

CHAPTER – 1A

James A. "Gus" & Josephine "Laux" Michaels, Early Years



This is the Wedding Picture of James Augustine "Gus" Michaels and Josephine "Laux" taken on their wedding day on August 21, 1934. Josephine (third from left) and Gus (second from right) were married in St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Lincoln Nebraska.

Front Row: (L-R) The little flower girl was Kathleen Davis and she was the oldest daughter of Grace Davis who was a sister of Josephine "Laux" Michaels.

Back Row: (L-R) Margaret Aylward, (may have been a friend of Josephine), Dick Fenton, Rosa "Laux" Fenton, Josephine "Laux", James A. "Gus" Michaels, Frances "Laux" Knopp, Rosa Fenton and Frances Knopp were sisters to Josephine Michaels and Dick Fenton was Rosa's Husband.

Wedding Announcement of Josephine "Laux" Michaels in August of 1934. Shown here is the picture that appeared in the local Lincoln Nebraska Newspaper announcing the wedding of Josephine Laux and James "Gus" Michaels. They were married in Lincoln, Nebraska and then lived in Oshkosh Wisconsin.

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA, SUNDAY, AUGUST 5, 1934



Laux-Michaels.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph A. Laux announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Josephine, to James Michaels of Oshkosh, Wis., son of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Michaels of Montgomery, Ind. The wedding will take place Aug. 21, at St. Patrick's church at 8:30 o'clock in the morning.

The couple will live in Oskosh, where Mr. Michaels is service manager of the Remington-Rand company. Miss Laux has been employed in the finance office of the University of Nebraska.

Wedding Calendar

AUG. 21, MISS JOSEPHINE LAUX, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Laux, and JAMES MICHAELS of Oshosh, Wis., son of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Michaels of Montgomery, Ind., St. Patrick's church, 8:30 a. m

Laux-Michaels.

Miss Josephine Laux, whose marriage to James Michaels of Oshkosh, Wis., will take place Tuesday, has completed plans for her wedding. Her sister, Miss Rosa Laux, will be maid of honor, and the bridesmaids will be another sister, Miss Frances Laux, and Miss Margaret Aylward. Rev. Joseph A. Keany will officiate at the nuptial mass at 8:30 o'clock in St. Patrick's church. A wedding breakfast will follow after which the couple will leave immediately for Oshkosh to reside.

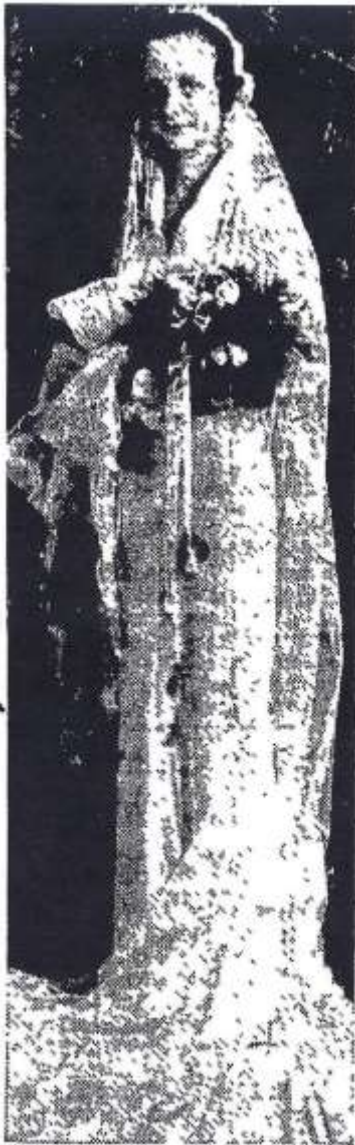


Wedding Day for Josephine "Laux" Michaels:

Shown here is (L-R) Margaret Aylward, (friend of Josephine), Frances "Laux", The Bride Josephine "Laux" Michaels, little flower girl was Kathleen Davis who was the oldest daughter of Grace Davis, sister of Josephine "Laux" Michaels, Rosa "Laux" Fenton, Frances & Rosa were Sisters of Josephine. This picture was taken after the wedding at Josephine's parent's home on Aug. 21, 1934.

