

# *Niehaus Family Newsletter*

*Indianapolis, Indiana  
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*Editor, Nancy Niehaus Hurley*

## **Remember?**

What a great winter I had last year! No, I'm not totally nuts. While we were enjoying a pleasant stay on the Gulf in Alabama.....avoiding the unending blizzards of Indiana....I had some online surprises. From all corners of the country, I received emails from family who were finding our family history stories online. The results were informative and fun. I thought I'd share some examples of those connections in this newsletter.

### **Memories of Growing Up Niehaus from Patsy (Niehaus) Cracraft**

One of the communications I received was from Patsy Cracraft, daughter of Bernie and Ruth Niehaus and granddaughter of Gerhardt and Amanda Niehaus. Patsy is now living in Arizona. Hopefully, we will all see her at this year's reunion. Some of you are aware that Patsy has been sharing her family research for a long time. I greatly appreciate her contributions. Plus, she's just nice to know.

Patsy has vivid memories of experiences in her early years, 1930s and 1940s, growing up Niehaus in Indianapolis. I know others will enjoy these flashbacks. And I have printed out some more of her stories and photos in a binder you might like to look through at the family history table. Here's Patsy:

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...My Grandma was really in sad circumstances after my Grandfather died so unexpectedly. She put my Dad and Bud in a Catholic orphanage (he remembered they had to wear nightgowns -- how horrible). After a couple of days or so, she came and took them home -- was feeling lonesome without them and guilty having put them there. A family wanted to adopt Abe, but she wouldn't go along with it. Abe said my grandmother didn't believe a child could be bad.

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...Bud (Niehaus, Pat's Uncle) ran off and joined a traveling circus; my Dad and Rich Kiosky drove up to New York and brought him home. Kiosky family were friends to many in the Niehaus/Stull/Hickman bunch. They lived on South Meridian in a two story yellow

brick house just south of National Rd. -- or maybe it

was between National and Hanna -- on the east side of Meridian. Rich and his wife Jean and Dolly are the names I recall.

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...My Aunt Geraldine was making wine in the back room on Habig Road and it all exploded -- was quite a mess from what they said.

...My Dad and probably his brothers and some cousins made some brew (can't remember whether it was beer) in the back room during prohibition years. Anyhow, my Grandmother dumped it all in the back yard. Told them the revenuers were coming and she didn't want the boys to go to jail.

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...I was wondering about the Niehaus home as it looks so familiar. You tell that Aunt Rosie and her husband lived there for a number of years. Well, the mystery is solved. I remember my mother going there to play cards with the Niehaus women. I spent most of the hours sitting on the couch. She and my Dad always loved cards and were experts at most card games. I also remember going to Mary and Denny's home on South Meridian just south of Troy while they played cards there with the family -- mostly the 1st cousins. I presume euchre as that's what they played on Sundays at Aunt Feenie's or my Grandma's home on Habig.

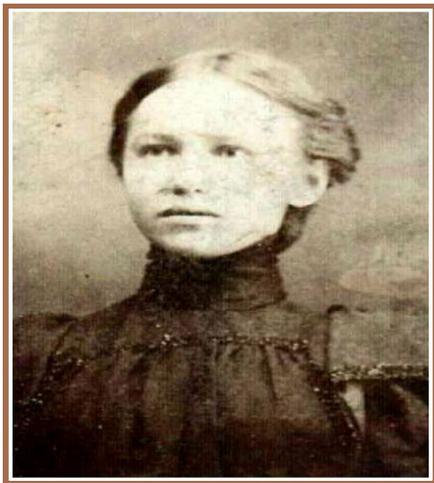
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...On December 7, 1941 after Sunday dinner, the cousins were playing cards at Aunt Feenie's. My Grandma heard on the radio the news of the Pearl Harbor attack and took me over there to tell what had happened. Everyone wondered where Pearl Harbor was. My Uncle Bud had previously been in the Army, was recalled, and we took him to Ft. Harrison. At that age (5 years) I didn't know what it was all about, but felt -- and still remember -- the excitement -- especially at Ft. Harrison. My Dad had a busted ear drum and was 4F, so he worked on airplane engines at Stout Field. My mother did volunteer work at Methodist Hospital. We had a small back yard on Markwood, but they had a "Victory Garden" during the war. Bud was in the famous "Battle of the Bulge". He was in his early 30's, and the other fellows called him "Pops"

