

Notes

Charles Essex applied for Naturalization on April 2, 1888 in Wayne Co., Indiana. The document was the first step for naturalization, known as a "Declaration of Intent". This certificate shows that Charles embarked at London and arrived at the Port of New York on April 22, 1884.

A search for other Naturalization papers has turned up nothing and I've not been able to locate him on any passenger lists of ships coming into the Port of New York on or about the date he reported as having arrived in New York from London.

Since Charles ended up in Indiana, I would assume he knew someone there. I find it difficult to imagine that a young man would come to the United States, probably alone, with no destination in mind. I doubt he stepped off the ship in New York and said, "Gee, I think I'll go to Indiana." He must have known someone here. There are several Essex families in nearby Indiana counties in census' throughout the 1800's and early 1900's and yet, I've never been able to connect him to any of these Essex families.

I also wonder what brought Charles and Melissa to Ohio about 1910. Possibly someone he knew in Ohio, maybe employment...?? There are numerous relatives of Melissa who were early settlers of Ohio and then later moved to Indiana in the 1800's and yet, she's the only one of 9 siblings to move away from Richmond, Indiana to Ohio.

In trying to find out the names of Charles' parents, I have tried to locate Naturalization papers by contacting Courts in Indiana, the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) in Washington DC and the NARA Great Lakes Region office. I hired a researcher in London to search birth records, but that was another dead end. I also searched the online birth registration database for all of England, and though there are 6 or more Charles Essex' of about the right age, I cannot find proof of any of them being our Charles Essex. A search of the England census for 1871 and 1881 turns up two possible families with a Charles, but I believe I've ruled both out because they appear to still be in England after the time Charles was already in the states. His death certificate listed parents as unknown and his obituary didn't have any new information.

Don't know where to go from here, but, the search goes on...