This was the write up in the Lincoln Star Newspaper when Josephine "Laux" Married James "Gus" Michaels on August 21, 1934 in St. Patrick's Church in Lincoln.

THE LINCOLN STAR—TUESDAY, AUGUST 21, 1934



—Rhinehart Marsden.
MRS. JAMES MICHAELS.

LAUX-MICHAELS WEDDING AT ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH.

The Rev. Joseph A. Keany officiated at the marriage service Tuesday morning for Miss Josephine Laux, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph A. Laux, and James Michaels of Oshkosh, Wis., son of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Michaels of Montgomery, Ind., at St. Patrick's church at 8:30 o'clock. Ferns and palms banked the altar for the ceremony, for which fifty friends and relatives were present.

For the entrance of the bridal party along the white aisle, Miss Mable Partington played the Lohengrin music. Preceding the service, Miss Maxine Malone sang "At Dawning" and "I Love You Truly" as the processional left the church. She gave "Ave Maria" during the offertory.

The bride's sister, Miss Rosa Laux, wearing coral lace over coral crepe, attended her as maid of honor. The dress was long and sleeveless, with the high throat line in front and the low back, outlined by a flat collar of the material. With it, she wore a blue sash and a wide brimmed hat in the same tone, finished with a little bow flat against her hair, and she carried Columbian roses.

Miss Frances Laux, another sister of the bride, in cream lace over green, and Miss Margaret Aylward, in flesh lace over peach, were the bride's maids. The designs of the bodices followed the shirtwaist mode, with short sleeves and Peter Pan collars, and the skirts were long and simple. The maids' lace hats were of the material of their frocks, with the bows bending with their girdles. Miss Laux' being green and Miss Aylward's peach. The former had an arm bouquet of Premier roses and the latter Talisman roses.

The little flower girl, Kathleen Davis of Omaha, was frocked in white organdy and wore a large white hair bow.

Richard Fenton of Lincoln was Mr. Michaels' groomsman.

White satin was used for Mrs. Michaels' bridal gown, with its diagonal princess lines falling into a train at the back. The bodice had calla lily neckline and the sleeves were large puffs to the elbow, where they were caught into long tight cuffs, finished with a narrow ruffle over the hand. Her long veil, falling beyond the train of her gown, was of white tulle, fashioned into a cap for her head, with a double row of orange blossoms forming a bandeau which was caught on either side with small clusters of the flowers. She carried a shower of white roses and sweet peas.

A wedding breakfast followed at the home of the bride's parents, 5612 Morrill avenue, for a smaller group of guests. Mrs. Mollie Young and Mrs. B. T. Overton arranged the breakfast and Miss Julla Brennick was in charge of the service. The table appointments were in pink and white, with the wedding cake as the center piece. At either end were silver baskets of pink roses.

Mr. and Mrs. Michaels have gone to their home in Oshkosh to reside. The bride is traveling in white crepe with navy blue accessories.



Shown here is Document of Gus and Josephine “Laux” Wedding from August 21, 1934. They were married in St. Patrick’s Catholic Church in Lincoln Nebraska by Father Joseph A. Kearny. The Witnesses were Rosa C. Laux and Richard Fenton. Rosa Laux was Josephine’s sister and she later married Richard Fenton. One picture shows a close up of the signatures on the document and the other picture shows the entire document.



JAMES AUGUSTINE “GUS” MICHAELS & JOSEPHINE LAUX

Gus was the first child born to Louis and Mary Frances “Matthews” Michaels on September 9, 1902. Josephine was the daughter of Joseph & Maude “Young” Laux of Lincoln Nebraska.

Gus married Josephine “Laux” on August 21, 1934 in St. Patrick’s Catholic Church in Lincoln Nebraska. They lived in Oshkosh Wisconsin for 7 years where Gus worked. They eventually moved back to Indiana. They had 3 children while living in Wisconsin, Jim, Mary Jo and Tom. After they moved back to Indiana, they had the fourth child Elizabeth Ann. Josephine passed away on Dec. 13, 1996 and Gus passed away on Jan. 25, 2001 at the age of 98 years old. Both are buried in St. Peters Cemetery near the Plaza Cross on the North Section of the Cemetery.

