



# Broke, But Not Out of Luck: Exploring Bankruptcy Records for Genealogy Research

## Jessica Hopkins

The U.S. has seen many economic "ups and downs." Rich and poor alike have seen their finances crash, and have been left with no option but bankruptcy. Bankruptcy records contain a wealth of details that can be found in few, if any other place. These can

include items owned by an individual or company as well as a listing of whom they borrowed from. This class will take a look at what bankruptcy records are available, what type of information can be found, and inform on how to research the records.







**Jessica Hopkins** 

Archivist
National Archives
at Kansas City

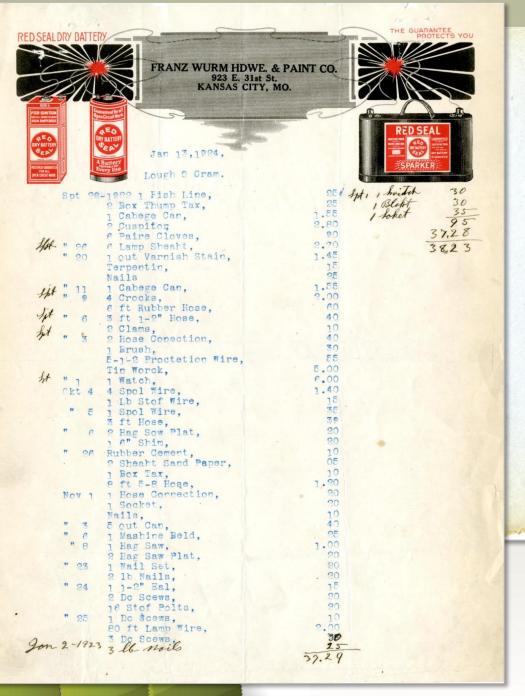
Jessica Hopkins is an archivist for the National Archives at Kansas City. In this role, currently, she is helping oversee, manage, and provide access to bankruptcy records from courts throughout the United States.

Jessica is working towards a Master's in Public History at Arizona State University. Her B.A. is in History and Secondary Education from William Jewell College.

# Broke, But Not Out of Luck: Exploring Bankruptcy Records

Jessica Hopkins, Archivist National Archives at Kansas City

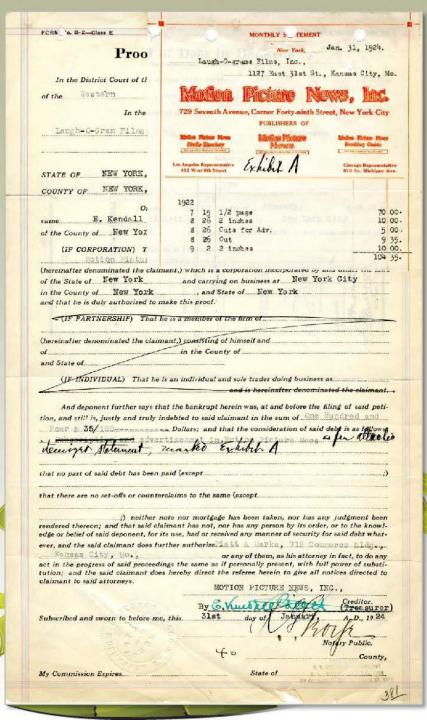




In the Matter of LAUGH-O-GRAM FILMS. INC. Bankrupt. Claim of Franz Wurm Hdwe. & Paint Co 923 E. 31st St. Kansas City, Mo. Amount \$ 38.23 Filed this 23 Referee in Bankruptcy

Case 4457, In the Matter of Laugh-O-Gram Films https://catalog.archives.gov/id/6997521

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FINAL BILL 10% ADC 9 TO NET BILL AFTER	K, W   at Cts. K, W   H, at Cts. K, W, H, at Cts.
Deposit No. Am't	K. W H. at Cts.
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RECORD OF METER READINGS	19/1/9/9 Bal. Due 242
34 . 6. 5 1923 8 . 5. 2/1923	W Unexpired Contract Total
6 Kilowatt-hours	10% Added
TO KANSAS CITY	Y POWER & LIGHT COMPANY DR.
Last payment received from you was for Meter Reading up to	1127 231
Form 471-10m sets-10-20-23.	050595 824

FORM	4 NO 252 C 3S L.
de col	10 10
Six months	After date for value received promise to
fay to Fred Schmeltz.	erorder
Five-hundred and six and 76/100	Dollars
atofficeof	withinterest
from date at the rate of six percen	tperannum payableInotso paid, compounded.
He the makers endersery assigners and surelies se	iverally vaive presentment for payment, demand, protest and All parties to this note agree to pay an attorneys fee equal to AT;
of the amount due if placed with an attorney	for collection after maturity.
Address	LAUGH-O-GRAM FILM COMPANY, INC., By Walter E. Dianey, President.
No. Due	By A. H. Kloepper, Secretary.
TO LAND STREET, TOTAL PORT OF THE CONTROL OF	THE COURSE WITH THE PARTY OF TH

