

U.S. Immigration Records

Their History, Content, and How to Find Them

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Introduction

The pursuit of an American genealogy will almost certainly lead to ancestry beyond the geographic borders of the United States of America. This country is a land of immigrants and it is young in historical terms. Even those of us who can claim Native American heritage have other ancestry as well. The pursuit of our roots will at some point involve the emigration of our ancestors; the where and why of their decision to leave a country of their birth and move to a new, distant and unfamiliar land.

In 1820 the federal government began keeping customs passenger lists at the various ports of entry. Between 1820 and 1990, nearly 57 million immigrants came to this country. The number of new arrivals through the 1990s has been around 1 million annually. It has been estimated that another 400,000 arrived between the establishment of the first colony in 1607 and 1820. Thus the total number of immigrants seeking opportunity in the United States from colonial days to date is somewhere in the vicinity of 68 million persons. Based on available statistics from the U.S. Bureau of Census' "Historical Statistics of the United States, Colonial Times to 1970" and recent updates produced by the Bureau of Census and the Immigration and Naturalization Service, the number of immigrants who came from Germany or Eastern Europe between 1820 and 1990 represent slightly more than 35% of the total immigration occurring during that period.

The colonial arrivals were predominately English thus already holding citizenship in the English colonies. Immigration from the United Kingdom represented 15-20% of the annual immigration between 1820 and 1890. Following the American Revolution, the largest group of immigrants came from Ireland. The Irish Potato Famine of the 1840s resulted in nearly 1.7 million Irish immigrants between 1840 and 1860. Beginning in the 1840s, due to economic depression and the revolutions occurring throughout central Europe, the Germans began coming in large numbers. Over 4 million German immigrants arrived between 1840 and 1900. Other major immigration patterns caused by poverty, lack of farmland, overpopulation of their home countries or religious persecution included:

- 5 million eastern Europeans between 1880 and 1930.
- 4 million Italians between 1890 and 1930.
- 2.5 million Jews between 1880 and 1930.
- 1.5 million Scandinavians between 1880 and 1910.

More recent major immigrations include Hispanics from Mexico and the Caribbean seeking employment or freedom from repressive governments, and Southeast Asians following the Vietnam War.

Table 1 below is a breakdown of the total immigration and those from Germany or Eastern Europe by 10 year periods as collected from the passenger lists and immigration documents between 1820 and 1990.

Given this background showing the significance of immigration in the creation of the American population

	Total Immigration	From Germany/ Eastern Europe
1820-1830	151,824	7,839
1831-1840	599,125	153,100
1841-1850	1,713,251	435,282
1851-1860	2,598,214	953,288
1861-1870	2,314,824	807,415
1871-1880	2,812,191	916,385
1881-1890	5,246,613	2,431,844
1891-1900	3,687,564	2,764,988
1901-1910	8,795,386	5,613,798
1911-1920	5,735,811	2,881,268
1921-1930	4,107,209	1,047,678
1931-1940	528,431	179,401
1941-1950	1,035,039	302,377
1951-1960	2,515,479	676,089
1961-1970	3,321,677	325,029
1971-1980	4,493,314	231,621
1981-1990	7,338,062	339,506

base, one of the major stumbling blocks in the gathering of the facts about our ancestors remains the ability to get beyond the borders of this country. Knowing where the immigrant ancestor originated and how he or she arrived in this land is a major hurdle for many family historians. In attempt to fill this void, immigration records are one of the most desirable record types sought in hopes of answers to these questions. The desired goal is to find a record in the ancestral home such as in figure 1.

In addition to providing the birth, death and marriage information for the parents and naming the grandparents, this record confirms the birth dates of children (4) Marie Anna, (5) Appollonia, (7) Mattheus, and (10) Verena Walser and includes annotations that they all emigrated to "Amerika"

The intent of this article is to discuss the various records pertaining to immigration to the United States, some of the background and history surrounding them, what they may contain, some suggestions on how to locate them and finally some alternative sources of information to consider if the records can't be found or fail to provide the desired information.

Habsburg, Kremsmühl				
Bd. I, 60				
Immigrant	Immigrant	Immigrant	Immigrant	Immigrant
1. Josef Altmann, Toge in Kremsmühl. 27. 10. 1835.	2. Maj 1834.	3. Winkler, Regina 2. 6. 1837.	4. 18. 1837.	5. 18. 1837.
6. 18. 1837.	7. 18. 1837.	8. 18. 1837.	9. 18. 1837.	10. 18. 1837.
11. 18. 1837.	12. 18. 1837.	13. 18. 1837.	14. 18. 1837.	15. 18. 1837.
16. 18. 1837.	17. 18. 1837.	18. 18. 1837.	19. 18. 1837.	20. 18. 1837.
21. 18. 1837.	22. 18. 1837.	23. 18. 1837.	24. 18. 1837.	25. 18. 1837.
26. 18. 1837.	27. 18. 1837.	28. 18. 1837.	29. 18. 1837.	30. 18. 1837.
31. 18. 1837.	32. 18. 1837.	33. 18. 1837.	34. 18. 1837.	35. 18. 1837.
36. 18. 1837.	37. 18. 1837.	38. 18. 1837.	39. 18. 1837.	40. 18. 1837.
41. 18. 1837.	42. 18. 1837.	43. 18. 1837.	44. 18. 1837.	45. 18. 1837.
46. 18. 1837.	47. 18. 1837.	48. 18. 1837.	49. 18. 1837.	50. 18. 1837.
51. 18. 1837.	52. 18. 1837.	53. 18. 1837.	54. 18. 1837.	55. 18. 1837.
56. 18. 1837.	57. 18. 1837.	58. 18. 1837.	59. 18. 1837.	60. 18. 1837.
61. 18. 1837.	62. 18. 1837.	63. 18. 1837.	64. 18. 1837.	65. 18. 1837.
66. 18. 1837.	67. 18. 1837.	68. 18. 1837.	69. 18. 1837.	70. 18. 1837.
71. 18. 1837.	72. 18. 1837.	73. 18. 1837.	74. 18. 1837.	75. 18. 1837.
76. 18. 1837.	77. 18. 1837.	78. 18. 1837.	79. 18. 1837.	80. 18. 1837.
81. 18. 1837.	82. 18. 1837.	83. 18. 1837.	84. 18. 1837.	85. 18. 1837.
86. 18. 1837.	87. 18. 1837.	88. 18. 1837.	89. 18. 1837.	90. 18. 1837.
91. 18. 1837.	92. 18. 1837.	93. 18. 1837.	94. 18. 1837.	95. 18. 1837.
96. 18. 1837.	97. 18. 1837.	98. 18. 1837.	99. 18. 1837.	100. 18. 1837.

Fig. 1 - Page from the Family Register of St. Verena's
Kath. Pfarrramt in Rot a/d Rot, Germany

Historical Background

There are two basic types of records created in the immigration process; the arrival records, and for those who pursued citizenship, the naturalization records. An understanding of these records and what information they provide requires an understanding of the laws that established them.

Regarding the availability of these records, the researcher needs to be aware that not all immigrants pursued citizenship although that was the means of obtaining voting rights, holding public office and also sometimes the having the right to own real property. There were also some other ways in which groups of people obtained citizenship without leaving either arrival or naturalization records; those who became citizens by purchase, treaty or legislation. The acquisition of the Louisiana Territory in 1803, Florida in 1819 and Alaska in 1867 granted U.S. citizenship to the inhabitants of those territories. Citizenship was granted by Acts of Congress to the residents of Texas in 1845, Hawaii in 1900, Puerto Rico in 1917 and the Virgin Islands in 1927. By the treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo in 1848, U.S.

citizenship was granted to the residents of California and New Mexico territory. Other groups gained citizenship by law or by Amendments to the U.S. Constitution. Former slaves obtained citizenship by the 14th Amendment in 1868. One of the last groups to obtain full citizenship were the indigenous peoples; the Native Americans living on tribal land in 1924. For all of the peoples who received citizenship via acquisitions, treaty, Act of Congress or law, there would be no citizenship documentation in the form of naturalization records. The only documentation may be those documents created to validate title to ownership of private lands transferred under these conditions.

Part I - Arrival Records

Baggage Lists

The first legislative act to result in the creation of any form of lists identifying passengers to America was an act of 1799 - "An Act to Regulate the Collection of Duties on Imports and Tonnage". A clause in this act provided for an exemption of passengers on cargo ships from having to pay duty for their personal belongings and the tools of their trade. Ship captains were to prepare passenger manifests naming passengers and describing their baggage. Only the port of Philadelphia is known to have complied with this act thus there is a form of passenger lists for at least some of those persons who came into that port on cargo ships between 1800 and 1819. The lists have been transcribed and are available in "Passenger Arrivals at the Port of Philadelphia 1800-1819", Michael Trepper, ed. (Baltimore: Genealogical Pub. Co., 1986).

