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Early Naturalization Records at the National Archives

Joseph P. Keefe

Mr. Keefe, archives specialist, discusses how to use naturalization proceedings—from federal, state, county, and local courts—from Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont between 1790 and September 26, 1906. Broadcast from the National Archives at Boston.

Early Naturalization Records at the National Archives



Joseph P. Keefe
Archives Specialist
National Archives
at Boston

Joseph P. Keefe has a bachelor's degree in History from Framingham State University in Framingham, Massachusetts and a Master of Art in American History from the University of Massachusetts, Boston. He has worked with the National Archives for over 10 years in a variety of positions. At this time, he is an archives specialist with duties as a reference team lead and social media co-coordinator with the National Archives at Boston.

Mr. Keefe lectures in New England on numerous subjects including genealogy; Census; naturalization; passenger lists; and 18, 19, and 20th-century military records such as the 54th Massachusetts Infantry and World War II records held at the National Archives. He is a member and researcher of numerous archival and historical societies in the United States and Curator for the Waltham, Massachusetts Historical Society.



Early Naturalization Records at the National Archives

During the Great Depression, many employment and relief opportunities were limited to citizens of the United States. Anyone looking for work from the Work Projects Administration (WPA), for example, was required to prove U.S. citizenship, and civil service, old-age pensions, the right to vote, and other benefits and privileges were reserved for citizens. Additionally, many positions in private employment were open to Americans alone.

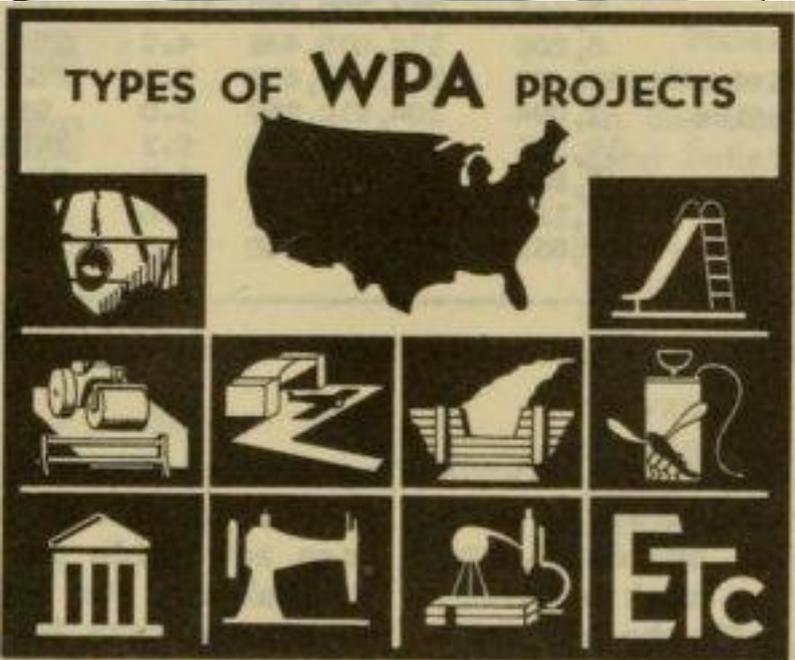


This requirement posed a problem for those who had become U.S. citizens as wives or children of a naturalized citizen. Most courts, if indeed not all, recorded only the name of the person being naturalized—the head of household. Although the wife and children of foreign birth under twenty-one years old derived their own citizenship from the husband or father, their names were not mentioned at all in the final official record. How could they prove their citizenship?





To assist those who needed to document citizenship, the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) used a WPA project to photograph "something" of the fact of naturalization in all of the courts. Under this project, various courts in Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont made their naturalization records available to the INS. Clerical staff then summarized critical data on index cards to create an index, and WPA workers copied the naturalization records using the dextrigraph reproduction system. The WPA started with New England, New York, and Illinois, but World War II halted the project before it could get to courts in other regions.



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

ESSEX, ss.

To the Honorable the Justice of the First District Court, of Essex, begun and held at Salem, within and for said County, on the ~~Sixteenth~~ ^{Sixteenth} ~~Wednesday~~ ^{Wednesday} of October, A.D. 1892.

RESPECTFULLY REPRESENTS

David Buckley

now resident at ~~Salem~~ # 91 Lowell St. Peabody in said County of Essex, by occupation a ~~Sailor~~ ^{Sailor}, an alien and a free white person, that he was born at ~~Co Cork~~ ^{Co Cork} ~~Iulava~~ ^{Iulava} in the kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, on the ~~seventeenth~~ ^{seventeenth} day of ~~September~~ ^{September} A.D. 1860; that he came to the United States, and arrived at ~~Salem~~ ^{Salem} in the State of ~~Massachusetts~~ ^{Massachusetts} and United States of America, on the ~~twentieth~~ ^{twentieth} day of ~~May~~ ^{May} A. D. 1853; that it was and still is bona fide his intention to become a citizen of the United States, and to renounce forever all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state or sovereignty whatever, and particularly to VICTORIA, Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, whose subject he has heretofore been.

And the said petitioner further represents that he made a primary declaration of his intention to become a citizen of the United States, on oath, before the Honorable ~~Just~~ ^{Just} ~~District~~ ^{District} Court, of ~~Essex~~ ^{Essex} on the ~~second~~ ^{second} day of ~~November~~ ^{November} A.D. 1857

And the said petitioner further represents that he has resided, ever since continued to reside within the limits and under the jurisdiction of the United States, and has there resided in all five years at least now immediately preceding, and more than one year within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to-wit, at ~~Peabody~~ ^{Peabody}, ~~Essex Co.~~ ^{Essex Co.}; and that during the whole of said term of five years 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: that he has never borne any hereditary title, or been of any of the orders of nobility, in the kingdom or state from whence he came: that he is now ready to declare on oath that he will support the Constitution of the United States, and that he will absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state or sovereignty whatever, and particularly to VICTORIA, Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, whose subject he has heretofore been.

He intends to summon as witnesses at his final hearing ~~James E. Millia~~ ^{James E. Millia} whose residence is at number ~~143~~ ¹⁴³ on ~~Foster~~ ^{Foster} Street, in Salem ~~Peabody~~ ^{Peabody} in said County of Essex, and ~~John J. Callahan~~ ^{John J. Callahan} whose residence is at number ~~5~~ ⁵ on ~~Duxton~~ ^{Duxton} Street, in Salem ~~Peabody~~ ^{Peabody} in said County of Essex.

WHEREFORE, your petitioner prays that he may be admitted to become a citizen of the United States, of America, according to the forms of the Statutes in such case made and provided.

David Buckley

From the late 1930s until about 1961, the INS used these copies to document citizenship granted before 1907, whether it was of the actual petitioner or of the wife or child who derived citizenship. If the INS found a record, it then sent a form to the court holding the originals asking for verification of the data.