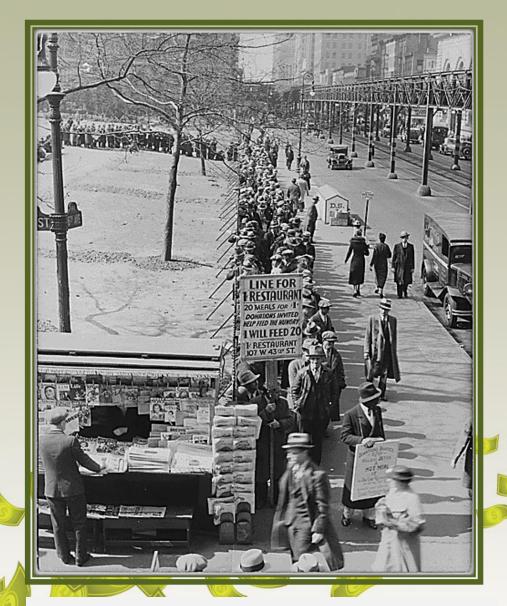
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## Objectives

- Briefly describe Federal bankruptcy history
- Know what records are available

Understand how to research the records





Depression: Breadlines: long line of people waiting to be fed: New York City, ca. 02/1932, National Archives Identifier 196499

# Economic Ups and Downs

- As many as 47 recessions in the United States since 1790.
- Causes include:
  - War
  - Natural Disasters
  - Financial Bubbles
  - Foreign Policy
  - Domestic Policy

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## **Government Authority**

Congress has authority under Article I, Section 8, Clause 4 of the Constitution to legislate "uniform laws on the subject of Bankruptcies."

## By 1900, four separate bankruptcy laws passed:

Bankruptcy Act of 1800



Bankruptcy Act of 1867







Bankruptcy Act of 1841

Bankruptcy Act of 1898

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## **CAUSE**

- Panic of 1797 caused by land speculation bubble
- Deflation from Bank of England
- Quasi-War with France

## **APPLICATION OF ACT:**

- Limited to merchants
- Involuntary Bankruptcies only
- System abused by corruption and favoritism

## **EFFECT:**

- Repealed in 1803
- Resulted in state operated bankruptcy system in absence of Federal law
- 38 years without Federal bankruptcy law



## **CAUSE:**

- Panic of 1837 caused by massive bank failures
- Collapse of cotton market

## **EFFECTS:**

- Creditors viewed law as providing few payments, and discharging many debtors
- Repealed in 1843

## **APPLICATION OF THE ACT:**

- Voluntary bankruptcy permitted
- Debtor could file for bankruptcy and receive discharge of debt
- Any individual could be debtor



#### **CAUSES:**

- Recession of 1865-1867 followed economic devastation of Civil War
- International financial instability

## **APPLICATION OF ACT:**

- Involuntary Bankruptcy for any individual
- Courts appointed registers in bankruptcy

#### **EFFECTS:**

- Suffered from same problems as previous acts.
- Repealed in 1878.

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## **CAUSES:**

- Panic of 1893 caused by failure of Reading Railroad
- Withdrawal of European investments

## APPLICATION OF THE LAW

- Individuals entitled to benefits of voluntary bankruptcy
- Anyone owing \$1,000 or more could be adjudged an involuntary bankrupt



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## General Contents of Case Files

Cases can include:		
Libels	Defendant's answers	Schedule of debts
Motions	Stipulations	Lists of Names and Addresses of creditors
Transcripts of testimony	Depositions	Inventories of real and personal property
Exhibits and evidence	Reports	Final decrees and discharges
Court Orders	Claims	Briefs
Petitions	Arguments	Opinions

<sup>\*</sup>Documents available per each case will vary.

## Bankruptcy Vocabulary

- **Schedules:** Detailed lists filed by the debtor along with the petition showing the debtor's assets, liabilities, and other financial information.
- **Trustee:** The representative of the bankruptcy estate who exercises statutory powers, principally for the benefit of the unsecured creditors, under the general supervision of the court...The trustee's responsibilities include reviewing the debtor's petition and schedules and bringing actions against creditors or the debtor to recover property of the bankruptcy estate.

http://www.uscourts.gov/educational-resources/educational-activities/bankruptcy-basics-glossary

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# **EXAMPLES OF BANKRUPTCY CASE FILES**



Manifolding Bankruptcy Blanks, Act of 1898, Form 100, Published and Sold by Tom Chitwood, Wichita, Kansas.

#### Schedule A. (3.)

#### UNSECURED CREDITORS.

N. B.—When the name and residence (or either) of any drawer, maker, endorser or holder of any bill or note, etc., are unknown, the fact must be stated, and also the name and residence of the last holder known to the debtor. The debt to each creditor must be stated in full, and any claim by way of set off stated in Schedule B.

