

A Guide to the Culpeper County (Va.) Naturalization Records, 1913-1915

Culpeper County (Va.) Naturalization Records, 1913-1915
1913-1915

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History

Processed by: Library of Virginia staff

Title Statement

A Guide to the Culpeper County (Va.) Naturalization Records, 1913-1915

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Profile Description

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Language Usage: Description is in English

Descriptive Summary

Language

English

Collector

Culpeper County (Va.) Circuit Court

Extent

1 microfilm reel

Location

Library of Virginia

Repository

The Library of Virginia

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

Department of Commerce and Labor, Division of Naturalization, Record of Declaration of Intention, 1913-1915 is available in the Library of Virginia reading room on Culpeper County (Va.) Reel 55. See ["A Guide to Virginia County and City Records on Microfilm."](#)

Use Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Acquisition Information

Microfilm images made from the original standardized volume of naturalization records issued by the federal government that is housed in the Culpeper County clerk's office.

Original volume retained in the locality. Contact the Clerk of the Circuit Court for access.

Processing Information

The standardized volume of naturalization records issued by the federal government was microfilmed by the Library of Virginia's Imaging Services Division in 1975.

Encoded by M. Long: December 2025.

Preferred Citation

Culpeper County (Va.) Naturalization Records, 1913-1915, Culpeper County (Va.) Reel 55. Local government records collection, Culpeper County Court Records. The Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia, 23219.

Adjunct Descriptive Data

Related Material

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

Culpeper County is one of Virginia's Lost Records Localities. Additional Culpeper County Court Records may be found in the [Lost Records Localities Digital Collection](#) available on the Library of Virginia website.

Historical Information

Context for Record Type: Following the passage of the Naturalization Act of 1906, the federal government standardized the naturalization process by issuing bound volumes containing standard naturalization forms. These bound volumes were kept by the various courts of record in which a person could make a declaration of intent to become a U.S. citizen, and copies of the records were sent on to the federal government.

Locality History: Culpeper County probably was named for Catherine Culpeper, or for her mother, Margaret Lady Culpeper, or for Thomas Culpeper, second baron Culpeper of Thoresway, governor of Virginia from 1677 to 1683, or for their family, which long held proprietary right in the Northern Neck. It was formed from Orange County in 1749. Its area is 389 square miles, and the county seat is Culpeper.

Lost Locality Note: A significant number of loose records are missing for the period prior to 1840. They were stolen, mutilated, and/or destroyed during the Civil War. Culpeper was the site of several military engagements and experienced widespread pillaging by both Union and Confederate troops. The county courthouse was used as a jail for Confederate prisoners by Union forces. Volumes that record deeds and wills from the formation of the county exist. Minute books for the periods 1749-1762, 1765-1797, 1812-1813, and 1817 are missing.

Scope and Content

Culpeper County (Va.) Naturalization Records, 1913-1915, consists of Department of Commerce and Labor, Division of Naturalization, Record of Declaration of Intention, 1913-1915, a standardized volume of naturalization records issued by the federal government. There were two primary types of naturalization volumes issued by the federal government: Declaration of Intention volumes and Petition volumes. Oftentimes, applicants were documented in both of these volume types within a locality, but that is not always the case. An applicant may have entered their declaration of intention in one locality before moving and completing their naturalization petition elsewhere.

Declaration of Intention volumes record declarations of intent to become United States citizens. Information on the declaration of intent includes a person's name, age, occupation, color, complexion, height in feet and inches, weight, color of hair, color of eyes, other visible distinctive marks, place and date of birth, current residence, place from where emigrated to the United States, vessel arrived on, last foreign residence, a renunciation of allegiance and fidelity to the state of which the person is currently a citizen, and the date the intention was sworn.

Petition volumes, often called Petition and Record, record the petitions for naturalization, oaths of allegiance, and orders of court admitting petitioner to United States citizenship. Not all parts may be completed as all stages of the citizenship process could be completed in different courts and in different locations in the United States.

A petition for naturalization contains the petitioner's name, address, occupation, birthdate and place, place where emigrated from and date and port of arrival in the U.S., name of ship on which emigrated, where declared intention to become a citizen, spouse's name, place of birth and address, and number of children with their names, birth dates and places of birth. Additional recorded information includes a renunciation of allegiance and fidelity to the state of which the person is currently a citizen or subject, a statement that the petitioner can speak English, and the date since the petitioner has resided constantly in the U.S. An affidavit of witness to these facts is signed by two persons.

For many petitions, a declaration of intent and occasionally other correspondence or related documentation is inserted into the volume facing the naturalization petition. Also sometimes included is an order of the court admitting the petitioner to United States citizenship that includes date of citizenship and certificate of naturalization number.

Inserted into the volumes at various points were correspondence and regulations from the United States Department of Labor's Bureau of Naturalization.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged into the following series:

- Series I: Naturalization Volumes, 1913-1915, arranged chronologically.

Contents List

Series I: Naturalization Volumes, 1913-1915

Extent

1 microfilm reel

Arrangement

Arranged chronologically.

Culpeper County (Va.) Reel 55: Department of Commerce and Labor, Division of Naturalization, Petition and Record, 1913-1915