

NATIONAL ARCHIVES MICROFILM PUBLICATIONS
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**Record of Admissions to Citizenship
District of South Carolina
1790-1906**



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Records of District Courts

of the United States

Record Group 21

RECORD OF ADMISSIONS TO CITIZENSHIP
DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA
1790-1906

On the single roll of this microfilm publication are reproduced four volumes of annotated lists of names of persons admitted to U.S. citizenship by the U.S. courts in South Carolina from 1790 through 1906. The volumes are part of Records of District Courts of the United States, Record Group 21, and are housed in the Archives Branch of the Federal Archives and Records Center, Atlanta, Ga.

The first naturalization act passed by Congress on March 26, 1790 (1 Stat. 103), provided that an alien who desired to become a citizen should apply to "any common law court of record, in any one of the states wherein he shall have resided for the term of one year at least." Under this and later laws, aliens were naturalized in Federal courts and also in State and local courts.

A notice, or declaration, of intention normally preceded a petition to become a citizen by 2 years or more, but the notice was sometimes not required if the citizen had an honorary discharge from certain military service or had entered the country when a minor. An order of admission to citizenship was typically listed in a district or circuit court minute book on the date the judge so ordered. The four volumes reproduced in this microfilm publication constitute a list of persons admitted to citizenship as recorded in the district and circuit court records for the District of South Carolina. These lists were probably compiled from naturalization papers. The pre-Civil War papers were presumably lost during that war. The papers for the post-Civil War period are in the Archives Branch in Atlanta.

Each of the four volumes is alphabetically arranged by the initial letter of the surname of the applicant. Within each letter of the alphabet the names are listed chronologically by the date of the order of admission to citizenship. The first volume, 1790-1860, contains the following information: name of alien, age, nation of birth, U.S. place of residence, occupation, and date of the order of admission: Not all entries are complete. The second volume, 1866-86, contains the following information: name of citizen, occupation, place of birth, place and date of arrival in the United States, age, and date of the order of admission. A few entries give the date of notice of intention rather than the date of admission. The third volume, 1876-1906, and the fourth volume, 1886-1906, contain the same entries as the second volume, with the addition of the date of notice of intention. The names listed in volume 3 are different from those listed in volume 4.

Mary Ann Hawkins wrote this introduction and prepared these records for filming. Robin Zeltner was the editor.

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