

Nr. 176/70
 M. 1801.
 24. 10.
 Ich habe den Leinwand...
 In dem Auftrage...
 am 21. 5. 1870...
 Melle
 9.
 In dem Auftrage...
 Melle den 21. May 1870.
 Der Bürgermeister
 Melle.



Historical Photo: The Port of Baltimore at the end of the 19th Century. There Wilhelm Nienhäuser entered American ground for the first time.



Guests from the USA visit the Fritz Kamping Monument near the well-known Buer House. Ham and other meat goods were manufactured here and exported to Immigrants from Germany. Our photo shows from the left Mechthild Krieger, Jim Elving, Marcia Elving, Kalman Tinka, Marie Tinka, and Wolfgang Dreuse. Photo by Jurgen Kramer/Notes by Dreuse

Emigration permission signed by Kreishaupmann of Melle. With this document in his bag, Wilhelm Niehaus left his old homeland.

From Nienhäuser to Niehaus

Marcia Elving and Marie Tinka from the USA search for traces of their ancestors in the Parish of Buer

By Jurgen Kramer

BUER. In the year 1870, Friedrich Wilhelm Nienhäuser left the Parish Buer in order to try his luck in the United States of America. Thus began a new chapter in the family history which was updated today. In recent days, Marie Niehaus (married name Tinka) from Dayton, Ohio and Marcia Niehaus (married name Elving) from Albany in New York State, descendents of that emigrant arrived in the district searching for traces of their ancestors.

Marcia and Marie owe the success of reestablishing their family ties to their cousin Wolfgang Dreuse, a member of the German –American circle of friends in Melle, who has worked with dedication in Osnabruck family research.

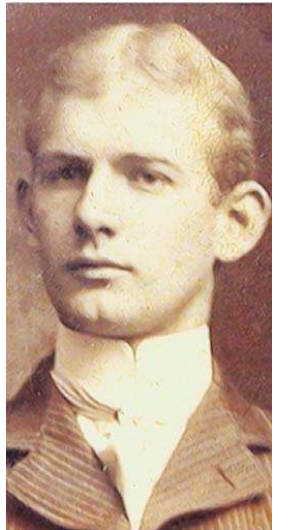
A view back – 19 year old Friedrich Wilhelm Nienhäuser leaves for America. Like others from Melle, he wishes to leave the Parish of Buer and looks to the distance to try his luck. As the historical document from the public records of Osnabruck shows, on the 21st of May 1870 Emigration permission is given. Further background can be found in the book “Melle(r) in the New World – A bridging from Osnabruck into the USA and back”. With the S.S. Leipzig “leaves Willhelm Nienhäuser of Bremerhaven from the Old World.” After an intermediate stop in the English Southampton, on 3 June 1870 the goal port of Baltimore, on the East Coast of the USA is reached. Wilhelm Nienhäuser goes into the rising American city of Cincinnati, in the State of Ohio. A majority of the persons living there are ethnic German.

The city has German Churches, three publishing houses, German language newspapers, and other uncounted German associations. The German way of domestic life, foods, and drinks are maintained. “Although the German emigrants retain their connections to home, the young man from the Parish of Buer changes his name: From Wilhelm Nienhäuser becomes Wilhelm or William Niehaus, a surname which Marcia Elving and Marie Tinka maintained until they wed,” describes Wolfgang Dreuse.

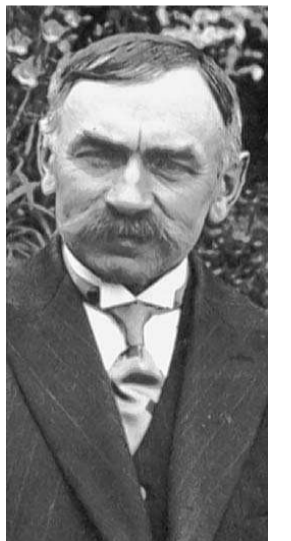
After his marriage, William Niehaus opened a retail business in the German city quarter “Over the Rhine”. Altogether seven living Nienhäuser brother and sisters moved to Cincinnati. They all originated from the Melle area. Further nephews and nieces of the Nienhäuser family followed their relatives into the “Country of Unlimited Possibilities”. They became carpenters, Millers, Cutters, Brewery Workers, Butchers, and Merchants. They embraced the American nationality and called themselves Niehaus. In the neighborhood hundreds of other Melle emigrants lived” reports Wolfgang Dreuse. “William Niehaus, only 32 years old, died of Tuberculosis. He left a young wife, two sons, and a daughter.”

Contact between the American Niehauses and the those who remained in Melle continued until severed during World War I,” says Dreuse. Heinrich Nienhäuser, born in 1877 in Bakum, was a member of the only branch of the family who remained in Germany. All the other uncles, aunts, and cousins emigrated to Cincinnati.

Only in recent times did his great-grandchild, Wolfgang Dreuse from Osnabruck, succeed in reconnecting the family ties again with some of the innumerable Nienhäuser/Niehaus descendents, two of whom are the sisters, Marie Tinka and Marcia Elving.



One of the sons of the emigrant from Buer – Harry William Niehaus



Bakumer with connections to his relatives in the USA: Heinrich Nienhäuser (1877-1963).

Touching Experiences from Surveying the Past –

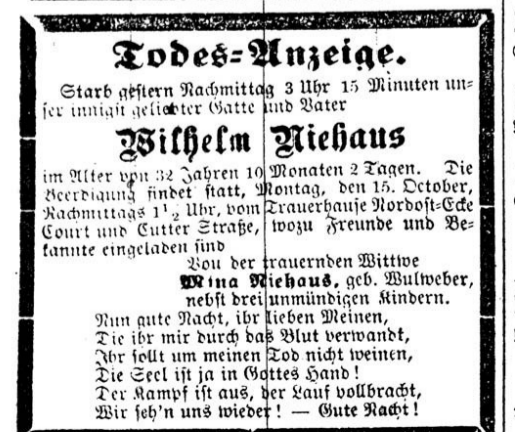
As Marcia Elving, Jim Elving, Marie Tinka and Kalman Tinka visited Osnabruck for some days, they knew their journey led to the Parish of Buer. The guests from the United States were led to the historical Parish of Buer. They visited the St. Martini Church, and viewed the Homeland House of Osnabruck Gate in which resides the exhibition “People in Buer”. Of greatest interest to the two married couples was the visit to Yard Jouvenal (in former times the Meyers Farm of Sehlendorf) where the Nienhäuser ancestor’s once had lived. Wolfgang Dreuse and Mechthild Krieger took their guests to Buer Cemetery, the Wobker Farm in Markendorf, Wietere Station, and Gronenberg Park in Melle Center with the Open Air Museum and the exhibit marking the city partnership between Melle and New Melle, Missouri in the United States.



A family business for decedents of the Gronegau – the Retail Shop of R. E. Niehaus (formerly Nienhäuser) in Cincinnati.



A mute witness of the past: This gravestone lies on the grave of William Niehaus, who was born in the year 1851 in the Parish of Buer and had emigrated to the United States of America at the age of 19.



One day after Wilhelm Niehaus died, this death notice appeared in a daily paper in Cincinnati.