

Our Family News Letter

Issue 2

Greendale, Wisconsin

September, 1993

Henry Heck in the Civil War

April, 1861 marked the beginning of the Civil War when the South bombarded Fort Sumpter on the 12th. Spirits were high in the North and patriotism was strong. By the end of 1861 it was be-



coming clear that the war would be long and bitter.

Henry Heck enlisted in the 19th Infantry Regiment of Wisconsin on February 11, 1862. Initially he was in Company K and finally in Company F of the 19th Regiment under Captain Martin Scherff. The Regiment rendezvoused at Racine as the men were mustered into service as fast as they enlisted. They were armed with the new Enfield rifle, and were well equipped throughout.

In 1862 the military records described Henry Heck as being 23 years of age, five feet-five inches tall, dark complexion, dark hair, and dark eyes.

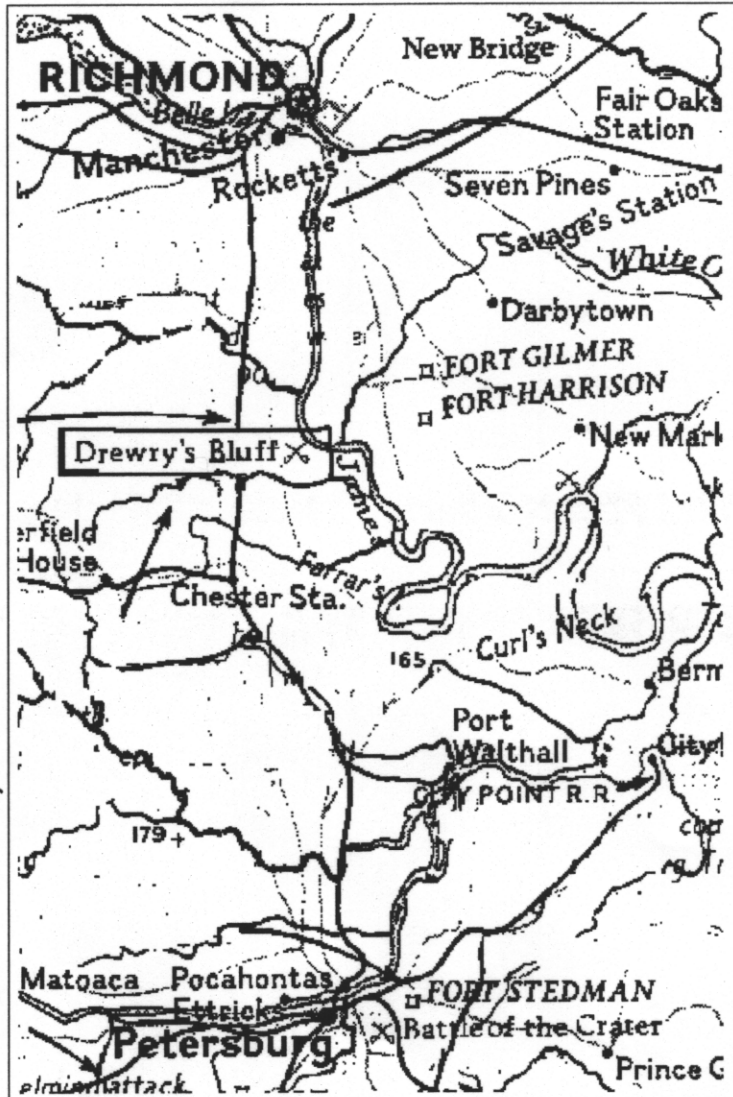
On April 20, 1862 the Regiment was ordered to Camp Randall, at Madison, Wisconsin, to guard rebel prisoners and to complete their training. On June 2, 1862 the Regiment was ordered to the Potomac and began their long journey eastward. The Regimental History of the 19th reported: "They passed through Chicago, amidst the greatest applause from the citizens; their fine soldierly bearing and appearance commanding the admiration of all who saw them." The Regiment numbered 950 men at that time and must have represented an awesome show of force as they traveled eastward.

Upon their arrival at Washington, D.C. later in June, 1862 they were directed to embark on transports which would take them down the Potomac river, through the Chesapeake Bay to Fort Monroe, Virginia. Fort Monroe was located three miles south of Hampton and just across the James River Bay from Norfolk, Virginia.

The Regiment marched to Hampton, Virginia and remained there for two weeks doing picket duty when they were ordered to march with all

haste to Yorktown, Virginia, which was 18 miles northwest of Hampton. Yorktown was expected to come under attack by rebel forces but because of the buildup of Union troops the attack never took place. The Regiment returned to Fort Monroe after several weeks and then was ordered to Norfolk from July 1, 1862 to April 14, 1863. The Regiment performed garrison and outpost duty at Norfolk during that period and provost guard duty at Portsmouth, Virginia.

