

Charles John Marten Essex: He was born July 28, 1863, according to his obituary.

What we know about Charles Essex who came to America based on documents I have, or have seen:

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.

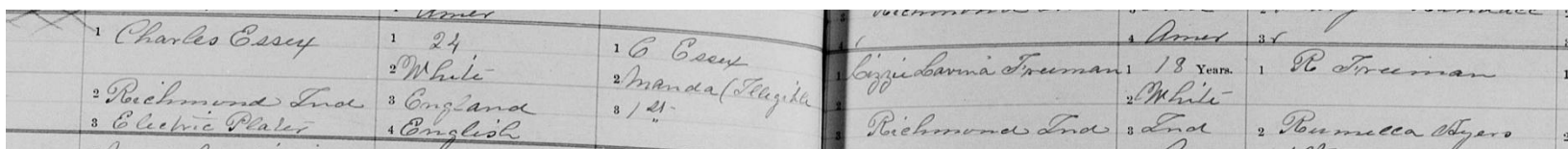
Since Charles ended up in Indiana, I would assume he knew someone there. I find it difficult to imagine that a young man would come to the United States, probably alone, with no destination in mind. I doubt he stepped off the ship in New York and said, "Gee, I think I'll go to Indiana." He must have known someone there. 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.

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 England to search birth records, but that was another dead end. I also searched the online General Register Office (GRO) birth registration database ([General Register Office](#)), 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 son Charles, but I believe I've ruled both out because they appear to still be in England after the time Charles was already in America. His obituary didn't have any new information, and his death certificate listed parents as 'unknown', meaning that the informant giving the death certificate information, Charles' son, Linden, did not know the names of his father's parents. I can only conclude that this man was hiding something, not wanting to connect himself to something back in England, so much so that he may have changed his birth date and name once he came to America.

My Grandfather, Herman Essex, wrote his father's name on his [Social Security Application](#), "Charles Marten Essex". Herman was an educated man, and I don't think he spelled Marten wrong. That application was the very first start of my genealogy research (since not one of Herman's living children in 1989 knew their grandparents' names on either side, yes, I asked each one of my aunts and uncles.





The Richmond, Indiana marriage record (above) for Charles Essex and Melissa Freeman has his father listed as 'C' only and his mother's name is listed 'Manda (illegible)'. So, he apparently knew his parents' names, and 'C' is not William:

The search goes on, and we may never find actual documentation to prove where Charles was born or who his parents were. I have been doing genealogy for 35 years, and my great grandfather Charles Essex is my biggest challenge. I would love to have that mystery solved. For many on Familysearch.org, they have linked Charles John Marten Essex to parents William Essex and Mary Hames, maybe...but I need proof before I put William and Mary as Charles' parents in my file.

My Cousin has our Charles Essex born “**Charles James Essex**” in 1862 to William Essex and Mary Hames in Leicestershire, England and that he may have been raised by a John Martin family, an Aunt and Uncle, in the village of Enderby on “The Hill”, working in the Framework Knitters industry in 1881. I agree that it is completely possible that our Charles could have changed his middle name to ‘John Martin’ once he immigrated to America to honor a Martin relative or family he may have been raised in.

I have often wondered if maybe Charles' father died when he was very young and his mother remarried,,,maybe to a John Martin? That too would explain our Charles taking on the middle name John Martin.

My cousin located a British military pension record for a Charles Essex who served with the 27th Regiment of Foot and qualified for an official British military pension. The service records are held within the United Kingdom, **Chelsea Pensioners' Service Records** collection. The record has the birthplace of Leicestershire, England. Without seeing if there is more to the record, it could be the Charles Essex born 1862, son of William and Mary Hames, for which I have the birth registration (the birth date is not the same date our Charles Essex says he was born).

My first cousin's DNA test shows that we share a genetic match with descendants of John Martin and Elizabeth Hames at the second-to-third cousin boundary, and maps directly to descendants from William Essex and Mary Hames.

William Essex and Mary Hames had a son named Charles Essex **born in June of 1862** (see **image 1** below), but I followed that Charles Essex through England census dating from 1861 to 1941 and he never left England. **The 1939 register** shows his birth date (see **image 2** below). **He died in Leicester, England in 1947** (see **image 3** below). I can't see how he could be our Charles Essex who came to America in 1884 and lived all his life in Indiana and Ohio until he died in 1927.