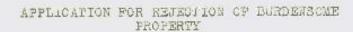
ist name, residence, occupation; amount; when and where contracted and consideration.	Amor of De	ant	П
Dr. H. C. House, Arkansas City, Kansas, Dentist, November, 1927 at Arkansas City, Kansas,	2	00	
S. C. Baker, Arkansas City, Kansas, Mechanic, Work on car, January, 1932, at Arkansas City, Kansas,	12	00	
Fitch Music Store, Arkansas City, Kansas, Radio Tubes and Service, April, 1931, at Arkansas City, Kansas,	1	40	
Peerless Grocery, Arkansas City, Kansas, Groceries since January, 1930, at Arkansas City, Kansas,	150	00	
Star Wetmore, 215 East Central, Arkansas City, Kansas, Por Rent, 1930-1931, at Arkansas City, Kansas,	45	00	ı
D. Mohler, R.R.# 4 Arkansas City, Kensas, For Cow, January, 1932, at Arkansas City, Kansas,	13	00	1
M. L. Bacastow, R.R.# 4 Arksnsas City, Kansas, For Feed, May, 1932, at Arksnsas City, Kansas,	177517	50	1
* E. Hammond, 1606 South First, Arkansas City, Kansas, for Raleigh Products, April 15, 1932, at Arkansas City, Kas	7	50	
June Fetrow, 417 East Washington, Arkansas City, Kansas, for Rent, 1929, at Arkansas City, Kansas,	15	00	1
ansas Gas & Electric Co., Arkansas City, Kansas, for Radio,			1
January, 1929, at Arkansas City, Kansas,	50	00	
. Bigger, Geuda Springs, Kansas, for Mule, April, 1932, at Geuda Springs, Kansas,	3	00	
r. L. M. Beatson, Arkansas City, Kansas, Doctor services, December, 1928, at Arkansas City, Kansas,	20	00	
r. M. M. Miller, Arkansas City, Kansas, Doctor services, January, 1928, Arkansas City, Kansas,	21	001	
r. H. M. Stricklen, Arkansas City, Kansas, Doctor services, March, 1932, Arkansas City, Kansas,	2	00	
r. V. L. Overstreet, Arkans <del>as City, Kansas, Bental services</del> September, 1931, Arkansas City, Kansas,	1	00	
ambrill-Bryant Hardware Co. Arkansas City, Kansas, Merchan- dise, check given, June, 1932, Arkansas City, Kansas,	3	50	
.A.Downing Hardware Co., Arkansas City, Kansas, Merchandise, April, 1931, Arkansas City, Kansas,	3	50	

**Unsecured Creditors** 

Tota

Note: Give street address whenever possible. If residence is unknown, that fact must be stated. Lloyd Clarence Sear Petitioner.

## Application for Rejection of Burdensome **Property**



Comes now Hazel W. Jones and respectfully shows to the counts

That she is the trustee herein, and that a portion of the bankrupt's estate consists of the following property:

- 2 Jorsey cows, 3 to 6 years old, average wt.1000 lbs.with increase 1 red cow, 6 years old, wt. 1000 lbs., with increase,
- 1 Holstein cow, 5 years old, weight 1000 lbs.,
- 1 Hostein cow. 3 years old, weight 1100 lbs.,
- 8 Holstein cows. 2 years old, av. ut. 900 lbs., with increase,
- 8 Holstein heifers, 1 and 8 yrs. old. av. wt. 700 lbs. with incres
- 3 white face and 1 Holstein calves, 11 months old.
- 3 spring and summer calves
- 1 black mare, 7 years old, wt. 1550 lbs., named plackie,
- 1 gray mare. 7 years old, wt. 1550 lbs., named Nance.
- 1 black mare. 10 years old, wt. 1500 lbs., named Avis,
- 1 gray mars. 5 years old, wt. 1350 lbs., named Sis,
- 1 black filly, 2 years old, wt. 1000 lbs.,
- 1 black horse, 12 years old, wt. 1500 lbs...
- 1 black mare, 2 years old, weight 800 lbs.,
- I black horse colt, I year old,
- 1 wide tire farm wagon.
- 1 Peoria grain drill.
- 2 sets harness, complete with collars,
- 1 McCormick mower.
- 1 John Deere manure spreader.
- 1 from wheel low wagon.

black mare. 7 years old, wt. 1550 lbs., named Blackie, gray mare. 7 years old, wt. 1550 lbs., named Mance. black mare, 10 years old, wt. 1500 lbs., hamed Avis, gray mare. 5 years old, wt. 1350 lbs., named Sis,

2/3 of 41 acres of growing wheat, 2/3 of 38 acres of growing oats, 2/3 of 35 acres of growing corn, these growing crops being raised on NW2 Sec. 36, T. 25, R. 1 K., Sedgwick County, Kansas.



IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES, IN AND FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLURADO.

IN THE MATTER OF THE PRIVICES
OF D. CLIMFOL CODE, RESERVED FOR
THE MATTER OF SUPPLICE BILL'S
WILD WEST AND PARTER BILL'S
GREAT FAR MAST, COMMINED,
BANKEDET.

IN BANKRIPUNA

No. 2566.

PETITION OF WILLIAM F. GODY
FOR HETURN TO HIM OF PRESCHAL PROPERTY.

Comes now William F. Cody and respectfully represents and shows to the Court that among other articles of personal property new in the possession of Dewey C. Bailey, the Ancillary Receiver herein, is certain property belonging to said William F. Cody, individually, to-wit: One box containing silver mounted maddle and hair bridle, and also one buckskin sult, together with other purely personal effects belonging to said William F. Cody; that said property above referred to is exempt from law and sale under execution:

Wherefore and by reason of all which petitioner respectfully prays to court to make and enter an order herein directing and authorizing the sa ancillary Receiver to deliver said personal preperty to said William F. Gody.

