

# Knowles Family Immigration and Citizen Records

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## Introduction

This document contains immigration records such as ship arrival records and citizen records, such as naturalization and voter registration records for various Knowles and Black ancestors and is available on [Our Knowles Family Web Pages](#) as part of our Knowles family history.

For ease of use, the above [Table of Contents](#) includes active links in selecting items of interest. Merely touch the line or page number to move to a section of interest.

Immigration and citizen records were obtained from a number of sources including but not limited to *Ship Manifests*, *Naturalization Records* and *Voter Registration Records*.

*Immigration* events are organized by the date of a *ship arrival*. In some cases an individual came alone and in other cases a family traveled together. *Citizen* related information is specific to an individual, but in the late 1880s and early 1900s if the male head of the family became a citizen, the wife and younger children also became citizens and thus are not listed as naturalized.

Spellings of names and places vary for different records and sometimes individuals changed some part of their names or used nicknames or abbreviations. In the transcriptions that follows, the names are transcribed as they were recorded in the original record source.

In order to help preserve our Knowles family history and to make that history more widely available, [Our Knowles Family Web Pages](#) was created in the early years of the 21st century. Then in the later part of the first decade of the 21st century, I began to compile various categories of information such as *Knowles Family Addresses*, *Knowles Family Census Records*, *Knowles Genealogy Source Records*, *Knowles Family Immigration and Citizen Records*, and *the Knowles Stories* into pdf documents.

Such pdf files will make it easier to download files for preservation on our many computers and they will also allow much easier printing of pages and for studied analysis as desired. As part of this effort, a [Knowles PDF Downloads](#) web page was created. From this page, all currently available pdf's from n [Our Knowles Family Web Pages](#) as part of our Knowles family history. can be accessed.

You are encouraged to download the various Knowles pdf files, not only for your own study but to also help preserve for future generations hard to obtain data and information about our common Knowles and Jordan origins and history. Files are updated every once in a while, and checking about once a year is a reasonable frequency. Version dates are shown at the beginning of the [Table of Contents](#).

### **File Information**

Master File Name: Records\_Immigration\_Knowles

Author: Dave Jordan

Creation Date: 1/25/2013

Modified: 10/10/2014, 10/11/2017

### **Contact**

If you wish to comment, add information or just say hello, please contact [Dave Jordan](mailto:djgenealogy@me.com) at [djgenealogy@me.com](mailto:djgenealogy@me.com).

### **What's New**

Going forward it is intended to briefly describe what major items were added since the last version of this document.

1. 10/11/2017: Miscellaneous format updates.
2. 11/6/2014: 8/8/17: Miscellaneous format updates.
3. 10/10/2014: Updated the *Black and Knowles Immigration Events* based on new information.
4. 1/25/2013: *Knowles Family Immigration and Citizen Records* creation date.

## File Connections

As follows are other files that connect with *Knowles Family Immigration and Citizen Records*. All are available at [Knowles PDF Downloads](#) as individual pdf documents with titles and file names as listed below.

1. *The Knowles Story*  
File: Stories\_Knowles.pdf  
Summary: *The Knowles Story* provides a written history of the origins of our Knowles family. As part of this story there are many appendices and sections.
2. Historical Knowles Family Addresses  
File: Addresses\_Knowles\_Historical.pdf  
Summary: Contains chronological address listings for various families in the Knowles/Black/Wallace line.  
Linkage: James Oscar Jordan married Margaret Jane Knowles
3. *Knowles Family Census Records*  
File: Census\_Knowles\_Historical.pdf  
Summary: Contains census transcriptions for various families in the Knowles/Black/Wallace line.  
Linkage: James Oscar Jordan married Margaret Jane Knowles
4. *Knowles Family Immigration and Citizen Records*  
File: Records\_Immigration\_Knowles.pdf  
Summary: Contains immigration records such as ship arrival records and citizen records, such as naturalization and voter registration records transcriptions for various families in the Knowles/Black line line.  
Linkage: James Oscar Jordan married Margaret Jane Knowles
5. *The Jordan Story*  
File: Stories\_Jordan.pdf  
Summary: *The Jordan Story* provides a written history of the origins of our Jordan family. As part of this story there are many appendices and sections.

