

Naturalization Records and What You Can Learn From Them

By Len Enlow, Corona Genealogical Society

November 2015

* 1790 Naturalization Records were required
  + You could apply at any common court
  + Must be in state for minimum one year
* During Civil War changes were made
  + Made it easier for Union soldiers to gain citizenship
* Steps to becoming Citizen
  + Declaration of Intent
  + Naturalization Petition
  + Certificate of Arrival
  + Record of Naturalization and Oath of Allegiance
* Things to be learned from these documents
  + Name, Age, Occupation, Personal Description, Date of birth, Place of birth, Present citizenship, Present address, Last foreign address, Arrival vessel, Port of embarkation, US port of arrival, Date of application, signature, photo, wife, children, and more
* Where to find Documents
  + Bureau of Vital Statistics
  + National Archives
  + County Courthouse

**References:**

* <http://www.genealogybranches.com/naturalization.html>
* <http://www.uscis.gov/genealogy>
* [https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/United\_States\_Naturalization\_and\_Citizenship#U.S.\_Naturalization\_Records](https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/United_States_Naturalization_and_Citizenship)
* BOOK: Christina Schaefer: [Guide to Naturalization Records of the United States,](http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=5177&ref=1420) Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1997.
* BOOK: National Archives Trust Fund Board, Anne Bruner Eales & Robert M. Kvasnicka (editors): **Guide to Genealogical Research in the National Archives of the United States,** Washington, DC: National Archives and Records Administration, 2000; Pages 87 & 97.
* BOOK: Loretto Dennis Szucs: **They Became Americans: Finding Naturalization Records and Ethnic Origins**, Salt Lake City, UT: Ancestry, 1998.

**Make a form to collect all the information**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| How Related | **Certificate of  Arrival** | **Declaration  of Intention** | **Petition  for Citizenship** | **Oath  of Allegiance** |
| **NAME** |  |  |  |  |
| Number |  |  |  |  |
| Where Record Filed |  |  |  |  |
| Port of Entry |  |  |  |  |
| Entry Date |  |  |  |  |
| Ship |  |  |  |  |
| Address |  |  |  |  |
| Occupation |  |  |  |  |
| Born |  |  |  |  |
| Age |  |  |  |  |
| Height/Weight |  |  |  |  |
| Hair |  |  |  |  |
| Eyes |  |  |  |  |
| Spouse |  |  |  |  |
| Marriage Date |  |  |  |  |
| Marriage Location |  |  |  |  |
| Spouse Born |  |  |  |  |
| Spouse Entered US |  |  |  |  |
| Spouse Ship |  |  |  |  |
| Number children |  |  |  |  |
| Last foreign residence |  |  |  |  |
| Entered US From |  |  |  |  |
| Entered under Name |  |  |  |  |
| Date of Record |  |  |  |  |