

## #34 Registration of Enemy Aliens

*"You are hereby notified that the registration of German alien enemies is to commence at six A.M. on February 4, 1918 to continue...up to and including the 9<sup>th</sup> day of February, 1918 at eight o'clock P.M....Persons required to register should understand that in so doing they are giving proof of their peaceful dispositions and of their intention to conform to the Laws of the United States."* Kinsley Graphic, January 31, 1918.

One hundred years ago, all non-naturalized males over the age of 14 were required to fill out a *Registration Affidavit of Alien Enemy* with the United States authorities as a national security measure. This registration focused primarily on non-citizen German residents, but included Italians and other nationalities, as well. Non-naturalized female enemy aliens were later required to register using a *Registration Affidavit of Alien Female* form in June, 1918.

The information on these registration forms included immigration dates and places, birth and parentage, names of family members, address, occupation and employer; residents were also asked if they were sympathetic to the enemy and the names of any relatives serving in enemy forces. Registrations included a physical description, fingerprints and photograph for the person.

According to the National Archives, most of these Enemy Alien records were destroyed by authorization of Congress in the 1920s, but some survive, including the forms for Edwards County which are on microfilm at the Kansas State Historical Society. We borrowed the film and printed the 44 forms which we now have in our archive.

Richard Nickel was one of those who was required to register. From his form we learn that he was born in "Somewhere in Germany" on November 15, 1873. His father was Carl Nickel and he didn't know the name of his mother as she died when he was young. He came to the United States and Edwards County in 1881 at the age of 7. At the onset of the war, he had been in this country 36 years. He was married to Ellen. They had no children between the ages of 10-14. He had been arrested once for playing poker. He had started the naturalization process in 1898 but must not have finished it.

Following are the names of the men who registered as alien enemies in Edwards County:

Margan Breitenbach, John Hackenbroich, Charles Weidekind, Joseph Wolf, Henry Ditges, August Neidig, Erich Griep, John Grybowski, Herman Gutsche Sr., Herman Gutsche Jr, John Havas, Henry Herrmann, Julius Krenzin, Richard Nickel, Oscar Grimm, Frank Mauler, Herman Schwarz, John Haas, August Munchow, Erich Munchow, Henry Ploger, August Ploger, W. C. Ploger, Henry Salm, John Salm, Frank Scholtz, and Willie Tuchtenhagen.

Below are Richard Nickel's registration forms.

## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

## Department of Justice

## REGISTRATION AFFIDAVIT OF ALIEN ENEMY

The registration affidavit must be filled in and sworn to in triplicate and accompanied by four unmounted photographs of the registrant, not larger than 3 by 3 inches in size, on thin paper with light background. All four photographs should be signed by registrant across the face of the photograph so as not to obscure the face, if registrant is able to write. If registrant is unable to write, he must make his mark in the signature space and affix his left thumb print in the space indicated for the same opposite the signature space.

The affidavit need not be filled out before, but must be signed and sworn to before, a registration officer, who will fill in the description and take the finger prints of the registrant. All registration officers are authorized to administer the oath hereto to persons registering as alien enemies.

I, Richard Herrn Nickel hereby register as an alien enemy  
(Here insert name of registrant.)  
at Kinsley, Kansas. and make the following statements  
(Place where affidavit signed and oath administered.)  
and answers under oath:

1. Name Richard Herrn Nickel All other names at any time used  
Rich Nickel  
(Here insert any other names used by registrant.)

2. Present residence Kinsley, Kansas.  
(Street and number, city, town, county, State, and, if apartment house or tenement, the number of apartment or tenement.)

3. Length of residence at the foregoing place Since 1881.  
(Here state date on which applicant began living at his present residence.)

4. All other places of residence since January 1, 1914 None.  
(Here give particulars as to each of such places of residence.)

5. Born in somewhere in Germany on Nov. 15th 1873.  
(Give city or town, province, and country of birth.) (Give date of birth.)

6. Since January 1, 1914, employed by:

Name of place.	Date.	Occupation.	Name of employer.
<u>Kinsley, Kansas.</u>	<u>25 years</u>	<u>Mason.</u>	<u>For myself.</u>

7. I arrived in the United States about the year 1881. at the port of New York.  
(Date.) (State port.)  
on ship Dont know. and applied for entry under the name of Did not apply only 7 yrs.  
(State name.) (State name under which entry was made.)

8. (a) Name of father Carl Nickel Living No.  
(Answer "Yes" or "No.")

Residence of father, if living \*\*\*\*\*

(b) Name of mother Dont know; died when I was a small child. Living No.  
(Answer "Yes" or "No.")

Residence of mother, if living \*\*\*\*\*

Given name: Richard Herrn Nickel  
 Card issued? Yes  
 (To be filled in by registration officer.)