1. **James Joseph Michaels Sr.** was the first child born to Gus and Josephine on July 3 of 1935. Jim married Frances Montgomery on April 23, 1955 in St. Peter’s Church in Montgomery and together they had five children, Kathy, Kevin, Karen, Keith and James Jr. When Jim Sr. and Frances first got married Jim was stationed in Germany and then when he got out of the Army they lived in Bloomington for a short time and then moved to Indianapolis where Jim owned a gas station and was involved in several business ventures. Around 1982 Jim and Frances moved to Arizona and lived in Sun City. Jim went into the Real Estate Business as most of the kids were out on their own by then. Jim and Francis then continued to live in Sun City Arizona. About 2015 they developed health issues and Frances died after with cancer on September 5, 2017. Jim passed away a little over a year later on April 15, 2019. Both are buried there in Arizona.
2. **Mary Jo “Michaels” Gaetano** was the second child born to Gus and Josephine Michaels on Oct. 19, 1939. Mary Jo Graduated from Montgomery High School and then Graduated from St. Vincent School of Nursing (in Indianapolis) in 1960. She married Gene Gaetano on Oct. 28, 1961 in St. Peter’s Church in Montgomery. Together they had four children, Gina, Lynda, Jim and Bob Gaetano. They lived all their married life on the north side of Chicago but had several homes and each time moved further north out of the city of Chicago. Mary Jo worked as a nurse nearly all her married life.
3. **Thomas Patrick Michaels** was the third child born to Gus and Josephine Michaels on December 12, 1941. Tom graduated from Montgomery High School in 1959 and then graduated from Indiana State University in Terre Haute Indiana. He first married Dorothy Patterson from Loogootee on September 14, 1964 and they had three sons, Tom, Rick and Mark Michaels. He first worked in Danville Illinois as an accountant before taking a job in the accounting department at Crane Naval Base Crane Indiana. He lived north of Loogootee for a few years and then bought a home southeast of Loogootee. After Tom & Dot divorced he married Sharon Boyd on October 9 of 1982 and they had two daughters Teresa and Denise. Sharon had also worked at Crane but when the children were born she stayed home to care for them. Tom & Sharon now have 14 Grandchildren and one great grandchild. Tom & Sharon built a home in the woods south of Loogootee on County Line Road. Tom retired from Crane but worked for a contracted for many years after that until he finally retired from Crane around 2018. He still finds plenty to do on his 27 acres.

4. **Elizabeth Ann Michaels** was the fourth child born to Gus and Josephine Michaels on March 2, 1947. Elizabeth grew up in Montgomery making her First Communion at St. Peter's and attended grade school there. For a semester Liz attended the Academy of the Immaculate Conception in Ferdinand for her freshman year which was run by the Benedictine Nuns which prepared young girls for the convent. Liz then returned to Montgomery and graduated from Montgomery High School in 1965. She attended Vincennes University for a short time and then married Louis Kavanaugh on July 23, 1966 and together they had 5 children, Sheri, Louie III, Jim, Brian and John. Liz worked for a short time as a Nurses Aid at Daviess County Hospital but then Liz worked as a teacher's aid for from 1966 to 1970. She then worked for a short time at a textile factory in Logansport but eventually decided when the kids came along she was a stay at home mom. She did do baby sitting in her home but when the kids were all in school she started working again and went back to work in various eateries before going back to work at the Daviess County Hospital. She worked there for about 30 years as a Certified Nurse's Assistant before she finally retired in 2015.

**History of Gus Michaels, written by Teresa & Denise Michaels,
Daughters of Tom & Sharon Michaels**

The following history was written by Gus's Granddaughters after interviewing Gus Michaels in 1997 as a school project. Both granddaughters are married now and raising their families. Gus Michaels passed away on Jan. 25, 2001 after a car accident at the age of 98 years of age.