Passenger Lists

The first type of generally available record in the immigration process is the passenger list or manifest. The information required on these lists has varied over time in response to legislation. The purpose of the legislation was to provide some controls over immigration into this country, primarily for the purpose of protecting the immigrants. Poor conditions onboard ships due to overcrowding had resulted in high numbers of deaths during the crossing. The first piece of legislation which specified information to be collected in the form of passenger lists was the "Steerage Act of 1819". One of its provisions was limiting the number of passengers that could be transported to two for every five tons of the ships' weight. It was this legislation that established the requirement for reporting immigration to the United States by requiring that passenger lists for all arriving vessels be delivered to the local Collector of Customs with copies to be transmitted to the Secretary of State. The As a result, the Customs Passenger Lists for most ports begin about 1820. The information collected as a result of this Act included:

- Name
- Age
- Sex
- Occupation or calling

- Country to which the passenger owed allegiance
- Country of his/her intention to become an inhabitant
- There were various immigration acts enacted in 1847, 1848 and 1855 which were designed to further affect the overcrowded conditions that most immigrants faced onboard ships. These Acts did not make any significant changes to the reporting criteria of the passenger lists. The
- Sex
- Occupation or calling
- Country to which passenger is a citizen
- Intended destination
- Location of passage onboard the ship (1st class cabin, 2nd class cabin, steerage, etc.)
- Number of pieces of baggage

COPY of Report and List of the Passengers taken on board the *Cumberland* R. John N. B. whereof *John N. B.* is Master, burthen *42* tons and is the of a ton, bound from the Port of *Boston* for *Boston*

NAME	AGE	SEX	Occupation, Trade or Profession	Country to which they severally belong	Country of which they intend to become inhabitants	Remarks relative to any who may have died or left the vessel during the voyage
<i>C. Ryan</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>Male</i>		<i>A. Britain</i>	<i>U.S.</i>	
<i>Edw. H. do</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>Female</i>				
<i>John do</i>	<i>1</i>					
<i>L. do</i>	<i>13</i>					
<i>May do</i>	<i>20</i>					
<i>do do</i>	<i>14</i>					
<i>do do</i>	<i>35</i>					
<i>do do</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>Male</i>				
<i>John Ward</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>Female</i>				
<i>do do</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>Male</i>				
<i>do do</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>Female</i>				
<i>do do</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>Male</i>				
<i>do do</i>	<i>25</i>					

Fig. 2 - Passenger list of the ship "Cumberland" arriving in Boston from New Brunswick on 27 Jan 1841. The entries include the name of the passenger, age, sex, occupation, country to which they severally belong, county that they intend to become inhabitants, and a remarks section for deaths on the voyage or persons leaving the vessel during the voyage.

first legislation changing the passenger list information collection and reporting requirements that had been established by the *Steerage Act of 1819* was the *Immigration Act of 1882*. A major intent of this Act was to improve the conditions of passage by specifying the space allocated to each passenger, separation of the sexes, ventilation, food preparation and hospital facilities. This Act required that the lists include the location of passage onboard the ship, the number of pieces of baggage, the intended destination for each passenger, and their native country. The *Steerage Act of 1819* had required the listing of the country to which the passenger owed allegiance. This may or may not have been not be the same as the native country thus the *Immigration Act of 1882* provides additional information for genealogists although as can be seen in the example below, not all passenger lists compiled completely with the reporting requirements. Figure 3 is an example of a passenger list created to conform to the reporting requirements of 1882. The information collected includes:

- Name
- Age in years and months

The *Immigration Act of 1882* was also the first piece of immigration legislation designed to control immigration. Prior to this act, unrestricted immigration was encouraged. However, the areas around ports of destination were beginning to feeling economic pressure as more and more indigent immigrants were unable to provide for themselves and became a burden on the local governments for their support. The *Act of 1882* provided for the exclusion of lunatics, idiots, persons likely to become public charges and foreign convicts (except those convicted of political offenses). A fifty-cent head tax was also allowed for customs inspectors to defray their costs in processing immigrants. The passenger lists themselves did not, at this time, include information to be used for exclusionary purposes.

In 1891, Congress again passed legislation to further restrict immigration. The classes of persons designated as inadmissible were expanded to include persons suffering from certain contagious diseases, felons, polygamists, and aliens whose payment of passage was assisted by others. Use of advertisements to encourage immigration were also disallowed by the *Immigration Act of 1891*. This Act did not

IN PROBATION COURT.
"The Register & Co., 1861."

District of the City of New York, Port of New York.

I, Henry Ransom Master of the S.S. Britannic do solemnly, sincerely and truly swear that the following list of passengers, subscribed by me, and now delivered by me to the Collector of the Customs of the City of New York, is a full and perfect list of all the passengers taken on board the said vessel at Liverpool & Newcastle from which port said vessel has now arrived; and that on said list is truly designated the age, the sex, and the calling of each of said passengers, the location of the compartment or space occupied by each during the passage, the names of passengers of each, and also the names and location of each of those who died; and that said List or Manifest truly sets forth the number of said passengers who have died on said voyage, and the names and ages of those who died; also of the names of passengers of each; also a true statement as far as it can be ascertained, with reference to the intention of each alien passenger as to a permanent sojourn in this country. So help me God.

Given in the City of New York, this 1st day of June 1861.

before me, John W. Adams Clerk of the District Court of the City of New York.

List of Manifest On all the Passengers taken on board the S.S. Britannic whereof Henry Ransom is Master, from Liverpool to New York.

No.	Name	Age	Sex	Calling	The Country of which they are Citizens	Intended Residence in America	Location of Compartment or Space Occupied	Number of Passengers of each Calling	Intended Residence in America
1	Isabella Mancilla	25	F	Servant	England	U. S. A.	Liverpool	1	England
2	Rose Mancilla	22	F	"	"	"	"	1	"
3	Mary E. Allen	24	F	"	"	"	"	1	"
4	John Donny	54	M	Labourer	"	"	Stowage	1	"
5	Sarah "	50	F	Wife	"	"	Stowage Room	1	"
6	Emily "	40	F	Servant	"	"	"	1	"
7	Abel "	44	F	Spinster	"	"	Stowage	1	"
8	Frank "	11	M	Child	"	"	"	1	"
9	East Ingarty	21	F	Servant	"	"	"	1	"
10	Elizabeth Greenhall	35	F	Wife	"	"	"	1	"
11	Flance "	11	F	Child	"	"	"	1	"

make any changes to the information collected on the passenger lists but initiated expanded discussion in Congress leading to even more restrictions and more information collection. The intent of this legislation was not only to further curb immigration by persons likely to become dependent on local jurisdictions for their support, but also to curb the influx of low-wage labor that was being encouraged by businesses willing to pay for the passage in return for contracted work agreements.

- 3 Age (years, months)
- 4 Sex
- 5 Married or Single
- 6 Calling or Occupation
- 7 Able to Read, Write
- 8 Nationality (Country of which a citizen or subject)
- 9 Race or People
- 10 Last Permanent Residence (country and town)
- 11 The name and complete address of nearest relative or
friend in country from whence alien came
- 12 Final Destination (State and City or Town)
- 13 No. on list (2nd half of page)
- 14 Whether having a ticket to such final destination (yes
or no)
- 15 By whom was passage paid?
- 16 Whether in possession of \$50 and if less, how much?
- 17 Whether ever before in the United States and if so, when
and where (year or period of years, where)
- 18 Whether going to join a relative or friend and if so, what
relative or friend, and his name and complete
address
- 19 Ever in prison, almshouse, or insane asylum, or
supported by charity, and if so, which
- 20 Whether a Polygamist
- 21 Whether an Anarchist
- 22 Whether coming by reason of any offer, solicitation, or
agreement, express or implied to perform labor in
the United States
- 23 Condition of Health, Mental and Physical
- 24 Deformed or Crippled, nature, length of time and cause
- 25 Height (feet and inches)
- 26 Complexion

- 27 Color of Hair and Eyes
- 28 Marks of Identification
- 29 Place of Birth (County and City or Town)

Figure 4 is an example of a post 1907 passenger list including all of these fields.

It should also be noted that not all ports complied with the current regulations and therefore used outdated passenger list forms. Figure 5 is a passenger list from San Francisco in 1903 that only includes information required by the *Immigration Act of 1882*.