On the 14th of April, 1863, the 19th Regiment received orders to march without tents to Suffolk, Virginia to provide reinforcement as an attack was expected from General Longstreet's corps. They marched at ten o'clock in the evening and reached Suffolk at midnight. They then marched two miles further, through heavy rain and intense darkness, to the camp of the 21st Connecticut Regiment. About half of the men obtained shelter among the friendly soldiers of the 21st Regiment while the other half suffered exposure to the cold and drenching rain until morning. At five in the evening an order was received to march to Jericho Creek where they pitched their tents. At midnight they were ordered out under arms and directed to march. It was very dark, the roads were bad, and it rained torrents. The Regiment proceeded seven miles, floundering along through the mud as best they could, wading swollen creeks and immediately entered on picket duty when they arrived at their destination.



The Regiment spent one night in the rifle pits on the Nansemond River. Another night they built a corduroy road three hundred yards long over a deep marsh. On still another night they built a bridge out of timber and rails. At ten o'clock one evening they set out on a six mile march through deep mud, resting for two hours, chiefly in the mud, and then went into battle at three o'clock in the morning.

On the 17th of June, 1863, the Regiment left Suffolk and marched back to Norfolk. There they embarked on boats and sailed to Yorktown. They debarked on the following day and set up camp a half mile from the fortifications of Yorktown.

On the 25th of June, 1863, they again embarked, and proceeded up the York River to West Point, Virginia. Around the 15th of August, 1863, they returned briefly to Yorktown and then to Newport News, Virginia with ninety per cent of the Regiment being sick with fevers.

On the 11th of October, 1863 Company F was assigned with one piece of artillery at Havelock Station which was twenty miles from Newbern, North Carolina. The Confederates launched an attack on Newbern on February 1, 1864. The post at Havelock was abandoned when it was outflanked. Company F was ordered to garrison at Fort Spinola.

On the 19th of April, 1864 a detachment of six companies was sent to reinforce the garrison at Plymouth, North Carolina, but that post was surrendered before reinforcements could reach them. On the 26th of April the regiment left Newbern and landed at Yorktown, Virginia two days later. There they were assigned to the Third Brigade, First Division, Eighteenth Army Corps.

On May 4, 1864 they proceeded up the James River and joined the Army of the James under the command of General Butler. They were part of the Union forces massing for an attack on Richmond, Virginia. On May 6th they marched to Point of Rocks where they engaged in building fortifications. On the 9th they attacked Walthall Junction where they took possession of the Richmond and Petersburg Railroad and destroyed three miles of track. This cut off the supply lines feeding Richmond. On May 12th General Butler sent the 19th Regiment, Companies A, C, D, E and F forward as skirmishers against Fort Darling near Drewry's Bluff. Eleven men from the 19th were wounded.

On May 15, 1864 General Butler ordered telegraph wire to be strung between stumps on the front lines to act as entanglements for attacking forces. There was not enough wire to protect the entire front line, and the right flank, which included Company F, was unprotected.

On May 16, 1864 the Battle of Drewry's Bluff took place. In an early morning of thick fog with visibility about 15 feet, ten hastily assembled brigades of Confederates under General Beauregard attacked Butlers lines on the right flank. The Union forces repulsed five charges before they were overwhelmed. Every horse in the battery was killed from the deadly and withering fire from the Confederates. The Union troops withdrew and reformed battle lines near a woods and succeeded in staying the Confederate progress on the right flank. The 19th Regiment lost four killed and 32 wounded during the engagement. Henry Heck was among the wounded. The total Union losses during that one day battle were 4,160 men killed,

wounded or missing in action. Confederate losses were 2,506.

Henry Heck was shot and severely wounded in the left leg during the battle of Drewry's Bluff, Virginia. The ball or bullet entered in the center of his left leg, below the knee and then passed down through his leg and came out below his ankle. The bullet cut some of the cords in his leg and injured the ankle and the joint. Henry had a severe limp and sustained some permanent damage to his left hip as a result.

After Henry was wounded, he spent several days in the field hospital at Fort Darling, Virginia and then was transferred to the hospital at Point Lookout, Maryland. Point Lookout was located about 16 miles south of Lexington Park, Maryland. After spending several months recuperating, he was transferred to the base hospital, 18 AC, at Point of Rocks, Virginia on October 18, 1864. After several weeks he was furloughed to Racine, Wisconsin.