There is only one Charles Essex registered in the General Register Office GRO online index with mother's maiden name Mary Heams:

Image 1: GRO birth registration for Charles Essex born 1862 in Blaby, Leicester, England:

ESSEX, CHARLES HEAMS
GRO Reference: 1862 3rd Quarter in BLABY Volume 07A Page 46

194	Twenty seventh June 1862 Enderby	Charles	Boy	William Essex	Mary Essex formerly Heams	Farmer Labourer	+ The mark of Mary Essex Mother Enderby	Twenty fourth July 1862	William Bram Registrar	
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The other children born to mother, maiden name Heams or Hames, in Blaby or Leicester correspond with the children of William and Mary in the 1871 and 1881 England census:

Taken from the GRO online index:

ESSEX, ELIZABETH HEAMS
GRO Reference: 1859 4th Quarter in BLABY Volume 07A Page 44

ESSEX, JANE HEAMS
GRO Reference: 1866 2nd Quarter in BLABY Volume 07A Page 41

ESSEX, GEORGE HAMES
GRO Reference: 1870 2nd Quarter in LEICESTER Volume 07A Page 239

ESSEX, CHARLES HEAMS
GRO Reference: 1862 3rd Quarter in BLABY Volume 07A Page 46

Image 2: The 1939 register, Leicester, number 166, Charles and wife Mary listing birth dates:

E.D. Letter Code		Borough, U.D. or R.D.		Registration District and Sub-district		No. 2			
ADDRESS.	SCHEDULE.		SURNAME AND OTHER NAMES.	O. V. S. P. or L.	M. or F.	BIRTH-		S. M. W. or D.	PERSONAL OCCUPATION
	No.	Sub. No.				Day.	Year.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
V5 Meadwell Rd	163	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
459 Braunstone Lane	164	1	Smith John W	-	M	19 Oct	83	W	Ex-miners agent
457	165	1	Gibbons Louisa	-	F	2 Aug	84	W	Unpaid domestic duties
455	166	1	Essex Charles	-	M	22 June	62	M	Labourer - cleaning retail
		2	Essex Mary A	-	F	14 Oct	62	M	Unpaid domestic duties
453	167	1	Elliott Clara	-	F	20 July	80	S	Housewife (grown old hand)
451	168	1	Paul Hannah	-	F	4 Aug	70	W	Unpaid domestic duties
449	169	1	Mason Hannah A	-	F	8 May	80	W	Housewife
447	170	1	Mason Robert	-	M	21 May	1870	W	Housewife

Image 3: 1947 [Death record for Charles Essex](#), Leicester, England:

The 1871 England census for William Essex and Mary show one Charles. If they had another son named Charles also, (I guess it's possible) he could have been sent to live with a relative, maybe a John Martin family, and then when Charles Essex immigrated to America in 1884 he could have changed his name to include "John Martin" out of respect or to honor John Martin. Without proof, or additional information, how can we know that to be true?

1871 Census, Leicester, England: parents and daughter listed on one page, and the other children, Charles and siblings on second page. There is a Martin family living next to them:

168	3	de - de	1	William Essex	son	11	de	Grandson	Leicester	de
				William Essex	son	14	de	Grandson	Leicester	de
				Mary	de	14	de	Grandson	Leicester	de
				Elizabeth	de	17	de	Grandson	Leicester	de
Total of Houses..				6	Total of Males and Females..				169	

* Draw the pen through such of the words as are inappropriate.

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The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the										Page 27
City or Municipal Borough of	Municipal Ward of	Parliamentary Borough of	Town of	Village or Hamlet, &c., of	Local Board, or (Improvement Commissioners' District) of	Eccelesiastical District of				
Leicester	Leicester	Leicester	Leicester	Leicester	Leicester	Leicester	All Saints			
No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, &c., and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON- DITION	AGE of	Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN	Whether	
		Un- in- hab- ited (U.) or dwelling (D.)				Males Females			1. Deaf-and-Dumb 2. Blind 3. Imbecile or Idiot 4. Lunatic	
	See other Side		Charles Essex	Son	Single	9	Leicester	Leicester		
			James do	Daughter	do	5	do	do		
			George do	Son	do	11	Leicester	Leicester		
169	106 1/2 Lane, etc.	1	John Martin	Head	Single	75	Leicester	do		
			James do	Wife	do	70	do	do		
			George Brooks	Grandson	do	36	Leicester	Leicester		

