

#35 Female Enemy Aliens Required to Register

As mentioned in the last post, female enemy aliens were required to register between June 17 and June 26, 1918 using a slightly different form called *Registration Affidavit of Alien Female*. Both men and women made three sets of their affidavits with one being sent to Washington, one held by the United States marshal within the district where the person registered, and one kept in the local records. Each enemy alien was given an identification card which had to be carried on their person at all times for the duration of the war.

German born women who had become naturalized or were married to American men before April 6, 1918 were not required to register. But what was very surprising to me is that American born women who married German men were required to register. In fact, of the seventeen women who registered as enemy aliens in Edwards County, eleven of them were actually American citizens.

The June 20, 1918 edition of the Kinsley Mercury set forth how registration should take place. The instructions end with the following:

“The regulations admonish registering officials to be courteous to their treatment of the women, and to render all necessary assistance in filling out the affidavit blanks. The photographs required must be unmounted, and ‘without hat or other head covering’. (Kinsley Mercury, June 20, 1918

Richard Nickel’s wife, Ellen, was one of the American-born women who was required to register. We learn from her form that she was born Ellen Collier in Stockton, Cedar County, Missouri on January 21, 1884. Her parents were John and Mary Collier and United States citizens who lived in Kinsley. On the female form it asks for the names of children without the age restrictions. She lists one son, Virgil S. Nickel, who was born July 24, 1901 in Lewis, Kansas. On the female form it also asks what language is spoken and she lists English.

Following are the names of the 17 women who registered as Enemy aliens in Edwards County. The women’s names un red were U.S. citizens.

Anna Breitenbach, Lydia Neidig, Mathilda Griep, Bertha Grimm, Louisa Grybowski, Elizabeth Herrmann, Mathilde Krenzin, Ellen Nickel, Emma Grimm, Emily Schwarz, Ella Ploger, Elizabeth Ploger, Emma Ploger, Margaret E Salm, Margaret M. Salm, Elizabeth Scholtz, and Helen Tuchtenhagen.

Below are Ellen Nickel’s registration forms. I recommend looking for these affidavits if you are of German descent and might have an ancestor who was required to register as an enemy alien. The information, descriptions, fingerprints, and picture (if it is good quality) are surely interesting.

REGISTRATION AFFIDAVIT OF ALIEN FEMALE

(Under proclamation of the President dated April 19, 1918.)

The registration affidavit must be filled in, signed, and sworn to in triplicate and accompanied by four unmounted photographs of the registrant not larger than 3 x 3 inches in size, on thin paper with light background. These photographs must be of the shoulders and full face of the registrant without hat or head covering. All four photographs should be signed by the registrant across the face of the photograph so as not to obscure the features, if the registrant is able to write.

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. If the registrant is unable to write, she must make her mark in the signature space and affix her left thumb print in the space indicated for the same opposite the signature space. The registration officer will also fill in the marginal notations on the first page, and if registration card is not issued he shall append to the registration affidavit when returned by him as in the Regulations directed a statement of the reason for the nonissuance to the registrant of the registration card.

All registration officers are authorized to administer the oath hereto to all registrants.

Persons required to register should understand that in so doing they are giving proof of their peaceful disposition and their intention to conform to the laws of the United States.

Each registrant should read carefully the form of registration affidavit and ask the registration officer for explanation on all points not clear to the registrant before attempting to fill out the blank. The registration officers are instructed to give the registrants all possible aid in the way of explanation and advice.

The finger printing is a method of identification and the taking of the finger prints is not to be deemed an imputation that the registrant is not a law-abiding person.

NOTE.—The registrant is hereby informed that she must again present herself before the registration officer who took her affidavit, after 10 days but within 15 days from the last day fixed for registration in her registration district, to obtain a registration card upon which she must sign her name or make her mark in the presence of the registration officer.

I, Ellen Nickel, hereby register as an alien female

required to register under the President's proclamation dated April 19, 1918, at _____ and make the following statements and answers under oath: (Place where affidavit signed and oath administered.)

1. Name Ellen Nickel Maiden name Ellen Collier

All other names at any time used, including all former married names:

2. Present residence Rivley Edwards Co Kansas
(Give street and number, city, town, county, State, and if apartment house or tenement, the number of apartment or tenement.)
If different from home address, state home address also

3. Length of residence at the foregoing place Oct. 1914
(Here state date on which you began living at your present residence.)

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

of such places of residence and date of such residence:
5. Born in Stockton, Cedar Co. Mo., on Jan. 21 - 1884
(Give city or town, Province, and country of birth.) (Give date of birth.)

6. State particulars as to family, as follows:

(a) Single? No (b) Now married? Yes
("Yes" or "No.") ("Yes" or "No.") Richard Nickel

(c) Name, residence, and citizenship of present husband Richard Nickel

(d) Widow? No (e) If yes, give name and citizenship of late husband _____
("Yes" or "No.")

(f) If not living with present husband, state whether or not judicial separation has been obtained _____
("Yes" or "No.")

(g) If yes, state when and where _____

(h) Divorced? No (i) If yes, state when and where, and state name, residence if living, and citizenship of each former husband _____
("Yes" or "No.")