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... My Aunt Daine always dressed as Santa Claus and carried a pillowcase with fun gifts. Don't know how

old I was when I finally realized it was she -- she never talked but would only nod or gesture. Anyhow, one year when I was in a mid grade in grade school, she was dressed as Santa, and Jimmy Stull also was dressed as Santa -- both homes having a laughing, merry Christmas Eve. They met at either my Grandma's or Aunt Feenie's. Don't remember that it caused any problems for us kids in seeing two Santas. Late in the evening there was a knock at my Grandma's door; it was a fellow who was looking for an address on Habig and slid off the icy/snowy road. He had second thoughts about his asking for help when two Santas and some singing, inebriated men showed up to shove him onto the road. As my mother would say, "He got out of there like a bat out of hell" -- where do you suppose that crazy phrase came from???

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**Leo and Sally --  
Mary Anna Niehaus Hoskinson's  
Grandchildren**



This winter I also met online two new-to-me cousins, Leo Leonard and Sally Leonard Redinger, a brother and sister who are descendants of Mary Anna Niehaus Hoskinson. Leo is living in Washington State and Sally in Liberty, Indiana. They found me through the Indiana Ties website. And we've been emailing now for six months. They are curious about their grandmother who died at the age of 34, and they'd like to learn more about the Niehaus family. The questions probably can't all be answered, but we are helping each other fill in some of the blanks and getting acquainted. The excitement of Leo finding his grandfather in the 1939 reunion photo came through loud and clear in his message to me. Here's a little of that conversation:

**My name is Leo Leonard**, my mother was, Ruth (Hoskinson) Leonard (1911-1986), Her mother was Mary Anna (Niehaus) Hoskinson (1878-1912), daughter of Heinrich Josef Niehaus (1848-1921) and Elizabeth G. (Wilmsen) Niehaus. For the past few years I've developed an interest in genealogy on Ancestry.com. I'm now to the point

where I'm searching for photos and stories. I remember my mom talking about The Niehaus Reunions. However, I don't ever remember going to one. I grew up in Cincinnati. I might have attended one of the reunions but to a dumb kid it was a fun day at a park.

Anyway, I try a Google search for Niehaus Reunion. Up pops an image "Niehaus Reunion 1939." I look at the picture and there in the second row first on the left is my grandfather John A. Hoskinson. I was so excited. I copied the image and pasted it on my tree, (ancestry.com) the Leonard family tree. The Niehaus was a side of my family that I knew very little. The Leonard side was more dominate, that is we spent more time with that side; also taking into account my grandmother Mary Anna, died in 1912 when my mother was only one year old. She was raised by John Hoskinson (my grandfather) and his sister, Aunt Ruby, east side Indianapolis....

**And here's a message from Leo's sister, Sally Redinger:**

My brother, Leo Leonard, has been keeping me up to date on the information he has received from you and Indiana Ties about our grandmother Mary Anna Niehaus Hoskinson. I was interested in your story about the family members working at C.B. Cones & Sons Mfg. Co. including as you stated our Grandfather John Hoskinson. And you wondered how many other family connections worked there. I remember our mother, Ruth Hoskinson Leonard, telling a story of her mother. As the story goes, Mary Anna was known to dream a lot of things that came true -- a sort of premonition. One day she told her fellow workers at the "garment factory" where she worked that she dreamt that the company decided to have a picnic (of which the company never did before) and at the picnic, she dreamt that she met a man named John Hoskinson (she even dreamt the name right) and that she ended up marrying him. Sure enough, all of this came true. This is an amazing story that was told to us many times. This must also prove that Mary Anna did work at the C.B. Cones & Sons Mfg. Co. It is exciting for Leo and I to begin to make connections with Mom's side of the family.

