

# A Guide to the Roanoke County (Va.) Naturalization Records, 1904-1908

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1904-1908

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A Collection in the Library of Virginia  
Library of Virginia  
2018

## History

**Processed by:** Library of Virginia staff

## Title Statement

A Guide to the Roanoke County (Va.) Naturalization Records, 1904-1908

**Subtitle:** Roanoke County (Va.) Naturalization Records

**Author:** McKenzie Long

## Publication Statement

**Date:** © 2018 By The Library of Virginia. All Rights Reserved.

**Publisher:** Library of Virginia

## Profile Description

**Creation:** Machine-readable finding aid derived from being created directly into EAD, created by Greg Crawford, 12 October 2018

**Language Usage:** Description is in English

## Descriptive Summary

### Language

English

### Collector

Roanoke County (Va.) Circuit Court

### Extent

.15 cu. ft. (1 box)

### Location

Library of Virginia

### Repository

The Library of Virginia

## Administrative Information

### Access Restrictions

A portion of Roanoke County's loose naturalization records, 1904-1905, 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 Roanoke County.

## Processing Information

Loose naturalization records, 1904-1908, were processed in two separate groups for the purpose of inclusion in the Library of Virginia's Naturalization Records Digital Collection. The first section, ranging from 1904 to 1905, was processed and indexed as a distinct unit by Library of Virginia staff. The second section, dating from 1908, was processed and indexed as a distinct unit by M. Long.

Encoded by G. Crawford: October 2018; updated by M. Long: September 2024.

## Preferred Citation

Roanoke County (Va.) Naturalization Records, 1904-1908. Local government records collection, Roanoke County Court Records. The Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia, 23219.

# Adjunct Descriptive Data

## Related Material

Additional Roanoke 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:** Roanoke County was named for the Roanoke River, which in turn was derived from the English colonists' misunderstanding of the Indian word for the shell beads worn as personal adornment or used for trade. The county was formed from Botetourt County in 1838, and part of Montgomery County was added in 1849. The county courthouse is in the city of Salem.

## Scope and Content

Roanoke County (Va.) Naturalization Records, 1904-1908, 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, 1904-1908, arranged chronologically and housed in a box with other Roanoke County court records.

## Contents List

### Series I: Loose Naturalization Records, 1904-1908

#### Extent

.15 cubic feet (1 box)

#### Arrangement

Arranged chronologically and housed in a box with other Roanoke County court records.

**Barcode number 1140053: Bonds, Commissions, Oaths/Business Records/Clerk's Records/Court Records/Election Records/Fiduciary Records/Naturalization Records, 1891-1910**

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