

# Niehaus/Nienhueser Family Information

Information contributed by Wolfgang Dreuse (2011)



Lithograph of Buer

## NIENHÜSER FAMILY in 1854 (living in Buer)

Father:

**Franz NIENHÜSER** (48)

Mother:

**Elsa NIENHÜSER** (44)

Nienhäuser Children:

**Clara Maria** (26)

**Ernst Heinrich** (24)

**Caspar Heinrich** (22)

**Catharina Louise** (19)

**Johann Heinrich** (16)

**Ernst Heinrich** (13)

**Catharina Elsabein** (10)

**Jobst Heinrich** (8)

**Friedrich Wilhelm** (3)

**Carl Heinrich** (1)

All the children of Franz and Elsa (or their grandchildren) came to America except for the oldest son Ernst Heinrich, who stayed in Germany. There are many descendants of this family in America today but only a few in Germany.



This is a photograph of the town of Buer taken in the 1880s. The cottage on the left hand side is the type tenant farmers lived in during that time. The Nienhueser family lived in this cottage for a number of years. As tenant farmers, they got a new lease for the house every four years.



View of Buer with children playing on the street. Buer was very rural in those days.



This is how Buer currently looks. The church is still there. Much of the town is the same as 100 years ago.



Aerial view of Buer. The church is in the center. The rectangle of houses once formed a fortification around the church. The town was founded ca. 1,000 years ago.



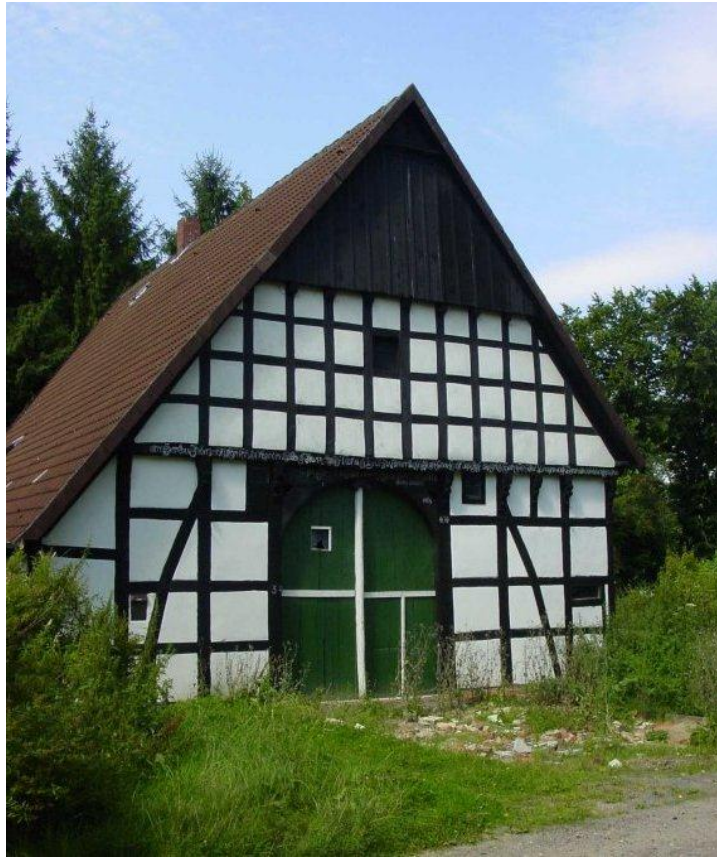
Church of Oldendorf, the neighboring town 3 miles west of Buer. Some Nienhuesers lived here and were baptized in that church. It is at least 700 years old.



Aerial view of the Buer/Oldendorf area. It is an agricultural area with many grain fields, surrounded by woods. Lots of farms scattered throughout the landscape. Some of the historical farm houses are still there – 200 or more years old.



This is a large farm house in the Buer area.



The tenant farmers lived in smaller cottages like this one. This is similar to the one where the Nienhueser family lived with their 10 children. Some of these older houses have been renovated and are being used today.



This is how a farm house looked inside. 10 people or more lived under one roof, together with the farm animals (except for pigs which were kept outside). The farmer's family did their work there, like threshing, spinning or weaving. Many small farmers didn't have much money and often were rather poor. This was the reason why many of them went to America.