In 1924 a major change in the content of passenger lists occurred as the Immigration and Naturalization Service began the requirement of immigrant visas as the official

1938 that provides the following information:

- Name
- Age in years and months
- Sex
- Marital status
- Occupation or calling
- Able to read and write and what language
- Nationality
- Race or people
- Place of birth (country and city/town)
- Type of entry document (immigrant visa, passport, re-entry permit), date and place issued
- Last permanent residence (country and city/town)

Fig. 4 - Passenger list of the S.S. Floride from Le Harve to New York arriving on 15 May 1909

arrival record. Passenger lists no longer were used to create Certificates of Arrival as the proof of legal entry into the United States. As a result, the information collected on passenger lists was no longer as extensive as had been previously required. Figure 6 shows a passenger list from

From 1924 to 1944 Visa applications provided all of the information required by immigration laws. Figure 7A and B on the following page is a Quota Immigration Visa for Basia Chtourman (Ternoff Schturman). In her application, she states that she is 76 years of age having been born in

Fig. 5 - Passenger list of the ship "Korea" from Hong Kong, China and Japan, to San Francisco.

[illegible]

Ustingrad, Russian in 1850. Her last residence was Niga, Latvia. She speaks Yiddish and is seeking the visa for the purpose of permanently joining her son who is an American citizen living in Buffalo, New York. The application includes several questions regarding physical characteristics, health and past activities of the same type previously asked in the passenger lists.

American Consular Service

at RIGA, LATVIA.

QUOTA
Immigration Visa

*Nagregenerate ☐
Profession ☒

Pasport No. 31014, issued by Soviet
SUSSEX
authorities, Kiev, Russia
on the 20th
day of December, A.D. 1926, valid
until the 30th day of January
A.D. 1928

No. 840

Russian Russian
(Quota) (Signature)

Date: February End, 1927

For the journey to the
United States.

REASON:

The Honorable Basil CHROMSKAN, who
(Ternoff Scherzheim)
is of Russian nationality, having
(Citizen or subject.)
been seen and examined, is classified as a Quota Immigrant and is granted this Immigration Visa, pursuant
to the Immigration Act of 1926.

The validity of this Immigration Visa, expires on
the 2nd day of June
A.D. 1927

Vice Consul _____ of the
United States of America.
The No. _____

Note: This Immigration Visa will not entitle the
person to whom issued to enter the United States im-
mediately upon arrival in the United States, he is bound to be
admissible to the United States under the Immigration
Laws (Subscription (a), Section 2, Immigration
Act of 1924).

*Check appropriate classification

*Fig. 7A - Quota Immigrant Visa for Basia Chourman
(image obtained from the Immigration & Naturalization
Service Website)*

complete. Many were destroyed by fire. State Department transcripts and other sources have been used to reconstruct some of the lost records. Incomplete card indexes to them cover the period 1820-1897. Likewise the passenger lists for Boston were destroyed in a fire in 1883 but copies and those records submitted to the State Department have been used to reconstruct most of the records with the notable exception of a ten-year gap from 1874 to 1883. The Boston lists have been indexed 1820-1874. New Orleans records have been incompletely indexed for 1820-1903 in three different indexes available at the National Archives. New York received the largest number of immigrant passengers of all of the ports and the lists are complete from 1820 to 1897. The lists from 1820-1846 have been indexed under the WPA. More recently, the Ellis Island Website [<http://www.ellisland.org>] has provided an on-line index to the immigrants who passed through that facility between 1892 and 1924. The records of Philadelphia are the best indexed. The *“Index to Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at Philadelphia 1800-1906”* contains records from both the Philadelphia baggage lists (1800-1819) and the passenger lists (1820-1906).

A thorough discussion of the extent and type of record holdings for each of these ports as well as the other minor ports is presented in Michael Tepper's "*American Passenger Arrival Records*" (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1993). For those that are indexed, the indexes are typically card files containing all of the information provided on the

[illegible]

*Fig. 7B - Quota Immigrant Visa for Basia Chourman
(image obtained from the Immigration & Naturalization
Service Website)*

actual list. Since these cards are a transcription, the original record should be reviewed for any differences. The Ellis Island Website is also indexed by extraction. The original manifests are also available for viewing on the Website and can be used to compare the extracted information with that listed in the original source record. Some errors have been found in the spelling of towns of origin so be sure and check the original. Figure 8 below is an example of an index card to the port of San Francisco's passenger lists (1893-1938).

If an index does not exist and the desired record has not been published, the only recourse is to conduct a ship-by-ship search of the lists kept at each port in the time period of interest unless other sources such as the Hamburg Emigration Lists may help. Many of the ships arriving at a port can be quickly eliminated from consideration by checking the port of departure and ethnicity of the passengers.

Family name MASARSKAYA		Given name LEPA		17879/19-10	
Place of birth (town, country, etc.) WITIPSY, RUSSIA		Age 5	Yrs. 5	Sex N	Complexion KCEE
First name HEPREN	Nationality RUSSIA	Last permanent residence (town, country, etc.) HARFIN, RUSSIA			
Name and address of nearest relative or friend in country whence about origin DR. KALPYAN, HARFIN, RUSSIA					
Ever in U.S. NO	From	To	Where	Passage paid by NOTED	
Destination, and name and address of relative or friend to join there NEW YORK, N.Y. WITH MOTHER (FATHER) S. MASARSKY, 329 AVE. 7TH ST.					
Money shown OVER	Ever arrested and deported or expelled from admission NO		Reason for status J		
Height 5 8	Weight 11	Complexion DARK	Hair BROWN	Eyes BLUE	Disfiguring marks NONE
Port of origin and date of landing and name of ship S.F. CALIF. JUNE 30, 1918 S.S. KOREA MARU					

Fig. 8 - San Francisco Passenger List Index Card for Lepa Masarskaya, a 5 year old girl from Harpin, Russia whose destination is New York City to join her parents. She arrived on the ship S.S. Korea Maru on 30 Jun 1918.

Another consideration in researching passenger lists is the use of Canadian ports by immigrants to the United States. As word spread in Europe about the restrictive controls on immigration, especially after the *Immigration Act of 1891*, many immigrants chose to take passage to a Canadian port and then take rail passage to the United States. Until 1895, there were no controls on border crossings from Canada. By that year, it was estimated that forty percent of passengers arriving at Canadian ports (Quebec, Montreal, St. Johns and Halifax) were actually destined to the United States. In 1894 the United States and Canada formalized an agreement to allow inspectors at Canadian ports to inspect U.S. bound immigrants. The lists created by these inspections were kept from 1895 through 1954 and are known as the St. Albans (Vermont) Lists.

Part II -Naturalization Records

The next classes of records created as a result of immigration are those produced in the naturalization process. Following the American Revolution in 1776, each state was left to its own in establishing rules for citizenship. For the most part, those who supported the cause and chose American citizenship following the Revolution were considered citizens of the new country. Those who chose to remain British citizens were forced to move as enemy aliens.

During the Revolution, there was a concerted effort to encourage the foreign troops in British service to defect by giving land and citizenship to those who did regardless of their nationality or religion. This effort provided U.S. citizenship to many of the Hessian troops that had been in the British army. During the Revolution and until 1783 when the Treaty of Paris was signed, there wasn't any new immigration because of the British blockade of the colonies.

The first U.S. naturalization act was established in 1790 to establish uniformity of the conditions for citizenship. Since then, the Federal government has controlled the naturalization process while allowing the States to administer it. The *Naturalization Act of 1790* allowed any free white person over the age of 21, who met the requirements, to apply for citizenship. The requirements included two years of residence in the United States, one year in the state of current residence, a finding by the court that the applicant was of good moral character, and the taking of an oath of allegiance. Any common law court of record could process the naturalization thus any Federal court or any local court given jurisdiction by the state could and did perform naturalizations. As a result, records may be found in Federal, State, city or county courts. Wives and children under the age of 21 obtained citizenship via the husband's naturalization. Figure 9 is an example of a record granting citizenship under the conditions in the Act of 1790.

This record was created in 1796, after the next naturalization act that, among other things, changed the residency requirements to five years. The example demonstrates the fact that many courts did not keep up with current laws and continued to use older requirements. The petition was filed in the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas. The only information in this document that relates to the immigrant's origin is the indication that he was a native of "Mayence in Germany" and that he was renouncing his allegiance to the Elector of Mayence. Note that although this petition is dated 1796 and the pre-printed form indicates that he was a resident "on the twenty-ninth day of January, 1795", the residency requirements stated on the form refer to the Act of 1790, not the Act of 1795.