DISTRICT COURT - SALEM MASS. VOL 2 PAGE 3 6 1



The Work Projects Administration used a dextragraph camera, shown here with operators and supervisors, to copy naturalization records from various courts in New England, New York, and Illinois before World War II halted the project.



Prior to 1906 naturalization proceedings were handled in a somewhat loose and slipshod manner. The proceedings could be handled in any court. Each court had its own methods and rules regarding naturalization procedures, no matter what federal statutes might demand. Some were far less demanding than others. It didn't take early immigrants long to learn this, and they flocked to the courts that made the naturalization rules the most lenient.

What information is needed to locate a naturalization petition?

To conduct an effective search of our records the following information is necessary: the naturalized person's

- (1) full name, including any different spellings
- (2) home address and/or city/town when naturalized
- (3) approximate date of naturalization.

Also useful are:

date of birth,
date of U.S. arrival,
country of origin

C450

Family name CALLAHAN	Given name or names GEORGE
Address Boston	
Certificate no. (or vol. and page) 187-40	Title and location of court USCC BOSTON MASS
Country of birth or allegiance New Brunswick	When born (or age) Feb. 27, 1862
Date and port of arrival in U. S.	Date of naturalization Sept. 29, 1888
Names and addresses of witnesses	

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, Immigration and Naturalization Service. Form No. 1-IP. 10-2000 MAS	

Dexigraph collection for New York, New England and Illinois is a soundex index: The soundex is a coded surname (last name) index based on the way a surname sounds rather than the way it is spelled. Surnames that sound the same, but are spelled differently, like SMITH and SMYTH, have the same code and are filed together. The soundex coding system was developed so that you can find a surname even though it may have been recorded under various spellings.



WPA clerical staff prepare and proofread index cards against the dexigraphs.

Soundex index for Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont-all grouped on one Index
 Rhode Island-each have separate
 Connecticut index's
 New York
 Illinois

Ancestry.com has digitized and indexed these by name

K100

Family name KEEFE	Given name or names JOSEPH
Address W. Roxbury	
Certificate no. (or vol. and page) 9-344	Title and location of court USCC BOSTON MASS
Country of birth or allegiance Ireland	When born (or age) May 27 1827
Date and port of arrival in U. S.	Date of naturalization April 6 1857
Names and addresses of witnesses	

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, Immigration and Naturalization Service. Form No. 1-IP. 14-2202 MS

K100

Family name KEEFE	Given name or names JOSEPH A.
Address 105 Salem St. Lowell	
Certificate no. (or vol. and page) S13 Vol. 1885-1892 SERIES	Title and location of court POLICE COURT LOWELL MASS.
Country of birth or allegiance CANADA	When born (or age) May 23 1867
Date and port of arrival in U. S.	Date of naturalization September 15 1892
Names and addresses of witnesses	

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, Immigration and Naturalization Service. Form No. 1-IP. 14-2202

K-100

Family name KEEFE	Given name or names JOSEPH F
Address 145 Malden St., Malden	
Certificate no. (or vol. and page) 3-489	Title and location of court DC MALDEN MASS.
Country of birth or allegiance IRELAND	When born (or age) April 6, 1875
Date and port of arrival in U. S.	Date of naturalization Nov. 16, 1903
Names and addresses of witnesses	

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, Immigration and Naturalization Service. Form No. 1-IP. 14-2202 bmv

274537-2

B-656

Family Name

Given Name or Names

BERNHARDT

HENRY

Title and Location of Court

COMMON PLEAS COURT, NEW YORK COUNTY

Date of Naturalization

Volume or Bundle No.

Page No.

Copy of Record No.

OCT 16 1861

262

186

Address of Naturalized Person

211 AVE B

N.Y.CITY

Occupation

Birth Date or Age

Former Nationality

GERMAN

Port of Arrival in the United States

Date of Arrival

Names, Addresses and Occupations of Witnesses To Naturalization

1 FREDERICK DICK 201 AVE B.

2 N.Y.CITY

B-3-2

Family Name

Given Name or Names

BAUDIN

LOUIS PETER BAUDIAKOFF

Title and Location of Court

U.S. DISTRICT COURT, NEW YORK, N.Y.

Date of Naturalization

Volume or Bundle No.

Page No.

Copy of Record No.

AUG 2 - 1897

61A

✓

Address of Naturalized Person

245 MONROE ST NYCITY

Occupation

Birth Date or Age

Former Nationality

LAWYER

FEB 15 - 1874

RUSSIAN

Port of Arrival in the United States

Date of Arrival

N.Y. N.Y.

JUNE 20 - 1891

Names, Addresses and Occupations of Witnesses To Naturalization

1 JOSEPH GEDALACIA 64 RUTGERS ST NYCITY

2 SILVER PLATER

B-551

Family Name

Given Name or Names

BUDINOFF

LOUIS

Title and Location of Court

Date of Naturalization

Volume or Bundle No.

Page No.

Copy of Record No.

APR 2 - 1901

100

25

Address of Naturalized Person

218 - 6 ST - MAN. N.Y.C

Occupation

Birth Date or Age

Former Nationality

NECKWEAR MFR.

APR 1 - 1873

RUSSIAN

Port of Arrival in the United States

Date of Arrival

NEW YORK

FEB 1888 -

Names, Addresses and Occupations of Witnesses To Naturalization

1 ARNOLD WEISMAN - 239 - 6 ST - MAN.

2 BARBER

Index cards from naturalization proceedings are valuable records in their own right. These examples of soundex cards from New York provide some good information for genealogists themselves including:
 Address
 Occupation
 Date of birth
 Date of arrival
 Name, address and occupation of witness

M 424

Family name Malcolm	Given name or names Robert Bruce
Address 448 W. Melrose St. Chgo, Ill.	
Certificate no. (or vol. and page) P. 205551 CN 4951060	Title and location of court U. S. Dist. Chgo, Ill.
Country of birth or allegiance Canada	When born (or age) June 28-1888
Date and port of arrival in U. S.	Date of naturalization Nov. 14, 1940
Names and addresses of witnesses John D. MacKellar 8142 Harper Ave. Chgo, Ill. David S. Jaffray 1511 E. 69th. St. Chgo, Ill.	

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, Immigration and Naturalization Service. Form No. 1-IP. 14-3202

M ~~424~~ 424

MALCOLM, Robert James 311 E. Rockwell Street Arlington Heights, Illinois		APPLICATION FILE NO. 730-334810 0900 K 27425
APPLICATION FORM N 400	DATE REC'D 9-2-49 rap	
DATE AND COUNTRY OF BIRTH 5-31-00 Canada	DATE & PLACE OF ENTRY IN U. S. 4-2-29 Blaine	A. R. NO. 3292241

INDEX CARD - FORM G-237 (5-1-45)
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE

M - 424

Family name Malagoli	Given name or names Romolo
Address 933 Sedgwick St.	
Certificate no. (or vol. and page) P. 43031	Title and location of court Superior Court, Cook Co., Ill.
Country of birth or allegiance Italy	When born (or age) 12/4/1887
Date and port of arrival in U. S. Aug. 30, 1913 x	Date of naturalization 4/22/1921
Names and addresses of witnesses Peter Magatti 4449 N. Richmond John Bolla 1561 N. Wells St.	

