

## The first responsibility of a Register of Probate is “Preservation of Records”

2019 has proven to be another busy year at the Androscoggin Register of Probate office – We have exceeded the number of cases/dockets filed by this time last year. The challenge for us is, we’re running out of space for our files. Our first docket was filed in in Androscoggin in 1854 and currently we average 550 filings a year – That fills about one large four draw filing cabinet.

We are in the process of laying the groundwork to transition from the old tri-fold filing to a modern flat filing system which will accommodate filings and records for decades to come. To accommodate this requires us to structurally reinforce the floors of our office. To that end we are appealing to the commissioners and budget committee to provide the required funding for this project for the 2020 fiscal year. The project in its entirety is expected to take us into the year 2021 and will be a lot of work but, we’re very much looking forward to this transition.

Here in the Androscoggin County probate office, we’re also Passport Acceptance Agents. In 2018 we accepted 894 Passport application which is not only a valued service to members of our community but, also increases revenues which otherwise wouldn’t be appreciated and offsets the tax burden to residents of our county.

This month our Deputy Register, Julie Bertrand is celebrating 11 years at the Probate Office and in September our clerk, Sharon Shales will have been with us 2 years – Congratulations and thank you both for your dedicated work!