

## Family History – Immigration

### Immigration and Naturalization

The United States is a nation of immigrant families. Records that document the immigration and naturalization of our ancestors includes crew and passenger lists, immigration and border crossing records, passports, as well as citizenship and naturalization documents. The following information can assist in your efforts in finding the source documents of your immigrant ancestors.

### [National Archives](#)



- [Coming to America: Celebrating the Immigrant Experience – YouTube video \(8 minutes\)](#)

Naturalization, as a general rule was a two-step process, which took a minimum of 5 years;

1. After residing in the United States for 2 years, an alien could file a "declaration of intent" (so-called "first papers") to become a citizen.
2. After 3 additional years, the alien could "petition for naturalization." After the petition was granted, a certificate of citizenship was issued to the alien.

Below is a copy of the “declaration of intent” document of my great-grandfather, Urbano Corazzini. These documents can be “golden ticket” source documents. Look at ALL the information available from this single document.

- |                           |                         |                        |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| • Full name               | • Current address       | • Spouse US residence  |
| • Age at “intent” signing | • Emigration port       | • Arrival port         |
| • Occupation              | • Emigration ship       | • Arrival date         |
| • Personal description    | • Non-US residence      | • Date “intent” signed |
| • Place of birth          | • Spouse name           | • Court of record      |
| • Date of birth           | • Spouse place of birth |                        |

NOTE: this document is filled-out by the “named” individual, vs. a court clerk, providing less error for misspelling names and places, unlike ship records or census records which a ship recorder or census taker fills out in their own handwriting and often guesses at the spelling of names and places.

The language in this document is amazing. Look what our ancestors were willing to give up!

- *“It is my bona fide intention to renounce forever all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, and particulary to “name of ruler” of whom I am now a subject”*

JANIDIRO

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR  
NATURALIZATION SERVICE

✓ 375  
ORIGINAL

No. 4475

# UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

## DECLARATION OF INTENTION

~~is~~ Invalid for all purposes seven years after the date hereof

United States of America, | ss: In the District Court of the United States.  
Southern District of California, | County of Los Angeles

I, Urbano Corazzini, aged 39 years, occupation Insurer, do declare on oath that my personal description is: Color White, complexion Dark, height 5 feet 10 inches, weight 200 pounds, color of hair Wk Brun, color of eyes Brown, other visible distinctive marks Scar on left eyebrow. I was born in Torino, Italy on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of April, anno Domini 1877; I now reside at 1016 Yale St., Los Angeles, California. (Give number, street, and city or town.) I emigrated to the United States of America from France on the vessel La Savane; my last foreign residence was Torino, Italy; I am un married; the name of my wife is Margherita; she was born at Sale, Italy and now resides at Los Angeles, Cal. It is my bona fide intention to renounce forever all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, and particularly to Victor Emmanuel III King of Italy, of whom I am now a subject; I arrived at the port of New York in the State of New York on or about the 25<sup>th</sup> day of April, anno Domini 1907; I am not an anarchist; I am not a polygamist nor a believer in the practice of polygamy; and it is my intention in good faith to become a citizen of the United States of America and to permanently reside therein: SO HELP ME GOD.

Urbano Corazzini  
(Original signature of declarant.)

Subscribed and sworn to before me in the office of the Clerk of said Court at Los Angeles, Cal., this 7<sup>th</sup> day of December anno Domini 1916

[SEAL]

WILLIAM M. VAN DYKE,  
Clerk of the U.S. District Court, Southern District of California.  
By Lizzie F. Fineman, Deputy Clerk.

**FamilySearch** has a significant amount of information related to immigration and naturalization to the **United States**, including articles and online classes from their Learning Center. For example:

- [US Naturalization and Citizenship Wiki Articles](#)

**Rootsweb** has a wonderful Wiki containing information about the immigration and naturalization process and related source documents.

- [American Sources for Documenting Immigrants](#)



#### **Did you know?**

- **Immigration** means the action of coming to live permanently in a foreign country.
- **Emigration** is the act of leaving one's country or region with the intent to settle permanently in another. It is similar to immigration, but from the perspective of the country of origin.

Discover the joy in finding these exciting sources documents of your ancestors.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any family history questions.



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