William & Cooky retitiogot.

STATE OF COLORADO, City and County of Denver. | SS.

William F. Cody, being duly evern, on each states that he is the petitioner above named; that he has read the above and foregoing petition

and knows the contents thereof; and that the came is true.

Sworn to and subscribed before no this 18 day of August, A.D. 2015, as witness my hand and notarial seal.

Ny comminaton expires hand 7, 1415

Cham HANN Totalio.

## Petition

Comes now William F. Gody and respectfully represents and shows to the Court that among other articles of personal property now in the possession of Dewey C. Bailey, the Ancillary Receiver herein, is certain property belonging to said William F. Cody, intividually, to-wit: One box containing silver mounted saddle and hair bridle, and also one buckskin suit, together with other purely personal effects belonging to said William F. Cody; that said property above referred to is exempt from levy and sale under execution:



## Schedule A

Back Taxes Due

Schedule "A" (1).

Statement of all creditors who are to be paid in full, or to whom priority is secured by law.

(1) Taxes and debts due and owing to the United States:

Schedule "A" [2]

None None

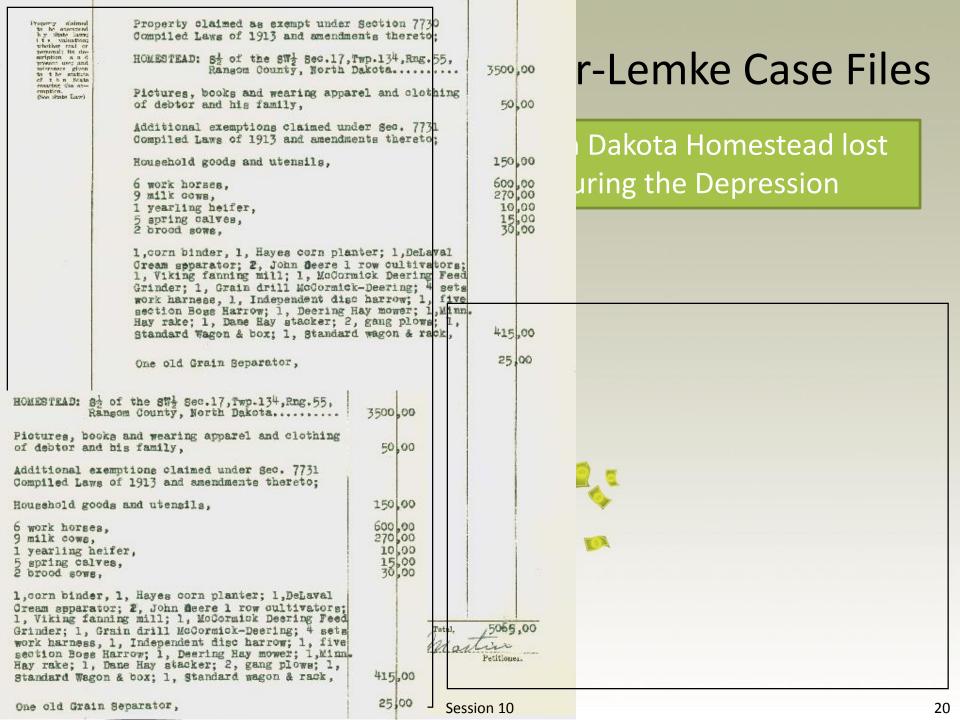
(2) Taxes due and owing to the State of Nebraska, or to any County. District or Municipality thereof:

Personal taxes due the County of Madison, Nebraska, as follows:

Per	sonal		ta	xes	3	due	9 '	the	e (	Con	m	ty	0	6 1	Mad	lis	or	1,	Ne	ebi	ras	ska	a.	as	5	fo.	11	OWS	11	
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Terrette	1894	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			_		-	-	-	-	-	-	-		3.34	Total
1	1893	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		4.20	ervants, to
	1892	-	-	-	-	-	_	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	_	_	-	-			9.33	The same of the same of the same of
	1891																												12.15	nonths before
	1890	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			13.60	None.
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_		200	_		_	_	_		_																					CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF

an amount not exceeding e filing the petition. None.





IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES FOR THE WESTERN DIVISION OF THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI.

IN THE MATTER OF LAUGH-O-GRAM FILMS, IN BANKRUPTCY # 44457

SCHEDULES OF THE BANKRUPT FILED BY PETITIONING CREDITORS.

SCHEDULE A -- Statement of all debts of Bankrupt.

Creditors who are to be paid in full or to whom posecured by law.

