

NATURALIZATIONS

Records of the District Courts of the United States (Record Group 21)

Article 1, Section 8, of the Constitution provides that "Congress shall have the Power . . . To establish a uniform Rule of Naturalization . . ." On March 26, 1790, Congress passed an act (1 Stat. 103) that allowed any individual who wanted to become a citizen to apply to any common law court of record in a State where he or she had lived for one year. Over the years, the residency requirement was changed several times. A second step — filing a declaration of intention — was added later.

Records of naturalization proceedings in Federal courts are usually among the records of the district court for the district in which the proceedings took place. A Federal naturalization record may consist of a declaration of intention, petitions, depositions, and a record of naturalization.

From 1790 until 1906, except for the swearing-in ceremony, the clerk of the court administered the naturalization laws and kept the accompanying records. An alien with two years of residence presented himself or herself to the clerk, who provided the assistance needed to fill out the "Declaration of Intention." The clerk then filed a copy with the court, recorded the action in the court register, and compiled the index to the register. Later, the clerk of the court assisted the applicant in completing the "Petition for Naturalization," by which the alien renounced allegiance to his country of origin and swore allegiance to the United States. The clerk filed the petition with the court, after having it signed by the applicant and two witnesses (no copy of this was made). Next, the clerk attested to the fact of citizenship (no copy was made of this either). The entries in the appropriate register and index were also completed by the clerk.

Indexes to Naturalization Petitions to the U.S. Circuit and District Courts for Maryland, 1797–1951. M1168. 25 rolls. DP.

Indexes to naturalization petitions to the U.S. circuit and district courts for Maryland, 1797–1951, are repro-

duced in this microfilm publication. These indexes do not contain the names of all those naturalized in the State of Maryland, but only those naturalized in the Federal courts. An alien could seek citizenship through *any* court of record.

The clerk of the U.S. district court for the District of Maryland established six different alphabetical indexes to naturalization petitions covering 1797–1951. The first index, for 1797–1906, is an alphabetical name index on cards to chronological entries in bound registers for both circuit and district court naturalization petitions. On each card is the name of the alien, the country of birth, the date of the declaration of intention or petition for naturalization, the court (circuit or district) to which the alien applied, and the volume and page number of the register in which the alien's name and the other information indicated above is recorded. The Maryland courts have no surviving individual declarations of intention or petitions for naturalization for either the circuit or district courts for this period. Therefore, the information on the index cards, which is the same as that in the bound registers, constitutes the entire record for the years 1797–1906.

The second (October 1906–April 1915), third (April 1915–April 1920) and fourth (April 1920–October 1925) indexes record only the name of the alien and his or her naturalization petition number.

The fifth index covers November 1925 through December 1951. Arranged by strict alphabetical order on cards, the index shows the name, residence, age, date of order of admission, date of certificate of naturalization, petition number, and certificate number. Some of the cards also contain the signature, date, and court where the declaration of intention was filed; registration number; and any name change by the petitioner.

The sixth and final index is to the records of aliens who joined the armed forces of the United States and filed for naturalization while in the service between May 1918 and April 1923. This alphabetical index shows only the name of the soldier, the petition number, and the volume in which the petition is recorded. In some instances, the military unit to which he was assigned and the camp at which he was stationed are also shown.

<i>Roll</i>	<i>Names</i>	<i>Dates</i>
1	Aansen, Christian Frederick-Bercoff, Harry	1797–1906
2	Berlein, John- Buckheidt, Peter	1797–1906
3	Buckheimer, John- Cunningham, Arthur B.	1797–1906

<i>Roll</i>	<i>Names</i>	<i>Dates</i>
4	Cunningham, Arthur B.-Emer, Antone	1797-1906
5	Emerick, Andrew- Garrett, Joseph	1797-1906
6	Garrett, Robert- Hanitsch, Adam A.	1797-1906
7	Hanitsch, Werner- Holmes, Guyllyn Robert	1797-1906
8	Holmes, Guyllyn Robert-Kerr, William	1797-1906
9	Kerr, William-Lauster, George	1797-1906
10	Lauster, George- McAllister, George	1797-1906
11	McAllister, James- Monpat, Antonio	1797-1906
12	Monpatt, Antonie- Passano, Joseph	1797-1906
13	Passano, Joseph- Rinderle, Franz	1797-1906
14	Rindsberg, Abraham- Schmidt, George	1797-1906
15	Schmidt, George- Smith, Samuel	1797-1906
16	Smith, Samuel-Troje, John	1797-1906
17	Trombelta, Pasquale- White, Joseph	1797-1906
18	White, Joseph-Zyliez, Frank	1797-1906
	A-Z	Oct. 1906-Apr. 1915
	A-Z	Apr. 1915-Apr. 1920
	A-Z	Apr. 1920-Oct. 1925
	Aaberg, Anders Evold- Azzolini, Azzolini, Isabella	Nov. 1925-Dec. 1951
19	Baars, Charlotte Elizabeth to Dhotre, Damoo Gagaram	1925-51
20	Diachenko, Polly- Helmis, George Nicholas	1925-51
21	Holzner, Anne- Lukitsch, Mathias	1925-51
22	Lukitsch, John- Pozzuoli, Maria	1925-51
23	Pradich, Veronica Mary-Steinberg, Henry	1925-51
24	Steinberg, Irvin- Yuskewicz, Vicenta (Sister Mary Vincetta)	1925-51
	Abato, Nicola- Cuzzolin, Angelo	1918-23
25	Dachino, Leonardo- Zwalerwosky, Walter	1918-23