RESEARCHING IMMIGRANT ANCESTORS

Cass County Public Library – Genealogy Branch

GETTING STARTED

How to Get Started

Approach tracing your immigrant ancestors the same way you would approach any other relative. *Start with the same information, documents, and techniques you use in all genealogical research:*

- Vital Records (birth, marriage, death)
- Federal and State Census
- Personal Records (family bible, wills, letters, etc.)
- Probate/Court Records
- Church Records
- Interview family members

Rules of Thumb

- Start with what you know, ***working your way back to the earliest immigrant ancestor in America***.
- Once you have done that, use what you know about that ancestor to ***figure out when and where they arrived in America and where they came from***.
- From there, your goal is to ***determine where to find and how to use records from their home country***.

The Basic Steps for Researching Your Immigrant Ancestor

- Trace your family back to the *earliest ancestor* present in America
- Determine the arrival date and origin of that ancestor
- Locate immigration records
- Locate naturalization documents
- Determine a (*fairly*) specific location in home country
- Begin research in that country's records

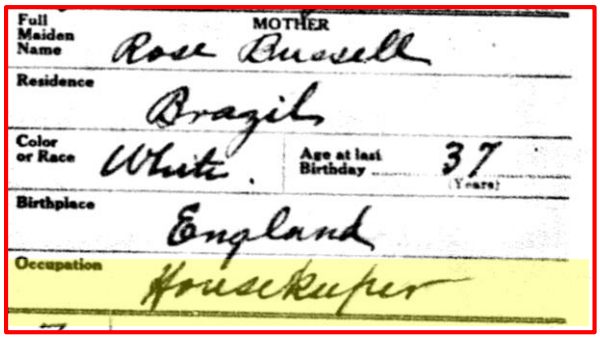
Finding Clues in US Records

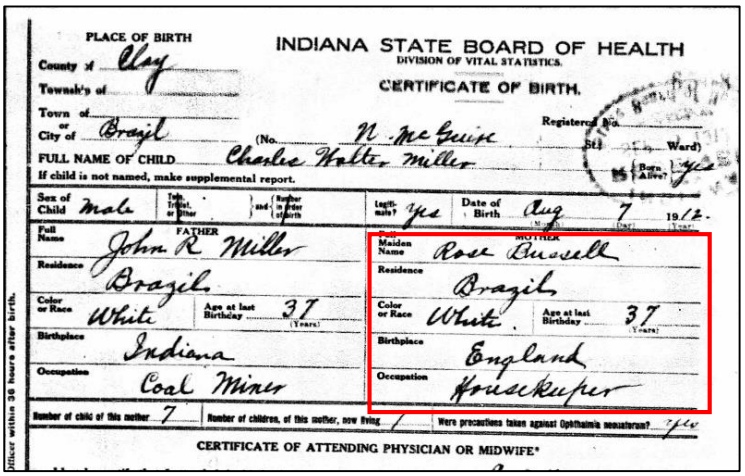
<u>Basic Tip</u>: You will want to focus on finding clues in basic records that indicate nativity, ethnicity, parents' names and nativity, port of entry, port of departure, arrival date, and citizenship status.

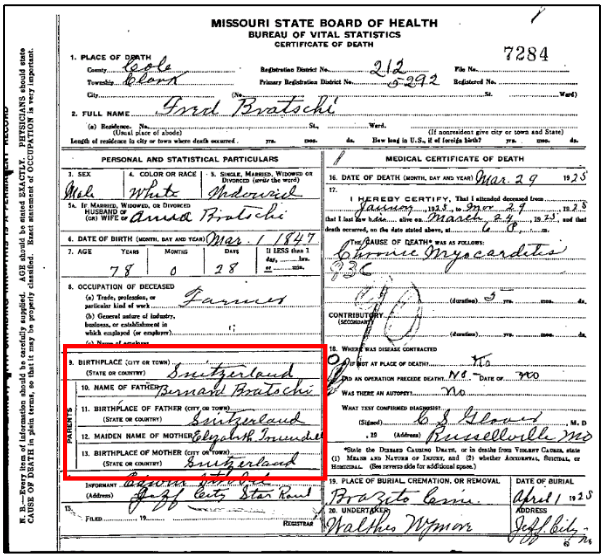
Vital Records

- Check birthplaces listed on birth & death records
  - Remember: This information is only as accurate as the informant
- Most states have regulations on who can request a copy of a birth or death certificate
  - Check with the Department of Public Health in particular state

Example: 1912 Indiana Birth Certificate
Mother: Rose Bussell, 37, *born in England*


MOTHER
Full Maiden Name: Rose Bussell
Residence: Brazil
Color or Race: White
Age at last Birthday: 37 (Years)
Birthplace: England
Occupation: Housekeeper


PLACE OF BIRTH
County of Clay
Township of
Town of
or City of Brazil (No. N. McGuire St.) Ward)
INDIANA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
DIVISION OF VITAL STATISTICS.
CERTIFICATE OF BIRTH.
Registered No.
FULL NAME OF CHILD Charles Walter Miller
If child is not named, make supplemental report.
Sex of Child: Male
Legitimate? Yes
Date of Birth: Aug 7 1912
FATHER
Full Name: John R Miller
Residence: Brazil
Color or Race: White
Age at last Birthday: 37 (Years)
Birthplace: Indiana
Occupation: Coal Miner
MOTHER
Maiden Name: Rose Bussell
Residence: Brazil
Color or Race: White
Age at last Birthday: 37 (Years)
Birthplace: England
Occupation: Housekeeper
Number of child of this mother: 7
Number of children, of this mother, now living: 1
Were precautions taken against Ophthalmia neonatorum? Yes
CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDING PHYSICIAN OR MIDWIFE*
Mailed within 36 hours after birth.



MISSOURI STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS
CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

7284

1. PLACE OF DEATH
County Cole
Township Clark
Registration District No. 212
Primary Registration District No. 5292

2. FULL NAME Fred Bratschi

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS

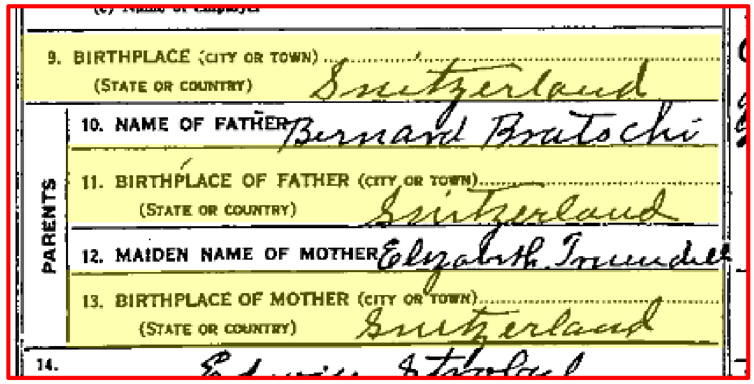
3. SEX Male
4. COLOR OR RACE White
5. SINGLE, MARRIED, WIDOWED OR DIVORCED Widowed
HUSBAND OF (or) WIFE OF Anna Bratschi
6. DATE OF BIRTH Mar. 1 1847
7. AGE 78 Years 0 Months 28 Days
8. OCCUPATION OF DECEASED Farmer
9. BIRTHPLACE (STATE OR COUNTRY) Switzerland
10. NAME OF FATHER Bernard Bratschi
11. BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER (STATE OR COUNTRY) Switzerland
12. MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER Elizabeth Imundel
13. BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (STATE OR COUNTRY) Switzerland

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

16. DATE OF DEATH Mar. 29 1925
17. I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from January 1925 to Nov 27 1925

The CAUSE OF DEATH was as follows: Chronic Myocarditis

19. PLACE OF BURIAL, CREMATION, OR REMOVAL
DATE OF BURIAL April 1 1925
UNDERTAKER Walther Wymore
ADDRESS Jeff. City



9. BIRTHPLACE (CITY OR TOWN)
(STATE OR COUNTRY) Switzerland
PARENTS
10. NAME OF FATHER Bernard Bratschi
11. BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER (CITY OR TOWN)
(STATE OR COUNTRY) Switzerland
12. MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER Elizabeth Imundel
13. BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (CITY OR TOWN)
(STATE OR COUNTRY) Switzerland
14.

Example: 1925 Missouri Death Certificate, Fred Bratschi
Birthplace: *Switzerland*
Father's Birthplace: *Switzerland*
Mother's Birthplace: *Switzerland*

Census Records

- The areas of most interest here are the Nativity and Citizenship columns
    - Answers to these questions can help direct you to related immigration and naturalization records
    - The names of foreign countries may change over time for political, linguistic, geographical, or religious reasons, i.e. "*Baiern/Bayern*" is the German name for *Bavaria*, and may be used on the census
- Some states also took state-level censuses in between federal census years
    - Check for additional nativity and citizenship status information there

The **Census Bureau** website provides in-depth information regarding each year of the Federal Census
www.census.gov/history/www/through_the_decades

- This includes questions asked, blank forms, historical context for that year, enumerator instructions, etc.
- *Enumerator Instructions* can be especially helpful
    - They detail how the enumerator was instructed to fill out the questionnaire, such as how to handle countries with recent name changes or ambiguous relationships between native tongue and country
        - i.e. 1910 Instructions: "*In case the person speaks Polish, as Poland is not now a country, inquire whether the birthplace as Germany, Austrian Poland or Russian Poland, and enter the answer accordingly as Poland (Ger.), Poland (Aust.), or Poland (Russ.).*"

Changes in the Federal Census Nativity & Citizenship Sections Over Time

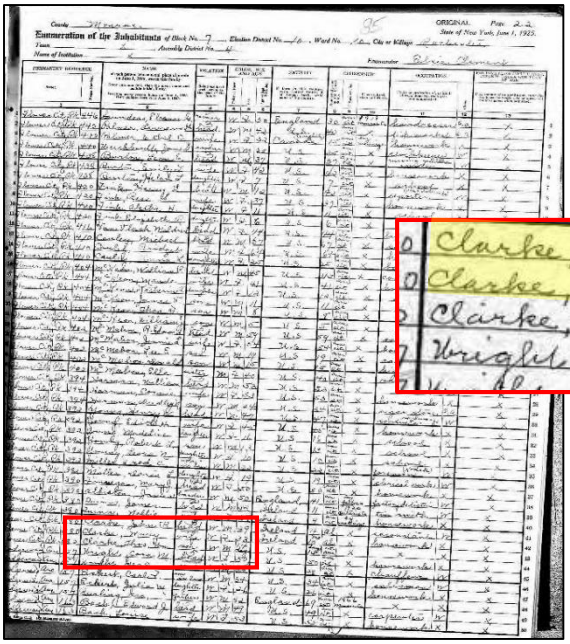
- 1850 Census – *People are first listed individually, rather than just the head of the household*
- 1870 Census – *Whether their Father or Mother was "Foreign Born"*
- 1880 Census – *Place of Birth, Father & Mother's Place of Birth questions are added*
- 1900 Census – *Year of immigration and naturalization status questions are added*
- 1910 Census – *Questions added about whether they are Naturalized or Alien, whether they speak English*
- 1920 Census – *Year of naturalization is added*
- 1930 Census – *Language spoken before immigration ("mother tongue")*
- 1940 Census – *Citizenship status of foreign born individuals is added*

Each Census had a select list of preset abbreviations for the **"Color"** or **Race** column:

- W – White
- Neg – Negro
- In/Indian – Indian (*Native American*)
- Mex – Mexican (*1930 Census only*)
- M/Mulatto – Mixed Race* (*not always accurate*)
- Jp – Japanese
- Hin – Hindu (*Indian from India*)
- Kor – Korean
- Fil – Filipino
- Chi – Chinese

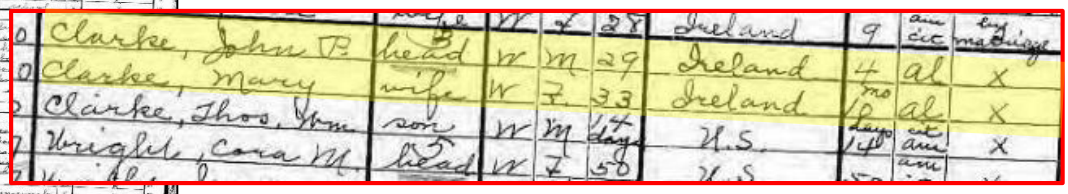
All other races were supposed to be written out in full. ***This column isn't always accurate***, and, for some (*especially Native Americans or mixed race individuals*), ***may vary from year to year***.

