

Research Report
(Account #5300 - Nicklos)
prepared by
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22 March 1990

Research on the ancestry of Charles NICKLOS (1853-1939) has established that he was the son of Ernst L. NICHOLAS and his wife Charlotte (ZIERYACKS?). Ernst L. NICHOLAS was born in the Duchy of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha about 1820-1821, but the exact place of birth has not yet been established. Further research will have to be conducted by correspondence in order to determine Ernst L. NICHOLAS' place of birth. It should be mentioned at the outset that the name NICKLOS was found in many different spelling variations, the most common of which was NICHOLAS. The following report will detail the results of the research with the references keyed to the accompanying research calendar and documentation.

The research was initially based on information provided by the client. A typed copy of a letter written by Edith NICKLOS, the youngest daughter of Charles NICKLOS indicated that he was born in Rochester, New York. It also indicated that Charles NICKLOS' father (whose first name was not given) came from Saxe-Coburg, Germany and that his mother was named Elenora BROWN. Charles had a brother Frederick who was seven years older than him, who enlisted as a drummer boy in the Civil War and was never heard from

again. Charles supposedly moved to Canada during the Civil War with his step-mother and her second husband.

Further information provide by the client indicated that Charles NICKLOS was 85 years, two and a half months old at his death on 21 January 1939, putting his date of birth at approximately 5 November 1853. This date of birth would mean that Charles' brother Frederick was born about 1845 or 1846.

The research began by checking an 1853 directory of the city of Rochester. No one by the name NICKLOS appeared in the directory. The 1860 census index of western New York contained only one reference to the spelling NICKLOS in the town of Ridgeway, Orleans County - to the west of Rochester. This family was not that of the ancestor.

The index to surrogate's records for Monroe County disclosed no mention of the NICKLOS name, no probate record for the father of Charles and Frederick NICKLOS and no guardianship record for their child. The Rochester city directory of 1860 likewise contained no mention of the name NICKLOS.

Probate indexes for Middlesex County, Ontario, Canada were checked, since that is where Charles NICKLOS married Jessie MC DOWELL. The name NICKLES and NICKELS was noted, but none of the probate records checked contained any mention of a son Charles. (Document 1).

The naturalization index for Monroe county, New York also contained no references to the name NICKLOS.

At this point, it began to appear that surname variations would have to be considered. The 1860 census index for western New York was again consulted, and all references to surnames beginning with "NICH" or "NICK" and ending in "S" for the City of Rochester only were extracted. This amounted to twelve entries. (Document 2). Two entries of interest were noted.

In the 9th Ward, a Fredk C. NICHOLS, age 12 and born in Germany, was listed as a convict [sic] in the House of Refuge. He would have been born about 1847 or 1848 and was thus a year or two younger than Charles NICKLOS' brother should have been. (Document 3).

The second entry of interest was found in the 12th Ward: (Document 4)

#1727/1724	Ernst Nicolaus	age 38	m	Blacksmith	b.	Saxony
	Eloney	"	29	f		Bavaria
	Frederick	"	12	m		Saxony
	John	"	6	m		N.Y.
	Anna	"	1	f		"

The place of birth for the wife "Eloney" suggests that she was a second wife, since the son Frederick was born in Saxony as was the father. The name of John for the 6 year old child was at first confusing, but was clarified by on-site research in Rochester, New York.

The index to New York Civil War volunteers was checked for Frederick NICHOLAS (all variations). Two possible

entries were noted (Document 5) but upon checking their service records in Washington it was found that neither of them enlisted near Rochester. (Document 7).

On-site research in Rochester, New York was conducted in the record of the Zion Lutheran Church, which are available on microfilm at the Rochester Public Library. A baptismal record for Johann Christian, son of Ernst NICOLAUS and his wife Charlotte (ZIERYACKS) was found. (Document 8). The filming of these records was extremely poor and it may be a good idea to have the original registers examined for this entry. At any rate, the date of birth of this child was definitely 5 November 1853 - which corresponds exactly to the estimated date of birth for Charles NICKLOS. While in Rochester, the registers were read for further children of Ernst after 1854, the death of his first wife, his remarriage, and his own death. No further entries were found. The next problem was to demonstrate that Johann Christian NICOLAUS was the same person as Charles NICKLOS.

Further information provided by the client after the research had commenced was received in July of 1989. This information included an abstract of the 1855 state census of Rochester, New York showing the Ernst NICKOLLAS family (Document 10), the baptismal record of Charles NICKLOS's youngest daughter Edith Alberta "NIKLOS." (Document 11), and a handwritten letter from Edith in which it was stated that

Charles NICKLOS's father came from "Coberg Saxony."
(Document 12).

The baptismal record of Edith Alberta "NIKLOS," created when Charles NICKLOS was living in Silesia, Germany, provided the most immediately useful information. In the information given concerning Charles "NIKLOS" it stated that he was born in Rochester, United States and that he was the son of Ernest "NIKLOS" and Eleonore BRAUN. Here was confirmation that Charles NICKLOS was the son of Ernst NICHOLAS and was thus likely the same person as the Johann Christian NICOLAUS born on 5 November 1853 and baptized on 8 February 1854 in Rochester.