Thanks for all the information we have found through you. Maybe we will get chance to come to the Niehaus Reunion.

Sally Marie Leonard Redinger  
Liberty, IN

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*What can we tell Leo and Sally about their grandmother, Mary Anna Niehaus Hoskinson? Did any of her sisters and brothers tell stories about her? Who remembers her husband and daughter, John and Ruth Hoskinson? Or perhaps someone met Leo or Sally as children. Any news for them?*

## 2013 Reunion Wrap Up

Thanks again to all who were able to make it to the 2013 reunion. 74 years of gatherings of the Niehaus family just keeps cementing our connections and making more history.

On September 15, 2013, we again enjoyed the surroundings at Pioneer Park in Mooresville, Indiana, with a nice group of Niehaus relatives. We shared the fantastic array of food contributed by one and all. And the conversations were plentiful.

One special ingredient that drew a lot of attention was the World War II memorabilia that Brett Hickman shared from his grandfather, Horace Hickman. He saved personal and government letters, photos and other documents giving us a window into this soldier's experiences. It was interesting to see those pieces of his life. Thanks for sharing Brett! Take a look in the Family Updates binder for a glimpse of this history.

An exciting feature for several attendees this year was the zip line available at the park. There were young and old taking exciting rides. And we all look forward to seeing what Peg Stull will have to show us for the Family Heritage Quilt raffle, using our squares made by the prior year's attendees. She amazed us again! Our winners of the beautiful 2013 Family Heritage Quilt were Jennifer and Brandon Jackson. (Below) Congrats!

Of course, our reunion wouldn't be the same without our organizer, Rosie Walters. Another big thank you to her. We enjoyed the 2013 event very much.



### **Make Your Own Mark In our Family Heritage Quilt**

Don't forget to make a **quilt square**, or two, during the reunion. First, be sure to write out a square remembering your family at the reunion, or elsewhere. Then, maybe there's a memorial square you could create honoring someone who isn't with us any more, or a special event of the year, such as a birthday or anniversary. If you get an idea for a square later and want to make an addition, let Peg know and she'll be glad to create one for you. Even children's artwork is accepted!

## Niehaus Family Reunion 75 Years and Counting

We have a lot to celebrate in this the 75<sup>th</sup> year of Niehaus Family Reunions. It's been a long and loving journey since Charlotte Niehaus Ellis and Mary Stull Buis organized the first one in 1939. Let's continue to collect our memories from those great gatherings and keep the good times rolling!

One of the photos that Patsy Cracraft found in her scrapbook is the group of attendees at the 1940 Niehaus Reunion. I have copies circulating during the reunion and will gladly share online also. I had never seen this one and found it to be unique. Maybe I'm mistaken, but doesn't everyone seem to be dressed up more than the custom would be in 1940? Do you think there was a special activity? Such as, did they all attend Mass that day? Someone get married? Or is this just the usual attire for a 40s picnic? Take a look and share your memories and opinions.

Fast forward to the later years.....we aren't giving up yet on getting 100% of the names of those in our 2010 and 2012 group photos. We still have a few blanks in each photo list. So, please look at the poster and see who you can identify.

Then, next year we'll have to put our heads together to name everyone in this special 1940 photo.

These treasured old photos bring up all kinds of thoughts. Anyone know what types of activities went on at those very early reunions? When did the corn hole game begin? Was there usually a horseshoe game? We now know that the 1939 and 1940 reunions were both held at Garfield Park. How long were they held at that location? Where else? What's your story?



### **Family News**

Kathy (Murphy) Moore lets us know that her mom, Gert (Niehaus) Isom is living with her now. They are enjoying the time together.

Larry Niehaus is living at Kindred Senior Care in Greenwood. He's doing well and loves to have visitors.

