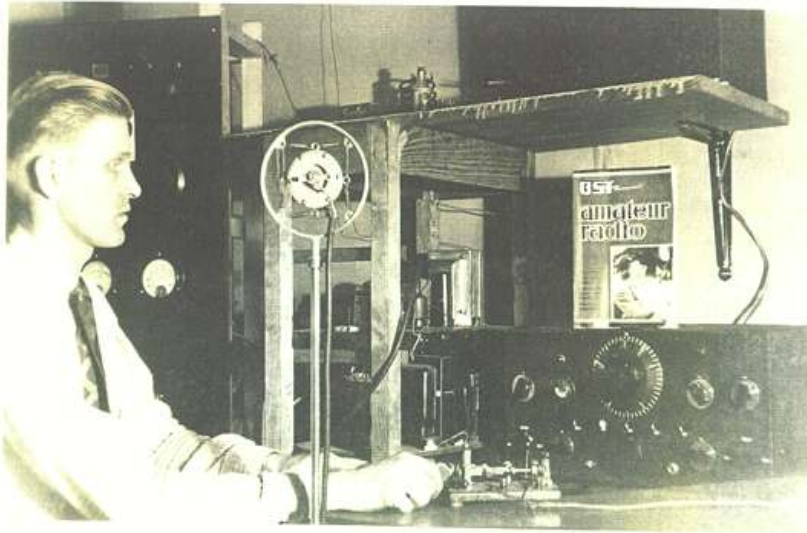


**James Clayton Nicholson \*1906-1943\* - 8CFM - W8VP** - Born March 27th 1906 son of James A.(restaurant operator) &Leila Lowe Nicholson. Residence of 815 N. 12<sup>th</sup> St. Student in the 26 City directory. First license 1919. North 12th has a pattern with Waller and McMunn living there. Nick as he was known held two calls in the 1925 amateur call book: 8BVG & 8MX - address given as 912 Grant Av. Cambridge. W8VP would come later. Nick had a brother, Robert born 16 June 1909 an upholsterer.



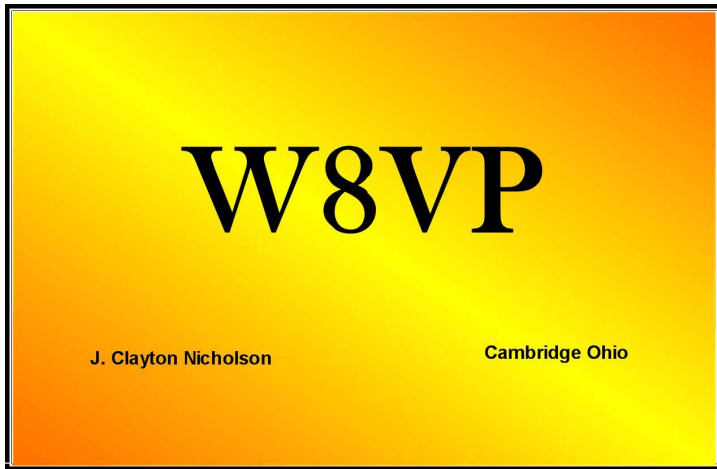
Simply known as “Nick” In the mid 1930's was a radio organizer and resides 703 North 16<sup>th</sup> St., with his wife Ethel and son James named after his grandfather. Nicks father, Jim Nicholson, 1886-1964, who was a business man operated a diner with Nick named “The Antler Restaurant” 624 Wheeling Av. Nick’s equipment was a self-excited Hartley circuit using a type 210 power amplifier tube. His antenna was a zepp which was the antenna of choice for most hams in that era. Nicks familiar call W8VP would come along in 1928. Nick

enjoyed the national traffic system using Morse Code to dispatch messages in the region. QST wrote in their December issue 1935: W8VP has a nice new rig built up. Nick knew Chester Thompson very well and was impressed with Thompson's expertise and knowledge of ham radio. One time in jest, Clayton said that Thompson could talk to a piece of wire and make it oscillate! Nick and fellow classmate and amateur radio operator 8BKN Ray Sears are members of CHS Class of 1924. The Sears story is elsewhere.

Clayton was a sub-dealer of ham equipment from Northern Ohio Laboratories in Cleveland. Burgess bought his National SW-3 receiver through Nick. Northern Ohio Labs was operated by W8BAH Harry Tummonds of Cleveland - a Commissioned Officer in the USNR (Lt Jg) and was a close friend of Nick Nicholson. (Writer has a sales brochure with both Tummonds & Nicholson’s name affixed) Burgess recalls Nick served a hitch in the U.S. Navy Reserve prior to WW2. He was very active in the 1930's and a prime mover of the old Cambridge Radio Club. And also the prime founder of the hamfest of 1935 & June 1937 in Cambridge at the National Hotel. Burgess said Nicks phonetics were “W8 Vest Pocket” But he never knew him to use phone. Nick was hands down one of the best CW operators of his time in town. His band of preference was 80 Meter band CW, first licensed at age 13.