## Black and Knowles Immigration Events

For our Black and Knowles families there were five known immigration events. However, no definite arrival dates have been found. The timespan of their arrival dates and information about the various individuals is provided to assist future researchers. Events are listed in chronological order.

### 1. **Thomas and Margaret Black Canada Immigration - before 1851:**

Thomas Black and Margaret Leddy were married at St. Francois Xavier, Chicoutimi, Quebec, Canada on July 16, 1851. Chicoutimi is in the Saguenay area.

**Thomas Black:** The 1851 indicates Thomas was born in Quebec, but the 1861 and 1871 Census indicates Ireland and his burial record indicates Scotland. His year of birth is about 1822-24. No other information is known about whether it was he or his parents that immigrated but it would need to have been before 1851.

**Margaret Leddy:** Margaret was born about 1832 in Limerick, Ireland. It is not known if she came as an adult or a child, but as of 2014 there is no indication of a parent or sibling living with her in the various Canadian records. It is very possible she came as an older teenager on her own as it was the time of the potato famine in Ireland just before her marriage.

Since Thomas and Margaret were married in 1851 in Chicoutimi, Quebec, Canada they are the earliest presence of any individual in any branch of my family tree. In that regard it would be useful to pursue a more definite date. Another note of interest is that much has been documented about the early families that settled in Saguenay and their incredible work efforts at taming the region. It is not known when the Blacks arrived or if Thomas Black (born 1822-24) was the first of our family.

### 2. **William Knowles Montreal Immigration - 1872 to 1873:**

William Wallace Knowles immigrated to Montreal from Cavan County, Ireland between May 21, 1872 and May 19, 1873. These dates were obtained from a testimonial letter written for him in Ireland in 1872 and from a letter he wrote in Montreal in 1873. Limited passenger ship arrival records have been indexed for Canada for this period and no arrival record has been found at this time.

### 3. **Williams W. Knowles USA Immigration - 1884:**

In the early 1880s, William Wallace Knowles decided to explore Chicago as an area to move his Montreal tailoring business. *Chicago Voter Registration* data indicate he was a Cook County resident by early 1884. For these years there are no cross-border records. However, William Knowles became a citizen on February 28, 1889 and a minimum of five years in the USA was required then to become a citizen. Therefore, it appears William arrived in Chicago in or slightly earlier than February 1884.

4. **Isabella Black Knowles USA Immigration - 1884 to 1889:** Isabella Knowles died 1 September 1892 and her death record indicates she had been in Illinois 7 years which would place her in Illinois in late 1884 or 1885. Her husband William is thought to have arrived in Chicago in early 1884. Thus if the data is correct, it is logical to assume she followed her husband shortly after he arrived in Chicago. However, two events place her in Montreal in 1885 and 1886. First, her son William Ralph Knowles died on 24 March 1885 and was then buried in the *Black Family Plot* at Mount Royal Cemetery in Montreal. And second, Isabella's daughter Muriel was born in Montreal in March 1886. However, her son Wilfred was born in Chicago March 14, 1888. It is possible she went back to Montreal to be with her mother or sister while William was developing the business and also wanted to be near her mother and sisters during the births. Certainly a bit of speculating but it does seem she was going back and forth. It is also thought that her husband William traveled back and forth between Chicago and Montreal during these early years. Rail transportation was pretty developed at the time. The 1900 Census indicates that Muriel Knowles immigrated to the USA in 1888. Thus it is likely Isabella and Muriel finalized their arrival in the USA in early 1888.
5. **Margaret Jane Knowles USA Immigration - circa 1886 to 1889:** Margaret was born 8 April 1878 in Montreal. Most likely she arrived in Chicago with her mother in 1888. Margaret's 1920 Census record indicates she arrived in the USA in 1889 but her 1930 Census record indicates she arrived in 1886. Based on speculation that her mother was traveling back and forth to Montreal in these years, it is likely Margaret also traveled back and forth also and thus there was not a firm date in Margaret's mind when asked by the census taker especially since she was quite young when the events took place.
6. **Muriel Eulalie Knowles USA Immigration - circa 1888:** Muriel was born 20 March 1886 in Montreal. Her 1910 Census record indicates she arrived in 1889 but her 1900 Census Record indicates 1888. Given the 1900 Census Record is earlier and filled in by her aunt, it is likely the correct year..
7. **Robert Knowles USA Immigration - circa 1884:** Robert Knowles was William's brother. He was born about 1853 in Ireland. *Chicago Voter Registration* data indicate he was a Cook County resident as early as 1886 and in Illinois as early as 1884. It is not known if Robert arrived in the USA directly or first came to Montreal. However, no Montreal Directory data has been found for Robert Knowles, thus it is likely he immigrated to Chicago directly.