My Grandpa's name is James Augustine Michaels. He was born on September 9, 1902, to Louis J. and Mary Francis Michaels. He was born at his home in Daviess County, north of Montgomery. Grandpa couldn't remember how much he weighed, but he recalled the story told of how he fit in a shoe box and that they carried him around on a pillow. They said his head fit in a tea cup and he was fed by an eye dropper. He probably weighed around two pounds.

Grandpa was the eldest of eleven children. Two of the boys died the same day they were born. The two girls died at the ages of four and eight. One died from diphtheria, the other of scarlet fever. This left seven boys in the family. Grandpa started school at the age of seven. His favorite toy as a young boy was a home-made sled and a little wagon. He walked half a mile to a little one-room school.

He laughed as he remembered getting upset at another boy that was bothering the inkwell on his desk. After school, Grandpa chased him down the road. It had recently snowed, and it was slippery. As he turned around to see how close Grandpa was to him, he slipped, lost his balance, and fell into the slushy ditch. Grandpa smiled and walked away. The boy never bothered him again.

He stayed there until the sixth grade. Then he went on to continue his schooling in **Montgomery. He graduated high school in 1921. In the fall after high school, Grandpa borrowed three hundred dollars from his Aunt Ag and went to a telegraph school in Cincinnati, Ohio.**

Following his schooling, he went to work for Western Union. He then quit there and went to work for the B & O Railroad in Montgomery, Indiana. The depot building that Grandpa worked in was located at the end of a road. As a new employee, Grandpa did odd-and-end jobs such as Sweeping the floor, making a fire, taking out the ashes, billing the freight, and loading it. He earned one dollar a day.

In 1928, Grandpa took a leave of absence from the railroad and went to work for Remington Rand in Lincoln, Nebraska, because he didn't like the working conditions and only got paid thirty-two dollars a week. Remington Rand is a company that repairs adding machines and typewriters. It had better benefits. Since he was a repairman, he traveled a lot. Back then most of the roads were just dirt and gravel. He often made trips to Omaha and Hastings. **In 1929 Grandpa bought his first car which was a Whippet.** It was a greenish color and had a rumble seat. Grandpa always said that was why Grandma married him.

In 1930 Grandpa met Josephine Eleanor Laux. He was taking ballroom dancing lessons there in Lincoln, Nebraska, when he met her. Grandpa and the men there needed dancing partners. Jo and her friends decided to come and fill the places. **Grandpa and Jo soon began dating, but Grandpa was laid off in Lincoln and was sent to Oshkosh, Wisconsin, later in 1930.**

They corresponded by letters until they **were married on August 21, 1934.** They then went to live in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. On July 3, 1935, Grandma gave birth to their first son James Joseph. Mary Jo was born on October 19, 1939. A third child was born on December 12, 1941, and named Thomas Patrick, my dad. **Grandpa worked there in Oshkosh until October of 1942 and moved back to Indiana to work for the railroad again.**

They went to live on Grandpa's father's (Louis & Mary Frances, Gus's Dad) farm north of Montgomery. On the farm they grew crops, had hogs, and had two cows, Betsy and Rose Am. My dad said she was a good milker. He could hit the cat's mouth half-way across the barn! Sometimes Grandpa would have to leave to go to work at another depot and would be gone for two weeks at a time. Grandma and the kids took care of the farm while he was away. While working for the railroad, Grandpa got free tickets to go to different places and he would take the family with him. They got to go from the east coast to the west coast!

They lived in a four room house with only electricity. They didn't have indoor plumbing, and a heating stove in the living room was all they had to heat the house. Grandpa and Grandma shared one bedroom. The three kids in another. The other two rooms were the kitchen and living room.

Elizabeth Ann was born on March 2, 1947. With two bedrooms and the four kids sharing one of them, Grandma decided it was time for a new house. To earn the money for the house, **Grandma went to work for NSWC Crane, Indiana, in 1950 as a clerk.** With both of them working **they built a house in 1956** in the outskirts of Montgomery. They now had indoor plumbing!