The 1855 state census for Rochester is now available on microfilm in Salt Lake City and the reference to Ernst NICHOLLAS was found as follows: (Document 13)

#139/163	Ernst Nichollas	35 m	b. Germany	blacksmith
	Gertuler (sp.?)	31 f	"	wife
	Frederick	7 m	"	child
	John	1 m	"	child

The census also added that Ernst and his family had lived in Rochester for 5 years, meaning that they came there about 1850. Ernst was not listed as a naturalized voter, indicating that he was still an alien in 1855 - indeed, the next column indicated that he, his wife and their son Frederick were all aliens.

The declaration of intention to become a citizen for Ernst NICHOLAS was found indexed under NICHOLSON. (Document 14). He declared his intention on 17 March 1855, at which time he renounced his allegiance to the Duke of Saxe-Gotha. (Document 15). He was naturalized as a citizen on 22 July 1858 in Rochester. His naturalization record included a copy of his declaration of intention. The naturalization record indicated that he renounced his allegiance to the Duke of Saxony. There is a distinct difference between Saxe-Gotha and Saxony which may not have been understood by the naturalization official. (See Document 22, article on Saxe-Coburg-Gotha).

Ernst NICHOLAS arrived at the port of New York on the ship Hiram from Bremen on 8 June 1850. The passenger manifest listed his family as follows: (Documents 17 and 18)

Ernst L. Nicolai	age 30	male	smith (occupation)
Charlotte	"	27	female
Fredck	"	2&1/4	male

This is undoubtedly the family of the ancestor. The age of Charlotte in 1850 roughly corresponds to the age of Ernst's wife in 1855. The name in 1855 looks like "Gertuler" but is probably a corrupted spelling of Charlotte.

In attempting to trace the family of Ernst NICHOLAS after 1860, the 1871 census of London, Ontario was read. An

1871 directory indicated that a blacksmith named NICHOLS lived there in that year. (Document 24).

The following family appears to be that of the ancestor, and illustrates the name change from Johann Christian (John) to Charles: (Document 19)

#177/186 Nicholas, Anse	m	50	b. Germany	laborer
Laura	f	40	"	"
Charles	m	17	U. States	laborer
Anna	f	13	"	"
Elizabeth	f	4	Ontario	

An interesting feature of the Canadian census is that it asked for the religion of the individuals enumerated. Ernst/"Anse" and Charles were both listed as Church of England, while Eleanore/Elorey/Laura (the second wife) and her two children were listed as Roman Catholic. This is not too surprising, since in 1860 "Elorey" was listed as having been born in Bavaria, a German state which is predominately Catholic. Saxe-Coburg-Gotha is overwhelmingly Lutheran.

With this in mind, pertinent Catholic parish registers for Rochester, New York were checked for mention of the second marriage of Ernst NICHOLAS to Eleanore BRAUN/BROWN and the baptism of their daughter Anna between 1855 and 1860. No entries were found in the registers of any of the seven Catholic parishes in Rochester which existed prior to 1860. It is possible that Ernst and Eleanore had a civil

marriage ceremony. As to the baptism of Anna, it could have taken place outside the city or at a later date.

It seems fairly clear at this point that Charles was not the son of Eleanore BRAUN, although she probably raised him. If Frederick was the same person listed in the House of Refuge (it is possible for person to have been enumerated more than once) then he may have not gotten along with his stepmother. His listing in the household of Ernst NICOLAUS in 1860 doesn't mean he was actually living at home.

Ernst NICHOLAS may have been the same "HANS NICHOLI," labourer, buried in St. Paul's Anglican Church cemetery on 16 June 1871, shortly after the census was taken. If he is, then ordering his death certificate from Canada may give further information. Canadian laws with regard to vital statistics are very strict, and only a relative can obtain a death record. The address to write is:

Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations
Registration Division
Office of the Registrar General
MacDonald Block
Parliament Buildings
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1Y5

The cost of a certificate is \$15.00 (Canadian). The request should be made for Hans/Anse/Ernst NICHOLI/NICHOLAS who died in London, Middlesex County, Ontario on or about 16 June 1871.

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This has not been
done. Jm
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Further research on Ernst NICHOLAS will require the identification of a specific place of birth in the Duchy of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha. The Family history Library has several dozen parish registers from this Duchy, but without knowing where to start, searching them all would be time consuming and without any guarantee of result. Edith NICKLOS said that her grandfather was from "Coberg Saxony." She could have meant the town of Coburg itself or the duchy. Unfortunately, the Family History Library has no parish registers for the town of Coburg. Not all of the registers for Saxe-Coburg-Gotha are available in Salt Lake City.

There is the possibility that further research in Canadian records will reveal the information necessary to determine Ernst NICHOLAS' exact place of birth in Saxe-Coburg-Gotha. Such research must also be conducted by an agent, since the Family History Library's collection for Canada is weak after the 1850s.

Once Ernst NICHOLAS has been established in Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, tracing his ancestry further should not be too difficult if the family stayed in one area for several generations.