Marilyn and Jerry Schuster celebrated 50 years of marriage this year. Also, Marilyn had bowel resection surgery a few months ago. The recovery has been slow and her energy is in short supply. Keep her in your prayers. The Schusters also had two great grandchildren added to their family in Feb 2014.

Nina Stull and Janie Hickman turned 95 this year. Peg Stull celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup>. We are inspired by the youthfulness of all of you. Best wishes!

John and Kitty (Niehaus) Fischer are planning to move to Kentucky soon to be closer to their grandchildren. We wish you many great family days!

## Family Veterans Project



We are still collecting background on the veterans in the family. Marti (Niehaus) Fleetwood is developing our own military history. Are you a veteran, or was your grandfather or grandmother? Stop by the history table to add your updates. Or send an email through the address at the end of this newsletter.

This information will be included in our family albums, and featured on Veterans Day on the family website. Thank you for assisting in making our family veterans list complete. We appreciate the service of all of our veterans.

(Above photo: Harold "Norris" Niehaus, WWII Veteran)



## Nancy's Notes

Keep visiting me at [www.indianaties.com](http://www.indianaties.com) and let me know your comments or some family history details I haven't found yet.

I'd like to include more Family News in this newsletter. So, if you have an update for us during the year, send me an email and I'll add your news to next year's issue. This newsletter is available by email or snail mail. Just let me know to whom and where to send it. If you need family history for whatever reason, I am happy to contribute what I know or brainstorm some ideas on where to find the answers.

We've made a change in our lifestyle this year. Jerry and I sold our motor home and are now living in Fishers, IN. We plan to take trips by car now. It's different for us after living the RV lifestyle. But, we're enjoying this phase, too.

Thanks for going down this family history road with me. I am fortunate to have such a great family!

**Nancy Hurley**  
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**11409 Apalachian Way**  
**Fishers, IN 46037**  
**317.473.8696**

## Our Niehaus Family Line

**Josef Niehues**, born: about 1804,  
Riesenbeck, Westphalia, Germany

**Maria Anna Beerman**, born: 7 Jan 1813,  
Bergeshovde, Westphalia, Germany

Their children:

**Heinrich Joseph Niehues (Niehaus)**, 1848 - 1921  
Heinrich August Niehues, 1850 -  
Bernard Joseph Niehues (Niehaus), 1860 - 1934

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**Heinrich Joseph Niehaus**, 1848 – 1921  
*Riesenbeck, Westphalia, Germany*

*married 24 June 1873 in Emsdetten*

**Elizabeth Gertrudis Wilmsen**, 1847 – 1895  
*Hollingen, Westphalia, Germany*

*Children of Joseph and Gertrude:*

Gerhardt John Niehaus, 1874 - 1918  
Emsdetten, Westphalia, Germany.

Anna M. Niehaus, 1875 - 1957  
Emsdetten, Westphalia, Germany

Rose Elizabeth Niehaus, 1876 - 1952  
Emsdetten, Westphalia, Germany

Mary Anna Niehaus, 1878 - 1912  
Emsdetten, Westphalia, Germany

Josephina Maria Niehaus, 1880 - 1954  
Emsdetten, Westphalia, Germany

Bernard August Niehaus, 1881 - 1943  
Emsdetten, Westphalia, Germany

Helena Gertrudis Niehaus, 1883 - 1960  
Emsdetten, Westphalia, Germany

Joseph Herman Niehaus, Jr., 1884 - 1969  
Emsdetten, Westphalia, Germany

Clara Lucille Niehaus, 1887 - 1949  
Indianapolis, Marion Co., Indiana

John Niehaus, 1889 - 1956  
Indianapolis, Marion Co., Indiana

Francis Anthony Niehaus, 1892 - 1892  
Indianapolis, Marion Co., Indiana

Wilhelmina Gertrude Niehaus, 1893 - 1981  
Indianapolis, Marion Co., Indiana