No. 195 70.  
M. 1801.

By R.

Auf dem Briefe vom 29. v. M.  
 haben wir den gemeldeten Antrag  
 auf die Auswanderung des  
 Mannes mit seiner Familie  
 im Jahre 1851 genehmigt. Die  
 Kosten der Reise sind  
 durch den Mann selbst zu  
 bestreiten. Die Auswanderung  
 ist genehmigt.

M. 1801

G.

Zu den Akten.

In der Auswanderungskommission  
 des Königl. Ministeriums  
 des Innern am 21. May 1851.

Der Kanzler  
 J.

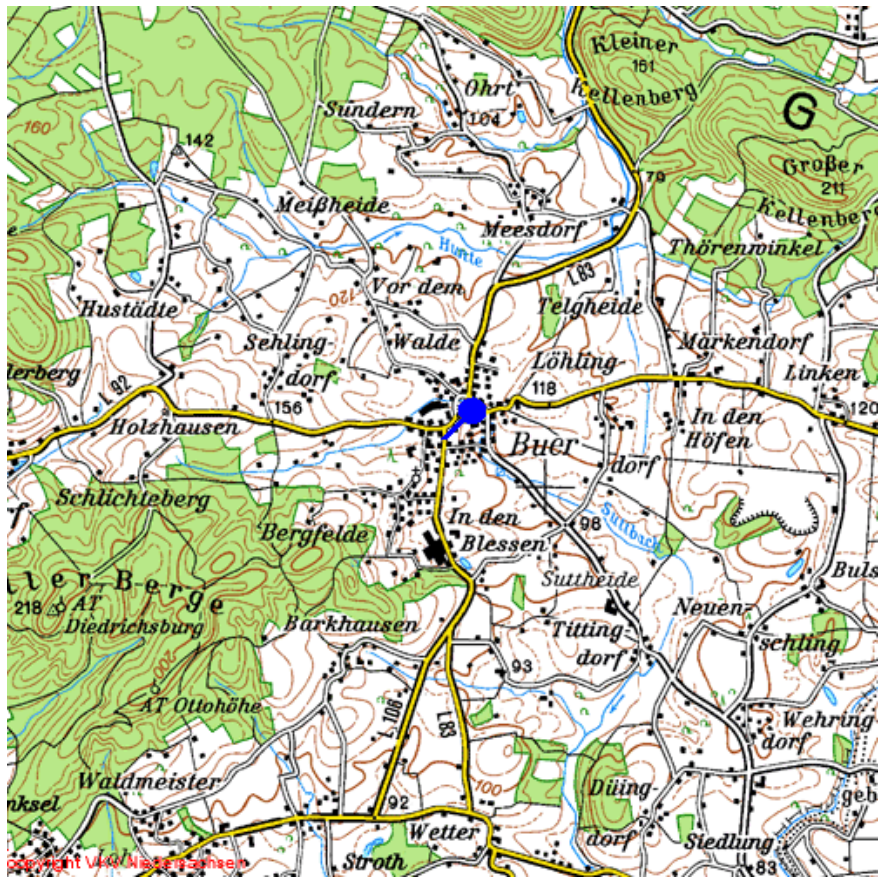
N. 5388.

U. v.

Der Königl. Kommissar  
 des Innern  
 in  
 M. 1801.

Before they could emigrate they had to fight through bureaucracy and get written permission to go to America.