In the later 1950s, Grandma and Grandpa started square-dancing. They danced in the second floor or the old K of C building in Washington. They were kicked out of there because the owner said the building was rocking from side to side because of the dancing. They had a square-dance for fiftieth wedding anniversary celebration in 1984. **They quit square dancing after their fiftieth anniversary.**

Grandma retired from Crane in 1971 after twenty years of service. In 1972 Grandpa retired from the B & O Railroad after working for thirty years. He was seventy years old. Shortly thereafter, he went to work in the office of a local coal mine. **Ten years later he retired again at age eighty.**

Grandpa never smoked or drank beer except for two times. Once when he was little and had a cold, his mother gave him a hot toddy. A hot toddy, which contained some whiskey, was a home remedy for a cold. The other time was after Grandpa and Grandma were married. She kept beer in the refrigerator for when visitors came to their house. Grandma was gone, and Grandpa wanted to find out what was so good about it. He took one sip and the rest went down the drain.

Grandpa's mom died in 1938, and his dad died in 1963. The only brothers that are still alive are Orner age seventy-nine, Mack age seventy-eight, and Grandpa who will be ninety-five in September. Grandma and Grandpa celebrated their sixty-second wedding anniversary in August of 1990. Grandma died at 3:00 A.M. on December 13, 1996. She was eighty-six years old.

Grandpa now lives alone in the same house built in 1956. He plants a huge garden every year and starts planning it around Valentine's Day. The whole family enjoys the produce from it.



Picture of Gus Michaels: We believe this picture was taken when James "Gus" Michaels was about 20 years old and the picture would have been taken about 1922.



Josephine" Laux" Michaels. Shown here is a picture of Josephine "Laux" Michaels at a young age. The picture may have been taken when she was in her early 20s, just prior to the time she got married in 1934.

This is a picture of Gus and Josephine after they were married and could have been in front of the place they lived when they made their home in Oshkosh Wisconsin. You can see a close in view below and see the same picture with a bigger view of the home in which they lived. They did not own the home in Oshkosh but probably rented. Gus worked for the Remington Rand Company which repaired typewriters.



Pictured right, Gus Michaels and not sure who the other guy is in this picture. If you note, Gus has a mustache and it may be the only time he ever had one. This picture may have been taken either when he was in Lincoln Nebraska or in Oshkosh Wisconsin. It may have been before he was married in 1934.





Picture of Gus and Josephine “Laux” Michaels. Picture could have been taken of Gus and Jo in Lincoln Nebraska and it could have been taken when the two were going together.



Picture of Gus Michaels in July 4, 1926. I think this was taken at his Parents farm north of Montgomery. Gus would have been 23 years of age at the time.

**Montgomery High School Picture of all the Students in the High School
During the school year of 1919-1920**



Pictured here in the front row, 3rd from the right is Gus Michaels: Gus had gone to a one room school north of Montgomery in his earlier years but we believe this would have been his senior year in High School around 1919-20. This picture was found when Fred Dobbyn passed away as they were cleaning out his home. This picture was then passed on to Nellie Wilson and between her and Gus Michaels they did their best to identify nearly everyone in this picture. Both Nellie and Gus were in their 90's when they done this. (See below the names of all in this picture)

✓First Row

Zack Perkins, Benny Traylor, Michael Doyle, Carl Harris, Oscar Clark, Clyde Connaughton, Jim Sause, Gus Michaels, George Daily, Omer Melton. ✓

Two knelling behind First Row. ✓
Al Connaughton, Guy Williams.

✓Second Row

Bridget Fanning, Mayme Hayden, Birdena Lett, Josie Bennett, Marguerite Enkoff, Laverne Kennedy, Geraldine Bell, Beatrice McCracken, Lucille Moore, Charlie Guy.

✓Third Row

Helen Feagans, Mary Wilson, Mildred Morgan, Mary C. Doyle, Ernestine Carrico, Pearl Steen, Ester Doyle, Bonnie Norris, Audrey Sefrit.

Fourth Row

✓Rowan Lundergan, Roy Wilson, Bernice McDonald, ??? ???, Maggie Donahue, Essel Williams, Pauline Wells, Pauline Williams, Frances Cassidy, Russell Troutman, Walter Lavelly.

Fifth Row

Cecil Sefrit, Walter Downey, Tom Earl Doyle, Gertrude Meade, Mildred Meade, Ralph Harris, Fred Dobbyn, Leo P. Clements, Lawrence Hand, John Earl Doyle, Bob Meade.



