

# Yes a citizen of a State is also a citizen of the several States under the Constitution

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A citizen of a State who is not a citizen of the United States is entitled to privileges and immunities of a citizen of the several States, under Article IV, Section 2, Clause 1 of the Constitution of the United States of America, and is therefore also a citizen of the several States, under Article IV, Section 2, Clause 1 of the Constitution:

“There can be no doubt that Balk, as a citizen of the State of North Carolina, had the right to sue Harris in Maryland to recover the debt which Harris owed him. ***Being a citizen of North Carolina, he was entitled to all the privileges and immunities of citizens of the several States***, one of which is the right to institute actions in the courts of another State.” Harris v. Balk: 198 U.S. 215, at 223 (1905).

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“... So, a State may, by rule uniform in its operation as to citizens of the several States, require residence within its limits for a given time before a citizen of another State who becomes a resident thereof shall exercise the right of suffrage or become eligible to office. It has never been supposed that regulations of that character materially interfered with the enjoyment by ***citizens of each State of the privileges and immunities secured by the Constitution to citizens of the several States***. The Constitution forbids only such legislation affecting citizens of the respective States as will substantially or practically put a citizen of one State in a condition of alienage when he is within or when he removes to another State, or when asserting in another State the rights that commonly appertain to those who are part of the political community known as the People of the United States, by and for whom the Government of the Union was ordained and established. Blake v. McClung: 172 U.S. 239, at 256 thru 257 (1898).

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“In speaking of the meaning of the phrase ‘***privileges and immunities of citizens of the several States***,’ under section second, article fourth, of the Constitution, it was said by the present Chief Justice, in Cole v. Cunningham, 133 U.S.

107, that the intention was ‘to confer on the *citizens of the several States a GENERAL CITIZENSHIP*, and to communicate all the privileges and immunities which the citizens of the same State would be entitled to under the like circumstances, and this includes the right to institute actions.’ “ Maxwell v. Dow: 176 U.S. 581, at 592 (1900).

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Thus, since the adoption of the Fourteenth Amendment, there are two citizens under the Constitution of the United States of America with privileges and immunities which are not the same. They are a citizen of the United States, under Section 1 of the Fourteenth Amendment, and a citizen of the several States, under Article IV, Section 2, Clause 1 of the Constitution:

“We think this distinction and its explicit recognition in this amendment of great weight in this argument, because the next paragraph of this same section (Section 1, Clause 2 of the Fourteenth Amendment), which is the one mainly relied on by the plaintiffs in error, speaks **ONLY** of *privileges and immunities of citizens of the United States, and does not speak of those (privileges and immunities) of citizens of the several States*. . . .” Slaughterhouse Cases: 83 U.S. (16 Wall.) 36, at 74 (1873). [[Footnote 1](#)]

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#### Footnotes:

**1.** Privileges and immunities of a citizen of the several States are not the same as the privileges and immunities of a citizen of the United States. Privileges and immunities of a citizen of the United States arise “out of the nature and essential character of the Federal government, and granted or secured by the Constitution” (Duncan v. State of Missouri: 152 U.S. 377, at 382 [1894] ) or, in other words, “owe their existence to the Federal government, its National character, its Constitution, or its laws.” (Slaughterhouse Cases: 83 (16 Wall.) U.S. 38, at 79 [1873]).

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Privileges and immunities of a citizen of the several States are those described in *Corfield v. Coryell* decided by Mr. Justice Washington in the Circuit Court for the District of Pennsylvania in 1823:

“In the *Slaughter House Cases*, 16 Wall. 36, 76, in defining the privileges and immunities of citizens of the several States, this is quoted from the opinion of Mr. Justice Washington in *Corfield v. Coryell*, 4 Wash. Cir. Ct. 371, 380.” Hodges v. United States: 203 U.S. 1, at 15 (1906).

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The location for privileges and immunities of a citizen of the United States is Section 1, Clause 2 of the Fourteenth Amendment:

“No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States.”

The designation for privileges and immunities of a citizen of the several States is Article IV, Section 2, Clause 1 of the Constitution of the United States of America:

“Fortunately we are not without judicial construction of this clause of the Constitution (Article IV, Section 2, Clause 1). The first and leading case of the subject is that of *Corfield v. Coryell*, decided by Mr. Justice Washington in the Circuit Court for the District of Pennsylvania in 1823.

‘The inquiry,’ he says ‘is, what are the ***privileges and immunities of citizens of the several States?*** . . .

This definition of the privileges and immunities of citizens of the States is adopted in the main by this court in the recent case of *Ward v. The State of Maryland*.” Slaughterhouse Cases: 83 (16 Wall.) 36, at 75 thru 76 (1873).

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“ ‘ . . . The ***privileges and immunities of citizens of the United States*** protected by the fourteenth amendment, are privileges and immunities arising out of the nature and essential character of the federal Government, and granted or secured by the Constitution.’ *Duncan v. Missouri* (1904) 152 U.S. 377, 14 Sup. Ct. 570, 38 L. Ed. 485; *Slaughter House Cases*, 16 Wall. 36, 21 L. Ed. 394.

The provisions of section 2, art. 4, of the federal Constitution, that citizens of each state shall be entitled to **privileges and immunities of citizens of the several states**, are held to be synonymous with rights of the citizens. *Corfield v. Coryell*, supra. This section is akin to the provision of section 1 of the fourteenth amendment, as respects privileges and immunities, but the former is held not to make the privileges and immunities (the rights) enjoyed by citizens of the several states the measure of the privileges and immunities (the rights) to be enjoyed as of right, by a citizen of another state, under its Constitution and laws. *McKane v. Durston*, 153 U.S. 684, 14 Sup. Ct. 913, 38 L. Ed. 867. This rule necessarily classifies citizens in their rights to the extent that a citizen of one state when in another state must be governed by the same rules which apply to the citizens of that state as to matters which are of the domestic concern of the state. *Cole v. Cunningham*, 133 U.S. 107, 10 Sup. Ct. 269, 33 L. Ed. 538; *People v. Gallagher*, 93 N.Y. 438, 45 Am. Rep. 232; *Butchers' Union v. Crescent City, Mo.*, 111 U.S. 746, 4 Sup Ct. 652, 28 L. Ed. 585; *Ex parte Kinney*, 14 Fed. Cas. 602; *Douglas v. Stephens*, 1 Del. Ch. 465." Strange v. Board of Commission: 91 N.E. 242, at 246 (1910).

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