U. S. Department of Labor, Immigration and Naturalization Service. Form No. 1-IP.

M 424

Family name Malcolmson	Given name or names Samuel S.
Address Lake County, Ill.	
Certificate no. (or vol. and page) C-190	Title and location of court Lake County County Ct.
Country of birth or allegiance Gr. Britian	When born (or age) not shown
Date and port of arrival in U. S. not shown	Date of naturalization Apr. 18, 1896
Names and addresses of witnesses William M. Ragan Lake County, Ill. William J. Allen Lake County, Ill.	

U. S. Department of Labor, Immigration and Naturalization Service. Form No. 1-IP.

Examples of soundex cards

From Chicago The cards themselves like those from New York have good information about each individual

United States of America. 98

Massachusetts District, ss.

To the Honorable the Judge of the District Court of the United States, within and for the District of Massachusetts

RESPECTFULLY represents Timothy Sullivan of Lynn in said District an alien, and a free white person, that he was born in

County Cork Ireland

on or about the 1st day of June in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and 31 and is now about 45 years of age; that he arrived at Boston

19 in the United States of America, on or about the day of May in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and 46 being then a minor under the age of eighteen years; that it then was and still is, his bona fide intention to reside in and become a citizen of the United States of America, and to renounce all allegiance and fidelity to every foreign Prince, State, Potentate, and Sovereignty whatsoever—more especially to Victoria, Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.

whose subject he has heretofore been: All which appears in the Record of the Honorable Court.

to wit, on the day of A. D. 46

And the said petitioner further represents, that he has ever since continued to reside within the jurisdiction of said United States, that he has never borne any hereditary title, or been of any of the orders of nobility; that he is ready to renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to every foreign Prince, Potentate, State, or Sovereignty whatever, and particularly to Victoria, Queen as aforesaid,

whose subject he has heretofore been; that he is attached to the principles of the Constitution of the United States of America, and well disposed towards the good order and happiness of the same.

And the said petitioner further represents that he enlisted in the Volunteer forces of the Armies of the United States, and that he was honorably discharged therefrom on the day of A. D. 18

Wherefore your petitioner prays, that he may be admitted to become a citizen of the said United States of America, according to the terms of the statutes in such case made and provided

Witness Daniel Collins Nov 2 1876 Sworn to by said Petitioner, Timothy Sullivan his mark

Before me,

Ed. [Signature]

US DISTRICT COURT - BOSTON MASS. VOL 89 PAGE 9 8

Petition (Second or Final Papers)

Naturalization petitions were formal applications submitted to the court by individuals who had met the residency requirements and who had declared their intention to become citizens. As with the declarations of intention, their information content varied dramatically from one court to another. Most petitions created before 1906 offer little in terms of personal information. After 1906, petitions contain generally the same information as the Declaration of Intention. This is an example of a dextrigraph copy from the United States District Court in Boston

United States of America.

Massachusetts District, ss.

To the Honorable the Judge of the District Court of the United States, within and for the District of Massachusetts.

RESPECTFULLY represents *James C. MacKenzie*
residing at No. *248 Shawmut* ~~St.~~ *Street, Boston*
in said District, occupation *mason*
an alien, and a free white person; that he was born in
Nova Scotia

on or about the ~~twenty second~~ *fourth* day of *April* in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and ~~forty~~ *fifty eight* and is now about *fifty eight* years of age; that he arrived at in the District of *Mass.*

in the United States of America, on or about the _____ day of _____ in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and ~~seventy~~ *being then a minor, under the age of eighteen years,* that it then was and still is, his bona fide intention to reside in and become a citizen of the United States of America, and to renounce all allegiance and fidelity to every foreign Prince, State, Potentate and Sovereignty whatsoever — more especially to Victoria, Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland,

whose subject he has heretofore been.

And the said petitioner further represents that he made a primary declaration of his intention to become a citizen of said United States, before the Honorable *U. S. Circuit Court, at Boston* on the *9th* day of *October* A. D. *1895*

And the said petitioner further represents, that he has ever since his said arrival continued to reside within the jurisdiction of said United States, that he has never borne any hereditary title, or been of any of the orders of nobility; that he is ready to renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to every foreign Prince, Potentate, State or Sovereignty whatsoever, and particularly to Victoria, Queen as aforesaid,

whose subject he has heretofore been; that he is attached to the principles of the Constitution of the United States of America, and well disposed towards the good order and happiness of the same.

And the said petitioner further represents that he enlisted in the _____ of the United States, and was honorably discharged therefrom _____ 18 _____

Wherefore your petitioner prays, that he may be admitted to become a citizen of the said United States of America, according to the forms of the statute in such case made and provided.

James C. MacKenzie
Sworn to by said Petitioner, before said Court.

ATTEST:

Clerk.

59
U.S. DISTRICT COURT
BOSTON MASS VOL
240 Page
5
9

Naturalization records can help you find the date and port of arrival, and the place of birth for your ancestor. How much information is found on them will depend on when the naturalization was done. This is a typical naturalization which was completed at the USDC in Boston—usually two pages—the naturalization shows:

Address

Occupation

Where born

Date of birth

Date and place of arrival in the United States

United States of America.

Massachusetts District, to wit:

CITY OF BOSTON,

189 .

WE *J. Frank Row* residing

at No. *228 Pleasant* Street, *Boston*

and *Daniel MacKay* residing

at No. *20 Oak* Street, *Boston*

both citizens of said United States, severally depose and say, that we have known the foregoing Petitioner for five years last past, during which time he has resided in said

Boston

and that he has resided within the State of Massachusetts one year at least; and has conducted himself and behaved as a man of good moral character, attached to the principles of the Constitution of the United States, and well disposed towards the good order and happiness of the same.

J. Frank Row
Daniel MacKay

Oct 12 189 . Sworn to by the above named Witnesses, before said Court.

ATTEST: _____ Clerk.

OATH TAKEN BY PETITIONER.

I, *James C Mackenzie* do solemnly swear that I do absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to every foreign Prince, Potentate, State or Sovereignty whatsoever — particularly to Victoria, Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland,

whose subject I have heretofore been; and that I will support the Constitution of the United States of America, — so help me God.

United States of America.

District of Massachusetts, to wit:

AT a District Court of the United States, holden at said Boston on the *twelfth* day of *October* in the year of our Lord 189*8*, the said *James C Mackenzie* having produced the evidence required by law, took the aforesaid oath, and was admitted to become a citizen of the United States of America; and the Court ordered that record thereof be made accordingly.

ATTEST: _____ Clerk.