On January 7, 1865, Doctor Charles Muller of Racine declared Henry unfit to return to military duty for a minimum of one month. Doctor Muller repeated his diagnosis on February 3, 1865. Henry Heck was discharged from the service on April 29, 1865 at Madison, Wisconsin.

Heck Bootlegs Moonshine

Did you know that Robert Steven Heck, father of Clarence, Robert, Alvin and Bernice made illegal moonshine in the attic of his home? According to Alvin Heck, his dad would make and bottle the stuff in a small still that operated at their home on Charles Street. Father and son, Alvin, would deliver the product to one of the local taverns that they passed on their way to rabbit hunting.

**Old Genealogists Never Die,
They Just Lose Their Census.**

Henry F. Henningfeld & Clara Stratman

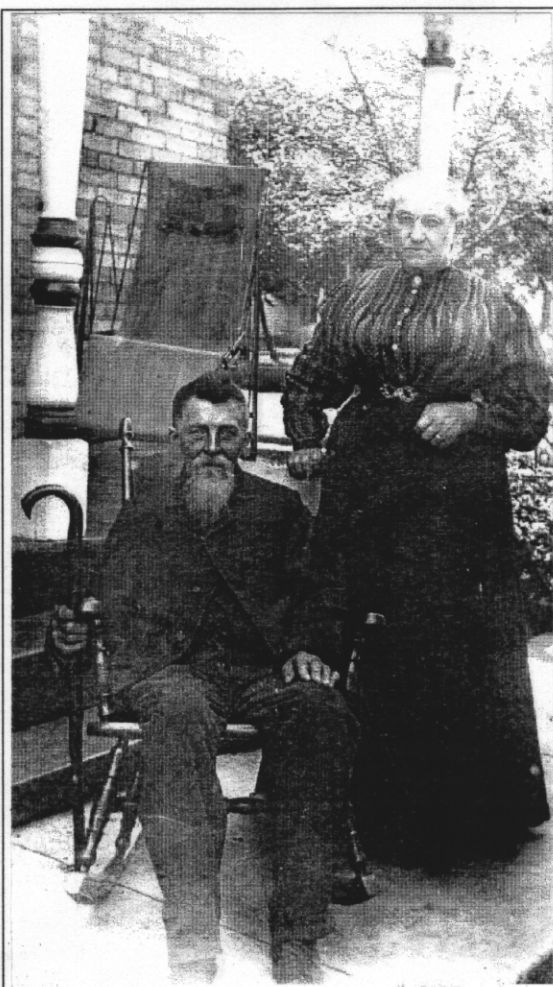
Henry F. Henningfeld was born on May 7, 1849 at the village of Waterford, Racine County, Wisconsin. Henry was the first American born child of Franz Arnold Henningfeld and Catherine Elizabeth Richter. The Henningfeld family had immigrated to the United States in 1847 from the small village of Olfen, Westfahlen, Prussia. The Henningfeld roots go back to the mid 1600's in the area of Olfen, Vinnum and Heinrichenburg.

Henry was the fourth of eight children. Mary Henningfeld, the first child, was born in 1840 in Olfen and probably died at an early age. Elizabeth Henningfeld was born in 1843 at Olfen and married a man named Milletz in Wisconsin. Caroline Henningfeld was born in 1845 at Olfen and married John Wurms in Wisconsin. Henry was born next in 1849. William F. Henningfeld was born in 1851 and married Margaret Gruter. Francis (Frank) was born in 1855 and was declared dead by the courts in 1888. A second daughter was named Mary Henningfeld and was no doubt named after her deceased sister. Mary was born in 1857 and married John Leber. The last child was Katherine Henningfeld born after 1857 and married to Henry Plate.

Henry's father died in 1869 leaving a young family to fend for itself. The youngest child was probably about ten years old at that time. The family split up for a while as Henry was living with his sister Caroline and her husband John Wurms in 1870. They were living in the nearby village of

Burlington, Racine County, Wisconsin. Henry was shown in the census as being a blacksmith. The other children have not been located yet and should be the subject of a detailed search of the 1870 census for Racine and Kenosha Counties.

On May 6, 1873 Henry was married to Clara Stratman, a native of Coesfield, Prussia. Henry and Clara were married by the Catholic priest at St. Thomas church in Waterford. The marriage was witnessed by Karl (Charles) Stratman, brother of Clara and by William Henningfeld, brother of Henry.