#### None.

2. Creditors holding securities.

Fred Schmeltz, who holds mortgage on three Cooper lights to secure an indebtedness of

3. Creditors whose claims are unsecured.

Cash account -- overdrawn Cowles, Dr. J. V. Trustee, 1524 Grand Avenue Disney, W. E., Unknown Hammond, W. F., Webb City, Mo. Ising, R. C., Wirthman Bldg. Kloepper, A. H. M. J. Oldham, 535 Scarritt Bldg. Lyon, W. M., Unknown Pfeiffer, W. J., Unknown Schmeltz, Fred (including \$501.65 secured) 15th & Alexander Ptg. Co., 3130 Troost Baer, L. J .-- rent people, Grand Avenue Temple Bld Briggs Photo Supply, 916 Grand Avenue Brown-PreussSta. Co., 918 Grand Avenue Balthaser Elec. Co., 1020 East 31st Dupont, E. I. & Co., 225 Scarritt Bldg. Emmert Chair Co., 2011 Bast 15th

xhibitors Trade Review, New York City, N. Y.

Film Daily, New York City, N. Y. Harmon, Hugh, Wirthman Bldg. VInter-Collegiate Press Twwerks, Ubbe %Leon Greenebaum. 635 Scarritt Bldg K. C. Journal, 22nd & Gillham K. C. Paper House, 7th & May K. C. Photographic Supply, 1010 Grand Avenue K. C. Power & Light Co., 1330 Grand Avenue K. C. Telephone Company, 11th & Oek Maxwell, Carman, Wirthman Bldg. M. L. B. Electric Co. 3839 Indiana Motion Picture News, New York City, N. Y. Vold Mill Carbon & Ribbon Co., 1035 Wyandotte Reynolds, Aletha, Unlmown

Ricker, Worris & Maiden, Westover Bldg.

VSchrorer Bros., 512 E. 25th

# Example of Bankruptcy Case File

Schedules of the Bankrupt Filled by the Petitioning Creditors

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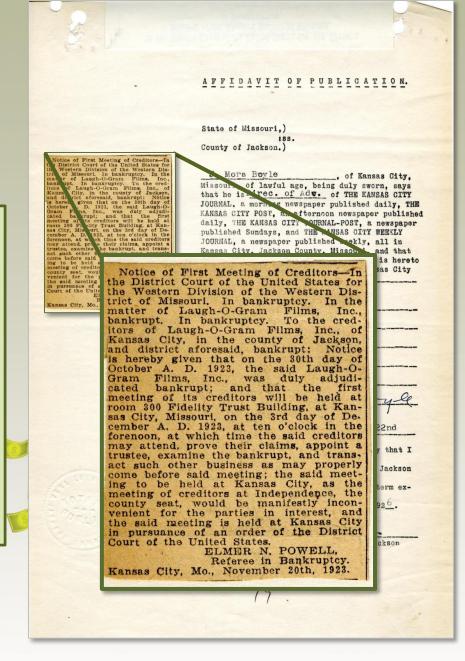
Cash accountoverdrawn	2.00.	
Cowles, Dr. J. V. Trustee, 1524 Grand Avenue	2604.88	
Disney, W. E., Unknown	2384.76	
Hammond, W. F., Webb City, Mo.	509.85	
Ising, R. C., Wirthman Bldg.	711.23	
Kloepper, A. H. M. J. Oldham, 535 Scarritt Bldg.	545.05	
Lyon, W. M., Unknown	591.92	
Pfeiffer, W. J., Unknown	96.50	
Schmeltz, Fred (including \$501.65 secured) 15th & Prospect	1338.70	
Alexander Ptg. Co., 3130 Troost	13.50.	
Baer, L. J rent people, Grand Avenue Temple Bldg.	354.99	
Briggs Photo Supply, 916 Grand Avenue	16.68	
Brown-PreussSta. Co., 918 Grand Avenue	4.10	
Balthaser Elec. Co., 1020 East 31st	20.55	
Dupont, E. I. & Co., 225 Scarritt Bldg.	4.79	
Emmert Chair Co., 2011 East 15th	2.00	
xhibitors Trade Review, New York City, N. Y.	104.09	
Film Daily, New York City, N. Y.	48.50	
Harmon, Hugh, Wirthman Bldg.	579.50	
VInter-Collegiate Press	75.00	
Iwwerks, Ubbe %Leon Greenebaum, 635 Scarritt Bldg.	1003.00	
K. C. Journal, 22nd & Gillham	9.26	
K. C. Paper House, 7th & May	6.82	
K. C. Photographic Supply, 1010 Grand Avenue	10.98	
K. C. Power & Light Co., 1330 Grand Avenue	4.47	
K. C. Telephone Company, 11th & Oak	13.50	
Maxwell, Carman, Wirthman Bldg.	220.50	
M. L. B. Electric Co. 3839 Indiana	37.00	
Motion Picture News, New York City, N. Y.	104.35	
VN. Y. Times, New York City, N. Y.	1.35	
Vold Mill Carbon & Ribbon Co., 1035 Wyandotte	6.60	
Reynolds, Aletha, Unknown	142.00	
Ricker, Norris & Maiden, Westover Bldg.	21.15	
VSchrorer Bros., 512 E. 25th	77.30	
10111		

O May for level Potitioning Greditors.