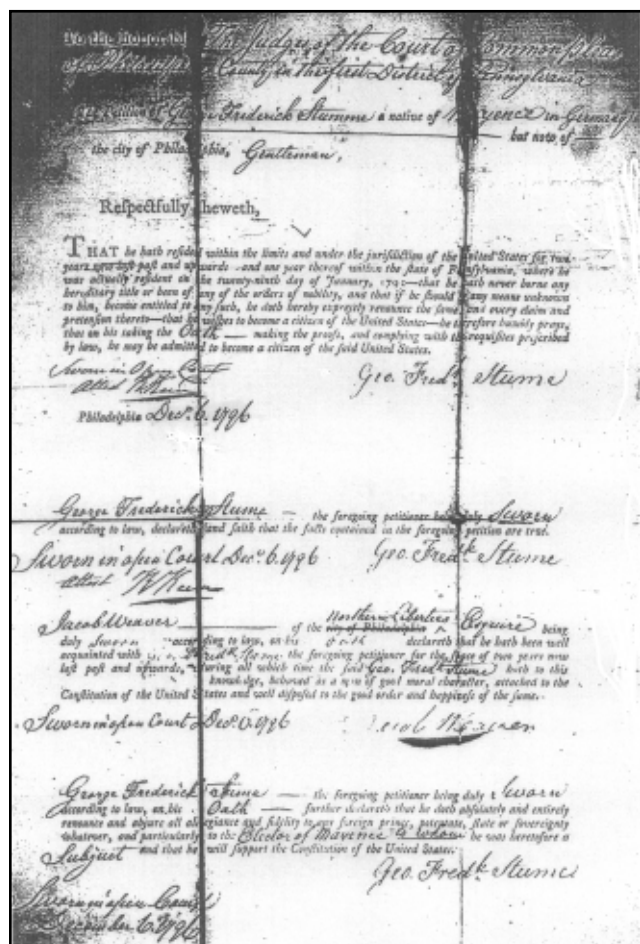


Fig. 9 - Petition for Naturalization of George Frederick Stumme, 6 Dec 1796

As a result of the fear that the fast growing number of political refugees, especially those with hereditary titles escaping the French Revolution, might threaten the newly won concepts of liberty, Congress tightened the processes of naturalization. In 1795 the *Naturalization Act of 1790* was repealed and replaced with another Act that established the two-step process that has remained in place since. The major features of the *Naturalization Act of 1795* was the requirement to have been a resident of the United States for

at least five years and to have filed a "Declaration of Intent" to become a citizen at least three years before filing the "Petition for Citizenship". These two documents are also known as the "first" and "second" or "final" papers. The residency requirement was also changed to two years of residency in the state in which the application was made. In addition to the oath of allegiance, it was required that the applicant renounce allegiance to any other foreign power and also to renounce all claims to any hereditary title or order of nobility. Wives and children continued to obtain citizenship from the husband's naturalization but single women over the age of 21 could apply separately for citizenship.

By 1798 the United States was not only on unfriendly terms with Great Britain but also with France. The Federalist Party, led by the second President John Adams, was at philosophical odds with the Democratic-Republican Party led by Thomas Jefferson. Jefferson and the Democratic-Republicans were sympathetic to the concept of the "rights of man" which arose out of the French Revolution. The Federalists were more inclined to a strong federal government and weaker states. At the same time Irish who were immigrating in large numbers tended to support Thomas Jefferson's Democratic-Republican Party rather than the Federalist Party. In response to these factors Congress, controlled by the Federalists, passed the *Alien and Sedition Acts of 1798*. One of these acts, the *Naturalization Act of 1798*, made major changes to the residency requirements that targeted the new immigrants. The major changes were the requirement for five years residency before filing of the first papers and fourteen years residency before filing the final papers. The Act also prohibited naturalization of immigrants from countries at war with the United States.

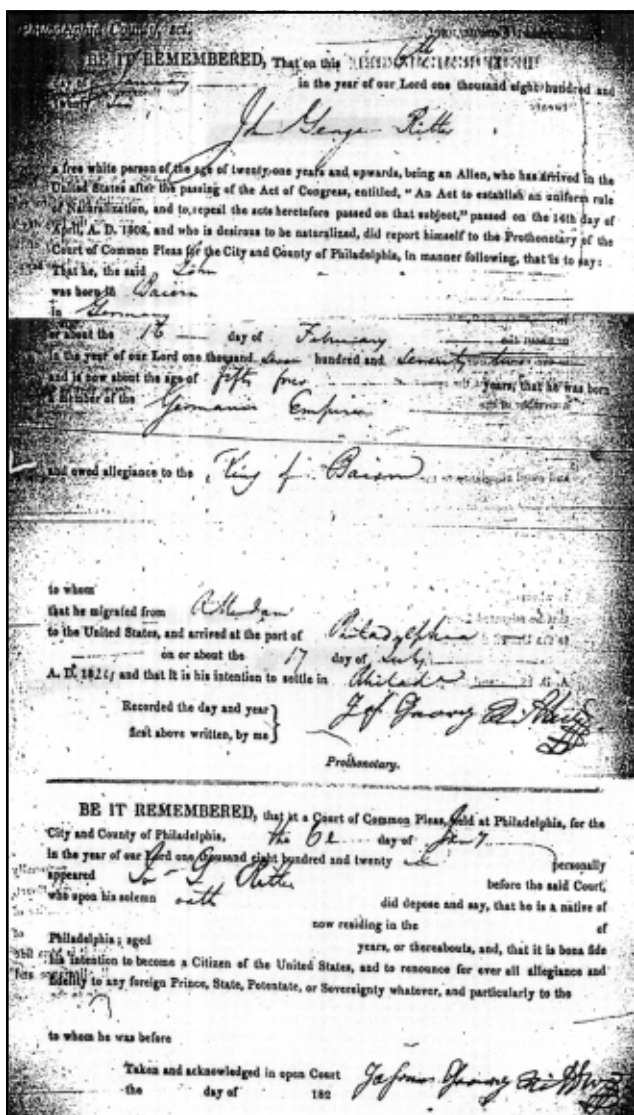
In 1802, following Thomas Jefferson's election to the presidency, the *Naturalization Act of 1798* was repealed and a new naturalization act was made returning the residency requirements to those established in 1795. Until the creation of the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization under the *Naturalization Act of 1906*, there were only minor changes to the requirements as set forth by the *Naturalization Act of 1802*. Some of the minor changes during this period were:

- 1804 - if a man died after he filed his Declaration of Intent but before he filed his final petition, his wife and minor children were considered as citizens if they came before a court and swore an oath of allegiance and renunciation.
- 1824 - the residency requirement from filing the Declaration of Intent was changed to two years instead of three and minor aliens who had lived in the U.S. for five years prior to their 23rd birthday could file both their Declaration of Intent and their final Petition simultaneously.
- 1855 - a woman who was or became married to an U.S. citizen was considered an U.S. citizen. This rule applied to her minor children and to women who continued to reside in their country of origin and came to the U.S. after their husband's naturalization or who married an U.S. citizen

abroad. They entered the U.S. as citizens rather than immigrants. As an aside, the nationality of women who were native U.S. citizens, but married an alien, was a gray area in the law. Women often gained citizenship in another country upon marriage to an alien. The question in the courts was whether or not they lost their U.S. citizenship as well. It wasn't until 1866 that the courts decided that a woman did not lose her U.S. citizenship unless she also left the United States.

- 1862 - Army veterans of any war could petition for naturalization without a prior Declaration of Intent after only one year of residency.
- 1872 - alien seamen serving on U.S. merchant ships for more than three years could become citizens without the residency requirement.

Fig. 12 - The Declaration of Intent for Johann George Ritter, 6 Jan 1826, Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas. This declaration provides the petitioner's birth date and country of birth [16 Feb 1772 in Baiern (Bavaria)] and also that he emigrated from Rotterdam and arrived at the port of Philadelphia on 17 July 1824

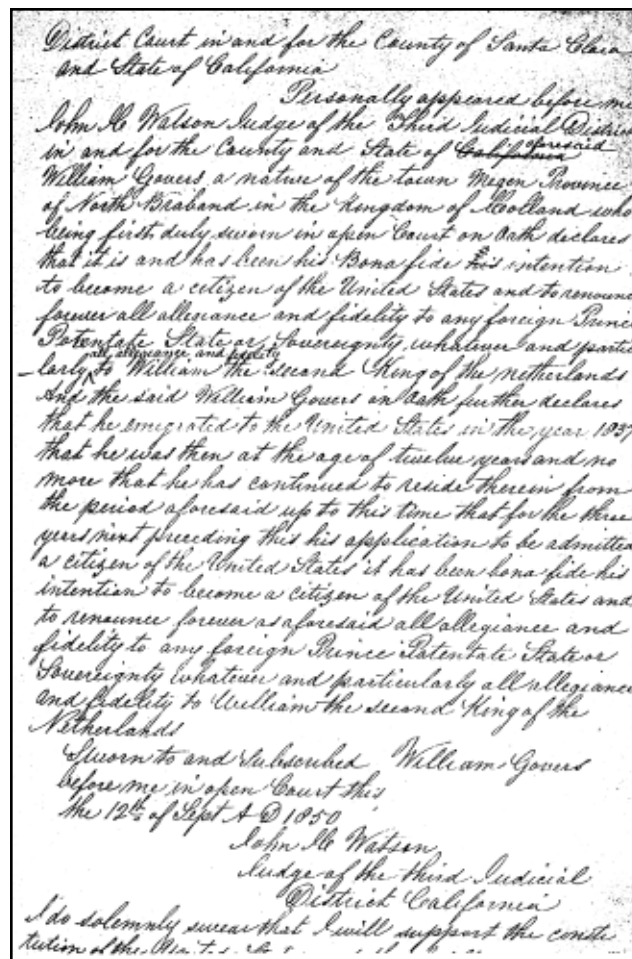


- 1894 - the provisions of the 1862 Act for Army veterans was applied to Navy and Marine Corps veterans as well.