US DISTRICT COURT BOSTON MASS VOL 240 Page 59 A

This is the second page of James Mackenzie's naturalization which shows two witnesses who would speak for his moral character, knew that he had resided in the state for at least one year and that he was attached to the principles of the constitution—these would vary from court to court—often, the witnesses were co-worker, friends or family members which can also give genealogists other clues for research.

If a Declaration of Intention was taken out this will also be listed on the petition-James Mackenzie's lists US Circuit Court in Boston on October fifth, 1895-If the Declaration was taken out in a Federal Court NARA will hold copies-If it was taken out in a state court-the researcher will have to contact the State Archives for a copy.

and to take and declare his bona fide intention to reside in and become a citizen of the United States of America, and to renounce all allegiance and fidelity to every foreign Prince, State, Potentate and Sovereignty whatsoever — more especially to Victoria, Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland,

whose subject he has heretofore been.

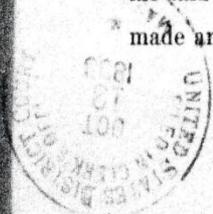
And the said petitioner further represents that he made a primary declaration of his intention to become a citizen of said United States, before the Honorable U. S. Circuit Court, at Boston on the 5th day of October A. D. 1895

And the said petitioner further represents, that he has ever since his said arrival continued to reside within the jurisdiction of said United States, that he has never borne any hereditary title, or been of any of the orders of nobility; that he is ready to renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to every foreign Prince, Potentate, State or Sovereignty whatsoever, and particularly to Victoria, Queen as aforesaid,

whose subject he has heretofore been; that he is attached to the principles of the Constitution of the United States of America, and well disposed towards the good order and happiness of the same.

~~And the said petitioner further represents that he enlisted in the _____ of the United States, and was honorably discharged therefrom _____ 18~~

Wherefore your petitioner prays, that he may be admitted to become a citizen of the said United States of America, according to the forms of the statute in such case made and provided.



James Mackenzie

Sworn to by said Petitioner, before said Court.

ATTEST:

[Signature]

Clerk.

United States of America.

To the Honorable the Judges of the Circuit Court of the United States,
Within and for the District of Massachusetts.

RESPECTFULLY represents *James H. Mackenzie*
of *Boston* in said District, occupation *Baron*
an alien and a free white person, that he was born in
Nova Scotia

the *22d* day of *April* on or about
Lord eighteen hundred and *forty* in the year of our
years of age; that he arrived at *Boston* and is now about *fifty five*
District of *Mass* in the
on or about the _____ day of _____ in the United States of America,

the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and *seventy* ; that
it then was, and still is, his bona fide intention to become a citizen of the United
States of America, and to renounce forever all allegiance and fidelity to every
foreign Prince, State, Potentate and Sovereignty whatsoever, — more especially to
Victoria, Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland,

whose subject he has heretofore been. He therefore prays that this, his Declaration
and Intention, may become a record of this Honorable Court, agreeable to the laws
in such case made and provided.

James Mackenzie
Circuit Court of the United States, }
Massachusetts District. }
To wit: *Oct 8, 1845.*

Then the above named petitioner personally appeared before the Clerk of said
Court, and made oath to the truth of the facts as set forth in the above declaration
to the Court by him subscribed.

ATTEST :
Wm. Bradley Deputy Clerk.

Declarations of Intention (or First Papers)

Normally the first papers were completed soon after arrival in the U.S., depending on the laws in effect at the time. Certain groups, such as women and children, were exempt in early years. After 1862, those who were honorably discharged from U.S. military service were excused from this first step.

Until 1906, the content of forms for declaration of intention varied dramatically from one county to another and from one court to another. A large percentage of the first papers created before 1906 contain very little biographical information. This is the Declaration of Intention for James Mackenzie from the USCC Boston-Declarations taken out in Federal Courts would usually contain:

Occupation

Place and date of birth

Where and when immigrant arrived in the United States-the information varied in state courts

State of New-York,
ALBANY COUNTY, ss.



We it Remembered, THAT on the *fourteenth* day of *June* in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and *thirty two* personally appeared before the Justices of the Justices' Court of the City of Albany, *William Edmonds* who made oath in open court, that it was bona fide his intention to become a Citizen of the United States, and to renounce forever all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty whatsoever, and particularly the *King of Great Britain & Ireland* of whom he is now a subject.

Sworn in open Court, this *14th* day of *June* 1832

William Edmonds

J. G. Wagon Mkr

REGISTRY of the Name, Birth-Place, Age, Nation and allegiance, of *William Edmonds* who intends to become a Citizen of the United States.

NAME.	Birth-Place.	Age.	Nation and Allegiance.	Whence Migrated.	Intended Settlement.
<i>William Edmonds</i>	<i>County of Waterford Ireland</i>	<i>30 years</i>	<i>British</i>	<i>London</i>	<i>Albany State of New York</i>

William Edmonds

Declaration of Intention for William Edmonds from the Albany, New York City Court from 1832-this declaration gives Edmond's birth place, age, nation of allegiance, where immigrated and "intended settlement"

2013

Common Pleas—Certificate of Declaration.

The State of Ohio,
CUYAHOGA COUNTY, SS.

Be it Remembered, That on the 3 day of

Nov A. D. 1856 Adam Merkel

an Alien and Native of Hess Darmstadt personally appeared before me
F S Smith Jr Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas, in and for said

County, and DECLARED, on his solemn oath that he first arrived in the United States in the
month of December A. D. 1851

and that it is his BONA FIDE intention to become A CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES, and to
renounce forever all allegiance and fidelity to any Foreign Prince, Potentate, State or Sovereignty
whatever, and particularly to Louis King

Grand Duke King of Hess Darmstadt and subscribed his
name to said Declaration, which remains on file in the office of the Clerk of said Court.

In Testimony Whereof, I hereunto set my hand officially,
and affix the seal of said Court, at the City of Cleveland,
this 3 day of Nov A. D.

1856

F S Smith Deputy Clerk.

Declaration
of Intention
from the
Court of
Common
Pleas in
Cuyahoga
County Ohio

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

BRISTOL, ss.

To the Honorable the Justice of the Third District Court of Bristol, holden at New Bedford, within and for the County of Bristol:

RESPECTFULLY represents *Charles Lomba*, ^{Slave of African descent} by occupation a *Mariner*, an alien and free ~~white~~ person, now residing at No. *45* *Bridge* Street, in *Fair Haven* in said County,

that he was born at *Bravo* ~~is of~~ in the County of *Cape Verde Islands*, in *Bravo*, on or about the *fourth* day of *March* A. D. *1857*, being now about *thirty six* years of age; that he emigrated from *Bravo aforesaid*

and arrived at *New Bedford* in the United States of America, on or about the *twelfth* day of *September* A. D. *1875*; that it then was and still is his bona fide intention to become a citizen of the United States of America, and to renounce all allegiance and fidelity to every Foreign Prince, Potentate, State, and Sovereignty whatsoever, especially and in particular to ~~VICTORIA, Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and Empress of India.~~ *Carlos the first King of Portugal*

whose subject he has heretofore been; that he intends to summon as witnesses at his final hearing, *John Wing*

residing at No. *24 South sixth* Street, in said

New Bedford

and *Thomas J. Codd* and *Laurens Wrightman*

residing at No. *29 Madeline* Street, in said New Bedford. *503 A South Avenue*

Third District Court of Bristol County
New Bedford, Mass.
Year 1897
Vol. 1885-1896
2
9
3
Petition

Example of a non-Federal court record-this is from the Third District Court of Bristol County in New Bedford for Charles Lomboy who was a free black living in Fair Haven, Massachusetts and was employed as a mariner. This naturalization is three pages long

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

BRISTOL, ss.

In the Third District Court of Bristol holden at New Bedford, within said County, on the third day of July A. D. 1897:-

WE John Wing of New Bedford, in the County of Bristol and Thomas A. Codd and John A. Smith of New Bedford in the County of Bristol

and both citizens of the United States of America, severally depose and say that we are the persons mentioned in the foregoing petition, and that we have known Charles Lomba the foregoing petitioner, for five years last past, during which time he has resided in said New Bedford Fair Haven that he has resided within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts one year at least, and has conducted himself and behaved as a man of good moral character, attached to the principles of the Constitution of the United States of America, and well disposed towards the good order and happiness of the same.

John Wing
Thomas A. Codd
New Bedford, July 31 1897
Attest: John A. Smith Justice of the Peace.

OATH TAKEN BY PETITIONER.

I, Charles Lomba do solemnly swear that I do absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to every Foreign Prince, Potentate, State or Sovereignty whatsoever, particularly to Victoria Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and Empress of India, Carlos the first King of Portugal

whose subject I have heretofore been; and that I will support the Constitution of the United States of America. So help me God.

Charles Lomba

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

BRISTOL, ss.

At a session of the Third District Court of Bristol, holden at said New Bedford, on the third day of July A. D. 1897, the said Charles Lomba having produced the evidence required by law, took the aforesaid oath and was admitted to become a citizen of the United States of America, and the Court ordered that record thereof be made accordingly.

Attest: John A. Smith Clerk.

And the said petitioner further represents that he made a primary declaration of his intention to become a citizen of said United States, before the third district

Court, of Bristol or the clerk thereof, on the sixth day of September A. D. 1897

He also represents that ever since his arrival at said New Bedford he has continued to reside within the jurisdiction of the United States of America; that he has never borne any hereditary title, nor been of any orders of the nobility; that he is ready to renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to every Foreign Prince, Potentate, State and Sovereignty whatsoever, and particularly Victoria Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and Empress of India, Carlos the

first King of Portugal

whose subject he has heretofore been; that he is attached to the principles of the Constitution of the United States of America, and well disposed towards the good order and happiness of the same.

WHEREFORE your petitioner prays that he may be admitted to become a citizen of the United States of America, according to the form of the statutes in such case made and provided.

Charles Lomba

Third District Court of Bristol County Year 1897 Vol. 1885-1896

Third District Court of Bristol County Year 1897 Vol. 1885-1896

Pre -1907 -- CT

And at same September Term, 1879.

57
51

Present, Hon. David S. Colburn — Judge.

The following-named persons, each for himself, on the day and date set against his name, appeared in open Court and applied to be admitted to become a citizen of the United States. And each for himself, then exhibited to said Court a certificate of the declaration of intentions made by him before the authority, and at the time hereinafter set against his name, as on file, and required as the first condition according to the first section of the Act of Congress, entitled "An Act to establish a uniform Rule of Naturalization, and to repeal the Acts heretofore passed on that subject," approved 14th of April, 1802. And it appearing to the satisfaction of the Court that said applicant has resided within the United States five years at least, last past, and in the State of Connecticut one year at least, last past, and that during said five years 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 the said applicant having declared on oath that he would support the Constitution of the United States, and that he did absolutely and entirely renounce all allegiance and fidelity to any Foreign Prince, Potentate, State, and Sovereignty whatever, and particularly to the Prince, Potentate, State, Sovereignty, and Government set against his name, of which he was before a subject. It was, therefore, considered by the Court that the said applicant be, and he was accordingly admitted to become

A CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES.

Name.	Resident of	Naturalized.	Intentions declared before the	Former subject of the Government of
Thomas Manning ✓	Hartford County of Hartford.	October 20 1879.	Superior Court of Hartford County October 14, 1876.	Great Britain.
John Lawson ✓	Farmington County of Hartford	October 20 1879.	Superior Court of Hartford County, October 14, 1876.	Sweden.
Ludwig Hellman ✓	Hartford County of Hartford	October 20 1879.	Hartford City Court October 14, 1876.	Germany.
Edward M. Chapman ✓	Hartford County of Hartford	October 20 1879.	Court of Common Pleas, New York City August 31, 1874.	Great Britain.

Circuit Court of the United States } ss.

For the ^{Northern} Southern District of Illinois

October Term, A. D. 1867.

TO THE HONORABLE Henry W. Blodgett JUDGE OF SAID COURT:

YOUR PETITIONER, Thomas A. Bennett an alien, free white person, a native of England respectfully represents unto your Honor, that he arrived in the United States a minor, under the age of eighteen years; that he resided in the United States three years preceding his arrival at the age of twenty-one years; that he has continued to reside therein to the time of making this, his application to be admitted a citizen thereof; that he has arrived at the age of twenty-one years; that he has resided in the United States five years and upwards, to wit; for the term of 4 years, including the three years of his minority, and in the State of Illinois for 4 years; that it is bona fide his intention to become a citizen of the United States, and renounce forever all allegiance and fidelity to every foreign Prince, Potentate, State or Sovereign whatever, and particularly the allegiance and fidelity which he in anywise owes to Victoria Queen of Great Britain & Ireland whereof he heretofore was a citizen or subject, and that for three years last past it has been bona fide his intention to become a citizen of the United States.

United States of America, } ss.
State and ^{Northern} Southern District of Illinois, } Thomas A. Bennett being duly sworn,

upon his oath says that the above petition is true.

Subscribed and sworn to before me, this

30 day of Oct A.D. 1867

W. H. Bradley Clerk.

T. A. Bennett

United States of America, } ss.
State and Southern District of Illinois, }

E. J. Clark and Pelei Johnson

of the State of Illinois, having been first duly sworn, depose and say that they have been personally acquainted with Thomas A. Bennett an alien, who has applied to be admitted as a naturalized citizen of the United States, for the space of five years last past and upwards; that during the whole of said time he has continued to reside within the limits and under the jurisdiction of said United States, and one year at least in the State of Illinois, preceding the day of the date hereof; and as far as their knowledge and observation has extended, he has behaved as a man of good moral character, and appears to be attached to the principles contained in the Constitution of the United States, and well disposed to the good order, well being and happiness of the same; and that for three years last past, it has been bona fide his intention to become a citizen of the United States.