Our Charles Essex in America, and in England too, is a mystery. Even my Grandma Essex wrote in a letter to someone seeking Essex genealogy, "I know nothing of Charles Essex ancestors". Check out the letter which I came across on familysearch.org, downloaded it, but forgot to copy the link: Number 7 on my website, "[A letter written by Grandma Essex about Charles Essex](#)"

Immigrants who arrived at the Port of New York from 1820 - 1892 were processed through **Castle Garden** at The Battery Park waterfront, America's first Immigration Center. Castle Garden closed when the U.S. Office of Immigration opened Ellis Island in 1892.

Naturalization: Other than the "Declaration of Intent" that Charles applied for, I have been unable to locate Naturalization Papers or find him on passenger listings of ships coming into the Port of New York on or near the date he reported as having arrived in New York from London. Based on the article below that I found on Newspapers.com, it is possible that the naturalization process in Indiana in 1888 didn't require naturalization papers as we know it, maybe only residency in the country for five years and two witnesses.

Newspapers.com Article: Oct 29, 1888, the Richmond Item, "Charles Essex took out papers to naturalize". The article explained the Naturalization process:

"To be naturalized the applicant must go before the clerk of the circuit court and make affidavit of his intention of becoming a citizen of this county and denouncing all allegiance to all foreign countries, and especially to his native country. He then receives from the clerk his first papers and if otherwise qualified is entitled to vote. At the expiration of five years from getting his first papers, hereby appearing before the judge of the Circuit court when court is in session, and proving to the satisfaction of the judge by two resident free holders that he has been a resident of this country for five years. He is admitted to the full rights of an American citizen".

The Richmond Item, Oct 28, 1902 - page 2 (Richmond, Indiana)

"Chas. Essex, who has been nickel-plater at Henley's for the past fifteen years, has accepted a position with the Brown-Carnell Co., and will have charge of the nickel-plating department. All work guaranteed to be first class."

Via Barbara: Barbara asked her father-in-law, Donald Och, about Charles Essex and he said "Charles was some sort of merchant marine and was out at sea a lot...thought maybe it was for England and maybe he never naturalized..." (I wonder if that memory may have been of Charles' father).

I like this researcher's theory (I ordered this birth registration years ago (**Vol-01A_p384**) but dismissed it because of the birth date. The certificate information is, Charles John Martin 26 June 1863 6 Riding House Street, parents Thomas Martin and Harriett Cherreyman):

<https://www.rootschat.com/forum/index.php?topic=794230.0>

"I believe he may possibly have been Charles John Martin born 1863 in Marylebone, London to Thomas Martin and Harriet Cherryman/Cherreyman. This Charles' mother died in 1864 and his father remarried to Matilda Stanaway in 1866. His parents, with his older brother, emigrated to the US in 1867 but left Charles behind in England. I purchased this Charles' birth certificate but the birth date did not match that on the death certificate of Charles John Martin Essex. However, I know that death records aren't a reliable source for birth information. I have lots of information on both individuals but I've been unable to confirm whether or not they are one and the same person. The 1881 England Census shows a Charles Martin, born about 1864 in Marylebone, London working as a footman to the Tinker family. The two youngest Tinker sons were born in New York, USA. I can't find this Charles in England following this census."

A note on boundaries: English County Boundary Changes: there have been numerous changes to county boundaries over the years causing confusion for genealogists. Counties surrounding London, absorbed into London: Hertfordshire, Middlesex, Buckinghamshire, Berkshire, Surrey, Kent and large pieces of Essex (overlap with East Anglia) Sussex is also sometimes included.

Each county is divided into parishes. Registers of all baptisms, marriages and burials in each parish church have been kept since 1538. As towns grew, many of the old town parishes were sub-divided into new parishes. Diocese of London included a wide geographical area: not only the square mile of the city, but parts of the ancient counties of Essex and Middlesex, and some parishes in Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire.