



Creusser

The Creusere Family Name

Charles David Creusere

To the best of my knowledge, people bearing the 'Creusere' surname are found only in the USA. Furthermore, all of these Creuseres that I have come across appear to be descended from one person: Charles Creusere who, by all accounts, arrived in New York City in the 1850s. The family story has it that he arrived the U.S. from France with his father, mother, and another younger sibling (thought to be a brother) and that his father died shortly after his arrival. The evidence that I have found, however, supports the case that this account may not be totally accurate in its details. In due course, I will present an alternative interpretation of this story along with the evidence supporting this interpretation. First, the known facts about the Creusere line.

Genealogy:

Family Patriarch: Charles Creusere
Born: March 1845, France (from 1900 census)
Trade: Lithographer
Arrived in New York, USA: 1850s

First wife: Mary ?
Born: 1845, England (1870 Census)
Children:

- Constance Creusere (Crusser in 1870 census, line 10), Born July 1867, New York City
- Frederick Creusere: Born 1872, New York City
Wife #1: Lillie, born 1876, MI (1900 Census)
Son: Clyde, born 1896, MI

Married: Florence I.

Wife #2: Flora (1910 Census)
Daughter: Mildred Born 1907, Kentucky
Son: Frederick 1909 or 1910 Kentucky

Second Wife (Charles Creusere): Evaline (Evelyn F.) Burt
Born: August 1862, New York
Children:

Gordon Creusere, Born June 1881, New York City
Married: Elizabeth
Daughter: Elizabeth (1917 ?)

Ethel Creusere, Born March 1884, New York City
Melville S. Creusere, Born April 1888, (Elizabeth) New Jersey
Roy Creusere, Born January 1893, Detroit, MI

Charles Creusere Sightings:

1854: New York City (most probably)
1867: New York City (birth of Constance)
1870: New York City (Brooklyn, 1870 census)
1872: New York (birth of Frederick)
1880: Can't find in census
1881: New York (birth of Gordon)
1884: New York (birth of Ethel)
1888: Elizabeth, NJ (birth of Melville S. Creusere)
1890: Charles & Fred Creusere listed as working as lithographers in Buffalo, NY for G.H. Dunstan (Buffalo, NY directory)
1893: Detroit, MI (birth of Roy)
1900: Detroit, MI (census)
1910: Detroit, MI (census)

Immigration:

According to the 1900 census, Charles Creusere arrived in the USA (New York City) in 1858 while the 1910 census gives a date of 1857. All census information agrees that he was born in France in 1845 (the 1870 census is a little muddled, but it certainly appears from it that the father of Constance was also born in 1845). There are no 'Creuseres' anywhere in the ship passenger records, so I search using as keys his first name 'Charles' (consistent even with his civil war pseudonym of 'Charles Barry'), his year of birth, and his country of origin. I looked at all of the entries within 5 years of 1857 to see if the family groupings were consistent with family history and hopefully had a surname similar to Creusere. Specifically, family history says that he came over with his father, mother, and another sibling. The father is supposed to have died very shortly after arrival, leaving Charles to be apprenticed as a lithographer and his mother and sibling to

move on. The following are the best candidates I have found:

1. Charles Kreusser, Arrived 22 Aug 1854 on the Leonidas from Le Havre, France with mother Constance Kreusser (born 1824) and sister Christiane Kreusser (born 1846). Note that this record is electronically (and incorrectly) indexed in the ancestry.com database as “Krensser”
2. Charles Perot, Arrived 1857 with father Jean Baptista, mother Sophi, and an 18 year old sister.
3. Charles Schroeder, arrived 1853 with father Peter, mother Johana, and sister Adele.