Subscribed and sworn to in open Court, this

30 day of Oct A.D. 1867

W. H. Bradley Clerk.

E. James Clarke
P. Johnson

OATH OF NATURALIZATION.

United States of America, } ss.
State and Southern District of Illinois, }

I, Thomas A. Bennett do solemnly swear, in the presence of Almighty God, that I will support the Constitution of the United States, and that I do absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to every foreign Prince, Potentate, State or Sovereign whatever, and more particularly the allegiance and fidelity I in anywise owe to Victoria Queen of Great Britain & Ireland whereof I was heretofore a citizen or subject.

Subscribed and sworn to in open Court, this

31 day of Oct A.D. 1867

W. H. Bradley Clerk.

T. A. Bennett

Example of pre-1906 naturalization from the Circuit Court of Northern Illinois-this is a good example of how information prior to 1906 varied from court to court

2813

District Court of the United States,
FOR THE
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO.

March Term, 1859

In the matter of the Application of Adam Merkel

To become a Citizen of the United States,

Matthew Merkel

of Cleveland being duly sworn, deposes and says,
that he is a citizen of the United States; that he is well acquainted with the
above named Adam Merkel that he has
resided within the limits and under the jurisdiction of the United States for
five years last past, and for one year last past within the State
of Ohio; and that during the same period he has behaved himself 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.

Sworn to and subscribed before me, in
open Court, this 1 day of April
A. D. 1859.
C. W. Green Clerk.

M. Merkel

Dist. Court U. S., N. Dist. of Ohio.

United States
District Court
for the Northern
District of Ohio-
again showing
the variance in
information
from court to
court.

"Any woman who is now or may hereafter be married to a citizen of the United States, and who might herself be lawfully naturalized shall be deemed a citizen."

Section 2 of the Naturalization Act of February 10, 1855

Naturalization-Women

In general before 1922 women did not naturalize.

When women were granted the right to vote, they began to naturalize under their own names.

Prior to 1922 women would simply derive their citizenship from either their father or husband. Very few women naturalized under their own name prior to 1922.

Barbara M. Baier applied for citizenship in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia on January 29, 1892. The clerk had to alter the text to "a woman of good moral character." (NARA, Records of District Courts of the United States, RG 21)

Be it remembered, That on this 29th day of January, 1892,
Barbara M. Baier
a native of Germany, aged about 42 years,
comes, and prays to be admitted to become a **CITIZEN** of the United States; and it thereupon appears, to the
satisfaction of the Court, that the said petitioner did on the 13th day of January
1890 before the clerk of said Court declare her intention
to become a citizen of the United States
and has resided in the United States more than 5 years previous to her said application to become
a Citizen, behaving as a ^{woman} ~~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 the said petitioner here
now declaring, upon her solemn oath, that she will support the Constitution of the United States, and that she
absolutely and entirely renounces and abjures all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state,
or sovereignty whatever, and particularly to the Empire of Germany
of which country she has hitherto been a subject:
it is thereupon considered that the said petitioner do, and hereby is, admitted to become a Citizen of the
United States.

(By Justice Montgomery)

Naturalization Petition for Barbara Baier, 1892

United States of America.

Massachusetts District, ss.

To the Honorable the Judge of the District Court of the United States, within and for the District of Massachusetts.

RESPECTFULLY represents *Mary Medley*
of *Cambridge (Past)*, No. *2 Chestnut Park* Street,
in said District, that she is an alien, and a free white person (~~a person of African descent~~), of full age; that she has resided within the said United States for the continued term of five years next preceding this petition, and within the State of Massachusetts for the twelve months next preceding this petition; that she has never borne any hereditary title, or been of any of the orders of nobility. That the answers to the questions appended are true.

her husband, Edward Medley,
* That ~~he~~ made a primary declaration of his intention to become a citizen of said United States, before the Honorable *U. S. Circuit* Court, *at Boston Mass* on the *twenty* fifth day of *October* A. D. 1888.

~~* That at the time of his arrival in said United States, he was under the age of eighteen years, and that for the two years next preceding this petition it has been his immediate intention to become a citizen of said United States.~~

~~That he enlisted in the Army Navy Marine Corps of the said United States, to wit,~~

~~and was honorably discharged therefrom~~
that she is the widow of the said Edward Medley (now deceased)

Wherefore your petitioner prays that she may be admitted to become a citizen of the said United States of America, according to the form of the statute in such case made and provided.

(Applicant sign here.) *Mary Medley*

Sworn to by said Petitioner, before said Court.



[Signature] Clerk

Naturalization record for Mary Medley from the United States District Court in Boston. Ms. Medley was naturalizing under her own name because her husband had died before he completed the naturalization process. While unusual to see a women's name on a petition before the year 1922, some women did naturalize if their husband had died before completing the naturalization process or if they were single.

2228

APPLICATION TO TAKE OATH OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE UNITED STATES UNDER THE ACT OF JUNE 25, 1936, AS AMENDED, AND FORM OF SUCH OATH

To the Honorable, the Justices, District Court of United States at Boston, Mass.

This application, hereby made and filed, respectfully shows:

(1) My full, true, and correct name is Catherine Teresa Hogan - nee Glennon
(Full, true name, without abbreviation, and any other name which has been used, must appear here)
(2) My present place of residence is 46 Avon Road Wellesley Norfolk Massachusetts
(Number and street) (City or town) (County) (State)
(3) My occupation is Housewife
(4) I am 54 years old. (5) I was born on June 5 1888 in Boston, Massachusetts
(Month) (Day) (Year) (City or town)

Massachusetts USA
(County, district, province, or state) (Country)
(6) My personal description is as follows: Sex female; color white, complexion medium, color of eyes grey, color of hair grey, height 5 feet 5 1/2 inches, weight 135 pounds; visible distinctive marks none

(7) I am married; the name of my husband is James Joseph Hogan; we were married on October 6 1907 at Boston, Massachusetts USA; he was born at County Cork, Ireland on September 15 1885; and now resides at 46 Avon Road, Wellesley, Mass USA
(City or town) (County, district, province, or state) (Country) (City or town) (State) (Country) (City or town) (County) (State) (Country) (Number and street) (City or town) (State) (Country)

(8) I lost, or believe that I lost, United States citizenship solely by reason of my marriage on October 6, 1907 to James Joseph Hogan then an alien, a citizen or subject of Great Britain and my marital status with such person was not terminated on XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX by XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
(Month) (Day) (Year) (Month) (Day) (Year)

(9) I have resided continuously in the United States since the date of my marriage shown in paragraph 8 hereof, to wit, since October 6 1907
(Month) (Day) (Year)

(10) I hereby apply to take the oath of renunciation and allegiance as prescribed in Section 335 (b) of the Nationality Act of 1940 (54 Stat. 1157) to become repatriated and obtain the rights of a citizen of the United States.

