

# THE MARINERS MUSEUM

NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA

ROGER WILLIAMS  
President

E. F. HEARD  
Vice President

April 7, 1954

Mr. Click Relander  
1212 North 32nd Avenue  
Yakima, Washington

Dear Mr. Relander:

We do not have the logs of the steamship ILLINOIS, and we do not know where to suggest that you look for them. Since the ILLINOIS was in domestic trade there would be no customs records of her cargo.

We can supply you with a picture of the ILLINOIS at rates as per enclosed price list. We do not have a picture of the bark WHEATON.

It is possible that the records of Fort Simcoe are in the National Archives at Washington, D. C.

Very truly yours,

*John L. Lochhead*

John L. Lochhead  
Librarian

JLL/swh







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Payment is requested in advance. Make checks and money orders payable to The Mariners' Museum.

#### REMARKS

(4th printing)



[Enclosure. Apr. 7, 1954]

## RECORDS IN THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

### CONCERNING AGE AND CITIZENSHIP

Although the National Archives has very few original records of birth, marriage, and death,<sup>1</sup> it can often provide other evidence that will help in establishing the age and citizenship of individuals. The principal types of records in its custody that are of use for this purpose and the data that should be furnished the National Archives when searches of these records are requested are described briefly below.

Adoption records. --The National Archives has records of adoption only for the District of Columbia. These records are complete to 1937 and give the age and sometimes the date and place of birth of each person adopted. The National Archives will upon request make a search for adoptions recorded in 1907 or later if the full name of the person adopted and the names of the foster parents are given, but for adoptions recorded before 1907 the approximate date of the adoption should also be given.

Birth records. --The National Archives has records of births at Army camps, posts, and stations, 1884-1912, with some records as late as 1920. The National Archives will search these records upon request if the name of the child, the names of the parents, and the approximate date of birth are supplied; but if the birth took place after 1912 the place of birth should also be supplied. The National Archives also has records of many births filed at American foreign service offices of children of American citizens residing abroad, 1907-35, with some records of earlier dates. Persons wishing to confirm age or citizenship from these records should address the Department of State, Washington 25, D. C.

Census schedules. --Population schedules (either originals or copies) of the censuses from 1790 to 1870 are available for consultation in the National Archives. Beginning with the census of 1850 the decennial schedules usually show the name and age and the State, territory, or country of birth of every free inhabitant in the United States.

The National Archives has 35 mm. negative microfilm copies of the census schedules for 1830-80, from which positive microfilm copies can be made. Prices for rolls of positive microfilm for a State or part of a State will be furnished upon request. A microfilm reader is necessary, of course, to magnify the microfilm images to readable proportions.

<sup>1</sup>For information about original records of birth, marriage, and death inquirers should address the bureau of vital statistics, the church, or other appropriate local depository in the State, county, or city concerned.



The National Archives will upon request make a limited search in any one of the censuses of 1850, 1860, or 1870 to verify a point of age or citizenship if it is shown that the requested information is to be used for legal purposes. A request for such a search should give the full name of the person in question, the names of other members of his household, and his specific residence at the time the census was taken. If possible the request should also give the name of the township or other unit within a county or the ward or street address within a city. The National Archives will upon request furnish a list of private persons who are willing to make searches of a more extensive nature for a fee.

Requests for information from the 1880, 1900, and later censuses should be addressed to the Bureau of the Census, Washington 25, D. C. Practically all the 1890 census schedules containing information about age and place of birth have been destroyed.

Draft registrations. --The National Archives has the Selective Service records of World War I. These show the date and usually the place of birth of all persons who registered for the draft in 1917 or 1918. The National Archives will search the records for information about a registrant if his full name and the place of his registration are given. If the registrant lived in a city, his street address or the number of his draft board should be given. Blank applications for information about draft registrants will be supplied by mail upon request.

