

A Guide to the Norfolk County (Va.) Naturalization Records, 1808-1895

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A Collection in the Library of Virginia
Library of Virginia
2012

History

Processed by: Library of Virginia staff

Title Statement

A Guide to the Norfolk County (Va.) Naturalization Records, 1808-1895

Subtitle: Norfolk County (Va.) Naturalization Records

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Publication Statement

Date: © 2012 By The Library of Virginia. All Rights Reserved.

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Profile Description

Creation: Machine-readable finding aid derived from being created directly into EAD, created by Greg Crawford, 30 April 2012

Language Usage: Description is in English

Descriptive Summary

Language

English

Collector

Norfolk County (Va.) Circuit Court

Extent

.9 cu. ft. (2 boxes)

Location

Library of Virginia

Repository

The Library of Virginia

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

Norfolk County's loose naturalization records, 1808-1895, are digitized and available through the [Naturalization Records Digital Collection](#) on the Library of Virginia website. Please use digital images.

Use Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Acquisition Information

These items came to the Library of Virginia in a transfer of court papers from the city of Chesapeake.

Processing Information

Loose naturalization records, 1808-1895, were processed and indexed for the purpose of inclusion in the Library of Virginia's Naturalization Records Digital Collection by Library of Virginia staff.

Encoded by G. Crawford: April 2012; updated by M. Long: May 2024.

Preferred Citation

Norfolk County (Va.) Naturalization Records, 1808-1895. Local government records collection, Chesapeake, City of/ Norfolk County Court Records. The Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia, 23219.

Adjunct Descriptive Data

Related Material

Additional Norfolk County Court Records can be found on microfilm at The Library of Virginia. Consult ["A Guide to Virginia County and City Records on Microfilm."](#)

Historical Information

Context for Record Type: Beginning in 1795, a person could declare their intent to become a citizen at any time and in any place after they arrived in the United States. Prior to the Naturalization Act of 1906, the naturalization process primarily occurred in local and state courts. Declarations of intent were the record by which an applicant for U.S. citizenship declared their intent to become a citizen and renounced their allegiance to a foreign government. This document typically preceded proof of residence or a petition to become a citizen by two or more years.

Locality History: Norfolk County was created in 1691 when Lower Norfolk County was divided into Norfolk County and Princess Anne County. Norfolk County became extinct on 1 January 1963, when it was consolidated with the city of South Norfolk to form the city of Chesapeake. The county seat was Portsmouth.

Scope and Content

Norfolk County (Va.) Naturalization Records, 1808-1895, consists of loose naturalization records filed in the local court. Loose naturalization records may include affidavits, reports for naturalization, declarations of intent to become United States citizens, and notices of application for admission of citizenship. The reports are narrative accounts made by applicants summarizing their journey to the United States. The declarations of intent record the person's name, place of birth, age, country of previous citizenship, renunciation of allegiance and fidelity to the nation of which the person is currently a citizen, and the date the intention was sworn. Affidavits, signed by those who knew the applicant and could vouch for their loyalty to the United States, may also be filed with the reports and declarations.

Notable records include the 1860 report for naturalization of Leon Zapanta, a Filipino American immigrant intending to settle in the city of Portsmouth.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged into the following series:

- Series I: Loose Naturalization Records, 1808-1895, arranged chronologically.

Contents List

Series I: Loose Naturalization Records, 1808-1895

Extent

.9 cubic feet (2 boxes)

Arrangement

Arranged chronologically.

Box 1, Folder 1: 1157220 - Naturalization Records, 1808-1895

Barcode number 1157329: Naturalization Records, 1808-1855

Barcode number 1207266: Naturalization Records, 1856-1895

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