

To: Hazel & John
with warmest regards,

Ben Niebel

2/9/81

NIEBEL

A DYNAMIC FAMILY WITH A RICH HERITAGE

BY
BENJAMIN WILLARD NIEBEL
STATE COLLEGE, PA.
1980

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PREFACE

This history of the Niebel family was written for several purposes. First it was the intention of the author to gather together in one volume the many bits and pieces of family history that were available in early writings of the Evengelical church, historical records, family records including letters, pictures, scrapbooks, and the vivid memory the author has of his grandfather, father, and their families.

Second it was the desire of the author to trace back his family lineage, as far as possible, and make a record of the family tree to pass on to future generations of the Niebel family.

Third it was hoped that this volume would prove of value to understand better the history of the religious movement in the United States. It should give the reader an appreciation of the dedication, motivation, obstacles to be overcome, and complete consecration of those early pioneers who received a call and directed their entire energies toward the work of the church.

Fourth, in a very small way, this volume illustrates how one family tree had an impact on the development of this country and the society that characterizes these United States.

Finally it is the wish and hope of the author that this work will provide an inspiration to those members of the Niebel family of tomorrow to pursue with vigor those meaningful objectives that make life on this planet so worthwhile.

The author is especially indebted to his mother, Mrs. Norman Hummel for providing so much from her keen memory in the writing of this work. He is also indebted to his brother, Dr. Harold Hershey Niebel for helping with the duplication of early pictures as well as providing much of the historical information. He also wished to acknowledge the assistance he received from Miss Ruth Fox and Mrs. Dorthy Fox Hamby for providing some of the early personal records of the Reverend Benjamin H. Niebel and his family. The Commission on Archives and History of The United Methodist Church provided an exhaustive search of the Niebel family that proved most helpful.

Finally the author is indebted to his wife who gave much moral assistance on this effort. This was very much appreciated since it would have been easy to suggest a more financially rewarding use of time and energy during the early months of his retirement.

Benjamin W. Niebel
March 1979

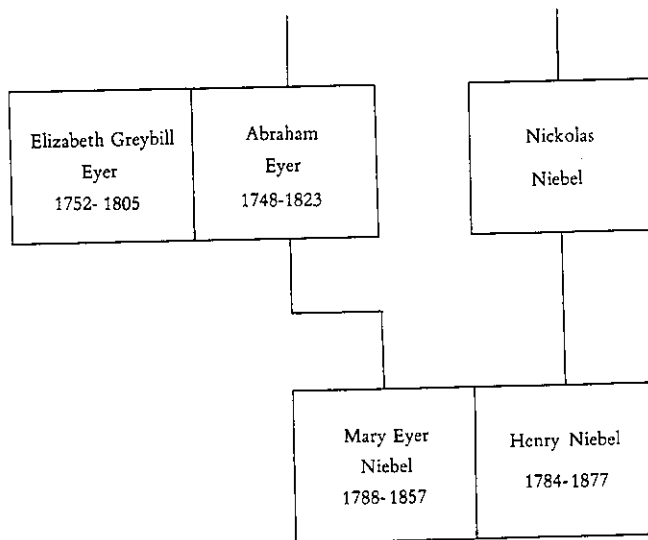


Figure 3-1 Reverend Henry Niebel, his wife and in-laws.