9. State particulars of family as follows:

a. Married? Yes Name of wife Ellen Nickel Wife living? Yes  
(Answer "Yes" or "No.") (Answer "Yes" or "No.")  
Residence of wife, if living with me at Kinsley.

b. Names of children between 10 and 14 years of age in the United States: None.

Names.	Sex.	Year of birth.
<u>None.</u>		

c. Number of children under 10 years of age None.

d. State whether registrant has or has had any male relatives in arms for or against the United States and its allies during the present war. Yes If "yes," give particulars.  
(Answer "Yes" or "No.")

Names.	Relationship.	For or against.
<u>Arnold ****</u>	<u>Can't recall his last name.</u>	<u>Nephew.</u>
		<u>For.</u>

10. Were you registered for the selective draft? No. Where? \*\*\*\*  
(Answer "Yes" or "No.") (State district of registration.)

11. State all previous military or naval or other Government service None.  
(Here state duties, duration, and character of military or naval or other service and nation for which registrant served.)

12. Have you ever applied for naturalization in or taken out first papers of naturalization in the United States? Yes  
(Answer "Yes" or "No.")  
If yes, state when and where April 28th 1898 at Kinsley, Kansas, in District Court.  
(Give State or Territory, city, town, or other municipality, and name of court.)

13. Have you ever been naturalized, partly or wholly, in any country other than the United States? No.  
(Answer "Yes" or "No.")  
If yes, state when and where and in what country \*\*\*\*\*

14. Have you ever taken an oath of allegiance to any country, State, or nation other than the United States? No.  
(Answer "Yes" or "No.")  
If yes, state when and where and to what country \*\*\*\*\*



15. Have you since January 1, 1914, reported to or registered with a consul or representative of any country other than the United States for military or naval or other service? No. If yes, state when and where and to whom and for what country and for what service. \*\*\*\*\*  
(Answer "Yes" or "No.")

16. Have you ever been arrested or detained on any charge? Yes. If yes, state when, where, and on what charges? Playing poker. Are you on parole? No.  
(Answer "Yes" or "No.") (Answer "Yes" or "No.")

17. Have you a permit to enter forbidden areas? No. If yes, state number of permit. \*\*\*\*\*  
(Answer "Yes" or "No.")

I solemnly swear that all the above statements and answers by me made are true.

(Signature)

Richard Herrn Nickel

Left thumb print, if registrant can not write.

Sworn to before me this

Feb 6th

1918

at

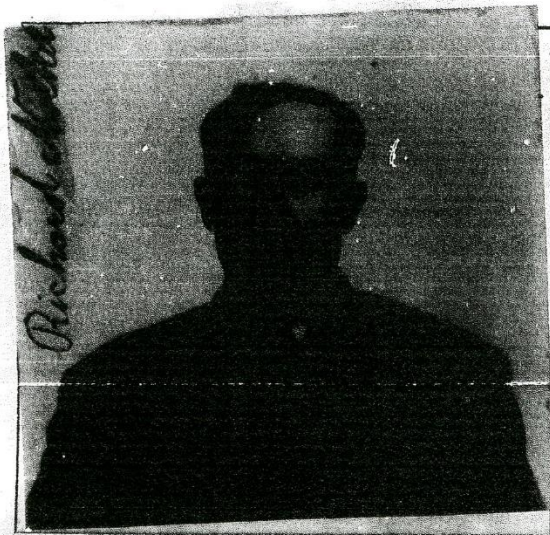
Kinsley Kansas

B. F. Tatum

(Registration officer.)

Postmaster

(Official title, police or post office.)



DESCRIPTION OF REGISTRANT.

(To be filled in by registration officer.)

Age 44 years. Mouth small  
Height 5 ft. 8 in. Chin sharp  
Weight 150 Hair black  
Forehead high Complexion fair  
Eyes blue Face sharp  
Nose sharp

Distinctive marks

Name Richard Herrn Nickel

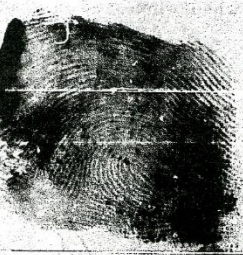









Address Kinsley Kansas



# FINGER PRINTS.

(To be taken by registration officer.)

Name of registrant Richard Henry Michel Address Kinsley House

1-R. Thumb.	2-R. Fore Finger.	3-R. Middle Finger.	4-R. Ring Finger.	5-R. Little Finger.
				
6-L. Thumb.	7-L. Fore Finger.	8-L. Middle Finger.	9-L. Ring Finger.	10-L. Little Finger.
				

Plain impressions of the four fingers taken simultaneously.

LEFT HAND.



Plain impressions of the four fingers taken simultaneously.

RIGHT HAND.

