

clearly reveals his ancestry and race to make living among loyal communities pleasant.

A Committee of the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society recently dealt with the subject and reported as follows:

"As regards the individual citizen who is the ultimate unit in the complex structure of modern Government, this land, as well as all others, has done much that is necessary to protect him or her in rights pertaining to distinctive designation. For, since the evolution of the family surname, such surname or patronymic has been handed down from parent to child, under the protective laws governing legitimacy, as the inherent right of the offspring; and it is necessary for the individual to have recourse to legislative or judicial intervention to legally change an inherited surname.

"We deplore the ease with which this change in patronymic is allowed to be made under the existing laws of the various States in this Union, for the reason that its operation permits many to change their surnames and by this change disguise their blood and nationality.

"The ease with which this change can be accomplished enables a large number of modern immigrants to change their unmistakably foreign patronymics for those more euphonious and familiar to the American ear. This change might not be objectionable if in exchange for their old surname they were compelled to assume a new one distinctly suggestive of their blood and ancestry. Such however is not by any means their custom. After a short sojourn in this land they experience the disadvantage of their own surnames, occasioned by the difficulty of spelling of, unpronounceability of and often business prejudice against their surnames; and at once proceed to change the same; and in so doing adopt surnames characteristically suggestive of blood and nationality entirely different from their own. Their choice generally results in the selection of Anglo-Saxon patronymics. This is a custom prevalent among the lower classes of Hebrew immigrants, and has resulted in many of the best known and respected Anglo-Saxon patronymics being now used by Hebrews (or others) whose inherited surnames they have for reasons of their own found to be of disadvantage to them in this land. If the laws of a State are to continue to permit this free change of name, the new name permitted to be chosen should be (unless some reason better than those noted above is set forth in the application) one distinctly suggestive of the blood and original nationality of the applicant.