This is a picture of Gus Michaels and his brother John Michaels. Not sure where the picture was taken but could have been while John was visiting Gus when Gus lived in Nebraska or Wisconsin before Gus was married.



Picture of Gus & Jo taken in Lincoln Nebraska about the time they got married sometime in 1934. It just so happened the picture was taken in front of the Fenton Drug Store which was owned by Josephine's Sister's Father in-law. Josephine's sister Rosa married Dick Fenton and the Drugstore was owned by Dick's Father. It was not planned that way since Rosa got married two years later.



Picture of Josephine "Laux" Michaels in front of her home in Havelock which later was merged into Lincoln Nebraska. This picture may have been taken in the early 1930's just before she married Gus Michaels.



This is a picture of Gus Michaels and a co-worker in front of the Remington Rand Office they worked at in Lincoln Nebraska. This picture was taken before Gus was married sometime in early 1930's.



Picture of Gus Michaels taken in the early 1930's.

Picture of Gus Michaels taken in front of Josephine "LauX" home in Havelock which later became Lincoln Nebraska. Picture was taken sometime in the 1930's.





Picture of Gus & Josephine probably after church on a Sunday. Taken in the front yard of farm house. around 1952



Picture Left taken in the late 1940's of Gus & Jo taken on the front side of their home north of Montgomery.



This picture of Gus & Jo was taken in their living room in the home north of Montgomery in early 1950's.



Picture of Gus Michaels taken at the Train Depot either in Vincennes or Washington Indiana. He worked as the Dispatcher at both Depots but retired from the one in Vincennes. Picture was taken sometime in the late 1960's. He retired from the B & O when he was 70 years old so that would have been in 1972. This may have been close to the time when he retired.



Gus Michaels Special Award from the Local St. Vincent DePaul Organization.

Pictured here is Gus Michaels receiving this Special Award from the Local St. Vincent DePaul Society for his many years of service to that organization. Father Joseph Erbacher made the presentation at the Sunday 9:30AM Mass at St. Peters Church on Sept. 10, 2000. Shown here is Gus Michaels in the center of the picture with Father Erbacher presenting him with the plaque. Also shown here is (L-R) Gus's Children, Tom Michaels, Mary Jo Gaetano, Liz Kavanaugh (standing behind) along with the two server boys who served the Mass. The Award came one day after Gus's 98th Birthday and that would be his last Birthday as he was in a car accident the following January and died two weeks later.



Shown here as Father Erbacher reads the inscription on the plaque prior to the presentation to Gus Michaels from the St. Vincent DePaul Society. Pictured here is 3 of 4 of Gus's Children, (L-R) son Tom, daughters, Mary Jo and Elizabeth. **The Inscription on the plaque reads as Follows:** Vincentian Service Award To: James "Gus" Michaels Presented in Appreciation for your initiative and Effort in Helping to Establish the Saint Peter's Conference of the Saint Vincent DePaul Society of Montgomery, Indiana And in Sincere Gratitude for your 40 years of Dedication, Service and Untiring Effort in Promoting Christian Charity. Presented by St. Peter's Conference of the St. Vincent DePaul Society Montgomery, Indiana September 10, 2000



This is a Memorial that stands at the back in the vestibule of St. Peters Church in Honor of Gus Michaels for his work in the St. Vincent DePaul Society.



Picture of the Spirit of St. Louis:

Yes, this is a picture taken by Gus Michaels of that famous Airplane when it was put on display around the Midwest after that famous flight across the Atlantic. This picture was taken at Luken Airport in Cincinnati, Ohio on July 31, 1927. Gus happened to be working in Cincinnati at the time with the railroad.

Pictured right, is one of the two side doors at St. Peters Church that that were put in Memory of James "Gus" & Josephine Michaels. This picture, is of the south door and the same glass door was put in at the North Entrance as well. This was donated in Memory of their parents by their daughters, Mary Jo Gaetano and Elizabeth Ann Kavanaugh. Gus passed away in Jan. of 2001 and this was done sometime early in 2002.