During this period, federal courts as well as state and local courts continued to administer the naturalization process within the broad guidelines of the various Naturalization Acts. Each court established the format and content of the papers to be filed in the process. As a result, there is a wide variation in content and in the genealogical value of the documentation produced. Many courts adopted forms, some just entered the petition into the court records by hand. Figures 12-19 show the wide variation of naturalization papers.

The preceding documents are typical examples of the types of records created between 1802 and 1906. The information contained in early Declarations of Intent had to

Fig. 13 - A handwritten Petition for Naturalization for William Gavers, 12 Sep 1850, Santa Clara County, California, District Court. This petition indicates that he was native of the town of Megen, Province of North Brabant, Kingdom of Holland and that he emigrated to the United States in 1837 at the age of 12. This petition met the requirements of the changes made in 1824 to allow simultaneous filing of the Declaration of Intent and the Petition for Naturalization if the petitioner arrived as a minor and resided in the United States for at least 5 years




at least provide the alien's name, and the date and location of the declaration. Petitions for Naturalization required at least the alien's name, his country of birth, and the date and location of the petition. The format varied from county to county, state to state. Most documents do not provide much information regarding the date and place of birth.

In 1906, congress passed a new naturalization act that made major changes to the process of naturalization. The most significant change was the establishment of uniformity in the process. Up to this point the various courts of record

Fig. 15 - The Declaration of Intent for Frederick R. Glocker, 10 July 1868, Santa Clara County, California, District Court. This Declaration only indicates that Frederick was a subject of the Kingdom of Wuerttemberg

Declaration of Intention.



State of California, }
COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA. } ss.

Before the Clerk of the District Court of the Third Judicial District of the State of California, in and for the County of Santa Clara, appeared Frederick R. Glocker who being duly sworn upon his oath declares that it is his full intention to become a

CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

and to renounce forever, all allegiances and fidelity to all and any foreign Prince, Potentate, State, and Sovereignty, whatever: and particularly to the King dom of Wuerttemberg in Germany of which he is at present a subject, Frederick R. Glocker.

Subscribed and Sworn to before me, this the Tenth day of July A. D. 1868

Geo B. Newson Clerk.
By _____ Deputy Clerk.

Fig. 14 - Declaration of Intent for Jacob Machetanz, 9 Oct 1854, Santa Clara County, California, District Court. This Petition indicates that he intends to become a citizen of the United States and renounce his allegiance to the Grand Duke of Saxe Weimar. No other information is provided

Declaration of Jacob Machetanz

United States of America State of California
District Court for the County of Santa Clara

I, Jacob Machetanz do declare on oath, that it is his full intention to become a citizen of the United States, and to renounce forever all allegiance and fidelity to all and any foreign Prince, Potentate, State, and Sovereign, whatever; and particularly to the Grand Duke of Saxe Weimar of whom I was last a subject

Subscribed and sworn to, this Ninth day of October 1854 before me, J Machetanz
Geo B. Newson Clerk Filed Oct 9th 1854
By Levi P. Pope D. By Geo B. Newson Clerk

Fig. 16 - The Petition for Naturalization for Joseph Winterhalter, 17 Aug 1869, Santa Clara County, California, District Court. This Petition only indicates that he was native of Baden

In the County Court of Santa Clara County,
of the
State of California.

Present: E. Archer Judge.

In the matter of the Application of Joseph Winterhalter } August Term, A. D. 1869
AN ALIEN, }
To become a Citizen of the United States } 17th day of August
of America. } A. D. 1869, as yet of said Term.

It appearing to the satisfaction of this Court, by the oaths of Adam Halloway and Adam Hinkelbier citizens of the United States of America, witnesses for that purpose, first duly sworn and examined, that Joseph Winterhalter is a native of Baden

has resided within the limits and under the jurisdiction of the United States five years at least, last past, and within the State of California for one year last past; and that during all of said five years that he has behaved as a man of good moral character, attached to the principles of the Constitution of the United States, and well disposed to the good order and happiness of the same; and if also appearing to the Court, by competent evidence, that the said applicant has resided, and more than two years since, and in due form of law, declared his intention to become a citizen of the United States; and having now here, before this Court taken an oath that he will support the Constitution of the United States of America, and that he will absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to every foreign Prince, Potentate, State, or Sovereignty whatever, and particularly to the

It is therefore ordered, adjudged and decreed that the said Joseph Winterhalter be, and he is hereby admitted and declared to be a Citizen of the United States of America.

E. Archer Judge.

SIGNATURE: Joseph Winterhalter

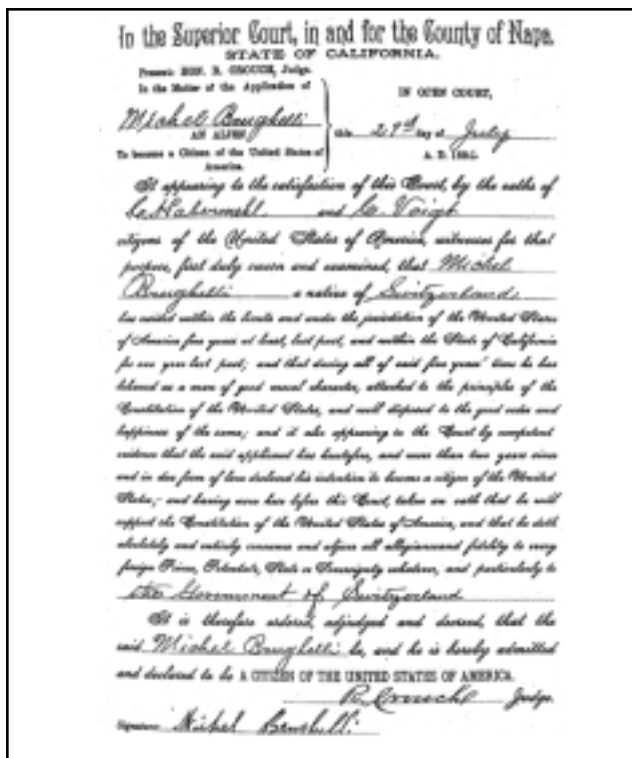


Fig. 17 - The Petition for Naturalization for Michel Brughelli, 29 July 1886, Napa Clara County, California, Superior Court. This Petition indicates that Michel was native of Switzerland

Fig. 18 - The Declaration of Intent for Andreas Bruchmüller, age 38, his indication to become a citizen of the U.S. and renounce his allegiance to the Grand Duke of Mecklenburg on 26 Dec. 1859 in the Clayton Co., Iowa District Court. No further information is provided

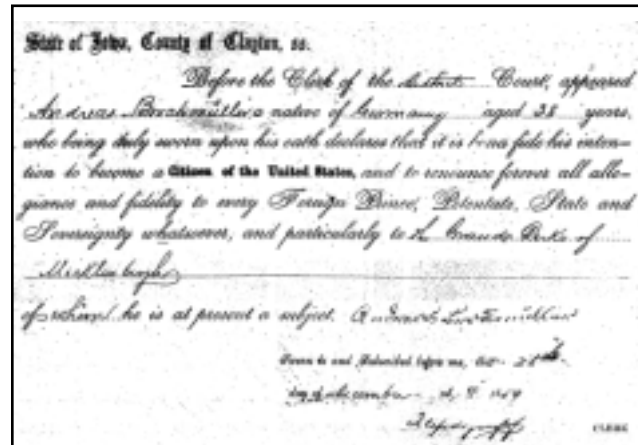
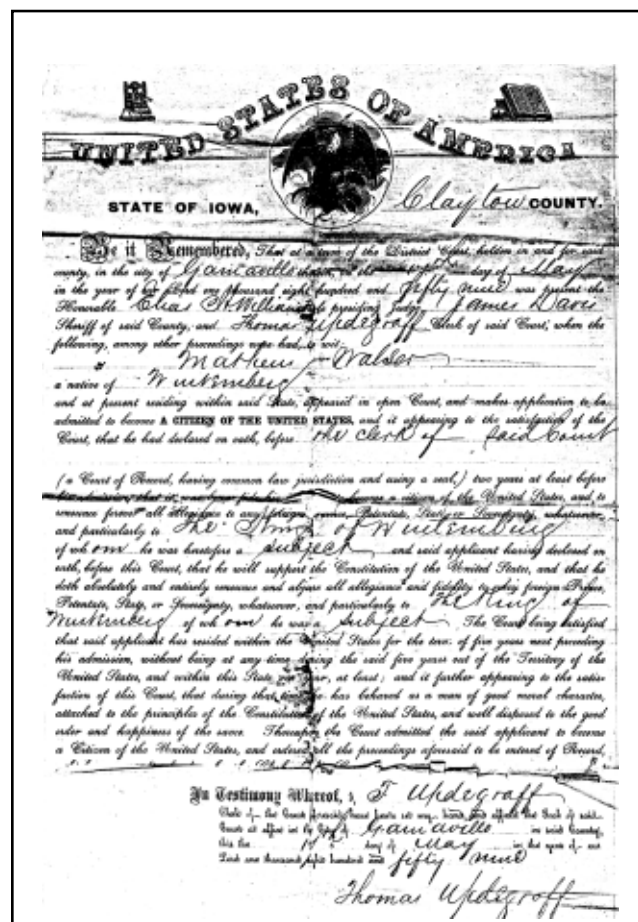