Map of Buer and its surrounding hamlets





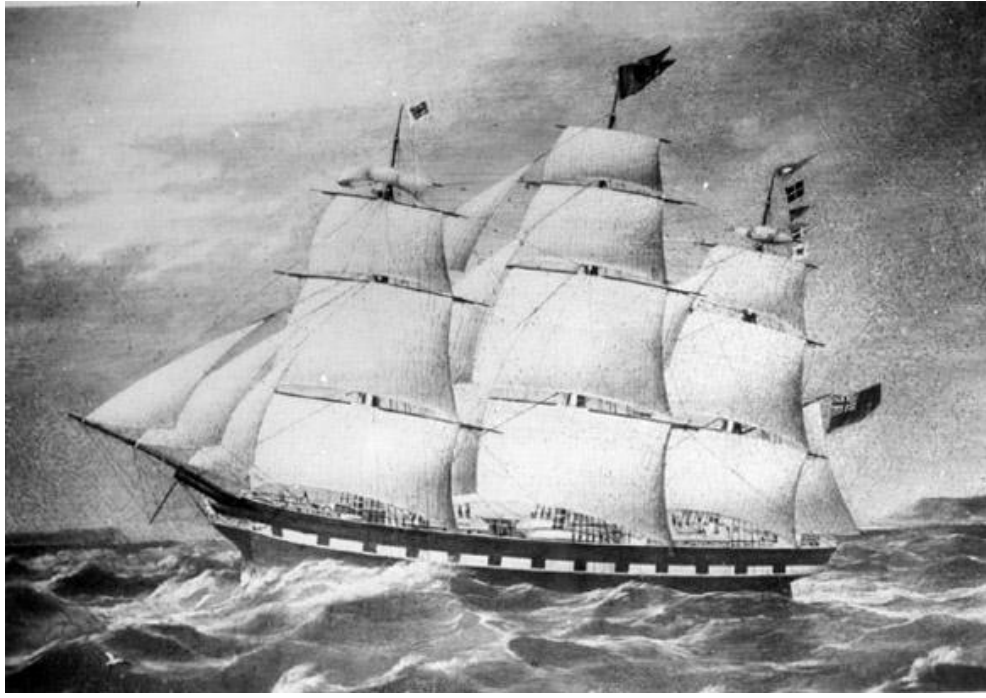
For emigration the Nienhüser had to get to the North Sea harbor of Bremerhaven near Bremen.

It took them three days to walk to Bremerhaven, where the ships put out to sea.