Example: 1925 New York State Census



John Patrick Clarke
Nativity: *Ireland*
Citizen or Alien: *Alien*
Years in US: *4*
Naturalized: *No*

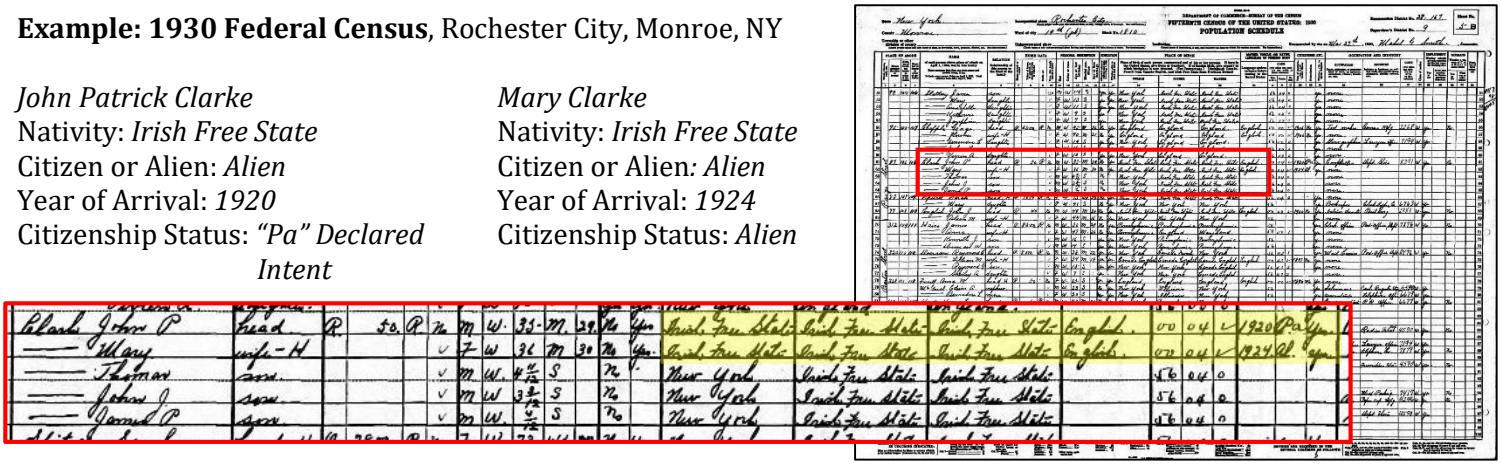
Mary Clarke
Nativity: *Ireland*
Citizen or Alien*: Alien*
Years in US: *18 months*
Naturalized: *No*

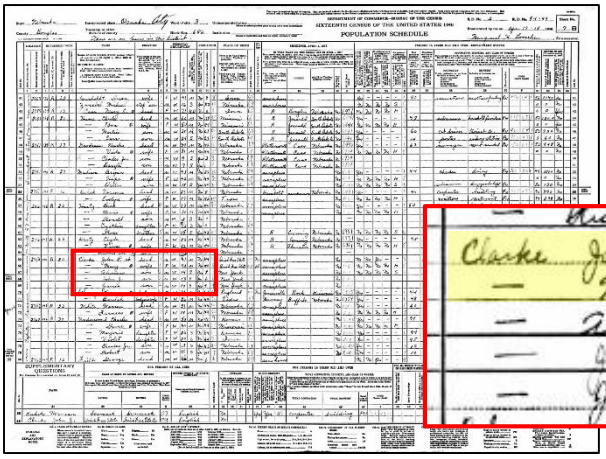


Example: 1930 Federal Census, Rochester City, Monroe, NY

John Patrick Clarke
Nativity: *Irish Free State*
Citizen or Alien: *Alien*
Year of Arrival: *1920*
Citizenship Status: *"Pa" Declared Intent*

Mary Clarke
Nativity: *Irish Free State*
Citizen or Alien*: Alien*
Year of Arrival: *1924*
Citizenship Status: *Alien*

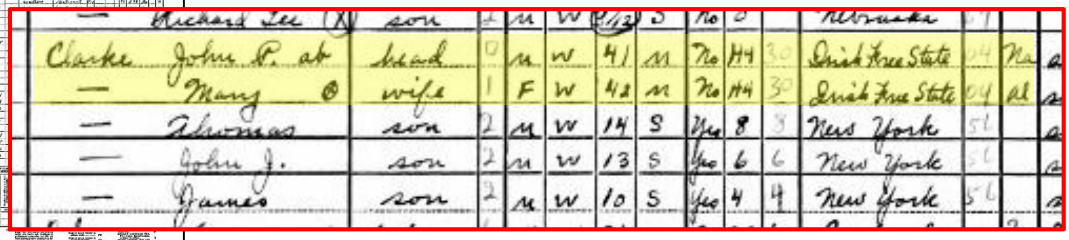




Example: 1940 Federal Census, Omaha City, Douglas, NE

John Patrick Clarke
Nativity: *Irish Free State*
Citizenship Status: *Naturalized*

Mary Clarke
Nativity: *Irish Free State*
Citizenship Status: *Alien*

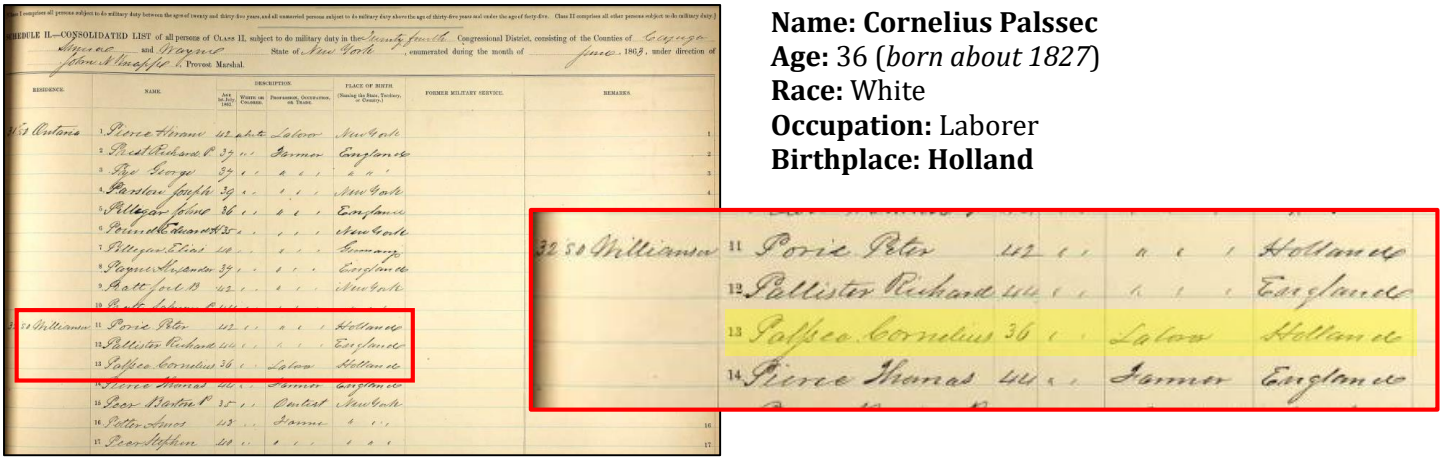


Military Records

Always check for the individual's birthplace on any record

- Registration
- Muster Rolls
- Pensions
- WWI Draft Cards (provides citizenship status)
- WWII Draft Cards

Example: Civil War Draft, Cayuga, Seneca, and Wayne Counties, New York, 1863

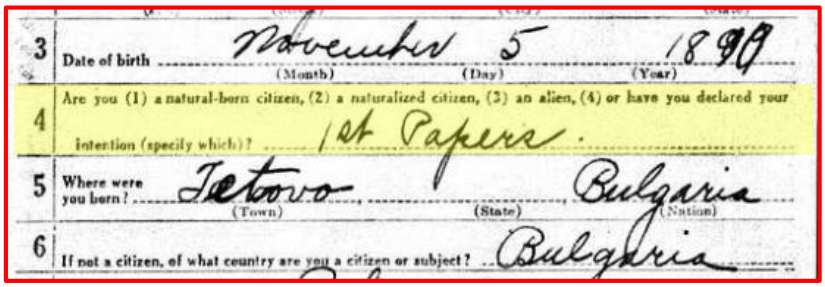


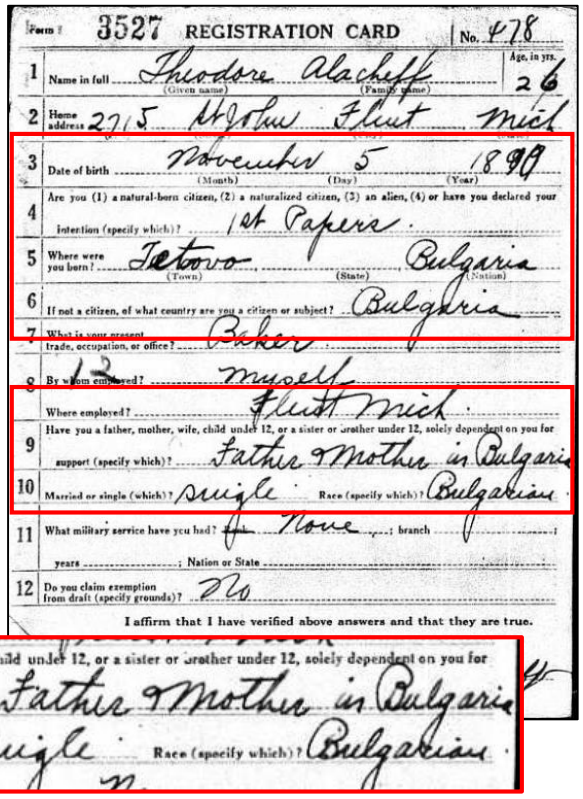
Name: Cornelius Palssec
Age: 36 (*born about 1827*)
Race: White
Occupation: Laborer
Birthplace: Holland

Researcher Note: *Since he was born in Holland, around 1827, we know a window of time to look for his immigration records (1827-1863, the date of the record). Clues in other records might help narrow that window down further.*

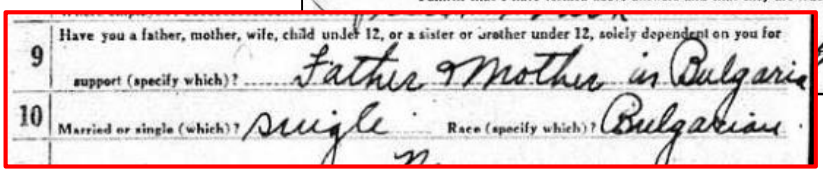
Example: WWI Draft Card

Name: Theodore Alacheff
Age: 26
Residence: Flint, Michigan
Birth Date: 5 November 1890 (possibly 1889)
Citizenship Status: "1st Papers" (has filed a Declaration of Intent)
Birth Place: Tetovo, Bulgaria
Citizenship: Bulgarian



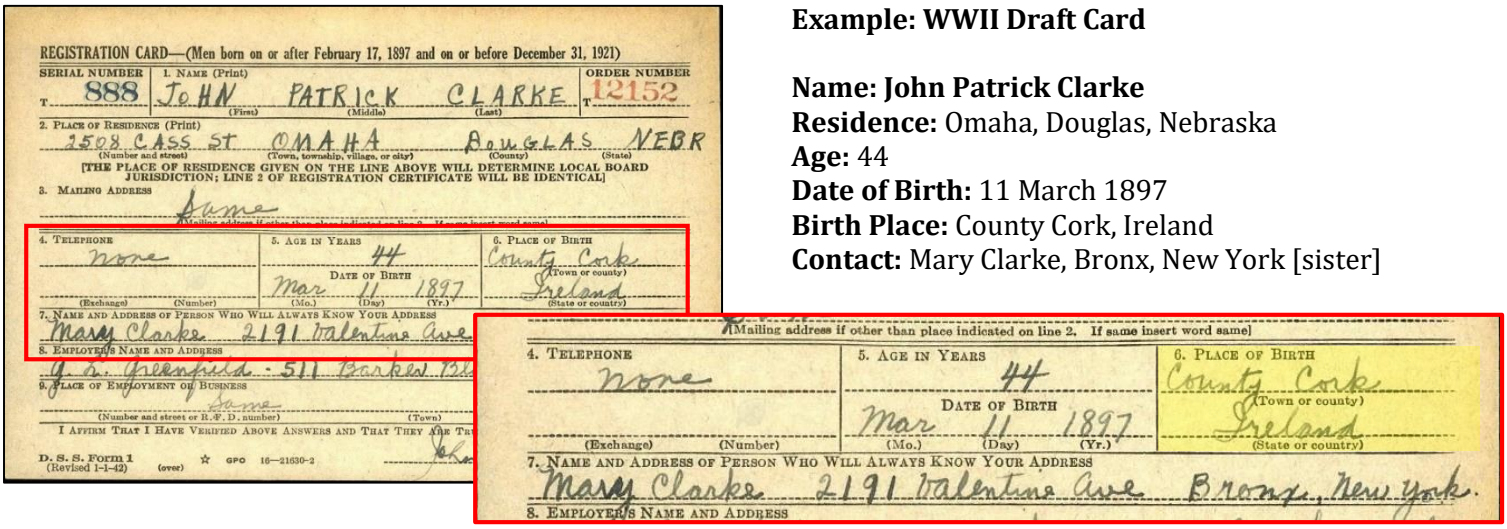


Occupation: Baker, self-employed
Marital Status: Single
Dependents: Father & Mother, in Bulgaria
Race: Bulgarian



Researcher Note: *Now that we know he has filed a Declaration of Intent, we know that his naturalization records (and therefore immigration records) exist and could possibly be found. In addition, since his parents remain in Bulgaria and he*

is unmarried, we are likely to find him traveling alone on a passenger list. We also have a fairly specific location in Bulgaria for when we begin searching abroad.


