



Naturalisation and Citizenship

Information From Archives D2

1. Signet Bills ordering grants of Denization, 1541-1851

Standard charge: £60

Catalogue references: SO 3, SO4, SO 7, SP 39, and SP 44: King's Bills, 1541-1851

Information that this source should reveal:

These records contain the names, and date of Denization grant.

Factors affecting success of a search:

There are printed name indexes such as *Letters of Denizen and Acts of Naturalisation for Aliens in England, 1509-1800* (Lymington, 1893).

Also, the index to the series SO 4 is SO 3, which are name indexes in chronological order to docquet books. These give the months in which the bills will be found.

2. Denization Background Case Papers can include application and affidavits, 1801-1840

Standard charge: £30

Catalogue references: HO 1/6-12

Information that this source should reveal:

These records can record country of origin, occupation, and place of residence.

Factors affecting success of a search:

These are currently being loaded onto the Catalogue, searchable by name. HO 1/6-8 are now on the Catalogue. You can follow the instructions:

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/catalogue

and follow the link for Record Copying.

Possible checking against paper indexes for pieces HO 1/9-12.

Approximately 70% of papers for this period appear to survive. Some include unsuccessful applications.

3. Denization Certificates, 1801-1832

Standard charge: £30

Catalogue references: HO 44/44-49

Information that this source should reveal:

These records can record country of origin, occupation, and place of residence.

Factors affecting success of a search:

These are searchable by name on The Catalogue. You can follow the instructions

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/catalogue

And follow the instructions for Record Copying.

4. Denization Original Patents, 1804-1843

Standard charge: £30

Catalogue reference: HO 44

Information that this source should reveal:

These records can record country of origin, occupation, and place of residence.

Factors affecting success of a search:

This series is arranged chronologically by year. Not all records survive.

5. Denizations: Original letters patent, 1752-1830

Standard charge: £30

Catalogue reference: C 97

Information that this source should reveal:

These records consist of fifteen engrossed letters patent of denization, each with the great seal attached, and each supplying the new place of residence of each alien.

Some of the documents also supply the alien's former place of residence and occupation.

Start by checking printed name indexes such as *Letters of Denizen and Acts of Naturalisation for Aliens in England, 1509-1800* (Lymington, 1893).

These are searchable by name on The Catalogue. Follow the instructions at: www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/catalogue and follow the instructions for Record Copying.

Factors affecting success of a search:

Relatively low. Most of the denizations are in their original wooden boxes, and may have been left, unclaimed by the patentees, in the department of the Hanaper.

These are searchable by name on The Catalogue. Follow the instructions at: www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/catalogue and follow the instructions for Record Copying

There are printed name indexes such as *Letters of Denizen and Acts of Naturalisation for Aliens in England, 1509-1800* (Lymington, 1893).

6. Naturalisation by Act of Parliament background Home Office Papers, 1801-1900

NB: Private Acts of Parliament are kept at the House of Lords Record Office.

Standard charge: £30

Catalogue references: HO 1/13-16, HO 45 and HO 144

Information that this source should reveal:

These records can record country of origin, occupation, place and date of birth, and place of residence.

IFA: Research Notes

Start by checking printed name indexes such as *Letters of Denizen and Acts of Naturalisation for Aliens in England, 1509-1800* (Lymington, 1893).

These records are currently being loaded onto The Catalogue. And should be available from April 2005 at: www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/catalogue and follow the instructions for Record Copying.

Factors affecting success of a search:
Medium. Not all case papers survive.

7. Naturalisation by Secretary of State background Home Office Papers, 1844-1934

Standard charge: £30

Catalogue references: HO 1, HO 45 and HO 144

Information that this source should reveal:

These records can record occupation, place and date of birth, place(s) of residence, county of origin, and details of spouse and children. They also include police reports from 1873.

Factors affecting success of a search:

The vast majority of case papers survive (up to 95%) for successful applications only. Records after 1923 are closed for 100 years.

The records can be searched by name and place of origin on the Catalogue for the period 1844-1930. Printed indexes for the period 1931-1935 may need to be consulted at Kew.

Follow the instructions at: www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/catalogue

8. Home Office: Aliens Papers (includes Naturalisation by Secretary of State background Home Office Papers), 1934-1948

Standard charge: £30

Catalogue references: HO 382 and HO 405.

Information that this source should reveal:

These records can record occupation, place and date of birth, place(s) of residence, county of origin, details of spouse and children, and police reports.

Factors affecting success of a search:

The files in HO 405 relate to individual foreign citizens (mostly European) who arrived in the UK between 1934 and 1948 and who applied for naturalisation. All files include application for naturalisation with police reports. Some also include initial application for visa or employment permit, change of name or business name and World War Two internment papers. Files were opened when the individual first applied to enter the UK and continue until naturalisation or death. Files relating to married couples are listed under the name of the husband and the wife's file is attached to the husband's. Spelling of names sometimes varies throughout the files. The name listed is that used on the naturalisation certificate (where issued) and other names are noted as 'aka' or 'formerly'. All possible variants of a name should be used when a search is being conducted.

Not all records in this series have been transferred to The National Archives. Currently those for aliens with surnames A-L have been transferred.

All the files in HO 405 were scheduled for destruction with the exception of a number of illustrative and famous cases which were transferred into HO 382. In 1992 The National Archives learned that not all files opened before 1948 had been destroyed. Those which survived provided sufficient additional insight into pre and post-war European immigration and World War Two internment to justify preservation of a high proportion. All surviving files that included an application for naturalisation have been preserved in this series regardless of whether the application was approved. It is estimated that some 40% of naturalisation applications have survived.

Records in this series are closed for 100 years.

The records in HO 382 and HO 405 can be searched by name on the Catalogue: www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/catalogue and request copies online as necessary.

9. Naturalisation by Secretary of State: Certificates, 1844-1870.

Standard charge: £30

Catalogue references: C 275 and C 54

Information that this source should reveal:

This summarises the information provided in the case papers and usually includes occupation, place and date of birth and place of residence.

Factors affecting success of a search:

All should survive. The records are arranged chronologically. C 275 are the indexes to the Close Rolls in C 54 which provide an enrolled copy of the certificate.

10. Naturalisation by Secretary of State: Certificates, 1870-1987

Standard charge: £30

Catalogue references: HO 334

Information that this source should reveal:

These summarise the information provided in the case papers and usually includes occupation, place and date of birth, place of residence, details of spouse and children and parents of the applicant.

Factors affecting success of a search:

All should survive. The records are arranged by certificate number. This number can be obtained by searching for the case papers on the Catalogue by name of alien (up to 1930 only, using printed indexes available at Kew for 1931-1980).

Follow the instructions at: www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/catalogue and request copies online as necessary.

11. Registration of British Citizenships: Application and Registrations, 1948-1987

Standard charge: £30

Catalogue references: HO 334

Information that this source should reveal:

These usually record place and date of birth and place of residence. These relate to applications made by citizens of UK colonies and dependencies.

Factors affecting success of a search:

All should survive. The records are arranged by registration number (known as the 'R' number or 'M' number for child applicants). If unknown, this needs to be obtained from the Liverpool Nationality Office.