The ... Association ... on October 14, 1899 merged with the

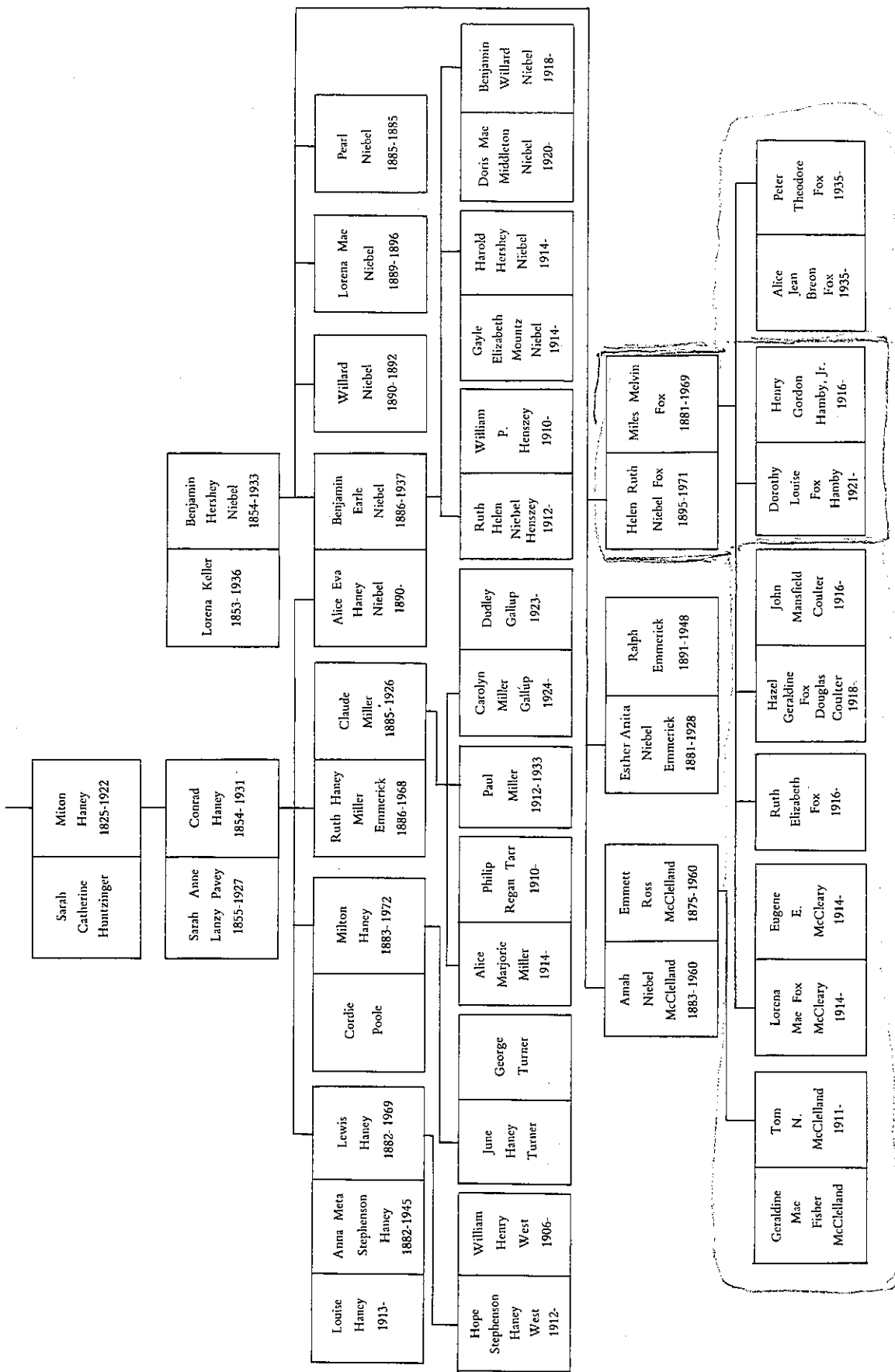


Figure 6-1 Dr. Benjamin E. Niebel, his brother, sisters, in-laws, and their families.

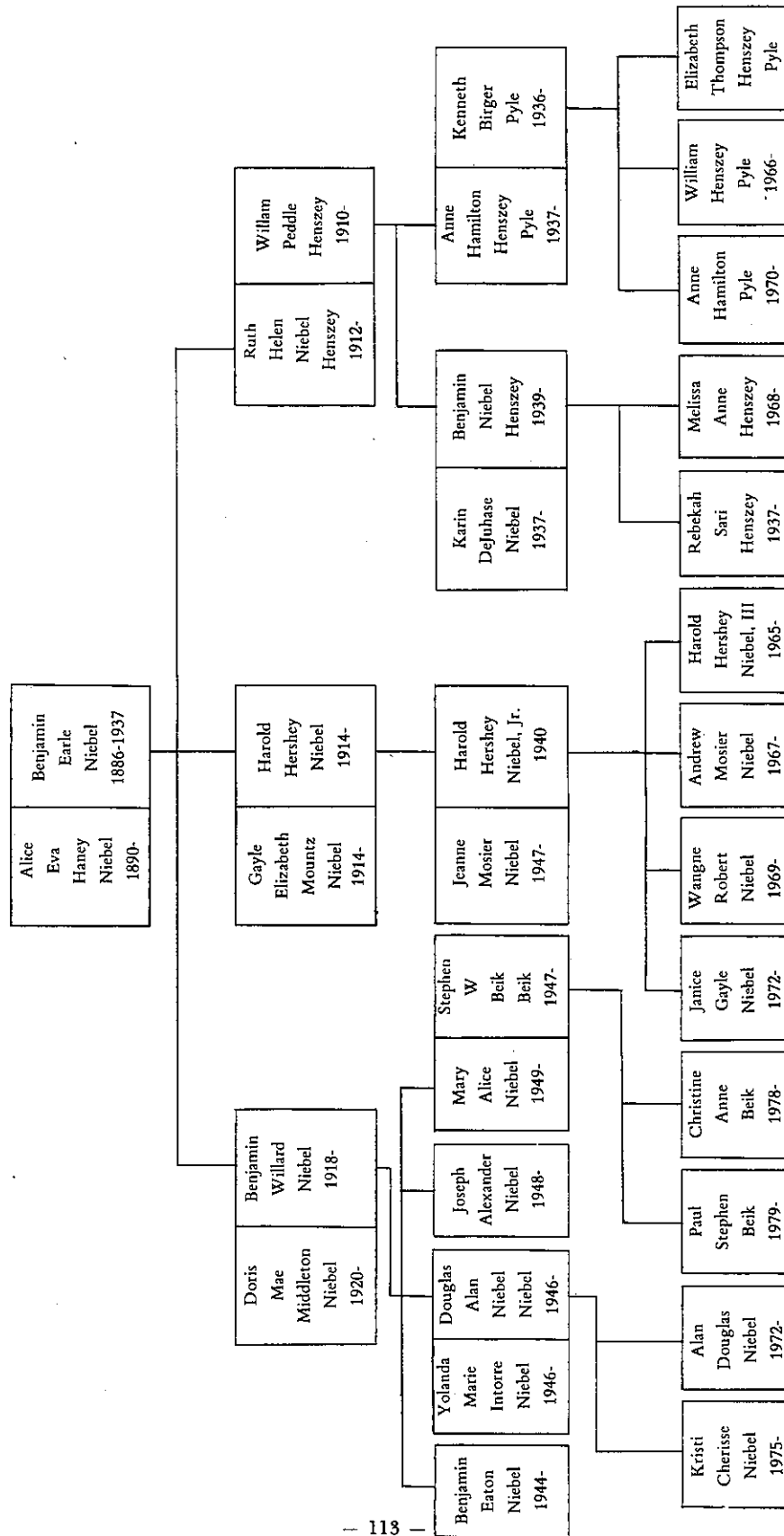


Figure 7-1 The Children of Dr. Benjamin E. Niebel and their Families.