REGISTRATION CARD—(Men born on or after February 17, 1897 and on or before December 31, 1921)
SERIAL NUMBER 888 | 1. NAME (Print) JOHN (First) PATRICK (Middle) CLARKE (Last) | ORDER NUMBER 12152
2. PLACE OF RESIDENCE (Print) 1508 CASS ST (Number and street) OMAHA (Town, township, village, or city) DOUGLAS (County) NEBR (State)
[THE PLACE OF RESIDENCE GIVEN ON THE LINE ABOVE WILL DETERMINE LOCAL BOARD JURISDICTION; LINE 2 OF REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE WILL BE IDENTICAL]
3. MAILING ADDRESS Same
4. TELEPHONE None (Exchange) (Number)
5. AGE IN YEARS 44
DATE OF BIRTH Mar 11 1897 (Mo.) (Day) (Yr.)
6. PLACE OF BIRTH County Cork (Town or county) Ireland (State or country)
7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS Mary Clarke 2191 Valentine Ave
8. EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS G. R. Greenfield - 511 Barker Bl
9. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS Same (Number and street or R.F.D. number) (Town)
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TR
D. S. S. Form 1 (Revised 1-1-42) (over) ☆ GPO 16—21630-2

[Mailing address if other than place indicated on line 2. If same insert word same]
4. TELEPHONE None (Exchange) (Number)
5. AGE IN YEARS 44
DATE OF BIRTH Mar 11 1897 (Mo.) (Day) (Yr.)
6. PLACE OF BIRTH County Cork (Town or county) Ireland (State or country)
7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS Mary Clarke 2191 Valentine Ave Bronx, New York
8. EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS

Example: WWII Draft Card

Name: John Patrick Clarke
Residence: Omaha, Douglas, Nebraska
Age: 44
Date of Birth: 11 March 1897
Birth Place: County Cork, Ireland
Contact: Mary Clarke, Bronx, New York [sister]

Researcher Note: *With this record we get a date and place of birth abroad (helpful later when researching with Irish records), a relative's name (a sister, Mary Clarke) which might help when looking for his immigration records, namely a passenger list. If we cannot find his records, we can try his sister's, since we know she likely emigrated from Ireland, as well.*

IMMIGRATION RECORDS

Passenger Lists

- Starting in 1820, the US government mandated the use of passenger lists
- Earlier records are typically indexed or in book form rather than digitized
- Prior to 1900s, mostly handwritten and provide less detail
- Names on these manifests were typically as the passenger provided
    - Any name changes, "Americanization," or significant spelling variations came from the passenger, not the immigration official
    - Handwritten records are notorious for having questionable transcribing – *remember to try spelling variations or browsing and filter options when searching for pre-1900s passenger lists*

Commonly used arrival ports:

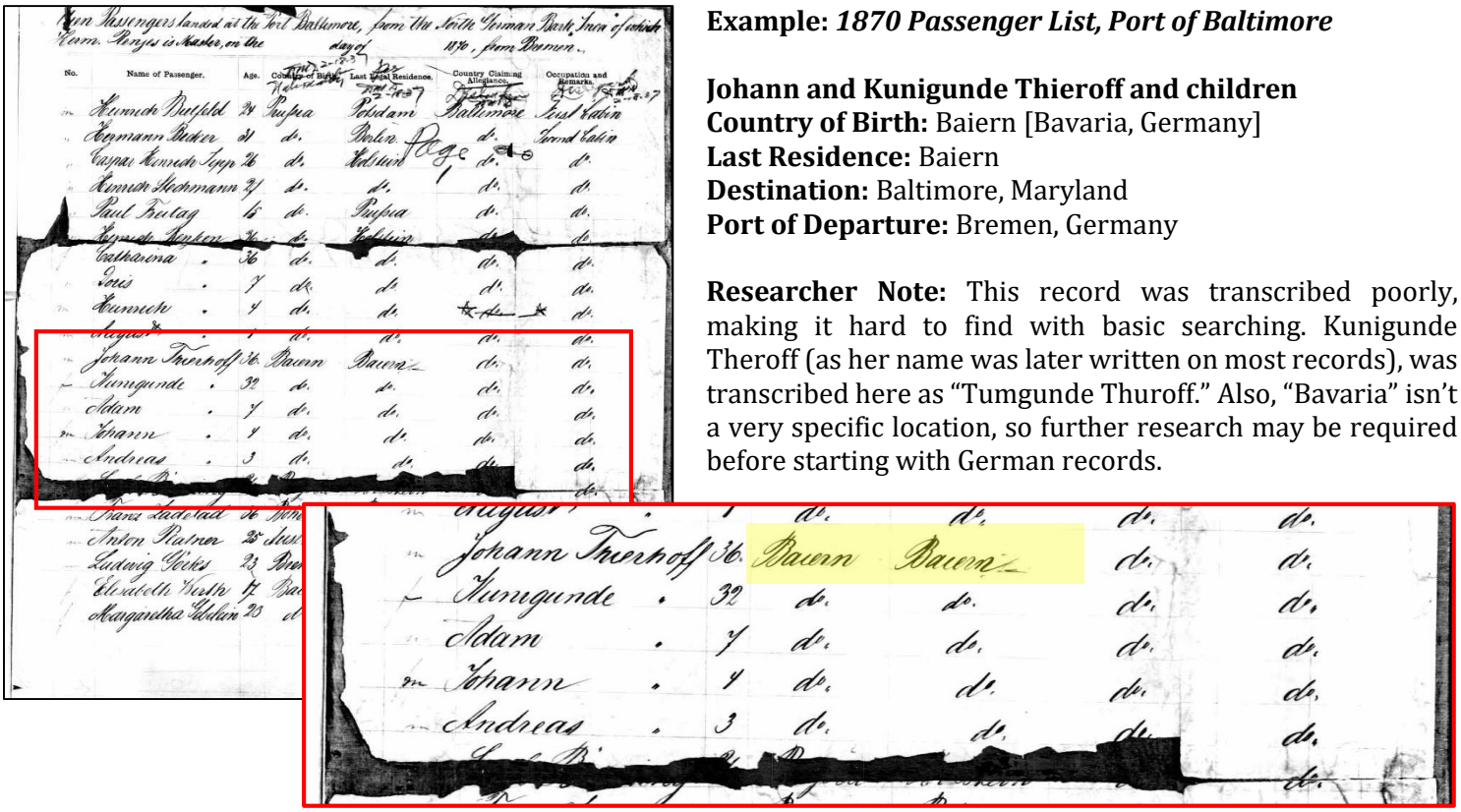
- New York
- Baltimore
- Boston
- Philadelphia
- New Orleans
- Great Lakes

New York Passenger Lists
During the years 1892 – 1924, over 20 million immigrants arrived at New York's Ellis Island

- Statistically, the most likely port used – *so when in doubt, check New York*

Online Resources for Passenger Lists from New York Ports

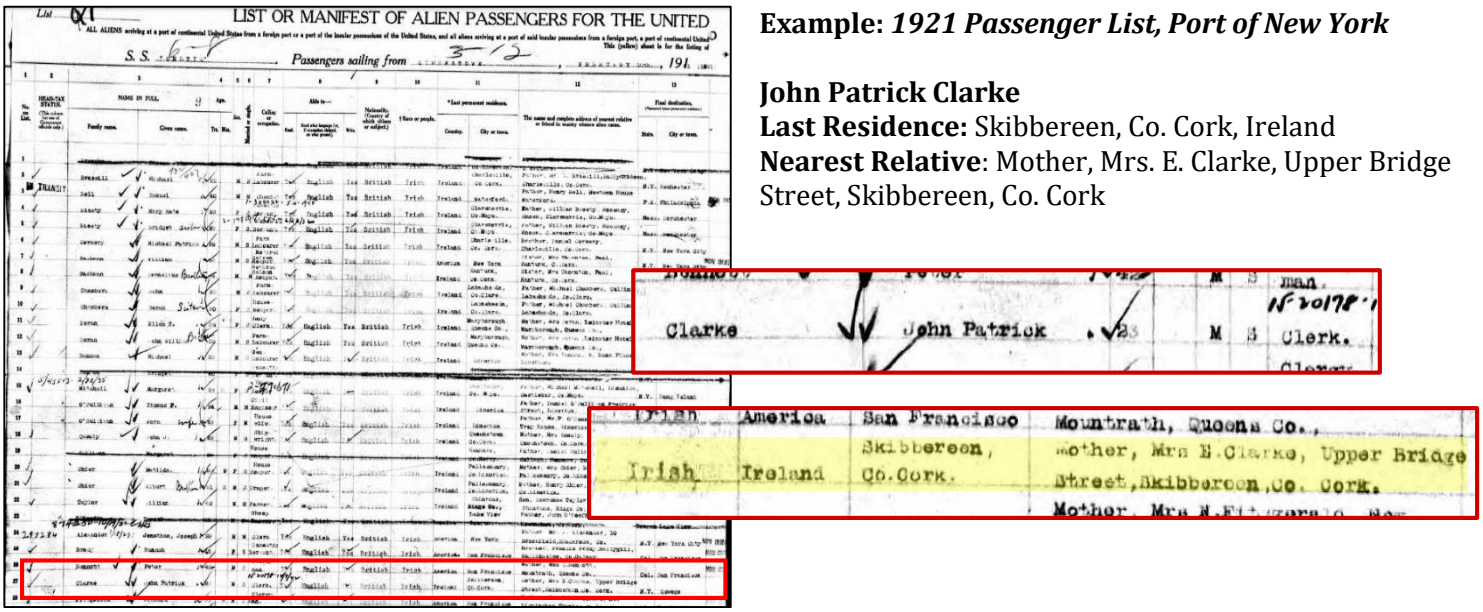
- Castle Garden (arrivals pre-1892)
- Ellis Island (arrivals 1892–1924)



Example: ***1870 Passenger List, Port of Baltimore***

Johann and Kunigunde Thieroff and children
Country of Birth: Baiern [Bavaria, Germany]
Last Residence: Baiern
Destination: Baltimore, Maryland
Port of Departure: Bremen, Germany

Researcher Note: This record was transcribed poorly, making it hard to find with basic searching. Kunigunde Theroff (as her name was later written on most records), was transcribed here as "Tumgunde Thuroff." Also, "Bavaria" isn't a very specific location, so further research may be required before starting with German records.



Example: ***1921 Passenger List, Port of New York***

John Patrick Clarke
Last Residence: Skibbereen, Co. Cork, Ireland
Nearest Relative: Mother, Mrs. E. Clarke, Upper Bridge Street, Skibbereen, Co. Cork

Researcher Note: *This passenger list gives us a very specific location in Ireland, a city and even a street address for his mother. The information provided here will help when researching with Irish records like the Irish Census and vital records.*

Research Note: ***Don't Forget the Second Page of Post-1900 Passenger Lists***
Starting in the 1900s, passenger list forms like the one pictured above had a second page with over twenty additional questions about the passenger.