It is interesting to note from the 1892 *Chicago Voter Registration* data that Robert Knowles had been in Illinois 8 years by 1892, the same as his brother William; however, he was in a different county than William for two of those years. It seems likely their meeting in Illinois was not a coincidence and one brother may have prompted the other, though it is not known who initiated the move to Chicago.

8. **Elizabeth Black USA Immigration - circa 1888:** Elizabeth Black was born about 1864 in Montreal and is the daughter of Thomas and Margaret Black and the sister of Isabella Black Knowles. She married Richard Shannon in Chicago in May 1891. A letter dated November 10, 1888 was written to her in Chicago from a girl friend. It implies she was learning to make dresses, most likely for William Knowles's new Chicago tailoring business.

## Knowles Naturalization Events

In regard to naturalization events, it appears that both William Knowles and his brother Robert Knowles were naturalized. A summary of what is known is as follows:

1. **William Knowles:** An 1889 Naturalization Record has been found for William Knowles and is thought to be our William Knowles. The particular data are listed below. William Knowles was found in the *Chicago Voter Registrations* for 1889 and 1892.
2. **Robert Knowles:** Robert Knowles was also found in the *Chicago Voter Registrations* for 1892. The particular data are listed below. An index of an 1890 Naturalization Record has been found for Robert W. Knowles and is thought to be our Robert W. Knowles



## William Knowles Naturalization Record - 28 February 1889

Family Name	Given Name	Address	Certificate No. (or volume and page)	Title and Location of Court
Knowles	William (W.)	Ct. order only	Vol. 22 P-79	Superior Court, Cook Co., Ill.

Country of Birth and Allegiance	When born	Date and Port of Arrival	Date of Naturalization	Names and Addresses of witnesses.
Gt. Britain & Ire.	X	X	Feb. 28, 1889	Order proper reads W. Knowles

### Notes

1. The actual *Naturalization Record* has limited data on it, merely indicating the name William Knowles and his country of birth and allegiance. The record does not even show the date, but there was a note indicating the record before and after was Feb. 28, 1889 and thus it was assumed William Knowles's naturalization was the same date.
2. There was a 2nd William Knowles in Chicago in the 1880s. However, the *Chicago Voter Registrations* data support the above record as our William Knowles. In William's *Voter Registration* data, his date of application to register to vote was March 12, 1889, just a few weeks after the citizenship date on the Naturalization record. William Knowles was not found in the 1888 *Voter Registration*, suggesting 1889 was his first registration, and consistent with being a first time voter and this being our William Knowles.
3. Author/Last Update: - [Dave Jordan](#)/January 25, 2013

William Knowles Naturalization Record - 28 February 1889

SUPERIOR COURT - COOK COUNTY

VOL. 22 GENERAL

SC

United States of America.

STATE OF ILLINOIS, ss.  
COUNTY OF COOK.

PLEAS, before the Honorable \_\_\_\_\_ one of the Judges of the Superior Court of Cook County, in the State of Illinois, holding a branch Court of said Court, at a regular term of said Superior Court of Cook County, begun and holden at the Court House, in the City of Chicago, in said County and State, on the first Monday, being the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty \_\_\_\_\_, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred and \_\_\_\_\_

Present:—THE HONORABLE

Judge of the Superior Court of Cook County,

States Attorney,

Sheriff of Cook County.

Attest,

Clerk.

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And now on this day comes into open Court *William Knowles* an alien, and applies to be admitted as a naturalized citizen of the United States. And it appearing to the satisfaction of the Court that the said applicant has resided within the limits and under the jurisdiction of the United States, for and during the full term of five years last past, and one year and upward immediately preceding the date hereof in the State of Illinois, and that during said term he has sustained a good moral character, and appeared to be attached to the principles contained in the Constitution of the United States, and well disposed to the good order, well-being and happiness of the same; and that two years have elapsed since the said applicant declared his intention to become a citizen of the United States,

according to the provisions of the several Acts of Congress heretofore passed on that subject; and he having now here in open Court taken and subscribed the oath required by those laws to support the Constitution of the United States, and to renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to every foreign Prince, Potentate, State or Sovereignty whatever, and more particularly all allegiance which he may in any-wise owe to *Queen of Great Britain & Ireland* when he was heretofore a subject.