Catherine Teresa Hogan
(Full, true, and correct signature of applicant, without abbreviation)

Subscribed and sworn to before me by the above-named applicant, in the office of the clerk of said court at Boston, Massachusetts this 22nd day of May, Anno Domini 19 43

James S. Allen

[Signature] Clerk. [SEAL]
By [Signature] Deputy Clerk.

Mass. Dist.

Boston

ss: In the U. S. District Court of Massachusetts at Boston

Upon consideration of the foregoing, it is hereby ORDERED and DECREED that the above application be granted; that the applicant named therein be repatriated as a citizen of the United States, upon taking the oath of renunciation and allegiance to the United States; and that the clerk of this court enter these proceedings of record.

By the Court: [Signature] Judge.

OATH OF RENUNCIATION AND ALLEGIANCE

I hereby declare, on oath, that I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state or sovereignty of whom or which I have heretofore been a subject or citizen; that I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I take this obligation freely without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion: SO HELP ME GOD. In acknowledgment whereof I have hereunto affixed my signature.

Catherine Teresa Hogan
(Full, true, and correct signature of applicant, without abbreviation)

The foregoing oath was administered to the petitioner in open court this 14th day of June, 19 43

When women were granted the right to petition for citizenship under their own name in 1922, women who were married to an alien had to petition for citizenship-even if they were native born. This is a repatriation naturalization for Catherine Hogan who was married to her husband James Hogan in 1907-she was Petitioning the court for citizenship in 1943.



1824 to 1906, minor aliens who had lived in the United States 5 years before their 23rd birthday could file both their declarations and petitions at the same time.

S415

Family name	Given name or names
SULLIVAN	TIMOTHY

Address
Lynn

Certificate no. (or vol. and page)	Title and location of court
89-98	USDC BOSTON MASS

Country of birth or allegiance	When born (or age)
IRELAND	June 1 1876

Date and port of arrival in U. S.	Date of naturalization.
	Nov 2 1876

Names and addresses of witnesses

Card for Timothy Sullivan-for researchers to find the correct dexigraph (naturalization) they are looking for-they need to know the volume and page number of the record-this can only be obtained via this index.

United States of America.

98

Massachusetts District, ss.

To the Honorable the Judge of the District Court of the United States, within and for the District of Massachusetts

RESPECTFULLY represents Timothy Sullivan of Lynn in said District an alien, and a free white person, that he was born in County Cork Ireland

on or about the 1st day of June in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and 31 and is now about 45 years of age; that he arrived at Boston

19 in the United States of America, on or about the day of May in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and 46 being then a minor under the age of eighteen years; that it then was and still is, his bona fide intention to reside in and become a citizen of the United States of America, and to renounce all allegiance and fidelity to every foreign Prince, State, Potentate, and Sovereignty whatsoever—more especially to Victoria, Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.

whose subject he has heretofore been: All which appears in the Record of the Honorable Court.

to wit, on the day of A. D. 18

And the said petitioner further represents, that he has ever since continued to reside within the jurisdiction of said United States, that he has never borne any hereditary title, or been of any of the orders of nobility; that he is ready to renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to every foreign Prince, Potentate, State, or Sovereignty whatever, and particularly to Victoria, Queen as aforesaid,

whose subject he has heretofore been; that he is attached to the principles of the Constitution of the United States of America, and well disposed towards the good order and happiness of the same.

And the said petitioner further represents that he enlisted in the Volunteer forces of the Armies of the United States, and that he was honorably discharged therefrom on the day of A. D. 18

Wherefore your petitioner prays, that he may be admitted to become a citizen of the said United States of America, according to the terms of the statutes in such case made and provided

Witness Daniel Collins Nov 2 1876 Sworn to by said Petitioner, Timothy Sullivan his mark

Before me, E. J. [Signature] Clerk

US DISTRICT COURT - BOSTON MASS. VOL 89 PAGE 9 8

Family search.org has recently finished digitizing the National Archives at Boston's Dexigraph collection. This material is now free and available to all researchers. Family Search is currently working on an index-so that researchers can simply search for these records via a persons name. Researchers still have to request an index search from us or they can search the index via ancestry.com until this is completed



The collection can be located on FamilySearch under New England, Petitions for naturalizations. The year range which family search has given the collection is incorrect-all of the records are for the years 1790-1906. You can find this link under United States collections.

New England, Petitions for Naturalization, 1787-1931

Description

This collection consists of naturalization documents filed in the National Archives Northeast Region which includes: Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont, NARA ARC Identifier 4752894. This collection is being published as images become available.

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Source Information

"New England, Petitions for Naturalization, 1787-1931." Images. *FamilySearch*. <https://familysearch.org> : accessed 2013.

Because you cannot yet search by name within this collection- Researchers have to browse thru to find the naturalizations which they are looking for. As of this program-not all of the images have been uploaded-Vermont has not yet been uploaded and the Rhode Island, Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts are still in the process of being uploaded.

B420

Family name

BOWLES

Address

Lowell

Certificate no. (or vol. and page)

115-7

Country of birth or allegiance

Ireland

Date and port of arrival in U. S.

Given name or names

Wm. C.

Title and location of court

USCC BOSTON MASS

When born (or age)

July 12 1850

Date of naturalization

October 11 1878

Names and addresses of witnesses

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, Immigration and Naturalization Service. Form No. 1-IP. 14-3202

MC

Index card for William C. Bowles of Lowell Massachusetts who was naturalized at the United States Circuit Court in Boston, Massachusetts-Volume 115-Page 7-Now the researcher will have to find the USCC Boston-Volume 115-Pg 7

Researchers then must pick the court in which the naturalization was completed. These are broken up by state-then by county –then by court.

The image shows two screenshots of the FamilySearch website. The top screenshot displays the main navigation menu with 'RECORDS' selected, and a breadcrumb trail for 'New England, Petitions for Naturalization, 1787-1931'. Below this, a 'State' filter is shown with links for Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island. The bottom screenshot shows the same page but with 'Massachusetts' selected in the breadcrumb trail. Underneath, a 'County, Court' filter is visible, listing various courts such as Suffolk County, Municipal Court, Suffolk County, Superior Court, and US District Court. A blue oval highlights the 'US District Court' and 'Suffolk County, Superior Court for Criminal Business' options.