Fig. 19A - Petition for Naturalization for Mattheus Walser dated 17 May 1859 in the Clayton Co., Iowa District Court. He renounced his allegiance to the King of Wuerttemberg



Fig. 19B - Certificate of Naturalization given to Mattheus Walser upon the granting of his citizenship. Printed on an 11" by 16" sheet and used as proof of his citizenship



- name
- age

- occupation
- personal description
- date and place of birth
- current citizenship
- current address
- port of embarkation and entry
- name of the ship (or other means of conveyance)
- date of arrival in the U.S.
- if married, name, birth date and place of the spouse
- if children, names, birth dates, birth places and residences of each

In 1907 another Act made an important change affecting women. This Act determined that all women acquired their husband's nationality upon marriage. This change in particular impacted women who were U.S. citizens and then married aliens. The woman now lost her citizenship. This altered the court decision in 1866 that held

Fig. 20B - The Petition for Naturalization for Regina (Kraft) Paulsen, Sonoma Co., California Superior Court. After filing a Declaration of Intent in 1927, Regina Kraft married Willy J. A. Paulsen in 1928. In addition to the information provided in the Declaration of Intent, the Petition provides the date and place of her marriage and the date and place of Willy Paulsen's birth. If they had children, the dates and places of the children's birth would have been entered as well. The Petition also gives the date and court of record for where the Declaration of Intent had previously been filed

Form No. 100
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LANCE
IMMIGRATION SERVICE

TRIPPLICATE
To be filled out by
the immigrant

No. 1222
1294

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DECLARATION OF INTENTION

Not Valid for all purposes seven years after the date hereof

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, _____ in the _____ Court
COUNTY OF BUTTE, _____ of CALIFORNIA.

I, REGINA KRAFT aged 29 years,
occupation HOUSEWIFE, do declare on oath that my personal
description is: Caucasian, complexion Fair, height 5 feet 5 inches,
weight 140 pounds, color of hair Dark Brown, color of eyes Brown,
other visible distinctive marks None.

I was born in GERMANY-GERMANY
on the 16th day of November, anno Domini 1897. I now reside
at 522 S. W. PISTOLA, CALIFORNIA, BUTTE COUNTY.
(Give name, street, city, county and State)

I emigrated to the United States of America from GERMANY-GERMANY
on the vessel MAINA; my last
(If deceased, state date of death, by whom, the place of birth, and date of emigration, unless stated to the contrary)
foreign residence was GERMANY-GERMANY; I am not married; the name
of my wife is _____; I do not was born at _____
and now resides at _____.

It is my bona fide intention to renounce forever all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign
prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, and particularly to
THE GERMAN EMPIRE
of whom I am now a subject; I arrived at the port of NEW YORK
in the State of NEW YORK, on or about the ***** day
of DECEMBER, anno Domini 1923; I am not an anarchist; I am not a
polygamist nor a believer in the practice of polygamy; and it is my intention in good faith
to become a citizen of the United States of America and to permanently reside therein;
SO HELP ME GOD.

Regina Kraft
(Print name and signature)

Subscribed and sworn to before me in the office of the Clerk of
said Court this 10th day of March, anno Domini 1924

[SAL.] _____ W. S. OULSTON
Clerk of the _____ Court.
By W. S. Oulston DEPUTY Clerk.

No 4644

[illegible]

that only if the woman left the U.S. did she lose her citizenship. The 1907 provisions regarding women's citizenship were repealed with the *Act of 1922* that required women to file separately for citizenship. Derivative citizenship based on the husband's naturalization ceased. The *Act of 1922* also eliminated the residency requirement for filing a Declaration of Intent.



Fig. 20C - The Certificate of Arrival supporting the citizenship application of Regina (Kraft) Paulsen. This document dated 29 Sep 1929 is a certification by the Bureau of Naturalization that they were able to locate the record of legal entry by Regina on the S.S. Hansa arriving in New York on 2 Dec 1923

The only other major pieces of legislation affecting naturalization criteria were the *Act of 1918* which allowed aliens who served in the U.S. forces during World War I to be naturalized without a residency requirement, and the *1924 Citizen Act* which gave U.S. citizenship to all non-citizen Indians born in the territorial limits of the U.S. The later Act primarily affected Indians living on tribal reservations.

In 1924 a new Immigration Act established the "consular control system" of immigration. This required that aliens requesting entrance to the U.S. first obtain an immigration visa issued by an American consular officer abroad. The use of immigration visas replaced the need to verify legal entrance thus Certificates of Arrival ceased to be used.

In 1929, photographs were added to the Declaration of Intent. Actually, the photographs were included on the copy of the Declaration that was placed in the file with the Petition for Naturalization. Separate files for the Declarations and the Petitions were kept. If court files containing the Declarations of Intent are checked, the photograph will not be found, however, if the files containing the Petitions are checked, a copy of the Declaration including the photograph is attached to the Petition. Photographs were also included on the Certificate of Citizenship given to the new citizen.

Finding Naturalization Records

Not all immigrants to this country became naturalized citizens. The National Archives estimates that 25% of the persons of foreign birth listed in federal census records from 1890 through 1930 had not even filed for their first papers. Many immigrants, distrusting any government, sought anonymity and remained in ethnic communities with others of similar background, never seeking citizenship. Others did not fully understand the process and only partially

Fig. 21 - The Declaration of Intent for Crisostomo Virga, 22 May 1939, Sacramento Co., California Superior Court.

This record was found in the volume of Declarations. Note the instructions not to attach the photograph to this copy of the Declaration

completed the requirements for citizenship. The Homestead Act of 1862, enacted to encourage settlement of government lands, gave 160 acres of land to any citizen or "intended citizen". The only requirement was that the Declaration of Intent had been filed. Since many immigrants sought citizenship so they could own land, once that goal had been accomplished by the filing the first papers, the remainder of the process was not completed. In Wisconsin, the State Constitution gave the right to vote to persons who had only

Fig. 22 - A copy of the Declaration of Intent for Jose Maria Canhoto from the volume of Petitions of the Napa Co., California Superior Court

filed their first papers thus there wasn't even an incentive to get the right to vote through naturalization. Lax voting laws often allowed English speaking immigrants to pass as native-born citizens and once on voting rolls, a record of "citizenship" was established. For those immigrants who did complete the process or just completed the first

Fig. 23 - The Certificate of Citizenship given to Michael Gill upon his naturalization in the District Court of Chicago, Illinois, 3 Oct 1933

papers, the key to locating documents is knowing when and where they were likely created. Remember the eligibility requirements for filing the first and second papers to estimate when documents might have been created. Once the when is known, the next step is to determine where they might be. For naturalizations prior to 1906, remember that many courts had jurisdiction for processing citizenship. Check the Family History Library Catalog under both state and county level entries for "Naturalization and Citizenship." Also remember, that the location where the first papers were filed may not be the same as where the final papers were filed. There are various sources that can provide clues for where to look.

Census Records

One of the uses of census records is in locating the place of residence of the ancestor being researched. They provide an indication every tenth year of any movement by the person or family of interest.

The first federal census to provide an indication that a naturalization has taken place is the 1870 census. This census contains two fields that would indicate this status; the column for birthplace and a field to be checked indicating "male citizen eligible to vote".

