

Niehaus Family Newsletter

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Carter David Brenchley - As Strong As They Come

We all have challenges. But one three-year-old member of our family, Carter David Brenchley, has had an extra share. And he's overcoming them like a super hero. Carter is the son of Kate and Cory Brenchley, grandson to Amy Buis and the fifth great grandson of Josef Niehues and Maria Anna Beerman.

Two days after his birth at St. Francis Hospital in Indianapolis, Carter was life-lined to Riley Hospital. Doctors had discovered a heart murmur, and subsequently diagnosed him with Ebstein's anomaly. This is a rare congenital heart condition, an abnormality of the muscle of the right ventricle. Carter's situation required that he have surgery at 15 days old to put in a shunt to increase pulmonary blood flow, bypassing the right side of his heart. He came home with Kate & Cory for the first time at one month old.



But then, one year later Carter was again at Riley for surgery. His shunt was not helping his condition and he needed an angioplasty very quickly. Again, the operation assisted his heart to operate more efficiently. This second surgery went well.

The next obstacle came in June of 2014, when he was 22 months old. The family learned that he would need open heart surgery to repair his heart valve. However, this time there were complications after his surgery and Carter needed to stay at Riley for a month.

After getting over these major hurdles, this young man is a happy three year old. He's living with his condition with the help of his supportive family. But his heart still needs improving and he will need monitoring for his whole life. His parents watch him closely as they plan for a necessary valve replacement as he outgrows the current adjustments. Hopefully he will be 15 or 16 years old before he tackles another surgery. But they already know he needs a valve replacement that would be best when he grows into the teen years.

That correction should go a long way toward better health for Carter.

His mother, Kate, says: *"He tires more quickly than most children. But he doesn't know the difference since he's always been this way. He has to stop and rest about every 15 minutes. And then he's ready to play again. We just got home from Chucky Cheese. He received a truck as a prize that he's enjoying a lot."*

How does their family live with this challenge? First, Kate quit her job to be with Carter. They take him to Riley Hospital for his checkups every three to four months. Routinely they keep an eye out for signs of low oxygen when he overexerts himself. But, his parents try to keep Carter's life pretty normal. Of course, he loves the family's pets, Thor, the ferret, and his kitten, Loki. *Kate tells me: "When my husband and I play on our softball team, Carter stays with his grandmother or other family. His favorite toys are cars and trains. And he's excited about dressing in his super hero costumes."*

It's wonderful that the medical procedures are available to help Carter. He's a brave member of this Niehaus family and an example to others who have challenges to overcome. Best wishes to the Brenchleys.

History Corner Don't Forget The Ladies

Our female ancestors are sometimes elusive. Name changes can make it tough to find their family lines. Luckily, some of our ancestral ladies surfaced in various records. For instance:

Elizabeth Gertrude Wilmsen, 1847-1895, Hollingen, Westphalia; Mother of 12 Niehaus children & wife of Joseph Niehaus

Anna Elizabeth Kamp, 1813 - ??; Emsdetten, Westphalia; Mother of Gertrude Wilmsen, wife of Gerhard Wilmsen

Anna Christina Dreyhues; Mother of Anna Kamp, wife of Johan Kamp

Maria Anna Beerman, 1813 - ??; Bergeshovede, Westphalia; Mother of Joseph Niehaus, wife of Josef Niehues

Anna Siegbert, 1786 - ??; Bergeshovede, Westphalia; Mother of Maria Beerman, wife of Gerhard Beerman

Let's remember these ladies!

Family Memorials

Jane Stull Hickman

19 August 1919 – 11 February 2015

Richard "Dick" Stull

1 June 1940 – 5 November 2014

Marcia K. Stull

March 28, 1947 - August 13, 2015

We're grateful for the fond memories they left with us. May they have eternal peace.

How Many Can You Name in 1940?

This year we have a fresh naming challenge! Let's identify everyone in the 1940 Niehaus Reunion photo. Then we can save for posterity the Niehaus clan at Garfield Park on September 15, 1940, and pass them along to following generations. Take a look at the display at the history table and list the names to go with those faces.

Also, thanks to all who have helped by naming people inside our family albums. Keep it up. When you spot someone in a photo that doesn't have a name, write it below the picture. Add memories too, if you wish.

Niehaus Reunion Locations

The Niehaus Reunion has been on the move during the years since the first gathering in 1939. We know some of those locations. Others we're not sure about. But with your help, I've collected six places where those reunions were held over these 76 years. Are there others you know of to add to this list???

Garfield Park, Indianapolis
German Park, Indianapolis
Knights of Columbus, Thompson Rd, Indianapolis
Longacre Park, Indianapolis
Mooresville Park, Mooresville, IN
Pioneer Park, Mooresville, IN

Newsletters for Family

We have relatives scattered around the country and the world. Some who are close by can't make it to the reunions. If you would like a newsletter sent to them, just provide me with an address or email. The address will not be used otherwise.

Do you have an idea or update for this newsletter. Send suggestions, stories, questions or just facts to: nancyhurley1@gmail.com

2014 Reunion Wrap Up

The September Indiana weather provided a nice day for the 2014 Niehaus Reunion at Pioneer Park in Mooresville. Attendees came from as far as Arizona and Colorado. We were pleased that Patsy (Niehaus) Cracraft and her daughter, Desiree Payne, made the trip across the country to say hi to family. The Niehaus family gathering ranged from just a few months old, beautiful Hazel Buis, to the lovely matriarchs at 95, Janie Hickman and Nina Stull.

Our treasured family heritage quilt created by Peg Stull again caused a stir as it was raffled. The quilt contained memorial squares created by the 2013 reunion attendees. Caitlin Lindblom, daughter of Matt and Jaelithe, loved wrapping up in her prize. Isn't she adorable in this memento made by her great grandmother.



Last year's reunion also included enjoyable competition: A silent auction with family donations and the usual friendly corn hole game. Cousins and siblings got into the spirit of these activities while others caught up on happenings, shared photos and reminisced.

All in all, the 2014 Niehaus Reunion was a winner!

Stories You May Like

Several new Niehaus family stories appeared on the Indiana Ties website over the past year. Here are a few examples containing those tidbits of history:

- *Incredible News About Minnie Niehaus*
- *Estate Records: The After Story of Joseph Niehaus ...*
- *Oh, that makes sense now! Joseph Niehaus was a "fuller," not a "filler."*
- *Gerald John Niehaus - An Alien Enemy?*

To find family history, plus reunion and historical photos, go to www.indianaties.com. If you want to search a specific subject use the search box on the left column. Comments are always welcomed.