In your writers conversation with Clancy Waller W8CL during 1995, he had also bought a National model SW-3 receiver from Nick. Clancy paid so much down till the balance was paid & stated Nick taught him a lot about radio and electronics. Nick passed on too early in life, March 1943 from TB & rests at Northwood..The local radio club to this day honors Nicholson utilizing his call sign (W8VP) since permission granted by Nicks family. Formed in the 1930s, Nick was an NCO in the U.S. Navy Reserve, installing a Naval Reserve Unit in Cambridge, its specialty was communications which many local young men enrolled. Dick Burgess believes Nick had a rating of Chief Radioman (CRM) In the U.S. Navy Reserve. If not stated earlier the Antlers restaurant address was 614 Wheeling near the Strand theater and Coney Island restaurant. – War time duty called, Nick was there, 1941 assigned to Indianapolis, Ind. Teaching radio and electronics in a U.S. Navy Communications School. He had taken ill and transferred to Albuquerque, N.M. receiving treatment since September 1942. His days with us were unfortunately limited (continued page two)

Partial Obit: J. Clayton Nicholson, 37, son of James A. Nicholson, Died Monday March 15<sup>th</sup> 1943 in Presbyterian Hospital, Albuquerque N.M. Born in Cambridge and spent his entire life here. He was well known in Cambridge, having been employed for sometime with his father when the latter operated the Antler Lunch Room on W. Wheeling Av. Surviving in addition to his father are his widow, Mrs. Ethel Phillips



Nicholson, three children, James Robert 15, Marcia, 5; and Dickie, 3, and one brother, Robert of Lore City. Nicholson's wife and children were with him in Albuquerque. Funeral services were held Mar. 19<sup>th</sup> 1943 at home of Uncle, one David Wishart 511 North 16th, by Rev. Leland Miller of the Second U.P. Church. Interment made in Northwood. Nicholson's mother Leila Lowe preceded him 1885-1916.

Our picture featured on Nick's Bio was taken at his home station rig, impressive home built transmitter and commercial National receiver. The picture is a W8KWN Burgess station hobby of good quality, the type Dick enjoyed. Ethel (Nick's wife) later remarried (McDonald 1909-1981) and raised the children in Cambridge. I am very pleased the Radio Club motioned to petition Clay's call W8VP as a lasting reminder that the Radio Boys of Cambridge had a long worthwhile history. They accomplished this while Ethel was still alive and CARA received written permission to utilize Nick's station call.

At every turn, we couldn't come up with Nick's month or date of death. Nothing at Probate, nothing at Health Department so we did the ultimate, got the microfilm out for 1943 and ran it till the obituary was found. James R. Nicholson of 9545 Brick Church Rd., Cambridge, was not related. Some data is contained in the traffic columns of QST magazine, Nick was a CW expert! He appeared numerous times gaining the coveted "BPL" Award (Handling over 500 messages in a month) which was January and March of 1933. He had handled a monthly high of 498 messages in November of 1932. As well as 485 messages in December 1931. In January of 1932 he was ill part of the month and had to repair his transmitter but was able still to handle 239 messages! Mention of Nick being elected President of Cambridge Radio Assoc. March 1935, George Smith is Secretary, Al Phillips elected as treasurer. Charlie Hines, activities. Club meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wed. of the month. All stations work 56 MHz (5 Meters) and 10M each Sunday.

Nick and Harry Tummonds, Navy Reserve friends and ARRL office holders, unfortunately Tummonds was defeated by vote in the ARRL Section Communications Manager election October 1934 by Mr. Irvine of Cleveland, not a mention of them until (Tummonds/Nicholson) 1937 issue of QST in the traffic column. At times radio politics can be brutal. Both friends dropped out of the traffic part of amateur radio until February of 1937 when there was a mention of Clay Nicholson (W8VP) In QST magazine. "W8VP an Old Timer is back again and QRV on 3.5 mc." Nick was a member of C.H.S Class of 1924 along with fellow amateur 8BKN Ray Sears eventually of the Bell System in New Jersey. Sears is a major story in itself.

Nick took a good photograph in the school journal and was nicknamed "High Pockets." Your author was checking Labor Day 2003, John and brother William Nicholson are not relatives. Pictures, cards personal information are always welcome. 73 - With thanks to friend W8JYZ Bob Green OldQSLCards.Com & Guernsey County Public Library, Cambridge, Ohio, with a fine historic section.