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The World of Genealogy:
Naturalization Records

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Generally, petitions ■led prior to September 26, 1906 contained the name and former citizenship of the
applicant, the date of the petition, and signature of the applicant. Occasionally, names of a witness or
the address of the applicant would appear on the petition.

Petitions ■led after September 26, 1906, on Form 2204, entitled "Petition for Naturalization," contained

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the following information: name; place of residence; and occupation; date and place of birth; port and
date of emigration and immigration and vessel upon which the applicant traveled; date and place of the
declaration of intention (if necessary); marital status; name(s), date(s) and place(s) of birth of the

applicant's spouse and children; country of former allegiance; knowledge of the English language; time
of residence within the United States and within the state of residence; the declaration of intention
number; and the certi■cate of naturalization number. This form also included the af■davits of the
petitioner and witnesses. The witnesses gave their names, occupations, and addresses. Finally, the
petitioner would date and sign the petition.

Petitions ■led on Form N—405, "Petition for Naturalization (Under General Provisions of the
Immigration and Nationality Act)," and Form N-406, "Petition for Naturalization (Of a Married Person,
under Sec. 319(a) or (b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act)," contained much of the same
information as did the older Form 2204. A personal description was added. The forms asked whether the
spouse had been naturalized and when the naturalization occurred. The forms asked if the children had
been absent from the United States since they were admitted to the United States. The applicant was
given an opportunity to change his or her name. Finally, a

line was added for the Alien Registration
Number. Each form also listed the names, addresses, and occupations of two witnesses who would
vouch for the moral character of the applicant.

Petitions ■les on Form N—407, Petition for Naturalization (In behalf of a

Child, under Section 322 or

323, Immigration and Nationality Act)" gave personal information about the adoptive parents, including
names, addresses, ages, birthplaces, and birthdates. Each petition listed the name of the child, date and
place of adoption, residence, date and place of birth, personal description, place and date of admission to
the United States, name under which the child was admitted, time of legal custody, and alien registration
number.

Forms ■led after 1967 contained only the following information: name, applicable section of the
Naturalization Act, address, date and place of birth, marital status and number (but not names) of
children, date of admission to the United States, current nationality, alien registration number,
opportunity to change the applicant's name, af■davits of witnesses, date of petition, and signature of the
applicant.

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