The 1880 census did not contain any information to indicate citizenship status, only the place of birth for the individual and his/her parents. The 1900 through 1920 census provided a citizenship status field. For persons of foreign birth, the code in that field designated whether or not they were aliens "AL", naturalized "NA", or the first papers had been applied for "PA". These three censuses also list the year of immigration. The 1920 census goes a step further and lists the year of naturalization.

State census records may also provide desired information. The California Census of 1852 contains the state or country of birth and fields for the number of U.S. citizens over 21 and number of foreign residents. It also contains a field for the previous residence prior to arriving in California, thus an entry may show that the person was born in Germany but lived in Michigan prior to arriving in California. The 1855, 1865 and 1875 state census of New

Fig. 24 - The fields of interest in the 1870 census showing 10) place of birth, 11) father of foreign birth, 12) mother of foreign birth, 19) male citizen of U.S. over 21, 20) male citizen of U.S. over 21 whose right to vote is denied

10	PARENTAGE		CITIZENSHIP RELATIONS	
	11	12	19	20
Place of Birth, naming State or Territory of U. S. or the Country, if of foreign birth.	Father of foreign birth.	Mother of foreign birth.	Male Citizen of U. S. 21 Years of Age and up.	Male Citizen of U. S. 21 Years of Age and up. whose right to vote is denied.

NATIVITY.			CITIZENSHIP.		
Place of birth of each person and parents of each person enumerated. If born in the United States, give the State or Territory. If of foreign birth, give the Country only.					
Place of birth of this Person.	Place of birth of Father of this person.	Place of birth of Mother of this person.	Year of Immigration to the United States.	Number of years in the United States.	Naturalization.
13	14	15	16	17	18
Ireland	Ireland	Ireland	1886	14	Pa
Ireland	Ireland	Ireland	1881	19	

Fig. 25 - The fields of interest in the 1900 census showing 13) place of birth, 14) place of birth of father, 15) place of birth of mother, 16) Year of Immigration to the U.S., 17) Number of Years in the U.S., 18) Naturalization. In this example the first person immigrated in 1886 and had completed his Declaration of Intent. The second person (his wife) immigrated in 1881. There is no naturalization status for her since women did not normally apply for citizenship. They derived it with their husband's naturalization

York contains fields for "Native Voters", "Naturalized Voters", and "Aliens". A good reference for state census records and their content is Ann Lainhart's "State Census Records" (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1992).

Voter Registers

Some state created voter registers that contain more information than normally expected in voter rolls. California, between 1867 and 1898, produced Great Registers of Voters that provide the voters age, birth place, occupation, residence, and if naturalized - the date, place and court of record where the naturalization was made. Arizona has similar lists.

Published Extractions and Indexes

There are many published extractions, transcriptions and indexes to naturalization records. Some examples are P.

William Filby's "Philadelphia Naturalization Records, An Index to Records of Aliens' Declarations of Intention and/or Oaths of Allegiance 1789-1880" (Detroit: Gale Research, 1982), or Kenneth Scotts "Early Naturalization Records from Federal, State, and Local Courts, 1792-1840" (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1981). Check library card indexes and sources such as the "Genealogical Periodical Annual Index" under localities of interest. The State of North Dakota has published an index to naturalizations in that state of the Internet.

Published Guides to Court Records

There are several sources for determining the holdings of various courts. The Family History Library Card Catalog is an excellent resource. Other sources are Christina K. Schaefer's "Guide to Naturalization Records of the United

Fig. 26 - A page from the 1872 Great Register of Voters for San Francisco, California. The third entry on this page is for Daniel Carlin, age 39, who was born in Ireland, a porter living at 541 Mission St. who was naturalized in the U.S. Circuit Court of Boston, Mass. on 7 Nov 1854

GREAT REGISTER, SAN FRANCISCO COUNTY									
Index	Register No.	Voted or not voted.	NAME	AGE	NATIVITY	OCCUPATION	LOCAL RESIDENCE	NATURALIZED	Date of Registration
							Ward	Date, Place and Court.	
	16507		Carlin, John	39	Ireland	Porter	Stevenson nr 4th	10 Oct. 30, 1856, San Francisco, U.S. Dis.	June 29, 1867
	18726		Carlin Roger	32	Ireland	None	19 5th Avenue	9 Aug. 26, 1863, San Francisco, U.S. Dis.	Aug. 1, "
	1448		Carlin, Daniel	39	Ireland	Porter	541 Mission	7 Nov. 7, 1854, Boston, U. S. Circuit.	June 9, 1866
	1447		Carlin, William	36	Ireland	Porter	Turk nr. Polk	12 Oct. 15, 1851, Boston, U. S. Circuit.	June 9, "
non	51651		Carlin, John	28	Ireland	Iron Worker	Potrero		Nov. 2, 1872
	8899		Carlisle, George	32	New York	Sailmaker	17 Bernard		July 6, 1866
	4131		Carlisle, George Oliver	42	Vermont	Laborer	319 Pine		June 25, "
	2536		Carlisle, Shubal Henry	41	Vermont	Book-keeper	5 Jane	10	June 16, "

States” (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1997), “The Archives: A Guide to the National Archives Field Branches” by Loretto Dennis Szucs & Sanda Hargreaves Luebking (Salt Lake City, Ancestry Publishing Co.), and “They Became Americans - Finding Naturalization Records and Ethnic Origins” by Loretto Dennis Szucs (Salt Lake City: Ancestry Incorporated, 1998).

Post 1906 Records

The Naturalization Act of 1906 required the courts to send a copy of papers filed in the naturalization process to the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization. If the original records can't be located in the courts of record, a request via the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) can be submitted using Form G-639. The FIOA process is slow and should be used only when the local record cannot be found. The recommended procedure for making a FOIA request is to obtain the naturalization date from the 1920 census, provide proof that the requester is a direct descendant of the immigrant using birth, death or marriage certificates, fill out G-639 with as much information as is available and mail the form to the following address. Do not send money with the request, they will bill for copies made.

INS, FOIA Request
425 I Street NW, Rm. 1100
Washington, DC 20536

World War I Military Naturalizations

During World War I, aliens serving in the armed services of the United States were allowed to become U.S. citizens without residency requirements. The application and naturalization could take place on the same day and was usually done at a U.S. military camp overseas. The INS prepared an “Index to Naturalizations of World War I Soldiers, 1918.” If there is a possibility that a person was naturalized under this provision, that index should be checked. If the name doesn't appear, the soldier may have been naturalized under the normal process so the courts or FOIA method should be used.

So You Can't Find a Record or the Record Doesn't Provide Needed Information

As can be seen from the preceding discussion, naturalization papers may not exist, or if they do, they may not provide that key piece of information; the immigrant's place of origin. There are several other sources that should be considered in the genealogical pursuit of the ancestral home. Naturalization papers are only one source for this type of information. Be sure to check for any records for the immigrant ancestor as well as any known siblings or other relatives. The key may be in the record of a related person, not the direct ancestor:

- Bible Records. Most often, the “Family Register” pages in Bibles only contain dates not places, however, occasionally places are also listed.

Fig. 27 - FOIA Request Form G-639

- Newspaper obituaries and death notices. In most cases, only the country of birth is provided in newspaper accounts, however, this isn't always the case. Small town newspapers and ethnic newspapers often provide the most information.
- Letters. Old letters may provide clues to follow up on. They may be from close relatives and lead to other research.
- Photographs. Old photographs may contain the name and address of the photographer and can lead to other locations to research.
- Social Security Applications. The SS-5 (Social Security application form) contains fields to record the birthplace and birth date. These can be obtained under the Freedom Of Information Act.
- Published biographies in county histories or other books. During the 1880s a business was built around the publication of county histories wherein “subscribers” could, for a fee, have their family included in the biographical section of the history. The biographies might contain ancestral information and lead to the immigrant origins. Other types of books were produced as well; many covering the leaders of ethnic groups.

- Military Records.

