

# The Nehrenz Network Newsletter

**Vol. 9 - No. 1 December 2006**

**+ Trinity Lutheran Church +  
Cleveland, Ohio**

**From the Editor Dave Nehrenz:**

Greetings to everyone! How many of you realize that in the beginning of their life in the USA, all the Nehrenz family members belonged to one church: Trinity Lutheran Church in Cleveland, Ohio? Today this congregation is still an active church that is reaching out into the west-side community. This area is experiencing a time of urban renewal.

In July, I made a trip to this church, visited with the pastors, attended a noon-time organ concert and photographed the inside and outside of the sanctuary. This newsletter will include some of these photos and a historical overview of our connection to this church.

The church is located on W. 30<sup>th</sup> St. near the Westside Market. The present building was erected in 1871 and at that time was surrounded by German Lutheran neighborhoods. It was one of the first Missouri Synod Lutheran Churches in Cleveland and has had a long line of famous pastors serving it.



In their church records are many notations of events in the lives of the Nehrenz family: baptisms, confirmations, communion attendance, marriages and funerals. There are also signatures by some of the Nehrenz men who signed the church constitution.



The building above was the first church the congregation erected in 1853. After that, another building was built (which burned down). Then the 1871 church was built, which remains today. The Nehrenzs began attending here in 1869 and they were part of the congregation which built the present sanctuary.

A parsonage next door to the church is still used for church offices. Various pastors who ministered to the Nehrenz people lived in this house. The

iron gates and fences still survive and there now is a playground next to the church that is used by St. Ignatius High School. The church has a new outreach called "Hope in the City" to bring the Gospel to the many different ethnic groups now surrounding the church.





This is the church's front door through which the Nehrenz families entered for worship. For 135 years people have used these doors.

The brick street on the right was one used by members to walk from their neighborhoods to come to services. There would have been people on Sunday mornings walking or riding their carriages to church. The older streets were very narrow, built before automobiles.

Below is a photo of present day W. 12<sup>th</sup> St. which was originally named "Noyes St." No other street in Cleveland had more Nehrenzs living on it. These Nehrenz addresses were on that street: Fred #33 and #56,



Christian #25, Christian #16, Christian #28, William #59, Charles and William #45, Herman Martens #27, William #100 (Present day W. 12<sup>th</sup> St has a new numbering system for these addresses which would include: 2758, 2777, 2783, 2786, 2797, 2821, 2836, 2838, 2930) - Nine Nehrenz homes were on this street!

Most of W. 12<sup>th</sup> is still the old original brick street. When I-90 was constructed, some of these homes were demolished. Now W. 12<sup>th</sup> comes to a dead end and stops at I-90. It is a shame that no one took pictures of all these homes back in the 1950s before the highway went through. W. 12<sup>th</sup> St. / Noyes St. was our earliest ancestral neighborhood in the USA. We have photos of two of the homes, and there is an empty lot where another one burned down.

An interesting footnote: When I walked down W. 12<sup>th</sup> St. in July, across the street from William Nehrenz' old house (#2930) there was a house owned by a 92 year old woman. She was outside, so we talked for about a half hour. She has lived on W. 12<sup>th</sup>/ Noyes since 1924. She said that the street was home to Germans, Poles and Ukranians. She did not remember the Nehrenzs, but if I had talked to her longer, she might have, since William lived there till 1928. If possible, I plan to speak to her again in the future.



Other streets around that same area where Nehrenzs lived include: Wade, Auburn, Lester, Jennings, Branch, Kinkel, Buhrer, Newell, Vega, Metta, Redman, Pearl, Pollack, Merchant, Tremont, Edson, Giddings and Woodbridge. All these streets still exist and if you ever travel to Cleveland, find a street map and go drive around these areas off Scranton Rd. You will be driving in what was an ethnic melting pot of America at that time, of which the Nehrenzs were a part.





**In the 1874-75 Cleveland City Directory:**

Trinity Church(German) Jersey n Lorain.  
 Rev. F. Wineken, pastor. Services: 10:30 a.m.; 7:30 p.m.  
 Sunday School: 2:30 p.m  
 German Lutheran School - Ward n Lorain  
 Rev. F. Wyneken, principal.  
 Lutheran School - 96 Bolivar Rev. HC Schwann, principal.

**Church Records from Trinity Lutheran Church Cleveland**

*between 1872-1880 list some of  
 our Nehrenz family members this way:*

- Emma Caroline, gub. 115
- Louise Carol. Henr. gub. 115
- W. Ch Ernst Martin, gub. 48
- Heinr Christ Thr, gub. 46
- Christ Fried, gub. 77
- Aug. Wilh Fried, gub. 98

**Baptized at the font pictured below:**

- Henry Nehrenz (Frederick's son) -October 06, 1872
- William Ernest Nehrenz -September 19, 1875
- August Nehrenz - October 07, 1877
- Charles Nehrenz - April 25, 1875
- Christian Friedrich Nehrenz -November 05, 1876
- Emma Nehrenz -July 07, 1878
- Hanna Martens -August 09, 1874
- Frank Martens -November 07, 1875
- Henry Nehrenz (William's son) -October 15, 1876
- Otto Beier -August 19, 1877

**The Church Constitution:**

On Jan. 16, 1878 Fredrick Nehrenz signed the constitution of Trinity Lutheran Church along with his brother Wilhelm Nehrenz.