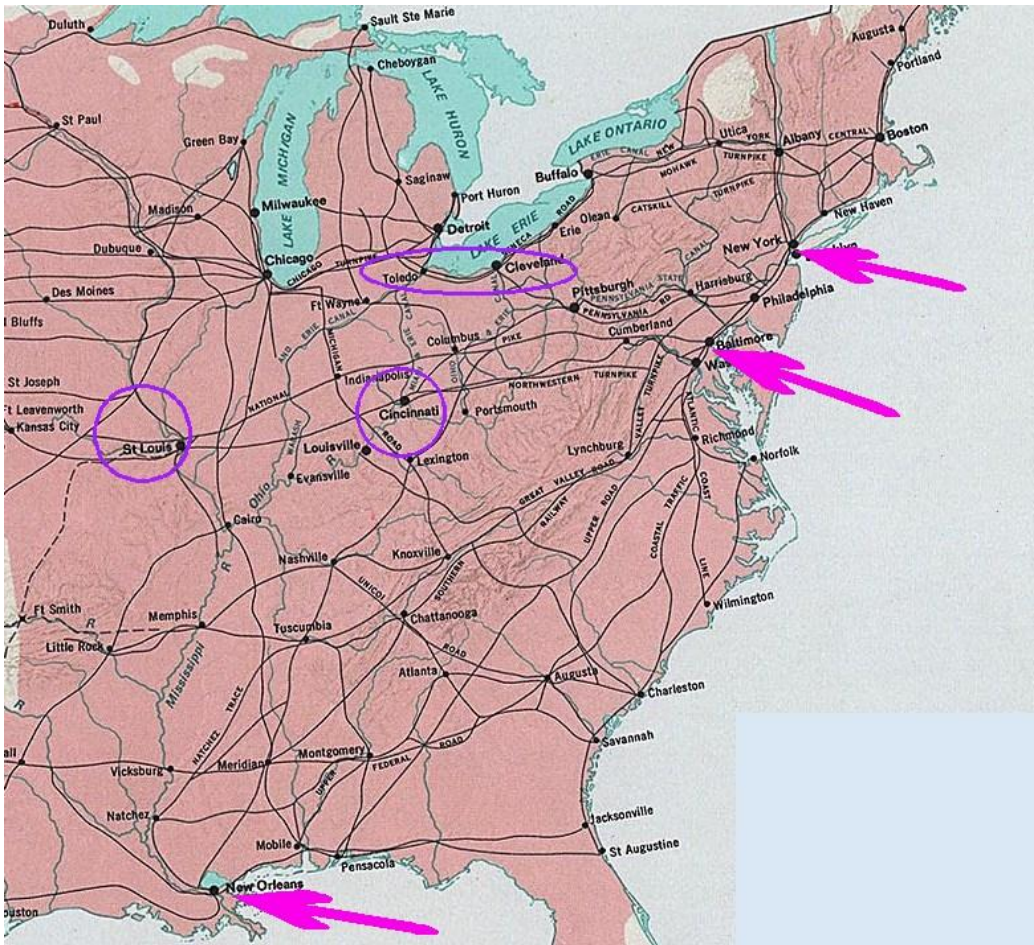


This is the Bremerhaven harbor. From this place about 7 million people went aboard sailing ships, later they used steam ships to go to America. All the Nienhüser boarded here. They had to pay about \$40 each to get a ticket.





It took about 6 weeks on a sailing ship to get to America. Many passengers died because of bad food. Some of the ships sank. They experienced a rather bad time before arriving in the USA.



The ports of arrival were New York, New Orleans, and Baltimore. Most people from Buer settled in Missouri or Ohio. The Niehauses came through Baltimore to Cincinnati.



This is a photo of the harbor of Baltimore during the time when the Nienhuesers arrived in America.

Name of Vessel, *S. S. Leipzig*  
 Nation of do. *North German Lloyd*  
 Name of Master, *A. Tzege*  
 Port Sailed from *Bremen via Southampton*  
 Number of Aliens, *821*  
 Number of Citizens, *17* } = 838.  
 Consignees, *A. Schumacher & Co.*  
 Owners, *The North German Lloyd* of

**NOTE** — Masters of Vessels who state their business by numbering the Passengers Report. They are also requested to ROLL up Manifests.

Alien Passengers landed at the Port of *Baltimore* from the *S. S. Leipzig*  
*A. Tzege* is Master, or the day of \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_

Excerpt of a passenger list of the SS Leipzig from Bremerhaven to Baltimore. The ship arrived in 1870 with 838 people on board. On the list were three Nienhuser brothers, 25, 19 and 16 years old.

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No.	Name of Passenger.	Age.	Country of Birth.	Last Legal Residence.	Country of Origin.
219	Sebit Nienhuser	25	Hannover	Hannover	
220	Wilhelm	19			
221	Hermann	16			



*Workmans Hall, Over the Rhine,*

*Cincinnati.*

View of Cincinnati in the late 1800's. The "Over the Rhine" quarter was the area where all the Germans settled. This was also the area where the Niehaus families lived.

Why have the Nienhusers changed their name to Niehaus?

Here is a Cincinnati newspaper ad for the famous and popular agent called J. Niehaus who sold tickets to those who wanted to come here from Germany. This J. Niehaus also owned a brewery and sponsored many Germans coming to the United States. So perhaps that's why the Nienhusers adopted that name.