- These answers provide more contextual information, but some answers may provide clues on:
  - Additional immigration records
  - Relatives already living in the United States

- The types of records that may be available in their home country (*i.e. the questions about stays at institutions, charitable organizations, or workhouses*)

14. *Number on list*
15. *Whether having a ticket to such final destination*
16. *By whom was the passage paid?*
17. *Whether in possession of $50, and if less, how much?*
18. *Whether ever before been in the United States*
    a. *Yes or No*
        If Yes:
        Year or period of years?
        Where?
19. *Whether going to join a relative or friend; and if so, what relative or friend, and his name and complete address*
20. *Purpose of coming to the United States*
    a. Whether alien intends to return to county whence he came after engaging temporarily in labor
    b. Length of time alien intends to remain in the United States
    c. Whether alien intends to become a citizen of the United States
21. *Ever in prison or slumhouse, or institution for the care and treatment of the insane or supported by charity? If so, which?*
22. *Whether a polygamist*
23. *Whether an anarchist*
24. *Whether a person who believes in or advocates for the overthrow by force or violence of the Government of the United States or all forms of law, etc.*
25. *Whether coming by reason of solicitation, promise, or approval expressed to labor in the United States*
26. *Whether alien has been previously deported within one year*
27. *Condition of mental health*
28. *Deformed or crippled. Nature, length of time, and cause?*
29. *Height: feet, inches*
30. *Complexion*
31. *Color of hair and eyes*
32. *Marks of identification*
33. *Place of birth: country, city or town*

Border Crossings

Canada

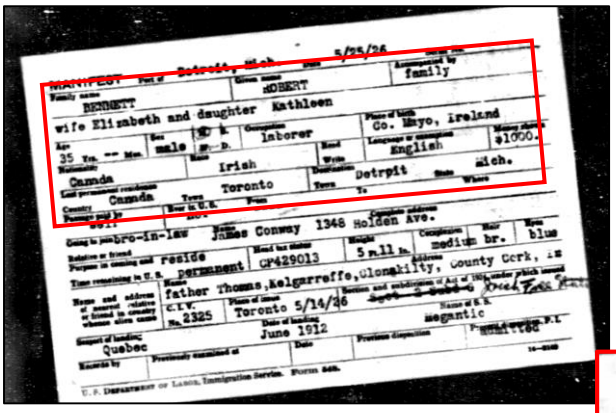
- From Canada to US: 1895 – 1956 (on Ancestry)
    - US "Ports" include: Idaho, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, New York, North Dakota, Vermont, Washington
- From US to Canada: 1903 – 1935 (on Ancestry)
    - Most English, some French

Mexico

- From Mexico to US: 1895 – 1964 (on Ancestry)
    - Manifest cards for temporary visits and permanent residence, applications for border crossing ID cards, traveling US citizens

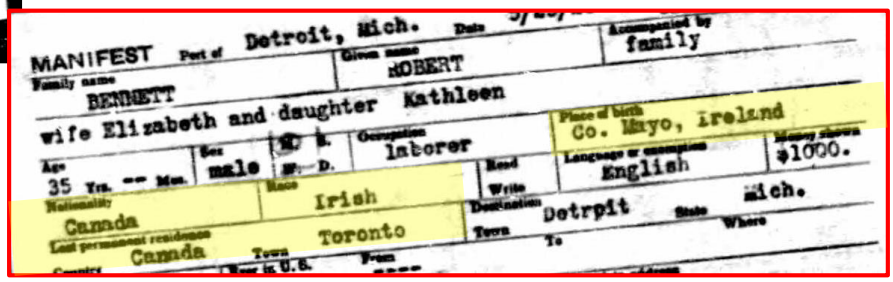
A Note on Canadian Border Crossings

If you searching for an ancestor you believe to have been an immigrant, but struggle to locate a passenger list for them at an American port, try searching for them in Canadian border crossings. *Many immigrants reached America via Canada by sailing there first and crossing the border later.*



Example: ***1926 Border Crossing Manifest*** *(Canada to US)*, ***Port of Detroit, MI***

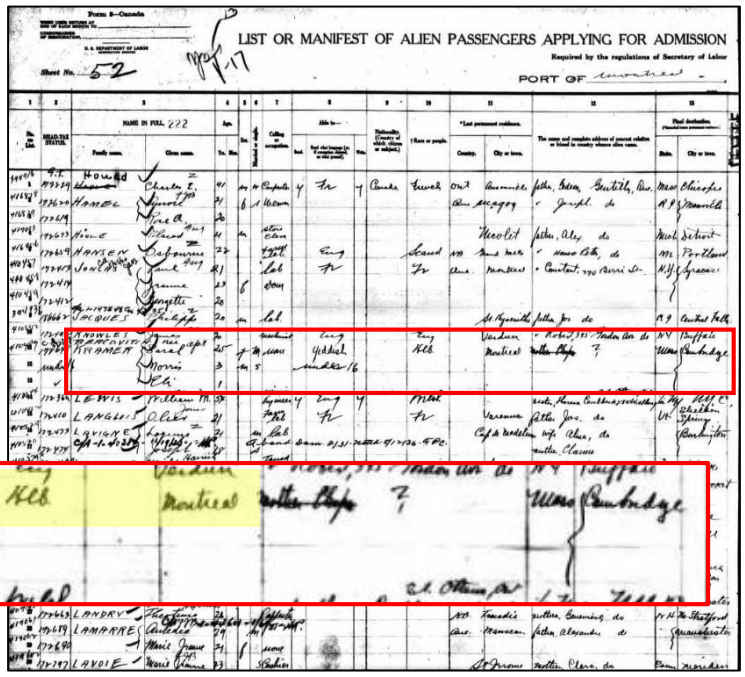
Robert Bennett, *accompanied by his wife Elizabeth and daughter Kathleen*
Age: 35
Birth Place: Co. Mayo, Ireland
Nationality/Race: Canada/Irish
Last Residence: Toronto, Canada



Researcher Note: *The fact that he lists "Canada" as his nationality raises questions about possible immigration and naturalization records generated in Canada that may be available and provide a more specific Irish residence and birthplace.*

Example: ***1924 Border Crossing*** *(Canada to US)*, ***Port of Montreal, Quebec, Canada***

Sarah (Bercovitch) Kramer, *accompanied by sons Morris and Eli*
Race/Language: Hebrew/Yiddish
Birthplace: [*illegible*], Russia
Nearest Relative There: Mother [*illegible, crossed out*]
Last Permanent Residence: Montreal
Destination: Cambridge, Mass.
Passage Paid By: Husband
Relative or Friend There: sister-in-law, Lea Berman
Previous Visit to US: 1918, Cambridge, Mass.



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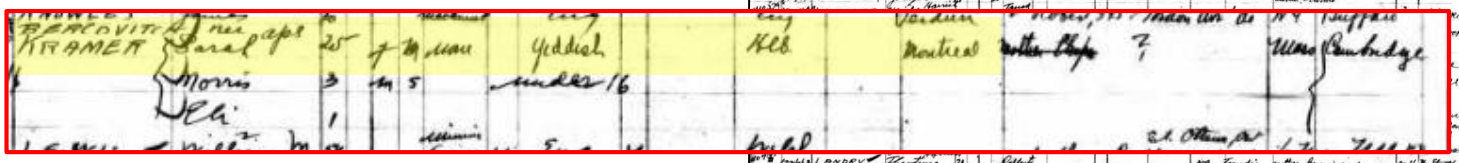
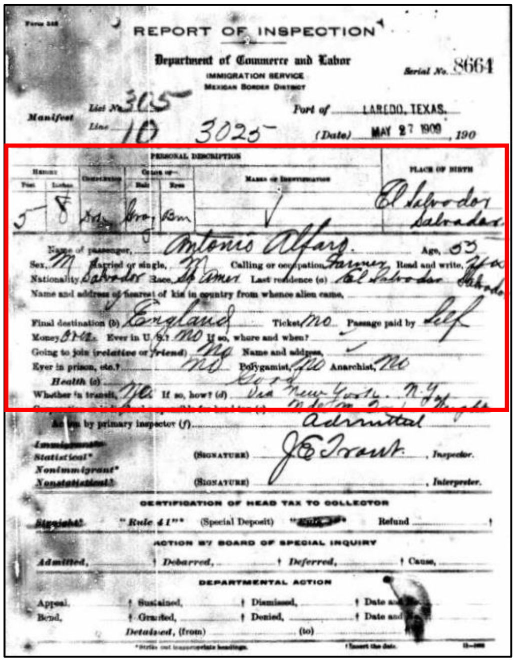


Page 2:

Researcher Note: *There may be a benefit in searching for the border crossing record from her previous visit to America in 1918 reported here. Perhaps it clarifies the identity of the relative recorded and then crossed out and the illegible city in Russia. Also, check for any available immigration records generated when she emigrated from Russia to Canada.*



REPORT OF INSPECTION

Department of Commerce and Labor
Immigration Service
Mexican Border District

Serial No. 8664

Manifest List No. 315 Line 10 3025

Port of LAREDO, TEXAS. (Date) MAY 27 1909, 190

Personal Description — Height: Feet 5, Inches 8 — Complexion: Dk. — Color of: Hair Bro. Eyes Bn. — Marks of Identification: ✓ — Place of Birth: El Salvador Salvador

Name of passenger, Antonio Alfaro. Age, 53

Sex, M Married or single, M Calling or occupation Farmer Read and write, Yes

Nationality Salvador Race, So Amer Last residence (a) El Salvador Salvador

Name and address of nearest of kin in country from whence alien came,

Final destination (b) England Ticket, No Passage paid by Self

Money, Ever in U. S.? No If so, where and when?

Going to join (relative or friend) No Name and address,

Ever in prison, etc.? No Polygamist, No Anarchist, No

Health (c) Good

Whether in transit, Yes If so, how? (d) Via New York, N.Y.

Action by primary inspector (f) Admitted

Immigrant, Statistical*, Nonimmigrant*, Nonstatistical* (Signature) J E Trout, Inspector.

(Signature) , Interpreter.

CERTIFICATION OF HEAD TAX TO COLLECTOR

"Rule 41" (Special Deposit) Refund

ACTION BY BOARD OF SPECIAL INQUIRY

Admitted, Debarred, Deferred, Cause,

DEPARTMENTAL ACTION

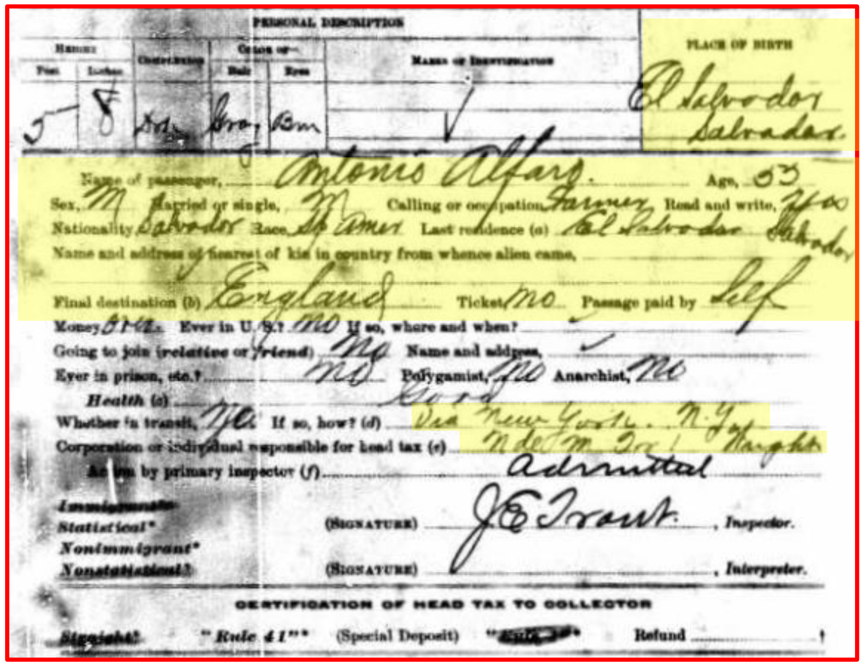
Appeal, Sustained, Dismissed, Date

Bond, Granted, Denied, Date

Detained, (from) (to)

Example: ***1909 Border Crossing*** *(Mexico to US)*, ***Port of Laredo, TX***

Name: Antonio Alfaro
Age: 55
Birthplace: El Salvador, Salvador
Marital Status: Married
Occupation: Farmer
Nationality/Race: Salvador/South American
Last Residence: El Salvador, Salvador
Final Destination: England, via New York, New York



PERSONAL DESCRIPTION — Height: Feet 5, Inches 8 — Complexion: Dk. — Color of: Hair Bro. Eyes Bn. — Marks of Identification: ✓ — Place of Birth: El Salvador Salvador

Name of passenger, Antonio Alfaro. Age, 53

Sex, M Married or single, M Calling or occupation Farmer Read and write, Yes

Nationality Salvador Race, So Amer Last residence (a) El Salvador Salvador

Name and address of nearest of kin in country from whence alien came,

Final destination (b) England Ticket, No Passage paid by Self

Money, Ever in U. S.? No If so, where and when?

Going to join (relative or friend) No Name and address,

Ever in prison, etc.? No Polygamist, No Anarchist, No

Health (c) Good

Whether in transit, Yes If so, how? (d) Via New York, N.Y.

Corporation or individual responsible for head tax (e)

Action by primary inspector (f) Admitted

Immigrant, Statistical*, Nonimmigrant*, Nonstatistical* (Signature) J E Trout, Inspector.

(Signature) , Interpreter.