(j) Names of all children:

Name.	By which marriage? i. e., First, etc.	Sex.	Date of birth.	Residence.
<u>Virgil S. Nickel</u>	<u>1st</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>July 24 - 1901</u>	<u>Lewis, Kansas.</u>

Last name of registrant
Nickel
(To be filled in by registration officer.)

First and middle name of registrant
Ellen
(To be filled in by registration officer.)

Card issued—Yes
A. F.

6. State particulars as to family, as follows—continued.

(k) Name of father John Kotler Living? No
("Yes" or "No.")
 Place of father's birth America (Citizenship of father American)
 Residence of father, if living Winsley Kans

(l) Name and maiden name of mother Mary (Karkett) Living? Yes
("Yes" or "No.")
 Place of mother's birth America (Citizenship of mother American)
 Residence of mother, if living Winsley Kansas

(m) All brothers and sisters:

Name	Brother or sister	Date of birth	Residence
<u>Estie Ford</u>	<u>Sister</u>	<u>Feb. 21 1884</u>	<u>Lawrence Kansas</u>
<u>Blanche Hartnett</u>	<u>"</u>	<u>Dec. 27 1898</u>	<u>Winsley Kansas</u>

(n) State whether you have now or have had any relative in arms for or against the United States and its allies during the present war: No
("Yes" or "No.")

If yes, give particulars:

Names	Relationship	For or against

7. Occupations:

(a) If employed since January 1, 1914, state—

Name of place	Date	Occupation	Name of employer

(b) If not employed, but in business or other occupation for self, state name of place, date, and occupation

House wife

8. I arrived in the United States _____, at the port of _____
(Date) (State port.)
 on ship _____, and applied for entry under the name of _____
(Name of ship.) (State name under which entry was made.)

9. Have you ever been engaged in any governmental service? No
("Yes" or "No.") If yes, state duties, duration, and character of service, and nation for which you served _____

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

11. Have you ever applied for naturalization in or taken out first papers of naturalization in the United States? No
("Yes" or "No.")
 If yes, when and where? _____
(Give State or Territory, city, town, or other municipality, and name of court.)

12. Have you ever been naturalized, partly or wholly, in any country other than the United States? No. If yes, state when and where and in what country ("Yes" or "No.")
13. Has your present husband ever applied for naturalization in or taken out first papers of naturalization in the United States? Yes If yes, state when and where April 1898. and April 17, 1918. Kinsley Edwards Co. Kansas ("Yes" or "No.")
14. Has your present husband ever been naturalized, either wholly or partly, in any country other than the United States? No. If yes, state when and where and in what country ("Yes" or "No.")
15. Have you ever taken an oath of allegiance to any country, State, or nation other than the United States? No. If yes, state when and where and to what country ("Yes" or "No.")
16. Have you ever been arrested or detained on any charge? No. If yes, state when, where, and on what charge ("Yes" or "No.")
- Are you on parole? No. ("Yes" or "No.")
17. Have you a permit to enter forbidden areas? No. If yes, state number of permit ("Yes" or "No.")
- (18) Languages:
- Spoken English
- Written "
- Read "

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

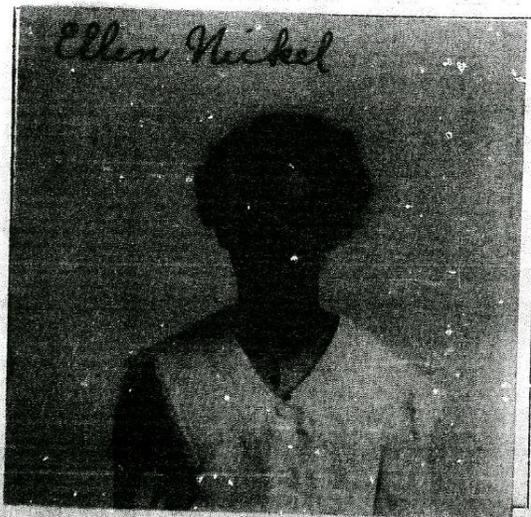
Ellen Nickel.
(Signature.)

Sworn to before me this June 21st, 1918
at Kinsley Edwards Co. Kansas

B. P. Gatum
(Registration officer.)

Postmaster
(Official title, police, or post office or other title.)

Left thumb print, if registrant can not write.



DESCRIPTION OF REGISTRANT.

(To be filled in by registration officer.)

Age 34 years 0 months. Mouth Large

Height 5 ft 4 Chin small

Weight 105 Hair Brown

Forehead High Complexion Fair

Eyes Blue Face small

Nose small

Distinctive marks

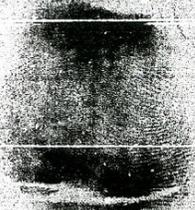
Name Ellen Nickel

Address Kinsley Kansas

FINGER PRINTS.

(To be taken by registration officer.)

Address _____

1—R. Thumb.	2—R. Forefinger.	3—R. Middle finger.	4—R. Ring finger.	5—R. Little finger.
				
6—L. Thumb.	7—L. Forefinger.	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.