Clara was engaged to a man named Henning who lived in the Racine County area. She traveled alone to this country expecting to get married upon her arrival but instead was greeted with the news that her fiancé had died of pneumonia. It is not known if Clara knew Mr. Henning from Germany or if she was part of a prearranged marriage. Clara then went to work for a judge in the city of Racine, and it was there that she probably met Henry Henningfeld. Clara most likely resided in the city of Racine while she was working for the judge.

The first child born to Henry and Clara was Mary Elizabeth Henningfeld born on March 27, 1874. She married Michael Brott on November 26, 1896. Next was Frederick F. Henningfeld born on May 13, 1875. He married Della Wald on September 7, 1897. The family was shown as living in Waterford on June 1, 1875 when the state census was taken.

The family then moved to Burlington where twin son's were born on December 31, 1876.

Sylvester W. Henningfeld married Alice Gillmeister on September 14, 1904, and Carlos H. Henningfeld married Walburga Emmerich on April 22, 1901. The fifth child was Margaret Frederica Henningfeld born on April 2, 1880. Margaret married Robert Steven Heck on October 15, 1903. The sixth child was George J. Henningfeld born on July 6, 1884. He married Martha Stutz on August 30, 1910. The last child was Dorothy Amalia (Mollie) Henningfeld born on July 21, 1886. She married Frank Heinrichs on October 21, 1907.

The 1880 census indicated that the family was living in the village of Burlington and that Elizabeth Richter Henningfeld, the mother of Henry, was living with them. Her age was listed as 64 years. The 1885 census indicated that the Henningfeld household consisted of five males and five females. Assuming that Elizabeth Richter Henningfeld was still living with her son, this suggests that one more daughter was born to the family between 1880 and 1885. The census of 1910 stated that Clara Henningfeld was a widow and had nine children of which seven were still living. Considering the spread in birth dates of her children, it appears that one daughter was born around 1882 and that another child was born after 1885 and before 1900.

In early 1909 Henry became ill and died at his home nine months later on September 10, 1909. His obituary was published in the Burlington Free Press five days later.

HENRY HENNINGFELD

Henry F. Henningfeld died last Friday about noon at his home 710 Origen St. from a complication of troubles after an illness of about nine months. The funeral was held on Monday morning at nine o'clock from St. Mary's Catholic Church, Rev. T. Jacobs conducting the services. Mr. Henningfeld was born at Waterford, this county, May 7, 1849 and was married at that place in 1871 (sic) to Miss Clara Stratman, who survives him, also seven children as follows: Mrs. E. M. Brott, Seattle, Washington; Syl and Carlos Henningfeld, Milwaukee; Mrs. Robert Heck and Mrs. Frank

Heinrichs, Racine; Fred and George J. Henningfeld of this city. Also the following brothers and sisters: Wm. Henningfeld, Waterford; Mrs. Henry Plate, Burlington; Mrs. John Wurms, Waukesha; Mrs. John Leber, Milwaukee; Mrs. Lizzie Milaertz, Appleton. Mr. Henningfeld was a blacksmith by trade and worked for thirty years for the firm of Pieters Bros. of this city.

Burlington Free Press

Clara Stratman Henningfeld later moved to Wausau, Wisconsin with her youngest daughter Mollie Heinrichs and died there on May 18, 1927. Her obituary was published in the Wausau newspaper the following day.

Mrs. Clara Henningfeld

Mrs. Clara Henningfeld passed away at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Frank Heinrichs, 517 Adams Street, last night at 9:15 o'clock after an illness of one day with heart trouble. The body is lying in state at the Ritter and Deutsch company funeral home this afternoon and will be taken to Burlington, Wisconsin this evening at 8:30 o'clock where funeral services and burial will take place tomorrow morning.