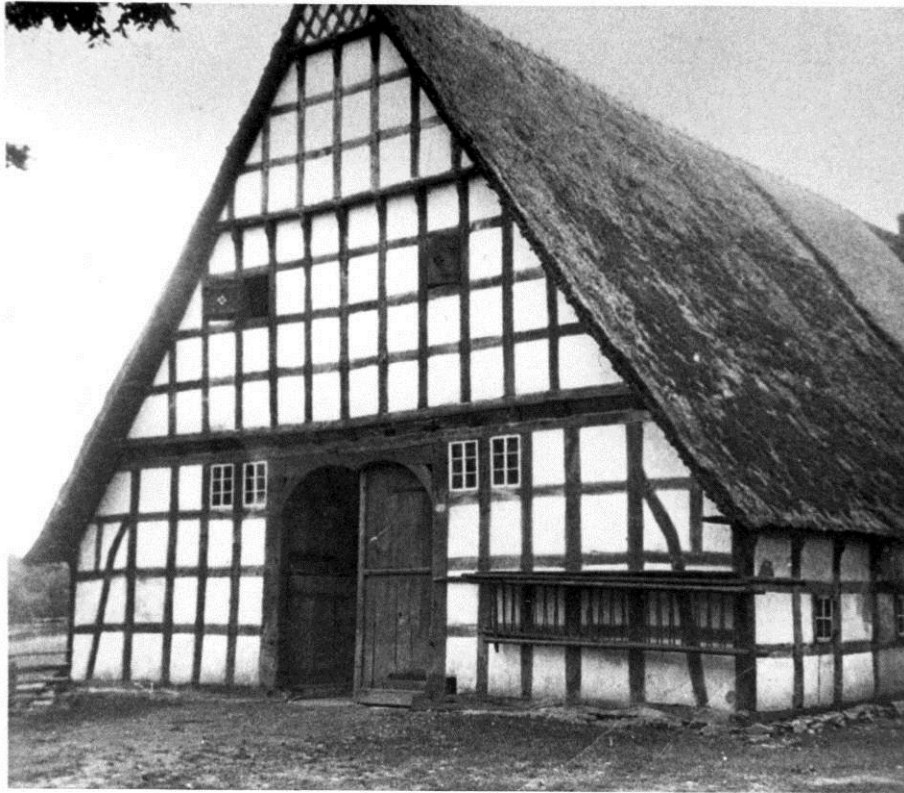


The story of the Nienhueser/Niehaus is an interesting example of chain migration from Germany to the USA. Between 1854 and 1890 more than 20 members of that family came to America.



# Nienhueser Family

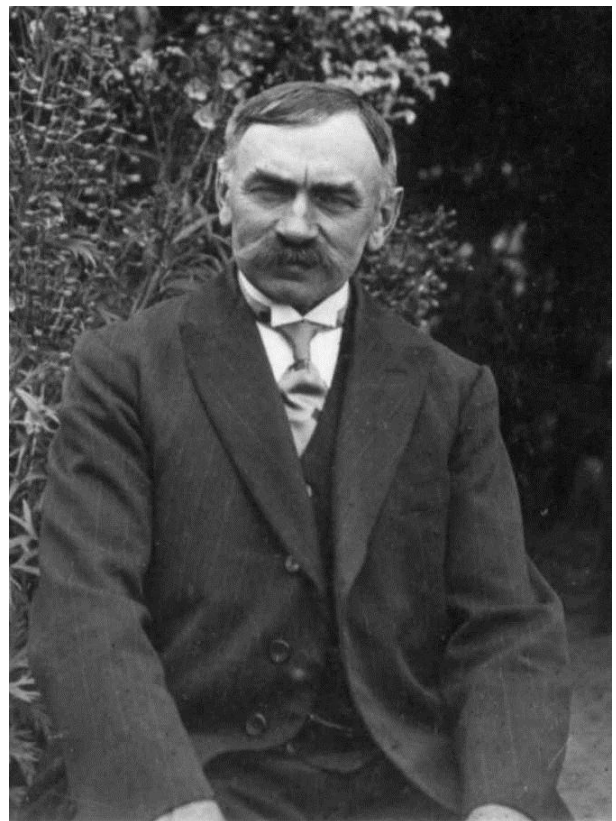
– German Relatives - Information by Wolfgang Dreuse and Holle Bergmaier née Nienhüser (2011)