It is therefore ordered and adjudged by the Court, that the said *W Knowles* be and he is hereby admitted to all and singular the rights, privileges and immunities of a naturalized citizen of the United States, and that it be certified to him accordingly.

not sure if our  
William Knowles

William Knowles Naturalization Record - 28 February 1889 (continued)

**K 542**

Family name <b>Knowles</b>	Given name or names <b>William (W.)</b>
Address <b>Ct. order only</b>	
Certificate no. (or vol. and page) <b>Vol. 22 P-79</b>	Title and location of court <b>Superior Court, Cook Co., Ill.</b>
Country of birth or allegiance <b>Gt. Britain &amp; Ire.</b>	When born (or age) <b>X</b>
Date and port of arrival in U.S. <b>X</b>	Date of naturalization <b>Feb. 28, 1889 (over)</b>
Names and addresses of witnesses <b>Order proper reads W. Knowles</b>	
<b>X</b>	

*William Knowles  
Feb 28 1889*

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IN COURT RECORD**

Certificate canceled (date and court) \_\_\_\_\_

Why canceled \_\_\_\_\_

Expatriated \_\_\_\_\_ Deceased \_\_\_\_\_

Other facts of record **Natz. date not shown on this record.**  
**Prev. order shows Feb. 28, 1889**  
**Following order shows Feb. 28, 1889.**

*Not sure if this is correct, but  
 - check last dates in Montreal, add 5 years  
 - check other William Knowles in Chicago Directory*

U. S. Department of Labor, Immigration and Naturalization Service. Form No. 1-IP.

## Knowles Chicago Voter Registrations - 1889,1892

Congres-sional District	Ward	Precinct	Residence	Name	Nativity	Color	Residence Precinct	Residence County	Residence State
1	4	7	3724 State	Knowles, W. W	Scotland	White	1 yr	3 years	3 years
1	34	25	5734 Wabash Ave.	Knowles, W. W	Scotland		5 years	8 years	8 years
1	34	25	5734 Wabash Ave.	Knowles, R. W	Scotland		6 years	6 years	8 years

Name	Native	Naturalized	Date of Papers	Court	Qualified Voter	Date of Application to be Registered	Voted
Knowles, W. W		Yes	Mar 2, 1887	Superior Court of Cook County	Yes	Mar 12, 1889	Yes
Knowles, W. W	No	Yes	1884	County Court of Cook County	Yes	Oct 18, 1892	Yes
Knowles, R. W	No	Yes	Aug 1890	County Court of Cook County	Yes	Oct 25, 1892	Yes

Name	Comments
Knowles, W. W	The address 3724 State is William's place of business. Perhaps he lived there a short while. Neither William or Robert Knowles were found in the 1888 Chicago Voter Registration list.
Knowles, W. W	The address 5734 Wabash is William's long time home address.
Knowles, R. W	Robert Knowles is William's brother. His registration data imply he arrived in Illinois in 1884 but lived outside Cook County until 1886.

### Notes

1. There is some inconsistency in the 1889 and 1892 voter registration data provided by William Wallace Knowles regarding his residency. The 1889 residency data indicate he was a resident of Cook County and Illinois since 1885-1886. While his 1892 residency data indicate he was a resident of Cook County and Illinois since 1884.
2. The Naturalization Record above indicates William Knowles became a citizen of the USA on Feb 28, 1889. The *Dates of Papers* data for 1889 and 1892 above are inconsistent for William but may have do with its definition. The process at the time was a 2-step process that took a minimum of 5 years. In general after living in the United States for 2 years, an alien could file a Declaration of Intent (First Papers). After 2 additional years, the alien could Petition for Naturalization. Perhaps the 1884 date is when he first arrived (5 years before) and the March 2, 1887 were his first papers, followed by his Petition and Citizenship on Feb. 28, 1889.
3. Author/Last Update: - [Dave Jordan](#)/January 25, 2013