FamilySearch

Family Tree Photos Search

RECORDS GENEALOGIES CATALOG BOOKS WIKI

New England, Petitions for Naturalization, 1787-1931

State

Maine Massachusetts New Hampshire Rhode Island

View Images — FamilySearch.org - Windows Internet Explorer

https://familysearch.org/search/image/index#uri=https%3A%2F%2Ffamilysearch.org%2Frecords%2Fwaypoint%2FM9WN

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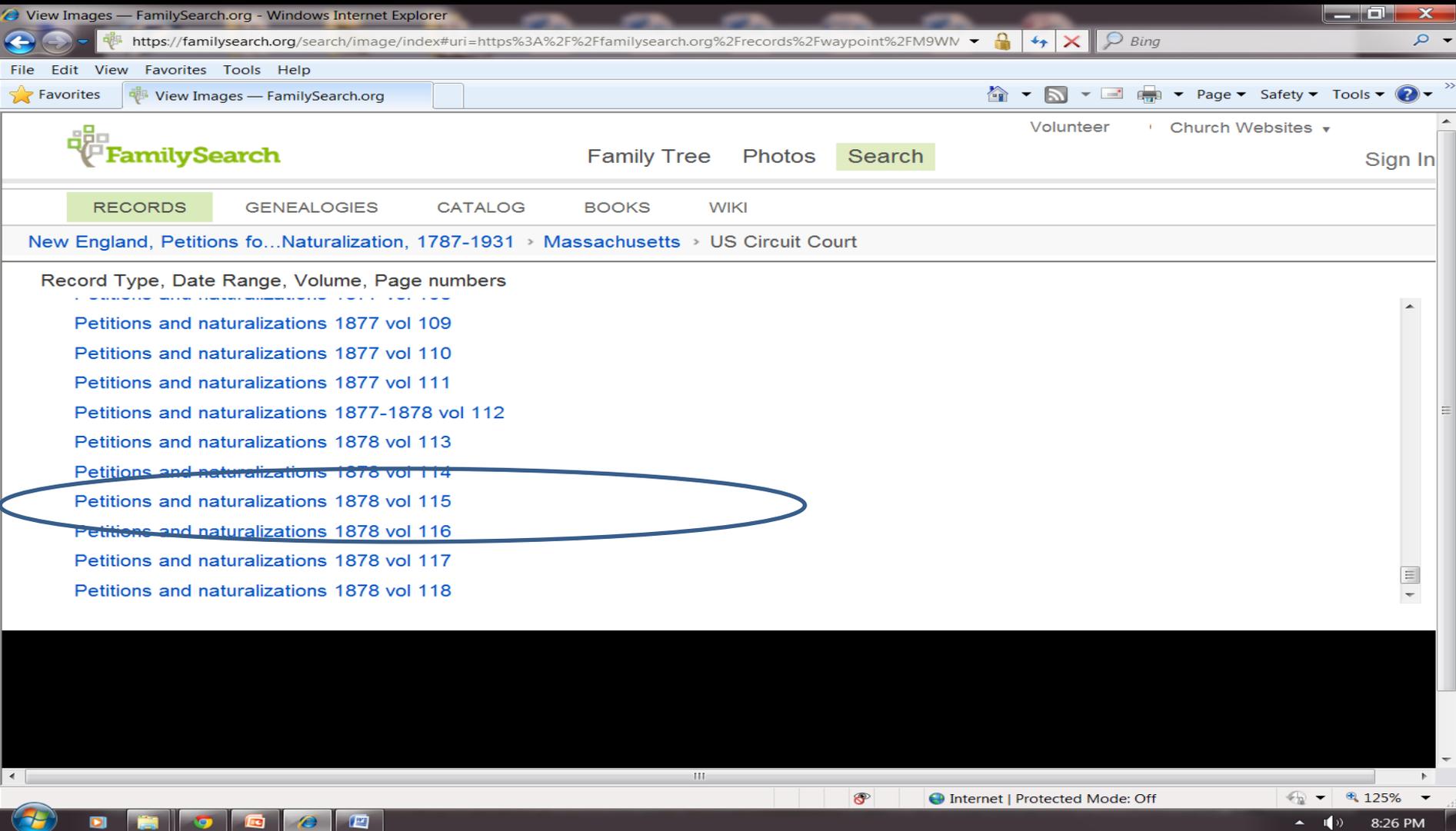
Family Tree Photos Search

RECORDS GENEALOGIES CATALOG BOOKS WIKI

New England, Petitions for Naturalization, 1787-1931 > Massachusetts

County, Court

- Suffolk County, Municipal Court
- Suffolk County, Municipal Court for Criminal Business
- Suffolk County, Police Court
- Suffolk County, Roxbury District Municipal Court
- Suffolk County, South Boston Municipal Court
- Suffolk County, Superior Court
- Suffolk County, Superior Court for Criminal Business
- Suffolk County, Supreme Judicial Court
- US Circuit Court
- US District Court
- Worcester County, Central District Court



Researchers must then located the court which they need and scroll thru until the volume and page which they need is located. Until the name index is completed by family search-researchers need to know the volume and page number to locate the correct naturalization record.

United States of America.

To the Honorable the Judges of the Circuit Court of the United States,
begun and holden at Boston, within and for the District of Massachusetts.

Respectfully represents *William C. Bowles*
of *Lowell* in said District, occupation, *Moulder*
an Alien and a free white person; that he was born in *Cw. Casan, Ireland,*
within the dominions of Victoria
Queen of the United Kingdom of
Great Britain and Ireland on or about
the *twelfth* day of *July* in the year of our Lord eighteen
hundred and *fifty* and is now about *twenty-eight* years of
age; that he arrived at *Boston* in the District of
Massachusetts in the United States of America, on or about the
twenty-fifth day of *April* in the year of our Lord eighteen
hundred and *eighty-eight* being then a minor under the age of *eighteen* years;
that it then was, and still is, his bona fide intention to reside in and become a citizen
of the United States of America, and to renounce all allegiance and fidelity to every
foreign Prince, State, Potentate and Sovereignty whatsoever—more especially to
Victoria, Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland,

whose subject he has heretofore been. ~~All of which appears in the record of the
Honorable
Court,
in and on the
day of
D 18~~

And the said petitioner further represents that he has ever since continued
to reside within the jurisdiction of said United States; that he has never borne
any hereditary title, or been of any of the orders of nobility; that he is ready to
renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to every foreign Prince, Potentate,
State or Sovereignty whatsoever; and particularly to **Victoria**, Queen of the
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland,

whose subject he has heretofore been; that he is attached to the principles of the
Constitution of the United States of America, and well disposed towards the good
order and happiness of the same.

~~And the said petitioner further represents that he enlisted in the Armies of
the United States, and was honorably discharged therefrom.~~

Wherefore, your petitioner prays that he may be admitted to become a
citizen of the said United States of America, according to the forms of the Statutes
in such case made and provided.

W. C. Bowles

Oct. 11, 1878. Sworn to by said Petitioner,
Before me,

John G. Slaton

Clerk.

U.S. CIRCUIT COURT
Boston Mass Vol. 115 Page

Researcher will find the Court and Volume and page numbers on the side of each dextragraph—this is the information which researchers will be looking for once the court has been located.

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Joseph Keefe, Archives Specialist

Early Naturalization Records

Email: boston.archives@nara.gov

Phone: 1-866-406-2379



KNOW YOUR RECORDS
National Archives and Records Administration

Thank you for attending!

Today's video recording and materials
will remain available at
www.archives.gov/calendar/know-your-records



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