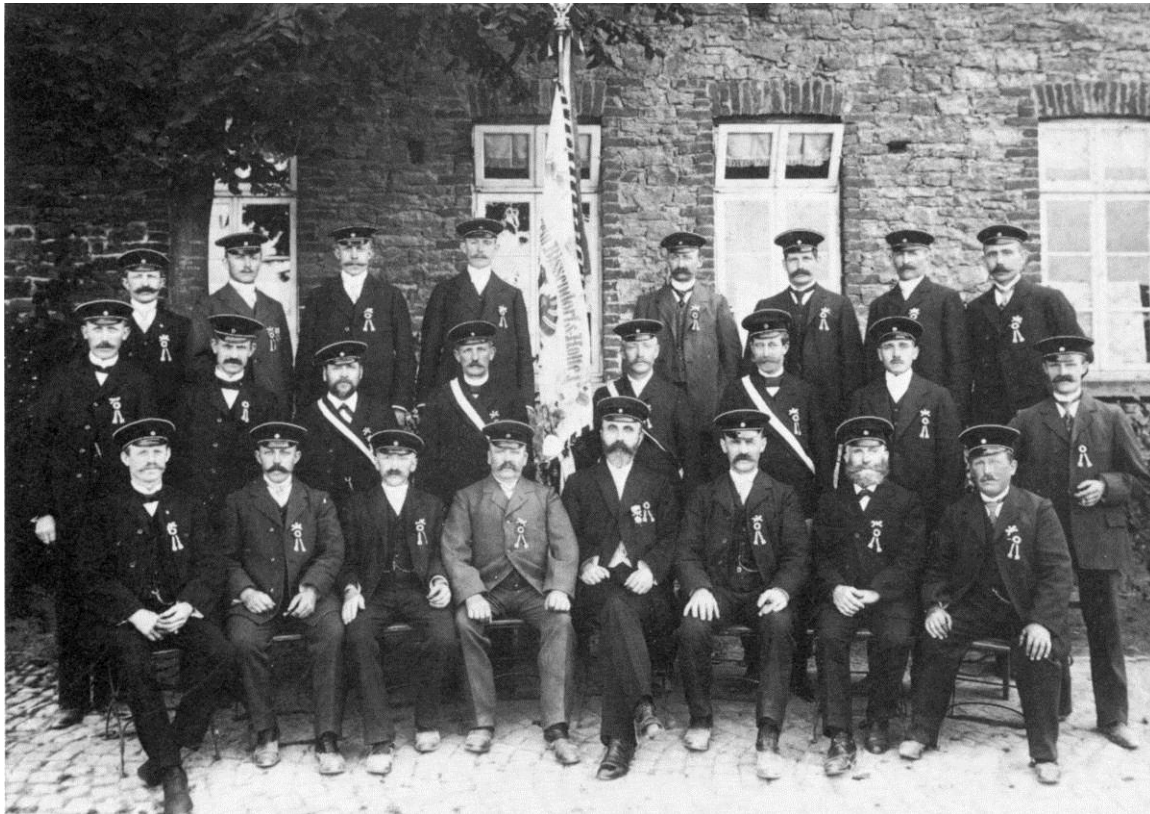


This is the old family house in Wersche, a small village near Osnabrück and Melle of about 250 inhabitants. The old farmhouse with half timbered oak and a thatched roof is where the Nienhüser family lived in the first half of the 1900's.

This is a picture of Heinrich Nienhüser in his early 60's. He was the forefather of all the German Nienhusers who are still there. He is well remembered for his diligence and humbleness.

His father was Ernst Heinrich Nienhüser, whose siblings and nephews had all gone to the USA under the name NIEHAUS.





This is a picture from 1913. Heinrich Nienhüser is second from the left in the second row. He was a member of a local singing club, a men's choir. In Germany this was a very traditional habit to sing and make music. These people were also involved in shooting competitions – a marksman's club.

Everyone had beards in those days. Heinrich Nienhueser kept his moustache for all his life.

This was the family of Heinrich Nienhueser. From the left hand side (clockwise): Luise, Karl, Heinrich jr., Frieda. On the right hand side their mother: Elise Nienhüser.