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# Looking for Indications of Bankruptcy

- Newspaper articles
- Family lore
- Related court case
- Changes in property or location between census years





## Researching Bankruptcy Records

Information needed to begin research: Time Party Involved Frame Geographical Area

Will require utilization of National Archives Catalog and paper-based finding aids

## Finding Aid Created by the Courts – Part 1

#### **Case Indexes**

- Listing of all bankruptcy cases or all cases tried by the court
- Direct and inverted indexes
- Indexes can be incomplete

#### **Docket Books**

- Contains brief notes stating what action was taken that day in court on a particular case
- Arranged by case number



## Finding Aid Created by the Courts – Part 2

#### **Journal and Minute Books**

- Document day to day proceedings
- Search by a particular date or date range
- Locate case numbers

#### **Final Record Books**

- Compilation of case proceedings
- Contain information not found in case files



25

## Bankruptcy Docket Sample

	CASH REDETVED AND DIS	BURNELDO.		
TITLE OF CAME DEVISION TWO	1411 DATE	RECEIV	/KD	DESEURISED
CAUSE NO. 17874	1 1 1/1 Tilling	30	60	
Louis ofthe far fact reference hard the	on William B Poter			1500
	3-20 U. S. TREASURER			1100
Engineer	,	30	"	3000
Frank Whitney				
Voluntary				
PIEFENEE AND TRUSTEE	ATTORNEYS	-		
rune: N. G. Bestign 1-8-45	W. W. Filkin	100		
12-16 Proof to Plane	Reference pilot care a	600	do	
	exican Thotocopy Equ	ypos	een	700
,				
		9		

		CASH RECEIVED AND DIS	BURSED	
	TITLE OF CASE	/744 DATE	RECEIVED	DISBURSED
	CAUSE NO.	5 Mr Les Homecher	5000	
the matter o	( ) ( )	C. Live Henry a Prusselu	10	1600
1200	Holmes et. K.C.			500
	and the same of the same	3-29 U. S. TREASCRUE		1000
			3000	3000
	, ,			
110	Laborery Co.			
Sta	udard Steel Co.			
,				
Vot	untary			
	4			
	REFEREE AND TRUSTEE	ATTORNEYS		
gener: Ne	nry a. Bands	when Seo. Horneck	es.	
more of	12. Bostian 1-8-4.	5-	Ka-	
,			A11-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1	
DATE		PROCEEDINGS		
244				
271	Lititian & Ar	helales		
A CONTRACTOR OF	Letition & Ac	helales		
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A CONTRACTOR OF	Letition & Scr Ander of res Application &	night the control of	Mod	d
A CONTRACTOR OF	Setition & Acs Order of rep adjudication of may of disk	wither Reference	Nos	d
A CONTRACTOR OF	relition & Acs Order of rep adjuliantion of programment from	wither Reference	Nos	d
A CONTRACTOR OF	relition & Acs Order of rep administration & programment face order of disc	wither Reference	Mos	el
A CONTRACTOR OF	Letition & Act Order of rep administration & magnent have	wither Reference	Nos	d
A CONTRACTOR OF	Letition & Act Order of Lep Edge disalion & Magnent Love	wither Reference	. Nos	el
A CONTRACTOR OF	Letition & Act Order of Act Application & pragment have	wither Reference	. Nos	d
A CONTRACTOR OF	Letition & Sch Order of rep Adjudication & Judgment have	wither Reference	. Nos	el .
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A CONTRACTOR OF	relition & scr Order of ref adjudication of sudgment rock	wither Reference	e Mos	
A CONTRACTOR OF	relition & scr Order of ref Adjudication & Judgment rock	wither Reference	e Mos	
A CONTRACTOR OF	relition & scr experiention of sugment roll	wither Reference	e Mos	
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## Locating Findings Aids and Case Files



#### Research Our Records

Home > Research Our Records > The National Archives Catalog

#### National Archives Catalog

Search National Archives Catalog

About National Archives Catalog

Using the National Archives Catalog

Search Tips

Accessibility

Lifecycle Data Requirements Guide

Contact Us

#### The National Archives Catalog

Search the online catalog and other National Archives resources at once for information about our records.

#### Search the National Archives Catalog

bankruptcy act of 1800 case files

Search

Advanced Search -

We're excited to announce that the National Archives Catalog now:

- handles the increasing number of digital images that we're making accessible online in weekly updates
- uses a new search engine to improve searchability --- including improved relevancy rankings and response times
- allows users to transcribe our records directly in the catalog
- indexes tags and transcriptions daily -- maximizing access all around

More improvements include:

http://www.archives.gov/research/catalog/

- · updated user interface for search results
- optimized interface for mobile viewing
- · improved tagging feature

We're also launching a **public API** that will allow users to use, re-use, and contribute catalog data in ways that haven't happened before!

# Search Tips and Terms



## Terms to use:

- Bankruptcy Act
- Case Files
- Dockets
- District Court
- State

## Search Tips:

- Will not yield specific cases
- Should include the state
- Provides a stepping stone for your research

#### Research Our Records

Home > Research Our Records > The National Archives Catalog

#### **National Archives Catalog**

Search National Archives Catalog

About National Archives Catalog

Using the National Crives Catalog

Search Tips

Accessibility

Lifecycle Data Requirements Guide

Contact Us

#### The National Archives Catalog

Search the online catalog and other National Archives resources at once for information about our records

#### Search the National Archives Catalog

"bankruptcy act" 1898 new york

Search

Advanced Search \*

We're excited to announce that the National Archives Catalog now:

- handles the increasing number of digital images that we're making accessible online in weekly updates
- uses a new search engine to improve searchability --- including improved relevancy rankings and response times
- allows users to transcribe our records directly in the catalog
- indexes tags and transcriptions daily -- maximizing access all around

More improvements include:

- · updated user interface for search results
- optimized interface for mobile viewing
- · improved tagging feature

We're also launching a **public API** that will allow users to use, re-use, and contribute catalog data in ways that haven't happened before!