CERTIFICATION OF HEAD TAX TO COLLECTOR

"Rule 41" (Special Deposit) Refund

Researcher Note: *Based on his answers, it is hard to determine why Antonio is traveling or the purpose of his trip to England. He is a farmer from El Salvador, and though married, provides no information for his nearest relative in El Salvador. He is not going to visit friends or family, and it appears his head tax was subsidized by a third party, but he paid for his own passage. Perhaps it was for work or maybe he was simply traveling. Further research would be necessary.*

Passport Applications

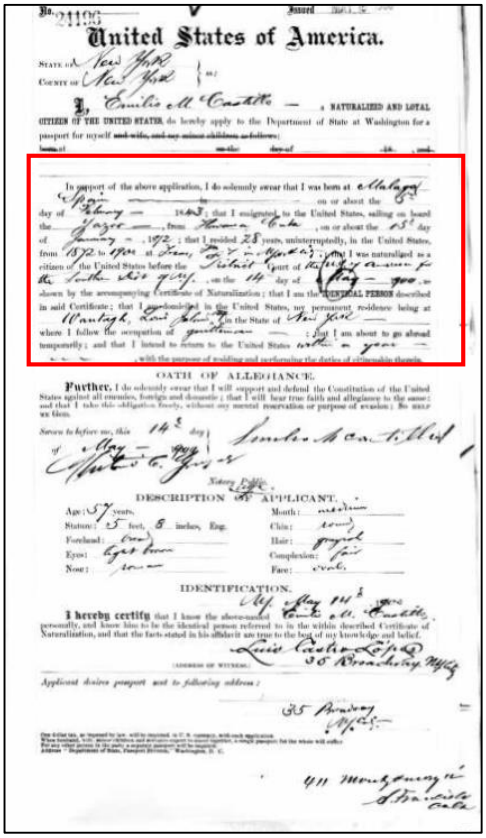
- *U.S. Passport Applications, 1795-1925* (on Ancestry)
- U.S. Government began issuing passports in 1789
    - Mandatory for a short time after Civil War
- Passports were not required for foreign travel until WWI
    - Law passed during WWI lapsed in 1921 after treaties and the end of the war
    - Requirement was re-instated during WWII
- Foreign-born applicants had to submit proof of citizenship status and immigration information
    - Often an excellent source of information regarding the individual's immigration, providing the date of arrival, the ship's name, port of departure and arrival, etc.
- *May help locate passenger lists and border crossing records and may also include a photograph*

Information provided by passport applications includes:

- Name of applicant
- Birth date or age
- Birthplace
- Residence
- Date of application or issuance of passport
- Father's and/or husband's name
- Father's and/or husband's birth date or age
- Father's and/or husband's birthplace and residence
- Wife's name
- Date and place of immigration to the U.S.
- Years of residence in the U.S.
- Naturalization date and place
- Occupation
- Physical characteristics

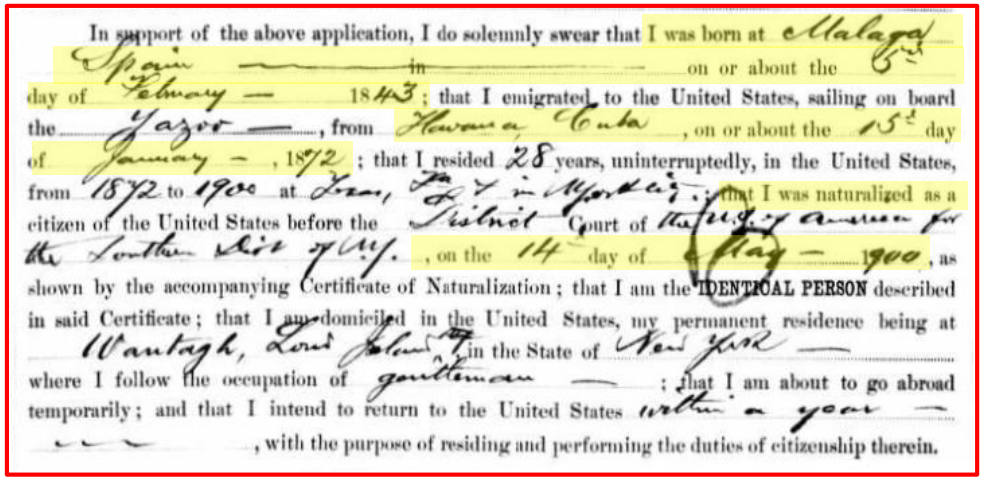
Example: ***1900 Passport Application***

Name: Emilio M. Castillo
Birth: 5 February 1843, Malaga, Spain
Arrival: ***15 January 1872***
Departure Port: Havana Cuba
Ship Name: Yazor
Residence: Wantagh, Long Island, New York
Naturalized: 14 May 1900, Southern District of New York



United States of America.

In support of the above application, I do solemnly swear that I was born at Malaga Spain in on or about the 5th day of February 1843; that I emigrated to the United States, sailing on board the Yazor, from Havana Cuba, on or about the 15th day of January 1872; that I resided 28 years, uninterruptedly, in the United States, from 1872 to 1900 at Long Island, N.Y. in Wantagh; that I was naturalized as a citizen of the United States before the District Court of the U.S. of America for the Southern Dist of N.Y. on the 14 day of May 1900, as shown by the accompanying Certificate of Naturalization; that I am the IDENTICAL PERSON described in said Certificate; that I am domiciled in the United States, my permanent residence being at Wantagh, Long Island, N.Y. in the State of New York where I follow the occupation of gentleman; that I am about to go abroad temporarily; and that I intend to return to the United States within a year, with the purpose of residing and performing the duties of citizenship therein.



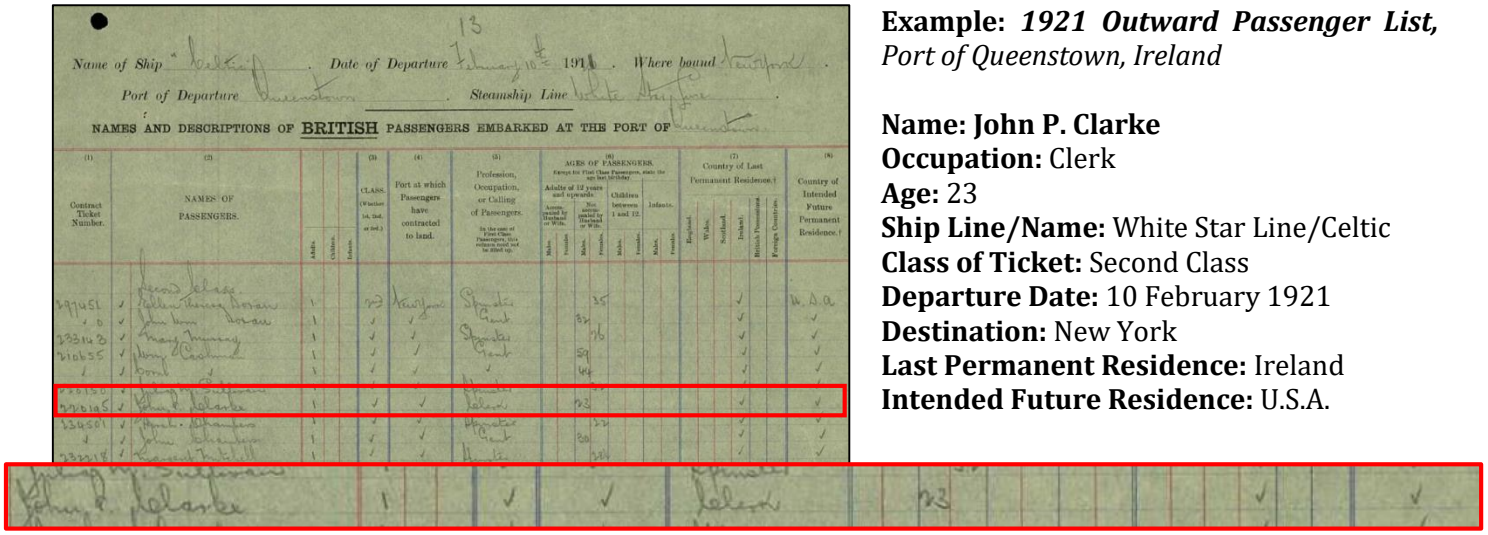
In support of the above application, I do solemnly swear that I was born at Malaga Spain in on or about the 5th day of February 1843; that I emigrated to the United States, sailing on board the Yazor, from Havana Cuba, on or about the 15th day of January 1872; that I resided 28 years, uninterruptedly, in the United States, from 1872 to 1900 at Long Island, N.Y. in Wantagh; that I was naturalized as a citizen of the United States before the District Court of the U.S. of America for the Southern Dist of N.Y. on the 14 day of May 1900, as shown by the accompanying Certificate of Naturalization; that I am the IDENTICAL PERSON described in said Certificate; that I am domiciled in the United States, my permanent residence being at Wantagh, Long Island, N.Y. in the State of New York where I follow the occupation of gentleman; that I am about to go abroad temporarily; and that I intend to return to the United States within a year, with the purpose of residing and performing the duties of citizenship therein.

Port Departure Lists

Manifests of passengers departing from a given port – mostly British port records for Liverpool and Queenstown, but also for the port of Hamburg and Bremen in Germany

Information typically provided:

- Class of ticket (1st, 2nd, 3rd)
- Port of Destination
- Age (*often in separate columns for gender, young children, and by marital status*)
- Occupation
- Country of Last Permanent Residence
- Country of Intended Future Permanent Residence



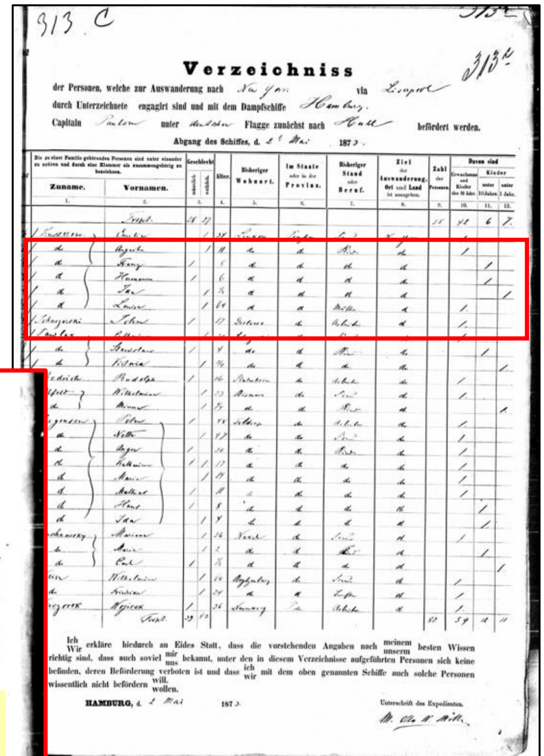
Name of Ship Celtic. Date of Departure February 10th 1921. Where bound New York.
Port of Departure Queenstown. Steamship Line White Star Line.
NAMES AND DESCRIPTIONS OF BRITISH PASSENGERS EMBARKED AT THE PORT OF Queenstown

Example: ***1921 Outward Passenger List,*** *Port of Queenstown, Ireland*

Name: John P. Clarke
Occupation: Clerk
Age: 23
Ship Line/Name: White Star Line/Celtic
Class of Ticket: Second Class
Departure Date: 10 February 1921
Destination: New York
Last Permanent Residence: Ireland
Intended Future Residence: U.S.A.

Example: ***1873 Hamburg Passenger List***

Name: Emilie Kusserow, *accompanied by her children and mother*
Age: 34
Residence: Lindow, Prussia
Occupation: Housewife
Destination: New York, via Liverpool
Date of Departure: 2 May1873
Port of Departure: Hamburg, Germany
Ship Name: Hull



Verzeichniss

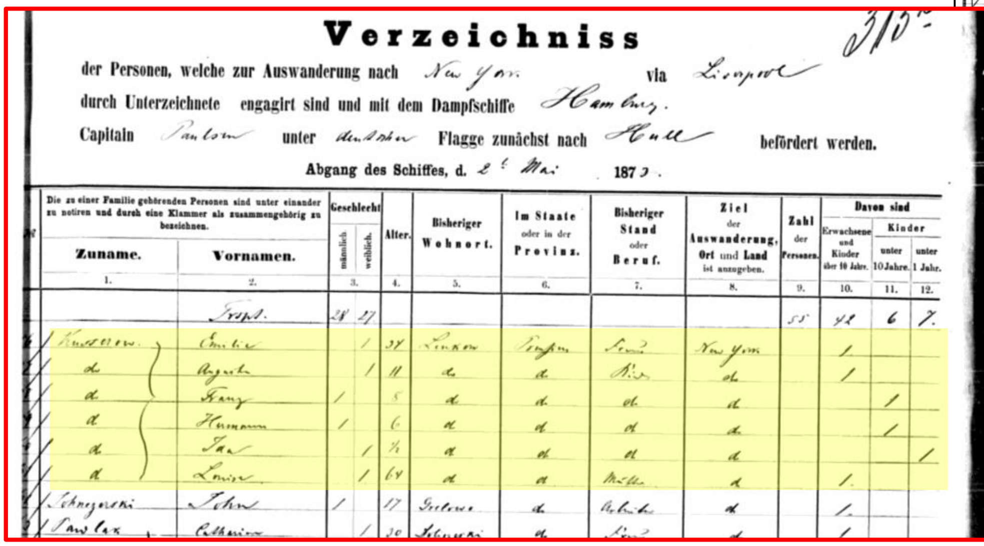
der Personen, welche zur Auswanderung nach New York via Liverpool durch Unterzeichnete engagirt sind und mit dem Dampfschiffe Hamburg. Capitain Paulsen unter deutscher Flagge zunächst nach Hull befördert werden.

Abgang des Schiffes, d. 2 Mai 1873.

Ich / Wir erkläre hiedurch an Eides Statt, dass die vorstehenden Angaben nach meinem / unserm besten Wissen richtig sind, dass auch soviel mir / uns bekannt, unter den in diesem Verzeichnisse aufgeführten Personen sich keine befinden, deren Beförderung verboten ist und dass ich / wir mit dem oben genannten Schiffe auch solche Personen wissentlich nicht befördern will / wollen.

HAMBURG, d. 2 Mai 1873.

Unterschrift des Expedienten.



Verzeichniss

der Personen, welche zur Auswanderung nach New York via Liverpool durch Unterzeichnete engagirt sind und mit dem Dampfschiffe Hamburg. Capitain Paulsen unter deutscher Flagge zunächst nach Hull befördert werden.