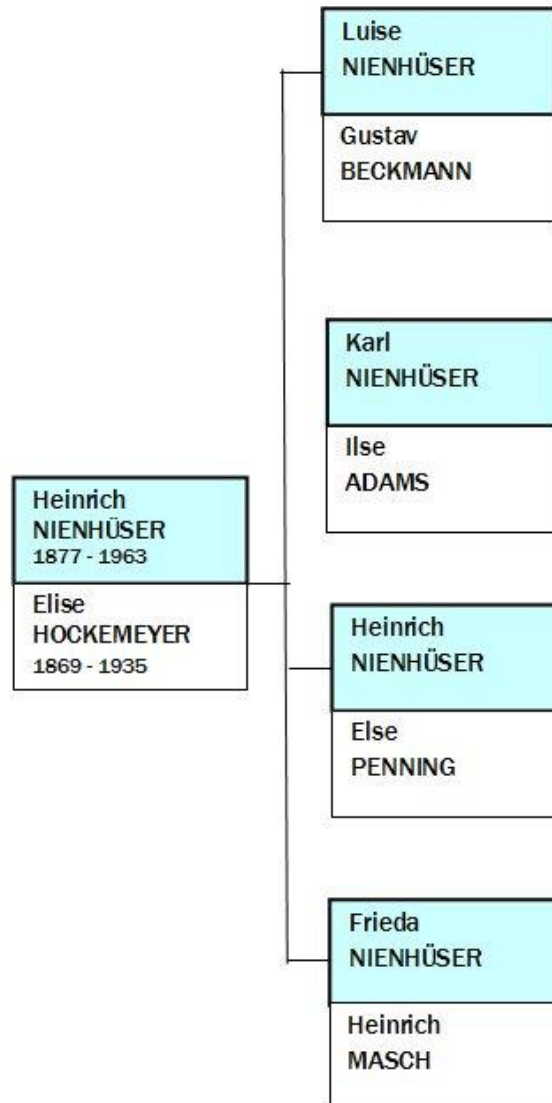




These are school children from Wersche, including two of the Nienhüser children. In that little village school all pupils from the age of 6 to 15 were taught by one teacher together in one classroom.



Harvest festival on the Backhaus Farm in Wersche, where all the people of the village gathered. This is an example of farm life in the early 1900's. On that day the people were having fun, playing music, and eating and drinking typical German food.



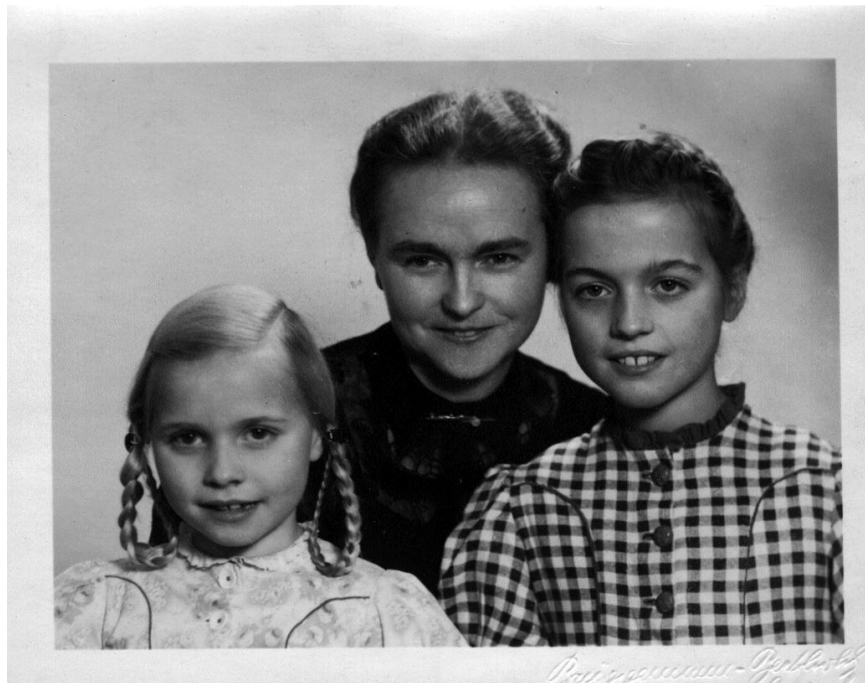
Family tree of Heinrich Nienhueser. Karl was Holle's father. Frieda was Wolfgang's grandmother.

The oldest daughter Luise married a farmer in lived in Wersche all her life.





The oldest son was Karl Nienhueser. He became a teacher. During WW2 he was drafted. Unfortunately, he passed away in a Russian prison camp near Moscow.



Karl left behind his wife Ilse Nienhüser and her two daughters. Left is Holle.



The younger son Heinrich Nienhüser jr. took over the farm in Wersche. He had 6 children.

A tragedy happened to the family during the World War 2. In an air-raid the village of Wersche was bombed. The old Nienhüser farmhouse was also hit and burned down completely. Many animals died but all people could be rescued. The children were hurled out the window at the last-minute. Fortunately no one was injured.



The youngest daughter of Heinrich Nienhüser was Frieda. She married a farmer and had 4 children who all grew up in Wersche. The girl with the braids is Inge, Wolfgang's mother.



Heinrich Nienhüser died in 1963 when he was 86 years old.

He is the forefather of all German Nienhüser. He had many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Many of them are still living in the Osnabrück area.

He would have loved to get in touch again with his uncles, aunts and cousins, who all had moved to America.

Today his German descendants are glad to have found their American Niehaus relatives after more than 100 years.