

Finding Los Angeles Naturalization Records

Los Angeles District Court, 1887-1991
Los Angeles Superior Court, 1850-1915

For foreign-born residents of the United States to become citizens they had to go through a process known as naturalization. Throughout most of the Nation's history, an alien who had lived in the country for two years could file a **Declaration of Intention** with a court of record. This document declared the applicant's intention to become a U.S. citizen and renounce all foreign allegiances. After three years the applicant could file a **Petition for Naturalization**, which if approved, admitted the applicant as a citizen of the United States. Both the Declaration and the Petition contain valuable information for genealogists.

Los Angeles District Court, 1887-1991

Step 1. To locate the Naturalization documents you must first search one of three indices on microfilm to find the **Petition Number**. Use the following indexes for a given time period.

1887-1915	M1607, Roll 1 (Cabinet 14A)
1915-1930	M1525, Rolls 1-20 (Cabinet 14A)
1930-1976	M1525, Rolls 21-114 (Cabinet 15A)

M1607 is a hand-written index which is in rough alphabetical order. **M1525** is a card index arranged alphabetically. The range of names on each roll of film is written on the outside of the box.

Step 2. Once you have found the **Petition Number**, you are ready to locate the **Petition for Naturalization**. Often included with the Petition are a Declaration of Intention and Certificate of Arrival. These records can be found in one of three locations.

Petition Numbers 1 to 71,250

Use Microfilm Publication **M1524**, Rolls 57-244 (Cabinet 15A). The petitions are arranged in numerical order. The petition number is located in the upper right-hand corner of the document. The content of each roll of film is marked on the outside of the box. **Be careful to follow the Petition Numbers and not the number on the Declarations of Intention.**

Petition Numbers 71,251 to 360,000

Ask the desk attendant to have a staff member make a copy from the original.

Petition Numbers 360,001 (1975) or greater

Contact the Los Angeles District Court at (213) 894-3645 to obtain petition numbers.

Los Angeles Superior Court, 1850-1915

Step 1. Locate the volume and page number using Microfilm Publication **M1608** (Cabinet 14A), which is an alphabetical index to naturalizations in the Los Angeles Superior Court. The range of names contained on each roll is marked on the outside of the box. Often an individual's name will have a reference to an "I" and an "A" date and volume number. An "I" denotes an entry into the Court register of **Declarations of Intention** filed. An "A," which stands for "Admitted," is the location of the **Petition for Naturalization** (and often the Declaration of Intention) or **Certificate of Citizenship**.

Step 2. Once you have located the volume and page number, you can use Microfilm Publication **M1614** (Cabinet 14A) to locate the records. The following list indicates which volumes are located on each microfilm roll.

<u>Volume number</u>	<u>Roll number</u>	<u>Volume number</u>	<u>Roll number</u>
*	---	55-58	22
12-15	1	59-60	23
16-19	2	61-62	24
19-23	3	63-64	25
24-26	7	65-66	26
26-30	8	67-68	27
31-34	9	69	28
35-36	10	70-73	11
37-41	4	74-77	12
42-43	16	78-81	13
43-45	17	82-85	14
45-47	18	86-87	15
47-49	19	**	---
49-50	20	96-97	5
51-54	21	98-99	6

* Volumes 1-11—not known to exist

** Volumes 88-95—Please ask staff member for assistance.