Abgang des Schiffes, d. 2 Mai 1873.

Die zu einer Familie gehörenden Personen sind unter einander zu notiren und durch eine Klammer als zusammengehörig zu bezeichnen. Zuname.	Vornamen.	Geschlecht männlich	weiblich	Alter.	Bisheriger Wohnort.	Im Staate oder in der Provinz.	Bisheriger Stand oder Beruf.	Ziel der Auswanderung, Ort und Land ist anzugeben.	Zahl der Personen.	Davon sind Erwachsene und Kinder über 10 Jahr.	Kinder unter 10 Jahren.	Kinder unter 1 Jahr.
1.	2.	3.	4.		5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.
	Transp.	28	27						55	42	6	7
Kusserow	Emilie		1	34	Lindow	Preußen	Frau	New York		1		
do	Auguste		1	11	do	do	Kind	do		1		
do	Franz	1		5	do	do	do	do			1	
do	Hermann	1		6	do	do	do	do			1	
do	Ida		1	½	do	do	do	do				1
do	Louise		1	64	do	do	Mutter	do		1		
Schneyorski	John	1		17	[illegible]	do	Arbeiter	do		1		
Pawlak	Catharina		1	30	[illegible]	do	Frau	do		1		

Note: *Port departure records from Germany (Bremen or Hamburg) will be in German. They may, however, be indexed in English. It is possible to memorize a short list of select German vocabulary that will help you recognize and get the information you need out of a record without having to be fluent in German.*

Colonial Immigration Records

Researching immigrants who arrived in American colonies before 1790 can be difficult, but not impossible

- *More often than not, these records are indexed instead of digitized and are not readily available online*

Immigration Up to 1790

- The forced immigration of Africans makes up the largest single group of early immigrants (about 40% of all immigration)
- Immigrants from regions of Great Britain made up a total of a little over 46%
- England (26%) Ulster (Northern Ireland, 15%), Scotland (5%), Ireland (<3%), Wales (<3%)
- Other countries with immigrants who relocated to the Colonies include Germany/Switzerland (11%), Sweden, Jews, France, and the Netherlands (all <3%).

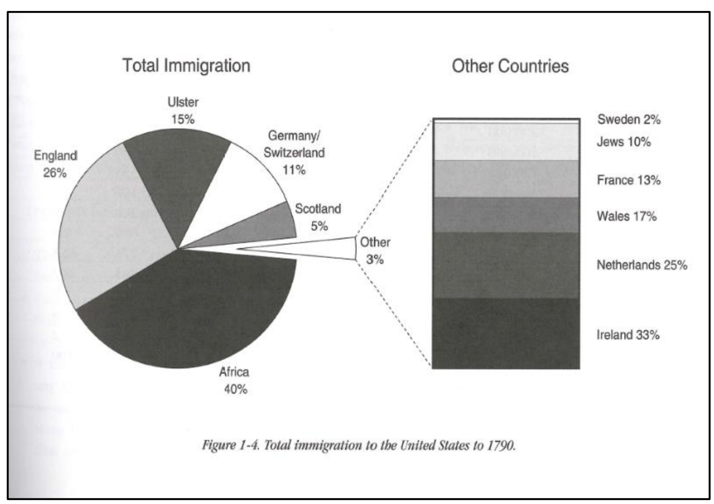


Figure 1-4. Total immigration to the United States to 1790.

Passenger and Immigration Lists Index

"Filby Books" – written by William P. Filby

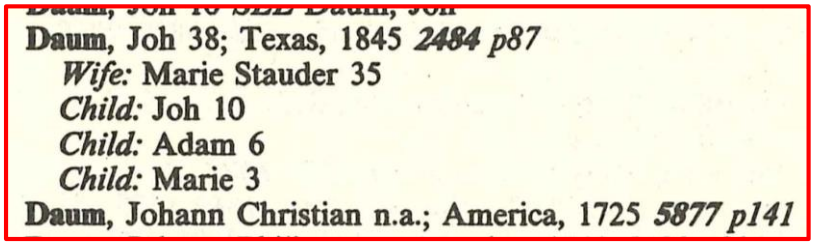
- Comprehensive index of early passenger lists, 1600s – 1800s
- Arrivals of over 500,000 immigrants to North America and West Indies
- Compilation of source material (books, periodicals, etc.) from repositories all over

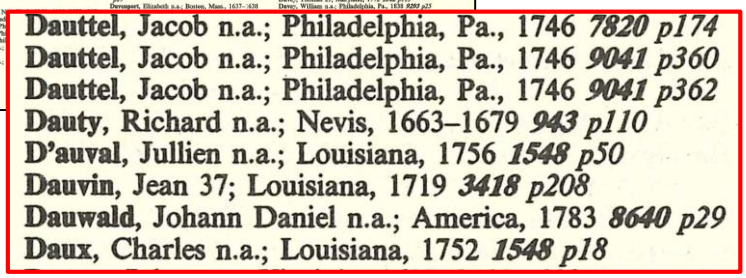
Information provided by this index includes:

- Name of the passenger
- Age of the passenger
- The place of arrival
- The year of arrival
- A number referring to the source book containing the passenger list or record (*located at beginning of book*)
- The page number in the source book where this entry can be found
- All accompanying passengers are listed below

Example: ***Passenger and Immigration Lists Index***

Name: John (Johann) Daum, *accompanied by his wife Marie (Stauder) (35) and children Johann (10), Adam (6), and Marie (3)*
Age: 38
Port of Arrival: Texas
Year of Arrival: 1845
Source: No. 2484, page 87





Note: *Entries for early records may have incomplete information, such as a missing age or port of entry. Referring to the source may explain why those details are unavailable.*

Example: *Johann Daniel Dauwald, arriving in 1783 (left); this entry as no age and the port of arrival was recorded as "America."*

NATURALIZATION RECORDS

Naturalization Records

*Records **before 1906** are much less detailed*

Pre-1906, naturalization records may include:

- Name, age of immigrant
- Port and date of arrival
- Place of residence
- Country of origin/allegiance

Post-1906, naturalization records typically include:

- Name, birth date and place
- Name of spouse and any children, their birth dates and places, marriage date
- Port and date of arrival, name of vessel
- Occupation

- Physical description
- Residence, last foreign address

The Naturalization Process

1790–1906: "Old Law" Period

- There was no federal oversight over naturalization, each state established its own process
- 5,000 federal, state, and county courts had the authority to grant citizenship, each with their own system

1906: Federal oversight of the process began, establishing the **C-File** (Certificate File) **series**

- Every person naturalized between Sept. 27, 1906, and March 31, 1956, has a Certificate File ("C-File") with USCIS containing a copy of their Certificate of Naturalization
- Beginning in September 1906, all naturalization courts were required to:
  - *Issue a Certificate of Naturalization to every naturalized* **person** (and name all members of the primary subject's family who derived citizenship from his or her naturalization);
  - *Create Certificates of Naturalization using standard forms*
  - *Submit a duplicate copy of every Certificate of Naturalization for filing*

1906–1941: Naturalization was a two-step process intended to take at least 5 years

- After living in the US for 2 years, an alien can file "first papers" or a ***Declaration of Intent(ion)***
- After an additional 3 years, the applicant could then file a ***Petition for Naturalization***
- Both steps did not have to be filed with the same court — typically, whatever court was most convenient
- From 1929-1941, the form also included a photo of the applicant

Exceptions to This Process

"Derivative" Naturalization

- 1790-1922 – wives of naturalized men automatically became naturalized citizens
- 1790-1940 – children under 21 of naturalized individuals automatically became naturalized citizens

Minor Aliens

- 1824 to 1906 – minors living in the US for 5 years before 23rd birthday could file Declaration and Petition simultaneously

Veterans

- 1862 – Honorably discharged could file a Petition without Declaration after 1 year of residence
- 1894 – extended to 5-year veterans of Navy and Marines
- 192,000 veterans naturalized from May 1918 – Jun 1919 without filing Declaration or 5-year residence

Declaration of Intent — "First Papers"

Pre-1906

- 5,000 federal, state, and county courts had authority to grant citizenship, each with their own forms with varying questions
- Some municipal, criminal, and probate courts also processed naturalizations

Post-1906

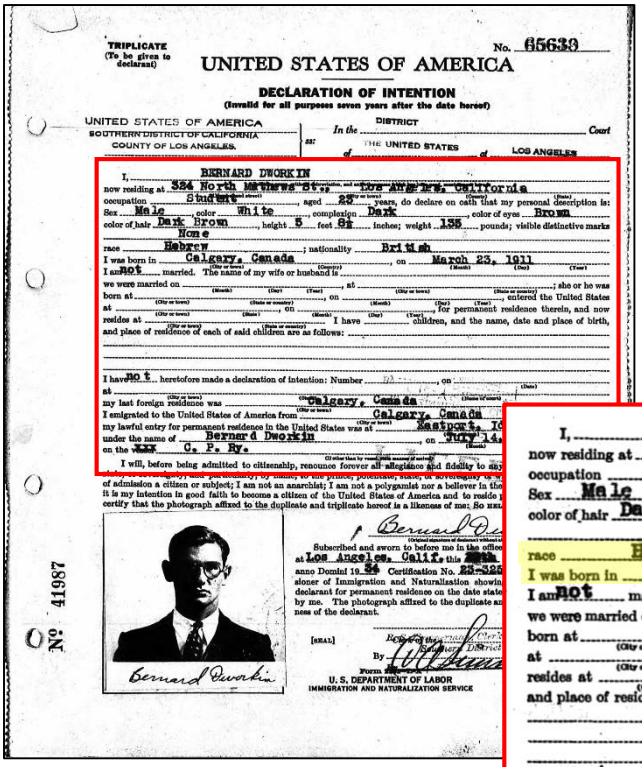
- US Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization required the use of uniform and consistent forms
- Forms changed again in 1929, requiring a photo
- Declaration of Intent no longer required after 1951, though some still filed

Petition for Naturalization

- Generally, the *Declaration of Intent* provides more genealogically relevant information for researchers, but in the absence of a Declaration, a *Petition for Naturalization* does provide some information
  - And a Petition may be used to locate a Declaration for an individual if you find it first
- Naturalization record collections online often have both forms for one individual organized together

Affidavits of Witnesses

- On more recent Petitions, witnesses to the information provided by the applicant have recorded their names, occupations, and residences



TRIPLICATE (To be given to declarant)

No. 65639

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DECLARATION OF INTENTION

(Invalid for all purposes seven years after the date hereof)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES.

In the District Court of the UNITED STATES of LOS ANGELES

I, BERNARD DWORKIN
now residing at 324 North Matthews St., Los Angeles, California
occupation Student, aged 25 years, do declare on oath that my personal description is:
Sex Male, color White, complexion Dark, color of eyes Brown
color of hair Dark Brown, height 5 feet 8½ inches; weight 135 pounds; visible distinctive marks None
race Hebrew; nationality British
I was born in Calgary, Canada, on March 23, 1911
I am not married. The name of my wife or husband is
we were married on, at; she or he was
born at, on, entered the United States
at, on, for permanent residence therein, and now
resides at I have children, and the name, date and place of birth,
and place of residence of each of said children are as follows:

I have not heretofore made a declaration of intention: Number, on
at
my last foreign residence was Calgary, Canada
I emigrated to the United States of America from Calgary, Canada
my lawful entry for permanent residence in the United States was at Eastport, Id
under the name of Bernard Dworkin, on July 14,
on the C. P. Ry.

I will, before being admitted to citizenship, renounce forever all allegiance and fidelity to any
of admission a citizen or subject; I am not an anarchist; I am not a polygamist nor a believer in the
It is my intention in good faith to become a citizen of the United States of America and to reside
certify that the photograph affixed to the duplicate and triplicate hereof is a likeness of me; So HELP

Bernard Dworkin

Subscribed and sworn to before me in the office
at Los Angeles, Calif. this
anno Domini 19
Certification No.
sioner of Immigration and Naturalization shown
declarant for permanent residence on the date state
by me. The photograph affixed to the duplicate
ness of the declarant.

