the will itself. The second copy was found at the Register of Wills Archives. It is a copy certified by Ronald R. Donatucci, Register of Wills, on 24 February 1982, as being a “full and perfect copy” of the original. This copy was located in what is referred to as the “historical file,” a file of Philadelphia wills that for various reasons might be of interest to the public. No inventory or account information was attached to this transcript. It was this transcript from which the enclosed photocopy was made.

According to the clerk in the Archives facility, there was no probate packet for John B. Kelly in the appropriate place in the files. He did locate a note that the packet had been sent to the City Hall Office in 1995. He called the City Hall Office but could get no further information on the whereabouts of the packet.

*Kay Freilich*

Attachments:  
13-page will  
Clerk's invoice  
Freilich's invoice

Genealogical Research in Pennsylvania: Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia Counties  
Friends Historical Library, National Archives–Mid-Atlantic Region, Welcome Society

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*Identification of subject  
and requested document*

*Location of search and  
discussion of  
record anomalies*

*Report of further search  
with negative findings*

*List of attachments*