Homestead applications. --The National Archives has applications for homestead lands, 1862-1937. These records give the age, place of birth, and, where appropriate, information about the naturalization of each applicant for land on the public domain. The National Archives will make a search in the records after July 1, 1908, if the full name of the applicant and the State or Territory in which the land was located are given. In order to search the applications of earlier date, it must have in addition to the applicant's name: (1) the number of the land-entry file or a description of the land by subdivision, section, township, and range, or (2) the name of the land office and either the date when the original application was filed or the date of the final certificate. If it is not possible to furnish such exact information as to the location of the land, a successful search may be possible if the inquirer can give the name of the nearest town and the direction and approximate distance of the land from that town.

Naturalization records. --The only records of naturalization proceedings in the National Archives are those of the District of Columbia courts, 1802-1926. These records show the age or the date of birth and the nationality of each person who petitioned for naturalization and whether citizenship was granted. The National Archives will make a search in the records if the full name of the petitioner and the approximate date of naturalization are furnished, but it will give only an abstract



of the record because the law forbids the reproduction of naturalization records except under authority from the Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization. A request for information about citizenship granted elsewhere than in the District of Columbia should be addressed to the Federal, State, or other court which issued the naturalization certificate if it was granted before September 27, 1906. Requests for information about citizenship granted since that date should be addressed to the Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization, Washington 25, D. C. He maintains duplicate certificates of naturalization issued since September 27, 1906.

Passport applications. --The National Archives has passport applications and related papers, 1791-1905, of Americans who intended to travel abroad. Persons wishing to confirm age or citizenship from these records should address the Department of State, Washington 25, D. C.

Passenger lists. --The National Archives has passenger lists for ships arriving at Baltimore, 1820-1919; Boston, 1883-99; New Orleans, 1820-97; New York, 1820-1919; and Philadelphia, 1820-99. The lists give the country of allegiance of each passenger. The lists of earlier date than 1905 give the age of each person; the lists of later date sometimes give this information, although the law of 1905 required the recording of ages only for children 8 years old and under.

The National Archives will consult an index to the names of passengers arriving at Philadelphia if the inquirer can supply the name of the passenger and the approximate year of arrival. It will make a search of passenger lists of the other ports if the inquirer can supply the following information in addition to the name of the passenger: the port of entry, the name of the vessel, and the approximate date of arrival, or the port of embarkation and the exact date of arrival. If such information cannot be supplied, the National Archives will furnish the names of private persons willing to search the records for a fee. Inquiries about the citizenship of passengers arriving at New York after June 15, 1897, should be addressed to the Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization, Washington 25, D. C.

The Morton Allan Directory of European Steamship Arrivals, which is available in the larger libraries, may serve to refresh the memory of a person who forgets the name of a vessel. It lists by year and thereunder by name of steamship company vessels arriving on specific dates at New York, 1890-1930, and Baltimore, Boston, and Philadelphia, 1904-30.

Pension claims files. --The National Archives has noncurrent pension files relating to claims based upon service in various wars, including the Civil War (Union service) and the Spanish-American War.



These records often give the ages or dates of birth and places of birth of the dependents or widows of veterans. The National Archives will search the pension files if, in addition to the full name of the veteran and the war in which he served, other information is supplied such as the State from which or organization in which he served, place of residence before and after service, and name of widow, if any.

**Personnel records.** --The National Archives has most extant personnel records for civilians employed by the Federal Government before 1910. These records may contain information as to the place and date of birth of an employee. The National Archives will make a search of personnel records if the full name of the employee at the time of service is given, together with the name and address of the employing agency and the approximate dates of employment. The personnel records for most of the civilian employees who have left the Government service since 1910 are in the Federal Records Center, 1724 Locust Street, St. Louis 3, Mo.

**Seamen's protection certificate applications.** --The National Archives has applications for protection certificates for seamen on American vessels, 1916-41. An application is usually supported by evidence of the date and place of birth and the citizenship of each seaman. The National Archives will search the application files if the following data are supplied: the full name of the seaman, the port from which the certificate was issued, and the number or date of the certificate.

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES  
NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS SERVICE  
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

Washington: 1953