

A Guide to the Rockingham County (Va.) Naturalization Records, 1826-1911

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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 Rockingham County (Va.) Naturalization Records, 1826-1911

Subtitle: Rockingham County (Va.) Naturalization Records

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Publication Statement

Date: © 2014 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, 11 March 2014

Language Usage: Description is in English

Descriptive Summary

Language

English

Collector

Rockingham County (Va.) Circuit Court

Extent

.2 cu. ft. (1 box)

Location

Library of Virginia

Repository

The Library of Virginia

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

Rockingham County's loose naturalization records, 1826-1911, 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 2004 transfer of court papers from Rockingham County under the accession number 40981.

Processing Information

Loose naturalization records, 1826-1911, 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: March 2014; updated by M. Long: May 2024.

Preferred Citation

Rockingham County (Va.) Naturalization Records, 1826-1911. Local government records collection, Rockingham County Court Records. The Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia, 23219.

Adjunct Descriptive Data

Related Material

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

Rockingham County is one of Virginia's Lost Records Localities. Additional Rockingham 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: 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: Rockingham County was named for Charles Watson-Wentworth, second marquis of Rockingham, who supported the colonies during the years before and during the Revolutionary War. The county was formed from Augusta County in 1778. The county seat is the city of Harrisonburg.

Lost Locality Note: A courthouse fire in 1787 destroyed primarily wills and estate records. In June 1864 during the Civil War, court records (mostly volumes) were removed from the courthouse and loaded on a wagon to be taken to place of safety on or beyond the Blue Ridge. The wagon was overtaken by Union troops near Port Republic and set afire, which was put out by local citizens. Many order books, deed books, will books, and fiduciary books, however, were lost or severely damaged by the fire. The loose records that remained at the courthouse were undamaged. Pre-1865 records including deeds and wills were rerecorded following an act of assembly passed in November 1884.

Scope and Content

Rockingham County (Va.) Naturalization Records, 1826-1911, 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.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged into the following series:

- Series I: Loose Naturalization Records, 1826-1911, arranged chronologically.

Contents List

Series I: Loose Naturalization Records, 1826-1911

Extent

.2 cubic feet (1 box)

Arrangement

Arranged chronologically.

Barcode number 1159570: Naturalization Records; Orders for Special Terms; Organization Records, 1795-1913

Library of Virginia