

Explanation of Minnie Robinson Citizenship Document

By Edna Cardinal of OCCGS:

I kept trying to figure out why Minnie Elenor Harrison needed a US Citizenship document in 1939. She was born in the US. Turns out she was caught up in the Expatriation Act of 1907. Her first husband who was born in the US died in 1917. By 1920 she is listed as the wife of Alfred Harrison who was born in South Africa (and not a US Citizen). As a result of the Expatriation Act Minnie (Mary Elenor Walter) lost her US Citizenship. By 1930 Alfred had died and by a law passed in 1936 Minnie was able to 'reclaim' her "Certificate of Citizenship" through providing supporting documentation of a legal marriage, death of partner etc. Hence the reason for the dashes in the 'Former Nationality' field on the Citizenship document.

In any case I finally figured out who she is connected to in the research documents you attached. She is on the 'Supplemental' DAR Request. On the on the second page lineage chart for Dorothy Robinson Kirkwood, Mary Walter is listed in Section 3 listed with her 1st husband David Frank Robinson. It didn't occur to me that Mary Walter and Minnie Elenor Harrison were the same person until I was able trace her to her parents in census records. Minnie died in Kern County, California in 1961. Based on the DAR document, it was filed with the Lake Isabella, Kern County DAR Chapter.

In any case she is the grandmother of Dorothy Robinson Kirkwood. The DAR Applicant.

I don't know if this changes your view of the significance of the Citizenship Document, but it is an interesting story.