[SEAL]

By

Form

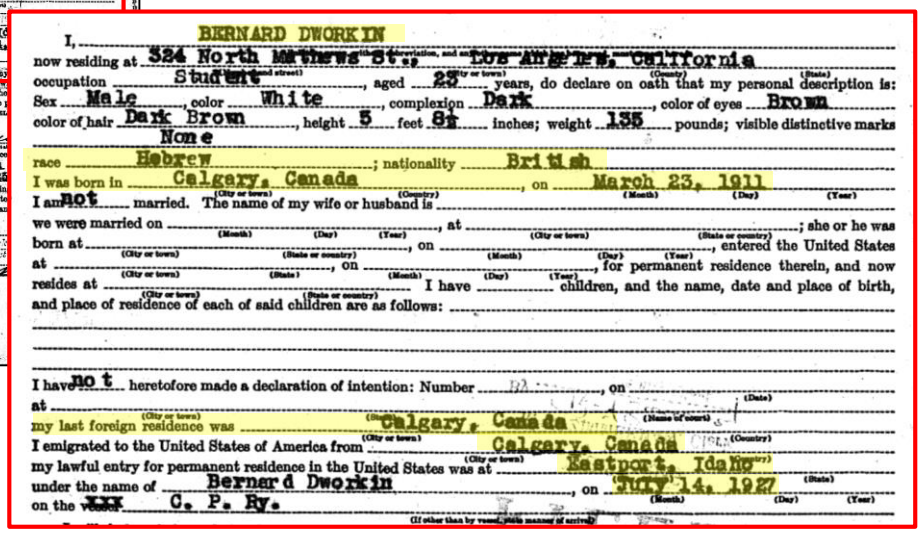
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE

No. 41987

Bernard Dworkin

Example: 1934 Declaration of Intent, Los Angeles, Southern District of California

Name: Bernard Dworkin
Occupation: Student
Age: 25
Marital Status: Single, no children
Birth: 23 March 1911, Calgary, Canada
Race/Nationality: Hebrew/British
Arrival: 14 July 1927, Eastport, Idaho (*via the C. P. Hwy*)
Filed: 29 June 1934

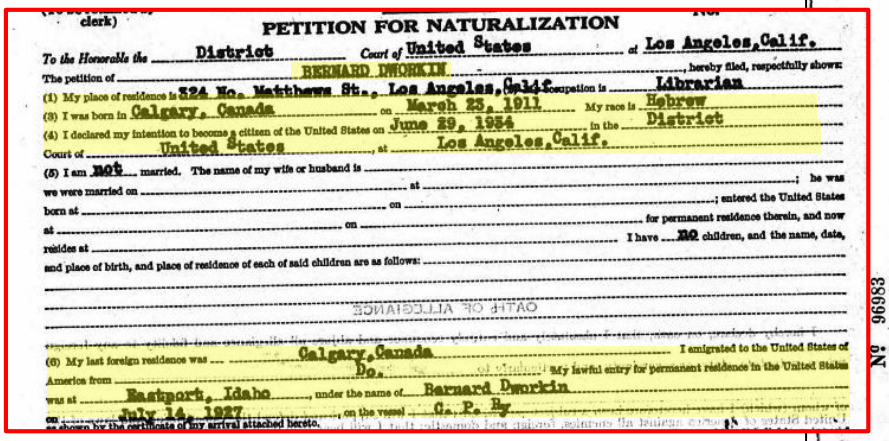


I, BERNARD DWORKIN
now residing at 324 North Matthews St., Los Angeles, California
occupation Student, aged 25 years, do declare on oath that my personal description is:
Sex Male, color White, complexion Dark, color of eyes Brown
color of hair Dark Brown, height 5 feet 8½ inches; weight 135 pounds; visible distinctive marks None
race Hebrew; nationality British
I was born in Calgary, Canada, on March 23, 1911
I am not married. The name of my wife or husband is
we were married on, at; she or he was
born at, on, entered the United States
at, on, for permanent residence therein, and now
resides at I have children, and the name, date and place of birth,
and place of residence of each of said children are as follows:

I have not heretofore made a declaration of intention: Number, on
at
my last foreign residence was Calgary, Canada
I emigrated to the United States of America from Calgary, Canada
my lawful entry for permanent residence in the United States was at Eastport, Idaho
under the name of Bernard Dworkin, on July 14, 1927
on the C. P. Ry.

Example: 1936 Petition for Naturalization, Los Angeles, Southern District of California

Name: Bernard Dworkin
Birth: 23 March 1911, Calgary Canada
Occupation: Librarian
Race: Hebrew
***Declared Intention*:** 29 June 1934, District Court at Los Angeles
Marital Status: Single, no children

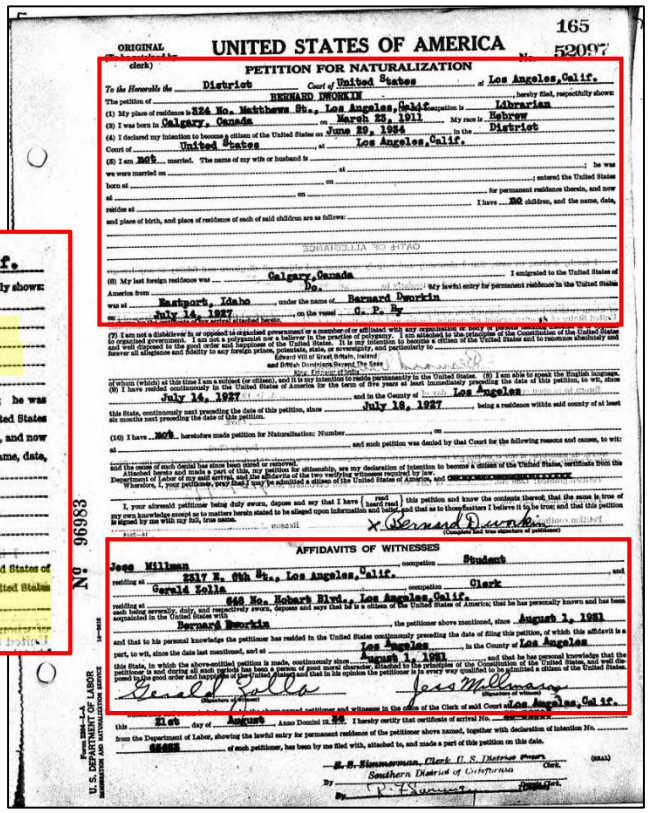


PETITION FOR NATURALIZATION

To the Honorable the District Court of United States at Los Angeles, Calif.
The petition of BERNARD DWORKIN hereby filed, respectfully shows:
(1) My place of residence is 324 No. Matthews St., Los Angeles, Calif. occupation is Librarian
(3) I was born in Calgary, Canada on March 23, 1911 My race is Hebrew
(4) I declared my intention to become a citizen of the United States on June 29, 1934 in the District
Court of United States, at Los Angeles, Calif.
(5) I am not married. The name of my wife or husband is
we were married on at; he was
born at on; entered the United States
at on for permanent residence therein, and now
resides at I have no children, and the name, date,
and place of birth, and place of residence of each of said children are as follows:

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

(6) My last foreign residence was Calgary, Canada I emigrated to the United States of
America from Do. My lawful entry for permanent residence in the United States
was at Eastport, Idaho, under the name of Bernard Dworkin
on July 14, 1927, on the vessel C. P. Ry.
as shown by the certificate of my arrival attached hereto.



ORIGINAL (To be filed by clerk)

165

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

No. 52097

PETITION FOR NATURALIZATION

To the Honorable the District Court of United States at Los Angeles, Calif.
The petition of BERNARD DWORKIN hereby filed, respectfully shows:
(1) My place of residence is 324 No. Matthews St., Los Angeles, Calif. occupation is Librarian
(3) I was born in Calgary, Canada on March 23, 1911 My race is Hebrew
(4) I declared my intention to become a citizen of the United States on June 29, 1934 in the District
Court of United States, at Los Angeles, Calif.
(5) I am not married. The name of my wife or husband is
we were married on at; he was
born at on; entered the United States
at on for permanent residence therein, and now
resides at I have no children, and the name, date,
and place of birth, and place of residence of each of said children are as follows:

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

(6) My last foreign residence was Calgary, Canada I emigrated to the United States of
America from Do. My lawful entry for permanent residence in the United States
was at Eastport, Idaho, under the name of Bernard Dworkin
on July 14, 1927, on the vessel C. P. Ry.

(7) I am not a disbeliever in or opposed to organized government or a member of or affiliated with any organization or body of persons teaching disbelief in or opposition to organized government. I am not a polygamist nor a believer in the practice of polygamy; I am attached to the principles of the Constitution of the United States and well disposed to the good order and happiness of the United States. It is my intention to become a citizen of the United States and to renounce absolutely and forever all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, and particularly to Edward VIII of Great Britain, Ireland and British Dominions Beyond The Seas

of whom (which) at this time I am a subject (or citizen), and it is my intention to reside permanently in the United States. (8) I am able to speak the English language.
(9) I have resided continuously in the United States of America for the term of five years at least immediately preceding the date of this petition, to wit, since July 14, 1927 and in the County of Los Angeles

this State, continuously next preceding the date of this petition, since July 18, 1927 being a residence within said county of at least six months next preceding the date of this petition.

(10) I have not heretofore made petition for Naturalization: Number, on
at and such petition was denied by that Court for the following reasons and causes, to wit:
and the cause of such denial has since been cured or removed.
Attached hereto and made a part of this, my petition for citizenship, are my declaration of intention to become a citizen of the United States, certificate from the Department of Labor of my said arrival, and the affidavits of the two witnesses required by law.
Therefore, I, your petitioner, pray that I may be admitted a citizen of the United States of America, and

I, your aforesaid petitioner being duly sworn, depose and say that I have read (or heard read) this petition and know the contents thereof, that the same is true of my own knowledge except as to matters herein stated to be alleged upon information and belief, and that as to those matters I believe it to be true; and that this petition is signed by me with my full, true name.

x Bernard Dworkin
(Complete and true signature of petitioner)

AFFIDAVITS OF WITNESSES

Jess Millman, occupation Student, residing at 2517 N. 6th St., Los Angeles, Calif. and
Gerald Zolla, occupation Clerk, residing at 848 No. Robert Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif.
each being severally, duly, and respectively sworn, deposes and says that he is a citizen of the United States of America; that he has personally known and has been acquainted in the United States with Bernard Dworkin the petitioner above mentioned, since August 1, 1931
and that to his personal knowledge the petitioner has resided in the United States continuously preceding the date of filing this petition, of which this affidavit is a part, to wit, since the date last mentioned, and at Los Angeles in the County of Los Angeles
August 1, 1931 and that he has personal knowledge that the petitioner has been a person 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 United States; and that in his opinion the petitioner is in every way qualified to be admitted a citizen of the United States.

Gerald Zolla (Signature of witness) Jess Millman (Signature of witness)

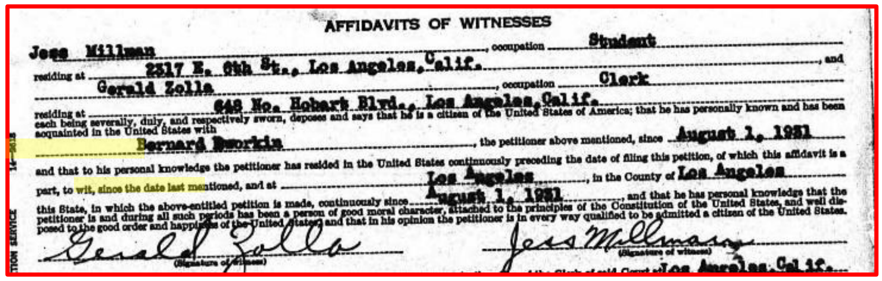
Subscribed and sworn to before me, the above-named petitioner and witnesses in the office of the Clerk of said Court at Los Angeles, Calif.
this 21st day of August Anno Domini 19 36 I hereby certify that certificate of arrival No. 65653
from the Department of Labor, showing the lawful entry for permanent residence of the petitioner above named, together with declaration of intention No. 65653 of such petitioner, has been by me filed with, attached to, and made a part of this petition on this date.

S. S. Zimmerman, Clerk U. S. District Court, Clerk
Southern District of California
By P. S. Zimmerman, Deputy Clerk

Form 2204-1-A
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE

No. 96983

Example: ***Affidavits of Witnesses***


AFFIDAVITS OF WITNESSES

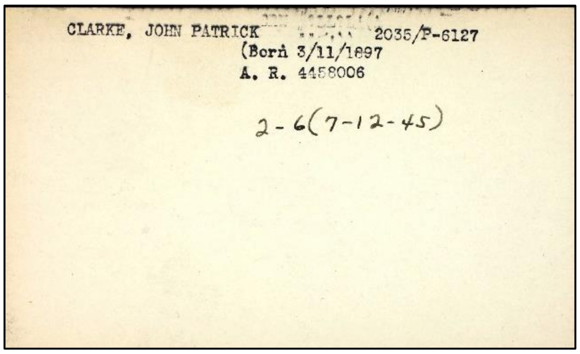
Jess Millman, occupation Student, residing at 2317 E. 6th St., Los Angeles, Calif., and Gerald Zolla, occupation Clerk, residing at 548 No. Hobart Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. each being severally, duly, and respectively sworn, deposes and says that he is a citizen of the United States of America; that he has personally known and has been acquainted in the United States with Bernard Borkin, the petitioner above mentioned, since August 1, 1931 and that to his personal knowledge the petitioner has resided in the United States continuously preceding the date of filing this petition, of which this affidavit is a part, to wit, since the date last mentioned, and at Los Angeles, in the County of Los Angeles this State, in which the above-entitled petition is made, continuously since August 1, 1931, and that he has personal knowledge that the petitioner is and during all such periods has been a person 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 United States, and that in his opinion the petitioner is in every way qualified to be admitted a citizen of the United States.