On Feb. 17, 1879 Charles Beier signed the constitution of Trinity Lutheran Church along with Friedrich Beth (William Nehrenz' father-in-law)

**Our Patriarch:**

Johann Christian Theodor Nehrenz was baptized on March 12, 1820 in Trollenhagen, Germany. Then in Cleveland he sat and listened to sermons preached from this pulpit, after having left his ancestral church where he was confirmed in 1834. What faith it took to move his whole family in 1869 to America, when he was already 49 years old!



**Note:** Of the children of Johann Christian: Frederick, Christian, Carl, Minnie, William and Jane were confirmed in Trollenhagen. The youngest son Henry was confirmed in Cleveland at Trinity Lutheran.





At this altar, the Nehrenzs of the Lutheran Christian faith received holy communion. Henry Nehrenz was confirmed here by Rev. H. Wyneken - his confirmation verse Ps. 73:25,26- on March 21, 1875

This carving of Christ the Savior is on the front of the pulpit. When the Nehrenz church members listened to a sermon from the elevated pulpit, they were looking directly at this picture of our Lord. One cannot understand the Nehrenz family without reference to their Christian faith.



The faith of our Nehrenz forefathers is demonstrated by the inscription on this tombstone (which is translated here from the German). Frederick Nehrenz was the oldest son of Johann Christian and Marie Nehrenz. He was a railroad watchman most of his life and now has a very large family through all of his many descendants.

**Tombstone in Lutheran Cemetery in Cleveland, Ohio**  
**Friedrich Nehrenz**  
**b May 5, 1844 d Aug 28, 1906**  
**Friedrika Nehrenz**  
**b Feb 25, 1844 d Oct 23, 1906**

"To you all our love-  
 Grieve you not too very much,  
 [That] we from you are separated  
 Who you loved so very much.  
 We are in Jesus' garden  
 In light and bliss  
 And there to anticipate you  
 Into heavenly [joy].

Blissful are the [dead],  
 That into the Master dies  
 From now on.  
 Yes, the spirit speaks,  
 [That] they rest from their work,  
 Because their works follow them."

Revelation of 14.13

**Cemetery Locations:**  
*In section G of the Lutheran cemetery are:*  
 -Freidrick and Friedrika Nehrenz  
 (with a large tombstone about 10 feet high with a cross on the top and an "N" carved into the stone with inscribed Bible passages)  
 -Henry and Mary Nehrenz and their 2 infant sons  
 -The Martens : Herman, Wilhelmine, Frank, Katherine, Hannah, Emma  
 -The Beiers: Carl, Johanna and George (unmarked, no tombstone)  
*In the next section H are:*  
 -John and Gert Nehrenz.  
*In another section are:*  
Clara (Nehrenz) & her husband Geroge Halter  
 Many of the Nehrenz folks bought their plots close to each other.  
 -Some of William's sons are buried in another part of Lutheran cemetery-  
 -Other Nehrenz folks who by marriage had other surnames are also buried there  
 -William Nehrenz and his wife are buried in the Wade/Scranton cemetery along with the parents:-Johann Christian and Maria Nehrenz. (in unmarked graves)  
 -Christian (son) Nehrenz and his wife are buried in the Monroe cemetery (unmarked)  
 -Carl Nehrenz and his wife are buried in Madison, Wisconsin.

## **CORRECTIONS AND UPDATES:**

Please send address or phone corrections, family information, and e-mail addresses to:

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**HELP US WITH THE COSTS-** Each one of these issues costs about \$150 for paper, copying and postage. Any help towards this expense is **greatly appreciated !**

Also send your family information, copies of old letters, photos and other Nehrenz memorabilia

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## **CHECK OUT ALL FOUR NEHRENZ NETWORK WEB PAGES**

**Nehrenz Family Home Page created by Dr. Guy Nehrenz** *(includes color versions of all these newsletters!)*

<http://drnehrenz.com/nehrenznet/>

**TNN Home Page 1:**

<http://hometown.aol.com/nehrenznet/nehrenz-network-index.html>

**TNN Home Page 2:**

<http://hometown.aol.com/nehrenznet/newsletters.html>

**Home Page 3:**

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The Painting over the altar at Trinity Lutheran Church in Cleveland, Ohio

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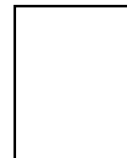
## **The Nehrenz Network Newsletter**

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Address Correction Requested