Improvements in the Works

#### **News and Notices**

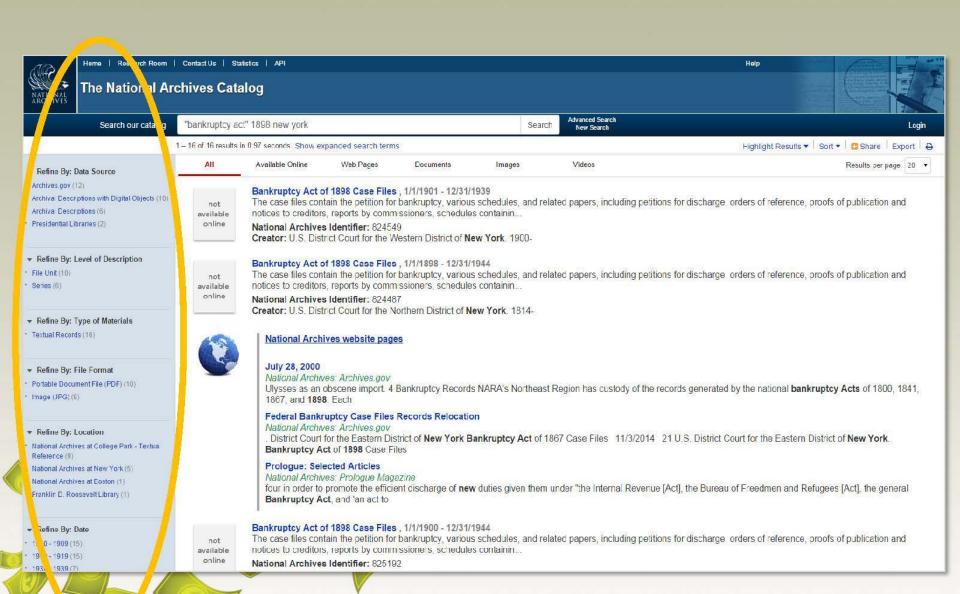
- The National Archives
   Catalog will be offline and unavailable due to system maintenance from Saturday, September 26 at 6 AM ET through 6 PM ET. If the maintenance is completed prior to 6 PM ET, the system will be brought back online as soon as possible. We apologize for any inconvenience this causes.
- Help us transcribe our records in the National Archives Catalog.
   For more info, check out our Transcription Challenge page!

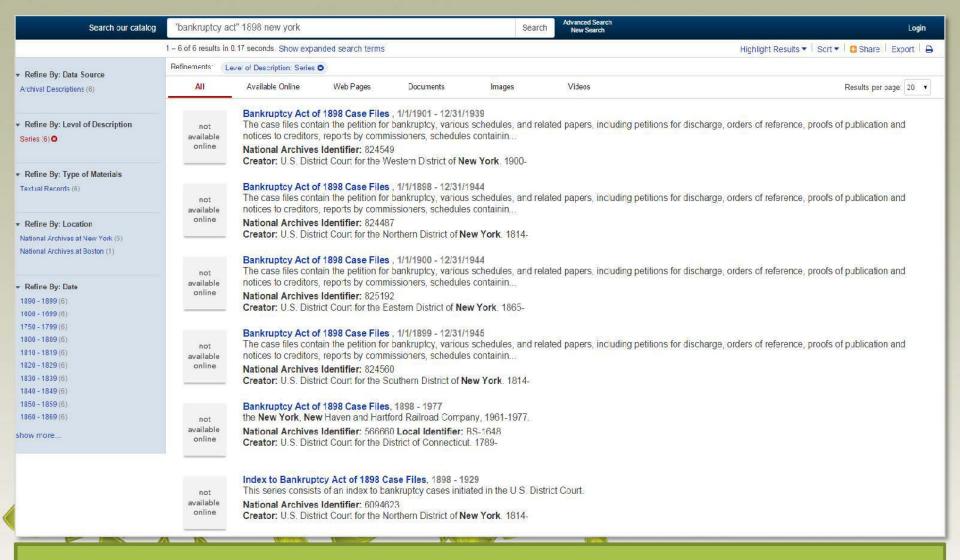
#### Most Requested

- The Constitution
- · Declaration of Independence
- Bill of Rights









#### Note:

- Varying court locations, e.g. U.S. District Court for the Northern District of New York
- Varying date spans

## Note These Details in the Description

- 1) Title and date
- National Archives Identifier (number)
- 3 Creator
- 4 Scope and Content
- 5 Contact(s)



#### Record Hierarchy

1

#### Index to Bankruptcy Act of 1898 Case Files, 1898 - 1929

#### Record Group 21:

Records of District Courts of the United States, 1685 - 2009

#### Series:

Index to Bankruptcy Act of 1898 Case Files, 1898 - 1929

#### Tag

Add a tag..