Gerald Zolla (Signature of witness) Jess Millman (Signature of witness)

Last Foreign Residence: Calgary, Canada
Port of Arrival: Eastport, Idaho, via C. P. Hwy
Date of Arrival: 14 July 1927

Witnesses: *Jess Millman*, student, 2317 E. 6th St., Los Angeles, CA; *Gerald Zolla*, clerk, 548 No. Hobark Blvd., Los Angeles, CA

Note: ***For some naturalization records, you may have to request copies.*** *Not all naturalizations are digitized and available online. Some naturalization collections (on Ancestry and elsewhere) are indexes or digitized index cards of records held at the National Archives or another repository.* www.archives.gov/research/naturalization


CLARKE, JOHN PATRICK 2035/P-6127
(Born 3/11/1897
A. R. 4458006
2-6(7-12-45)

Example: ***Index Card for Naturalization***

Name: John Patrick Clarke
Birth Date: 11 March 1897

Record Collection: *Missouri, Western District Naturalization Index, 1840-1990* [held at The National Archives at Kansas City. Kansas City, Missouri]

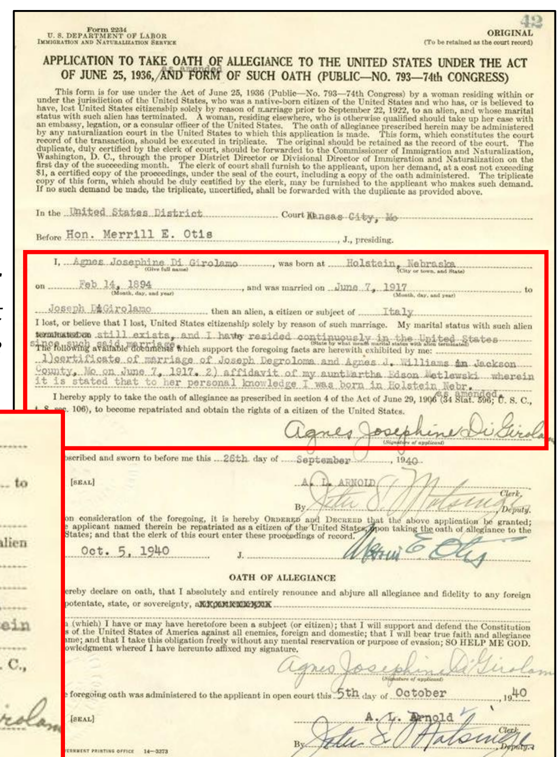
Researcher Note: *Using the information on this index card, a copy of the naturalization documents for this individual can be requested from the National Archives at Kansas City.*

Women's Naturalization Records

- From 1907 to 1922: "*…any American woman who marries a foreigner shall take the nationality of her husband…*"
- From 1922 on, a woman retained her citizenship unless she formally renounced it
  - Women seeking to regain American citizenship had to file a Petition for Naturalization
  - So many women repatriated following the repeal, that a new form was created in 1936: "*The Application to Take the Oath of Allegiance to the United States of America*"

Example: ***1940 Application to Take the Oath***

Name: Agnes Josephine Di Girolamo
Birth: 14 February 1894, Holstein, Nebraska
Husband: Joseph DiGirolamo
Husband's Citizenship: Italy
Marriage: 7 June 1917
Documentation: "*1) certificate of marriage of Joseph Degroloma and Agnes J. Williams in Jackson County, Mo on June 7, 1917. 2) affidavit of my aunt Martha Edson Metlewski wherein it is stated that to her personal knowledge I was born in Holstein, Nebr.*"


42
Form 2234
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE
ORIGINAL
(To be retained as the court record)

APPLICATION TO TAKE OATH OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE UNITED STATES UNDER THE ACT OF JUNE 25, 1936, as amended, AND FORM OF SUCH OATH (PUBLIC—NO. 793—74th CONGRESS)

This form is for use under the Act of June 25, 1936 (Public—No. 793—74th Congress) by a woman residing within or under the jurisdiction of the United States, who was a native-born citizen of the United States and who has, or is believed to have, lost United States citizenship solely by reason of marriage prior to September 22, 1922, to an alien, and whose marital status with such alien has terminated. A woman, residing elsewhere, who is otherwise qualified should take up her case with an embassy, legation, or a consular officer of the United States. The oath of allegiance prescribed herein may be administered by any naturalization court in the United States to which this application is made. This form, which constitutes the court record of the transaction, should be executed in triplicate. The original should be retained as the record of the court. The duplicate, duly certified by the clerk of court, should be forwarded to the Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization, Washington, D. C., through the proper District Director or Divisional Director of Immigration and Naturalization on the first day of the succeeding month. The clerk of court shall furnish to the applicant, upon her demand, at a cost not exceeding $1, a certified copy of the proceedings, under the seal of the court, including a copy of the oath administered. The triplicate copy of this form, which should be duly certified by the clerk, may be furnished to the applicant who makes such demand. If no such demand be made, the triplicate, uncertified, shall be forwarded with the duplicate as provided above.

In the United States District Court Kansas City, Mo
Before Hon. Merrill E. Otis, J., presiding.

I, Agnes Josephine Di Girolamo (Give full name), was born at Holstein, Nebraska (City or town, and State) on Feb 14, 1894 (Month, day, and year), and was married on June 7, 1917 (Month, day, and year) to Joseph DiGirolamo then an alien, a citizen or subject of Italy
I lost, or believe that I lost, United States citizenship solely by reason of such marriage. My marital status with such alien terminated on still exists, and I have resided continuously in the United States since such said marriage. (State by what means marital status with alien terminated)
The following available documents which support the foregoing facts are herewith exhibited by me: 1)certificate of marriage of Joseph Degroloma and Agnes J. Williams in Jackson County, Mo on June 7, 1917. 2) affidavit of my aunt Martha Edson Metlewski wherein it is stated that to her personal knowledge I was born in Holstein Nebr.
I hereby apply to take the oath of allegiance as prescribed in section 4 of the Act of June 29, 1906 as amended, (34 Stat. 596; U. S. C., t. 8, sec. 106), to become repatriated and obtain the rights of a citizen of the United States.
Agnes Josephine Di Girolamo (Signature of applicant)

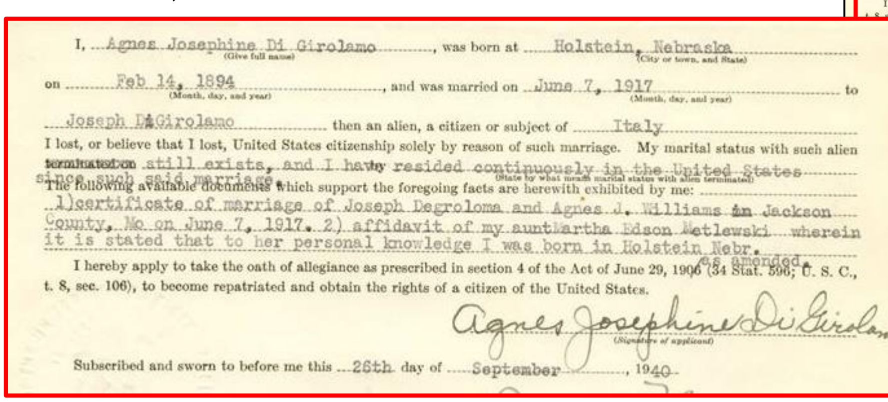
Subscribed and sworn to before me this 26th day of September, 1940.
[SEAL] A. L. ARNOLD, Clerk,
By John E. Hatsinger, Deputy.

…on consideration of the foregoing, it is hereby ORDERED and DECREED that the above application be granted; …applicant named therein be repatriated as a citizen of the United States upon taking the oath of allegiance to the …States; and that the clerk of this court enter these proceedings of record.
Oct. 5, 1940 J. Merrill E. Otis

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

…ereby declare on oath, that I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign potentate, state, or sovereignty, …
… (which) I have or may have heretofore been a subject (or citizen); that I will support and defend the Constitution …s of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance …ame; and that I take this obligation freely without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; SO HELP ME GOD. …owledgment whereof I have hereunto affixed my signature.
Agnes Josephine Di Girolamo (Signature of applicant)

…foregoing oath was administered to the applicant in open court this 5th day of October, 1940
[SEAL] A. L. Arnold, Clerk,
By John E. Hatsinger, Deputy.
…ERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 14—3373


I, Agnes Josephine Di Girolamo (Give full name), was born at Holstein, Nebraska (City or town, and State) on Feb 14, 1894 (Month, day, and year), and was married on June 7, 1917 (Month, day, and year) to Joseph DiGirolamo then an alien, a citizen or subject of Italy
I lost, or believe that I lost, United States citizenship solely by reason of such marriage. My marital status with such alien terminated on still exists, and I have resided continuously in the United States since such said marriage. (State by what means marital status with alien terminated)
The following available documents which support the foregoing facts are herewith exhibited by me: 1)certificate of marriage of Joseph Degroloma and Agnes J. Williams in Jackson County, Mo on June 7, 1917. 2) affidavit of my aunt Martha Edson Metlewski wherein it is stated that to her personal knowledge I was born in Holstein Nebr.
I hereby apply to take the oath of allegiance as prescribed in section 4 of the Act of June 29, 1906 as amended, (34 Stat. 596; U. S. C., t. 8, sec. 106), to become repatriated and obtain the rights of a citizen of the United States.
Agnes Josephine Di Girolamo (Signature of applicant)
Subscribed and sworn to before me this 26th day of September, 1940.

Colonial Naturalization

- British immigrants were automatically citizens of the colonies; all others had a few ways of becoming naturalized citizens of the colonies
- The US Constitution allowed for the establishment of a uniform naturalization process, prior to that each colony had its own and the process and requirements varied from colony to colony
- Most of these records, if they still exist, are indexes in book format
    - *Denizations and Naturalizations in the British Colonies in America, 1607-1775; Lloyd DeWitt Bockstruck*

Denization

- The individual could buy and sell land, but could not hold office

Oath of Allegiance

- The individual renounced loyalty to former country, gave immigrant right to vote and hold office

Collective Citizenship

- When the US became a country in 1776, this naturalized entire groups of people without using documents

RESEARCHING ABROAD

Genealogy Databases

Ancestry

- England, Scotland, Wales
- Ireland
- Germany
- Canada
- Sweden
- France
- Poland

FamilySearch

- Germany
- Sweden
- Netherlands
- Mexico
- France
- South America, Africa, Middle East

National Archives

- Many countries have their National Archives online – may not be digitized (or available for a fee
- Also check for "State Archives," especially in Germany

Country-specific databases

- Some countries, ethnic groups, and international genealogical societies have their own websites that facilitate searching records, requesting copies, and provide educational resources
- You can often find these sites by doing a Google search with terms like "*German genealogy research*" or "*Doukhobor Russian genealogy*"
    - Ireland: www.irishgenealogy.ie
    - Scotland: www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk
    - Eastern Galicia (Poland and Ukraine): www.halgal.com/vitalrecords.html

FindMyPast

- Subscription website, excellent resource for UK, Ireland, Australia & New Zealand records: www.findmypast.com

Learning More

- Take advantage of database "Learning Centers"
    - FamilySearch videos: researching in specific countries, ethnic groups, and record types
    - FamilySearch Wiki: www.familysearch.org/wiki
    - Ancestry Library Edition has immigration and ethnic group guides
- Read published books and guides
    - *In Search of Your British and Irish Roots*, Angus Baxter
    - *Your Swedish Roots: a step by step handbook*, Per Clemensson & Kjell Andersson

- *The Family Tree German Genealogy Guide*, James M. Beidler

Understanding Archival Context

Understand how that country organized records ***when they were initially generated*** AND *how they are organized* ***now****:*

- Sometimes church records were the only records
  - Understand how that specific denomination kept and archived their records
- Know when civil registration started in that country
- Research any historical events that might have destroyed records or relocated them
- Not all countries have digitization agreements or indexing partnerships with databases online
  - International research may require submitting formal requests for records
  - Getting copies of church records may require contacting a specific diocese, historical society, or parish directly

Some records may be digitized online, but in a foreign language

- Google Translate
- Memorize a Vocabulary List
- Genealogical Dictionaries
- Occupation Lists
- Research/Translation Volunteers Online
- Hire a Professional

Immigrant Ancestor Resources at the Genealogy Branch

www.casscolibrary.org/genealogy/guides

- Pamphlet Guides
  - Immigration & Naturalization Records
  - British Ancestry
  - German Ancestry
  - Irish Ancestry
  - Italian Ancestry
- In-Depth Research Guides
  - Researching Immigrant Ancestors
  - Tracing Your British Ancestors
  - Tracing Your German Ancestors
  - Tracing Your Irish Ancestors

Visit the library's locations page (www.casscolibrary.org/locations) for CCPL Genealogy's location, contact information, and hours of operation.

Information regarding our digital collections, access to online databases, submitting inquiries, and more, can be found on Cass County Public Library's Genealogy Resources page, located here: www.casscolibrary.org/genealogy

Send Research Inquiries to:
askgenealogy@casscolibrary.org

Cass County Public Library – Genealogy Branch
400 E. Mechanic St. Harrisonville, MO – 816.884.6285