

Niehaus Family Newsletter

Indianapolis, Indiana

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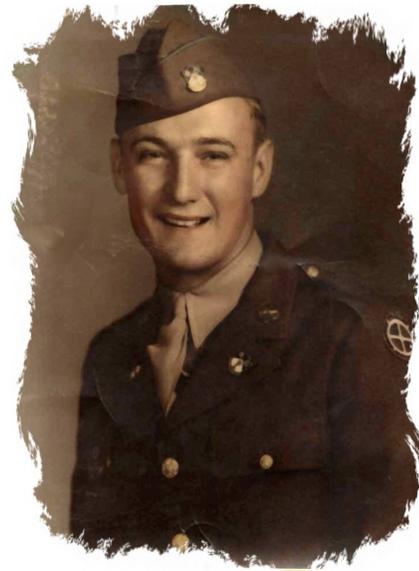
Editor, Nancy Niehaus Hurley

My Grandfather - James W. "Shad" Stull

by Ryan Barrett

Hello, my name is Ryan Barrett. I'm 14 and I'm connected to the Niehaus family through my Grandma Rose Walters (Stull), whom is daughter of James "Shad" Stull and Margret "Peg" Stull. Today, I will be writing in the newsletter about Shad's war story. He is one of the many war heroes of the family.

He was a Corporal for the U.S. Army. While in the army, Shad had been awarded a Silver Star, a Bronze Star and two Purple Hearts. He was awarded the Silver and Bronze star when he stormed Normandy, he had been a supporting gunner, during battle, he realized a team of mortar operators had been killed and without them the battle itself could most likely be lost. He then ran through a storm of bullets and did himself what three people did. Shad could be one of the many reasons that his division was successful in storming Normandy. He was wounded and sent home to live a long life until October 1990.



Thank You To Our Veterans

As we remember Jim Stull's service through his grandson's story, it brings to mind others in the family who also served in our armed forces during WWII. We have realized the freedom they preserved while our families continued to enjoy our lives for the past 67 years.

The WWII veterans in our family of which I am aware are:

Frank R. Kirn (son of Ralph and Minnie (Niehaus) Kirn)

Charles L. Niehaus (son of John and Ruth Niehaus)

Harold "Norris" Niehaus (son of John and Ruth Niehaus)

Joseph Niehaus, III (son of Joseph, Jr. and Mary Niehaus)

There are other veterans in the family, of this war and others. We honor all of them and are grateful for their service. The freedoms we all enjoy are because they stood for us against tyranny.

Our Family Reunion Photos

Sharing family history through photographs is so much fun. My sister, Marti Fleetwood, has taken on the compilation of our reunion photo books and has up-to-date snapshots in the books for you to see. Come look at the photos at the Family History table at the reunion. We would love for you to identify anyone you can in those photos so that we save the history.

We have copies of the first Niehaus reunion photo in 1939 available for you to take home. Family attending the last few reunions have contributed to identifying those that were in the photo, so now we know who was there by name. Pick up a copy at the reunion. Or you may contact me to have the photo and list emailed or sent through U.S. Postal service.

Also thanks to everyone's input we have the names for the 2010 reunion photo almost complete. If you know the few names we don't have, please fill them in. You are welcome to take a copy of the list to keep with your 2010 photo.

Thanks to our family reunion photographer, Gib Hickman, for continuing the tradition of our group photo. These photos make the family gathering even more memorable.

The 1940 Census

In April 2012 the Census Bureau released the 1940 Census, that gives us another glimpse of our families. This is the first time the digital images are available free online to everyone. Prior to this release, the censuses were on microfilm only. There is still indexing being done, so some states are only browsable online by county or other type of district. But thankfully, Indiana is one of the states with images available for searching by name.

It's very interesting to find your family and see what types of information were recorded. They asked different questions for this particular census. Such as, where did you live in 1935? What level of education does each family member have? How many weeks did you work last year? What was your annual salary? I found several of our Niehaus family census pages and will be glad to share those with anyone who would like to have them. Also, if you would like to take a crack at searching the census, go to <https://familysearch.org/1940Census>. You will see a link on that page for the 1940 census and more information.

Good hunting!

Memorial

In Feb 2012, Charlotte Niehaus Baxter passed away in Indianapolis, Indiana, a month before her 100th birthday. She lived her life to the fullest. Her family mourns her but is thankful for all the wonderful memories.