Given the similarity of the name 'Kreusser' to 'Creusere' and that Charles Creusere named his first daughter 'Constance', the same name as the mother of this family, I am pretty certain that the original family name was, indeed Kreusser. Searches on the Web indicate that 'Kreusser' is a name found mostly in the Wuerttemberg region of Germany (part of the current day state of Baden-Wuerttemberg) which borders the often disputed Alsace/Lorraine part of France. In 1806, Frederick II of Wuerttemberg declared himself to be a king with some help from Napoleon, having previously been a duke. He deserted Napoleon shortly before his downfall with the agreement that the German confederation would recognize his new status and allow him to keep the territory which he had gained. Following his death in 1816, William I took over and reigned until 1864. At this point, Charles I became king and ultimately allied with Prussia in the Franco-Prussian war of 1871. Wuerttemberg remained a separate kingdom under the Kaiser until after WW-I.

It is worth noting from this brief history that the names Frederick and Charles both appear prominently in the Wuerttemberg history of the times (in fact, Charles goes much, much further back through the ducal history). These two names also appear prominently in Creusere history: Charles Creusere himself and his first son, Frederick Creusere. Given that it appears that he named his first daughter after his mother, it seems quite likely that he might have named his first son after his father. Regardless, this certainly strengthens the ties to the Wuerttemberg region. It is interesting to note Napoleon defeated Frederick II in a small war and was forced to seed all of his possessions on the west bank of the Rhine to France in 1799. The fact that the name 'Kreusser' had not been converted to a more French spelling by 1854 implies that there had probably only been a few generations of Kreussers in France prior to this time. It seems somewhat possible that the family could have lived in territory that was part of this land swap. It is also interesting to note that Napoleon III declared himself emperor of France in 1852 and immediately started purging his enemies, exiling many of them. While the Kreusser family may not have been personally targeting, the climate in France may have been uncomfortable for them, given the Germanic descent implied by their surname.

List of Documents:

US Census:

1. 1870 Census: 'Image 1870 Census.jpg'
 - lists Mary, Charles, Constance, and Sebastian???
- Evelyn (?) Burt: '1870_Evelyn_Burt_q.jpg'
 - Lists Evelyn (maybe), Clark (father), Mary (mother), Harriet and Mary (sister)

2. 1900 Census:
 - Charles Creusere: 'ccreusere_1900.jpg'
 - Lists Charles, Eveline, Gordon, Ethel, Melville, Roy, and Constance
 - Frederick Creusere: 'Fred_creusere_1900.jpg'
 - Lists: Frederick, Lillie, and Clyde
3. 1910 Census:
 - Charles Creusere: 'ccreusere_1910.jpg'
 - Lists Charles, Evelyn, Gordon, Melville, and Roy
 - Frederick Creusere: '1910_fred_creusere.jpg'
 - Lists Frederick, Flora, Mildred, and Frederick
4. 1920 Census
 - Gordon Creusere: '1920_gordon.jpg'
 - Lists Gordon, Elizabeth, and Elizabeth
5. 1930 Census
 - Evelyn Creusere: 'evalyn_creusere.jpg'
 - lists Evelyn
 - Clyde Creusere: 'clyde_creusere_1930.jpg'
 - Lists Clyde and Florence

Immigration Records:

- krensser ship.jpg: Contains image of passenger list containing Charles Kreusser (electronically indexed in Mormon Database as 'Krensser'). Age, first name, country of origin, last name, and mothers name make this the best possibility.
- charles_perot_1857.jpg: contains another possible record. Age, first name, country of origin, and family grouping make this a possibility. Exactly matches year of immigration listed in 1910 census.
- Chironze_1858.jpg: Age, first name, and country of origin make this a possibility. Last name also has vague resemblance. Unfortunately, family is too large. Exactly matches year of immigration listed in 1900 census.
- Dom_1857.jpg: Age, first name, and country of origin match exactly. No last name resemblance and family is too big. Exactly matches year of immigration listed in 1910 census.

Miscellaneous:

- 'pension record.jpg': Charles Creusere pension record
- 'melville_ww1_draft.jpg': Melville S. Creusere's draft card.