Enter new tags..

Add

Separate each tag with a comma; Use double quotes for phrases with commas; George Washington, "Washington. D.C", General

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#### ▲This Series contains records, some of which may not be available online.

To obtain a copy or view the records, please contact or visit the National Archives and Records Administration location(s) listed in the Contact information below.

#### Additional Information About this Series



National Archives Identifier: 6094623



Creator(s): U.S. District Court for the Northern District of New York. 1814- (Most Recent)

From: Record Group 21: Records of District Courts of the United States, 1685 - 2009

#### Details

#### 4

#### Scope & Content

This series consists of an index to bankruptcy cases initiated in the U.S. District Court.

#### **Variant Control Numbers**

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Contact(s): National Archives at New York (RE-NY)

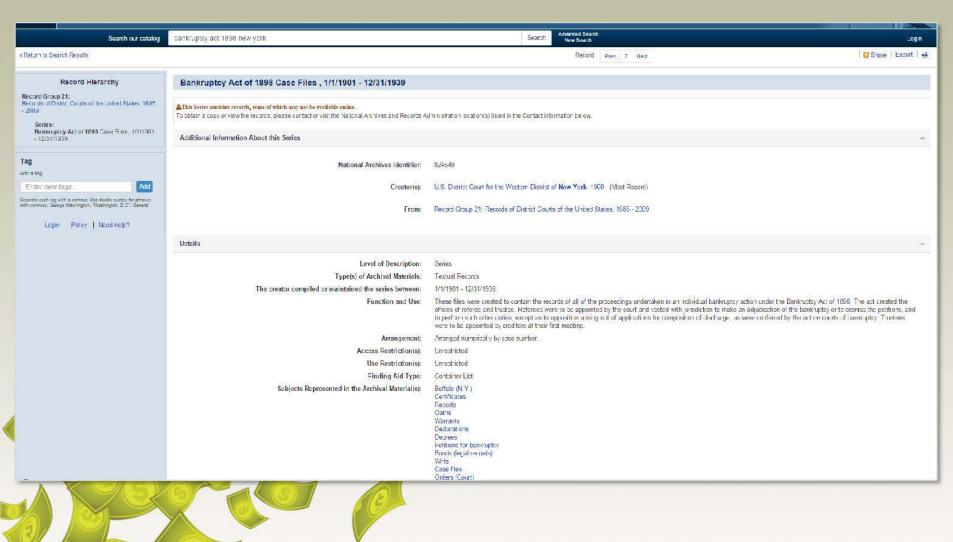
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## Detailed Description – Top Section



## Detailed Description – Bottom Section

Debtor and creditor

#### Scope & Content

The case files contain the petition for bankruptcy, various schedules, and related papers, including petitions for discharge, orders of publication and notices to creditors, reports by commissioners, schedules containing inventories of bankrupt assets, appointments, declarations of discharge, final certificates, and record of payment of costs.

A typical file may include the following:

\*Debtor's Petition

\*Schedule A - Statement of All Debts of Bankruptcy

\*Schedule A-1 - Statement of all Creditors Who are to be Paid in Full

\*Schedule A-2 - Creditors Holding Securities

\*Schedule A-3 - Creditors Whose Claims are Unsecured

\*Schedule A-4 - Liabilities on Notes or Bills

\*Schedule A-5 - Accommodation Paper

\*Oath to Schedule A

\*Schedule B - Statement of All Property

\*Schedule B-1 - Real Estate

\*Schedule B-2 - Personal Property

\*Schedule B-3 - Choses in Action (Debts, stocks, insurance policies, unliquidated claims, deposits of money)

\*Schedule B-4 - Property in Reversion

\*Schedule B-5 - Property Claimed as exempted

\*Schedule B-6 - Books, Deeds, etc. relating to Bankrupt's business

\*Oath to Schedule B

\*Summary of Debts and Assets

The files may also contain various orders, petitions, returns, decrees, warrants, writs and other papers of the Court. These papers include the Order of Adjudication and Reference, Appointment and Acceptance of Trustee, Bond of Trustee, Petition for Discharge, Report of Trustee and Reference on Discharge, Discharge of Bankrupt, Statement of Costs, Order of Approxing the Trustee's Bond, Order Approxing Trustee's Report of Exemptions, and Final Examination of the Bankrupt along with various notices to creditors and certificates of mailing notices.

The files in this series represent only a sample of the cases filed in this court during this time period. Cases were screened for permanent value and disposed of or kept accordingly.

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## Additional Online Resources

- The Evolution of U.S. Bankruptcy Law by the United States Courts: http://www.rib.uscourts.gov/newhome/docs/the\_evelution\_of\_bankruptcy\_law.pdf
- Select bankruptcy records on microfilm from the Bankruptcy Act of 1800:

http://www.archives.gov/publications/microfilm-catalogs/fed-courts/part-03.html

History of the Federal Judicial – Bankruptcy Courts:
 http://www.fjc.gov/history/home.nsf/page/courts\_special\_bank.html

## Questions???

Email: kansascity.archives@nara.gov

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