Charlotte Niehaus Baxter

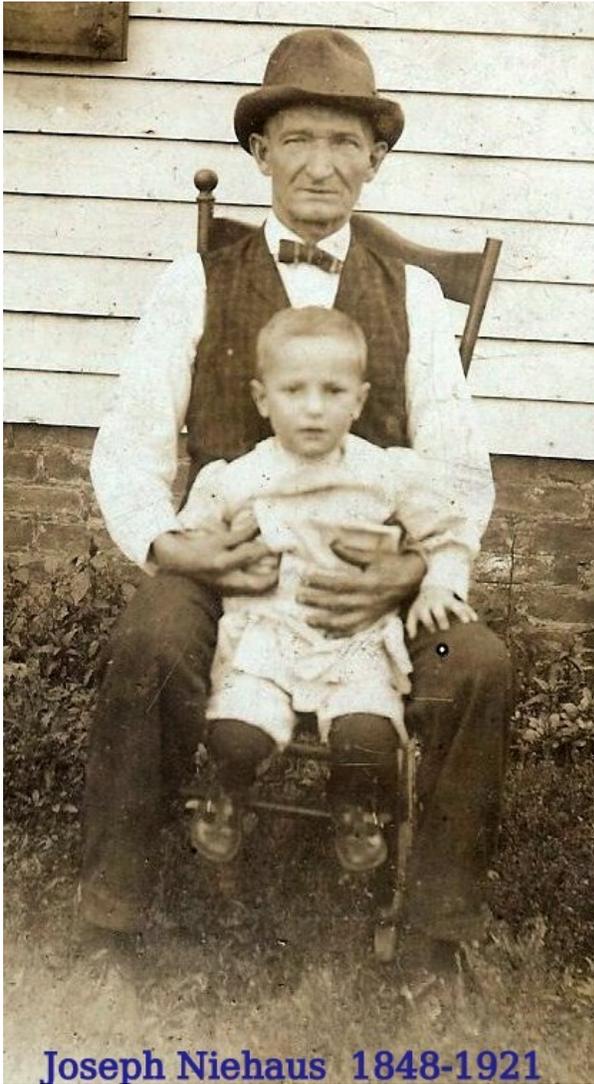
Daughter of John and Louise Niehaus

5 Mar 1912 – 8 Feb 2012

We celebrate the lives and cherish the memories of all our Niehaus family.

May they rest in peace.

***We Can See Them Now:
Joseph and Gertrude
(Wilmsen) Niehaus***



Joseph Niehaus 1848-1921

Do you have a picture in your mind's eye of our immigrant ancestors, Joseph and Gertrude Niehaus? Thanks to GeorgiaLee (Kirn) Taylor, who uncovered both of their photos and brought them to the 2011 family reunion, we are associating our mind's images with their actual faces.

We have confirmation that the boy seated on Joseph's lap above is Ralph Lark, son of Ralph and Rosa (Niehaus) Lark, born in 1909. That means that this photo would date between 1914 and 1921 (Joseph died in 1921.) That makes Joseph between the ages of 66 and 73 in this photo. I'm putting my money on the younger age. What do you think about the age of Joseph? Does this image bring any family to mind?

This portrait of Gertrude is an oil that was tucked away in Aunt Minnie's (Wilhelmina Niehaus Kirn) photos in the possession of her grandchildren. I am guessing this was made around the time of Gertrude and Joseph's marriage in 1873, when she was 25. There are a couple of reasons for my speculation on this date. The first is that her marriage would have been a reason in itself for the portrait to be made. Secondly, giving birth to 12 children would have limited her time, energy and budget for these luxuries.

Her age in the likeness is difficult to determine, but she looks young to me. I do know that in the 1870s brides wore whatever dress they could afford, not usually one for only this occasion. The elaborate white wedding dress was a sign of wealth. Through research on 1870s clothing styles, I've learned that ruffles and pleated frills are characteristic trimmings of that era. So there's a good chance this is Gertrude's wedding attire.



Gertrude (Wilmsen) Niehaus - 1847-1895

Are there any other facts about Gertrude that this photo brings to mind? Which of her children do you think resemble her?

2011 Reunion Report

The picnic tables were totally covered with food, photos, games, raffle items and Niehaus family members last July 11 as the family gathered at Pioneer Park in Mooresville, Indiana. There were many laughs and reminisces among the clan. Corn hole competitions were fierce, as usual. Our auctioneers sold all the donations to family bidders. And we all posed for the group photo.

The Family Memories Quilt raffle resulted in another happy winner. Congratulations to Joyce Daniels. This special heirloom created lovingly by Peg Stull annually is a highlight of our reunion. Peg, we all appreciate your dedication to this beautiful legacy. The raffle helps us support the tradition of the reunions. Most importantly, we pass along the family memories through this memorial piece.

We cannot say enough times, Thank You Rosie! We always appreciate Rosie Walters' efforts at setting up arrangements and getting the facility organized. Also, we thank everyone who had any part in the games, the food, and especially our auctioneers Joyce and Ron Daniels. By their willingness to take on the auction duties, we had fun bidding and raising funds for our kitty. Thanks as well to Gib Hickman for being our family photographer again this year. It's a pleasure to have all the generous family who step up to make the annual reunion so much fun.

And, of course, thanks to every family member who took the time on this Sunday in July to come to the Niehaus Reunion. Whether it's sharing lunch, family stories and photos, playing games with cousins, or relaxing while you watch the kids play, we all have our own way of taking part in the family reunion. Thanks for being there.

Nancy's Notes

New Family History Website:

Since I last reported here I've branched out with our family history. In order to reach out to more Niehaus family members and learn more of our family story, I created a new website. Indiana Ties (www.indianaties.net) is where our family history resides. The blog connected with it is where I post my new discoveries, tell stories, etc. A special ingredient of this website is our family newsletters and reunion photos, which are available to you.

I hope you will join me online at Indiana Ties. Your comments and contributions are welcomed. I would be more than happy to add any type of information there that you think would add to the family history.

Special Thanks to Our Young Reporter

I am so glad this year to have Ryan Barrett's contribution of his grandfather's story for the newsletter. Having another voice than mine for our family stories gives much more depth to these newsletters. I know that Shad would be so proud of Ryan. Good job.

More Family History Reporters

If you have news or tidbits of history to record, or would like to write something for the newsletter, get in touch with me. I will share it in next year's newsletter and online as a part of the website. How about another young reporter? Anyone interested?

Your Quilt Square

Don't forget to complete your quilt square to add to the Family Memories Quilt for next year. There are many who make remembrances to parents and grandparents, or to a special event. You can be creative.

Contact Information:

I am glad to send a copy of this newsletter by email or snail mail. Just let me know who and where.

If you would like copies of Joseph and Gertude's photos, I will be glad to share.

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