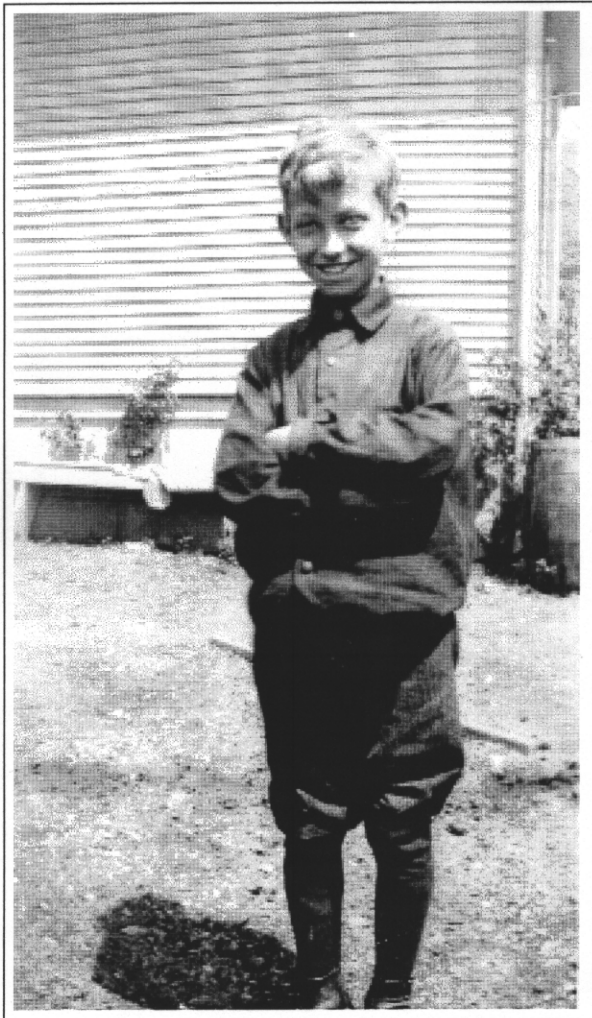
The deceased was born November 14, 1846, in Germany and was married fifty-four years ago in Waterford, Wisconsin. Her husband passed away seventeen years ago. Surviving are seven children, Mrs. M.E. Brott of Seattle, Washington; Mrs. Margaret Heck and Fred and George Henningfeld of Racine; Carlos and Sylvester Henningfeld of Milwaukee; and Mrs. Frank Heinrichs of Wausau, twenty-five grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

Wausau Newspaper

This News Letter is written and published by :

Robert J. Heck Feel free to copy
4910 Steeple Drive it and send it to
Greendale, WI 53129 others.
(414) 421-7143

Guess who! Answer on following page.



1993 Picnic a great success

The 1993 family picnic was held for the 26th consecutive year. Despite threatening weather all day long, a good time was had by all. The day started with breakfast at a local Racine restaurant followed by nine holes of friendly golf at Shoop's park at Wind Point. It seemed like thousands of fans were there to greet the hardy golfers as they trudged their way through the ever challenging course.

Most of the golfers were working on their second beer in the club house by the time a light rain shower hit. Gary and Don Heck kept things lively when they tried to declare Lake Michigan as "Casual Water."

The picnic started at noon at the Wind Point light house, and lots of good food was had by all. Steaks and brats were cooking on the grills and chicken was being consumed at a rapid rate. Everyone brought a dish or plate of something to add to the buffet style picnic lunch.

After lunch a lot of time was spent just talking and visiting. The kids had plenty to do and were engulfed with the many games that have become a traditional trademark of our family picnics.

The picture below was taken at the 1993 family picnic. From left is Alvin and Bernice and Mary and Bob Heck.



Many Thanks

The initial response to this family news letter was very encouraging to say the least. We started out with a circulation of 20 copies just to test the water. The phone calls and contributions that came in from many of you gave me a clear indication that you would like to see the news letter continue. As a result, I intend to publish the news letter each quarter, and provide it to you free of charge. If you wish to contribute a few bucks now and then to help off set the costs, please feel free to do so. Thanks again for your support.

Guess Who!

If you guessed Robert Gerald Heck, you were right. The picture was taken about 1920 at Racine, Wisconsin. The knickers that Robert wore were typical attire for boys at that time.

HELP!

If you have any family group pictures like the one shown below, please identify as many of the persons as you can and send me a copy for inclusion in this News Letter.



The picture above was taken on April 2, 1939 on the occasion of the 59th birthday of Margaret Henningfeld Heck. Shown from left to right top row: Al Gaiti, Molly Henrichs, George and Sylvester Henningfeld, Stella Heck, Carlos and Fred Henningfeld, Mrs. Gilmeister, Clarence and Frances Heck. Middle row: Martha and Alice Henningfeld, Bernice Heck, Marie and Della Henningfeld, and Margaret Heck. Bottom row: Alvin, Mary, Gary, Larry, and Robert Heck.

HELP WANTED

If you have any older pictures of our family that you would be willing to share, please give me a call. I can copy the pictures and return the originals to you.

Did You Know....

....that our family can trace our blood line directly to King Henry I of England? King Henry was born in 1070 and was the son of William The Conqueror and Maud of Flanders

....that Benjamin Burgess was the first of our family to arrive in Wisconsin? He arrived with his wife and children in the Spring of 1836. Benjamin Burgess was the grandfather of Mary Ann McNulty Heck, wife of Henry Heck.

....that Marvin and Joanne Pfeiffer have a lot of children and grandchildren? Ask Joanne how many the next time that you see her. She usually carries her photo album with her, so be prepared.