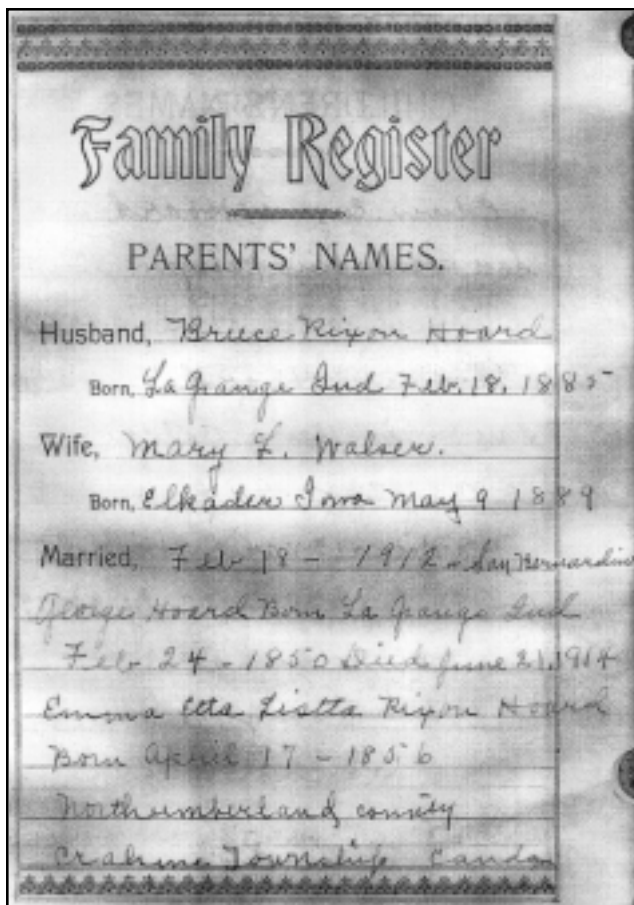


Fig. 28 - A page from the family Bible of the Bruce Rixon Hoard family. This record provides the birthplaces as well as dates. His mother, Emma Etta Listta Rixon was born in Crahme township, Northumberland County, (Ontario) Canada on 17 April 1856

The preceding list is only a partial list of records that can be used for determining ancestral origins. There are many others. Naturalization records are only one potential source of information. Locating the ancestral home is an exciting event to a family historian and also often a frustrating challenge and there are many stones to be turned. Good luck in your quest.

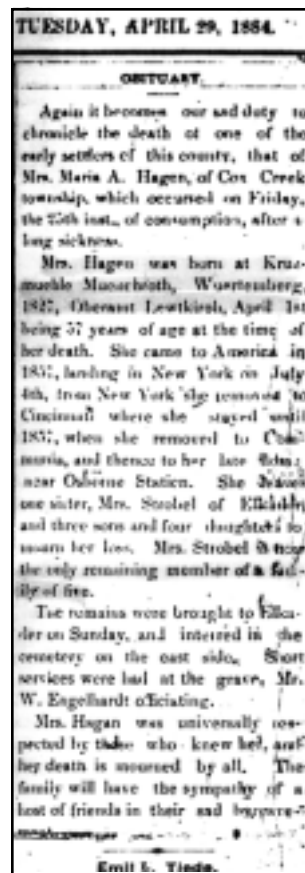


Fig. 29 - An obituary for Maria Hagen who died in Clayton Co., Iowa on 25 April 1884 from the "Clayton Co. Register" of 29 April 1884. Maria was one of three sisters of Mattheus Walser, the subject of the research. His naturalization papers were found (see fig. 19a) but only provided the country of origin - Wuerttemberg. This newspaper account was the only record found researching all of the known family members that provided the actual (but somewhat misspelled) birthplace - "Kruzmuehle Muenchroth, OberamtLeutkirch, Wuerttemberg". The information in this account led to the location of the church records in St. Verena's church in the town Rot a/d Rot. This church served the village of Kruezmuehle in OberamtLeutkirch, Wuerttemberg (see fig. 1)

Fig. 30 - A death notice printed in the "San Francisco Call" of 10 Nov 1878 for the death of Minna Newman. Mrs. Newman was the mother of three children who immigrated to the U.S. She remained in Germany where she died at Meirichstadt, Bavaria. The children had this death notice published in her memory

NEWMAN—At Melrichstadt, Bavaria, Mrs. Minna Newman, mother of Simon and Juda Newman, and Mrs. Sol. Wangenheim, of San Francisco, a native of Germany, aged 62 years.

LOS Angeles 39, CALIF
 Form 848-B
 TREASURY DEPARTMENT
 INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE
 (Revised 7-62)

APPLICATION FOR SOCIAL SECURITY ACCOUNT NUMBER
 REQUIRED UNDER THE FEDERAL INSURANCE CONTRIBUTIONS ACT
 READ INSTRUCTIONS ON BACK BEFORE FILLING IN FORM

DO NOT WRITE IN THE ABOVE SPACE
 [564-48-7025]

FILL IN EACH ITEM. PRINT IN BLACK OR DARK BLUE INK OR USE TYPEWRITER FOR ALL ITEMS EXCEPT SIGNATURE. IF THE INFORMATION CALLED FOR IN ANY ITEM IS NOT KNOWN, WRITE "UNKNOWN."

1 PRINT NAME YOU GAVE YOUR PRESENT EMPLOYER OR, IF UNEMPLOYED, THE NAME YOU WILL USE WHEN EMPLOYED
 FIRST NAME MARION REGINA
 LAST NAME TOWLER

2 MAILING ADDRESS (NO. AND ST., P. O. BOX, OR RFD) (CITY) (ZONE) (STATE)
 226 EDENDALE PL. L.A. 39, CALIF

3 PRINT FULL NAME GIVEN YOU AT BIRTH
 MARION REGINA TOWLER HURST

4 ARE OR LAST BIRTHDAY
 59 YRS.

5 DATE OF BIRTH (MONTH) (DAY) (YEAR)
 12 - 6 - 1893

6 PLACE OF BIRTH (CITY) (COUNTY) (STATE)
 TRANMERE - CHESHIRE - ENGLAND

7 FATHER'S FULL NAME, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER LIVING OR DEAD
 HENRY JOHN HURST

8 MOTHER'S FULL NAME, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER LIVING OR DEAD
 MARGARET McDERMOTT

9 (MARK (X) WHICH)
 SEX MALE ☐ FEMALE ☒

10 COLOR (MARK (X) WHICH) (IF OTHER, SPECIFY)
 OR WHITE ☒ NEGRO ☐ OTHER ☐

11 HAVE YOU EVER BEFORE APPLIED FOR OR HAD A SOCIAL SECURITY OR RAILROAD RETIREMENT NUMBER?
 YES ☐ NO ☒ IF ANSWER IS "YES," PRINT THE STATE IN WHICH YOU FIRST APPLIED AND WHEN

12 BUSINESS NAME OF EMPLOYER, IF UNEMPLOYED, WRITE "UNEMPLOYED"

13 EMPLOYER'S ADDRESS (NO. AND STREET) (CITY) (ZONE) (STATE)
 William Raymond 5012 Pioneer Blvd. Watts

14 TODAY'S DATE
 9 - 28 - 63

15 WRITE YOUR NAME AS USUALLY WRITTEN (DO NOT PRINT)
 Marion Towler

RETURN COMPLETED APPLICATION TO NEAREST SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION FIELD OFFICE

Fig. 31 - The SS-5 application for Marion Regina (Hurst) Towler showing that she was born 6 Dec 1893 in Tranmere, Cheshire, England

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Christian Kleis.

Christian Kleis. — Herr Christian Kleis wurde am 11. Mai 1827 in Sitzenkirch, Baden, geboren und besuchte daselbst die Schulen. Nach seiner Konfirmation trat er in Vörrach in Baden als Kaufmannslehrling in ein Geschäft ein. Er war in diesem Geschäfte sechs Jahre, zuerst als Lehrling, dann als Gehilfe. Im Jahre 1848 wanderte er nach Amerika aus und kam im Herbst dieses Jahres in New Orleans an, blieb ungefähr sechs Wochen dort und ging dann nach St. Louis, wo er in einem Store Beschäftigung fand. Im Jahre 1852 trieb es ihn an, mehr von Amerika zu sehen, und so zog

er zuerst nach New York, dann nach Savannah, Philadelphia und anderen großen Städten, wo er kürzere oder längere Zeit verweilte. Er kehrte jedoch wieder nach St. Louis zurück, wo er in einer Sodawasser-Fabrik Anstellung bekam. Im Jahre 1857 wurde Herr Kleis von seinen Principalen nach Galena geschickt, um dort eine Sodawasser-Fabrik einzurichten. In 1858 übernahm er diese Fabrik auf eigene Rechnung. Im Jahre 1862 heirathete Herr Kleis seine noch lebende Frau, Caroline Föll, und in 1863 siedelte er mit Familie und Geräthschaften der Sodawasser-Fabrik nach Dubuque über und fing hier ein Geschäft an, an der Sechsten und White Straße. Das Geschäft vergrößerte sich immer mehr, und so baute er im Jahre 1868 die gegenwärtige Fabrik an der Ecke der Neunten und White Straße. Herr Kleis ist ein langjähriges Mitglied des Turnvereins, der Schlingengilde und verschiedener Logen und von Allen hoch geachtet. Er hat eine große Familie, und wer in derselben verkehrt hat, wird wissen, wie angenehm Einem die Zeit dort verfließt.

Fig. 32 - A biography of Christian Kleis who was born 11 May 1827 in Sitzenkirch, Baden. This biography was printed in "Die Deutschen von Iowa" by Joseph Eibock (Des Moines, IA: Iowa Staats-Anzeiger, 1900)