Guide to Jewish Genealogy in Chicagoland by Mike Karsen

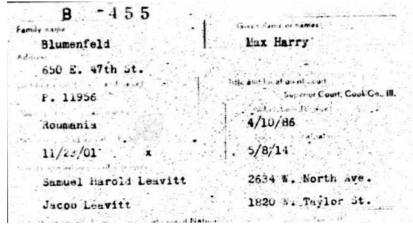
Chicago Naturalization Records

Naturalization records contain a treasureô trove of information for the Jewish genealogist. Naturalization records go back to 1871 in Chicago and a **soundex index of all naturalizations for Chicago, Cook County, and some portions of Indiana and Wisconsin exist for 1871-1950.** The index contains the name of applicant, address, court where naturalized, and certificate number, country of origin, birth date, date and port of arrival in United States, date of naturalization, and names of witnesses.

This **index** can be found in the following places:

1. Online at <u>www.ancestry.com</u> . Do a normal search but in the list of results look in the folder: <u>Immigration & Travel</u> U.S. Naturalization Records Indexes

For Max Blumenfeld, I found the following record:



2. This same record could be found by searching the on www.FamilySearch.org

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Name:	Max Harry Blumenfeld	
Event Type:	Naturalization	
Event Place:	Cook, Illinois	
Event Date:	1914	
Birth Year:	1886	
Birthplace:	Roumania	

Affiliate Publication Title: Soundex Index to Naturalization Petitions for U.S. District & Circuit Courts, Northern District of Illinois and Immigration and Naturalization Service District 9, 1840-1950, Affiliate Publication Number: M1285, Affiliate Film Number: 16, GS Film number: 1432016, Digital Folder Number: 004640960, Image Number: 04706

You can find the exact index card here that you found on ancestry.com by clicking further.

Another tool for online searching is the **Cook County Clerk of the Circuit Court: Declarations of Intentions Index.** <u>http://www.cookcountyclerkofcourt.org/nr/default.aspx</u>

For Max Blumenfeld, I found the following record:

NAME	BIRTH DATE	BIRTH TOWN	BIRTH COUNTRY	OCCUPATION
BLUMENFELD [BLUMENF] MAX	IELD], 4/10/1886	BOTOSHAN	ROUMANIA	TAILOR
Record Details for V	olume 25			
Page Number:	127			
Declaration Number:	10927			
FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	OCCUPATION		
мах	BLUMENFELD [BLUMENFIELD]	TAILOR		
BIRTH CITY	BIRTH COUNTRY	BIRTH DATE		
BOTOSHAN	ROUMANIA	4/10/1886		
CURRENT ADDRESS	CURRENT CITY			
47-1/2 E. 47TH ST.	CHICAGO			
DEPARTURE LOCATION	ARRIVAL DATE	DECLARATION DATE		
HAMBURG, GERMANY	11/23/1901	2/20/1909		

Once you have found your ancestor on the index, you can proceed with obtaining his/her full naturalization file including the "Declaration of Intention" (also called first papers) and "Petition for Admission to Citizenship" (also called final papers). <u>Remember to find the Court from the Naturalization Index to determine where to find the papers</u>. Early naturalization files (before about 1900) contained very little information, usually just the applicant's name, country of origin, court where naturalized and certificate number, date of

naturalization, and name of witnesses. It may be difficult to even verify that this file belongs to your family member.

In 1906 the federal government established standards for these papers, which included many valuable details including complexion, height, weight, place born and date, address, arrival date in United States with ship, port, where departed from, last foreign residence, name of wife, birth date/place of wife, names of children with birth dates and places, and witnesses. There are two places to obtain these records for Chicago naturalizations:

<u>National Archives (NARA)</u>: District court (Federal): online ordering at <u>http://www.archives.gov/chicago/finding-aids/naturalization-records.html</u>

Office of Circuit Court of Cook County:

Superior, Circuit, County and Criminal Courts: call 312-603-6601.

For more information on naturalizations go to http://www.jewishgen.org/infofiles/faq.html#Naturalization

For specific questions on this article, email me at: mike.karsen@jgsi.org